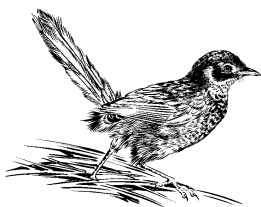


Port Campbell National Park & Bay of Islands Coastal Park



Visitor Guide

“Pounded by wild seas and fierce winds, the coast of Port Campbell National Park and Bay of Islands Coastal Park has been sculpted over thousands of years to become one of the most impressive natural sites in Australia. Towering rock stacks loom out of the ocean just off shore from sheer limestone cliffs. Arches, islands and blowholes have also been carved out of the soft cliffs by the wind and sea. Many ships have come to grief on the rocky coastline, earning the title of the Shipwreck Coast.” *Ranger In Charge, Alex Green.*



A resident rarity

Keep a lookout for a bird approximately the size of a blackbird.

The rare Rufous Bristlebird is common in remnant heathlands protected in this and other coastal parks. Stray cats are a major threat to the survival of this bird.

Enjoying our parks

Visitors can enjoy walking, snorkelling, diving, scenic driving, birdwatching, beachcombing, as well as the spectacular coastal scenery.

The limestone formations and sheer cliffs of this sculpted coast are some of the best known landmarks in Australia. First reserved in 1964, Port Campbell National Park now covers 1830 hectares of the coastal strip between Princetown and Peterborough in south-western Victoria.

Adjoining this park, Bay of Islands Coastal Park preserves and protects 950 hectares of fragile coastal vegetation, wildlife and rugged features of an area rich with scenic beauty.

Things to see and do

Explore the park by road. The fully sealed Great Ocean Road takes you to the Twelve Apostles, Loch Ard Gorge and other spectacular features.



Walking/sightseeing

The park offers many short walks to lookouts with spectacular views. See centre page map.



Camping

There is no camping within the parks. Camping and caravan accommodation is available in Port Campbell, Peterborough and Princetown townships. **Sleeping overnight in the park or carparks is not permitted.**



Diving

When the sea is very calm there is excellent wreck and reef diving off Port Campbell National Park. Diving opportunities are also available in local Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.

Check with local divers or at the Visitor Information Centre before setting out. *Please remember that all wrecks and artefacts are protected by law.*



Fishing

Both Curdies Inlet and Gellibrand River are suitable for fishing. There is good ocean fishing at Newfield Bay, Gibson Steps Beach, Clifton Beach and from the Port Campbell jetty. Be sure to obtain a Victorian Amateur Fishing Licence.

Fishing is not permitted in Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries. Check separate parknotes for activity guidelines and boundaries.



Canoeing

The Gellibrand River is ideal for canoeing. Access is from the Gellibrand Inlet, at the picnic ground at Princetown.

How to get there

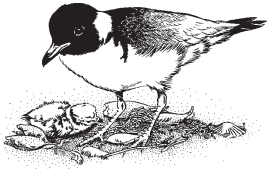
Port Campbell National Park and Bay of Islands Coastal Park lie between, Princetown Peterborough and Warrnambool, just 285 km west of Melbourne via the Great Ocean Road (4-5 hours' drive), and 240 km from Melbourne via Colac (3 hours drive).



Visitor Information Centres

To fully enjoy your visit to the Parks be sure to visit local Visitor Information Centres and plan ahead. See the back page for Accredited Visitor Information Centre locations.





Hooded Plovers are small pigeon sized shorebirds that nest in very exposed beach locations. Take care - please watch for nesting birds when walking above the high tide line.



Walking: Be Safe, Be Prepared

- Strong shoes or walking boots with good tread, a hat, a waterproof jacket, food, water and a map are recommended. On longer walks, take a whistle and basic first aid kit as well.
- Be aware walking tracks may involve uneven and slippery track surfaces.
- Keep strictly to the tracks and lookouts, as sections of the cliffs may subside without warning!

The Shipwreck Coast

The growing colonies of Victoria and New South Wales depended on ships from Europe for supplies and transport. Bass Strait became a major shipping route - and some ships inevitably came to grief in its notoriously wild seas.

A number of ships were wrecked off the coastline bordering these parks. The most famous was the Loch Ard, wrecked in 1878, which only had two survivors.

Self-guided walks and displays within the park interpret the tragic story of the Loch Ard and other shipwrecks along this coast.

Port Campbell National Park & Bay of Islands Coastal Park

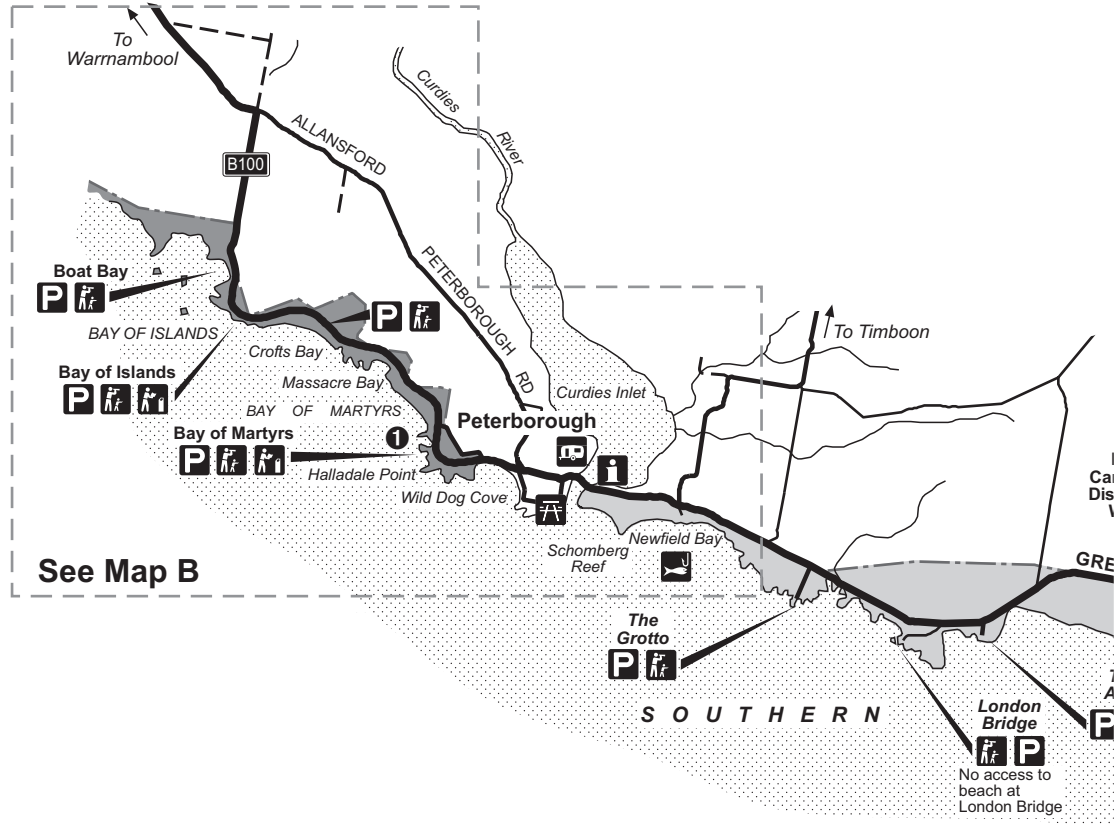
Major sealed road
 Sealed road
 Unsealed road
 Vehicle track
 Great Ocean Walk
 Walking track
 National Park
 Coastal Park
 Marine National Park / Marine Sanctuary
 Other Park
 Water body

Recreational Facilities

Canoeing
 Caravan Park
 Carpark
 Facilities for people with disabilities
 Fishing
 Homestead
 Lookout
 Park information
 Picnic table
 Self-guided walk
 Swimming
 Toilets
 Tourist Information

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 KILOMETRES
 Cartography by Spatial Vision 2007
 M/1544

Parks VICTORIA



Walking

1 Bay of Martyrs Walk

Follow the walking track from the eastern end of the carpark. This short spectacular walk leads to the site where the "Falls of Halladale" ran aground in 1908.

2 Port Campbell Discovery Walk

Start the walk near Port Campbell beach by crossing the mouth of Campbells Creek or by following the signs from the Scenic Town Lookout Carpark on the Great Ocean Road, west (Warrnambool side) of Port Campbell township.

3 Loch Ard Gorge Area

Three self-guided walks have been developed around the Loch Ard Gorge area. A separate parknote is available. Allow two to three hours to make the most of your visit here.

- Shipwreck Walk - this walk tells the tragic story of the Loch Ard shipwreck from the wreck site to the cemetery.
- Geology - explains the geology of the coastline and the forces that shape it.
- Living on the Edge - discover life on the edge of these sheer cliffs.

Beach walking at Newfield Bay, Gibson Steps Beach, Crofts Bay and Bay of Martyrs.

Get Involved - hands on!
 Hanging out with Friends can be good for your mind, body and soul.
 Throughout the world there is growing recognition of the vital contribution parks make to a healthy environment, to the health of individuals and to a healthy society.
 Restoring habitat diversity can have healthy benefits to you and your community and volunteering is a great way to get involved in your environment...anyone can do it!
 You can become a Friend, join the Bay of Islands Coastal Park and Port Campbell National Park Friends groups in caring for these special places. Call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au



Map B

Glenample Homestead
 Built in 1869 by pioneer pastoralist Hugh Gibson using locally quarried sandstone the tranquil homestead is now home to the Loch Ard story and displays on early pastoral history of the area.
 Glenample Homestead is not open to the public year round. Please contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 for further details.

4 Twelve Apostles Walk
 Stop and visit the Twelve Apostles Centre before taking the walk to view the amazing Twelve Apostles coastline. The Centre offers insightful cultural heritage stories, shelter and toilets. Walk the short distance (500m) through the tunnel, under the Great Ocean Road to various lookouts offering expansive, breathtaking views.

5 Muttonbird Island
 Muttonbird Island, near Loch Ard Gorge, is an important nesting place for the Muttonbird (Short-tailed Shearwater). These remarkable birds migrate about 30,000 km every year, spending summer in the northern Pacific Ocean and returning the last week of September to nest in various rookeries in Bass Strait. You can watch them fly ashore each evening from October to April, although the best viewing is January to February.

ons of the cliffs may subside without warning.

For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre

Call 13 1963

or visit the

Parks Victoria website

www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Visitor Information Centres

Port Campbell

Port Campbell Vic 3269

Tel: (03) 5598 6089 Email:

pcvic@corangamite.vic.gov.au

Warrnambool

Flagstaff Hill, Merri St

Warrnambool Vic 3280

Tel: (03) 5564 7837

Toll Free: 1800 640 082

Recreational Fishing

Licence enquiries:

Victoria - call 13 61 86

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with you for recycling & disposal

Sleeping overnight in the park or carparks is not permitted

All native plants & animals are protected by law. Please do not disturb them in any way

Dogs and other pets are *not* permitted in the park, *except* in cars on main tourist roads and sign-posted areas. Dogs are permitted on a leash from the Peterborough Golf Course to the Bay of Martyrs Carpark.

No fires are permitted. No fires (including gas or fuel stoves) may be lit on days of Total Fire Ban. Port Campbell National Park & Bay of Islands Coastal Park are in the

South Western

Total Fire Ban District.

It is your responsibility to know if it is a day of Total Fire Ban.

If in doubt call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line: 1800 240 667.

Mobile Phones

CAUTION: You may not be in network range in some areas of the park. If not in range you can connect to Police, Ambulance or CFA - **key in 112 then press the YES key**

A rich human history

The seas that shaped the coastline also provided a wealth of resources for Kirrae Whurrong people. Today layers of blackened shells (shell middens), scraping tools and other small artefacts, remain as indicators of a healthy and diverse diet and lifestyle celebrated over thousands of years.

The Kirrae Whurrong continue to live in this area celebrating their traditional physical and spiritual connections.

These middens, local communities and other indigenous artefacts are an essential part of Australia's ancient and ongoing culture. Please do not disturb or remove any part of them.

Winds and wild seas shaped not only the coastline of Port Campbell and Bay of Islands but also its history. Sealers and whalers were probably the first Europeans to land along the coast during the 1840s when pastoral runs were being settled. However, it wasn't until the 1870s that the town was established.

Caring for Country

Through their rich culture Indigenous Australians have been intrinsically connected to this Country, for tens of thousand of years.

Parks Victoria recognises this connection and acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Communities of Victoria.

Wild seas and rock stacks

This coast's formation began around 10-20 million years ago. Countless millions of tiny marine animal skeletons built up beneath the sea to form limestone. As the ocean retreated, the soft limestone was exposed to the wild seas and winds of the Southern Ocean. The sculpting of rock stacks, gorges, islands, arches and blowholes had begun.

Self-guided walks at Port Campbell, Loch Ard Gorge, Bay of Islands and Bay of Martyrs introduce you to the geology and other features of this coastline.



Wildlife watching

Look skyward for Peregrine Falcons, sometimes seen swooping above the cliff tops.

Penguins, terns, and dotterels use the narrow protected beaches. Australasian Gannets, Wandering Albatrosses and Muttonbirds (Short-tailed Shearwaters) fly huge distances out to sea hunting for food, but return to nest in the parks. Pelicans, ducks, egrets and swans inhabit the estuaries and wetlands of the parks.

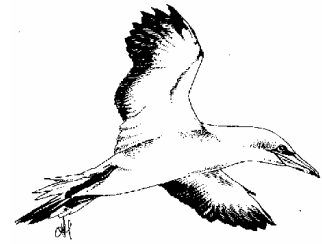
Bay of Islands rock stacks offer a colony of Silver Gulls nesting sites safe from foxes and cats, while other stacks host Victoria's only marine cormorant (shag), the rare Black-faced Cormorant.

On exposed clifftops, grasslands and heathlands stunted by the effects of salt-laden winds dominate the fragile soils. Though they are often bleak looking, a surprisingly large range of birds

and animals inhabit them. Southern Brown Bandicoots, Southern Emu-wrens, Superb Fairy-wrens, Swamp Harriers and many species of honeyeaters occur here.

Let nature feed itself

Nature's food chain has been developed over millions of years – by feeding wildlife you could be causing untold damage to our already fragile environment. Protect our wildlife, enjoy them in their natural environment. *Please do not feed wildlife.*



Australasian Gannet

Exploring parks of the area

- Great Otway National Park: Maits Rest self-guided rainforest walk, Lightstation, waterfall walks, beaches, wildlife, camping and much more. Melba Gully: magnificent rainforest with giant Myrtle Beech trees, glow worms and a self-guided trail.
- Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve: hidden inside a volcanic crater is the Worn Gundidj Natural History Centre, wetland boardwalk, birdhide and selection of short walks.
- Mt Eccles National Park: centred on a volcano, a park of national significance offering camping, picnicking and several self-guided walks, including the Lake Surprise and Crater Rim walks.
- Great Ocean Walk - Apollo Bay to Glenample Homestead. This walk features rocky platforms, sheltered beaches, pristine rivers, huge forests, heathland and coastal woodlands.

Victoria's coastal water habitats

Our diverse and amazing marine environment is now conserved for future generations. A system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries offer wonderful recreation opportunities.

Check separate marine parknotes for information on www.parkweb.vic.gov.au



Swimming

Many beaches are exposed to unseen dangers such as ocean currents, rips and reefs. Parks Victoria recommend swimming only on beaches patrolled by lifesaving services.

The Port Campbell Surf Life Saving Club operates from the Port Campbell foreshore. This service is provided on weekends and public holidays from the last weekend in November to Easter Monday.

March 2007

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