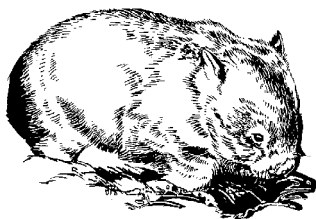


Lower Glenelg National Park, Discovery Bay Coastal Park



Visitor Guide

These two parks offer some of Victoria's finest natural settings including the beautiful Glenelg River and estuary, and the sweeping ocean beaches of Discovery Bay. Explore the freshwater lakes and discover a wide range of bird life, or enjoy a cruise on the Glenelg River. Walk among massive dunes, hike the Great South West Walk or camp beside the river. The choice is yours.



Drive carefully...this park is the wombats last stronghold in south west Victoria.

Things to see and do

Parks provide a multitude of activities for visitors to enjoy. Camping, fishing, horse riding, touring, bushwalking, mountain biking, or 4WD, there's something for everyone.



Walking

The internationally acclaimed Great South West Walk allows for a number of short or longer walks. Starting and ending at Portland, the 250km route passes through forest and heathlands, along rivers and via wind-swept coastal cliffs and beaches. A brochure covering the entire walk is available from Visitor Centres at Portland and Nelson or visit the website www.greatsouthwestwalk.com

Some walks are listed on the map page.



Camping

Camping is permitted at several places along the Glenelg River, including Lake Monibeong and Swan Lake. Fireplaces, toilets and water are available at all sites. Walkers' camps are located along the Great South West Walk within a day's walk of each other. Caravans can be used at Pritchards camp.

All campsites must be booked in advance through the Nelson Visitor Information Centre.



Driving and sightseeing

Sealed, gravel and sandy roads provide two wheel drive access to many areas and attractions within the parks. Short walks lead to views at a number of points along the Glenelg River. Several picnic areas are located close to the Glenelg River and estuary, and the lakes in Discovery Bay Coastal Park (DBCP).



River cruise

Relax by taking a river cruise from Nelson and discover the wide variety of wildlife and plants on your way.



Wildlife abounds

Native animals, though sometimes difficult to find, include Eastern Grey kangaroos, Red-necked wallabies, Brush-tail possums, koalas and echidnas. In the more remote and undisturbed areas, rare animals such as Heath Rats, Swamp Antechinus and Potoroos can be found. Small colonies of Wombats inhabit Lower Glenelg National Park (LGNP), the only remnants of a once widespread population in the south west region of Victoria.

Some of the more common large birds include emus, herons and ducks. Other less common species are the Spotted Quail-Thrush, Painted Quail, Ground Thrush, Azure Kingfisher, and the rare Rufous Bristle-bird.

How to get there

These parks are in south-west Victoria adjoining the SA border, about 420km from Melbourne and 490km from Adelaide. The major access roads to the park are shown on the map inside. The parks are connected and there is good access to most points by vehicle or on foot.

Be fire ready and stay safe

Many parks and forests are located in high fire risk areas. On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety.

If you are already in the park you should leave the night before or early in the morning for your own safety.

Closure signs will be erected and rangers will patrol when possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed so check the latest conditions by calling 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

December 2010

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Short walks
Booklet available.

Lower Glenelg National Park

- 1 The Gorge Walk - 10km, 3.5 hours
- 2 Sapling Creek Walk - 4.5km, 1.5 hours

Discovery Bay Coastal Park

- 3 Livingstones Island Walk - 3km, 1.5 hours
- 4 Lake Monibeong Loop Walk - 15km, 4.5 hours
- 5 Seal Colony Walk - 5km, 2.5 hours

Cape Nelson State Park

- 6 Light Station Walk - 6km, 2.5 hours

Canoeing, boating and water skiing

The Glenelg River is a safe course for canoe trips. Contact the Nelson Visitor Information Centre for camping permits and information on canoe hire, or if you are planning an overnight canoe trip. Boat launching ramps are provided and water skiing is permitted in designated zones in LGNP and DBCP. See the separate Parknote titled *Glenelg River Guide* available at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Lower Glenelg National Park & Discovery Bay Coastal Park

- Highway
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Vehicle track
- Walking track
- Park Area
- Marine National Park/ Marine Sanctuary
- Other Park
- Water body
- Swamp
- Walk number

Recreational Facilities

- Boat launching
- Camping (bookings required)
- Caravan park
- Family walk
- Fireplace
- Kiosk
- Light Station
- Lookout
- Park information
- Picnic table
- Surf fishing (except in MNP)
- Swimming
- Toilets
- Tourist Information

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KILOMETRES
Cartography by Spatial Vision 2007
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MELBOURNE

Parks
VICTORIA



For more detailed information about this area see Discovery Bay Marine National Park marinote.

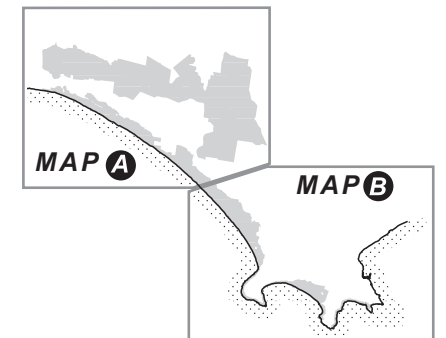


Cape Bridgewater area
Cliff top, highest cliff on the coast, seal colony viewing platform. Part of the Great South West Walk (booklet available).

MAP A

Catching that big fish
The Glenelg River offers opportunities for licensed amateur fishing with both freshwater and salt water species present in the park. DBCP has many locations for surf fishing. A Fishing Licence is required. Fishing is not permitted in Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries. Check separate parknotes for activity guidelines.

Swimming and surfing
Bridgewater Bay, the Glenelg River estuary and the freshwater lakes are the safest areas for swimming. Beware - the coastline is rugged and dangerous. Swimmers should swim between the lifesaving flags. The ocean beaches of DBCP are generally unsafe for swimming. Surfing is popular at Yellow Rock, Bridgewater Bay, and Whites Beach.



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! There are over 300 different Friends groups helping us maintain the health and integrity of your national parks and reserves. You can join the Great South West Walk Friends group in caring for these special places and become a Friend. Call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre call
13 1963
or visit the
Parks Victoria website
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

**Portland Maritime
Discovery Centre**
Lee Breakwater Road
Portland, Victoria 3305
Tel: (03) 5523 2671

Boating, canoeing,
camping, other regulations
and river conditions contact:

Nelson
Visitor Information Centre
Tel: (08) 8738 4051

**Princess Margaret
Rose Cave**
Visitor Centre
Open Daily
Tel: (08) 8738 4171

Caring for the environment

Help us look after this park
by following these
guidelines:

Camping is by permit only.
Written bookings are
required for Christmas,
New Year and Easter.

Please keep to the walking
tracks, especially in the
dune areas.

Fire

Lower Glenelg National
Park is in the
**South West
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**

Fires may only be lit in
fireplaces provided.

No fires/flames,
(including gas or fuel
stoves/lanterns in tents)
may be lit on days of
Total Fire Ban.

Park closures

Be prepared to leave early
as **extreme weather** may
**cause the closure of some
park areas** for public safety.

Mobile Phones

You may not be in network
range in some areas of the
park

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Visiting a park can improve
your health, mind, body and
soul. So, with over four million
hectares of parkland available
to Victorians, why not escape
to a park today!



Shy visitors in need of care

The low vegetation of DBCP allows excellent opportunities for observing bird life along the vast stretches of sandy beach. The park provides important habitat for the endangered Hooded Plover and many other waders migrating from overseas.

Hooded Plovers nest in very exposed beach locations. Take care - please watch for eggs when walking above the high tide line, especially between August and February.

Do not disturb the birds at their nesting sites. Easily scared, they will often abandon their eggs.

The Nelson estuary is a great place for bird watching. Spoonbills, ducks, herons, pelicans and swans can often be seen along the boardwalk and bird-hide situated here.

The 27,300 hectares of LGNP features the tranquil Glenelg River and surrounding forest. Rising in the Grampians, the river meanders 400km through western Victoria to the ocean at Nelson.

The 10,615 hectares of DBCP hosts a broad range of coastal environments, stretching from Nelson to Portland.

A rich human history

The Glenelg River is the traditional boundary of the Gunditjmarra and the Booandik people. The Aboriginal name for the Glenelg River is Bochara. Both the Gunditjmarra and Booandik people have inhabited this area for many thousands of years, enjoying the rich variety of foods available in the bush and along the coast. They continue to live in this area celebrating their traditional physical and spiritual connections.

Lieutenant Grant named Discovery Bay in 1800 during a voyage along the unknown south-western Victorian coast.

"Ngatanwarr wartee pa kakay teen Gunditjmarra mirring"; Welcome brothers and sisters to Gunditjmarra Country.

'We are happy and proud to share this special place with you and ask that you take the time to look, listen and feel the Country. We ask visitors to experience and respect this Country - it holds our spirit and stories from our past, present and future' - Gunditjmarra Elders.

Rich in plants

LGNP protects over 700 species of native plants. There are plants of forest, swamp, river, dune and cliff associations. In this part of Victoria, West Australian plant varieties meet with those that are characteristically eastern.

The heath and fringing forest areas have over 50 species of orchids, while the tributaries of Moleside Creek support the most westerly tree-fern gullies in Australia. At least 60 species of plants reach their western most occurrence in this park.



The coastal plants of Discovery Bay have altered significantly since Lieutenant Grant arrived. Many dunes now support no vegetation at all. Some small patches of vegetation in sand dunes remain as relics of a former stable land system. Plants typical of coastal heathlands include Coast Wattle, Coast Beard-heath and Correa.

Away from the dune areas, the plant and animal communities are quite complex.

At Long Swamp there are several plant species of high conservation value, including heaths, dense paperbark thickets and both a pink and yellow flowering form of a variety of Yellow Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* var. *macrocarpa*) that occurs nowhere else in the State.

Glenelg River Gorge

Stretching 15km along the lower reaches of the river, this limestone gorge has cliffs up to 50m high in places.

Water percolating through and dissolving the limestone in the rock has formed caves which host nurseries and roosting caves for bats.

Some caves have vertical shafts which, over thousands of years, have literally become death traps for unwary animals. The remains of long-extinct marsupials such as the Giant Kangaroo and the Marsupial Lion have been found in these caves, as well as remains of the Tasmanian Devil, now extinct on the mainland.

Exploring the region



Princess Margaret Rose Cave - explore the beauty of the cave, often referred to as "the jewel in the crown" of the Lower Glenelg National Park.



Cape Nelson Light Station was built in 1884 and only ten minutes drive from Portland, the lighthouse complex includes a spectacular light tower and two lightkeepers residences.

Mt Richmond National Park is the perfect place to have a picnic, take a walk or enjoy the magnificent views. It is home to spectacular spring wildflowers and abundant wildlife in unspoilt bushland.

Cape Nelson State Park is located 11km south west of Portland along the Cape Nelson Road. This park features spectacular coastal cliffs, diverse bird life, picturesque walks and picnic areas amid the unusual Soap Mallee (*Eucalyptus diversifolia*), unique to this park.

Local attractions

Be sure to visit Portland's Maritime Museum and Discovery Centre for more information about the coast of Portland, its parks, features and attractions.

Victoria's coastal water habitats

A system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries offer wonderful recreation opportunities. *Check separate marine parknotes for more information.*