

Edwards Point Nature Conservation Reserve



Visitor Guide

Edwards Point Nature Conservation Reserve protects the last remaining stand of coastal woodland on the Bellarine Peninsula. From coastal woodlands to a magnificent coastline, the reserve is home to a vast array of indigenous plants and animals. The reserve is an exciting destination for outdoor enthusiasts and boasts natural beauty and a feeling of remoteness.



Pied Oyster-catchers in flight

Enjoying the park

Walking - A number of walks throughout the reserve allow you to explore the breathtaking views, sandy beaches, cool coastal woodlands and extensive salt marsh communities of the area.

Charlie's Hole Walk

1.5 km return – approx 30mins

Departing from the car park on Bluff Road, St Leonards, this walk offers glimpses of Swan Bay - part of Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park - and winds through sedge communities and coastal woodland, with bird life abounding. The track meanders towards a lookout with spectacular views of the reserve and the adjacent Marine National Park.

Coastal Woodland Walk

3.5 km return – approx 1.5 hours

Starting at the Beach Road car park, this walk meanders through tall, dense forest dominated by Coast Tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) before opening out to reveal magnificent views of water filled marshes and Swan Bay. This is a great place to see waterbirds including swans, ibis and pelicans.

The track crosses a boardwalk protecting salt marsh communities that provide food for the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot as they spend winter in this region.

You can return to the car park via the beach or continue on to the Two Bays Lookout walk.

Two Bays Lookout Walk

6 km return to Beach Rd – approx 3 hours

From the end of the Coastal Walk continue along the beach south or take the inland route. The beach walk offers a more a remote experience and the opportunity to view many species of birds that migrate to this area during the warmer months. You may see groups of tiny Red-necked Stints feeding at the water's edge or hear Pied Oyster Catchers as they fossick for food at low tide.

Pelicans soar over head and birds of prey frequent the area, hunting for fish in the shallow waters. This walk offers magnificent views of offshore islands and the extensive marshes. In summer you may be fortunate enough to see Fairy Terns among the flocks of Crested Terns, Cormorants and Pelicans as they shelter on the protected shores of Edwards Point.

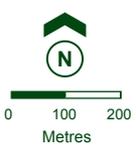
Visit the viewing platform with its 360 degree views and information panel.

Canoeing and sea kayaking - Some of Victoria's best flat water paddling can be found on Port Phillip Bay and the beach at Edwards Point is no exception. Dolphins, Banjo Sharks and many other species of fish may be seen while paddling along this picturesque coastline.

Craft can be launched from the beach next to the beach access track at the end of Beach Road. Before heading out, make sure you check tides and weather conditions and ensure you paddle within your capabilities.

Swimming - Port Phillip Bay offers fantastic opportunities for swimming. The beach at the end of Beach Road features sand bars with shallow pools at low tide that provide a safe place for children to cool off. Never swim alone and be aware of tides, currents and changeable weather.

Fishing - Fishing is permitted from the shoreline within the reserve, where a number of different bay and estuary fish species may be caught. A Victorian Recreational Fishing Licence is required to fish in all Victorian waters.



Roads/Tracks

- Sealed Road
- Unsealed Road
- Walking Track
- Management Vehicle Only Track

- Parking
- Park Information
- Seat
- Lookout

- Edwards Point Wildlife Reserve
- Marine National Park
- Ocean
- Waterbody
- Wetland

www.parks.vic.gov.au

Disclaimer: Parks Victoria does not guarantee that this data is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability which may arise from you relying on this information.

Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA 94) Zone 55. Map produced by Parks Victoria. This map supersedes all previous editions. Data source acknowledgements: State Digital Mapbase, The State of Victoria and Department of Sustainability and Environment.

For further information

Call Parks Victoria on **13 1963**
or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

Geelong Otway Tourism
Level 1, 48 Brougham Street
Geelong VIC 3220
Phone: (03) 5223 2588

Queenscliff Visitor
Information Centre
55 Hesse Street
Queenscliff VIC 3225
Phone: (03) 5258 4843

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park
by following these guidelines:

Take rubbish with you for
recycling and disposal

All native plants and animals
are protected by law

Camping is not permitted
in the reserve

Horses and motorbikes are not
permitted in the reserve.
Dogs must be on a lead
at all times

Firearms are prohibited

Collect only dead wood from
the ground for campfires

No fires, including barbecues,
may be lit on a day of **Total Fire
Ban. Edwards Point Nature
Conservation Reserve** is in the
Central 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
on 1800 240 667**

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

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!*



Plants and animals

The reserve is home to a diverse range of habitat that provides homes to a variety of animal species including both resident and migratory bird species, brush tailed possums, gliders and bats. You may also be lucky to see a kangaroo or an echidna. Seals, rays and dolphins occur in the adjacent coastal waters. Reptiles and amphibians also occur throughout the reserve.



Orange-bellied Parrot

Moonah woodlands

Scattered through this coastal environment you will find gnarled and windswept trees called Moonahs. Moonahs, Coast Beard Heath and other similar plants form a community known as Coastal Moonah Woodland. This important plant community is currently listed as threatened under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.

Vegetation clearing and a lack of fire have left this community highly fragmented, with remnant areas degraded by weed invasion and recreational pressures.

Get involved – Join a friends group

Spending time 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 the 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 our reserves. You can join the Friends of Edwards Point Wildlife Reserve in caring for these special places and become a friend. Call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au.

Healthy Parks
Healthy People®

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 where possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed so check by calling Parks Victoria on **13 1963** or visit www.parks.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** or visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

Exploring the area

Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park

The diversity of marine habitats within the park create opportunities for a wide range of recreational pursuits including snorkelling, diving, surfing, swimming, boating and beach activities.

Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary

Snorkelling and diving at the Bluff is an incredible experience, with a wide diversity of habitats in a small area to explore.

Please remember that Marine Parks and Sanctuaries are "No Take" areas.

Ocean Grove Nature Reserve

The reserve protects one of the last remaining stands of original woodland on the Bellarine Peninsula. A number of interesting walks and a picnic area provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy this unique area.

Lake Connewarre State Game Reserve

A complex wetland ecosystem linked to the sea by the Barwon River, Lake Connewarre is a great place for fishing, boating, pleasant walks and picnics.

Location and access

Edwards Point Nature Conservation Reserve is located at St Leonards, 115km south of Melbourne and 40km east of Geelong, on the Bellarine Peninsula. There are multiple access tracks into the reserve, including a car park and walking track from Bluff Road, walking track access at the end of Janvrin Road, with access to the beach and the main walking track from Beach Road.

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