

Point Nepean National Park



Visitor Guide

Point Nepean is one of Victoria's most beautiful natural landscapes. Its rich history has played an important role in shaping the early settlement, quarantine and defence of Victoria. The park is 560 hectares and located at the very tip of the Mornington Peninsula, with outstanding coastal scenery and panoramic views of Bass Strait, the Rip and Port Phillip. Visitors can explore the military forts and tunnels, discover the historic Quarantine Station, view the memorial where Prime Minister Harold Holt went missing and enjoy the coastal environment which is home to native Australian wildlife.

Exploring the park

Quarantine Station

Discover the historical precinct which has almost 50 heritage listed buildings. The Quarantine Station was established in 1852 and from 1952 the buildings also housed the Army Officer Cadet School. Walkers and cyclists can take Coles Track which links the Quarantine Station to the Gunners Cottage and Fort Nepean. A self-guided walk is available.

Wilsons Folly Track

This 1.7 kilometre walking track links London Bridge in the Mornington Peninsula National Park with Point Nepean. The track is an extension of the long coastal walk from Cape Schanck and passes through pockets of Coastal Banksia Stands, Moonah woodland and native grasslands.

Range Area Walk

The 1.8 kilometre walk meanders through coastal scrub, a former Rifle Range and passes Monash Break and Light with sweeping views of the park and Melbourne City. The Range Area was used to train cadets in the Army Officer Cadet School; training included firing rifles, grenades and machine guns. The walk links the Quarantine Station and Cheviot Hill.

Gunners Cottage

From here you can visit the historic Point Nepean Cemetery or walk the Walter Pisterman Heritage Walk to the remnants of the former quarantine cattle jetty. At Observatory Point there is a picnic area with views of the bay. Cyclists and walkers can take Coles Track to the Quarantine Station or Fort Nepean.

Cheviot Hill and Harold Holt Memorial

Cheviot Hill is the park's highest point and contains World War II fortifications. It overlooks Cheviot Beach, the site where former Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt disappeared without a trace in December 1967. A memorial is located about 500m further along Defence Road from Cheviot Hill.

Pearce Barracks, Fort Pearce and Eagles Nest

Explore the lookouts from the fortifications with stunning views of Bass Strait. The Pearce Barracks site is where many of the army personnel stationed at Point Nepean lived. Eagles Nest was the site of Australia's largest Disappearing Gun.

Fort Nepean

Discover a series of military fortifications dating back to the 1880s with stunning views of Port Phillip Bay and Bass Strait. Explore the tunnels, forts and gun emplacements from which the first allied shots of both World War I and World War II were fired.

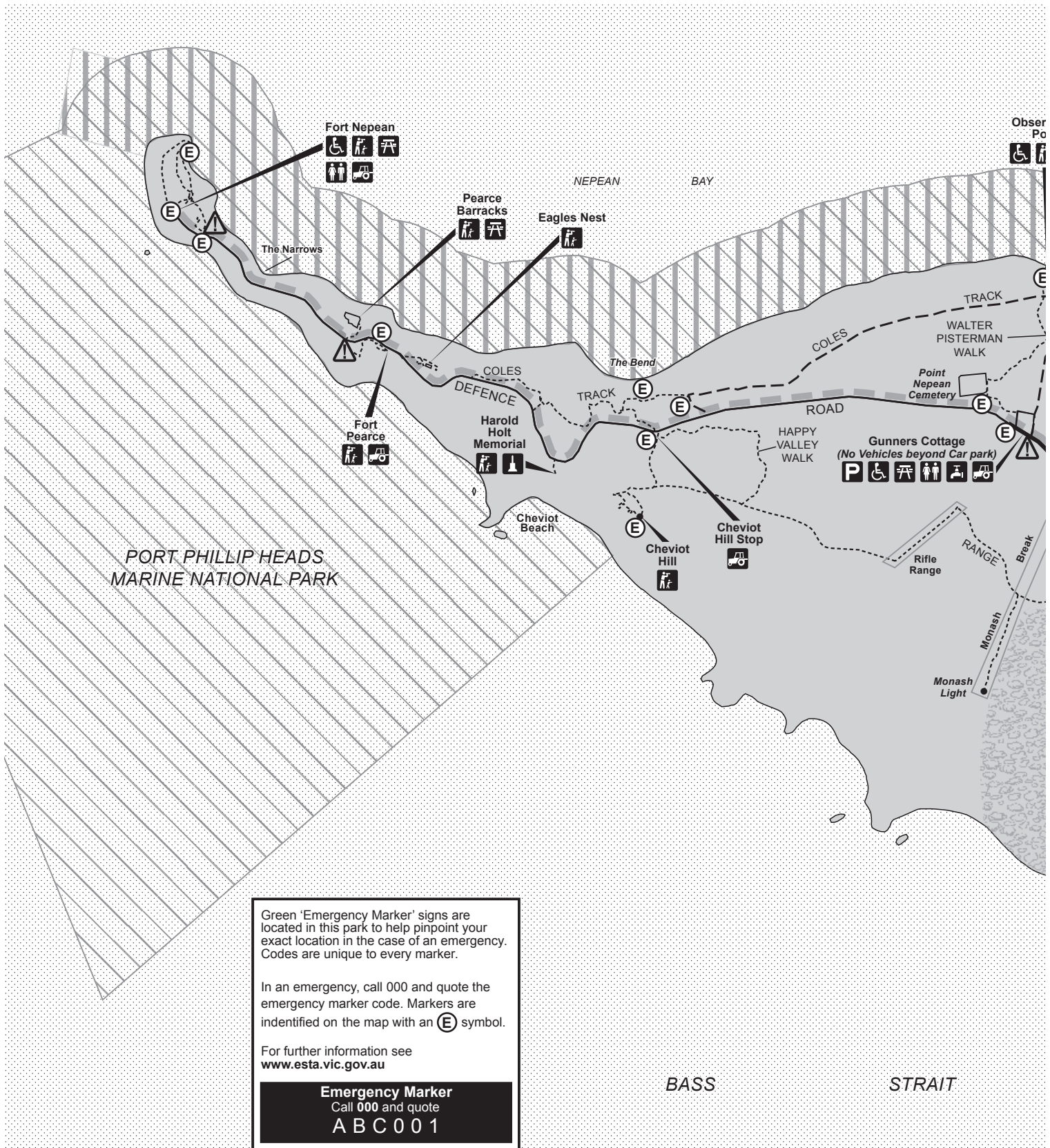
Point Nepean National Park

Open everyday

End of Point Nepean Road, Portsea

Melways Ref: 156 C2





Green 'Emergency Marker' signs are located in this park to help pinpoint your exact location in the case of an emergency. Codes are unique to every marker.

In an emergency, call 000 and quote the emergency marker code. Markers are identified on the map with an **E** symbol.

For further information see www.esta.vic.gov.au

Emergency Marker
Call 000 and quote
ABC001

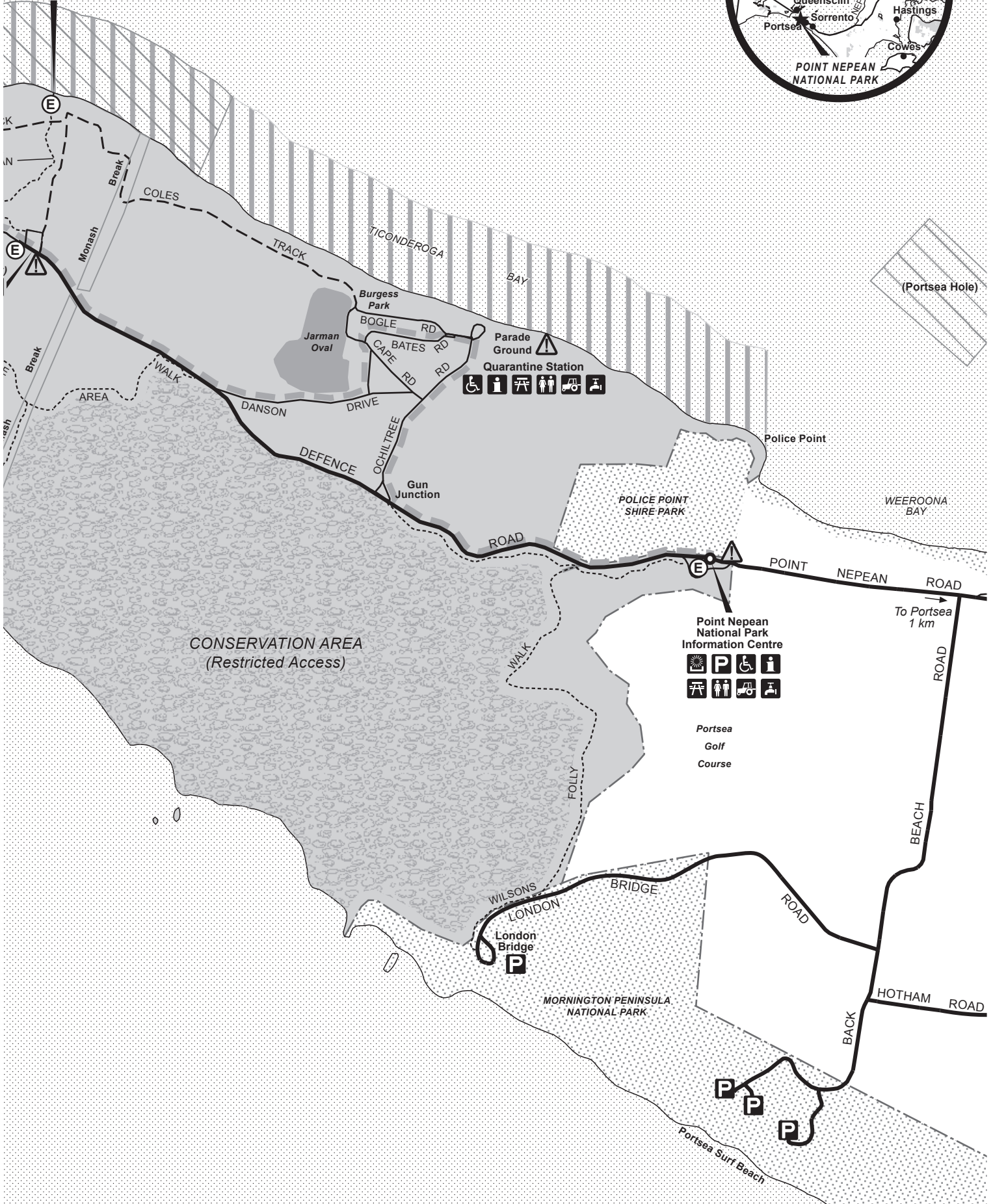
Point Nepean National Park		Recreational Facilities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major sealed road Minor sealed road-Management Vehicles Only Walking & Cycling track Walkers Only track Transporter Route 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point Nepean National Park Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park Other Parks & Reserves Ticonderoga Bay Sanctuary Zone - Refer: Guide to Boating & Swimming around Whales, Dolphins & Seals Water body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barbecue-Electric Carpark Facilities for people with disabilities Lookout Memorial Emergency Assembly Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park information Picnic table Toilets Water Transporter Stop ESTA Emergency marker 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major sealed road Minor sealed road-Management Vehicles Only Walking & Cycling track Walkers Only track Transporter Route 				

PORT

PHILLIP



Observatory Point



For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre

Call 13 1963

or visit the

Parks Victoria website

www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Transporter times and group
bookings

Point Nepean

Information Centre

(03) 5984 1586

Caring for the environment

Help us look after this park by
remembering these
guidelines:

Please take all rubbish
home with you

Fires and camping are not
permitted

Keep to walking tracks

Dogs, cats and other
domestic pets are not allowed

All native plants and wildlife
are protected

Swimming, fishing, surfing
and entering the water are
not permitted

Please don't throw this park
note away. Keep it, recycle it
or return it for others to use

Be FireReady 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.**

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

History

Indigenous history

Point Nepean is part of Boonwurrung country. The Boonwurrung people lived on and around Point Nepean for thousands of years gathering shellfish and other foods along the coastline. The interaction with early settlers and ceremony make it an important place. Extensive shell middens are reminders of their enduring association.

Early settlement

Point Nepean has evidence of some of the earliest European settlement in Victoria, including pastoral activities and lime burning. Shepherd's Hut located in the Quarantine Station is one of the earliest intact limestone buildings in Victoria.

Quarantine Station

It is the second oldest permanent quarantine station in Victoria (1952 – 1980). Comprising of over 50 heritage listed buildings and the oldest intact buildings erected for quarantine purposes in Australia.

Defence

The entrance to Port Phillip Bay was the most heavily fortified port of the British Empire. There are many Colonial and Commonwealth structures from 1880s – 1940s located around the park. Fort Nepean is considered to be one of the best examples in Australia of a major fort complex exhibiting the changes in military engineering through the 19th and 20th centuries.

Flora and fauna

The remnant flora and fauna of Point Nepean is of very high significance. A remote and protected location, it is home to the White-footed Dunnart, Long-nosed Bandicoot, Black Wallaby, Singing Honeyeater, Blue-winged Parrot and Hooded Plover. The park also comprises the largest and most intact area of remnant coastal vegetation remaining on the southern Mornington Peninsula. Native plants and vegetation communities include Coastal Moonah Woodland, Coastal Dune Scrub, remnant grasslands and threatened orchids.

The marine life

Surrounding Point Nepean is Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park. The diversity and abundance of marine flora and fauna in these waters are greater than many comparable habitats elsewhere in the world. Its intertidal zone is a habitat for a wide variety of shellfish, marine invertebrates, dramatic underwater gorges, colourful sponge gardens, tall kelp forests, emerald sea-grass beds, surging currents and tranquil backwaters.

Location & access

Getting around the park

A transporter service operates several times a day from the Point Nepean Information Centre to Fort Nepean with five stops along the way. Alternatively you can park your car at Gunners Cottage car park and walk or cycle the 2.6 kilometres to Fort Nepean or 2 kilometres to the Quarantine Station. Bikes can be hired from the Information Centre. Wheelchair access available see map.

How to get there

Point Nepean is located 90km from Melbourne. Visitors can catch a train from Melbourne to Frankston and then a bus to Portsea. The Sorrento to Queenscliff passenger ferry operates on the hour from 7am to 6pm (with extended summer hours).

Weddings & photography

There are many stunning locations suitable for weddings and photography at Point Nepean. Celebrate your special day at an unforgettable place. For more information call 13 1963.

Want to volunteer?

If you are interested in lending a hand there are volunteer groups involved in historical fort and walking track maintenance, weed control and interpreting the heritage of the Quarantine Station please call 13 1963.

Keep in touch

To keep up-to-date with what's happening at Point Nepean please visit
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

November 2010

Printed on Australian-made 100% recycled paper