

Western Port Recreational Boating Guide

6th Edition, January 2025



Explore Victoria's diverse landscapes



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Safety on the water

Make sure you are familiar with the following safety checklist and regulations before you head out on Western Port.

Be prepared

- Check local conditions, weather, tides and Notice to Mariners. Adjust your plans accordingly.
- Carry your marine licence while driving a boat or powered vessel.
- Know the rules, regulations and distress signals.
- Carry sufficient fuel, water, first aid kit, flares, emergency locator beacon (EPIRB or PLB) and other required safety equipment for the area.
- Carry life jackets of correct type and quantity (must be AS 4758 from July 2028).
- Have a chart of where you are going and an ACMA-approved VHF marine radio.
- Plan your trip – let someone know before you go and when you expect to return.
- Check engine, batteries and ensure navigation lights are working correctly.
- Don't overload your boat.

On the water

- Adhere to speed limits, including a maximum of 5 knots within
 - 50 metres of a person in the water,
 - 100 metres of a vessel or buoy on which a dive flag is displayed,
 - 50 metres of another vessel, jetty, slipway, diving platform or boat ramp and designated zones.
- Always keep to the right of channels.
- Wear a lifejacket anytime you're on an open area of a boat even if not required to do so. Ensure all children under the age of 12 years who are in the vessel always wear a life jacket.
- Keep a careful watch on the weather.
- Watch out for other boats and hazards including strong tidal current and reduced depths.
- Keep a safe distance between your boat and other boats, people, wildlife and structures.
- Keep a proper lookout at all times, especially for paddlers or non-powered craft who are generally harder to see and hear.
- Be considerate of wake when passing paddlers and other non-powered vessels or infrastructure.
- Keep well clear of moving ships as they may have difficulty spotting recreational vessels and have restricted maneuverability.
- Take care not to cross ahead of large vessels as you may underestimate their speed and not be seen.
- Do not obstruct the movement of large vessels by drifting or anchoring in shipping channels, across shipping tracks or ferry routes.
- Be aware that the bow-wave or wash from large ships, including the large commercial ferries, can cause your boat to capsize or roll heavily and cause serious injury to its occupants.
- If you hear a vessel sounding five short and rapid blasts on its horn, you must get out of its way.
- Navigation lights on your vessel must be fitted correctly and operate from sunset to sunrise and in times of restricted visibility.

Following the regulations

The following regulations must be observed for the safety for all users of the waters and to protect the environment.

- Observe boat zone boundaries and restrictions.
- Slow down immediately to 5 knots within 50 metres of swimmers or 100 metres of divers.
- Don't be a hoon – you can be ordered off the water or your vessel can be impounded for dangerous and disruptive actions.
- Vessel operators over 21 years of age must have a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of below 0.05. Vessel operators under 21 years of age or accompanying a restricted license holder must have a BAC of 0.
- Observe recreational fishing regulations and restrictions in marine national parks and sanctuaries – check fishing and harvesting rules on the free Vic Fishing app.
- The discharge of sewage or release of other waste from boats is prohibited.

Protecting Western Port

Western Port contains important feeding sites and habitat for waterbirds and is acknowledged in several international protection agreements. Help protect the marine environment and ensure it can be enjoyed by future generations by following these guidelines.

- Know the boundaries and restrictions of marine national parks and sanctuaries - all native plants and animals are protected by law.
- Avoid disturbance to flocks of birds by slowing down and keeping away from marked sites when birds are present.
- Keep a safe distance from marine mammals such as dolphins and seals (refer to **Wildlife and shorebird habitat** section for details).
- It is illegal to fly drones in Parks Victoria managed areas, including marine protected areas without a permit.
- Reduce speed when operating power boats in shallow water or when close to shore as propellers can cause considerable damage to sensitive seabeds and the wake can cause erosion.
- Avoid anchoring over seagrass or reef areas and use a secure anchor suitable for the area.
- Keep your boat clean and protected from aquatic pests - visit parks.vic.gov.au and search 'marine pests' for more information.
- Ensure all dive and snorkel related equipment is fully washed in fresh water and dried prior to entering a different body of water - to minimise the spread of marine pests.
- Prevent pollutants such as petrol, oil and detergents from entering the water.
- Dispose of sewage waste properly and use pump out facilities where they are available.
- Clean out bilges and sumps regularly.
- Store rubbish securely to prevent wildlife eating or being entangled in litter.
- Launch or retrieve your craft at designated launching ramps.
- Get involved with a marine focused friends group. Contact Parks Victoria for more information on 13 1963 or visit parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/volunteering

A-Z guide to Western Port

This guide explains many of Western Port's features, facilities and safe navigation tips to protect its environment while exploring the waters safely.

Aids to navigation

Aids to navigation are the traffic signals of the water that guide vessel operators safely. Known as a buoyage system, these include a combination of piles, pillars, buoys and lights to indicate channels, hazards, special areas and waterway zones.

Light sequences can be:

- Fixed (continuous light)
- Occulting (total duration of light longer than total duration of darkness)
- Isophase (duration of light and darkness equal)
- Flashing (total duration of light shorter than total duration of darkness)
- Quick (repetition rate of 50 to 79 - usually either 50 or 60 - flashes per minute)
-

Buoyage system, Ports and Coastal waters





Anchoring

Make sure to place an appropriate anchor with adequate line and chain. Dragging anchors damage reefs and seagrass beds. Where possible anchor in sand and avoid anchoring over seagrass and reef areas. Anchoring is not permitted in shipping channels and fairways.

Aquaculture Fisheries Reserves

The Flinders Aquaculture Fisheries Reserve (440 ha) is located offshore between Flinders and Shoreham. The reserve is identifiable by yellow special marks, with the word 'Aquaculture' at the external boundaries.

Within the reserve, Crown lease areas are designated for aquaculture, including fish and mussel farming. Recreational users may enter the reserve at their own risk with caution due to submerged hazards but cannot enter the lease areas (within the marked boundaries) without permission of the leaseholder.

Recreational fishing can be undertaken throughout non-leased parts of the reserves in accordance with the conditions below.

- Keep to public areas of the Aquaculture Fisheries Reserve.
- Watch for divers and keep vessels and equipment a safe distance from aquaculture equipment.
- Always travel at a low speed and keep boat wash to a minimum.
- Comply with boating and fishing regulations.
- Don't enter Crown leases without the express permission of the leaseholder.
- Don't encroach on Crown leases. Keep all equipment such as anchors, fishing lines and lures away from these areas.
- Don't tie up to navigation aids, aquaculture equipment or external Crown lease boundary buoys.
- Don't berley (scatter bait on water), clean fish or allow spillage of waste near the reserve.

For more information contact the **Victorian Fisheries Authority** on **136 186**

Berthing facilities

Public berthing is available on many piers and jetties throughout Western Port. Time limits apply to keep access at popular destinations equitable. Parks Victoria managed piers and jetties have colour-coded signs identifying loading zones (**yellow**), short term zones (**blue**) and permit only zones (**red**). You can check the current restrictions, including whether the vessel can be left unattended, in advance at parks.vic.gov.au/water-management/moorings-and-berths. Some areas have been leased or allocated for commercial boat operators only. These berths are not available for public use, not even short-term berthing. Please observe these restrictions to ensure fair access for everyone.

Types of berths available

Berth Location	Loading	Short-term	Permit only	Map Ref.
Corinella Jetty				R 13
Cowes Jetty				J 15
Flinders Jetty				A 17
Hastings Pier				I 8
Newhaven Jetty				P 19
Rhyll Jetty				M 16
San Remo Jetty				P 19
Tankerton Jetty				L 12
Tooradin Jetty				P 3
Warneet North Jetty	Check signage			M 3
Warneet South Jetty		Check signage		M 3

Berthing is also available in harbours, marinas and other sheltered waters of Western Port. Contact marina and harbour operators to book a berth prior to arrival.



Boat ramps

The Victorian Government has made boat launching and parking free at all public boat ramps. Publicly accessible boat ramps are marked on this map by the symbol and some clubs and marinas have private boat ramps for members.

If you're unfamiliar with a particular boat ramp or to contact the boat ramp manager check boating.vic.gov.au or the Boating Victoria app.

Check, Clean and Dry - stop pests spreading

90 per cent of the plants and animals in Australia's southern waters are found nowhere else in the world. The best way to protect them is to prevent the introduction and spread of marine pests associated with boating.

When anchoring and going ashore, be sure to know your location, restricted activities and what items you can bring ashore. Pest species can be introduced when beaching your vessel or stepping ashore - be sure to check and clean gear thoroughly before leaving.

Places like French Island provide important wildlife and plant havens with a large area of the island reserved as national park. The island remains free of introduced Black Rats, however cats are a continuing threat to native wildlife. Dogs and other pets are not permitted within the national park.

Follow these steps to help protect our bays and oceans.

- **Check** all vessels and equipment and remove anything including, water, sand or seaweed. Check your catch for signs of illness.
- **Clean** boats at home or at a commercial car wash. Wash your wetsuits, fishing and diving equipment with fresh, soapy water.
- **Dry** all boating, fishing and diving equipment completely before heading out into the water again.

Check Clean Dry – abalone disease

You must not use abalone as bait, gut or throw abalone shell into the ocean – this reduces the risk of spreading abalone disease.

Marine pests can affect your boat in the following ways:

- Damage the paint and hull where they are attached
- Increase drag and therefore fuel costs
- Block water inlets, skin fittings and propellers

For more information visit vfa.vic.gov.au and search 'check clean dry' or 'abalone disease.'

Charts for navigation

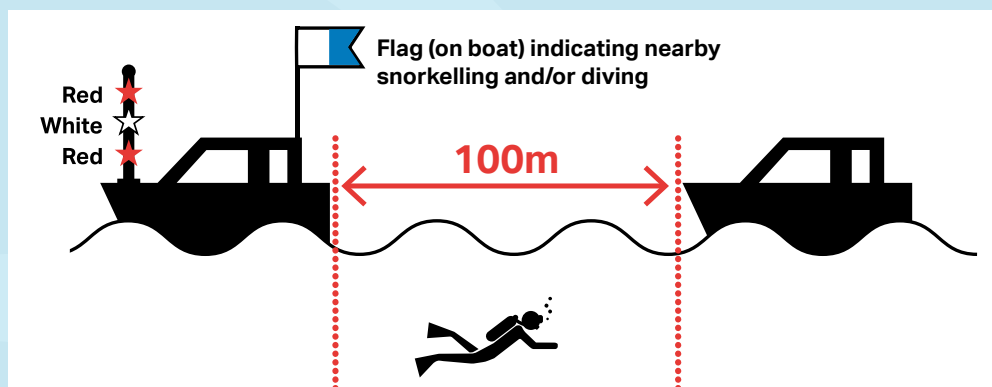
Boat operators should carry accurate Australian navigation charts (Aus151 and Aus801) which can be purchased through mapping retailers and Australian Hydrographic Office distribution agents.

For more details visit hydro.gov.au and click on 'products and services.'

Diving and snorkelling

A 5-knot speed limit applies to vessel operators within 100m of a 'diver below' Alpha-flag.

Any vessel with divers operating from it must always display signals by day or night to inform other vessel users. During night diving, a vessel must show the international signal for a vessel restricted in its ability to manoeuvre. Always be aware that divers in the water may not be near a vessel and may ascend at any time.



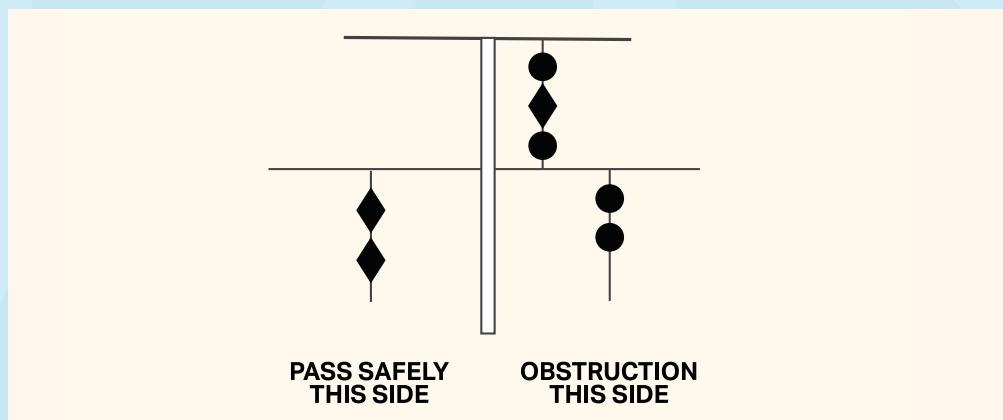
Dredging

Maintenance dredging is conducted to maintain safe access to boating facilities in locations such as San Remo and Tankerton.

When encountering a vessel engaged in dredging operations, recreational boat operators should maintain a low speed and pass on the non-obstructed side of the dredge vessel.

The safe side of passage is indicated by a double black diamond signal on the vessel. A double black ball signal indicates the obstruction side to avoid.

Dredging passing



Emergencies

- Put on life jackets
- Raise the alarm
 - Call 000
 - Use VHF marine radio or EPIRB/PLB
 - Flares (activate when you see a potential rescuer)
- Stay with your boat

Fishing

A Recreational Fishing Licence is required for anglers in Victoria aged 18 – 70 years old. Follow fishing regulations and remember to check bag and size limits, fishing methods and closed seasons outlined in the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide.

Fishing is not permitted in marine national parks and sanctuaries.

Download the Vic Fishing app to find out where you can fish, using the 'Can I fish here?' feature. To download, visit vfa.vic.gov.au and search for 'application' or for more information contact the Victorian Fisheries Authority on 136 186.



Scan the link to find out more





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Google Play



Download on the
App Store

Fuel

When in public areas, all diesel or unleaded fuel should be transported in AS2906 approved containers with a volume no greater than 25 litres. For your safety, turn off batteries and remove ignition sources. Ensure void spaces are vented to air and that no passengers are onboard. Refuelling should always be carried out 'on-boat' and not by leaning over the boat from a pier, jetty or landing. Take care to ensure fuel, oil and other potential pollutants are stored and transferred carefully and not spilt.

Fuel can also be purchased from Western Port Marina (Hastings), Yaringa Marina (Somerville), or the San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op who provide diesel to their members and the fishing fleet at San Remo.

Hazards and damaged navigation aids

Should you encounter damaged aids to navigation, malfunctioning navigation lights, vessels adrift, submerged objects and other dangerous debris floating in the local port, please report them immediately to **Parks Victoria** on 13 1963 or info@parks.vic.gov.au

Marine Protected Areas

Marine national parks and sanctuaries are magnificent places for exploring marine life, snorkelling, scuba diving, paddling, swimming, photography, low-speed boating and sailing.

There are four marine protected areas around Western Port: French Island Marine National Park, Churchill Island Marine National Park, Yaringa Marine National Park and Mushroom Reef Marine Sanctuary. They are marked either on land by yellow directional triangle signs, on water by yellow special marks with the words 'Marine Nat. Park' or both'

1. Churchill Island Marine National Park (Map Ref. N18)
2. French Island Marine National Park (Map Ref. P7)
3. Yaringa Marine National Park (Map Ref. K4)
4. Mushroom Reef Marine Sanctuary (Map Ref. A17)

For more information on marine national protected areas visit parks.vic.gov.au



A number of activities are not permitted within the boundaries of Victoria's marine national parks and marine sanctuaries.

Know the boundaries – penalties apply



- No fishing
- No spear fishing
- No taking or damaging of any animals, plants and objects (artefacts)
- No flying drones
- No hovercraft to operate within 150 metres of the French Island National Park shoreline

Offences by individuals may incur an infringement notice and penalties of up to 12 months imprisonment and/or fines of up to \$20,000. Vessels, vehicles and equipment may also be seized.

If you suspect someone is breaking fishing rules, please phone the **Victorian Fisheries Authority** 24/7 reporting hotline 13FISH (13 3474).

For more information on marine national parks and sanctuaries visit parks.vic.gov.au and search 'marine protected areas' or contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

Mooring grounds

Parks Victoria managed mooring permits are renewed every 12 months, depending on compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit.

To find a mooring ground or berthing area that suits you, visit parks.vic.gov.au/water-management/moorings-and-berths or contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963.



Narrows – between Newhaven and San Remo

Large vessel operators should be aware of the 18-metre air-draught beneath overhead power cables and the 12-metre air draught beneath the Phillip Island Bridge, between San Remo and Newhaven.

Western Port experiences strong tidal flows reaching up to 6 knots in the narrows between Newhaven and San Remo. Mariners are advised to remain in defined channels as vessels can be stranded on mud flats for upwards of eight hours.

Notice to Mariners

A Notice to Mariners is issued by a Harbour Master, Port Manager or Waterway Manager to advise waterway users of a significant change in a port or waterway which may affect safe navigation.

Boat operators should check the latest Notice to Mariners before operating a boat on Western Port. Notice to Mariners are available at parks.vic.gov.au and vicports.vic.gov.au. For more information or to subscribe to Parks Victoria Notices to Mariners, please contact noticetomariners@parks.vic.gov.au.

To receive Ports Victoria Notices to Mariners, please contact Navigation Services, at navservices@ports.vic.gov.au.

Paddling and non-powered vessels

Western Port is a popular waterway for kite boards, kayaks, paddle boards and canoes. Please reduce speed to a maximum of 5 knots to minimise wake, when within 50 metres of these vessels, which are more susceptible to capsizing. Follow PFD wearing rules when operating paddle craft.

Piers and jetties

Piers and jetties link land and water, providing facilities for vessel berthing and loading operations, fishing, snorkellers and coastal walks.

Colour coded signs at individual locations identify loading, short term and permit only zones. Refer to the table in **Berthing facilities** section above or contact Parks Victoria to find out the latest information.



- Never dive or jump from a jetty or pier – it's illegal and dangerous.
- Always enter the water from the beach or use ladders provided.

Port security

Vessel prohibited zones are in place within 100 metres of the oil jetty structures at Long Island Point Jetty and Crib Point Jetties. Access to the zone is controlled and unauthorised entry is an offence.

Victorian Water Police manage port security in partnership with commercial port managers. If you see something suspicious on the water, contact the **Water Police** on 1800 135 729.



Pump out facilities

Use a holding tank for sewage and dispose of waste properly on land or use pump out facilities. Boat sewerage pump out systems are designed for larger boats that have holding tanks. Sewerage hoppers are designed for boats that use a portable toilet.

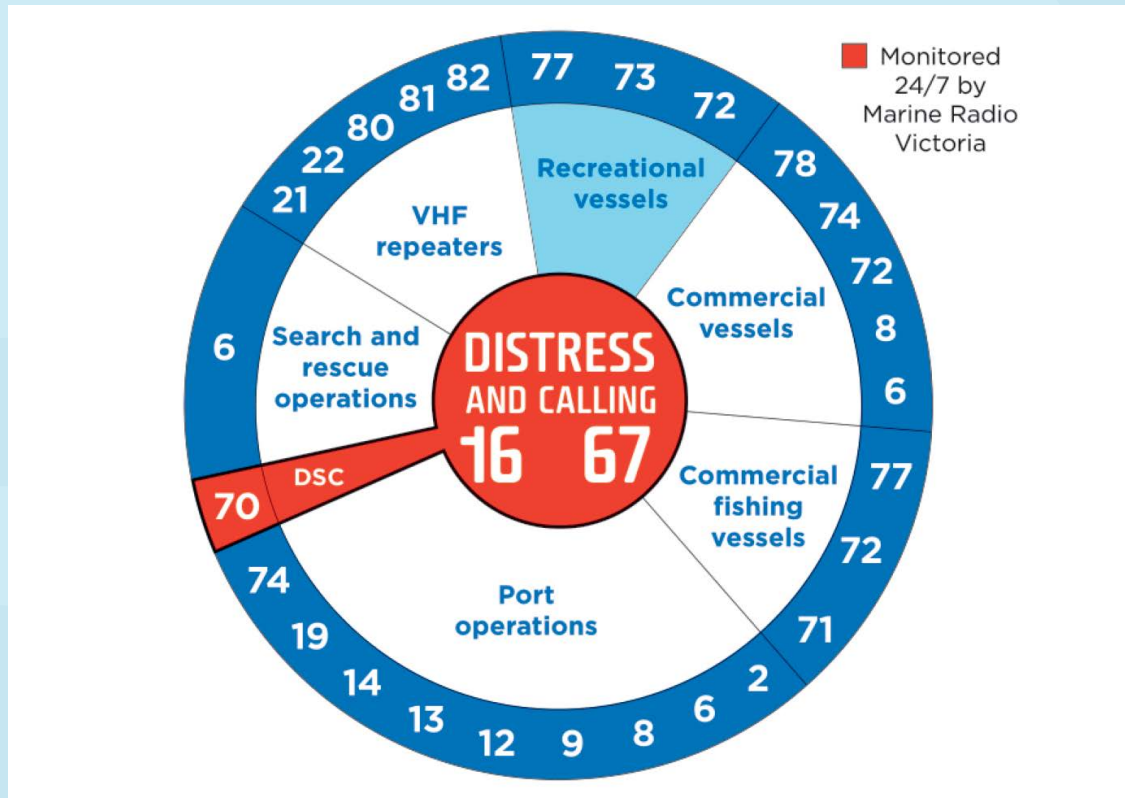
Discharge of sewage and other waste from boats pollutes our valuable waterways and poses a risk to marine ecosystems, human health and safe navigation.

Pump out facilities are available at Yaringa Marina (Map Ref K4).

Radio channels

Marine Radio Victoria monitors and records radio traffic on VHF and HF emergency radio channels, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. They provide weather forecasts, safety alerts and radio checks. 27MHz radios are no longer monitored or recommended. Avoid all unnecessary communications on marine radio and be aware of the following VHF marine radio channels and frequencies when operating in Western Port.

VHF Marine radio channels



Shipping channels

Large ships travel Western Port shipping channels during all hours of the day and night and sometimes travel outside designated fairways. A ship's blind spot can extend hundreds of metres and it is very difficult for ships to change course quickly.

It is the responsibility of recreational boat operators to:

- Keep clear of ships at all times
- Never anchor in shipping channels, it's the law
- Never obstruct the path of ships or assume a ship can see you
- Never tie up to navigation aids such as buoys or channel markers

Steer clear - penalties apply

For more information contact **Port of Hastings Harbour Control** on 0428 549 235.

Speed

Always maintain a proper lookout, operate at a safe speed and follow local speed restrictions.

A maximum speed of 5 knots applies on Western Port when operating a vessel:

- Within 50m of swimmers, other vessels and fixed or floating structures
- Within 100m of diver's flags
- Within a designated 5 knot zone
- Within a designated anchorage for small craft (mooring ground)



Tides

During low tide, much of Western Port becomes mud flats which are unnavigable and inaccessible to vessels. Western Port has strong tidal variations which can fluctuate by up to 3 metres. Always check tide charts before departing to avoid being stranded.

For assistance with a major grounding or stranding

- Call 000
- Use VHF marine radio or EPIRB/PLB

Tide charts are available from bom.gov.au/australia/tides

Wildlife watching

Western Port is important for many species of waterbird and is recognised as a Wetland of International Significance particularly for migratory shorebirds which feed on the exposed mud at low tide and rest at high tide at specific roosting sites.

- Minimise disturbance to flocks of feeding, roosting or breeding birds by slowing down and keeping away from marked sites when birds are present, particularly between the September and March breeding season.
- When birdwatching, stay at least 100 metres away from breeding birds

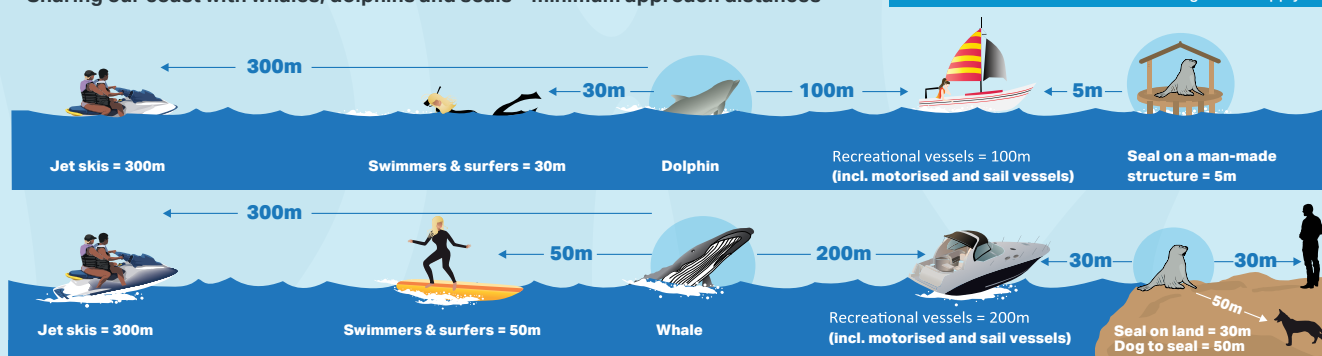
Western Port is home to seals, dolphins and visiting whales.

- Boats are not permitted to approach within 100 metres of a dolphin or 200 metres of a whale
- Jet skis and all personal watercraft (PWC) are not permitted within 300 metres of a whale or dolphin
- Caution zones for vessels apply within 300 metres of a whale, within 150 metres of a dolphin and within 50 metres of a seal - stop or reduce vessel speed to 5 knots in the caution zone and do not approach the marine mammal from ahead or behind
- All aircraft, including helicopters and drones must:
 - not approach within 500 vertical metres, within a 500-metre radius, of a whale, dolphin or seal
 - avoid approaching marine mammals from head on
 - avoid flying over, or passing the shadow of the aircraft over, marine mammals
 - not land on water to observe whales
 - move away if a marine mammal shows signs of disturbance

Leave animals alone if they are cornered or show signs of agitation, such as diving or rapid changes in direction.

Sharing our coast with whales, dolphins and seals – minimum approach distances

Penalties for breaches of the Act and Regulations apply



Exploring Western Port

Western Port is a treasure trove full of wonderful marine life with plenty of opportunities to explore. Whether boating, watching wildlife, fishing, kite boarding, diving, swimming or simply taking a stroll along a pier, there's something for everyone.

As a Ramsar site, Western Port is internationally recognised for its conservation value, incorporating vast mudflats, two sites of international, geological and geomorphological significance and nationally important expanses of relatively undisturbed, species-rich, saltmarsh vegetation.

Understanding the tides is key to appreciating its marine life as the waters' ebb and flow exposes shallow mudflats and creates deep channels that create rich feeding grounds for migratory waders and other waterbirds.

Bird watching

Western Port provides excellent bird watching opportunities, especially for migratory waders before their Arctic journey. Significant populations of species such as the Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel and Bar-tailed Godwit make it their home between September and April.

When observing breeding birds, birdwatchers should stay at least 100 metres away, to allow for the natural behaviour of the birds.

Western Port is home to over 10,000 shorebirds and over 10,000 waterfowl and has long been recognised as a wetland of international significance for migratory shorebirds. This is reflected in its Ramsar listing and its inclusion in the East Asian–Australasian Shorebird Site Network.

In 2010, Western Port was also listed as an Important Bird Area (BirdLife International) on the basis that it regularly supports more than 1% of the global population of Eastern Curlew, Red-necked Stint and Australian Pied Oystercatcher, plus declining numbers of two threatened species, Fairy Tern and Orange-bellied Parrot.



Pied Oystercatchers in Western Port
Photo by Mark Norman, Museums Victoria

Dolphins and seals

As you travel across Western Port, be on the lookout for dolphins or seals in their natural habitat. Dolphins are seen more often at the southern end of Western Port while seals can be seen soaking up the sun at Seal Rocks. Remember to keep a safe distance from wildlife at all times.

Fishing adventures

One of the most popular activities in Western Port is fishing. The area offers abundant opportunities to catch a range of fish including flathead, snapper, squid, leatherjacket, gummy shark, salmon or King George Whiting.

Island hopping

Plan a day trip by boat to one of the many seaside villages and islands in Western Port. Accessible from local piers, coastal villages have a range of services, including restaurants and cafes and attractions for everyone to explore.

French Island

Use Tankerton Jetty's short-term berths (vessel must be attended) to drop off passengers or catch the ferry (refer **Enjoy a ferry ride** section). French Island National Park has much to offer including unspoiled natural bushland and walking along beaches where your only companions are hundreds of wading birds. Experience wonderful walks and bike rides through a range of habitats. There are day, half day and shorter walks and rides starting at Tankerton Foreshore Reserve including the popular Coast Walking Track.

If you'd like to stay longer to explore, set up a beachside camp at Fairhaven Campground, 5km walk from the jetty. Try to spot koalas, echidnas, Purple Moorhen, Swamp Harriers and Cape Barren Geese. French Island is not accessible by car, unless destined for a permanent residence. Most of the island is designated national park and the park boundary extends 150 metres offshore. Remember that dogs and other pets are not permitted within the park boundary, including on vessels.

Phillip Island

Explore Phillip Island's stunning coastline with its excellent all-tide and all-weather boat launching facilities, located at Cowes, Rhyll and Newhaven. Catch fresh fish and discover sheltered bay beaches (between September and March avoid marked shorebird habitat sites as they are nesting sites for threatened birds). Phillip Island Nature Park is a protected area, dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park, even in vessels. Boat hire is available at Rhyll and Cowes and if you're wanting to join a charter expedition, sign up in Rhyll or head across to San Remo. Take a cruise around the island, a wonderful way to uncover the region's many secrets and wonderful wildlife.

For more information on short term berthing contact Parks Victoria, visit parks.vic.gov.au or for other great visitor experiences Visit Victoria's website at visitvictoria.com

Enjoy a ferry ride

For a relaxing way to explore Western Port, jump on board a ferry. Whether you're looking for a day out on the water or simply to get from one side to the other, there are a few services available:

- Mornington Peninsula, Stony Point Wharf (**Map Ref. I11**)
- Phillip Island, Cowes Jetty (**Map Ref. J15**)
- French Island, Tankerton Jetty (**Map Ref. L12**)

Take a guided tour

Take a relaxed approach to organising your great adventure by booking a tour, dive, snorkelling or fishing trip with one of Parks Victoria's licensed tour operators.

For more information contact Parks Victoria or visit parks.vic.gov.au



Managing Western Port

Parks Victoria is the port and waterway manager for the local port of Western Port and manages piers and jetties, mooring permits, aids to navigation, marine protected areas and acts as a referral agency for planning matters and authorization of new structures.

Parks Victoria has accountability for the safety of water users, control of vessel activities and cargo and effective management of the local port and is authorised to issue infringement notices or prosecute people who break the law.

The Victorian Water Police and Victorian Fisheries Authority also enforce boating regulations in partnership with Parks Victoria.



Western Port directory

Emergency	Call 000 or 1800 135 729 (Water Police) Use marine radio or EPIRB/PLB
Australian Hydrographic Service	Ph: 02 4223 6500 Fax: 02 4223 6599 hydro.gov.au
Australian Volunteer Coast Guard	Ph: 9598 9092 coastguard.com.au
Bureau of Meteorology	Ph: 1300 754 389 bom.gov.au
Dept. Of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Ph: 136 186 deeca.vic.gov.au
Environment Protection Authority	Ph: 1300 372 842 (24 hours) E: contact@epa.vic.gov.au epa.vic.gov.au
Victorian Fisheries Authority	Ph: 136 186 Report Illegal Fishing – call 13 3474
Heritage Victoria	Ph: 7022 6390 E: heritage.victoria@delwp.vic.gov.au heritage.vic.gov.au (search for 'maritime')
Parks Victoria	P: 13 1963 parks.vic.gov.au
Port of Hastings	P: 5979 5500 Fax: 5979 5555 E: enquiries@portofhastings.vic.gov.au portofhastings.vic.gov.au
Safe Transport Victoria	Ph: 1800 638 802 safetransport.vic.gov.au/on-the-water/
Ports Victoria	E: admin@ports.vic.gov.au vrca.vic.gov.au
Victorian Water Police	Emergency – Call 000 Other enquiries – 9399 7500
Western Port Marina	Ph: 5979 7400 E: clientservices@westernportmarina.com.au auwesternportmarina.com.au
Yaringa Marina	Ph: 5977 4154 E: info@yaringa.com.au yaringa.com.au

Recommended Reading

[Admiralty charts](#)

[Boat ramp information](#)

[Marine and Coastal Act and associated regulations](#)

[Notice to Mariners](#)

[Port of Hastings Handbook](#)

[Vessel Operating and Zoning Rules](#)

[Victorian Recreational Boating Safety Handbook](#)

[Victorian Tide Tables](#)

MINIMUM SAFETY EQUIPMENT

FOR POWERED VESSELS

POWERBOAT



	COASTAL OFFSHORE (≥2nm from coast)	COASTAL INSHORE (<2nm from coast)	ENCLOSED (Bays and estuaries)	INLAND (Rivers, lakes and dams)
Lifejacket (per person on board/towed)	Level 100	Level 100	Level 100	Level 100, Level 50 or Level 50S
Approved fire extinguisher (where any fuel is carried)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Waterproof buoyant torch	1	1	1	1
Anchor and chain, line, or both	1	1	1	
Bailer (if no electric or manual bilge pumping system)	1	1	1	1
Bucket with lanyard (can also double as a bailer)	1	1	1	1
Electric or manual bilge pumping system (if vessel has covered bilge or closed under floor compartments)	1	1	1	1
Pair of oars with rowlocks or pair of paddles (vessels <4.8m)	1	1	1	1
2 Orange and 2 red handheld flares (On enclosed waters, flares can be replaced with registered GPS enabled EPIRB, PLB or VHF marine radio min 25 watt).	✓	✓	✓	
Lifebuoy (vessels 8-12m in length)	1	1	1	1
Lifebuoy (vessels >12m)	2	2	2	2
One Dinghy or liferaft (vessels >12m)	1	1		
Compass	1			
VHF Marine radio	1		Optional	
Red star parachute distress rocket	1			
Registered EPIRB	1		Optional	

All safety equipment carried onboard must be:

- placed or located in a conspicuous and readily accessible position at all times
- kept in good order at all times
- maintained or serviced in a way that ensures that they are able to operate at all times in the way that they were designed to operate, and
- serviced on or before the date specified by the manufacturer for that item of equipment.

This publication is intended as general information only and is not a substitute for the relevant legislation, legal or professional advice.

For more information call
1800 223 022

or visit
safetransport.vic.gov.au

SAFE TRANSPORT  VICTORIA



Our bays, coastlines, forests and mountains play an important role in fostering happy, healthy and active communities. Protecting these areas in parks for present and future generations provides inspirational and therapeutic settings that foster lifelong connections with nature and each other. Parks that are valued and maintained are also fundamental to economic growth and vibrant and healthy communities.

For more information on great outdoor adventures contact **Parks Victoria** on **13 1963** or visit parks.vic.gov.au

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THIS MAP IS NOT FOR NAVIGATION USE

Navigation aids are shown for information only and can change.
Boat operators should carry accurate Australian navigation charts.



