

Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary

Marine life among the rocks

Below the lighthouse at Airey's Inlet, among the stacks and boulders, lies a small sea-haven full of marine life. This craggy coastline is composed of both hard basalt and yellow rubbly limestone.

The cliffs are full of caves and ledges, and boulders are scattered along the shore. Just offshore there are two large rocks - Eagle Rock, a tall volcanic stack capped by limestone, and Table Rock, which has been levelled by the incessant waves.

The shore rock platforms are covered in swathes of Neptune's Necklace, a brown seaweed that looks like strings of beads. Marine life abounds in the deeper rock pools, with animals including octopuses, decorator crabs, chiton and schools of tiny silver fish.

The offshore rocks are fringed by swirling Bull Kelp, which thrives in the breaking waves. On calm days, however, a snorkel around the rocks can be very rewarding.

Colourful sea-tulips and encrusting sponges grow on the rocks. Blue-throated Wrasse, Rosy Wrasse and Sweep are common fish. Schools of Yellow-eyed Mullet swim by. There are Cat Sharks in the kelp, and stingarees, skates and rays on the sand.



Port Jackson Shark

Port Jackson Sharks may be seen resting in a sandy corral past Eagle Rock. These ancient sharks with a crested head have rows of tiny pointed teeth that are used to crush pipis and other invertebrates they forage from the sand.

Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary is part of a system of 13 Marine National Parks and 11 smaller Marine Sanctuaries created by the Victorian Government to ensure that representative samples of Victoria's diverse, distinctive and amazing marine environment are conserved for future generations.

These parks and sanctuaries now protect 5.3% of Victoria's coastal waters, safeguarding important marine habitats and species, and complementing our world-class national parks system on land.

By keeping some of these marine areas in a natural state, free from potentially damaging human activities, we will protect these environments into the future.

Enjoying Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary

Eagle Rock offers good diving and snorkelling when conditions are calm, and wonderful opportunities for nature study on the rock platforms.

The rockpools have a diverse range of marine life, with many types of marine molluscs to be discovered in the pools on the rock shelf between the beach and Eagle Rock.

Visit Eagle Rock lookout and the Lighthouse on the adjacent reserve for great views along the coast, or take a leisurely walk along the beach and explore the sea-cave under the lighthouse, formed during periods when the sea level was higher than at present. Please be careful to avoid touching the limestone formations as this leads to discolouration.

Take care exploring the area around Eagle Rock as tidal changes can leave you stranded.



Parks Victoria Ranger

"Victoria's system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries provides total protection for their unique inhabitants, offering unlimited opportunities for us all to learn more about this stunning underwater world."

**For more information
call the Parks Victoria
Information Centre
on 13 1963 or
visit our website at
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au**

Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary Area: 17 ha

Major sealed road
 Minor sealed road
 Marine National Park
 Waterbody

Boat access point
 Shore based boundary marker (Triangular Beacon)

0 100 200
 METRES
 Cartography by Spatial Vision 2002 M17364

MELBOURNE

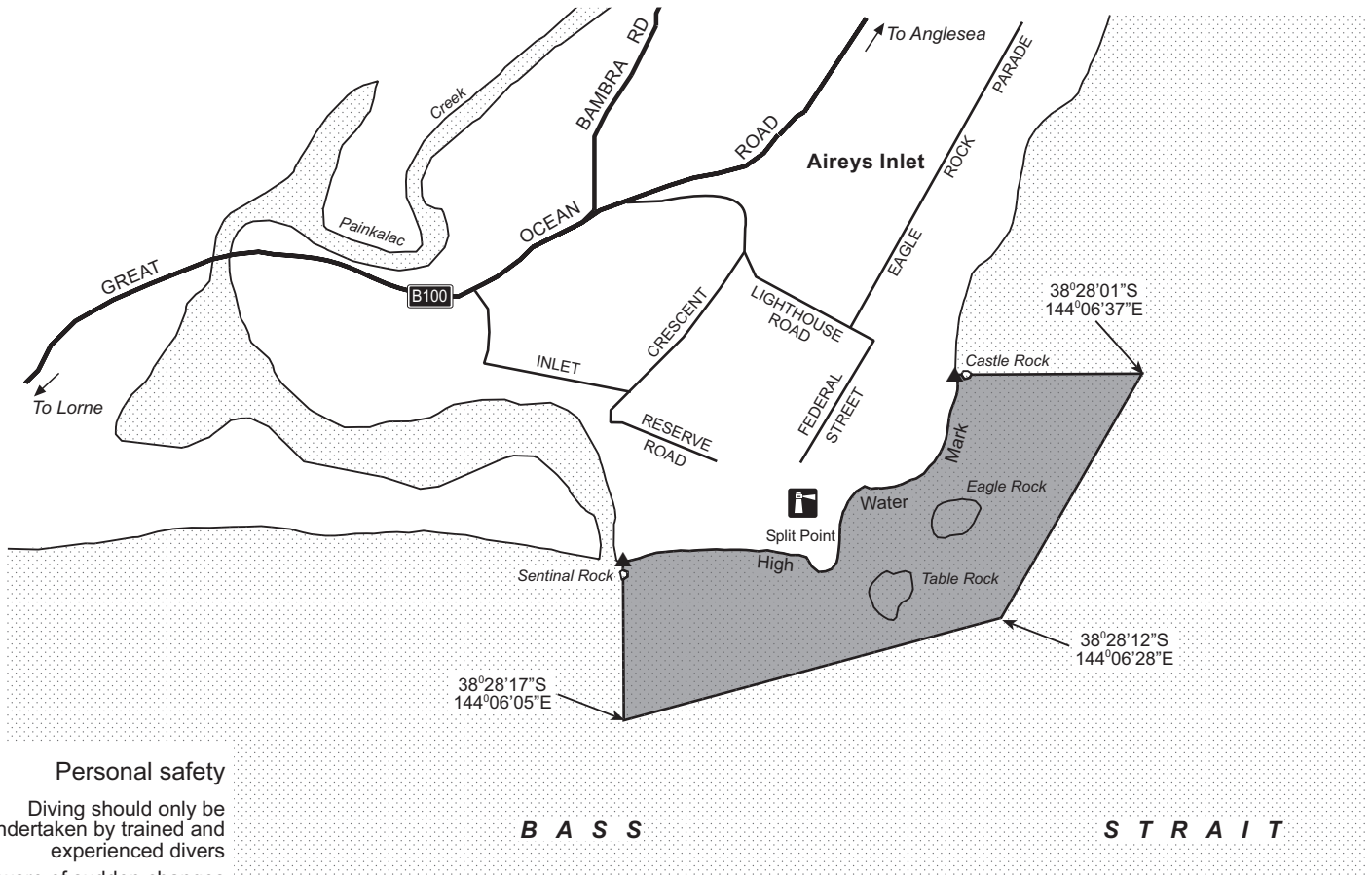
Latitude and Longitude values are based on WGS84



No fishing, netting, spearing, taking or killing of marine life. All methods of fishing, from the shore or at sea, are prohibited.



No taking or damaging of animals, plants and objects (artefacts)



Personal safety

- Diving should only be undertaken by trained and experienced divers
- Beware of sudden changes in weather, especially when boating on open water
- Beware of strong currents and undertows when snorkelling or at the beach
- Wear shoes that grip well when walking on rock platforms
- Watch where your hands are going at all times to avoid potentially dangerous creatures
- Be aware of large unexpected waves when walking on shore, especially on rock platforms
- Stay away from cliff edges and bases

Caring for the marine environment

- Discarded gear and rubbish can endanger birds and marine animals – please take your rubbish home
- Always replace any organisms or rocks you may have disturbed

Restrictions

For the protection of the marine environment, a number of activities are prohibited within the boundaries of Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.

There are strong penalties under the National Parks Act for fishing in Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries. These restrictions and penalties apply in Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary from 16 November 2002.

You may carry fin-fish on board your boat within park boundaries if you caught the fish outside the parks, and you may also carry (but not use) a fishing rod or a spear gun.

You may also have abalone or rock lobster and associated equipment (securely stowed) on board the boat provided that you are travelling straight through the park by the shortest practicable route.

Marine Sanctuary boundaries

Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary (17 ha) is located at Aireys Inlet. The sanctuary extends along and offshore of Spit Point between Castle Rock and Sentinel Rock and offshore for about 300 metres.

To report a fishing offence contact NRE Fisheries on (03) 9483 4283. Please ask for the Duty Officer and give a short message and leave a contact number.

Parks Victoria is responsible for the day-to-day management of Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries. For further information contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on **13 1963** or visit the Parks Victoria website at: www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Parknotes on each of Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries, including boundaries and permitted and prohibited activities, have been produced to assist visitors to these areas.