

Point Danger Marine Sanctuary

A precious gem

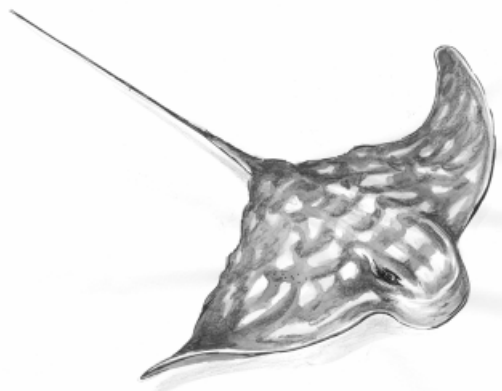
Point Danger, at the meeting point of Torquay's surf and front beaches, is formed from beds of yellow limestone that are slowly crumbling into the sea. Blocks and slabs litter the beach, merging with a narrow rock platform that stretches around to the west.

But the real gem is a small reef that lies just offshore of the point. Often isolated from the beach by a sandy channel, and exposed only on the lowest summer tides, it has escaped the scale of impact that has depleted many other reefs across Victoria.

The top of the reef is covered with a network of small boulders, seaweed beds, crevices and pools. Key-hole limpets, crabs and mussels are abundant. Banded Brittle-stars and carnivorous worms emerge from under rocks to feed at nightly high tides.

The site is also known for its diversity of sea slugs known as *opisthobranchs*, which unlike the garden slug, appears here in a range of exquisite shapes, colours and sizes.

On the sides of the reef, brown seaweeds with zig-zag stems grow profusely on the rocks, giving way to bright green Sea Nymph seagrass beds covering the sand. Eagle Rays patrol the outer reef edge.



Eagle Ray

Point Danger 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 Point Danger Marine Sanctuary

Point Danger is a popular area for sailboarding, diving and snorkelling, as well as surfing on the outer sections of the Point.

Scuba diving or snorkelling through the kelp forests of the outer reef may reveal schools of eagle rays.

The shelf between the beach and the outer edge of the rock platform has a wealth of invertebrate diversity, providing excellent opportunities for discovering the marine life at low tide.

Be mindful of tidal changes as the section in the middle is lower than the rock platform and the beach and people can be stranded.

Enjoy pleasant walks along the shore or take in the views of the Marine Sanctuary from the Point Danger lookout.

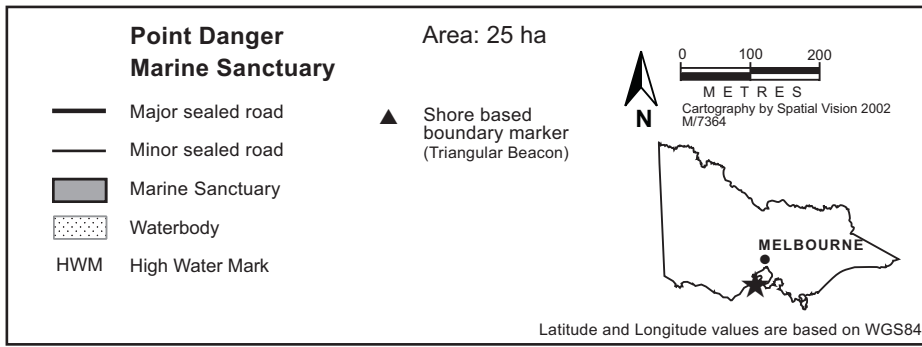
Note: Point Danger Marine Sanctuary contains a 'sail powered vessels only' zone that is marked with signs. Swimming, surfing, diving or snorkelling in this area is dangerous.



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



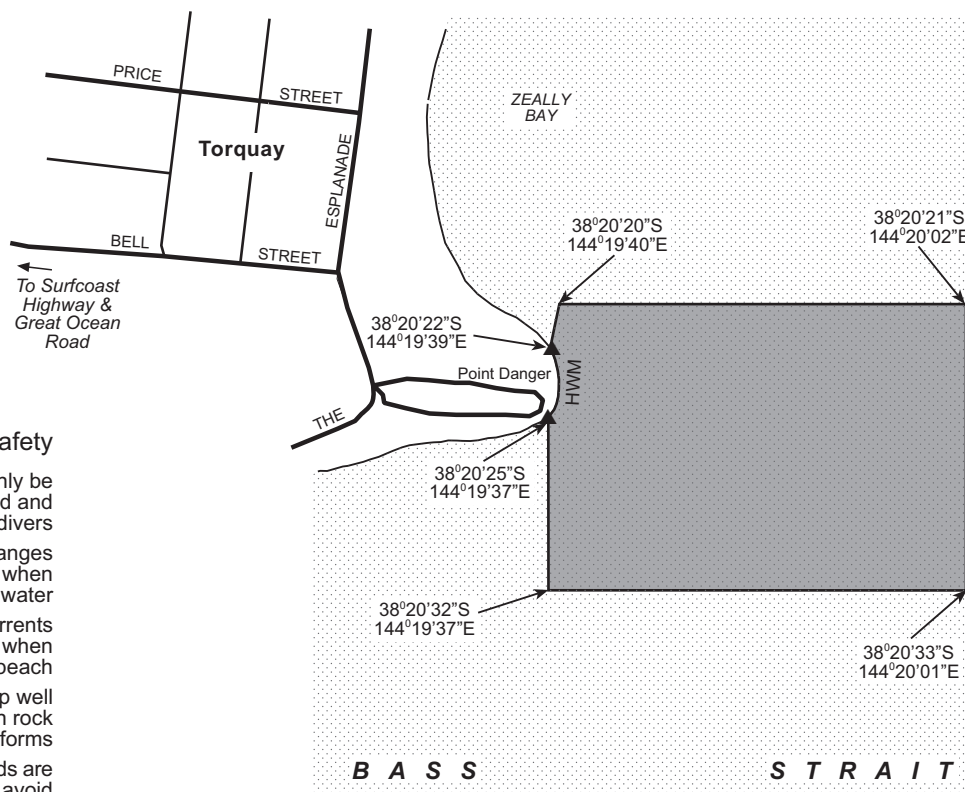
No fishing, netting, spearing, taking or killing of marine life. All methods of fishing, from the shore or at sea, are prohibited.



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

Marine Sanctuary boundaries

Point Danger Marine Sanctuary (approx. 25 ha) is located at Torquay. The sanctuary encompasses the rock platform at the point and extends offshore for about 500 metres to the east and south.



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

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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 turned over

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 Point Danger 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.

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.