



Port Phillip

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Coordinates: 38°09′S 144°52′E﻿ / ﻿

This article is about the bay. For the local government area, see [City of Port Phillip](#).

For other uses, see [Port Phillip \(disambiguation\)](#).

Port Phillip (also commonly referred to as **Port Phillip Bay** or (locally) just **The Bay**), is a large bay in southern Victoria, Australia; it is the location of [Melbourne](#). Geographically, the bay covers 1,930 square kilometres (480,000 acres) and the shore stretches roughly 264 km (164 mi). Although it is extremely shallow for its size, most of the bay is navigable. The deepest portion is only 24 metres (79 ft), and half the region is shallower than 8 m (26 ft). The volume of the water in the bay is around 25 cubic kilometres (6.0 cu mi).

Prior to British settlement the area around Port Phillip was divided between the territories of the [Wathaurong](#) (to the west), [Wurundjeri](#) (north) and [Boonwurrung](#) (south and east) Nations. Its waters and coast are home to [seals](#), [whales](#), [dolphins](#), [corals](#), and many kinds of [seabirds](#) and [migratory waders](#).

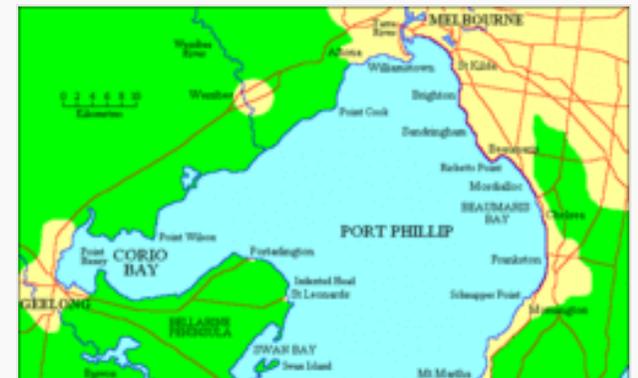
The first British to enter the bay were the crews of [HMS Lady Nelson](#), commanded by [John Murray](#) and, ten weeks later, [HMS Investigator](#) commanded by [Matthew Flinders](#), in 1802.

Port Phillip

Port Phillip Bay



The [Melbourne skyline](#), seen across Port Phillip.



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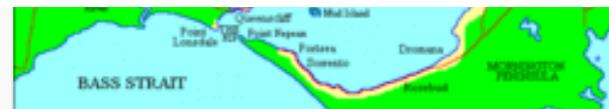
- العربية
- Беларуская
- Беларуская (тарашкевіца)
- Cebuano
- Deutsch
- Español
- Français
- Frysk
- Gaeilge
- Galego
- עברית
- Nederlands
- 日本語
- Norsk bokmål
- Polski
- Português
- Русский
- Svenska
- Українська
- 中文

Edit links

Subsequent expeditions into the bay took place in 1803 to establish the first settlement in Victoria, near [Sorrento](#), but was abandoned in 1804. Thirty years later, settlers from [Tasmania](#) returned to establish [Melbourne](#), now the [state's](#) capital city, at the mouth of the [Yarra River](#) in 1835 and [Geelong](#) at [Corio Bay](#) in 1838. Today Port Phillip is the most densely populated catchment in Australia ^[1] with an estimated 4.5 million people living around the bay; [Melbourne's suburbs](#) extend around much of the northern and eastern shorelines, and the city of [Geelong](#) sprawls around [Corio Bay](#), in the bay's western arm.

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Map of the Port Phillip area

Coordinates	38°09′S 144°52′E﻿ / ﻿38.150°S 144.867°E﻿ / -38.150; 144.867﻿ / -38.150; 144.867
Type	Saline, Permanent, Natural
Primary inflows	Yarra River , Patterson River , Werribee River , Little River , Kororoit Creek
Primary outflows	Bass Strait
Basin countries	Australia
Surface area	1,930 km ² (750 sq mi)
Average depth	8 m (26 ft)
Water volume	25 km ³ (6.0 cu mi)
Shore length ¹	264 km (164 mi)
Surface elevation	0 m (0 ft)
Islands	Swan Island , Duck Island , Mud Islands
Settlements	Melbourne , Geelong , Frankston , Mornington , Queenscliff , Sorrento

¹ Shore length is not a well-defined measure.

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Prehistory [edit]

Port Phillip Bay formed between the end of the last [Ice Age](#) around 8000 BCE and around 6000 BCE,^[2] when the [sea-level](#) rose to drown what was then the lower reaches of the [Yarra River](#), vast river plains, wetlands and lakes. The Yarra and other tributaries flowed down what is now the middle of the bay, formed a lake in the southern reaches of the bay, dammed by [The Heads](#), subsequently pouring out into [Bass Strait](#).^[3]

The [Aboriginal people](#) were in occupation of the area long before the bay was formed, having arrived at least 20,000 years ago and possibly 40,000 years ago.^[*citation needed*] Large piles of semi-fossilised sea-shells known as [middens](#), can still be seen in places around the shoreline, marking the spots where Aboriginal people held feasts. They made a good living from the abundant sea-life, which included penguins and seals. In the cold

season they wore [possum-skin cloaks](#) and elaborate feathered head-dresses.

A dry period combined with sand bar formation, may have dried the bay out as recently as between 800 BCE and 1000 CE.^[4]

British exploration [edit]

Further information: [History of Victoria](#)

In 1800, Lieutenant [James Grant](#) RN was the first known explorer to pass through Bass Strait from west to east in [HMS Lady Nelson](#). He was also the first to see, and crudely chart, the south coast from [Cape Banks](#) in South Australia to [Wilsons Promontory](#) in Victoria. Grant gave the name "Governor King's Bay" to the body of water between [Cape Otway](#) and Wilsons Promontory, but did not venture in and discover Port Phillip.^[5]

The first Britons to discover and enter Port Phillip, were the crew of the [Lady Nelson](#), commanded by [John Murray](#), which entered the bay on 15 February 1802.^{[6][7]} Murray called the bay Port King after the [Governor of New South Wales](#), [Philip Gidley King](#). On 4 September 1805,^[8] King formally renamed it Port Phillip, in honour of his predecessor [Arthur Phillip](#).^[9]

About ten weeks after Murray, [Matthew Flinders](#) RN in [HMS Investigator](#) also found and entered the port,^[7] unaware Murray had been there. The official history of [Nicholas Baudin](#)'s explorations in [Le Géographe](#) claimed they too had sighted the entrance at that time (30 March 1802) but this is almost certainly a later embellishment or error, being absent from the ship's logs and Baudin's own accounts.^[10] As a result of Murray's and Flinders' reports, King sent Lieutenant [Charles Robbins](#) in [HMS Cumberland](#) to explore Port Phillip fully.^[11] One of his party, [Charles Grimes](#), became the first European to walk right round the bay, and thus to discover the mouth of the Yarra, on 2 February 1803.

British settlement [edit]

Further information: [History of Victoria](#)

King decided to place a convict settlement at Port Phillip, mainly to

King decided to place a convict settlement at Port Phillip, mainly to stake a claim to southern Australia ahead of the French. On 10 October 1803 a convoy of two ships [HMS Calcutta](#) and [Ocean](#) led by Captain [David Collins](#) carrying 402 people (5 Government officials, 9 officers of marines, 2 drummers, and 39 privates, 5 soldiers' wives and a child, and 307 convicts with 17 convicts' wives and 7 children) entered Port Phillip Bay.^[12] After some investigation it was decided to establish the settlement at a spot known as [Sullivan Bay](#), very close to where [Sorrento](#) now exists. The expedition landed at Sullivan Bay on 17 October 1803, and the first of the "orders" issued by Collins bears that date. On 25 October, the King's birthday, the British flag was hoisted over the tiny settlement and a little salvo of musketry celebrated the royal occasion.^[13] On 25 November the first white child was born in Victoria and was baptised on Christmas Day, receiving the name of William James Hobart Thorne. The first marriage took place on 28 November, when a free woman, Hannah Harvey was wedded to convict Richard Garrett.^[14] Lack of fresh water and good timber, however, led this, the first attempt at British settlement in Victoria, to be abandoned on 27 January 1804. When Collins left Port Phillip, the 'Calcutta' proceeded to Sydney, and the 'Ocean' to Risdon Cove [Tasmania](#), where they arrived on 15 February 1804.^[15] Prior to abandonment, a group of convicts including [William Buckley](#), escaped from the settlement. Buckley later took up residence in a cave near Point Lonsdale on the western side of the bay's entrance, [The Rip](#).

Port Phillip was then left mostly undisturbed until 1835, when settlers from Tasmania led by [John Batman](#) and [John Pascoe Fawkner](#) (who had been at the Sorrento settlement as a child) established Melbourne on the lower reaches of the Yarra. [John Batman](#) encountered [William Buckley](#) who then became an important translator in negotiations with the local indigenous tribesmen. In 1838 Geelong was founded, and became the main port serving the growing wool industry of the [Western District](#). For a time Geelong rivalled Melbourne as the leading settlement on the bay, but the [Gold Rush](#) which began in 1851 gave Melbourne a decisive edge as the largest town in Victoria.



The memorial at [Sorrento](#) marking the site of the first British settlement on Port Phillip bay in 1803

Growth and development of Melbourne [edit]

As Melbourne prospered, its wealthy classes discovered the recreational uses of Port Phillip. Bayside suburbs such as [St Kilda](#) and [Brighton](#) were established on the east shore of the bay. Later, resorts further south such as [Sorrento](#) and [Portsea](#) became popular. The more swampy western shores of the bay were not so favoured, and have been used mainly for non-residential purposes such as the [Point Cook Royal Australian Air Force](#) base and the [Werribee Sewage Farm](#). In recent decades the population along the western side of the bay has grown more rapidly.

In the 21st century, property along the Port Phillip coastline continues to be highly sought after. Port Phillip continues to be extensively used for recreational pursuits such as swimming, cycling, boating, and fishing. The bay also features a number of historical walks and fauna reserves.^[16] The traditional land owners of the area have also been acknowledged at a number of sites.



Beacon Cove beach and apartments in [Port Melbourne](#)

Geography [edit]

Further information: [Geography of Port Phillip](#)

Port Phillip lies in southern Victoria, separated from [Bass Strait](#) by the [Bellarine Peninsula](#) to the southwest and [Mornington Peninsula](#) to the southeast. It is the largest bay in Victoria and one of the largest inland bays in Australia. The narrow entrance to the bay, called [the Rip](#), between [Point Lonsdale](#) and [Point Nepean](#), features strong tidal streams made turbulent by the uneven contours of the seabed. The best time for small craft to enter the Rip is at [slack water](#). Large ships require expert local guidance to enter and exit, provided by the Port Phillip [Sea Pilots](#). Work has commenced to [deepen the channel](#) entrance, to allow newer, larger [container ships](#) to access Melbourne's docks.

The eastern side of the bay is characterised by sandy beaches extending from [St Kilda](#), [Sandringham](#), [Beaumaris](#), [Carrum](#), and down the [Mornington Peninsula](#) to [Frankston](#), [Safety Beach/Dromana](#) and [Rye](#) to

Portsea. [Longshore drift](#) carries [sand](#) from south to north during winter and from north to south during summer. Cliff [erosion](#) control has often resulted in sand starvation, necessitating offshore [dredging](#) to replenish the beach. On the western side of the bay there is a greater variety of beach types, including both sandy and sandstone rock beaches, seen at [Queenscliff](#), [St Leonards](#), [Indented Head](#), [Portarlington](#), Altona and Geelong's [Eastern Beach](#). Numerous [sandbanks](#) and [shoals](#) occur in the southern section of the bay, and parts of the South Channel require occasional maintenance dredging.

Climate [\[edit \]](#)

The region has an [oceanic climate](#) (*Köppen Cfb*) with warm summers possessing occasional very hot days due to northerly winds and mild winters. Annual rainfall, which is evenly distributed over the year, shows considerable variation due to the Otway Ranges to the southwest: the northwestern shore of the bay is the driest part of southern Victoria and almost approaches a [semi-arid climate](#) (*BSk*) with a mean annual rainfall as low as 425 millimetres (17 in) (comparable to [Nhill](#) or [Numurkah](#)), whilst the eastern shores less shielded by the Otways receive as much as 850 millimetres (33 in). Summer temperatures average around 25 °C (77 °F) during the day and 14 °C (57 °F) at night, but occasional northerly winds can push temperatures over 40 °C (104 °F), whilst in winter a typical day will range from 6 °C (43 °F) to 14 °C (57 °F).

Beaches [\[edit \]](#)

Further information: [Beaches in Port Phillip](#)

Port Phillip hosts many beaches, most of which are flat, shallow and long, with very small breaks making swimming quite safe. This attracts many tourists, mostly families, to the beaches of Port Phillip during the summer months and school holidays. Water sports such as [body boarding](#) and [surfing](#) are difficult or impossible, except in extreme weather conditions. However, stand up paddle boarding (SUP), kite surfing and wind surfing are very popular. Most sandy beaches are located on the bay's northern, eastern and southern shorelines, while the western shorelines host a few sandy beaches, there mostly exists



Port Phillip as seen from [Frankston](#) 

a greater variety of beaches, swampy wetlands and mangroves. The occasional pebble beach and rocky cliffs can also be found, mostly in the southern reaches.

- Major beaches include: [St. Kilda Beach](#), [Brighton Beach](#), [Sandringham Beach](#), Dromana Beach

Rivers and creeks [\[edit \]](#)

- Rivers: [Yarra River](#), [Maribyrnong River](#), [Patterson River](#), [Little River](#), [Werribee River](#).
- Creeks: [Kananook Creek](#), [Sweetwater Creek](#), [Cowies Creek](#), [Kororoit Creek](#), [Chinamans Creek](#).

Islands [\[edit \]](#)

Due to its shallow depth, numerous artificial islands and forts have been built, however, despite the depth, it only hosts a few true islands. Many sandy, muddy banks and shallows exist in its southern reaches, such as [Mud Islands](#), but most islands are located in the marshy shallows of [Swan Bay](#). Some of the bay's major islands include:

- [Swan Island](#)
- [Mud Islands](#)
- [Duck Island](#)
- [South Channel Fort](#) (artificial)
- [Pope's Eye](#) (artificial)

Surrounding mountains and hills [\[edit \]](#)

- [Arthurs Seat](#) 314 m
- [Mount Martha](#) 160 m
- [Mount Eliza](#)
- [Olivers Hill](#)
- [Flinders Peak](#) 364 m



Surrounding lakes [\[edit \]](#)

- [Albert Park Lake](#)
- [Cherry Lake](#)
- [Lake Borrie](#)
- [Lake Carramar](#), [Lake Illawong](#) and [Lake Legana](#) of [Patterson Lakes](#)
- [Lake Connewarre](#)
- [Lake Victoria](#)
- [RAAF Lake](#)
- [Sanctuary Lakes](#) (artificial)
- [Salt Lagoon](#)

Ecology [\[edit \]](#)



Jellyfish washed up on [\[edit \]](#)

[Jellyfish](#) are a familiar sight in Port Phillip, and its waters are home to species such as [Australian fur seals](#), [bottlenose dolphins](#),^[17] [common dolphins](#),^[17] [humpback whales](#),^[17] and [southern right whales](#).^[18] Many other [cetacean](#) species may also migrate off the areas. The [smooth toadfish](#) is one of the most common fishes in muddy areas.^[19] The bay has many endemic species including the [bluedevil fish](#) and fantastic [sponge walls](#) on the [Lonsdale wall](#) in the heads of the bay. It also hosts [breeding colonies](#) of [Australian fur seals](#). Occasionally, [Australian sea lions](#) ^[20] [New Zealand fur seals](#), [subantarctic fur seals](#), and [leopard seals](#) may



[Arthurs Seat](#) (305 m high) and [Dromana Bay](#) in southern Port Phillip [\[edit \]](#)



Kitesurfing at [Rye](#) with [Arthurs Seat](#) in the background [\[edit \]](#)



[Blue blubber jellyfish](#) in Port Phillip [\[edit \]](#)

ions, such as [New Zealand fur seals](#), [subantarctic fur seals](#), and [leopard seals](#) may come into the bay as well.^[21] Certain individual [southern elephant seals](#) may frequent the bay as well.^[22]

[Swan Bay](#), adjacent to [Queenscliff](#), is an important feeding ground for [waterbirds](#) and [migratory waders](#). The [Mud Islands](#), off [Sorrento](#), are an important breeding habitat for [white-faced storm petrels](#), [silver gulls](#), [Australian pelicans](#) and [Pacific gulls](#). [Salt marshes](#) in the northwestern sections of the bay, such as that in the [Werribee Sewage Farm](#) and the adjacent [Spit Nature Conservation Reserve](#), are within the [Port Phillip Bay \(Western Shoreline\)](#) and [Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site](#), listed as wetlands of international importance under the [Ramsar Convention](#), and the critically endangered [orange-bellied parrot](#) is found at three wintering sites with saltmarsh habitat around Port Phillip and the [Bellarine Peninsula](#). A variety of [seabirds](#), such as [Australasian gannets](#),^[23] nest on artificial structures in the bay.

Port Phillip contains 3 Marine Sanctuaries managed by Parks Victoria to protect and conserve the bay's biodiversity, ecological processes and the natural and heritage features.

Original flora and fauna [[edit](#)]

In 1906, [George Gordon McCrae](#) wrote two letters to a local schoolmaster at [Dromana](#), Mr G.H. Rogers. His subject was his earliest recollections of an idyllic boyhood spent at Arthur's Seat Run, location of the historic [McCrae Homestead](#) on the southern shore of the bay, part of the [Mornington Peninsula](#). In the letters he described in detail the [natural history](#) of the area in the 1840s, and the species he particularly remembered 60 years later. In 1939, Charles Daley read an article before the [Victorian Historical Society](#) based on these letters, which was published in their magazine in 1940 the year after a large [bushfire](#) in January 1939 hastened the disappearance of much of the original surviving wildlife from the area. The names of the species reflect the titles given to them by the original British settlers of the bay.^[24]

The **animals** he observed as a young boy were "immense droves of [kangaroos](#), brush kangaroos or [wallaby](#), [paddy-melon](#), [bandicoots](#) (two varieties), great opossum (two varieties), ring tail, [flying squirrel](#), [flying mouse](#), [dingoes](#) or wild dogs in the gullies, that were caught in box traps with sliding doors, porcupine ant eater or [echidna](#) that were at the back of Arthur's Seat mountain, the great iguana, tree lizard- 5 feet, python, and the

rock or sleeping lizard."

The **trees** were coast banksia, honey suckle, and grass trees "with crowns for thatching". The gum of *Xanthorrhoea australis* was used for carriage varnish.

In the **waters** of the bay he described "scallop shells which were used as an oil lamp with a bulrush wick, banks of **cockles** covered with birds, grey and white gulls, a 13-16 lb size schnapper ground off Mt Martha Point, mutton fish or venus ear- bait, coatfish, parrot fish, leather jackets, flathead, dog fish, sting rays, shark tailed rays, and pig fish (Castracion) "that he thought to be "very old."

On the **beaches** could be sighted pelicans, penguins, grey and grey white gull, called "bungan" by aborigines (the **Bunurong** Mayone-bulluk clan), small white and lavender gull, pied oyster catchers, terns, cormorants, the little sandpiper, and musk ducks.

In the **swamps** (which have since been filled in) were "The Nankeen bird with one long white feather behind the ear, The rail, The bittern, The snipe and jack snipe, Several ducks- wood duck, black duck, Teal, Spoonbill, Black swan Geese, Cranes, Blue and white coots, Water hens, Kingfishers here and there and swamp or ground parrot with the barred tail feathers."

In the **scrub by the waterholes** were "honey eaters, warblers, red coat robins, emu wren with 2 long feathers in tail, Laughing jack ass- everywhere, utcher bird, also known as shrike or whistling jackass, Quail where coverage good in bottom of scrub, turkey at Boneo and the big swamp off the property."

On **the flats** were found spur wing plovers, minas, and leatherheads.

In **timbers near the flats** were "many varieties of parrots, Lorry, Rosella, Blue mountain or honeysuckle parrot, Sulphur –crested white cockatoo, Black cockatoo of two kinds, Grey cockatoo with scarlet crest and Corella or cockatoo parrot."

Among the cherry trees in the garden at the homestead were "bronzewing pigeon and satin birds, love birds



[Anthony's Nose](#), Dromana, 1920



and honeyeating parakeets."

Birds of prey were "eagle hawks, falcons, and owls, some white and of great size".

Cetaceans [[edit](#)]

Small numbers of [common dolphins](#) have become residents in eastern parts of the bay since the late 2000s.^[25] In recent years, the numbers of [southern humpback](#) and [southern right whales](#) entering the bay of Port Phillip have shown increases.^[26] Unlike in [Portland](#) and on [Great Ocean Road](#), Southern Rights in eastern Victorian waters are still critically endangered^[18] and in very small numbers; however, presences of cow-calf pairs in the bay in recent years indicate that Port Phillip Bay was possibly once a wintering/calving ground for these whales.^{[27][28]} They swim very close to shores to take rests in shallow, sheltered waters, sometimes just next to piers in [Frankston](#).^[29]



Endemic [Burren dolphin](#) in the bay

Burren dolphins [[edit](#)]

The bay is home to about 100 to 150 of the recently described species of [bottlenose dolphin](#), the [Burren dolphin](#) (*Tursiops australis*). The other 50 or so of this rare species are to be found in the [Gippsland Lakes](#).^[30]

Environmental issues [[edit](#)]

Like the [Yarra](#) which flows into it, Port Phillip faces the environmental concerns of pollution and water quality. Litter, silt and toxins can affect the beaches to the point where they are shut down by the EPA.^[31]

In 2008, the owner and master of Hong Kong-registered container vessel MV *Sky Lucky* were found liable for illegally disposing garbage into Port Phillip, convicted and fined \$35,000.^[32]

Shipping [[edit](#)]

History [\[edit \]](#)

The southern section of the Bay near the Heads is covered by extensive sand banks, known as the "Great Sand". A shipping channel was dredged in an east-west direction from the Heads to near Arthur's Seat late in the nineteenth century, and maintained ever since. Early shipping used piers at Sandridge (Port Melbourne), but later moved to various wharves along the Yarra River, which make up today's [Port of Melbourne](#).^[33] The Melbourne Harbor Trust and Geelong Harbor Trust were responsible for the piers and wharves in their respective cities — they are now the government owned [Port of Melbourne Corporation](#) and the privately operated [GeelongPort](#).

Today, the [Port of Melbourne](#) has grown to become Australia's busiest commercial port, serving Australia's second largest city and handling an enormous amount of imports and exports into and out of the country. The [Port of Geelong](#) also handles a large volume of dry bulk and oil, while nearby [Port of Hastings](#) on [Western Port](#) handles steel and oil products.

In 2004 the Victorian Government launched the [Port Phillip Channel Deepening Project](#) to deepen the existing shipping channels and the lower Yarra to accommodate deeper draft vessels. The lower Yarra sediments were identified as likely to be contaminated with toxic chemicals and heavy metals, and were to be contained within a sealed berm clear of the shipping channels south of the Yarra entrance. The vessel chosen for the dredging is the [Queen of the Netherlands](#). 52 environmental groups, recreational fishing groups, and divers' groups formed the "[Blue Wedges](#)" group to oppose the proposed channel



The course of the [Yarra River](#) around 10,000 years ago, after the end of the last [Ice Age](#), prior to the creation of Port Phillip. 



Container crane and ship at the [Port of Melbourne](#). 

deepening and dredging with organised protests carried out, culminating in the group taking action in the Federal Court in January 2008 against the Commonwealth to stop it signing off on the project.^[34] On 15 January 2008 it was announced that their appeal was dismissed,^[35] with dredging starting soon after. The government announced the completion of works in November 2009, ahead of schedule and \$200 million under budget.^[36]

Shipping channels [\[edit \]](#)

- **South Channel** – Extends from the area of the rip in an easterly direction where it terminates off the coast of Arthurs Seat. Vessels with a draught of 14.0m can be navigated through the channel at all tides. This is the main commercial shipping channel in the south of the bay allowing large ships access between the entrance of the bay and its middle regions.
- **West Channel** – Extends from the area of the rip, heads towards the north-west and ends off the coast of [St Leonards](#). The depth varies, in May 1998 there was a minimum of 4.1 metres. Non-commercial vessels are still navigated through the channel, however it is no longer used for commercial shipping.
- **The Rip** – Also referred to as "the heads" for shipping purposes, vessels with a draught of 14.0m can be navigated through the Heads during any height of tide. However, the passage of vessels can be restricted when the current through the rip is too strong. The flow through the Rip can be up to 8 knots dependent on the range of tide and environmental conditions.
- **Melbourne Channels** – Extends northwards through Hobsons



Port Phillip with Spirit of Tasmania ferry in port in Melbourne. [\[edit \]](#)



Chinaman's Hat and Australian fur seals [\[edit \]](#)



Elwood Beach & Port Phillip. [\[edit \]](#)

Bay towards Station Pier and the entrance to the Yarra River. It is dredged to a depth of 15.5 metres and is the main shipping channel through the north of the bay into Melbourne's ports and docks. The channels include:

Melbourne Channel

Williamstown Channel

Port Melbourne Channel

- **Geelong Channels** – Begins off the coast of Point Richards and runs in a westerly direction through Outer Harbour and into Corio Bay where it splits in two heading north towards the modern [Port of Geelong](#) and south towards Cunningham Pier. The main Geelong channels are dredged to 12.3m. The City Channel while once used for wool exports is no longer used for commercial shipping. The channels include:

Point Richards Shipping Channel

Wilson Spit Shipping Channel

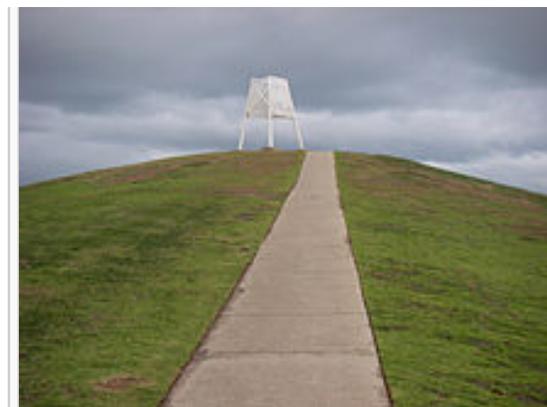
Hopetoun Shipping Channel

City Channel

Corio Channel

Shipping and cargo docks [\[edit \]](#)

- Bulk Grain Pier
- Corio Quay
- Cunningham Pier
- Gellibrand Pier
- Lascelles Wharf
- Point Henry Pier
- Point Wilson Pier



Point Ormond near [Elwood, Victoria](#) 
(2009).

- Princes Pier
- Refinery Pier
- [Station Pier](#)
- [Webb Dock](#)

Ferries [[edit](#)]

[Peninsula Searoad Transport](#) operates a vehicular ferry service across the mouth of the bay between [Queenscliff](#) and [Sorrento](#) using two roll-on roll-off vessels. Ferries also run from [St Kilda](#) to [Williamstown](#), [Victoria](#) across [Hobsons Bay](#). These ferries, like the many recreational cruises, mostly operate for tourists and run around the bay in various locations.

- [Spirit of Tasmania](#) Ferry (passenger and vehicles)

Between: Station Pier, [Port Melbourne](#)

And: [Devonport, Tasmania](#)

- [Searoad](#) Ferries (passenger and vehicles)

Between: Sorrento Pier, [Sorrento](#)

And: The Cut Pier, [Queenscliff](#)

Other features [[edit](#)]

Flagship [[edit](#)]

- [Enterprize](#) (1997) – Is Melbourne's Flagship, a replica of the [Enterprize \(1830\)](#), the tall ship that brought the first European settlers to Melbourne. She sails around Port Phillip Bay throughout the year, visiting ports at Geelong, Williamstown, Portarlington, Rye and Blairgowrie.

Lighthouses [[edit](#)]

- Eastern Lighthouse^[37] (1854,
- [Queenscliff Low Light](#) (1863) – [Queenscliff](#)
- Port Melbourne Lighthouses (1924) –
- [West Channel Pile Light](#) (1881) – Port Phillip

- 1883) – [McCrae](#)
- [Queenscliff High Light](#) (1843, 1862) – [Queenscliff](#)
- [Point Lonsdale Lighthouse](#) (1902) – [Point Lonsdale](#)
- [Port Melbourne South Channel Pile Light](#) (1874) – [Port Phillip](#)
- [Williamstown Lighthouse](#) (1840, 1849, 1934) – [Williamstown](#)

Major marinas and piers [\[edit \]](#)

- [Altona Pier](#)
- [Blairgowrie Marina](#)
- [Dromana Pier](#)
- [Frankston Pier](#)
- [Martha Cove Marina](#)
- [Mornington Pier](#)
- [Patterson Lakes Marina](#) – the first man made marina in the Southern Hemisphere and the largest of its kind in Victoria.
- [Point Lonsdale Jetty](#)
- [Portsea Pier](#)
- [Portarlington Pier](#)
- [Queenscliff Harbour](#)
- [RAAF Williams Pier](#)
- [Rosebud Pier](#)
- [Rye Jetty](#)
- [Sandringham Marina](#)
- [Sorrento Pier](#)
- [Station Pier](#)
- [St Kilda Pier](#)
- [St Kilda Marina](#)
- [Bellarine Street Jetty](#)
- [Cunningham Pier](#)
- [Werribee South Jetties](#)

Life saving clubs [\[edit \]](#)

- [Altona LSC](#)
- [Aspendale LSC](#)
- [Bancoora SLSC](#)
- [Barwon Heads/13th Beach SLSC](#)
- [Beaumaris LSC](#)
- [Brighton LSC](#)
- [Carrum SLSC](#)
- [Chelsea Longbeach LSC](#)
- [Dromana Bay LSC](#)
- [Gunnamatta SLSC](#)
- [Half Moon Bay SLSC](#)
- [Hampton LSC](#)
- [Point Lonsdale SLSC](#)
- [Point Leo SLSC](#)
- [Port Melbourne LSC](#)
- [Portsea SLSC](#)
- [Seaford LSC](#)
- [Sorrento SLSC](#)
- [South Melbourne LSC](#)

- [Black Rock LSC](#)
- [Bonbeach LSC](#)
- [Edithvale LSC](#)
- [Elwood LSC](#)
- [Frankston LSC](#)
- [Mentone LSC](#)
- [Mordialloc LSC](#)
- [Mornington LSC](#)
- [Mount Martha LSC](#)
- [Rosebud & McCrae LSC](#)
- [Sandridge LSC](#)
- [Sandringham LSC](#)
- [St Kilda LSC](#)
- [Williamstown LSC](#)

Yacht clubs [\[edit \]](#)

- [Altona Yacht Club](#)
- [Beaumaris Yacht Club](#)
- [Black Rock Yacht Club](#)
- [Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron](#)
- [Carrum Sailing Club](#)
- [Chelsea Yacht Club](#)
- [Docklands Yacht Club](#)
- [Elwood Sailing Club](#)
- [Frankston Yacht Club](#)
- [Hampton Sailing Club](#)
- [Hobsons Bay Yacht Club](#)
- [Indented Head Yacht Club](#)
- [McCrae Yacht Club](#)
- [Mordialloc Yacht Club](#)
- [Mornington Yacht Club](#)
- [Ocean Racing Club of Victoria](#)
- [Port Melbourne Yacht Club](#)
- [Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club](#)
- [Rosebud Yacht Club](#)
- [Royal Brighton Yacht Club](#)
- [Royal Geelong Yacht Club](#)
- [Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron](#)
- [Royal Yacht Club of Victoria](#)
- [Rye Yacht Club](#)
- [Sandringham Yacht Club](#)
- [Sorrento Sailing Couta Boat Club](#)
- [St. Leonards Yacht Club & Motor Squadron](#)
- [Williamstown Sailing Club](#)

Shipwrecks [\[edit \]](#)

Some of the more significant and historical [shipwrecks](#) in the bay include;

- *Mountain Maid* – sunk off [Swan Island](#) after a collision with the *SS Queen* (1856)
- *Wauchope* – sunk off the coast of [Sorrento](#) (1918)
- *Ozone* – scuttled off [Indented Head](#) (1925)
- *HMVS Cerberus* – scuttled in [Half Moon Bay](#), [Black Rock](#) (1926)
- *HMAS J3* – scuttled in [Swan Bay](#) (1926)

- *HMAS J7* – scuttled off [Hampton Beach](#) (1926)
- *ELIZA Ramsden*

Marine Sanctuaries [\[edit \]](#)

- Point Cooke Marine Sanctuary - features basalt reefs that support many diverse communities of algae, invertebrates and fish species.
- Jawbone Marine Sanctuary - supports several habitats including rocky basalt reef, seagrass beds, saltmarsh and the largest occurrence of mangroves in Port Phillip.
- Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary - has sandstone rock platforms extending from the shore, creating a diverse marine environment.

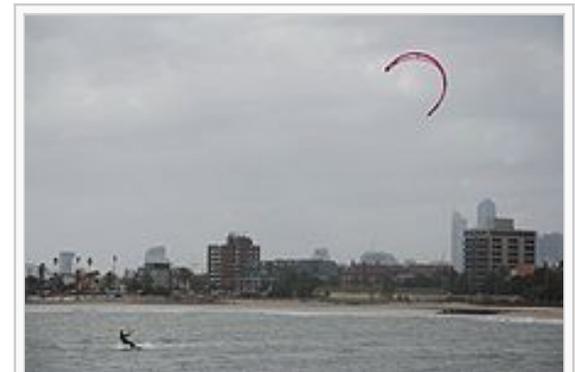
Tourism [\[edit \]](#)

The bay is one of [Victoria](#)'s most popular tourist destinations. Many residents of [Melbourne](#) holiday on the shorelines of the bay, particularly the Bellarine (South west, near Geelong) and Mornington (south east of Melbourne) Peninsulas, most annually, either camping in tents, caravan or villas in [caravan parks](#), sharing rental houses or staying in holiday homes.

Recreation and sport [\[edit \]](#)

Port Phillip's mostly flat topography and moderate waves make perfect conditions for recreational [swimming](#), [kitesurfing](#), [windsurfing](#), [sailing](#), [boating](#), [snorkeling](#), [scuba diving](#), stand up paddle boarding (SUP) and other sports.

Port Phillip is home to 36 [Yacht clubs](#). It also hosts the Melbourne to [Hobart](#) and Melbourne to [Launceston](#) Yacht Races. Port Phillip is also home to a number of [marinas](#), including large marinas at St Kilda, Geelong and Brighton. For the [1956 Summer Olympics](#), it hosted the



Kitesurfing at [St Kilda](#) on Port Phillip

sailing events.^[38]

Dozens of [lifesaving clubs](#) dot Port Phillip, especially on the east coast from [Altona](#) to [Frankston](#). These clubs provide volunteer lifesaving services and conduct sporting carnivals.

Port Phillip is also known as a temperate water [scuba diving](#) destination. The shore dives from beaches and piers around the Bay provide a wide variety of experiences on day and night dives. Boat diving in Port Phillip provides access to a remarkable variety of diving environments including wrecks, reefs, drift dives, scallop dives, seal dives and wall dives. Of particular interest are the five scuttled J-Class World War 1 submarines and the Ships' Graveyard off Torquay. With 3 Marine Sanctuaries and easily accessible piers, Port Phillip is also popular for recreational snorkeling.

There are also a number of bike paths, including the [Bayside Trail](#) and the [Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail](#).



Melbourne skyline (circa 2005) viewed from Hobsons Bay

See also [[edit](#)]

- [Fort Nepean](#)
- [Fort Pearce](#)
- [Fort Queenscliff](#)

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External links [edit]

- [Large-scale map of Port Phillip showing beaches and recreational facilities](#)
- [Port Phillip Sea Pilots](#)
- [Shipwreck Info at Heritage Victoria](#)



Wikisource has the text of the 1911 *Encyclopædia Britannica* article **Port Phillip**.

V·T·E·

Coastal bays and inlets of Victoria, Australia

[show]

V·T·E·

Waterways of the Greater Melbourne catchment, Victoria, Australia

[show]

V·T·E·

Venues of the 1956 Summer Olympics

[show]

V·T·E·

Olympic venues in sailing

[show]

Categories: [1956 Summer Olympic venues](#) | [Australian penal colonies](#) | [Fishing communities in Australia](#) | [Geography of Melbourne](#) | [Olympic sailing venues](#) | [Port Phillip](#)

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