

Prom Country

# Water Activities

**Water Activities**



A guide to water activities  
in South Gippsland

## WATER ACTIVITIES



### Water activities in Prom Country

Famous for beaches, coastal walks, fishing, windsurfing and boating, the Prom Country region is a relaxing seaside, country destination.

Discover our coastal diversity with a visit to one of our many beaches. Sandy Point and Waratah Bay offer visitors safe surf beaches framed by the majestic mountains of the Prom. Surf lessons are available by appointment. Venus Bay also has five superb surf beaches with golden sand.

The sheltered waters of Shallow Inlet provide a secluded setting for a variety of water-based activities such as wind surfing and are ideal for those with young children.

Spend hours exploring rock pools and sandy coves at Walkerville or discover the fishing villages of Port Welshpool, Port Franklin and Port Albert. High-speed adventure tours operate out of Port Franklin providing an alternative way to view Wilsons Promontory or Corner Inlet.

Many coastal attractions can be accessed via the Penguins to Prom Coastal route. We hope you enjoy the coastal activities on offer in Prom Country.

*Image: Prom Coast Discovery Tour (Port Franklin).  
High-speed boat tours of Wilsons Promontory or Corner Inlet.*

## PENGUINS TO PROM



### Penguins to Prom Coastal Drive

Phillip Island and Wilsons Promontory National Park are two of Victoria's must see destinations. Fortunately for visitors to the Gippsland region, they are easily accessible to each other via the scenic Penguins to the Prom Touring Route.

From Phillip Island take the B460 to Wonthaggi. Here the route takes a scenic detour along the C435 towards Cape Paterson and the start of the majestic Bunurong Coastal Drive. This unique stretch of coastal road provides views of Bass Strait and allows access to a number of secluded beaches.

*"Phillip Island and Wilsons Promontory National Park are two of Victoria's must see destinations."*

At the coastal resort of Inverloch take the C442 towards Tarwin Lower. When you reach Tarwin Lower consider a detour to explore the sweeping beaches of Venus Bay.

Follow the Tarwin Lower – Walkerville Road until Walkerville, home of the historic Lime Kilns and Cape Liptrap lighthouse. From Walkerville follow the Fish Creek – Walkerville Rd to Fish Creek.

You will know you have arrived when you catch a glimpse of the giant mullet sitting atop the Fish Creek Hotel. From Fish Creek follow the C444 into Wilsons Promontory National Park and discover the pristine coastline and beaches that reside within its boundaries.

## FISHING LICENCE



### Recreational Fishing Licence

A Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) covers all forms of recreational fishing in all of Victoria's marine, estuarine and fresh waters. Unless you are exempt, an RFL is required when taking, or attempting to take from public waters, any species of fish by any method, including line fishing, bait collection, gathering shellfish, yabby fishing, prawning and spear fishing.

#### Exemptions

You do not need a RFL if you are:

- Under 18 years of age
- 70 years or over
- The holder of a Victorian Seniors Card (includes Veterans cards)
- Holder of a Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card (particular codes apply)

RFLs can be purchased online at [www.depi.vic.gov.au](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au) or at participating local outlets. Validity periods of 48 hours, 28 days, one year or three years are available.

RFLs issued by other states or territories are not valid in Victoria.

## SURFING



Surfing is a popular leisure pursuit in Prom Country. There are many surf beaches with conditions to suit the beginner or experienced surfer. Details of four of the most popular locations are below, but there are many more to be discovered.

### Sandy Point

Moderately exposed beach break providing reasonably reliable surfing conditions year round. Offshore winds from the north, northeast. Ground and good swell from the south, southwest. Beach breaks offer lefts and rights.

### Walkerville

Semi exposed reef break with inconsistent surf. Northwest winds provide optimum conditions. Mixed ground and wind swells, with best conditions generated from the southeast. Right hand reef break. Beware of rips. Conditions can be hazardous.

### Wilsons Promontory (Tidal River)

Reasonably exposed beach break with fairly consistent surf. Good conditions produced with an offshore wind from the northeast. Groundswell with best conditions from the southwest. Can be crowded during summer months.

### Venus Bay

Venus Bay receives high southwest waves averaging 1.8m. The surf zone is 400m wide and consists of an inner bar cut by strong rips every 350m, then a deep trough, with an outer bar cut by rips every few hundred metres. The beach is prone to westerly winds that blow out the surf and intensify the currents.

*Image: Offshore Surf School - Learn to Surf (beginners to advanced). Sandy Point or Inverloch.*

## SURF LIFE SAVING



### Patrolled beaches in and around South Gippsland include:

- Sandy Point
- Venus Bay
- Inverloch
- Cape Paterson
- Wilsons Promontory (limited times only)

*"Remember to always swim between the flags at a patrolled beach"*

During the summer months beaches are patrolled by volunteer lifesavers on weekends and most public holidays from the last weekend of November through to Easter Monday. Employed lifeguards provide additional services during peak times.

### Wilsons Promontory (Tidal River)

Life Saving Victoria operates a Lifeguard service each summer from 26 December each day until 26 January.

Times of operation are 10am – 6pm.

### Sandy Point, Venus Bay, Inverloch, Cape Paterson

Saturday afternoons, Sundays and public holidays from the last weekend in November through to Easter Monday.

***Remember to always swim between the flags at a patrolled beach.***

***Lifesavers are only on duty when the red and yellow flags are displayed.***

- Additional services may operate during peak times
- Surf Life Saving details can be confirmed at [www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au](http://www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au)

# BEACHES

## South Gippsland

	Swim	Surf	Patrol*	Description
Sandy Point	✓	✓	✓	Moderate surf conditions.
Waratah Bay	✓	✗	✗	Calm conditions. Good for families.
Walkerville North	✓	✗	✗	Some surf if conditions correct.
Walkerville South	✓	✓	✗	Calm waters. Some rocky outcrops.
Maitland Beach	✓	✗	✗	Rocky. Small surf on occasion.
Shallow Inlet	✓	✗	✗	Shallow waters. Good for families.
Yanakee Beach	✓	✗	✗	Tide affected. Popular for fishing.
Port Franklin	✗	✗	✗	Popular fishing area.
Port Welshpool	✓	✗	✗	Good fishing. Calm waters.
Inverloch	✓	✓	✓	Calm waters. Good for families.
Tarwin Lower	✗	✗	✗	Popular river fishing location.
Venus Bay	✓	✓	✓	Surf conditions.

## Wilson's Promontory

	Swim	Surf	Patrol*	Description
Norman Bay	✓	✓	✓	Some surf and snorkelling. Easy access from Tidal River.
Squeaky Beach	✓	✓	✗	Moderate surf conditions.
Picnic Bay	✓	✓	✗	Moderate surf conditions.
Whisky Bay	✓	✓	✗	Moderate surf conditions.

\* Patrol times vary (see brochure entry on patrolled beaches)

# SWIMMING POOLS

## Leongatha

Description	Indoor heated 25 metres
Location	Roughead Street, Leongatha
Phone	03 5662 5911
Open	Open 7 days per week. Closed Christmas Day and Good Friday, reduced trading on public holidays.

## Korumburra

Description	Outdoor 50 metre
Location	William Street, Korumburra
Phone	03 5655 1603
Open	Dec - Mid/Early March

## Foster

Description	Outdoor 25 metre
Location	Reserve Road, Foster
Phone	03 5682 2047
Open	Dec - Mid/Early March

## Mirboo North

Description	Outdoor 25 metre
Location	Jordan Way, Mirboo North
Phone	03 5668 1563
Open	Dec - Mid/Early March

## Toora

Description	Outdoor Heated 25 metre
Location	14 Cunningham Street, Toora
Phone	03 5686 2296
Open	Dec - Mid/Early March

## Poowong

Description	Outdoor 25 metre
Location	Main Street, Poowong
Phone	03 5659 2228
Open	Dec - Mid/Early March

The above information is provided as a guide only. Please use the contact details supplied to obtain additional information regarding opening dates, times, costs and pool facilities.

## FISHING

### Waratah Bay

Waratah Bay	King George whiting, flathead, barracouta, Australian salmon, snook, gummy shark.
Shallow Inlet	Whiting, flathead, trevally, barracouta, tailor, Australian salmon, snapper, flounder, garfish and prawns.

### Anderson Inlet

Anderson Inlet	King George whiting, pinkie, snapper, silver trevally, Australian salmon.
Tarwin River	Estuary perch, bream.
Inverloch Jetty	Various.
Anderson Inlet entrance	Snapper, King George whiting, whiting.
Back beaches Anderson Inlet/Venus Bay	Australian salmon, mullet, trevally.

### Port Albert

Channel north of Sunday Island and channels near Port Albert entrance	Snapper, King George whiting, flathead, gummy shark, Australian salmon, bream, pike, trevally, school shark, gurnard, flounder, snook.
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### Corner Inlet

Singapore Deep	Snapper.
Franklin Channel	Snapper.
Middle Channel	Flathead, whiting, mullet, silver trevally, gummy shark, snapper, pike, Australian salmon, flounder.
Duck Point Channel	Flathead, whiting.
Doughboy Channel	Flathead, whiting, mullet, silver trevally, gummy shark.
Stockyard Channel	Flathead, whiting, mullet, silver trevally, gummy shark, snapper, pike, Australian salmon, flounder.
Toora Channel	Flathead, whiting, mullet, silver trevally, gummy shark, snapper, pike, Australian salmon, flounder.
Lewis Channel off Port Welshpool	King George whiting.
Port Welshpool jetties	Whiting, flathead, mullet, flounder, garfish, trevally, pike.

More fishing information at: [www.depi.vic.gov.au](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au)

## BOAT RAMPS

### Corner Inlet

#### Port Welshpool

Location	Lewis Street, Port Welshpool
Description	24 hour water access, all tides. A tide board is situated on Fisherman's Jetty. 3-lane ramp, holding jetty.

#### Toora Beach

Location	Jetty Road, Toora
Description	Water access restricted by tidal movement to 45 min either side of high tide. Launching and recovery recommended around high tide.

#### Yanakie Beach

Location	Duck Point, end of Foley Road, Yanakie
Description	Water access restricted by tidal movement to 30 min either side of high tide.

#### Foster

Location	Stockyard Creek landing
Description	Access restricted by tide. Launching and recovery recommended around high tide. Local knowledge required.

#### Port Albert

Location	Wharf Street, Port Albert
Description	Two lane boat launching ramp with boarding jetties. Adjacent sealed car/trailer park, boat wash down, fish cleaning, toilets.

## BOAT RAMPS

### Shallow & Anderson Inlet

#### Inverloch Boat Ramp

Location	The Esplanade, Inverloch
Description	Launching all tides. Tide board located on adjacent jetty.

#### Maher's Landing

Location	Maher's Landing Road, Maher's Landing
Description	Launching tide affected. Recommended for smaller craft only.

#### Walkerville North & Walkerville South

Location	Beach Launch
Description	Launching for small boats. Local knowledge recommended.

#### Venus Bay

Location	End of Fisherman's Way
Description	Water restricted by tidal movement. A shallow channel that can only be navigated by shallow drafted, suitably designed vessels during favourable tide conditions.

#### Tarwin River

Location	River Drive, Tarwin Lower
Description	River access. Tidal constraints. Suitable for shallow drafted vessels only.

#### Shallow Inlet

Location	Lester Road, Yanakie
Description	Sand access and tide affected. For small and large craft into Shallow Inlet.

#### Sandy Point

Location	Western Beach
Description	Sand access for launching. Tide affected.

## MARINE PARKS



### What are Marine Parks?

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

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). There are strong penalties under the National Parks Act for fishing in Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.

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.

To report a fishing offence call the Department of Primary Industries on 13 FISH (133 474). More information can be obtained from Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or at [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

Depictions of the marine national parks are shown on the map provided but should be used as a guide only. Please consult Parks Victoria on 13 19 63 for correct boundaries and details.

## MARINE SAFETY



### Marine Safety

Throughout South Gippsland there are a number of Marine Search and Rescue resources located along the coast. Victoria Police are the overall control and co-ordinating body for all Marine Search and Rescue and should be the first contact in any marine incident.

The Police and Water Police can be contacted via "000" or by ringing the Water Police office on 5156 7462.

There are volunteer rescue organisations located at Inverloch, Port Welshpool, Port Albert, Sale, Loch Sport, Paynesville, Lakes Entrance, Marlo and Mallacoota. These volunteers operate Coast Guard, Coastal Patrol and the State Emergency Service agencies.

Some of these organisations are not manned 24 hours a day. They can be contacted on the following call signs:

**Port Albert** Port Albert Coast Guard  
(27.88 meg, VHF 16, HF)

**Port Welshpool** Port Welshpool Coastal Guard  
(27.88 meg, VHF 16)

**Water Police** Gippsland Water Police or Marine 900  
(27.88 meg, VHF 16, HF)



# Prom Country Water Activities

## About



This publication is proudly produced by Prom Country Regional Tourism Inc in association with South Gippsland Shire Council.

Additional regional information can be viewed at:

- [visitpromcountry.com.au](http://visitpromcountry.com.au)
- Prom Country mobile apps for iOS and Android
- Prom Country Visitor Information Centres

Care has been taken in compiling this brochure, however the producers do not warrant or represent that the brochure is free from errors or omissions. The producers do not accept responsibility or liability for omissions or errors in the publication. Document prepared August 2015.

## Prom Country Visitor Information Centres



12 Silkstone Road  
KORUMBURRA

Cnr McDonald & Main Streets  
FOSTER



Leongatha Community & Visitor Information Centre  
Memorial Hall Complex, McCartin Street LEONGATHA

1800 630 704 (toll free)

[infocentre@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:infocentre@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

[visitpromcountry.com.au](http://visitpromcountry.com.au)