

# Marengo Reefs Marine Sanctuary

## Reefs and islands rich in sea-life

The Great Ocean Road winds past one of the world's most scenic coasts. Rolling green hills, forested slopes and rugged cliffs front a wild coastline, where surging waves from the Southern Ocean pound the rock platforms and surf beaches along the shore.

Just past Apollo Bay, where the Great Ocean Road leaves the coast and heads inland, two small islands lay off the small town of Marengo.

Henty and Little Henty islands have been flattened over thousands of years by the waves and now barely show above the surface. But their remote location ensures that they are packed with sea-life. They embody all that is magnificent about life under the sea along this coastline.

A rich intertidal reef lies along the top of the sandstone islands. Rocks, pools, gutters and ledges hide a huge variety of sea snails, from large abalone to tiny periwinkles. Numerous filter-feeding animals, such as tubeworms, barnacles and bryozoans (sea-moss) trap floating food brought by the waves.

Profuse seaweed 'gardens' thrive under the large writhing fronds of Bull Kelp that fringe the islands. The large brown seaweeds grow luxuriantly, interspersed with beds of attractive red and green species. The channel between the two islands is a rare sheltered haven on this wild coastline, supporting profuse growths of soft corals and sponges.



**Bull Kelp**

Around the islands, many kinds of wrasse scoot among the fronds. Schools of black and white Zebra Fish stand out dramatically from the seaweed, and the rotund spiny Globe Fish hovers over the rocks. Fur seals use the larger island to sun themselves after foraging far off the coast.

Marengo Reefs 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 Marengo Reefs Marine Sanctuary

The reef offshore from Marengo is a great destination for snorkellers when conditions are suitable. A short swim from the beach, the reef supports extensive beds of bull kelp which in turn host a wide diversity of smaller red and brown algae and a wealth of invertebrate life.






The shelter provided on the inside of the reef makes conditions suitable even for beginner snorkellers on a good day. Outside the protection of the reef the exposure to ocean swell creates a more dynamic environment better suited to experienced snorkellers and divers.

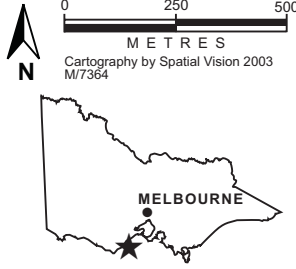
The sanctuary is only a short drive along the Great Ocean Road from Apollo Bay, where there are full services, including boat launching facilities and a Visitor Information Centre.



**Marengo Reefs Marine Sanctuary**

Area: 12 ha

-  Major sealed road
-  Minor sealed road
-  Marine Sanctuary
-  Reef
-  Waterbody



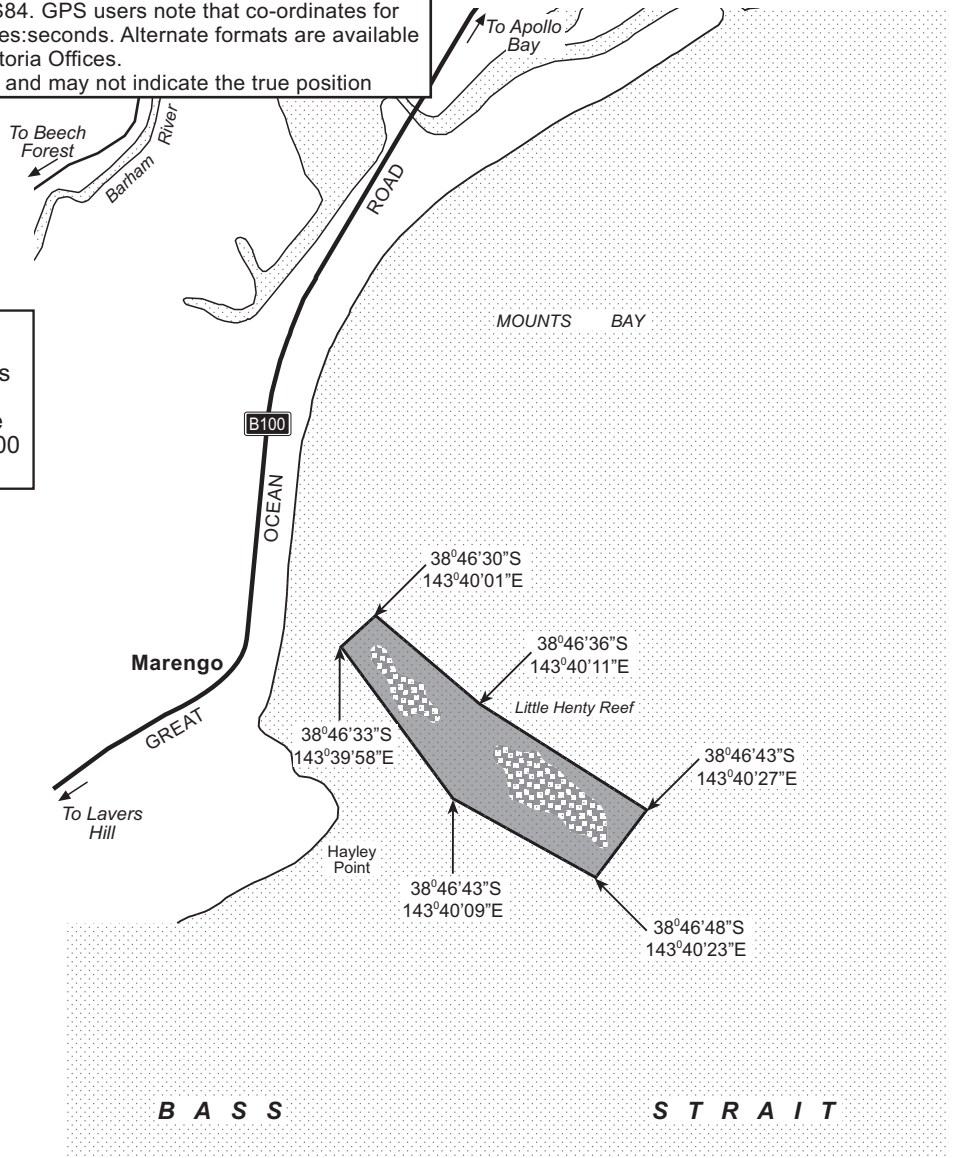
No fishing, netting, spearing, taking or killing of marine life. All methods of fishing, from the shore or at sea, are prohibited.

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

Latitude and Longitude values are based on WGS84. GPS users note that co-ordinates for boundaries are given in the format degrees:minutes:seconds. Alternate formats are available on Parkweb, by calling 13 1963 or from Parks Victoria Offices. Location of reefs are for illustrative purposes only and may not indicate the true position

**Marine Sanctuary boundaries**

**Marengo Reefs Marine Sanctuary (12 ha)** is located close to the shore at Marengo, near Apollo Bay. The sanctuary encompasses the reef and is about 750 metres in length and 200 metres wide.



**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
- Australian fur seals can be aggressive. Do not walk over exposed reef to approach the seals

**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
- The reefs are important resting habitat for Australian fur seals. Do not approach these animals

**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 Marengo Reefs 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 park, and you may also carry (but not use) a fishing rod or a spear gun (with the spear separated from the 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 call the Department of Primary Industries on 13 FISH (133 474).

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.