

# Wilson's Promontory National Park

## Visitor Guide



Wilson's Promontory, or the Prom as it is affectionately known, is the southernmost tip of the Australian mainland. From sun-drenched summer beaches to secluded winter walks among rainforest, the Prom has something for everyone.



### Opening hours

Wilson's Promontory National Park is open every day, including weekends and public holidays.

Camping and accommodation must be booked ahead. Go to [www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay) or call 13 1963.

The Visitor Centre is open 8.30am to 4.00pm AEST or 8.30am to 4.30pm AEDST.

The General Store stocks basic supermarket items, as well as a range of souvenirs and camping gear. Opening hours vary, please check the website for details [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au).

### Getting there

Wilson's Promontory National Park is approximately three hours drive from Melbourne. Follow Monash Freeway (M1) to join South Gippsland Freeway (M420/A440) to Meeniyan. Take the Meeniyan-Promontory Road (C444) to the Wilson's Promontory entrance.

Tidal River is a further 30 minutes drive from the entrance. Please drive carefully and look out for wildlife. Avoid driving between dusk and dawn. There is no fuel at Tidal River. The closest fuel supplies are at Yanakie, Fish Creek and Foster.

### Things to see and do

#### Boating and fishing

Boat launching off Norman Beach is accessed at First Ramp in Tidal River (a key and deposit required).

With a valid fishing licence, recreational fishing is permitted in Corner Inlet and Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Parks and Wilson's Promontory Marine Park, on beach areas and fishing platforms within Tidal River estuary and in Darby River east of the bridge. Bait collection is prohibited in all areas of the park.

All forms of fishing and shellfish collection are prohibited from the shore or waters in Wilson's Promontory and Corner Inlet Marine National Parks. Refer to *Wilson's Promontory* and *Corner Inlet Marine National Park Visitor Guides*.

#### Picnic facilities

Picnic tables and free gas barbecues are located throughout Tidal River. Five Mile and Darby River carparks also have picnic tables.

#### Access all abilities

An all-terrain *TrailRider* wheelchair and beach access wheelchairs are available free of charge for visitors with a mobility impairment to access some of the beaches and walking tracks at the Prom. For more information, call 13 1963 or ask at Tidal River Visitor Centre.

### Beach access

Many beaches at Wilson's Promontory National Park have strong undertows, rips and a steep floor. Ocean swells or waves can crash along rocky shorelines catching people unawares. Always keep an eye to the sea. Beaches are generally not supervised by Surf Life Saving patrols. Check marine weather reports and tide predictions before entering the water.

The north and south flanks of Norman Bay and the southern flank of Picnic Bay are popular snorkelling areas. Beaches throughout the park provide a range of surfing conditions for intermediate to experienced surfers.

Threatened Hooded Plovers and other shore birds nest on beaches throughout the park between August and April each year. To protect nests and chicks, walk along the beach closest to the water's edge.



#### 1. Norman Beach – various access points from Tidal River campground

Norman Beach is flanked by Pillar Point to the north and Norman Point to the south and offers stunning views of Mt Oberon. Surfing is only permitted south of Fifth Ramp.



#### 2. Squeaky Beach – 300m from carpark

One of the Prom's iconic locations, the rounded grains of quartz sand make a 'squeak' when walked on. Squeaky Beach can be accessed from Squeaky Beach carpark, Picnic Bay or Tidal River.



#### 3. Picnic Bay – 400m from carpark

Just a short drive from Tidal River, this beautiful bay offers visitors the opportunity to explore intertidal rock pool habitats to the north. Access is from Picnic Bay carpark, Squeaky Beach or Whisky Bay.



#### 4. Whisky Bay – 400m from carpark

A track leads from Whisky Bay carpark through a moist gully, following Whisky Creek before passing over sand dunes to a small sheltered beach.



#### 16. Darby Beach – 1.1km from carpark (refer map on page 4: Short walks in the north)

A sandy track follows Darby River as it winds its way to the sea. The small exposed beach is embraced at each end by rocky headlands.

## Walking

Wilson's Promontory National Park is a walker's paradise. A myriad of walks of varied lengths are available for all abilities.

Permits are required for overnight hiking, please see *Wilson's Promontory Overnight Hikes – Southern Circuit* and *Wilson's Promontory Overnight Hikes – Northern Wilderness*.

### Short walks around Tidal River



#### 5. Loo-Ern Track – 1km, 30 minutes one way

Loo-Ern Track follows the south bank of Tidal River and links to Tidal River footbridge. A boardwalk (with fishing platforms) protects fragile estuarine wetlands.



#### 6. Pillar Point – 3.6km, 1.5 hours return

Starting at Tidal River footbridge, walk to this outcrop of granite boulders for breathtaking views of Norman and Squeaky Beaches and the Prom's offshore islands. Beware of unprotected cliffs.



#### 7. Tidal Overlook Circuit – 3.8km, 1.5 hours return

Starting at Tidal River footbridge, this walk takes you to the highest point between Norman and Leonard Bays. Stop at the *quiet place*, dedicated to rangers worldwide who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Continue to the Lilly Pilly Link Track junction (**Walk 12**) and turn right to return to the footbridge.



#### 8. Squeaky Beach – 4.2km, 1.5 hours return

This walk offers sweeping coastal views as it climbs up and over the headland separating Norman and Leonard Bays before descending to Squeaky Beach. Starting at Tidal River footbridge, the return walk is via the same track. Beware of wave surges on rocky outcrops.



#### 9. Three Bays Walk - Squeaky Beach, Picnic Bay, Whisky Bay – 12.4km, 4 hours return.

This spectacular walk connects three beaches, allowing the walker to fully experience the beauty of both land and sea at the Prom. Starting at the Tidal River footbridge, travel alternates between track and beach walking. Arrange a car shuttle for a one way walk.



#### 10. Little Oberon Bay – 8.2km, 3 hours return

Starting between the Visitor Centre and General Store, this track veers left at the junction and climbs over Tea Tree-shrouded sand dunes to the southern end of Norman Beach (1.5 km), then winds across Norman Point to Little Oberon Bay. The walk provides fantastic views across Wilson's Promontory Marine National Park to the Anser and Glennie Island groups. Norman Point is 300 metres from the main track. Beware of unprotected cliffs.



#### 11. Mt Oberon Summit Walk – 6.8km, 2 hours return

From Telegraph Saddle carpark, follow the summit track gradually uphill for the reward of a 360-degree view of the park. During peak periods a free shuttle bus takes visitors to Telegraph Saddle from Tidal River and the Overnight Hikers carpark. Telegraph Saddle carpark is closed at these times.



#### 13. Lilly Pilly Nature Walk – 5.2km, 1.5 hours return

Get a glimpse of the Prom's interior, traversing heathland, eucalypt forest and a boardwalk through stands of warm temperature rainforest. This walk begins and returns to Lilly Pilly carpark. The Lilly Pilly Link Track connects this walk to Tidal River (1km, 20min, refer **Walk 12** on map on page 3: Short walks around Tidal River).



#### 14. Lilly Pilly Circuit – 5.8km, 2 hours return

Starting at Lilly Pilly Gully carpark, this walk climbs across the southern face of Mt Bishop through stringybark forest before descending to the lush rainforest of Lilly Pilly Gully. Return to the carpark via Lilly Pilly Nature Walk.



#### 15. Mt Bishop Summit Track – 7.4km, 2.5 hours return

Follow Lilly Pilly Circuit. A side track leads to the rocky summit of Mt Bishop. Magnificent views are offered of the Prom's west coast and off shore islands. Retrace your steps to the carpark or return via Lilly Pilly Nature Walk. Beware of unprotected cliffs.

### Short walks in the north



#### 17. Tongue Point from Darby Saddle – 5.6km, 2.5 hours one way

Enjoy beautiful forest and coastal scenery. At 2.1 km a side track leads to Sparkes Lookout. The main track climbs to Lookout Rocks before descending steeply to Tongue Point. For your safety, do not cross over to the semi-attached island. Beware of unprotected cliffs.



#### 18. Tongue Point from Darby River – 3.8km, 2 hours one way

Experience magnificent views of Darby Swamp, Vereker Range, Darby and Cotters Beach. Starting at Darby River carpark, climb gently through windswept coastal vegetation. A side track at 2.4km climbs down to Fairy Cove (access at low tide only). At 2.7km turn off to the coastal headland of Tongue Point. For your safety, do not cross over to the semi-attached island. Beware of unprotected cliffs.



#### 19. Prom Wildlife Walk – 2.3km, 45 minutes return

This walk takes you across open grasslands to view native wildlife including kangaroos, wallabies, emus and wombats.



#### 20. Cotters Lake and Beach – 2.4km, 1 hour return

Starting at Cotters Lake carpark, this walk follows a management track through the often dry basin of Cotters Lake to Cotters Beach – a wild, windswept stretch of coast.



#### 21. Millers Landing Nature Walk – 4km, 1.5 hours return

From Five Mile carpark turn left after the management gate and walk through open banksia and stringybark woodland to Millers Landing where you will find the southernmost stand of mangroves in the world. A bird watcher's paradise, Corner Inlet is an internationally significant wetland habitat for migratory birds.



#### 22. Vereker Outlook – 6km, 2 hours return

Panoramic views to Darby Saddle, Corner Inlet and Cotters Beach are offered as this walk climbs through open banksia and stringybark woodland through a tumble of granite boulders. Start at Five Mile carpark. Beware of unprotected cliffs.



#### 23. Big Drift – 4km, 1.5 hours return

Starting at the Stockyards, follow signs to the northern flank of Big Drift, an expansive landscape of inland sand dunes. It's easy to get lost, so mark your path to return. No beach access from Big Drift.



#### 24. Shallow Inlet – 400 metres, 30 minutes return

Park at the end of Hourigan Camp Lane. A short walk leads to Shallow Inlet via a sheltered gully of tea tree and Swamp Paperbark.

# Wilson's Promontory National Park

Short walks around Tidal River



### Beach access

- 1 Norman Beach
- 2 Squeaky Beach
- 3 Picnic Bay
- 4 Whisky Bay

### Short walks

- 5 Loo-Ern Track
- 6 Pillar Point
- 7 Tidal Overlook Circuit
- 8 Squeaky Beach
- 9 Three Bays Walk
- 10 Little Oberon Bay
- 11 Mt Oberon Summit Walk
- 12 Lilly Pilly Link Track
- 13 Lilly Pilly Nature Walk
- 14 Lilly Pilly Circuit
- 15 Mt Bishop Summit Track



- |                  |                  |                     |  |                         |                     |                                   |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>P</b> Parking | BBQ - Gas        | Shower              | Shuttle bus stop                             | No fishing              | — Sealed road       | Wilson's Promontory National Park |
| Information      | Accommodation    | Historical monument | Open air cinema                              | No spear fishing        | - - - Unsealed road | Camping area                      |
| Toilets          | Overnight hikers | Fishing permitted   | Caravan camping                              | No taking or damaging   | ..... Walking track | Marine National Park              |
| Accessible       | Picnic area      | Cafe                | Education centre/ Yiruk Wamoon Keeping Place | Emergency assembly area | ← Directional arrow | Marine Park and Coastal Reserve   |
|                  |                  |                     |  | Unstable cliffs         | ↔ Gate              | Accommodation area                |
|                  |                  |                     |  |                         |                     | Parks Victoria staff only         |

[www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

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# Wilson's Promontory National Park

Short walks in the north



## Beach access

16 Darby Beach

## Short walks

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18 Tongue Point from Darby River

19 Prom Wildlife Walk

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21 Millers Landing Nature Walk

22 Vereker Outlook

23 Big Drift

24 Shallow Inlet

P Parking

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Caravan camping

Toilets

Picnic area

Accessible toilets

Boat ramp

Camping

Cafe

Lookout

Unprotected cliffs

Sealed road

Wilson's Promontory National Park

Unsealed road

Marine National Park

Walking track

Marine Park and Coastal Reserve



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## Be prepared and stay safe

We recommend all visitors to the park have Ambulance Services membership or insurance covering the cost of ambulance transport.

Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions. Wilson's Promontory National Park is in the West and South Gippsland fire district. Check for the Fire Danger Rating and days of Total Fire Ban at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

Fires (including campfires and solid fuel heat compounds) are not permitted in Wilson's Promontory National Park at any time. On days of Total Fire Ban liquid fuel camp stoves are also not permitted.

On Code Red Fire Danger Rating days the park will be closed for public safety. Closure signs will be erected but do not expect an official warning. Check the latest conditions at [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or by calling 13 1963. For further information refer to the Wilson's Promontory National Park Code Red Fire Danger Closure fact sheet.

## When walking at the Prom:

- Let someone know before you go.
- Stay on walking tracks to avoid getting lost or spreading Cinnamon Fungus. This waterborn disease kills native flora and can be carried to new areas on the soles of your shoes.
- Wear sturdy walking shoes and carry a first aid kit, sunhat, sunscreen, sufficient drinking water and waterproof clothing.

## In an emergency

If you require emergency assistance phone 000 for Police, Fire or Ambulance Services.

For park related emergencies only (fire, accident/injury, injured wildlife, significant disturbance and critical maintenance issues), contact the Tidal River Duty Officer (24 hours) on 1300 247 594.

Mobile phone coverage is unreliable within the national park.

You may become aware of an emergency or be notified of an emergency situation by Police or Parks Victoria staff. If immediately accessible, collect sunscreen, water, suitable clothing and a torch. Calmly make your way to the nearest Emergency Assembly Area. Wait at the Assembly Area for further instructions from Parks Victoria staff or Police.

## Help us look after this magnificent park

- All plants, animals, other natural features and cultural sites and features are protected and must not be disturbed or removed.
- Feeding wildlife is bad for their health. It is an offence to feed or leave food where it is accessible to wildlife. Penalties apply. Store all food securely and carry out all rubbish, including food scraps.
- Bicycles, motorcycles and trail bikes are not permitted on any walking track or management vehicle track.