

Arthurs Seat State Park & Summit



Visitor Guide

Rising to a height of 314 meters above sea level, Arthurs Seat State Park is the most prominent landmark of the Mornington Peninsula. The summit can be reached by both road and foot providing magnificent views of Port Phillip and the heads. On a clear day the city skyline, You Yangs and Mount Macedon can be seen.

Things to see and do

Arthurs Seat State Park encompasses an area of approximately 572ha spread across the northern and western escarpments of Arthurs Seat. The summit precinct receives the highest visitation with thousands of people visiting to appreciate the magnificent views the area has to offer.

The park offers a wide variety of recreational and environmentally focused opportunities for individuals of all abilities.

Arthurs Seat summit

The area immediately surrounding the summit caters for individuals wishing to take in the views while enjoying a picnic or BBQ. Parking is available and the area has a number of BBQ's, picnic tables and public toilets. Refreshments can also be purchased at the summit.

Seawinds gardens are just a short walk from the summit, located just south of the summit on Purves Rd. This delightful garden offers electric BBQ's and picnic facilities, spectacular views and a range of walking tracks.

Arthurs Seat State Park

Arthurs Seat State Park provides for a wide variety of recreational opportunities ranging from walking, jogging, photography, nature study, picnicking and mountain biking on designated tracks.

A network of walking tracks allows access throughout the park giving the public the opportunity to experience the many different vegetation classes existing in the park.

Location and Access

Arthurs Seat State Park is located 60km south of Melbourne on the Mornington Peninsula (Melway 159 D12). Access to the park from Melbourne is via the Mornington Peninsula Freeway and the Arthurs Seat Scenic Road.

Popular walks

Two Bays walking track

This 26km track travels from Dromana foreshore on Port Phillip to Bushrangers Bay near Cape Schanck. As the track is quite long it is advisable to walk it in sections.

Arthurs Seat circuit walk

This easy to follow 1.8km circuit walk guides visitors to the major interest points of the summit.

TC McKellar circuit walk

This 1km track starts from the Seawinds Gardens information shelter.

Kings Falls circuit walk

This 1km walk begins on Waterfall Gully Rd taking in the falls which can be seen flowing year round.

Lookout Hill circuit walk

This 1km walk begins at the end of Eatons Cutting Rd and takes in some spectacular scenery towards Melbourne.

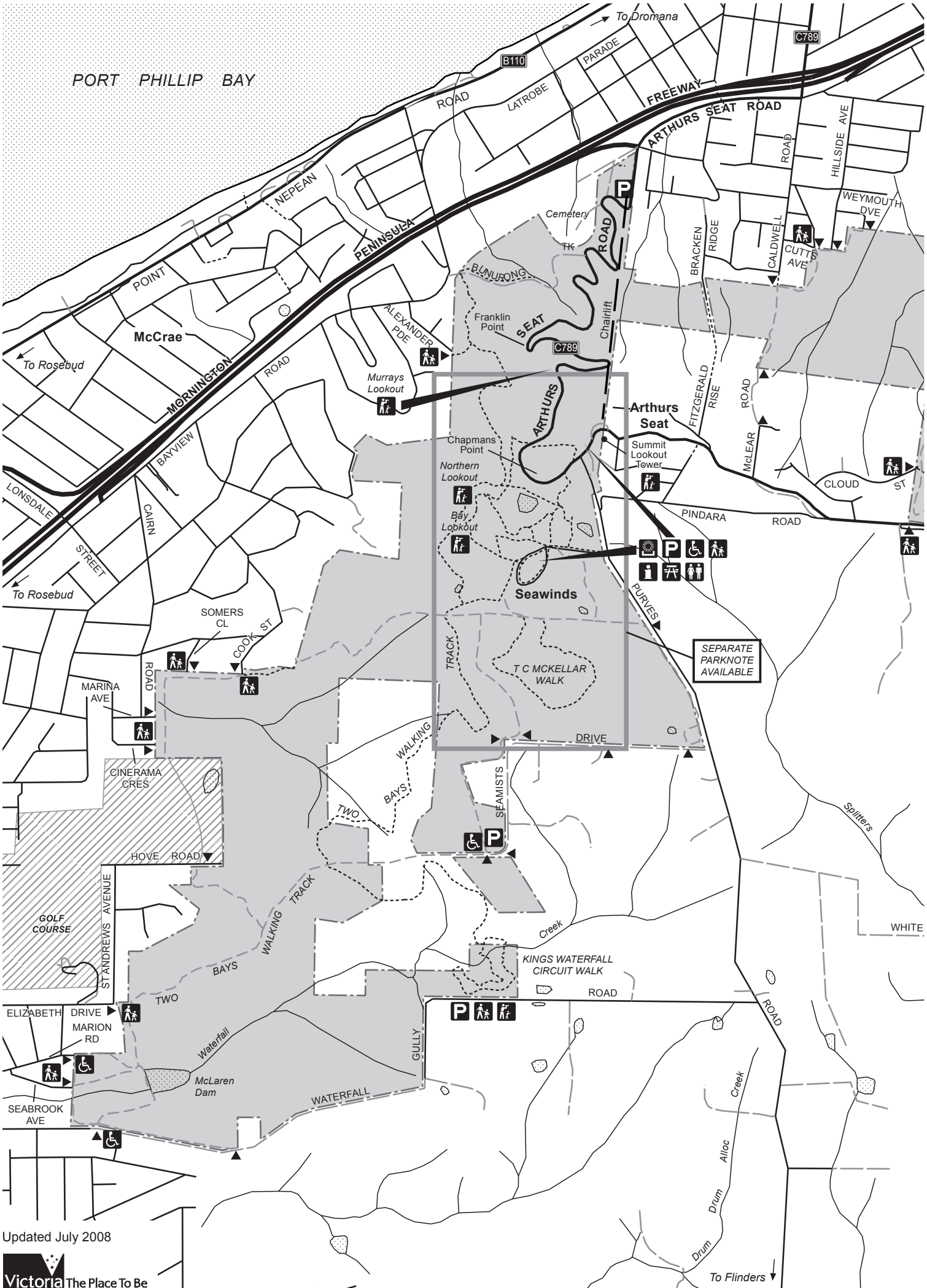
OT Dam circuit walk

This 3 km circuit walk begins on Arthurs Seat Rd and directs park users to a constructed boardwalk which loops around the beautifully coloured dam.



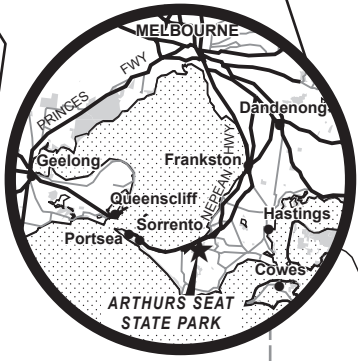
Adults and child walking ©RA





PORT PHILLIP BAY

Updated July 2008



Arthurs Seat State Park		Recreational Facilities		<p>METRES Cartography by Spatial Vision 2008 M/9062</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeway Major sealed road Minor sealed road Unsealed road Management Vehicles & Walkers track Walkers Only track Management Vehicle Access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Park Other Reserves & Public Land Water body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barbecue-Electric Carpark Pedestrian access Wheelchair access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lookout Park Information Picnic table Toilets 	

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For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
Call 13 1963
or visit the
Parks Victoria website
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with you for recycling & disposal

All native plants & animals are protected by law.

Please do not disturb them in any way

Keep to the formed tracks

Bicycles are not permitted on walking tracks

Firearms, Fires and Camping are not permitted within the park

Tread lightly – leave the park as you found it

Join the Friends

There are a number of friends groups which operate throughout Arthurs Seat State Park. Each group works to protect, promote and preserve indigenous vegetation communities which aids the recruitment of native fauna to the park.

For further enquiries contact Parks Victoria on

13 1963 or visit the Parks Victoria website at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Visiting a park can improve your health, mind, body and soul. So, with over four million hectares of parkland available to Victorians, why not escape to a park today

Mountain Biking

Two tracks within the State Park have been designated for mountain bike use at the OT Dam and McLarens Dam. Please keep to the designated tracks.

For more information contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au



History

With only one known indigenous archaeological site, very little is known of Aboriginal activity within the area now known as Arthurs Seat State Park. The peninsula does contain a number of indigenous sites of the Boon wurrung clan who are the traditional owners of these lands.

Arthurs Seat was named after a mountain near Edinburgh, Scotland by Lieutenant John Murray during the first exploration of Port Phillip in 1802. During this voyage Captain Matthew Flinders climbed the mountain recording the glorious view in his journal.

The Park has been subject to a variety of uses since the Peninsula was settled, particularly timber harvesting and clearing for grazing and orchards. Before Arthurs Seat was reserved for public purposes in 1988, the area was under threat from residential development and quarrying.

Flora

The State Park supports a range of vegetation from Sheoak and Messmate woodlands to Manna Gum and Swamp Gum forests. A number of vegetation communities are identified as regionally significant with the Heathy woodland on the lower slopes south of Seawinds, of State significance.

More than 25 species found in the park are considered rare or uncommon on the Mornington Peninsula with four of these listed as either nationally or state threatened such as the Purple Eyebright.

Unfortunately, large areas are infested with environmental weeds. Parks Victoria has implemented a weed mapping and works strategy in conjunction with the many friends groups. This program aims to control the spread, if not eradicate introduced plants from the park.

Fauna

As one of the largest remaining areas of habitat on the Mornington Peninsula, the park supports a diverse range of native animals, particularly birds, maintaining the areas biodiversity.

Several species of State significance have been recorded such as the Lewin's Rail and Powerful Owl.

Species of regional importance include the Southern Brown Bandicoot, Koala, Tree Goanna, Southern Emu-wren and Wedge-tailed Eagle.



Powerful Owl

Fire Management

Fire is an important part of the Australian landscape with many indigenous flora species reliant on fire for regeneration. Fire can alter vegetation structure and diversity and in some cases help minimise weed infestations.

However the wrong fire frequency or intensity can also have a negative impact on our local landscapes by promoting weeds. Regrowth from large fires in the 1970's has created dense under stories of Teatree and more recently (1997) the introduction of boneseed and blue bell creeper.

Fire management within Arthurs Seat State Park is reliant on careful planning and the existence of a comprehensive fuel reduction burning program. The program aim is to minimise the risk to human life, adjacent property and park values in the case of a wildfire.

Where possible the fuel reduction program also incorporates positive ecological effects promoting a variety of vegetation types and age within the ecosystem. This variety works to increase habitat diversity for local fauna.