

# SURF COAST

## SURF COAST WALK



This scenic walk is a trail that takes in beach, cliff top tracks and tracks through coastal bushland for a distance of about 30 km from Jan Juc, through Anglesea and Aireys Inlet, to Angahook-Lorne State Park.

The walk highlights some fine coastal scenery and includes the internationally famous Bells Beach, the fascinating Ironbark Basin, rugged Point Addis and the cliff tops of Anglesea, the Anglesea River, the Aireys Inlet Lighthouse, the Bark Hut and the beautiful beach area through Fairhaven, as well as the rich and diverse flora and fauna in the Angahook Lorne State Park.

There are numerous access points at which walkers can join or leave the walk. Toilets, drinking water (limited), camping facilities and information boards are located along various intervals. The walk provides a fine opportunity to sample what this interesting coastline has to offer and what better way to see it than on foot!

### ADVICE TO WALKERS

#### 1. PUBLIC SAFETY

The Surf Coast Walk traverses areas which are in close proximity to dangerous and potentially dangerous land form, in particular coastal cliffs. Care must be taken by all walkers to ensure that safety margins are maintained and children in particular are properly supervised.

#### 2. TRACK MARKERS

Directional markers are positioned at regular intervals along the trail to mark its route. Note especially those points where the track changes direction or where there is a choice of tracks to take.

#### 3. INFORMATION STANDS

Located at access points along the walk.

#### 4. DRINKING WATER

Walkers are advised to carry drinking water as no reliable drinking water is found in any creeks along the way.

#### 5. EQUIPMENT

Walkers are urged to ensure that they are wearing suitable footwear and clothing which is sensibly light in summer and warm in winter. Strong walking boots or track shoes should be worn. Thongs and sandals are NOT suitable. It is advisable to carry a waterproof jacket and a hat if there is any doubt about the weather. Remember, the Surf Coast is prone to sudden and wild changes in weather.

#### 6. TIDES

For sections where the trail follows a beach, the state of the tide may affect the ease of walking. Check tide times in the newspaper or the nearest Visitor Information Centre.

#### 7. EMERGENCY

Yellow rectangular and triangular numbered signs are visible at a variety of beach access points. The location and numbers of the signs are included in the track notes to assist walkers with identification of their exact location eg. 77W (Jan Juc).

#### 8. CONSERVATION

Please carry all litter out with you to be deposited in litter bins at access points. The coastal environment is extremely sensitive to damage and the utmost care must be taken to preserve plant life. Evidence of erosion is seen on some sections of the walk and

visitors are urged to stay on the marked track. Remember, that picking of native plants is an offence.

#### 9. FIRE

Walkers are advised not to use the track on days of high fire danger or Total Fire Ban. Camp fires must only be lit in fire places provided, never left unattended and MUST be completely extinguished when no longer required. Should the threat of wildfire develop, walkers should travel without delay to the nearest road or campsite, or remain on the beach.

#### 10. BIKES AND HORSES

Horse and bike riders are requested not to use the track which is for walkers ONLY.

### USE OF TRACK NOTES

1. The track notes are intended to provide a general guide to the walk. Other useful maps and information include the Surf Coast Touring Map and Park Notes which are available from the Torquay and Lorne Visitor Information Centres.

2. All compass bearings given are magnetic bearings and compass directions may only be approximate.

3. Times are continuous walking for a fit and experienced party. Allowance must be made for the level of expertise of the walkers and for stops along the way.

4. Track notes are written in the direction from Jan Juc to Angahook-Lorne State Forest Park only.

### STAGE 1

#### Jan Juc to Bells Beach

(4km – 1 hour)

#### ACCESS:

The Jan Juc three tiered car park can be reached by proceeding through Torquay towards Anglesea on the Great Ocean Road and turning left into Hoylake Avenue (past the Torquay Golf Club). Turn left at the roundabout into Carnarvon Avenue. Proceed to the western end (top) part of the car park.

#### ROUTE:

The track commences at the western end (top) of the Carnarvon Road three tiered car park (77W). Toilets are located at the bottom of the carpark. Follow this cifftop track (78W, 79W) for about 1 km to a small car park at the southern end of the built up area of Jan Juc (80W).

The track continues from here as a wider rough track running southwards through coastal heathland. Aim for the white "Wave" marker (the entrance to Bells Beach Reserve) which will be seen ahead of you as you get some distance down the track. Stay on the track which follows the fenced private land before heading down the small gully and up to the "Wave" carpark at the corner of Bones and Bells Beach Road. Follow the path on the coast side of the Bells Beach Road to the Bells Beach car park (81W). Toilets are located at the bottom of the carpark. Steps lead down to the beach (82W).



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## STAGE 2

### Bells Beach to Point Addis (5km - 1.75 hours)

#### ACCESS:

The Bells Beach car park can be reached from the Great Ocean Road by proceeding down either Jarosite or Bones Road. Follow the access track from the car park to the beach.

#### ROUTE:

From the bottom of the car park steps, follow the track to a block of toilets located at the rear of the beach. Cross over a gully via a bridge. Ascend the steep track to a well-defined track through the tea tree to the Southside car park (83W). From the Southside carpark the track follows Bells Beach Road to the top of the hill where a marked foot track heads off across the heathland to the south. Follow this around the head of a small gully to reach a wide track at right angles to the track you are following. The foot track continues almost immediately across this and drops downhill to reach a reedy dam with a breached wall and the ruins of the old Jarosite well and mine. Follow the Jarosite track which climbs inland around the northern rim of Ironbark Basin. As you proceed towards the car park in the northwest corner of the basin, you will catch some great views through the trees down into the basin and to the sea far below you. Follow the nature trail track which plunges down into the basin and continue along the Ironbark Track. Walking here is through pleasant ironbark forest until, on approaching the cliff line, you find the trees become more stunted, giving way to the coastal heathland. The track now climbs to the south up a hill from which superb views can be had across to Point Addis, down into Ironbark Basin and across to the Jarosite Headland. Continue along the track, following the signs to Point Addis (southerly direction). The track meets up with a beach access track (84W), turn right and head up to the road. Turn southeast down the road and follow it to the car park at the end. (Point Addis 86W).

## STAGE 3

### Point Addis to Anglesea (7km; 2 hours)

#### ACCESS:

Point Addis can be reached by turning off the Great Ocean Road into the Point Addis Road and follow the road past the Ironbark Basin car park.

#### ROUTE:

From the western end of the car park (86W), pick up the fenced access track and descend to the beach which is followed for 1.5km to the mouth of a small creek next to a rocky headland (Black Road 87W). The track now leaves the beach via the creek entrance and climbs inland into cleared land, becoming a vehicle track. As the road climbs around the cliff tops, it soon enters bushland and passes into Eumeralla Scout Camp land. There are some fine views both ways along the coast from some of the higher points along the clifftops. The track leads you west towards the camp village and then heads off south westerly down a steep track (before the camp village) towards the coastal heathland (88W). Continue along the track as it proceeds towards Anglesea which can be seen clearly ahead of you, until the track enters the camping ground. Pick up the road closest to the beach around to the mouth of the Anglesea River (89W). Proceed upstream along the eastern bank to the Great Ocean Road Bridge. Cross the bridge to the parking area at its western end (toilets).

## STAGE 4

### Anglesea to Aireys Inlet (Boundary Road) (10km - 3 hours)

#### ACCESS:

The walking track can be picked up here by entering the parking area immediately next to the river after you cross the Anglesea River on the Great Ocean Road from Geelong.

#### ROUTE:

Cross the Great Ocean Road and enter Noble Street and almost immediately turn right into River Reserve Road which is followed until just after you enter Coogoorah Park. Soon you reach a gravel road, onto which you turn left (west) for about 100 metres to reach a road junction. Turn south on this road and soon the marked trail can be picked up following a foot track on the right of the road. The foot track wanders through bushland, soon becoming a wider track following the power lines. The trail once again becomes a foot track which wanders pleasantly above the golf course where kangaroos can usually be seen grazing on the fairways. The track leads you to a gravel road which is followed southwest to Mt. Ingoldsby. The road now meets Harvey Street, a main gravel road which is followed southwest (right). After about 0.75 of a kilometre the trail picks up a track crossing the heathland (southerly direction). There is a steep descent into Hutt Gully and an equally steep ascent up the other side. The track becomes a road known as Gilbert Street which can be followed to its junction with Boundary Road. From here a number of choices to finish the walk:

## STAGE 5A

### Aireys Inlet (Boundary Road) to Distillery Creek Picnic Area (2km 30 minutes)

#### ACCESS:

As above.

#### ROUTE:

Follow Boundary Road west up over the hill and steeply down to the sealed road. Turn right (north) to the end of the sealed road and follow the signs to the Distillery Creek Picnic Area. From here walks may be done through the Angahook-Lorne State Forest Park, including one that takes the walker across to Moggs Creek Picnic Area.

## STAGE 5B

### Aireys Inlet (Boundary Road) to Moggs Creek Picnic Area (9km; 3 hours)

#### ACCESS:

Boundary Road crosses the Great Ocean Road on the northern limits of Aireys Inlet.

#### ROUTE:

Follow Boundary Road east (left) towards the coast. Cross the Great Ocean Road and continue to the cliff tops (104W). Turn south to pick up the cliff walk, a meandering sort of track (105W) that makes its way towards the lighthouse. At the lighthouse a short diversion can be taken to the point (Split Point), returning to the lighthouse on the circuit track.

The main through track goes around the lighthouse, soon passing the grave of two early settlers, before entering a car park. From the carpark, a marked trail can be picked up on the ocean side. It winds down to the mouth of Painkalac Creek where



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a picnic area and toilets are conveniently located (106W). A short side trip can be made here by following Inlet Crescent away from the Creek to get to the Bark Hut.

The creek mouth is usually blocked by a sand bar, but if the creek is running (and not too violently) cross at the most negotiable point then follow the beach westwards towards Fairhaven. On the rare occasions that the creek crossing is unsuitable, Fairhaven can be reached walking alongside the Great Ocean Road.

**From here there are two options:**

## BRIDGE ROAD OPTION

Follow the beach towards Fairhaven. After about 1.5 kilometres of beach, leave the beach on a sealed track beside the Fairhaven Surf Life Saving Club, next to the Emergency Beach Marker sign (107W). Cross the Great Ocean Road and enter Yarringa Road. Follow this through Fairhaven for about 250 metres, then swing right into Lialeeta Road, which is followed for about 100 metres to a rough 4WD track to the left (north) of the road. This track is signposted "No Through Road". This track provides very pleasant walking as it climbs through bushland to emerge on an open ridge. Turn right (northeast) and follow the track across open heathland to the top of the hill (views all round). Turn north (left) and descend to the Old Coach Road. This is followed for about 100 metres towards Moggs Creek to meet Gentle Annie Track. This track leads you for about 1km northwest to a T intersection. Turn left (south) descending through fire regrowth to reach the access road to Mogg's Creek Picnic Area. This can be followed to the picnic area. (From here Forest Park Walks may be done along Moggs Creek, to Ocean View or the Distillery Creek Picnic Area).

**OR**

## EASTERN VIEW OPTION

Stay along the beach past the Fairhaven Surf Life Saving Club. Leave the beach at the second beach access track, approximately 500m west of the Mogg's Creek bridge (108W) (before the first car park). Cross the Great Ocean Road and follow a well hidden track (straight ahead) through low lying scrub, up the steps halfway and off to the left.

Follow the track which winds its way up the side of the hill to the lookout. Seats along the way provide a chance to rest those weary legs! After gazing out to sea follow the "Mogg's Creek Picnic Ground" track which heads in a northerly direction. The Picnic Ground is around 30 minutes from the lookout.

## TOILET & WATER LOCATIONS

- Jan Juc Beach Car Park
- Bird Rock Car Park
- Bells Beach Car Park
- Anglesea Riverbank
- Coogoorah Park/Aireys Inlet Lighthouse Car Park (west)
- Distillery Creek/Moggs Creek

## BBQ's

- Coogoorah Park (electric)
- Distillery Creek
- Moggs Creek

## EMERGENCY PHONE NO. 000



**This guide is best used in conjunction with the Surf Coast Touring Map available from the Torquay & Lorne Visitor Information Centres.**

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