

Which beach to choose...

Rye (Family Beach)

A wide, sandy bay beach with a large grass foreshore reserve. Features include a long jetty, excellent picnic and barbecue facilities, children's playground, extensive boat launching, washing and parking facilities and a cycling and walking track.

Rye Ocean Beach (Hazardous Beach)

This exposed beach is backed by sand dunes and fronted by a wide rip and reef dominated surf. The beach faces southwest and receives waves averaging 1.8m. These produce large, persistent rips every 300 metres with permanent rips against the rocks and reefs below the car park.

Gunnamatta (Hazardous Beach)

This long, exposed beach faces the Southern Ocean swell. The surf zone has rocks and reef and an average of nine rips along the beach and hazardous swimming conditions. The beach does have a patrolled section. *Gunnamatta Surf Life Saving Club and professional lifeguards patrol the beach from the end of November to Easter (daily from December 26-January 26. Weekends and public holidays at other times).*

St Andrews (Hazardous Beach)

This is an exposed beach suitable for experienced surfers and beach fishers. It is dominated by moderate to high waves, sand, reefs and rocks along several hundred metres. Reefs also jut out in the surf.

Blairgowrie (Family Beach)

Sandy bay beach with barbecue and picnic facilities in the foreshore reserve. The boat ramp is suitable for small craft and there is a walking and cycling track.

Sorrento Front Beach (Family Beach)

This extremely popular bay beach and holiday destination has excellent foreshore reserves with extensive picnic and barbecue facilities, and children's playground. The terminal for the Queenscliff-Sorrento car and passenger ferry is at Sorrento Pier. There are also modern boat launching and yachting facilities and a cycling and walking track.

Sorrento back beach (hazardous)

This is popular with sun bathers and those wanting more action than the Sorrento bay beach. It is at the end of Ocean Beach Road. There is a large car park and picnic area on the bluffs behind the beach. The beach is an amphitheatre formed by the protruding western headland and reefs. There are picnic and barbecue areas, as well as a kiosk and tea rooms. *Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club and professional lifeguards patrol from the end of November to Easter (daily from December 26-January 26. Weekends and public holidays at other times).*

Portsea Front Beach (Family Beach)

Last in the string of Port Phillip Bay beaches, this popular bay beach holiday destination has wide foreshore reserves with picnic and barbecue facilities. The Queenscliff passenger ferry leaves from Portsea Pier.

Portsea Surf Beach (Hazardous)

One of Victoria's better known and most popular summer beaches but also one of its most potentially hazardous. The beach is on the western tip of the Peninsula. It's exposed to Bass Strait swells. Waves averaging 1.7 metres produce a 300 metre wide surf zone containing strong permanent rips. Beware of reefs. *Patrolled by Portsea Surf Life Saving Club and professional lifeguards from the end of November to Easter (daily from December 26-January 26. Weekends and public holidays at other times)*

Point Leo (Family Surf Beach)

This attractive well maintained beach and reserve is safe in summer and offers the chance of some good point and reef breaks during winter swells. Rips are rare with waves average only 0.5 metres. The wide beach is fronted by a narrow sandbar. The extensive foreshore reserve has picnic, barbecue and play facilities, as well as a kiosk and camping area. *Point Leo Surf Life Saving Club and professional lifeguards patrol the beach from the end of November to Easter (daily from December 26-January 26. Weekends and public holidays at other times).*

Flinders Ocean Beach (Family Beach)

This protected sandy bay beach has excellent picnic, barbecue and play facilities in the foreshore reserve, as well as a boat ramp. Flinders Ocean Beach is part of Mornington Peninsula National Park.

Shoreham Beach (Family Beach)

Steep, sandy, pine-tree framed beaches are located around the mouth of Stony Creek and rocky platforms and reefs are popular for family exploration. The foreshore reserve has picnic and barbecue facilities.

Merricks Beach (Family Beach)

A safe sandy bay beach with walking tracks through wide foreshore reserve to beach.

Balnarring Beach (Family Beach)

The popular Westernport bay beaches have well-vegetated sand dunes, views to Flinders and Phillip Island, camping and caravan parks. The foreshore reserve has picnic, barbecue and play facilities

Somers Beach (Family Beach)

A popular sandy bay beach on Westernport with picnic and barbecue facilities within a wide foreshore reserve.