

## The historic Peninsula...

The area was originally home to the *Mayone-bulluk* clan and formed part of the **Boonwurrung** nation's territory prior to European settlement. The nation hosted six clans who lived along the **Victorian** coast from the **Werribee River** across to **Western Port Bay** and **Wilson's Promontory**. The peninsula is speculated to have been home to between 100 - 500 people prior to European settlement.

At the time of European settlement, much of the Mornington Peninsula was covered with she-oak forests. These were quickly cleared to provide firewood for the growing city of Melbourne, and much of the peninsula was then covered with fruit orchards. Nevertheless much natural vegetation still exists, especially in an area of bushland in the south known as Greens Bush, and the coastal fringe bordering **Bass Strait** and Western Port Bay. Most large areas of bushland are now included within the **Mornington Peninsula National Park**.

**Fort Nepean** is a former defensive facility occupying part of **Point Nepean, Victoria, Australia**. It was part of a network of fortifications, commanded from **Fort Queenscliff**, protecting the narrow entrance to **Port Phillip**.



**Morning – Point Nepean National Park, Quarantine Station and Fort** – This significant National Park has spectacular views and a rich history as a former quarantine station and defence outpost. Whether you walk, cycle or ride the explorer tour you will be inspired.

### More history:



**Collins Settlement site, Sorrento:** At Sullivan Bay where David Collins established Collins Settlement in 1803 are 5 nameless graves. According to Leslie Moorhead's book, Mornington in the wake of Flinders, these five nameless graves are believed to hold the remains of the Collins party.



**Watts Cottage, Sorrento:** Watts' Cottage 'Ilfracombe', an early settlers' wattle and daub cottage (built 1869-70), adjacent to the

Museum and overlooking the Pioneer Memorial Garden, is open to visitors and provides a glimpse of late 19th century living.



**Lunch: Historic Sorrento - spend this afternoon having lunch in any number of fabulous places and do a little shopping, there are lots of antique shops to look through.**

### Try the following:

**The Continental Hotel** – in winter there is a cosy fire, in warmer months sit

outside and admire the view or

**Stringers General Store** – across the road from the Continental Hotel this little store is a supermarket, bottle shop and fabulous place for coffee and a sandwich. It's small but there are tables inside and out.

### Afternoon



**Cape Schanck Lightstation Museum** – Tour the lighthouse that still flashes its beacon across the wild waters of Bass Strait guiding mariners as it has done for more than 100 years. Explore historic buildings and the lighthouse museum.



Now head home and rest, have dinner and then:

**Night time** (it has to be dark for either of these options and you will need to book especially for the Wildlife Park):

**Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife and Conservation Park** for their night tour – this is when all the nocturnal animals come out, it is such a great experience.