

Walks in Port Phillip

# FORESHORE TRAIL



*A guide to the cultural landscapes of a city*

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## TRAIL KEY

- 1 PERC WHITE RESERVE
- 2 SANDRIDGE BEACH
- 3 PRINCES PIER
- 4 PORT MELBOURNE RAILWAY STATION
- 5 STATION PIER
- 6 CENTENARY BRIDGE PYLON
- 7 SWALLOW AND ARIELL STEAM BISCUIT MANUFACTORY BUILDINGS
- 8 THE ROTUNDA
- 9 LIARDET MEMORIAL
- 10 BAY STREET
- 11 LAGOON PIER
- 12 SOUTH MELBOURNE LIFESAVING CLUB
- 13 VICTORIA HOTEL
- 14 KERFERD ROAD PIER
- 15 HUGHENDEN
- 16 MIDDLE PARK EXERCISE STATION
- 17 WEST BEACH NATURAL HISTORY RESERVE
- 18 CATANI GARDENS
- 19 ST KILDA BREAKWATER
- 20 ST KILDA PIER
- 21 ESPLANADE HOTEL
- 22 THE ESPLANADE
- 23 ST KILDA SEA BATHS
- 24 STOKEHOUSE
- 25 DONOVANS
- 26 LUNA PARK
- 27 ACLAND STREET
- 28 ST KILDA MARINA
- 29 ELWOOD CANAL
- 30 POINT ORMOND HILL
- 31 ELWOOD COASTAL FOREST
- 32 ELWOOD SAILING CLUB
- 33 HEAD STREET



This trail celebrates the eleven kilometre foreshore of the City of Port Phillip as it traces the coastline of Hobsons Bay from Sandridge to Elwood, delighting Melburnians with its views and recreational treasures. This beachfront is one of Australia's most popular city destinations, and has been for over 150 years. It is to the coast that residents and visitors flock in their thousands on a fine day. Some come to swim or windsurf, others to go fishing, breathe in the sea air, roam the bicycle and walking paths or visit icons such as Luna Park, Princes and Station Piers. The thriving pubs, cafés and cake shops also attract the sinners, the sociable and the seen.

**Perc White Reserve (1)** at the western edge of the City of Port Phillip, was for many years after settlement typified by the vast empty reaches of Fishermans Bend with sand hills and swampland all the way to the Yarra, reflecting the origin of the early name for Port Melbourne, Sandridge. From the 1950s onwards, the river entrance has been extensively modified to create more port facilities. Webb Dock is part of Australia's largest container port. Walking paths extend around the dock area to near the mouth of the Yarra River and offer spectacular views of the city and Williamstown.

The 5.9 km Melbourne Solar System Trail finishes here with a model of Pluto. The trail starts near the **St Kilda Marina (28)** with a model of the sun.

**Princes Pier (3)** was completed in 1916 in time to send the troops off to the First World War. Originally known as New Railway Pier, it was renamed after the Prince of Wales visited in 1920. In 2011, after many years of refurbishment, it was re-opened to the public as a cultural and recreation space which included restoration to the gatehouse and preservation of the pier supports which remain as a striking visual reminder.

The red brick houses of the Fishermans Bend estate can be glimpsed from the path. This was the first estate created by the newly formed Housing Commission after the war to house people relocated from 'slum' housing.



*Sailing boats moored in the Lagoon near Harper's Starch Factory, c. 1910. pm0637.1-3*

The artwork *Leading Lights*, by Mark Weichard and Anthony Russo, is located on the promenade between Station and Princes Pier. You are standing on the sightline of the 'leading light' beacons that guided ships up the channel to the piers.

The restored **Port Melbourne Railway Station (4)** (light rail service since 1987) is opposite Station Pier at Waterfront Place. The first passenger line in Australia, it connected the port to the city in 1854.

The whole Port Melbourne foreshore has seen extraordinary development in the past twenty years with thousands of new residents moving into recent developments such as Beacon Cove.

**Station Pier (5)** was once a hive of commercial activity, crowded with ships delivering cargoes and passengers from all over the world. Over a million immigrants first set foot on Australian shores here. *The Spirit of Tasmania* as well as many international cruise ships now dock here. Located at the end of the pier is *Destinations*, a sculpture by Mark Weichard and Anthony Russo, which acknowledges immigration. It bears the name and dates of ships which have arrived over the past 170 years.

The magnificent **Centenary Bridge**, an overpass built for the 100th anniversary of settlement, spanned the railway lines at Station Pier. Its art deco detailing reflected the ocean liners of the time. It was demolished in 1991. There remains only a single pylon (6) as a souvenir of its splendour.

At the corner of Stokes Street and Rouse Street is the first building of the **Swallow and Ariell Steam Biscuit Manufactory (7)** founded in 1854 to bake ships' biscuits. At one time most Port Melbourne families had a member working for 'Swallows'. The smell of fresh biscuits is fondly remembered.

**The Rotunda (8)** was built in 1918 by the Women's Welcome Home Committee. Bands played here as ANZAC troops disembarked from nearby Station Pier. Over a third of Australia's troops departed from Port Melbourne's piers for the two world wars.



Station Pier, 1901 - 1911. pm1972

Beyond the Rotunda is the memorial (9) to Liardet, the first permanent settler in Port Melbourne. Wilbraham Frederick Evelyn Liardet arrived with his wife and nine children in 1839 and established a range of small businesses including a ferry service, mail run and resort hotel. They built the Pier Hotel, roads, a jetty and watchtower.

The World War I Memorial Fountain is evidence of the historic importance of this area in Australia's war effort. Annual ANZAC Day services are held here.

**Bay Street, (10)** opposite the Port Melbourne Yacht Club, was the route of pioneer Wilbraham Liardet's mail run and contains many historic buildings of the original settlement. Its pubs and shops attract a lively weekend crowd.

**Lagoon Pier (11)** marks the entrance to a saltwater lagoon that once extended more than a kilometre inland. After the lagoon was filled in, local fishing families continued to shelter a boat fleet at Lagoon Pier and to operate a local fish market. Intensive housing development now occupies the site of this historic waterway.

Further along Beach Street is *Port Stories*, an installation by Dianna Wells and Helen Bodycomb which captures stories of Port residents.

Opposite the pier at 9 Beach Street is Sandridge Bay Towers, once the Harper's Starch Factory. Through the front gate one can see the giant chimney stack amongst the modern apartments.

At 52 Beaconsfield Parade near Foote Street is the former Brigidine convent 'Kilbride', currently an ecumenical centre for spirituality and personal development.

**South Melbourne Lifesaving Club (12)** with change facilities is opposite Withers Street. Nearby is the Plum Garland memorial playground, located on the beach itself.

On the north corner of Kerferd Road is the magnificent **Victoria Hotel (13)** now apartments and café.

**Kerferd Road Pier, (14)** next to the Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club, was built in 1877. Enjoy the marvellous view and chat to the fisher-people who come from all parts of Melbourne.

**Hughenden (15)** nearest to Mills Street is the former 1890 mansion of J R Buxton of the real estate firm, and later the Danish Club until 2007. On the bluestone wall is *Tommy's Story* by Bill Perrin which celebrates the story of Tommy who swam to work at the wharves every day during the Depression.

Before the corner of Mills Street and Beaconsfield Parade are three adjacent boom mansions of the late nineteenth century.



**Middle Park exercise station (16)** opposite Armstrong Street is the site of the former Middle Park Lifesaving Club, which was replaced by this fitness station with conveniences, seating and garden in 2006.

At the corner of Pier Road and Beaconsfield Parade is the **West Beach Natural History Reserve (17)**. A 300 metre boardwalk of recycled plastics leads you around the indigenous saltmarsh landscape restored by community plantings. At the road end of the beach is the West Beach Bathers Pavilion restored as a function venue and restaurant in 2009.

Continue along Pier Road beside **Catani Gardens (18)**. If you have time, divert into these six hectares of elegant landscaped gardens developed on foreshore reclaimed from the sea between 1890 and c1916 by Carlo Catani and completed by the 1920s.

The **St Kilda Breakwater (19)** at the end of the St Kilda Pier was built for the Olympic Games in 1956. It is now home to a Wildlife Management Cooperative Area that protects a colony of fairy penguins, water beavers (rakali) and reef life.

**St Kilda Pier (20)** is a highly popular destination for Melburnians. The Victorian kiosk at the further end was once known as 'Kerby's Kiosk' and used as a meteorological station. It was rebuilt after a 2003 fire and provides excellent views of Hobsons Bay.

Opposite St Kilda Pier is the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron, which was instituted in 1876 and provides training for children learning to sail.

The Cenotaph, designed by G H Alsop, was erected in 1925 as a memorial to St Kilda's fallen servicemen and women.

Inland on **The Esplanade (22)** is the popular Esplanade Market, held on Sundays. Opposite the market is the **Esplanade Hotel (21)**, established in 1854, an icon beloved of Melbourne's artistic and musical community. Further along The Esplanade is the Catani Clocktower, completed in 1932 in memory of the Chief Engineer of Public Works who designed the foreshore gardens.



*Kerferd Road Pier, South Melbourne. Postcard. 1900-1910. sm0598. 1-3*

**Sea Baths (23)** have existed on St Kilda Beach since the 1850s. The latest redevelopment of the St Kilda Sea Baths with its Moorish domes was completed in 2001. Steps lead from the central courtyard to the public rooftop patio for a spectacular view.

**The Stokehouse (24)** was originally housed in a former turn-of-the-century teahouse which burned down in 2014. A former dressing and public bathing pavilion is now **Donovans (25)** restaurant established in 1997.

Heritage listed **Luna Park (26)** celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2012. The original 'Mr Moon' entry face was reconstructed in 1999. Next door is the Palais on the 'Triangle' site, once the largest suburban picture palace in the world before a fire in 1926.

**Acland Street (27)** is famous for its cake shops and cafés and was the favoured destination of post-war Jewish immigrants.

Marine Lighthouse Reserve has good views of the bay and a skate park. The 5.9 km Melbourne Solar System Trail starts here with a model of the sun. The **St Kilda Marina (28)** involved the reclamation of 16 hectares of land to meet the growing demands of boating enthusiasts.

**Elwood Canal (29)** is the site of the former Elster Creek that drained into the Elwood swamp near the foreshore. 'Elster' is German for magpie, reflecting the many birds seeking worms in the swampy flats. In 1835 the 'Enterprize' crew dropped anchor here before proceeding to settle at Melbourne, on the banks of the Yarra River near William Street.



*Hegarty's Ladies' Baths, St Kilda Beach, c1910. sk0611.1-2*

**Point Ormond Hill (30)** has a fascinating history. A Yalukit Willam midden site was located nearby. In 1839 a quarantine station was established when the Glen Huntly 'fever' ship arrived. Those who died of typhus were buried in St Kilda's first graveyard on the hill. A coal mine, abattoir, and rifle range all operated in the vicinity. A memorial plaque laid by descendants of the Glen Huntly survivors can be found fifty metres east of the hill beside Ormond Reserve Road. Moran Reserve, with playground, is a very popular recreational area.

An extensive **urban coastal forest (31)** has been created here with shady trails and nooks. The plants recreate the original landscape before settlement in 1835. Many native birds, possums, insects and even foxes live in this bushland. Continue walking along the leafy trails to Point Ormond.

Further south along the beach is the **Anglers Club and Elwood Sailing Club (32)**. The former Elwood Bowling Club, near the Elwood Life Saving Club, is now a café with a large public playground attached.

Finish on the beach at the **Head Street (33)** outfall platform where artist Tony Hutchinson has depicted the history of Hobsons Bay in coloured tiles. The platform is above a giant diversion drain that diverts stormwater from Elwood to prevent flooding. Head Street is the boundary between the City of Port Phillip and the City of Bayside. Nearby is the Federation bench, made from historic Australian timbers, which celebrates the marvellous foreshore of the City of Port Phillip as it curves around the coastline of Hobsons Bay from Sandridge to Elwood.



*The Red Bluff Pt Ormond. Book plaque. From a pencil drawing by Mrs Elizabeth Parsons about 1875. sk0834*



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<b>START</b>	Sandridge Beach, Port Melbourne
<b>FINISH</b>	Head Street, Elwood
<b>LENGTH</b>	Eleven kilometres
<b>TIME</b>	Three hours
<b>BIKE STATION</b>	Plum Garland Playground, Albert Park 103 Beach Street, Station Pier, Port Melbourne Luna Park, St Kilda Cleve Gardens, St Kilda ( <a href="http://Melbournebikeshare.com.au">Melbournebikeshare.com.au</a> )
<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>	There are numerous cafés, kiosks and restaurants along the foreshore.

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Visit [heritage.portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://heritage.portphillip.vic.gov.au) for more information about cultural heritage programs and activities in the City of Port Phillip.

You can also contact us by phone via our ASSIST centre on **03 9209 6777**.

To book a guided walk, phone the Guided Walks booking line on **03 9209 6522**.

*Cover image: Railway Pier, Port Melbourne. Postcard. pm0037*

*Images are from the Port Phillip City Collection unless otherwise indicated.*

