

# Croajingolong National Park



## Visitor Guide

Covering an area of 88,355 ha from Sydenham Inlet to the NSW border, Croajingolong is one of Australia's finest National Parks. From undisturbed forest foothills to a magnificent wilderness coastline, it is home to a vast array of indigenous plants and animals, some of which are at the furthest extent of their range. The park is an exciting destination for outdoor enthusiasts and boasts unspoilt natural beauty and remoteness.

### Location and access

Croajingolong National Park in Far East Gippsland is located approximately 450 km east of Melbourne and 500 km south of Sydney.

The park is accessed from multiple points along the Princes Highway between Cann River and the New South Wales border. Roads to Wingan Inlet, Mueller Inlet, Thurra River and Shipwreck Creek campgrounds are unsealed and not suitable for caravans. Access is weather dependant.

### There is so much to do

#### Boating

There are launching ramps for boats at Karbeethong, Mallacoota, Gipsy Point, Tamboon Inlet and Bemm River, with an effluent waste disposal facility located at the Karbeethong public jetty on the Mallacoota Lakes. Small boats (maximum 20 horsepower) may be launched next to the jetty at Wingan Inlet.

The islands located in the Mallacoota and Tamboon Inlet's are utilised as nesting sites by coastal and wading birds. In order to provide safe and undisturbed nesting habitat, please do not land on the islands between October and February.

#### Canoeing

Some of Australia's best flat water canoeing can be found throughout the park on the many rivers, streams and estuaries. Sea kayaking is a challenging activity along the spectacular coastline.

#### Fishing

Fishing is permitted within the park (excluding Marine National Parks) and a number of different surf and estuary fish species may be caught. A Victorian Recreational Fishing Licence is required to fish in all Victorian waters.

### Four wheel driving

Several tracks lead to remote locations or create alternative touring routes through the park and adjoining State Forest. Check with Parks Victoria or DSE for updated road conditions and seasonal closures before setting out. Road closures apply to all vehicles.

### Short walks and day visits

Throughout the park there are some delightful walks and day visitor sites that enable you to explore the various environments in this area, with breathtaking views, sandy beaches, colourful heathlands, tall eucalypt forests and rainforests. A number of these are located in the vicinity of all the main campgrounds within the park.

### Extended walks

The Wilderness Coast Walk within Croajingolong National Park extends for over 100 kms from Sydenham Inlet to Wonboyn in the Nadgee Nature Reserve, NSW. The walk features a variety of scenery from wide open beaches to small coves with rocky headlands, river estuaries and coastal heathlands.

In an effort to protect the wilderness coastline Parks Victoria and the New South Wales National Parks Service have adopted a booking system to manage the number of hikers and to minimise visitor impact on these remote areas. Applications for permits can be obtained from the Parks Victoria office located at Mallacoota and the NSW National Parks Service office at Merimbula.

*Only experienced and suitably equipped hikers should undertake this rugged and remote walk.*



For further information

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
**Call 13 1963**  
or visit our website at  
**www.parks.vic.gov.au**  
  
Park Office  
Cnr Allan & Buckland Drives  
Mallacoota Vic 3892  
  
Park Office  
Princes Hwy  
Cann River Vic 3890  
  
Point Hicks Lighthouse  
Mangers  
**Ph (03) 5158 4268**

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

All native plants, animals, cultural and historic features are protected

Please take rubbish away with your for recycling and disposal

Pets and firearms are not permitted

Fires may only be lit in designated fireplaces. No fires including gas and fuel stoves may be lit on days of Total fire Ban (East Gippsland Fire Ban District)

Please do not handle or feed wildlife as it fosters dependence and may cause disease

Road closures apply to all vehicles

Warnings

Be extremely careful when paddling in areas where rivers are open to the ocean as they are often subject to strong rips and currents

Extreme care is required when crossing entrances. Sudden waves and strong currents affect these areas

Some access tracks are shared carriage ways, please watch for other traffic

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!



Facilities and accommodation

Four main camping areas exist within Croajingolong National Park with an additional campground at Peachtree Creek Reserve. Camping is permitted only in designated areas and is not permitted around the Mallacoota Lakes.

Camping fees apply and advance bookings are required all year round. Bookings for Shipwreck Creek, Wingan Inlet, Peachtree Creek and the Wilderness Coast Walk are available online at [www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay) or by contacting the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963. The Gabo Island assistant lightkeepers cottage can also be booked online.

Bookings for the Thurra River and Mueller Inlet campgrounds and the Point Hicks assistant lightkeepers cottage are to be made direct to the Point Hicks Lighthouse on **(03) 5158 4268**.

Campground	Camping (no. of sites)	Fireplaces	Picnic Tables	Pit Toilets	Firewood
Thurra River	46	communal	communal	✓	✓ Sold on site
Mueller Inlet	8	Gas Fires only		✓	
Peachtree Creek	11	✓		✓	
Wingan Inlet	23	communal	✓	✓	
Shipwreck Creek	5	✓	✓	✓	

World Biosphere Reserve

Together with the adjoining Nadgee Nature Reserve in NSW, Croajingolong National Park is classified as a World Biosphere Reserve, one of 12 in Australia. Part of the worldwide program involving people and environment interactions, the reserve also preserves examples of major habitat types and gene pools.

Wilderness areas

The park was expanded by 855ha due to the State Government's commitment to preserving old growth forest for future generations. Also protected is a range of undisturbed vegetation communities, natural catchments, rare species of wildlife and diverse geological, geomorphological and landscape values.

The two wilderness areas - the Sandpatch Wilderness extending over 15,600 ha and the Cape Howe Wilderness with 7,100 ha. Visitors to these areas need to be self reliant when visiting. Vehicle access is not possible into these areas.

From the past

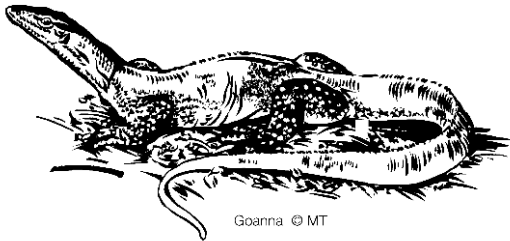
It is believed that the name Croajingolong is derived from 'Kruaetungalong', the aboriginal clan of the Ben Kurnai tribe that inhabited this area of East Gippsland. The coastal and inland areas provided a rich and plentiful supply of food to resident aboriginal tribes.

Captain James Cook, on board the Endeavour, sighted sections of the Croajingolong coastline in 1770. The Point Hicks Lighthouse, built in 1890, is situated on the headland first sighted by Lt Zachary Hicks on this same voyage.

A haven for flora and fauna

Over 1000 species of native plants have been recorded in the park. Among the spectacular wildflower displays, 90 species of orchids are known to occur. The park also contains areas of Cool Temperate and Warm Temperate Rainforest. Coastal Heaths within the park protect a large number of significant flora species.

With the outstanding botanical diversity, Croajingolong National Park is most valuable for fauna conservation. Of the 52 mammal species recorded in the park, arboreal mammals, such as possums, gliders and bats are common. Seals, whales and dolphins occur in coastal waters adjacent to the park.



The islands and ocean beaches attract migratory seabirds and waders, the wetlands are habitat for a diversity of waterfowl and the coastal woodlands are favoured habitat for birds of prey. Significant populations of reptiles and amphibians also occur within the park.

Marine National Parks

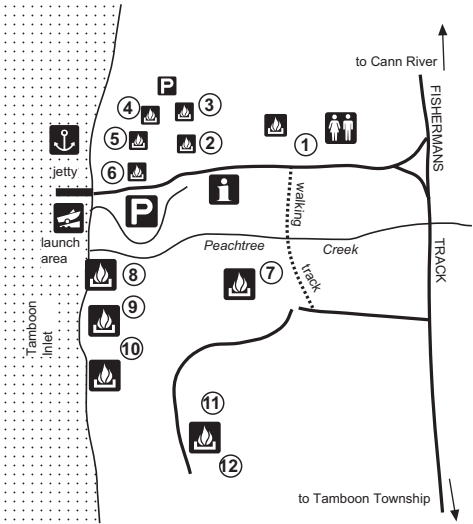
Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries are areas of the sea that protect a sample of Victoria's marine plants and animals and their habitats. Croajingolong National Park borders Point Hicks and Cape Howe Marine National parks.





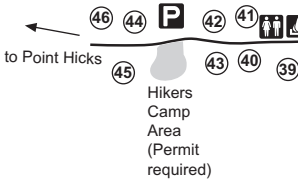
Peachtree Creek

Peachtree Creek is a campground with 12 sites situated in Peachtree Creek Reserve on the eastern shores of Tamboon Inlet. There is neither vehicle nor walking access to the coast from the camp, so boats are an excellent way to explore the area. The inlet is good for both fishing and bird watching. Please note, the inlet waters and surrounding forest are part of Croajingolong National Park.



Thurra River

Thurra River is the largest campground in Croajingolong National Park, with 46 sites. The camp is located in coastal woodland between the river and the ocean, near Point Hicks. The river is shallow, making it a popular spot for families to relax on hot days.

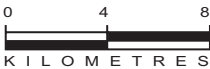


Croajingolong National Park

- Highway
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD track (may be subject to seasonal closure)
- Croajingolong National Park
- Other park or reserve
- Wilderness area
- Marine national park

Recreation facilities

- Accommodation
- Boat launching
- Camping (bookings required during peak times)
- Canoeing
- Family walk
- Fireplace
- Lightstation
- Lookout
- Park information
- Picnic table
- Toilets
- Hospital
- Shipwreck
- Telephone
- Petrol Station
- 4WD track
- Site number

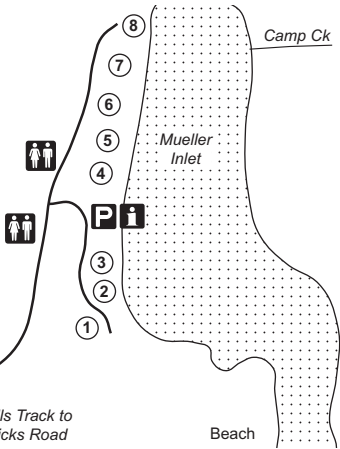


Cartography by Charles Walsh  
Nature Tourism Services Sep 06



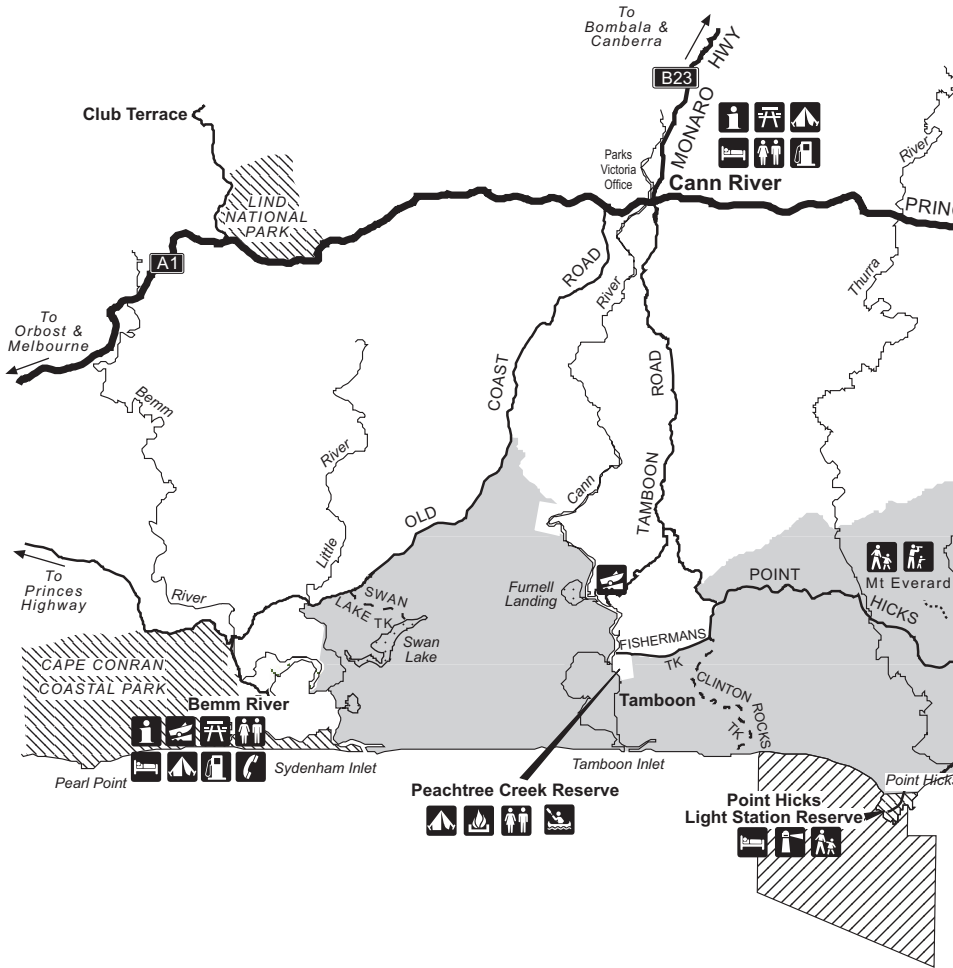
Mueller Inlet

Mueller River campground features eight campsites, three of which are walk in sites only, with access from the parking area. The camp is on the shores of Mueller Inlet and overlooks the inlet to the river mouth and ocean. The campsites are protected by a dune system covering in Banksia Woodland and Heath. Please Note: Motorised Vessels are not permitted on Mueller Inlet.

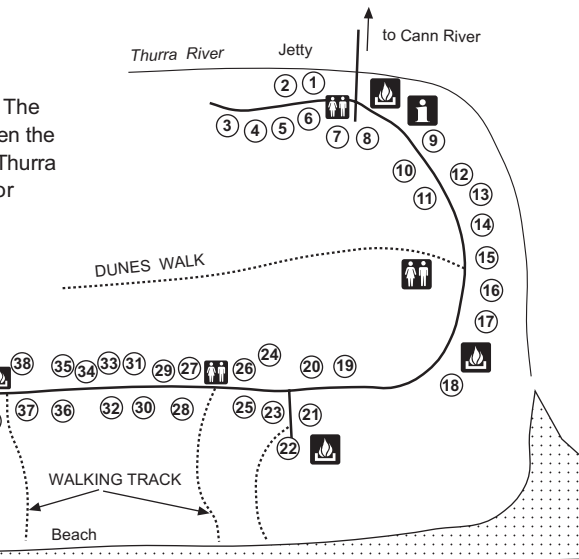


Shipwreck Creek

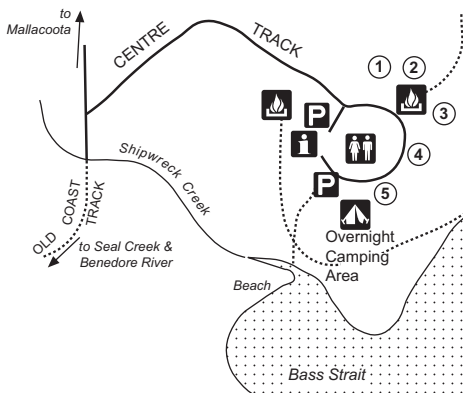
Shipwreck Creek is a small camp with only 5 sites. The camp is set in tall forest in the secluded cove. It makes an excellent spot for walks to the east coast heathland and coastal



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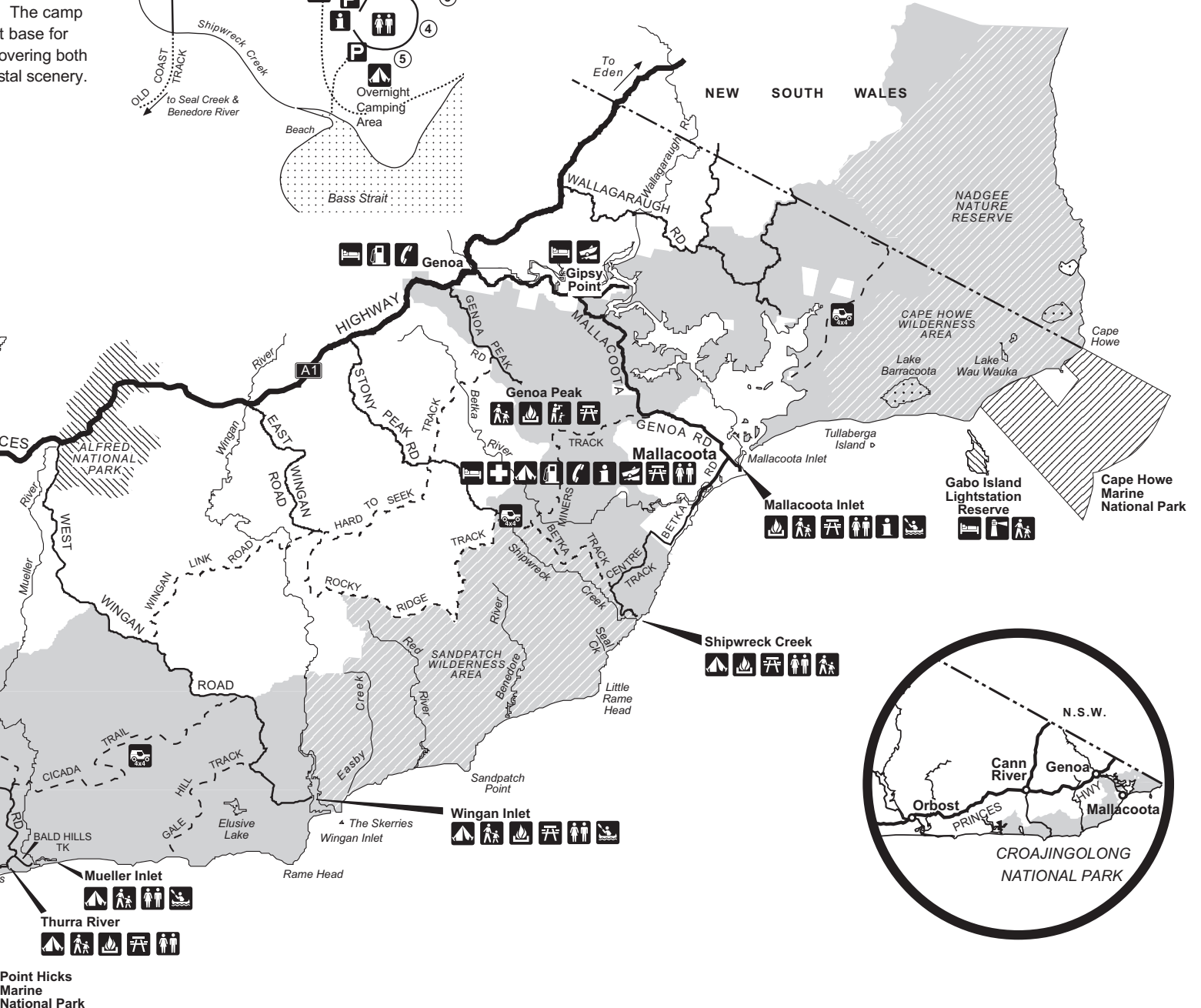
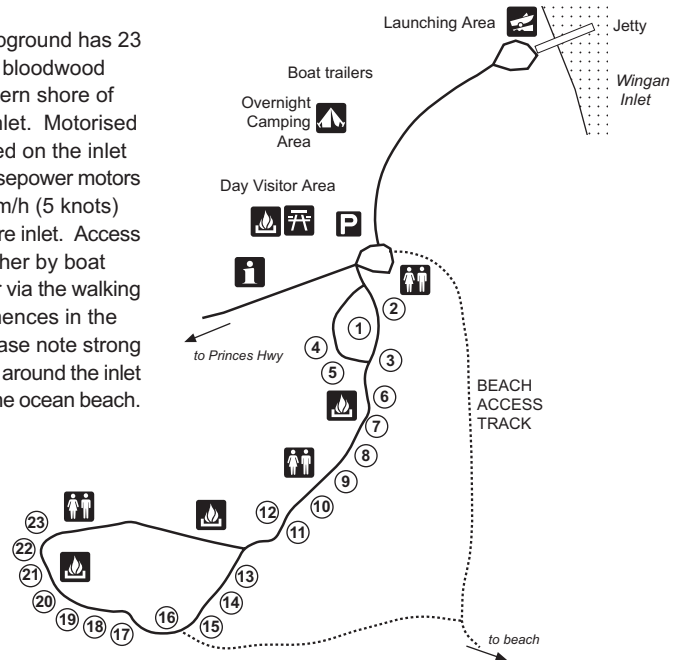


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## Wingan Inlet

Wingan Inlet campground has 23 sites amongst tall bloodwood forest on the western shore of tranquil Wingan Inlet. Motorised boats can be used on the inlet but limits of 20 horsepower motors and speeds of 8km/h (5 knots) apply over the entire inlet. Access to the beach is either by boat through the inlet or via the walking track which commences in the campground. Please note strong currents can occur around the inlet mouth and along the ocean beach.



Point Hicks  
Marine  
National Park