

# Williamstown and Hobsons Bay

HISTORIC SEAPORT AND WETLANDS



Hobsons Bay CITY COUNCIL

[www.visithobsonsbay.com.au](http://www.visithobsonsbay.com.au)

ALTONA, LAVERTON, NEWPORT AND WILLIAMSTOWN

Situated between the Princes Freeway and the western curve of Port Phillip Bay, Hobsons Bay is a picturesque seaside municipality. Here you can find a peaceful natural environment, clean beaches, wide streets, heritage buildings and a diverse choice of restaurants, cafés and shops, connected by bike paths and only 15 minutes from the hustle and bustle of the City. Hobsons Bay offers breathtaking views of the City skyline; a perfect accompaniment to alfresco dining, leisurely café atmosphere or a family outing.

Hobsons Bay offers a great variety of attractions in a small area, from hands on interactive science, to maritime and rail history. It's family friendly and won't break the budget so you can come back again to discover more of what we have to offer.

## ALTONA

Altona is a traditional strip shopping centre framed by parks and a wide sweeping beach.

Its relaxed urban character, personality and charm and weekly Tuesday market is worth exploring.

## LAVERTON

Just off the Princes Freeway, Laverton offers a great variety of products; serviced by rail and road. Laverton has affordable accommodation, shops and eateries that won't stretch the budget.

## NEWPORT

Capturing a multicultural flavour and the artistic talents of the locals, Newport is a great place for coffee, traditional Lebanese breads and treats. Newport makes a great base for a visit to the Railway Museum, Newport Lakes Park and the Substation arts precinct.

## WILLIAMSTOWN

Originally Melbourne's first sea port, Williamstown has developed into a fashionable maritime village, with many historical buildings, cafes, restaurants and a vibrant area that locals and visitors love. It's surrounded by water, with the northern and eastern coastline dotted with piers, gardens and remnants of Williamstown's maritime history.

## GETTING THERE

One of the real charms of getting to Hobsons Bay is just that, getting there! Travel by ferry from the City, get on your bike and ride, take the train or travel across the West Gate Bridge. Which ever way you come, your adventure starts the moment you leave home.



Enjoy the shops, cafes and fine restaurants in Williamstown



Williamstown Beach

**Hobsons Bay Visitor Information Centre.**

The Visitor Information Centre can assist you with brochures and information on Hobsons Bay and Williamstown to help you get the most from your visit to our area.

Located in Commonwealth Reserve (on the corner of Nelson Place and Syme Street), the Visitor Information Centre is open daily from 9am to 5pm. The Visitor Information Centre can be contacted by:

Phone: 03 9932 4310 Fax: 03 9399 8650  
 Email: [visitorinformation@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:visitorinformation@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)  
 Web: [www.visithobsonsbay.com.au](http://www.visithobsonsbay.com.au)

**Get a grasp of science at Scienceworks!**

Enjoy one of the many hands-on exhibitions and activities. It's a great day out for curious minds and active bodies. Discover the historic Sewerage Pump and visit the only digital planetarium in the Southern Hemisphere. Facilities include café, BBQ and souvenir shop.



**Watch the ships go by at Greenwich Bay**

Greenwich Bay is home to Williamstown's number one address, The Strand. The area incorporates sporting clubs, playgrounds and a habitat area, and offers breathtaking views of the City. The bay is also famous for its close up glimpses of container ships travelling the Yarra River, a sure winner with young and old.

**Explore Williamstown**

Williamstown is famous for its village ambience and rich maritime heritage. Come and enjoy the fine restaurants, shops and cafés or explore the Williamstown Craft Market held on the third Sunday of every month. Weekends in Williamstown are bustling with people and activity.

**Enjoy a walk or three in and around Williamstown**

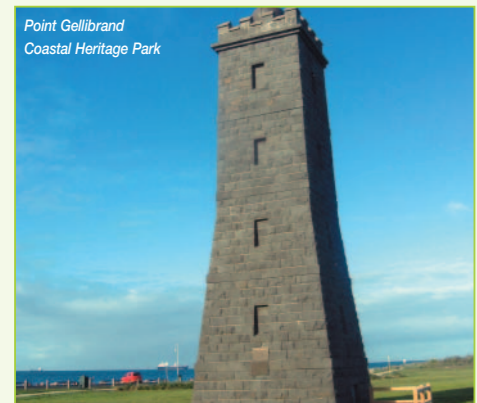
While in Williamstown take one of the self-guided Heritage Walks. The three walks can be taken separately or together and take you through some of the most picturesque corners of this historic seaport. Pick up a brochure at the Hobsons Bay Visitor Information Centre in Commonwealth Reserve in Williamstown.

**A 'gem' of a pier**

Gem Pier is the gateway to Williamstown from the bay; you can catch a ferry to Southgate, go for a sail on the Enterprize or take a scenic cruise around the bay. The adjacent Commonwealth Reserve also offers a great venue for picnics. Gem Pier is also home to the HMAS Castlemaine, a historic warship (1942) museum. Visitors can inspect a fascinating collection of nautical exhibits and memorabilia from the past.

**Watch 'time fly' at the Timeball Tower**

Built in the 1840s by convict labourers, the Timeball Tower at Point Gellibrand originally operated as a lighthouse and then as a timeball. Restored as an Australian Bicentennial project in 1988, the tower is part of the Point Gellibrand Coastal Heritage Park.



If you're looking for a seaside escape with a difference, consider taking a drive along the Bay West Trail. Covering 55km the trail takes you past some of Victoria's premier attractions, from museums and historic sites to places of natural beauty and environmental significance.



**Flock to Jawbone Reserve**

Jawbone Reserve is one of the few Saltmarsh Mangrove habitats remaining in Melbourne. A boardwalk enables you to explore this richly textured area without disturbing the natural vegetation. This is a rare opportunity to observe pelicans and migratory wading birds in abundance.

**'Cherry-ripe' all year round!**

Cherry Lake is a popular destination for families, cyclists, walkers, windsurfers and rollerbladers. A multi purpose track around the lake suits land-based recreational pursuits while windsurfers, model boat owners and anglers enjoy the inland waters. Cherry Lake includes picnic areas, gardens, a children's playground, electric BBQs, public toilets, and bird sanctuary and observation hutch.

**Altona Beach, the perfect place to soak up the sun**

Swim at Altona Beach, with sandy beaches and wonderful bay views. Conveniently located near public transport, the Altona foreshore offers a vibrant local shopping strip in Pier Street and a weekly street market every Tuesday. Adjacent to the foreshore is the lovely Logan Reserve equipped with playgrounds and undercover sitting areas.

**FURTHER AFIELD**

**A top spot to view birdlife**

The Cheetham Wetlands at Point Cook Coastal Park rank amongst the top three places in the world to see birdlife. With birds arriving from as far afield as Siberia, Alaska and Japan, you won't be the only visitors dropping in to sample the delights of this protected habitat! The Park offers 360 degree views of the surrounding wetlands and the City skyline in the distance.

**Military aviation - now boarding**

The RAAF Museum offers you an insight into the history of military aviation in Australia. The museum tells the history of the Australian airforce and the most exciting machines ever built and the fascinating stories of the daring men who flew them. Entry is free. Weekday tours are available by arrangement.

**A place of peace and beauty**

The Victoria State Rose Garden is located at Werribee Park. Set in the shape of a Tudor rose, the garden features over 4,000 rose bushes in a spectacular display that changes throughout the year. The impressive Heritage Border features unusual and historic roses from around the world. The blooms are in their glory from November to May.

**The sounds of Africa in the middle of Werribee**

Get up close and personal to magnificent grassland animals from Africa, Asia and Australia at the Werribee Open Range Zoo. Rhinos range free with giraffe, zebra and antelopes, while the hippos wallow in a nearby waterhole and the vervet monkeys chatter. Facilities include a 50 minute safari tour, walking trails, Savannah Discovery Centre, Safari Shop and Meerkat Bistro and Function Centre.

**Australia's National Equestrian Centre, Werribee Park**

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**Go back in time at The Mansion, Werribee Park**

One of Australia's most majestic stately homes. Built in 1874 and 1877, the rambling Italianate mansion was once home to the wealthy Chirnside family. See how the Chirnsides lived, and listen to their ghostly chatter through the self-guided headset tour.

Take a stroll to the Shadowfax Winery and Vineyard for a gourmet food and wine experience.

This 23km cycling and walking trail links many of the natural and cultural features of Hobsons Bay. Most of the trail is through parkland. Along the trail you'll find a series of markers, designed like channel markers, which provide directions and information.

**Stony Creek Backwash**

At the northern end of the trail, the estuary of Stony Creek includes an extensive boardwalk, mangrove revegetation and a memorial park to the workers who lost their lives in the West Gate Bridge disaster.

**Timeball Tower**

At Point Gellibrand Coastal Heritage Park, the copper ball atop the tower was dropped at a set time each day to allow ships to adjust their chronometers.



**Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

Officially opened in 1860 and listed on the Register of the National Estate, the gardens provide a green and tranquil respite.

**Jawbone Reserve and Altona Coastal Park**

The trail provides access to important salt marsh-mangrove habitat; Altona Coastal Park includes the remnants of the former Williamstown racecourse

**Altona Pier**

Adjacent to historic Logan Reserve, and with a series of bronze sculptures of marine creatures in its forecourt, the pier is a great place to set out for a walk and is an easy-to-identify point for meeting up with friends.

**100 Steps to Federation**

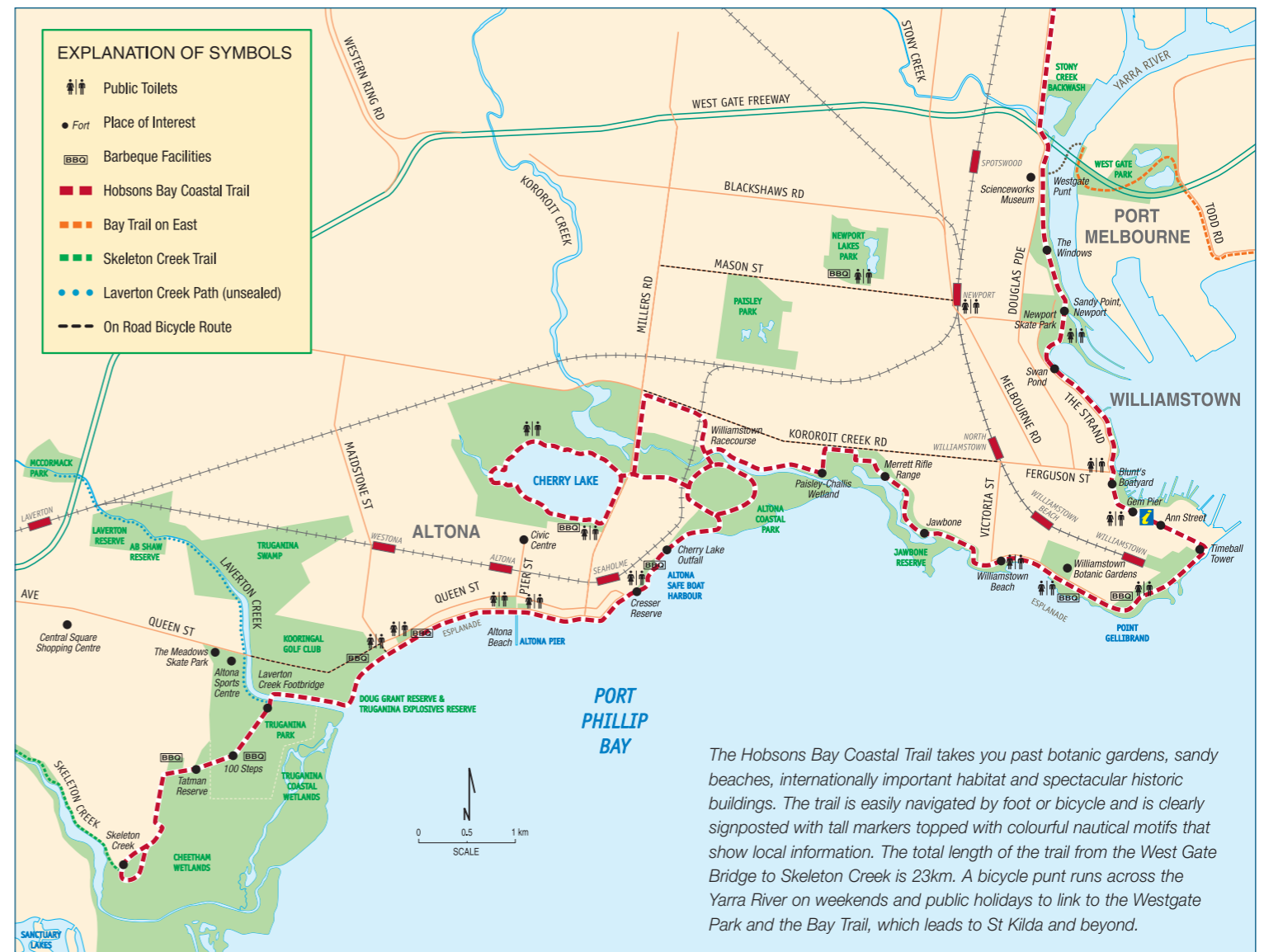
Take in the view of Port Phillip Bay and Cheetham Wetlands, a migratory bird habitat, from the top of the grand basalt staircase and enjoy the picnic facilities in Truganina Park.

**Skeleton Creek**

At the western-most point of the trail, the lagoon on Skeleton Creek is a great place to see swans and pelicans.

**TIPS FOR HEALTHY RIDING AND WALKING**

- Wear sunscreen in all seasons; UV rays can burn skin on dull days as well as sunny days
- Take a water bottle and drink before you feel thirsty
- Half an hour of exercise each day is good for the heart, the bones and the mind!



The Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail takes you past botanic gardens, sandy beaches, internationally important habitat and spectacular historic buildings. The trail is easily navigated by foot or bicycle and is clearly signposted with tall markers topped with colourful nautical motifs that show local information. The total length of the trail from the West Gate Bridge to Skeleton Creek is 23km. A bicycle punt runs across the Yarra River on weekends and public holidays to link to the Westgate Park and the Bay Trail, which leads to St Kilda and beyond.