



COASTAL VILLAGES AND HABITAT TOUR

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Points of Interest:

Mushroom Reef Marine Sanctuary

[Information on Mushroom Reef Marine Sanctuary](#)

Mornington Peninsula National Park and Flinders Pier

[Information on Morning Peninsula National Park and Flinders Pier](#)

Coolart Wetland and Homestead

[Information on Coolart Wetland and Homestead](#)

Bittern and the Coastal Wetland Trail

Just south of Hastings, via the Flinders-Frankston Road, is Bittern which was named after the native bird of that name. Enjoy the strong local elements of original bushland, which are best seen on the Bittern Coastal Wetland Walking/Cycling Trail which commences in Salmon Street.

Warringine Park Regional Environment Education Centre

An education centre that is focused on the natural environment including friends of groups, school programs and the conservation of 500 acres of parklands. Generally open Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 PM Telephone: 5979 1799

Stoney Point Ferry Tours

Catch a ferry to French Island (see bicycle and other tours) or to Cowes on Phillip Island or seal rocks. See the waters of the western entrance of Western port and the main shipping channel. Look out for the seals and dolphins.

[More on Stoney Point Ferry Tours](#)

Dolphin Research Centre Hastings

Offers school children education sessions and excursions.

[More on Dolphin Research Centre Hastings](#)

Mangrove Board Walk at Hastings

The main nature walk also starts at the marina. It heads south along the edge of Western Port, offering good views of Sandstone Island and French Island, and takes in the boardwalks over the southernmost white mangrove swamps in the world. It concludes at Jacks Beach which is located at Crib Point. You can do the walk in reverse by starting from the Wooleys Rd carpark at Jacks Beach. It is a lengthy trek which would take a good couple of hours.

Quail Island (Warneet)

View Rutherford inlet , Quail Island and Chinamans Island from the viewing area.

Tooradin Foreshore Reserve & Mangrove viewing area – Lovely spot for a picnic and treats from the local cake shop.

Harewood Historic Homestead

(By Appointment Only)

[Information on Harewood Historic Homestead](#)

Koo Wee Rup Swamp Viewing Tower

A large wooden tower allowing good views of the former Koo Wee Rup Swamp and the large drainage channels used to drain the area. Also a good view across Western Port to French Island.

Visit secluded coastal village of Corinella and walk out on the pier to see the eastern arm of Western Port and French Island across the waters. A short drive around the coast is Coronet Bay, also worth a visit.

[More on Corinella](#)

San Remo

Lovely coastal village on the Western entrance to Western Port called the “narrows”. Excellent cafes for food and coffee and the daily 11:30 AM feeding of the pelicans at the wharf is a treat for the kids.

[More on San Remo](#)



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Churchill Island Homestead and Marine Park

Turn off just over the San Remo bridge to this historic island and homestead. Island walks allow a good view of the marine park and other coastal features, including mangroves and seagrass beds.

[More on Churchill Island Homestead and Marine Park](#)

Rhyll

Another picturesque coastal village with views to the south east sector of Western Port, home for the unique lamp shells. At the observation point you can also see Rhyll inlet that leads into the Rhyll Swamp and bird sanctuary.

[More on Rhyll](#)

Cowes

Accessed by ferry or road, a lovely township by the bay. Good spot to have a meal and walk along the foreshore and jetty to see the western entrance to Western Port where the large ships enter on their way to Hastings.

[More on Cowes](#)

Nobbies and Seal Rock

This remote rocky outcrop offers wonderful views of Western Port where it meets Bass Strait. Lots of seabirds nest on the cliff faces and seals are abundant on seal rocks.

The Penguin Parade

World famous – the nightly return of fairy penguins from their feeding makes for great viewing. Part of the Phillip Island Nature Parks network, all worth visiting.

[More on The Penguin Parade](#)

Cape Woolamai State Faunal Reserve

A major rookery for the Shearwaters or Mutton Birds. Offers several coastal walks with views to Bass strait and the Eastern Entrance of Western Port.

French Island

Best accessed via Ferry from Stoney Point near Hastings. Ideal for cycling with specialist accommodation and tours available from commercial providers.

[More on French Island](#)