



Australian Government  
Director of National Parks



# Australia's Coastal Wilderness

Immerse yourself in a pristine wilderness.

With over 200 kilometres of easily accessible walking trails, this hidden pocket of Australia's endless coastline is where you can get close to and share your love of nature. Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of tall forests, lakes and beaches in this unspoilt coastal wilderness.

This world-class landscape comprises over 31,000 square kilometres of Australia's spectacular coastal wilderness, stretching across marine reserves, national parks, state forests and private lands and encompassing wild waters, spectacular cliffs, sandy bays, coastal heathlands and sub temperate rainforest.

## DISCOVER A TRULY DIVERSE WILDERNESS

The UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve-listed Croajingolong National Park and Nadgee Nature Reserve are home to more than 50 mammal, 1,000 plant and around one third of Australia's total bird species. They provide important habitat for threatened species such as the ground parrot and the long-nosed potoroo.

Extensive river networks, fresh and saltwater lakes, estuaries and swamps provide ideal opportunities for kayaking, boating and canoeing, as well as spotting elusive creatures such as the platypus. Wetlands attract 40 species of migratory seabirds and waders while coastal heathlands and woodlands attract hawks, eagles and falcons.

### *Light to light walk*

The light-to-light walk from Boyd Tower in the north to Green Cape in the south is accessible at four points, with visitors able to choose to walk sections of the track or take two to three days to explore the full 31 kilometre length.

The walk passes through a variety of landscapes, including scrubby heathlands, pristine bays, rugged cliffs and tall open forests.

### *Point Hicks Lighthouse*

Lieutenant Zachary Hicks on board Captain Cook's Endeavour first sighted Australia's east coast in 1770 at Point Hicks. The Point Hicks lightstation was built in 1890 and is adjacent to Croajingolong National Park, making Port Hicks ideal for taking a walk and watching out for seals, birds, dolphins and whales.

## FEEL THE EARTH'S HEARTBEAT IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOUNTAINS

The ancient landscape is a place of significant cultural and ceremonial importance for the Yuin Nation – the traditional owners of the land – with pathways, mountains and streams telling of rites of passage and traditional law.

At the setting of the sun, Mt Dromedary, also known as Gulaga - the mother mountain, throws her shadows across the earth. Born from the violent collision of three tectonic plates, Gulaga is the remains of an ancient volcano. She radiates with life, with her fertile soils attracting plants, animals and humans alike.

The Yuin people say that Gulaga's eldest son Barrunguba left the side of his mother to discover more of the world. Known by the Europeans as Montague Island, today he stands proudly off the shore guarding the fish and whales and taking care of the more than 30,000 birds that nest on the island. His younger brother Najanuga (Little Dromedary) lies protected in the skirts of his mother, watching his eldest brother in the distance.

### MEETING OF THE WATERS

Boasting an abundance of marine life, Australia's remote coastal wilderness is the dramatic meeting point for the warmer waters of the north and the colder waters of the south. The turbulent waters and varying ocean temperatures (ranging from 12 degrees centigrade in winter to 25 degrees in summer) create one of the most diverse marine ecosystems in the world.

The region is recognised as a hotspot of whale activity, with a total of 16 species found at different times of year. The annual southern migration of humpback whales from October to December draws visitors from across the globe.

### KILLERS OF EDEN – A NATURAL PARTNERSHIP

Australia's Coastal Wilderness is home to a unique relationship between humans and animals. For many thousands of years the Thawa people fished from bark canoes, working in partnership with pods of killer whales who helped them herd other larger whales together for easy capture.

The Thawa people revere killer whales as reincarnated warriors, born to the sea during the time of creation. For three generations the Thawa people worked with the Davidson family, who became the most successful whaling family in the region. This relationship persisted until the late 1920's, when the last of the killer whales died.



### CONNECT WITH A WILD LANDSCAPE

When visiting Australia take some time to explore our distinctive environment and contribute to its conservation and protection. Low-impact activities such as bushwalking, cycling and canoeing all provide fantastic opportunities to get off the beaten track and discover new worlds that are like nothing else on earth.

Remember, when visiting take only memories with you - leave twigs, branches and logs in the bush, where they provide important habitat for native species.

#### Get involved

- Immerse yourself in the local community and learn more about the unique plants, animals and geology of Australia's Coastal Wilderness. Help monitor penguin populations on Montague Island. For more information go to: [www.naturewise.com.au](http://www.naturewise.com.au) or [www.montagueisland.com.au](http://www.montagueisland.com.au)
- To get a hands on feel of this unique natural environment, take part in surveys of threatened species in Ben Boyd National Park. For more information contact the Ben Boyd National Park Merimbula office via email at: [FSCR@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:FSCR@environment.nsw.gov.au)



Little Penguin



Kookaburra

For more information on this landscape or to learn about other naturally beautiful places which offer a different but uniquely Australian experience. Visit [www.australia.com/nl](http://www.australia.com/nl)