

SURF COAST WALKS

ANGLESEA PERIMETER WALK

The Anglesea Perimeter walk (APW) showcases a range of landscapes around Anglesea. It winds through windswept heathlands and healthy woodlands surprisingly close to the village of Anglesea, on the Great Ocean Road in Victoria's south west.

Starting point: Anglesea Information Centre

Distance: 22.6 km (or 2 x 11km loops)

Time: allow approximately 7 hours for the whole walk or 2 x 3.5 hours for half walk.

Difficulty: Moderately easy depending on exposure in extreme weather. A moderate level of fitness is required.

Track conditions: The track surface varies. It includes gravel paths, 4WD tracks, fire breaks and bush tracks. Walking clothing and equipment are recommended, and water must be carried.

Description: General

The APW links many existing named tracks. The walk is signposted with the Anglesea Perimeter Walk logo throughout. The APW passes through sections of the Great Otway National Park, the Anglesea Heath, Great Ocean Road Coastal Committee reserves, some private land and Surf Coast Shire reserves and parklands. The area is extremely environmentally sensitive and walkers are asked to respect the land by taking home all rubbish and not walking off the track.

Track notes: Eastern Loop: (10km +1km if returning to the Anglesea Information Centre)

Start at the Anglesea Information Centre and cross the Anglesea River on the bridge at the Great Ocean Road. Follow the walk logos along the river, into the camping area and up onto the cliff tops and enter the Great Otway National Park before turning away from the coast at a very clear sign approximately 1.5km from the river. Follow the walk logos on a bit of a zigzag until you reach the road into the Eumerella Scout Camp.

Walk along this road towards the Great Ocean Road. After passing a 30km sign go to the end of several concrete power poles lying on the ground and follow a bush track to a turn off to a lookout. This lookout is the 5 km point of the eastern loop of the APW. It is a good spot for a break. From the lookout return to the main track. From here the track goes steadily downhill to the back of the Anglesea Cricket Pavillion and Ellimatta Road.

Follow the walk logos and cross the Great Ocean Road extremely cautiously and follow the map to see how to find Ixodia Track. After a short distance enter Black Wattle Track which winds steadily uphill through healthy woodlands for about 1.5 km before reaching the power line. Walk down the hill under the powerlines to Camp Road. Cross the road and follow the power line again to a gate. Turn left through the gate and remain walking in this direction (almost south) until Bingley Pde is reached. Follow this road for approximately ½ km then turn right to cross the Anglesea River on a chain of foot bridges to Coogoorah Park where there are toilets and picnic facilities. This is the 10km point of the APW. It is 1.1km back to the Anglesea Information Centre, along the river, if you are completing your walk here. The Western half of the APW continues from Coogoorah Park.

Track Notes: Western Loop (10.6 km + 1 km if starting from the Anglesea Information Centre rather than from Coogoorah Park).

If starting at the Anglesea Information Centre follow the Anglesea River inland to Coogoorah Park. If the full walk is being completed then walkers are already in Coogoorah Park. Either way, from Coogoorah Park, walk up the embankment west of the ship shaped children's play equipment and follow the walk logos to find a gated vehicle track that runs behind the houses. After about 300 meters go through the fence at a marked gap into the reserve and walk approximately west following along a track through the heath until reaching Messmate Track 1.6 km from Coogoorah Park.

On reaching Messmate Track, a very wide asset protection area, climb steadily for 1.3 km up to Mt Ingolsby, which is at 121 meters, Anglesea's highest point. This is 4 km from Coogoorah Park. From here go left along Harvey Street (not the bush track) until a well signed gap in the fence is reached where it is possible to enter the Great Otway National Park.

Once inside the national park follow the walk parallel with the Harvey Street properties for 1.3 km. At this point the track turns down hill through some very special vegetation eventually reaching the coast after a further 1.5km (6.8km from Coogoorah Park). Cross the Great Ocean Road very cautiously and walk down O'Donohue Road to the beach.

Follow the beach for 1km climbing the steps at the yellow triangular sign W96 and walk onto Point Roadknight main beach. Walk up the boat ramp and follow the Surf Coast Walk path back to the Anglesea Information Centre (2.5 km)

Safety

- Wear sturdy non-slip footwear Carry plenty of drinking water.
- Carry a well-charged mobile phone, although reception is not guaranteed.
- Walking near the edge or base of cliffs can be dangerous. Be careful.
- Beware of snakes in late spring and summer.
- On Total Fire Ban days, no fire can be lit outdoors. This includes gas BBQs. Check with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) for advice if unsure.
- No outdoor fires are allowed on the Anglesea Perimeter Walk.
- There are BBQs available for use at Coogoorah Park.
- Bushfires can pose a serious threat. On days of extreme fire conditions some walks are closed to the public. Seek info from Visitor Information Centres or the Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667. Tune your radio to ABC 774AM for updates.

Useful Phone Numbers

- Parks Victoria Information 13 19 63
- Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667
- Police, Ambulance, Fire 000 for any emergency. All mobile users, including international, can be connected to Police, Fire or Ambulance by calling 112.

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