



Sorrento and

Sorrento's mix of natural attractions, seaside charm, casual sophistication and historic flavour are a winning combination.

Arguably Victoria's favourite seaside destination Sorrento was discovered by Melbournians in the late 19th century when it offered respite from the fierce summer winds, pollution and harsh realities of the growing city of Melbourne.

The Sorrento Pier, built in 1870, is a hive of activity most times of the day.

The historic foreshore is an idyllic place with a wide promenade and shady barbeque areas and Sorrento Front Beach is a popular bathing beach within the foreshore reserve. In contrast, Sorrento Ocean Beach is an untamed wildly beautiful beach facing Bass Strait. The many lookouts & walking trails reveal its charm and beauty and offer awesome views.

Sorrento still offers a great escape from the stresses and humdrum of everyday city life but the nineteenth century buildings of locally quarried limestone that line the chic Ocean Beach Road now house elegant eateries, boutiques and Sorrento's charming streetscape is also a centre of activity for galleries, antiques art and craft – particularly at the 'top' end where you will find the working studio gallery of Kraftwerkz & Marlene Millers fabulous antiques. The Pioneer Gardens and historic Watts Cottage are also at this end of town and make for a lovely interlude.

This Autumn spend time at the calm, shallow bay beaches or tackle the surf of the ocean. The bay waters are a perfect playground for swimming, fishing, wind surfing, boating or just getting your feet wet. Explore the rock pools at the back beach, when the tide is out, or body surf and swim as the tide comes back in.

Sorrento is renowned for its boutique shopping experience. Take a stroll down the main street and explore the temptations of fabulous fashion and accessories; modern home wares; special gifts; delicious local produce and wine; and galleries that display and sell art works, sculptures, jewelry and glassware created by local artists.

Sorrento is the ideal base for discovering the wineries, the galleries, the restaurants, the tourist attractions and the ambience of nearby Red Hill. Just a short drive and you're in beautiful lush wine country, standing in awe as you enjoy the views of rolling vineyards & the blue waters of Port Phillip.

It's all here waiting for you to discover and enjoy. Do not deny yourself the true 'Aussie' experience of a day or more by the sea and the ultimate experience is time spent in Sorrento.

- Anne Wassnig

THINGS TO DO IN PORTSEA & SORRENTO

- ❖ Point Nepean, Mornington Peninsula National Park, Pt Nepean Road
- ❖ Dive experiences
- ❖ Ferry Service and Cruises
- ❖ Boutique Shopping
- ❖ Top End Galleries & Antiques
- ❖ Nepean Historic Society & Museum
- ❖ Coppins Lookout

SORRENTO & PORTSEA

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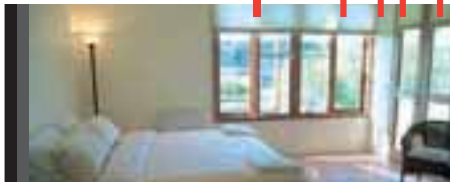
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Take a Walk Along the Coast

Food & wine may be the flagships of today's tourism industry, but during the mid 1800s it was all about 'fresh air' & 'walking'.

It's not surprising, therefore, that when George Coppin established the Sorrento back beach as once of Victoria's earliest visitor destinations in the 1870s, he paid special attention to creating walking tracks to help holidaymakers fill their lungs with the pure air of Bass Strait.

George's tracks are still there and they now form the nucleus of 20 kms of coastline walking trails that can take you from London Bridge on the Portsea back beach to Cape Schanck.

Sorrento Back Beach is a great place to start or finish because, not only does it feature ample parking, toilets, change rooms and drinking water, but also one of the most sublimely located cafes in Australia. This means that you won't go hungry or thirsty, and you can also leave friends and family less inclined to long distance walking.

From Sorrento back beach you can head west along the cliff top and beach to Portsea, past the quaintly turreted Coppins Lookout and via Sphinx Rock.

If nothing else, walk as far as the lookout, because on a clear day you can see from the Otways to the Dandenong Ranges. It should take no more than an hour to reach the Portsea Life Saving Club and then about another 50 minutes to get to London Bridge via the Farnsworth Track. There's some great rock pools to explore along the way but try to time your walk for low tide, watch for freakish waves and only swim at the designated patrolled beaches.

A great shortish walk for the family is to Sphinx Rock via the beach, then head up the dunes

to return via the old limestone track, which Coppin built to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

Turn your sights eastward from Sorrento Back Beach and you have many kilometres of wide and well maintained walking track, which wind its way around the cliff top, calling in at some little gems of secluded beaches.

It's an easy 30 minute stroll to Diamond Bay, from where it joins the former Lifesaving Track. This was constructed in the 1890s, following two disastrous shipwrecks, to provide access for rescue teams equipped with a rescue rocket and line. A short loop track at Koonya Beach

(end of Hughes Road) not only provides another delightful beach experience, but also evidence of ancient calcareous roots and other vegetation embedded in the layers of soil. There's also a loop walk at the lovely Bridgewater Bay (end of St Johns Wood Road in Blairgowrie).

The well made track then heads into the tea tree and sheoaks for about two kilometres after passing Pearses Beach, with only a couple of side tracks to provide views of the water. The lack of a sea breeze can make it a hot stretch during summer months, but it also provides winter protection from the southerlies.

You'll emerge at the excitingly named 'No. 16' carpark (so called because it is the 16th beach from the 'Heads'). This lies at about the intersection of Browns Rd, Tasman Dve & Marcia Ave.

For most people, Sorrento Back Beach to 'Number 16' is an excellent few hours walk, that is not too taxing and with plenty of scenic interest.

A car shuttle can get you back to the bay side strip within a few minutes. - by Tim Bracher



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SORRENTO & PORTSEA

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Portsea Sets the Scene

The 'end-of-the-road' atmosphere sets the scene for Portsea's million dollar holiday mansions which were built by Melbourne's rich and famous from the 1860's but especially from the 1920's.

The village has long been associated with the Melbourne 'establishment', with its imposing mansions, landscaped gardens and cliff-top walks. Of course it also welcomes the daytripper, with fine hotels, stunning views and the nearby Mornington Peninsula National Park with its spectacular caves, flora & fauna & Portsea is blessed with one of the best bayside beaches, as well as one of the best surf beaches on the Peninsula.

The front beach is overlooked by the landmark 1927 Portsea Hotel, while its ocean beach provides the rugged setting for surfing and iron man competitions. Diving tours and lessons are popular from the Portsea pier. Portsea borders Point Nepean - a fascinating labyrinth of tunnels and fortifications which have guarded Port Phillip Heads since the 1880s and now protected within a national park.

Sorrento offers a great range of accommodation options - excellent choices from budget to the luxury of Sorrento on the Park.

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HOTEL SORRENTO

offers the ideal getaway for an intimate weekend for 2 or a fulfilled family holiday.

Whether you are staying in their brand new Sorrento on the Park Garden Suites, the luxurious On the Hill apartments or the ultra modern and chic Hotel Heritage Suites, staying at Hotel Sorrento is a complete first class bayside holiday experience.

If you can't stay then simply drop in and enjoy a top class combination of fine food and wines, friendly service and entertainment in magnificent surrounds. Open for breakfast, lunch & dinner every day, with special kids meals & desserts to die for, you really should come & 'Sea' the difference.

PORTSEA HOTEL Great affordable accommodation in this landmark hotel. See opposite page.

Located in a quiet cul de sac, both **SANDPIPER HOUSE**, a fully self contained beach house & **SANDPIPER B&B** are within walking distance to bay & ocean beaches, Coppins Lookout and the main street of Sorrento. The contemporary style 3br (sleeps 6-8) beach cottage is family friendly and welcomes children. It offers air conditioning & wood fire, well equipped kitchen / laundry, and has a large private garden with bbq. The suite at Sandpiper B&B features a queen size bedroom with ensuite, & a private sittingroom with French doors opening onto a private courtyard garden. Enjoy breakfast served either in the sitting room or the garden. Fully airconditioned with TV, video & a CD player, also provided is a collection of books & CD's, beach towels & chairs. Ph. (03) 5984 0558

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The Portsea Hotel

The Portsea Hotel is situated on the southern tip of the Mornington Peninsula and is a favourite and renowned destination for locals and travellers alike. Offering Bistro Dining, Functions and Events from 10 - 300 guests, an a la carte restaurant "The Portsea Deck", The Portsea Produce Cafe and Wine Bar, Accommodation for 60 guests & sensational views across the Bay, the Portsea Hotel is the ideal venue for one and all.

The Portsea Hotel offers breakfast, lunch and dinner every day of the year from 8am til late, with a varying menu and daily specials to tempt the most discerning diner. The Hotel Cheffing Team combines traditional and hearty pub fare with innovative Mediterranean influences, and changes their menu seasonally. Delicious Coffee, Cakes and Snacks are also available all day every day.

Country Hotel Style accommodation with both ensuite and shared facility rooms allows the traveller to relax and enjoy the delights of the Mornington Peninsula as well as the friendly service, food and views at The Portsea Hotel. Accommodation Packages are available including Golf, Kayaking, Massage, or Bushwalking all at competitive rates.

During the Spring and Summer months, The Portsea Hotel Beer Garden is a popular spot to relax with friends, enjoying the breathtaking views across Port Phillip Bay and the Portsea Pier. Alternately, the Courtyard Cafe and Produce Store at the Hotel is a terrific new venue to enjoy a quiet drink, or your next party or event.

Offering two other contemporary function rooms, The Nepean Room and The Portsea Deck a la carte restaurant, the Hotel is fast becoming a reputable and very popular venue for wedding ceremonies and receptions, as well as Conferences and Private Functions.

Whatever your interests, The Portsea Hotel is ideally located to accommodate them year round.

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