

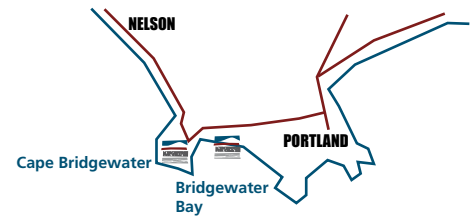
Coast and Caves Precinct: Cape Bridgewater and Bridgewater Bay



Rising sea levels during later Pleistocene times built a bridge of sand dunes between Cape Bridgewater and the mainland coast. These have been hardened by rainfall and groundwater into dunes of sandy limestone known as dune calcarenite. Overlying these in places are more modern Holocene sandy dunes. Water percolating through the limestone has created a variety of formations including the petrified forest, caves, springs and flowstones.

Look for:

- The ash layers of the Great Cliff – the ash erodes to form wide platforms and large caves at sea level, which make great homes for Australian fur seals.
- The volcanic vents in the Great Cliff – can be viewed from Shelly Beach, or more closely from Flat Rock or the Seal Boat.
- Gas bubbles – gas escaping from the lava formed large cavities. The Twin Pools are good examples.
- Column Basalt – When lava flows are thicker and cool slowly, they form basalt columns. Good examples can be found near the Springs.
- Lava Dyke – Lava has filled a vertical crack in the ash layers in the cliff above Flat Rock.
- Hawaiian Fountain – This fiery scoria crater is just before Flat Rock and has layer upon layer of dripping scoria.
- Freshwater Springs – Water percolates through the limestone and flows on top of the layers of basalt emerging in the cliffs as Springs. Good examples can be found at White's Beach and The Springs.
- Intrusive Lava Flows – Horseshow Reef is a good example.
- The Petrified forest – there are a number of theories on how this was formed.
- Collapsed crater – View a remnant of a very wide collapsed crater from Shelly Beach.
- Sandy dunes – Rising sea levels during later Pleistocene times built a bridge of sand dunes between Cape Bridgewater and the mainland coast. Rainfall and ground water have hardened them into dunes of sandy limestone known as dune calcarenite. Overlying these in places are more modern Holocene Sandy dunes.



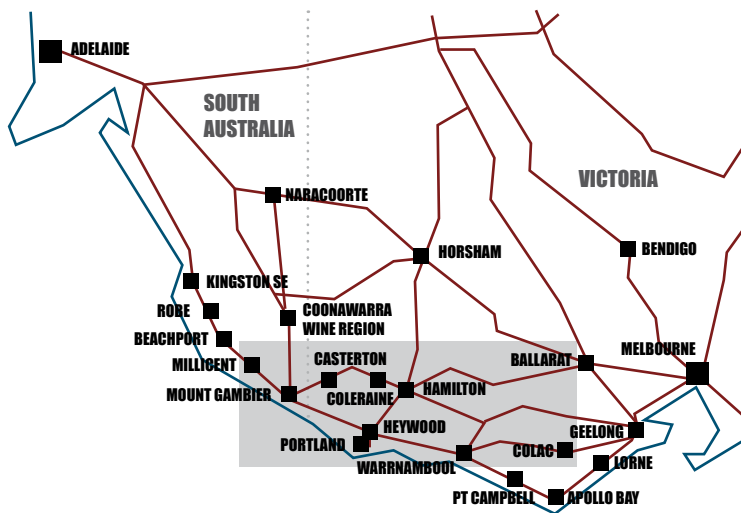
How to get there?

Cape Bridgewater is located 18km west of Portland on the Discovery Coast. A charming village overlooks scenic Bridgewater Bay and is a popular holiday spot. Public toilets are available at the beach and at the Blowholes carpark.

Things to do:

A wide variety of flora can also be found along this stretch of coastline, including coastal wattle, nal-a-wort, pigface, cutwort, bower spinach, muntries, and sea-berry saltbush. Look for them on several interesting walks:

- Seal Colony Walk - Begins at either the beach kiosk or from the car park at the top of the hill. A 2 hour return walk, medium to difficult. A less energetic and alternative route takes you from the blowholes car park and takes 3 hours return.
- Blowholes - Access is via the Blowholes car park (toilets available), 4 kilometres past Bridgewater Beach. The walk is 100 metres in length, and visitors should heed the warning signs regarding the unpredictable nature of the ocean waves in this area.
- Petrified Forest Walk – A five minute walk accessed from the Blowholes car park.
- Fresh Water Springs Walk – An easy 4km return walk from the Blowholes car park. The cliffs on the West coast of Cape Bridgewater are composed of basalt and covered in dune limestone. Water drains through the limestone, along the line of contact and emerges as springs at the edge of the cliffs, resulting in fresh water pools.



Australia may be referred to as a relatively young nation, but the well-preserved ancient landscape provides many precious windows into the past. The Kanawinka Global Geopark can take you on an amazing journey through this landscape, enabling visitors to travel back in time over thousands and thousands of years.

The surface geology of South Western Victoria and South Eastern South Australia is a striking contrast of sweeping plains and spectacular mountains which are largely the product of volcanic activity. In fact, with six sites of international significance and 14 of national significance, this area is Australia's most extensive volcanic province.

The history of these geological masterpieces stretches back to the Tertiary and Quaternary eras, when great outpourings of volcanic material through vents took place. Lava flows spread evenly across the existing plains, followed valleys, flowed under water, and in some cases forced upwards into rough, stony hills called tumuli, or steeper scoria cones.

In total, the flows cover an area of some 23,000 square km, extending north to the hills beyond Ballarat, and reappearing in a small section of south-eastern South Australia. This area is known as the Newer Volcanics Province, and features nearly 400 individual eruption points, most of which occurred between 4.5 and 2 million years ago.

Many of the eruptions were witnessed by the indigenous peoples of the area who have inhabited this region for up to 45,000 years, and feature prominently in stories of the Dreamtime.

Aboriginal people also made use of the stones from the lava flow to construct channels linking the wetlands, weirs, fish-traps, wind breaks and stone huts, and excellent examples created by the Gunditjmarra people can be found around Western Victoria's Lake Condah region in particular.

Later, during the 1870s and 80s, European settlers utilised the volcanic stone cleared from the land to construct dry stone walls in order to grow crops and introduce stock. Many examples can be found surrounding Corangamite on the Dry Stone Walls Heritage Trail.

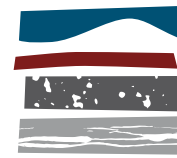
The region's spectacular and intriguing volcanic landscape also offers a range of other visitor experiences, from a 45-minute tour to the surface of Mount Gambier's Blue Lake, to the gruelling trek up Mount Schank and down to the crater floor.

In western Victoria, you can go on a chartered boat tour to Lady Julia Percy Island, which has the largest colony of Australian fur seals in the southern hemisphere. Or, take The Alan Marshall Walking Tour of Mount Noorat and the nearby township, or swim in the turquoise-coloured waters of Lake Surprise.

There are also plenty of picturesque picnic and camping spots just waiting to be discovered. Alternatively, you can take your time and spend the night in one of the numerous towns in the Kanawinka Global Geopark.

The Geopark is known as KANAWINKA GEOPARK, meaning Land of Tomorrow from the Buandik people. It is also the name of a geological fault line from Naracoorte Caves to Bass Strait at Portland and a Parish name west of Casterton about 1911 so all levels of the history, Geological, Indigenous and European are brought together in one name.

The Kanawinka Geopark was declared the 57th Member of the Global Network of National Geoparks assisted by UNESCO on June 22, 2008.



KANAWINKA GLOBAL GEOPARK

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Streets
03 5231 3730

Dunkeld

Parker Street
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Hamilton

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1800 807 056

Nelson

Leake Street
08 8738 4051

Port Campbell

26 Morris Street
03 5598 6089

Port Fairy

Railway Place,
Bank Street
03 5568 2682

Portland

Lee Breakwater Rd.
1800 035 567

Warrnambool

Flagstaff Hill
Merri Street
1800 637 725

South Australia

Beachport

Millicent Road
08 8735 8029

Millicent

Mt Gambier Road
08 8733 0904

Mount Gambier

The Lady Nelson
Jubilee Hwy East
1800 087 187

Penola/Coonawarra

27 Arthur Street
08 8737 2855



Camperdown

Old Court House
179 Manifold Street
03 5593 3144

Lake Bolac

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