

20 REASONS TO EXPLORE THE GIPPSLAND LAKES

SUMMER 2011/12



You'll love every piece of Victoria


EAST GIPPSLAND
Naturally Magic

BE INSPIRED BY GIPPSLAND

WELCOME TO THE GIPPSLAND LAKES



Some parts of the Gippsland Lakes are currently affected by a blue green algal bloom. While visitors are advised not to come into direct contact with the water, there are many experiences on and around the lakes that can be enjoyed. This booklet provides 20 ways that you can safely explore the best of the Gippsland Lakes this summer:

20 REASONS TO EXPLORE THE GIPPSLAND LAKES

1 CRUISING DAYS



Take a cruise across the shimmering waters of the Gippsland Lakes and visit a diversity of natural attractions including The Lakes National Park, Barrier Landing, Eastern Beach and the Paynesville canals.

Enterprise Cruises, Paynesville 03 5156 1211 • enterprise-cruises.com.au

Lakes Explorer Sea-Safari, Lakes Entrance 0458 511 438 • lakes-explorer.com.au

Lazy Days Cruises, Lake Tyers 0418 994 235 • rubeenacruises.com.au

Lonsdale Charters, Lakes Entrance 0413 666 638

Mulloway Cocktail Cruise, Lakes Entrance 0427 943 154

Peels Tourist and Ferry Service, Lakes Entrance 03 5155 1246

Sail Safari, Paynesville 0418 343 622 • sailsafari.com.au

Scream Machine Extreme Adventures, Lakes Entrance 0438 400 189 • faroutcharters.com.au

The Director Boat Charters, Metung 03 5156 2628 • thedirector.com.au

Wyanga Park Winery Cruise, Lakes Entrance 03 5155 1508 • wyangapark.com.au

MV Riptide, Paynesville 0419 321 225

2 TAKE A DIP

Cool off in the ocean at one of two surf lifesaving patrolled beaches in Lakes Entrance, Main Beach and Eastern Beach.



SURF AT RED BLUFF BEACH



Catch the ultimate wave at the small rocky headland of Red Bluff Beach, Lake Tyers. It is a favourite spot for locals and well worth a look for all surfing aficionados!

3

4 WALKING ADVENTURES

Explore the best of the Gippsland Lakes by foot with a selection of short walks. Walk around the stunning Rotamah Island, accessible only by boat, and wander through wetlands, banksia woodland and pristine stretches of Ninety Mile Beach.

Paynesville to Eagle Point is a delight for spotting the local wildlife. Traverse wetlands ideal for bird watchers or watch the resident kangaroos grazing on farmlands. The Metung Boardwalk offers a leisurely stroll around the charming village right along the foreshore, or the Entrance to the Lakes Walk has spectacular views from Flagstaff Hill of boats and fishing vessels crossing the bar.



VISIT THE NINETY MILE BEACH

5



Spot fur seals and dolphins frolicking in the surf from the longest stretch of sand in the world, or cast off with your surf rod to enjoy a southern ocean catch including gummy, flathead, whiting, salmon, tailor and Bronze Whaler sharks.

6 WINE AND DINE

Dine on delicious local produce and sip fine East Gippsland wines.

Try some of these tempting options:

Metung Galley, 59 Metung Rd, Metung 03 5156 2330

Bancroft Bites, 57 Metung Rd, Metung 03 5156 2854

Metung Hotel, 1 Kurnai Ave, Metung 03 5156 2206

Bellevue on the Lakes, 201 Esplanade, Lakes Entrance 03 5155 3055

Ferrymans Cafe, Princes Hwy, Lakes Entrance 03 5155 3000

Miriam's Restaurant, 3 Bulmer Street, Lakes Entrance 03 5155 3999

Fisherman's Wharf, 70 The Esplanade, Paynesville 03 5156 0366

The Fickle Fig, 59 The Esplanade, Paynesville 03 5156 6190

Paynesville Wine Bar, 85 The Esplanade, Paynesville 03 5156 1395

Waterwheel Tavern, 577 Lake Tyers Beach Rd, Lake Tyers Beach 03 5156 5855

Nicholson River Winery, 57 Liddells Rd, Nicholson 03 5156 8241



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7 SAIL AWAY

Learn to sail or charter your own boat. Pack a picnic and discover islands, beaches or simply enjoy a marvellous sunset over the glistening lakes.

Bulls Cruisers, Paynesville 03 5156 1200
bullscruisers.com.au

Lakes Entrance Paddle Boats 0419 552 2753

Riviera Nautic, Metung 03 5156 2243
rivieranautic.com.au

Sail Safari, Paynesville 0418 343 622
sailsafari.com.au

The Director Boat Charters, Metung
03 5156 2628 • thedirector.com.au

Victor Boat Hire, Lakes Entrance 0409 403 001

Portside Boat Hire, Lakes Entrance 03 5155 3832

Blue Riviera Boat Hire, Lakes Entrance 03 5155 3113



8 CAST A LINE

Enjoy an offshore fishing adventure, or explore the best fishing spots in the many rivers around the Gippsland Lakes.



Far Out Fishing Charters
0428 401 819 • faroutcharters.com.au

Full to the Bream
0409 973 976 • fulltothebream.com

Lake Tyers Fishing Charters 0428 565 003

Lakes Entrance Offshore Charters
0434 778 275 • lakescharters.com.au

Mako Fishing Charters
0428 397 849 • makofishingcharters.com

Sea Myth Fishing Charters 0427 357 755

9 HAPPY CAMPERS

Book a campsite and pitch a tent in Bunga Arm on the Gippsland Lakes. Only accessible by boat, these beautiful campsites are situated in the dunes between the Lakes and the Ninety Mile Beach.



10 ISLAND BOUND

Visit Raymond Island, just a stone's throw from Paynesville. Walk or cycle the island's perimeter and spot the resident koalas.



11 PEDAL POWER

On the East Gippsland Rail Trail, weave your way from Bairnsdale to Newmerella through undulating farmland, flood plains, across historic timber railway bridges and past winding rivers.



Enjoy occasional views of the Gippsland Lakes before arriving at Orbost and the iconic Snowy River. Include a trip out to the lakes via the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail, connecting Lakes Entrance with Seaton Track in the Colquhoun Forest (railtrails.org.au). Hire a bike for your cycling adventure from **Cactus Black** (Shop 2 / 31 The Esplanade, Paynesville) or **Shell Service Station** (Marine Parade, Lakes Entrance). **Snowy River Cycling** offers bike hire as well as guided tours (Forest Rd, Orbost; snowyrivercycling.com.au).

12 KEEP COOL

Take to the water and enjoy a swim in the aquatic centres. The **Bairnsdale Aquatic and Recreation Centre** (80 McKean Street Bairnsdale; 03 5152 5710) and the **Lakes Aquadome** (43 Palmers Rd, Lakes Entrance; 03 5155 3333) both have toddlers' pools, spa and steam rooms and a gymnasium. **Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool** (49 Tumbull Street, Bairnsdale; 03 5152 4909) has a range of outdoor pools.
egipps.vic.gov.au



CATCH OF THE DAY 13

Enjoy fish and chips on the Lakes foreshore overlooking the fishing fleet.



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14 FEELING ARTY?

Take the arts and culture trail around the Gippsland Lakes. See designer jewellery, sculpture, prints and glass art.

See local artists at work or pick up a treat for your home in one of the many studios. Visit the **Metung Visitor Information Centre** for more information (3/50 Metung Road Metung; 03 5156 2969).



15 TREASURE HUNTING



Find hidden treasures in antique and speciality stores. **Charnwood Antiques** (Cnr Esplanade and Bulmer St; 03 5155 2999) offers a range of antiques while **Boggy Creek Fine(d)s** (Princes Highway, Nowa Nowa; 03 5155 7277) and **Riviera Trading Post** (191 Princes Highway, Lakes Entrance; 03 5155 4278) have collectables galore. Find a unique or speciality gift at the **Bairnsdale Clock Museum** (704 Princes Highway, Bairnsdale; 03 5152 6962), with over 600 clocks in store, each with a story to tell.

16 PAMPER YOURSELF

Find some inner peace and let your worries fall away. **McMillans Relaxation Centre**, Metung provides massage and body treatment services (mcmillansofmetung.com.au) and **Iluka Day Spa**, Lakes Entrance (illukadayspa.com.au) and **Metung Day Spa** (metungwaters.com.au) offer an extensive range of treatments including hydrotherapy, massage, wraps, scrubs and facials.



17 SILT JETTIES



Visit the Eagle Point Bluff overlooking the Mitchell River Silt Jetties, the longest silt jetties in the world

18 BECOME A TWITCHER

The Gippsland Lakes is a naturalist's delight with hundreds of species of birds calling the region home. See magnificent sea eagles, pelicans and black swans along with numerous sea birds. The Lakes are host to breeding colonies of the vulnerable Fairy Terns and Little Terns. Parts of the Gippsland Lakes system are listed under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as waterfowl habitat.



19 VISIT NYERIMILANG HERITAGE PARK



Nyerimilang Heritage Park is on the shores of the Gippsland Lakes, 10km from Lakes Entrance.

Take a leisurely walk around the old homestead and be sure to pack a picnic lunch to enjoy in the picturesque gardens. The park offers walks along bush and farm tracks with magnificent views across Reeve Channel and the lakes beyond.

20 GET FESTIVE

There is always something happening in the Gippsland Lakes region. Visit a gallery, take in a show, or enjoy some live music.

Check the event boards in Lakes Entrance, Paynesville and Metung for event information or visit discovereastgippsland.com.au/events.



FAQs

ALGAL BLOOM

What is a Blue-Green Algal Bloom?

Blue-green algae comes from the species *Nodularia spumigena* and is currently affecting the Gippsland Lakes. Concentrations of *Nodularia spumigena* found in the affected areas of the Lakes currently exceed the health trigger value for recreational activities that have direct contact with the water. Exposure to *Nodularia spumigena* through direct contact can affect some people, resulting in a range of effects from mild skin irritation to liver damage if ingested in large quantities.

Can I swim and undertake other watersports?

The Department of Health advises that contact with the water should be avoided as it may have health implications for humans and other animals, including livestock and pets. Swimming and any water sport or activity, including skiing, inflatable tubes and 'donuts' that result in direct contact with affected water are not recommended.

What should I do if I come into contact with affected water?

If contact is made, users should remove any affected clothing and wash themselves thoroughly with clean water after coming ashore. Wetsuits should be thoroughly rinsed before being worn again to remove any traces of algae.

Can my dog swim in the Gippsland Lakes?

Dogs and other pets can also be affected, so it is safer not to let them enter the water in areas where there are warning signs in place or discoloured water is evident.

Is it safe to be on the water of the Gippsland Lakes at all?

Yes. Since it is only direct contact with water that should be avoided, you can still experience cruises, boat or yacht hire or accommodation in a houseboat.

Are fish safe to eat?

Don't worry, you can still enjoy fish and chips by the water! Fish sold at the fishermen's cooperative, as well as the local fish and chip shops is safe to eat as they will only sell fish that has been caught offshore.

Seafood caught from within the lakes (fish, prawns, mussels and crabs) may be considered unsafe for human consumption. Visitors are advised to check whether it is safe to eat by visiting water.vic.gov.au or phoning the Lakes Entrance Visitor Information Centre 03 5155 2642.

Where can I get the latest information?

To find out the latest information about the algal bloom, please phone the Lakes Entrance Visitor Information Centre on 03 5155 2642 or go to water.vic.gov.au.



These 20 reasons to explore the Gippsland Lakes are only a snapshot of what you will find when you come to East Gippsland. Visit the enchanting Buchan Caves or take a scenic drive up the Great Alpine Road to Gippsland's high country. Find a beach all to yourself in the spectacularly rugged Croajingolong National Park or take an awe inspiring drive to the Tulloch Ard Lookout across the mighty Snowy River. Catch a bite to eat in the waters around Marlo and Cape Conran Coastal Park, and boast about 'the one that got away' in the Cann River Hotel.



VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

Bairnsdale Visitor Information Centre

240 Main Street, Bairnsdale

1800 637 060

Lakes Entrance Visitor Information Centre

Corner Marine Parade and Esplanade, Lakes Entrance

1800 637 060

Metung Visitor Information Centre

Shop 3, 50 Metung Road, Metung

03 5156 2969



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