

THE ST KILDA FORESHORE

A GUIDED TRAIL



St Kilda foreshore is one of Australia's most loved places. Many associate it with beach-front leisure, sport, great food, iconic buildings, open space, music, festivals, gardens and much more. Its popularity is a tribute to the St Kilda Foreshore Committee, which formed in 1906. Under the inspired leadership of Carlo Catani, an Italian-born engineer, the Trust created a Mediterranean style resort on the foreshore 'for the recreation, amusement and convenience of the people'.

Life on the Edge

A century later, however, the St Kilda foreshore was in danger of being 'loved to death'. In 2003 the Port Phillip Council approved the St Kilda Foreshore Urban Design Framework which identified areas between West Beach and St Kilda Marina that had become neglected, unsafe or inadequate to cope with vehicle traffic, visitor numbers and changes in recreational pursuits such as cycling and roller blading or were opportunities for renewal. After extensive community consultation, the Council commenced the St Kilda's Edge range of urban renewal programs.

Renewal

By late 2008 the entrance to St Kilda Pier entrance had been expanded, the Vineyard restaurant upgraded, St Kilda Kiosk and Catani Arch restored and upgrade works at O'Donnell Gardens, Marina Reserve and Catani Gardens completed. A scaled model of the Solar System comprising the Sun and nine planets was created on the foreshore to promote education and the environment. The heavily used promenade between St Kilda pier and Brookes Jetty was comprehensively upgraded including a striking new boardwalk. Other Edge strategy projects are still in progress.



PEERING AWAY

Y. H. H.

Sharing the boards

The spectacular new boardwalk promenade between St Kilda pier and Brookes Jetty is a shared zone of users unlike the City Port Phillip's other foreshore paths. This is because of the high number of users that cross the promenade here at right angles to the path to use facilities on both sides. Research studies indicated that 'best practice' here is to monitor spaces where pedestrians, cyclists and skaters are fully aware of sharing the path with other users and therefore adapt accordingly. To ensure safety the new promenade boardwalk is designed to reduce speed and also greatly expanded up to fourteen metres in width to comfortably support pedestrians and cyclists. In addition alternative on-road bike lanes along Jacka Boulevard are being built for commuter cyclists.

1. Start at O'Donnell Gardens

conveniently located next to Luna Park and a tram junction for 16, 96 and 79 lines. The garden's former teahouse is now the popular Vineyard restaurant and café. Well-known Acland Street with restaurants and many shops also borders the park. The street was once known as The Village Belle and, after World War II, as 'Little Jerusalem'. See the memorial in the park to learn the fate of James Bennett, the St Kilda flying ace.
(T)



2. Luna Park. Entry is free to one of the world's oldest existing amusement parks and scenic railway built in 1912. It followed on from 'Dreamland' built on swampland in 1906. Enter the park for free to see the historic carousel and railway. (T)

3. Veg-Out Community Gardens. On the other side of O'Donnell Gardens in Chaucer Street, is a miniature countryside open to visitors from dawn to dusk. There are organic vegetable plots maintained by local residents, greenhouses, a small orchard and colourful sculptures and artist studios.



Walk west down Shakespeare Grove and cross Jacka Boulevard at the crossing to the start of the foreshore promenade.

4. The Promenade



The spectacular new boardwalk promenade between Brookes Jetty and St Kilda pier was launched in 2008 as a shared zone for users. It links a huge variety of activities on the foreshore including walking, cycling, rollerblading, swimming and scooters.

5. Brookes Jetty. The jetty and St Kilda Pier are ideal places to cast a fishing line. Try dusk on a rising tide in Summer and Autumn. There are also regular fishing charters from St Kilda Pier. Or join the local angling club at Elwood beach.



6. The Melbourne Solar System Trail along the St Kilda foreshore provides a great



educational resource for appreciating the scale of our galaxy. The trail connects models of the sun and nine planets built to a scale of one to one billion from the Marina Lighthouse to Port Melbourne. The first four planets are located between the lighthouse and Brookes Jetty.

7. The Melbourne Solar System Trail.

From the 'Sun' starting at Marina Reserve lighthouse it is a short walk north to the first five planets and you can continue on the foreshore trail for 5.9 kilometres as far as 'Pluto' at Sandridge Beach. Every metre that you walk represents 1,000,000 kilometres! To see the Earth model to scale shows how important it is to protect the environment of our planetary home.



8. Donovan's restaurant is converted from a bathing pavilion that was built in the 1920s when laws were changed to allow people to bathe in the open sea instead of closed and separate areas for men and women.



9. The Promenade. To ensure safety the new promenade boardwalk is designed to reduce speed and has been greatly expanded up to fourteen metres in width to comfortably support pedestrians and cyclists. Alternative on-road bike lanes along Jacka Boulevard are also being built for commuter cyclists.



10. The Stokehouse is a former tea-house which was once the centre of a foreshore precinct designed in the main as a single park from Catani Gardens to Acland Street. The advent of the motor-car has dramatically



changed pedestrian access to parts of the foreshore.

11. Catani Arch. Built in 1916 this miniature Italian-style bridge with its garden rockeries indicates typical architecture of the foreshore when the St Kilda Foreshore Trust redesigned it from 1906 onwards.



12. South beach reserve. The large open green beside the boardwalk between the Catani Arch and the Sea Baths is an excellent



picnic and play area. It is a favourite base for swimmers using St Kilda beach in the warmer months and open air showers are available at intervals along the boardwalk. The reserve is a key venue for the annual St Kilda Festival.

'Planet' Jupiter on the Solar System Trail is located beside the promenade.

13. St Kilda Sea Baths.

Follow the promenade and enter the Sea Baths through the glass doors to the inner courtyard where there are cafes and restaurants. There have been baths on St Kilda beach for at least 150 years.



14. The Sea Baths courtyard.

Don't forget to climb up the stairs from the inner courtyard to the observation deck.



15. Observation Deck. The huge observation deck is for public use. There are ten picnic tables and spectacular views of Hobsons Bay, City of Melbourne, Williamstown and St Kilda. You can exit from the opposite end. (T)



St Kilda has been called the land of the pleasure domes. There are eleven domes on the roofs of St Kilda's buildings visible from the deck. How many can you find?

16. The seawater pool is accessible from the east side of the courtyard fronting Jacka Boulevard.



17. St Kilda Pier. Weekend ferries to Williamstown and Southbank offer a wonderful opportunity to experience the bay and views of the foreshore. The iconic St Kilda Kiosk is a popular destination for walking and has been completely reconstructed since a disastrous fire in 2003.



(T)



18. Kerby's Kiosk. Piers have existed here since the 1850s. The Kerby family, including Colin and his wife Judy, lived upstairs in 'Kerby's Kiosk' on St Kilda Pier for sixty years until 1989. Colin saved about 200 people from drowning off the pier.

19. Wildlife. The pier provides great opportunities to observe wildlife on the bay such as seabirds, jellyfish, sea-grass, schools of baitfish and even dolphins occasionally. At the end of the pier is the breakwater, home to St Kilda's own penguin sanctuary. The wooden boardwalk behind the pier is an ideal place to view them swimming home at dusk as well as rakali (native water beavers).



20. Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron

The Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron (1926) is one of the oldest yacht clubs in Victoria with a sailing history of over 120 years.

21. Captain Cook's Statue.

The statue of the explorer who claimed Terra Australis for Great Britain in 1770 looks out to sea. Almost a hundred crew, marines and civilians were crammed on HMS Endeavour less than thirty metres long.



All their names are listed on the plaque.

22. Behind Captain Cook's statue is the embankment of the Esplanade, once a sandstone bluff. The traditional Aboriginal owners of the Kulin Nation used the sandstone to sharpen their axes. They



THE RETAINING WALL.
Between the Upper and Lower Esplanades.

called St Kilda 'Yuroe euroke' meaning the 'grinding stone' place. The vaults, still seen in the embankment, were constructed as shops in about 1891.

23. Catani Gardens.

From the pier cross the road to the Catani Gardens, a quiet shady place for a picnic or a barbecue. Before 1906 this area was mainly under water but was reclaimed. There are bar-



becues, shelter and playground at the northern end 'Planet' Saturn on the Solar System Trail is located on Pier Road west of the playground area. (T)

24. West Beach contains a Natural History Garden



representing the original plants before settlement. This is a favourite area in warm weather to see colourful kite boarders on the Bay. A small bridge crosses Catani canal. The sunsets here are

spectacular. At low tide you can explore the high sandbanks in the harbour. It is an off leash dog area from here to St Kilda Pier.

Continue on the foreshore trail north to find the outer 'planets' Uranus, Neptune and Pluto.

Cross Pier Road to West Beach

25. Esplanade. From the peace and tranquillity of Catani Gardens cross the bridge to the Esplanade which boasts fantastic views of Port Phillip Bay. From here you can continue along the Esplanade until you return to O'Donnell Gardens or proceed to Fitzroy Street retail shopping and restaurant area.



26. The Esplanade Hotel, originally the New Baths Hotel (opposite) is famous for its 150 years of history, music and entertainment.

27. The Clocktower. This Venetian style clock tower was built as a memorial to Italian-born Carlo Catani in 1930. From 1906 he designed the St Kilda foreshore as a European resort with upper and lower esplanades, entertainments, parks and dance halls between Fraser and Dickens Streets. Stand on the balcony behind the tower and appreciate his work.



28. Alfred Square on the other side of the Esplanade is St Kilda's first park (1842) and a former grazing area for stock. A plaque here marks St Kilda's first building, a stockman's hut.



The 'Novotel St Kilda' hotel on the south side of the square was once the location of the St Moritz ice skating rink (1939 to 1981), one of the great social hubs of Melbourne holding 2000 people. Prior to that there was Frank Thring's film production studios (1933) and a dance saloon (1923).



29. Market. On Sunday there is a busy and colourful Arts and Craft market on the Esplanade.

30. The Triangle

The 'Triangle' site has been the location of many historic and famous buildings since 1907 including the Casino Theatre, Palais de Danse (pictured), the Returned Soldiers Lounge, Little Luna Park, the Stardust Lounge, the Palace and the existing Palais Theatre. Fire has damaged or destroyed at least four of these facilities. A new development is planned for the area north of the Palais.



31. The Palais opposite Luna Park and O'Donnell Gardens returns us to the start of the walk. This iconic 1926 building was once the largest picture theatre in Australia and has hosted many of the world's greatest performing musicians and theatre shows.



Walking length

The basic foreshore trail is about four kilometres and can be walked within an hour and fifteen minutes.

Public transport:

Transport inquiries: Metlink 131 638.

Trams 16 and 96 will take you into the City.

Tram 79 will take you to Richmond but only runs in the evenings and weekends.

Bus 606 will take you to Port Melbourne.

Melway ref: 57 J10

Ferry: Operates from St Kilda Pier to Williamstown and Southbank, Saturday to Sunday, weather permitting. Tel: 9682 9555;

recorded information tel: 9517 9444;

Web: www.williamstownferries.com.au

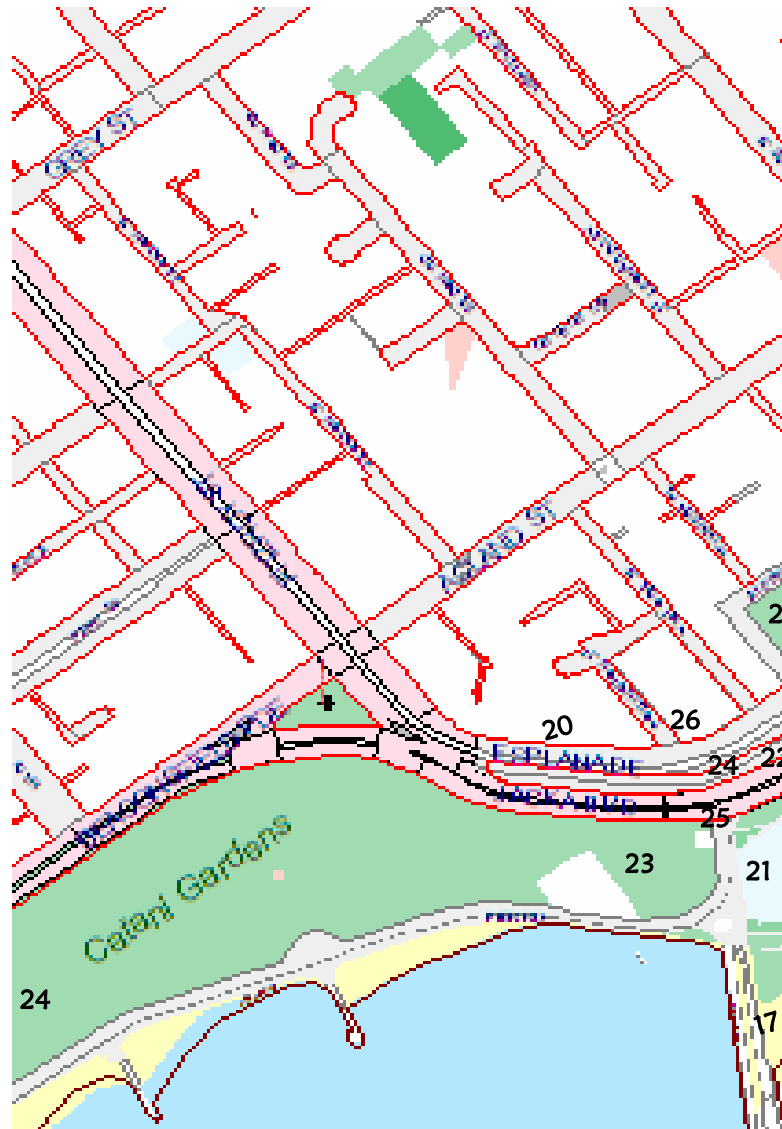
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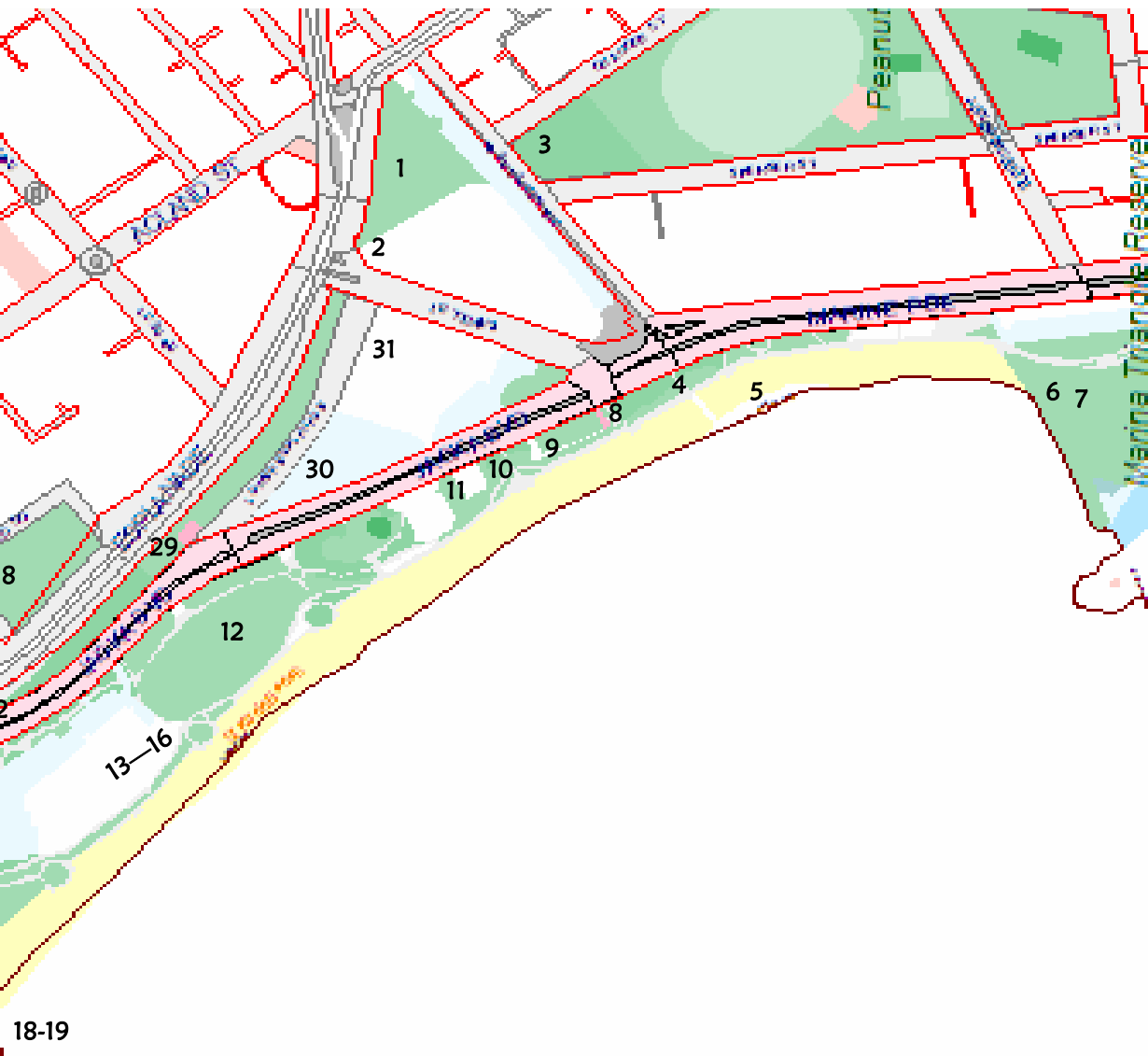
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Notes





Earthcare (penguins): www.earthcareskilda.org.au

Veg-Out Community Gardens: www.vegout.asn.au

Royal Melbourne Yacht Club: www.rmys.com.au

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Luna Park: www.lunapark.com.au

St Kilda Surf Life Saving Club: stkildalsc@yahoo.com.au

Elwood Angling Club: www.fishvictoria.com/elwood