

# Yarra River

## Boating Guide

The Yarra River, at the heart of Melbourne, is an increasingly popular destination for commercial and recreational boat users. Its significant attractions, including Southbank, Crown Entertainment Complex and major sporting venues, make the river ideal for a picnic, day trip or a quiet jaunt along its pleasant banks. This boating guide has been prepared by Parks Victoria to help ensure that your boating expedition on the Yarra is a safe and enjoyable one.

### Boating on the Yarra River

As the Yarra is a public river, permission is not required to use your boat on it, but there are local conditions you need to be aware of ensure your trip along the Yarra River is enjoyable and trouble free.

Public mooring facilities along the river are available for use for up to four hours at a time. More popular moorings at destinations such as the Aquarium, Flinders Street Station and the Botanic Gardens have different mooring requirements which are detailed on Parks Victoria signs. Please observe the mooring requirements to ensure fair and equitable access to mooring facilities for everyone.

Some berths along the river are leased by commercial boat operators. These berths are not available for public use, including mooring. There are no boat ramps on the Yarra River. The river is accessible to boats through Port Phillip Bay, the closest public boat ramps being at Williamstown and St Kilda.

### Regulations to be observed

All boats using the Yarra River must adhere to the 5 knot speed limit.

No Personal Water Craft are permitted on the Yarra River.

For the safety of all river users, be sure to keep a lookout at all times, especially for other craft on the river and rowers who are generally harder to see and hear.

When travelling along the river ensure that you keep to the right of the channel.

### Rowing

Rowing has long been a popular activity on the Yarra River. Many rowers use the Yarra as a key training ground and it is the home of several Olympic champions. Rowing regattas are often held on the river by rowing clubs and other organisations, especially during summer.

When passing rowers, ensure a low wake so as not to disturb or tip rowers over. Remember that their boats are smaller and more susceptible to capsizing than larger, motorised boats.

### River closures

A number of Melbourne's spectacular events take place on the Yarra River and require the river to be closed. These closures are advertised in the public notices section of major newspapers. For further information you can also contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963.

### Local conditions

The Yarra is a tidal river and clearances on several of the rivers bridge are quite low. It is important to check tides and the bridge height table to ensure you are able to make it back to where you started your boat trip. Minimum clearances for your craft are listed overleaf.

The Yarra is prone to silting. Boat operators be cautious, especially around the inside of the rivers many bends.

There is no access to the river for motorised craft above the Collingwood Children's Farm because of reefs.

### Rules for safe boating

- Adhere to all prescribed speed limits.
- Carry safety equipment according to the regulations, especially approved life jackets or PFD-1s.
- All children under the age of 10 years must wear an approved lifejacket or buoyancy vest/garment, or PFD-1, 2 or 3 while in a recreational boat that is underway, unless the child is within a deckhouse, cabin, half cabin or a secure enclosed space.
- Have a chart or map of where you are going and a radio.
- Tell someone where you are going.
- Know the rules, local regulations and distress signals.



- Don't overload.
- Keep a careful watch on the weather and watch out for other boats and hazards.
- Carry sufficient fuel, water and a first aid kit.
- Guard against fire.
- Ensure engine reliability and adequate fuel system.
- Don't mix alcohol and boating.

#### Looking after the river

Parks Victoria is committed to keeping Victoria's rivers and bays clean. Litter traps have been installed along the Yarra to prevent litter entering the river from stormwater drains and ending up in Port Phillip Bay.

- If you're on the water, don't exceed the 5 knot (9km/h) speed limit and keep a careful watch out for other river users.
- Remember that all native plants and animals are protected by law.
- Swimming is not permitted along the Yarra downstream from Dights Falls.
- Please take all rubbish away with you, and if possible recycle it.
- Jumping or diving from bridges or trees is not permitted.

For further details about the Yarra River, contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963. For more boating information or a copy of the Victoria Boating guide contact The Marine Board of Victoria on 9655 3399.

## BRIDGES ON THE LOWER YARRA RIVER




BRIDGE		River Distance from Mouth [km]	Recommended Navigation of Channel	River Invert Level [m AHD]	CLEARANCES			
Name/Type	Location				Maximum Level Underside Bridge [m]	Maximum Clearance Low Tide [m]	Maximum Clearance High Tide [m]	Minimum Width Between Piers [m]
Westgate	Westgate Fwy				2.50	Centre	-11.00	49.20
Maribyrnong Junction	River Junction	3.70						
Railway	Johnson St	7.59	Centre	-8.00	3.90	4.20	3.60	32.00
Charles Grimes	Johnson St	7.62	Southern	-8.00	3.61	3.91	3.31	32.00
Road	Spencer St	8.34	Centre	-4.00	2.77	3.07	2.47	31.00
Kings	Kings Way	8.57	Centre	-4.10	2.84	3.14	2.54	37.50
Queens	Market St	8.90	Centre	-4.60	2.89	3.19	2.59	17.00
Railway	Sth Melb.	9.03	Centre	-4.10	4.40	4.70	4.10	18.00
Foot	Southgate	9.23	Centre	-3.00	6.00	6.30	5.70	40.00
Princes	Swanston St	9.52	Centre	-4.30	8.23	8.53	7.93	29.00
Road	Swan St	10.52	Centre	-4.60	5.13	5.43	4.83	18.00
Morell	Anderson St	11.39	Centre	-3.80	6.98	7.28	6.68	28.00
Hoddle	Punt Rd	11.74	Centre	-4.50	5.30	5.60	5.00	17.50
Railway	Sth Yarra	12.39	Centre	-4.10	6.03	6.33	5.73	26.50
Road	Church St	12.69	Centre	-4.10	8.74	9.04	8.34	30.00
MacRobertson	Grange Rd	14.82	Centre	-4.10	7.45	7.75	7.15	32.00
Railway	Heyington	15.62	Centre	-2.50	10.73	11.03	10.43	23.50
Road	S.E. Freeway	16.07	Centre	-3.80	9.96	10.26	9.66	30.00
Road	Wallen Rd	17.32	Centre	-3.00	10.45	10.75	10.15	10.00
Railway	Hawthorn	17.92	Centre	-4.00	10.76	11.06	10.46	25.00
Hawthorn	Bridge Rd	18.59	Centre	-2.70	11.62	11.92	11.32	25.00
Road	Victoria St	19.49	Centre	-3.40	15.69	15.99	15.39	14.50
Foot	Walmer St	20.20	Centre	-4.90	12.45	12.75	12.15	20.00
Collins/Foot	Gipps St	21.54	Centre	-1.69	13.40	13.70	13.10	20.00
Road	Johnston St	22.94	Centre	-1.00	17.36	17.66	17.06	20.00
Dights Falls		23.86						

Note: Low Tide = -0.3 m AHD [0.22 m Chart Datum] High Tide = 0.3 m AHD [0.82 m Chart Datum]

July 2000

# Lower Yarra River

## Boating Guide

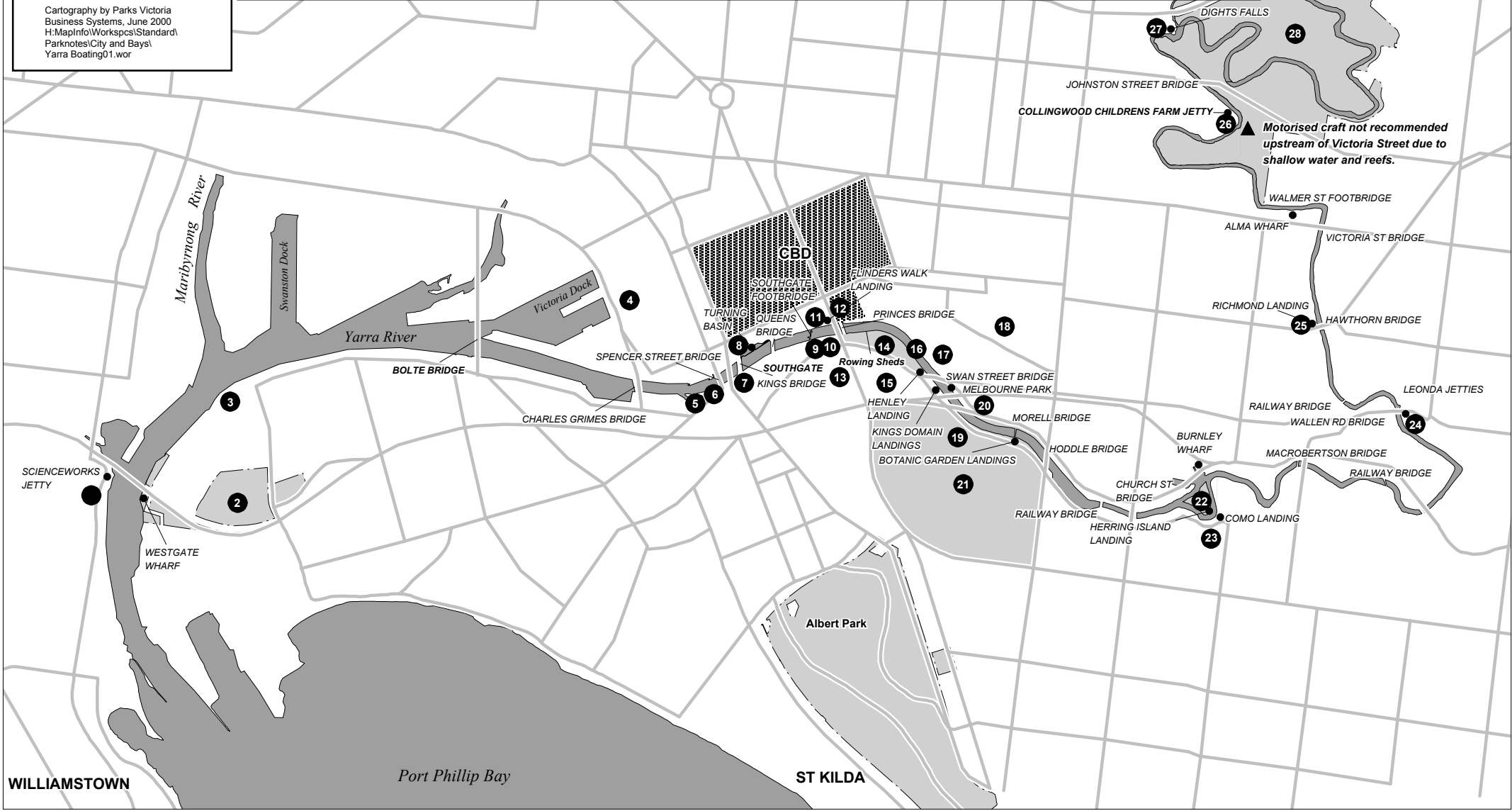
-  Water Body
-  Major Road
-  Public Landing Stage / Jetty



Cartography by Parks Victoria  
 Business Systems, June 2000  
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## Significant Features

- |                               |   |  |                                |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 Scienceworks Museum         | 8 Melbourne Aquarium                                  | 15 Sidney Myer Music Bowl                  | 22 Herring Island              |
| 2 Westgate Park               | 9 Southgate Plaza                                     | 16 Rowing Regatta Course                   | 23 Como Park                   |
| 3 Pier 35                     | 10 Melbourne Concert Hall                             | 17 Melbourne Park (National Tennis Centre) | 24 Leonda Receptions           |
| 4 Colonial Stadium            | 11 Flinders Street Station                            | 18 Melbourne Cricket Ground                | 25 Rydges Riverwalk Hotel      |
| 5 Polly Woodside              | 12 Federation Square Development (Under Construction) | 19 Government House                        | 26 Collingwood Children's Farm |
| 6 Melbourne Exhibition Centre | 13 Victorian Arts Centre                              | 20 Melbourne Sports & Entertainment Centre | 27 Dights Falls & Flour Mill   |
| 7 Crown Entertainment Complex | 14 Alexandra Gardens                                  | 21 Royal Botanic Gardens                   | 28 Yarra Bend Park             |



WILLIAMSTOWN

Port Phillip Bay

ST KILDA