

Balloted Hog Deer hunting on Snake Island

About Snake Island

Snake Island covers 3,452 hectares and is situated in the Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park, 180km southeast of Melbourne. The island is approximately 15km long and 2km wide. It is the largest sand island in Victoria and is part of the barrier island chain that protects sheltered mangroves, intertidal mudflats and marine communities from Bass Strait.

Snake Island is made up of coastal woodlands and scrublands, freshwater swamps, saltmarshes and mangroves that support a diverse range of vegetation and wildlife. The island is home to threatened species, including the Ground Parrot and Swamp Antechinus. From spring to autumn, thousands of migratory wading birds arrive from their breeding grounds in the northern hemisphere to feed. Other wildlife on the island include Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies, Koalas and Hog Deer.

Rules and regulations

Hunting times are half an hour before sunrise to half an hour after sunset. Hunting can start after 8am on the first day of the balloted hunt period (i.e. Monday) and must cease at 12 midday on the Friday of your balloted hunt period.

All hunters must have a valid Game Licence and be in possession of Hog Deer tags. If using a firearm, you must be licensed and abide by the *Firearms Act 1996* and conditions of your authorisations. Always observe the ten basic rules of firearm safety. For more information, visit the Firearms Safety Foundation (Victoria) www.firearmsafety.org.au

Make sure that your firearm or bow is sighted-in before you arrive on the island. Sighting-in is prohibited on the island. The legal calibres and projectile weight are the same as for the regular Hog Deer season (see table on page 4). Only one firearm, or one bow or one cross-bow per hunter is permitted. The use of decoys, baits and lures is prohibited.

Only one Hog Deer hind and one stag can be taken per-hunter per-year in Victoria, including during the balloted period.

When hunting, you must be in possession of your authorisation documents and your Hog Deer tags. Tag packs are provided prior to your balloted hunting period. Make sure you read and adhere to the conditions of your authorisations. Routine compliance patrols will be conducted. If you harvest a Hog Deer, you must immediately attach the correct sex-specific tag to the animal. The tag needs to be inserted between the bone and the tendon on the hind leg, completely encircling the bone.

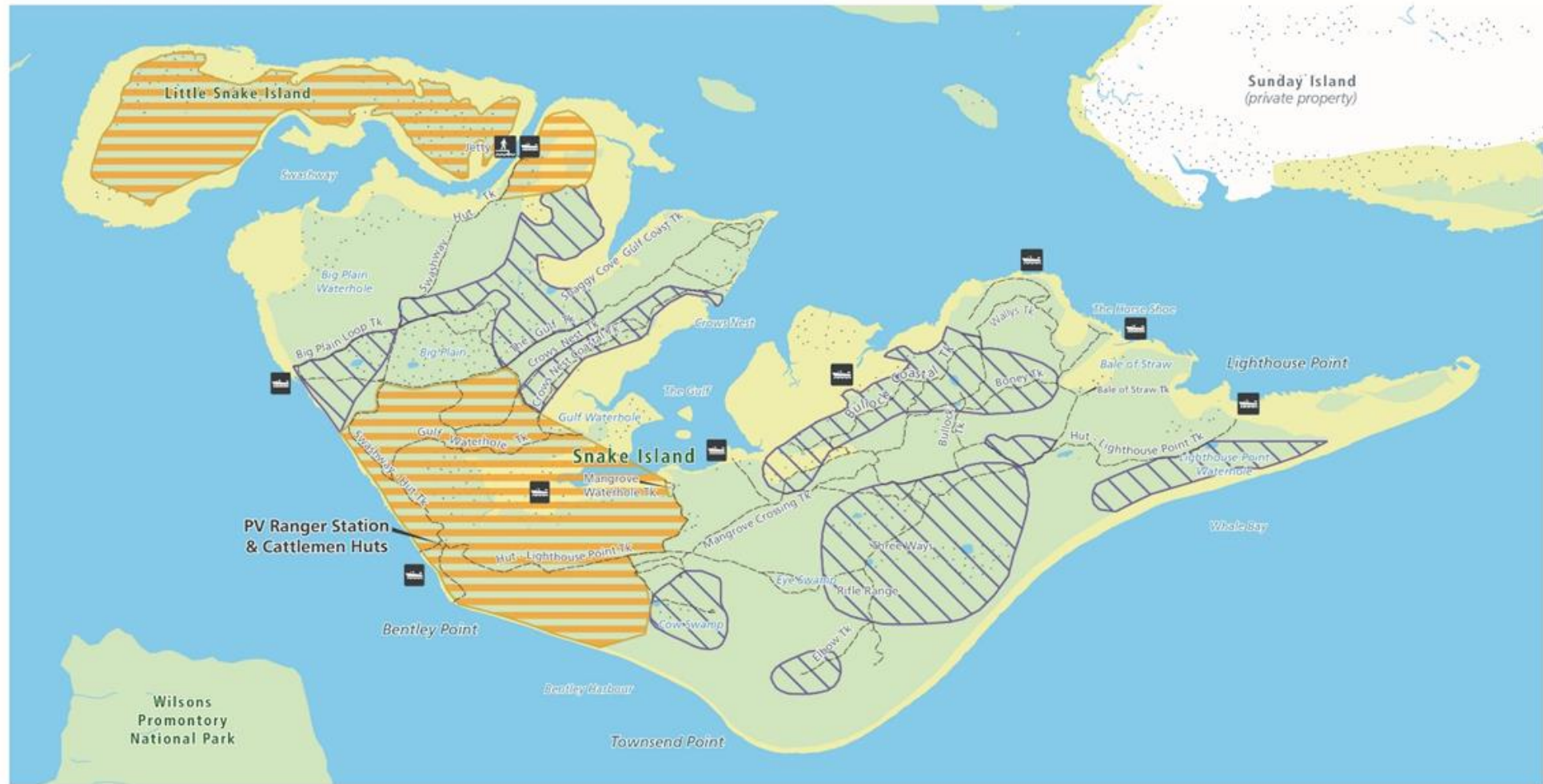
When field dressing your deer, be mindful of other users and dispose of the entrails thoughtfully at least 50 metres away from water sources and out of sight. Bury them if possible. Hang deer out of sight.

Certain areas are closed to hunting and hunter camping. They are generally bounded by tracks or marked with yellow markers. Make sure you are familiar with these areas and do not hunt or camp in the exclusion zones marked on the map on the next page. You may walk through them with an unloaded firearm and the ammunition stored in a closed container or case. If you hunt with a bow or cross-bow, ensure the arrows or bolts are stored in the quiver. Hunt only where is legal.



Snake Island

Balloted Hog Deer Hunting



-  Boat access point
-  Jetty
-  Walking track
-  Parks & Reserves
-  Intertidal zone
-  Wetlands/Waterhole
-  Land subject to inundation
-  Hunting and Hunter Camping Exclusion Zone
-  Prime Hunting Areas

Note:

Hog Deer hunting, by authorised hunter only, on Snake Island is permitted in all areas except hunting exclusion zones, on beach areas (including intertidal zone) or on or across tracks. Better (Prime Hunting) Areas are marked.

Hunting is permitted between half-an-hour before sunrise until half-an-hour after sunset each day, except for Monday when hunting starts at 08:00 and Friday when hunting ceases at 12:00 noon.



What to do after a successful hunt

All harvested deer must be taken to the Checking Station dedicated to Snake Island hunters only. You have until the Saturday immediately after the end of your balloted hunt period to present harvested animals at the Checking Station.

The Checking Station is located at: **Old Ferry Terminal, Lewis Street, Port Welshpool VIC 3965**. You must call ahead and make an appointment with the Checking Station Operator. Contact details are in your tag pack.

The head and body of the deer must stay intact. You may cape and field-dress the deer in the field. If a hind has a foetus, note the length, stage of development and take it to the Checking Station Operator. To assist jaw bone removal, place a chock in the mouth. Harvested deer are aged using the removed jaw bone and important measurements and biological data are recorded. You can butcher the deer after it has been processed at a Checking Station.

If a harvested deer has an ear tag, it may have crossed-over from Sunday Island. Report the ear tag to the Checking Station Operator.

Travel to and from Snake Island

Snake Island is only accessible by boat with limited areas to land. Corner Inlet (waters around Snake Island) has both coastal and enclosed waters making boating to the island difficult. The waters around Snake Island are highly influenced by tides and access is generally restricted to two hours either side of high tide. Study tides in advance and plan your trip around the tides. Tide Tables are available from www.bom.gov.au

Make sure your boat is seaworthy and serviced before you embark on the journey to the island. Ensure you are appropriately licensed, carry the correct boating safety equipment and wear a life-jacket. For further information on recreational boating, required equipment and Victorian waterways, download the Victorian Recreational Boating Safety Handbook from www.transportsaftey.vic.gov.au. If you don't have access to a boat, there are licensed tour operators that may be able to transport you to the island.

Getting around on Snake Island

Snake Island has a network of walking tracks. Motorised vehicles are prohibited (including motorbikes) to preserve the tracks on the island. Mountain bicycles or rickshaw carts can be used for carrying equipment and any harvested deer.

Be prepared to travel many kilometres to reach prime hunting areas and good campsites, so ensure you have appropriate gear. Study maps of the island prior to your ballot period to get an idea of what you might encounter.

Camping on Snake Island

Study the map of Snake Island and be clear on the locations of hunting and hunter camping exclusion zones. Camping is not permitted in these zones. These zones will be bounded by tracks or small signs placed on metal pickets.

Choose your campsite carefully. Make sure it is sheltered and you are not camping on or too close to good hunting areas where deer may be disturbed. The track network on the island is used by many people, including horse-riders. Please camp well away from tracks and ensure any hunting equipment is stored away from tracks.

Remember to take your rubbish home. If you carry it in, carry it out. If you come across another person's rubbish, do the bush a favour and take it out with you as well.

Fire on Snake Island

If you are going to have a campfire, you must ensure the fire pit is well constructed, safe and adheres to regulations. On public land, campfires are permitted in the open air as long as you observe the following conditions:

- The fire is lit in a properly constructed fireplace or in a trench at least 30cm deep.
- If a fireplace is provided, it must be used.
- The fire should not occupy an area exceeding 1 square metre.
- The ground and airspace within a distance of 3m from the outer perimeter and uppermost point of the fire should be clear of flammable material.
- The fire cannot be left unattended at any time. It must be extinguished prior to your departure.
- Campfires are prohibited on Total Fire Ban days.

Download the VicEmergency app from emergency.vic.gov.au and store the Victorian Emergency hotline 1800 226 266. Refer to the CFA website for Total Fire Ban days or Code Red days at www.cfa.vic.gov.au Parks Victoria may close Snake Island, requiring you to leave the island, on a Code Red day.

Things to remember

Water

Snake Island does not have a freshwater supply. You must bring enough water to last you the entire ballot period and at least 48 hours more. Hike Australia recommends 3-4 litres per person, per day. Visit www.hike-australia.com for more information.

First Aid

Bring a first aid kit, sunscreen, repellent for sandfly / mosquito and pressure bandage for snake bite at a minimum. For more information, visit Saint John Ambulance Australia (Vic) www.stjohnvic.com.au

Ensure you have contingency plans and ambulance cover. If you experience an injury or a serious mishap, you may not be able to leave the island immediately. Poor weather and tides will dictate when you can leave. There is mobile phone coverage from the main carriers (Telstra, Optus and Vodafone) on most parts of Snake Island. In the event of an emergency call 000.

Make a hunting plan and leave it with a family member or friend. Your hunting plan should contain all the information necessary to help someone find you in case of an emergency such as where you are hunting and when you expect to return. It should include specific directions on your route to the island and where you intend to camp and hunt. To download a hunting plan template visit www.gma.vic.gov.au

Weather

The weather can be unpredictable on Snake Island. Ensure you are equipped to deal with both hot and cold conditions. Check the forecast and select clothing based on the weather you expect while being prepared for the worst.

Other users

Remember to hunt responsibly and be safe. Snake Island is public land so you can expect to see other people on the island. The island is open to the public during the balloted hunting periods. Hunters must remain vigilant and follow the basic rules of firearm safety at all times. Be respectful and courteous to anyone you meet.



Firearm/Bow	Hog, Fallow, and Chital Deer
Centerfire rifle	A minimum caliber of .243" (6.17mm) with a minimum projectile weight of 80 grains (5.18 grams)
Muzzle-loading rifle	A minimum caliber of .38" (9.65 mm) with a minimum projectile weight of 200 grains (12.96 grams)
Long, recurve, and compound bows	A minimum draw weight of 45 pounds (20 kilograms), using an arrow fitted with a broadhead having a combined minimum weight of 350 grains (22.5 grams) and at least two sharpened cutting blades.
Crossbow	A minimum draw weight of 120 pounds (54.4 kilograms), using a bolt fitted with a broadhead having a total minimum weight of 350 grains (22.5 grams) and at least two sharpened cutting blades.
Smooth-bore firearms	A minimum bore of 20 and a maximum bore of 12, using a single solid projectile with a minimum weight of 245 grains (15.88 grams); SG's (buck shot) must not be used. The firearm must be fitted with a front and rear iron sight (other than a beaded sight or sights), a telescopic sight, or a reflex sight.

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