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Marmion Marine Park, located on Perth's doorstep, was declared a Marine Park in 1987. Stretching from Trigg Island north to Burns Rocks and out to sea for 5.5 km, it features white sandy beaches, rocky shores, inshore reefs, small islands, colourful marine life and clear, aquamarine seas.

Whether you swim, surf, sail, snorkel, dive, boat, fish, walk, picnic, ride, skate, windsurf, beachcomb or drive, this brochure will help you to find the best sites in the park and to enjoy your activities safely.

What Is A Marine Park?

Marine parks are legally declared areas which have special conservation features such as tourism, public recreation, historic sites, scientific interest, educational value, nature conservation or fishing industries.

In Western Australia, marine parks are vested in the Marine Parks and Nature Conservation Agency and managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM).

Sanctuary Zones

The park has three sanctuary zones, Boyinaboat Reef, Little Island and The Lumps. Each zone is marked by yellow marker buoys. Sanctuary zones are "look but don't take" areas which have been chosen to conserve and monitor special features.

There is also an Observation Area at Waterman extending from Malcolm St to Elsie St and out 300 m from the high-water mark. Only line fishing from the shore is permited in this area.

Friends of Marmion Marine Park (FOMMP)*

The Friends of Marmion Marine Park is a voluntary group which works closely with the Department of Conservation and Land Management to further the conservation interests of Marmion Marine Park by educating the users of the park. FOMMP fulfills this role by organising beach walks, touch pools, displays, educational speakers, social gatherings and snorkelling and diving excursions. For membership information or other enquiries Ph. 9342 8684.

Telephone Contacts

Friends of Marmion Marine Park 9342 8684 Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Marine & Coastal 9432 5111 Dept. of Transport 9320 9320 Coastcare 9264 7834 City of Joondalup 9400 4000 Ranger Service 9400 4960 City of Stirling Ranger Service 9345 8536 Fisheries WA Hillarys Office 9448 6028 Birds Australia 9383 7749

Useful Websites

Transport (WA) www.transport.wa.gov.au
Fisheries (WA) www.wa.gov.au/westfish
CALM (WA) www.calm.wa.gov.au
Meteorology Bureau WA www.bom.gov.au/weather/wa

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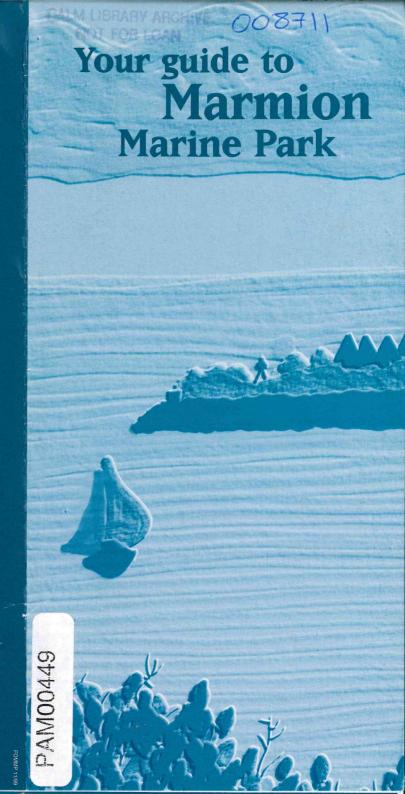






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Marmion Maritime History

Marmio

Marmion Marine Park is named after
Patrick Marmion who operated a
whaling station at Sorrento
between 1849 and 1854. You
can see a commemorative
plaque in Geneff Park,
Sorrento. There is also an
attractive monument to man
and the whale near the Sorrento

Roe's Abalon

Surf Life Saving Club.

The iron brig Centaur, wrecked in 1874 on Centaur Reef, is remembered by a boat shaped monument found overlooking Hamersley Pool.

Mt Flora Museum in Elvire St Waterman is an excellent local history museum overlooking the park. It is worth a visit for its local history collection and for the panoramic view of the park from the roof with its splendid circular fish mural. The Northern Suburbs Historical Society maintains the museum which is open from 2-5pm on weekends.

Geology

Sea-life has played an important role in the formation of the coastal sand dunes, offshore reefs and limestone rocks of the park. Some of the beach sands contain as much as 60% crushed seashells mixed with the quartz washed down from the granite scarp. The numerous rocky outcrops and reefs in the park were formed thousands of years ago from similar sands, the seashells have been dissolved by rainwater to form a "cement" which holds the material together to form limestone.

Turban Shell

If you look at rocks along the shoreline you can see ancient dunes turned to stone, fossilised roots, hollow solution pipes and fossil shells and corals. The corals can be seen in a cove south of Watermans Beach. Look also for signs of former higher sea levels (around 6,000 years old) where 'new' shells are "cemented" onto older rock platforms. These old shorelines are several metres above current sea level.

Park Etiquette

- Respect other park users. Know the designated areas and rules for your activities.
- Avoid taking unnecessary risks, others may have to take risks to rescue you.
- Rubbish goes into a bin or if you are on a boat use the rubbish bins provided at the marinas or boat ramps.
- Help prevent pollution of groundwater systems and drains that flow into the sea. Wash your car on the lawn and never put pollutants down street drains.
 Be sparing with fertilizers in the garden.
- Conserve all plant and animal life. Observe sanctuary zone rules and fishing regulations.
- Protect vegetation and conserve dunes. Stay on made paths.
- · Respect wildlife. Don't disturb wild animals.
- Animal owners keep your animals under control and clean up after them.
- Dogs and cats are not permitted on Little Island.
- · Fires are not permitted on beaches.

Some Safety Hints

Know your own limits. Learn all you can about safety in your chosen activities. Clubs are the best source of information.

Think safety first. Swim carefully, boat sensibly, plan your dives and use dive flags when diving or snorkelling.

Sunburn and heat exhaustion. Wear protective clothing, a hat and sun-protection lotion. Carry a bottle of water.

Weather can change quickly. Check weather forecasts and tell someone where you plan to go and when you plan to return.

Stings. Sting-rays are common. Their tail spines can give a painful sting. Shuffle your feet when wading and look before jumping into the water. Very hot water will relieve the pain of a sting. Make sure the water is not so hot that it burns, by testing the water with an unaffected finger at the same time. This treatment is for immediate pain relief only and you should seek medical attention as soon as possible after being stung. This treatment is also suitable for other fish stings. Other stings can come from small box-shaped stinging jellyfish

which appear in large numbers from late summer to autumn especially in calm, sandy areas. They come to the surface in the morning and afternoon but spend the rest of the day closer to the bottom. Avoid jellyfish stings by wearing protective suits, thick sunscreen (e.g. zinc cream) on sensitive areas and swim goggles. The larger bluebottle or Portuguese Man-o-War, appear usually in autumn and winter. They have a more severe sting which will require medical attention. Bluebottles can sting in the water or on the beach so don't swim or walk barefoot when you see them on the beach. Treat stings with ice or medication such as "Stingose". Never rub the tentacles, this stings more.

Sea snakes and land snakes are sometimes found on the beach. Avoid all snakes and never touch them. Live snakes can appear dead and even dead sea snakes may have venom on them which can enter through small cuts in your skin.

Blue-ringed octopus are very small and common but bites are extremely rare. Their tiny beak contains a nerve-disabling

Portugese

Yellow-bellied Sea Snake

toxin. If bitten wash the bite promptly and apply a pressure bandage. Ensure continuous artificial respiration for bite victims unable to breathe before seeking medical attention. Don't take empty shells or other hollow things from the water as these are favourite octopus homes. The "blue-rings" are only flashed when the octopus is alarmed.

Sea lions sometimes rest on beaches and islands in the park. You are required to stay at least 5 m from them and never pass between them and their escape route to the sea.

Sandbanks and submerged rocks can cause severe injuries.

Wear shoes on rocky beaches and never jump or dive into unfamiliar waters. Remember also that sandbanks can change shape and position or disappear completely, sometimes within hours.

Rips are strong currents of water moving out to sea which can carry even good swimmers far offshore. They can form quickly, especially if there are large waves. Sandy discoloured water out beyond the surf zone indicates a rip. Rips are not usually very wide. If you get caught in a rip, don't panic or try to swim against it. Swim at a 45 degree angle across it towards the shore until you are out of its pull. If there is a beach patrol and you need help, signal by raising your arm. Always swim or surf between the red and yellow flags on patrolled beaches.

Rockfalls can occur without warning. Limestone crumbles or breaks easily so avoid cliffs, caves and over-hangs.

Picnic Areas

Clarko Reserve, adjacent to Trigg Island, has a picnic area with barbecues but parking is limited. Watermans, Mullaloo, Beaumaris and Burns Beach all have grassed picnic and barbecue areas with plenty of parking. The largest picnic area is at Whitfords Nodes, which is partially sheltered behind the dunes. Here you will find ample parking, barbecues, change-rooms, toilets and a large grassy openarea suitable for games. There is also a small picnic area near the swimming beach at Hillarys Boat Harbour.

Reef Walking

When there is a low tide and a slight swell, you can walk out onto inshore reefs and watch live marine creatures such as sea stars, bristle worms, urchins, whelks, shore crabs, beche-de-mer (sea cucumbers) and anemones. North Trigg, North Beach, Watermans Beach and Burns Beach are usually good for reef walking. Wear shoes but take care not to trample the fragile reef creatures. Do not touch reef animals, some of them have stings and others may bite (see "Safety").

Beachcombing

FOMMP.

If you go beachcombing in the park you might find a mermaid's purse (shark egg case), cuttlefish "bones", an iridescent abalone shell, a slate urchin, a brilliant orange starfish, some gooseneck barnacles on driftwood or perhaps a dead seadragon. The sea washes up many other curiosities, especially after a storm. If you would like to know more about the flotsam and jetsam of the sea, come to one of FOMMP's guided beach walks. Suburban papers have details of FOMMP activities, or contact

> **Snorkelling** and Diving

A snorkel or dive over reefs, lagoons and seagrass beds in the park will reveal ledges, swimthroughs and colourful sea life. Most sea life will be southern temperate species. however, there are also some tropical species, thanks to the warm Leeuwin Current. This is a current that originates in the tropics and flows southwards down the Western Australian coast. It keeps sea temperatures in the range 16° to 23° C, warm enough for some coral to grow, and to bring some tropical visitors (like turtles) to the park.

Two of the most spectacular fish found in the park are the leafy seadragon and the weedy seadragon. If you are lucky enough to see a seadragon let Dragon Search (a community monitoring project) know when and where you saw it. You can get Dragon Search report sheets from local libraries and dive shops

You are most likely to find good conditions for your snorkel or dive if you plan for an early morning start on a day with a forecast for fine weather, light winds and a slight swell.

Dive and snorkel sites with beach access are Mettams Pool, Hamersley

Beach. At Boyinaboat Reef, a 100-metre swim from the southern rock wall of Hillarys Boat Harbour, there is a dive trail marked with



Animal Exercise Areas

Dogs are not allowed on most beaches, however, there are some designated animal exercise beaches in the park. You can exercise your dog between North Trigg and Bennion Beach, between North Beach Jetty and south of Watermans Beach or at Hillarys Beach. Dog exercise areas are well signed. You should keep your dogs on a lead when walking on footpaths and under your control when they are on the beach. Most dog exercise beaches have bins for dog litter, please use them. Horses can be exercised north of Pinnaroo Point.

Walking Trails

There is a dune walk trail at Whitfords Nodes linking two lookouts. Try this walk for fabulous views of the islands and Hillarys Boat Harbour, or you can go for a long sandy-beach walk between Marmion and Sorrento or between Hillarys Beach and Mullalloo. There is a cliff-top walk between Beaumaris Beach and Burns Beach, which provides spectacular ocean views and an opportunity to observe local wildlife, including sea lions, dolphins, ospreys, bluewrens and wildflowers

Cycling

Multi-use paths stretch for most of the length of the park (see map). Most beaches have cycle racks, make sure you use a lock. You can hire cycles at Hillarys Boat Harbour. Remember that by law you must wear a helmet when cycling, even on cycle paths. When cycling please keep left and remember to ring the bell to let pedestrians know when you are overtaking.

10 plaques. Little Island is another excellent site but you need a boat to get there. Anchor outside the Sanctuary Zone and seagrass meadows. For more information about dive sites ask at a dive shop or a dive club such as SCUBA 2 (also see References).

Swimming

You will find protected beaches (weather permitting), which are suitable for small children and non-confident swimmers at North Trigg, Mettams Pool, Hamersley Pool, south of Watermans Beach, and Hillarys Boat Harbour. There are special wheelchair access ramps at Mettams Pool, North Trigg and Watermans Beach. The beach at Whitfords Nodes is partially protected by inshore reefs but has a shore break. It is best suited to confident swimmers.

Surfing

Whether body surfing, boogie boarding, wave skiing or wind surfing, Marmion Marine Park has some great beaches. Patrolled surf beaches such as Mullaloo, Sorrento. North Sorrento and Watermans Beach are the safest for body surfers, ocean swimmers and those that use boogie boards or foam boards. On these beaches there are patrolled areas marked by red and yellow flags which have regular surf lifesaver patrols during the season. Check with the local surf lifesaving clubs or local councils for details of patrols. Watch out for rips on surfing beaches, especially when there are large swells (See "Safety").

Bird Watching

The park is home to a variety of wonderful birds. You can see beautiful silver-gulls, fascinating but please don't feed them, kestrels and black-shouldered kites using the updraft on cliff faces to hover motionless. ospreys and crested terns plunging from high to snatch fish from the sea, pied cormorants hanging their wings out to dry after diving for food, pinkand-grey parrots (galahs) feeding on beach plants and migratory birds such as the bridled tern, resting between flights. Contact Birds Australia (93837749) to find out more about bird watching and special tours.

Fishing

Silver Gull

The park is a great place to catch crabs, rock lobsters, abalone, herring, skippy and tailor. You can line fish most places in the park, except in Sanctuary Zones which are closed to all fishing and the Waterman Observation Area, which is restricted to line fishing from the shore only. Make sure you obey all size and bag limits. No nets may be used in the park, except crab drop nets. Spearfishing is not allowed within 1.8 km of the shore. Beyond 1.8 km, you may not use any underwater breathing apparatus to spear fish. You need a licence to fish for rock lobsters or abalone (all other shellfish are totally protected in the park). The rock lobster season is November to June. Only pots or snares may be used to catch them.

There is usually a short abalone season in summer, depending on stocks. Be aware that under the terms of the park management plan some commercial fishing is allowed. If you see illegal fishing phone Fishwatch 1800 815 507.

Sealions Dolphins Whales

Sealions are often seen on Little Island. If you visit there, please anchor your boat in sand offshore and keep your visit to less than 10 minutes (see also "Safety"). Small pods of dolphins hunt fish in the park and Southern Right and Humpback Whales are regular visitors during spring. You can go on whale watching tours from Hillarys Boat Harbour. Humpback Whales usually stay offshore but you might be lucky enough to see a Right Whale close inshore. If you are in a boat please stay at least 100 m away from any whales. Injured or stranded sea mammals should be reported to CALM, 9422 5111.

Turtles Snakes Lizards

The park is home to many species of reptiles. You can see their tracks in freshly blown sand. Look for lizard tracks,

snake trails and the subsurface burrowing of "legless" lizards. Large long-tailed skinks and other lizards live in the rocky shore areas. If you picnic there you may find skinks stealing your food. They can bite but the bite is usually harmless.



Occasionally yellow-bellied sea-snakes and young loggerhead turtles, carried south by the Leeuwin Current, come ashore in the park (see "Safety") or you may find a long-necked tortoise from a freshwater swamp which has been carried to the sea via a storm-water drain. Contact CALM if you find a stranded turtle or tortoise.

Just Looking

Are all these activities too energetic for you? A stroll around Sorrento Quay at Hillarys Boat Harbour or a visit to the aquarium will while away an hour or two. Try watching wind surfers at Mettams Pool or watching a famous Sunset Coast sunset from one of the car parks at North Trigg. Mettams Pool, North Beach, Watermans Beach, Sorrento or Burns Beach If you are prepared to walk up and down a hill and climb some stairs. you can get a splendid view of the park from the roof of the Mt Flora Museum, Elvire St Waterman or from one of the towers in the dunes at Whitfords Nodes

Board Surfers. Surf Skis and Wind Surfers

If you are an experienced surfer, you will find North Beach and Little Island can be challenging. Surf ski riders are often found at Mettams Pool and Little Island, Less challenging sites are North Mullaloo and North Sorrento. Watch for rocks and rips and if you are on a patrolled beach never enter the area between the red and yellow flags.

Wind surfers use Mettams Pool, Waterman Beach, Hillarys Beach and Pinnaroo Point

Boating

The offshore reefs provide protected waters ideal for boating and sailing. There are public boat launching ramps at Hillarys Boat Harbour and at Ocean Reef.

All boats and jet skis must stay 200 m or more from shore when travelling faster than 8 knots and anchor outside Sanctuary Zones and seagrass meadows. No boats are allowed at Bovinaboat Reef or between the reef and harbour wall. Boat pens at Hillarys Boat Harbour are arranged with the Dept. of Transport*. Always check expected boating conditions before going to sea. Let someone know where you plan to go and when you expect to return. Whitfords Sea Rescue* should be advised if you expect to go very far offshore.

Water-skiing. There is a designated skiing area north of Pinnaroo Point.

Jet skis may be used but you must obey boating rules.

Yachting. There is a yacht harbour and club at Hillarys Boat Harbour (north side). Yachts can be hired from here for day trips or longer.

