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The Dolphin Interaction Area

Help care for the beach-visiting dolphins and make the most of your interaction:



- Swim only outside the Dolphin Interaction Area.
- Avoid using sunscreen on your legs before entering the water. Sunscreens can irritate dolphin eyes.
- Stand no more than knee deep in the water and wait for the dolphins to approach you.
- Avoid touching the dolphins. Touching discourages them from coming close and can make them aggressive.
- Always follow the Department of Conservation and Land Management Officers' directions.

The beach-visiting dolphins are wild animals and their behaviour is unpredictable.

- Stay away from dolphins that seem agitated as they can bite. Dolphin stress signs include tail slapping, head jerks, loud popping noises and an open mouth with bared teeth. You should leave the water if a dolphin is acting aggressively.
- You will be asked to move out of the water when the dolphins are fishing in the shallows or when a newborn calf up to six weeks of age is in shore.
- Children must be supervised by adults when in the water.
- Pets are prohibited.



Visitor fees

Visitor fees for entry to Monkey Mia Reserve pay for the costs of managing the human-dolphin interaction and maintaining visitor facilities. Fees apply to all including Resort guests.

Park Passes do not apply to Monkey Mia Reserve.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management gratefully acknowledges funding assistance for the new Visitor Centre from the National Tourism Development Program and the Regional Assistance Program.



Further information

Conservation officers at Monkey Mia can provide further information and assistance.

Department of Conservation and Land Management

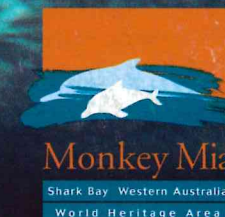
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Monkey Mia Magic



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Managing the magic

Monkey Mia Reserve is managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management to ensure that the dolphins maintain their natural functions and continue to interact with humans.

Dolphin management at Monkey Mia benefits greatly from the work of many research scientists. Dolphin research conducted here is the most comprehensive in the world.

Sustaining the interaction

Several female dolphins are offered small amounts of fresh fish when they swim to the shore.



Dolphin feeding is carefully controlled and dolphins must only be fed under the Department of Conservation and Land Management Officer supervision at the Dolphin Interaction Area.

Feeding times vary between 8am and 1pm, with up to three feeds each day. The dolphins are encouraged to spend their afternoons offshore socialising and foraging for wild food.

- There are many visitors to Monkey Mia but only a few can be chosen to feed the dolphins.
- It is an offence under the Wildlife Conservation Act to feed dolphins in the Shark Bay Marine Park without the Department of Conservation and Land Management Officer supervision.

