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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Below Bungarra (Gould's goanna). Photo - Dana Norman

fees are used to maintain and develop park facilities. box is located at the park entrance off Monkey Mia Road. Your Entrance and camping fees apply. A self-registration fee collection

driving on birridas after rain. (gypsum claypans) which can be boggy when wet. Take care when stay on marked tracks. Some sections traverse large birtidas Be aware of oncoming traffic, drive to the conditions and please deffing bogged or damaging tracks. Reduce tyre pressure to 20psi at the tyre pressure station to avoid suitable for caravans and large boat trailers.

The four-wheel drive tracks are single-lane soft sand. They are not office before driving into the park.

Check track conditions at the Department of Parks and Wildlife Francois Peron National Park. High clearance four-wheel drive is needed to access the rest of

The Peron Heritage Precinct is two-wheel drive accessible.

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also allowed woma pythons to flourish. and malleefowl to the park. Restoration of natural habitats has An ecological restoration project succeeded in returning bilbies

Project Eden

brochure for details. surrounding the park. Please see the Shark Bay Marine Reserves Special rules apply to fishing and other marine activities snapper, bream and kingfish, to name just a few. The waters of Shark Bay Marine Park abound with whiting,

manta rays and sharks. They are best seen from Cape Peron and bottlenose dolphins, dugongs, green and loggerhead turtles, The sea around Peron Peninsula teems with wildlife, including

the tracks of euros, echidnas and native mice are scattered over Mammals are mostly nocturnal and tend to be harder to spot, but bellied sea eagles may be seen riding thermals. common on dry land. Wedge-tailed eagles, osprey and whiteemus, fairy-wrens, scrubwrens, finches and wedgebills are plovers and sandpipers can be seen around the coastline while Migratory and wading birds including godwits, greenshanks,

mulga and woma python. and bearded dragon are abundant. Snakes include the gwardar, thorny devil, racehorse goanna, bobtail skink, knob-tailed gecko Mearly 100 reptile and amphibian species live in Shark Bay. The python, thick-billed grass-wren and mallee towl.

area are home to threatened species including the bilby, woma Francois Peron National Park and the Shark Bay World Heritage

tomato, halgania and his namesake, the hoary dampiera. particularly impressed by the blue-flowering plants, including wild William Dampier collected plants from the region in 1699 and was are not found north of this area. flowering plants from cooler climes, such as hakeas and grevilleas, Red, sandy plains are dominated by desert-adapted acacias while vegetation types found in Francois Peron National Park. desert vegetation of the north and east. The result is two distinct the southern temperate vegetation of the south-west and the

Below left Thick billed grass wren. Photo - Mary Barrett Above Watch out for echidness on the road. Photo

Meeting at Shark Bay are plants of two vegetation provinces -

declared in 1993. Francois Peron National Park was bought by the State Government. station until 1990, when it was managed as a 100,000-hectare sheep visible today. Peron Peninsula was tactory, the remains of which are still It was also the site of a canning pearl shells still litter the beach. established at Herald Bight, where In the late 1880s a pearl camp was



contribution to recording Australia's natural and social history. expeditions. The park bears Péron's name in recognition of his meteorology and zoology during Nicholas Baudin's 1801 and 1803 Péron meticulously documented anthropology, oceanography, of the Malgana people early in the 19th century. François French explorers were the first Europeans to provide reports

Gathaagudu, meaning 'two bays', is the name for Shark Bay. years. Wulyibidi is the Malgana name for Peron Peninsula and of Shark Bay, including the Peron Peninsula for about 25,000 Malgana language speakers have occupied the central part

groups: the Malgana, Mhanda and Yingkarta. Shark Bay is the traditional country of three Aboriginal language

Aboriginal and other Australian heritage

reasons for its heritage listing. coastal scenery and diverse wildlife habitats are among the many The park lies within the Shark Bay World Heritage area and its

World Heritage

spectacular coastal scenery on the Peron Peninsula. lands, rolling sandplains and circular depressions bounded by François Péron National Park covers 52,000ha of arid shrub

François Péron National Park

François Péron

National Park

Take care when diving or snorkelling

- Only dive and snorkel on a slack tide.
- Stay alert for boat traffic.
- Display a dive flag when diving. Dive flags should be at least 750 by 600mm
- It is recommended that a dive flag is displayed when snorkelling more than 200m from the shore.
- Interaction with marine plants and animals is both a privilege and a responsibility. Leave areas as you find them • Make sure your diving gear is secured, not dangling, and be
- Always leave someone on board when diving or snorkelling
- Shark Bay Marine Park is zoned to protect marine life and habitats in certain areas. Please observe regulations for the
- area in which you are diving or snorkelling. • Many marine animals use venom or toxins for catching prey or defending themselves. Some can cause serious harm to people.
- Shipwrecks are protected and the removal of artefacts is prohibited. Please help preserve our maritime heritage by leaving wrecks undisturbed.

Below Fishing at Cape Peron

Enjoy your visit. Look after the park and yourself

There are no water, food, fuel or vehicle services in the park and there is also limited mobile phone coverage.

- Fires are prohibited within François Peron National Park. Please bring gas appliances or use the free gas barbecues provided at most campgrounds
- Heat is a potential safety hazard make sure you take enough drinking water. Allow at least 3L per person per day.
- Do not empty chemicals into toilets as chemicals destroy composting micro-organisms.
- Where there are no toilets, bury human waste at least 30cm deep and 100m from public areas and the water.
- Firearms, weapons and fireworks are not permitted.
- No pets allowed.
- Poisonous stonefish are common around reef areas supervise children at all times, wear reef shoes or sandals to protect your feet and be careful what you pick up.
- If stung by a stonefish immerse affected area in hot water (test it's not too hot with unaffected limb) and seek
- All native wildlife is protected. Leave plants, animals, rocks and shells as you find them.
- Fish bag limits and size restrictions apply. Please check and abide by Department of Fisheries' regulations (www.fish.wa.gov.au). Fisheries officers conduct regular patrols within the park.
- Keep well clear of cliff edges.

Below Herald Bight

- Supervise children at all times.
- There are zones in the Shark Bay Marine Park where recreational activities are restricted. See the Shark Bay Marine Reserves brochure or go to www.sharkbay.org for further information.
- Stow rubbish where wildlife cannot get it and the wind cannot
- Take your rubbish out with you. A bin is provided at the tyre pressure station near the Peron Heritage Precinct.

Boat safely in Shark Bay Marine Park

- Plan your trip well and observe standard safety precautions.
- Always check the weather forecast before you leave.
- Boat according to your skills, experience and the conditions.
- While on the water, keep an eye on the weather and the water at all times. Boats have been swamped and lives lost as a result of unexpected waves.
- Carry the safety equipment relevant to your vessel and enough life jackets for each person on board.
- Ensure your boat is in good working order and has extra fuel.
- Carry enough water, food supplies and sun protection for your trip.
- Let a responsible adult know about your trip, and remember to let them know when you have returned safely.
- Keep at least 50m clear of dive flags.
- Avoid anchoring on fragile corals.



Things to see and do

Peron Heritage Precinct







This precinct offers an insight into what life was like during the pastoral era. Explore the history of the area around the selfguided walk and see how the shearers worked and lived. Enjoy a dip in the hot tub, a popular place to soak in artesian





Launch your boat or kayak near the camp site at Big Lagoon. You may fish in the special purpose zone from the campground towards the sea, but not in the sanctuary zone north of the campground. See the Shark Bay Marine Reserves brochure for

Kraskoe's Tank



Krasker was a one-legged entrepreneur known as Kraskoe who rode his horse from Denham to Herald Bight every week to buy pearls and collect mail. He perished trying to reach this water tank after falling off his horse and breaking his remaining good leg.

Cattle Well



Throw in a line and enjoy the fishing at Cattle Well.



South Gregories





Camp and enjoy the scenery, swimming and fishing. Walk along the beach and inspect the layers of shells partly consolidated into

Gregories







At high tide, snorkel and explore one of the most accessible reef systems within Shark Bay.

Bottle Bay







Cape Peron





You can see a line where ocean and bay waters converge at Cape Peron creating dangerous currents.

Walk to the top of the dune at the start of the Wanamalu trail to soak up the views and striking colours of Péron. From there you can also see many cormorants-known as wanamalu to Malgana people-crowding the water's edge.

Wanamalu trail, 1.5km, 45 minutes one-way



This walk from Cape Peron to Skipjack Point has outstanding views of the coastline and colours of Shark Bay. If you have someone to drive the car and meet you at Skipjack Point, this is an easy short walk. Otherwise it will be a three-kilometre, 1.5-hour return walk. Make sure you protect yourself from the sun, and carry and drink water, especially during the hot summer months.

Skipjack Point



From the lookout at Skipjack Point you may see dolphins, dugongs, turtles, rays, manta rays and sharks cruising in the shallows below the lookout. Remember your binoculars.

Herald Bight







Herald Bight offers shelter from southerly winds. Keep an eye out for the remains of a fish canning factory established in 1933 and converted to a fish freezer in 1938. The freezer was closed in 1947 when a new freezer plant was built in

Below Lookout at Skipjack Point



Drive carefully • Always watch out for wildlife on roads and tracks.

north of Peron Heritage Precinct.

Above Bottle Bay. Photo - Chris McMonagle

• The access road north of the Peron Heritage Precinct is a sandy, single-lane track. Watch for on-coming traffic and drive

• Reduce tyre pressure to at least 20psi (trailers included) to

• A high clearance four-wheel drive is required for the tracks

- negotiate the soft sand tracks. The pressure will vary according to vehicle type and load as well as type of tyre and rim. Unlicensed off-road vehicles (quads, motor bikes) are not
- Remember to inflate tyres when you return to the tyre pressure station near Peron Heritage Precinct. • Drive only on existing vehicle tracks and keep four-wheel drive
- **Below** Halganias on red sand hills. *Photo Mary Barrett*





Information available in alternative formats on request

Front cover Big Lagoon aerial view. Photo – Chris McMonagle

More information

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Above Kraskoe's Tank

Shark Bay District

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www.sharkbay.org

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au











Visitor guide







Right Shearing shed at Peron Heritage Precinct

