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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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visit: parkstaybookings.dbca.wa.gov.au/map For more information about site facilities and activities please

are commercial camping and accommodation facilities at is not permitted within these reserves, although there Park and Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve. Bush camping Visitor facilities are also provided at Shell Beach Conservation

Park (proposed). Park, Dirk Hartog Island National Park and Edel Land National brochures for Monkey Mia Reserve, Francois Peron National visitor facilities and campsites. For more information see the Parks and reserves adjacent to Shark Bay Marine Park have

### Camping and facilities

Island National Park and Edel Land National Park (proposed). the brochures for Francois Peron National Park, Dirk Hartog Carnarvon. For other boat launch and beach access sites see including sealed boat ramps at Denham, Monkey Mia and Boat launch facilities are located throughout Shark Bay,

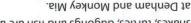
### **Boat launch facilities**

negative impacts on them. dolphins or sea birds as this can create dependency and have as this attracts predators like sharks. Never offer bait or fish to Never discard bait, fish remains or other offal near the shore

Western Australia. You can find these rules at fish.wa.gov.au. Please also make sure you follow the rules for fishing in

guide in this brochure for details. used in all marine park zones. See the map and recreation Marine Nature Reserve. Not all types of fishing gear can be is not permitted in sanctuary zones or in Hamelin Pool Fishing is popular in Shark Bay Marine Park. However, fishing

### Fishing



snakes, turtles, dugongs and fish are also seen from the jetties and Skipjack Point and the boardwalk at Hamelin Pool. Sea You can also view marine wildlife from lookouts at Eagle Bluff

boarding are other ways to enjoy the scenery and wildlife. see marine wildlife. Kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle Boating is popular in Shark Bay, although not the only way to

### Marine wildlife viewing

# Things to see and do

of the area to Aboriginal people. years. This continued use is evidence of the ongoing importance middens were built up over hundreds, sometimes thousands, of reserves, including more than 80 recorded shell middens. These are many significant Aboriginal heritage sites within the marine long history of connection to the land and sea of Shark Bay. There eastern section in Yinggarda Country. Aboriginal people have a the Shark Bay Marine Park is Malgana Sea Country, with the north The Malgana name for Shark Bay is Gathaaguda. The majority of

### Aboriginal connection

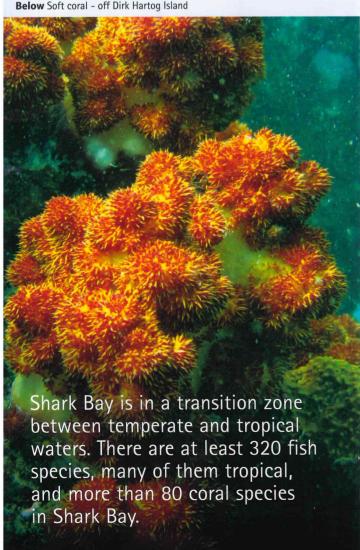
the reasons Shark Bay is World Heritage listed. of seagrasses is so important that these processes are among sediment and building sills that restrict water flow. The work Seagrasses also create unusual salinity gradients by trapping

hundreds of species from molluscs and crustaceans to fish and Shark Bay marine ecosystems. They provide shelter and food for Covering over 4000km², seagrass meadows are the foundation of

### Extraordinary ecosystems



Above Stonefish are venemous and hard to see





### More information

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Parks and Wildlife Service - Shark Bay District Knight Terrace, Denham WA 6537

Phone (08) 9948 2226 Fax (08) 9948 2201 www.sharkbay.org

**Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development - Fisheries** fish.wa.gov.au

**Bureau of Meteorology** bom.gov.au/marine

**Shark Bay Volunteer Marine Rescue** VHF 16, 27Mhz 88







Download the free Emergency+ app before your visit which can be used in the event of any emergency to call for assistance. If there is no mobile phone coverage you WILL NOT be able to call 000 but the app will provide you with GPS location details.



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions epartment of Primary Industries and Regional Development





Photos Holley, Whitelaw, Reinhold, Vasyli, Strydom Front cover: Fish community, Surf Point

Information current at March 2022

their southward migration in spring. huge number of humpback whales visiting the bay during Also noted in the World Heritage values of Shark Bay is the

cockles and a pink snapper unique to Shark Bay. and create environments that favour stromatolites, fragum Extensive seagrass meadows support over 10,000 dugongs

them tropical, and more than 80 coral species in Shark Bay. tropical waters. There are at least 320 fish species, many of Shark Bay is in a transition zone between temperate and

spectacular scenery where the desert meets the sea. baleed internationally for its rich and abundant marine life and Reserve lie within the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, which is Shark Bay Marine Park and Hamelin Pool Marine Nature

### World Heritage

conservation, marine ecology and marine park management. for scientific research and education about marine suorkelling, kayaking, and boat tours. It provides opportunities like whale watching, dolphin viewing, scuba diving, The marine reserve network also supports tourism activities

to historic shipwrecks. grounds, and culturally significant places from Aboriginal sites as schooling sites, nursery areas, spawning and breeding important to commercial and recreational fishers, such network protects key areas and values including assets protected areas along the coast of Western Australia. This Shark Bay's marine reserves are part of a network of marine

### Marine protected areas

tropical and temperate fish species. other invertebrates, together with a mixture of communities of seagrasses, corals, sponges and dugongs, sea snakes and sharks. There are also Marine Park support an abundance of turtles, The many bays, inlets and islands in Shark Bay

Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve. there is much more to Shark Bay Marine Park and them. It is also a popular fishing destination but Mia. People come from all over the world to see for the dolphins that visit the beach at Monkey The marine reserves of Shark Bay are most famous



# Shark Bay marine reserves

Shark Bay Marine Park and Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve





Visitor guide

2022\_175 0322

# **Shark Bay Marine Park zones**

Shark Bay Marine Park is zoned to enable multiple use – recreation, commercial and biodiversity conservation. The location and coordinates of these zones are shown on the map in this brochure alongside the recreation guide, which lists the activities permitted in each zone.

### Sanctuary zones

Sanctuary zones are 'look but don't take' areas managed for nature conservation and appreciation. You may boat, swim and dive in sanctuary zones, but fishing is not permitted.

The Gudrun Wreck Sanctuary Zone is the largest wooden shipwreck found off Western Australia. The Gudrun sank at Shark Bay in 1901 carrying timber from Bunbury to England. It now lies in about six metres of water north of Cape Peron and is inhabited by a rich variety of marine life.

Other sanctuary zones are at Surf Point, Sandy Point, Mary Anne Island, Eighteen Mile, L'haridon Bight, Big Lagoon and Disappointment Reach.

### **Recreation zones**

**Tubeworm** 

Recreation zones are for activities like fishing, diving and swimming. Commercial fishing and activities like aquaculture and pearling are not permitted in recreation zones.

Monkey Mia Recreation Zone has extra measures to protect the visiting dolphins. Motorised water sports, spearfishing, netting and crabbing are not permitted in the recreation zone. Also, no corals, shells, fish or other marine specimens may be collected (alive or dead). Line fishing is one exception and is permitted outside the dolphin experience area.

Little Lagoon and Dubaut Inlet are other recreation zones in Shark Bay.

lied sea snake

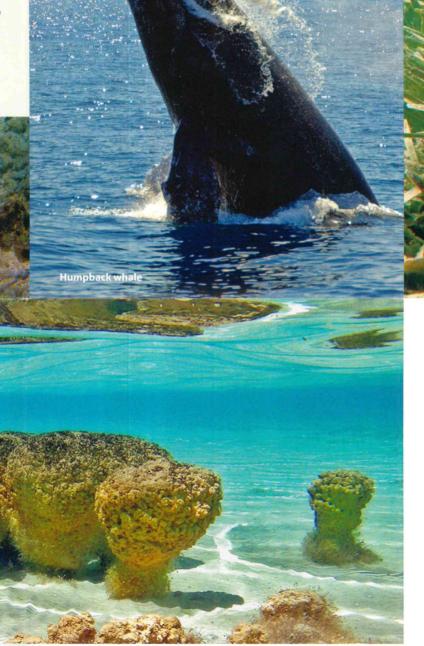
### Special purpose zones

Special purpose zones are areas protected for their high priority conservation values. Only activities compatible with each special purpose are permitted in these zones. The special purpose zones are for:

- wildlife viewing and protection at Cape Peron
- seagrass protection at Wooramel
- dugong protection at Gladstone
- nursery protection at Big Lagoon
- habitat protection in the south of Henri Freycinet Harbour.

#### General use zone

The general use zone is the largest and enables a wide range of commercial and recreational activities, including boating, swimming, diving, fishing, aquaculture and pearling.



### Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve

Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve is a 'look but don't take' area managed solely for conserving internationally significant marine life.

The diversity of cyanobacteria and other microbes in Hamelin Pool rivals the biodiversity of rainforests. They grow in colonies forming microbial mats and microbialites, including stromatolites, which are known as living fossils.

These mats and structures are an important part of Shark Bay's World Heritage listing. They are also fragile and can take hundreds of years to recover if damaged.

### **Protect Hamelin Pool**

- Use the boardwalk and walk trail at Hamelin Pool. Do not walk on the beach below the high tide mark.
- Boating, swimming, diving and snorkelling are not permitted over stromatolites or within 300m of the shore.
- Boat anchoring is not permitted over stromatolites throughout the reserve.
- Do not run boats ashore over marine mats or stromatolites.

## Look after marine wildlife

- Dispose of all litter properly.
- Be especially careful with fishing line and plastics as birds and marine animals can die from eating plastics or becoming entangled in lines, nets and ropes.
- Slow down in your boat if you see turtles or dugongs. Avoid hitting these animals.
- Drive slowly and navigate within marked channels to avoid hitting marine animals.
- If a dolphin approaches you while fishing, please take your line out of the water.
- Do not take a boat within 100m of a dolphin or whale.
- Do not cross seagrass banks at low tide.
- Protect birds by not feeding them or leaving baited lines exposed.
- Current fishing regulations are available from fish.wa.gov.au.
- Observe fishing regulations and fish for a feed, not the freezer.
- Anchor in sand to protect fragile reef, sponge and seagrass
  communities.



Shark Bay

Dugong

- 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 by unexpected waves.
- Carry the safety equipment relevant to your vessel and one life jacket 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.
- Keep at least 50m clear of dive flags.
- · Avoid anchoring close to cliff edges.

# 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. The minimum flag size is 750mm by 600mm.
- It is recommended that a dive flag is displayed when snorkelling more than 200m from the shore.
- Act responsibly when interacting with marine plants and animals.
- Make sure your diving gear is secured, not dangling, and be careful where you kick.
- Always leave someone onboard when diving or snorkelling from a boat.
- 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.

