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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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#### parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au

For more information about site facilities and activities please visit:

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

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

#### Camping and facilities

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

#### Boat launch facilities

create dependency and have adverse effects on their well-being. refrain from offering bait or fish to dolphins or sea birds, as this can offal near the shore as it can attract predators like sharks. Please also To maintain a safe environment avoid discarding bait, fish remains or

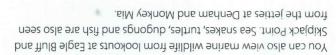
Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve. in all zones and fishing is prohibited in sanctuary zones and in on the map in this guide. Not all types of fishing gear can be used Specific fishing allowances for each marine park zone are outlined

restrictions apply in addition to these rules. are available at fish.wa.gov.au. It is important to note that other the fishing rules for the Gascoyne Coast Bioregion. Current updates Fishing enthusiasts drawn to Shark Bay Marine Park must follow

Above Stonefish are venemous and hard to see

Below Soft coral - off Dirk Hartog Island

#### Fishing



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



# More information

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Parks and Wildlife Service - Shark Bay District

Knight Terrace, Denham WA 6537 Phone (08) 9948 2226

sharkbay.org

dbca.wa.gov.au

**Department of Primary Industries and Regional** 

**Development - Fisheries** 

fish.wa.gov.au

**Bureau of Meteorology** 

bom.gov.au/marine

**Shark Bay Volunteer Marine Rescue** 









#### emergencyplus.com.au

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





Photos - Holley, Whitelaw, Reinhold, Vasyli, Strydom

This document is available in alternative formats on request.

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

Also noted in the World Heritage values of Shark Bay is the

and more than 80 coral species in Shark Bay. waters. There are at least 320 fish species, many of them tropical,

Shark Bay is in a transition zone between temperate and tropical

huge number of humpback whales visiting the bay during their

spectacular scenery where the desert meets the sea. bne elife and abunda bre 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

southward migration in spring.

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

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

#### Marine protected areas

the area's natural and cultural heritage. different zones that you visit and help preserve make sure you know what you can do in the As you explore this remarkable environment, communities of seagrasses, corals and sponges. furtles, dugongs, sea snakes and sharks and and temperate fish species, an abundance of The marine reserves support a mixture of tropical

glimpse into the planet's evolutionary past. of seagrasses and living fossils that offer a endemic species, the world's largest communities natural beauty, diverse ecosystems, rare and Welcome to Shark Bay, a place of exceptional



Shark Bay Marine Park and



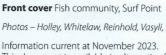
Visitor guide



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zone between temperate and

Shark Bay is in a transition

tropical waters. There are at least 320 fish species, many of

# 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** 

Stromatolites

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.

Bar-bellied 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**

- Due to severe damage from Tropical Cyclone Seroja, the stromatolite viewing boardwalk at Hamelin Pool is unsafe and closed until further notice.
- 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.



## 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 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.

