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Park Notes



Maud Sanctuary

Welcome to Coral Bay and Ningaloo Marine Park.

Ningaloo Marine Park was declared to conserve the natural environment while allowing public enjoyment of the area. To reduce conflict, and provide for a wide range of activities, Ningaloo Marine Park has been divided into management units called zones. Three types of zones are used at Ningaloo:

Sanctuary zones provide special protection for wildlife. Visitors to sanctuary zones can observe the wildlife but no fishing or collecting is permitted.

Recreation zones provide for recreational uses which are consistent with conservation of the environment. Collecting is not permitted but fishing is allowed in accordance with fishing regulations. These are available from CALM and Fisheries Department Officers.

General use zones provide for both recreational and commercial fishing.

There are 8 sanctuary zones within Ningaloo Marine Park. One of them, called Maud Sanctuary, is at Coral Bay so you are well situated to view undisturbed coral reef communities while still having easy access to other zones where recreational fishing is permitted.

Maud Sanctuary extends from the tip of the coral reef which is north of Point Maud down to Monck Head in the south. A small recreation zone, just 100 metres wide, is located between Fletcher Hill and Monck Head to provide for beach fishing. (Refer to the map on the reverse side for details).

For those planning longer trips, Dugong Sanctuary is situated about 25 kilometres north of Coral Bay, while Pelican Sanctuary is situated about 25 kilometres south of Coral Bay.

To ensure the continued preservation of Ningaloo Manne Park we request that you become familiar with the sanctuary zone boundaries (pictured on the reverse side), avoid coral damage by anchoring in sand, and comply with the recreational fishing regulations. With increased numbers of visitors, the beach and waters at Coral Bay are often congested and dangerous. In the long term there are plans to divert boat launching to alternative sites nearby. However, in the interim, we ask for your co-operation by observing the following guidelines;

- Please do not drive along the beach adjacent to the swimming area. Vehicle access is marked by bollards and signs.
- During busy periods when large numbers of boats are present, please reduce congestion by removing your vessel from the water whenever possible.
- Please ensure that your vessel does not block the boat launching area which is marked by brown posts on the beach. This will ensure that a section of beach is always free for launching and removal of boats.
- Please do not allow your vessel to enter the swimming area which is marked by orange buoys. This area has been established for public safety.
- Boat operators should watch out for swimmers and dive flags and give them a wide berth.







