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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Wanting give us the land and sea to protect according to our cultural beliefs and dreaming, we are connected to all living things. We are caretors of our country and are working to protect our traditions, our land and our sea.

As traditional owners of the area we welcome you, and ask you to respect and acknowledge the country and sea that you are travelling through. It is a spiritual and sacred place for Worrorra people.

Worrorra tribe. We are saltwater people who have been living on the Kimberley coast since the dreaming.

"We, Dambimangari, are part of the Wanjina Law and endemic Australian snubfin dolphins frolic in and around the inlets of Augustus Island, Decption Bay, Kurt Bay and Prince Regent River.

- do not walk on the reefs
- be safe when visiting as there are many dangers
- do not take or move cultural objects, like spearheads and stone arrangements
- do not visit burial sites
- show respect and look after saltwater country
- acknowledge Dambimangari as the traditional owners

how visitors can respect Dambimangari saltwater country. Here is some information for future generations. Dambimangari and Wildlife are working towards the same goal: caring for this Lalang-garram saltwater country together to conserve its values for future generations.

Respect Dambimangari saltwater country

Marine park zones help to conserve natural and cultural values and manage human use. Marine park zoning allows for multiple recreational and commercial activities to occur and coexist. The zoning map will help you 'know your zones' and what you can and can't do in each zone.

The marine park covers almost 700,000 ha of remote Kimberley waters. It's about 150km north of Derby and 300km north of Broome, and extends to the limit of State waters, generally three nautical miles offshore, however this distance is greater in some areas. The marine park will help to ensure that tourism is conducted in a culturally sensitive and ecologically sustainable manner.

What you need to know



Be CROCWISE

- Crocs are common
- Crocs move around
- Crocs are deadly

Estuarine crocodiles live in the marine park in relatively high numbers, inhabiting creeks, rivers, tidal areas, along beaches, offshore areas far from the coast, and in both fresh and salt water. There have been several attacks and injuries to people in the Kimberley, even in freshwater pools inland from the coast.

Be safe

Navigational hazards

The large tidal movement in Kimberley waters creates strong currents, whirlpools, submerged rocks and reefs, and murky waters. There are some areas of unsurveyed waters in the marine park. It is advised to have a passage plan organised before departure, taking into consideration tide heights and times. Please ensure you take up-to-date nautical charts on your voyage.

Remoteness

The marine park is very remote, with the closest ports being Broome (300km away) and Derby (150km away). Therefore you will need to have enough fuel, water and food on board to last the distance and in case of an emergency. In the event of a medical or mechanical emergency you may need to organise a helicopter or recovery vessel. You are advised to have an emergency plan in place before visiting the marine park and the appropriate communication equipment on board to deal with this type of emergency, such as a satellite phone and HF / SSB radio.

Traditional owner responsibility for visitors

Through their laws and customs, traditional owners have a responsibility for the safety of visitors to their country and they bear the consequence of accidents and disturbances of sacred places. Visitors need to obtain permission from the traditional owners before accessing these lands and follow the 'Respect Country' guidelines.

Swimming, snorkelling and diving

It is recommended that visitors do not swim, snorkel or dive in the marine park, due to the presence of estuarine crocodiles, sharks, stingrays and strong tidal currents.

The park is home to four of the world's seven species of sawfish, including the threatened green sawfish (*Pristis zijsron*). Sawfish grow very slowly and have few offspring and are fully protected. Six species of marine turtle are found in the marine park, all of which are threatened. Flatback, green, and to a lesser extent Hawksbill and olive ridley turtles nest on the coast and islands. Green and hawksbill turtles forage in the shallow waters of the park while flatback, loggertail, olive ridley and leatherback turtles forage in deeper waters.

Montgomery Reef is an amazing feature of the marine park and is regularly visited by tour boats. The massive 300 km² reef emerges at low tide, with water spectacularly cascading from the reef top, and numerous marine turtles, sea snakes and other marine animals readily seen in the channels. St George Basin is one of the largest remaining mangrove forests on earth. An abundance of species live there including mudskippers, mud crabs, barramundi, mangrove jack, saltwater crocodiles and a wide range of birdlife. Mangrove communities are rich in primary producers, acting as a nursery for many marine species.

Connection to saltwater country and joint management

Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, bottlenose dolphins and cultural practices that have occurred in the area for thousands of years. The park is committed to supporting tourism and recreation in Western Australia's spectacular natural environments by providing operators with up-to-date information, news, and marketing opportunities. All operators with a commercial operations licence are issued with a Commercial Operator Handbook. This legal and informative document must remain in the operator's vessel together with a copy of the licence at all times when in the marine park.

Enjoying the marine park



Camden Sound provides a perfect calving ground for the largest population of humpback whales in the southern hemisphere, which inhabit the marine park in large numbers between June and November. The winter water temperature of Camden Sound is around 28°C – two degrees warmer than surrounding areas and perfect for calves, which lack blubber to keep warm. The variable shoreline, depth and seabed of the sound are thought to provide hiding places for the cows and their calves, protecting them from predators and the aggressive bull humpbacks.

The first marine park on the Kimberley coast

Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park is the first of six marine parks to be established under the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*. 'Lalang-garram' means 'the ocean' and abundance. The name has been chosen by the Dambimangari people and respects the idea of saltwater country without referring to just one place or one part of their traditional country.

The first marine park on the Kimberley coast

Camden Sound is the most important humpback whale nursery in the southern hemisphere. During the winter months newborn calves rest with their mothers in the warm, calm and deep waters of the sound in preparation for their migration south. The marine park is also home to six species of threatened marine turtles, Australian snubfin and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins. These animals live in and around the coral reef communities, dugongs, saltwater crocodiles and several species of sawfish. Rocky shoals, and extensive mangrove forests of this important marine park.

Do I need a park permit or licence?

Most recreational visitors to the marine park will not require a licence. Activities that require a licence include commercial filming and photography, holding an event in the park or scientific research or monitoring.

Do I need a licence to fish in the marine park?

Yes, licences are required for some recreational fishing activities in Western Australia, including in the waters of this marine park. If you plan to fish from a boat powered by a motor, or to use a boat to travel to your fishing destination, you need a Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence. To take any species of rock lobster, including tropical rock lobster, you must hold a rock lobster licence and to use a throw (cast) net, you need a net fishing licence. Make sure you 'know your zones' and fish accordingly. For more information on licences, as well as recreational fishing rules please go to fish.wa.gov.au. It is up to you to know the fishing restrictions that apply to the marine park zones you are visiting. Businesses offering any tours that affect fishery stocks, like fishing tours, mud crabbing and shell collecting, also require a Fishing Tour Operator licence.

All fishing related licences can be obtained from the Department of Fisheries Licensing Branch.

Visitor guide

Department of Parks and Wildlife
Department of Fisheries

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Information current as of August 2016.
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Legend

- Limit of Coastal Waters of the State of Western Australia
- DPaW managed land
- Reef
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road

Marine park boundary and management zoning

- Marine park boundary
- General use zone
- Sanctuary zone
- Special purpose zone (pearling)
- Special purpose zone (whaling conservation)
- Special purpose zone (wilderness conservation)

GDA All coordinates are referenced to the Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994. This map is for illustration purposes and not for navigation. Mapped location of HWM and LWM is approximate only. Waterlines shown on this map do not necessarily depict an exact cadastral boundary.

