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camping on small islands you are displacing birds that feed at sea during the day from their night time roosting sites, impacting on sea eagle/osprey nesting success, reducing access to high tide roost sites for waders, and disrupting incubation activities of nesting birds which exposes their eggs to increased temperatures and higher levels of predation. Impacts of human activities on islands are often not immediately recognised, but ongoing monitoring is showing bird numbers are declining in areas of high disturbance.

Am I allowed to camp on my boat near the islands? Yes. In many cases this is the preferred and only option. Camping on your boat will minimise any disturbance to sensitive island populations and ensure vessel safety when at anchor overnight, as there are no public moorings available. If you do camp on your boat near the islands, please minimise lights at night to reduce disturbance to birds and turtles nesting on the islands.

If I can't camp, can I still go ashore for day visits? Yes. If you go ashore, please refer to the Quarantine Guidelines and Pilbara Islands Code in the Pilbara Inshore Islands Visitor Guide, which will assist you in protecting the island communities and habitat.

Can I visit and/or camp on the Barrow group of islands? No. Barrow Island and surrounding islands are Class A nature reserves and home to oil and gas production facilities managed by Chevron Australia. Public access is prohibited for safety reasons.

What should I do if I see someone doing the wrong thing? Write as much information down as possible, including the location, boat name and registration number and take a photograph if possible. Call your local Parks and Wildlife Service office to report the incident. If it is a fishing-related matter, contact the DPIRD FishWatch hotline on 1800 815 507.



How can I become involved in protecting the islands? Contact your local Parks and Wildlife Service office to determine whether there are any volunteer programs or data collection activities you may be able to help with. If you see anything you think is significant while visiting the islands, record as much information as possible, take photographs and report it to your nearest Parks and Wildlife Service office.



From the top: Loggerhead turtle.
Fire remnants left on the island
Fairy tern nest.
Below: Osprey



Refer to the [Pilbara Inshore Islands Visitor Guide](#) for the [Pilbara Islands Quarantine Guidelines](#) and [Pilbara Islands Code](#).

Pilbara Inshore Islands

Pilbara Inshore Islands Frequently Asked Questions



Where are the Pilbara Inshore Islands? How many are there? How big are they? The Pilbara Inshore Islands are located between Exmouth Gulf and Cape Preston and lie in a chain of 93 individual islands. Most of the islands are small; less than 20 hectares and range up to 2000ha.

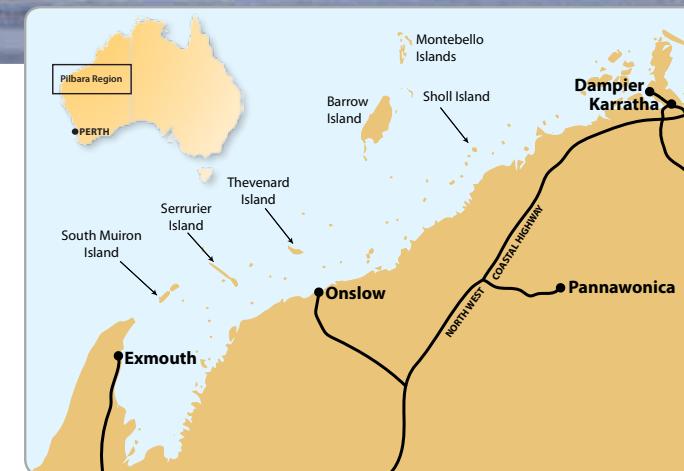
Who manages the islands? The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Parks and Wildlife Service manages the majority of the islands. These are nature reserves which are set aside for protection of wildlife and conservation values. An islands management plan is being drafted and public consultation will commence in the near future. For updates or an opportunity to comment, contact the Parks and Wildlife Service Exmouth office (08) 9947 8000.

Where can I find out more information on specific islands? Parks and Wildlife Service offices at Karratha (08) 9182 2000 or Exmouth (08) 9947 8000, or visit explore.parks.dbca.wa.gov.au/park/pilbara-inshore-islands.

What safety considerations are there for an islands visit? Familiarise yourself with local weather conditions, take the latest nautical charts, calculate distances and times it takes to travel to and from your destination and carry appropriate safety and survival gear aboard your vessel. Due to the remote nature of the islands you should take adequate fuel, food and water, consider limited phone reception and long response times for emergency services and register your trip details with family, friends or a local Sea Search and Rescue organisation prior to leaving.

Is there a boating guide if I launch from Exmouth, Onslow or Karratha? Yes. Please see the Department of Transport website for boating guides for your area.

Right: Gndaroo Island is only 3ha in size.



Day visits to the islands

I want to go ashore, but how do I minimise my impact on the natural values of the islands? Follow the [Quarantine Guidelines](#) and [Pilbara Islands Code](#) in the [Pilbara Inshore Islands Visitor Guide](#).

What are on the islands? What can I expect? There are two major island types – offshore sandy islands and inshore rocky islands. Some islands have a low-lying mangrove fringe. However, low shrubs and low spinifex grassland are predominant vegetation types. Many islands are nature reserves.

Why are they nature reserves? Island nature reserves provide a refuge for significant fauna, flora and habitats from threats found on the mainland. The islands harbour four species of threatened and protected marine turtles: green, loggerhead, flatback and hawksbill, which use island beaches to nest. Large numbers of migratory shorebirds, including several critically endangered species, rely on island habitats to provide food and safe roosting sites. Seabirds nest on many islands during winter and numbers can occur in the thousands. Three priority plant species and a priority ecological community have been found on several islands.

Which are the most suitable islands to visit and why? South Muiron (April–October), Sholl, Thevenard and Serrurier islands are the best for day visits. These islands provide larger areas for recreating and recreational activities have less impact on their natural values.

How do I access the islands? Are there moorings I can use? Or good, safe anchorages? To access the islands, find a channel and use navigation equipment aboard your vessel to safely access the shore. There are no moorings for public use at the islands. Be prepared to search for a sandy area to anchor your vessel. Avoid bird aggregation areas, or beaches where turtle tracks are evident, to come ashore. Know your zones and avoid anchoring in benthic protection zones. Visit the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) website for more information.

Can I have a fire and/or cook while on the islands? Prepare your food before you go, or cook on your boat beforehand. Out-of-control fires pose a major risk to the environment. Fires are not permitted on the island nature reserves. The use of portable gas stoves is okay.

Can I take my pet onto an island? Leave your pets at home, or on your vessel. Dogs chase wildlife causing stress, injury and/or death to native animals. Pets can compete for food and resources of native island communities and cause distress to nesting birds and turtles. Pets can also introduce weeds and disease to the reserves.



Top: Flatback turtle.
Above: Green turtle tracks on Serrurier Island.



1. Pied oystercatcher chick, North Mangrove Island. 2. White-bellied Sea Eagle nest on Airlie Island 3. Crested terns, Bessieres Island

What if I need to go to the toilet while on the island?

Taking a portable toilet is best practice, but if you get caught out, use the sea to relieve yourself, or dig a hole deeper than 30cm and bury your waste.

Can I collect things I find on the islands? Please do not remove anything except rubbish from the islands. If you notice any significant artefacts or middens, take a photo and GPS point if possible, and report it to your local Parks and Wildlife Service office. Your find may be a significant contribution to the documented history of human use on the islands. For more information on historical artefacts please refer to the 'When is rubbish not rubbish' fact sheet at explore.parks.d BCA.wa.gov.au/park/pilbara-inshore-islands

What about beach fishing – can I fish from the shore on the islands? This depends which island you are on. The Muiron Islands and Montebello Islands have restrictions on fishing areas while other islands do not. Please see the Ningaloo Marine Park Sanctuary Zones and Muiron Islands Marine Management Areas zone guide and the Montebello Islands Marine Park brochure.

When considering areas to fish on the shore, avoid areas where nesting birds, bird aggregations and turtles are present and stay close to the low water mark when fishing to avoid nests on the high tide line.

If I want more information about the values of the islands where do I find it?

Please see the [Pilbara Inshore Islands Visitor Information Guide](#).

Camping on islands

Am I allowed to camp on the Islands? If so, where?

Do I need a permit? What will it cost? Camping is not permitted on most island nature reserves. Camping can occur at South Muiron Island between April and October each year (timed to avoid turtle nesting season), but you must apply to DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service for a permit. There is no cost for the permit.

It is recommended that you camp on your boat to minimise any disturbance to sensitive island populations and to ensure vessel safety when at anchor overnight.

Commercial tourism and accommodation opportunities are offered at Wilderness Island near Exmouth and the Mackerel Islands off Onslow – Thevenard Island and Direction Island. Contact them directly for information and bookings.

The Montebello Islands, out of Karratha and 120km west of Dampier, offer remote camping opportunities up to 100m inland of the high water mark on Northwest, Primrose, Bluebell, Crocus, Hermite and the Renewal islands. For more information download the Montebello Islands



Above: Rubbish left behind on islands.
Below: Cultural artefacts on Pilbara Islands.



Marine Park brochure or contact Parks and Wildlife Service Karratha on (08) 9182 2000.

Several day and live-aboard charter boats operate out of Exmouth, Karratha and Onslow. Refer to the local visitor centre for further information.

What can I do to protect the island while camped there? Refer to the [Quarantine Guidelines](#) and [Pilbara Islands Code](#) in the [Pilbara Inshore Islands Visitor Guide](#).

Why can't I camp on other islands? Most of the islands are small and are used by threatened species as a refuge from disturbance or threats present on the mainland. Unnecessary and prolonged disturbance to these species by human activity may cause abandonment of the island as a refuge. Radiation risk from past atomic testing on some of the islands in the Montebellos means camping is to be avoided in these locations.

Other islands have only a small area of beach for vessel access and this area is also where nesting birds breed. By

