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Monkey Mia

Marine and boating guide



Visitor guide



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



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The Shark Bay Marine Park waters around Monkey Mia are fabulous for up-close and personal encounters with marine wildlife. These encounters are exhilarating, but we have a responsibility to look after the animals and their home.

Looking after marine wildlife

If you're going out in a boat there is a good chance you will see dolphins and, if you're fishing, dolphins may approach you. When this happens it's tempting to share your catch with them.

However, even a single feeding event encourages dolphins to beg from boats. This is dangerous for dolphins as they can be critically injured by propellers or become entangled in hooks and fishing nets.

Dolphins can also become dependent on fish handouts. People feeding dolphins disrupts their natural social behaviour and impacts their ability to survive, as the social bonds between dolphins are important in avoiding predation by sharks.

In addition, bait and 'people food' like chips and bread can make dolphins sick. When a mother dolphin is fed too much too often and becomes a 'career beggar', she won't teach her calf essential social and hunting skills, putting the calf at risk of starvation or predation.



Dolphin injury.



Shark Bay Marine Park

Most of Shark Bay Marine Park is zoned for general use but there are zones where certain activities are excluded. Please make sure you know your zones – grab a *Shark Bay marine reserves* brochure or download it from sharkbay.org.

Shark Bay Marine Park is home to the largest and most productive seagrass beds in the world. To help protect seagrass and the marine life that inhabits it, please slow down when boating over seagrass beds.

Fish remains

For the safety of all people using the Monkey Mia recreation zone, never discard bait or fish remains near the shore. Fish cleaning stations are available at the RAC Monkey Mia Resort and in Denham.



Monkey Mia recreation zone


The Monkey Mia recreation zone is a marine park zone extending 800 metres from the Monkey Mia jetty. A 5 knot speed limit applies to vessels traversing this zone.

Activities not permitted in the recreation zone:

- motorised water sports
- spearfishing
- netting
- collecting of coral, shells, specimens (alive or dead)
- aquarium fishing

Activities permitted in the recreation zone but not within the dolphin experience area:

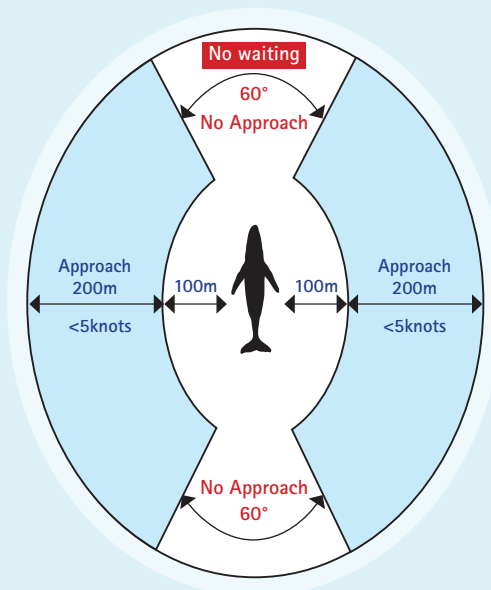
- line fishing
- non-motorised water sports
- diving
- snorkelling

 Dolphin experience area	 Fishing
 Universal access	 No fishing
 Swimming	 Restaurant
 No swimming	 Toilets
 Paddle craft	 Accommodation
 No paddle craft	 Campground
 Boat ramp	 Fuel (card only)
 No boating	 Parking



Boating guidelines

The large number of boats at Monkey Mia day after day can affect animal behaviour and survival over time. This diagram shows how you can enjoy watching marine mammals without putting wildlife at risk by disrupting their rest, nursing, breeding, feeding or sheltering.



Please also:

- 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.
- Observe speed limits within marked channels.
- If a dolphin approaches you while fishing, please take your line out of the water.
- Do not take a boat within 100 metres of a dolphin or whale.
- Do not attempt to swim with dolphins. This can result in mothers and calves becoming separated and leave calves vulnerable to predators.
- Do not cross seagrass banks at low tide.
- Protect birds by not feeding them or leaving baited lines exposed.
- Anchor in sand to protect fragile reef, sponge and seagrass communities.



Fishing regulations

Bag and size limits apply to protect fish stocks throughout Western Australian waters. Please observe fishing regulations and fish for a feed, not the freezer. Details are available at fish.wa.gov.au.

Wildlife regulations

Feeding, touching and swimming with wild dolphins is not permitted throughout Shark Bay under Western Australian legislation.

If you see someone feeding or harassing a dolphin or any other wildlife, please notify a Parks and Wildlife Service officer as soon as possible with as much detail as you can about the incident and offenders.

More information

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Parks and Wildlife Service – Shark Bay District
 63 Knight Terrace, Denham WA 6537
 (08) 9948 2226

Parks and Wildlife Service – Monkey Mia Dolphin Experience
 (08) 9948 1366
dbca.wa.gov.au
sharkbay.org
facebook.com/monkeymiadolphinservice

Marine safety transport.wa.gov.au/imate/boating-safety
 Weather bom.gov.au/marine/

Information current at March 2019.

This document is available in alternative formats on request.
 Photos – DBCA and Stephen Mills



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