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Below Bungarra (Gould's goanna). Photo - Dana Norman

Entrance and camping fees apply. A self-registration fee collection box is located at the park entrance off Monkey Mia Road. Your fees are used to maintain and develop park facilities.

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Be aware of oncoming traffic, drive to the conditions and please stay on marked tracks. Some sections traverse large birridas (gypsum claypans) which can be boggy when wet. Take care when driving on birridas after rain.

Reduce tyre pressure to 20psi (or less) at the tyre pressure station to avoid getting bogged or damaging tracks.

The four-wheel-drive tracks are single-lane soft sand. They are not suitable for caravans or large boat trailers.

Check track conditions at the Parks and Wildlife Service office before driving into the park.

High-clearance four-wheel drive is needed to access the rest of Francois Peron National Park.

The Peron Heritage Precinct is two-wheel-drive accessible. High-clearance four-wheel drive is needed to access the rest

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Project Eden, an ecological restoration project, has succeeded in returning bilbies and malleefowl to the park. Restoration of natural habitats has also allowed woma pythons to flourish.

Project Eden

snapper, bream and kingfish, to name just a few. Special rules apply to fishing and other marine activities surrounding the park. Please see the Shark Bay Marine Reserves brochure for details. Abide by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's regulations in the recreational fishing guide.

The sea around Peron Peninsula teems with wildlife, including bottlenose dolphins, dugongs, green and loggerhead turtles, manta rays and sharks. They are best seen from Cape Peron and Skipjack Point.

Mammals are mostly nocturnal and tend to be harder to spot, but the tracks of euro kangaroos, echidnas and native mice are scattered over the red sand.

Migratory and wading birds including godwits, greenshanks, plovers and sandpipers can be seen around the coastline while emus, fairy-wrens, scrubwrens, finches and wedgebills are common on dry land. Wedge-tailed eagles, osprey and whitebellied sea eagles may be seen riding thermals.

Mearly 100 reptile and amphibian species live in Shark Bay. The thorny devil, racehorse goanna, bobtail skink, knob-tailed gecko and bearded dragon are abundant. Snakes include the gwardar, mulga and woma python.

Francois Peron National Park and the Shark Bay World Heritage Area are home to threatened species including the bilby, woma python, thick-billed grass-wren and malleefowl.

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William Dampier collected plants from the region in 1699 and was particularly impressed by the blue-flowering plants, including wild tomato, halgania and his namesake, the hoary dampiera.

Red, sandy plains are dominated by desert-adapted acacias while flowering plants from cooler climates, such as hakeas and grevilleas, are not found north of this area.

Meeting at Shark Bay are plants of two vegetation provinces the southern temperate vegetation of the south-west and the desert vegetation of the north and east. The result is two distinct vegetation types found in Francois Peron National Park.

Plants

Above Watch out for echidnas on the road. Photo – Rebecca Stanley Below left Thick billed grass wren. Photo – Mary Barrett

where pearl shells still litter the beach. It was also the site of a canning factory, the remains of which are still visible today. Peron 100,000ha sheep station until 1990, when it was bought by the State when it was bought by the State Government. Francois Peron National Park was declared in 1993.



French explorers were the first Europeans to provide reports of the Malgana people early in the 19th century. François Peron meticulously documented anthropology, oceanography, meteorology and zoology during Nicholas Baudin's 1801 and 1803 expeditions. The park bears Peron's name in recognition of his contribution to recording Australia's natural and social history. In the late 1880s a pearl camp was established at Herald Bight,

Malgana language speakers have occupied the central part of Shark Bay, including the Peron Peninsula, for about 25,000 years. Wulyibidi is the Malgana name for Peron Peninsula and Gutharraguda, meaning 'two bays', is the name for Shark Bay. Erench explorers were the first Europeans to provide reports

The national park is the traditional country of the Malgana people.

Aboriginal and other Australian heritage

The park lies within the Shark Bay World Heritage Area and its coastal scenery and diverse wildlife habitats are among the many reasons for its heritage listing.

World Heritage

Francois Peron National Park covers 52,000ha of arid shrublands, rolling sandplains and circular depressions bounded by spectacular coastal scenery on the Peron Peninsula.

Francois Peron National Park

Visitor guide

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PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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Front cover Big Lagoon aerial view. Photo - Chris McMonagle

Information current at October 2020 Available in alternative formats on request WILDLIFE



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. Dive flags should be at least 750mm by 600mm.
- snorkelling more than 200m from the shore.
- Interaction with marine plants and animals is both a
- Make sure your diving gear is secured, not dangling, and be careful where you kick.
- Always leave someone on board when diving or snorkelling from a boat.
- Shark Bay Marine Park is zoned to protect marine life and habitats in certain areas. Please observe regulations for the
- Many marine animals use venom or toxins for catching prey or defending themselves. Some can cause serious harm
- prohibited. Please help preserve our maritime heritage by leaving wrecks undisturbed.

Below Fishing at Cape Peron

Enjoy your visit. Look after the park and yourself

There are no water, food, fuel or vehicle services in the park and mobile phone coverage is limited.

- Fires are prohibited in François Peron National Park. This includes the use of heat beads. Please bring gas appliances
- Heat is a potential safety hazard make sure you take enough drinking water. Allow at least 3L per person per day.
- Do not empty chemicals into toilets as chemicals destroy composting micro-organisms.
- Where there are no toilets, bury human waste at least 30cm deep and 100m from public areas and the water.
- Firearms, weapons and fireworks are not permitted.
- Pets are not permitted in the national park.
- Poisonous stonefish are common around reef areas supervise children at all times, wear reef shoes or sandals to protect your feet and be careful what you pick up.
- If stung by a stonefish immerse affected area in hot water (test it's not too hot with unaffected limb) and seek medical
- All native wildlife is protected. Leave all plants, animals, rocks and shells as you find them.
- Fish bag limits and size restrictions apply. Please check and abide by Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development regulations (dpird.wa.gov.au). Fisheries officers conduct regular patrols within the park.

- There are zones in the Shark Bay Marine Park where recreational activities are restricted. See the Shark Bay Marine Reserves brochure or go to sharkbay.org for further information.
- Keep your rubbish contained away from wildlife and protected from the strong winds.
- Take your rubbish away with you. A bin is provided at the tyre pressure station near the Peron Heritage Precinct.

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 have been lost as a result of unexpected waves.
- Carry the safety equipment relevant to your vessel and enough life jackets 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
- Let a responsible adult know about your trip, and remember to let them know when you have returned safely.
- Keep at least 50m clear of dive flags.
- Avoid anchoring on fragile corals.



Things to see and do

walk and see how the shearers worked and lived.

This precinct offers an insight into what life was like during the

Enjoy a dip in the hot tub, a popular place to soak in artesian

pastoral era. Explore the history of the area around the self-guided

Soak up spectacular scenery while picnicking or camping at Big Lagoon.

Bring a kayak, stand-up paddle board, or other small craft and enjoy

sights from the water. You may fish in the special purpose zone from the campground towards the sea, but not in the sanctuary zone north

of the campground. See the Shark Bay Marine Reserves brochure for

Krasker was a one-legged entrepreneur who rode his horse from

Denham to Herald Bight every week to buy pearls and collect mail.

He perished trying to reach this water tank after falling off his

horse and breaking his remaining good leg.

Peron Heritage Precinct

South Gregories

Below Herald Bight











Camp and enjoy the scenery, swimming and fishing. Walk along the beach and inspect the layers of shells partly consolidated into rock. You can also launch small boats here over very soft sand.

Gregories













At high tide snorkel and explore one of the most accessible reef systems within Shark Bay. Great camp sites, picnicking and scenery within easy reach of the beach.

Bottle Bay













Enjoy camping with easy access to swimming, fishing and walks along the beach. You can also launch small boats here over very

Cape Peron













See the line where ocean and bay waters converge at Cape Peron and enjoy a picnic with a view. Beware of the dangerous currents

Walk to the top of the dune at the start of the Wanamalu Trail to soak up the views and striking colours of Peron. From there you can also see many cormorants (known as wanamalu to Malgana people)-crowding the water's edge.

Wanamalu Trail, 1.5km, 45 minutes one-way



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This walk from Cape Peron to Skipjack Point has outstanding views of the coastline and colours of Shark Bay. If you have someone to drive the car and meet you at Skipjack Point, this is an easy short walk although the sand is soft. Otherwise it will be a 3km, 1.5hour return walk. Make sure you protect yourself from the sun, and keep hydrated, especially during the hot summer months.

Skipjack Point







It's just a five-minute walk from the carpark to the lookouts at Skipjack Point where you may see dolphins, dugongs, turtles, stingrays, manta rays and sharks cruising in the shallows below the lookout. Remember your binoculars.

Herald Bight













Located on the eastern side of the peninsula, the long crescent beach at Herald Bight offers informal beach camping sheltered from south-westerly winds.

Keep an eye out for the remains of a fish canning factory established in 1933 and converted to a fish freezer in 1938. The freezer was closed in 1947 when a new freezer plant was built in Denham. You can launch small boats here over very soft sand.

Below Lookout at Skipjack Point



Cattle Well

Kraskoes Tank



waters.

details

Big Lagoon



Throw in a line and enjoy the fishing at Cattle Well.









Above A four-wheel-drive vehicle bogged at Herald Bight.

Four-wheel driving in Shark Bay

Only high-clearance four-wheel-drive vehicles with low range capability can safely traverse the soft sandy tracks in Shark Bay. All-wheel-drive vehicles are not suitable.

Reduce tyre pressure

Prepare for driving on soft sand by deflating your vehicle's tyres. If you are towing, also deflate your trailer tyres. Reduce tyre pressure to 20psi (140KPa or 1.4 bar) or less if required. Lower driving speeds are essential when driving with deflated tyres. Remember to reinflate your tyres when returning to

Engage four-wheel drive

Make sure four-wheel drive is engaged at all times on sandy tracks. Some vehicles have hubs on the front wheels that need to be locked for four-wheel drive to be engaged. Use H4 and only switch to low range if you get bogged.

If you are not familiar with the vehicle you are driving, check its instructions for engaging four-wheel drive.

If you get stuck

two-wheel-drive roads.

- Check the vehicle is in four-wheel drive. Ensure wheel hubs are locked and the underbody is clear of the sand.
- Reverse over your tracks. If this doesn't work immediately, deflate your tyres a little more.
- You can deflate tyres to 15psi (100KPa or 1.1 bar) if necessary without problems in soft sand but reinflate to 20psi once the vehicle is free.
- If the vehicle becomes stuck deep in the sand, dig a path for each tyre and drive out.
- If you cannot get out, contact Shark Bay Towing on 0428 481 141 or Outback Coast Towing on 0427 333 590 (service fee applies).

Never leave your vehicle to get help, especially in hot weather.

Driving on sand and clay pans

Most of the four-wheel-drive tracks in Shark Bay are singlelane, soft sand. Be aware of oncoming traffic, especially when approaching bends and corners.

When you see a vehicle coming towards you slow down and prepare to pull over to the side. Brake gently and come to a rolling stop – avoid sudden braking.

Clay pans are treacherous when wet. Stay on the main track to avoid getting bogged.

In summer, the sand gets extremely hot and softer than normal.

Emergency contact

Mobile telephone coverage is limited or non-existent in most fourwheel-drive areas. In a life threatening situation call 000. If you can only get enough signal for an SMS, text the SES on 0417 097 330.







Download the free Emergency+ app before your visit which can be used in the event of any emergency to call for assistance. If there is no mobile phone coverage you WILL NOT be able to call 000 but the app will provide you with GPS location details.

Below Give way to oncoming traffic and beware of blind bends.