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Conservation and Attractions

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BOATING, FISHING, SWIMMING

Fish bite all the year round. They include whiting, bream, kingfish and crabs. Special rules apply to fishing in Shark Bay. Please check appropriate Fisheries and Marine Park brochures before going fishing.

Dinghies can be launched from the beach at Big Lagoon, Gregories, Bottle Bay and Herald Bight.

Remember, Shark Bay is in sub-tropical waters, and poisonous animals, such as stonefish, are common. Be aware of these dangers.

CLIFFS

The cliff area at Cape Peron is undercut and unstable and should be approached with caution. Be wary of crumbling edges and strong winds. Your safety is our concern but your responsibility.

Stay well back from cliff edges at all times.

BIRRIDAS (SALT PANS)

Vehicles will get bogged if they stray from existing tracks and attempt to cross salt pans. The geological structure consists of a thin surface crust over a bog mire, which is caused by groundwaters.

Degradation also occurs from vehicle tracks, and the birrida's samphire and other salt-tolerant vegetation is difficult to rehabilitate.

FURTHER INFORMATION

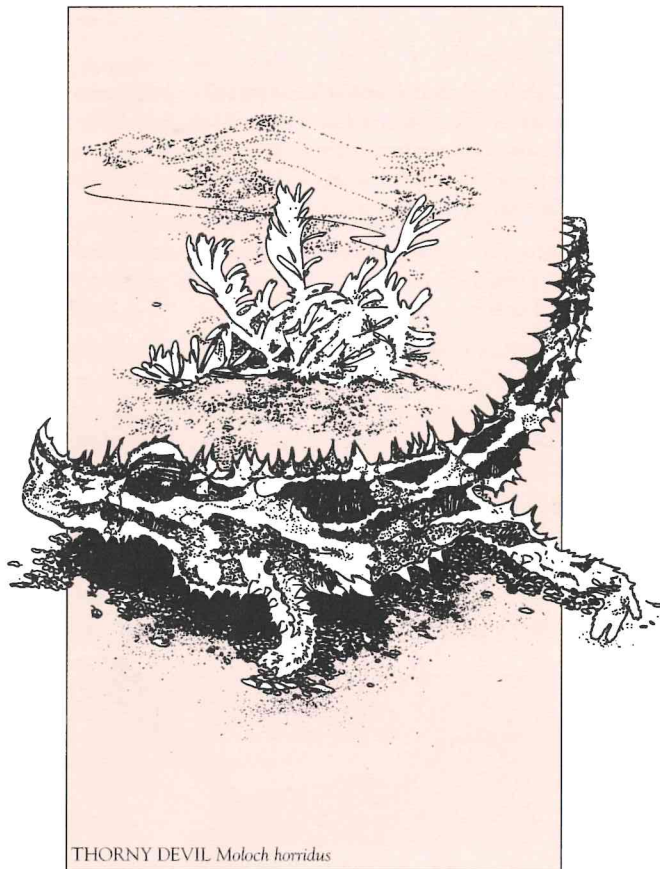
Department of Conservation and Land
Management District Office
67 Knight Terrace
Denham WA 6573
Phone: (08) 9948 1208

Ranger In Charge
Capewell Drive
Denham 6537
Phone: (08) 9948 1076

Website: www.sharkbay.org

FRANÇOIS PERON

National Park



THORNY DEVIL *Moloch horridus*



FRANÇOIS PERON NATIONAL PARK

François Peron National Park is named after the French naturalist who visited Shark Bay with the *Géographe* expedition in 1801 and 1803. In his journals Péron describes the wildlife he collected, the Aboriginal people he encountered, and their dwellings at Cape Peron.

Developed in the late 1880s, Peron Peninsula was managed as a sheep station until bought by the State Government in 1990. Today, Peron homestead offers visitors a taste of what life was like during the pastoral era.

In the late 1800s a pearling camp was established at Herald Bight, where old pearl shells still litter the beach.

The Park protects rare wildlife, spectacular coastal scenery and arid shrublands, and offers visitors a wilderness experience. It covers about 40,000 ha of undulating sandy plains interspersed by gypsum claypans known as birridas.

Most birridas were landlocked saline lakes when sea levels were much higher than at present, and gypsum was deposited on the lake floors. Where the sea has access to the claypans, such as at Big and Little Lagoons, shallow inland bays are created.



THICK-BILLED GRASSWREN *Amytornis textilis*

WILDLIFE

PLANTS

Two distinct arid-vegetation types are found in the Park.

Wattles dominate the red sandy plains and are typical of the region. Hakeas and grevilleas, flowering plants of the south-west, reach their most northern range at Peron Peninsula.

One of the most striking and abundant flowers is the Shark Bay daisy, a creeper that grows over shrubs and covers them in purple daisies.

Navigator William Dampier (1699) was impressed by the area's blue flowering plants, species such as *Dampiera*, the wild tomato bushes and halganias.

Along with white myrtle, yellow wattles and purple peas, they form a colourful display in spring.



WHITE-WINGED FAIRY WREN *Malurus leucopterus*

ANIMALS

A variety of seabirds and land birds are found on Peron Peninsula, including fairywrens, scrubwrens, finches and wedgebills. The threatened thick-billed grasswren was once widespread on the mainland, but is now restricted to a small area that includes François Peron National Park.

Visitors can see tracks of euros and other small wallabies, small rodents and lizards everywhere. Thorny devils are abundant and several snake species, such as the gwardar and mulga, can be found.

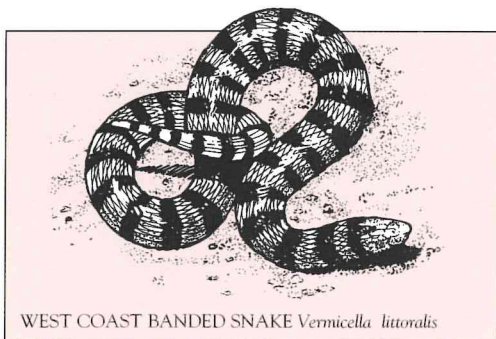
From the cliffs at Cape Peron visitors may see bottlenose dolphins playing, dugongs feeding, green and loggerhead turtles surfacing for air, and large manta rays gliding past.

PROJECT EDEN

Project Eden is one of the State's most significant conservation projects with much of the project taking place in the National Park.

Significant progress has been made to remove feral animals. Breeding and re-introductions have seen the return of threatened species such as the mallee fowl, woylie, banded hare, wallaby and mala.

The feral animal control program includes regular distribution of dried meat baits treated with 1080 poison throughout the Park. Native wildlife has a high tolerance for 1080 but the baits are lethal to feral animals and domestic cats and dogs so please don't bring your pets into the National Park.



WEST COAST BANDED SNAKE *Vermicella littoralis*

VISITOR INFORMATION

ACCESS

Access to the Park is from the Monkey Mia Road, about four kilometres east of Denham.

The road to the Peron homestead is suitable for two-wheel drive vehicles but is subject to inundation with drifting sand. Please check with the Department of Conservation and Land Management office before entering. A four-wheel-drive vehicle is necessary for travel further north into the park. Low clearance four-wheel-drives are not suitable for the Peninsula. Follow the signs and stay on the roads.

Many old station tracks are being revegetated and some are for management purposes only.

FEES

Camping and entrance fees apply to visitors.

A visitor fee collection box is located at the Park entrance where you turn off Monkey Mia Road. Your entrance fees are used to maintain and develop the park.

CAMPING

Camping areas are located at Big Lagoon, Gregories, South Gregories, Bottle Bay and Herald Bight. Only limited facilities are provided. No provision is made for caravans.

Carry all of your rubbish with you when leaving the park. To protect plants and animals, firearms and pets are not allowed.

FIRES

Wood burning fires of any kind are not permitted in François Peron National Park. Gas barbecues are supplied at camp sites.

WATER

Drinking water is not available in François Peron National Park. Always carry your own supplies.














FRANÇOIS PERON NATIONAL PARK

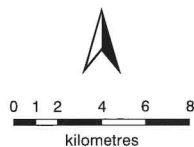
DANGER!
CLIFF EDGES
ARE
HAZARDOUS

WARNING!
BIRRIDAS ARE
UNSAFE
TO DRIVE ON
BOGGING
WILL OCCUR

**CARRY
DRINKING
WATER**

LEGEND

-  National Park
-  Sealed Road
-  Unsealed Road
-  4WD only
-  Birridas
-  Beach Fishing
-  Beach Launching
-  Camping
-  Historic Site
-  Lighthouse
-  Scenic View
-  Walking
-  Entrance Fee



MARINE PARK

All waters surrounding the Peron Peninsula are part of the Shark Bay Marine Park. Special rules apply to fishing and other recreation. Please obtain a copy of the Marine Park brochure for details of allowed activities.

