



Yawuru Conservation Estate

From turquoise waters and sandy beaches, across pindan plains to biodiverse mudflats and mangroves, you can explore the rich cultural and environmental values on offer across the Yawuru Conservation Estate. Surrounding the picturesque town of Broome, there is truly something for everyone.

In Australia's tropical Kimberley region, on Yawuru country, lies a unique and diverse set of jointly managed parks, the Yawuru Conservation Estate. The area boasts dynamic lightning storms and warm tropical rains in Man-gala (the wet season, November to February), and picture-perfect days through Barrgana (the dry season, June to August).

Covering approximately 100,000 hectares of land and waters on Yawuru country, the Yawuru Conservation Estate

comprises four jointly managed parks. These parks share cultural, environmental and recreational values and are managed holistically across the landscape.

LIVING CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

For thousands of years Yawuru people have lived along the foreshore of Roebuck Bay, across the pindan plains and along the fringes of the Great Sandy Desert. Yawuru people have continued their strong connection to country for generations and champion the protection and future of conservation areas in and around Broome.

The Yawuru Conservation Estate parks were created following the Yawuru Native Title Determination in 2006 and subsequent

Indigenous Land Use Agreements in 2010. The parks provide for the longheld aspirations of Yawuru people to continue looking after their lands and waters sustainably for future generations. These aspirations are shared by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Parks and Wildlife Service and the Shire of Broome. The parks also sit within the Yawuru Indigenous Protected Area.

WET YOUR FEET

The Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park contains some of the most productive tropical intertidal flats in the world, making it very important for Yawuru fishing, hunting and gathering seafood.

Above Bird life on the shores of Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay.
Photo – Tourism WA



JOINT MANAGEMENT

The Yawuru Conservation Estate is made up of four different parks, managed holistically and collaboratively across three organisations. The parks are:

Guniyan Binba Conservation Park

The intertidal area of north Cable Beach and Willie Creek, jointly vested with Yawuru, the Shire of Broome and DBCA.

Yawuru Birragun Conservation Park

The lands adjacent to Willie Creek and Roebuck Bay, jointly vested with Yawuru and DBCA.

Yawuru Minyirr Buru Conservation Park

The lands within the Broome townsite including Minyirr Park jointly vested with Yawuru and the Shire of Broome.

Yawuru Nagulagun/ Roebuck Bay

Marine Park The intertidal and subtidal areas of Roebuck Bay jointly vested with Yawuru and DBCA.

Top left Painting representing Yawuru country and displayed on park signage.
Image courtesy Yawuru artist Martha Lee

Top Throwing netting in the shallows.
Photo – DBCA

Above left Snubfin dolphins.
Photo – Alex Brown

It also offers a wealth of recreation opportunities for visitors and locals alike.

Visitors can watch the sunrise over the bay while migratory and resident shorebirds feed on invertebrates in the mudflats, observe dugong feeding trails along the exposed seagrass meadows and walk in the footprints of dinosaurs.

Fishing is a popular pastime in Yawuru Nagulagun, with a variety of sea country to access, including mangrove-lined creeks and more open water. While recreating along Yawuru Nagulagun, we remind people the Kimberley is crocodile country and you may encounter estuarine crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*), particularly in the creek systems. Crocodiles are common, they move around, and they can be deadly so always be 'CROCWISE'.

SUNSET VIEWS

A popular activity in Yawuru Minyirr Buru Conservation Park is exploring the walk trails through the Monsoonal Vine Thickets, a Threatened Ecological Community, and across from Cable Beach. The Minyirr Trail extends approximately

four kilometres from the Broome Surf Club south to Minyirr Park Base Camp. This trail winds through yaminyari, or gubinge, trees (*Terminalia ferdinandiana*) that produce a small, green fruit high in vitamin C, past min min (*Crotalaria cunninghamii*) with delicate birdflowers that can also be sucked for the nectar.

Along the Minyirr Trail are seven Nagula (saltwater) trails that traverse over the dunes to access Cable Beach. Each trail is named after an animal found in the area, including Wandanyjirr (sea snake), Yari (humpback whale) and Gurlibil (turtle). The Birndany (stingray) Trail takes you to a viewing platform perfect for watching the sunset over the iconic Cable Beach.

Even in Barrgana, the coolest season in Broome, it is important to wear sturdy shoes and bring water when walking through the parks.

SIX SEASONS

Yawuru country is rich in biodiversity and Yawuru people have a deep understanding of the flora, fauna, landscape, seasons and cycles that make

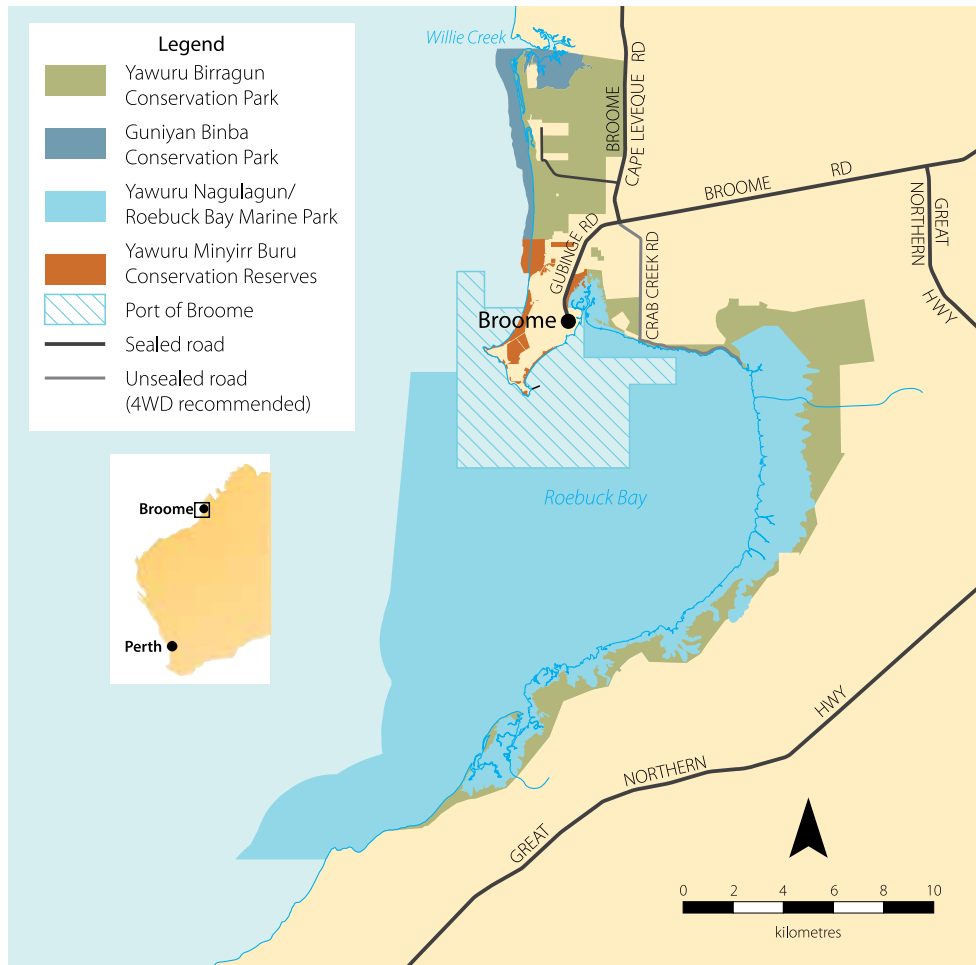


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Yawuru Conservation
Estate

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Parks for people Yawuru Conservation Estate



up their country. As you explore the variety of landscapes on Yawuru country you will notice different plants and animals at different times of year. Yawuru people recognise six seasons, with each season providing different weather patterns, bush food, medicine and resources.

As the days chill in the southern parts of Australia, there is a shift in the north. From June to August, the Yawuru Conservation Estate experiences the season of Barrgana. Barrgana is typified by strong, dry south-easterly winds, average daytime temperatures around 30 degrees Celsius with night-time temperatures cooling to about 15 degrees Celsius. This season typically brings low humidity, bright blue skies, clear nights and is the most popular time for visitors.

During Barrgana you can observe yari, also known as humpback whales (*Megaptera novaengliae*) migrating north, past Cable Beach, to breeding grounds around the Lalang-gaddam marine parks.

The Walga-walga (*bluenose salmon*) is fat and a sought-out species for fishing. The vibrant jigily tree, also known as the jigal tree, (*Bauhinia cunninghamii*) is flowering and producing a sweet nectar and the badar-badar (*Mallotus nesophilus*) is fruiting with edible berries.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Many of the key species that occur across the Yawuru parks have research and monitoring programs underway. Several of these offer opportunities for the public to participate, including the Broome Community Seagrass Monitoring Program, Cable Beach Community Turtle Monitoring Program and shorebird monitoring with the Broome Bird Observatory to name a few. Members of the public are encouraged to report sightings of snubfin dolphins through the Marine Fauna Sightings app and there is a 'fin book' available to help identify individual snubfin dolphins in the area.

Top View from the Birndany viewing platform in Yawuru Minyirr Buru.

Above Yawuru ranger monitoring shorebirds. Photos – DBCA

Do it yourself

Where is it? Surrounding Broome, the Yawuru Conservation Estate extends to the north, east, west and south of the town.

Total area: Approximately 100,000 hectares.

Recreational activities: Walking, sightseeing, photography, nature observation and bird watching, fishing, boating.

Nearest Parks and Wildlife Service office
Broome
111 Herbert St
Broome, WA, 6725
(08) 9195 5500