

# Ningaloo Coast

## World Heritage Area



Visitor guide



Department of **Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions**



**PARKS AND  
WILDLIFE  
SERVICE**



**NINGALOO COAST**

WORLD HERITAGE



*"What's there now is a rugged and beautiful wilderness. People come from all over the world to see it. After all, how many places can you go to where you can swim with a whale shark, a placid animal the size of a bus covered in brilliant dots like an Aboriginal painting. The same day you can be circled by manta rays that roll and swerve like enormous underwater birds. If you're lucky you'll see a dugong, the shy and vulnerable creature of the seagrass meadows. There'll be turtles, of course. I've seen them hatch and waddle down to the water with sky pink as the desert beyond. There'll be more coral than you've ever seen in your life. If you're keen enough you can see the coral spawn like a tropical blizzard. As you can see, I love the place. It has been left to us to experience, to look after, to pass on to our children and their children."*

Tim Winton, [Ningaloo Reef Rally speech, Fremantle, December 2002]

**Cover** Aerial view of Ningaloo. **This page** Turquoise Bay.

# Contents

## General information

Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area	4	Ningaloo Marine Park sanctuary zones map	see insert
Cultural heritage	7	More information	60
Planning your visit to the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area	8	Emergency contacts	60
Cape Range National Park map	see insert		

## Marine information

Ningaloo Marine Park and Muiron Islands Marine Management Area	10	Public moorings in Ningaloo Marine Park	23
Ningaloo Commonwealth Marine Reserve	11	Whale sharks along the Ningaloo Coast	24
Fishing and sanctuary along the Ningaloo Coast	12	Whale shark interaction code for vessels	24
Zone guide	13	Whale shark interaction code for swimmers	25
Spearfishing along the Ningaloo Coast	15	Whales along the Ningaloo Coast	26
Snorkelling along the Ningaloo Coast	17	Whale watching code of conduct	27
Turquoise Bay snorkelling	17	Dolphins along the Ningaloo Coast	28
Lakeside snorkelling	18	Turtles along the Ningaloo Coast	29
Oyster Stacks snorkelling	18	Turtle watching code of conduct	31
Kayaking along the Ningaloo Coast	20	Fish of the Ningaloo Coast	32
Boating along the Ningaloo Coast	22		

## Land information

Cape Range National Park	34	Wildlife of the Ningaloo Coast	30
Camping in Cape Range National Park	35	Common birds of the Ningaloo Coast	49
Walking in Cape Range National Park	37	Sharing the shores of the Ningaloo Coast	53
Camping along the Ningaloo Coast	43	Plants of the Ningaloo Coast	56
Driving along the Ningaloo Coast	44		

# Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area



As individuals, we have a responsibility to be guardians of the Ningaloo Coast so future generations can experience the wonder, and to ensure biologically important habitats, plants and animals are protected.

**Above** The striking contrast of Cape Range and Ningaloo reef.

The Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area covers 6045km<sup>2</sup> and stretches more than 300km along the coast. The area encompasses the Muiron Islands and the Marine Management Area to the north, Bundegi and Jurabi coastal parks at the tip of the Cape, Ningaloo Marine Park and adjoining Ningaloo Commonwealth Marine Reserve (which extends up to 22km offshore), Cape Range National Park, including Shothole and Charles Knife canyons on the eastern side and to the south Learmonth Air Weapons Range.

The Ningaloo Coast was inscribed on the World Heritage List 24 June 2011 in recognition of its Outstanding Universal Value under the following World Heritage criteria:

- (vii) superlative natural phenomena and areas of exceptional natural beauty;
- (x) significant natural habitats for the conservation of biological diversity, including threatened species.

World Heritage status is awarded by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee to sites that are deemed to possess 'Outstanding Universal Value'. This means cultural and/or natural significance so exceptional that it transcends national boundaries and is of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.

World Heritage listing brings with it an obligation to ensure the Outstanding Universal Value of the area is conserved. The Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area is managed by various Federal, State and local government bodies in collaboration with traditional owners, scientists, local businesses, volunteers and the community. The laws, regulations and plans for each land tenure continue to guide management and decision-making in the area.

# Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area

Key values of the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area:

## Exceptional natural beauty

- The stark and striking contrast of the rugged, arid Cape Range, the sparkling white beaches and the clear, turquoise colours and underwater scenery of Ningaloo reef.
- The proximity of Ningaloo reef to an arid continental coast distinguishes it from most reefs in the world which are found associated with wet tropical rainforest.

## Coastal and marine habitats

- The rare mix of intact, diverse and large-scale terrestrial, coastal and marine habitats form an incredible interconnected ecosystem.
- Habitats include the deep sea, continental shelf, slope and coral reef communities of Ningaloo reef; coastal, island and estuarine habitats; and the rugged gorges, wave cut limestone escarpments, terraces, caves and subterranean waters of the Cape Range karst system.

## Ningaloo reef biodiversity

- One of the longest and most pristine fringing reefs in the world. Ningaloo reef has an unusually narrow continental shelf. The deep oceanic waters, reef and coastline communities are in close proximity resulting in a huge array of internationally significant and healthy marine life coexisting in one area.
- Over 200 coral; 500 fish; 650 mollusc; 600 crustacean; 1000 marine algae; 155 sponge and 25 echinoderm species are found on the shelf, slope and in deep sea habitats, many of which are new discoveries.

## Whale sharks

- One of the largest, most reliable and best managed whale shark aggregations in the world. An estimated 300-500 whale sharks make their way to Ningaloo annually around the time of the mass coral spawning event and seasonal nutrient upwellings.
- Eighty-five per cent of the whale sharks that visit Ningaloo are juvenile males (average size of 5m).

## Mega marine life

- Globally important and threatened mega marine life found here include whales, dolphins, manta rays, dugongs, orcas, sharks, turtles and large fish such as tuna and billfish.
- The Ningaloo Coast is a migratory route for humpback and other whales. The Exmouth Gulf is a key humpback whale nursery with the highest density in the southern hemisphere.

**Below** The rugged gorges and wave cut limestone escarpments of Cape Range.



# Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area

## Turtle nesting

- The Ningaloo Coast is one of the most important turtle nesting rookeries in the Indian Ocean. Three of the world's seven species of marine turtle mate in the shallows and nest along the Ningaloo Coast: the endangered loggerhead turtle; the vulnerable green turtle and the vulnerable hawksbill turtle.
- The coastline provides a long stretch of undisturbed beach suitable for nesting.

## Cape Range plants and animals

- Cape Range is a biogeographic transition zone between the tropic, temperate and desert regions, resulting in an exceptionally high diversity of plants, birds and reptiles, a high proportion of which are found nowhere else in the world.
- Reptile species include; Exmouth spiny-tailed gecko, western netted dragon and west coast banded snake.
- The area hosts eucalypt woodlands, acacia scrublands and spinifex grasslands. There are over 630 plant species on the range including the endemic Yardie morning glory (*Ipomoea yardiensis*).

## Cape Range karst system

- Under the Cape Range Peninsula lies a complex limestone karst system that is home to a high diversity of unique subterranean fauna. A total of 535 caves up to 100m deep and interconnected across 6km have been recorded within the area.
- Over 80 species of subterranean fauna inhabit these caves with the majority found only within this area. Many display a high level of adaptation to cave life and are pale and have no eyes, for example.

**Below** The blind cave gudgeon (*Milyeringa veritas*) is endemic to Cape Range. *Photo – Douglas Elford, Western Australian Museum.*



# Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area



**Left** Point Cloates Lighthouse. **Right** The Mandu Mandu necklace found in Mandu Mandu Gorge, Cape Range National Park, within the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area dates back to at least 30,000 years.

## Cultural heritage

The Ningaloo Coast is culturally significant. Aboriginal people have a cultural connection with the Cape Range Peninsula spanning 30,000 years.

Many historical remains have been found along the Ningaloo Coast including middens (mounds of shells and other remains), fish traps, burial grounds and one of the world's oldest pieces of jewellery - the 30,000-year-old 'Mandu Mandu' shell necklace.

The Gnulli native title claim was registered in 1997 in order to pursue formal recognition of the ongoing connection of Baiyungu, Thalanyji and Yinikurtira people to the Ningaloo Coast.

The Ningaloo Coast also has a significant maritime history from explorers, traders, pearl luggers, whaling and fishing. Due to the treacherous coastline, it is a graveyard for many ships.

# Planning your visit to Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area

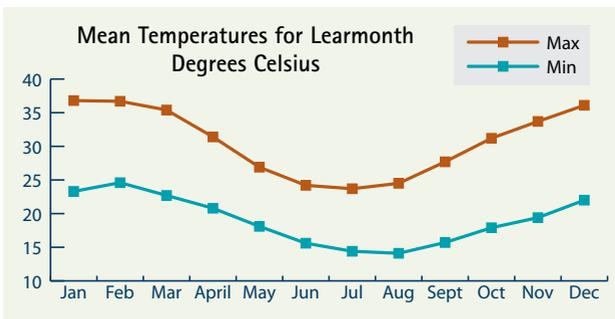


**Above** Entrance to the Milyering Discovery Centre.

There are daily commercial flights to and from Learmonth Airport (37km south of Exmouth). Coaches and commercial tour groups service Exmouth and Coral Bay. Visitors planning to drive to the Ningaloo Coast should be cautious when travelling after sunset, as the large number of kangaroos and other animals makes driving hazardous.

## Comfort and safety

The Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area is in the hot and arid tropics of north-west Australia where summer temperatures often exceed 45°C. Most visitors prefer to come during the winter months when temperatures range from the low 20's to the low 30's.



Creeks entering the Ningaloo Coast rarely flow and visitors need to carry drinking water. Hot dry weather dehydrates your body quickly, so always carry plenty. Although the cloudless skies are a delight, the low rainfall supports very few trees and shade is scarce.

Protect yourself from the sun, both in and out of the water. Remember to always wear sunscreen and a hat.

Take adequate fuel when driving and boating – fuel can only be obtained at Exmouth, Carnarvon and Coral Bay, some distance from the park.

When boating, swimming or snorkelling, keep in mind that ocean conditions can become hazardous quickly, especially near gaps in the reef. If in doubt, don't go out.

# Planning your visit to Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area

Tropical cyclones are occasionally experienced between November and April and summer visitors are advised to listen for cyclone warnings.

For more safety information see page 17 (snorkelling), page 20 (kayaking), page 22 (boating), page 44 (four-wheel driving) and page 37 (walking).

## Services and facilities

**Exmouth** has caravan parks and other accommodation, as well as shops, entertainment and a range of services including limited banking, a post office, hospital and police station. Contact the Exmouth Visitor Centre for more information on (08) 9949 1176.

**Coral Bay** has caravan parks, chalets, a hotel/motel and a range of other accommodation. Public telephones, fuel, food and other supplies are also available.

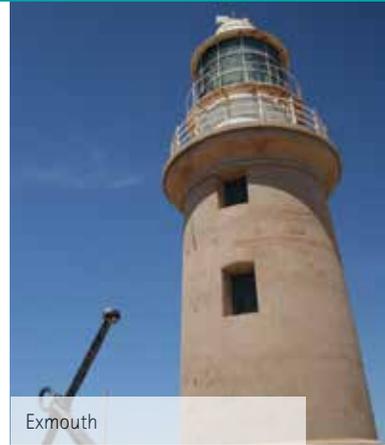
**Milyering Discovery Centre** in Cape Range National Park is open every day 9am to 3.45pm, except Christmas Day. There are displays, brochures and videos about the natural wonders of the Ningaloo Coast. Light refreshments and souvenirs are available from the shop. There is a public telephone (phone card only) next to the centre.

**Carnarvon** has a number of hotels, caravan parks and other accommodation. Its services include banking, a post office, hospital, police and a number of other government departments. There are shops and a number of fuel stations. For more information about Carnarvon please contact the Carnarvon Visitor Centre on (08) 9941 1146.

**Commercial park tours** are conducted in both Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park from Coral Bay and Exmouth. Tours cover a wide range of activities including snorkelling, diving, sea kayaking, glass-bottom boat tours and four-wheel-drive trips. Contact the Exmouth Visitor Centre for more information.

**Boat ramps** are located at Exmouth marina, Bundegi, Tantabiddi and Coral Bay. Numerous informal boat launching areas for smaller vessels can be found along the Ningaloo Coast.

**Diving** is a great way to experience Ningaloo. Diving lessons, compressed air and equipment hire are available at both Exmouth and Coral Bay. Contact the Exmouth Visitor Centre for more information.



Exmouth



Coral Bay



Milyering Discovery Centre

# Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area



**Above** Manta rays (*Manta alfredi*) are frequent visitors and residents along the Ningaloo Coast.  
*Photo – Axel Passeck*

## Ningaloo Marine Park and Muiron Islands Marine Management Area

Ningaloo Marine Park and Muiron Islands Marine Management Area are located off the North West Cape and protect an area of 290,000ha. Ningaloo reef is the largest fringing coral reef in Australia and one of the healthiest and most accessible coral reef systems in the world.

Ningaloo reef stretches more than 300km from the North West Cape to Red Bluff. The reef is one of only two coral reefs in the world that have formed on the western side of a continent and is considered WA's premier marine conservation icon.

The shallow lagoons formed by the reef and the deeper offshore waters create a diverse array of habitats for a multitude of colourful corals and more than 500 species of fish. Many other creatures are found in the marine park, including whale sharks (the world's largest fish), turtles, dugongs, dolphins, manta rays, humpback whales and orcas.

**What can I do there?** Swim, snorkel, dive, fish (other than in sanctuary zones), observe marine life and relax on the beach.

**Boat access via boat ramps** – see 'Services and facilities', page 9.

**Visitor fees** do not apply to the marine park.

# Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area



**Above** Humpback whale pod (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) charging north, along the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area. *Photo – Lyn Irvine*

## Ningaloo Commonwealth Marine Reserve

The Ningaloo Commonwealth Marine Reserve borders the western edge of the State marine park covering 2435km<sup>2</sup> with water depths ranging from 30m to more than 500m. It incorporates a diversity of habitats including the continental slope and shelf, as well as pelagic habitats in the open ocean.

The reserve has international and national significance due to its diverse range of marine species and unique geomorphic features. It provides essential biological and ecological links that sustain Ningaloo reef and its biodiversity, including the supply of nutrients to reef communities from deeper waters further offshore. The deeper water communities are dominated by sponges with soft corals and algae found living among them. The high numbers of species and unusual forms found in the diverse sponge garden habitats add to the reserve's importance. The open ocean supports large numbers of pelagic fish including trevally, tuna, mackerel, marlin and sailfish.

Humpback whales pass through twice a year on their annual migration between their calving grounds off the Kimberley and their feeding grounds in Antarctica. Blue and sperm whales have been observed in the offshore regions of the reserve as have minke, Bryde's, Omura's, southern right and killer whales. Whale sharks and dolphins are also frequent visitors to the reserve.

When interacting with whales in Commonwealth waters please refer to the national guidelines available at [environment.gov.au/marine/publications/australian-national-guidelines-whale-and-dolphin-watching-2017](http://environment.gov.au/marine/publications/australian-national-guidelines-whale-and-dolphin-watching-2017).

**What can I do there?** Swim, fish, observe marine life.

**Boat access via boat ramps** – see 'Services and facilities', page 9.

**Visitor fees** do not apply to the Commonwealth Marine Reserve.

# Fishing and sanctuary zones along the Ningaloo Coast

The Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area encompasses Australia's largest and most accessible fringing coral reef system.

Above Turquoise Bay within the Mandu Sanctuary Zone.



Ningaloo Marine Park is a popular destination for recreational fishing. Species such as spangled emperor, coral and coronation trout, spanish mackerel and trevally are just a few of the prized species inhabiting these waters.

Ningaloo Marine Park is divided into a number of zones designed not only to conserve fish populations and habitat but also allow visitors to responsibly enjoy a great fishing experience. Whether you are fishing for a delicious catch for dinner or to catch and release, please refer to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) website. Information about the zones and various activities, including spearfishing, is included in this booklet.

**Sanctuary zones** are 'look but don't take' marine areas and provide the highest level of protection. They have been identified as important habitats to help conserve marine biodiversity and also provide areas for scientific research and monitoring. Sanctuary zones also protect nursery and schooling areas for important fish species. These areas are protected from fishing and other extractive activities – **nothing living or non-living is to be taken from these areas. Penalties apply.**

## How do I know where the sanctuary zones are?

Sanctuary zone locations are detailed on the insert map. When boat fishing, particularly when further offshore, the best method of determining your position in relation to the nearest sanctuary zone is by using a global positioning system (GPS) device.



Shore marker

There are also on-site markers. All sanctuary zones are demarcated on the shore and some are demarcated in the water:

**Shore marker reference posts** consist of a sign and two yellow posts wherever a sanctuary zone boundary meets the shore (see image left). When the two posts are lined up they provide a visual reference for the direction of the sanctuary zone boundary. A reflective triangle points into the sanctuary zone.



In-water marker

**In-water marker buoys** are yellow buoys in the water that mark the corner points or boundaries of some sanctuary zones. Sanctuary zones that have these markers in place include Tantabiddi, Lakeside and Maud sanctuary zones. You will need to rely on your GPS or shore markers to identify other sanctuary zones.

# Fishing and sanctuary zones along the Ningaloo Coast

## How do I use my GPS/chart-plotter to find the sanctuary zones?

Using the coordinates on the fold-out sanctuary zone map (see map insert), here are two methods you can use:

1. Enter the offshore sanctuary zone coordinates in your device and display them as 'waypoints' or, if your device will allow, join the waypoints to display solid lines/boundaries on the screen (that is, by entering the sanctuary zone waypoints as a 'route'). This will give you a clear visual representation of your vessel's position in relation to the nearest sanctuary zone boundary.
2. If the sanctuary zone coordinates are not entered into your GPS device, another way of ensuring you are not fishing in the wrong area is to compare your latitude and/or longitude to that of the nearest sanctuary zone boundary. For example, if you are fishing near the southern boundary of Bundegi Sanctuary Zone, ensure your GPS is showing your position with a latitude greater than 21° 52.4833' south, which is the latitude of the southern boundary.

## Zone guide

**Sanctuary zones** are 'look but don't take' zones. No extractive activities are permitted in these zones, which means no recreational or commercial fishing is allowed. Mining activities are also prohibited.

**Special purpose (benthic protection) zones** are also 'look but don't take' zones. However, recreational 'troll' fishing is allowed.

**Special purpose (shore-based activities) zones** are established alongside some sanctuary zones to allow shore-based recreational fishing (no other extractive activities are allowed).

**Recreation zones** are managed for nature conservation and recreation, including recreational fishing. See restrictions on spearfishing on page 15.

**General use zones** are managed for nature conservation while allowing for sustainable commercial and recreational activities.

See insert map for specific information about the recreational activities that are permitted.

**Right** Fishing is allowed in recreation zones.

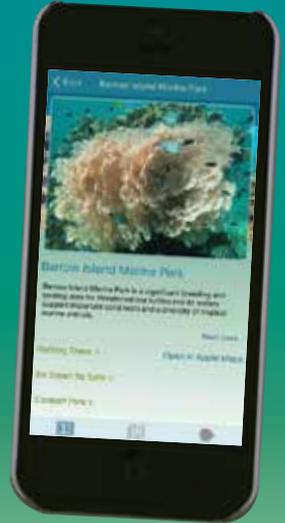
*Photo - Colin Ingram*



# Marine Parks WA

## Smartphone app

Connect to easy-to-access information for all 17 marine parks in WA – including where to go, what you can see and do, including where you can fish.

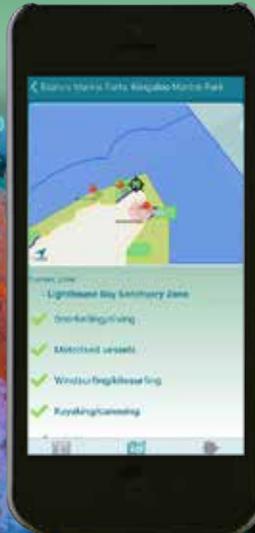


Discover Western Australia's marine parks with the new **Marine Parks WA** smartphone app.

The 'where am I?' function means you can see which marine park zone you are in and what activities you can enjoy in each particular area, even when offline or out of mobile phone range!



Follow us on social media  
@WAParksWildlife



Download it free from the iTunes and Google Play stores today.

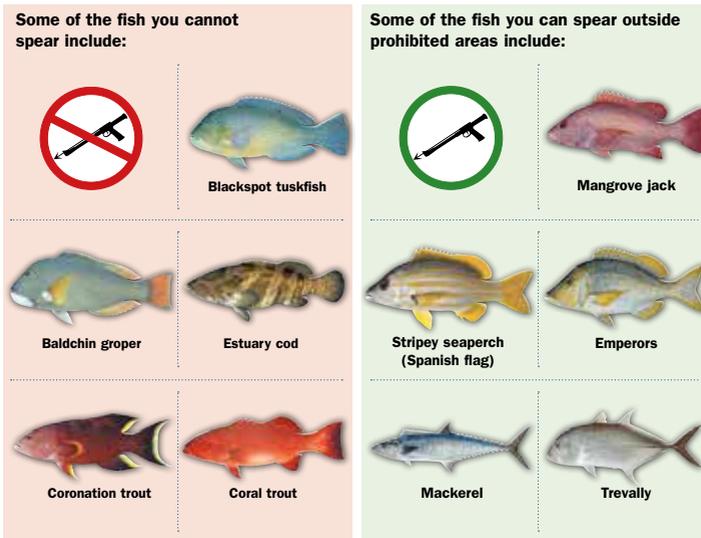
# Spearfishing along the Ningaloo Coast

## Spearfishing in Ningaloo Marine Park

Ningaloo Marine Park is a diver's paradise and offers tremendous scope for underwater activities such as spearfishing. Although spearfishing is a highly selective fishing method, it can have a major impact on resident reef fish being targeted in certain locations. To manage spearfishing in a sustainable way, specific regulations apply within Ningaloo Marine Park.

Within Ningaloo Marine Park you cannot spearfish:

- in sanctuary zones (see over page)
- between Tantabiddi Well and Winderabandi Point
- using compressed air (SCUBA or hookah)
- for rock lobster
- for **wrasse** (family Labridae), such as tuskfish and baldchin groper
- for **cods/groper** (family Serranidae), such as coral trout and coronation trout.



## Muiron Islands

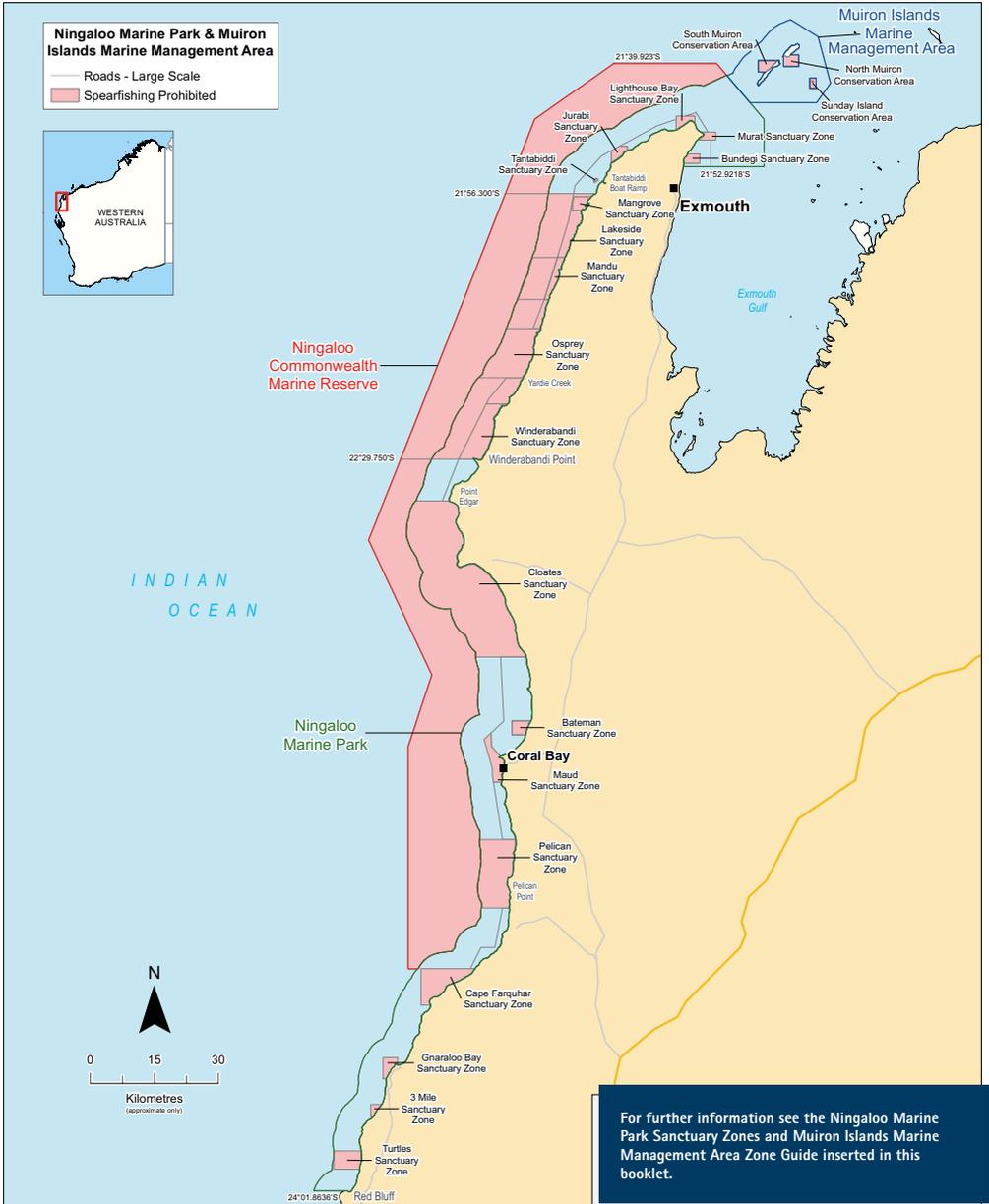
Muiron Islands Marine Management Area

- No spearfishing in conservation areas.
- Spearfishing for wrasse and cods/groper and spearfishing using compressed air are permitted outside conservation areas.

Please respect these rules and 'fish for the future'. Refer to the DPIRD website ([dpird.wa.gov.au](http://dpird.wa.gov.au)) for more information on bag and size limits.

# Spearfishing along the Ningaloo Coast

## Boundaries for spearfishing in Ningaloo Marine Park and Muiron Islands Marine Management Area



# Snorkelling along the Ningaloo Coast



Coral reefs are spectacular and diverse living systems.



Ningaloo reef itself made up of many small animals called coral polyps. The reef supports an enormous diversity of other marine plants and animals. Coral is delicate and once damaged may take many years to re-grow. Here is how you can help:

- Choose sand to stand – kicking, handling or standing on the reef may kill or damage the coral polyps. If you need to rest, choose a sandy area to stand on.
- When touch means "Ouch!" – observe and enjoy the reef, but avoid touching coral and other marine life. Some plants and animals sting or bite and touching may disturb them.

**All sites require snorkelling experience. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the required level of experience. Never snorkel alone and if in doubt don't go out.**

There are a number of sites that are good for snorkelling. Some are accessible from the shore and are listed below.

## Turquoise Bay snorkelling

Dangerous currents can occur. If there are strong currents, stay on or near the beach. For your safety, please read the signs installed at beach entry points.

Turquoise Bay is a very popular location for viewing corals and other marine life. However, care must be taken when swimming in strong currents. Strong currents are caused by a build-up of water in the lagoon behind the reef. Large waves and a high tide add to the volume of water in the lagoon increasing the amount of water escaping through the gaps in the reef. Strong currents can be experienced on the beach immediately west and south of the bay.

Inexperienced swimmers should not swim or snorkel in strong currents, especially if unaccompanied by an experienced person. If you are an inexperienced swimmer wishing to snorkel and are unable to find an experienced person to accompany you, seek the services of a licensed tour operator.

All snorkellers should assess the conditions from the beach. If you are unsure of the conditions, seek advice from someone with sound local knowledge.

If unsure, it is better to be cautious and simply enjoy the beach or swim well inside the bay where there is less likelihood of encountering strong currents. Park rangers do not regularly patrol the beaches at Turquoise Bay.

# Snorkelling along the Ningaloo Coast

## Lakeside snorkelling

Park at the day parking site, walk to the water's edge and then walk 500m south along the beach to where you see the Lakeside sanctuary markers.

## Oyster Stacks snorkelling

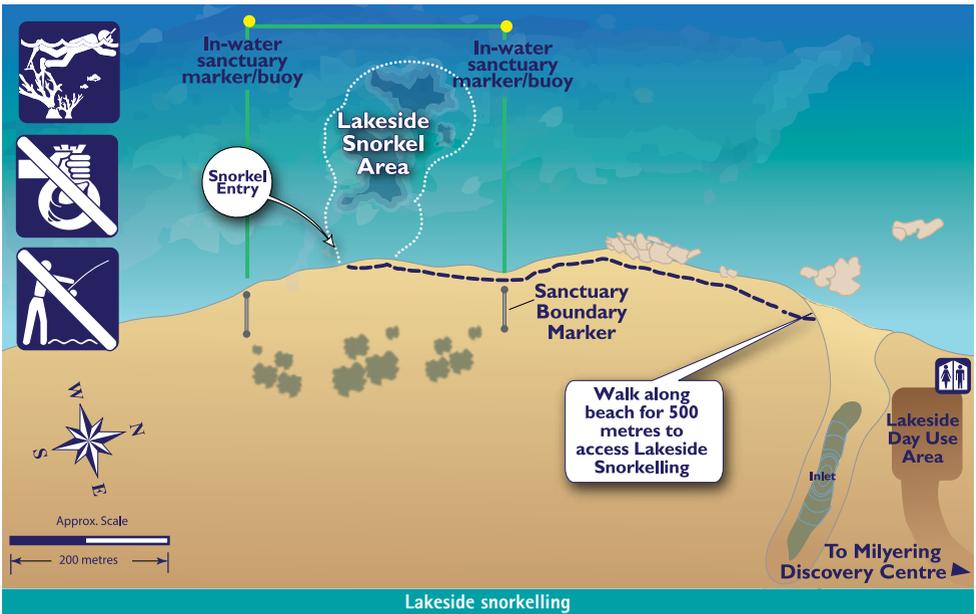
You should only snorkel at this site during high tide (minimum 1.2m) when there is sufficient water over the reef. Please check a tide chart before setting out. The shore adjacent to the snorkel site has rocks with sharp edges. Take care when entering and leaving the water.

## Coral Bay snorkelling

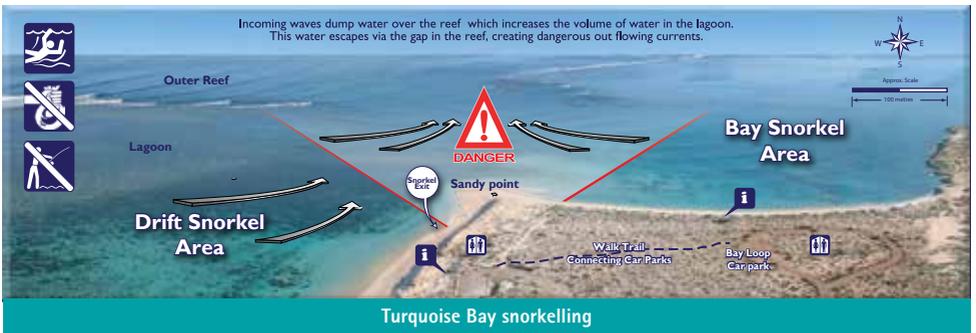
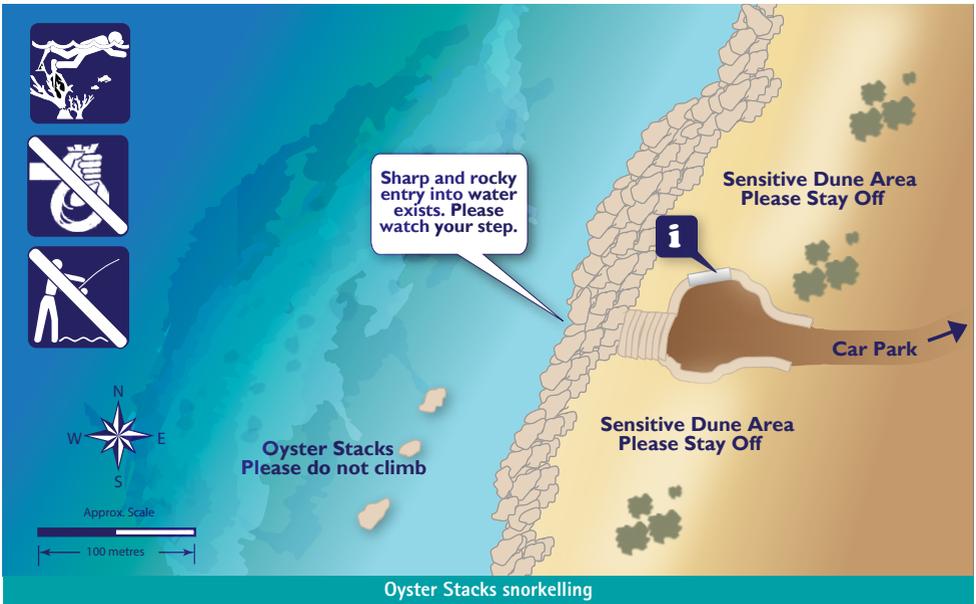
Coral Bay also offers many great snorkelling opportunities at places such as Five Finger Reef, Bill's Bay, Oyster Bridge and the Lagoon. For more information on these sites please visit the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA) Parks and Wildlife Service information hut or see one of the many tour operators who offer snorkelling as part of their tour.



Above Oyster Stacks beach access and signage.



# Snorkelling along the Ningaloo Coast



Below Coral Bay. Photo - Johnny Gaskell



# Kayaking along the Ningaloo Coast



See Ningaloo's coral gardens and marine life up close in a kayak.



Kayak moorings have been installed at several sites in Ningaloo Marine Park to enable people to combine kayaking and snorkelling activities. Some offer an extended paddle to shallow snorkel sites while others have a shorter paddle to deeper snorkel sites.

Moorings can be found at:

- Bundegi, Tantabiddi and Osprey sanctuary zones – closer to Exmouth.
- Maud Sanctuary Zone in Coral Bay.

The moorings cater for a maximum of 10 kayaks at any one time.

Please note, all the kayak moorings are in sanctuary zones and fishing is not permitted at any of these sites.



Black buoy with white label

## Safety tips

- **All sites require kayak and snorkelling experience. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the required level of experience. *If in doubt don't go out.***
- Check the local weather conditions prior to setting out.
- Be aware of the currents and winds at the site you intend to visit.
- Kayak with a friend. It adds to the enjoyment and increases safety.

# Kayaking along the Ningaloo Coast



- Carry adequate water, food, sunscreen and sun protection. Some return journeys may take up to four hours so you will be exposed to the elements for a significant time.
- Ensure your kayak has a suitable attachment to secure it to the mooring, and that you can secure your gear (especially the paddle) while snorkelling.
- Ensure your kayak is seaworthy and has the required safety equipment. Most of these sites are more than 400m from shore. Required equipment includes life jacket, flares and a bailer (if not self-draining) – see the Department of Transport's *Paddle Safe* brochure.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you estimate you will return. Remember to let them know when you have returned safely.
- Once at the site, assess the currents before entering the water.
- It is recommended that you start by snorkelling into the current to make it easy to return to the mooring.

**For more information contact the Milyering Discovery Centre.**

# Boating along the Ningaloo Coast



Boating is a great way to see and enjoy the Ningaloo reef.

## Your cooperation while boating will assist in the long-term protection of the Ningaloo reef.

Please remember:



- Slow down when approaching coral areas.
- Tilt the motor in shallow areas.
- Never cut across coral formations – water depth changes with the tides and you may damage the coral.
- Anchor on sand, never coral.
- Check that your anchor is not dragging.
- Approach marine life carefully – you must follow the codes of conduct provided in this booklet when interacting with whales, whale sharks and turtles. Dugongs, dolphins and other marine animals must also be treated appropriately – contact the Parks and Wildlife Service for more details.
- Boat launching facilities are available for use at Coral Bay, Tantabiddi, Bundegi and the Exmouth marina.
- There are also informal launch areas at a number of beaches, be aware many are on soft sand and not suitable for launching large boats.
- The discharge of waste is not allowed in sanctuary zones, recreation zones, general use zones, within 500m of the shore, or in lagoonal areas.

When boating in Coral Bay please note:

- If travelling north from the boating facility, follow the channel markers. For your own safety and for the protection of fragile coral gardens, please do not cut across the shallow coral areas.
- The waters directly off Paradise Beach and southern Bills Bay are designated primarily for swimming, snorkelling and other passive water activities. This area is restricted to authorised vessels only. No power or sailing vessels (including wind surfers and kite surfers) are permitted in this area without lawful authority from the Parks and Wildlife Service.

For more information regarding boating at Coral Bay please see the Department of Transport's *Boating Guide for Coral Bay*.

# Boating along the Ningaloo Coast

## Public moorings in Ningaloo Marine Park

Ningaloo Marine Park offers excellent opportunities for diving, snorkelling and fishing, attracting thousands of recreational boaters each year.

Unfortunately, boat anchors can damage the beautiful corals that make up Ningaloo reef. Damaging coral is an offence under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

Public moorings have been installed at key diving and snorkelling sites in the marine park. These moorings can currently be used free of charge, as boaters are being encouraged to use the moorings rather than anchoring when diving or snorkelling at these sites.

Most of these public moorings are for daytime use only, however there are a few moorings available for overnight use (conditions and bookings apply).

The public moorings are colour coded according to five different size classes being identified to cater for different sized vessels. Wind-strength restrictions also apply.

Please contact the Parks and Wildlife Service Exmouth office for details about public moorings for boats or visit [dbca.wa.gov.au](http://dbca.wa.gov.au).

**Private moorings in the marine park are not permitted without lawful authority from the Parks and Wildlife Service.**

Below A boat moored on a public mooring.



# Whale sharks along the Ningaloo Coast



## The whale shark is the world's largest living fish, growing up to 18m in length

**Above** Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*). Photo – Cameron Skirving

Ningaloo reef is one of only a few places in the world where whale sharks appear regularly in relatively large numbers in near-shore waters where they are easily accessible to observers. As is seen in other coastal aggregation sites, the majority of whale sharks at Ningaloo are male and range in size from 3m to 12m in length, averaging at 5m. A 12m whale shark may weigh as much as 11 tonnes and have a mouth more than a metre wide. Other than their size, distinguishing features include three prominent ridges along each side of their body and a distinct pattern of white spots and stripes, which is used to identify them.

Whale sharks have a possible life span of more than 100 years. They give birth to live young that hatch from an egg case while inside the mother's body. Sexual maturity may not occur until sharks are 8m in length, about 30 years old, which means most whale sharks at Ningaloo are juveniles.

Whale sharks are filter feeders, feeding on plankton, including krill and copepods. They can either cruise along with their mouths wide open or actively suck water into their mouths. Water is passed through their gills and the plankton strained out.

As with many other shark species, the whale shark grows slowly and matures late. This means that populations are slow to recover, making them extremely vulnerable to exploitation. In WA waters, whale sharks are protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and are a threatened species declared to be vulnerable under the *Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

With increasing numbers of people seeking the in-water thrill of interacting with whale sharks, reports of encounters are becoming more frequent and widespread. There is a code of conduct (interaction protocol) for interactions with whale sharks that individuals and tour operators are required to follow when swimming or piloting a vessel in the vicinity of a whale shark. The interaction protocol is issued as a Close Season Notice under the Wildlife Conservation Act, which means it applies to everyone.

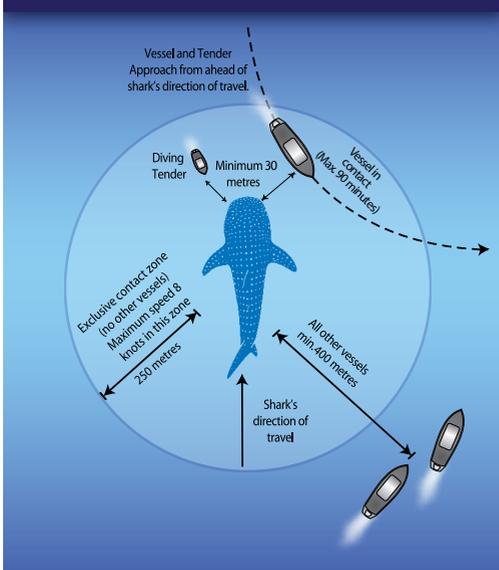
The best way to see a whale shark is on a tour. Contact the Exmouth Visitor Centre for more information.

## Whale shark interaction protocol for vessels

An exclusive contact zone with a 250m radius applies around any whale shark. Only one vessel at a time may operate within this zone, for a maximum time of 90 minutes and at a speed of eight knots or less. The first vessel in that zone is deemed to be 'in contact'. The second vessel to arrive must keep a distance of 250m from the shark, and any other vessels must be 400m from the shark.

# Whale sharks along the Ningaloo Coast

## Whale Shark Vessel Contact Zone



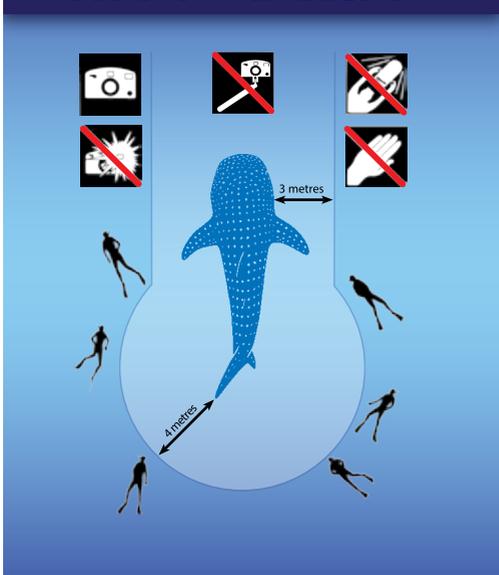
Vessel operators in the exclusive contact zone must not approach closer than 30m to a shark. When dropping swimmers into the water, vessel operators should approach from ahead of the shark's direction of travel, and must display both the whale shark (commercial vessels only) and dive flags when swimmers are in the water.

## Whale shark interaction protocol for swimmers

Swimmers in the contact zone must not:

- attempt to touch or ride on a whale shark
- restrict or alter the normal movement or behaviour of the whale shark
- approach closer than 3m from the head or body and 4m from the tail
- take flash photographs, use cameras on extension poles
- use motorised propulsion aids
- exceed 10 people in the water at any time.

## Whale Shark Swim Contact Zone



If you come across a commercial vessel displaying a whale shark flag, it means they are interacting with a whale shark. They are allowed 60 minutes of swim time with the shark and your vessel must remain 400m away. After that, you can have your turn of swimming with the shark. If you find a whale shark of your own, you are entitled to 60 minutes also, and the commercial operator must remain 400m away during this time.

# Whales along the Ningaloo Coast



The Ningaloo Coast and the neighbouring Exmouth Gulf are visited by up to 20 species of cetacean

**Above** Young humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). Photo – Amanda Campbell

These include the false killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*), short-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*), pygmy blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus brycei*), dwarf minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), Bryde's whale (*Balaenoptera edeni*), killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) and, most prolifically, the majestic humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). The humpback's scientific name is derived from Greek, *mega* meaning 'great' and *pteron* meaning 'a wing' – a reference to its large wing-like pectoral fins.

## Humpback whales

During the 19th and 20th centuries the humpback whale was hunted extensively in Australian waters, reducing its population to an estimated three to five per cent of pre-whaling abundance.

Due to a ban on commercial whaling of humpback whales in the southern hemisphere in 1963 and strict environmental laws, humpback whale numbers steadily recovered and Western Australian population estimates have now reached pre-whaling figures. Their global status is currently listed as least concern under the International Union for the Conservation of Nature 'Red List' – an assessment of the extinction risk of species.

Humpback whales are the fifth largest of the great whales. Adult females grow to about 15m, and a mature humpback can weigh 40 tonnes. Their name is derived from Greek, *mega* meaning 'great' and *pteron* meaning 'a wing' – a reference to its large wing-like pectoral fins. Humpback whales are believed to have a life span of at least 40 to 50 years, reaching sexual maturity at 12 to 15 years.

Humpback whales are highly migratory, moving between summer polar feeding areas and winter tropical breeding and calving grounds. From June each year the west coast population can be seen migrating north through Ningaloo Marine Park to mate and calve in the sub-tropical waters off the Pilbara and Kimberley coast. The whales then return south and rest with their calves in the Exmouth Gulf and can be seen until early November each year. Their migratory patterns and behaviour often bring humpbacks into close proximity with humans providing opportunities to see these ocean giants. In many areas, commercial operators offer whale watching tours.

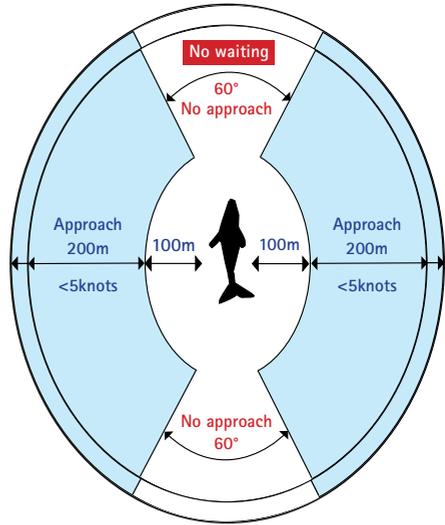


**Above** A humpback whale performing a head lunge. Photo - Johnny Gaskell

# Whales along the Ningaloo Coast

## Whale watching code of conduct

- A vessel within 300m of a whale must not approach a whale from within an arc of 60 degrees of the whale's forward direction of travel or an arc of 60 degrees behind the whale (the opposite of the direction of travel).
- A vessel must not approach a whale within 100m.
- Where a whale approaches a vessel and the distance between the whale and the vessel becomes less than 100m (known as the 'contact zone'), the vessel master must place the motor/s in neutral or move the vessel, at less than five knots, away from the whale until the vessel is outside the contact zone.
- A vessel must not block the direction of travel of a whale.
- A vessel must not cause a whale to alter its direction or speed of travel.
- A vessel must not disperse or separate a group of whales.
- Vessels must move out of a contact zone if whales are visibly disturbed (includes behaviour such as extended diving or evading vessels).
- Aircraft are not permitted to fly within 300m of a whale.
- Swimming with, feeding or touching whales is not permitted. Such actions may cause stress to the whale and are dangerous to people. If you are in the water and a whale approaches, you must maintain a minimum of 100m distance between yourself and the whale.
- A trial started in 2016 that enabled current commercial whale shark tour operators to conduct swim-with-humpback whale tours under a strict rules. Please note this activity is being closely monitored by the department and recreational boaters must adhere to the current legislation that stipulate no swimming with whales. To join a tour to swim with humpback whales, contact the Exmouth Visitor Centre on (08) 9949 1176.
- Please be aware that different legislation applies to interacting with humpback whales in Commonwealth waters.



Above Rules for whale watching from a vessel in Western Australia



Above A humpback whale tail slapping.

# Dolphins along the Ningaloo Coast

Dolphins are one of the most loved and charismatic marine animals. The common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), Indo-pacific bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops aduncus*), Australian humpback dolphin (*Sousa sahalensis*), Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), and spinner dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*) are just some of the species that can be seen along the Ningaloo Coast.

## Bottlenose dolphins

The common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) is largely found in offshore waters, while the coastal Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops aduncus*) is usually seen in coastal waters. Bottlenose dolphins are sleek and streamlined, have a prominent dorsal fin and can vary in size, shape and colour depending on where they are found. In general, they have a dark grey back and light grey belly. The larger common bottlenose dolphin can grow to 2-4m in length and weigh 220-500kg. The smaller Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin reaches a maximum length of 2.7m and weigh up to 230kg.

## Australian humpback dolphins

The Australian humpback dolphins can be seen occurs along the Ningaloo Coast and around the Exmouth Gulf Islands, favouring shallow water depths. The most obvious features of this dolphin are the long thin beak, small triangular dorsal fin and distinctive hump under the dorsal fin. The maximum length is less than 3m. Its colour varies by age, with juveniles tending to be darker than adults. The undersides are pale and the dorsal fin may be white in older animals and males. The tail is relatively large.

Entanglement in fishing equipment, boat strikes, habitat destruction and degradation, pollution and disease are some of the pressures dolphins face.

**Remember to keep the environment clean take your rubbish home and dispose of it properly.**

When swimming please keep at least 50m away from dolphins at all times. If a dolphin approaches you and is within 50m please move away so you are at least 50m from the dolphin.



**Above** Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops aduncus*) and Australian humpback dolphins (*Sousa sahalensis*) can be seen in mixed pods along the Ningaloo Coast.  
*Photo - Tim Hunt, CEBEL, Flinders University*



**Above** Australian humpback dolphins.



**Above** Indo-Pacific dolphins.

# Turtles along the Ningaloo Coast



The Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area offers an exciting opportunity for visitors to see marine turtles in their natural environment

**Above** Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) cruising along the coast.

Three of the world's seven species of sea turtles mate in the shallow waters and nest on mainland beaches along the Ningaloo Coast during the summer months (November to March) – the green (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

The Jurabi Turtle Centre provides interpretive and educational displays on turtle biology and ecology, turtle viewing advice and ready access to turtle nesting beaches. The centre is 13km from Exmouth town site, between Hunters and Mauritius beaches, and is a collaborative project between the Shire of Exmouth and the Parks and Wildlife Service.

## Mating turtles

Between September and December turtles mate in shallow waters along the Ningaloo Coast. During this time turtles are heavily stressed and extremely vulnerable to both natural and human impacts.

Female turtles are often seen resting at the water's edge close to mating areas. It is critical that they are able to replenish their energy by resting on the shore without being disturbed.

- Go slow in turtle habitats and always drive your vessel with care to avoid injuring turtles.
- Do not take motorised or sailing craft into mating areas. Paddle craft should also take care in areas where turtles are mating.
- Stay back at least 30m so resting turtles are not forced back into the water prematurely.
- Do not touch or disturb resting, sleeping or mating turtles.

## Nesting turtles

Female turtles come ashore to nest between November and March along the Ningaloo Coast. Nesting female turtles are highly sensitive to light and movement when on the beach. Turtles disturbed during nesting will abort their nesting attempt and return to the water. To reduce the chance of disturbing nesting turtles and increase nesting success it is important to follow the turtle watching code of conduct (overleaf).

**Campfires** are banned on nesting beaches – light can deter nesting turtles and disorientate hatchlings.

Please depart all beaches by 11pm to allow nesting turtles a period on the beach without being disturbed.

# Turtles along the Ningaloo Coast

## Hatchlings

In natural conditions very few turtle hatchlings survive to adulthood. Additional, human-induced pressures have further decreased their likelihood of survival.

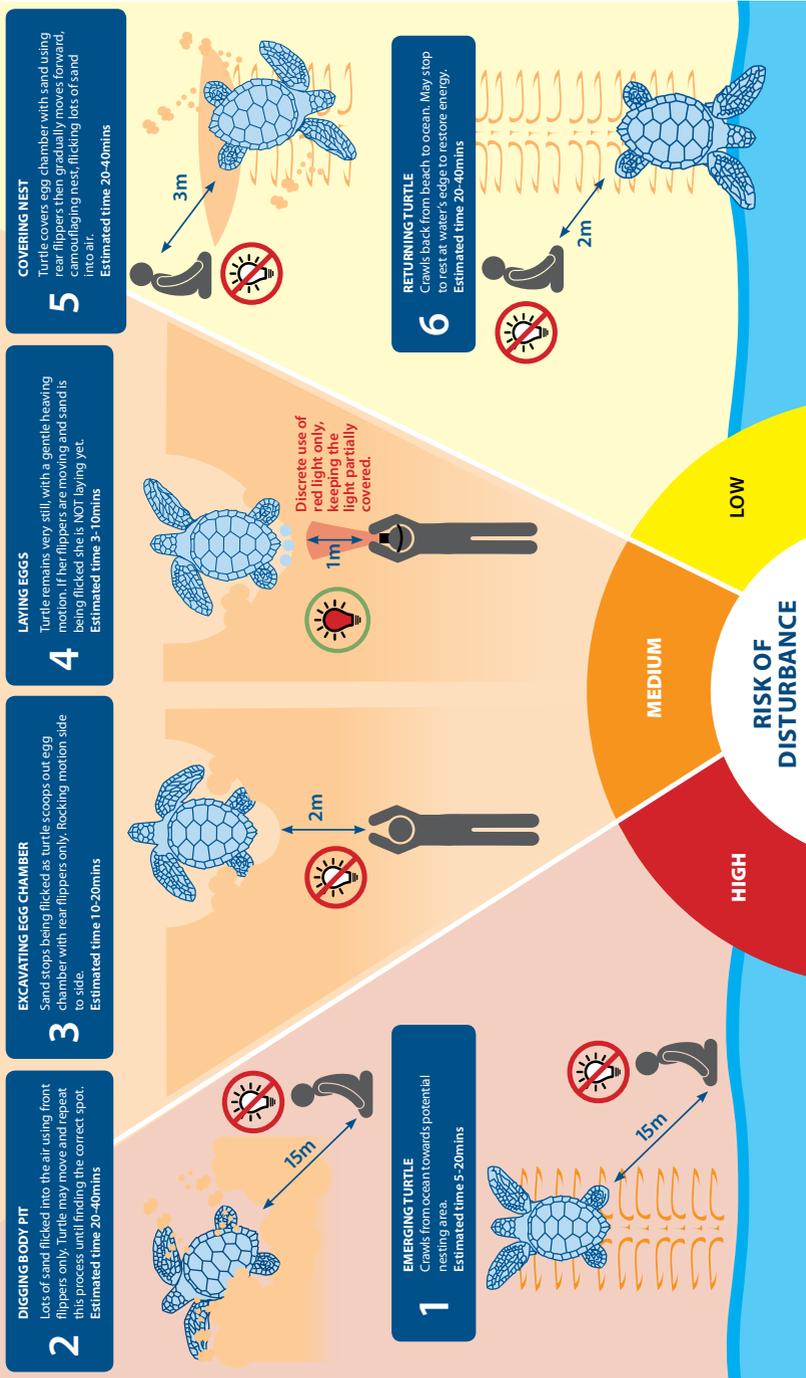
To minimise human impact on hatchlings:

- Do not use any form of artificial light or flash photography. After hatchlings emerge from the nest they crawl towards the brightest light they see, which is usually the moon over the ocean. Artificial light will disturb and disorientate hatchlings from making their way to the ocean, exposing them to greater predation and risk of being stranded on the beach. Minimise light from torches and vehicles when in car parks.
- Do not touch or handle hatchlings. Allow them to move to the ocean without assistance or disturbance. It is important that hatchlings make their own way to the ocean by using their flippers. They need to exercise their lungs, to allow them to swim and dive when they reach the water. As a result hatchlings are able to relocate their nesting beach when they are mature enough to breed. Stand still when hatchlings are moving down the beach to avoid stepping on them.
- Minimise walking through the dunes. This can compact the sand and crush hatchlings as they are emerging. Other hatchlings may still be in the nest waiting to emerge. Walk below the high tide mark.
- For the safety of dogs and turtles, keep dogs off the beaches. Toxic 1080 baits are used along turtle nesting beaches in the fight against foxes and feral cats. Baits are toxic to domestic animals. Dogs disturb nesting turtles and harm or cause stress to vulnerable hatchlings.
- Do not drive your vehicle on turtle nesting beaches. Hatchlings become trapped in wheel ruts, greatly decreasing their chance of survival.

**Below** Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) hatchling. Photo-Blue Media Exmouth



# Turtles watching code of conduct



**NO GLOW:** turtles are easily disturbed by lights, use the moon to light your way.  
**MOVE SLOW:** at all times to avoid disturbing turtles, walk along the water's edge and slowly follow an emerging track.  
**STAY LOW:** out of sight of nesting turtles - sit, crouch or lie in the sand.

# Fish of the Ningaloo Coast

## Clark's anemonefish

*(Amphiprion clarkii)*

A colourful fish, with vivid black, white and yellow stripes. There are normally two white bands, one behind the eye and one at the rear. The tail fin may be white or yellow, but is always lighter than the rest of the body. Clark's anemonefish is omnivorous and its diet is based on zooplankton and algae. The adult inhabits lagoons and outer reef slopes.



Clark's anemonefish.

## Convict surgeonfish

*(Acanthurus triostegus)*

Six vertical black stripes on the sides, one on the head that passes through the yellow eye, four on the body and one at the base of the caudal fin. Males will assume courtship colours when breeding. Juveniles lack the barring found in adults. Convict surgeonfish are found in shallow, wave-affected areas in and around coral reefs. They feed primarily on algae and are classified as grazers.



Convict surgeonfish. Photo – Tony Howard

## Beaked leatherjacket

*(Oxymonacanthus longirostris)*

A small slender green fish with rows of yellow spots and dashes along the sides and a small black blotch on the tail, the beaked leatherjacket occurs on coral reefs of the Indo-West Pacific. The beaked leatherjacket has a long snout with a small upturned mouth which it uses to eat coral polyps.



Beaked leatherjacket. Photo - Johnny Gaskell

# Fish of the Ningaloo Coast

## Blue angelfish

(*Pomacanthus semicirculatus*)

Found in the tropical Indo-Pacific, east Africa and the Red Sea. Adults and juveniles have very different appearances. Adults have diagonal yellow and purplish-blue stripes on the body, and a curved black bar covering the eye. Juvenile emperor angelfish are dark blue-black with a white ring on the rear of the body. This is surrounded by circles of blue and white.



Blue angelfish. Photo - Johnny Gaskell

## Blue spotted ray (Neotrygon kuhlii)

Colourful stingrays with large bright blue spots on an oval, elongated disc and blue side-stripes along their tails. Their snout is rounded and angular and the disc has broadly rounded outer corners. They have a short tapering tail that is less than twice their body length. They are bottom-dwelling creatures that can be found living alone or in small groups around coral reefs in the Indo-West Pacific region. Rarely are they seen in deep waters. Prey includes small fish, worms, shrimp, molluscs and crabs.



Blue spotted ray. Photo - Johnny Gaskell

## Blue-green chromis (*Chromis viridis*)

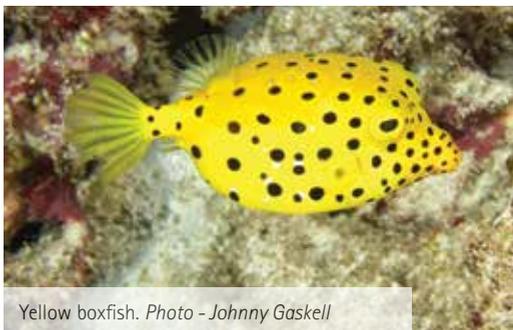
A small fish characterised by its uniform iridescent pale green coloration that may have a blue tint to it in some specimens. Found throughout the tropical Indo-Pacific region. Blue-green chromis favour sheltered environments like the subtidal reef flats and lagoons. They can be found in large schools over thickets of branching corals into which they can dive if threatened and in which they stay at night.



Blue-green chromis. Photo - Johnny Gaskell

## Yellow boxfish (*Ostracion cubicus*)

The species occurs in tropical and temperate marine waters of the Indo-West Pacific. It inhabits coral and rocky reefs, and is found at depths of 1m to 40m. Yellow boxfish are often solitary and occur on deeper coastal slopes, lagoons and areas where there are crevices and ledges for shelter. They feed on a range of organisms such as molluscs, crustaceans, fishes, sand-dwelling worms and algae.



Yellow boxfish. Photo - Johnny Gaskell

# Cape Range National Park



**Above** Mandu Mandu Gorge, Cape Range National Park.

Within the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area and adjacent to Ningaloo Marine Park, lies Cape Range National Park, dominated by a rugged limestone range, the remains of an ancient sea floor thrust upwards by movements of the Earth's crust descends to sea level along the coast, where arid coastal plains and sand dunes predominate.

The terrestrial landscape is rich in a diverse array of wildlife including kangaroos, echidnas, emus and monitor lizards and smaller mammals and other reptiles. More than 160 bird species have been recorded in the area.

**What can I do there?** Walk, camp, canoe, observe nature, picnic, take photographs and much more.

Access roads to individual sites comprise both sealed and unsealed roads. Most of these access roads are suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles. However, road conditions deteriorate rapidly when it rains and access may become restricted.

To protect wildlife, the speed limit is 80km and night driving should be avoided.

**Visitor fees** can be paid at the national park entry stations (cash only), Milyering Discovery Centre or the Parks and Wildlife Service office in Exmouth. If you are planning to visit more than once, or intend to visit other national parks in the State, please ask about Park Passes.

For current visitor and camping fees visit [parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au](http://parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au).



# Camping in Cape Range National Park



Camp within metres of the pristine beaches of the Ningaloo reef.

Above Camping at Osprey Bay Campground.

## Camping



Cape Range National Park offers camping in close proximity to the Ningaloo reef. Please note: camping is only permitted in designated campsites between Boat Harbour site and Ned's Campsite. See the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area fold-out map inside this booklet for all of the camping locations.

### Booking a camp site and paying camping fees

**Online booking and fees** If you are planning to camp in Cape Range National Park it is essential to book your camp site online prior to your arrival. Visit [parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au](http://parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au).

If you are planning on camping in Cape Range National Park it is essential that you have booked your campsite online prior to your arrival. Booking is year round and can be booked up to six months in advance. Visit [parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au](http://parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au). Camping fees are additional to park entry fees.

All campgrounds have basic toilet facilities and rubbish bins. There is no water in Cape Range National Park. Before leaving Exmouth, please make sure you have enough water for drinking and washing for the duration of your visit to the park.

No campfires are allowed in the park – gas barbecues only.

**Check-in and check-out** 10am on the day of arrival or departure. Please ensure you leave your campsite clean and tidy for the next campers. Please note generators are not permitted in some campgrounds. For details go to [parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au](http://parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au).

**Day-use sites** Some sites in the park are for day use only, with camping not permitted. Many of these sites have picnic facilities and toilets. See fold-out map inside this booklet for details.

# Camping in Cape Range National Park



**Above** Shelters at Osprey Campground provide an excellent viewing point of Ningaloo Marine Park.

## Keep in mind when camping

**Fish offal** All offal is to be buried at least 30cm deep in the sand or placed in an appropriate disposal container where available.

**Generators** Generators are not permitted in Ned's Camp, North Mandu, South Osprey Bay, Kurrajong and North Kurrajong.

**Campfires** are not permitted in Cape Range National Park. This includes the use of heat beads. Gas cookers only are permitted.

**Dogs or any other domestic pets** are not permitted in Cape Range National Park.

**Toilets** Park toilets provided use bio additives to help break down wastes. Please do not put any chemicals, including portable toilet wastes or detergents, in the toilets as this will kill helpful bacteria. Waste from chemical toilets should be removed from the park and disposed of according to the manufacturer's instructions. Contact Exmouth Visitor Centre for disposal points.

**Wildlife** Do not feed or supply water to the wildlife (including fish) as this can cause them to become aggressive and dependent on an unnatural food source.

# Walking in Cape Range National Park



There are a number of great walks in the park, ranging from easy strolls to more challenging walks.

Above Exploring Cape Range National Park. Photo – Tony Howard

## Safe walking tips



Extreme heat can be encountered when walking in Cape Range National Park. Between November and March temperatures can often exceed 45°C. Walking during the cooler months or during cooler times of the day is strongly recommended.

- Carry adequate water (3L per person), and wear sunscreen, long sleeves and a hat. There is no water and very little shade in the park.
- Wear sturdy footwear, follow the white markers and remain on the trail, for your own safety.
- Stand well back from the cliff edges. Undercutting by erosion can lead to weak sections that may collapse under your weight.
- Before you leave, tell a responsible friend or family member where you plan to walk and when you expect to return. Remember to let them know when you've returned safely.

## Trail grades



**Class 1** Walks catering for people with reduced mobility or those who are wheelchair-assisted. No experience necessary.



**Class 2** Well-marked walks catering for a range of visitors. No experience necessary.



**Class 3** Walks requiring a moderate level of fitness and may include unstable surfaces.



**Class 4** Walks requiring moderate to high level of fitness. Tracks are often rough and users need to be self-reliant.

# Walking in Cape Range National Park

## Mangrove Bay Bird Hide Walk



100m return – allow 10 minutes

**Where** 8km (10 minute drive) north of Milyering Discovery Centre on Yardie Creek Road.

**Facilities** Car park, boardwalk, bird hide.

**Route** Follow the track from the right-hand side of the car park. The track leads to a boardwalk that winds through the mangroves to the bird hide.

At the bird hide you can observe resident and migratory birds in a coastal mangrove swamp. Remember to walk quietly if you want to see the birds that frequent the area. Signs in the bird hide will help you to identify some of the regulars. Visit the Milyering Discovery Centre for a bird list.

**WARNING!** At dawn, dusk and after periods of high rainfall visitors should take precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Long, loose clothing and personal insect repellent is helpful.

**Below** Mangrove Bay bird hide. **Bottom** Yardie Creek. *Photo – Tony Howard*



# Walking in Cape Range National Park

## Mandu Mandu Walk



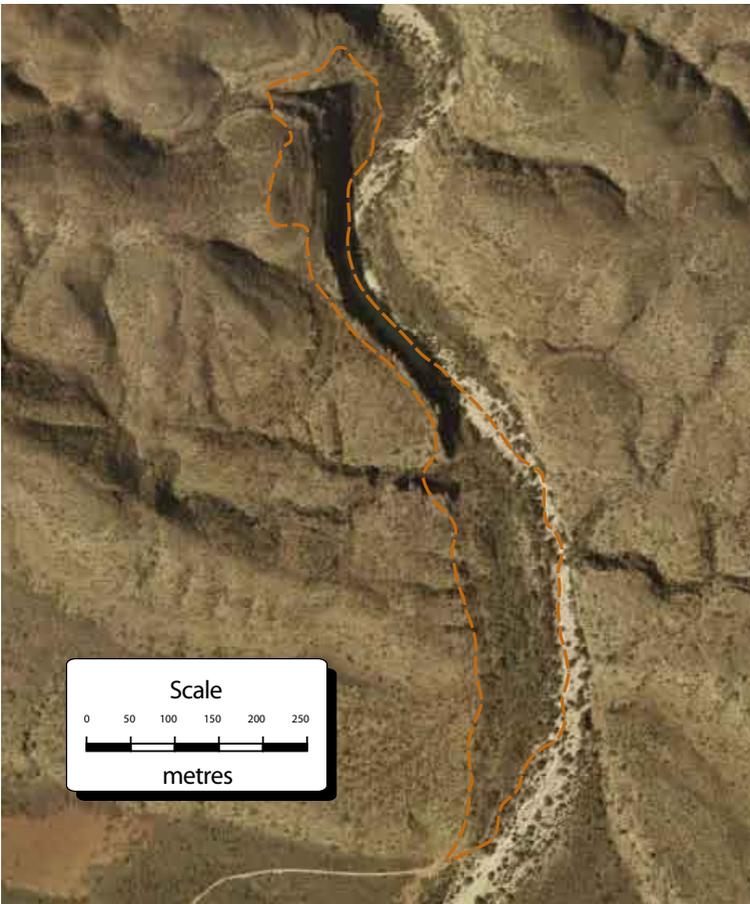
**3km return – allow 2 hours**

**Where** 14km (15 minute drive) south of Milyering Discovery Centre and 25km (25 minute drive) north of Yardie Creek on Yardie Creek Road.

**Facilities** Car park.

This is a moderately difficult trail that winds its way along the rocky creek bed, deep into the gorge. A steep path takes you up to the gorge rim where, on your return, you can enjoy the views over Ningaloo reef and the surrounding country. On your walk, keep your eyes peeled for black-flanked rock wallabies.

**There are steep gradients and rough, uneven surfaces along this trail.**



# Walking in Cape Range National Park

## Yardie Nature Walk



1.2km return – allow 40 minutes

**Where** 39km (40 minute drive) south of Milyering Discovery Centre.

**Facilities** Picnic tables, car park, toilet (camping facilities nearby).

From the Yardie Creek car park, follow the track past the toilet block to the Yardie Gorge Trail trailhead sign, which marks the end of the nature walk and the start of the trail.

This is a gentle, well-defined path that winds along the edge of Yardie Creek with views of the gorge, creek mouth and Ningaloo reef. Look carefully at the rock ledges on the opposite side of the gorge where you may spot some black-flanked rock wallabies. Along the walk you may see fish jumping or emus feeding and encounter euros and a variety of birds. Take time to immerse yourself in the contrasting colours of the landscape.



# Walking in Cape Range National Park

## Yardie Gorge Trail



750m return – allow 1 hour

**Where** To access the Yardie Gorge Trail look for the trailhead sign at the end of Yardie Nature Walk (600m). Allow two hours to complete both trails.

This moderately difficult trail takes you high above Yardie Creek with views over Ningaloo reef. Marvel at the birds nesting on the rugged gorge walls. Please ensure you do not walk any further than the end of the walk trail, this area is a sensitive habitat for threatened flora and fauna. To protect bird nesting and rock wallaby habitat, the southern side of Yardie Creek is a sanctuary area.

There are steep gradients and rough uneven surfaces along the Yardie Gorge Trail.

## Shothole Canyon Walk



100m return – allow 15 minutes

**Where** The Shothole Canyon Road turn-off is 17km (15 minute drive) south of Exmouth along Murat Road. Follow the gravel road for another 12km (suitable for four-wheel-drive vehicles only).

**Facilities** Toilets, picnic tables.

This is a short walk up steps to a lookout with spectacular views down the canyon. Retrace your steps to the car park.

**WARNING!** The stairs are extremely steep and narrow. The gravel surface can be very slippery underfoot. Proceed with extreme caution.

The name of this canyon is derived from the shot holes left in the terrain following the explosive charges set for seismic studies during oil exploration work in the early 1950s.

**Below** Shothole Canyon.



# Walking in Cape Range National Park

## Badjirrajirra Walk



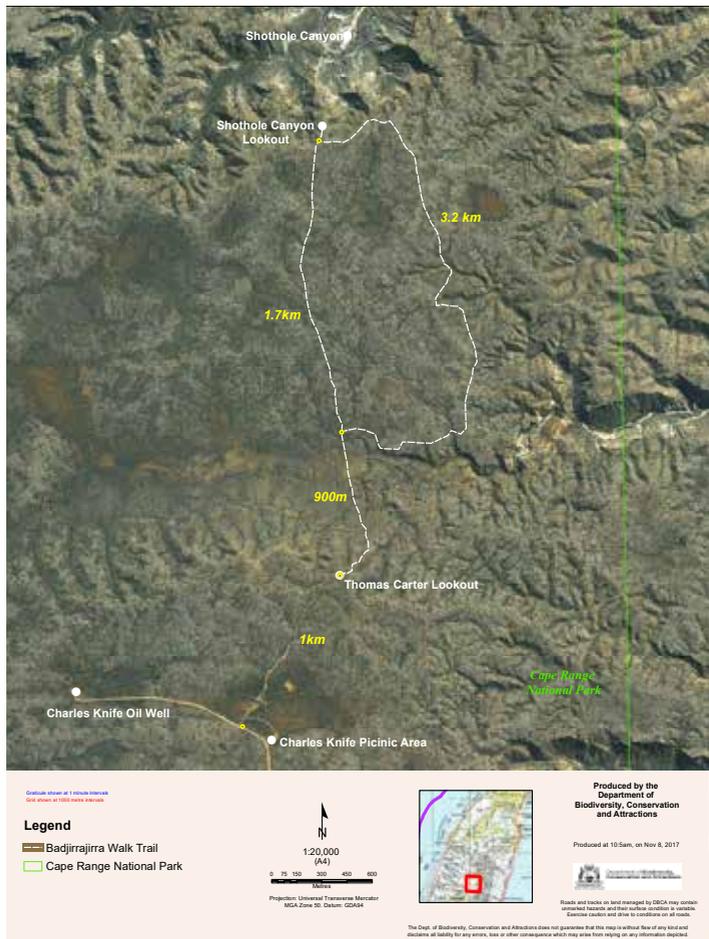
6km return – allow 3 hours

**Where** The Charles Knife Road turn-off is 22km (20 minute drive) south of Exmouth, along Exmouth-Minliya Road. Follow this road (part gravel) for 11km to the Thomas Carter lookout turn-off. The car park, and start of the walk trail, is 1km from the turn-off. This section is not suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles.

**Facilities** Car park and picnic tables on the way to the lookout.

A moderately difficult loop trail traversing the top of Cape Range. The trail winds its way through rocky gullies, small gorges and open spinifex bushland. The walk also offers views of Shothole Canyon and Exmouth Gulf.

There are steep gradients and rough uneven surfaces along this trail.



# Camping along the Ningaloo Coast

## Coral Bay

Caravan parks in Coral Bay that provide services and facilities for camping. There is a range of other accommodation, including chalets and a hotel/motel. Public telephones, fuel, food and other supplies are also available.

There is no free or coastal camping in the Coral Bay area. Camping is not permitted on the beaches or dunes – there are no designated beach camping areas in or around Coral Bay.

The nearest coastal camping areas to Coral Bay are:

- to the south: Warroora, Gnaraloo and Quobba stations
- to the north: Bruboodjoo Point (on Cardabia Station)
- further to the north: Ningaloo Station.

Special rules apply at each of these camping areas. Contact the station office, homestead or on-site caretakers for details.

Please note that dogs are allowed on Paradise Beach only, and must be kept on a lead. Dog owners must also dispose of dog droppings properly. Dogs are not allowed on any other beaches of the marine park in the Coral Bay area.

Please be aware that 1080 poison baits are used along some sections of the Ningaloo Coast to control foxes and feral cats – please contact the Parks and Wildlife Service for more information.

# Driving along the Ningaloo Coast



Get off the beaten track.

**Above** Four-wheel driving in Cape Range National Park.

## Four-wheel driving



For your safety and the protection of the environment beaches in Cape Range National Park, Jurabi Coastal Park and Ningaloo Marine Park are closed to vehicles. There are designated access points for boat launching and kayaks at certain areas. Please observe and adhere to signs.

For your safety and the protection of the environment beaches in Cape Range National Park, Jurabi Coastal Park and Ningaloo Marine Park are closed to vehicles. There are designated access points for boat launching and kayaks at certain areas. Please observe and adhere to signs.

Four-wheel drives can be driven on Bateman Bay beach in Coral Bay, north from Maud Landing. Beaches are closed to four-wheel drives from 15 October to 30 April each year to protect female turtles coming ashore to nest.

- Be aware of the hazards associated with driving on beaches, such as soft sand, washouts and drop-offs, as well as tides and waves. Some of the beaches in the area have very soft sand and during high tides waves can wash up to the vegetation line, making these beaches impassable. **Please note: Yardie Creek can become impassable due to tides and weather events. Please check with the Milyering Discovery Centre for up-to-date conditions.**
- On soft sand your tyre pressure should be reduced to between 15 and 20 psi. Lowered tyre pressure gives extra traction and a more comfortable ride as well as helping to protect tracks for other users. Driving on soft sand is for experienced four-wheel drivers only. Remember to re-inflate your tyres to the manufacturer's recommended pressure before travelling on hard surfaces.
- Vehicle tracks present particular hazards and risks. Stay on the main tracks to protect the vegetation. Passing or overtaking other vehicles can be dangerous. Be aware of blind corners and hill crests. Slow down and look out for other vehicles, including quad bikes.
- Visitors planning to drive in the Ningaloo Coast area should be very cautious after sunset when large numbers of kangaroos and other animals make driving hazardous. If driving at night is unavoidable, please look after your own safety and conserve wildlife by driving slowly and carefully at all times.
- Whenever driving in remote areas, take necessary precautions such as carrying sufficient drinking water, vehicle spares, recovery equipment and communication equipment. Always advise a responsible person of your trip details, including an estimated time of return, and remember to let them know when you have completed your trip.

# Driving along the Ningaloo Coast



**Below** Four-wheel drive bogged in Yardie Creek.

- Four-wheel drives can be driven on Bateman Bay beach in Coral Bay, north from Maud Landing. Beaches are closed to 4WD from 15 October to 30 April each year to protect female turtles coming ashore to nest.

## Off-road vehicles

Off-road vehicles include off-road motorbikes, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and dune buggies.

Off-road vehicle use is permitted only in areas designated for this purpose. There are no designated off-road vehicle areas in Cape Range National Park or around Exmouth. The environments of the Ningaloo Coast are delicate and easily degraded, especially the coastal dune systems.

Contact the Shire of Exmouth or Exmouth Police for more information.

## Quad bikes

Only registered quad bikes (recreational and commercial) are permitted on designated beaches along Ningaloo Marine Park with lawful authority from the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Many of the tracks along the coast are on private leases (pastoral stations), unallocated Crown Land, or marine park tenure, and are not officially gazetted as off-road areas. Riders are responsible for their own safety, and must operate quad bikes with the approval of land managers, and with consideration for the environment and the safety of others at all times.

Riders are reminded there are certain legal requirements regarding the registration and licensing of quad bikes as well as where they can be used. Please contact the Department of Transport for more information.

**Below** Sandy Bay.





Black-flanked rock wallaby

### **Black-flanked rock wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis*)**

The black-flanked rock wallaby is a shy and wary animal, that lives in the cracks and crevices throughout Cape Range Peninsula. They shelter in caves during the heat of the day to conserve water and avoid contact with predators such as cats and foxes. They feed mainly by browsing on the leaves of certain plants and their fruits, and derive their water mostly from their food.

Many of the gorges in Cape Range National Park provide suitable habitat for black-flanked rock wallabies. Here they live along the steep-sided gorge walls, craggy rock faces that are often also home to the tough native fig. Mandu Mandu and Yardie Creek Gorge are excellent places to see these animals.

These wallabies reach sexual maturity between one and two years and breeding can be continuous after this time, but varies in response to seasonal rainfall. A feature of their reproduction is embryonic diapause, where the developing embryo becomes dormant until conditions are right for it to continue development.

Although they pair for life, the females will mate with other males but always return to their original mate. Their agility is impressive and they use their long tails for steering and balance as they move swiftly through the rugged terrain in which they live.

The black-flanked rock wallaby is a threatened species due to predation by introduced species – mainly the fox and, at times, the feral cat. The wallaby is described as being within the 'critical weight range' for foxes – meaning they are particularly vulnerable to predation by this pest species. Degradation and competition for habitat and food by feral goats is also a major threat to black-flanked rock wallabies in Cape Range National Park.

# Wildlife of the Ningaloo Coast

## Euro

(*Macropus robustus erubescens*)

The euro is found all over WA except the lower south, usually in hills and ranges. These stocky kangaroos like steep rocky places with lots of shelter from extreme temperatures. Their diet is mainly grasses and shrubs. Euros have very solid shoulders and forearms, shorter hind legs and large, expressive ears. A male euro can get to 50kg in weight while the females are rarely more than half that. Male euros can be four feet tall.



Euro

## Red kangaroo (*Macropus rufus*)

The red kangaroo's colouring matches the red soil of the outback giving natural camouflage from dingoes and eagles. They are Australia's largest marsupial. Red kangaroos are herbivores and graze at dawn and dusk on a wide variety of grasses and herbaceous plants. When water is available they will drink, however if they obtain sufficient green food, the red kangaroo does not need to drink.



Red kangaroo

## Short-beaked echidna

(*Tachyglossus aculeatus*)

The short-beaked echidna is the only species of echidna in Australia. It lives in forests and woodlands, heath, grasslands and arid environments. It is an egg-laying mammal (or monotreme) and lays one egg at a time. The eggs hatch after about 10 days and the young emerge blind and hairless. Clinging to hairs inside the mother's pouch, the young echidna suckles for two or three months. Once it develops spines and becomes too prickly, the mother removes it from her pouch and builds a burrow for it. It continues to suckle for the next six months. Source – Australian Museum.



Short-beaked echidna

# Wildlife of the Ningaloo Coast



Perentie

## Perentie (*Varanus giganteus*)

The perentie, or bungarra, belongs to the family of Varanidae, which is closely related to the world's largest lizard, the komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*). This is one of five species that can be found in the North West Cape.

Perenties are daytime animals that emerge from their shelters after sunrise to bask near the entrance, until their body temperature rises to an average of mid 30°s. They go hunting during the day, returning before sunset. In winter they sometimes do not emerge at all and during summer can retreat to their shelters during the middle of the day.

The perentie is an egg-laying reptile. It can be recognised by its large cream-yellow spots, with large claws which enable it to extract food from the ground and climb trees if disturbed. They have a well-developed sense of smell as a predatory and scavenging animal. They will also eat insects, other reptiles, birds, small mammals and carrion. The perentie can grow up to 2m long.



Dingo

## Dingo (*Canis lupus dingo*)

The dingo is a primitive animal that is believed to have arrived in Australia around 3500 years ago. They can come in a variety of colours from black to tan, although tan is the most common, with white markings on the feet and tip of the tail. As the largest native apex predator in Cape Range National Park, the dingo is believed to have an important ecological role within this arid ecosystem. While dingoes will hunt prey for food (largely kangaroos) they will often be seen scavenging on carcasses along roads. If you see a dingo in your travels, please remember to observe from a distance and not to provide food or water.

# Common birds of the Ningaloo Coast

## Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*)

**Body length** up to 2m tall

A very large bird with long legs, dark grey-brown feet and long, thick plumage that appears shaggy and is mostly dark brown to grey-brown. The skin of the head and throat is blue. Emus are commonly seen around Exmouth town site and Cape Range National Park. Males incubate and rear chicks, looking after them until the next breeding season.



Emus

## Australian bustard (*Ardeotis australis*)

**Body length** males 105-120cm, females 75-85cm

Top of head black with a face and neck that is mostly white but faintly flecked with greyish brown. The rest of the upper parts are mostly dark brown, with fine pale brown marks. The wing coverts (sets of feathers that cover other feathers, assisting smooth airflow) are blotched blackish brown and white. There's a narrow indistinct black band on the breast and the rest of the underparts are mostly white. When disturbed, this species will often freeze with its beak pointing up. It has long broad wings and is impressive when it flies.



Australian bustard

## Pied butcher bird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*)

**Body length** 29-34cm

Adults – distinctly black and white with glossy black head and neck; immature – upper parts dark brown to blackish brown where adults are black.

**Call** a beautiful undulating whistling song.



Pied butcher bird

# Common birds of the Ningaloo Coast

## Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

**Body length** 50-65cm

A moderately large raptor found close to marine environments. It has long narrow wings, strong feet and the suggestion of a crest. The head and neck is white, streaked with blackish brown. There's a blackish streak through the eye and ear coverts to the side of neck. The back, wings and tail are dark brown and the under parts mostly white. The species is distinguishable from the white-breasted sea eagle by its lesser size and much narrower wings. The osprey has an 'M'-shaped wing profile compared to the sea eagles' upswept wing profile.



Osprey

## Zebra finch (*Taeniopygia guttata*)

**Body length** 10cm

Grey body with a waxy red bill. The zebra finch travels in groups, and its white-barred tail is conspicuous on fleeing and alighting in shrubs. The species has a distinct peeping call.



Zebra finch

## Eastern reef egret

(*Ardea (Egretta) sacra*)

**Body length** 60-70cm

A medium-sized heron with two colour morphs – one all white, the second dark grey. It has a long neck, comparatively short thick legs and a long thick bill.



Eastern reef egret

# Common birds of the Ningaloo Coast

## Nankeen (Australian) kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*)

**Body length** 30-35cm

A small light-coloured falcon with pointed wings and chestnut brown shoulders. The nankeen kestrel is often seen hovering along roadsides with fanlike tail spread.



Nankeen kestrel

## Western bowerbird (*Chlamydera guttata*)

**Body length** 25-31cm

Dark brown on back with rich golden spots. A pink nape crest may be seen. The western bowerbird will imitate other bird calls and human voices.



Western bowerbird

## White-winged fairy-wren (*Malurus leucopterus*)

**Body length** 11.5-14.5cm

Male (breeding) – a distinctive dark blue with white wings and a deep blue tail; female/immature – dull grey-brown above, whitish below; lacks red eye-ring; male (eclipse) – like female with a dark bill. The call is a distinctive 'thin' musical trilling.



White-winged fairy-wren

# Common birds of the Ningaloo Coast

## Rainbow bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*)

**Body length** 20–25cm long

The rainbow bee-eater is usually seen in pairs or small flocks with green, blue, chestnut and yellow plumage.

They feed on insects such as bees and wasps, dragonflies, beetles, butterflies and moths. They live in slightly timbered areas. Their breeding season extends from August to January and they live for approximately 24 months in the wild.

The rainbow bee-eater resembles some kingfishers.



Rainbow bee-eater

# Sharing the shores of the Ningaloo Coast



## Migratory shorebirds fly 13,000km to reach the Ningaloo Coast

**Above** Shorebirds resting along the Ningaloo Coast.

The shores of the Ningaloo Coast provide important refuge for many shorebird and seabird species. Migratory shorebirds fly some 13,000km to reach the shore of the Ningaloo Coast, to feed and rest while escaping the harsh winters in the northern hemisphere. In contrast, the resident shorebirds stay all year round, feeding, resting and nesting along the coast. Seabirds such as terns can be seen in flocks numbering in their thousands. Both resident shorebirds and seabirds lay camouflaged eggs in shallow scrapes in the sand. Birds may nest as solitary pairs or large colonies.

Feeding, resting and nesting are three very important activities in the life of a shorebird or seabird. If disturbed it can be harmful and impact on their survival. Reactions to disturbance can include a watchful eye and alert posture, loud calls, moving away and taking flight, all of which use precious energy.

You can help these birds by keeping your distance, stay below the high tide line to avoid disturbing nests, keep dogs on leashes and avoid 4 four-wheel driving on beaches.



Red-capped plover

### Red-capped plover (*Charadrius ruficapillus*)

**Body Length** 14–16cm

A small resident shorebird with a chestnut brown cap on its head that brightens in breeding plumage. Commonly seen along the beaches of the Ningaloo coast. Nests from May to September.

# Sharing the shores of the Ningaloo Coast



Pied oystercatcher

## Pied oystercatcher

(*Haematopus longirostris*)

**Body length** 46–48cm

A large resident shorebird black with a white under belly. Nests in scrapes in the sand between July and September. Pied oystercatchers will make a loud sharp high pitched alarm call if a nest is being approached.



Lesser sand plover - non breeding

## Lesser sand plover (*Charadrius mongolus*)

**Body length** 18–21 cm

A small grey migratory shorebird with a thick black bill and grey legs. Can be seen from August to May along sandy beaches, sand spits and mud flats close to mangroves. Listed as Endangered.



Ruddy turnstone

## Ruddy turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

**Body length** 22–24cm

A medium-sized migratory shorebird named after its feeding behaviour of flipping over stones, shells, seaweed and other objects. Distinct black markings on the chest and bright orange legs.



Grey tailed tattler

## Grey-tailed tattler (*Tringa brevipes*)

**Body length** 25cm

A medium migratory shorebird with a long slender black bill and yellow legs. Often seen on rocks, beaches and reefs, and intertidal mudflats usually associated with mangroves and seagrass.

# Sharing the shores of the Ningaloo Coast



Fairy tern

## Fairy tern (*Sternula nereis nereis*)

**Body length** 22–27cm

A small tern with a yellow-orange bill. During non-breeding plumage, the tip of the bill is black. Bright yellow legs. Nests on beaches and is easily disturbed by human activities such as walking dogs, jetskis, windsurfers, four-wheel drives.



Caspian tern

## Caspian tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

**Body length** 53–60cm

A large tern with a bright red bill. Can be seen all year round on sheltered sandy and muddy shores. Feeds on fish as well as the eggs and young of other birds.



Crested tern

## Crested tern (*Thalasseus bergii*)

**Body length** 42–50cm

A large-sized tern with a bright yellow bill and a black crested cap. Can be seen all year round on exposed beaches. Feeds on fish and has been known to eat turtle hatchlings.



Lesser crested tern

## Lesser crested tern

(*Sterna bengalensis*)

**Body length** 38–43cm

A medium-sized tern with an orange bill. The black cap is less crested than that of the crested tern. Often seen with the crested tern.

# Plants of the Ningaloo Coast



Yardie morning glory. Photo – John English

## Yardie morning glory (*Ipomoea yardiensis*)

**Baiyungu name:** Wayurlu

Endemic to the North West Cape.

Named after Yardie Creek as it is only found on the western side of the North West Cape.

Can be seen May to July just past the Milyering Discovery Centre, Cape Range National Park.

**Height:** Upright shrub 1-2m.

**Leaves:** Silvery grey, felt, oval shaped.

**Flowers:** Pink or purple, wide funnel shape.

## Ashby's banksia (*Banksia ashbyi*)

**Baiyungu name:** Thaganhungu

The only banksia species to occur in the Pilbara - Exmouth is the most northern extension.

Named after collector and horticulturalist Edwin Ashby in the 1930s.

Can be seen February to May or July to December on the red dunes just before the Lighthouse Caravan Park and at Yardie Creek, Cape Range National Park.

**Height:** Shrub 1-8m



Ashby's banksia

# Plants of the Ningaloo Coast



Cape Range Grevillea

## Cape Range grevillea (*Grevillea varifolia* subsp *varifolia*)

**Baiyungu name:** Jarrarbi

Endemic to the North West Cape. Varifolia means 'with varying foliage'.

Can be seen April to October around Neds Bore, Cape Range National Park.

**Height:** Spreading shrub up to 1.5m.

**Leaves:** Unusual silvery grey, spoon-shaped ending in three points.

**Flowers:** Red, long, downward facing spike. Looks similar to half a bottlebrush.

## Sturt's desert pea (*Swainsona formosa*)

**Baiyungu name:** Jalyurdura

Iconic plant of the Pilbara. The natural variation in this area is for the flower to start off pale in colour with a green centre which changes colour with age, ending up a blood red.

Formosa means 'beautiful and handsome'.

Can be seen June to October all around the town of Exmouth and along the road at the top end of Cape Range National Park.

**Height:** Prostrate plant up to 50cm.

**Leaves:** Grey green and hairy.

**Flowers:** Clustered at the top of a flower spike, red with a swollen pale centre.



Sturt's desert pea

# Plants of the Ningaloo Coast

## Green birdflower

(*Crotalaria cunninghamii*)

**Baiyungu name:** Mulhurn

Unique green bird-shaped flower.

Named for Allan Cunningham, botanist on King's expedition to the north-west coast between 1812-1822.

Can be seen March to December as you enter Cape Range National Park.

**Height:** Shrub up to 4m.

**Leaves:** Velvety grey/green oval shaped

**Flowers:** Green, bird shaped with a touch of brown on the wing tips.



Green birdflower

## Umbrella stackhouse

(*Stackhousia umbellata*)

**Baiyungu name:** Ngajarri

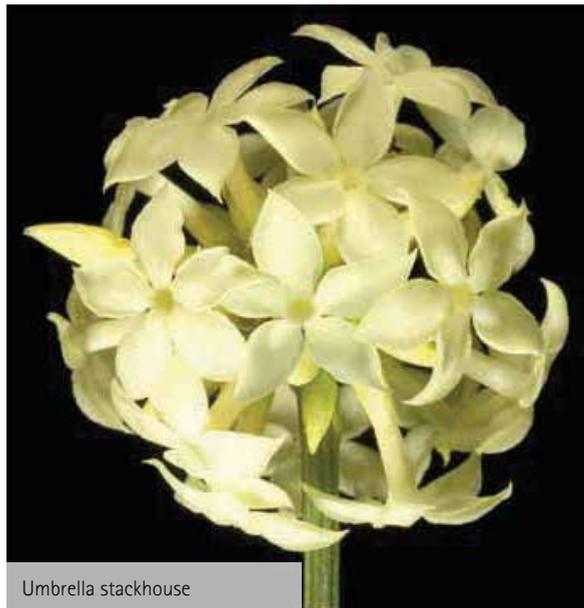
Endemic to the North West Cape. You don't usually see this plant (just flowers) as it loves to grow among spinifex.

"Umbel" is latin meaning "umbrella" and refers to the shape of the flowerhead. Can be seen June to August along the second part of the Mandu Mandu Walk Trail.

**Height:** Spreading perennial herb up to 70cm

**Leaves:** Minute, scale-like along the stem.

**Flowers:** Yellow, small and pretty with umbrella shaped head.



Umbrella stackhouse

# Plants of the Ningaloo Coast

## Cape Range kurrajong (*Brachyhiton obtusilobus*)

**Baiyungu name:** Garrajong

Endemic to the North West Cape.

Obtusilobus means obtuse pods - this is from their beautiful star-shaped seed pods.

Can be seen August to September dotted along the range on the west coast.

They stand out from the surrounding shrubs because of their striking leaf colour.

**Height:** Tree up to 3.5-6m.

**Leaves:** Lime green with 5 points.



Cape Range kurrajong

## Common rock fig (*Ficus brachypoda*)

**Baiyungu name:** Winyjirr

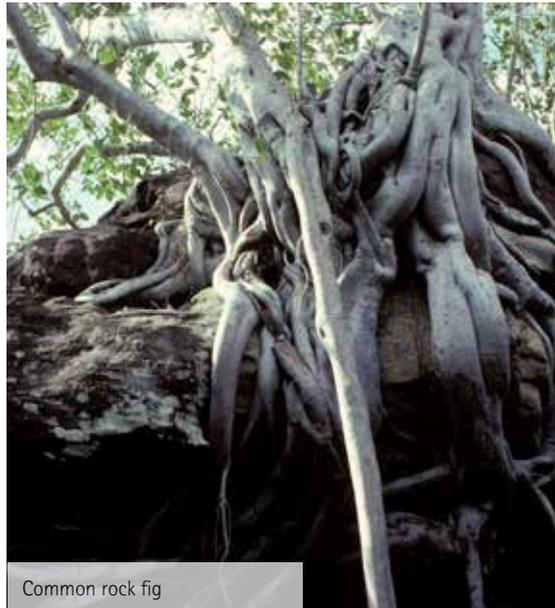
'Brachys' 'podus' is Greek meaning 'short stem' - referring to the fruit with very short stem.

Can be seen April to October on the walls of Mandu Mandu Gorge.

**Height:** Spreading shrub or tree up to 8m.

**Leaves:** Thick, long oval shape with raised vein.

**Flowers:** Small and white.



Common rock fig

# More information

DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service staff are pleased to share their knowledge and offer helpful suggestions about places to go and things to do and see.

More information is available from the Parks and Wildlife Service Exmouth or Perth offices.

## **Parks and Wildlife Service Exmouth Office**

22 Nimitz Street (PO Box 201)  
Exmouth WA 6707  
Ph: (08) 9947 8000

## **Milyering Discovery Centre**

Cape Range National Park  
Ph: (08) 9949 2808  
Email: milyering@dbca.wa.gov.au

## **Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Headquarters**

Locked Bag 104  
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983  
Ph: (08) 9334 0333  
Web: dbca.wa.gov.au

## **Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development**

10 Maley Street, Exmouth WA 6707  
Ph: (08) 9949 2755  
Email: enquiries@dpird.wa.gov.au  
Web: dpird.wa.gov.au

## **Department of Transport**

21 Maidstone Crescent, Exmouth WA 6707  
Ph: (08) 9947 8200  
Email: exmouthlicensing@transport.wa.gov.au  
Web: transport.wa.gov.au

## **Shire of Exmouth**

22 Maidstone Crescent, Exmouth WA 6707  
Ph: (08) 9949 3000  
Email: records@exmouth.wa.gov.au  
Web: exmouth.wa.gov.au

## **Exmouth Visitor Centre**

PO Box 149, Exmouth WA 6707  
Ph: (08) 9949 1176  
Email: reservations@exmouthwa.com.au  
Web: visitningaloo.com.au

## **Carnarvon Visitor Centre**

21 Robinson St, Carnarvon WA 6701  
Ph: (08) 9941 1146  
Email: info@carnarvon.org.au  
Web: carnarvon.org.au

## **Department of the Environment and Energy Commonwealth Marine Reserves Branch**

Email: marinereserves@environment.gov.au  
Ph: 1800 069 352

## **Emergency contacts**

Australia-wide emergency phone number: 000

Parks and Wildlife Service Exmouth Office Ph: (08) 9947 8000

Pilbara Regional Head Office Ph: (08) 9182 2000

Milyering Discovery Centre Ph: (08) 9949 2808

Exmouth Police Ph: (08) 9947 8700

Exmouth Hospital Ph: (08) 9949 3666

Information current at March 2018. This information is available in alternative formats on request.  
Photos - All photos are credited to DBCA unless otherwise specified.



Department of **Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions**

