

Visiting the Montes?

10 things to know before you go...

The **Montebello Islands** are a beautiful place to visit, boasting spectacular fishing, magnificent sunsets, private and pristine coves and an abundance of native wildlife unique to the **North West**.



If planning a trip, things to consider are:

- 1. Travel:** the Montebello islands are offshore, and a trip should only be undertaken by experienced boaters in well-prepared, suitable sized and equipped vessels in favourable weather conditions.
- 2. Remoteness:** the islands are relatively remote; therefore, pre-planning is a necessity. Visitors must take adequate fuel, water, food and first aid supplies as no service or facilities are available. Phone signal is extremely poor, satellite phones are recommended.
- 3. Protection:** the islands and surrounding waters are protected and managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Parks and Wildlife Service.
- 4. Quarantine:** it is critical that foreign plants, animals, insects and seeds are not carried to the islands. Small mammals and birds inhabit the islands, and introduction of pests could be disastrous to these native endemic species. Please follow these quarantine procedures:
 - Ensure boats and gear are clean, baited for rodents and sprayed for insects and pests.

- Check clothing, footwear and camping equipment are not carrying soil, seeds, insects or lizards (e.g. Asian house gecko).
- Check containers and food to ensure they are clean and free of insects and pests.

- 5. Camping:** permitted on the shores of Hermite, Renewal, Crocus, Bluebell and Primrose Islands throughout the year, and on North West Island from April to September (due to turtle nesting/hatching season from October to March).

For updates to camping arrangements please contact the Karratha DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service office.

- 6. Management zones:** the marine park waters are divided into management zones, each with different permitted activities.

- **Sanctuary zones:** 'look but don't take': activities such as diving, boating and wildlife appreciation are permitted, however fishing (including catch and release), spearing, netting and crabbing are not allowed.



- **Recreation zones and general use zones:** these zones allow recreational fishing, spearing and other such activities.

7. Fires: escaped fires could be disastrous for the islands' wildlife and ecosystems. For this reason, take a portable fuel stove as open fires and solid fuel fires (including heat beads) are not permitted.

8. Pets: taking pets on the islands is prohibited.

9. Radiation risk: Trimouille Island and areas on Alpha Island have low levels of radiation from nuclear testing conducted in the 1950s. Visitors are to observe signage, limit exposure to one hour per day, and not disturb soil or handle/remove relics.

10. Leave no trace: take all rubbish including food scraps on departure and dispose of it appropriately on the mainland.

- **For human waste, DBCA encourages visitors to bring and use portable chemical toilets. Where this is not possible, please bury at a depth of at least 30cm and use only toilet tissue. Do not use disposable wipes as they do not biodegrade.**

Vessels with sullage systems are to empty them in waters outside the marine park (know your discharge zones).

Want to know more?

• Download the Montebello Islands Marine Park brochure and view the information video, maps, and other material at the Explore Parks WA website – exploreparcs.dbca.wa.gov.au/montebello-islands or obtain copies at your local Parks and Wildlife Service office, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) office, and Pilbara-based visitor centres.

• Download the Islands in the Pilbara Visitor Guide at exploreparcs.dbca.wa.gov.au/pilbara-islands-visitor-guide, or obtain copies at the locations specified above.

• Download the FREE *Marine Parks WA* and *Recfishwest* smartphone app

• Fishing bag, size and possession limits apply. View the rules on the DPIRD Fisheries website-fish.wa.gov.au

• Follow the Parks and Wildlife Pilbara WA Facebook page @ *WAParksWildlifePilbara*



For more information contact

DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service
Karratha Office
Lot 3 Anderson Road
Karratha Industrial Estate
KARRATHA WA 6714
Ph: (08) 9182 2000
karratha.admin@dbca.wa.gov.au



emergencyplus.com.au

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If there is no mobile phone coverage you **WILL NOT** be able to call 000 but the app will provide you with GPS location details.

