

# Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions  
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

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## Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park

Eighty Mile Beach is the longest uninterrupted beach in Western Australia, stretching 260km from Cape Missiessy (Jinmarnkur) to Mulla Mulla Down Creek at De Grey Station (Pananykarra).

Marine parks help to conserve marine biodiversity and cultural heritage while providing special places for people to enjoy, appreciate and learn about the spectacular marine life.





The marine park is jointly managed with the Ngarla, Nyangumarta and Karajarri traditional owners. The traditional owners have lived on and remain connected to the land, plants, spirits and animals of their traditional country. Stories, songlines and sites are embedded within Eighty Mile Beach and remain a powerful spiritual force. Each group has rangers who work alongside the Parks and Wildlife Service to look after their saltwater country.

Eighty Mile Beach is one of the world's most important feeding grounds for migratory shorebirds and is a major nesting site for flatback turtles, which are only found in northern Australia. It is home to many species of shark, ray and sawfish. The vast intertidal sand and mudflats that extend up to four kilometres wide at low tide provide a rich source of food for many species.

## Planning your visit

Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park is located between Port Hedland and Broome, approximately 1700km north of Perth. It extends for nearly 260km along the coast and includes the popular recreational sites of Cape Keraudren, Pardoo and Eighty Mile Beach. The Eighty Mile Beach coastal reserves run parallel to the marine park, stretching almost 220km from Cape Missiessy in the north to Cootenbrand Creek near Cape Keraudren in the south.

For more information about the Eighty Mile Beach coastal reserves refer to the *Parks and reserves of the south-west Kimberley and north-west Pilbara joint management plan 2019*, and the *Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park Management Plan 2014-2024*.

[dbca.wa.gov.au](http://dbca.wa.gov.au).

## Climate

The marine park lies on the most arid coast in Australia, where average rainfall is low. Most people visit in the dry season when temperatures are milder and there is low risk of tropical cyclones. However, sea turtle nesting occurs in the wet season and some visitors are keen to observe this natural phenomenon.

Season	Months	Daily Temp (°C)	Night Temp (°C)	Rainfall (mm)	Cyclones
<b>Dry</b>	April - October	32	16	10	No
<b>Wet</b>	November - March	36	24	60	Yes

## Services and facilities

The nearest towns are Broome and Port Hedland, where you will find major grocery stores, camping and tackle stores, hospitals, banks and post offices.

**Cape Keraudren** lies 13km off Great Northern Highway and is operated by the Shire of East Pilbara, offering tent and caravan sites. There is a boat launching ramp, fish cleaning station, picnic tables, wi-fi hotspots and toilet blocks. There is NO drinking water or electricity available. Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times. There is a shire ranger on site to assist with all your queries. You can access the mangrove-lined creeks and bays at the southern end of the marine park by boat or foot. For more information, contact the Shire of East Pilbara: (08) 9175 8000 or [eastpilbara.wa.gov.au](http://eastpilbara.wa.gov.au)

**Pardoo Station** is a working cattle station which also provides accommodation for caravans, families, backpackers and corporate clients and has camp sites, rooms and houses for rent. There is a camp kitchen, restaurant, toilet and shower block, pool, fire pit, boat launching areas and small shop stocking snacks and bait. From here you can access recreational fishing opportunities in the south-western end of the marine park via 4WD, boat and foot. Parks and Wildlife Service rangers are often onsite. For more information call (08) 9176 4930 or visit [pardoostation.com](http://pardoostation.com).

**Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park** offers powered and unpowered campsites and self-contained units, a camp kitchen, toilet blocks, drinking water, barbecues, fish cleaning station, public phones and a mini mart. You can access the marine park via 4WD and foot from the caravan park. Parks and Wildlife Service rangers are often onsite. For more information call 08 9176 5941 or visit [eightymilebeach.com.au](http://eightymilebeach.com.au).

**Sandfire Roadhouse** offers fuel, meals, snacks, camping accommodation and rooms. The nearest access point to the marine park from this location is via the Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park, 50km to the south. For more information call (08) 9176 5944.



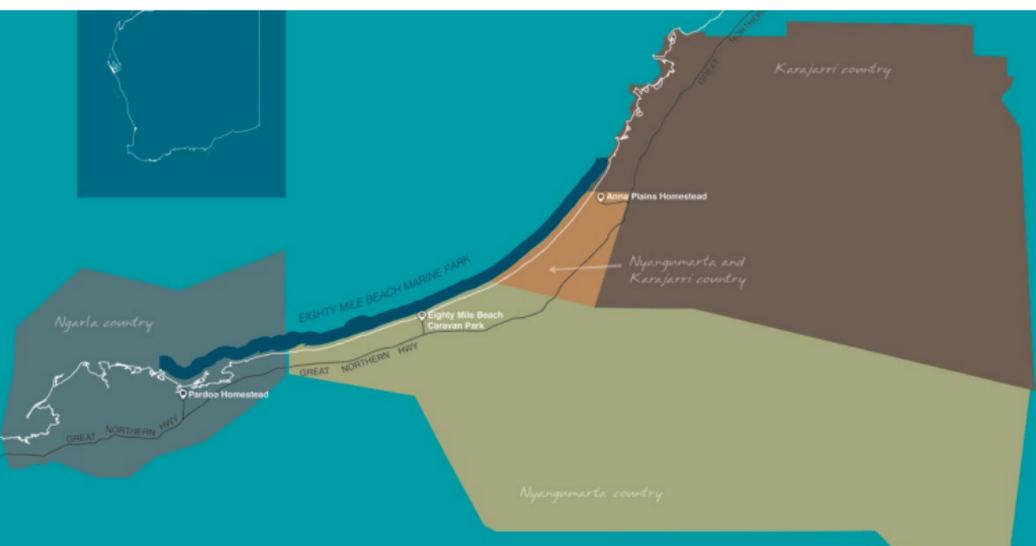
## Comfort and safety

- Tides in the marine park are semi diurnal (two high tides and two low tides each day). Check the tide times before driving along the beach.
- The beach can have areas of soft sand and mud. Be careful when driving your vehicle and try to stick to the high tide line or above. There have been many vehicle recoveries and losses at the beach.
- It is not recommended that you swim in the marine park due to the presence of jellyfish, catfish, sharks and vagrant crocodiles.
- Hot weather dehydrates your body quickly, so always carry plenty of water.
- This stretch of coastline is remote; remember to carry enough fuel, food, water and first aid equipment.
- Tropical cyclones occasionally hit Eighty Mile Beach during the wet season. Visitors need to listen for cyclone and severe weather warnings.

## Respecting Aboriginal culture

The Ngarla, Nyangumarta and Karajarri people welcome visitors to their saltwater country and the marine park, and ask that you care for and respect this sacred place.

- Acknowledge traditional owner country and their ancestors.
- Respect traditional owner culture and values.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Respect wildlife.
- Fish for the future and only catch what you can eat fresh.
- Be careful as there are dangers in the water.
- Be considerate of your hosts and other visitors.
- Visitors are encouraged not to take shells from the beach.



## Zone boundaries

Zone boundaries are defined by latitude and longitude coordinates. On the water, zone boundaries can be identified using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and plotters. You will need to plot the coordinates manually into your GPS. To do this accurately, ensure that your GPS is set to either GDA94 or WGS84.

The coordinates can be found in this brochure, and online at either the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Parks and Wildlife Service or Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development websites. Alternatively, zoning maps can be emailed to you if you call the Parks and Wildlife Service office.

## Know your zones

In Western Australia, marine parks are zoned to protect the natural and cultural values of the area, while providing opportunities for commercial and recreational use and enjoyment. As a marine park visitor, it is your responsibility to be aware of what activities are permitted in each zone. To help you 'know your zones' the **Marine Parks WA** iPhone app has been created to provide easy-to-access information for the marine parks in WA. It provides a variety of information including a 'where am I?' function to see which marine park zone you are in. The app can be downloaded through the AppStore on any iPhone.

Make sure you 'know your zones' and are prepared before you head out.



# Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park has six different zones:

**Sanctuary zones:** The green zones are 'look but don't take' areas, where all types of fishing are prohibited. They are set aside for conservation, so all plants and animals are protected. There are three sanctuary zones in the park: Anna Plains, Kurtampanya and Pananykarra.

**Special purpose zones (cultural heritage):** The blue zones recognise and protect sites of high cultural significance to the traditional owners, particularly the Nyangumarta people. There are four cultural heritage zones in the park: Jangyjartiny, Waru, Paruwuturr and Pilyarkarra.

**Special purpose zone (mangrove protection):** The pink zones are managed for the protection of mangroves, saltmarshes and species inhabiting these areas, while allowing for compatible recreational use. They are of high cultural significance to the Ngarla people. There is one mangrove protection zone in the park: Malamalajungunya.

**Special purpose zones (shore-based activities):** The red zones provide for shore based recreational and commercial fishing. Boat based fishing is not allowed. There are two shore-based activities zones in the park: Pananykarra and Banningarra.

**Recreation zone:** The yellow zone provides for conservation and recreation. Commercial fishing, pearling, aquaculture and petroleum development are not allowed. There is one recreation zone: Wallal Recreation Zone.

**General use zone:** 70 per cent of the park is available for a wide range of recreational and commercial uses.



## Recreational fishing

Recreational fishing is a popular activity in the marine park and is permitted in more than 75 per cent of the park. Recreational fishing can continue to be enjoyed in the general use zone, cultural heritage (dark blue) zones and recreation (yellow) zone. In the shore-based activities (red) zones, only shore-based recreational fishing is allowed. In the mangrove protection (purple) zone, only boat-based recreational fishing is allowed. Fishing is not permitted in sanctuary zones.

Remember that recreational fishing rules apply within the marine park. If you plan to fish from a boat powered by a motor, or if you use a powered boat to travel to your fishing destination, you will need a **Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence** from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. To use a throw net, you will need a **net fishing licence** (haul and set netting is prohibited). Any undersize and unwanted fish should be returned to the water as soon as possible. Protected species including sawfish are found in this marine park. If caught, remove all of the line and the hook if possible before releasing. Finfish possession limits apply throughout WA including permanent and temporary places of residence. Familiarise yourself with the Code of Conduct for Recreational Fishing in the Kimberley before you head out fishing. For this document, along with the latest recreational fishing rules, go to [fish.wa.gov.au](http://fish.wa.gov.au).



## Customary fishing

Customary fishing is fishing by an Aboriginal person in accordance with the Aboriginal customary law and tradition of the area being fished, for the purpose of satisfying personal, domestic, ceremonial, educational or non-commercial communal needs.

Customary fishing is allowed in the park, but it must take place in an area where the person has a connection recognised by traditional owners of that area. It is for customary law to decide which individuals have customary fishing rights in a particular area. Where these qualifications are not met, an Aboriginal person can still go fishing but must fish under recreational fishing rules and not customary fishing rules.

## Shell collecting

You may collect shells in all zones except in sanctuary zones (green) and the mangrove protection (purple) zone. Shells, both live and dead, are considered fish under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and there are rules around taking them. To find out how many shells you can take and what size they need to be, see the daily bag and size limit table for 'molluscs and other invertebrates' in the recreational fishing guide. It is an offence to sell fish, including shells, unless you have a commercial fishing licence. Traditional owners and the Parks and Wildlife Service encourage visitors to leave shells on the beach for everyone to enjoy. Shells provide habitats for important species, including the hermit crab, and are culturally significant to Aboriginal people.

## Vehicle access

Vehicle restrictions may be applied in the Special Purpose Zone (Mangrove protection) - (purple), Special Purpose Zone (Cultural heritage) - (dark blue) and Sanctuary Zones (green) if required to protect vulnerable species and habitats e.g. during turtle nesting and hatching seasons and migratory shorebird feeding times. Restrictions may also apply to some vehicle types. To prevent erosion and protect the nests of birds and turtles, driving on the dune system is not permitted. Please drive slowly, keep a good distance away from wildlife and stay at least 15 metres away from the base of the dunes.

## Turtle viewing

Viewing turtles is a popular activity, but take care not to disturb the turtles or their nests. We encourage people to witness the amazing nesting event while following the *Turtle Watchers Code of Conduct*, available on the DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service website and *Marine Turtles of the Kimberley* brochure, to enhance the chances of a rewarding experience.

Follow this simple guide to view a turtle nesting:

- Move slow – avoid excess or sudden movement, crouch down to observe.
- No glow – avoid using lights and flash photography. Red lights are ok.
- Stay low – keep out of a turtle's line of sight.

Keep your distance and do not touch the turtles – if you get covered in sand from a nesting turtle, you are too close.





## How you can help

- Quickly and carefully return undersize and unwanted fish to the water. Use wet hands or a wet cloth when handling fish and avoid placing them on hot dry surfaces.
- Always take your litter home with you – remember that plastics and fishing line can harm and potentially kill marine wildlife.
- Do not feed wildlife as it may be harmful to them and introduce risks to other visitors through changed wildlife behaviour.
- Anchor in sand to protect fragile reef, seagrass and seaweed communities that can take decades to regrow.
- Leave shells on the beach.
- Respect turtles when they are nesting and making their way to and from the water: follow the guidelines to enhance your viewing experience.
- When boating, slow down around shallow coral reefs, wildlife, seagrass beds and beaches.
- Be mindful of flocks of shorebirds resting on beaches at high tide and avoid disturbing them.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife with recreational drones.
- Learn about and respect traditional owner culture and their connection to saltwater country.



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your life



[www.emergencyplus.com.au](http://www.emergencyplus.com.au)

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

## Important contacts

Parks and Wildlife Service  
Broome Office  
Ph: (08) 9195 5500  
[broome@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:broome@dbca.wa.gov.au)

Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and  
Attractions  
State Headquarters  
17 Dick Perry Avenue,  
Kensington WA 6151  
Ph: (08) 9219 9000  
[dbca.wa.gov.au](http://dbca.wa.gov.au)

Department of Primary  
Industries and Regional  
Development  
Fisheries Division  
Broome Office

Ph: (08) 9193 8600  
[fish.wa.gov.au](http://fish.wa.gov.au)

Fishwatch hotline, to report  
illegal fishing, aquatic pests  
and fish kills  
Ph: 1800 815 507

Report sick, injured  
or stranded  
marine animals  
Ph: (08) 9474 9055



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Check for alerts and updates directly related to parks and major trails at [alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au](http://alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au) and for all emergency information in Western Australia at [emergency.wa.gov.au](http://emergency.wa.gov.au).

Find more park visitor information, book campsites and share your experiences at [exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au](http://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au).

@waparkswildlife



@exploreparkswa



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