

Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park

Frequently Asked Questions

Amboorin amboonoo angallala jard booroo
People, together let's look after Country good

What is Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park?

Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park is one of three new marine parks in Western Australia's Kimberley region, bordered by Mayala Marine Park and Lalang-gaddam Marine Park. Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park includes the northern part of the Dampier Peninsula and the western islands of the Buccaneer Archipelago. It falls within the boundaries of the Bardi and Jawi Native Title Determination, covering Bardi and Jawi Sea Country up to the mean spring high tide mark.

Marine parks are created to help conserve marine habitats, biodiversity and cultural heritage values. A wide range of activities including fishing, boating and tourism are allowed in certain zones.

Bardi and Jawi Traditional Owners and the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA) Parks and Wildlife Service are jointly managing the marine park with a commitment to conservation and sustainability for future generations to come. Together, the Bardi Jawi Gaarra, Mayala and Lalang-gaddam Marine Parks are the first marine parks in Western Australia to be co-designed and jointly vested with Traditional Owners.

This park was established through the Plan for Our Parks initiative which created six and a half million hectares of new conservation reserves across Western Australia. The Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park adds a further 204,000 hectares to Kimberley marine parks.



Ngarra man (Billy Goat Creek). Photo – Kevin Bancroft, DBCA.

Is the marine park up and running yet?

Yes, the Bardi Jawi Gaara Marine Park was established under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* on 5 July 2022. The Zoning scheme has been gazetted and fishing restrictions will come into effect on **19 July 2026**. In the meantime, the community is encouraged to embrace the new zoning during the transition period, helping to safeguard the park's significant cultural and ecological values.

A map and detailed information of these zones are included in this FAQ. Further information will be provided to the public via websites, community engagement and brochures.

What does the marine park mean to Bardi and Jawi people?

Bardi and Jawi people have used, relied on, enjoyed and protected Country over thousands of years and continue to do so today. Bardi and Jawi Sea Country has always been and continues to be, an essential part of Bardi and Jawi spiritual, social and physical existence. The management of the marine park will complement the existing and ongoing management of Bardi and Jawi Country by Bardi and Jawi Traditional Owners and the Bardi Jawi Rangers.

All people are welcome to Bardi and Jawi Country. Help look after Country by respecting the environment and culture.

[Watch the official launch of the Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Parks](#)



What am I able to do in each marine park zone?

The zoning scheme will influence how fishing and other activities are managed to conserve the environmental and cultural values of the park. It will also continue to provide economic, recreational and cultural benefits for local communities.

General Use Zones allow for a wide range of recreational and commercial uses. **Recreational and commercial fishing are permitted.**



Jarrbanymay (Lombadina Point). Photo - Daniel Barrett-Lennard, DBCA.

Special Purpose Zones (Biocultural Conservation) protect ecologically and culturally important marine ecosystems such as marnany (reefs) and mangroves. Low impact recreational and commercial activities are currently allowed but will continue to be reviewed to ensure biocultural values are maintained.

Recreational and some forms of commercial fishing are permitted.

Special Purpose Zones (Cultural Protection) play an important role in protecting the value of Bardi and Jawi Country to culture and heritage of Bardi and Jawi people. **Recreational fishing is permitted ONLY as part of an authorised tour. Some forms of commercial fishing are permitted.**

While cultural and heritage values apply across the whole of the marine park, the cultural protection zones will protect areas in Bardi and Jawi Country which are of the greatest cultural significance. These areas are regularly used by Traditional Owners for customary activities such as customary fishing, hunting and ceremonies. Many of these areas are adjacent to outstations and near communities.

Sanctuary Zones are 'look but don't take' areas which provide the highest level of protection for marine habitats and wildlife. **Recreational and commercial fishing are not permitted.**

There are 3 Sanctuary Zones in the marine park:

- Ollongan Sanctuary Zone – *Pender Bay*
- Joowanan and Moorroodooloon Sanctuary Zone – *Twin Islands*
- Baniol Gaarra Sanctuary Zone – *Cygnet Bay*

Will I be able to fish in the marine park?

Recreational fishing is allowed in all zones except Sanctuary but is only permitted in Special Purpose Zones (Cultural Protection) as part of an authorised tourism operation.

Statewide recreational fishing rules apply. For the most up-to-date rules and regulations please visit www.dpird.wa.gov.au.

Travelling through a sanctuary zone with fish on board is allowed, provided the fish were caught outside the sanctuary zone. Fishing gear such as rods, handlines, drop nets or throw nets need to be securely stowed (in the boat or in rod holders).

Customary fishing is defined as fishing by an Aboriginal person for personal, domestic, ceremonial, educational or non-commercial communal needs.

Customary law decides 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.



Aarli (fish) trap. Photo – Ian Meechan.



Do I need a licence to fish in the marine park?

Yes, licences are required for some recreational fishing activities in Western Australia, including in the waters of this marine park. Licences are required to:

- fish from a boat powered by a motor, or to use a boat to travel to your fishing destination;
- use a throw (cast) net;
- fish for rock lobster including tropical rock lobster species.

It is your responsibility to know the fishing restrictions that apply to the marine park zones you are visiting. Make sure you 'Know Your Zones' and fish accordingly. For more information on licences and fishing rules, go to www.dpird.wa.gov.au.

Can I access the land?

Bookings are essential for all public access campgrounds on the Dampier Peninsula.

For your safety please do not travel down unsigned roads or enter private land unless you have a prior booking or arrangement. Upon arrival at each community, you are required to register at the community office.

Will I be able to fish from the shore?

The General Use and Special Purpose (Biocultural Conservation) Zones allow for recreational fishing from shore. These zones have been placed to reflect high use recreational areas and are placed adjacent to popular tourism operations.

Can I launch my boat?

There are no public boat ramp facilities on the Dampier Peninsula. Several locations have private boat ramps, permission is required to launch your boat. Derby and Broome are the closest public boat ramps.

Can I access the islands?

Islands and land adjacent to the marine park are part of the Bardi and Jawi Native Title Areas. Access to these areas should be sought through the Bardi Jawi Niimidiman Aboriginal Corporation or the respective Traditional Owners.

How can I stay safe?

Bardi and Jawi people are concerned for the safety and wellbeing of visitors to their country. The remoteness of the marine park, strong tides and currents, extreme weather conditions, and tropical cyclones pose risks to visitors. This is particularly dangerous for visitors who are inexperienced or unprepared for such conditions.

It is recommended visitors do not swim, snorkel or dive in the marine park due to the presence of estuarine crocodiles, sharks, stingers and strong tidal currents.



Linygoorr (estuarine crocodile). Photo – Roanna Goater.

Be Crocwise

Linygoorr (estuarine crocodiles) live in the marine park, inhabiting creeks, rivers, tidal areas, along beaches, offshore areas far from the coast, and in both fresh and salt water. There have been several attacks and injuries to people in the Kimberley, even in freshwater pools inland from the coast.

Both the estuarine (saltwater) crocodile and the freshwater crocodile (Johnston's crocodile) are Specially Protected under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. It is an offence to interfere, lure or feed crocodiles.

If your vessel is approached by a crocodile, take immediate action to move away from the animal and maintain a safe separation distance.

If you observe a crocodile demonstrating dangerous behaviour, or people interfering with crocodiles, please report details to Parks and Wildlife Service Broome on (08) 9195 5500.

**Crocs are common
Crocs move around
Crocs are deadly**

BE CROCWISE

