

# Visiting national parks and reserves during the total solar eclipse

## What dates are considered the total solar eclipse period?

The total solar eclipse (TSE) happens on April 20, 2023, at 11.27am (WST). Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) Coast will have front row seats to this spectacular, natural event so we're anticipating a greater than usual visitor numbers between 17-23 April 2023 (inclusive). For this reason, the three days before and after the TSE are also considered the TSE period.

## Which national parks and reserves can I visit during the TSE period?

Most parks and reserves will be open to visitors during the TSE period; however, controlled access will be in place for Cape Range National Park and Jurabi Coastal Park between 17 and 23 April 2023.

Usual park entry fees will apply to Cape Range National Park.

Only those with valid campground bookings or a local residents pass will be permitted to visit Nyinggulara National Park (ex-Ningaloo) during the TSE period.

Day-use is not permitted in this area during the TSE period as there are no day-use sites in the area.

Access to the Nyinggulara National Park (ex-Ningaloo) is via the Minilya-Exmouth Road on the unsealed Ningaloo Road. Conditions are variable and can be challenging for vehicles under tow.

Charles Knife Canyon will be closed on 20 April 2023, the day of the eclipse. On either side of that date, between the 17 and 23 April 2023, a limited section of the Charles Knife scenic drive will be open. Vehicles will need to turn around at or before the signposted point.

Shothole Canyon, Sandy Bay track and Pilgonoman Gorge will be closed to visitors for the duration of the TSE period.

## Can I visit Pilbara Islands?

Day visits to most of the Pilbara lands are permitted during the TSE period, however, access should be avoided at some islands due to environmental, cultural and industry considerations. Please do not visit Varanus, Barrow, Double, Boodie, Middle, Doole, West Doole, Roberts, Whitmore, Whalebone, Burnside, Simpson, Tent, Rocky, Y, Eva (Victor), and Gndaroo islands. Refer to the Islands in the Pilbara map for more information, available on the [exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au](https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au) website.

## Controlled Access

### What does controlled access mean?

In anticipation of greater than usual visitor numbers to Exmouth during the TSE period, entry into Cape Range National Park and Jurabi Coastal Park will be managed differently, to help facilitate a positive visitor

experience, manage vehicle congestion, ensure emergency responders can access areas and minimise environmental damage.

Controlled access will be in place for Cape Range National Park and Jurabi Coastal Park between 17 and 23 April 2023. Vehicle numbers and traffic congestion will be monitored and managed during the controlled access period and there may be periods when access by day-use visitors will be restricted.

Access to Cape Range National Park and Jurabi Coastal Park will be on a first in, first served basis.

In the event of traffic restrictions, local residents, Yardie Homestead clients, commercial tour operators and their clients, and those with valid campground bookings will be permitted through traffic control points.

Traffic management will be on site and visitors should prepare for the likelihood of congestion when visiting and leaving the parks.

To help manage congestion and delays at traffic control points, colour-coded total solar eclipse park passes will be made available to local residents, commercial tour operators and their clients, and Yardie Homestead clients. These will be easily visible to traffic controllers and will minimise queued traffic.

Exmouth residents can collect their local resident pass from the DBCA Exmouth District office at 20 Nimitz Street from 13 April 2023. Coral Bay residents can collect their local resident pass from the Coral Bay Hut from 13 April 2023. Please note that only one pass will be issued per household.

If you are booked on a commercial tour but entering the parks in a private vehicle, please show a copy of your tour booking confirmation to pass through the traffic control point.

DBCA will work with Yardie Homestead to ensure its clients have a mechanism to collect passes upon arrival at the homestead. Please show a copy of your accommodation booking confirmation to pass through the traffic control point, in the first instance. Please note that the usual park entry fees apply to Cape Range National Park.

The DBCA, Parks and Wildlife Service Exmouth District Office will be open between 8am and 4.30pm (including the weekend of 15 and 16 April 2023) with extended hours between 7am and 6pm from 17 to 23 April 2023.

Day-use entry into Nyinggulara National Park (ex-Ningaloo) will not be permitted (holders of a valid campground booking or a local resident pass excepted).

Further information on obtaining local residents passes, as well as information about camping is available on the Explore Parks WA website at <https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/total-solar-eclipse>.

## What times can I enter the parks and when do I need to leave by?

Controlled access will be in place between the hours of 6am to 6pm for Cape Range National Park and Jurabi Coastal Park (17-23 April 2023). Rangers will be patrolling the parks outside of these hours. Those without valid passes or campground bookings will not be permitted to remain within the parks.

There will be a high volume of traffic in and out of DBCA campgrounds on 17 April 2023 and 23 April 2023. Visitors attending festivals and events that conclude after sunset should be very cautious on the return journey. Please look after your own safety and conserve wildlife by driving slowly and carefully at all times.

## What are the road conditions like?

The main access road for Cape Range National Park and Jurabi Coastal Park is sealed all the way to Yardie Creek (approx. 53km from the entry station). Many of the access tracks to day-use sites and campsites are dirt roads with 2WD access. Some access tracks within Jurabi Coastal Park are soft sand and require 4WD.

In Cape Range National Park there is a sealed road between the entry gate and Yardie Creek.

Access to Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves including Nyinggulara National Park (ex-Ningaloo) are on unsealed roads and are for high-clearance 4WD vehicles with low-range gears only. Reduce tyre pressure for tracks with soft sand. There is no facility to reinflate tyres on exit.

Yardie Creek can become impassable due to tides and weather events. Please check with the Milyering Discovery Centre for up-to-date conditions and be aware that vehicle recovery may take time and can be costly.

Please be aware of the hazards associated with driving in remote areas. Stay on the main vehicle tracks to protect the vegetation and be aware of blind corners, hill crests and dusty conditions. Slow down and look for other vehicles.

## Where can I park my vehicle?

Parking is available at day-use sites within Cape Range National Park and Jurabi Coastal Park.

To avoid damage to vegetation and minimise vehicle congestion, please use designated parking areas only. If a parking area is full, please visit another site and return at a later time.

Accessible parking is available at the Milyering Discovery Centre and Yardie Creek.

## Is there public transport to the park and a bus service in the park?

There is no public transport to or within the parks. This service may be provided as part of a tour. For more information on tours, visit the [Ningaloo Visitor Centre](#).

## Can I drive my vehicle on the beach?

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.

## Local Residents

### I live locally, how do I obtain my local resident pass?

Residents of Exmouth and Coral Bay are entitled to one local resident pass per household. This will provide access to Jurabi Coastal Park, Cape Range National Park and Nyngulara National Park (ex-Ningaloo) for the duration of the controlled access period. There is no charge for a local resident's pass.

Residents of Exmouth can obtain their pass from 13 April 2023 at the DBCA Exmouth District office. Coral Bay residents can collect their pass from the Coral Bay Information Hut from 13 April 2023.

Please provide photo ID along with a form of identification documentation showing your name and residential address (not PO Box) to obtain your local resident pass. Please remember that to manage vehicle numbers, only one pass will be issued per household. DBCA will maintain a register of addresses that have been issued with a local residents pass.

### Can I sell or give my local resident pass to someone else?

A local residents pass can be used by anyone in your household but should not be sold or given to anyone outside your household.

## Camping

### Are there still campsites available?

No, but it is possible that due to cancellations, campsites may become available again so please continue to check Park Stay WA by visiting [parkstaybookings.dbca.wa.gov.au](http://parkstaybookings.dbca.wa.gov.au). Refer to the Ningaloo Eclipse website for other accommodation options. Check the Shire of Exmouth website for their campsite availability.

### Do I need to show my booking confirmation for my campsite?

Yes. You will need to have proof of your booking with you. DBCA staff and Campground Hosts will be checking your booking confirmation on arrival.

### Can I set up camp outside of the designated campsites?

No – camping is only permitted in pre-booked, designated campsites. If you camp outside of the designated campsites, you will be asked to move on. Penalties may apply.

### I am camping, what facilities are available at the campgrounds?

Toilets and bins are available at campgrounds in Cape Range National Park. Increased rubbish collection will occur during the TSE period, however, if bins are full, please take your rubbish with you and dispose of at a rubbish collection point.

You must bring your own portable chemical cassette toilet if camping within the Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves and you must take your rubbish and waste with you.

### Can I sleep in my car?

Only within a designated campsite booked in your name.

### My friends want to camp on my site, how can I amend my booking?

Extra campers can be added to existing bookings via Park Stay WA. There is a maximum of eight visitors per site.

### Can I sell or give my campsite booking to someone else?

Bookings are non-transferrable. Please refer to the Online Campsite Booking Terms and Conditions.

### Where can I find the terms and conditions for my campsite booking?

In your booking confirmation email or the Explore Parks WA website.

### I can't make it anymore; how do I cancel my campsite booking?

Your booking can be cancelled under 'My Bookings' in your account on Park Stay WA.

### How can I get a refund for my campsite booking?

Bookings cancelled on Park Stay WA are automatically refunded subject to the Terms and Conditions.

### Can I camp on the Pilbara Islands?

Camping is permitted on the shores of Hermite, Renewal, Crocus, Bluebell and Primrose Islands throughout the year, and on North West Island from April to September. Camping is restricted to 100m inland of the high-water mark and for no longer than five consecutive nights. Please watch Visiting the Montebello Islands in Western Australia video available on the [exploreparcs.dbca.wa.gov.au](https://www.exploreparcs.dbca.wa.gov.au) website

During the TSE period, limited camping is available at South Muiron Island and Serrurier (Long) Island and only to authorised persons. Applications can be made to the DBCA Exmouth District office on 9947 8000.

Overnight camping at all other island nature reserves is not permitted.

Campfires are not permitted on any of the islands.

### Where can I empty my waste/is there a dump point?

- Cape Range National Park – Milyering Discovery Centre and Yardie Creek day-use area
- Nyinggulara National Park (ex-Ningaloo) - Winderabandi, North Lefroy, Point Billie, South Lefroy and Janes Bay.
- Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves – Warroora Coast – 14 Mile, Sandy Bay, Steven’s Camp and the Lagoon.

Sewage discharge schemes apply to the Ningaloo Marine Park, Muiron Islands, Montebello and Barrow Islands Marine Conservation Reserves. No discharge is permitted from vessels in areas designated ‘Zone 1’.

Please do not discharge sewage in the Ningaloo Marine Park, Muiron Islands Marine Management Area, Barrow Island Marine Park and Montebello Islands Marine Park, and within 500m of land (including islands).

### Can I have a campfire?

Campfires are not permitted in Cape Range National Park. This includes the use of heat beads. The use of portable gas stoves is permitted.

Campfires are prohibited within the Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves including Nyinggulara National Park (Ex-Ningaloo) on days with a fire danger rating of ‘High’ or above. Fire danger ratings can be found here: Western Australia Fire Danger Ratings ([bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au))

## General information

### Can I bring my dog?

Dogs, or other domestic pets are not permitted.

Dogs are permitted in campgrounds in Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves including Nyinggulara National Park (ex-Ningaloo) but they must be controlled and on a leash.

Dogs, or other domestic pets are not permitted on Pilbara Island nature reserves.

Please be aware that for the protection of native wildlife, 1080 poison baits are used in conservation reserves to control foxes and feral cats. 1080 will kill domestic cats and dogs. Please do not take your pets into areas that are signposted as a 1080 poison risk.

## Can I fly my drone?

For information on flying drones, visit the DBCA website.

## Can I go fishing?

The Nynggulu (Ningaloo) Coast Visitor guide (pages 13-17) and map provide information on where fishing is permitted - <https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/park/ningaloo-marine-park>.

Download the Recfishwest app for details on fishing rules and regulations.

## What do I do if I find injured or stranded wildlife?

Call the Wildcare Helpline on 08 9474 9055 as soon as practical.

## Is there mobile phone reception?

Mobile phone service is limited.

## Will there be rangers patrolling and how can I contact them?

To protect the environment and maximise your visitor experience during the TSE period, DBCA staff will be stationed at campgrounds and patrolling DBCA-managed lands and waters.

To report an issue, such as inappropriate behaviour or unauthorised camping, please contact the DBCA Exmouth District office on 9947 8000; the DBCA Karratha office on 9182 2000; the Milyering Discovery Centre on 9949 2808 or speak with on-ground staff.

## Accessibility

Accessible toilets are available at Milyering Discovery Centre, Mesa Camp, Osprey Bay, Oyster Stacks and Yardie Creek.

Accessible parking is available at the Milyering Discovery Centre and Yardie Creek.

There are several accessible walk trails and viewpoints in Cape Range National Park. Milyering Discovery Centre is wheelchair accessible and offers a great opportunity to view interpretive displays covering a range of attributes of Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park. Read the visitor guide brochure for more information.

Beach access wheelchairs are available for Cape Range National Park and Coral Bay. Bookings for Cape Range National Park can be made by calling Milyering Discovery Centre 9949 2808 or for Coral Bay call the Coral Bay Information Centre 9948 5131.

Some day-use areas also have viewpoints and/or shaded picnic tables which are suitable for wheelchair access, these include:

- Viewpoints of Ningaloo Reef: The Bay Loop at Turquoise Bay and Oyster stacks.
- Viewpoint and picnic tables: Osprey Bay, Yardie Creek, Mesa.

## Facilities

Toilets and picnic tables are located within Cape Range National Park and Jurabi Coastal Park. There is no drinking water available. Plan your visit and carry enough water for the duration of your stay.

Light refreshments and drinks can be purchased at Milyering Discovery Centre but it is recommended you plan your day and bring your own supplies.

## Boating

For all information related to boating and water skiing read page 24-25 of the Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) Coast visitor guide and download the RecFishWest app for marine park zone information and permitted activities.

Public day-use moorings are available for use during the total solar eclipse event and are coloured according to the vessel length (green – up to 12m vessels, blue up to 18m vessels and black – for kayaks only).

Please check the details on the mooring before using. Blue and green moorings are available for short-term day-use and the black public moorings are for kayaks only. The public moorings are also used by tour operators, along with other members of the public, so please be courteous with how long you stay on the mooring.

For this event we recommend a maximum of one hour for use of the public moorings to allow others to also enjoy the reef below. **PLEASE NOTE ALL DAY-USE PUBLIC MOORINGS ARE LOCATED WITHIN 'NO TAKE' SANCTUARY ZONES.**

Yellow and white moorings are not for public use.

In the absence of a mooring, please anchor on bare sand only.

## Can I camp on my boat?

Yes. Please anchor on bare sand only.