

# Lalang-gaddam Marine Park

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Aardbulaardoo Ngaieye (welcome everyone)  
to Lalang-gaddam Marine Park part of Dambeemangarddee Country.*

### What is the Lalang-gaddam Marine Park?

Situated in remote Kimberley waters, Lalang-gaddam Marine Park spans 1.3 million hectares of Dambeemangarddee Sea Country, from the Buccaneer Archipelago to Prince Regent River in the north. The marine park is approximately 150km north of Derby and 300km north of Broome.

Beginning with the protection of Camden Sound in 2012, the marine park expanded to Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park and North Lalang-garram Marine Park, then Maiyalam Marine Park in July 2022. From 2023, all four areas are referred to collectively as Lalang-gaddam Marine Park. 'Lalang-gaddam' means 'the ocean' and evokes the saltwater as a spiritual place and a place of natural abundance.

Visitors can enjoy diverse seascapes of fringing waddaroo (coral reefs), spectacular gorges, estuarine systems, and galaab (beaches), observe wildlife such as sea banarddee (birds), and fish for ilerdda (barramundi) in jindirm (mangrove) lined creeks and bays. The park is also home to the awe-inspiring Garaan-ngaddim (Horizontal Falls) and Yowjab (Montgomery Reef), two of the most significant tourist attractions along the Kimberley coast.



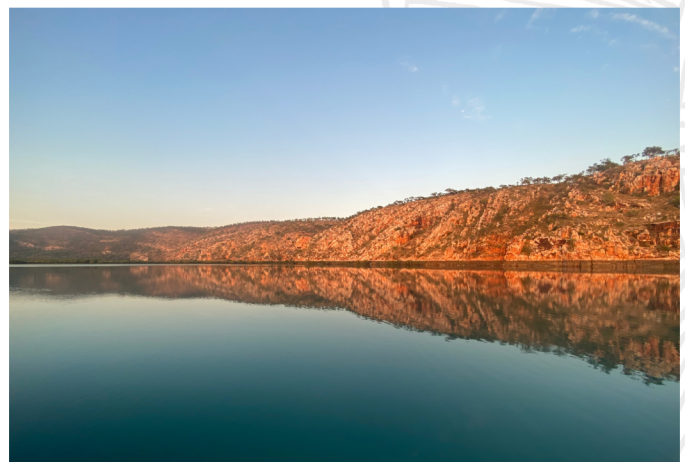
Jindirm (mangroves). Photo – Roanna Goater, DBCA.

Help conserve the unique values of the marine park for future generations by reading and abiding by the Lalang-gaddam Marine Park Visitor Plan.

This detailed document provides fantastic information on key visitor sites and anchorage guidelines that all recreational and commercial operators are expected to follow.



[Read the Lalang-gaddam Visitor Plan](#)



Wotjulum area. Photo: Chloe Rings, DBCA.

### Do I need a license to visit?

Most recreational visitors to the marine park will not require a licence. Activities that require a licence include commercial filming and photography, holding an event in the park or scientific research or monitoring.

Anyone operating a tourism or recreation business for profit in the marine park will require a commercial operations licence, including seaplane charter flights servicing recreational vessels.

## Do I need a license to fish in the marine park?

Fishing licences are required for some recreational fishing activities in the marine park. Statewide recreational fishing rules apply in the general use, pearling and whale conservation zones (trawling prohibited in whale conservation zone). For the most up to date rules and regulations, please visit [fish.wa.gov.au](http://fish.wa.gov.au).

## What is customary fishing?

Customary fishing is defined as fishing by an Aboriginal person for personal, domestic, ceremonial, educational or non-commercial communal needs. Customary fishing respects customary law and tradition, which includes fishing only where the person has a connection or permission from Traditional Owners of that area. Customary fishers are not required to hold a recreational fishing licence, however fishing rules that protect fish stocks and marine habitat still apply.

## What are the zones in Lalang-gaddam Marine Park?

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

**Special Purpose Zones (Cultural Protection)** protect areas of great cultural significance. Dambeemangarddee people have used, relied on, enjoyed and protected Country for thousands of years and continue to do so today. **Recreational fishing is permitted ONLY as part of an authorised tour.**

While cultural and heritage values apply across the whole marine park, customary activities are more likely to be carried out in these zones. Visitors and users of the marine park are asked to respect Traditional Owners' requests for privacy while they are undertaking customary activities.

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

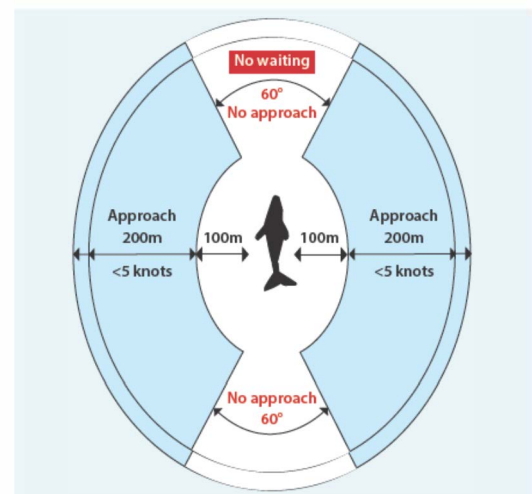
**Special purpose zone (whale conservation)** protects humpback whales that use the area for calving, nursing and resting. **Recreational fishing is permitted.**

**Special purpose zone (wilderness conservation)** conserves marine biodiversity and aims to preserve a near-natural condition of the ecosystem and habitat. **Restricted recreational fishing is permitted.**

**Special Purpose Zones (recreation and conservation)** protect ecologically and culturally important marine ecosystems, including jindirm (mangrove), waddaroo (coral) reef and intertidal communities. **Recreational fishing is permitted.**

**Special purpose zone (pearling)** recognises the long history and importance of pearling in this area. Access is open however please do not interfere with pearling operations. **Recreational fishing is permitted.**

**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 is not permitted.**



## Enjoying the marine park

Lalang-gaddam Marine Park provides a stunning setting for visitors to learn about the continuing rich cultural heritage values of the area.

**Yowjab (Montgomery Reef)** is one of the most outstanding geological marine features of the Kimberley bioregion. This enormous intertidal rhodolith reef system is home to diverse marine life including julawaddaa (turtles), waliny (dugongs), goiyoiya (estuarine crocodile). Banarddee (birds) nest on the island and forage on the reef top.

Walking on Yowjab or any reef in Lalang-gaddam Marine Park is prohibited as they are culturally significant and sensitive, living systems that can be easily damaged.

Anchoring is prohibited in the Yowjab channel to protect the reef from damage and for visitor safety.

**Ngalgaany (St George Basin)** is surrounded by towering sandstone cliffs and formations, beaches and vast northern and southern jindirm (mangroves). Covering more than 70km<sup>2</sup> each, these are among the largest concentrations of mangroves in Australia.

As an excellent nursery for marine life, an abundance of species live in this fertile environment including mudskippers, mud crabs, illerda (barramundi), doolja (mangrove jack), goiyoiya (estuarine crocodiles) and a wide range of banarddee (birds).



Snubfin dolphin spitting in Malandoom (Prince Regent River). Photo: Holly Raudino, DBCA.

**Malandoom (Prince Regent River)** flows into the basin and is home to small populations of jigeedany (dolphins), including the endemic Australian snubfin and Australian humpback dolphins.

**Maamboolbarda (King Cascade)** is situated 5.7 nautical miles upstream from the Prince Regent National Park boundary. The entire area is a significant cultural site for Dambeemangarddee people, featuring in creation stories.

Anchoring is prohibited within the Maamboolbarda basin to protect cultural values and for visitor safety.

## Garaan-ngaddim (Horizontal Falls)



Garaan-ngaddim (Horizontal Falls). Photo: Ellen D'Cruz.

Dambeemangarddee people welcome visitors to their Country, including visiting Garaan-ngaddim (Horizontal Falls). It is part of Dambeemangarddee traditional cultural law and protocol not to travel through the falls when the tide is rushing through.

This is when the creator snake, Woongudd, is travelling. It is both disrespectful and dangerous to travel when the falls are rushing as the Woongudd is damaged every time people drive through the gap.

Safety is a major concern around the falls as tidal changes create dangerous environmental conditions.



[Read the Garaanngaddim \(Horizontal Falls\) Marine Safety Boating Guide from the Department of Transport](#)



A 7km drone exclusion zone surrounding Garaan-ngaddim (Horizontal Falls) is in place for the safety of seaplanes and helicopters operating in the area.

Avoid seaplane landing areas and monitor marine channel 69 when in the vicinity of the falls.



Tawny nurse shark. Photo: Daniel Barrow, DBCA.

## Can I visit the land?

Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation holds Exclusive Possession Native Title above the high-water mark on islands and much of the coast adjacent to the marine park.

You must apply for a Dambimangari Visitor Pass at [www.dambimangari.com.au](http://www.dambimangari.com.au) to visit these lands. Due to cultural reasons, some sites may be closed occasionally. Please check the Location Schedule on the website and respect cultural protocols and access restrictions.

Some areas will also require a free Aboriginal Land Trust Permit (ALT) from [www.dlph.wa.gov.au/entrypermits](http://www.dlph.wa.gov.au/entrypermits) which can only be obtained after an approved Dambimangari Visitor Pass. Obtain all permits and download evidence offline before you depart, as there is no reliable reception or internet throughout the marine park.



Stone arrangements. Photo: Kim Doohan, DAC.

## Respecting Country



Dambeemangarddee and DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service are working in partnership to conserve Lalang-gaddam Saltwater Country for future generations. To respect culture and Country:

- Acknowledge Dambeemangarddee people as the Traditional Owners
- Do not touch, move or collect cultural objects, including spearheads, shells, artefacts, skeletal material or rocks
- Avoid all burial places and stone arrangements
- Follow anchorage guidelines
- Know your zones and fish for the future
- Do not walk on exposed coral reefs
- Being safe when visiting
- Tread lightly & Leave No Trace – remove everything you bring to country.



Crocodile resting on mangrove bank in Glenelg River Dirindja Sanctuary. Photo: Ellen D'Cruz, DBCA.

## Be Crocwise

Goiyoiya (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.

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

It is an offence to interfere, lure or feed crocodiles. 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**

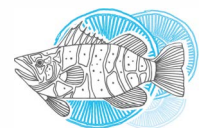


## Further information

**DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service**  
**West Kimberley District**  
(08) 9195 5500  
[broome@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:broome@dbca.wa.gov.au)  
111 Herbert Street, Broome WA 6725  
[dbca.wa.gov.au](http://dbca.wa.gov.au)

**Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development – Broome Office**  
(08) 9193 8600  
[fish.wa.gov.au](http://fish.wa.gov.au)

**Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation**  
(08) 9115 2000  
[reception@dambi.org.au](mailto:reception@dambi.org.au)  
[dambimangari.com.au](http://dambimangari.com.au)



Lalang-gaddam  
Marine Park

