

VISIT

NINGALOO, EXMOUTH & CORAL BAY

Western Australia's
ECO-ADVENTURE
CAPITAL!

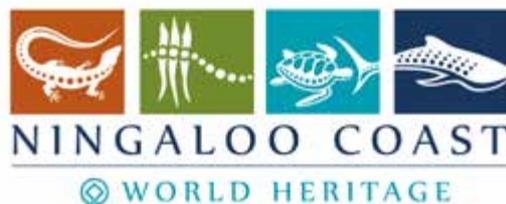
SWIM WITH
Whale Sharks
Humpback Whales
Sea Turtles
Manta Rays
& Much More!

Pull-Out Map Inside

Your **FREE** Holiday Guide

Read, return, recycle

 **NINGALOO
VISITOR CENTRE**

 **NINGALOO COAST**
WORLD HERITAGE

Whale Shark & Humpback Whale Tours

*Swim with the biggest,
cruise with the best*



Join us on the owner operated Magellan, which is considered to be one of the biggest and best boats operating on the Ningaloo Reef. Interact with the incredible Whale Sharks and Humpback Whales, see Turtles, Manta Rays, Dugongs, Dolphins and Orca's.

Whale Shark Tours April – September

Humpback Whale Tours August – November



come swim
with me



your boat
awaits



the majestic
manta



an experience
you will
never forget



William McDonald Lic No: HQ69181WS

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Potshot Hotel Resort

Exmouth's Premium Holiday Resort



Features of the Potshot Hotel Resort

With tastefully appointed motel rooms and standard or luxury apartments, the Potshot Hotel boasts a wide range of accommodation. We also cater for the budget traveller, with a range of motel and backpacker accommodation. Our complex is located within easy walking distance of the town centre and is the perfect place from which to plan your visit to the world famous Cape Range and Ningaloo Marine Parks. Dine at our restaurant, chat with the locals in the beer garden or simply relax with a drink in the tropical surrounds of the pool bar.

- Tastefully appointed motel rooms with ensuite bathroom, air-con, TV, tea & coffee making facilities, bar fridge, telephone, serviced daily
- Deluxe motel rooms with ensuite bathroom with spa, air-con, TV, tea & coffee making facilities & bar fridge
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- Range of Budget & Backpacker Accommodation
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Situated directly opposite the Potshot Hotel Resort, the Osprey Holiday Village has deluxe King/Spa motel rooms or luxury 2 or 3 bedroom apartments. The King/Spa rooms features a king size bed, ensuite bathroom with spa and tea & coffee making facilities. The 2 and 3 bedroom luxury apartments feature spacious meals area, modern fully equipped kitchen, bathroom, laundry area & private BBQ facilities.



Phone: **08 9949 1200**

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Fax: **08 9949 1486** | Email: potshotresort@bigpond.com

Website: www.potshotresort.com

The Largest Range of Accommodation in Exmouth

WELCOME TO NINGALOO

If you're looking for a holiday full of wonder with magnificent landscapes, pristine beaches and nature in all its glory both in the water and on dry land, then look no further than the Ningaloo region - Exmouth and Coral Bay, Western Australia.

A visit to the Ningaloo puts you amongst one of Australia's most unique and unspoiled national landscapes. The Ningaloo's starkly beautiful Cape Range National Park is contrasted by the aquatic splendour of the internationally renowned Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area, making truly unforgettable sights and experiences a daily occurrence.

The 300 kilometre long Ningaloo Reef is one of the closest coral reefs to land in the world and also Australia's longest fringing coral reef. Easily accessible, the reef is in some places only footsteps from shore. Simply don a mask and snorkel and swim the shallow waters to see an incredible variety of marine life.

Water activities include fishing, diving, snorkelling, whale watching, surfing, kayaking, swimming with the iconic whale sharks, manta rays or humpback whales. If you prefer not to get wet, you can take a glass bottom boat or eco tour, scenic or microlight flight, sail cruise, quad bike tour, or safari tour with specialist local guides.

The Cape Range National Park offers visitors the magnificent panoramas and rugged gorges of the Cape Range anticline. Enjoy beachside camping, bush walks, viewing wildflowers, birds, reptiles and a wealth of native Australian animals.

The Ningaloo Visitor Centre, located on the main road into Exmouth (Murat Road) provides a comprehensive information and booking service for all your Ningaloo tour and accommodation needs. Visit or contact us to arrange your perfect Ningaloo holiday.



Ask the local experts!

For everything you need to plan
your Ningaloo holiday go to:
visitningaloo.com.au

Ningaloo Visitor Centre
2 Truscott Crescent
PO Box 21
Exmouth WA 6707
T: (+61) 08 9949 3070
E: reservations@exmouth.wa.gov.au

Opening Hours
April - November:
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November - March:
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm
Sat & Sun 8.30am - 1.00pm

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#ExmouthWA #CoralBay

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The Eco Tourism logo indicates accredited eco-tourism businesses.

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The Ningaloo Visitor Centre would also like to thank everyone who has contributed images to this publication, including Violeta Janhel Brosig from Blue Media Exmouth, Axel Passeck, Screaming Reel Media, Australia's Coral Coast, Tourism Western Australia, local Ningaloo businesses and entrants of the Ningaloo Photography Competition.

NINGALOO COAST WORLD HERITAGE AREA



Swimming with a whale shark on the Ningaloo Reef © Blue Media Exmouth.

Inscribed in 2011, the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area encompasses the Ningaloo Marine Park and adjoining Ningaloo Commonwealth Marine Reserve, Cape Range National Park, Jurabi and Bundegi Coastal Parks, Muiron Islands Nature Reserve and Muiron Islands Marine Management Area.

The Ningaloo Marine Park stretches nearly 300 kilometres from Bundegi Reef near the town of Exmouth to Red Bluff at Quobba Station, north of Carnarvon. It reaches almost 20 kilometres seaward, encompassing a massive 5,355 square kilometres of ocean which is home to over 500 species of tropical fish and 220 species of coral.

The World Heritage listed Ningaloo Coast is internationally recognised as one of the planet's last great ocean paradises. Amongst the largest coral reefs in the world, the Ningaloo Reef can be accessed straight off the beach – something very few coral reefs offer. Take a dive in the clearest turquoise water imaginable to view hundreds of colourful tropical fish and pristine coral gardens. Snorkel with sea turtles, or swim with the world's biggest fish; the whale shark.

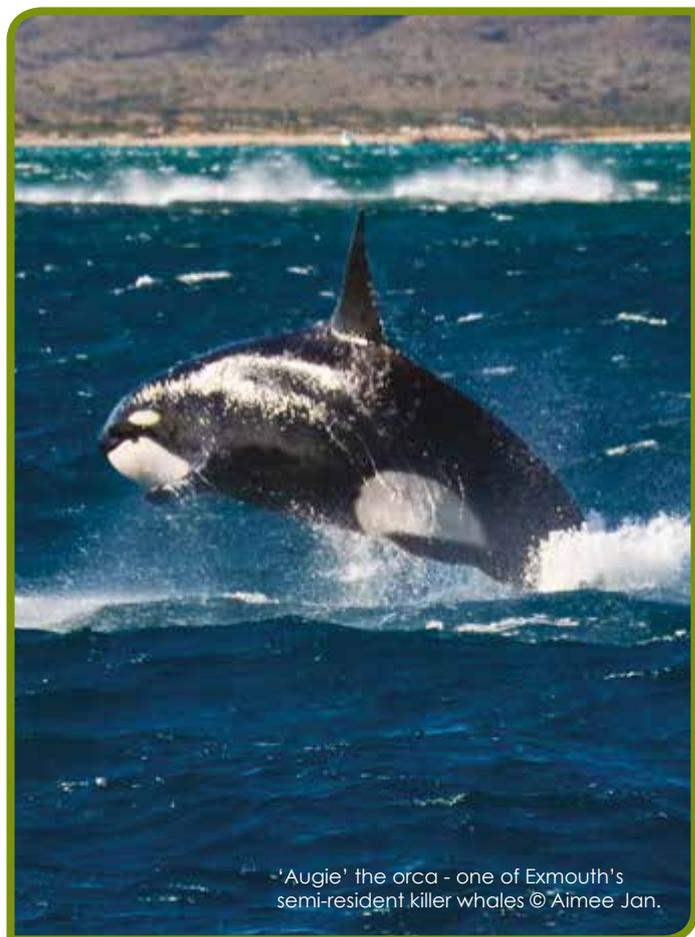
The distinctively and spectacularly marked whale shark is a filter feeder that is harmless to humans. These docile creatures visit the Ningaloo Reef each year between March and August, during which time visitors can experience the unforgettable thrill of swimming right beside them.

From June to November the largest migrating herd of humpback whales in the Southern Hemisphere can be seen travelling along the Ningaloo Coast.

The Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area is one of the world's major breeding areas for sea turtles, which can be seen nesting on the beaches of the Ningaloo from November to March.

Huge, graceful and very inquisitive, harmless manta rays are year-round residents of the Ningaloo Reef. Coral Bay in particular is a manta ray hot spot, where snorkellers can enjoy swimming and interacting with these playful creatures.

The Ningaloo Reef awaits you, and it's right at your feet.



'Augie' the orca - one of Exmouth's semi-resident killer whales © Aimee Jan.



Emus in the Cape Range National Park canyons © Bev Minufillo.

Kangaroo joey on the beach in the Cape Range National Park © Shuan Hutton.



Cape Range National Park

It's not all about the water in the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area. The Cape Range National Park encompasses 50,581 hectares of the Cape Range peninsula. The dissected limestone Cape Range, with its deep canyons and precipitous ridges, provides a dramatic 'outback' contrast to the vista of the adjacent coral reef.

The Cape Range National Park is of a high conservation value and biologically rich with representative flora and fauna from temperate, tropical and arid bio-geographic provinces.

Many plants and animals are entirely endemic to the North West Cape peninsula - including subterranean (cave dwelling) species - having evolved in relative isolation during periods when the peninsula was separated from the mainland by higher sea levels.

The Cape Range National Park is home to a large variety of wildlife, including kangaroos, rock wallabies, emus, dingoes, echidnas and a variety of reptiles and birds. Opportunities to view this local wildlife in its natural environment are never hard to come by.

There are numerous gorges throughout the Cape Range National Park that provide havens for wildlife and contain rare and unusual flora. A stunning array of wildflowers can be seen in late winter and spring, including the Sturt's desert pea, the endemic Yardie morning glory and the beautiful green bird flower.

The Cape Range is rich in fossils, and these can be easily found by examining the canyon walls and sandstone deposits. Fossilised Pleistocene coral reefs representing several periods of coral reef development provide an unusual opportunity for the study of the coral reef growth process through the millennia.

Please note, wildlife is often encountered on all roads within the Cape Range National Park and around Exmouth and Coral Bay, so please drive slowly and carefully. Driving around dawn, dusk and through the night when the local wildlife is most active is not recommended.

Accessing the Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park within the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area is easy. See you here soon!

NINGALOO

VISITOR EXPERIENCES



Snorkel the Ningaloo Reef

The 300 kilometre long, World Heritage listed Ningaloo Reef is amongst the most biologically diverse marine environments on the planet. To date, over 220 species of coral and 500 species of fish have been recorded on the Ningaloo Reef.

Running as it does hard against the coast, visitors can walk straight off the beach and snorkel over the superb coral gardens of the Ningaloo Reef mere footsteps from the shore – an extraordinary experience found nowhere else in mainland Australia!



Swim with the World's Biggest Fish

Between March and August the waters of the Ningaloo Reef play host to one the largest and best managed aggregations of the world's biggest fish – the majestic and spectacular whale shark. Growing up to 12 metres long, whale sharks are massive but completely harmless and very docile creatures. Both Exmouth and Coral Bay offer visitors a range of professional tour operators facilitating the unique and extraordinary experience of swimming with whale sharks.



Have a Whale of a Time

From June to November, the Ningaloo and in particular Exmouth Gulf sees the highest density of humpback whales in the Southern Hemisphere during their annual migration from Antarctica. As many as 30,000 humpback whales visit the Ningaloo at this time of year.

Humpbacks can be sighted from the shore, or for an up close and personal perspective, jump aboard a whale watching tour from either Exmouth or Coral Bay.



Interact with Sea Turtles

Green, loggerhead and hawksbill turtles can be found year-round along the Ningaloo Coast, providing visitors with easy opportunity to snorkel with these docile creatures in the Ningaloo Reef Lagoon.

Turtle nesting occurs along the beaches from November to March each year. The Jurabi Turtle Centre on Exmouth's Yardie Creek Road offers information and evening tours for visitors wanting to view turtles nesting in their natural environment.



Explore the Range by the Reef

Explore Exmouth's ancient Cape Range; built from limestone filled with the fossilised remains of millions of marine creatures deposited in vanished tropical seas and eroded over millennia into stunning karst terrain. For your best view of this surprising country, take a safari tour through the range, book a boat tour through Yardie Creek Gorge, enjoy a scenic or microlight flight over the range, or drive up Charles Knife Road for an incredible panoramic view over Charles Knife and Shothole Canyons.

Spend the Day with a Manta Ray

Manta rays are often seen in large aggregations along the Ningaloo Coast between May and November. Coral Bay is a year-round manta ray hot spot, with more than 850 of these huge but completely harmless rays catalogued as resident to the area over the last 10 years through the Ningaloo manta ray monitoring program. Specific tours to snorkel with these very inquisitive and playful creatures can be undertaken year-round from Coral Bay.



Hook into World Class Fishing

The Continental Shelf runs closer to the Australian mainland off Exmouth than anywhere else in the country. Hence, the region offers fantastic, easy access game fishing, especially for marlin. All three Australian species of marlin are caught here in good to great numbers, along with an incredible range of other game and sport fish. Game, sport, reef, and fly fishing charters are available year round from Exmouth, with reef and light tackle game fishing charters also available from Coral Bay.



Dive the Ningaloo Coast

The spectacular and untouched coral seascapes of the Ningaloo Marine Park are naturally perfect for SCUBA divers. Magnificent dive sites abound along the Ningaloo Reef and Muiron Islands, topped off by the unique Exmouth Navy Pier dive; rated amongst Australia's top ten dive sites and sixth best shore based dive in the world. Dive tours catering for first timers through to experts can be undertaken from both Exmouth and Coral Bay.



Discover the History of North West Cape

Steeped in rich European, Aboriginal and military history, the North West Cape and Ningaloo Coast is a history buff's dream. Visit the Vlamingh Head Lighthouse, *Krait* and *Potshot* military memorial, the Big Prawn, the VLF towers, the wreck of the SS *Mildura*, Mandu Mandu Gorge, historic farm stations and Maud's Landing. Keep an eye out for the interpretive signage or visit the *En Route to Exmouth* gallery at the Ningaloo Centre which offer detailed insight into the fascinating history of the Ningaloo region.



Visit the Ningaloo Centre

The Ningaloo Centre is Exmouth's new state-of-the-art visitor, research, education and community hub. Boasting three engaging visitor galleries showcasing the unique history, ecology and character of the region, the Ningaloo Centre is a must see. Ride the Red Bus; step inside the Cyclone Room to experience what it was like to go through *Severe Tropical Cyclone Vance*; learn more about the World Heritage listed Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Reef, and enjoy the spectacular marine aquarium.



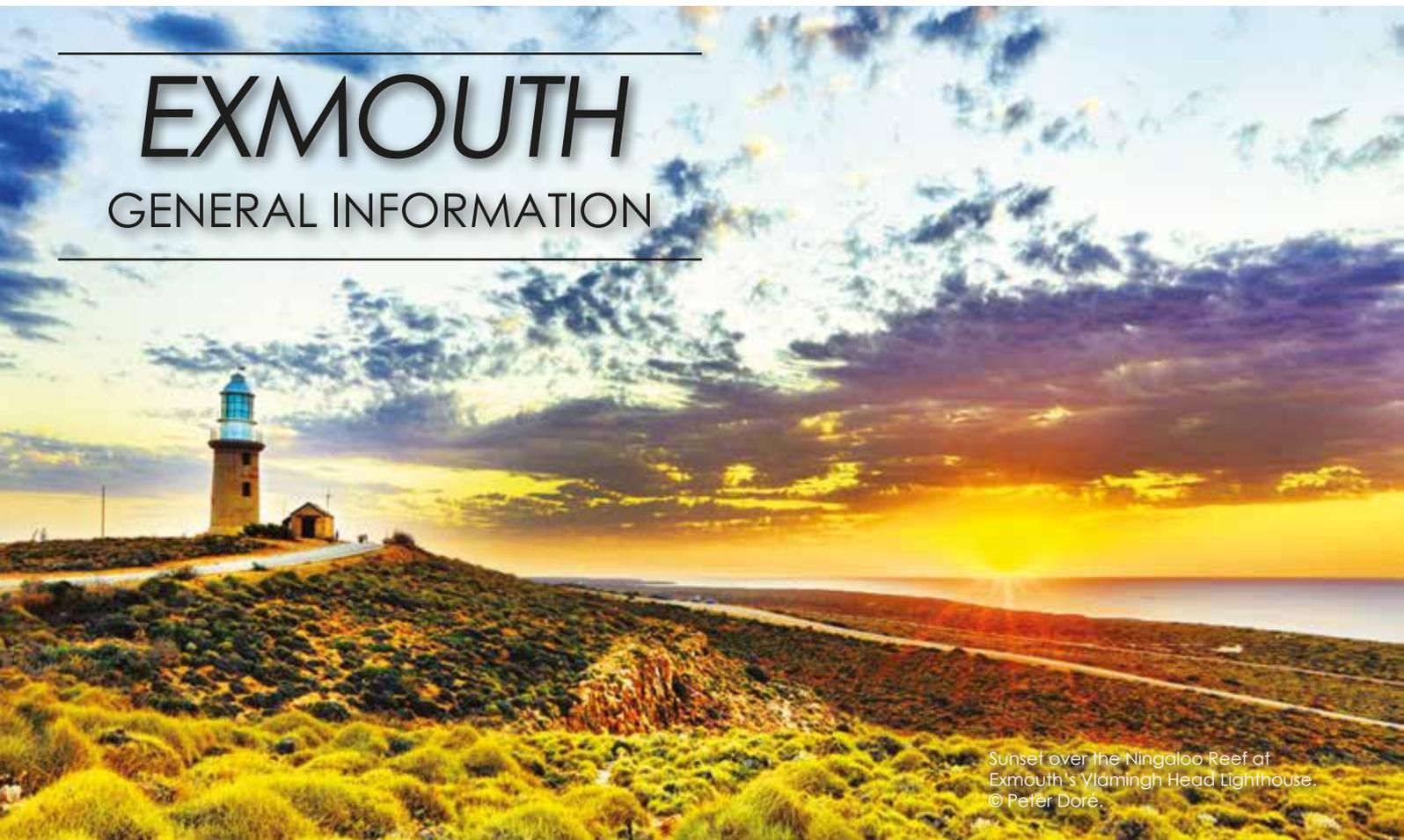
Swim with Humpbacks - A WA First!

In 2016 the Ningaloo became the only place in Western Australia and one of just two destinations in the country where visitors can join an accredited tour to experience the thrill of swimming with humpback whales. Humpback whale interaction tours operate out of Exmouth and Coral Bay during the height of the humpback season from July-September. Be one of the first to come face to face with these gentle giants in their own domain!



EXMOUTH

GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunset over the Ningaloo Reef at Exmouth's Vlamingh Head Lighthouse. © Peter Doré.

The History of Exmouth

The first documented European landing on the Ningaloo Coast was made by the Dutch Captain Willem Janz of the *Mauritius* in 1618 near the tip of what is now known as North West Cape. To put that into perspective, this was 150 years before Captain James Cook and his *HMS Endeavour* arrived on the east coast at Botany Bay!

Australian Captain Phillip Parker King later visited in February, 1818 while surveying the northern coastline of Australia, and named Exmouth Gulf in honour of his hero, Viscount Exmouth, formerly Sir Edward Pellew...the man author C.S Forrester would one day base his Horatio Hornblower series of novels around.

Renowned for being one of the country's most treacherous coastlines, a decision was made to locate two lighthouses along the Ningaloo Coast following the wreck of the *SS Mildura* in 1907. The Vlamingh Head Lighthouse was constructed in 1911 and Point Cloates Lighthouse in 1912.

In the years that were to follow, pearl luggers visited the area from Broome and a small number of pastoralists operated large sheep stations along the coastline. Very little changed on North West Cape until 1942, during World War II when, in a joint operation, Australian and US Navy & Air Forces established strategic airfield and submarine bases along the western shore of Exmouth Gulf under the code name *Operation Potshot*. The Navy facility only served as a permanent submarine base for a short period of time, but continued to operate as a refuelling facility, while the airfield became *RAAF Learmonth* which operates as an important base to this day and also serves as the region's main airport.

Royal Australian Navy and Air Force personnel operated early warning radar and anti-aircraft guns in support of these facilities during World War II, and the area was actually bombed by the Japanese, although no damage was sustained. Following the war, oil exploration saw a short period of increased activity in the Cape Range and Rough Range, where the first significant flow of oil on the Australian mainland was found.

In 1963, an agreement was reached between the Australian and US governments to construct a VLF communications station on the tip of North West Cape as a consequence of the rapidly escalating Cold War and the need to establish a communications system with nuclear warhead equipped, US submarines. The town of

Exmouth was created to support this facility - which was eventually named the Harold E Holt Communications Station - and both were officially declared and opened in 1967.

The world's largest Very Low Frequency (VLF) transmitter, the Harold E Holt Communications Station VLF transmitter is also the second tallest structure in the Southern Hemisphere. Standing at 387.6 metres high, Tower Zero is surrounded by 12 other slightly shorter towers for support. Weighing 800 tonnes, it can withstand winds of up to 500kms per hour.

American and Australian defence forces withdrew their military personnel from Exmouth in 1992, leaving the VLF station in the hands of civilian contractors and ending the unique American/Australian makeup of the township's population. This altered the town's major reason for being, largely triggering the rapid development of Exmouth and the Ningaloo region as an eco-tourism destination.

Today, tourism is the major industry that sustains the township of Exmouth, with offshore oil and gas, defence, and commercial fishing (Exmouth Gulf prawns) also important local industries.

Location & Climate

Exmouth is situated 1270kms north of Perth with a population of approximately 2250 permanent residents.

With no wet season, the Ningaloo region has a dry climate with hot summers and mild winters. Exmouth enjoys around 320 days of sunshine each year.



The township of Exmouth from above © Adrian Neizabitowski.

Getting Here

Qantas Airlines operates return flights from Perth to Learmonth Airport; 37 kilometres from Exmouth and 120 kilometres from Coral Bay. Chartered vehicles/taxis and a shuttle bus service are available (prior bookings essential) to transfer you to Exmouth. Transport services to Coral Bay from Learmonth or Exmouth also require prior booking. Please contact the Ningaloo Visitor Centre on T: (08) 9949 3070 for bookings.

If you are driving north to Exmouth along the North West Coastal Highway, travel 142 kilometres north of Carnarvon and turn left onto the Minilya-Exmouth Road. From here it is a further 200 kilometres to the Exmouth townsite.

If you are driving south to Exmouth, turn off the North West Coastal Highway onto Burkett Road, 110 kilometres south of Nanutarra Roadhouse. From here it's 80 kilometres to the Minilya-Exmouth Road turn-off. Turn right at this junction and travel a further 89 kilometres to arrive in Exmouth.

Coach services are available from Perth to Exmouth return, or Exmouth to Broome return. For further information and bookings, please contact the Ningaloo Visitor Centre.

Distances from Exmouth

Coral Bay: 152kms	Nanutarra Roadhouse: 276kms
Minilya Roadhouse: 224kms	Karratha: 553kms
Carnarvon: 365kms	Tom Price: 570kms
Monkey Mia: 708kms	Karijini National Park: 610kms
Kalbarri: 800kms	Port Hedland: 779kms
Geraldton: 833kms	Broome: 1369kms
Perth: 1270kms	Darwin: 3171kms

Health & Emergency Services

Exmouth Police Station T: (08) 9947 8700	Exmouth District Hospital/Doctor T: (08) 9949 3666
Ambulance T: 000 Exmouth T: (08) 9949 2933	State Emergency Services T: (08) 9949 1488
Fire Station T: (08) 9949 1664	Exmouth Volunteer Marine Rescue T: (08) 9949 2965 M: 0418 183 416
Road Closure Advice T: 13 81 38	

Fuel & Mechanical Services

Caltex Star Mart T: (08) 9949 1052	Yardie Homestead Caravan Park T: (08) 9949 1389
Exmouth Fuel Supplies T: (08) 9949 1051	Coral Bay Fuel T: (08) 9942 5955
Exmouth Ningaloo Fuels (24hrs) T: (08) 9949 4286	Minilya Roadhouse T: (08) 9942 5922
Ningaloo Lighthouse Caravan Park T: (08) 9949 1478	Nanutarra Roadhouse T: (08) 9943 0521

Services & Facilities

Chartered Vehicles/Taxis Cabs on Call T: 0408 449 944 Exmouth Airport Transfers T: (08) 9949 4623 Coral Bay Airport Transfers T: 0448 619 999	Exmouth Laundromat Ross Street Mall T: (08) 9949 1003
Exmouth Post Office Maidstone Crescent T: (08) 9949 1265	RAC (24hr) T: 13 11 11
Exmouth Public Library Ningaloo Centre, Murat Rd T: (08) 9949 1462	Injured Wildlife (24hr) M: 0437 118 180
Cape Veterinary Clinic T: (08) 9949 2499	Exmouth Public Swimming Pool Payne Street T: (08) 9949 1042 Open September - May
	Baby Hire Equipment M: 0429 959 271

Banks/ATMs

Westpac T: (08) 9947 8188	IGA Express T: (08) 9949 1229
Exmouth Post Office (Commonwealth Bank & Bank West agency) T: (08) 9949 1265	Potshot Hotel T: (08) 9949 1200
Caltex Star Mart T: (08) 9949 1052	Cadillacs Bar & Grill T: (08) 9949 1000
IGA Supermarket T: (08) 9949 2276	Mantarays Ningaloo Beach Resort T: (08) 9949 0000

Important Contacts

Shire of Exmouth Ningaloo Centre, 2 Truscott Crescent T: (08) 9949 3000 exmouth.wa.gov.au	Parks & Wildlife Service (Exmouth) 20 Nimitz Street T: (08) 9947 8000 parks.dbca.wa.gov.au
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Sporting Groups & Clubs

Exmouth Cultural Arts Centre T: 0457 228 979	Exmouth Squash Club T: 0447 891 480
Exmouth Game Fishing Club T: (08) 9949 4567	Exmouth Tennis Club T: 0409 437 244
Exmouth Golf Club T: (08) 9949 1066	Exmouth Yacht Club T: (08) 9949 1549
Exmouth Lawn Bowling Club T: (08) 9949 1092	Truscott Memorial Club T: (08) 9949 1246

Church Services

Anglican Church Sunday 9am held at Pelias Street, Exmouth.	Exmouth Christian Fellowship Sunday 9am held at Payne Street, Exmouth.
Catholic Church Sunday 5pm held at Kennedy Street, Exmouth.	

Internet Access

Free Wi-Fi internet access is available at the Ningaloo Centre located on the corner of Murat Road & Truscott Crescecent ,Exmouth.

2020 School Holidays

January School Holidays Wednesday, January 1 st – Sunday, February 2 nd	September School Holidays Saturday, September 26 th – Sunday, October 11 th
April School Holidays Friday, April 10 th – Monday, April 27 th	December School Holidays Friday, December 18 th – Sunday, January 31 st 2021
July School Holidays Saturday, July 4 th – Sunday, July 19 th	

2020 Western Australian Public Holidays

New Year's Day Wednesday, January 1 st	WA Day (Foundation Day) Monday, June 1 st
Australia Day Monday, January 27 th	Queen's Birthday Monday, September 28 th
Labour Day Monday, March 2 nd	Christmas Day Friday, December 25 th
Good Friday Friday, April 10 th	Boxing Day Holiday Monday, December 28 th
Easter Monday Monday, April 13 th	
ANZAC Day Holiday Monday April 27 th	

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NINGALOO WILDLIFE & EVENTS CALENDAR



Emus, Emus & More Emus

Year-Round

These friendly natives are our very own welcoming committee to the area. It's a regular occurrence to see them wandering the streets of Exmouth and walking through the town centre. However, they are wild, so please show them respect, do not feed them, and give them the right of way. Emu chicks hatch around August and are guarded by the male emu for their first year of life.



GAMEX Fishing Tournament

March 13th - 21st

With over thirty different game fish species to be found off the Ningaloo Coast, including all six Australian billfish species, Exmouth is recognised as one of the finest angling destinations on the planet. The Exmouth Game Fishing Club's week-long GAMEX Game Fishing tournament is Western Australia's premier fishing event, attracting local, national and international competitors.



Whale Sharks

March - August

From March until at least mid-August each year, the Ningaloo Reef is one of very few places in the world where whale sharks can be found in large aggregations. These biggest fish in the sea visit the Ningaloo Reef each year to feed on coral spawn and zooplankton, providing visitors to both Exmouth and Coral Bay the opportunity to swim with these massive and spectacular creatures.



Manta Rays

Year-Round

Manta rays can be seen year-round on the Ningaloo. Coral Bay in particular is a manta ray hot spot, being one of very few places on the planet where these huge yet totally harmless creatures can be reliably located. Well known for their playful antics around snorkellers, taking a tour to swim with Coral Bay manta rays is a must-do. Turn to page 55 for more information.



Humpback Whales

June - November

Humpback whales make their annual migration up the Western Australian coastline in winter, and can be seen from June to November along the Ningaloo Coast. From August to October, Exmouth Gulf boasts the highest density of humpback whales in the Southern Hemisphere. Humpbacks can be viewed from shore, or for an up close encounter, jump aboard a whale watching or humpback swim-with tour!



Reef Sharks

September - February

Skeleton Bay near Coral Bay is a known nursery area for harmless reef sharks. Around this time each year, large numbers of juvenile black tip reef sharks as well as smaller numbers of white tip and grey reef sharks can be found inhabiting the shallows where they are easily sighted. Wading or snorkelling with these surprisingly shy sharks is yet another unforgettable Ningaloo experience.



Turtle Nesting

November - March

Green, loggerhead and hawksbill turtles are a common sight year-round along the Ningaloo Coast, with the turtle nesting season running from approximately November to February and hatchlings emerging from roughly January to March. Please see page 34 for more information on viewing nesting turtles.

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THE NINGALOO CENTRE

The Ningaloo Centre is Exmouth's new state-of-the-art research, education, tourism and community hub. This landmark facility is home to the Ningaloo Visitor Centre as well as first class visitor facilities, making it the ideal gateway to your extraordinary Ningaloo adventure.

The Ningaloo Centre boasts three engaging visitor galleries. Through images, interactive elements and curious artefacts, the interpretive display areas deliver an entertaining and educational exhibition experience – the perfect introduction to this wonderfully distinctive and storied region.

The *En Route to Exmouth* gallery explores the history of the town of Exmouth. The exhibition showcases the town's evolution from an American military base founded in the 1960s to a tourism and fishing centre, the maritime and military history, and the unique character and characters of the area. Ride the Red Bus and step inside the Cyclone Room to experience what it was like to go through *Severe Tropical Cyclone Vance*; the most powerful cyclone to ever cross the Australian mainland.

The *Reef to Range* gallery introduces visitors to the wildly diverse flora and fauna that lives between the UNESCO World Heritage listed Ningaloo Reef and Cape Range National Park. An impressive aquarium stands in the centre of the marine display, showcasing living specimens of local marine life native to the Ningaloo Reef and Exmouth Gulf areas.

The *Cape Range* gallery explores the ancient landscapes of the region. Discover the unique cave systems, ranges, dunes, gorges, stygofauna and geological systems of this terrain, and the rare and endemic species native only to Cape Range National Park.

For more information on the Ningaloo Centre, visit: www.ningaloocentre.com.au.



The *On Route to Exmouth* visitor gallery.



Part of the *Reef to Range* visitor gallery.

Ningaloo Visitor Centre

2 Truscott Crescent,
Exmouth WA 6707
T: +61 (08) 9949 3070
E: reservations@exmouth.wa.gov.au
W: visitningaloo.com.au



Opening Hours

April - November:
7 days a week 8.30am - 5.00pm
November - March:
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm
Sat & Sun 8.30am - 1.00pm
Closed Christmas Day & Good Friday.



SWIM WITH THE GIANTS

Swimming with a whale shark along the Ningaloo Reef © Ed Cardwell.

As one of the planet's last great ocean paradises, the pristine waters of the Ningaloo Reef teem with aquatic life, including several of the largest marine creatures on the planet. The Ningaloo Reef's close proximity to the shoreline means most of this marine mega fauna swims quite near to land, making extraordinary, up close encounters an easily accessible experience via a range of marine eco-tours departing either Exmouth or Coral Bay.

Whale Sharks

Every year from March to August, the world's biggest fish congregate along the Ningaloo Reef - whale sharks! These massive yet completely harmless creatures can grow up to 12 metres long and have a life span of up to 70 years.

The name 'whale shark' comes from the fish's physiology, being as large as some species of the great whales and also a filter feeder that eats plankton; just like the baleen whales. However, the whale shark is actually a true shark with a cartilaginous skeleton and several rows of tiny, redundant teeth.

The Ningaloo Reef is one of the only places on the planet where whale sharks regularly aggregate in large numbers. The annual aggregation of whale sharks coincides directly with coral spawning and unique current upwelling events on the Ningaloo Reef which trigger plankton blooms. The whale sharks, in turn, arrive to feed on this plankton.

The spectacular dot and stripe patterns of these incredible creatures are unique to each individual; much like a human fingerprint. This has allowed scientists to identify individual whale sharks and so estimate population size and monitor their movements to and from the Ningaloo Reef. Using this identification method, it is estimated that between 300 and 500 individual whale sharks visit the Ningaloo Reef each year, and some individual whale sharks have been recorded returning to the Ningaloo Reef for periods as long as 22 years.

The chance to snorkel with these gentle giants is the opportunity of a lifetime, attracting visitors from all over the world. Full day whale shark swim eco-tours operate out of both Exmouth and

Coral Bay most days of the March-August season, taking visitors to experience an unforgettable close up interaction.

As whale sharks are slow moving, docile creatures that spend the majority of their time right up on the surface of the water, tour participants only need to be competent swimmers to enjoy this amazing in-water experience. Scuba diving with whale sharks is not permitted as the bubbles from the scuba equipment can disorientate the whale sharks. Therefore, whale shark tours are snorkelling only tours which makes them suitable for participants of all ages and abilities.

All Ningaloo whale shark tour operators utilise dedicated spotter planes to guide their tour boats directly to the whale sharks. This not only helps to drastically cut down on time spent searching for them, but also makes tours so reliable that all tour operators offer a 'swim guarantee'. In the unlikely event that you should miss out on swimming with a whale shark, you can go again another day.

Swimming with Ningaloo whale sharks is a true bucket list experience you will never forget. Contact the Ningaloo Visitor Centre on T: (08) 9949 3070 for more information on whale shark swim eco-tour bookings.

Humpback Whales

Humpback whales visit the Ningaloo Reef between June and November on their annual migration from feeding grounds in Antarctica to breeding grounds off the Kimberley. During September and October, Exmouth Gulf boasts the highest concentration of humpback whales in the Southern Hemisphere, many of which are mothers with newborn calves.

In a first for Western Australia, tours to swim with humpback whales commenced in 2016 and will be available again during the 2020 humpback whale season. Snorkelling with Ningaloo humpback whales provides a whole new perspective on the size and majesty of these great whales, and also immerses you in the enchanting whale song of the humpbacks which can be clearly heard underwater.

Humpback whale interaction tours also utilise spotter planes to



Swimming with a pod of humpback whales © Paul Carlyon.



Humpback whale interaction tour © Michael Wigram.

locate and then guide tour boats to the whales for participants to swim with. By operating in this way, Ningaloo humpback whale tour operators are able to achieve very high swim success rates for their clients enjoying what is a truly extraordinary up-close experience with one of the largest animals on the planet.

If you would prefer to stay dry while viewing Ningaloo whales, whale watching tours depart both Exmouth and Coral Bay during humpback season to observe these playful creatures from above the waterline. Contact the Ningaloo Visitor Centre on T: (08) 9949 3070 for humpback whale interaction tour or whale watching tour bookings.

The Ningaloo is also visited by up to 18 other whale species. Some of the more commonly encountered species include orcas (killer whales), blue whales, pygmy blue whales, short-finned pilot whales, dwarf minke whales, false killer whales and Bryde's whales, making the Ningaloo one of Australia's premier whale watching destinations.

Turtles

Six of the world's seven species of marine turtle have been recorded in Ningaloo waters, with green, loggerhead and hawksbill turtles present in large numbers all year round. The shallow waters of the Ningaloo Reef Lagoon are a favourite environment for turtles, which means there is fantastic opportunity to snorkel with these graceful animals.

Turtle nesting season begins on the beaches adjacent the Ningaloo Reef around November. Hatchlings can then be observed emerging from the sand and making their desperate dash for the water from January through March. See page 34 for more information on viewing nesting turtles.

Please note that a strict turtle nesting code of conduct is in place to avoid disturbing nesting turtles. Pick up a Parks & Wildlife turtle watching pamphlet from the Ningaloo Visitor Centre or visit the Jurabi Turtle Centre, 20 kilometres from Exmouth on Yardie Creek Road, to familiarise yourself with these rules before viewing nesting turtles.



Swimming with a green turtle in the Ningaloo Reef Lagoon © Brett Kruger.



Interacting with a group of manta rays in the Ningaloo Reef Lagoon © Sam Lawrence.

Manta Rays

Mantas are the largest ray species on Earth, growing up to 7 metres from wing tip to wing tip. However, unlike most rays, mantas have no barb in their tails so are completely harmless.

Manta rays are one of the more inquisitive marine creatures to be found on the Ningaloo, and love to interact with snorkellers. They can be found along the Ningaloo Reef right throughout the year, but are more prolific off Exmouth between May and October.

Coral Bay is a manta ray hot spot year round, and one of very few places in the country with a resident population of manta rays, allowing for reliable tours to swim with these huge, playful creatures every day of the year. See page 55 for more information on Coral Bay manta rays.

Dugongs, Dolphins & More!

The Ningaloo Reef is most famous for its whale sharks, humpback whales, manta rays and turtles, but the marine mega fauna story

doesn't end there!

One of the more elusive and shy Ningaloo Reef residents are dugongs which can be found in the shallow waters of the Ningaloo Reef Lagoon and throughout Exmouth Gulf. Dugongs are best viewed from a boat as they tend to be very wary of swimmers.

Several species of dolphin inhabit Ningaloo waters including the rare Australian humpback dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, common dolphin and the wildly spectacular spinner dolphin. Spinner dolphins in particular are often seen in large pods that delight in surfing the bow of boats and leaping from the water in the dizzying, barrel-rolling fashion that gives these dolphins their name.

Divers may come across grey nurse sharks, reef sharks and leopard sharks. Despite appearances, there is no need to be afraid of these sharks, as they are harmless to humans and a real thrill to swim with.

Then there are stingrays, shovelnose rays, giant groper, sailfish, marlin and more which are also common sights in Ningaloo waters. There's always something incredible to see beneath the waterline of the Ningaloo!



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SNORKEL NINGALOO REEF

The pristine coral gardens of the Ningaloo Reef Lagoon swarm with brightly coloured tropical fish © Ed Cardwell.

The Ningaloo Reef is one of the largest fringing coral reefs in the world. Unlike most coral reefs which are located well offshore, the Ningaloo Reef runs within very close proximity to the coast, meaning visitors can snorkel over pristine coral gardens brimming with vibrantly coloured tropical fish mere footsteps from the beach.

The Ningaloo Reef protects a crystal clear lagoon that is on average only 2-4 metres deep and bursting with a huge diversity of marine life - a wonderland for nature loving snorkellers, no matter their age or ability.

Coral is very fragile and takes a long time to regenerate, so please do not touch, stand on it or break pieces off. Never remove any items from the reef including shells, corals, plants or animals. Your assistance to preserve our reef for future generations to enjoy is greatly appreciated.

Snorkelling Sites

There are limitless snorkelling sites along the Ningaloo Coast and a variety of ways to access them. You can experience the Ningaloo Reef from a dive boat, snorkel tour, catamaran, glass bottom coral viewing boat, underwater scooter tour, sea kayak or by simply snorkelling from the beach.

Coral Bay's snorkel sites are located right on the town's doorstep (see page 54 for details), while Exmouth's premier snorkel sites are all located within the nearby Cape Range National Park and include the following:

Lakeside

Lakeside is a great snorkelling spot for swimmers of moderate to high fitness and capability. From the car park, walk 500 metres south (left) along the beach past the first Sanctuary Zone marker, before entering the water. The most spectacular coral formations here are located between the shore markers and the two yellow floating buoys.

Lakeside features a series of large coral bommies that tend to attract larger marine creatures such as turtles, bigger reef or pelagic fish and harmless reef sharks. You may also spot a resident giant grouper that lives in a coral cave here.

Oyster Stacks

Oyster Stacks is an excellent site for families or inexperienced snorkellers, as the coral reef and its prolific fish life can be viewed just steps from the shore in calm, shallow water. Enter the water at the end of the walking track and snorkel either north or south. Take care entering or exiting the water as the shoreline is rocky with some sharp oyster shelled areas.

Please note that this area is shallow, so should only be snorkelled on a high tide of 1.2 metres or higher to avoid damaging the fragile corals. On a high tide, carefully peer under the large, oyster covered rocks that give this site its name to spot painted sweetlip, mangrove jack and other large reef fish that live beneath the rocky ledges.



Oyster Stacks is a perfect snorkel site for children © Melanie McCarthy.



Snorkelling at Turquoise Bay
© Tourism WA.

Turquoise Bay Drift Snorkel

Considered to be one of the best snorkel sites in the area, the Turquoise Bay Drift takes you across verdant coral gardens swarming with colourful reef fish only metres from the shore. This is one snorkel site not to be missed.

From the 'Drift Loop Car Park', walk south (left) along the beach approximately 100 metres before entering the water. Swim straight out and let the current carry you north over dense coral formations before exiting near the sandbar.

Be aware that moderate to strong currents prevail through Turquoise Bay, so weak or inexperienced swimmers are not advised to attempt this snorkel. Instead, seek the services of a licensed snorkel tour operator.

Kayak Snorkelling Sites

Another way to explore and enjoy the Ningaloo Reef Lagoon's spectacular coral snorkelling is via kayak. A number of purpose-specific kayak moorings (black buoy with a white 'Kayaks Only' label) have been installed at key offshore snorkelling sites throughout the Ningaloo Reef Lagoon, including Tantabiddi, Osprey Bay and Coral Bay.

These moorings are mostly positioned over deeper snorkelling sites up to 400 metres from the shoreline, so are recommended for swimmers of moderate to high fitness and experience only.

Alternatively, kayaks are available for hire from both Exmouth and Coral Bay, and guided sea kayaking tours ranging from half to multi-day trips are also available. Contact the Ningaloo Visitor Centre on T: (08) 9949 3070 for information on kayak hire or to book your sea kayak snorkelling adventure.

Safe Snorkelling in Ningaloo Marine Park

The shallow, calm waters of the Ningaloo Reef Lagoon are perfect for snorkellers of all ages and abilities. However, some basic guidelines should be observed when snorkelling the reef, both for your safety and to avoid damaging the fragile natural environment.

- For your safety, plan your snorkel before you enter the water.
- Assess the coastline and the current from the shore before entering the water. Identify entry and exit points and landmarks to help orientate you.
- Snorkel at high tide when there is sufficient water over the reef to avoid collision with corals and injury. If you need to rest, choose sandy areas only to stand on. Do not stand on or touch corals.
- Take care along rocky shores when entering and exiting the water. Refrain from fitting fins until you are in the water.
- Do not snorkel alone. Swim and snorkel with other experienced persons.
- Avoid snorkelling in strong currents which are the result of the build-up of water in the lagoon between the reef and the shore. Periods of large tides or swell can see stronger than usual currents within the Ningaloo Reef Lagoon.
- Do not touch corals or other marine life. Some plants and animals sting or bite if disturbed or provoked. A 'no touch, no take' approach is safest for both you and the marine life.

Hire Gear & Snorkelling Tours

Snorkelling gear can be purchased at the Ningaloo Visitor Centre and many other locations throughout Exmouth and Coral Bay.

A variety of snorkel, underwater scooter and glass bottom boat tours are also available, and can be booked through the Ningaloo Visitor Centre on T: (08) 9949 3070.

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NINGALOO DIVING

With great visibility, warm water and thriving marine life, the Ningaloo is a diver's dream © Blue Media Exmouth.

With over 220 species of coral and 500 species of fish to be viewed in warm, tropical waters, the World Heritage listed Ningaloo Coast is an impressive diving destination year-round.

The Ningaloo Reef and Ningaloo Marine Park offers a wide variety of dive sites ranging from inshore coral dives perfect for beginners, right through to advanced open water dives on extraordinary reef complexes that are home to an incredible diversity of colourful marine life.

Several accredited dive companies operate year-round out of both Exmouth and Coral Bay. Tours cater to experienced divers looking to experience world class dive sites, or first timers wanting to obtain their SCUBA qualifications.

The Muiron Islands

The tranquil environment of these two uninhabited islands – located just 9.8 nautical miles off the tip of Exmouth's North West Cape – is teeming with marine life. In water depths of 3-20 metres just off the shoreline you'll discover coral gardens made up of both hard and soft corals.

There are a variety of dive sites off the Muirons which provide unforgettable underwater experiences. With gentle currents and lots of differing underwater terrain to view and explore, both beginner and experienced divers alike will enjoy the Muiron Island's many dive sites.

The abundance of swim-through caves, ledges and coral gardens along the Muiron's western shore provide plenty of places to search for colourful shrimps, nudibranchs, moray eels, angelfish, nurse sharks and a huge range of other fascinating marine life. The drift dive between north and south Muiron Islands is a particular highlight whenever conditions are right.

Mating turtles are a common sight from November to February, and giant potato cod are regularly seen, especially during the spring and summer months. Late in the year, groups of manta rays are often present around the Muiron Island's many dive sites too.

Please note that camping on the Muiron Islands requires prior permission from the Parks & Wildlife Exmouth office. Overnight trips to the islands with dive tour operators are available.

Ningaloo Reef

The Ningaloo Reef itself offers an amazing range of dive sites, either along the west side of Exmouth's North West Cape or just outside Coral Bay. Dive sites along the Ningaloo Reef range from 6-35 metres deep, with many sites being suitable for divers of all experience levels.

The Ningaloo Reef's unique near-shore location and close proximity to the Continental Shelf, plus the tropical flow of the north-south running Leeuwin Oceanic Current means almost anything can turn up on a reef edge dive. Divers could come face to face with marine mega fauna such as manta rays or loggerhead turtles, large fish including trevally, potato cod and giant groper, right down to tiny, intricate creatures such as peppermint shrimps or coral crabs. You just never know what you'll see!

For more information on Muiron Islands or Ningaloo Reef edge dive sites or to book your dive tour, contact the Ningaloo Visitor Centre on T: (08) 9949 3070.



Regal angelfish on the Ningaloo Reef edge © Julie Shuttleworth.

Exmouth Navy Pier

The Exmouth Navy Pier is the perfect complement to your Ningaloo diving holiday. The Navy Pier is a land-based dive site which consistently ranks among the top ten shore-based dive sites in the world due to the incredible variety of marine life which congregates below this man-made structure.

A working Australian Navy facility, divers may only access the Exmouth Navy Pier via the current licensed dive tour company which operates under a strict set of conditions.

As a dive site, the Exmouth Navy Pier is renowned for its large marine life. Huge schools of big-eye trevally and barracuda form living vortexes around the pier pylons, while deeper in the water column giant Queensland gropers loiter. During the winter months, grey nurse sharks also take up residence here.

You'll also discover an ever changing array of colourful reef fish on an Exmouth Navy Pier Dive, including coral trout, angelfish, butterflyfish, moorish idols, lionfish, batfish, painted sweetlip, bannerfish and many more. The marine ecosystem below the pier is a kaleidoscope of life.

While the big, impressive creatures are the main drawcard, some of the smaller marine life that makes a home beneath the pier such as spectacularly coloured nudibranchs, frogfish, and soft corals can be equally astounding. No two dives on the Navy Pier are ever the same!

The Exmouth Navy Pier is a relatively shallow dive site, with a maximum depth of 15 metres. Therefore, it is suitable for a wide range of divers, from the highly experienced to first time try-divers.

Due to strong currents that run past the Navy Pier during the run-in and run-out phases of the tidal cycle, dive times are the change of tide periods only, so tour times vary daily.

The Ningaloo Visitor Centre is the preferred booking partner for Exmouth Navy Pier dive trips. For more information or to book your tour, please call T: (08) 9949 3070.

**Please note that all dive tour participants must carry a passport or photo identification to gain access to the Exmouth Navy Pier.*



Grey nurse shark under the Exmouth Navy Pier © Dive Ningaloo.



Nudibranchs below the Exmouth Navy Pier © Julie Shuttleworth.

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THE BEAUTIFUL BEACHES OF NINGALOO



Perfect beach weather year-round on the Ningaloo © Australia's Coral Coast.

If it's pristine beaches you're after you have come to the right place! The Ningaloo offers visitors an endless array of stunning, unspoilt beaches perfect for swimming, snorkelling, water sports, fishing or simply soaking in the sun and relaxing in a tropical paradise.

Exmouth Town Beach

Just 1 kilometre from the Exmouth town site, you'll find Town Beach. Ideal for morning walks and beachcombing, Town Beach is tidal so swimming is best on high tide; however, low tide is great for playing in the shallows. Four wheel drive vehicles and dogs are also permitted on the northern section of Town Beach.

Bundegi Beach

Located 12 kilometres north of Exmouth, Bundegi Beach marks the start of the Ningaloo Marine Park and World Heritage Area and is a great place for swimming, snorkelling, fishing or just lazing on the sands. A boat launching facility is located at the southern end of the beach and a fish cleaning station and toilet facilities are also provided for your convenience at the north end of the car park.

Surfers Beach (Dunes Beach)

On the tip of the North West Cape, 17 kilometres north of Exmouth, Surfer's Beach features a surf break which is the safest, easiest to access and most popular wave in Exmouth. To find Dunes Beach, take Yardie Creek Road west, then turn onto Mildura Wreck Road.



Exmouth's Dunes Beach © Gemma Lucas.

Mauritius Beach

After an all over tan? Mauritius Beach was declared a 'clothing optional' beach in 1999 and is located just past the Vlamingh Head Lighthouse.

Lighthouse Bay & Mildura Wreck

Access tracks along Mildura Wreck Road into Lighthouse Bay provide entrance to a variety of beaches suitable for fishing, surfing, swimming, or just relaxing by the water.

At the end of the road discover the wreck of the *SS Mildura*; a cattle steamer destroyed when it clipped the reef during a cyclone in 1907. The hull sat on the reef undisturbed until World War II when allied planes used it for bombing practice! These days it provides an ideal sanctuary for a range of marine life.



Wreck of the *SS Mildura* at the tip of North West Cape. © Aimar Raat.

Cape Range National Park Beaches

The many beaches within the Cape Range National Park form part of the coastline of the Ningaloo Marine Park and Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area, and are amongst the most pristine and scenic beaches in Australia.

The road through to Yardie Creek is sealed and suitable for two wheel drive vehicles. There are numerous unsealed beach access tracks throughout the National Park - all offer easy access to stunning, bone white beaches with fantastic snorkelling mere footsteps from the sand. For a comprehensive map, call into the Ningaloo Visitor Centre or the Parks and Wildlife Exmouth office.

Turquoise Bay

The highlight of the Cape Range National Park beaches, Turquoise Bay is aptly named. Consistently ranked amongst Australia's top three beaches by travel review site, Trip Advisor, the white sandy beaches of Turquoise Bay give way to a crystal clear lagoon offering easy access to amazing snorkelling over fish filled coral gardens.

Located 63 kilometres from Exmouth, Turquoise Bay is safe for small children and features a shaded picnic area located between the beach and car park to allow you to enjoy this must visit beach in comfort.

For more information on snorkelling at Turquoise Bay, please turn to page 20.



Turquoise Bay as seen from a microlight flight © Lawrence Lu.

Sandy Bay & Osprey Bay

Located 81 kilometres from Exmouth, the shallow, clear waters of Sandy Bay are great for families. With its wide beaches and shaded tables, it is a perfect picnic spot, but also ideal for swimming or land-based fishing. Sandy Bay is also a particular favourite with kite surfers.

Nearby Osprey Bay is another fantastic beach for families, and its recently upgraded camping bays, picnic tables and toilet facilities make it one of the most popular sites in the Cape Range National Park for beachside camping (see page 38 for more information on Cape Range National Park camping). Osprey Bay is also an excellent site for snorkelling from a kayak, small boat or from the shore.



Kite surfing at Sandy Bay © Dirk Seiler.

Coral Bay Beaches

Coral Bay is surrounded by gorgeous beaches including Bill's Bay, Paradise Beach and Maud's Landing. Many of these beaches also offer fantastic coral snorkelling. For more information on the beaches of Coral Bay, turn to page 52.



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AUSTRALIA'S FINEST FISHING



Exmouth and the Ningaloo boasts Australia's very best game fishing for billfish such as this high flying black marlin © Tackle World Exmouth.

With the continental shelf just a handful of kilometres offshore from the outer edge of the Ningaloo Reef, and the vast, shallow Exmouth Gulf offering protection from the open ocean and featuring the largest artificial reef in the Southern Hemisphere, Exmouth and the Ningaloo Coast offers a wide range of fishing environments that are home to a bewildering array of prized game, sport and reef fish. For this reason, Exmouth is internationally regarded as Australia's ultimate fishing destination.

Thanks to the geographical makeup of the Ningaloo Coast, all these incredible fishing options are also close to shore and very easy to access. Anglers fishing out of even the smallest of boats can get in on unbelievable fishing action just a short way offshore.

Catch and release fishing is heavily promoted in the Ningaloo, so all visiting anglers are encouraged to take only enough fish for a feed in order to help ensure the Ningaloo's astounding fishing remains that way for future generations.

Land-Based Fishing

Land-based fishing is popular right along the Ningaloo Coast as there are many different species to be caught. Beach fishing within the Ningaloo Reef Lagoon or along the shores of the Exmouth Gulf often produces spangled emperor (nor-west snapper), bluebone, queenfish, trevally, whiting, bream and some surprising reef species.

The humble looking Learmonth Jetty near the bottom of the Exmouth Gulf can produce anything from whiting and bream to longtail tuna and Spanish mackerel, and the rocks around the tip of North West Cape are renowned for the monster giant trevally that patrol their edges.

Reef Fishing

For those looking to take home a feed of tasty reef fish, professional charter boats depart Exmouth and Coral Bay daily. They offer a range of tours including half and full day fishing trips, as well as being available for private charter. Some of the sought after species include spangled emperor (nor-west snapper), coral trout, red emperor, gold-band snapper, rankin cod and bluebone.

Fly Fishing

The sandflats of the Ningaloo Reef Lagoon are famous in fly fishing circles for offering the Australian mainland's only reliable bonefish fishery. These highly prized sportfish can be sight cast to in the shallow, crystal clear waters of the Ningaloo Reef Lagoon, along with permit, golden trevally, queenfish, spangled emperor and many others.

The Exmouth Gulf also holds many exciting fly fishing opportunities, from sight casting permit and queenfish on the sandflats through to chasing surface feeding tuna schools in open water. Several fly fishing guides operate out of Exmouth.



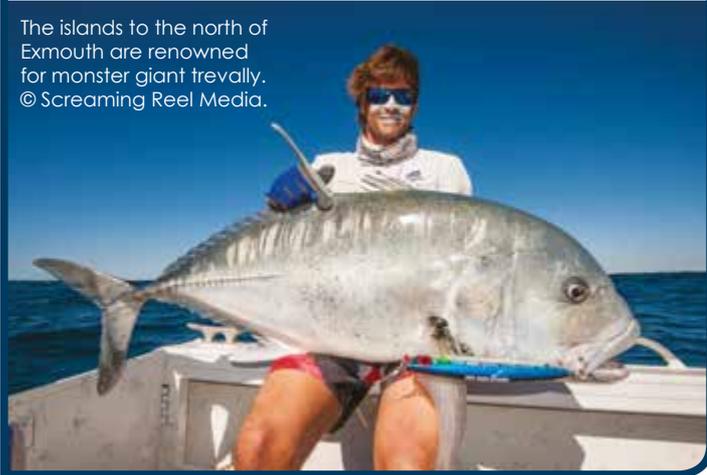
Fly fishing for bonefish in the Ningaloo Lagoon © Tackle World Exmouth.

The Northern Islands

North of Exmouth and beyond the tip of North West Cape stretches a chain of islands starting with the Muiron Islands just 15 kilometres offshore. These coral fringed northern islands offer some incredible fishing opportunities for a huge range of reef and sportfish, and are particularly popular with spearfishermen.

The further north you go along the islands, the better the fishing. Toward the northern end of this island chain lie the Mackerel Islands (Thevenard & Direction Islands). Aside from extraordinary fishing, the Mackerel Islands also offer several accommodation options and can be accessed from Exmouth via a short flight, boat transfer, or you can take your own boat. Contact the Ningaloo Visitor Centre on T: (08) 9949 3070 for more information on booking your island stay.

The islands to the north of Exmouth are renowned for monster giant trevally. © Screaming Reel Media.



GAMEX

Every year in March the Exmouth Game Fishing Club hosts its GAMEX sport and game fishing tournament. GAMEX is Western Australia's premier fishing event, attracting competitors from around the country and around the world who always achieve some fantastic and often record breaking catches, particularly in terms of tag and release numbers.

GAMEX offers teams the chance to compete for 27 different prize categories (mostly catch and release) targeting over 35 different species of game fish in the fish rich waters off Exmouth. No other fishing tournament in the country offers such diverse and productive fishing within a short distance from shore.

However, GAMEX is more than just a fishing tournament. GAMEX's week long itinerary features activities for the whole family (be they anglers or non-anglers), including children's clinics, educational sessions, fancy dress and gourmet evenings, and scientific studies.

Dates for GAMEX 2020 are March 13-21. Visit: egfc.com.au for more information.

Boat Launching Facilities

Exmouth has three boat launching ramps. The Exmouth Marina Boat Ramp is located 2 kilometres south of the Exmouth townsite and is an all-weather, all tide, two lane ramp that affords access to the mid reaches of the Exmouth Gulf.

Bundegi Boat Ramp is located 13 kilometres north of Exmouth at Bundegi Beach. This is a single lane concrete ramp tucked just inside the tip of North West Cape, at the mouth of the Exmouth Gulf. It is recommended to avoid launching or retrieving at Bundegi Boat Ramp on very low tides or during periods of strong easterly aspect winds.

Tantabiddi Boat Ramp is located 35 kilometres from Exmouth (just north of the Cape Range National Park boundary). This is a two lane concrete ramp that provides easiest access to the Ningaloo Lagoon, Ningaloo Reef and the open Indian Ocean. Tantabiddi Boat Ramp is useable in most weather conditions, although launching or retrieving on very low tides is not recommended.

Other beach launching areas are located throughout the Cape Range National Park, such as Osprey Bay and Pilgramunna. However, these are suitable for small boats and four wheel drive vehicles only.

Coral Bay boasts an excellent multi-lane, all tide boat launching facility. The channels leading out to sea either to the north or south of Coral Bay can be difficult for inexperienced boaties to navigate, so use of an accurate GPS charting system is recommended.

Sanctuary Zones

The Ningaloo Marine Park is a multiple-use Marine Park that stretches approximately 300 kilometres along the west coast of the Cape Range Peninsula, from Bundegi in the north to Red Bluff in the south, for a total area of 5070 km². Within this area exist several special conservation 'sanctuary zones' where fishing is strictly prohibited.

For information on these sanctuary zones, please visit: parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/ningaloo to download the Ningaloo Marine Park sanctuary zone maps, or contact the Parks & Wildlife Exmouth office on T: (08) 9947 8000.

For information on Western Australian Recreational Fishing rules and regulations, visit: fish.wa.gov.au.

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Hot spanga bite!
Nice red!

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THINGS TO SEE & DO

*Distances shown are from the Ningaloo Visitor Centre. See map on page 32 for locations.

1	Exmouth Cultural Arts Centre	0.2km	Browse an array of work from local artists.
1	Town Centre	1km	Ross Street Shopping Mall (Maidstone Crescent). Sunday Markets in nearby Federation Park April to October.
1	Water Sprayground	1km	Kids water 'sprayground' in Federation Park (Maidstone Crescent).
1	The Big Prawn	1km	Exmouth's iconic landmark.
1	Ningaloo Centre	1km	Explore the interactive visitor galleries including the Cyclone Room, Ningaloo Aquarium and Cape Range Cave Experience - the perfect introduction to the Ningaloo!
2	VLF Towers	12km	Second tallest man-made structures in the Southern Hemisphere.
2	Bundegi Beach	13km	Enjoy a swim and snorkel or launch your boat for best access to the Muiron Islands.
3	SS Mildura Wreck	17km	1907 cattle steamer shipwreck easily visible from the shore.
4	Surfers Beach (Dunes Beach)	16km	The Ningaloo's most popular and easy to access surf break.
5	Vlamingh Head Lighthouse	17km	The best lookout over Ningaloo Reef. Watch the sunset over the ocean or spot humpback whales from June to November.
6	Jurabi Turtle Centre	20km	Learn about turtles at this interpretative centre. Nesting season November to March.
7	Mauritius Beach	21km	Get an all over tan at this 'clothing optional' beach.
8	Tantabiddi Boat Ramp	38km	Launch your boat. Best boat access point for the Ningaloo Reef.
9	Cape Range National Park	40km	Nature at its finest. Experience coastal camping. Entrance/camping fees apply.
10	Mangrove Bay Bird Hide	46km	Observe the unique birdlife of the Ningaloo.
11	Milyering Discovery Centre	54km	Information on the Cape Range National Park & Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area.
12	Lakeside	56km	Self-guided snorkel right from the beach to large coral bommies.
13	Turquoise Bay	63km	Take a self-guided snorkel in the bay or experience the drift snorkel (please be aware strong currents can occur).
14	Oyster Stacks	66km	Self-guided snorkel. High tide of 1.2m+ only. Ideal for families with young children.
15	Mandu Mandu Gorge	72km	Take a bushwalk through the gorge.
16	Sandy Bay	81km	North facing beach with stunningly clear, shallow waters. Great for kite boarding.
16	Osprey Bay	82km	Picnic area, kayak launch site and coral snorkelling.
17	Yardie Creek	91km	View Yardie Creek Gorge from the lookout or book a boat cruise.
18	Town Beach	3km	Use the free BBQs and enjoy a swim. Four wheel drive vehicle access to the beach.
19	Exmouth Marina	4km	Launch or dock your boat, or fish from the rockwalls. Best boat access point for Exmouth Gulf.
20	Shothole Canyon (turn-off)	14km	Self drive the base of the canyon. Four wheel drive vehicles only.
21	Charles Knife Gorge (turn-off)	21km	Self drive the ridge of the gorge. Not suitable for caravans or campervans.
21	Thomas Carter Lookout	32km	Views of Charles Knife Gorge and Exmouth Gulf.
22	Krait & Potshot Memorial	29km	Commemorates operations <i>Jaywick</i> and <i>Operation Potshot</i> , 1942-45.
24	Learmonth Jetty	33km	Safe and productive land-based fishing spot.
25	Coral Bay	155km	Enjoy life in a relaxed resort town by the beach with some of the Ningaloo's finest coral snorkelling right on its doorstep.

TOWN OF EXMOUTH

EXMOUTH ACCOMMODATION

- A Ningaloo Bed & Breakfast
- B Maniarays Resort
- C Exmouth Escape Resort
- D Exmouth Cape Holiday Park
- E Ningaloo Caravan & Holiday Resort
- F Ningaloo Lodge
- G Polishot Hotel
- H Osprey Holiday Village

NORTH OF EXMOUTH

- Lighthouse Caravan Park
- Yardle Homestead Caravan Park
- Cape Range National Park
- Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef

Street Name Grid Ref

Street Name	Grid Ref
Bennett St	F4, N2
Bluefin Cv	V11
Bowfin Way	D4
Broad St	H5
Bonetish	G4
Cameron St	I3
Campbell Way	J2
Carey St	H3
Carpenter St	I5
Carr Way	I2
Carr Rd	J5
Christie St	I5
Cobia Ct	W10
Cooyou Ct	U10
Coral Way	U10
Corella St	N9
Craft St	J6
Crevalle	S9
Davidson St	I5
Diver Mws	H1
Dugong Ct	V10
Eurayle St	E4
Falls St	I3
Farley St	D3
Fitzhardinge St	D3
Fletcher St	D2
Fyre St	E4
Friedman Way	N10
Game Fishing Club	Q12
Gnandaroo Cove	M10
Gnulli Ct	O9
Gooley St	I3
Graying Way	C3
Grenadier St	H4
Grey St	I4
Griffin Way	B3
Griffiths Way	L7
Hall St	J3
Heron Way	X4
Honwood Quays	P8, V10
Hunt St	Y11
Huston St	I6
Ingleton Ln	U11
Ingleton St	H2

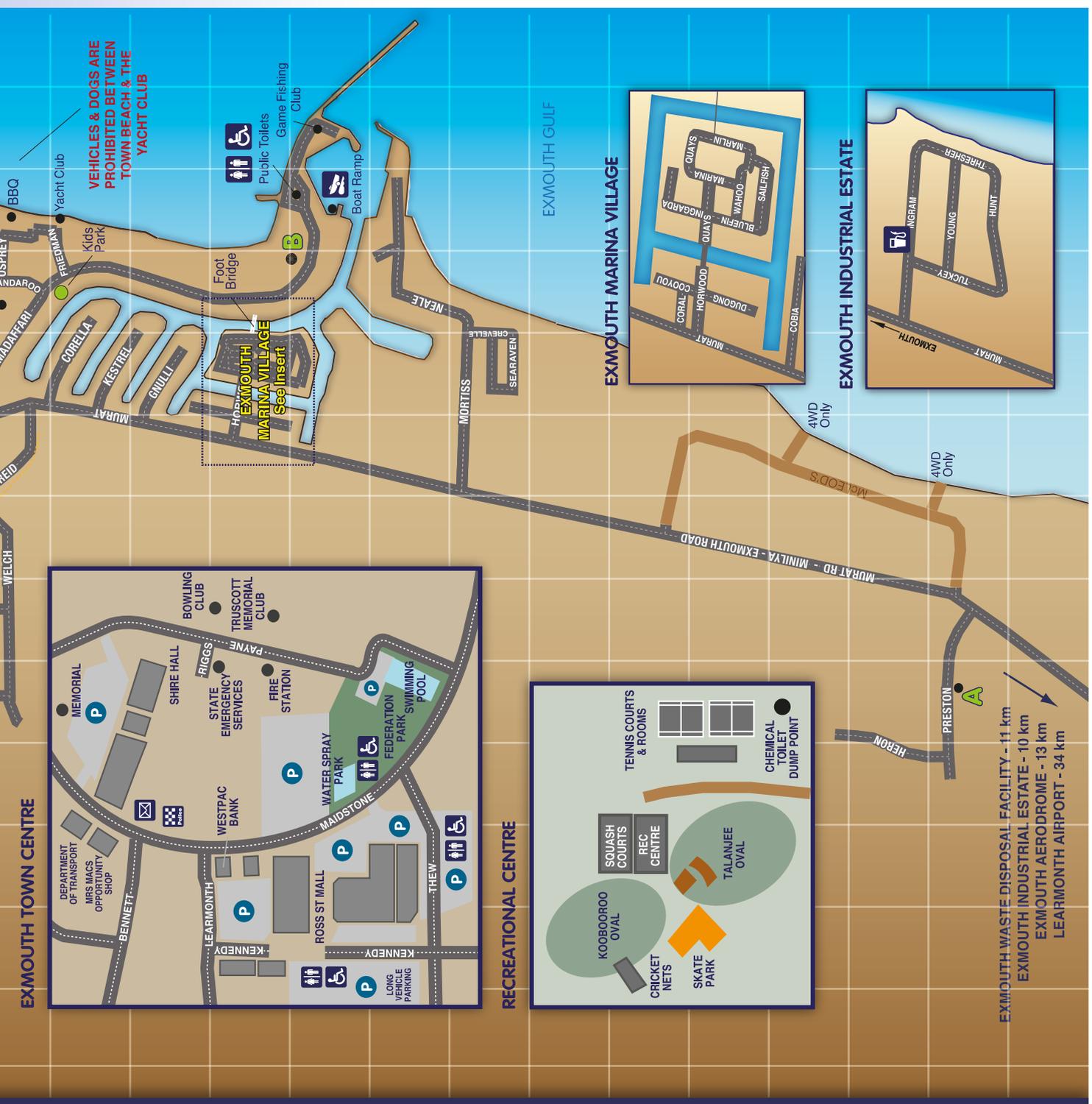
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Ingram St
Jaywick St
Jones Pl
Kellor Pl
Kennedy St
Kestrel Pl
King Pl
Koolinda Way
Klein St
Krait St
Learmonth St
Lefroy St
Lockwood St
Lyon St
Marina Quays
McLeod St
Madaffari Dr
Maudstone Cres
Malley St
Marlin Ct
Mortiss St
Marsh St
Murat Rd
Neale Cv
Ningaloo St
Nimitz St
Osprey Way
Page St
Patterson St
Payne St
Pellas St
Pellow St
Potshot St
Preston St
Redfin Ct
Reid St
Reymond St
Riggs St
Rimau St
Rule St
Salfish Ct
Salmon Loop
Sargent St
Sargo Ct
Saury Pl
Schmidt Way
Sculpin Ct
Searaven St
Seawolf Pl
Skipjack Ct
Snapper Loop
Stefano Way
Stewart St
Stokes-Hughes St
Tambor Dve
Tautog St
Thew St
Tonge Pl
Thresher St
Truscott Cres
Trout Pl
Tuckey St
Turnor Pl
Wahoo Ct
Walters Way
Warne St
Warren Way
Welch St
Willersdorf Rd
Yardie St
Young St

M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

NORTH WEST CAPE

Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area

Muiron Islands

TO MACKEREL ISLANDS

Indian Ocean

Exmouth Gulf

Legend

- Sealed Road
- Unsealed Road
- Walk Trail
- Police
- Hospital
- Airport
- Information Point
- Chemical Dump
- Water
- Fuel
- Accommodation
- Caravan & Camping
- Tent Camping Only
- 4WD Only
- Snorkel Site
- Surfing
- Lookout
- Picnic Area
- NP Entry Stations

Yardie Creek crossing - can be subject to seasonal and tidal flooding. Check conditions with Ningaloo Visitor Centre or Milyering Discovery Centre before attempting to cross.

Access to Point Lefroy and the Bay of Rest area is via Exmouth Gulf Station only

Track to Coral Bay (PLEASE SEEK ADVICE BEFORE UNDERTAKING THIS 4WD TRACK)

25. To Coral Bay
155 km DRIVE SOUTH OF EXMOUTH
To Bullara Station (86kms)
Giralia Station (125kms)
Warroora Station (190kms)

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NESTING TURTLES



Green turtle hatchlings emerging from their nest near the tip of Exmouth's North West Cape © Natasha Tate.

The beaches of the Ningaloo Coast are vitally important nesting grounds for green, loggerhead and hawksbill turtles. From roughly November to February each year, mature female turtles make their arduous haul out from the sea and up the beaches to lay their clutches of eggs which they bury deep below the sand to incubate.

Six weeks after laying (roughly January to March), the turtle hatchlings emerge and make their desperate dash for the relative safety of the sea. These hatchlings are preyed upon by birds, monitor lizards, crabs, dingoes, foxes, fish and sharks and with so many natural predators both on land and at sea, very few of these highly vulnerable hatchlings will survive through to adulthood.

The beaches between Hunters Access and Jurabi Point toward the tip of Exmouth's North West Cape, and those from Maud's Landing north of Coral Bay are particularly important turtle rookeries, and so great places to observe nesting turtles or hatchlings.

During the nesting season, adult female turtles typically begin to emerge from the water from dusk and through the night, slowly hauling themselves up the beaches in search of a suitable place amongst the sand dunes to lay their clutches of up to 200 eggs. Female turtles may nest several times a season, resulting in hundreds of nests scattered throughout each of the favoured rookery areas along the Ningaloo Coast.

After a six week incubation period, turtle hatchlings emerge from their nest *en masse*, ready to make their frantic sprint down the beach and into the ocean. Hatchlings tend to be unpredictable, however, most commonly occur around dusk or dawn.

It is important not to handle, touch or interfere with turtle hatchlings as this can both reduce their chances of survival and negate the important imprinting that allows a hatchling to navigate its way back to the beach where it was born once fully grown to breed the next generation of Ningaloo sea turtles.

Jurabi Turtle Centre

Visitors can find further information on the marine turtles of the Ningaloo Coast at the Jurabi Turtle Centre. Located on Yardie Creek Road, around 20 kilometres from Exmouth, the Jurabi Turtle Centre is an interpretive educational facility positioned close to several well known turtle nesting beaches.

The centre was constructed in recognition of the urgent need to minimise the impact of human disturbance on nesting turtles along the Ningaloo Coast and provides a wealth of information on marine turtles and marine turtle conservation. The Jurabi Turtle Centre is open to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Jurabi Turtle Centre
© Australia's Coral Coast.

Turtle Watching Code of Conduct

Visitors to the Ningaloo during the summer months are welcome to view the poignant natural event that is turtle nesting/hatching. However, it is imperative neither nesting female turtles nor hatchlings are disturbed or interfered with.

Non-invasive turtle viewing requires a detailed understanding of the nesting process and appropriate interaction behaviour. Therefore, visitors are asked to follow a strict code of conduct for self-guided turtle viewing:

- No Glow** - Do not use torches to search for turtles. Unnatural light discourages nesting turtles from emerging from the water and may make them abandon their nest. Avoid flash photography at all times.
- Move Slow** - Sudden movements can scare nesting turtles, so move slowly at all times when on the beach.
- Stay Low** - Walk close to the water's edge and look up toward the dunes to spot nesting turtles or hatchlings. Stay low and out of sight when approaching a nesting turtle.
- If you spot a turtle nearby, **stop** where you are, **drop** slowly to a sitting position and stay as still as a **rock**. Keep noise to an absolute minimum.
- Do not get within 15 metres of a nesting turtle. Once the turtle has dug its nest and begun to lay her eggs, you may move closer to the turtle, but do not approach any closer than 2 metres.
- Remain behind the turtle at all times so as to stay out of its field of vision.

A complete copy of the Ningaloo Turtle Watchers' Code of Conduct can be obtained from the Ningaloo Visitor Centre on Murat Road, Exmouth, or the Parks & Wildlife Exmouth office on Nimitz Street. This is essential reading for anyone viewing nesting or hatching turtles, and the code of conduct should be followed to the letter so as to ensure these vulnerable creatures remain an everyday sight on the Ningaloo Reef.



Loggerhead turtle hatchlings
© Esther McDonald.

Parks & Wildlife Turtle Tours

Parks & Wildlife Exmouth conducts evening guided turtle interaction tours from the Jurabi Turtle Centre during the height of the Ningaloo turtle nesting season (December to March).

Parks & Wildlife turtle interaction tours are educational tours that not only provide a high chance of finding and observing nesting turtles, but also teach participants how to do so in an unobtrusive manner so as not to disturb these vitally important nesting activities. Armed with this skill set, you can then undertake your own do-it-yourself turtle watching on subsequent nights.

By participating in one of these very affordable guided tours, you are actively helping to conserve marine turtles and will have a better opportunity to view turtles nesting in their natural environment. Contact the Ningaloo Visitor Centre on T: (08) 9949 3070 or go to: visitningaloo.com.au for bookings.



Nesting green turtle © Paul Bester.

Cape Range National Park Milyering Discovery Centre & Gift Shop



Discover the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area

Interactive displays & information available for
Cape Range National Park & Ningaloo Marine Park.

The Milyering Discovery Centre and Gift Shop is located in
Cape Range National Park.



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



milyering@dbca.wa.gov.au 08 9949 2808 www.dbca.wa.gov.au

THE RANGE

BY THE REEF



The view down Shothole Canyon from Charles Knife Drive
© Radka Treťinova.

Situated on the west side of Exmouth's North West Cape is the Cape Range National Park; a spectacular landscape of rugged limestone ranges, breathtaking deep canyons and 60 kilometres of pristine beaches.

The park covers some 50,581 hectares, with its northern boundary just 36 kilometres from Exmouth. Wildlife is abundant throughout the Cape Range National Park, with emus, echidnas, lizards, wallabies, kangaroos, dingoes and many species of birds commonly sighted. Cape Range offers a variety of attractions and activities for visitors interested in the natural environment.

In ancient times the Cape Range was an isolated island as rising sea levels inundated lower lying areas. As a result of this geographic isolation, there are several species of plants and animals entirely endemic to the area, including the white centred variety of the Sturt's desert pea. Surveys have recorded over 630 species of flowering plants on the peninsula and within the Cape Range National Park. This is a surprisingly high number for an arid limestone area.

There are numerous gorges and sanctuary areas within the Cape Range National Park that provide a haven for wildlife and contain rare and unusual flora. A stunning array of wildflowers can be seen in late winter, including Sturt's desert peas, purple mulla mullas and the beautiful green bird flower.

Please note, wildlife is often encountered on all roads within the Cape Range National Park, so please drive slowly and carefully. Driving around dawn, dusk and through the night when the local wildlife is most active is not recommended.

Cape Range National Park Entry Fees

A per vehicle park entry fee must be paid to enter the Cape Range National Park, and additional camping fees apply on a per person per night basis. Cape Range National Park entry fees can be paid at the Parks and Wildlife Exmouth office (Nimitz Street), online at: parkstay.dpaw.wa.gov.au, or at the Cape Range National Park entry gate. Various longer term National Park passes are available from

the Parks and Wildlife Exmouth office.

Cape Range National Park entry fees are as follow. Additional camping fees apply on a per person per night basis (see page 38).

Day Entry Pass

- \$15/vehicle
- \$8/motorcycle and concession card holders.

**Prices correct as of January 2020. Please refer to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions website for current pricing.*

Milyering Discovery Centre

Milyering, the National Park Discovery Centre, is located 54 kilometres from Exmouth. Here interpretive displays, audio-visual facilities and a library containing a wealth of information on the National and Marine Parks are on hand to help visitors understand and appreciate the natural environment. National Park rangers are also on site to assist with enquiries.

Charles Knife & Shothole Canyons

There are two unsealed tracks that run from the Minilya-Exmouth Road into the eastern side of the Cape Range National Park. These provide spectacular scenic drives through the Cape Range canyons, as well as great bush walking opportunities.

The access track into Shothole Canyon turns off the Minilya-Exmouth Road, 14 kilometres south of Exmouth. The canyon was named after the shot holes left by explosive charges detonated to trigger miniature earthquakes for seismographic studies during oil searches in the 1950s.

The four wheel drive vehicle only track through Shothole Canyon meanders over dry creek beds along the gorge floor and offers visitors close examination of the colourful rock layers that make up the sheer canyon walls. At the end of the 15 kilometre track there is a picnic area and a short walking trail.

Charles Knife Gorge Road turns west off the Minilya-Exmouth Road, 21 kilometres south of Exmouth. The mostly gravel road

is suitable for two wheel drive vehicles (not suitable for caravans or trailers) and follows the razor-backed ridges of the range, providing breathtaking downward views into the stark, multi-coloured gorges.

There are several lookout points along Charles Knife Gorge Road that provide fantastic photo opportunities, and a marked walking trail from Thomas Carter Lookout. Conditions of the walk trail depend on rainfall. Cape Range National Park walk trail guides are available from the Ningaloo Visitor Centre.

Walk Trails

The Cape Range National Park boasts several fantastic walk trails, many of which offer stunning canyon or Ningaloo Reef views. However, caution should be exercised when bush walking the Cape Range National Park, especially around canyon areas which have steep walls and can be dangerous due to loose surfaces.

Between December and March, days of extreme temperature exceeding 40°C (104°F) are common. Walking the trails of the Cape Range National Park is not recommended during this period.

Don't go on your own - always let someone know where you're going and when you'll be back. Cave areas are unsafe due to oxygen deficiency - for your own safety please remain on existing walking trails. Always carry plenty of water and wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

Mandu Mandu Gorge

A 3 kilometre long walking trail affords access into this dry gorge. The trail starts at the end of the Mandu Mandu track and follows the northern ridge of the gorge, offering stunning panoramic views. The trail leads down into the creek bed from where you can follow the base of the gorge back to the car park. Black-footed rock wallabies can occasionally be seen in this gorge.

Please be aware that due to several small but steep gully crossings, this walking trail requires a moderate to high level of fitness.

Yardie Creek

The sealed road from Exmouth through the Cape Range National Park ends at Yardie Creek. Centuries of erosion have formed a spectacular multi-coloured gorge here that cuts deep into the limestone of the Cape Range.

Yardie Creek is the only gorge in the area with permanent water. However, this is saltwater fed from the ocean. This interesting ecosystem has mangrove areas that provide roosting sites for several bird species, while the sheltered waters are a sanctuary for many marine animals.

Hidden within the safety of the gorge walls is a colony of rare black-footed rock wallabies. These timid creatures seek shelter in the ledges and caves along the gorge walls, resting during daylight hours before coming out to feed in the cool of the night.

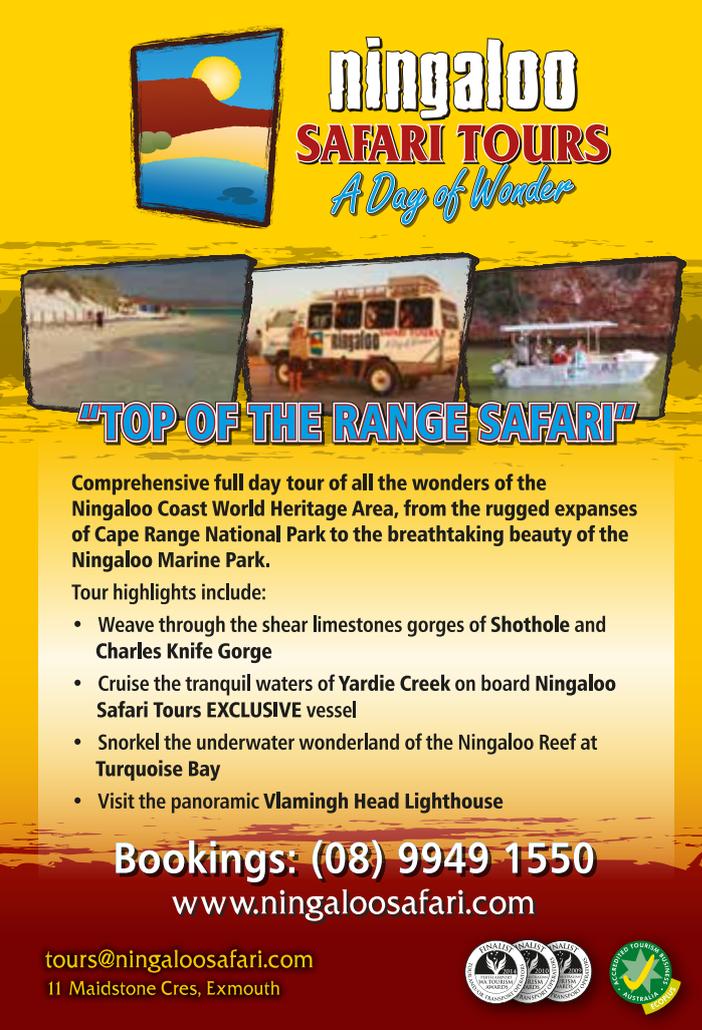
There is a relatively easy walking trail along the top of the northern wall of the gorge, or you can join a boat cruise through the creek. Call the Ningaloo Visitor Centre on T: (08) 9949 3070 to book your boat tour through Yardie Creek.

Mangrove Bay

The Mangrove Bay sanctuary zone includes a bird hide which overlooks a mangrove lagoon area. Follow the short track from the right-hand side of the car park which leads to a boardwalk winding through the mangroves to the bird hide.

A variety of birds roost in the lagoon at high tide and many feed on small fish and other marine life in the shallow waters. Closer inspection may reveal an osprey or brahminy kite perched above surveying the coastline. During the summer months many rare migratory birds can be observed here.

Please be aware that mosquitoes can be present in large numbers at Mangrove Bay around dawn, dusk and after periods of high rainfall. Long clothing and insect repellent is recommended.



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Tour highlights include:

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- Cruise the tranquil waters of Yardie Creek on board **Ningaloo Safari Tours EXCLUSIVE** vessel
- Snorkel the underwater wonderland of the Ningaloo Reef at **Turquoise Bay**
- Visit the panoramic **Vlamingh Head Lighthouse**

Bookings: (08) 9949 1550
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11 Maidstone Cres, Exmouth




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CAMP BY THE BEACH

Osprey campground in the Cape Range National Park © Parks & Wildlife Exmouth.

There are in excess of 140 beachside camping bays along the western shore of the Cape Range National Park between Ned's Camp and Boat Harbour and most are accessible via conventional two wheel drive vehicle. These camp sites are all located directly adjacent to the shoreline, offering immediate access to the Ningaloo Reef Lagoon for swimming, snorkelling, fishing, kayaking and other activities.

Caravans and larger vehicles are welcome, however, there are few facilities - no power, showers or cooking facilities. All camping sites have toilets and picnic tables but you must be fully self-sufficient and bring all your own water. No wood fires or pets are permitted in the Cape Range National Park.

Please note camping is only permitted in designated camping bays within the Cape Range National Park.

Cape Range National Park Camping

All Cape Range National Park camping bays must be booked online by visiting: parkstay.dpaw.wa.gov.au.

Please be advised Cape Range National Park camp bays are in very high demand from April – October and during school holiday periods, so booking well in advance is recommended.

For those unable to book online, booking facilities are available at the Parks & Wildlife Exmouth office on Nimitz Street, Exmouth, or at the Milyering Discovery Centre inside the Cape Range National Park.

To access your pre-booked Cape Range National Park camping bay, you must present a copy of your booking to the park ranger stationed at the national park entrance year-round from 8am-3:45pm. During the peak visitation season from April - October, most camp sites are also overseen by a campground manager who can help direct you to your designated camping bay.

Cape Range National Park camping fees are as follow. An additional per vehicle park entry fee must be paid to enter the Cape Range National Park (see page 36).

Camping Fees

- \$11/adult/night
- \$7/concession card holder/night
- \$3/child/night (ages 6-15 years).

*Prices correct as of January 2020. Please refer to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions website for current pricing.

Yardie Creek Boat Tours & Turquoise Bay Beach Service



Enjoy a relaxing, eco-friendly & informative one hour boat tour of the beautiful Yardie Creek.

Spot a wide range of wildlife including the rare black-footed rock wallabies, ospreys, egrets & a variety of marine life. Excellent photo opportunities & local experienced guides who know the history of this special place.

YCBT also offer a seasonal bus transfer service to the stunning Turquoise Bay Beach. A great way to spend a few hours to swim, snorkel or just unwind, without the hassle of driving yourself.

Phone: (08) 9949 2920 | 0499 202 920

Bookings: www.yardiecreekboattours.com.au



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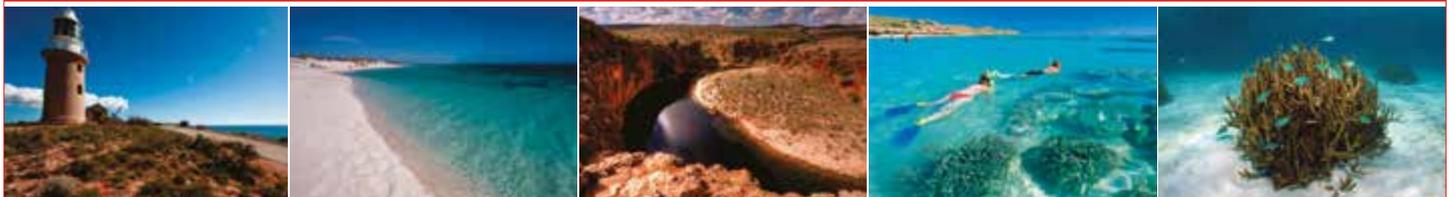
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CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Exploring the untouched landscape of the Cape Range National Park
© Tourism WA.

Enjoy the freedom to experience the Ningaloo in your own style and pace on a do-it-yourself, self drive day trip. Explore the rugged beauty of the Cape Range National Park, cruise down to Coral Bay, or enjoy a day swimming the crystal blue waters of the Ningaloo Marine Park at your leisure.

All roads into Exmouth, Coral Bay and the Cape Range National Park are sealed and suitable for conventional two wheel drive vehicles. Fuel is available in Exmouth, Coral Bay and at caravan parks just outside the Cape Range National Park entrance, and most vehicle service or repair requirements are on hand in Exmouth.

A range of vehicles are available for hire in Exmouth, including compacts, sedans and four wheel drives, as well as campervans and scooters. Hire car companies operating out of Exmouth include Avis, Budget, Exmouth Camper Hire and Ningaloo Car & Boat Hire. Airport pick up can be arranged upon request when booking.

Contact the staff at the Ningaloo Visitor Centre for further information about self drive adventure options and car, scooter or campervan hire. Call into our centre on Murat Road or phone the team on T: (08) 9949 3070.

Must See DIY Experiences

While enjoying a self drive Ningaloo holiday, be sure not to miss the following local do-it-yourself highlights:

- Spend a day by the Ningaloo Reef at the relaxed holiday township of Coral Bay, an easy 150km drive south of Exmouth;
- Do the Cape Range National Park snorkel trail, taking in the Lakeside, Turquoise Bay and Oyster Stacks snorkel sites;
- Enjoy spectacular views over the Cape Range canyons from Charles Knife Gorge Road, just south of Exmouth;
- Take in the history of North West Cape at the Ningaloo Centre, *Krait* and *Potshot* military memorial, Vlamingh Head and the Big Prawn;
- Visit one of several local farm stations to experience outback life;
- Watch the sun set over the Ningaloo Reef from Vlamingh Head Lighthouse lookout.

Watch Out for Wildlife

Visitors to Exmouth, Coral Bay and the Ningaloo are reminded that wildlife is abundant in the region, so care must be taken when driving to avoid injuring this wildlife and damaging your vehicle.

Wildlife is often encountered on all roads within the Cape Range National Park, so please drive slowly and carefully. Driving around dawn, dusk and through the night when the local wildlife is most active is not recommended.

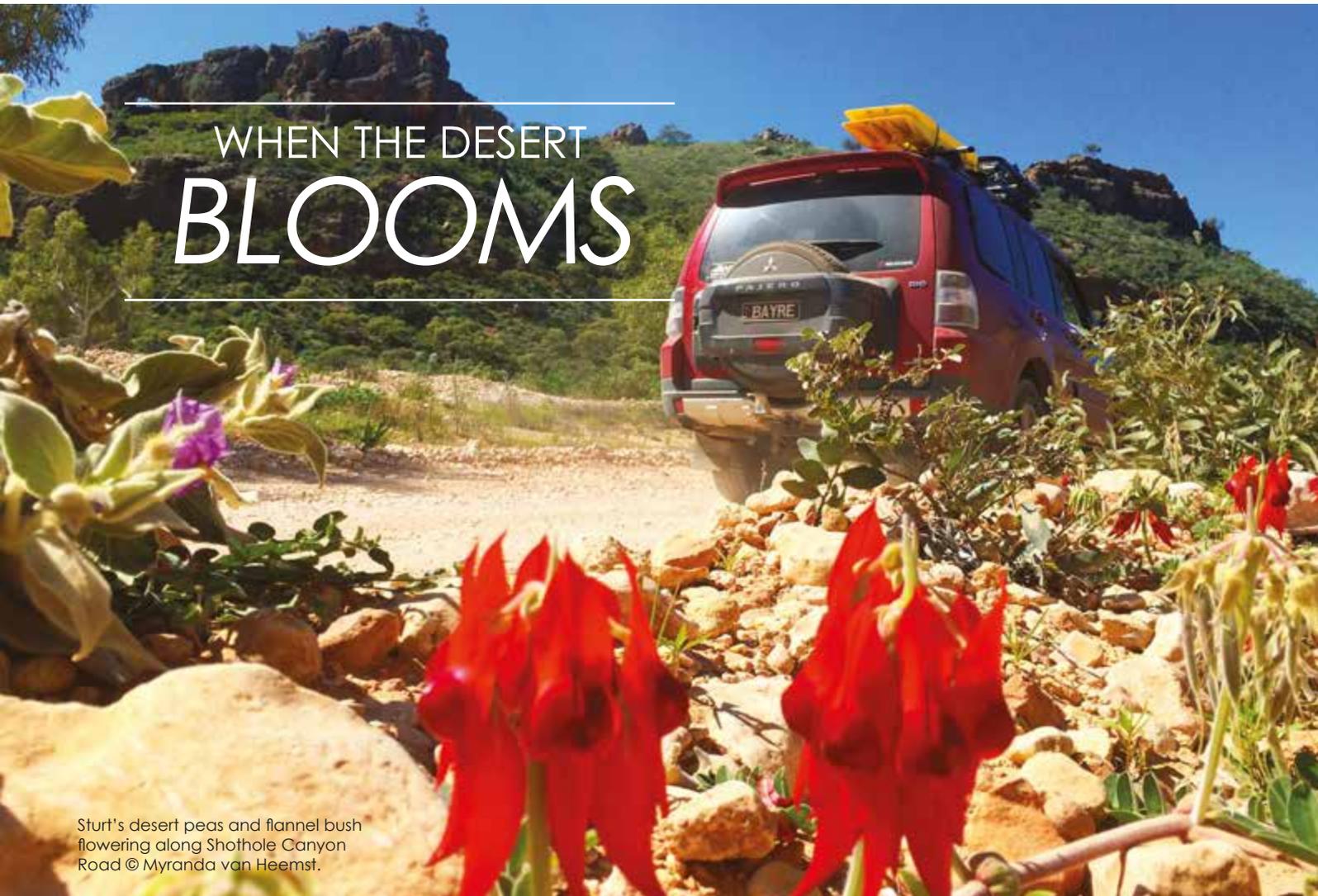
Even within the townships of Exmouth and Coral Bay themselves, emus and kangaroos are regularly seen crossing roads, so drivers must remain alert to avoid injuring these animals. Sheep, cattle and native wildlife are often encountered along Minilya-Exmouth Road, so once again, please remain alert at all times and avoid driving at night wherever possible.

If you come across injured or orphaned wildlife, please call the local CARE group in Exmouth on M: 0437 118 180.



Emu on the road, Cape Range National Park © Shuan Avis.

WHEN THE DESERT BLOOMS



Sturt's desert peas and flannel bush flowering along Shothole Canyon Road © Myranda van Heemst.

At first glance, the landscape of the Ningaloo region appears to be dry and harsh. However, the semi-arid, calcium rich soils of the Ningaloo interior and North West Cape nurture an unusually large variety of flora. More than 630 species of flowering plant have been recorded to date, including extraordinary wildflowers such as the local white centred variety of the Sturt's desert pea and the fascinating green birdflower.

The wildflower season in the Ningaloo typically runs from June to October. However, the proliferation of wildflowers in the area is highly dependent on rainfall. After rain events the native flora is not hard to spot, although it always helps if you know where to look...

Coral Bay

Located off Minilya-Exmouth Road. The flat plains area between Minilya and Lyndon River is good for spotting the shiny dark leaves and white trumpet flowers of the Minilya lily. Other common sights include kurara, Cape Range grevillea, Thryplomene and Melaleuca.

Exmouth Gulf

In summer bright red yulbah flowers can be found along the dry creek beds leading into Exmouth Gulf, while in winter golden blossoms of wattle can be seen throughout the sand dunes, often interlaced with the violet blooms of the purple mulla mulla. Other common sights here may include the flannel bush (bush tomato), hairy pepperflower and Sturt's desert pea.

Charles Knife & Shothole Canyons

Located approximately 21 kilometres south of Exmouth, Charles Knife Gorge Road is suitable for two wheel drive vehicles. While travelling through and wondering in awe at the view over the canyons, take some time to look for the Cape Range grevillea, Cape Range kurrajong and two species of Verticordia.

Shothole Canyon is located approximately 14 kilometres south of

Exmouth. The unsealed track that takes you through the base of the canyon is accessible by four wheel drive only. If you can tear your eyes away from the spectacular rock formations, take a look for the creamy white Eucalypt flowers.

Cape Range National Park

While travelling through the park, keep your eyes peeled for the Sturt's desert pea, Dampiera, Dampier pea, hairy pepperflower, Pituri, Stackhousia, Indigo, Yardie Creek morning glory, starflower, featherflower, bloodwood, wild cotton, flannel bush, Cape Range kurrajong and rock fig. After rain you may spot a white Minilya lily in the Pilgramunna area.

Northern Walk/Cycle Track

The 4.7 kilometre walk and cycle track to just before Exmouth's Harold E. Holt Naval Communications Station provides the opportunity to see Sturt's desert pea, purple mulla mulla, clumps of toucan flowers and green birdflowers.

Flamingo Head Lighthouse

Located 17 kilometres from Exmouth. Apart from the spectacular views of the reef and sunsets from the lighthouse you may also see silky pimelea and green birdflowers here.



Green bird flowers © Fed Maiz Hohlberg.



STAY & PLAY

Despite the remote location of the Ningaloo region, Exmouth and Coral Bay are fortunate to offer a huge variety of accommodation options with a unique North-West style to suit visitors of all types to the Ningaloo.

With such a range of accommodation, visitors can choose to stay in complete luxury, right through to basic, budget lodgings. Accommodation facilities vary from beachside locations by the shores of the Ningaloo Reef, to township settings within easy walking distance of shops and restaurants.

Accommodation options in and around Exmouth include backpacker lodges, caravan park sites and cabins, hotel and motel rooms, bed & breakfast, station and farmstays, self-contained villas and chalets, holiday houses, resorts and eco retreats.

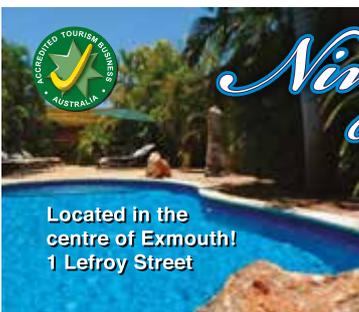
With Exmouth's unique position on North West Cape, visitors can choose to stay along the western side of the cape close by the Ningaloo Reef, or within the Exmouth township itself adjacent the protected waters of Exmouth Gulf. The choice of accommodation comes down to whether you'd like to be based in the Exmouth township with easy access to its visitor facilities, or right by the shores of Ningaloo Reef and entrance to the Cape Range National Park.

Coral Bay's accommodation options are all located within a very short walk straight to the beach and adjacent the Ningaloo Reef. Accommodation options in Coral Bay include backpacker lodges, caravan park sites and cabins, self-contained villas and chalets, a resort and station and farmstays.

When choosing your accommodation please be aware that Exmouth's Learmonth Airport is located some 37 kilometres south of the Exmouth township and 120kms north of Coral Bay. Door to door transport services from Learmonth Airport to both Exmouth and Coral Bay are available, however, these must be booked prior to your arrival.

Visitors arriving via road will find most accommodation operators are able to provide boat, caravan or trailer parking, but once again, this should be arranged at time of booking.

Representing over fifty accommodation and tour operators throughout Exmouth and Coral Bay, the Ningaloo Visitor Centre is the tour and accommodation bookings hub of the Ningaloo region. To find out more or to book your Ningaloo accommodation, go to: visitningaloo.com.au. Or to talk to one of our visitor services staff, contact the Ningaloo Visitor Centre direct on T: (08) 9949 3070 or E: reservations@exmouthwa.com.au.



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Peak & Off Peak Seasons

The Ningaloo region enjoys a warm, dry climate year-round. However, summertime temperatures can be extreme, and a moderate risk of tropical cyclone also exists during this period. For these reasons, the most popular period for visitors to the Ningaloo is from autumn to late spring.

Demand during these milder, mid-year months often exceeds the accommodation capacity of both Exmouth and Coral Bay. Therefore, accommodation pricing varies between 'peak' and 'off peak' season rates.

Peak and off peak season dates differ between operators, so please check with individual accommodation providers. As a general guide however, the Ningaloo peak season runs from March – November.

When visiting the Ningaloo region, always be sure to book your accommodation well in advance to avoid disappointment. This is especially important during peak season, and particularly during the busiest periods around public holidays and school holidays (see page 11 for 2019/20 dates).



Sunset whale watching from Vlamingh Head Lighthouse © Carol McAllister.

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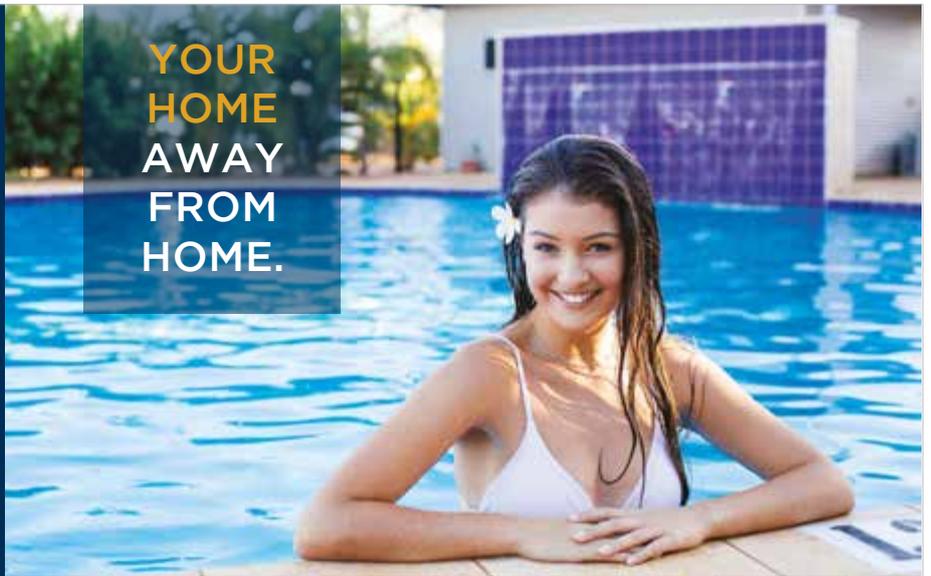
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SHOPPING & ENTERTAINMENT



Part of the fun during the Ningaloo Whaleshark Festival © Christine Glenister.

Aside from its obvious natural attractions, the Ningaloo also offers a wealth of local entertainment throughout the year. The Ningaloo events calendar is ever expanding and headlined by the annual GAMEX sport and game fishing tournament (see page 27 for more information on GAMEX).

Exmouth boasts several children's play facilities including the skate park on Murat Road, adventure playgrounds on Krait Street, Falls Street and Madaffari Drive, and the unique water 'sprayground' on Maidstone Crescent, opposite Ross Street Mall. Exmouth's iconic Big Prawn located on Murat Road is also always popular with kids or visitors chasing that perfect holiday selfie.

Despite the small size of the Exmouth and Coral Bay townships, a range of boutique shopping experiences can be found in both towns. Exmouth's Ross Street Shopping Mall has a good selection of shops including supermarkets, newsagent, chemist, camping and fishing store, laundromat, gift shops, hair and beauty salons, bakery, fashion boutique, two surf shops, massage and day spa, bottle shop, cafés and restaurants. The Ningaloo Visitor Centre on Murat Road is the place to go for unique local giftware, artwork, souvenirs, clothing, jewellery and more.

Coral Bay has a small arcade which offers a bakery, gift shop, fashion boutique, day spa, newsagent, general store, cafés and bistro. For a more detailed list of retail stores in Exmouth and Coral Bay, please see a list of our local businesses on page 59.

Exmouth also boasts several local sporting clubs which are open to the public. These include the Exmouth Squash Club, Exmouth

Golf Club and Exmouth Tennis Club, all of which are open to visitors year-round. Visit the Ningaloo Visitor Centre on Murat Road to access these facilities and hire equipment.

The Exmouth Swimming Pool located on the corner of Maidstone Terrace & Payne Street is open 7 days a week from 31st January until 8th May 2020.

The Exmouth Lawn Bowling Club on Payne Street is open 7 days a week. Visitors are welcome for roll-up games any time (excepting competition days) for a gold coin donation which can be left at the clubhouse honesty box.

In addition to sporting clubs, the Exmouth Cultural Arts Centre on Murat Road offers a small art gallery featuring works by local artists. The gallery is open 10am - 3pm, 7 days a week and entry is free.

Plastic Bag Free

Exmouth and Coral Bay are proud to be 'plastic bag free' towns since 2008. This initiative was driven by the Cape Conservation Group and quickly endorsed by local business in an effort to reduce human impact on the terrestrial and marine environment of the Ningaloo.

Plastic bags pose a particular risk to marine turtles who often mistake floating plastic for jellyfish (a favoured prey item) with fatal results. Help us protect the pristine environment of Ningaloo by bringing your own reusable shopping bags, or purchase them on arrival.



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Exmouth Cultural Arts Centre

Exmouth Cultural Arts Centre provides the arts hub at the centre of Exmouth's exciting local arts scene. The centre is easily found in between the Ningaloo Centre and the Big Prawn statue, and is open seven days a week during peak season (with shortened hours over summer). Visitors are welcomed in, to a hive of creative activity with local artists at work in the open studio and a wide selection of locally produced original artwork on display. This year Exmouth Cultural Arts Centre will present the inaugural Exmouth Fringe Festival from 19th to 29th May, as well as annual favourites such as their flagship art exhibition ArtQuest in August, which will be in the Ningaloo Centre's Art Gallery and Exhibald, which is a celebration of the Exmouth community in portraits in October. The Arts Centre also runs a variety of art workshops throughout the year, which visitors are welcome to attend, and if any musicians feel like playing a tune, there is a public piano waiting to be played.

For more information please pop into Exmouth Cultural Arts Centre on Murat Road or email ecacinc@westnet.com.au



ArtQuest 2019, presented by Exmouth Cultural Arts Centre in the Ningaloo Centre Art Gallery. © Sascha Unger

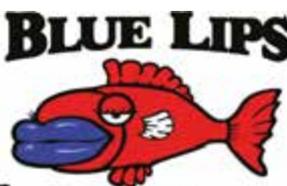
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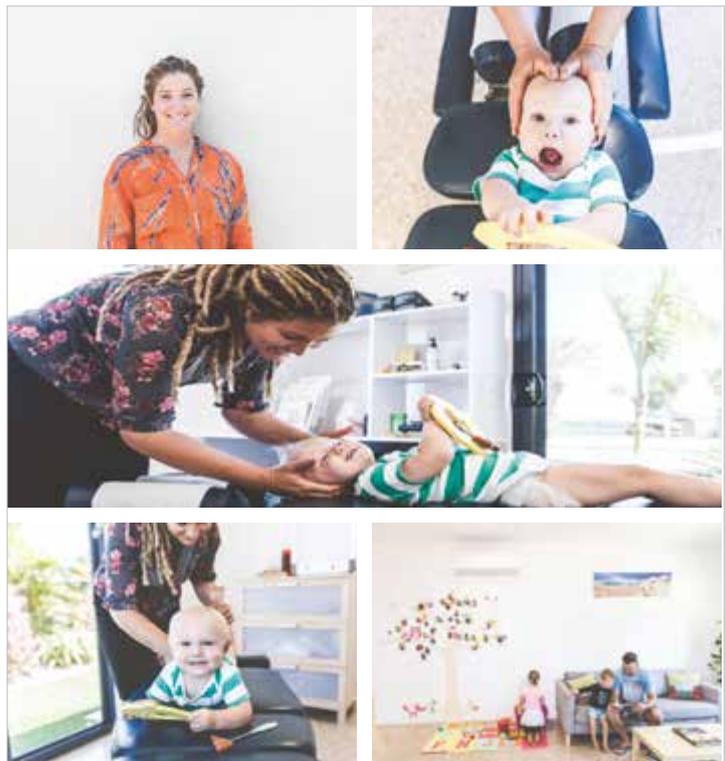
Exmouth's new state-of-the-art research, education, tourism and community hub, the Ningaloo Centre on Murat Road boasts three engaging visitor galleries.

The *En Route to Exmouth* gallery explores the history of the town of Exmouth. The exhibition showcases the town's evolution from a military town to a tourism and fishing centre, the maritime and military history, and the unique character and characters of the area. Ride the Red Bus and step inside the 'Cyclone Room' to experience what it was like to go through *Severe Tropical Cyclone Vance*; the most powerful cyclone to ever cross the Australian mainland.

The *Reef to Range* gallery introduces visitors to the wildly diverse flora and fauna that lives between the UNESCO World Heritage listed Ningaloo Reef and Cape Range National Park. The impressive *Ningaloo Aquarium* stands in the centre of the marine display, showcasing living specimens of local marine life native to the Ningaloo Reef and Exmouth Gulf areas.

The *Cape Range* gallery explores the ancient landscapes of the region. Discover the unique cave systems, ranges, dunes, gorges, stygofauna and geological systems of this fabled terrain, and the rare and endemic species native only to Cape Range National Park.

For more information on the Ningaloo Centre's other facilities, turn to page 15.



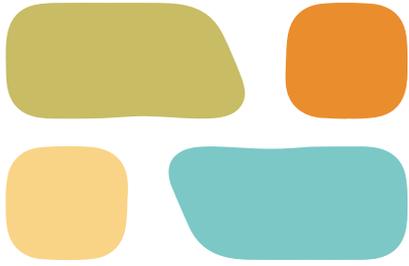
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The Ningaloo Centre Reef to Range visitor gallery.



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BIG EATS

BY THE REEF

Local Seafood is a highlight of Ningaloo dining © Mantarays Restaurant.

Exmouth offers a surprisingly diverse range of dining experiences, from light meals and takeaway through to top class restaurants. Styles of cuisine on offer from Exmouth's restaurants, cafés, hotel bistros, microbrewery bar and takeaways include local seafood, modern Australian, Italian, Japanese, brasserie, tapas, Chinese and Thai, BBQ, American, stone grill, fish & chips, vegan & vegetarian, pastries & baked goods, burgers, pizza, and pub favourites, so you can eat out somewhere new and try something different every day during your stay.

Coral Bay offers a smaller, yet still quite diverse range of dining options, including café, bakery, bistro, Italian, local seafood and pub meals.

Booking early for all restaurant dining is recommended to avoid missing out, particularly during the peak visitation season from March - November.

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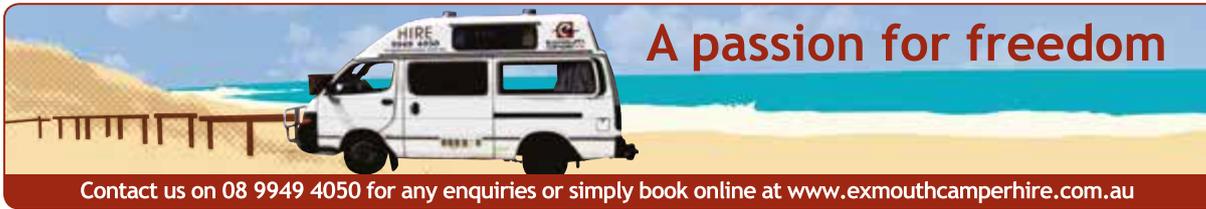
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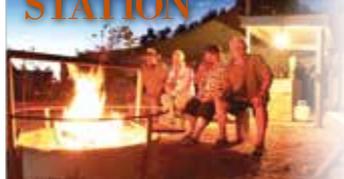
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EXPERIENCE THE OUTBACK LIFESTYLE

Outside of the two townships of Exmouth and Coral Bay, the Ningaloo region is station country. A farm station stay is a unique way to experience the iconic Australian outback right by the shores of the World Heritage listed Ningaloo Coast.

On a station stay holiday you can sample rural Australia at its best, experiencing life on a working cattle station whilst still enjoying all the attractions of the nearby Ningaloo Reef.

View a tapestry of native Australian wildflowers, cast a line into some of the most fish filled waters in Western Australia, camp by the beach in perfect isolation, spot the endless parade of local wildlife or just take in the incomparable tranquillity and stark beauty of the raw Australian outback.

All Ningaloo station stay properties offer a variety of accommodation options, meaning you can choose to enjoy the outback in absolute comfort and style, or stick to the tightest of budgets. Most station stay properties are family and pet friendly and accessible via two wheel drive vehicle.

Several stations offering visitor accommodation lie within close proximity to both Exmouth and Coral Bay. Bullara Station is located 86kms south of Exmouth and 65kms north of Coral Bay, at the base of Exmouth Gulf. Bullara Station is a working cattle station that offers self-contained cottage, shearer's lodge, and bush camping (suitable for caravans) accommodation.

Giralia Station is located 125kms south of Exmouth and 100kms north of Coral Bay and abuts the southern end of Exmouth Gulf. Giralia is a de-stocked wilderness station that offers bed & breakfast homestead, cottage, economy room, and bush camping accommodation.

Warroora Station is located 190kms south of Exmouth and 60kms south of Coral Bay, overlooking the Ningaloo Reef. Also a working cattle station, Warroora offers homestead, self contained cottage, shearer's quarters and coastal camping accommodation.

For station stay bookings, contact the Ningaloo Visitor Centre on T: (08) 9949 3070 or go to: visitningaloo.com.au.



Experiencing life on a working cattle station
© Tourism WA.



Bullara Station © Tourism WA.

CORAL BAY

FOOTSTEPS FROM THE REEF



Situated 152 kilometres south of Exmouth and 213 kilometres north of Carnarvon, the tiny tropical resort township of Coral Bay sits right on the shores of the Ningaloo Reef. Pristine beaches and extraordinary coral snorkelling can be accessed within walking distance of all accommodation within Coral Bay, making it the perfect destination for a laid-back, seaside holiday.

Because Coral Bay is a very small township, accommodation availability can be limited, especially during the peak visitation periods of March-November and school holidays. Therefore, visitors are advised to book accommodation well ahead to avoid disappointment. Coral Bay accommodation and tours can be booked through the Ningaloo Visitor Centre on T: (08) 9949 3070 or via: visitningaloo.com.au.

The History of Coral Bay

The landing of the schooner *Maud* in 1884 is the earliest recorded European activity in the Coral Bay area. This landing site - slightly north of where the Coral Bay township sits today - became known as Maud's Landing.

The township of Coral Bay started life as a holiday camp, built by local pastoralist and owner of Cardabia Station, Charlie French for his wife Ruby May 'Billie' French in the 1920s. Back then the camp site was known as 'Billies Bay', a name which later became corrupted to 'Bill's Bay'. The first building in Bill's Bay was a holiday shack built in 1933 by Jack McKenna, manager of Mia Mia Station, and used as a summer coastal retreat.

In the late 1960s, former chemist Ken Ryan established a hotel on the shores of Bill's Bay. The hotel was named the Coral Bay Hotel in reference to the beautiful coral reef in the bay area, and subsequently, the settlement became known as Coral Bay. The reputation of Bill's Bay as the home of possibly the easiest to access, most pristine coral gardens in the country is what fuelled Coral Bay's development and popularity, and continues to do so to this day.

Coral Bay Beaches

Coral Bay is all about hitting the beach. Pristine and protected, many of the stunning white sand beaches in the area offer aqua-clear waters studded with vibrant coral gardens – perfect for a swim and a snorke! Check out the following beach spots in and around Coral Bay.

Bill's Bay

At the end of the main street through Coral Bay (Robinson Street), the sheltered waters of Bill's Bay make for an ideal family swimming location. Located right on Coral Bay's doorstep, Bill's Bay is just a very short walk from any accommodation in town.

The 4 kilometre long beach at Bill's Bay is protected from most winds, so is almost always a tranquil place to swim or just sit and relax. Bill's Bay is a sanctuary zone so no fishing is permitted. The snorkelling a short swim out into the bay is excellent.



Sunset over Bill's Bay © Lex Porebski.

Purdy Point

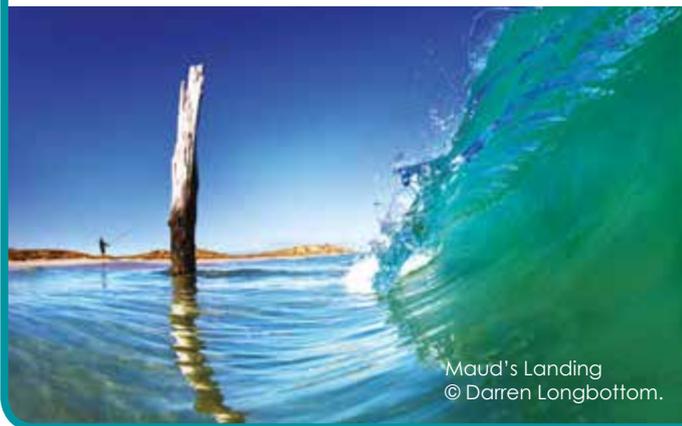
Purdy Point is 500 metres south of Bill's Bay. The red rock known as Fletcher's Hill marks the end of the sanctuary zone here. While the beach at Purdy Point is rocky in some places, the larger rocks provide shelter from a strong westerly or southerly wind. The water at Purdy Point is crystal clear, shelving away to a gorgeous turquoise blue as the sandbar drops off into deeper water, making it an extremely inviting place for a swim. Stronger swimmers venturing 100-200 metres out from the shore will discover extensive staghorn coral gardens swarming with brightly coloured reef fish. Glass bottom coral viewing boats are the only vessels permitted to operate in this area, so please be aware of their movements when swimming and snorkelling.

Paradise Beach

Further south of Purdy Point, just before the easily identifiable Monks Head outcrop, Paradise Beach is appropriately named for its white sands and stunning, crystal clear waters. This is Coral Bay's designated beach for dogs (on leads only). Fishing is permitted from the beach, but catch and release is strongly encouraged.

Point Maud & Maud's Landing

At the northernmost point of the sanctuary zone that encompasses Bill's Bay, the long beach from Point Maud offers fantastic fishing or another vantage point for a spectacular Coral Bay sunset. Please note this beach is closed off to vehicles from October to March for the turtle nesting season. Maud's Landing was once an important trading post for the wool producers of the remote North West Cape, as evidenced by the remains of the wooden loading jetty that can be seen here.



Maud's Landing
© Darren Longbottom.

Coastal Access Track

A four wheel drive track approximately 8 kilometres from Coral Bay allows for further beach access north. About 15 kilometres from Coral Bay, check out Oyster Bridge and The Lagoon, which are incredible snorkelling spots not to be missed (see over page). The track eventually leads to Ningaloo Station and the southern end of the Cape Range National Park. Check out the remains of the old whaling station at Norwegian Bay, inside Ningaloo Station. Please be careful when driving this track as there are several areas of soft sand to be negotiated and there are no vehicle recovery services available in Coral Bay.

Fish & Fish Feeding

Bill's Bay is a Ningaloo Marine Park Sanctuary Zone, and as such, the bay is full of schools of reef fish which can be seen darting back and forth in the shallows. Snorkelling with these friendly locals is a great experience, or you can board one of the glass bottom or semi-submersible boat tours to view these fish in their coral studded natural habitat.

Fish feeding takes place at Coral Bay's Town Beach every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3:30pm. All are welcome to come along and observe the resident spangled emperor (nor-west snapper) enthusiastically accepting the free feed, as well as a number of other very friendly fish including parrotfish, mullet, fusiliers and more. Get an up close look by wading into the shallows amongst the feeding fish...just mind your toes!

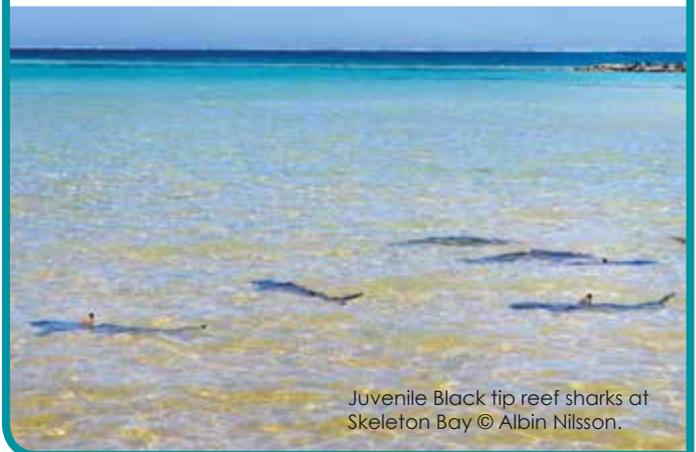
Skeleton Bay Reef Shark Nursery

A short walk north from Bill's Bay is Skeleton Bay. Skeleton Bay is an important part of the Maud Sanctuary Zone, as from October to March the shallow waters here are a nursery area for black tip reef sharks. As many as 200 juvenile reef sharks can be seen cruising the shallows of Skeleton Bay at this time, usually just a few feet from the shoreline.

These sharks are almost completely harmless to humans, even when fully grown, so there is very little danger in wading or swimming with them and getting right up close. These baby sharks are also very inquisitive creatures, so you may find they seem to follow alongside you as you wade the shallows or walk up the beach.

Skeleton Bay is a wonderfully peaceful, secluded place, however, it is unprotected from strong winds and can often be very breezy, even when the Coral Bay town beach on the southern side of Bill's Bay is calm and windless.

At the southernmost end of Skeleton Bay, a low, straight wall of jagged rock partially encloses a very shallow pool. This is known as The Aquarium. The rock wall continues underwater in a straight line parallel to the beach about halfway across the bay and is home to all sorts of fish life.



Juvenile Black tip reef sharks at Skeleton Bay © Albin Nilsson.



Fish feeding on Coral Bay's town beach © Sadie James.

Coral Bay Snorkelling Sites

As the name suggests, Coral Bay offers some incredible coral snorkelling. The coral gardens right around the township are arguably some of the most dense and vibrant along the entire Ningaloo Reef and are very easy to access either via a snorkelling, SCUBA diving or glass bottom boat tour, or by do-it-yourself snorkelling straight off the beach.

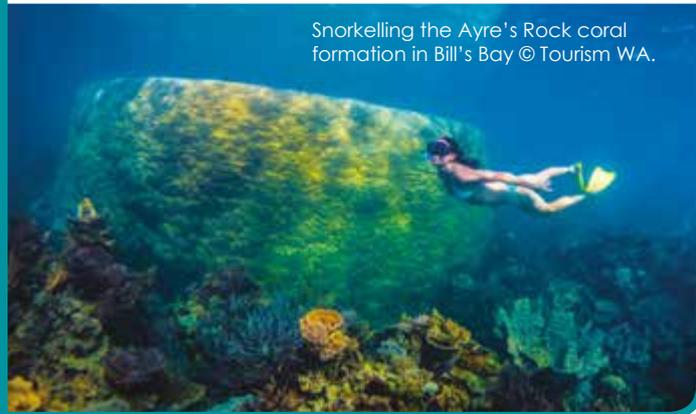
Visitors are reminded to never touch or stand on coral as it is very delicate. When snorkelling or swimming independently, always let someone know where you are going and when you intend to return. Check out these great snorkelling sites around Coral Bay.

Bill's Bay

Coral Bay's main beach (Town Beach) inside Bill's Bay is a fantastic, extremely easy access snorkelling spot. Large fish and clams can be seen close to shore and the coral gardens become thicker and more colourful the further out you swim.

Ayre's Rock - a massive porite coral formation that can be seen from shore at low tide - is located around 300 metres out from the northern end of Town Beach and can be reached via a long swim or a kayak tour.

Snorkelling the Ayre's Rock coral formation in Bill's Bay © Tourism WA.



Five Fingers Reef

Five Fingers Reef is located around 4.5 kilometres south of the Coral Bay township and is accessible by four wheel drive vehicle or a reasonable walk. The five fingers of parallel reef that give this place its name run from the beach to around 200 metres offshore and are home to a huge array of colourful reef fish and other marine life, including turtles which are very common here. In fact, Five Fingers Reef is arguably the best location near Coral Bay to swim with turtles.

As the water around the reefs here is shallow, calm and brimming with marine life right close to shore, Five Fingers Reef is the perfect place for children and beginner snorkellers.

Paradise Beach Drift Snorkel

Around Purdy Point and just to the south of Bill's Bay, Paradise Beach is a good snorkelling location for confident swimmers. A moderate current sweeps along Paradise Beach, so this site is not recommended for children or inexperienced snorkellers.

Stronger swimmers, however, will enjoy allowing the current to carry them across the huge coral formations that can be found a short swim from the Paradise Beach shoreline. Keep an eye out for the large patches of brightly coloured lavender coral here.



Lavender coral © Sarah Porter.

Five Fingers Reef is one of the best sites in Coral Bay to snorkel with turtles © Orelie Favre Morales.



Oyster Bridge

Follow the four wheel drive vehicle only Coastal Access Track north of the Coral Bay township for around 15 kilometres and you will come to Oyster Bridge - a long strip of oyster covered reef jutting out from the shore and running parallel to the beach. This creates a small lagoon of deeper water very close to shore. As soon as you enter the water here you will be surrounded by fish, ranging from tiny reef fish to big spangled emperor and cod. The further out toward the reef you go, the more you'll see! Snorkellers venturing around to the deeper, ocean side of Oyster Bridge should stay well clear of the reef edge. Wave action and current can push you against the sharp, oyster covered rock here and cause cuts and bruises, so take care.

Oyster Bridge © Katelyn Burney.



The Lagoon

A further 2 kilometres north along the Coastal Access Track is another unique snorkelling site known as The Lagoon. This is a rounded bay with reefs extending from the beach for a distance offshore which attracts a wide variety of marine life.

There is some coral here, but like Oyster Bridge, it's the fish life which makes The Lagoon such an excellent snorkelling site. Big schools of colourful reef fish are almost always present here, as well as larger fish such as spangled emperor, big parrotfish and trevally. The Lagoon is also a good spot to find and swim with turtles.

Coral Bay Manta Rays

Like whale sharks and humpback whales, manta rays are filter feeders that feast on the large amounts of zooplankton and coral spawn found along the Ningaloo Reef. These imposing yet totally harmless rays can grow up to seven metres wide from wing tip to wing tip, making them amongst the largest creatures in the ocean.

Coral Bay is a manta ray hot spot, and one of very few places on the planet where mantas can be reliably located year-round. More than 850 mantas have been catalogued over a 10 year manta ray identification and tracking program carried out in the waters surrounding Coral Bay, making Coral Bay Australia's premier destination to see and swim with a manta ray.

Many of these Coral Bay manta rays are resident to the area and have become so well known to the locals, they've been given names. Isobel, Freckles, Grace, Ouch, Warnie and Whoopi are just a few of the local mantas you may meet in Coral Bay.

Unlike most rays, mantas have no stinging barb in their tails so are completely harmless to humans. Manta rays are also very inquisitive creatures that love to interact with snorkellers and divers, making for some unforgettable underwater experiences. Visitors have the chance to swim and interact with manta rays on dedicated manta ray snorkel tours which operate out of Coral Bay right throughout the year. These tours are very similar to whale shark swim tours in that they utilise spotter planes to find and direct tour boats to the mantas, so the chances of seeing and swimming with one or more manta rays on your tour are extremely high.

Coral Bay manta rays are generally found within the shallow, coral studded waters inside the Ningaloo Reef Lagoon, meaning that visitors only need be competent swimmers to experience the underwater thrill of interacting with a manta ray.

Contact the Ningaloo Visitor Centre on T: (08) 9949 3070 or visit: www.visitningaloo.com.au to book your Coral Bay manta ray snorkel tour.



Snorkelling with a Coral Bay manta ray © Janine Marx.

Fishing & Boating

Outside of the sanctuary zones, Coral Bay is a fishing paradise. Reef fishing, beach fishing and light tackle game fishing are all available out of Coral Bay.

Reef fishing is a particular highlight, as the offshore waters surrounding Coral Bay offer arguably the finest fishing in Western Australia for the much prized red emperor, as well as a wide range of other tasty reef species including gold-band snapper, coral trout, bluebone and many more.

Game fishing is also excellent off Coral Bay, with blue, black and striped marlin all regularly caught, as well as sailfish, wahoo, dolphinfish and yellowfin tuna. Closer to the reef edge, Spanish and shark mackerel can be in plague proportions at times, often joined by cobia and a long list of hard fighting trevally species.

Coral Bay boasts an excellent dual-lane, all tide boat launching facility located at the end of Banksia Drive. The boat launching facility is well protected from all prevailing winds and features plenty of trailer parking space.

The channels leading out to sea either to the north or south of the Coral Bay Boat Ramp can be difficult for inexperienced boaties to navigate, so use of an accurate GPS charting system is recommended. Lots of coral bommies exist around Coral Bay so boaties are advised to exercise extreme caution when navigating inside the reef at low tide. A no boating zone exists in Bill's Bay to protect the shallow water coral gardens and snorkellers swimming from the beach.

Visitors are encouraged to take only enough fish for a feed and consider catch and release fishing to help ensure Coral Bay and the Ningaloo's astounding fishing remains that way for future generations.

Please contact the Ningaloo Visitor Centre on T: (08) 9949 3070 for information on fishing charters operating out of Coral Bay. For information on Ningaloo Marine Park Sanctuary Zones around Coral Bay, contact the Parks and Wildlife Exmouth office on T: (08) 9947 8000 or visit the Parks and Wildlife information hut in Coral Bay.

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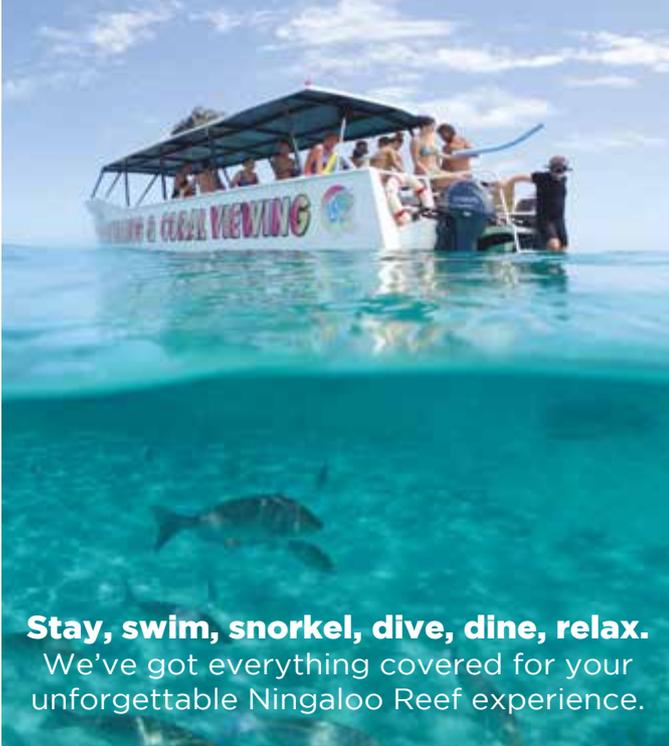
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Whale Shark swimming in the Ningaloo Reef
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NINGALOO



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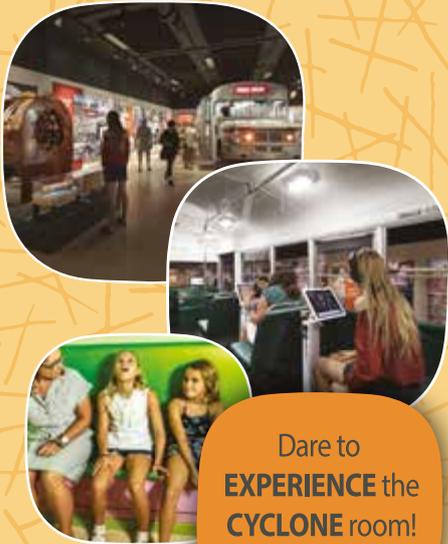
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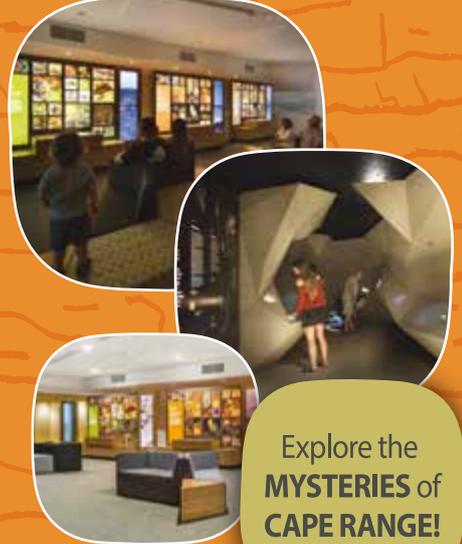
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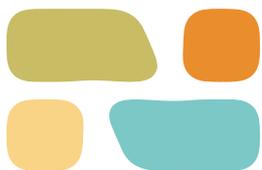
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