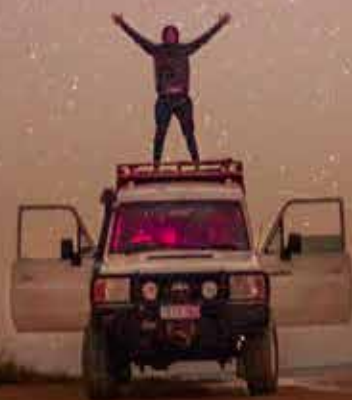


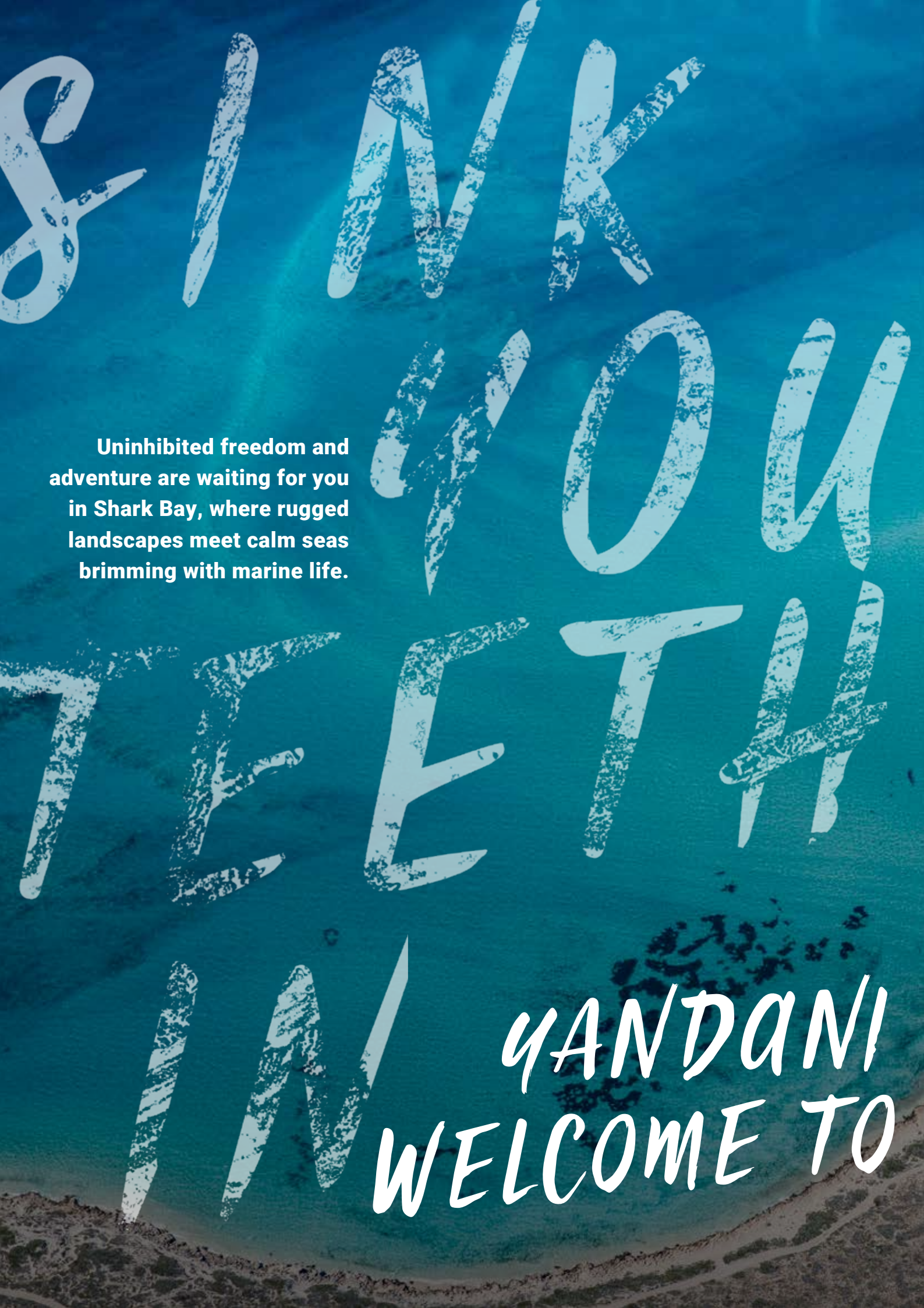
SHARK BAY

SINK YOUR
TEETH IN



HOLIDAY PLANNER





Uninhibited freedom and adventure are waiting for you in Shark Bay, where rugged landscapes meet calm seas brimming with marine life.

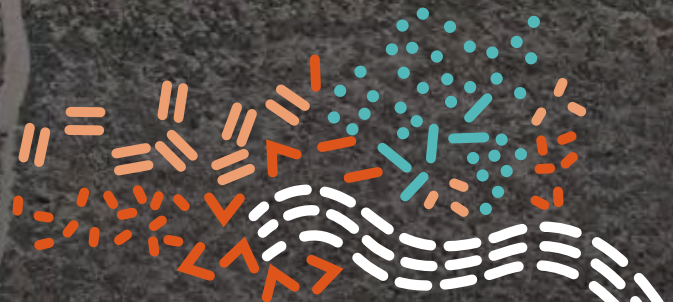
**YANDANI
WELCOME TO**

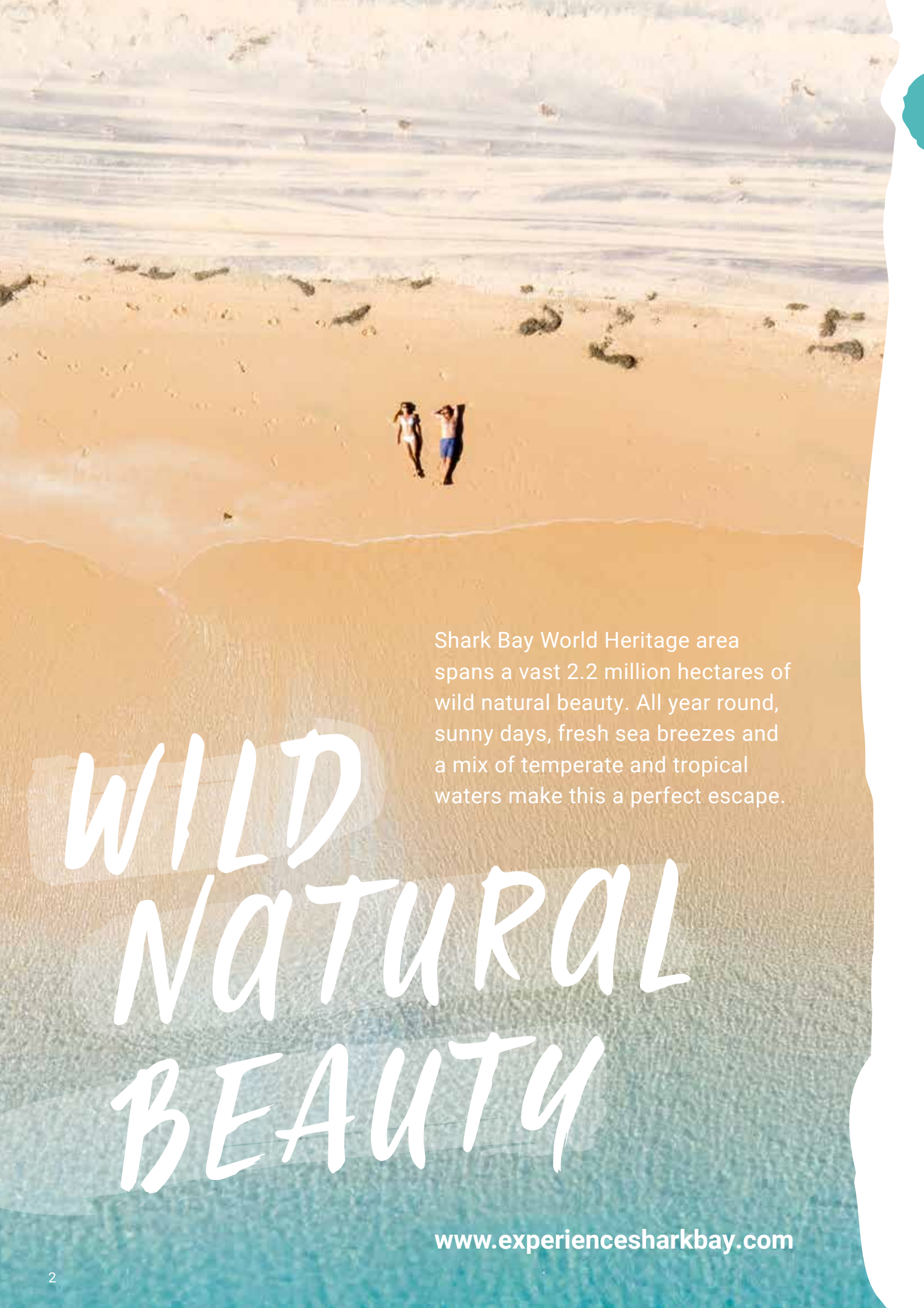


Gathaagudu is the Aboriginal peoples' name for Shark Bay, meaning "Two Waters" because of the two protected bays dominating this ancient landscape. Shark Bay is the traditional home of the Malgana Aboriginal people.

GATHAAGUDU SHARK BAY

We respectfully acknowledge past and present Traditional custodians of this land.





Shark Bay World Heritage area spans a vast 2.2 million hectares of wild natural beauty. All year round, sunny days, fresh sea breezes and a mix of temperate and tropical waters make this a perfect escape.

WILD NATURAL BEAUTY

www.experiencesharkbay.com

VISITOR ESSENTIALS

Seasons in Shark Bay



SUMMER

DECEMBER, JANUARY,
FEBRUARY

Warm and windy! A perfect time to embrace the wind by kitesurfing or windsurfing, cool down with a refreshing swim in the shallow bays. Be prepared for warmer temperatures averaging between 30-35°C during summer.



AUTUMN

MARCH, APRIL, MAY

Calm balmy days and breathtaking sunsets make autumn a great time for a family holiday. With low wind and tranquil seas; a popular time for fishing with the annual Fishing Fiesta competition taking place in May.



WINTER

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

Cooler weather and sunny days make perfect conditions for hiking, bushwalks, camping, kayaking and paddle boarding. Towards the end of winter is the best time of year to view the stunning wildflowers.



SPRING

SEPTEMBER,
OCTOBER,
NOVEMBER

A quieter time of year, good for solitude seekers who enjoy wilderness. Humpback whales frolic in Shark Bay and the underwater world comes alive with marine life making spring the best time to dive and snorkel.

IMAGES

Cover: Image by Matthew Weynberg (@Weyneyy)

Previous page: Nick Thake Photography

Page 2: Nick Thake Photography

Page 3: Nick Thake Photography

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Editor: Shark Bay Business and Tourism Association

Design: Marketforce

All information in this brochure is correct at the time of publication

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Handy Contact Details

Emergency	000
Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery and Visitor Centre	08 9948 1590
Police Station	08 9948 1201
Silver Chain Health Centre	08 9948 1400
Volunteer Marine Rescue	08 9948 1376
Steep Point Ranger	08 9948 3993
Parks and Wildlife Service	08 9948 2226
Shire of Shark Bay	08 9948 1218

Mobile Phones

Only Telstra and Optus mobile phone networks have extensive coverage in the Shark Bay region, however in some remote areas coverage cannot be guaranteed. Please check with your provider for full details on mobile coverage.

Internet Access

Free internet access is available at the Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery & Visitor Centre. The Shark Bay Community Resource Centre offers internet access and other computer services for a small fee. Many other locations in Shark Bay also offer WIFI to paying customers.

Banks & ATMs

ATMs are available at the Shark Bay Hotel, Heritage Resort, Shark Bay Supermarket, and RAC Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort. There are no banks in Shark Bay, however the Shark Bay Post Office located at 51 Knight Terrace offers banking services during business hours.

Please contact Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery & Visitor Centre for all your holiday information and any questions you may have.

Located 53 Knight Terrace, Denham. Phone 08 9948 1590 or online sharkbayvisit.com.au.

VISITOR ESSENTIALS



Getting here

By Road

Denham is 840km north of Perth via the Northwest Coastal Highway, approximately a 9 hour drive. Turn at the Overlander Roadhouse which will take you onto the World Heritage Drive and the beginning of your Shark Bay experience.

By Coach

Integrity Coach Lines offer services from Perth and Broome. The Overlander Roadhouse is the stop for Shark Bay. Bookings can be made at the Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery & Visitor Centre, online at integritycoachlines.com.au or phone 08 9274 7464. From the Overlander Roadhouse, transport to Shark Bay must be pre-booked to Denham or Monkey Mia with Integrity Coach Lines.

By Air

Regional Express Airlines operates return flights from Perth to Monkey Mia/Shark Bay Airport, approximately 7km from Denham. Bookings can be made at the Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery & Visitor Centre or online at rex.com.au. Need transport when you arrive? Hire a car and pick it up at the Airport.

Tips for caravanners

A free sewage waste dump point is located in the information bay on the Shark Bay Road as you approach Denham. For a small fee, potable water is available from the Water Corporation located on the Monkey Mia Road.

Tips for campers

Campers are encouraged to contact the numerous caravan parks in the Shark Bay area, all offering powered and unpowered sites. For a small fee, single-night (or one-night only) limited camping is available at Eagle Bluff, Whalebone Bay, Fowlers Camp and Goulett Buff.

Contact the Shark Bay Discovery & Visitor Centre for further information and to make a booking. Campers must stay in a designated camping area.

Travelling with a dog

Shark Bay has many beaches suitable for dog exercise. There are also lots of dog friendly businesses that will gladly welcome your furry friend. Dogs are not permitted in the National Parks, however they are permitted on lead into Monkey Mia. A 1080 poison baiting program is underway to control feral cats and foxes, this poison does not harm native wildlife but is lethal to dogs and cats. Please pick up 'Pet Owners beware' Flyer for more information. Contact Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery & Visitor Centre for further information including contact numbers for local dog sitters.

We look forward to welcoming you to Shark Bay!





Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery & Visitor Centre

53 Knight Terrace, Denham

Ph: 08 9948 1590

Web: sharkbayvisit.com.au

Coral Coast Highway

The Coral Coast Highway between Perth and Exmouth is one of Australia's great scenic drives. Along the way you will discover a combination of some of Australia's most amazing attractions and experiences, including the stunning Shark Bay World Heritage Area.

With a new one way hire car rental we have made it even easier to travel. Normal hire car rates and conditions apply.

Learn more and book your trip via www.CoralCoastHighway.com

**CORAL COAST
HIGHWAY.COM**

10 THINGS TO DO IN SHARK BAY



Take a casual stroll around Little Lagoon and make use of the free barbecue facilities. Swim, paddle board, kite surf or relax and watch the sunset.



2



3

Explore the breathtaking colours of Francois Peron National Park on the northern half of the Peron peninsula.

Up for a 4WD adventure? Take a drive or book a tour to Edel Land National Park and visit the most westerly point of mainland Australia - Steep Point.



4

Have a soak in the artesian hot tub at the Peron Homestead. Make use of the free barbecue and take a stroll around the shearer's quarters and interpretive centre.

IMAGES

Tourism Western Australia, David O'Connor, Summersite, Holser
Nick Thake Photography,
Elise Hassey, Shannon Stent



5

Visit the Stromatolites at Hamelin Pool, these living fossils are over 3 billion years old. Best viewed at low tide from the beach. Stromatolite boardwalk is under maintenance during 2022.



Visit the Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery & Visitor Centre to learn more about this fascinating World Heritage Area and its vast history. Experience the FREE HMAS Sydney II memorial, *Fire on the Water* exhibit and 3D film.



6

Check out Shell Beach, made up solely of Hamelin cockle shells and one of only two beaches in the world of its kind. It stretches 60km with shells up to 10m deep!

7



8

Walk along the boardwalk at Eagle Bluff lookout and try your luck at spotting sharks, rays, turtles and many more marine species.



9

Visit Dirk Hartog Island National Park - the longest island in Western Australia, offering stunning natural beauty and untamed wilderness.



10

Enjoy the world famous Monkey Mia Dolphin Experience. Watch the daily dolphin feeding from 7.45am at Monkey Mia Conservation Park and learn their fascinating history.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE AREA

Come on a remarkable journey through unique country, immerse yourself in the cultural experience and discover the pristine natural features of Shark Bay.

A wonderland of world-class natural attractions, the Shark Bay World Heritage Area was the first location in Western Australia to receive UNESCO status in 1991. The area meets four of the ten required natural criteria and remains one of only a handful of places in the world to achieve this high criteria status level. The colourful and diverse landscapes, rare flora and fauna and world-class examples of Earth's ecological processes all contribute to the region being World Heritage listed.

Plan to spend time exploring the natural beauty of the bays, inlets and islands, and discovering rare plants, mammals and birds found only in this area. This is a destination for adventures too, for all ages and thrill levels. Choose from 4WD tours, sailing cruises, fishing charters, scuba diving and scenic flights, or just take time out to soak up the warm beaches and clear waters.

To find out more about Shark Bay's World Heritage, visit the Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery & Visitors Centre or visit sharkbay.org

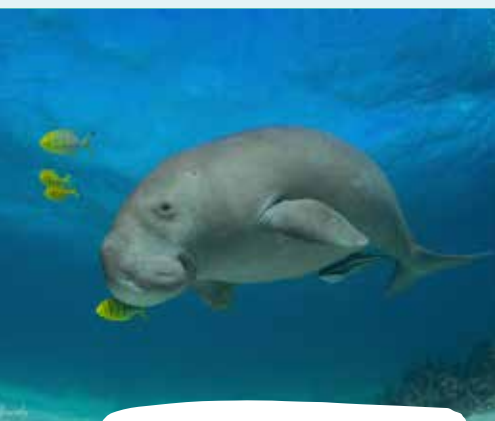
Four Natural UNESCO Criteria



1 Exceptional Natural Beauty



2 Earth's History



4 Threatened Species



3 Ongoing Evolution



- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Accommodation | Kayaking | Picnic area |
| Ambulance | Gas BBQ | Police |
| Beach access | Historic site | Post office |
| Boat launch | Hot tub | Ranger station |
| Camping | Visitor Information Centre | Restaurant |
| Caravan and camping | Interpretive walk | Scenic vista |
| Diving and snorkelling | Lighthouse | Toilets |
| Entry station | Lookout platform | Wheelchair accessible |
| Fishing | No fishing | 4WD only |
| Fish cleaning | No pets | Seagrass banks |
| Fuel | No spearfishing | Low scrub |

IMAGES

Tourism Western Australia, Shayne Thompson, Nick Thake Photography

Did you know?
 Shark Bay has five of Australia's 26 species of endangered Australian mammals, as well as 35% of all of Australia's bird species?



- Sand dune heath
- Sand dunes
- Private property (Dirk Hartog Island)
- World Heritage Drive
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD track
- World Heritage Area boundary
- Marine park boundary
- National park boundary

EXPLORE OUR RICH HISTORY

People have gathered in Shark Bay for many generations; Malgana Aboriginal people, Dutch traders, French naturalists, English explorers, local pearlers, pastoralists, fishers and conservationists have layered the land with cultural diversity. When people inhabit an environment they create a cultural landscape. They leave traces, for days or millennia. The area is rich in history, and strewn with relics such as ship wrecks, Pastoral stations, abandoned camps and ancient artefacts. Descendants of these people still live in the area and actively strive to preserve their history.

IMAGES

Australia's Coral Coast, Shire of Shark Bay



Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery & Visitor Centre

Visitor centre, museum and art gallery

53 Knight Terrace, Denham

Ph: 08 9948 1590

Web: sharkbayvisit.com.au

Visit the World Heritage Discovery Centre to learn about the significance and history of the Shark Bay Region. The Discovery Centre has fascinating displays including historical and contemporary film footage, interactive multimedia and objects of rare scientific and historical importance.

Visit the HMAS Sydney II memorial and the Fire on the Water exhibition. The 15 minute 3D film and accompanying exhibit tell the story of the battle between HMAS Sydney II and HSK Kormoran, tracing the events of this World War II Naval battle 200km off the coast of Shark Bay. Astonishing deep-sea 3D imagery from the 2015 expeditions to the wreck sites have been used to create an interpretative timeline of the battle and to offer insights into what happened when the ships met off Shark Bay in 1941.

The exhibit is permanent, free and screens every half hour during the Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery & Visitors Centre's opening hours. To learn more about this tragic story you can also visit the Museum of Geraldton.

Talk to the local experts about tours, accommodation and general information regarding Shark Bay. Their knowledge can help you to plan your visit and make the most of your time here.



Denham Discovery Trail

The streets of Denham have many stories to tell, follow the trail to explore just a few of them. The 2.3km walking trail will take you past sites of interest that will have you thinking about Shark Bay's traditional owners, early pioneers, preachers, pastoralists, pearlers, prisoners and publicans.



Denham – the 'Hub' of Shark Bay

The most westerly settlement of Australia, was originally a pearling camp named 'Freshwater Camp', which later developed into a township that serviced the pearling, pastoral and fishing industries of Shark Bay. It was proclaimed a town site on 3 May 1898 and later named 'Denham' after Captain Henry Mangles Denham of the Royal Navy.

Today Denham is a great place to base yourself while exploring the beautiful and diverse Shark Bay World Heritage Area. This small seaside town offers great views of Australia's most westerly sunset, has a range of accommodation options, restaurants and shops, safe swimming beaches, and boasts the best children's adventure park area on the West Coast!

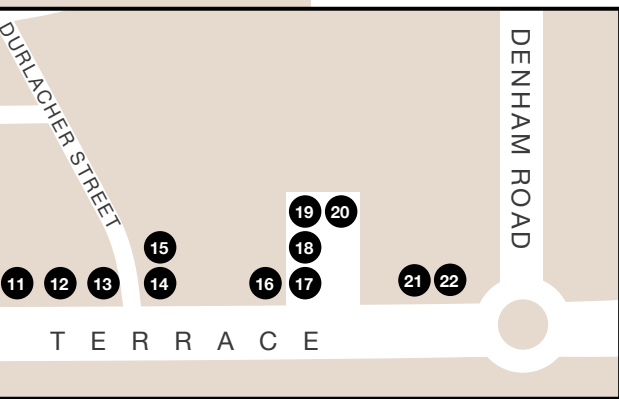
IMAGE

Nick Thake Photography


























Did you know?

Denham's streets were once paved with pearl shells!




KNIGHT TERRACE INSET KEY

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Shark Bay Hotel     | 12 Ray White Real Estate |
| 2 Shark Bay Café  | 13 The Old Pearler Restaurant  |
| 3 Post Office & Gift Shop  | 14 The Heritage Resort     |
| 4 Information Centre  | 15 Wildsights Villas  |
| 5 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions | 16 Shark Bay Fuel and Fishing   |
| 6 Shire of Shark Bay | 17 Shark Bay Bakery  |
| 7 Captain Cutters Hairdressers | 18 Cellarbrations  |
| 8 Pharmacy | 19 Shark Bay Butcher  |
| 9 Aristocat 2 Office | 20 Shark Bay Pizzas  |
| 10 Surf & Dolphin Gift Shop | 21 Shark Bay Seafront Apartments  |
| 11 Blue Lagoon Pearls | 22 IGA    |











ACCOMMODATION

-  Accommodation
-  Camping
-  Caravan park



















Camping outside of caravan parks, or the national park, is via permit only (24hrs). An administration fee applies, please see the Visitor Centre for details.

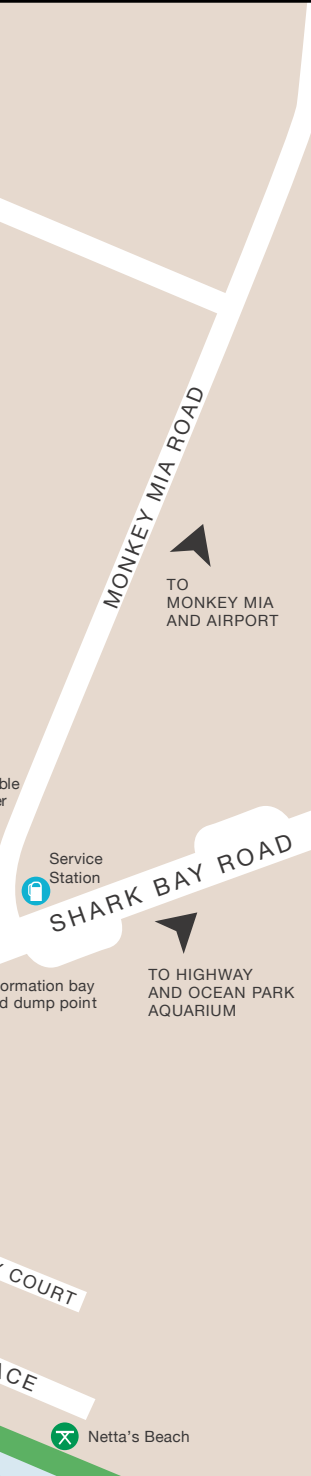
-  WiFi is available from the Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery & Visitor Centre. The Community Resource Centre and several accommodation providers will offer WiFi for guests.

LEISURE & ATTRACTIONS

-  Picnic area
-  Boat ramp
-  Bowling club
-  Fish cleaning station
-  Gym / recreation centre
-  Barbeque
-  Church
-  Town Hall
-  Tennis courts
-  Skate park / playground

ESSENTIAL AND VISITOR SERVICES

-  Emergency Evacuation Centre
-  Silver Chain / medical centre
-  Visitor information
-  Parking
-  Toilets
-  Retail
-  ATM
-  Restaurant / café
-  Mechanics
-  Pub / bottleshop
-  Police
-  Post office
- 
-  Service station
-  Car hire
-  Water Corporation
-  Telephone
-  Recycle Bring Centre



Renowned as one of the best and most reliable places for dolphin interaction in the world, Monkey Mia is a must see for families and nature lovers alike. Three generations of bottlenose dolphins have been visiting the beach each day for 40 years, to delight of visitors from all over the world.

MONKEY MIA

Meet the
famous dolphins
of Monkey Mia

Why is it called Monkey Mia?

It's an unusual name! Mia (pronounced "MY-ah") is the Aboriginal word for home/camp/resting place. There are a few different stories for the 'Monkey' part but no-one really knows for sure. Many believe it refers to the name of a ship that visited the area in 1800's, other say it refers to the Malay pearlers who camped at this location kept pet monkeys.



Other things to do at Monkey Mia

- Learn more about the dolphins at the **Monkey Mia Visitor Centre**
- Spot a dugong (sea cow) on one of the popular **wildlife watching cruises**
- **Hire a kayak or paddle board** and experience Monkey Mia from the water
- An excellent way to explore the local landscape of Monkey Mia is to **join Wulyibidi Yanayina walking trail** which starts at the Monkey Mia car park and winds through surrounding red sand dunes. The trail includes a bird hide by a water hole and a section of beautiful coastline. Distance: 3km loop. Time: 1-1.5 hours
- Experience the **Pearl Farm Tour**

How does the Dolphin Experience work?

The dolphins are wild animals that visit the beach of their own free will. Dolphin experiences depend entirely on if and when the dolphins visit the beach between 7.45am and 12 noon. The best time to arrive is 7.45am, be sure to arrive on time as the three experiences can be over as early as 9am some mornings. The experience can be less crowded if the dolphins return later in the morning.

The rangers offer the dolphins small amounts of fish during the morning, but the exact times are all dependent on the dolphins.

If you're very lucky, you may get the opportunity to feed the dolphins under the supervision of a ranger.

IMAGES

Gypsy Lovin Light, Bobby Bense, RAC



Visitor Fees

Visitor fees apply to all people visiting Monkey Mia, including resort guests. Fees help cover the costs of managing the dolphin experience and maintaining facilities. WA National Park Passes do not apply to the Monkey Mia Conservation Park. Day and month passes are available to buy at the entrance gate to Monkey Mia with cash or card. For current prices please contact the Parks and Wildlife Service on 08 9948 1366 or visit sharkbay.org/advice.

Accessibility

Parks and Wildlife Service offer a wheelchair with large inflatable wheels for people to use during the dolphin feedings at Monkey Mia. To book the wheelchair call the Parks and Wildlife office at Monkey Mia on 08 9948 1366 or email monkeymiavolunteers@westnet.com.au

Help us look after our amazing dolphins

Research shows that if we respect the dolphins by giving them space, the more comfortable and relaxed they are to approach and interact with us.

Follow these simple guidelines and you will be rewarded with some truly magical experiences:

- The rangers are there to protect the dolphins, please follow their instructions and feel free to ask questions. They are full of fascinating dolphin facts so take time to listen to their presentations on the beach each morning.
- There is no need to try to get close to the dolphins in the water, they will come right into shore when people move out of the water.
- If the dolphins are feeding on the shore line, please exit the water to allow them to hunt without interruption.
- Please exit the water if you see a mother and calf approaching. Calves are very vulnerable so we need to take extra care around them.
- For their well-being and your safety, please do not touch or swim with the dolphins.

Monkey Mia is located about 23km from Denham, so allow 30 minutes to arrive by car.

FRANCOIS PERON NATIONAL PARK

Raw colour,
raw nature,
raw adventure

The Francois Peron National Park is where those who love the raw beauty of Australia's wilderness can see the striking red cliffs contrasted with turquoise blue water and white sand often depicted by artists and photographers.

Swim in the pristine waters, camp under a blanket of stars and immerse yourself in amazing nature and wildlife.

It's hard to imagine that it was once a sheep station, and even more difficult to envisage what life would have been like in such a remote spot. You can get a taste by visiting the old Peron Homestead and shearers' quarters. While there, take the opportunity to enjoy a dip in the artesian 'hot tub'.

Now under the careful protection of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, it is considered a precious piece of Australia, home to many rare and endangered species.

Cape Peron

Cape Peron is the most northern tip of the Francois Peron National Park. The Cape is home to a significant colony of cormorant birds. Take the Wanamalu Trail between Cape Peron and Skipjack Point which provides excellent views of the coastline - 3km return.

Picnic shelters are located at the walk's start point - various reptiles are often spotted here including thorny devil lizards and bungarra (sand monitor goanna).

Skipjack Point

Skipjack Point has purpose built viewing platforms, perched on the cliff edge. Visitors can enjoy striking coastal views and the opportunity to view Shark Bay's abundant marine life.

Big Lagoon

Big Lagoon is a series of magnificent tranquil lagoons. It is a perfect place to explore by kayak, paddle board or boat where you can get up close to a rich diversity of marine life. The family friendly campground offers excellent facilities including free barbeques, sheltered decking and a boat ramp.

Project Eden

When French explorers Nicholas Baudin and François Péron visited Shark Bay in 1801 there were 23 species of mammals. Less than half of them remained in 1990.

These local extinctions were due to habitat destruction and competition for food by live stock and rabbits and predation from introduced foxes and cats. Project Eden was launched to reverse this ecological destruction.

With the removal of a large proportion of feral animals from Peron Peninsula by 1997 and subsequent recovery of vegetation, Project Eden began reintroducing wildlife to Francois Peron National Park.

Six species once found on the peninsula were reintroduced, although the only two that established viable populations were the malleefowl and bilby. While still quite rare, these species have been breeding on the peninsula for several years and are occasionally seen on roads and tracks in and near the park.

While Project Eden's feral animal control programs continue on Peron Peninsula, a new ecological restoration program has replaced it - the Dirk Hartog Island National Park Ecological Restoration Project - Return to 1616.

Fees

The Department of Conservation, Biodiversity and Attractions (DCBA) is responsible for managing WA's National Parks. Daily entrance fees and camping fees apply via a self-registration station at the park's entry using cash.



Vehicle Access

2WD The road to the Peron Homestead is unsealed and accessible by two wheel drive.

4WD Beyond the homestead, access is by high clearance four wheel drive only adding to the sense of wilderness adventure. A tyre air pressure station is located opposite the Peron Homestead for your convenience.

If you just want to sit back and relax, you can join a tour with a commercial operator.



IMAGES

Summersite, David O'Connor, Nick Thake Photography

Did you know?

The 52,500-hectare park is named after a French zoologist, François Péron who accompanied an expedition there in 1801 and made some of the earliest recordings of Shark Bay's wildlife and first people.



Travelling Tips

- Please be sun safe and carry plenty of drinking water at all times, temperatures can be very high in summer so be prepared.
- As there are no rubbish bins in the national park, please either take your rubbish home, or place it in the skip bins located near the air pressure station at the Homestead Precinct.
- To protect native plants and animals, open fires and pets are not allowed.
- Free gas barbecues are available at most sites and visitors may use their own gas appliances.





LITTLE LAGOON

A sparkling jewel in the heart of Shark Bay

Little Lagoon is a great place to visit for all the family. With its calm clear waters, the lagoon is ideal for swimming, paddle boarding and kite surfing.

Laze on the sandy shores, stroll around the lagoon, spot rare birdlife and enjoy the barbecue facilities at your leisure.

From the air the lagoon is a spectacular sight. It was once a land-locked salt pan (birrida) that was inundated by the sea thousands of years ago.

Situated only 5km from Denham, Little Lagoon can be accessed with a two wheel drive or via a walking trail from Denham. There is no entrance fee and it can be visited all year round.



A great place to view rare marine life

Located approximately 20km south from Denham and accessible via 2WD, Eagle Bluff features an impressively high cliff and was named after the osprey or sea eagles that nest on the rock island just offshore.

The elevated boardwalk offers beautiful views across Denham Sound and over to the Useless Loop salt pile. From the boardwalk you can see a spectacular array of Shark Bay wildlife including sharks, rays and turtles and if you're lucky, dugongs can be seen during the summer months.

These sheltered waters support the world's largest meadows of seagrass and are home to an estimated population of more than 10,000 dugongs representing 10% of the world's remaining population. The best place to see these endangered mammals is on a wildlife watching cruise or if you're lucky, from Eagle Bluff or Skipjack Point in the Francois Peron National Park.

EAGLE BLUFF



Did you know?

English explorer William Dampier named the area 'Sharks Bay' in 1699 in honour of these magnificent fish.



IMAGES

Summersite, Tourism Western Australia, Nick Thake Photography



SHELL BEACH

No sand,
only shells!

This beautiful snow-white beach is made up of millions of tiny shells up to 10m deep and stretching for over 60km.

Shell Beach is one of only a handful of places on earth where shells replace beach sand in such a dramatic and picturesque way. The beach is made up of shells from the Hamelin Cockle, making it truly unique.

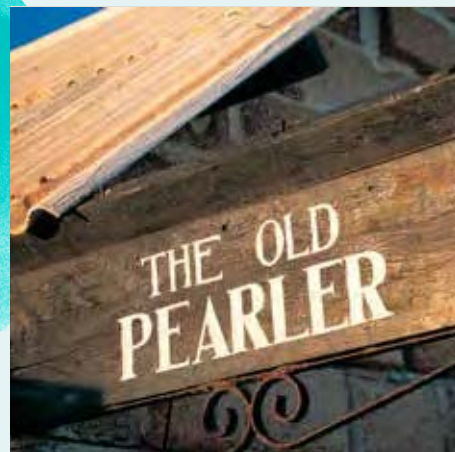
In years gone by the shells were hard packed, cut into blocks and used to construct a number of historic buildings in the nearby town of Denham. Visit the Old Pearler Restaurant or the St Andrews Anglican Church to see examples of these shell brick constructions.

Shell Beach is easily accessible by 2WD from the Shark Bay Road and is located 50km south of Denham. The attraction is free of charge, facilities include toilets and a car park with a turning circle for larger caravans.



Did you know?

A local restaurant in Denham, the Old Pearler is the only restaurant in the world to be built almost entirely of shells!



IMAGES

Tourism Western Australia, David O'Connor, Nick Thake Photography, all.about.adventure

HAMELIN POOL & STROMATOLITES

A trip back to the beginning of time...

Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve is the only marine nature reserve in WA. It is one of two places in the world where living marine stromatolites are known to occur, and the only place where they can easily be seen from the shore. The marine stromatolites found at Hamelin Pool are considered to be the best example of their kind found in the world.

Microscopic organisms, invisible to the human eye, concentrate and recycle nutrients which combine with sedimentary grains to form the dome formations called stromatolites.

The stromatolites first appeared in the shallow waters of Hamelin Pool between 2000 and 3000 years ago, but the organisms that built them were the earliest forms of life on Earth, with a lineage dating back an unimaginable 3.5 billion years.

You can see the stromatolites at the end of Hamelin Pool Road, just 27km from the junction of the North West Coastal Highway and Shark Bay Road.

The attraction is free of charge and is accessible by two wheel drive vehicle.

A boardwalk at Hamelin Pool makes it easy for you to view the stromatolites without damaging them. Along the walk are information panels telling the fascinating story of the stromatolites, and giving an insight into the beginnings of life on Earth.

The Stromatolite boardwalk was damaged in Tropical Cyclone Seroja, the boardwalk is being reconstructed and due to reopen in 2022. The stromatolites can be seen from the beach at low tide.

Boolagoorda Walking Track

This walking track is a 1.4km loop track linking the Old Telegraph Station built in 1884 with the stromatolite boardwalk. Built as part of the communication line between Perth and Roebourne, the original building is now a museum housing many artefacts. Other interesting historic sites can be found along the way including the old shell block quarry, a grave and remains of the old telegraph line. Information signs explain the significance of these features.



Did you know?

Stromatolites are the oldest and largest living fossils on earth, believed to grow at a maximum of 0.3mm per year.



Edel Land National Park (Proposed) offers breathtaking views of the mighty Zuytdorp cliffs, white dunes and blue seas, and is in stark contrast with the red sand dune landscapes found on the neighbouring Peron Peninsula.

STEEP POINT

Steep Point - the most westerly point of mainland Australia



Access

Edel Land is a remote area and access is via high clearance 4WD or by boat only. Steep Point is approximately 185km by road from the Northwest Coastal Highway, including 140km of unsealed road. The last 30km is a soft single-lane track winding around sand dunes. The drive to Steep Point from Denham takes between 3 and 4 hours.

Fees & Camping

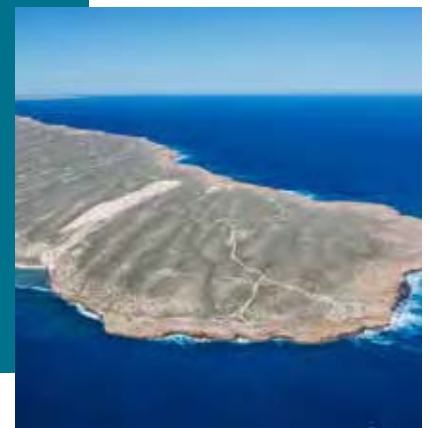
The Department of Conservation, Biodiversity and Attractions (DCBA) is responsible for managing WA's National Parks. Daily entrance fees can be paid at the self-registration station using cash. Campsites must be booked in advance online parkstaybookings.dbca.wa.gov.au. For advice or information on the area contact the Steep Point Ranger on 08 9948 3993.

Travelling Tips

- Please ensure you are self-sufficient for your stay. There is no fresh water in the park.
- Please be sun safe and carry plenty of drinking water at all times, take at least 10 litres of water for each person per day. Temperatures can exceed 40°C in summer so be prepared.
- Please take all your rubbish out with you as there are no bins at Steep Point. Whilst it is preferable to take your rubbish home, there is a skip bin located near the turnoff at the Shark Bay Road.
- To protect native plants and animals, open fires and pets are not allowed.
- Exercise extreme caution near cliff edges particularly when fishing.

IMAGES

Nick Thake Photography, Emma Craig, brownanddustyadventures



In 1697, the Dutch seafarer Willem de Vlamingh named the most westerly point of the Australian mainland 'Steyle Hock', ('Steep Point' in English) when he anchored off the limestone cliffs near the southern tip of Dirk Hartog Island.

Today, Edel Land is a popular wilderness camping destination, particularly as it offers some of the best shore-based game fishing in Australia.

Steep Point

A bucket list location for many. Take a selfie at the most westerly point of mainland Australia! Reputed to be one of the finest land based game fishing locations on the planet, experience the thrill of catching mackerel and tailor but take care in this remote and exposed area.

Zuytdorp Cliffs

The Zuytdorp Cliffs are some of Australia's least known yet most spectacular cliffs. They extend from just north of the Murchison River mouth at Kalbarri to Pepper Point, south of Steep Point – a distance of some 200km. The cliffs, rising majestically out of the Indian Ocean to heights of up to 200m, were named after the Dutch ship the Zuytdorp, wrecked against the base of the cliffs in 1712.

Shelter Bay

Shelter Bay, a few kilometres inside the passage from Steep Point, is the most popular camping location for visitors offering beautiful beaches, good snorkeling and shelter from the prevailing winds.

Small boats can be launched directly from the beach, providing access to South Passage for fishing and diving.

Blowholes

Blowholes as they are commonly known, have formed from years of pounding surf which has eroded its way up through the cliffs to the surface. When large waves hit the coast, the water surges up through these holes and is forced out, sometimes with enormous power, to form a plume of seawater and mist that can be tens of metres high. Witness this phenomenon at Thunder Bay and False Entrance.



DIRK HARTOG ISLAND

Western Australia's
longest island

Dirk Hartog Island is Australia's emerging nature-based tourism destination, renowned for tranquil beaches, stunning rugged landscapes and rich Australian history. Stay and witness the last sunset of the Australian continent each night.

It was named after Dirk Hartog, a Dutch sea captain, who was the first recorded European to encounter the Western Australian coastline. Captain Hartog arrived at the northern tip of the island on 25 October 1616 leaving a pewter plate nailed to a wooden post at the site now known as Cape Inscription.

At 80km long and 15km wide, the island is an 'ark' for endangered animal species and is an important nesting site for loggerhead sea turtles. It is also home to the endemic subspecies of the white winged fairy wren and a pied cormorant nesting colony, which has been identified as an important bird area by Birdlife International.

Cape Inscription

The site of the first recorded landing of Europeans in Australia.

Enjoy stunning views of the beach and rocky headland at the most northerly point of Dirk Hartog Island National Park, which is also arguably the most historically significant site in Australia. This remote World Heritage listed site has interpretive signage and replica plates on display from Hartog and de Vlamingh.

The Cape Inscription lighthouse, built between 1908 and 1910, is still functional and was automated in 1917. The restored lighthouse keepers' quarters are located nearby and include interpretive panels detailing the history of the site.

Turtle Bay

Located at the island's northern tip, Turtle Bay is a significant Australian nesting rookery for loggerhead turtles. Both low coastal and cliff walking tracks give visitors the opportunity to view some of the plentiful marine life around the island, such as manta rays, sting rays, turtles, sharks, dolphins, whales, dugongs, fish and sea snakes.

Surf Point

Surf Point on the southern end of the Island is a sanctuary zone, home to an amazing array of corals in clear shallow water. This site has stunning coastal scenery and offers great snorkelling and diving. Or you can go for an adventure walk on the pristine beach and spot hundreds of small sharks in the shallow waters.

Blow holes

The western coast of the island is a fantastic place to feel the power of the massive waves as they hit the cliffs. Where the sea has eroded the cliffs you can now visit Shark Bay's largest blow hole. During 5m swells this blow hole can be seen 20km away and it sounds like a jet plane taking off. Join a World Heritage walk that will take your breath away!

National Park Camping

Bring your own four wheel drive and camp on some of the most remote and exclusive island beaches you will find in the world. There are nine national park campsites on Dirk Hartog Island. The east coast offers seclusion, shelter from the wind, shallow entry beaches, great beach fishing, awesome snorkelling, and historical sites.

Eco Lodge

Escape the mainland and explore the island while enjoying the comforts of the Dirk Hartog Island Eco Lodge. This rustic luxury retreat with a castaway atmosphere is located right on the beach with stunning panoramic views of Shark Bay.

Please contact Dirk Hartog Island Homestead for your transfer, camping and accommodation bookings: www.dirkhartogisland.com and 08 9948 1211.

Did you know?

Hartog gave the Australian mainland one of its earliest known names 'Eendrachtstland'. It was named after his ship, the Eendracht, which means 'UNITY'.

How to get to the Island

If visiting or camping at Dirk Hartog Island National Park, please note that fees will apply.

Access via Steep Point by 4WD

A landing barge is available to transfer 4WD vehicles from Steep Point to Dirk Hartog Island. The barge carries one vehicle and a trailer at a time and takes approximately 15 minutes to cross the waters of South Passage. Bookings are essential.

Access via Denham

By Boat: Charter boats and day tours are available from Denham. Please note, tours do not depart daily so you may need to be flexible with your dates.

By Air: A light aircraft can be arranged to transfer passengers direct from Shark Bay Airport to Dirk Hartog Island airstrip. Scenic flights are another great way to see the Island.



IMAGES

Will Wardle Photography,
Summersite, Elise Hassey



WILDFLOWERS

The longest wildflower season in WA!

Shark Bay is one of the most diverse botanical areas in Western Australia. More than 700 flowering plant species have been recorded here, more than 150 species are of special scientific interest and several are exclusive to this unique area.

Depending on rainfall, the best display of wildflowers in Shark Bay can be seen between July and September. Some of the most outstanding and abundant species include:

- Shark Bay daisy (*Brachyscome latisquamea*)
- Shark Bay mallee (*Eucalyptus roycei*)
- Tamala rose (*Diplolaena grandiflora*)
- Dune wattle (*Acacia ligulata*)
- Everlastings (*Schoenia cassiniana*)
- Feather flower (*Verticordia cooloomia*)
- Halganias (*Halgania littoralis*)
- Scarlet runner (*Kennedia prostrata*)



Wild Flower Hot Spots

World Heritage Drive

Carpets of yellow and white everlastings will welcome you on your drive into Shark Bay as you turn off the North West Coastal Highway.

Nicholson Point

To see specimens of Shark Bay daisy and tamala rose we suggest a visit to Nicholson Point in Denham – you'll smell the fragrant air as you approach.

Southern Nanga Bay and Eastern Tamala

If you are searching for the Shark Bay mallee, this can be found in the Tree Heath which is located at Southern Nanga Bay and Eastern Tamala.

Happy Wildflower Viewing!





IMAGES

Australia's Coral Coast, Tourism Western Australia, A. Wright, R. Stanley, Nick Thake Photography, SharkBayLife, Katerina Dodds



WILDLIFE

If you love wildlife, you will love Shark Bay

By Sea

From the deepest navy blue to the brightest, clearest turquoise and absolutely teeming with marine life, Shark Bay's crystal clear waters offer the chance to experience once-in-a-lifetime wildlife encounters.

Humpback Whales visit Shark Bay in between August and October. The whales migrate up the coast to their calving grounds in the Kimberley and then return with their calves to the calm protected waters of Shark Bay.

Australian pelicans are large black and white birds with an enormous bill and bright yellow eyes. These beautiful birds can be found regularly at Monkey Mia, often trying to steal fish from the dolphins!

There are at least 28 **shark** species in Shark Bay. The most impressive is the Tiger Shark or "thaaka" in Malgana language. The most common to spot is the Nervous Shark, a small shark that gets its name due to its timid nature. Shark Bay is a perfectly safe place to swim and enjoy the beautiful turquoise water.

Rays are closely related to sharks, there are six common species of ray in Shark Bay. You'll spot graceful manta rays and eagle rays gliding through the water. The shovel-nose ray is a common sighting in the shallow sandy bays of the region.

More than 6,000 **turtles** live in Shark Bay, the green and loggerhead turtles are endangered, however you're still likely to spot them in Shark Bay.

By Land

The Shark Bay World Heritage region is a mecca for visitors interested in discovering unique and diverse wildlife.

The **Thorny devil** is common but hard to spot, and is a favourite for locals and visitors alike.

Echidnas belong to group of mammals called monotremes (egg-laying mammals). With a keen sense of smell, they snuffle around looking for ants and termites to eat.

Emus are a common sight in Shark Bay – you'll spot them strolling around the bush, looking after their chicks and on a hot day taking a dip in the ocean!

Galahs are members of the cockatoo family and are easily identified by their rose-pink heads, necks and underpants.

Shy, nocturnal creatures, **bilbies** are not a common sight for the average visitor. In appearance they are similar to a rabbit, with long pink ears and silky, grey fur.

Did you know?

Emu's do things differently; dad rather than mum sits on the nest and cares for the chicks for 18 months after they are hatched.

INSTAGRAM-WORTHY ADVENTURE SHOTS IN SHARK BAY

#discoversharkbay



#shellbeach

Credit: @oursandyvan



#steepoint

Credit: @matbentley



#scubadiving

Credit: @kattyd89



#26parallel

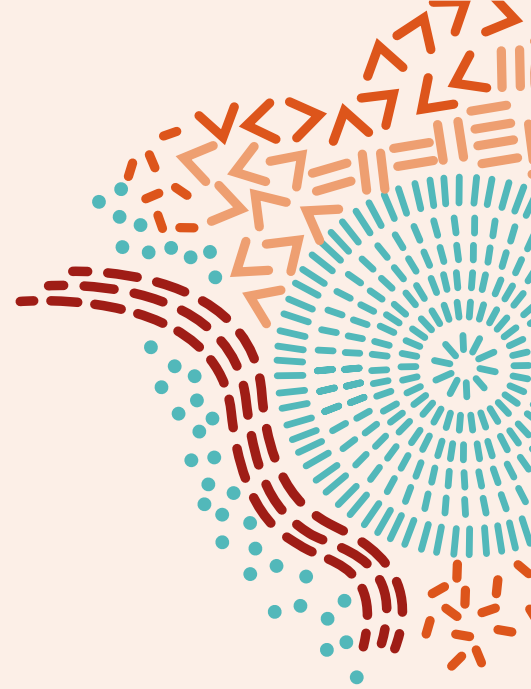
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#francoisperonnationalpark
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#sharkbaysunset
Credit: @ecokay



#blowholes
Credit: @gypsylovinlight



#thongshack
Credit: @paws_around_oz



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#sharkbaydownwinder22
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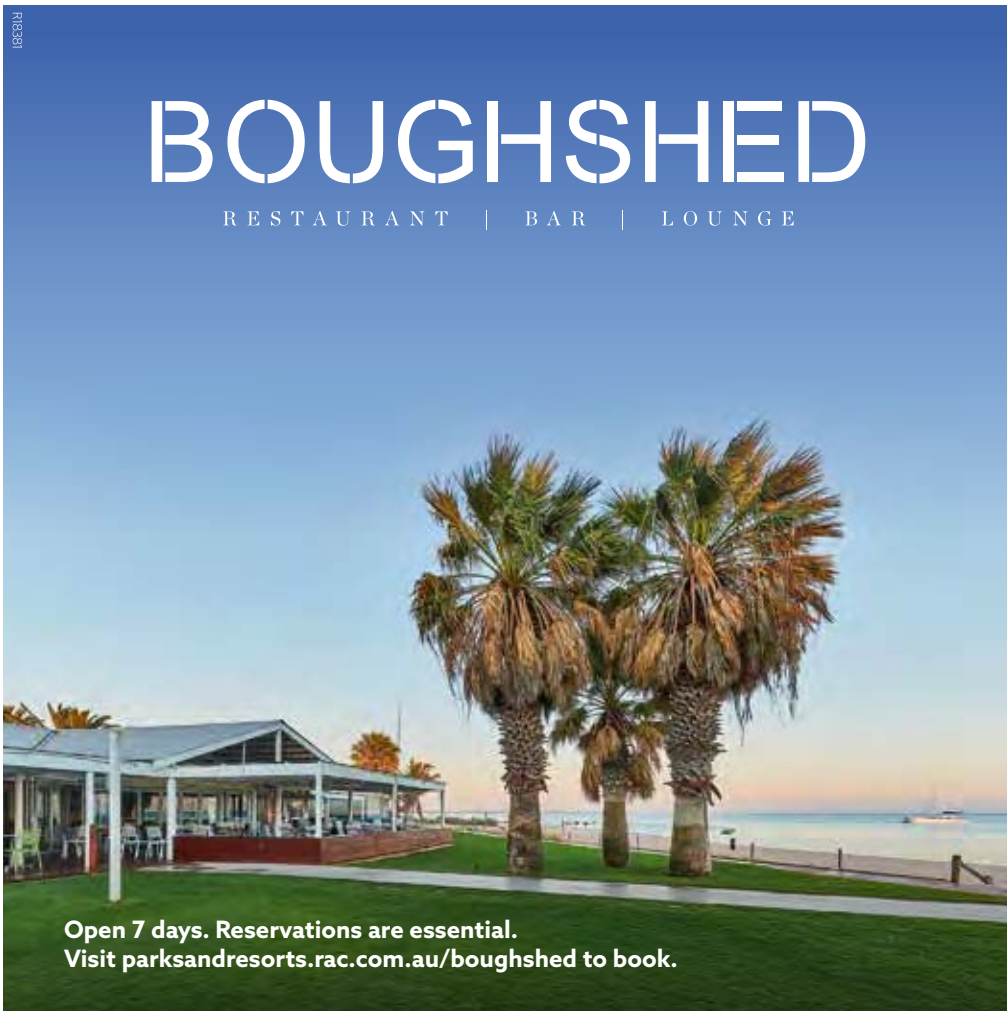


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for a country pub, view out the front
door is to die for. over all a great
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Bob*

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amusing locals – Rudi*



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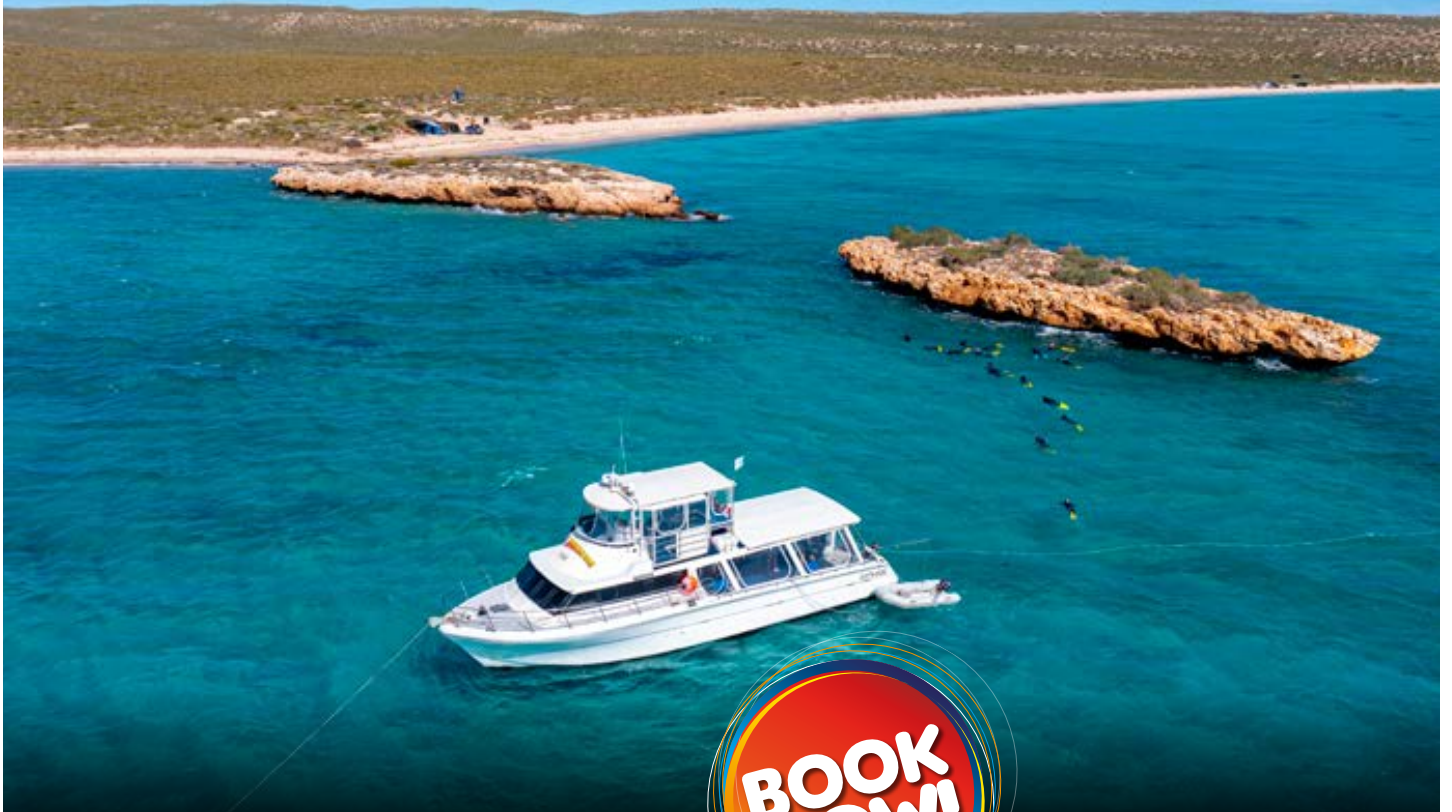
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