

SHARK BAY

WORLD HERITAGE AREA

An important place in the world

Shark Bay was inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1991 for its natural values.

World Heritage places represent the best Earth has to offer and Shark Bay is listed because:

- of its beauty and abundance
- evolving habitats and species
- it's a window in time
- it's a wildlife refuge

Come and experience World Heritage in Shark Bay.



Shark Bay mouse
Pseudomys fieldi



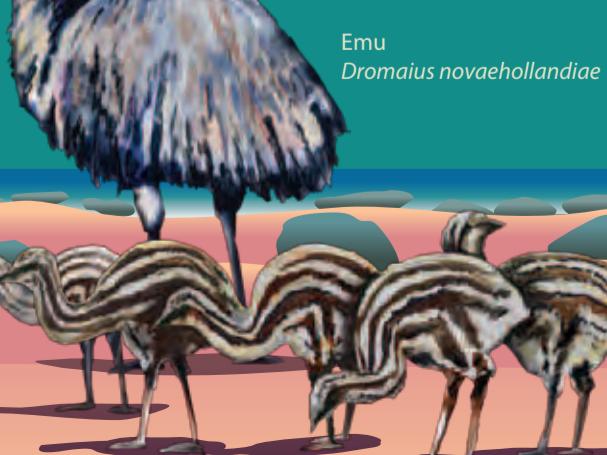
Shark Bay World Heritage

Gutharraguda is the Malgana Aboriginal name for Shark Bay. It means two bays and the area is the traditional country of people belonging to three Aboriginal language groups: Malgana, Nhanda and Yingkarta. Many of these people live in Shark Bay today.

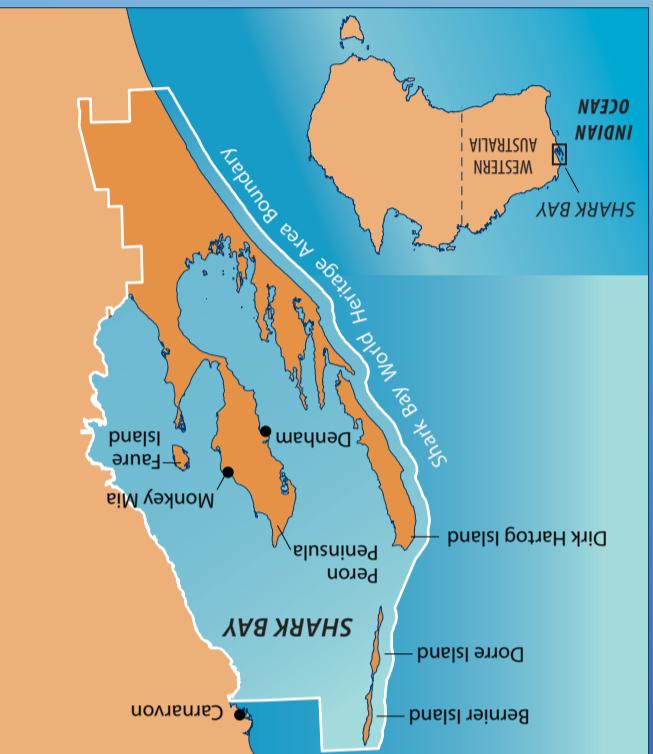
In 1616 a Dutch trader, Dirk Hartog, left a plate on Dirk Hartog Island inscribed with the details of his journey. As the first record of a European landing on Australia this was a significant event in Australia's history.

A succession of seafarers followed, visiting Shark Bay before settlement began in the mid 1800s. Although affected by the industries of settlers, Shark Bay remains largely unspoiled and its natural values are internationally significant.

You can experience many of these values first-hand when visiting Shark Bay.



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The World Heritage Drive (2WD)

Follow the World Heritage Drive to experience Shark Bay in a two-wheel drive vehicle.

① Hamelin Pool stromatolites and historic telegraph station

The microbial mats and stromatolites of Hamelin Pool represent a large portion of the Earth's history. Nearby is the historic telegraph station and a shell block quarry. Find out more along the walk starting at the Hamelin Pool carpark, or from the old telegraph station.

② Nanga Bay

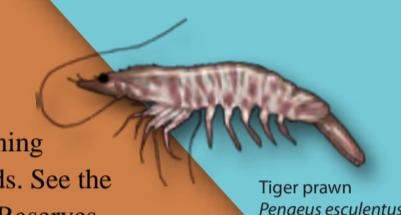
This peaceful location with shady trees and access to the water was once a pastoral station.

③ Shell Beach, Wulgada

Trillions of tiny cockle shells piled up to 10 metres deep make up Shell Beach. Discover their connection with seagrass along the short walk to the beach.

Marine reserves

Shark Bay's marine reserves protect schooling sites, nursery areas, spawning and breeding grounds. See the Shark Bay Marine Reserves brochure for more information.



Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve

Entry fees apply to most parks and reserves and go towards maintaining roads and facilities. Park passes can be purchased at the Department of Parks and Wildlife office or Discovery Centre in Denham, but are not valid for Monkey Mia Reserve.

Camping fees apply throughout Shark Bay and are mostly paid on entry. However, permits are required in advance for Fowlers Camp and Whalebone – contact the Discovery Centre on 08 9948 1590.

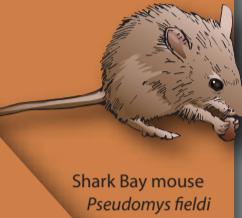
Bookings are required for Dirk Hartog Island National Park and Edel Land National Park (proposed) – contact Steep Point Ranger Station on 08 9948 3993.



Wildlife refuges

The islands and peninsulas of Shark Bay provide hope for species extinct or endangered elsewhere. Please observe quarantine restrictions for the islands.

See www.sharkbay.org for more information.

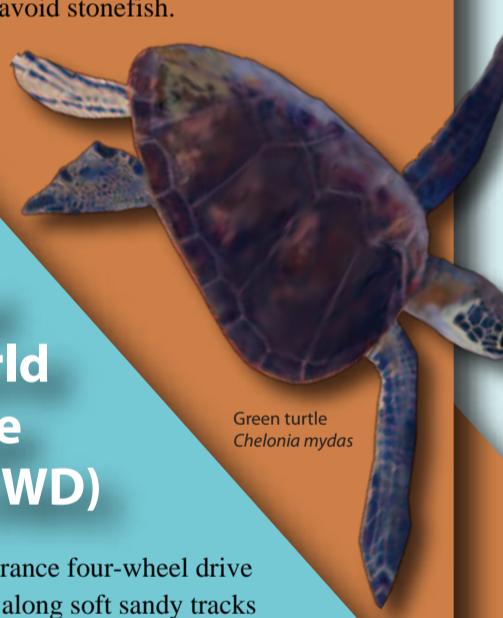


Stay safe

Shark Bay can be hot – stay hydrated, drink plenty of water and protect yourself from the sun.

When near the cliffs:

- Watch the water for large unexpected waves.
- Please keep well clear of cliff edges – they may be undercut and unstable.
- Be prepared for sudden wind gusts.
- Supervise children at all times.
- When wading in the water wear suitable footwear to avoid stonefish.



Beyond the World Heritage Drive (4WD)

With a high clearance four-wheel drive you can venture along soft sandy tracks and enjoy sights beyond the bitumen.

Francois Peron National Park

Experience the beauty and abundance of Shark Bay in this park on the northern half of Peron Peninsula. It has great opportunities for camping, canoeing, boating, wildlife viewing, swimming and snorkelling. See the Francois Peron National Park brochure for more information.

Edel Land including Steep Point

Plan and prepare well for your trip to the remote and rugged western side of Shark Bay. There you can enjoy fishing and views of the Zuytdorp Cliffs, Australia's longest fault scarp. Campsite bookings are required. For more information see the Edel Land including Steep Point brochure.

Dirk Hartog Island, Wirruwana

Dirk Hartog Island has challenging 4WD tracks, striking coastline views and great fishing. Campsite bookings are required.

An ecological restoration project is removing cats and goats in preparation for returning small mammals to the island. Help this project succeed – please make sure anything you take to the island is free of soil, weeds and animals.

See the Dirk Hartog Island National Park brochure for more information.

Four-wheel driving in Shark Bay

To travel Shark Bay's single-lane, soft sand four wheel drive tracks you will need to:

- Have a high clearance 4WD vehicle with low range capability.
- Reduce tyre pressure to 20psi or lower.
- Take care on blind bends and dangerous rises.
- Drive only on existing vehicle tracks.
- Obey normal road traffic rules.

NOTE: Unlicenced off-road vehicles (quads, motor bikes) are not permitted.

④ Between Shell Beach and Eagle Bluff

Enjoy the striking beauty of desert landscapes against the sea at Goulet Bluff, Whalebone and Fowlers Camp. Contact the Discovery Centre on 08 9948 1590 for camping information.

⑤ Eagle Bluff

Watch sharks, rays, turtles and fish cruise the clear shallow water below the lookout.

⑥ Ocean Park

See some of Shark Bay's marine wildlife up close during a guided tour of the aquarium.

⑦ Denham

Denham, the main town of Shark Bay, began as a ramshackle town that grew around a pearl's camp. The shallow water alongside the main street is safe for swimming.

⑧ World Heritage Discovery Centre

Find out more about what to see and do in Shark Bay and book tours at the Discovery Centre. Delve into Shark Bay's World Heritage values and history in the display (display entry fees apply).

⑨ Little Lagoon, Thalganjangu

Little Lagoon is connected to the sea by a small, clear creek – a great place to kayak and snorkel.

⑩ Peron Heritage Precinct

See how a sheep station operated, find out about Project Eden and soak in a hot tub.

⑪ Monkey Mia, Irrabuga

Experiencing dolphins up close is just one of the things to do at Monkey Mia. See the Monkey Mia brochure for more information.

