



The Dive Spots of Western Australia is an indispensable guide for all levels of divers and snorkelers, broadening their horizons on places to visit and dive/snorkel in Western Australia. Through extensive travel and diving, Johan Boshoff brings you valuable information on more than 175 dive spots in Western Australia. Important guidelines on each coastal dive destination include accommodation, facilities, travelling tips and dive conditions. Complete with photographs and more than 100 illustrated maps of each dive site, all reefs are star rated to cover depths, marine life and other essential information for the diving and snorkeling community.



The Dive Spots of Western Australia



THE DIVE SPOTS of Western Australia



Johan Boshoff

DIVE & SNORKEL GUIDE – EXMOUTH TO ESPERANCE



THE DIVE SPOTS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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www.thedivespot.com.au

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Andre Cronje

How to use this book

The sub-regions

The Dive Spots of Western Australia is divided by regions for easy navigation; the first section is about Australia in its entirety while the rest of the book is dedicated to Western Australia.

The book covers the best dive and snorkeling sites and spots from Exmouth in the north to Esperance in the south, and is split as follows; the Coral Coast region, Northern Perth, Rottnest Island, Southern Perth, South West region and Golden Outback region.

Within each regional subsection, the top dive and snorkeling sites are identified, showing where they are located and where the different dive and snorkeling spots are at the destination. Information is also given on the destination area and on the general diving and snorkeling which can be done.

The maps

The main maps illustrate where and in what regions a dive site is situated. Each dive site has a map to show all the best dive spots at that specific dive site (please note that some of the maps are not to scale and should not be used for navigation). Mapping reproduced from 'openstreetmap' vector data and licensed under Creative Commons. All backing data © OpenStreetMap contributors.

www.openstreetmap.org accessed 2015.



The dive spot descriptions

Each dive and snorkeling spot that is listed is accompanied by a number of icons that will give specific information about the dive and snorkeling spot at a glance. Icons include information on diving/snorkeling and the rating of each spot.

Scuba diving

Snorkeling

Boat entry

Shore entry

Wreck dive



The star rating system

Top dive spot



Highly recommended



Good



Poor



Other features of the book:

- Each region is colour coded to make searching for dive spots easier – the colours featured on the contents page are used throughout the book.
- General information is also given about the regions that are covered in this book.
- Only the best dive and snorkeling spots are listed at every site.
- Only sites that have commercial operators are listed in the book.
- A section on medical information and what to do in emergencies is also included. Only trained persons must attend to patients and updated information must be obtained before administering any medical assistance. It is the diver's and snorkeler's own responsibility to find out more about the updated laws, regulations, safety and requirements for each dive and snorkeling site and spot – dive safety is your own responsibility.
- The GPS coordinates provided are estimates to dive and snorkeling spots and are only available for some of the dive and snorkeling spots. They should only be used for directions.



I Love You



Andre Crone



David Carvias

This edition is published in 2015 by TheDiveSpot-OZDiver.

Although the author and the publisher have made every effort to ensure that the information given in this book is correct, they accept no responsibility for any loss, death, injury or any inconvenience arising from the use of this book.

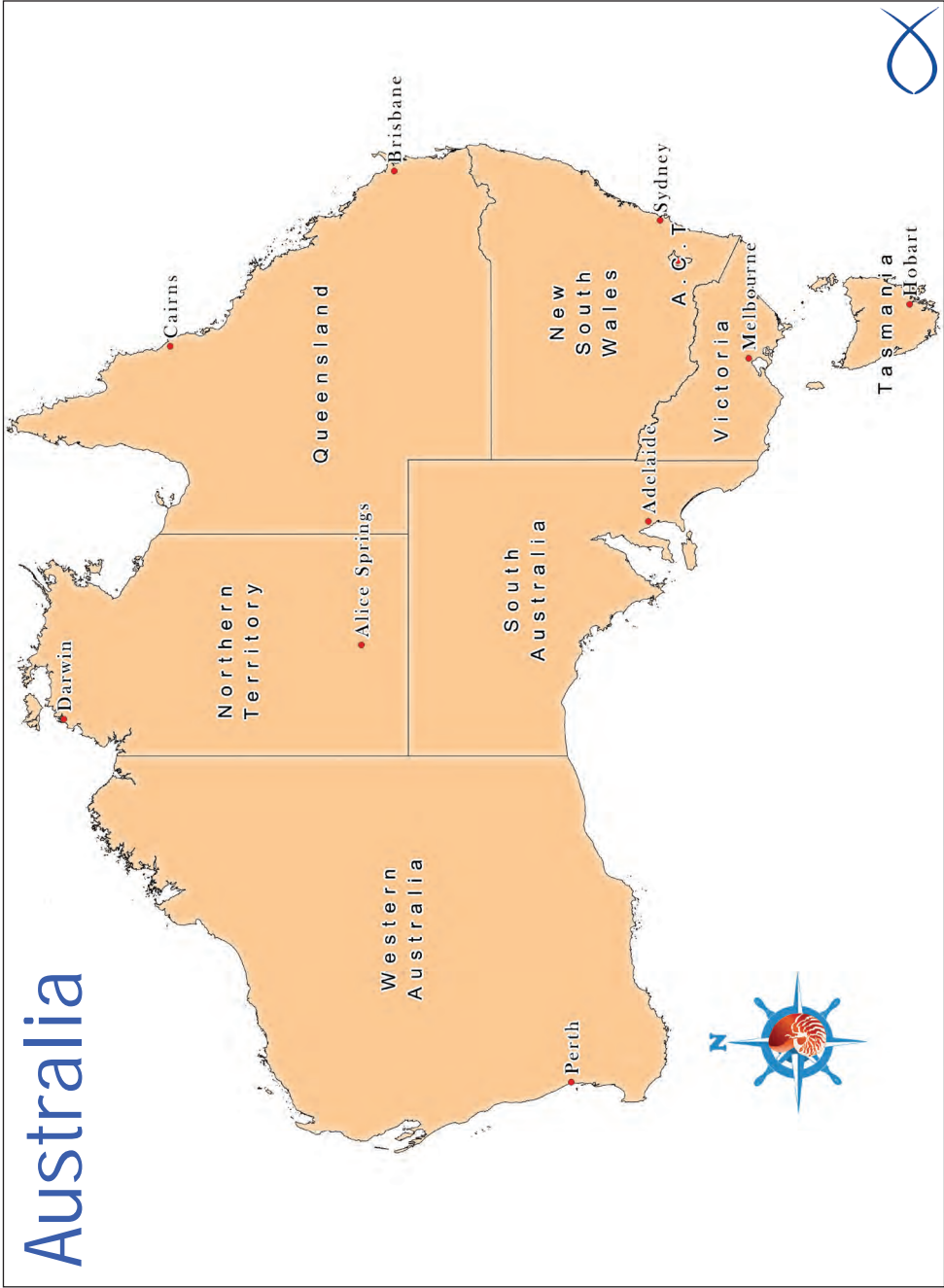
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Remember that diving can be addictive.

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Andrew Woodburn





Australia



Australia

Australia is located in the Southern Hemisphere, to the south of South East Asia. Australia's land area is measured at around 761 7930 square kilometres and its coastline covers an impressive distance of 34 218km.

Australia's mainland is divided into five states and three territories. The states are known as Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia while the territories are Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay Territory.

There is also a sixth island state, namely Tasmania, and additionally there are six island external territories which are Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island, Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Heard Island and McDonald Islands, Norfolk Island and Coral Sea Islands. Furthermore, Australia has laid claims to a part of Antarctica as the Australian Antarctic

Territory.

Several lakes and various rivers lead to ports and harbours which service Australia, although only Sydney Harbour, in Queensland, is a natural harbour.



Discovery

Aboriginal people first discovered and lived in Australia for many years prior to European discovery and exploration.

The first confirmed Europeans to discover Australia were Dutch explorers from the Netherlands in the 1600s. Thereafter the first Englishman to explore the eastern part of Australia was William Dampier in 1699. In 1770, English navigator James Cook explored and mapped the east coast of Australia.

However in 1616, over on the West Coast, Dutch explorer Dirk Hartog was the first European to visit the Western Australian Coast. In 1826 a military outpost at the now named town of Albany was set up. In 1829, the area known then as Swan River Colony, was set up including today's capital city, Perth. In 1831, York was the first inland settlement to be set up.

Australia's wildlife and plant life

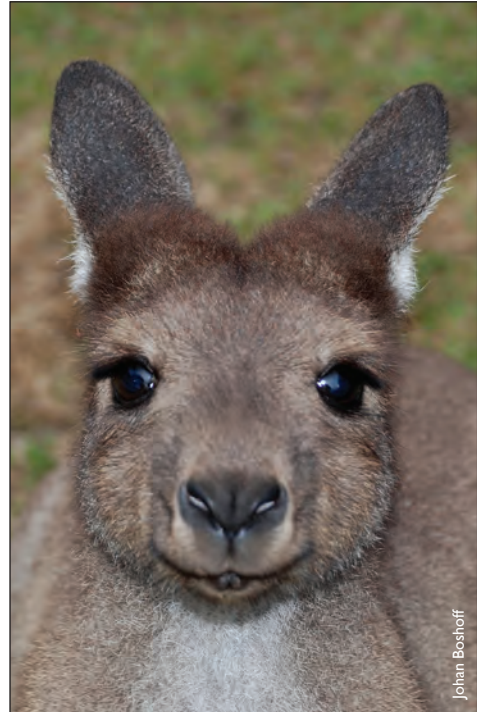
Australia is known to have a unique ecosystem and approximately 24 000 plants are said to be native to Australia. The plants found in the lush, tropical rainforests of Queensland on the east coast are vastly different to the semi-arid conditions of the Northern Territory in the north.

Many of Australia's animals are endemic; the koala is only found on the east coast of Australia in its natural habitat, and the numbat is only found in Western Australia. Australia's animals have adapted to the diverse and sometimes harsh climate, such as the unique survival abilities of monotremes (mammals that lay eggs) and marsupials (mammals which give birth to underdeveloped young). Other famous animals to be mentioned are the kangaroo, platypus, wombat, dingo and of course, the Tasmanian devil.

The many birds found in Australia add colour and sound to its various regions. They range in colour, size and sound from the really large birds such as the emu, to the bizarre looking cassowaries, the clever cockatoos and Australia's smallest bird, the weevil.

Some of the world's most venomous snakes and spiders can be found in Australia. The inland

taipan is most commonly found in central to eastern Australia and is considered the most venomous in the world. Adding to that, there are spiders that also rank highly on various venomous lists. The funnel-web spider is seen mainly on the east of Australia, and not seen at all in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. The



Australia

redback spiders can be found all over Australia, but most commonly in Brisbane, Perth and Alice Springs.

Travelling tips

Getting to Australia is very simple when one considers the vast quantity of daily international flights to Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth to name a few of the major cities. There are a number of domestic terminals dotted around the country. The vast expanse of the country means that there are various time zones.

All visitors to Australia must be in possession of a valid passport and you will need a visa to enter the country if you are from any country other than Australia or New Zealand. Visitors need to complete and sign Incoming Passenger Cards which include declarations that you will need to make about your health and character.

The mains electricity voltage is 230V 50Hz. Plugs in Australia have two flat metal pins in a 'V' shape and some contain a third flat metal pin in the centre.

Visitors from abroad may drive using their

overseas license as long as the license is current. The license needs to be with you at all times and in English or with an English translation. The exception is the Northern Territory where you are limited to three months before you are required to either obtain a Northern Territory license or apply for an exemption.

Monetary payments for goods are accepted in many forms such as cash, credit cards, debit cards, Traveller's cheques and, more recently, prepaid currency cards. It is worth noting, however, that not all credit cards from all countries are accepted.

Health tips

Sunshine in Australia is notoriously sharp and strong. It is strongly advised that visitors apply sunscreen of factor 30+ at all times. Furthermore, hat and sunglasses are highly recommended.

During the peak of summer, children and the elderly are vulnerable to dehydration and sunstroke so it is advisable to keep well hydrated at all times.

You do not require vaccinations when visiting



Andre Crone

Australia, unless you have come from or have visited a yellow fever infected country six days prior to your arrival.

Certain areas of Australia are being flagged for mosquito borne viruses such as Dengue fever, Australian encephalitis (Murray Valley encephalitis), Ross River virus disease and Barmah Forest virus. Individuals can guard against becoming infected by limiting their contact with mosquitoes. It is recommended that people avoid known infected areas; limit outdoor activities around dusk when mosquitoes are prevalent so wear long sleeved tops and long pants when visiting infected areas. People should also use an effective mosquito repellent on their skin, however, be sure to follow the manufacturers application method and precautions.

Diving in Australia

As the sixth largest country in the world surrounded by 35 876 kilometres of coastline, you can find almost anything in these waters. A variety of spectacular underwater sights and hundreds of marine species can be found along the shoreline of Australia, from marine life that prefers to stay in the colder waters, to some that favour the warmer, tropical conditions.

The oceans, which include the Indian Ocean as well as the Timor, Tasman and Coral Seas, have given this continent a diversity of marine life and dive destinations to appeal to any diver. Water temperatures can range from as cold as 4°C and go right up to 32°C in some areas.

All around the continent there are thousands of dive sites and wrecks to go and explore for you as a scuba diver, however, the two world class dive sites that stand out are the Great Barrier Reef on the east and Ningaloo Reef on the west.

The Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef system, is composed of roughly 3 000 individual reefs and 900 islands stretching for 2 600 kilometres over an area of approximately 344 400 square kilometres.

The reef is located in the Coral Sea off the coast of Queensland in northeast Australia.

This reef structure is composed of, and built by, billions of tiny organisms known as coral polyps.



Andre Crone



Johan Boshoff



Johan Boshoff



David Caravias

Australia

It is so big that it can be seen from the moon with the naked eye, and in area it is bigger than Ireland and Great Britain combined.

Contrary to popular belief, it is not just one reef, but it is rather made up of thousands of different reefs. Some of these on their own are enormous in size and measure many kilometres in length.

Each reef is separated by a vast, vivid blue sea. The brilliant blue colour of its water comes from the fact that there are minimal particles floating around in it. These seas are relatively lifeless, but the reef itself is an oasis of life in an otherwise marine desert.

The Great Barrier Reef has the highest diversity of life of any reef system in the world. With its 1 500 different species of fish, 350 different kinds of coral, 6 000 species of crustaceans, 5 000 species of molluscs and numerous reptiles and marine mammals, the reefs are a kaleidoscope of animal life and colours.

The Great Barrier Reef falls under the supervision of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, an agency of the Australian Government. It is protected as a marine park,

and is split into four main reef regions. These are the Cairns/Port Douglas Reefs, Northern Ribbon Reefs, Coral Sea Reefs and Far Northern Reefs

On the north western side of the continent, you can find the largest fringing coral reef in Australia. Ningaloo Reef, as named by the locals, stretches for more than 300 kilometres along the coast line. As this is a tropical region, this reef is





Andre Croire

packed with the big marine life species and from March to June you can find the biggest fish in the world in these waters, the whale shark. During the colder months of the year you can often find dugongs, whales, mantas and dolphins during their migration along the coast.

This reef's structure and the beaches are very important for the turtles in the area that rely on the reef for feeding and the beaches for nesting. The reef is rich in marine and coral life and host about 500 species of fish, 600 species of mollusc and more than 300 species of coral life. Today Ningaloo Reef is one of the best kept marine parks in the world.

Another place that must not be forgotten, which has more than 5 000 kilometres of coastline, is Tasmania. The east coast of Tasmania is where most people dive throughout the year and where you can find a variety of dive sites for all levels of experience (that is if you can handle the cold water, especially in the winter months).

Dive sites are available all around Australia and in all of its marine parks. From New South Wales to Queensland and South Australia to Victoria,



Johan Boshoff

there is something for you. Your passion might be cage diving with great white sharks, diving with minke whales or just seeing the reef fish on thousands of kilometres of coral reef. Where else in the world can you find and see a real seadragon? For technical divers, Australia also offers some of the best cave systems in the world, with hundreds, if not thousands of kilometres of cave tunnels



Andre Croire

that are still yet to be explored.

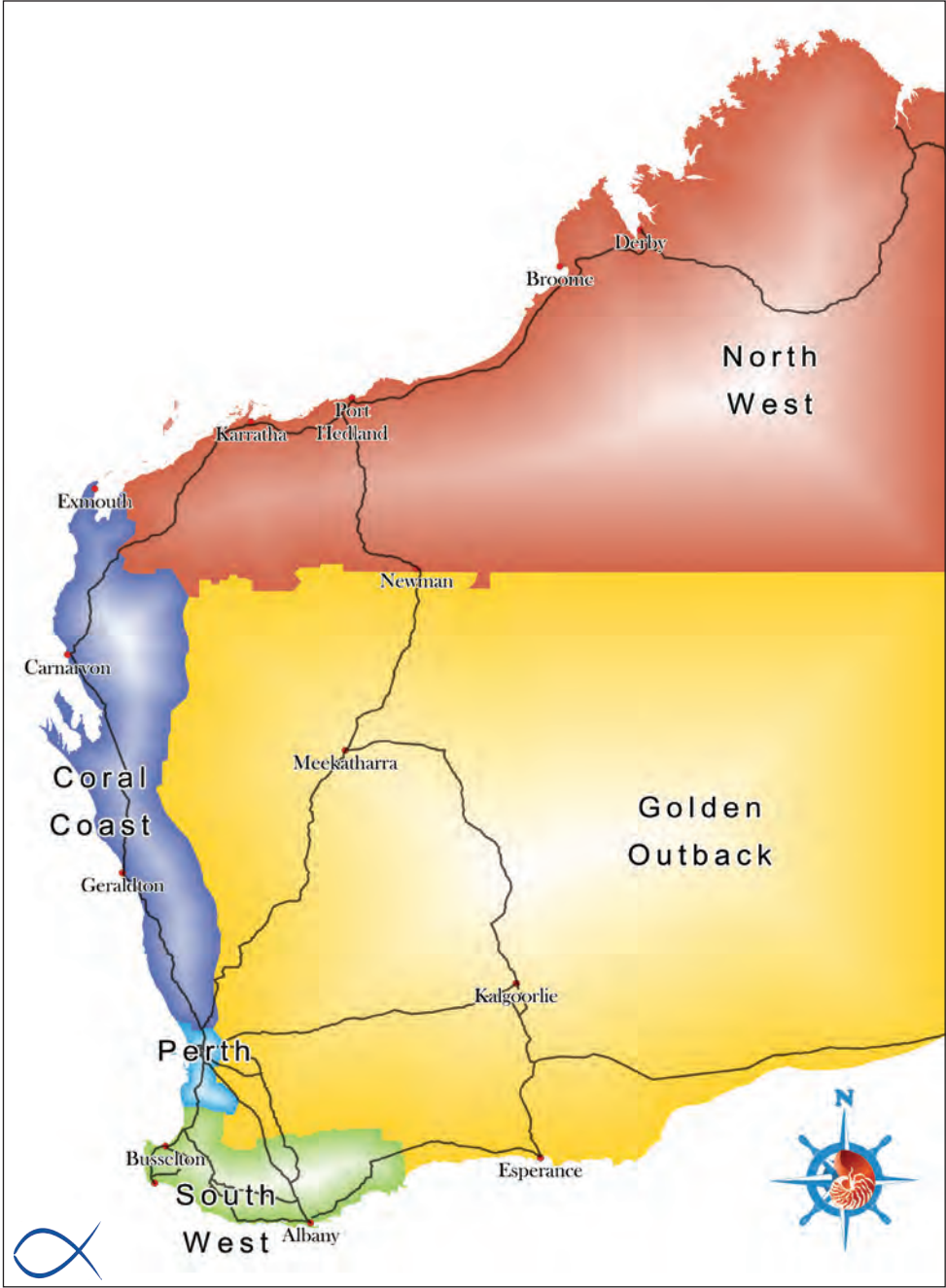
With Australia's interesting maritime history, you can also find thousands of wrecks that have sunk over hundreds of years. A number of these where sunk to create artificial reefs, some due to bad weather and some we will never know the true story... Today there are several wrecks you can dive on with many more yet to be discovered.

Australia offers you a whole world of diving in just one continent.



Johan Boshoff

Western Australia



Western Australia



Western Australia

Western Australia makes up approximately one third of the entire Australian continent. With a land mass of 2 529 875 square kilometres it is by far the largest of all the states of Australia. The boundaries include the Northern Territory to the north-east and South Australia to the south-east. On the ocean side, you will find the Indian

Ocean to the north and west, and the Great Australian Bight and Southern Ocean to the south.

The aboriginal Australians were the first inhabitants to populate Australia many years ago. In parts of Western Australia, they are known as the Noongar people and they lived on the land without causing significant harm or damage to the environment. The Noongar people living in the Perth region obtained their food from the sea, the Swan River and other fresh water lakes that were in the region. The Noongar people living in the south and east, lived off the food and land resources of the Jarrah and Karri forest. Further

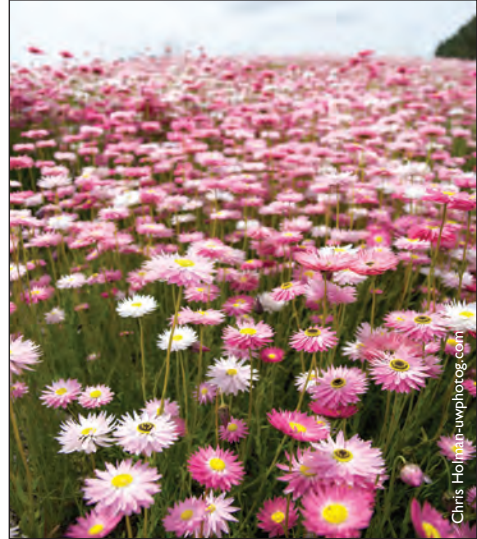


down in the southern coastal area of Albany, the Noongar people once again caught their food in the sea by building fish traps and hunting the turtles. Lastly, those Noongar living to the north and east learnt to survive in the semi arid region of the now called, Wheatbelt.

In 1826 the British claimed Albany, which is situated in Australia's south west region, to prevent the French from trying to lay claim to Western Australia. The Swan River Colony was later established after a British naval officer, named Charles Fremantle, landed on a 10km strip of land off Western Australia, known as Garden Island, in 1829. To this day, the first Monday in June is a public holiday and is celebrated as Foundation Day or Western Australia Day.

Western Australia's capital city, Perth, was named according to the wishes of Sir George Murray who was born in Perth, Scotland. It was founded by Captain James Stirling in 1829 and used as the administrative centre for the Swan River Colony. Perth grew in importance and population and reached city status by 1856. Today, Western Australia is divided up into a

number of regions. The Department of Fisheries has separated the state into five distinct regions; Australia's North West, Australia's Golden Outback, Australia's Coral Coast, Perth and Australia's South West.



Western Australia

Australia's North West is a wilderness filled with rocky canyons and plunge pools. It is home to the Karijini National Park and Millstream Chichester National Park. Temperatures can vary from a daily average of 5°C to over 40°C depending on the season. Summer is considered to be the wet season and runs from November to April and is also officially cyclone season. The North West is also the most cyclone-prone region of the entire Australian coastline. Winter brings the cooler temperate climate and runs from May to October.

Australia's Golden Outback is the largest of the five regions and is notable for wide open plains filled with wildflowers from July to December. Here you will find the famous Wave Rock in the Wheatbelt area near Hyden and white beaches lapped by blue sea in the coastal areas. Temperatures can vary from a daily average of 15°C to 37°C depending on the season and location.

Moving round towards Australia's South West is where the famous wine growing region of Margaret River is found. The Karri forest, which has trees said to be over 300 years old, is



in this region and along the coastal area, migrating whales can be seen. Temperatures can vary from a daily average of 14°C to 32°C depending on the season.

The Perth region of Western Australia is home to the sunniest state's capital city, Perth. As the financial hub of Western Australia, it is not

surprising to note that Australia's oldest operating mint is found here. Open spaces and parklands, like Kings Park, offer the chance for people to relax and have a picnic. Furthermore, there are stunning beaches that stretch from Lancelin all the way down to Mandurah and ideal surf spots, such as Trigg beach, are dotted along the coastline. Temperatures can vary from a daily average of 18°C to 33°C depending on the season.



Lastly, Australia's Coral Coast has the best loved holiday attractions such as the Pinnacles of Nambung National Park and Kalbarri National Park with rugged red sandstone gorges. Shark Bay has the friendly Monkey Mia dolphins along with other fantastic marine creatures, and of course, the famous and unspoilt, Ningaloo Reef. Temperatures can vary from a daily average of 14°C to 32°C depending on the season.

Time Zones

Australia's different states adhere to different time zones. As a result Western Australia is, for example, 3 hours behind New South Wales and 2 hours behind Queensland.

Flora and Fauna

There is a vast array of native and wild plants, animals and sea life in Western Australia. The various different types of insects, reptiles and birds simply add to this beautiful and expansive state.

There are hundreds of national parks and

marine parks from which you can explore the wild life, from crocodiles in the Kimberly region to dugong in the Coral Coast region, not to mention penguins in the Perth region, whale watching in the South West region and kangaroos on the beach in the Golden Outback region.

Western Australia's state flower is the Kangaroo Paw, which is mainly found in the South West region of Western Australia.

The state's animal is the numbat. This marsupial's natural habitat has been severely reduced, but they can still be found in the Dryandra Woodlands of the Wheatbelt sub-region of the Golden Outback.

The Black Swan is Western Australia's state bird and it mainly populates the wetlands of the South West region.

Lastly it should be mentioned that the whale shark is the state's marine animal emblem. Whilst they are found all over the world, the Ningaloo Reef of the Coral Coast region, is an ideal seasonal feeding ground for them.

Western Australia is also known for the dangerous and not so cute creatures. For example, the blue-ringed octopus found off the north western Australia coast and spiders like the redback and white tip which can cause nasty bites (although modern medicines mean that they are rarely fatal these days). However, snakes like the brown snake or the tiger snake are deadly and are found in many parts of the state.

Lastly, sharks should be respected and they are found all along the coastal areas. It is therefore

common sense to make sure that you take precautions when swimming, by making sure that you swim in areas that have lifeguards present. Stay with people in the water and avoid swimming at dusk and dawn.



Western Australia



Road safety and travel tips

As with the rest of the country, Western Australian's drive on the left hand side of the road and U-turns are not permitted at traffic lights unless there is a specific sign that says U-turns are allowed. Like most countries, seat belts are the law and certain age groups of children are required by law to travel in the correctly sized car seat.

Western Australia experiences severe weather during the cyclone season. It is advisable to check the safety and closures of roads in some areas before you travel.

Sadly, one of the hazards of driving in Western Australia, is the number of kangaroos you may come across in the middle of the road. They are more prolific during dusk and dawn, so if driving during these times is unavoidable, do so slowly and carefully.

Travelling around

Getting to and from Western Australia is easy. There are a number of ports, such as Fremantle,



around Western Australia. Perth Airport is an international and domestic airport and of course there is a rail service operated by Great Southern Rail which runs across the entire country from sea to sea.

When planning trips, especially inland, remember that the vast distances means a lack of water stops and fuel facilities. It is worth carrying extra water and planning ahead.

There are many bus companies that offer hop-on and hop-off package tours. Alternatively you can buy something called a 'travel pass' which allows you to be flexible with your journey, subject to terms and conditions.

The sheer size of Western Australia means that flying is a great way to save you time or simply offer you aerial views of some spectacular scenery. Tickets from commercial jet airlines or charter companies can be hired.

Health Tips

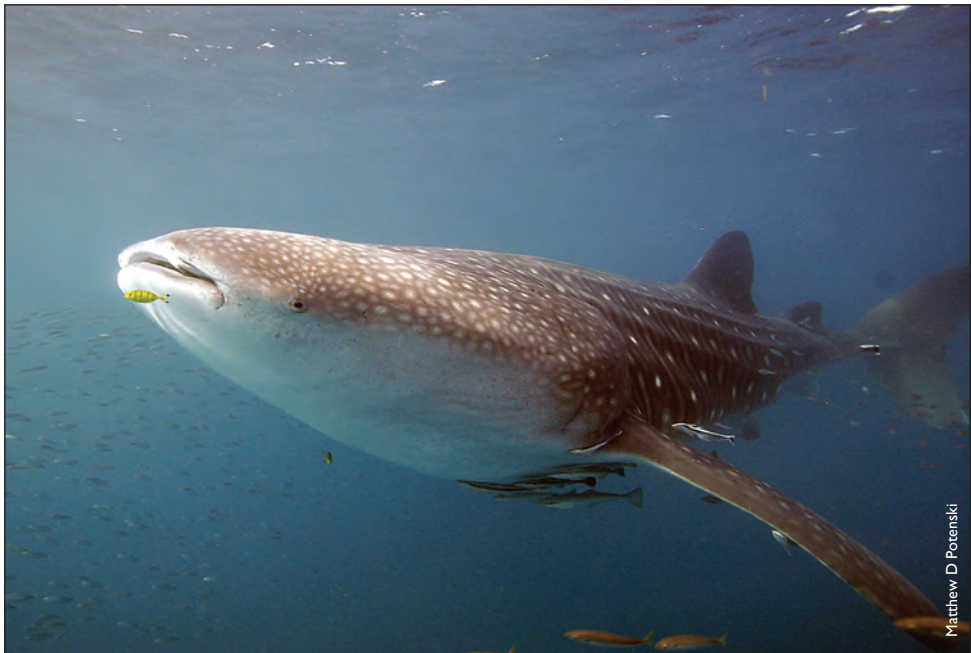
Western Australia is a large state that has variable weather conditions. Making sure you drink sufficient fluids will help you to avoid dehydration, however should you find yourself in difficulty, there are some fantastic hospitals in the area.

It is a good idea when travelling, especially in the inner Golden Outback area, to carry a first aid kit. If you plan to do a lot of walking, good sensible shoes will go a long way to preventing injuries. Make sure you plan for adverse weather conditions. If you are going out in the sun, wear a hat, sunglasses, sun block of factor 30+ and cover up.





Johian Bosthoff



Matthew D Potenski

Western Australia



Diving Western Australia

Western Australia has the longest coastline of any state in Australia. The coastline stretches for more than 10 000 kilometres, from the Timor Sea in the north to the Indian Ocean to the south.

Due to the long coastline, a variety of different topographies can be found; white beaches that stretch for hundreds of kilometres to mountains with cliffs that fall straight in to the oceans. Climates can be found from warmer water in the tropical parts in the north where water temperatures can average around 30°C degrees and higher to the southern colder parts in the south where water temperatures can average around 20°C degrees and lower.

With the different climates and the different water temperatures on the coast, you can find a diversity of marine life all around from the tropical plankton eater in the north, to the colder kelp marine life in the south.

In the northern part of Western Australia you will find a World Heritage site known as Ningaloo



Reef. Ningaloo Coast is now recognised as one of the most special places on earth and is fully protected from threats such as oil and gas drilling. Ningaloo Marine Park has over 300 kilometres of fringing coral reefs and covers more than 5 000 square kilometres of ocean. Compared with its neighbour, the Great Barrier Reef on the eastern side, it is smaller but is still a world class destination for diving and snorkelling.

The northern tropical Indian Ocean waters that bring in the warmer water, also bring in the bigger animals as well as the world's largest filter feeders, such as the whale sharks and the manta ray families. As the reef does not extend more than a few kilometres offshore, it is also an ideal shelter for juvenile fish and a breeding ground for turtles. The beaches are also very important for the nesting of the turtles.

The coral reefs are compact with soft and hard coral and are places where schools of reef fish can be seen, along with dugongs and whales on their migration patterns.

As the water gets colder to the southern side of

Western Australia, reef structures begin to change. Coral life alters and with that the marine life also starts to shift. Very interesting sea creatures can be seen and this is the only place in the world where the sea dragon is found in its natural habitat.

Almost any part of Western Australia's coastline is diveable and here you can choose between a diversity of islands along the mainland or hundreds of wrecks with interesting histories. Western Australia also offers some of the most amazing inland dive sites, a variety of which are available for both the beginner and the advanced diver. If you are a technical diver, then there are a number of world class cave systems for you to go and explore. Western Australia has a combination of boat dives and world class shore entry's that are suitable for divers and snorkelers of all abilities, from those that have just started with the sport to the more experienced divers and snorkelers.

Western Australia is where the ocean meets the human race.



Leeuwin Current



Around the world, all ocean currents flow in a northerly direction. The Humboldt Current off the west coast of South America brings cold water from the southern tip of Chile to northern Peru, while in the Southern Hemisphere, the cold Benguela Current flows from approximately Cape Point in the south along the west coast of South Africa and Namibia, nearly to the equator; this plays a big role in the ecosystems of those regions and influences the climate.

One of the main currents around Australia is the Leeuwin Current, which runs off the west coast of Australia. This current runs less than 300km deep, is less than 100km wide and is the world's longest continuous running current; it runs for more than 5 500km. The current runs from north to south where it starts in the Indonesia region, hits the northern side of Western Australia around Exmouth and runs all the way down to the southernmost tip of Australia around Cape Leeuwin before heading east towards Tasmania.

There are three current systems that make up the Leeuwin Current. First is the Southward flowing Leeuwin Current which is found at the surface, then there is the northward flowing Leeuwin Undercurrent which is found at the sub-surface, and lastly, the northward flowing Ningaloo and

Capes Current on the continental shelf, which are influenced by the southerly blowing winds in summer.

Currents have a significant effect on not only marine life, but weather as well. The Benguela Current leads to a dry wind that is driven to the coast of the Namib Desert, contributing to the extreme conditions of this desert. Equally so, the Humboldt Current is a contributor to the Atacama Desert in Chile. In Western Australia, the warmer waters of the Leeuwin Current means that the south west of Australia is not a desert like the above examples, but is lush and receives plenty of winter rain.

The Leeuwin Current continuously flows all year





Leeuwin Current

round, but this current has strong and weak flowing periods. During the summer months of October to March, the current flows against south blowing winds which causes it to be weaker than in the winter months of May to September. The change in the winter months means that the current has more pressure as it is not fighting against the southerly wind. This change in pressure can be measured by the average monthly sea levels in Fremantle, showing a slightly higher sea level during winter.

Tropical coral reefs such as those off Rottnest Island and the Abrolhos Islands, require warm water to develop, and it can be said that they owe their existence to the Leeuwin Current. The warmer Leeuwin Current picks up the pace and flow in autumn, and that is when the coral starts to breed. Approximately 7-9 days after a full moon between March and April, a spectacular display of coral spawning can be seen.

However, it is not just coral larvae that use the Leeuwin Current as a breeding ground and means of transport; the western rock lobster,

southern blue fin tuna, algae and seagrass also make use of the current.

Giant whale sharks are found at the Ningaloo Reef and are seen in greater numbers when the Leeuwin Current is stronger. This might be due to the colder and more nutrient filled water being brought in from the depths to the surface in what is called an upwelling. This process helps algae to grow, which is important for many marine ecosystems. It is also important for the photosynthesis of plankton, which is the primary food source of the whale shark.

Majestic humpback whales migrate from the cold waters of Antarctica to warmer, tropical waters for breeding and feeding. During the winter months, when the Leeuwin Current is at its strongest, these whales use this current as a kind of highway between their feeding and breeding grounds.

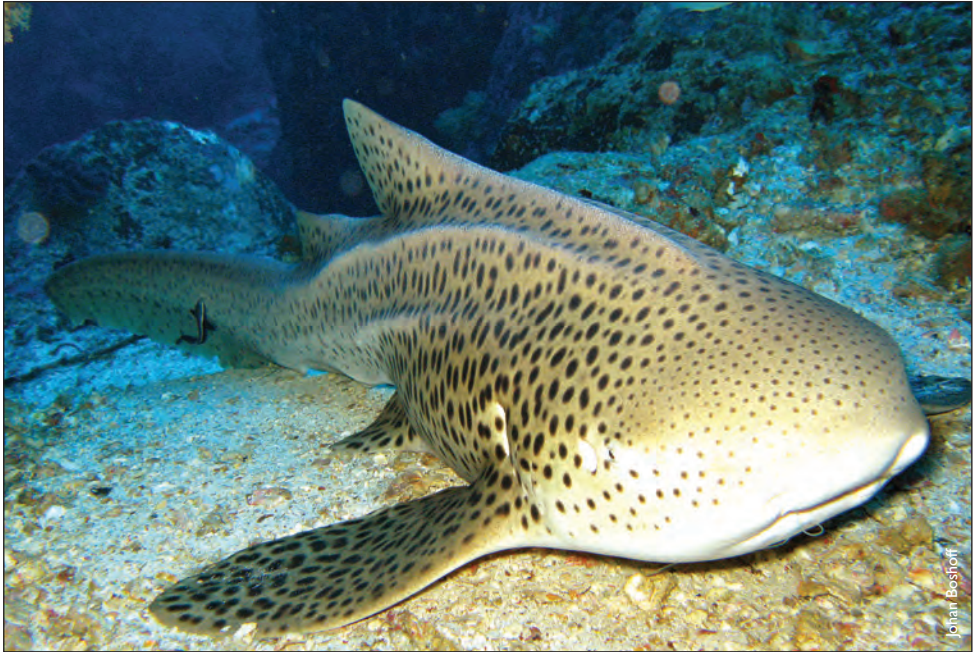
Without the Leeuwin Current, the climate and marine life in Western Australia may well be a replica of the Namib and Atacama Desert coastlines.



Vikki Hoff



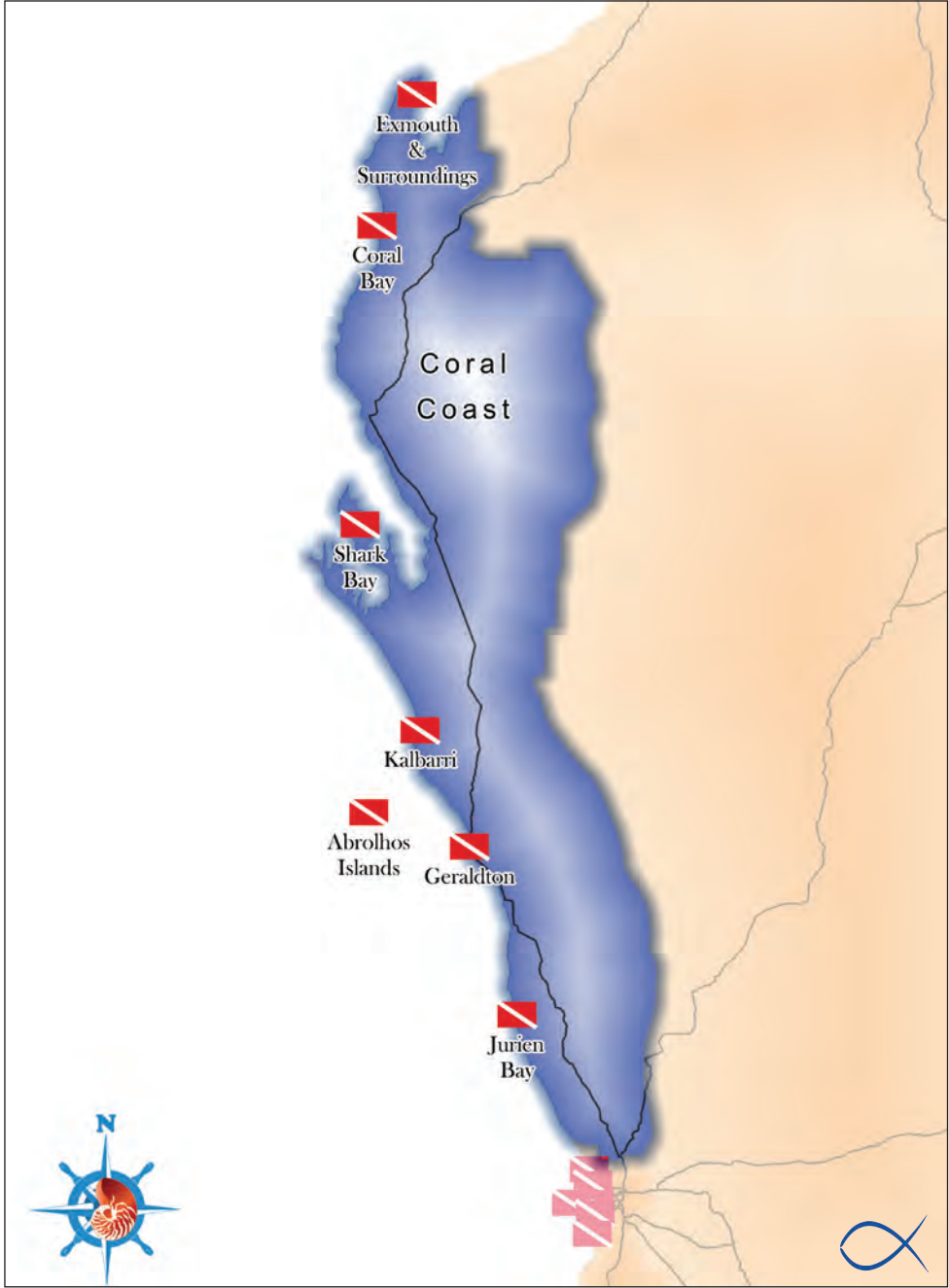
Johan Boshoff





Johan Beshoff

Coral Coast Region



Coral Coast Region



Johan Boshoff

The Coral Coast stretches along approximately 1 200km of coastline from Exmouth to Cervantes and has the second largest coastal area of the five tourism regions. The temperatures range from 30°C to 37°C in the summer months of December to February and 19°C to 24°C in the winter months of June to August. The climate ranges from Mediterranean in the south with the rainy season from April to October, to sub tropical in the north where the

rain falls mainly from January to July.

The economy in the region is mainly supported by tourism, fishing, salt mining, iron ore mining and agriculture. The port of Geraldton is one of several major ports in Western Australia and is said to move approximately 10 million tons of cargo per year.

If you are a nature lover, you will be delighted by the wildflowers, birds and marine life that populates this region. In some cases, you will



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find rare and unique species that cannot be found anywhere else. Towns such as Mullewa in Geraldton are said to be a great place to view the intriguing wreath flower, which only grows on a small stretch between Perth and Shark Bay.

There is a rich history and cultural background throughout the Coral Coast and this will appeal to those who are interested in the natural, maritime or indigenous history of the region. Visit places such as the Pinnacles of Nambung National Park and see the extraordinary limestone formations or the curious dome-shaped Stromatolites in the coastal saline lake, Lake Thesis in Cervantes.

Beautiful and relaxing beaches such as Dynamite Bay in Green Head can be found all along the coast line. White sand and clear waters are found throughout the region with Turquoise Bay in Exmouth considered to be one of Western Australia's best beaches.

At the top of the Coral Coast region, you will find Exmouth. The area has strong links with naval/military backgrounds, and in World War II, the area was used as a military base. In the 1960s the United States Navy built a communication station, and with the influx of workers, a town was born. It is interesting to note that many of the streets are named after Australian, British and American soldiers who



Isak Nieuwoudt

were involved in the Second World War in the area.

The Ningaloo Marine Park area is important for some rather large and special sea life such as the whale shark and manta ray. The reef is approximately 260km in length, and in some places can be reached by walking off the shore. The water in these places is only knee deep and for those with younger children, a chance to wallow in the shallows with fish at your feet is a special opportunity.

Inland are a number of small outback pastoral stations that offer a chance to see the less busy side of the Coral Coast. Gnarlou is said to be home to some brilliant surfing conditions, but if you are more interested in nature, it is also a great place to see loggerhead turtles.



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Coral Coast Region

The sub tropical climate and plenty of ground water along the Gascoyne River, means that Carnarvon is the perfect place for growing bananas and other fruit such as mangos. It is no wonder that nearly 80 percent of Western Australia's bananas are from this region's banana plantations.

An interesting fact about Carnarvon, is the links this town has with NASA and space missions. At the Space and Technology Museum you can read about Australia's significant role in the Gemini and Apollo space missions.

You can take a walk or ride the "Coffee pot" train along the One Mile Jetty, or perhaps stop and listen to the stories from the Burlganyja Wanggaya people at the Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre.

Next up is the Shark Bay region of the Coral Coast. The Shark Bay Marine Park is the world's largest marine bay and has the biggest number of seagrass species growing in one place. Here you can see a great number of different marine life such as dolphins, whales, sea turtles, sharks and of course dugongs. If

you are keen to get close to some dolphins, Monkey Mia is famous for the bottlenose dolphins that visit the shore several times a day. Have a look around the visitor centre and later on, take a cultural walk with a Malgana guide. As you travel further south towards Kalbarri, be sure to add Horrocks to your list of attractions where indigenous art in the Willy Gully Caves is an opportunity not to be missed. Stop to admire the pink waters of Port Gregory's Lake, or take a tour of the Lynton Hiring station which housed about 60 convicts and pensioner guards from England in 1853.

In Kalbarri National Park, see how the landscape has been sculpted by wind and the Murchison River leaving behind authentic rock structures such as Natures Window and Z-Bend lookout. From July to October this landscape is transformed with wildflowers.

For the history enthusiasts, the Western Australian Museum of Geraldton has a shipwreck gallery which features tales and artefacts from a number of shipwrecks and survivors in the area. Near the town centre is the beautiful and intricate HMAS Sydney II Memorial which was built in tribute to those on board the vessel who lost their lives.

A trip to the Cervantes area would not be complete without seeing the Pinnacles in the Nambung National Park. These pillared structures are the result of erosion of the softer surrounding rock, which left the more resistant limestone pinnacles to rise out of the earth like spires.



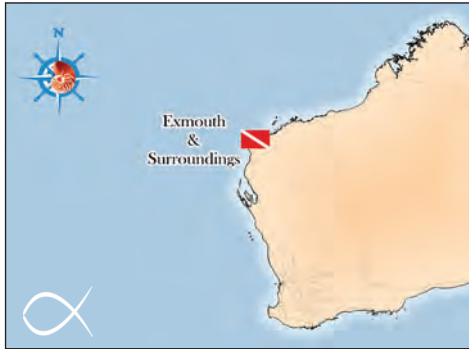


David Caravias



Johan Boshoff

Exmouth & Surroundings



Exmouth & Surroundings

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 57.343
E 114 8.323**

Exmouth is a little town at the tip of the North West Cape Peninsula. It is located 1 250 kilometres north of Perth and about 3 650 kilometres southwest of the town of Darwin. The main attraction here, aside from Ningaloo Reef, is the Cape Range National Park. The park is located mostly on the western side of the peninsula and has some amazing gorges producing fantastic scenery. The park covers an area of 506 square kilometres of the North West Cape Peninsula.



Another hidden treasure of this area is the Muiron Islands, which are situated about 15 kilometres north of the North West Cape Peninsula. The island group consists of two main islands called South Muiron and North Muiron which are separated by a channel. Further east you will find a smaller island know as Sunday Island. All these islands are part of the Muiron Islands Marine Management Area and have some of the most beautiful underwater sceneries in the area.

The town of Exmouth was established in 1967 to support the United States Naval Communication station, which is located nearby. When you drive north out of the town, you will see 12 towers that are used to communicate with ships. The tallest tower is called Tower Zero and is 387m high. The six supporting towers were placed around Tower Zero in a hexagon shape and are each 304m high.

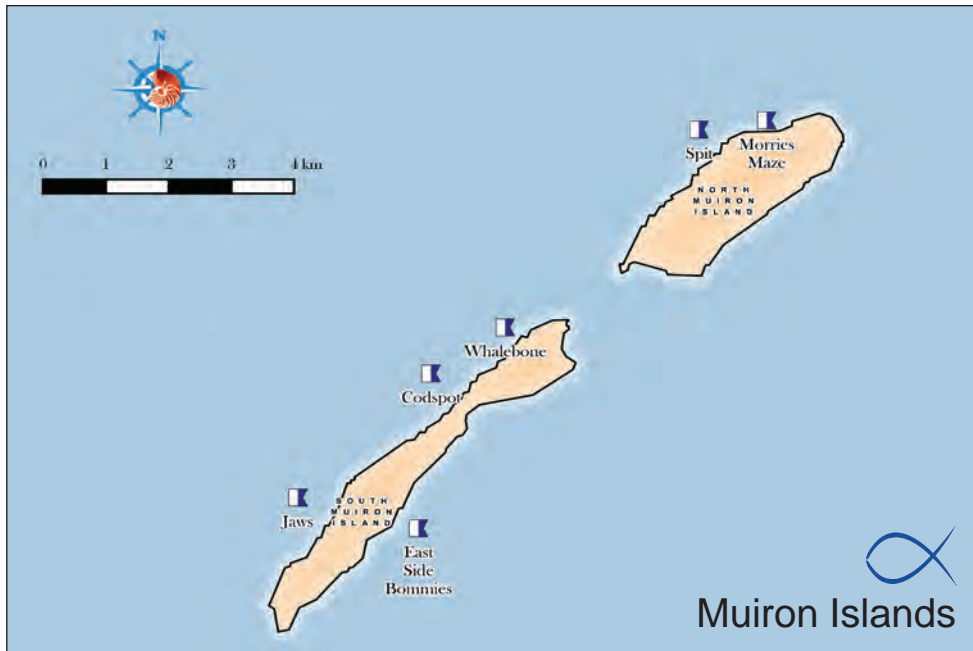
Exmouth has a hot semi-arid climate with no specific wet or dry season, although rain is most likely to fall between January and August, while monsoon showers and storms usually occur from January to March. The period from August to December is usually dry.

Today the small town has a population of about 2 500 people and the town relies more on tourism than the naval base for its existence.

Summer land temperatures: 30-15°C.

Winter land temperatures: 15-25°C.





Accommodation:

A variety of accommodation is available in the area, including camp sites, hotels, self-catering chalets, lodges, back packers, B&B's and guest houses.

Shops and service stations:

Like most of the smaller towns in Western Australia, a variety of shops are available.

Health and medical services:

There are world-class general practitioners, clinics and hospitals in this area.

Activities in and around the area:

- Dolphin and whale watching
- Whale shark snorkeling
- Snorkeling
- 4x4 Trails
- Fishing
- Hiking Trails
- Variety of water sports

Diving & Snorkeling:

Exmouth is located on the northern section of the world-heritage listed Ningaloo Marine Park. Ningaloo Reef provides one of the best reef experiences that you will find in Western Australia. The reef extends more than 260 kilometres along the west coast of the peninsula and is accessible directly from shore.

Exmouth and its surroundings are split into three sections; Muiron Islands, which are situated about 15 kilometres north of the peninsula; Lighthouse Bay which is situated on the northern section of the peninsula; and the West Coast, which is situated on the western side of the peninsula.

Muiron Islands

These islands are surrounded by an abundance of coral gardens. Both hard and soft coral gardens can be found all over with amazing colours and shapes. There is a wide range of dive and snorkel spots you can choose from with ledges, bommies and swim-throughs. The

Exmouth & Surroundings



maximum depth is 25m. When conditions are right, you will only experience gentle currents. Bigger marine creatures like manta rays, potato cods, giant loggerhead turtles and reef sharks can be seen here.

Lighthouse Bay

Lighthouse bay is located on the western side of the peninsula, near its top. There are a number of excellent dive spots here which offer incredible diving all year round. In this area the limestone reef forms gullies that are home to amazing coral formations and reef structures. Coral outcrops rise from the sandy sea floor and attract a variety of tropical marine animals.

West Coast

The 'West Coast' of the peninsula is where the main Ningaloo Reef structure is situated and diving here is dependent on weather conditions. The diving and snorkeling here ranges from shallow depths of 3m to depths of 30m. At the dive and snorkeling spots you will see reef structures that are covered with hard coral and underwater canyons bursting with baitfish. There is an abundance of fish and other marine life in the surrounding West Coast area.

Choose your dive or snorkel spot depending on the tides and weather conditions. Some of the areas are only accessible from a boat and others by 4WD. However, most of them you can access with a normal car.

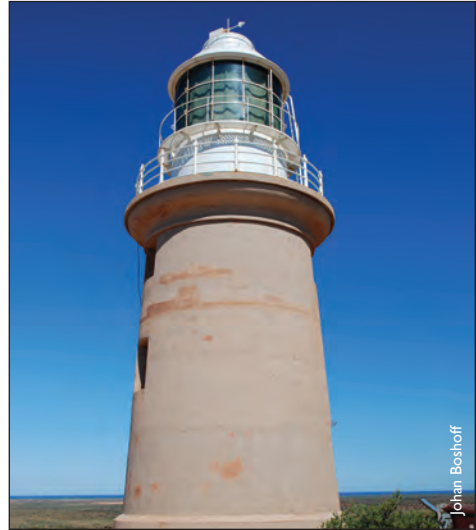
Exmouth's best snorkeling sites are all located in the Cape Range National Park, roughly 40 kilometres from Exmouth. All are easily accessible from the shore. But the main attraction in this area is swimming alongside the majestic whale sharks as they migrate past the coast.

Summer water temperatures: 27-30°C.

Winter water temperatures: 19-23°C.

Diving facilities in the area:

- Air fills
- Nitrox fills
- Dive training
- Gear rentals
- Equipment sales



Exmouth & Surroundings

DIVING & SNORKELING SPOTS

Morries Maze



Average depth: 3m

Maximum depth: 11m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 37.557
E 114 22.756**

This is the most northerly spot to dive and snorkel at Peak Island. Launch your boat from Bundegi boat ramp located on the eastern side of the Peninsula, about 15 kilometres north of Exmouth. It is about a 30 kilometres ride from the boat ramp and will take about 45 minutes in good conditions.

Underwater you will find a big bommie that is about 50m by 50m. Underneath the bommie are a number of swim-throughs and cave systems. The top of the bommie lies at 3m and it drops down to about 11m. The bommie is covered with colourful soft coral and some table corals. Morries Maze is well known for big schools of fish as well as pelagic fish.

Remember that penetrating any type of overhead environment is dangerous and only

for experienced divers who have the necessary training. A torch is essential when entering cave systems.

The best time to dive this spot is with a southerly wind, which enables the island to protect you, or when there is no swell and the winds are not strong as this spot is tricky in surge.

Spit



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 23m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 37.701
E 114 22.400**

This dive and snorkeling spot is located on the eastern side of Peak Island. Launch your boat from Bundegi boat ramp on the eastern side of the Peninsula, about 15 kilometres north of Exmouth. It is about a 27 kilometre ride from the boat ramp and will take about 40 minutes in good conditions.

This is a classic wall dive. The wall starts at about 10m and drops down to about 23m. The top



section of the wall is covered with an abundance of soft corals and sea pens. A variety of marine life such as brittle stars, cowrie shells and nudibranchs are commonly found here. Make sure you look under all the overhangs and caverns for fish and invertebrates. One cavern starts at about 14m and extends upwards to about 10m and is full of glassfish and cod. Nurse sharks are also commonly found in the caverns. This area is known for its currents. The best time to dive this spot is with a southerly wind, which enables the island to protect you, or when there is no swell and the winds are not strong.

Whalebone

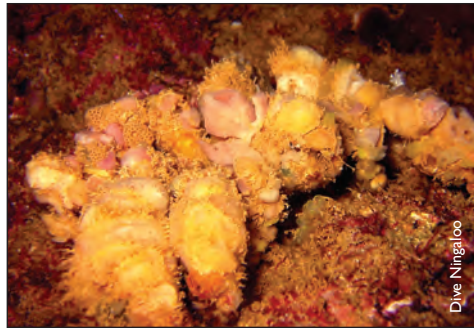


Average depth: 10m

Maximum depth: 18m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 39.724
E 114 20.402**

This dive and snorkel spot is on the northern side of Murion Island, about 1 kilometre from the channel between the North and South Island. Use Bundegi boat ramp on the eastern side of the Peninsula to launch your boat. Whalebone is about a 25 kilometer ride from the boat ramp and will take about 40 minutes in good conditions. This dive spot is similar to The Spit as it is also a wall dive which runs along the island, however, this spot is shallower. Whalebone got its name from the wall and the outcrop of bommies nearby, which together look like a whale's rib cage. Soft coral gardens, anemones, clams and colourful reef fish make this a spectacular spot. The best time to dive Whalebone is with a southerly wind, which enables the island to protect you, or when there is no swell and the winds are not strong as this spot can be tricky in surge and swell.



Dive Ningaloo



Dive Ningaloo



John Bosthoff



Andrew Woodburn

Exmouth & Surroundings

Codspot



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 14m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 39.984
E 114 19.832**

This is one of Murion island's best dive and snorkeling spots and is about the same distance from Bundegi boat ramp on the Exmouth peninsula, as the dive spot Whalebone. This spot got its name from the large potato cod that are residents of the reef.

At this spot you will find a long wall about 5m high. At its northern end is a cleaning station where manta rays can be seen during the breeding season. The wall is covered predominantly with soft corals and the spot is known for its schooling fish, turtles, and if you are lucky, whale sharks.

This area is known for its strong currents. The best time to dive this spot is with a southerly wind, which enables the island to protect you, or when there is no swell and the winds are not strong.

East Side Bommies



Average depth: 7m

Maximum depth: 10m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 41.651
E 114 19.639**

East Side Bommies is located on the eastern side of Murion islands, almost in the middle of the two islands. Use Bundegi boat ramp on the eastern side of the Peninsula to launch your

boat. This dive and snorkeling spot is about a 25 kilometre ride from the boat ramp and will take about 35 minutes in good conditions.

At East Side Bommies you will find coral boulders surrounded by sand patches. Juvenile fish can be found here as well as lots of nudibranchs. It is a favourite place for dolphins and mantas to hang out.

Depending on the direction of the wind, anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the bommies and swim towards the reef. The best time to dive this spot is with a south westerly wind, which enables the island to protect you, or when there is no swell and the winds are not strong.

Jaws



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 16m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 41.341
E 114 18.525**

This is one dive spot where there is no need to ask about the origin of its name. Jaws is on the south western side of Murion Island. Launch your boat from Bundegi boat ramp on the eastern side of the Peninsula. The dive spot is about a 25 kilometre and 35 minute boat ride away in good conditions.

This is a drift dive, the current will take you over the reef structure and coral bommies adorned with crevices hiding marine life. Jaws is well known for its pelagic fish, big schools of fish and sharks which can be seen here on a regular basis. The visibility is normally really good but this spot is known for its strong currents. The best time to dive this spot is with an easterly wind, which enables the island to protect you, or when there is no swell and the winds are not strong.



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Gullivers



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 14m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 47.502
E 114 08.625**

Gullivers is one of the best dive spots in Exmouth and it is situated in the Lighthouse Bay area on the northern part of the Exmouth Peninsula. It takes a 15 minute boat ride from Bundegi boat ramp to get to this dive spot in good weather conditions.

This dive spot follows the reef structure that runs along the bay. At this section of the reef you will find several coral outcrops that are covered with soft and hard coral growth. This area of the Lighthouse Bay reef structure has an abundance of marine life such as blue-spotted stingrays, angelfish, nudibranchs, groper, large bull rays, moray eels, lionfish and schools of snapper.

Because it is in Lighthouse Bay, any wind coming out of a northerly direction can influence the conditions of the area. The best time to dive this spot is with a southerly wind or, better still no wind or swell.

You can use the mooring at this spot for your boat.

Labyrinth



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 14m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 47.530
E 114 08.547**

This dive spot is very close to Gullivers, it is also

located in the Lighthouse Bay area and is a 15 minute boat ride from Bundegi boat ramp.

The spot is composed of many coral bommies which have created a labyrinth of passage ways around the reef structure. The bommies are only around 2m high but you can still easily get lost in the maze. At this dive spot you will find beautiful tropical fish and schools of pelagic fish. It is also common to see turtles and if you are lucky, reef sharks. Because it is in Lighthouse Bay, any winds coming out of a northerly direction can influence the conditions of the area. The best time to dive this dive spot is with a wind out of the south or, better still, no wind or swell.

You can use the mooring at this spot for your boat.



Blizzard Ridge



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 14m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 47.825
E 114 08.049**

Blizzard Ridge is one of the most popular dive spots in Exmouth. It is a short boat ride from Bundegi boat ramp and around the corner from Lighthouse Bay. It got its name from the abundance of glassfish that can be found in this

section of the Lighthouse Bay reef, which make you feel as though you are diving through a snow blizzard.

The spot follows a section of narrow ridge that runs for hundreds of metres and is surrounded with sand. The ridge is about 2m high and covered with hard and soft corals as well as an abundance of marine life. You can follow the ridge in any direction. Sea snakes and turtles are commonly sighted here.

Any winds that come out of a northerly direction can influence the conditions of the area. The best time to dive this dive spot is with a southerly wind or no wind or swell. You can use the mooring at this spot for your boat.

ramp on the western side.

Dibley's Dropoff is composed of a number of pinnacles that stand up from the ocean floor. Some of the pinnacles are almost 10m high. Between the pinnacles are gullies where you can find nudibranchs, angelfish, moorish idols, reef sharks and schools of snapper.

Because this dive spot is on the edge of the reef, where the currents run, you can commonly see pelagic fish such as trevally, barracuda, mackerel, kingfish and many more. If you are really lucky you could even see manta rays or humpback whales.

Dibley's Dropoff is fairly exposed and so it is best dived when the swell is low and the winds are not strong.

Dibley's Dropoff



Average depth: 20m

Maximum depth: 27m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 47.707
E 114 05.268**

This dive spot is on the western side of the peninsula and is about 2 kilometres from shore. It is about a 15 kilometre boat ride from Bundegi boat ramp on the eastern side of the peninsula or a 20 kilometre boat ride from Tantebiddi boat



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Helby Bank



Average depth: 18m
Maximum depth: 31m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 48.090
E 114 02.010**

This spot is on the north western side of the peninsula. It is about a 20 minute boat ride from the Tantebiddi boat ramp on the western side of the Cape Range National/Ningaloo Marine Park.

Helby Bank is one of the deeper dive spots in the area, it has a coral formation that is about 200m by 200m and extends upwards from a depth of 30m. The reef is mainly covered with hard coral and is adorned with ledges, cracks and overhangs that hide marine life.

Kingfish are known to circle divers at this spot and many moray eels and reef sharks can be found here.

Helby Bank is fairly exposed and so it is best dived when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong.



Navy Pier



Average depth: 12m
Maximum depth: 14m

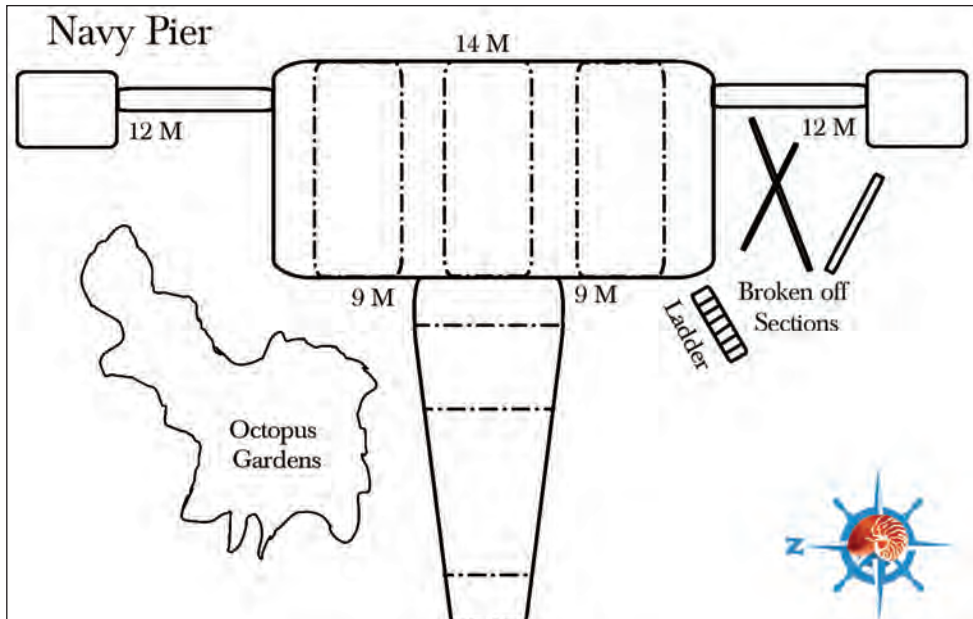
**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 48.974
E 114 11.304**

Navy Pier is one of the best shore dives in the world and really should be on your 'to dive' list. This dive spot follows a jetty, which still remains a working defence facility for the Navy, so diving here can only be conducted with a specific licenced dive operator approved by the Navy for security and liability reasons.

The licenced dive operator will take you through all the necessary procedures and paperwork that required to dive Navy Pier. Once you have approval to dive, kit up on the jetty itself and take the stairs down to the platform before doing one of the biggest giant strides that you will ever experience.

Under the pier there is an amazing range of sea creatures. More than 200 different fish species have been recorded here including big schools of barracuda and trevally. It is also home to grey nurse sharks, wobbegong sharks, white tip reef sharks and enormous Queensland gropers. Sea snakes, angelfish, moorish idols, lionfish, nudibranchs, flatworms, gobyfish, turtles, emperor, clownfish, anglerfish, stonefish and many more can also be seen here.

The dive operators know exactly when to dive Navy Pier. Dives are usually done on a slack tide because of the currents commonly found around the pier. On days when the conditions are right they will do more than one dive. This is also a fantastic night dive opportunity if the conditions are good.



Tandabiddi



Average depth: 2m

Maximum depth: 3m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 55.110
E 113 57.601**

This snorkeling spot is about 2 kilometres from the Tantebiddi boat ramp on the western side of the Cape Range National/Ningaloo Marine Park. As it is composed from rock and reef formations that are shallow, this is a fantastic place for beginners.

Tandabiddi is situated on the inner section of the reef structure enabling the outer reef to act as a protective barrier. This produces a very protected snorkel spot. The best area here is about 600m from the beach where the ocean floor is covered with hard corals.

The spot is well known for its small reef fish and

turtles. It is fairly exposed even though it is close to land, so depending on the direction of the wind, anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the reef or use the mooring provided at this spot for your boat or kayak. Try to dive this spot on a slack tide.



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Ranger Bommies



Average depth: 4m
Maximum depth: 8m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 55.934
E 113 56.717**

Ranger Bommies is just over 2 kilometres from Tantebiddi boat ramp, in a southerly direction. The spot is about 1 kilometre from land on the western site of the peninsula and is a favourite spot for divers and snorkelers. Ranger Bommies is situated on the inner section of the reef structure enabling the outer reef to act as a protective barrier.

The spot includes a number of bommies grouped together and surrounded by sand. The bommies are covered with hard coral and some of them can be exposed in spring tides. Ranger Bommies is known for its rays such as bull rays, sting rays, whiptail rays and many more species.

The best time to dive this spot is with a south easterly wind, which enables the land to protect you. It is better to dive or snorkel here on slack tide.



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Nicks Lump



Average depth: 14m
Maximum depth: 21m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 56.021
E 113 55.100**

This dive spot is on the outer reef structure, about 7 kilometres southwest of Tantebiddi boat ramp. Nick's Lumps reef structure looks like big fingers. The reef structure or 'fingers' form ridges that rise quite high from the ocean floor and they have sand between them.

The 'fingers' are covered mostly with hard coral and in some places extend upwards from 21m to 9m. Moray eels, parrotfish, butterflyfish, angelfish, boxfish and batfish can be seen here. Turtles, manta rays, eagle rays and the occasional potato cod are also often sighted at this spot.

Because it is on the outside of the reef structure Nick's Lumps is very exposed to bad weather and must only be attempted when the conditions are good: with no wind or swell.

Beverly Hills



Average depth: 16m
Maximum depth: 20m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 21 58.539
E 113 54.816**

This spot is located on the outer reef structure, about 10 kilometres south west of Tantebiddi boat ramp and about 1 kilometre north of a passage in the reef. You can anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the reef and swim towards it.

This spot is composed of pinnacles that extend up from the ocean floor to create channels that run between them. All around the reef structure you will find gullies and small caves where you may see reef sharks.

Because it is close to a gap in the reef and as it is on the outside of the reef structure, Beverly Hills is very exposed to bad weather and must only be attempted when you have good conditions with no wind or swell. Strong currents can be a big problem here.

Millyering Wall



Average depth: 15m

Maximum depth: 26m

**GPS: (WGS84) S22 01.099
E 113 54.086**

Millyering Wall is on the edge of the outer reef, about 15 kilometres from Tantebiddi boat ramp. It is advisable that you anchor your boat on the sandy patches close to the reef and swim towards the reef.

This dive and snorkeling spot follows a wall on the outer edge of the reef, just south of the passage in the reef structures. The spot is covered with hard coral and a small amount of soft coral. At Millyering Wall you will find almost all the fish species that are endemic to this area, due to the south passage which channels food in and out.

Due to all the nutrients in the water, this is a hot spot for whale sharks and manta rays; however, the nutrients can also make visibility poor. Visibility tends to be better during slack tide.

Because it is on the outside of the reef, Millyering Wall is fairly exposed and so it is best dived when the swell is low, the winds are not strong and when it is slack tide.

Lakeside



Average depth: 1m

Maximum depth: 2m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 22 02.291
E 113 54.667**

To get to this snorkeling spot follow the dirt road which runs behind the visitor centre in the Cape Range National/Ningaloo marine park. From the town of Exmouth, follow the road for about 50 kilometres at which point you will have reached its end. Park your car in the car park close to the beach and from there, walk about 400m in a southerly direction until you find the reef structure, which is about 50m from the beach, or until you see the marked entry point where you can enter the water.

Lakeside has a very easy entrance and exit, you can walk straight from the beach and start your dive on a gentle slope that gradually gets deeper as you swim further from the shore. Snorkel out for about 100m and then turn around to end your snorkel at the original entry point. At this spot you will mostly see hard corals and a variety of tropical fish.

It is better to snorkel here when there is not much wind or current. Lakeside is relatively protected from wind and swell due to the outer reef.



Exmouth & Surroundings



Turquoise Bay



Average depth: 1m

Maximum depth: 3m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 22 05.814
E 113 53.421**

This snorkeling spot is one of the best in the Cape Range National/Ningaloo marine park. Take the Scruffs Road exit from Yardie Creek Road. From here you have two options: either snorkel in a protected bay or do a drift snorkel.

If doing the drift snorkel, park your car in the left hand (southerly) car park and take the path to the beach. The spot has a very easy entrance and exit enabling you to walk

straight from the beach and start your snorkel on a gentle slope that gets gradually deeper as you swim further from the shore.

Swim about 80m out and the current will start taking you in a northerly direction. Be aware that this area can be affected by very strong currents due to a break in the reef further out. You have to start swimming back to the beach before you reach the point or sand bar.

The second option is to park in the right (northern) car park and walk down to the beach, enter anywhere you want and snorkel over the sand and coral bommies. This is a perfect spot for beginners.

This area is covered with coral gardens and a variety of fish and marine life.

Both spots are very protected against wind and swell but current is a problem. Before entering the water, make sure that it is safe.

Oyster Stacks



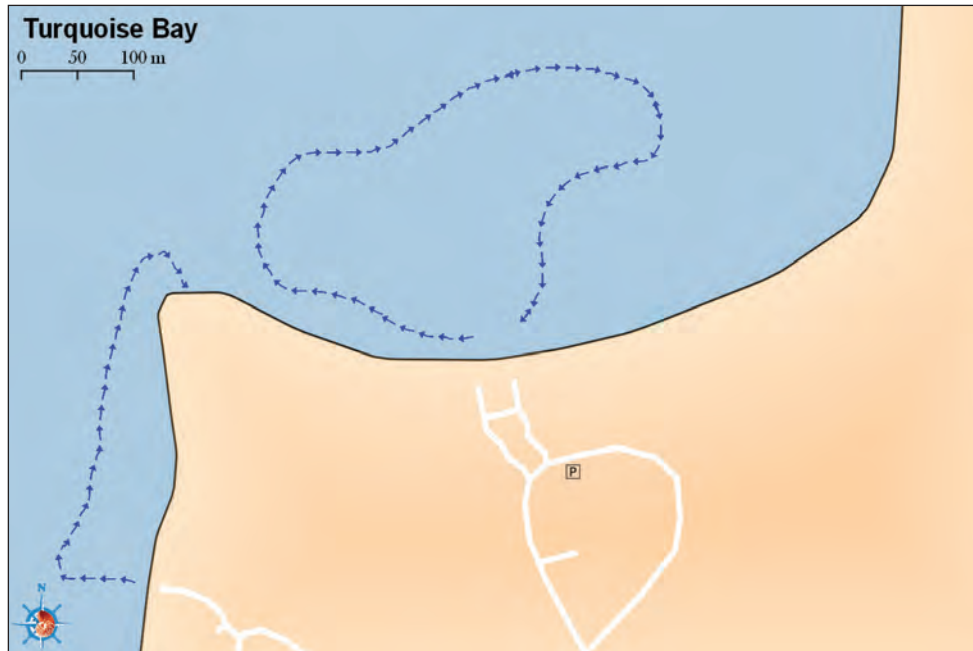
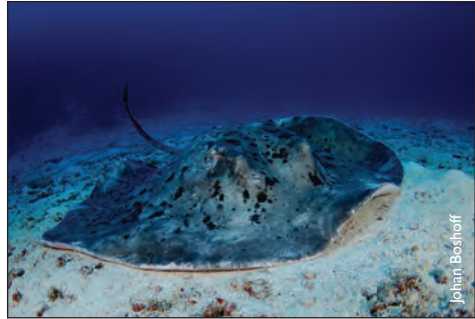
Average depth: 1m

Maximum depth: 3m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 22 07.887
E 113 52.644**

This is also a well-known snorkeling spot in the Cape Range National/Ningaloo marine park. If you drive south on Yardie Creek Road take the next dirt road after Turquoise Bay. Look out for the road boards that show Oyster Stacks.

Park your car in a nearby parking area and walk a short distance to the start of the beach. The best time to snorkel this spot is a high or incoming tide when enough water is provided to swim. Enter opposite the car park and start swimming to the south. When entering the water, watch out for sharp rocks. A wide variety of species live



Exmouth & Surroundings

here and use this area as a nursery.

There are three main rocks in the area that are covered with oysters, this is how the snorkel spot got its name Oyster Stacks. The outer reef structure protects this site, but always be aware of currents and tidal movements. The best time to snorkel this site is when there are no winds or surge.

Mandu



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 20m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 22 08.214
E 113 52.173**

This is one of the furthest dive and snorkeling sites from shore. It is about 500m from land and is located on the outer reef, which is almost 30

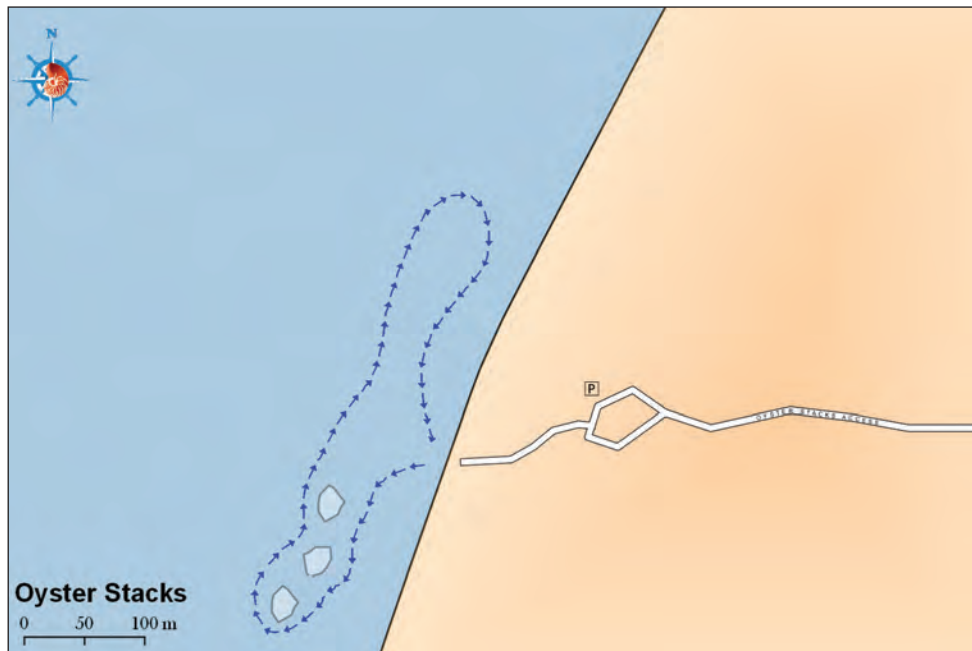
kilometres south of Tantebiddi boat ramp.

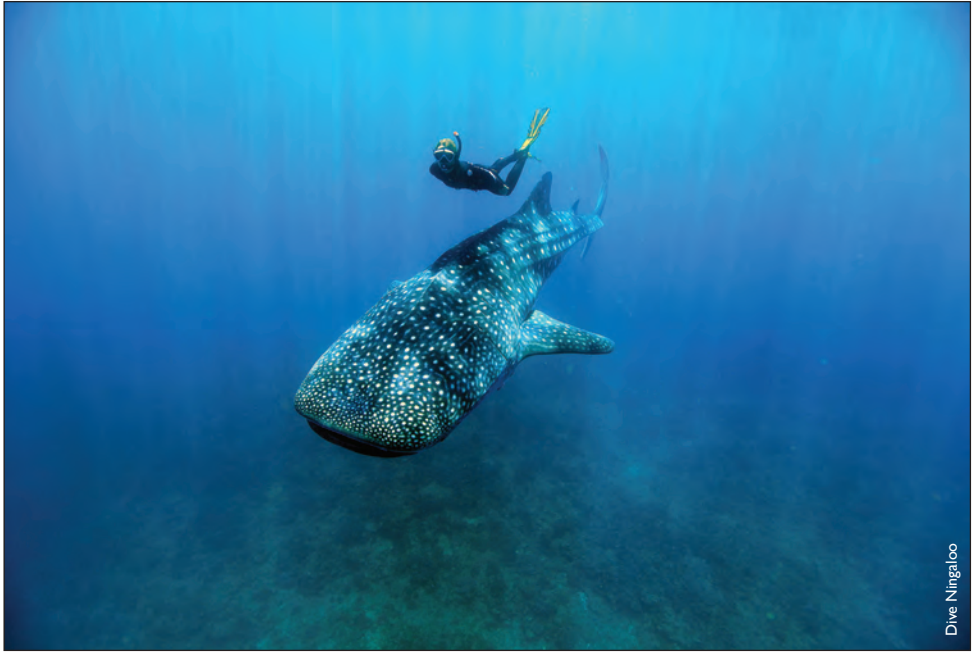
Mandu is a wall dive that drops down 20m to the sea floor and rises up, in some sections, to 12m. Extending into the wall are caverns and swim-throughs where marine life hide. Mandu has an amazing range of sea creatures including a variety of tropical fish such as large cod, groper, moray eels, octopus, scorpionfish, lionfish and large schools of trevally and barracuda.

This spot is fairly exposed so it is best dived when there is no swell.



Dive Ningaloo



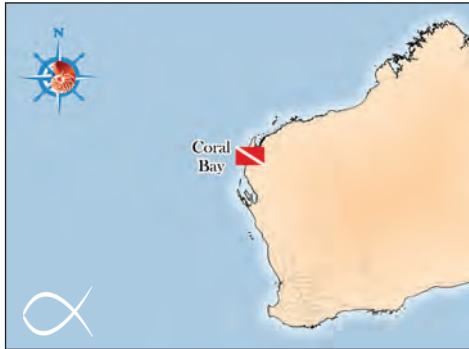


Dive Ningaloo



Johan Bosthoff

Coral Bay



Coral Bay

**GPS: (WGS84) S 23 08.553
E 113 46.147**

This small holiday town is located approximately 1 200 kilometres north of Perth and about 150 kilometres south of Exmouth. Coral Bay is situated in the Gascoyne region of Western Australia; it is a remote, dry location, classified as desert.

In 1884, the first Europeans visited the area. By 1896, a townsite reserve was gazetted to preserve the local jetty and storage facility. It was officially named 'Mauds Landing' and for years it was used as a supply depot for ingoing and outgoing goods. Coral Bay was formally settled much later, in 1968, and was named after a hotel that had

been established in the area.

Much of Coral Bay and its surrounds, including the Ningaloo Reef System, are protected by Department of Environment & Conservation regulations as a Marine Park.

Coral Bay's temperatures vary from high 30s in the summer (December to March), low to mid 30s during autumn (April and May) and spring (September to November) with winter temperatures (June to August) in the low to mid 20s. Very little rainfall is experienced at any time during the year. Winter nights can be quite cold and warm clothing is recommended.

Today Coral Bay doesn't have more than 200 permanent residents and its main industries are tourism and fishing.

Summer land temperatures: 30-42°C.

Winter land temperatures: 14-25°C.

Accommodation:

Accommodation is available in the area, including camp sites, self-catering chalets, lodges and back packers.

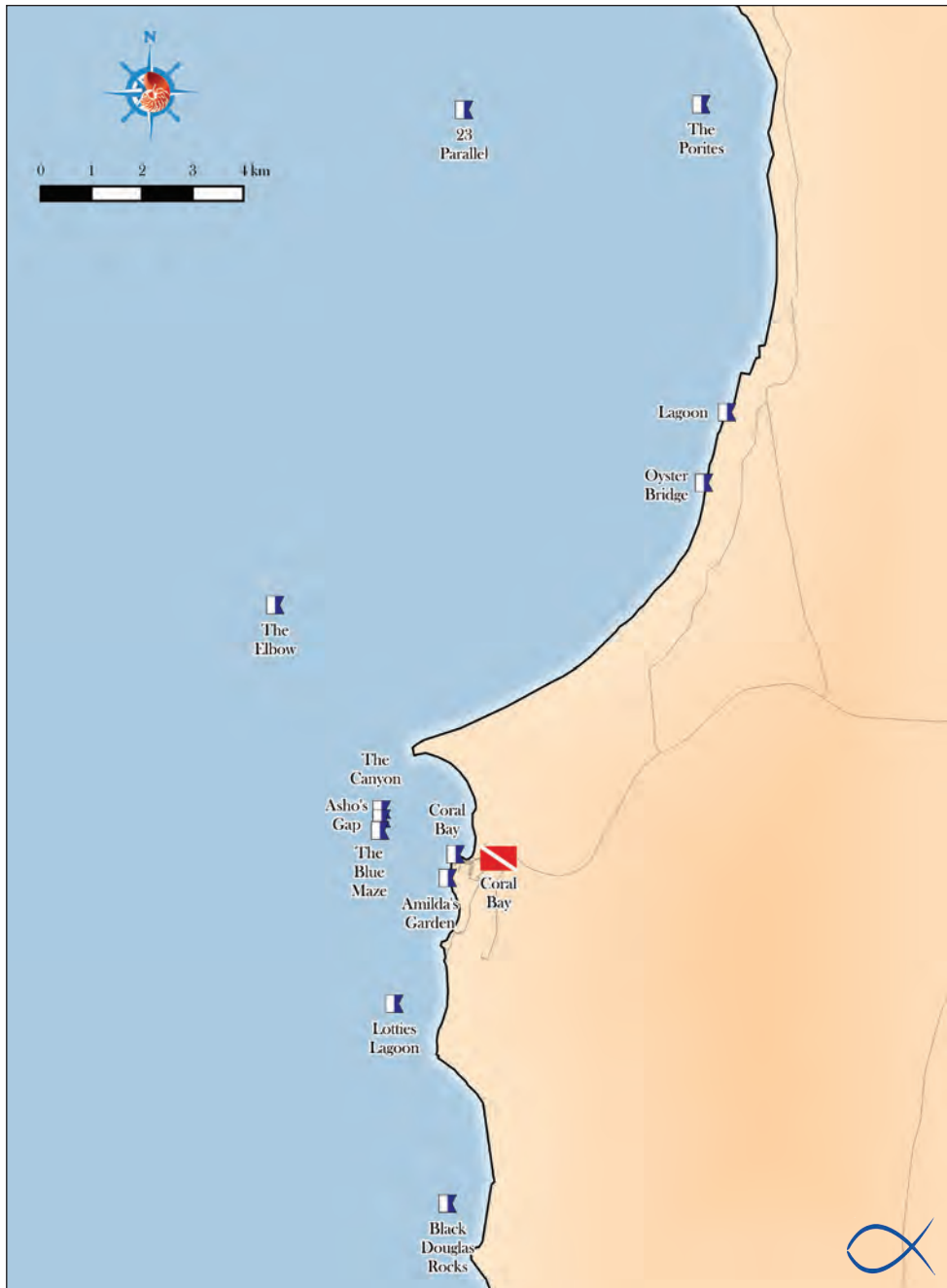
Shops and service stations:

All necessities are available at two supermarkets located at the shopping village.

Health and medical services:

There is a clinic in the area that can help you with the basic services.





Coral Bay

Activities in and around the area:

- Dolphin and whale watching
- Swimming with mantas
- Swimming with whale sharks
- Snorkelling
- 4x4 Trails
- Fishing
- Hiking Trails
- Variety of water sports

Diving & Snorkeling:

Coral Bay is located at the heart of the Ningaloo Reef. Here you can dive or snorkel over shallow lagoons and amazing coral gardens to experience a huge variety of marine life going about their daily rituals on the reef.

A variety of dive and snorkeling spots can be found here, most of which are protected as they are on the inside of the outer reef. Some spots can only be accessed by boat while others can only be accessed by 4WD.

Some spots are accessible by car and some by walking down to the beach. The beautiful turquoise waters of the Bay gives you the chance to see green turtles, loggerhead turtles, dolphins, reef sharks, dugongs and humpback whales during their annual migration as they travel close to the coastline. You may even be

lucky enough to encounter “Merv”, the resident Queensland grouper, a popular local resident that visitors to the area can meet.

If you are a diver then you can delve even further into magnificent coral gardens to discover cod, trout, moray eels, octopus, nudibranchs, sailfin catfish, frogfish and a variety of macro life. Butterflyfish greet you with a sideways glance as you immerse yourself in the wonder of the underwater world of Coral Bay.

From March through to July you have the incredible opportunity to interact with the world’s largest fish, the whale shark, during their regular annual visits to the Ningaloo Reef. Meanwhile majestic manta rays frequent these waters all year round dazzling visitors with their feeding displays, mating chains or just stopping by to get cleaned at one of a number of cleaning stations.

Summer water temperatures: 27-29°C.

Winter water temperatures: 19-23°C.

Diving facilities in the area:

- Air fills
- Dive training
- Gear rentals
- Equipment sales



DIVING & SNORKELING SPOTS

23rd Parallel



Average depth: 16m
Maximum depth: 25m

This dive spot is located on the outside of the Ningaloo reef structure, about 16 kilometres north of Coral Bay. 23rd Parallel earned its name from its location, which happens to fall on the 23rd parallel south circle of latitude.

The reef down in some areas to 25m and is covered with soft and hard coral as well as amazing sea whips and sea fans. As you swim along the wall, investigate the range of small ledges to find sleeping wobblygongs sharks, eels, scorpion fish, painted crayfish and nudibranchs.

There is a cleaning station nearby so you also have the chance to enjoy manta rays and the occasional reef shark swimming at this spot.

23rd Parallel is very exposed to swell so it is best to dive this site when the swell is less than one metre with no wind.

The Porites



Average depth: 7m
Maximum depth: 11m

This dive and snorkeling spot is about 16 kilometres north east of Coral Bay. The dive and snorkelling spot is on the inside of the Ningaloo reef. It is only accessible by boat.

As the name implies, The Porites is a dive and snorkel spot covered with magnificent Porite coral, also known as Finger Coral. The reef structure is surrounded by sand and hosts a variety of interesting marine life such as colourful nudibranchs, sea turtles, batfish, trevally and on some occasions, majestic manta rays that swim

past.

Because this spot is on the inside of the reef, the outer reef is able to act as a protective barrier against waves and surge. This is a great snorkel spot in the right conditions, but it tends to be preferred as a dive spot.



Lagoon



Average depth: 2m
Maximum depth: 4m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 23 03.449
E 113 49.213**

This snorkeling spot can only be reached by a 12 kilometre 4WD trip north of Coral Bay. There is a parking area very close to the entry point.

When entering the water keep the rock ledges on your left hand side and follow the ledge around the point. Halfway through your dive turn around and follow the ledge back to shore.

There are also many places for you to explore on the inside of the lagoon where there are small scattered reef sections adorned with coral growth and nestled between sea grass. This is a good place to see green sea turtles.

It is better to dive or snorkel this site during low tide and when there is not much wind or current. The reef barrier offers some protection when a southerly wind is blowing.

Coral Bay



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Oyster Bridge



Average depth: 2m

Maximum depth: 4m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 23 04.254
E 113 48.945**

Oyster Bridge has a shore entry and is about 10 kilometres north of Coral Bay. This is one of the loveliest snorkel spots in the area and is like a swimming pool during low tide.

When entering the site try to stay on the inside of the reef structure unless it is a very calm day when exploring outside the reef will be safe. There are also some bommies with coral growth on them, but most of the marine life are found on the main reef formation.

At Oyster Bridge you can see a variety of juvenile fish species, shovelnose rays and the occasional green turtle.

It is better to snorkel this site during low tide when there is little or no wind or current. The outer reef offers some protection when a southerly wind is blowing.

The Elbow



Average depth: 16m

Maximum depth: 20m

Heading outside Ningaloo Reef, you will find a popular spot called The Elbow. This dive spot is located on the outer reef system, about 6 kilometres North West from Coral Bay. Here the reef is composed of a range of flatish bommies and a small wall, which you can dive along.

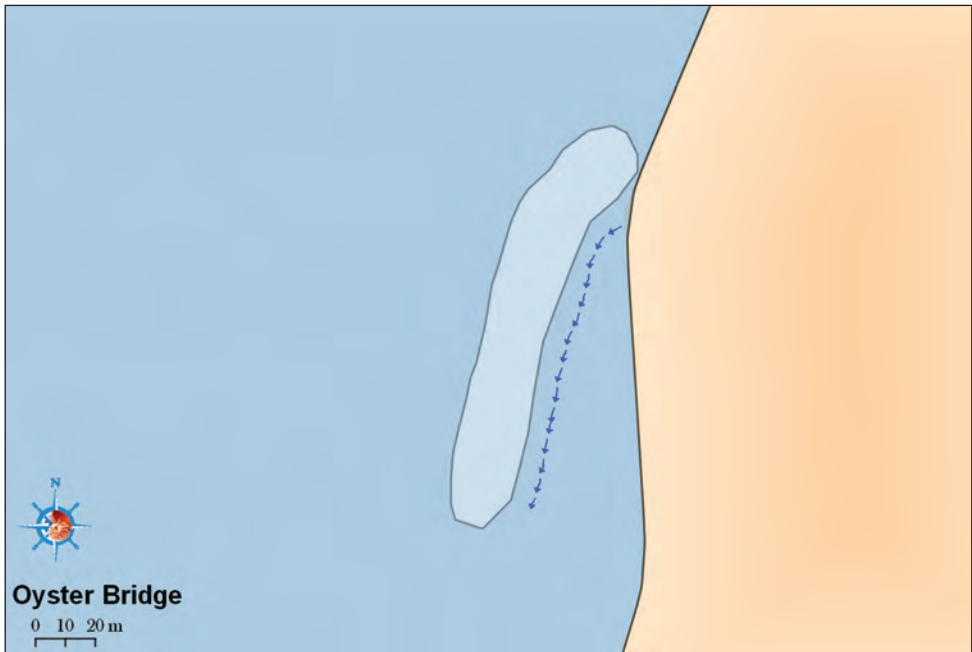
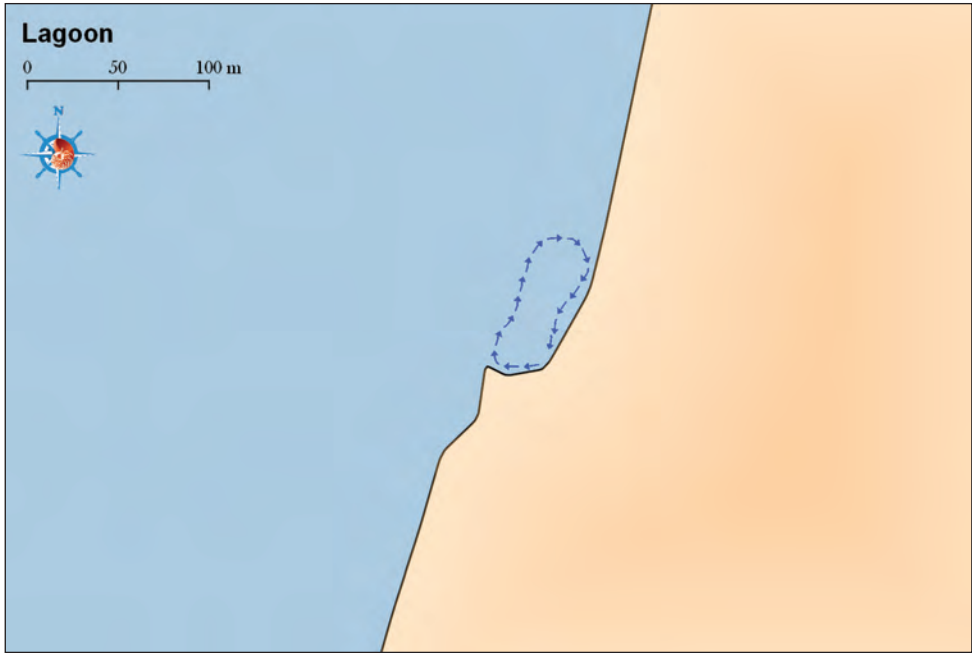
Although very dependent on the weather, this spot offers the opportunity to dive amongst huge schools of sweetlips, fusiliers and trevally. It is also a spot for seeing a variety of nudibranchs and curious eels.

Towards the shallow section of the reef is a cleaning station that is popular with manta rays, bull rays, turtles and a variety of fish life which means that your safety stop will never be more interesting!

This dive spot is very exposed and is tricky in swell so it is better to dive here when the swell is less than one metre and there is no wind.



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Coral Bay

The Canyon



Average depth: 8m
Maximum depth: 12m

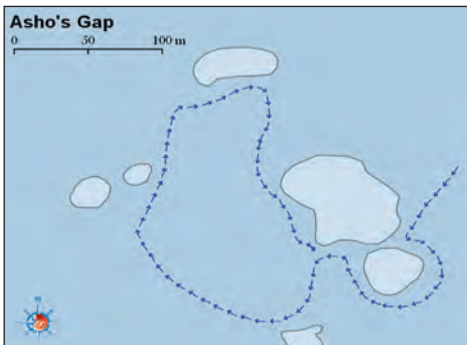
This dive and snorkeling spot is about 2 kilometres north west of Coral Bay and situated on Ningaloo's inner reef.

As you meander your way through the start of your dive you will be surrounded by amazing coral structures and will be greeted by some

curious fish. The Canyon then opens up into a huge sand patch containing a number of coral structures covering the outline of the sea floor. Here you may find yourself engulfed by huge schools of trevally happy to share the dive with you.

This is a great site for both macro life and schools of pelagic fish. The Canyon will always surprise you! This is also a great spot for snorkeling on the shallower sections.

This spot is very well sheltered because it is on the inside of the reef, enabling the outer reef to act as a protective barrier against waves and surge.



Asho's Gap



Average depth: 6m
Maximum depth: 12m

This is one of the most popular dive and snorkeling spots at Coral Bay. It is situated on the inner reef about 2 kilometres from shore.

Asho's Gap boasts the most amazing coral garden structures along with an abundance of marine life. Here you can find huge coral gardens containing many species of coral that are surrounded by large coral bommies.

The spot is frequently visited by huge schools of fish including, but not exclusive to, sea bass, trevally, barracuda, fusiliers, parrotfish, surgeon fish and spangled emperor.

The best part of Asho's Gap is the incredible shark cleaning station where you may have the opportunity to see grey reef sharks being cleaned by the local cleaner wrasse. Many resident turtles will also provide you with a great opportunity for photos!

This spot is very well sheltered because it is on the inside of the reef. Its shallower sections are also great for snorkeling.

The dive and snorkeling site is the highlight of Coral Bay.

The Blue Maze



Average depth: 6m

Maximum depth: 7m

This dive and snorkeling spot is about 2 kilometres north west of Coral Bay and situated on the inner reef.

This spot is named for the often-confusing array of beautiful coral bommies surrounded by reef formations, which make you feel as though you are diving through a maze.

The Blue Maze is a wonder, it hosts some of the most pristine coral you will encounter in the Coral Bay region.

The Blue Maze is a wonderful site for marine life encounters and many juvenile species can be found all over the reef.

There is also an abundance of green sea turtles that stay in the area.

This spot is very well sheltered because it is on the inside of the reef enabling the outer reef to act as a protective barrier against waves and surge.

Coral Bay



Average depth: 4m

Maximum depth: 7m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 23 08.484
E 113 46.072**

This dive spot is located at Coral Bay's Town Beach in Bill's Bay, which can be accessed from Robinson Street. Park your car in the parking areas, kit up and walk to the beach. You will notice the water gets suddenly deeper as the temperature gets cooler.

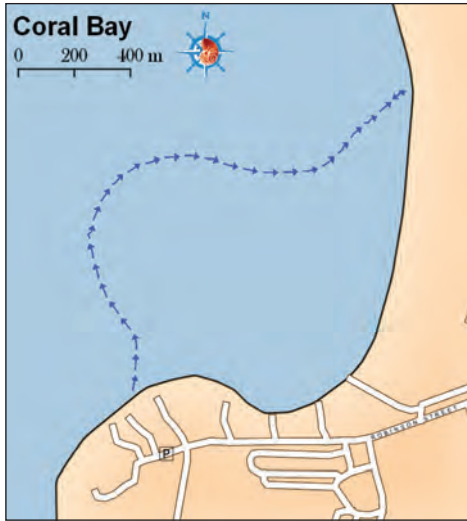
The sheltered waters of Bill's Bay provide a fantastic snorkeling and diving beach for beginners. After only a short swim from the beach you will find an amazing diversity of marine creatures, reef fish and coral gardens.

At this spot you can normally see stingrays seeking food in the sand or turtles cruising by looking for the next patch of algae on which to feast. This particular spot is close to the boat mooring area so please be aware of boat traffic.



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Coral Bay



Amilda's Garden



Average depth: 3m
Maximum depth: 7m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 23 08.754
 E 113 45.982**

Amilda's Garden is located just around the point at Coral Bay's main beach in Bill's Bay. Park your car in the parking areas and kit up. Walk out to the point and then walk about 500 metres south on the beach to the next point. Snorkeling from this point allows access to some fantastic coral bommies that are covered in hard corals, which look like a rose garden. And that is how this site got its name, it is named after a very special person – Amilda. Walk out to the end of the point and enter the water. It gets deep really quickly so if you are a beginner, swim to the section of the reef near to the point which is shallower. Here you will see huge school of trevally, fusiliers, spangled

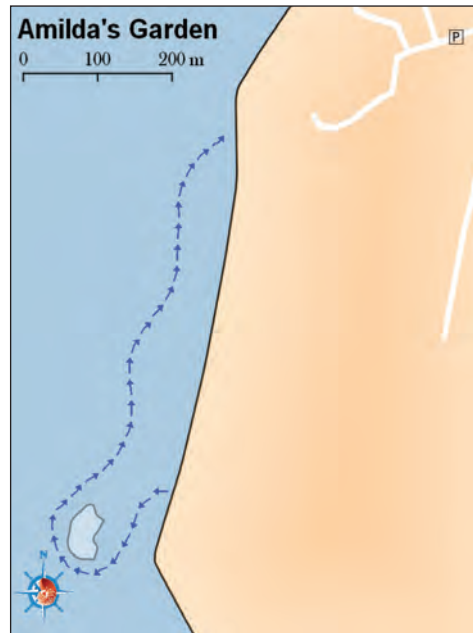
emperor, blue green chromis, barracuda, parrotfish, surgeonfish and sea bass. This site can be dived or snorkeled at almost any time because it is very well protected. Remember to stay clear of the deeper waters as there is a lot of boating activity. It is an ideal spot for beginners.

Lotties Lagoon



Average depth: 8m
Maximum depth: 11m

This is one of the better snorkeling sites in the area and is situated on the inner Ningaloo reef section, about 3 kilometres south of Coral Bay. The waters are normally calm here due to protection from the outer reef. Lotties Lagoon has a sandy bottom scattered with coral formations as well as a wall of scattered



bommies in the shallower part of the area. This spot is famous for its macro life. There is an abundance of marine life, including eels, frogfish, nudibranchs, scorpion fish, lion fish, barramundi cod and a huge variety of juvenile species.

There are usually a number of sting rays and shovel nose rays that can be found in the sand patches, and the spot is also popular with green sea turtles.

If you are lucky, you may just be in the right place at the right time to experience an unexpected visit from a hammerhead shark, leopard shark, tawny nurse shark or maybe even a tiger shark! The shallower areas of Lotties Lagoon are great for snorkelers.

Black Douglas Rocks



Average depth: 7m

Maximum depth: 9m

This is one of most southerly dive spots from Coral Bay. It is about 7 kilometres away and is located on the inner Ningaloo reef structure.

Black Douglas Rocks is a favourite with divers, as it started to flourish with both coral and marine life over the past years. Consisting of a sandy with various small coral colonies and two beautiful big bommies, this is an interesting site to experience.

The spot even has its own “bat cave” which houses batfish, sweetlips, butterfly fish, cod and occasionally a Queensland groper. Be on the lookout for wobblygongs sleeping on the sand and huge green turtles swimming past.

It is also a great spot to see nudibranchs and octopus.

This spot is very well sheltered because it is on the inside of the reef enabling the outer reef to act as a protective barrier against waves and surge.



Shark Bay



Shark Bay

**GPS: (WGS84) S 25 55.805
E 113 32.286**

Shark Bay is located at the most western point of the Australian continent and is about 800 kilometres north of Perth. This World Heritage Site is Australia's largest marine embayment stretching along more than 1500 kilometres of coastline. The marine park itself covers an area of approximately 8 000 square kilometres.

In 1699 English explorer William Dampier visited the area and gave Shark Bay its name. It seemed he felt that the area was infested by sharks, or was it dolphins? The area is still famous today for its resident population of bottlenose dolphins, which come in for a daily feed at Monkey Mia where they swim into the shallow waters to

interact with people and pick up some fish. Shark Bay is enclosed by numerous sand bars, islands and two long peninsulas. The islands in the area include Faure Island in the eastern gulf, Dirk Hartog island on the western side and, about 50 kilometres north of Dirk Hartog, are Dorre Island and Barrier Island.

Denham town, which was once a pearling port, is Shark Bay's main population centre and most activities take place out of here. The area also hosts one of the most primitive forms of life to exist on earth, these are pillars or boulders of matted blue/green algae known as stromatolites which can be seen in Hamelin Pool.

Humpback whales use the bay as a staging post in their annual migration. The bay is home to more than 6 000 turtles, which nest on the beaches around the bay. The bay is also home to 10 000 dugongs, which feed on the extensive sea grass beds that are in Shark Bay.

The best time to visit Shark Bay is from June to October as the winds are lighter and daytime temperature is in the mid-20s C. The summer months can be extremely hot.

Summer land temperatures: 30-40°C.

Winter land temperatures: 14-25°C.

Accommodation:

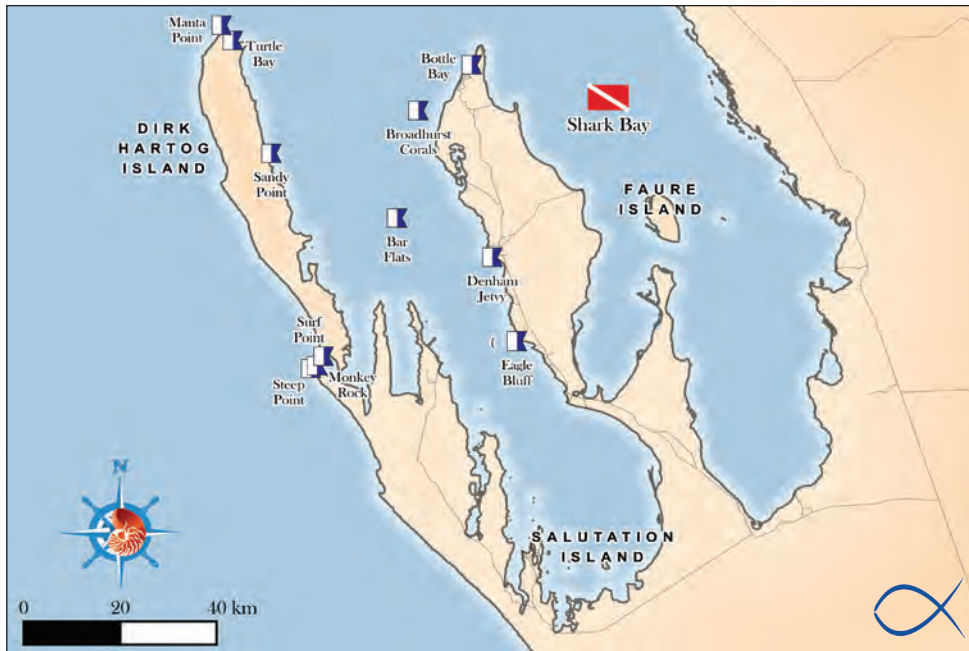
A variety of accommodation is available in the area, including campsites, hotels, self-catering chalets, lodges, back packers, B&B's and guest houses.



Johan Boshoff



Johan Boshoff



Shops and service stations:

There are small towns scattered around the shores of Shark Bay. The main town in Shark Bay is Denham where visitors will find the visitor centre and all necessary shops.

Health and medical services:

Depending on where you are in the area you will find different facilities. It is best to ask the local community when you are in the area.

Activities in and around the area:

- Dolphin and whale watching
- Dugong Cruises
- Flights
- Snorkeling
- 4x4 Trails
- Fishing
- Hiking trails
- Variety of water sports

Diving & Snorkeling:

Marine life flourishes in this shallow bay. Most of the sea floor inside Shark Bay is either carpets of sea grass or sand with an average depth of only 10 meters. The Bay's interior does not really attract snorkelers and divers due to its depth and the fact that there are better locations outside the bay in the open ocean.

The best sites are predominantly restricted to small and often remote patches requiring you to travel very long distances, either by boat or 4WDs, to access them. As its name suggests Shark Bay is known for its sharks, as well as its turtle population. Many turtles nest on the beaches and they are a major food source for the sharks.

Shark Bay is shallow and many spots are accessible from the shore while most diving is restricted to inside the bay. The main reason why diving and snorkeling is not that popular here is because of the size of the World Heritage Site, which means you have to travel long distances, as well as the diving schedules, which are very dependent on tides and rough

Shark Bay

sea conditions. The Shark Bay area has many reef structures and off shore islands as well as a number off shore fringing coral reefs dotted along the outer coast for divers to explore. Diving conditions are generally best during winter and spring, when the climate is pleasant and the winds light.

Summer water temperatures: 27-29°C.

Winter water temperatures: 19-23°C.

DIVING & SNORKELING SPOTS

Manta Point



Average depth: 15m

Maximum depth: 24m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 25 27.853
E 112 58.145**

Manta Point is about 2 kilometres from the most northern point of Dirk Hartog Island in Shark Bay and about 80 kilometres from the town of Denham. This dive spot is a wall and the reef structure with canyons, gullies, caves and swim-throughs for you to explore.

The main attraction at this spot are the cleaning stations frequented by manta rays. Other fish species that can be seen here are filefish, gobies, blennies, wrasse, boxfish, pufferfish and rock cod. You could also encounter sea snakes, wobbegongs and reef sharks, and perhaps even one of the bigger shark species.

This is a one of the best spots to dive in the area if you can get the right conditions: no current and no swell, as currents can be very strong here.

Turtle Bay



Average depth: 4m

Maximum depth: 5m

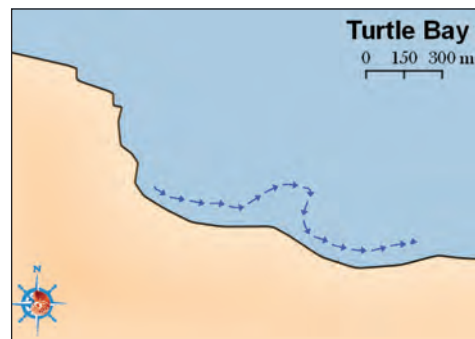
**GPS: (WGS84) S 25 29.684
E 112 59.559**

This snorkeling spot is located in a bay on the most northern point of Dirk Hartog Island, just to the east of the Cape Inscription Lighthouse. Turtle bay is accessible either by boat or by a ferry from Denham followed by a drive in a 4WD. Just remember, the island is about 75 kilometres in length.

Park your car close to the entry point and kit up. The snorkel spot has a very easy entrance and exit point which enables you to walk straight in from the beach to start your dive on a gentle slope that gets gradually deeper.

Swim to your right and keep the beach on your right hand side. This is a flat-topped limestone reef with a variety of marine life along the walls. The walls are covered with a number of species of hard and soft corals. The beach is a well know nesting beach for turtles and they are often seen in the waters. Sharks and large pelagic fish can also be seen over the reef.

The best time to dive this dive spot is with a south-westerly wind, which enables the island to protect you, or when the currents are not very strong.





Bottle Bay



Average depth: 2m

Maximum depth: 4m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 25 32.608
E 113 29.420**

This snorkeling spot is almost on the northern most end of Francois Peron National Park, about 45 kilometres from Denham. It is accessible either by boat or by a drive through the park with a 4WD. There are a couple of beach access points from the camping area. Park your car close to the entry point and head down to the beach.

From the beach you will see rock formations close to shore which you can snorkel, but the main reef structure is 50m north west of the entry point. The reef structure is covered with colourful sponges and corals. Around the reef are sea grass beds and rocky outcrops. There is a wide variety of tropical reef fish at this snorkel spot.

The best time to snorkel this spot is with a south-easterly wind, which enables the land to protect you, and when the currents are not very strong.



Broadhurst Corals



Average depth: 3m

Maximum depth: 5m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 25 38.110
E 113 22.743**

Broadhurst Corals is a chain of 3 reef formations that run in a east to west direction and are about 5 kilometres from the main land. To get to this dive and snorkeling spot you have to take approximately a 40 kilometres boat ride in a north westerly direction from the town of Denham.

Broadhurst Corals is almost 8 kilometres by 2 kilometres in diameter and characterized by a sandy bottom with sea grass beds interspersed with rock formations of varying sizes. There are soft corals and sponges here but these are out

Shark Bay

numbered by hard corals such as plate and brain corals as well as huge crops of staghorn corals. You can see many tropical fish that live around the rocks and corals. Sea snakes, dugongs, dolphins and sharks are also sometimes spotted here.

Depending on the direction of the wind, anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the reef and swim towards it. The best time to dive this spot is when there is no swell and the winds are not strong.



Sandy Point



Average depth: 3m
Maximum depth: 5m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 25 43.240
E 113 04.360**

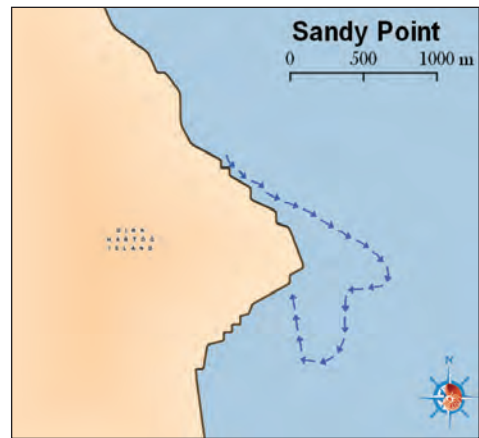
This dive and snorkeling spot is on the most eastern side of Dirk Hartog Island. You can either dive this site from a boat or you can put your 4WD on the ferry that runs from Denham and then drive up there. This spot is about 50 kilometres by boat from Denham.

Park your car close to the entry point and kit up or if you are on a boat anchor on the sandy patches about 2 kilometres from the point and explore the outer reef. When entering the water from the beach swim about 100m west and then

follow the rock formation south. Your choice of exit will be dependent on the current; either you can swim back to the entry point, or if the currents are strong exit anywhere along the beach and walk back to your start point.

The site is characterised by rocks scattered over the sea floor, around which a variety of marine life can be seen.

The best time to dive this spot is with a south-westerly wind, which enables the island to protect you, or when there is no swell and the winds are not strong. Currents can be a big problem here.



Bar Flats



Average depth: 4m
Maximum depth: 6m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 25 51.014
E 113 20.082**

This dive and snorkeling spot is situated in the western gulf, almost in the middle of Dirk Hartog Island and Francois Peron National Park. It is about 20 kilometres north west of Denham.

The area is characterised by patches of corals surrounded by sand. A variety of smaller tropical reef fish can be seen on the reef, such as anemone

fish, coral trout, angelfish, surgeonfish, damselfish and many groupers. At Bar Flats, you must take your time and look for the smaller marine life living on the reef. The occasional stingray, reef shark and turtle can also be seen here. Bar Flats is fairly exposed and so it is best dived when the swell is low and the winds are not strong.



Denham Jetty



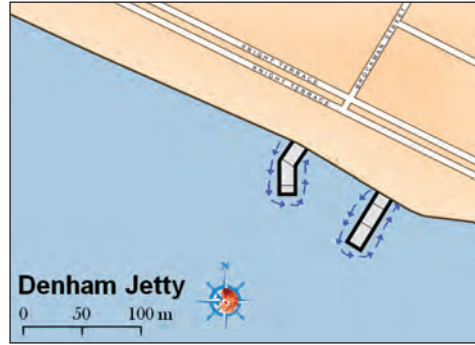
Average depth: 4m
Maximum depth: 6m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 25 55.708
E 113 31.992**

In the town of Denham you will find the original 100m long recreational jetty that was built in 1906, and about 80m north west of this you will also find another, newer jetty that is about 50m in length. Both of these jetties are located on Knight Terrace.

You can park very close to either of the two jetties to kit up before walking the short distance to the entry points. They both have very easy entrance and exit points; walk straight in from the beach near to the jetties and start your dive on the gentle slope that gets gradually deeper. There is some coral growth on the pylons and a variety of marine life takes shelter under the jetties.

This site is protected by the bay and so it can be dived or snorkeled in most conditions, but it is better to dive this spot when the swell is low and the winds are not too strong. Halfway through your dive time or air, turn around and follow the pylons back to the shore. There is boat traffic in this area so dive with caution.



Surf Point



Average depth: 2m
Maximum depth: 4m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 26 07.473
E 113 10.896**

Surf Point is at the southern point of Dirk Hartog Island. It is about 60 kilometres from the town Denham by boat. The area can be reached by 4WD but it is highly recommend that you access this spot by boat due to strong currents in the area, and because of the amount of effort it takes to get here with a 4WD.

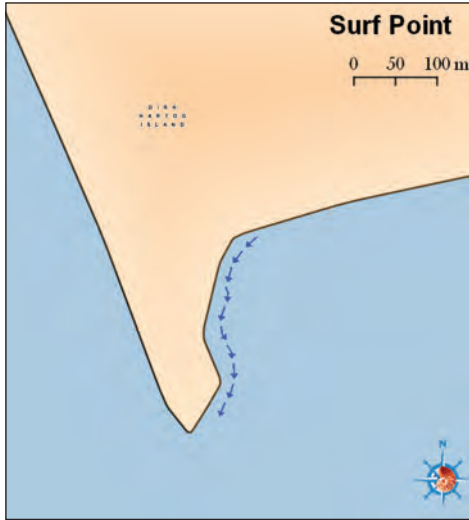
It is better to anchor your boat on the sandy patches on the eastern side of the rock formation and swim towards the reef. Always try to stay on the inner side of the reef barrier.

Surf Point is characterised by scattered bommies covered in a good amount of coral and surrounded by an abundance of fish, all which is

Shark Bay

in shallow water making this a really good spot for snorkeling.

The best time to snorkel Surf Point is with a north westerly wind, which enables the island to protect you, or when there is no swell and the winds are not that strong. Currents can be a big problem here.



Monkey Rock



Average depth: 10m

Maximum depth: 19m

GPS: (WGS84) S 26 08.605 E 113 10.086

This dive and snorkeling spot is on the northern side of Steep Point, it lies in the channel between the main land and Dirk Hartog Island. Either take a 60 kilometre boat ride to this destination or 220 kilometres drive from Denham in a high clearance 4WD. It is highly recommended that you do this spot with a boat due to the strong currents in the area.

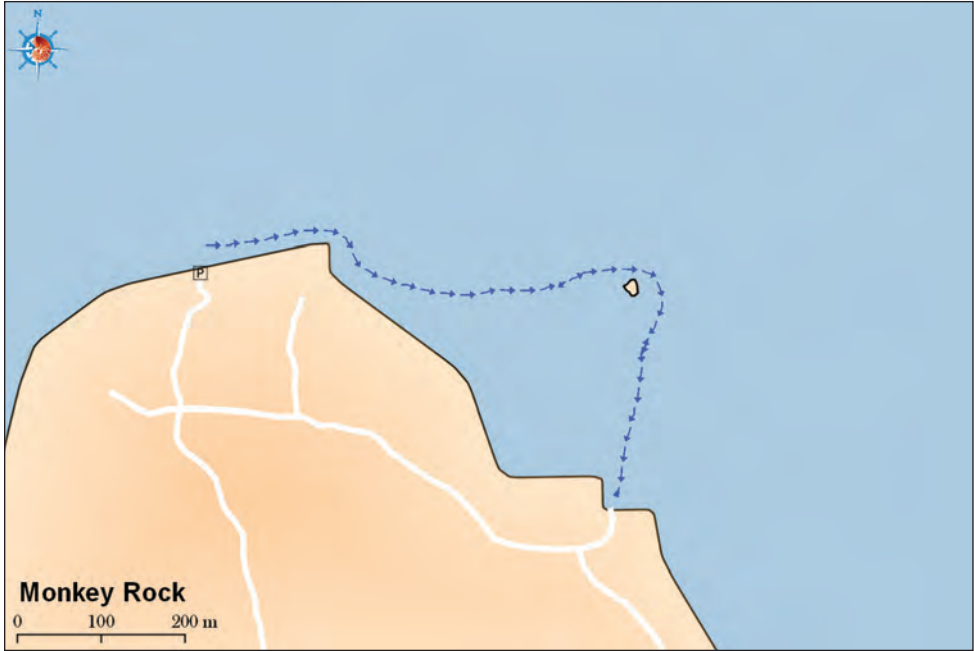
Where you drop into the water depends on

whether an incoming or outgoing current is running. When it is an incoming current drop in on the eastern side of Monkey Rock and drift back in to the bay. When it is an outgoing current, drop in on the inside of Monkey Rock and drift with the current.

There is a reef which covers the sea floor at Monkey Rock and, because the spot lies in the mouth of the channel, it attracts pelagic fish, sharks, large cod, grouper, tuna and even mackerel.

It is very important that the boat stays with you the whole time when you dive here as the currents are strong and capable of taking you out into the open ocean. It is best to dive here when the swell is low and the winds are not strong.





Shark Bay



Steep Point



Average depth: 18m
Maximum depth: 27m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 26 08.941
E 113 09.332**

This spot looks as beautiful from the boat as it does underwater for there are impressive 200m high cliffs and massive sand dunes here. To get to Steep Point it is a 60 kilometre boat ride from Denham.

At this dive spot you will find a wall, which drops down to 27m. It is adorned with canyons, gullies, caves and swim-throughs for you to explore. There is an abundance of marine life at Steep Point, such as turtles, trevally, coral trout, groupers and even the Queensland grouper. Sharks are also commonly seen in this area. Because this dive is ocean side it has no protection and so the best time to dive this spot is when the swell is low and the winds are not strong. The area is known for its strong currents.

Eagle Bluff



Average depth: 2m
Maximum depth: 4m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 26 05.712
E 113 35.056**

This snorkeling spot is about 25 kilometres south of Denham and is accessible by car. Park your car in the most southern car park and walk down to the beach.

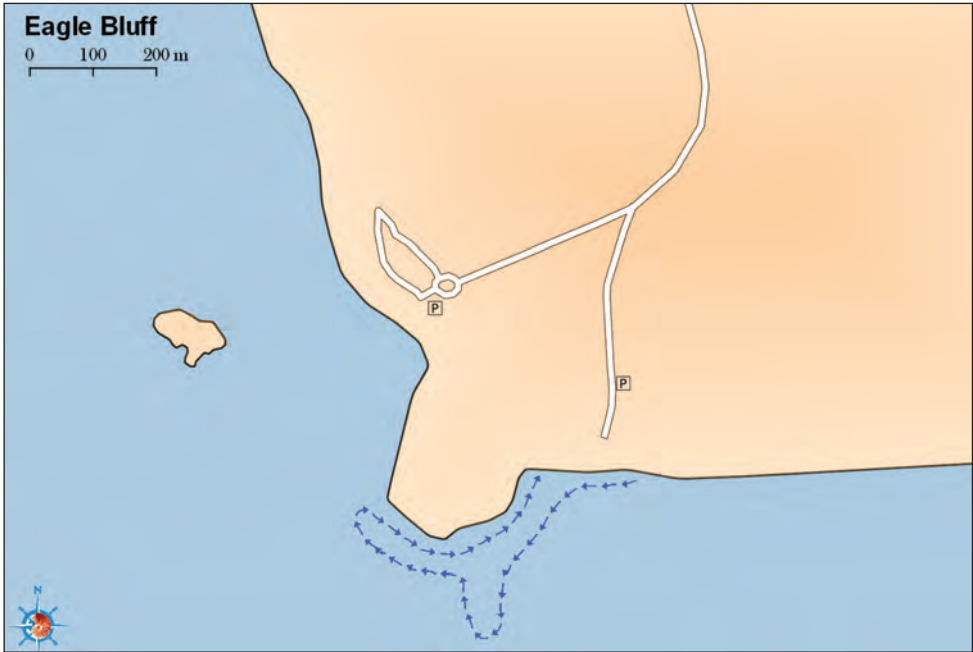
Eagle Bluff has a very easy entrance and exit. You can walk straight from the beach into the water and start your dive on a gentle slope that gets gradually deeper as you swim further from shore.

This snorkel spot is characterised by bommies with hard coral growth amongst seagrass beds. You will see a great number of fish here, such as big schools of coral trout, tuskfish and if you are really lucky you might see a dugong.

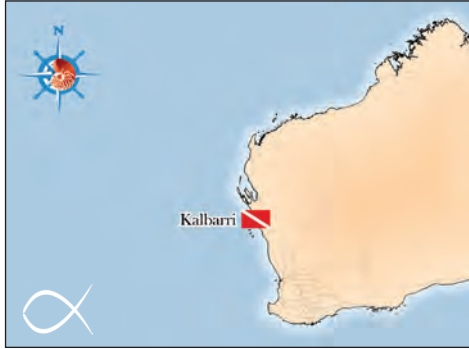
Swim in a westerly direction, keep the rock ledges on your right hand side and follow the ledge to the end of the point. Halfway turn around and follow the ledge back to the entry point.

This is an excellent spot for beginners in good conditions. It is best to snorkel here when there are no winds or when the wind comes from a northerly direction.





Kalbarri



Kalbarri

**GPS: (WGS84) S 27 42.617
E 114 09.764**

The town of Kalbarri is located at the mouth of the Murchison River, about 600 kilometres north of Perth and roughly 170 kilometres from Geraldton. Stretching for 820 kilometres, the Murchison River is the second longest river in Western Australia. The town itself was named after an Aboriginal man from the Murchison tribe, who also shared his name with an edible seed found in the area.

In the early 20th century fishing and crayfish vessels moored along the river at a time when these industries were the backbone of employment in Kalbarri. At a global scale however, fish resources have been exploited demanding new fishing regulations, which have

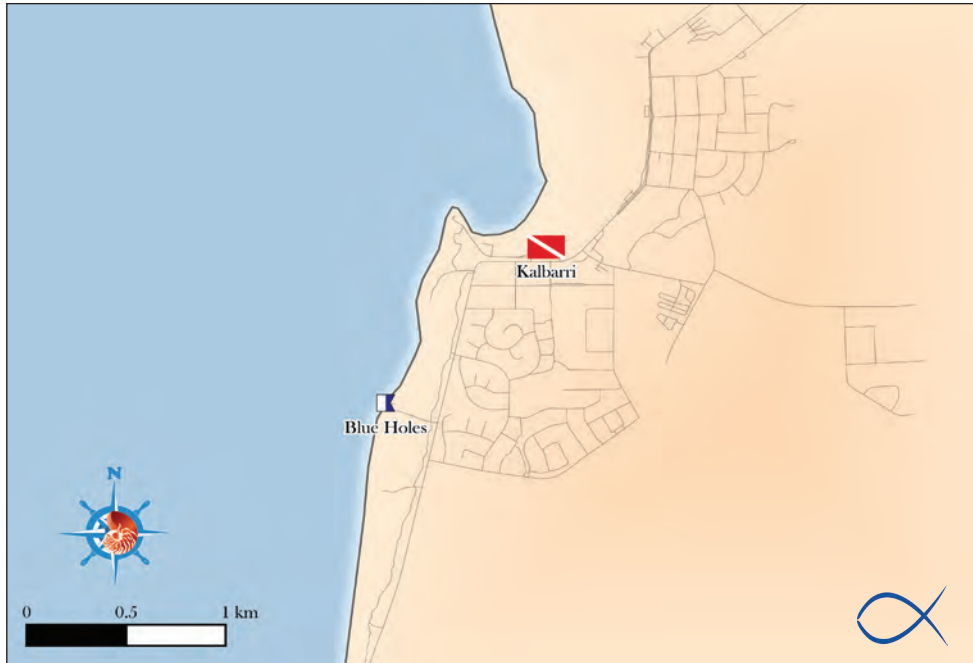
changed the whole industry in this area. Today the town relies completely on tourism for income. Near and the around the town you will find the Kalbarri National Park and the Murchison River gorge, which runs for nearly 80 kilometres making this area of Western Australia unique. The Kalbarri area is well known for its more than 800 species of wild flowers which bloom from late winter through to early summer with peak times in August and September. The park is open all year round and you can enjoy activities such as picnicking, sightseeing, fishing, boating and bushwalking.

Just outside the town there are extraordinary coastal cliffs that drop more than 100m straight into the ocean. Hawks Head look-out offers spectacular views over Kalbarri National Park.

Hutt Lagoon, better known as 'Pink Lake', is about 50 kilometres south of the town. The lake is about 14 kilometres in length, around two kilometres wide and runs parallel with the coast. It is a salt lake with a pink hue due to the presence of the carotenoid producing algae that is also used as food colouring and is a source of Vitamin A. Today the lagoon contains the world's largest microalgae production plant.

Temperatures can be very high from December through to April while winters are warm with moderate rainfall and summers are hot and dry with temperatures that frequently exceed 40°C inland. Monthly rainfall levels are low with most rain falling from May through to August. Heavy rainfall may cause the roads to the gorge to be closed from time to time.





Summer land temperatures: 28-38°C.

Winter land temperatures: 14-25°C.

Accommodation:

A variety of accommodation is available in the area, including camp sites, hotels, self-catering chalets, lodges, back packers, B&B's and guest houses.

Shops and service stations:

Like any major city or town in Western Australia a variety of shops are available.

Health and medical services:

There are world-class general practitioners, clinics and hospitals in this area.

Activities in and around the area:

- Snorkelling
- 4x4 Trails
- Fishing
- Hiking Trails

Diving & Snorkeling:

Kalbarri is not a very big diving and snorkeling destination due to the location of the town on the Western Australia coastline. The lack of reef and reef structures in the area make this more of a crayfishing spot than a diving spot. The diving and snorkeling here is very dependent on the weather conditions and it is very vulnerable to swell and surge. Bad visibility is a common problem in the area.

The remote coastline of Kalbarri and its surroundings played a part in the events that caused many tragic shipwrecks along this coastline. One of the more famous shipwrecks is the Batavia. This vessel was wrecked on the Abrolhos Islands and was made famous by the subsequent mutiny and massacre that took place among the survivors. Some of the mutineers on the island were sentenced to death, some taken home for sentencing and two were cast ashore at Kalbarri.

The Zuytdorp, a Dutch vessel, was also wrecked along the high limestone cliffs in 1712

Kalbarri



between Kalbarri and Steep Point while voyaging to the Batavia. It carried 200 passengers and a very rich cargo of 248 000 silver coins. Thousands of coins have been recovered over the years in and around the wreck. Today the exact circumstances that surround the Zuytdrop's sinking remain a mystery as there were no survivors to tell the tale.

Summer water temperatures: 19-24°C.
Winter water temperatures: 16-18°C.

SNORKELING SPOT

Blue Holes



Average depth: 1m
Maximum depth: 4m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 27 43.068
E 114 09.273**

This is the only snorkeling spot in the area and it is located at the end of Blue Holes Road, about one kilometre south of the town of Kalbarri. You can kit up in the car park and head down to the

beach to reach the spot which is right opposite the picnic area.

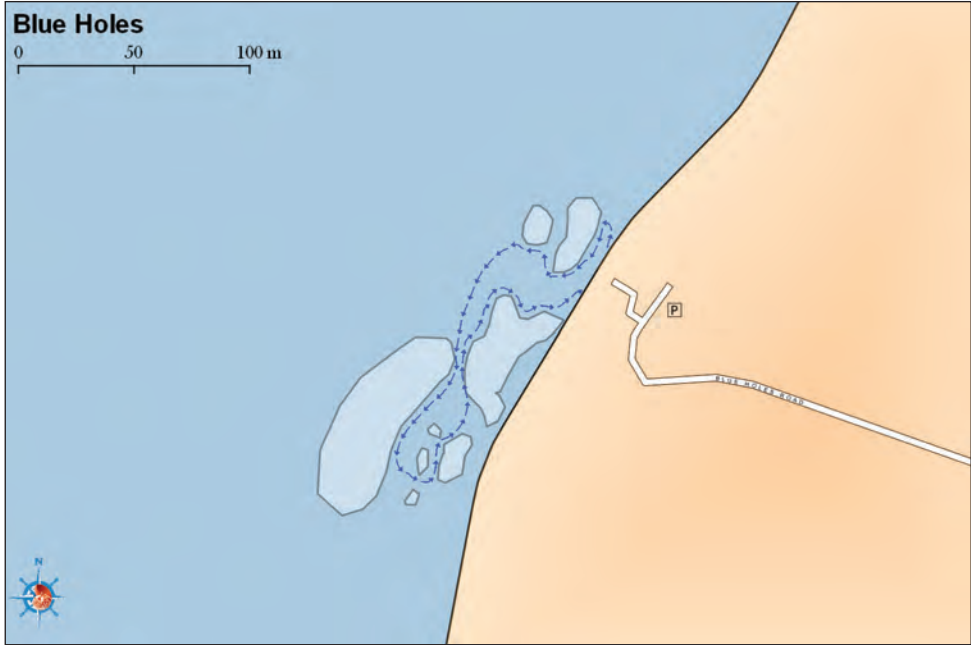
You will see the outline of the reef and you can decide which direction to go to. Just follow the reef structure and do not go on the outside of the Blue Holes reef system as it usually has a strong surge with zero visibility.

The limestone reef is part of an inshore coastal reef structure which is mostly submerged and forms big pools for you to explore. The reef is covered with seaweed, small caves and overhangs. Here you can find an abundance of marine life and fish such as darts, moon wrasse, gold spot, butterflyfish, humbugs and plenty of crayfish. Remember that it is in a Fish Habitat Protection Area so make sure you are aware of updated guidelines.

The best time to snorkel this site is when there is no swell, the winds are not too strong and the tide is low tide which enables the outer ledges of the reef to protect you from wave action.

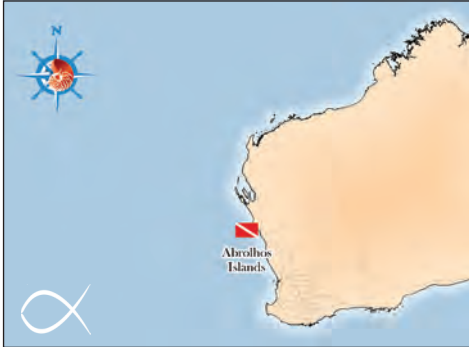
It is an ideal place for kids when the conditions are correct.





Johan Boshoff

Abrolhos Islands



Abrolhos Islands

GPS: (WGS84) S 28 27.321 E 113 41.706

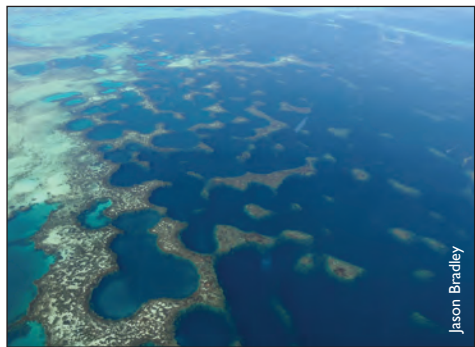
The Houtman Abrolhos Islands, commonly known as the Abrolhos Islands, consist of 122 individual islands. The group of islands is located about 50 kilometres west of the town Geraldton. This island group is divided into three sections known as the Wallabi Group, Easter Group and Pelsaert Group.

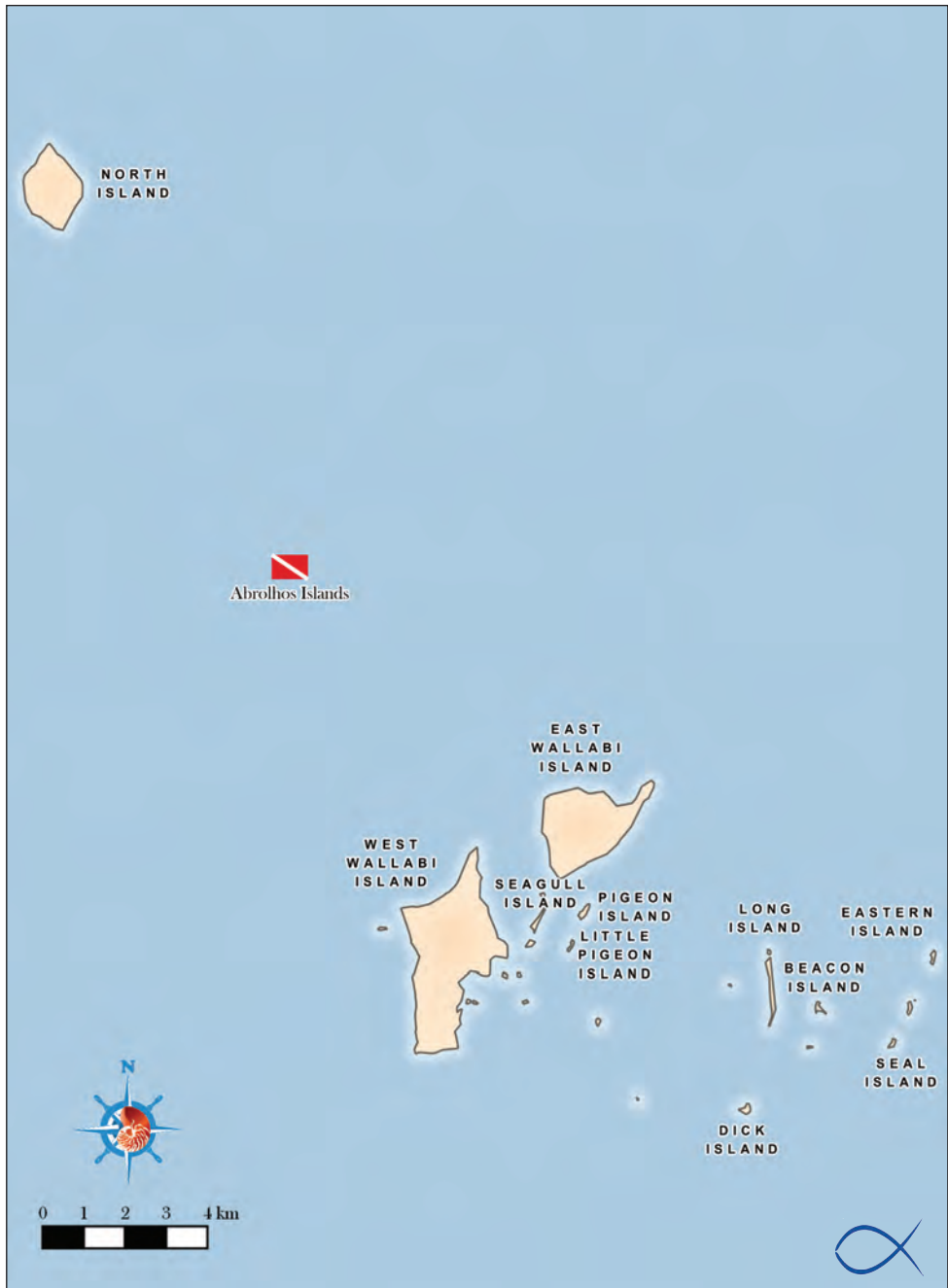
The Wallabi Group is the most northerly group of islands. The biggest islands in this group are North Island, Beacon Island, West Wallabi Island and East Wallabi Island. In addition, these islands are the site of the epic shipwreck story of the Batavia.

Easter Group is the group of islands that lies

southeast of the Wallabi Group. The islands in this group include Alexander Island, Morley Island, Suomi Island, Rat Island and Wooded Island. The Pelsaert Group are the most southerly islands in the range. Some of the islands in this group include Basile Island, Middle Island, Square Island, Long Island, and Pelsaert Island. These groups of islands are known as the most southerly true coral reefs in the Indian Ocean and one of the highest latitude reef systems in the world.

The history of the islands naming is an interesting story, because of the various people who claim to have named it. The name by which we know the islands today is gained from Dutch explorer Frederick de Houtman who, on discovery of the islands, was in possession of Portuguese maps of the west coast of Australia. He named the islands “abrolhos” in accordance with this map. The word Abrolhos in Portuguese





Abrolhos Islands

means shallow reef and is a contraction of the Portuguese expression *abre os olhos* (“open the eyes”) or *abri vossos olhos* (“keep your eyes open”). This is why today it is known as the Houtman Abrolhos Islands.

The islands, which lie in the southward flowing Leeuwin current, are provided with the perfect environment for tropical and temperate climate marine life. Most of the islands are surrounded by spectacular coral outcrops and reef structures. All around the islands you can see whales, dolphins and other marine life. The islands bird life is also amazing; it has large breeding colonies of seabirds existing on many of the islands and more than 90 species of seabird have been identified here.

The islands have a Mediterranean climate and are almost always windy. They have warm, dry summers and cooler, wet winters. In summer, the temperatures are typically a degree cooler than on the mainland but in winter it is normally warmer. Most of the rain falls between April and September with the wettest month of the year being June.

Today the islands are mostly used for fishing, including the commercial crawfishing industry, resulting in their small seasonal population of fishermen.

Summer land temperatures: 20-34°C.

Winter land temperatures: 12-20°C.



Diving & Snorkeling:

Around the 122 islands there are hundreds of individual dive and snorkeling spots for you to explore. It is the world’s highest latitude reef system and the southernmost true coral reef in the Indian Ocean. What makes this area so rich in marine life is the Leeuwin Current which brings in tropical and temperate sea life. Divers and snorkelers are not permitted to stay over night on any of the islands, which means they are only accessible by liveboard dive boats that visit the archipelago.

The islands are also a graveyard to numerous shipwrecks, the most famous being the Dutch ships the *Batavia* and the *Zeewijk*, which today provide dive and snorkeling spots.

On October 28, 1628 the *Batavia* sailed from the Netherlands to Batavia (modern day Jakarta) in the Dutch Colonies in Indonesia. In command of the *Batavia* on her maiden journey was Francesco Pelsaert. Mutineers decided to take over the ship but before the mutiny could take place the *Batavia* ran aground on June 4, 1629 at Half Moon Reef on Houtman Abrolhos. Most of the passengers and crew were off-loaded onto a nearby island, later known as Batavia’s Graveyard. Francesco Pelsaert, Ariaen Jacobsz and 30 crew decided to sail to Batavia in a small boat to get help. They left a note for the other survivors left behind who felt so betrayed by this desertion



that they named the smaller island “Traitor’s Island”, which it is still called to this today.

The survivors on the island were in a terrible situation, some died of thirst during the first week. However, this was only the start of their problems. The Undermerchant, Jeronimus Cornelisz, the most senior company man amongst the survivors, turned out to be a psychotic killer. He split the remaining survivors up, sending them to some of the closer islands which he thought had no water. Once the survivors were scattered to islands with poor resources he revealed his true intentions and the killings began.

The mutineers became addicted to killing and enjoyed complete control over the survivors. No one could stop them. One group of survivors who were sent to another island did however, find water, food and materials that enabled them make weapons to protect themselves against Cornelisz and his men. After many unsuccessful attempts to overcome Cornelisz, help came from over the horizon.

The ship that went to look for help came back. It took 33 days for the ship to sail to Batavia, and with extraordinary bad luck, it took 63 days to find the wreck site, almost double the time it took the party to get to Batavia.

Some of the men seized the opportunity to leave a battle that was taking place when the rescue ship returned. Taking a small home-



Abrolhos Islands

made boat, they were able to warn the rescuers of the mutiny and murders. The Commodore of the rescue ship was none other than Francesco Pelsaert who had made it to Batavia in the rescue boat. In a short period of time the mutineers were all rounded up, questioned and tried.

Cornelisz was hanged on one of the islands, two were marooned on the coast of Western Australia and the rest of the mutineers were taken back to Batavia where most of them were executed. Over 120 people were killed by Cornelisz' men during his brief reign of island terror.

The other well known wreck on the Abrolhos Islands is the Zeewijk, otherwise known as the Zeewyk. It was wrecked on June 9, 1727 also at Half Moon Reef on the Abrolhos Islands. The survivors built a second ship, named Sloepi, on the islands to go and search for help. Only 82 out of the initial crew of 208 reached their destination of Batavia (modern day Jakarta) on

April 30, 1728.

The shipwreck itself was found by divers in 1968 and items including bottles, knives, coins, wine glasses, jars, pots, musket and cannon balls, tobacco and pipes were also found.

Around the islands you can find sheltered reef structures covered in hard coral gardens and surrounded by schools of reef fish as well as pelagic fish swimming in the blue waters. Sea lions, dolphins and migratory whales are often spotted close to the islands.

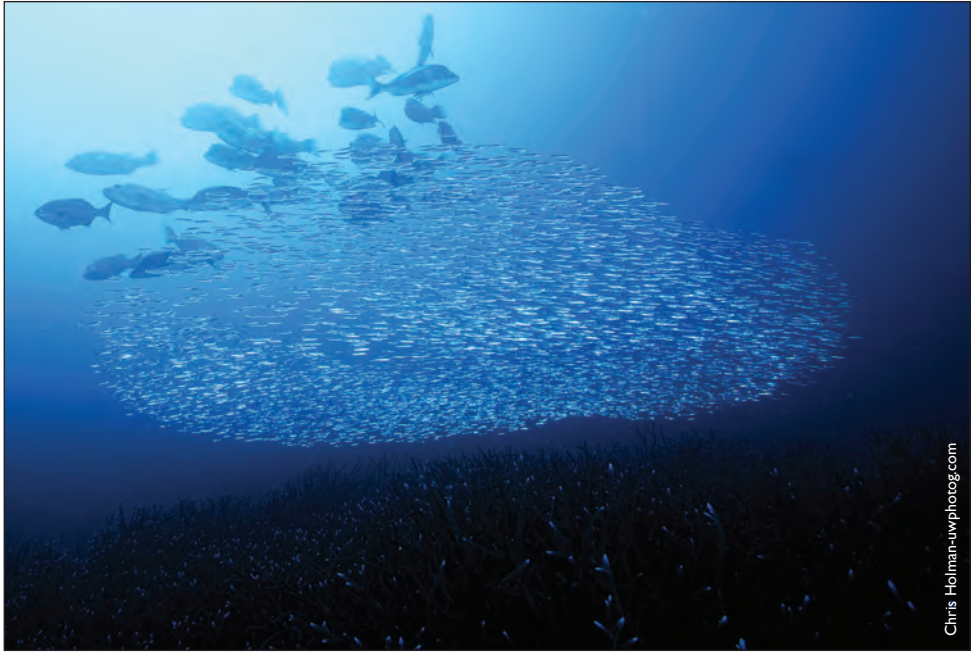
You can find sheltered spots all around the islands where the islands themselves can protect you against the wind. It is always better to dive or snorkel here when the swell is low and there are no strong currents.

This diving and snorkeling paradise extends 100 kilometres from north to south.

Summer water temperatures: 20-38°C.

Winter water temperatures: 18-20°C.





Chris Holman-uwphotog.com



Chris Holman-uwphotog.com

Geraldton



Geraldton

GPS: (WGS84) S 28 45.986 E 114 36.799

Geraldton is a coastal city located just over 400 kilometres north of Perth. It is well known for its role in the crayfish industry.

The area was explored by mariners in the 17th century but didn't become well known until the infamous sinking of the *Batavia* which was wrecked at Half Moon Reef on Houtman Abrolhos on October 28, 1628. The events surrounding the mutiny, killing, rescue and punishment of her crew plays a big part in the historical significance of the region. In 1850 the town of Geraldton was gazetted and named after Governor Fitzgerald, the fourth governor of Western Australia



Geraldton's Port is a major port in Western Australia, many companies' all over the world rely on it. The main exports from Geraldton are grain, iron ore, mineral sands, copper concentrate, nickel concentrate, zinc concentrate and livestock.

South of the port is the 35m tall Point Moore Lighthouse, the first steel tower to be constructed on the mainland of Australia. On top of Mount Scott is a memorial for the World War II cruiser HMAS Sydney which recognises the loss of the cruiser which bared that name during a mutually destructive fight with the German auxiliary cruiser, the *Kormoran*, in November 1941. Not one of the 645 crew members aboard survived the attack.

Geraldton has a Mediterranean climate with mild winters and cool summers, which are a result of the regular sea breeze. Autumn is pleasant and during spring the area overflows with blooming wildflowers.

Geraldton is an important service and logistics centre for regional mining, fishing, western rock lobster, wheat, livestock and tourism industries.

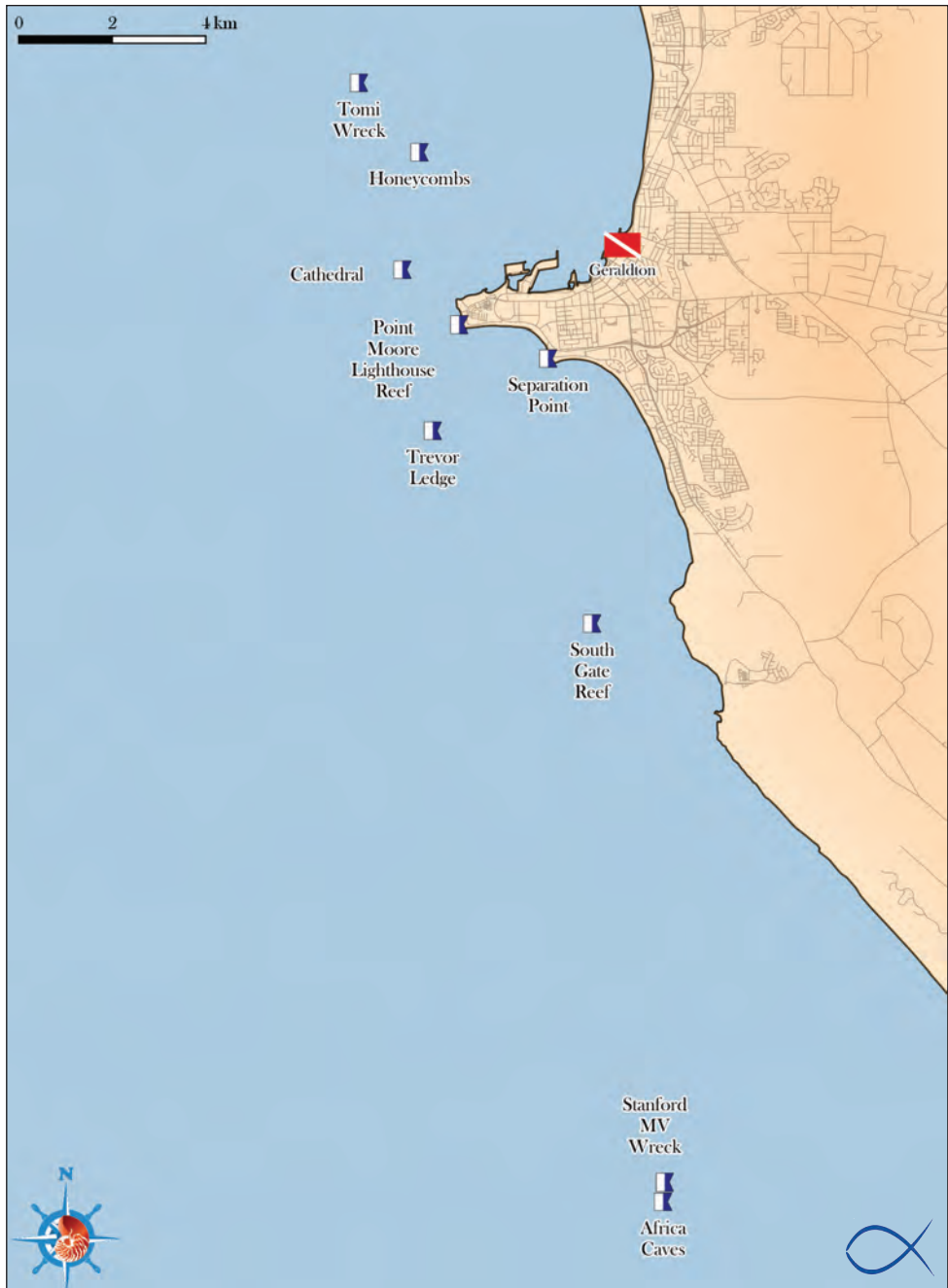
Accommodation:

A variety of accommodation is available in the area, including camp sites, hotels, self-catering chalets, lodges, back packers, B&B's and guest houses.

Shops and service stations:

Like any major city or town in Western Australia, a variety of shops are available.





Geraldton

Health and medical services:

Like any major city or town in Western Australia, There are world-class general practitioners, clinics and hospitals in the area.

Activities in and around the area:

- Horse Trails
- Snorkelling
- 4x4 Trails
- Fishing
- Hiking Trails
- Variety of water sports

Diving & Snorkeling:

Geraldton caters for the beginner to the advanced snorkeler and diver. There are a variety of spots to choose from; some dive spots are only accessible from a boat while others can be accessed from the shore.

The limestone reefs and rock formations in the area are spectacular. The reef structures are full of cave systems and overhangs that are filled with marine life, especially crayfish. On top off this there are also wrecks in the area. One of the best wrecks to dive is the Tomi which was sunk in 2004 for the diving community.

Tropical as well as sub-tropical fish can be found all over the reefs thanks to the Leeuwin Current which runs past the coastline. Snapper, bream, scorpionfish, black damsels schools of yellow tail herring and large schools of cardinals can be seen all over the dive spots, and if you are lucky, you can see a humpback



Johan Beshoff

whale during the migration season.

The visibility of this area is influenced by the rivers that run into the ocean, however, bad visibility is only caused by the rivers on the rare occasion that there is a flood. The best time of the year to dive is from February to May when there is a greater chance to get to the outer reefs. The winds start blowing from around October and end around January.

Exploring the dive and snorkeling spots of the area is weather dependent as most of the spots are in the open ocean, although some are protected by the outer reef.

Summer water temperatures: 30-40°C.

Winter water temperatures: 14-25°C.

Diving facilities in the area:

- Air fills
- Dive training
- Gear rentals
- Equipment sales
- Speciality courses

DIVING & SNORKELING SPOTS

Tomi



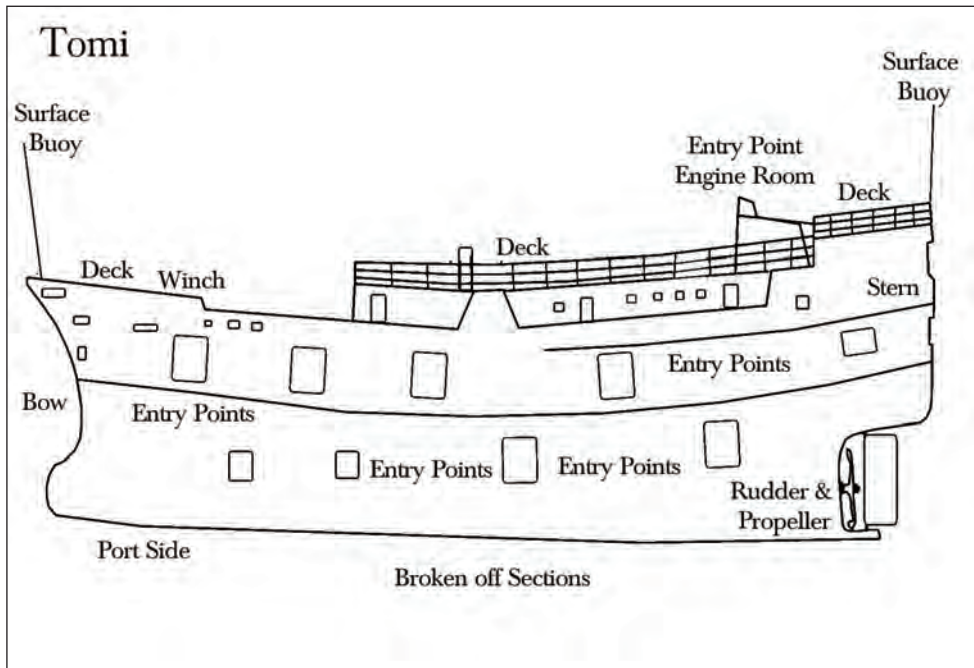
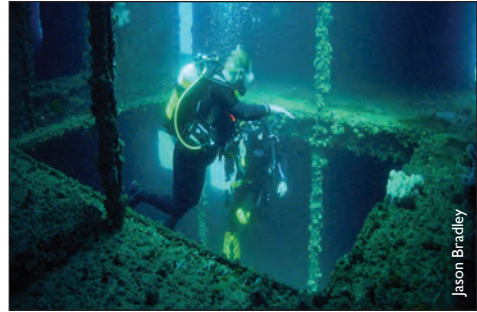
Average depth: 15m

Maximum depth: 31m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 28 43.879
E 114 33.327**

The 57m long Tomi was an illegal fishing vessel, which was chased for 14 days from WA to South Africa before it was captured and then brought back to WA in March 2001. It was sunk in September 2004 in 26m of water on a sandy bottom to make an artificial reef 6 kilometres off Champion Bay near Pensioners Reef.

The main deck of the wreck is 18m and you can dive its entire length. At the stern there is the funnel which leads down into the centre of the



Geraldton

wreck, and then right down to the engine room at 24m.

On the descent, follow the mooring rope down to 10m where there is another rope that leads off to the winch at the wreck's bow. It is advisable to wear gloves as there are sharp edges on the hatches and some fishing hooks have been found in some of the ropes left by careless fishermen. There is always access to the outside of the wreck, either to the sides or above. When swimming past hatches be aware of surge that can pass in and out of the wreck.

In the engine room there is a hatch that did not blow out when the ship was sunk so it is quite dark. When penetrating the ship, a torch is highly recommended. Watch your finning to avoid silt up. Furthermore, penetrating the wreck should not be taken lightly.

There are several marker boys that signal the wreck's location. It is best to dive this wreck when the swell is low and the winds are not too strong.



Honeycombs caves



Average depth: 14m

Maximum depth: 18m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 28 44.776
E 114 34.124**

This well hidden treasure is about 3 kilometres north west of Point Moore. Honeycombs Caves is a structure made of limestone. The sea floor has dropped away from underneath the limestone leaving a maze of honeycomb like caves. You

have to look closely at the structure to find the openings to enter the cave systems as they can be hard to see.

Many species of fish and marine life inhabit the caves and the surrounding ocean. For example, you could see fox fish, dhu fish, coral trout, many species of damselfish, cuttlefish, nudibranchs, octopus, baldchin grouper, western rock lobsters but the most numerous fish are the buff bream. The buff bream love to swim into the caves when there are divers inside, they then circle the divers and dart in and out through the holes in the roof. Remember that penetrating caves is dangerous and only for experienced divers who have the necessary training. A torch is essential when entering cave systems.

Honeycomb Caves is fairly exposed so it is best dived when the swell is low and the winds are not strong.

Cathedral



Average depth: 8m

Maximum depth: 17m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 28 46.308
E 114 33.900**

Cathedral Cave is another boat dive situated close to Eve's Passage, near the lighthouse. The dive spot gets its name from the huge cathedral like arch at the cave's entrance. At the entrance to the cave the depth is 17m but as you swim to the back of the cave, to the false cathedral, it rises first to 13m and then slopes down to 7m.

Many indigenous species of fish inhabit this dive spot, such as fox fish, dhu fish, nudibranchs, coral trout, bald chin grouper, silver moorwongs, big schools of buff bream, schools of cardinals and many western rock lobsters.

Cathedral Cave is fairly exposed so it is best dived when the swell is low and the winds are not strong.

Point Moore / Lighthouse Reef



Average depth: 6m

Maximum depth: 9m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 28 47.021
E 114 34.649**

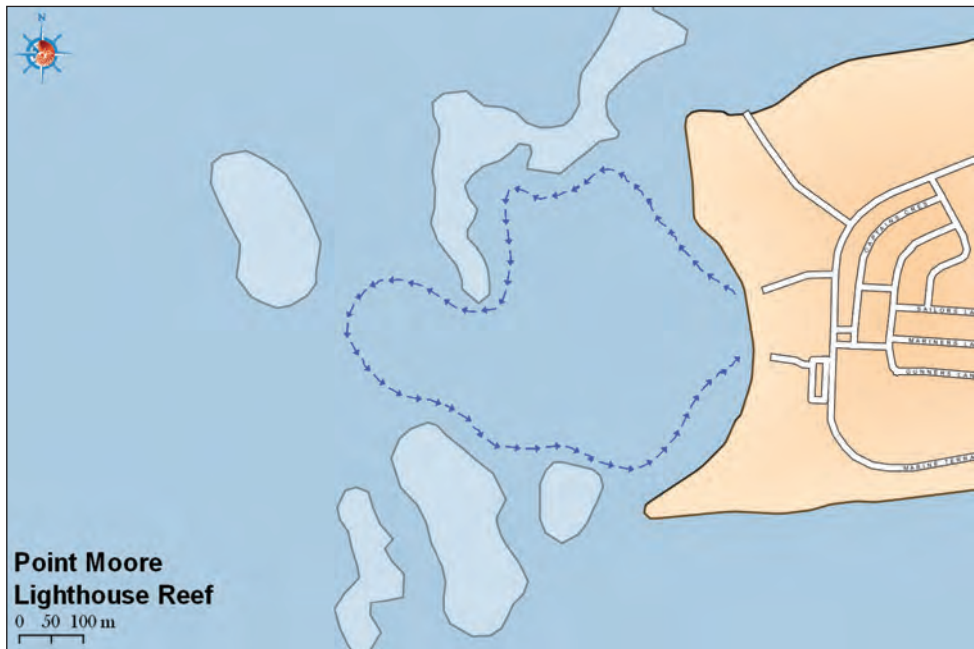
This dive and snorkeling spot is about 20m off shore, straight out from the lighthouse at Point Moore. The spot has had many names but it is most commonly known as Lighthouse Reef.

You can enter Lighthouse Reef either from the right or left hand side. It has a very easy entrance and exit that enables you to walk straight in from the beach to start your dive on the gentle slope that gradually gets deeper.

Swim or dive over 6m deep water that will lead you to a limestone wall in 9m of water. You can dive along this wall in either direction; keeping the reef wall on one side of your body makes this

a relatively easy dive to navigate. There are some nice swim-throughs and small caves to be explored.

Many different species of marine life call this dive spot home. For example, you could see western rock lobster, moray eels, buff bream, fox fish, very inquisitive king wrasse, damsel fish protecting algae gardens, octopus and cuttlefish. This spot also makes for a great night dive as many other species of marine life come out after the sun sets.



Geraldton

Separation Point



Average depth: 3m

Maximum depth: 5m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 28 47.458
E 114 35.821**

Separation point is about 2 kilometres south of Point Moore. Park your car and kit up in a nearby parking area and walk the short distance to the beach. It has a very easy entrance straight from the beach where you can then start your dive on a gentle slope that gets gradually deeper between the reef structures.

If you enter the water on the western side of the reef structures you will find yourself in a sandy spot that is surrounded with limestone reef. Here you will find a wide variety of small fish and some coral growth on the reef.

This spot encompasses a large area so there is lots to explore. It is recommended that you dive or snorkel this spot when there is no swell and no winds as surge can be a big problem here.



Jason Bradley



Trevor's Ledge



Average depth: 15m

Maximum depth: 17m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 28 48.400
E 114 34.300**

This dive spot is named after a well-known diver in Geraldton's diving industry and is situated about 3 kilometres south of Point Moore. Trevor Ledge is a wall that varies in height. At its highest point it is about 8m high and it drops down in some sections to about 2m.

There are a couple of small caves in the limestone reef and the reef itself is covered mostly with soft corals. It is best to dive in a northerly direction from the GPS coordinates to find the more interesting areas of this dive spot.

Depending on the direction of the wind, anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the reef and swim towards it. Trevor Ledge is fairly exposed so the best time to dive here is when the swell is low and the winds are not strong as this spot is known for its surge.

with many undercuts that are full of crayfish. The limestone reef runs in big sections and is covered with soft and hard corals. The outside ledge of the reef is at 11m and the inside ledge is about 6m deep. This spot is popular for its grouper, stingrays and its pelagic fish.

Depending on the direction of the wind, anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the reef and swim towards it. South Gate is fairly exposed so the best time to dive this spot is when the swell is low and the winds are not too strong as this spot is known for its surge.



South Gate Reef



Average depth: 10m

Maximum depth: 14m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 28 50.906
E 114 36.400**

South Gate is the name of the whole reef structure which lies about 8 kilometres south of point Moore and about 2 kilometres off shore.

The reef runs parallel to the beach for approximately 5 kilometres and has a small wall

Standford MV



Average depth: 10m

Maximum depth: 14m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 28 58.173
E 114 37.358**

The Stanford, a Norwegian motorship and 4803 ton gross cargo ship, was bound from London and Rotterdam to Fremantle and Geraldton when, on June 24 1936, it ran aground on African Reef about 20 kilometres south of Geraldton.

Its Captain C. Bech explained after the event that

Geraldton

The Stanford, which was carrying a cargo of about 6 000 tons of cement destined mostly for Fremantle, encountered very rough seas, heavy rainfall and a dense haze that obscured the Point Moore lighthouse. These conditions led the ship crash onto the reef. After an extensive rescue mission the weather and sea finally took their toll on the ship, which found its final resting place on the ocean floor at Africa Reef.

A variety of marine life can be found around the wreck and reef.

Over the years large swell and winds have ripped the ship apart. Parts of the ship can now be seen scattered all over the reef. You can however, still see the boiler and the engines and there is still a fair amount of steel plates everywhere.

Anchor your boat on the reef and swim towards the wreck. It is best to dive this site when there is no swell and the winds are not strong,

necessary training. A torch is essential when entering cave systems.

This is a wonderful dive spot when the conditions are right, i.e. no currents and no swell as diving here is difficult in surge. The best place to anchor your boat is on the western side of the reef if the wind permits.



Jason Bradley

Africa Caves



Average depth: 10m

Maximum depth: 18m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 28 58.422
E 114 37.337**



Jason Bradley

Africa Reef is 20 kilometres south of Geraldton and was made famous by The Stanford wreck which sank here in 1936.

To the west of The Stanford wreckage there is a large ledge which extends downwards to 18m. Descend on the GPS coordinates and swim north beside the ledge. On this ledge is a huge cave which you can explore. The fish on this reef are quite large in comparison with the fish at other spots in the area and this attracts fisherman.

Remember that penetrating caves is dangerous and only for experienced divers who have the

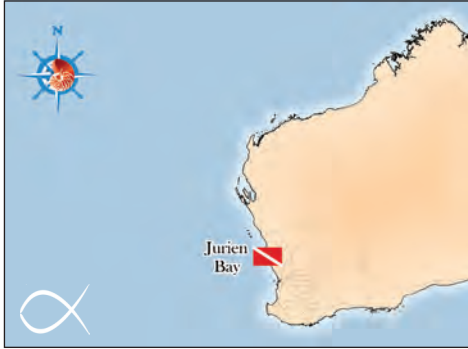


Jason Bradley



Johan Beshoff

Jurien Bay



Jurien Bay

**GPS: (WGS84) S 30 18.161
E 115 02.250**

Just over 200 kilometres north of Perth, you will find a little coastal town known as Jurien Bay. Permanent residents only moved to Jurien Bay in the 1950s, but the jetty was constructed in 1885-87 for a temporary fishing village that was set up to catch snapper and groper. In 1959 the town was renamed 'Jurien' but in 1999 it was change back to its original name of Jurien Bay.

One of the main marine attractions here are the Australian sea lions whose population, it is believed, is now less than 12 000, which makes it one of the world's rarest species. There are sea lion watching guidelines that you need to follow, so make sure that you are aware of these. During the migration season from June to December, graceful humpback whales can be seen.



Around the months of August and September, another wonder of nature takes place in Jurien Bay: the landscape changes to a carpet of colour, making it one of the top wildflower viewing destinations in Western Australia. Not far from the town you will find the Nambung National Park where you can see The Pinnacles, one of Australia's wonders which you have to visit. Today the town is well known for its excellent fishing.

Summer land temperatures: 30-40°C.
Winter land temperatures: 14-25°C.

Accommodation:

A variety of accommodation is available in the area, including camp sites, hotels, self-catering chalets, lodges, back packers, B&B's and guest houses.

Shops and service stations:

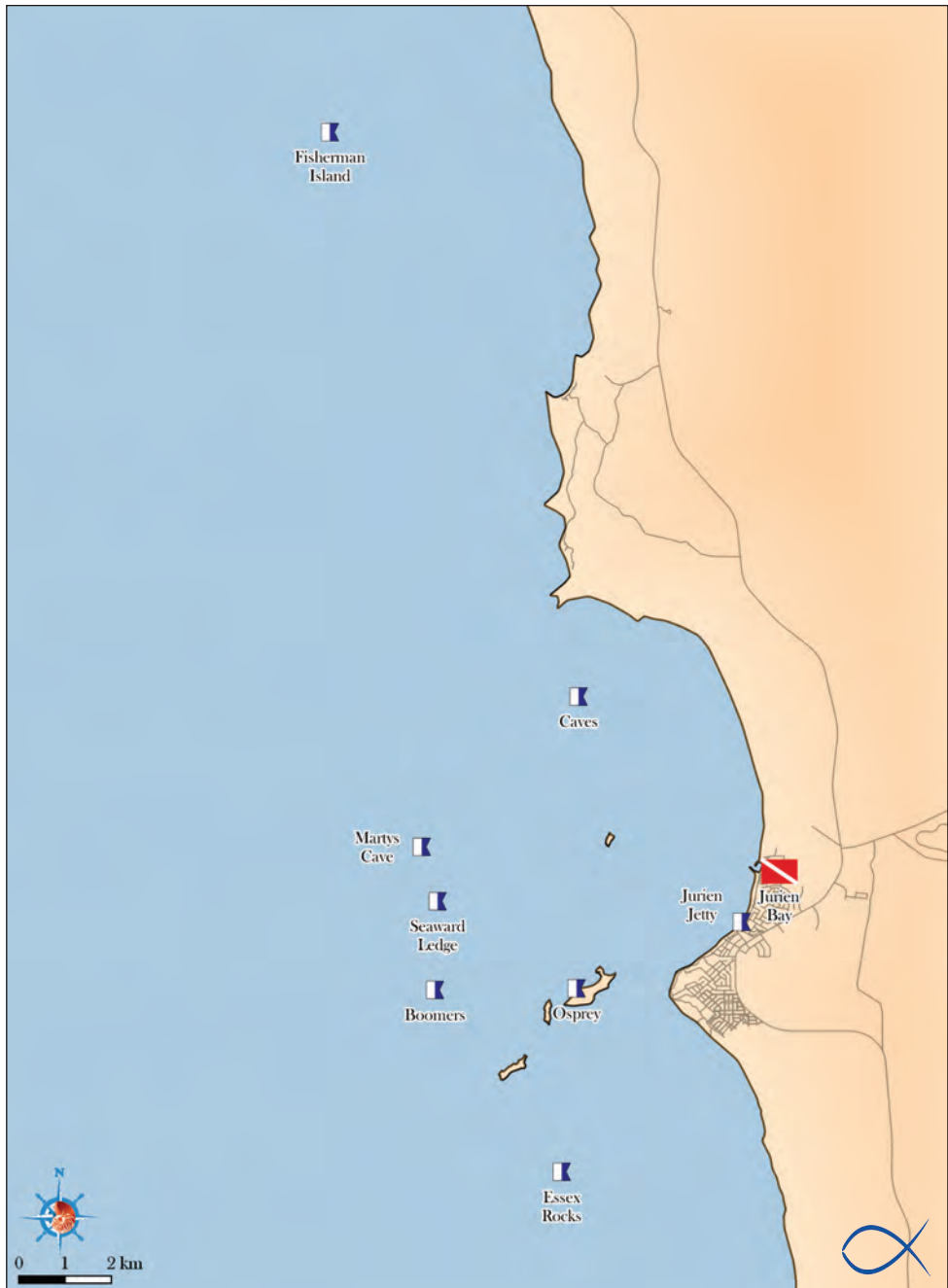
Like any major city or town in Western Australia, a variety of shops are available.

Health and medical services:

There are world-class general practitioners, clinics and hospitals in the area.

- Activities in and around the area:
- Dolphin and whale watching
 - Snorkeling
 - 4x4 Trails
 - Fishing
 - Hiking Trails
 - Skydiving
 - Variety of water sports





Jurien Bay

Diving & Snorkeling:

Diving and snorkeling here offers a change of pace from the usual diving experienced around the Perth region. The diving and snorkeling on the inside of the Bay is mostly sheltered by a string of islands. In addition the limestone reefs are relatively shallow and comprise of reef structures covered with sea grass growth and a selection of small reef fish.

The sites on the outside of Jurien Bay provide divers with far more depth, larger fish, incredible limestone reef formations with caves and swim-throughs, and an abundance of crayfish. These sites are greatly affected by sea conditions as they are not protected by any fringe reef; currents and swell can whip up quite quickly. In the whale migration months of September to December one may be lucky enough to catch migrating whales on their journey south. The sea lions can be found on some of the islands in very shallow water. Quite often dolphins frequent this area so you could be in for a real treat. The Department of Fisheries advises that snorkelers keep a 10m distance from sea lions at all times, especially during breeding season. There is an abundance of sea life which you can encounter here as well as underwater caves and coral gardens covered in colourful sponges all around the reefs of Jurien Bay. Many marine sanctuaries exist in the bay, note that different diving/fishing restrictions applying to each.

Summer water temperatures: 22-28°C.

Winter water temperatures: 16-23°C.



DIVING & SNORKELING SPOTS

Caves



Average depth: 6m

Maximum depth: 12m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 30 15.048
E 115 00.059**

This dive spot is located about 6 kilometres north west of Jurien Bay. The spot is primarily characterised by a rocky bottom with a large amount of sea grass that is interspersed with small 'caves' which drop into the sea floor. They are not caves as such, rather they are a group of tunnels with sections where there is no roof, which means they are not overly difficult to dive as most of them have two points of entry and exit. The tunnels are connected to each other by either a gully large enough to swim through as well as smaller openings, however, these openings are not large enough to fit through.

Each cave is home to lots of bullseye and the odd juvenile dhu fish. Crayfish are also present in the ledges within the caves.

Remember that penetrating caves is dangerous and only for experienced divers who have the necessary training. A torch must be used when



entering cave systems.

The dive spot is fairly exposed and so it is best dived when the swell is low and the winds are not strong.

Marty's Cave



Average depth: 18m

Maximum depth: 22m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 30 17.047
E 114 57.941**

This is one of the best dive spots in the area. If you descend directly on the GPS co-

ordinates you should drop into what looks like a semi-circular stadium with tiered ledges, which run in a north south direction. If you are on the sea floor and look up it feels as though you are standing in a stadium. The ledges begin at about 15m and drop down to a sandy sea floor at about 19m. The ledges are swarming with a large number of crayfish.

At the southern end of the 'stadium' you will find Marty's Cave, which is almost like the tunnel that comes from the back of a stadium on land. This cave is more of a large swim through than a cave and it is home to a number of small and large fish. The depth in the cave reaches around 21m.

The site is fairly exposed and so it is best dived when the swell is low and the winds are not strong.



Jurien Bay

Seaward Ledge



Average depth: 10m
Maximum depth: 16m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 30 17.774
E 114 58.155**

This dive spot is about 6 kilometres west of Jurien Bay. This site is more of a sloping drop off onto a sandy sea floor rather than a ledge, and it runs in a north / south direction.

Drop down to the sand and then proceed along the ledge where you can find holes big enough to fit two divers, these are filled with crayfish of varying sizes. Out in the blue you could see the odd Spanish mackerel and an abundance of blowfish.

Navigation on the site is fairly easy, simply follow a north / south direction and then turn back and head to your anchor. Pay attention to your navigation at this



Chris Holman-uwphotog.com

dive spot as a surface swim back to the boat could prove difficult because of currents.

Seaward Ledge is fairly exposed as it is on the outside of the Jurien Reef system, so it is best dived when the swell is low and the winds are not strong.

Jurien Jetty



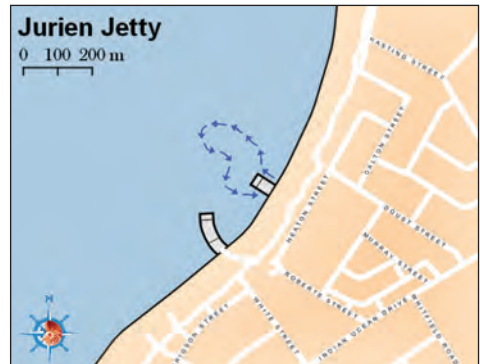
Average depth: 2m
Maximum depth: 6m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 30 18.051
E 115 02.263**

Jurien Jetty is the old town jetty that was built in the 1850s and is located just off the main beach in town. Parking is available close to the jetty, you can kit up in the car park and walk down to the water.

The Jetty is the starting point of both an artificial reef that was created by placing more than 70 reef balls on the sea floor as well as an underwater interpretive trail. You will find the start of this trail approximately 25m from the end of the old jetty pylons.

As you snorkel away from shore the water gradually gets to a depth of about 6m. The pylons and artificial reef have created habitats for



fish and other marine life. Growing on the reef balls you will find soft and hard coral as well as sponges. Nudibranchs, sea cucumbers and stingrays are also commonly found here. It is better to dive this site when the swell is low and winds are not strong



Boomers



Average depth: 12m
Maximum depth: 18m

GPS: (WGS84) S 30 18.950 E 114 58.120

You will know when you are over this dive spot; the bottom sounder on your boat will jump from 18m to 6m within the space of a metre or two. Boomers is a large rectangular bommie, which rises out of the sea floor at 18m to around 6m. Drop anchor on either side of the bommie and swim towards it. Here you will see an abundance of reef life, primarily small reef fish. The bommie is covered in red, orange and yellow soft growth and a fair amount of sea grass. All around the bottom of the bommie are ledges that hide crayfish of varying sizes and some juvenile dhu fish. You can dive around the bommie and do your safety stop on the top section of the reef structure

where you will find small reef fish. Boomers is fairly exposed so it is best dived when the swell is low and the winds are not strong



Osprey



Average depth: 5m
Maximum depth: 7m

GPS: (WGS84) S 30 18.930 E 115 00.032

This dive and snorkel spot is just off Boullanger Island, close to Jurien Bay. The area has many sand bars that are covered with extensive sea grass meadows. Limestone bommies are scattered over the sand and they have some coral growth on them. Some of the bigger bommies have small caves and overhangs that are covered with colourful sponges, sea squirts, anemones and corals. You will find a variety of marine life at Osprey, such as starfish, hermit crabs, octopus and small juvenile fish. This is also an area where you could see large rays and sea lions. It is better to anchor north of Boullanger Island on the sandy patches and swim towards the bommies. Always try to dive or snorkel this spot when the swell is low, or with a southerly wind as this enables the island to protect you.

Jurien Bay

Essex Rocks & Fisherman Island



Average depth: 3m

Maximum depth: 5m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 30 21.379
E 114 59.831**

**GPS: (WGS84) S 30 07.524
E 114 56.701**

Fisherman Island is about 20 kilometres north of Jurien Bay and Essex Rocks is about 8 kilometres to the south. The two islands are ideal snorkeling spots when the conditions are good.

The main attraction at both Islands are their populations of Australian sea lions. It is believed that there are less than 12 000 remaining individuals, which makes the Australia sea lion one of the world's rarest species. It is advised that

snorkelers keep a 10m distance from sea lions at all times, especially during the breeding season. If you are lucky, one or two of the sea lions may leave the beach to come and check out new visitors. There are sea lion watching regulations to follow, so make sure that you are aware of the most up to date guidelines. Dolphins also frequent this area so you could be in for a real treat.

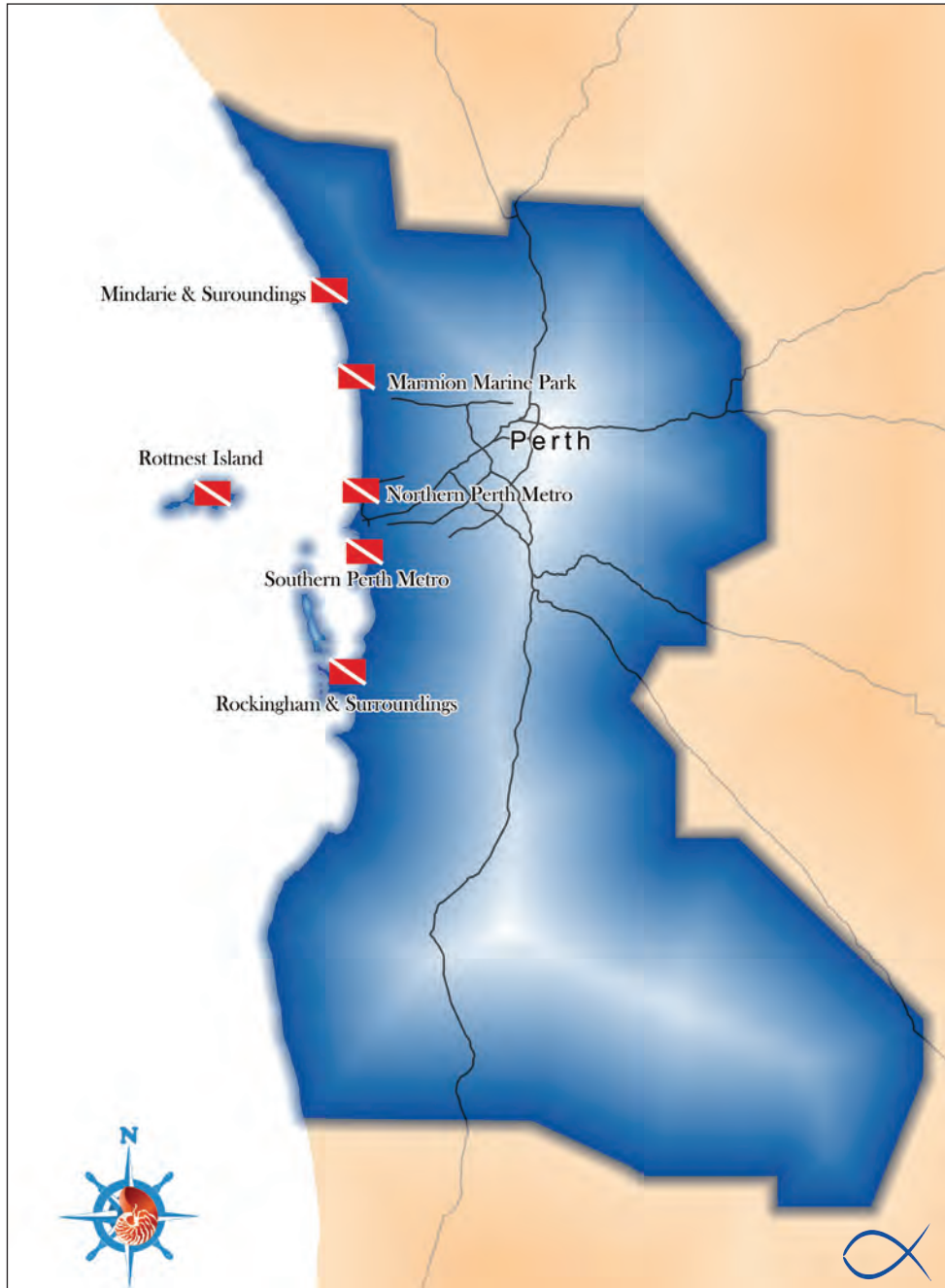
Depending on the direction of the wind, anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the islands and swim towards the reef structures. It is better to dive these spots when the swell is low and the winds are not strong.







Perth Region



Perth Region



The Perth region is the smallest of the five tourism regions in Australia and it stretches along approximately 260km of coastline from Lancelin down to Yalgorup National Park. It then stretches inland for a distance of approximately 240km from Rockingham to Corrigin.

The region enjoys a Mediterranean climate with hot and dry summers from the months of December to nearing the end of March and mild and wet winters from about May to September. The average daily temperature in

the summer months can range from around 29°C to an occasional extreme temperature of 44°C, with February being the hottest month of the year. Most of the rain fall is during the winter months with average daily temperatures of around 12°C with July usually being the wettest month.

Perth city is the administration centre for both government and business. Whilst Western Australia is known for its mining industry, Perth itself has become more of a service provider. There has been employment growth



in, for example, retail, education, health, business and the public administration sector. Tourism is also a major economic contributor; many people from all over the world fly into Perth to travel in and around Western Australia. The indigenous and European history for Perth goes back many years. The Whadjuk Noongar people lived in an area of about 5 580km which included Perth, Fremantle, Joondalup, Armadale, Toodyay, Wundowie, Bullsbrook and Chidlow. The area of Perth was called Boorloo by the local Aborigines who lived in the area in 1827, while Kings Park may have been referred to as Karra Katta, 'the hill of the spiders'.

The first sighting of Perth made by Europeans was documented in January 1697 by a Dutch captain named Willem de Vlamingh. However, his observations were not favourable and it was some time before other explorers decided otherwise. In 1829, Captain James Stirling is said to have found the area of Perth to be beautiful and fertile and the Swan River Colony was established. In 1850, financial strains on the economy meant that convict labour was chosen to ease the burden, many public buildings were completed between 1856-1879 as a result.

The Anigozanthos, commonly known as 'Kangaroo paw', is widely recognised and seen throughout Western Australia. It is said that the roots have high levels of stored starch and were eaten by the Noongar people. This perennial plant has a number of slightly different appearances, depending on its sub species, and can be seen in Western Australia's Coat of Arms with a sprig of flower across the top in red and green.

The black swan is both the state and bird emblem of Western Australia, and is seen on many local logos from beer to local building companies. The first European to see a black swan was Willem de Vlamingh in 1697 as he sailed up and named the Swan River. These majestic birds are now far less common in the river system than in those days, this could be due to the fact they were a source of food for



Perth Region

early settlers.

The western quoll, or chuditch, is a rare and endangered carnivorous marsupial that can only be found in the Perth hills area. Other less endangered creatures such as bandicoots, which are omnivores, can also be found in this area.

At the start of the Perth region you will find a town called Lancelin. The area is recognised for windsurfing, rock lobster and an amazing 2km stretch of pure white sand dunes which, apart from being beautiful, are also fun for sand boarding.

Inland about 63km from Lancelin, is the Gingin Observatory. Not many places can offer spectacular views of the night's sky with five of the largest public use telescopes and six pairs of high magnification binoculars. Whilst in the area, be sure to visit the Gravity Centre and perhaps climb the leaning tower of Gingin. The centre has exhibits and hands-on experiences for all ages, and is also surrounded by a wonderful array of flora and fauna which can be viewed all year round.

Inland you will find the tranquil region of Chittering Valley where the connoisseur in you will enjoy food, wine, scenery and art.

The Avon Valley region is where the first inland settlement is said to have started in Western Australia. There are a number of towns for you to explore, such as the largest, non-mining, inland town of Northam. Other towns in this region also have a history which can be seen in their colonial and heritage architecture.

The Swan Valley is home to some of the oldest



Johan Beshoff



Johan Beshoff

vineyards in Western Australia. The region is also home to the historic market town of Guildford, which was one of the first to be established in Western Australia. As a food and wine trail on Perth's doorstep, the region is certainly a convenient leisure destination.

The Caversham Wildlife Park, which is situated in Whitman Park, is a must-visit for those who want to see some of Australia's unique and amazing animals. If automobiles are of interest, located just outside of the wildlife park area is the Motor Museum of Western Australia.

Surrounded by a number of national parks is the Perth Hills Region where you will find a number of walks and trails that lead you through the region. The Bibbulmun Track is worth mentioning as it goes from Kalamunda and stretches for 1 000km all the way to Albany on the South Coast of Western Australia. Mundaring is home to the world's longest freshwater pipeline, which is 560km in length. The Sunset Coast is an approximate 50km stretch of coastline from the area around Two Rocks ending at roughly Cottesloe Beach. Most evenings you can simply sit on any number of beautiful beaches such as Scarborough, Trigg or North Beach and watch the sun set over the ocean.

A short journey inland, is the Yanchep National Park where the western grey kangaroo can be seen wondering around the park during the early morning or late afternoon. Visit the Koala Sanctuary or take a tour through one of the many caves, such as Crystal Cave.

The coastal region benefits from having

Hillarys Boat Harbour; here there are restaurants, a water and play park and access to charters and cruises as well as the Aquarium of Western Australia.

Further down the coast is the well known Cottesloe Beach. Its history and connection to surfing in Western Australia goes back to about 1909 and today it is home to one of the world's top swimming events, The Rottneest Channel Swim.

Perth is the capital city in Western Australia and offers a number of cultural and historical things to see and do. The Perth Mint has been in operation since 1899 providing you with the chance to pick up a gold bar, see gold being poured in the original melting house or marvel at the Australian Kangaroo one Tonne gold coin: this is an experience not to be missed.

The city also boasts one of the world's largest inner city parks, Kings Park. It measures about 1 000 acres and is also home to the Western Australian Botanic Garden. From here there are a number of vantage points from which to



view the skyline of Perth, the Swan and Canning River.

Heading south is the port city of Fremantle which is the biggest and busiest general port in Western Australia. There are a number of museums that you can peruse, such as the Western Australian Maritime Museum or the Shipwreck Museum. Fremantle is also an ideal location from which to catch a ferry to a few of the nearby islands.

Off the coast of Perth are four islands, namely



Perth Region

Rottnest Island, Carnac Island, Garden Island and Penguin Island. There is also a small island next to Penguin Island called Seal Island, and like Penguin Island, it is part of the Shoal Water Islands Marine Park.

Rottnest Island offers some spectacular diving, snorkelling and even surfing. The island can be easily toured by bicycle as it is only about 11km long and 4.5km wide. Perhaps you might want to investigate a number of tucked away little spots by foot with any number of walking trails? Of course, there are also a number of creatures that inhabit the island as well, like the Quokkas, birds and a number of reptiles.

Carnac Island is only accessible by boat and you are not allowed further than the beach or to camp on the island. The island is inhabited by the rarest sea lions in the world, tiger snakes and many nesting birds.

Approximately 9km away is Garden Island. Access to a lot of the island is restricted due a naval base that is situated on the island. However, under curfew rules, you can take a private boat to the northern and western bays and enjoy good diving and snorkelling or the pristine and quiet beaches on that side.

The Shoalwater Islands Marine Park is located roughly adjacent Rockingham and includes areas like Point Peron, Shoalwater Bay, Warnbro Sound and Penguin and Seal Island. Penguin Island has the largest colony of little penguins, which is the smallest species of all penguins. To access the island, you can catch a ferry that runs hourly from the mainland at Shoalwater. There are scheduled feeding sessions at the Discovery Centre on the island for which tickets can be bought. Alternatively, pack a picnic basket and spend the day getting to know the local wildlife like king's skinks, pelicans or many of the different sea birds.

The city of Rockingham is approximately 47km from Perth and has plenty for you to see and do. Historically the city was named after the last ship to arrive in Cockburn Sound, called Ship Rockingham in about 1830. The history of the town has been preserved in Rockingham Museum which is open to the public on certain days of the week.

The foreshore has a long strip of grass with playgrounds and shade-providing trees for those who wish to barbeque or pack a picnic as well as a number of restaurants along the



foreshore.

Further down along the coast are a number of lovely beaches that are excellent for swimming, surfing, kite surfing and the like, such as Safety Bay which is located in the Warnbro Sound area.

Port Kennedy foreshore has a quiet, lovely little beach that is home to a resident pelican or two. Stingrays can be seen swimming around the jetty and there is a park with barbecue facilities. Secret Harbour is a favourite surfing spot where many of the locals go with their families for a relaxing day on the white, soft sand or to see the sun dipping into the ocean at the end of the day.

Next up is the city of Mandurah which, like Rockingham, was founded by settlers arriving on ships brought over by Thomas Peel in roughly 1830. The foreshore has plenty of restaurants and park play areas for families. The foreshore also boasts a boardwalk that allows you to walk all around the marina and perhaps spot some of the local dolphins.

Further inland are other adventures such as a visit to Peel Zoo which has some fantastic animals such as the Tasmanian devils or the dingoes.

In the Serpentine Valley be sure to see Serpentine Falls. Here there are picnic spots and a few walks that take you higher up into the hills for spectacular views of the surrounding area. Approximately a 23km drive further inland is Serpentine Dam, which is of vital importance to the area as a source of fresh water.

Finally the Perth region ends at the Yalgorup National Park which is about a 40km drive from the city of Mandurah. There are various walks, picnic areas and wildlife throughout this area. Of note is Lake Clifton's thrombolites which can be seen from the wooden boardwalk or jetty which allows you to view them without damaging them.

If you are in Western Australia, then Perth is where you want to be.



Johan Boshoff



Johan Boshoff



Johan Boshoff



Johan Boshoff

Perth & Surroundings



Perth & Surroundings

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 57.685
E 115 50.65**

The Perth section is divided into six different areas in the Perth region and is listed from North to South. These six areas include Mindarie and Surroundings, Marmion Marine Park, North Perth Metro, Rottnest Island, South Perth Metro and Rockingham and Surroundings.

Mindarie and Surroundings:

This area is from the northern part of Marmion Marine Park at Burns Beach for about 20km to the north, almost to Yanchep. Most of the diving here is done by boat and the best place is from the marina at Mindarie.

Marmion Marine Park:

Marmion Marine Park is the first marine park in Western Australia and stretches for about 20km from Trigg Island at the south to Burns Beach in the north. The park covers an area of almost 10 500 hectares of ocean.

In this area you have the option of both boat and shore dives which you can do. Most of the boat diving here can be done from Hillary's boat harbour or any other harbour close to the dive spots.

Northern Perth Metro:

This area stretches for almost 20km from North Mole on the northern side of the Swan River at Fremantle to the southern side of Marmion Marine Park at Trigg Island. It also includes the best Swan River dive on the northern side of the river.

In this area you have the option of both boat and shore dives which you can do. Most of the boat diving here can be done from Fremantle or any other harbour close to the dive spots.

Rottnest Island:

Rottnest Island is a 19km² (11km long and 4,5km at its widest point), A-Class Reserve, about 18km west of Fremantle. The island has a rich and interesting history: it was prison in its earlier years, a military base later on and today it is a big tourist attraction.

The island was called Wadjemup by the Noongar people, meaning "place across the water" and was changed later by captain Willem de





Perth & Surroundings

Vlamingh when he thought that the Quokkas were rats and named it “Rotte nest” (meaning “rat nest” in the Dutch language).

In this area you have the option of both boat and shore dives which you can do. Most of the boat diving here can be done from Fremantle or any other harbor close to the dive spots.

Southern Perth Metro:

This area stretches from South Mole on the southern side of the Swan River at Fremantle for 15km south to Woodman Point and Carnac Island. It also includes the best Swan River dive on the south side of the river.

In this area you have the option of both boat and shore dives which you can do. Most of the boat diving here can be done from Fremantle or any other harbour close to the dive spots.

Rockingham and Surroundings:

This area runs from Woodman Point in the north for about 50km of coastline to the south. It includes all the little islands as well as Penguin Island and runs all the way through Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound to the southern part of the Shoalwater Island Marine Park at the Port Kennedy beach.

In this area you have the option of both boat and shore dives which you can do. Most of the boat diving here can be done from any of the harbours closes to the dive spots.

Summer land temperatures: 20-45°C.

Winter land temperatures: 4-25°C.

Accommodation:

A variety of accommodation is available in the area, including camp sites, hotels, self-catering chalets, lodges, back packers, B&B's and guest houses.

Shops and service stations:

Like any major city in Western Australia, a variety of shops are available.

Health and medical services:

There are world-class general practitioners, clinics and hospitals in this area.

Activities in and around the area:

- Dolphin and whale watching
- Horse trails
- Quad bikes trails
- Micro light flights
- Snorkeling
- 4x4 Trails
- Fishing
- Hiking Trails
- Variety of water sports

Diving & Snorkeling:

Perth and its surroundings have a variety of dive and snorkel spots from the beginner to the more advanced and even for the technical divers. Here you have the option to dive reefs, colourful jetties or a number of wrecks. In this region you also have a variety of islands to dive and snorkel around. Perth diving is dominated by the limestone base of the region and the



Johan Boshoff

effects of weathering and erosion on that stone. Most of the diving is around limestone reefs that vary in size and jut out of a coarse sandy bottom. Often the limestone forms shelves which shelter many temperate fish and invertebrate species, but we also see large tunnels, caves and overhang structures that formed in the limestone. This makes for an exciting dive, especially when bigger fish make their homes in those caves.

This area is blessed with the Leeuwin Current which brings much warmer water down from Exmouth and Ningaloo, to sites further offshore (typically around Rottnest Island and the reef chain that runs at the 30m contour) and with the warmer water you see more tropical species.

Divers have a choice of several jetties and wrecks which have built up considerable ecosystems over the years featuring corals, sponges, abundant fish life and various crabs, nudibranchs and other invertebrates. Night

diving for king prawns and blue swimmer crabs is also a popular pastime, particularly in the river on winter nights.

Currents are generally mild although bigger islands can funnel surface currents into a rip. Tides are negligible here up to $\pm 1\text{m}$ or so.

It doesn't matter what type of diver or snorkeler you are, there is always something for you around Perth.

Summer water temperatures: 22-25°C.

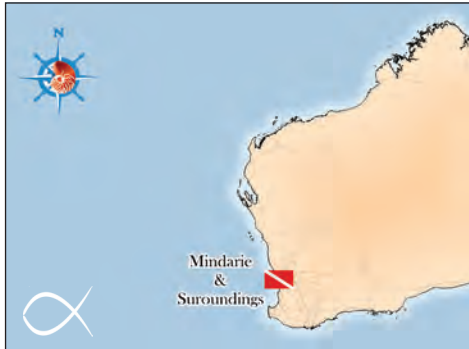
Winter water temperatures: 16-23°C.

Diving facilities in the area:

- Air fills
- Nitrox fills
- Trimix fills
- Gear rentals
- Equipment sales
- Dive training
- Speciality courses
- Technical training



Mindarie & Surroundings



Mindarie & Surroundings

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 41.432
E 115 42.170**

This area stretches from the northern part of Marmion Marine Park at Burns Beach for about 20km to the north, almost to Yanchep. Most of the diving here is done by boat and the best place is from the marina at Mindarie.

DIVE & SNORKELING SPOTS

Gemini



Average depth: 28m

Maximum depth: 31m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 37.155
E 115 33.615**

This wreck is about 15km north west of the Mindarie Marina. The Gemini wreck was a steel hopper barge that was built in 1962 and used as a drill barge for dredging. It was then sold to a dive operator to create an artificial

reef for divers and in 1996 the 36m long Gemini barge was scuttled and today she is resting on a sandy sea bed in about 30m of water.

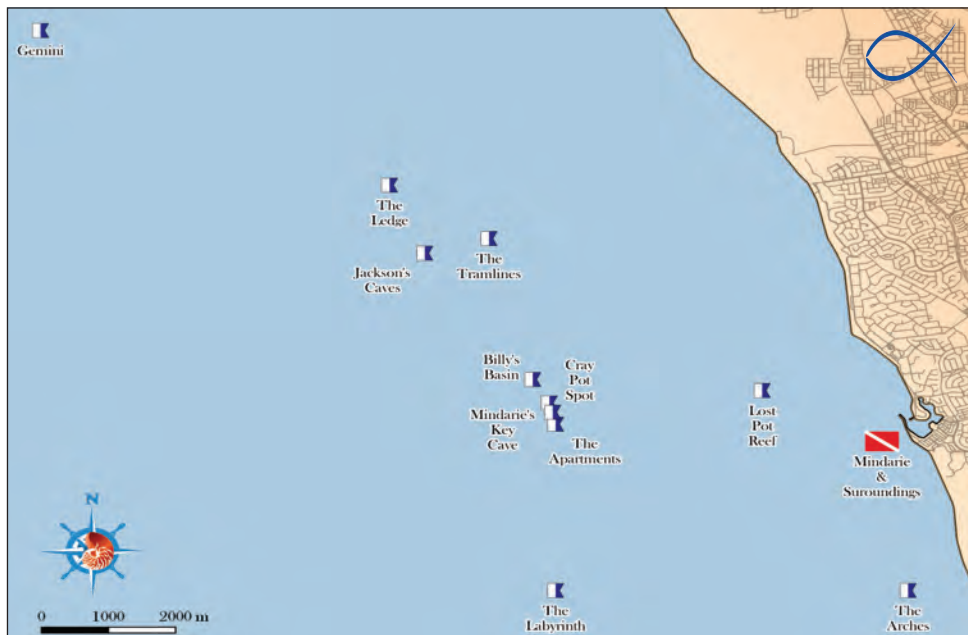
The top of the wreck starts at 25m, holes have been cut in the hull to make penetration possible, but be aware of obstructions and note that penetration of the wreck is only for experienced divers with the appropriate training. When penetrating the wreck a torch is highly recommended and avoid silt ups – penetration should not be taken lightly.

There is an abundance of soft corals and colourful sponges on the wreck and it is home to numerous marine life such as wobblygong sharks, stonefish, big sambos, snapper, dhu fish and large crayfish.

Whilst diving look for the information plaque sitting on the sand.

Being such a long way offshore you can encounter very strong currents so the conditions have to be almost perfect, less than a metre of swell and less than five knots of winds.





The Ledge



Average depth: 20m

Maximum depth: 23m

This dive spot is about 9km north west of the Mindarie Marina and is part of the 3 Mile Reef or 'The Strip'. As the name suggests, it is a ledge in the reef structure that sits at 23m.

The wall is about 15m wide and runs north to south. In the wall you can find numerous cut outs and slots to explore, often home to large quantities of crayfish.

On the outside of the wall you can find a lot of pelagic fish cruising over the sand flats, whereas on the inside wall you can expect to find dhu fish, pink snapper, King George whiting and of course western blue devilfish.

It's easiest to dive with light easterlies as the anchor will hold on the edge of the wall whereas with a south or north wind the anchor may slip along the wall.

It's not usually subjected to strong currents and can be dived up to a 2,5m swell with not too much surge.



Michael Forster

Mindarie & Surroundings

The Tramlines



Average depth: 14m
Maximum depth: 19m

This dive spot is about 8km north west of the Mindarie Marina. The dive spot got its name from Jindalee's double roads leading to the beach that look like tram lines.

This dive spot is almost midway from the outer and inner reef on some sensational ground; the walls and gorges start at about 19m and go up to around 14m on the top of the walls. The deep gorges and walls are covered with sponges, hard corals and some soft corals with huge colourful sea fans. But the highlight of the dive spot is all the cleaner stations that you will find on the wall, with fish such as harlequin, blue grouper and large queen snapper queuing up, waiting for their turn to be cleaned.

This spot can be dived in most conditions as its protected from the huge swells by the outer reef, but it can become very choppy with a sea breeze, so the best time to dive this spot is early in the morning when there are normally no strong winds.



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This dive spot is about 8km north west of the Mindarie Marina and is one of the more exciting advanced dive spots in the area. It is situated on the deep contour with walls and gullies about 10m high.

The depth can range from 15m on top of the wall where it is covered with sea weed and sponges all the way down to 25m on the sand. You will find caverns and caves at about 20m all around the walls and ledges.

The name of this dive spot comes from the fact that it was discovered by a chap called Mr. Jackson, and secondly because of the cascading cave system on the reef that is home to a very large family of about 15 Port Jackson sharks. The sharks come and go, the caves fill with crayfish, huge octopus and schooling big eyes. This part of the wall is best to dive early in the day, when the sun is still rising to maximise the light into the caves and crevices. A torch is highly recommended to take full advantage of the colourful sponges and corals and to explore all the overhangs.

Jackson's Caves



Average depth: 19m
Maximum depth: 21m



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Billy's Basin



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 18m

This dive spot is about 5km west of the Mindarie Marina. It got its name from one of the dive charter's dogs who kicked its dog bowl over the side of the dive boat – on retrieving the dog's bowl they discovered a reef structure that looks like a big basin.

The rock formation that is created by the limestone looks literally like an auditorium or a coliseum that is about 20m across and 15m deep. If you look against the sides of the basin and under the ledges you will find plenty of nudibranchs, egg cowries and cuttlefish, and if you are really lucky, the rare but iconic western blue devilfish.

There is an abundance of wobblygong sharks around the area, Port Jacksons and spotted

lagoon rays also cruise around the inside of the basin looking to feed. About 30m south east of the basin there is a deep canyon running from east to west with huge sea fan corals on the sides.

Be aware that swell and surge may make the canyon a rocket ride and could stir up the sand.

Cray Pot Spot



Average depth: 8m

Maximum depth: 14m

This dive spot is also about 5km west of the Mindarie Marina. This spot was used more by fishermen catching crayfish than divers, but now it has become a really popular dive location.

It is a shallow reef, and as the name suggests, the right place if you are looking for crayfish



Jim Beaudoin

Mindarie & Surroundings

due to all the holes, caves and swim-throughs that are all over the reef structure.

On the top of the reef you can find giant purple barnacles and plenty of hard corals that like the rich oxygenated fast flowing waters. Then the reef drops off into deep areas on the eastern side. Look under the ledges for a variety of marine life, and fairly often you can find large dhu fish and baldies hanging around with the crayfish.

Be aware that this spot can get very shallow and is prone to breaking waves, so only dive when the swell is less than 1m and with light easterly winds. It is still used by fishermen so keep an ear out for boats and an eye out for stray fishing lines.

don't go in! Whilst in the caves check out the smooth walls for the albino egg cowries, Brittle stars and Cuttlefish all hiding in the shadows, don't forget to look up as all the crayfish will be crawling on the roof escaping the bubble ponds as you exhale. Also in the area there are plenty of other holes and caves with schools of buff bream weaving in and out.

Remember that penetrating caves is dangerous and only for experienced divers who have the necessary training.

Be aware that this dive can become fairly shallow so if there is any swell stay deeper than 6m or the surge will be too strong.

Mindarie's Key Cave



Average depth: 6m

Maximum depth: 15m

This reef system is about 5km west of Mindarie Marina and is easily accessible during the day and night. Mindarie's Key Cave is situated in the heart of Staggy Reef; this cave system has a 3m high limestone structure in the shape of a key at the entrance of the swim-through – here a torch is essential to get the most from this dive – but as the name suggests, there are some dark areas.

There are plenty of entry and exit points, chimneys and dead ends, so enter cautiously and if you can't turn around or see an exit,

Lost Pot Reef



Average depth: 5m

Maximum depth: 12m

This is the closest reef structure that you get from Mindarie Marina and it is perfect if you have a small boat as it sits on the outside of the first reef or 1 Mile Reef as it is known by the locals.

You can anchor in the sand and the wall will be only metres away. There are a lot of overhangs and gulley's creating homes for octopus, giant bailers and stonefish, so be careful where you put your hands.

If the sea conditions are good ascend up the wall and on the top of the reef you will find a big hole; a passage with the 'lost cray pot' and a chimney to exit. Keep swimming east about 30m over the



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kelp beds where you will find the home of weedy sea dragons and even the rare leafy sea dragons. If you continue for another 30m the reef opens up to a series of deep holes down to about 12m; these holes are all interlinked and loaded with zebrafish, big eyes and the iconic western blue devilfish, just be wary of the stonefish and spiny sea urchins, so look before you put your hands down.

The Apartments



Average depth: 12m
Maximum depth: 18m

This dive spot is on the southern end of Staggy Reef about 5km west of Mindarie Marina. This dive spot is simply loaded with holes all over the reef with caves and swim-throughs and is home to a huge variety of fish in every hole all over the reef.

The reason for the large numbers of fish is probably due to it sitting at the end of the reef with a huge flow of water in and out towards the coast. There is also a prominent 'L' shape in the reef which jacks the water up and stirs up the sand creating lots of food in the water.

On this dive spot you can expect spectacular huge shoals of buffalo bream balling around you and sometimes in the school you can see Samson fish, grouper and morwongs. On top of the reef you can also find giant bull rays cruising around, with remoras tagging on for the ride. On occasion reef sharks come in for a



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look, and then to top it off there is also a huge cleaning station with about 20 cleaner wrasse doing their thing!

Don't attempt this dive with the south western sea breeze, only with light easterlies or north easters. If the swell is greater than 2m it will break and make for a dive with strong surges.



The Arches



Average depth: 3m

Maximum depth: 7m

Just south, about 2km from Mindarie Marina, you will find a very shallow dive but an awesome dive spot nonetheless. Drop the anchor in the sand and swim 2m to the reef and then the action starts.

As the name suggests, there are a few arches at this spot, along with underwater stalactites and stalagmites, holes and more holes. There's plenty to explore and plenty of dive time to do it; weave in and out of the swim-throughs, push the crayfish out of the way and check out the stillness in the caves.

Over the years this spot has been carved out and there's plenty of sea fans, sponges and corals to see. It is home to big schools of giant eyes and plenty of cuttlefish, and as you explore the caves you will come across port jacksons, lagoon rays hiding under the ledges and solitary western blue devilfish.

You can swim over the top of the reef to then find the blue holes with sandy bottoms and clear still water. This dive spot can only be dived with light easterly winds and no swell.

The Labyrinth



Average depth: 15m

Maximum depth: 22m

About 7km south west of the harbour side of Mindarie Marina you will find the dive spot The Labyrinth.

Starting at about 12m and slowly dropping to about 22m, there is something for everyone on this dive. On the deep part of the reef you will find some deep caves and swim-throughs just before the sand line so you will always see schools of queenies, dhu fish and King George whiting.

Swimming east you will go shallower to find limestone gorges, with sandy bottoms and goatfish feeding. These gorges run from east to west, so if you swim south over the tops of the ridges you will then find a flatter reef with holes and ledges. Large bull rays cruise out of the deep water to feed under the ledges. If you keep swimming to the east then the reef opens to a lagoon, with giant fans and large colourful sponges. You will also see clumps of soft corals as well as delicate and brittle red corals.

This dive spot can be dived in relatively bigger swells and higher winds than the other spots.



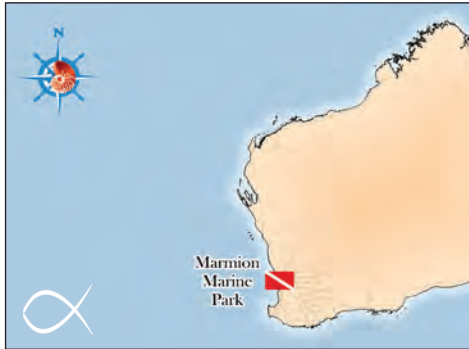


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Marmion Marine Park



Marmion Marine Park

GPS: (WGS84) S 31 49.565 E 115 44.325

Marmion Marine Park was the first marine park in Western Australia. It stretches for about 20km from Trigg Island at the south to Burns Beach in the north. The park covers an area of almost 10 500 hectares of ocean.

In this area you have the option of both boat and shore dives which you can do. Most of the boat diving here can be done from Hillary's boat harbour or any other harbour close to the dive spots.

DIVE & SNORKELING SPOTS

Burns Rocks / Seal Canyons



Average depth: 6m

Maximum depth: 10m

GPS: (WGS84) S 31.43.643 E 115.42.285

This dive spot is situated in the northern part of

Marmion Marine Park at Burns Rocks. The rock is too big to circumnavigate in one dive, so don't try or a long surface swim can be expected! Often sea lions can be seen playing in the surf.

The dive is shallow but offers plenty to explore, such as canyons, swim-throughs, caves and walls. The canyons run east to west, you will find a lot of hard corals and brain corals mark the ends of the canyons. You can expect to see plenty of schooling yellow tail, eagle rays and banded red morwongs, and if you are really lucky you may get sea lion interaction. Be aware though that they have a good set of teeth so don't wiggle your fingers or try to touch them. The sea lions are protected and there are strict regulations put in place for their protection so be sure to look up the latest restrictions from marine parks to avoid penalties.

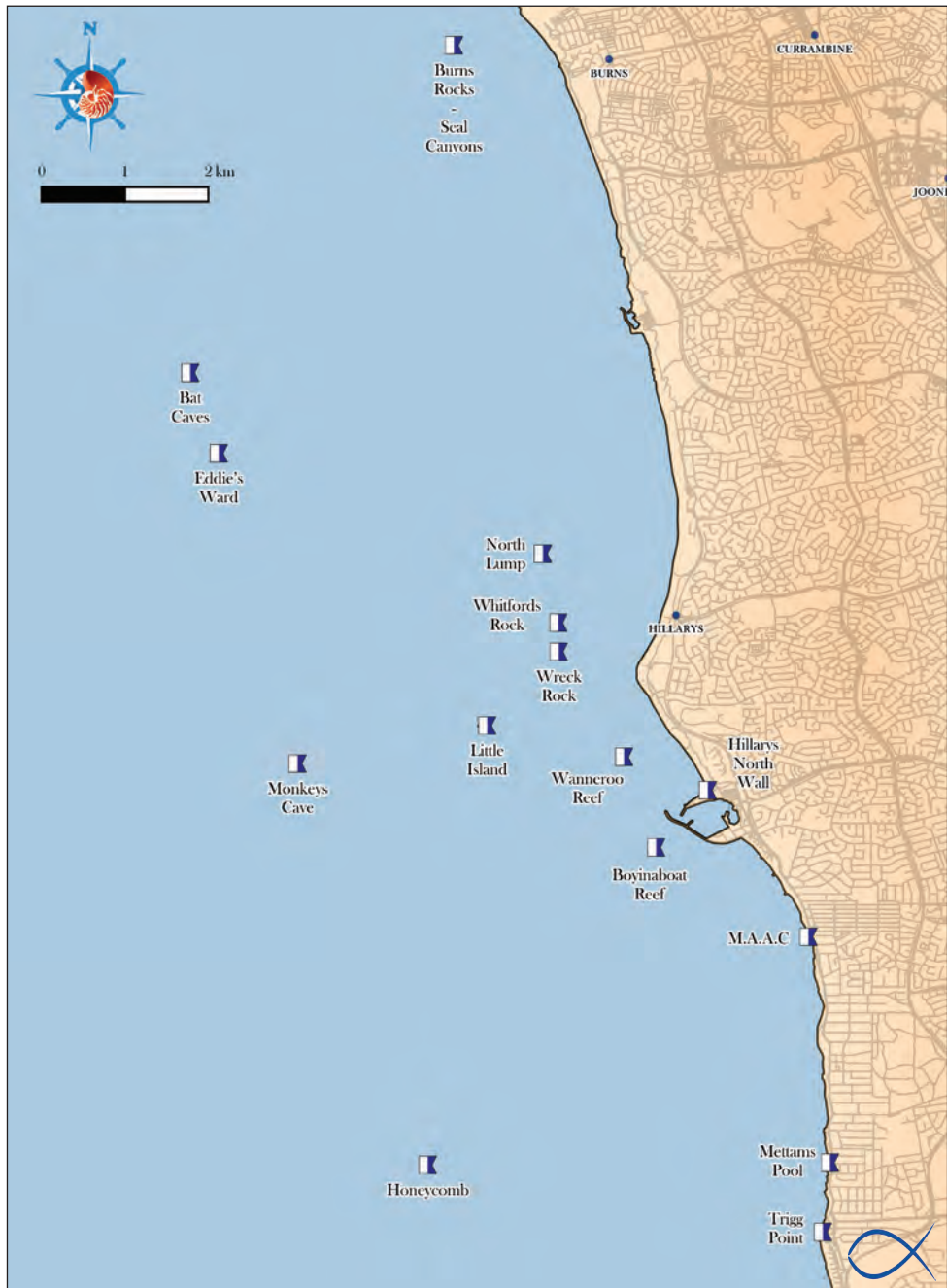
Anchor your boat depending on the wind direction. The best direction is an easterly, which enables you to dive on the south western side of the rock. It is better to dive at this site when the swell is low.



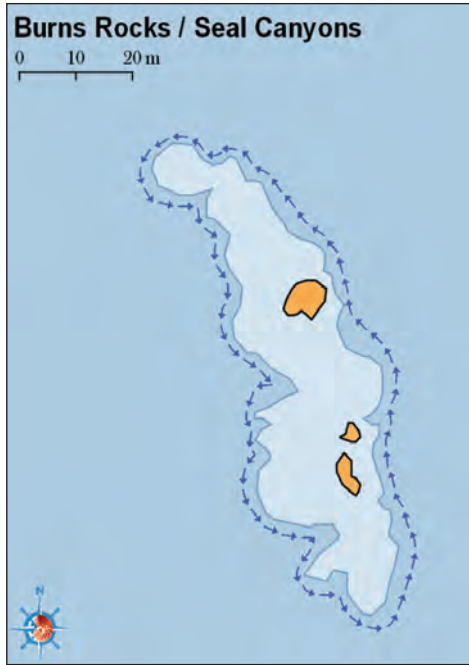
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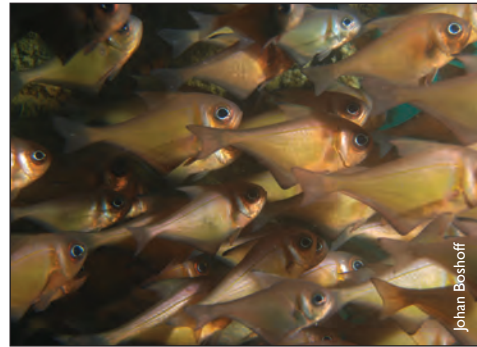
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Marmion Marine Park



be dived up to about 2m. It is loaded with caves, pinnacles and channels to keep you excited. There are plenty of hard and soft corals along with sea fans and colourful sponges and there is also plenty of fish life such as big Samson fish, huge schools of buffalo bream, wobblygongs and big bull rays. As you work your way to shallower depths of approximately 14m, the bottom composition changes to a series of ledges and walls. Here you can always find resident crayfish, spotted harlequins, blue grouper and western blue devil fish. This is a popular spot for fishermen so be aware of fishing line and boat traffic.



Bat Caves



Average depth: 14m
Maximum depth: 22m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31.46.101
E 115.40.278**

This spot is situated in the northern part of Marmion Marine Park about 10 kilometres south west from Mindarie Marina and about 9 kilometres north west of Hillary's boat harbour. Bat Caves is named not for the bat fish but after batman, with a sense of imagination during your dive picture yourself weaving throughout the structures beneath the waters surface, much like Batman flying through Gotham City's skyscrapers. The dive drops down to around 22m and can

Eddie's Ward



Average depth: 6m
Maximum depth: 12m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31.46.705
E 115.40.495**

This dive and snorkelling spot is about 8 kilometres north west of Hillary's boat harbour. It is a shallow dive on the outer reef and can also be snorkelled. Eddie's Ward is named after the diver that found the site, who upon surfacing said there were so many fish on the reef it was like an aquarium of

juvenile fish, hence Eddie's Ward (King Edwards Maternity Hospital).

Here you will find plenty of purple brittle coral mixed amongst soft sponges, big schools of fish and cleaner stations dotted all over the reef. Often you will see large snapper coming in to get a feed from the plentiful schools of yellowtail, and juvenile hatchet fish.

On the ledges and in the holes you will see big red octopus hiding away; just keep an eye out for the collection of shells at their entrance. This site has plenty of areas to explore, including overhangs, ledges and holes to swim into.

It is better to dive this site when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong because this spot is close to the reef and waves can break on the reef when there is a big swell.

North Lump



Average depth: 6m

Maximum depth: 8m

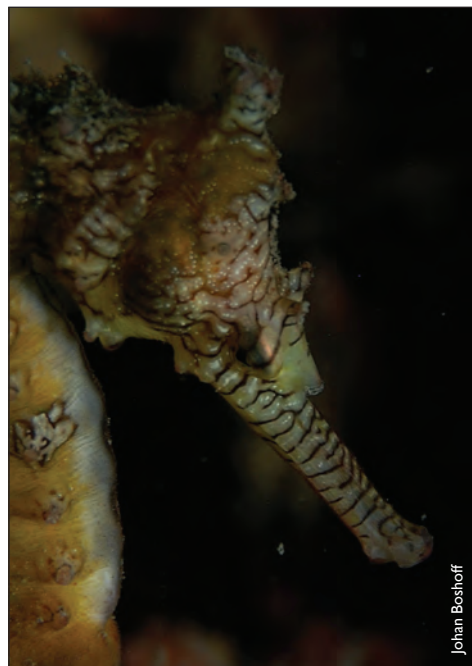
**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 47.459
E 115 42.962**

This dive spot is situated about 5 kilometres in a northern direction from Hillary's boat harbour. Here you will see a number of limestone outcrops that create canyons and gullies for you to explore. The area has countless ledges and swim-throughs covered with sponges, soft coral and gorgonians.

A wide variety of marine life can be found on this dive spot, including nudibranchs, leatherjackets, blue devilfish, sea stars, lionfish, stingrays, morwong, Samson fish, trevally, bullseyes, wrasse and rock lobsters. Schooling fish are also commonly see here. Take your

time and explore each outcrop and look under all the ledges.

The site is fairly exposed and completely submerged so it is best dived when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong. Anchor your boat to the eastern side of the reef on the sandy patches around the reef and swim towards the reef.



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Marmion Marine Park

Whitfords Rock



Average depth: 6m
Maximum depth: 7m

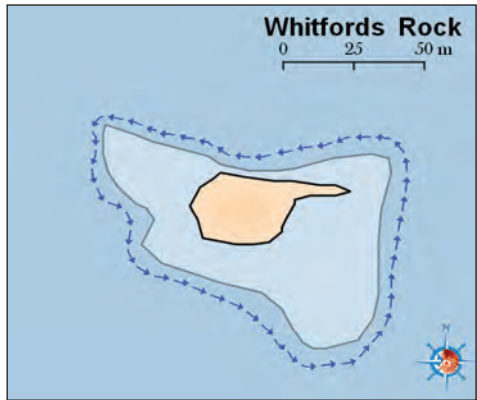
**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 47.976
E 115 43.080**

Whitford's Rock is a rock formation located about 3 kilometres north of Hillary's boat harbour. The rocks are easy to find because they stick out of the water about 500m north of Wreck Rock.

There are many ledges and overhangs around the rock formation and on the northern side you will find broken sections that are home to a variety of schooling fish. On the western side of the rock you can find several caves and swim-throughs and on the eastern side there is a long ledge to explore.

Depending on the direction of the wind, anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the reef and swim towards it. Dive clockwise or anti-clockwise around the rock formation. Watch your air consumption so you can get back to the boat and avoid a surface swim.

When the conditions are good it is also a good snorkelling site.



Wreck Rock



Average depth: 5m
Maximum depth: 8m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 48.194
E 115 43.083**

This dive and snorkelling spot is about 500m south of Whitfords Rock and about 2.5 kilometres in a northerly direction from Hillary's boat harbour. The rocks are easy to find because they stick out of the water. You can anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the reef and swim towards the reef. Depending on the direction of the wind, anchor your boat on the side of the rock formation that will protect you from winds and swell.

There is broken reef all around Wreck Rock and a ledge runs around it. All around you will find patches of sea grass with fish hiding in it. On the reef you can find a large cave on the western side and a large overhang and caverns on the southern side as well as a number of big holes all over the reef.

It is best dived or snorkelled when the swell is less than 1m and the winds are less than 15 knots.



Little Island



Average depth: 4m

Maximum depth: 6m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 48.748
E 115 42.538**

Little Island is about 2.5 kilometres north west of Hillary's boat harbour and is well known for its male Australian sea lions that hang around the island and in the surrounding waters. The island offers a relatively protected dive and snorkelling site and is excellent for beginners.

All around the island there are limestone outcrops with ledges where marine life can hide. These outcrops have sand patches around them, which are covered with sea grass and kelp. A variety of fish can be seen all over this dive and snorkeling spot.

Depending on the direction of the wind, anchor your boat on the sandy patches around

the rock and then swim towards the reef. The spot is known for its swell and can be very tricky to dive in such conditions. The best time to dive this dive spot is when there is no swell or wind, or when the wind comes from the south enabling the island to protect you. Remember that sea lions are not pets and they can get very aggressive.



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Marmion Marine Park

Monkeys Cave



Average depth: 14m

Maximum depth: 18m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 49.033
E 115 41.095**

This dive spot is about 5 km west of Hillary's boat harbour and is located on the outer reef structures of Marion Marine Park. The reef formations include swim-throughs and tunnels for you to explore. This is an excellent spot for invertebrate marine life.

On this dive you could see sea stars, lionfish, stingrays, morwong, samsonfish, trevally, bullseyes, wrasse and schooling fish.

This dive spot is totally exposed to swell which can make it a very tricky dive. The best time to dive this spot is when there is no swell or wind.

Wannaroo Reef



Average depth: 4m

Maximum depth: 6m

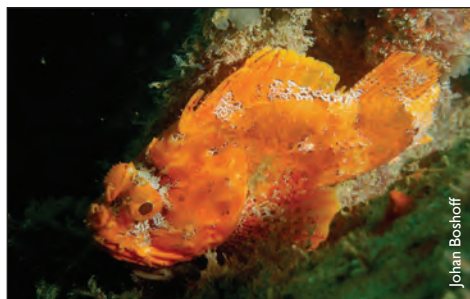
**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 48.983
E 115 43.580**

This is one of the closest dive and snorkeling spots and is situated about one kilometre from Hillary's boat harbour in a northern direction. The reef is about 100m long and runs parallel to the beach. The reef is easy to find due to some parts sticking out of the waters surface on tide changes.

On the northern side of the reef you can also find two bommies about 50m away from the main reef. The bommies are worthwhile

exploring and are full of marine critters. The best diving and snorkelling is on the eastern side of the reef and on the northern side where caverns are found.

The site is fairly exposed so it is best dived when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong. Try to stay on the eastern side of the reef where the reef structure protects you.



Hillarys North Wall



Average depth: 2m

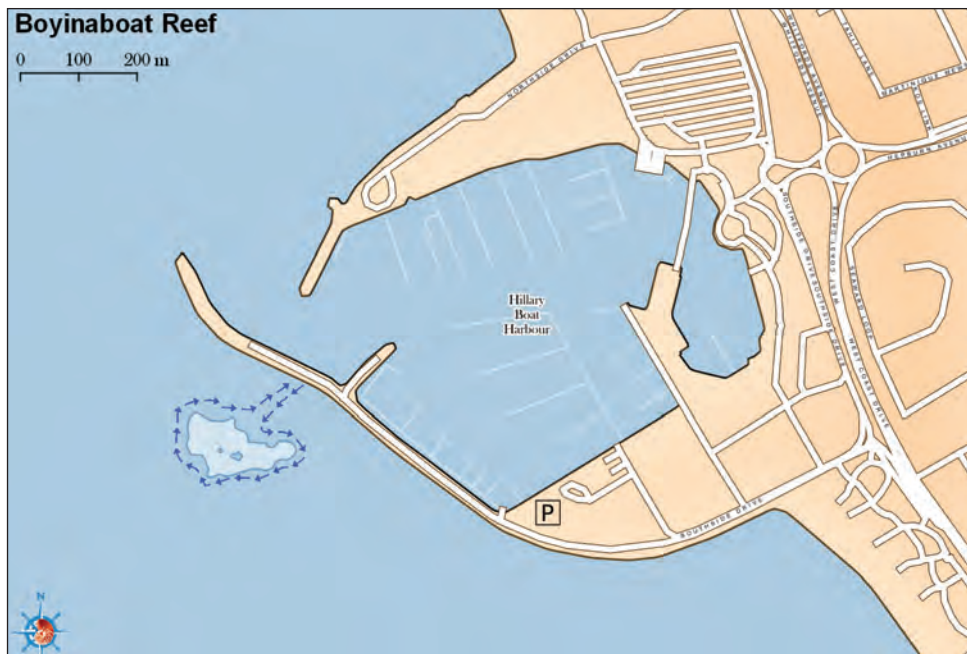
Maximum depth: 3m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 49.234
E 115 44.217**

This is not one of the best spots to dive and snorkel, but if weather conditions are bad you can may still get a dive in here when you have winds blowing from the south, enabling the wall to protect you. It normally has bad visibility due to the suspended seagrass.

It has a very easy entry and exit point straight from the beach. When entering the water you will find a gentle slope that runs to about 5m, which is ideal for beginners. There is a parking area close to the beach where you can kit up.

It is best if you dive with a torch here to look in the dark sections because there are a number of little nooks and crannies all over for you to explore with an abundance of



small marine life and a variety of fish life all around the wall. Large shoals of baitfish can be seen here. Halfway through your dive turn around and follow the 500m wall back to the beach.

The best time to dive and snorkel this spot is when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong.

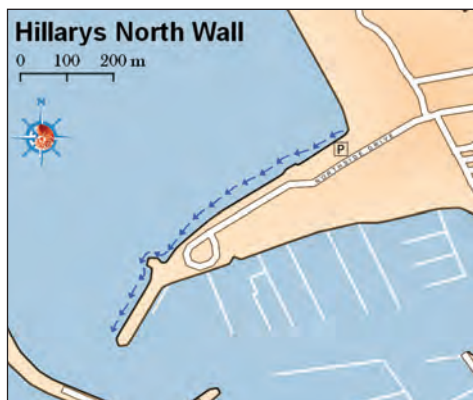
Boyinaboat



Average depth: 4m

Maximum depth: 7m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 49.546
E 115 43.970**



This dive and snorkelling spot is situated in front of Hillary's Marina and is an easy dive for new divers if you have good conditions. The best place to park your car and kit up is just behind the Aquarium of Western Australia. From here, you have two options to approach this dive spot, but both of them are a mission and there is no way to get in the water without climbing down the rocks.

The first option is to walk about 300m with your gear to the T-junction in the groyne and then climb down the rocks to the water. The

Marmion Marine Park

second option is to get in the water by climbing over the rocks at the aquarium and then snorkel to the reef and start your dive. This is about a 400m snorkel.

The limestone reef is located about 100m southwest of the T-junction in the groyne. Make sure you take a compass bearing before you get into the water so you don't miss the reef. When you reach the reef you will realise that the mission was completely worth it. The limestone reef has ledges and overhangs filled with marine life. The reef structure is covered with corals and sponges. Great nice swim-throughs can also be found here.

Schools of drummer fish and scallyfin fish, morwong, perch, old wives, bullseyes, leatherjackets, are commonly found here. You can still see some of the 10 plaques dotted around the reef which were placed there to inform divers about the area and to create a dive trail.

Take care when climbing down and back up the rocks as some of the rocks are very slippery. It is better to dive this spot when there is no swell and winds are low.

M.A.A.C



Average depth: 4m

Maximum depth: 5m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 50.333
E 115 44.984**

This dive and snorkelling spot is at the Marmion Angling & Aquatic Club. You can either park in the MAAC parking area or on West Coast Drive. Kit up and head down to the beach. There are two main areas that you would want to dive and snorkel; these sites can normally be seen from shore where the water breaks over the reef about 75m west of the boat ramp.

Enter the water at the boat ramp almost opposite the northern reef structure. Make your way to the northern reef structure and spend some time there. After you are finished there head about 100m south to the southern part of the reef. From there you can either head back the



Johan Boshoff

same way or go back on the inside of the reef structures.

This site offers a shallow shore dive with an abundance of life. On dives here you can see nudibranchs, leatherjackets, blue devilfish, bream, trevally and a variety of sponges.

It is better to dive this spot when there is no swell and the winds are low easterlies, because this dive and snorkelling spot has no shelter to offer protection.



Honeycomb



Average depth: 15m

Maximum depth: 19m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 52.046
E 115 42.085**

This dive spot is located on the outer reef of

Marmion Marine Park and is about 5.5 kilometres south west of Hillary's boat harbour. The reef runs along a small ledge that is surrounded with coral bommies.

There are a number of swim-throughs with arches, gullies and caves for you to explore. The reef walls are covered with sponges, sea grass and corals. In the ledges and holes, you will find a verity of marine species.

Remember that penetrating caves is dangerous and only for experienced divers who have the necessary training. A torch is necessary when entering the cave and overhang systems.

The spot is fairly exposed and so it is best dived when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong.



Mettams Pool



Average depth: 4m

Maximum depth: 7m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 52.029
E 115 45.148**

This is a very easy dive and snorkeling spot because the reef that acts like a barrier to create a nice pool. It is ideal for first time snorkelers or divers if the conditions are perfect.

Either park on West Coast Drive next to the

Marmion Marine Park



road just around Giles Street or drive north about 350m to another car park to park your car and kit up. It is better to park closer to the entry and exit point.

Walk down the stairs close to Giles Street and enter the water from there. The pools are located to the southern side. You can either stay inside the pool but it is not more than 2m deep, or if you are a diver, you can explore the outside of the reef where it is deeper.

This part of the coastline is known for its rip currents. It is better to dive this spot when there is no swell and the winds are low easterly winds because this dive and snorkelling spot has no shelter.

Half way through your dive turn around and head back to the beach.



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Trigg Point



Average depth: 4m

Maximum depth: 6m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 52.549
E 115 45.093**

This dive and snorkelling spot is at the most southern part of Marmion Marine Park. You can park your car at the Esplanade at Trigg Beach, kit up in the car park and walk down to the beach.

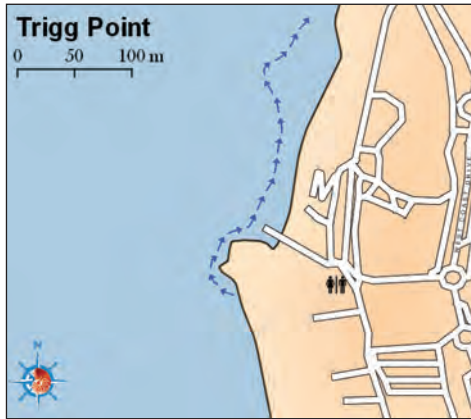
You can enter the dive and snorkelling spot either from the northern or the southern side of Trigg Island, it is up to you and depends on the conditions on the day. From the southern entry point, the limestone reef runs parallel to the beach; it is approximately 40m from the beach and runs for 500m in a northerly direction.

The reef has a small ledge that is covered with seaweed and you can find small overhangs all along the edge. A variety of marine life can be seen here including a number of nudibranchs.

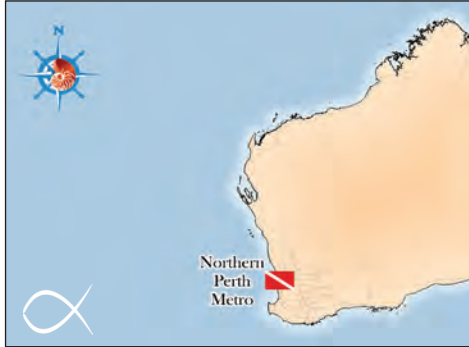


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It is important to note that this area has boat traffic and this part of the coastline is known for its rip currents. It is better to dive this spot when there is no swell and the winds are low easterlies because this dive and snorkelling spot has no shelter. Half way through your dive turn around and head back to the entry point.



Northern Perth Metro



Nothern Perth Metro

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 59.839
E 115 45.111**

This area stretches for almost 20km from North Mole on the northern side of the Swan River at Fremantle to the southern side of Marmion Marine Park at Trigg Island. It also includes the best Swan River dive on the northern side of the river.

In this area you have the option of both boat and shore dives which you can do. Most of the boat diving here can be done from Fremantle or any other harbour close to the dive spots.

DIVE & SNORKELING SPOTS

Cottesloe Groyne



Average depth: 5m

Maximum depth: 7m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 59.799
E 115 44.984**

This is the main groyne at Cottesloe Beach and it is a very easy dive and snorkel when the weather conditions are good. You can park your car in any of the parking areas and kit up and head down to the beach. The best place to enter is the northern side of the groyne where there is a gentle slope that runs to about 7m. On the southern side of the groyne it is a very rocky entry.

It is best if you dive with a torch here to look in the dark sections of the rocks and under the ledges of the limestone reef. These areas have an abundance of small marine life and a variety of fish life all around the wall and the reef.

Sea cucumbers, sponges, molluscs and featherstars can be found here. Fish species





that can be seen in the area include the yellow-finned whiting, dusky moorwong, silver drummer, pomfret and western buffalo bream.

You can dive and snorkel the groyne when you have winds blow from the south allowing the wall of the groyne to protect you if you are on the northern side. It is better to dive and snorkel here when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong.

Halfway through your dive turn around and follow the groyne back to the beach.



Elizabeth Reef



Average depth: 5m

Maximum depth: 8m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 00.456
E 115 45.078**

This dive and snorkel spot is at the most southern groyne at Cottesloe. At the bottom of



Northern Perth Metro

Beach Road is a car park where you can park your car and kit up. From here, you have two options to dive the groyne or the reef. The first option is to enter the water from the northern side of the groyne; you will find a gentle slope that slopes down next to the groyne, and as you enter the water the reef is right there. From there you can explore the groyne boulders and then swim about 100m west and then turn south. Swim about 200m in a southerly direction on the reef until you find some wreckage.

The second option is to walk about 200m south from the groyne along the beach and enter the water from there. It is also has a gentle slope that slopes down but look out for rocks when entering the water. There is also parking close to this entry point. From the shore head out about 150m west to find the wreckage. It will depend on the weather conditions as to which option you chose for your water entry.

On the southern end of the reef you can still find some wreckage from the Elizabeth wreck, an old wooden 194-ton barque that struck the reef close to shore in 1839. The wreck is

broken up and not a lot of it is left due to its shallow depth, which leaves it vulnerable to ocean conditions.

Around the wreckage, you will find a limestone reef that is full of sea grass and ledges for you to go and explore. There is lots of marine life around such as schools of bullseyes, buff bream, blue devils, red-lipped morwong and even weedy seadragons can be seen here.

It is best to dive this spot when there is no swell and the winds are not that strong because this dive and snorkelling spot has no shelter.



The Coombe



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 22m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 00.757
E 115 46.553**

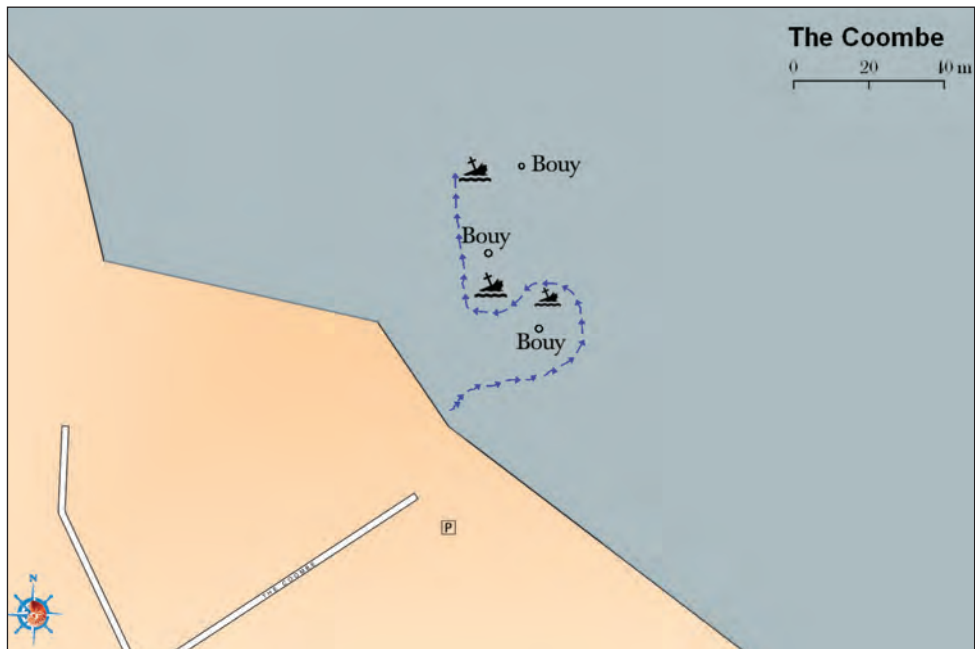
This is one of the best known dive spots on the northern side in Swan River with both shallow wrecks and deep wrecks to dive. It is located at the end of Coombe Street. At the bottom of the street you will find a parking spot to park your car and on the left of it is a grass area where you can kit up. Divers normally dive here when ocean diving is impossible due to bad weather (this dive spot is well sheltered). From the grass, go straight into the river and explore. Here you have a gradual shallow entry to the river. The bottom is very silty so silt out can occur very easily. The first of the two



Johan Boshoff



Johan Boshoff



Northern Perth Metro



wrecks is broken up and lying at about 9m of water. The second wreck is deeper, at about 22m. The length of the both wrecks is approximately 10m. It is always a good idea to take a torch with when diving in the river. Be warned that there is boat traffic on the Swan River and visibility can be very poor, especially after rain, so caution has to be taken when diving here. The closer to the centre of the river you dive the stronger the current becomes.

When you are halfway through your dive turn around and start swimming back to the entrance/exit point.

North Mole



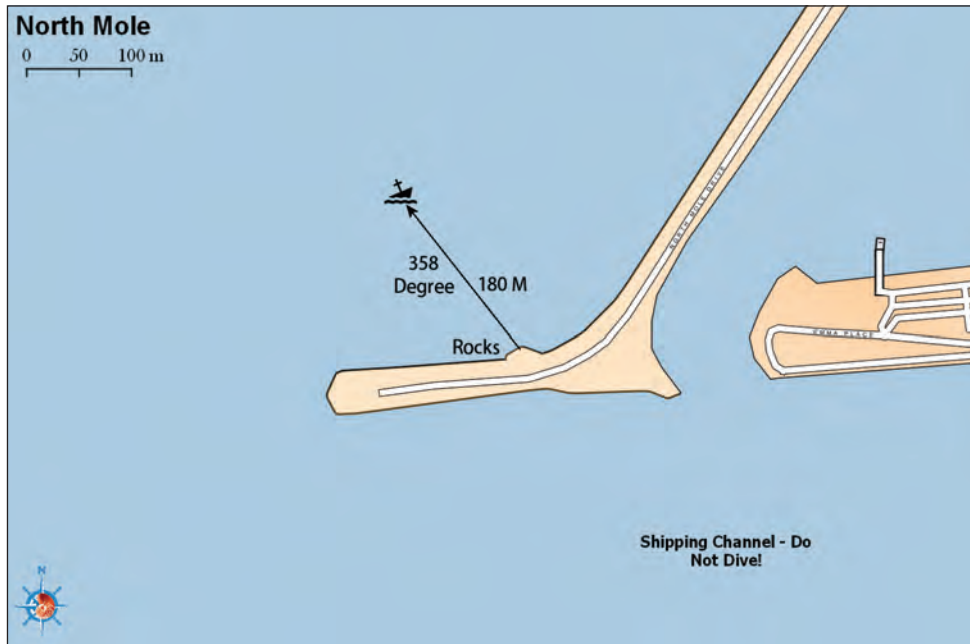
Average depth: 10m

Maximum depth: 12m

GPS: (WGS84) S 32 03.217 E 115 43.567

This shore entry is on the northern mole of the Swan River at Fremantle. You have to dive on the northern side of the mole and are not allowed to dive in the channel. This is a shipping lane and the area is administered by Fremantle Ports.

There is parking at the end of the mole where

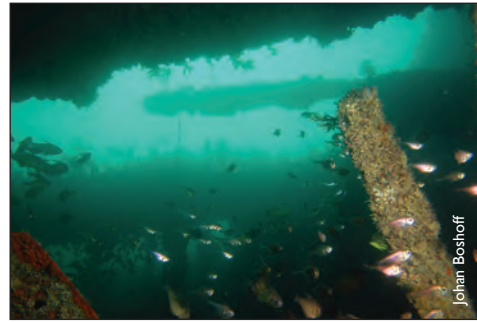
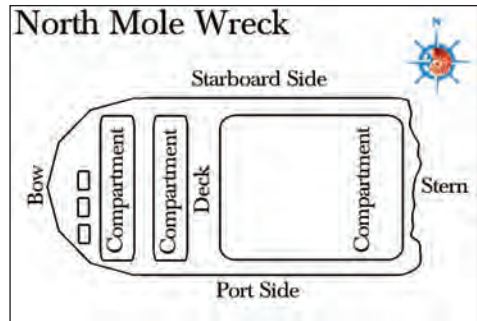


you can kit up. This dive spot there will be a bit of rock climbing to get to the water. You can either dive the granite boulders of the mole or you can explore a small wreck that is about 180m away from the mole. It is important to take your bearing of 358 degrees at the platform before you get in to the water.

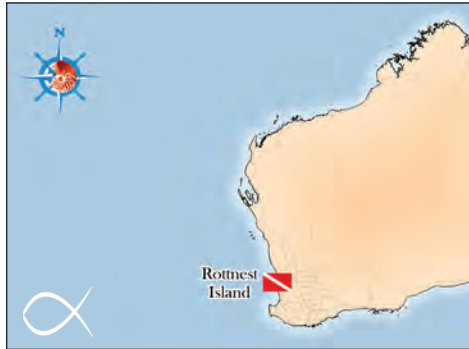
The wreck is generally referred to as the Gareenup wreck that sunk in 1923, but the actual name of the 22m long wreck is still unknown. It looks like a barge and has collapsed and large sheets of metal are all over the ocean floor due to the hammering it gets from the ocean.

You should take a torch to look in all the nooks and crannies. There is a variety of marine species here; have a look between all the rocks. On this dive spot you can see schooling bulls eye, old wives, squid, stingrays, octopuses, eels and boxfish.

This dive and snorkelling spot is very exposed to a northerly swell, as such it is better to dive this spot when the swell is less than a one metre and there is no wind.



Rottnest Island



Rottnest Island

GPS: (WGS84) S 31 59.734 E 115 32.52

Rottnest Island is a 19km (11km long and 4,5km at its widest point), A-Class Reserve, about 18km west of Fremantle. The island has a rich history including being a prison in earlier years, a military base later on and today as a big tourist attraction.

The island was called Wadjemup by the Noongar people, meaning “place across the water” and was changed later by captain Willem de Vlamingh when he thought that the Quokkas were rats and named it “Rotte nest” (meaning “rat nest” in the Dutch language).

In this area you have the option of both boat and shore dives. Most of the boat diving can be done from Fremantle or any other harbour close to the dive spots.

DIVE & SNORKELING SPOTS

Opera House



Average depth: 29m

Maximum depth: 36m

GPS: (WGS84) S 31 56.629 E 115 33.581

This dive spot is situated on the deeper ledge about 5km north-east of Rottnest Island. The reef is a relatively flat structure that slopes from about 23m in the north-east area to about 31m in the sandy area in the south-west.

Due to the prevailing conditions, the visibility here is typically the worst on the island. Those lucky enough to find one of the relatively small (maybe 4m across) holes in the reef structure which lead down will understand the name of this dive spot.

A massive cave system that opens up, the Opera House is a fairly clean rock inside with some coral and sponge growth dotted around the place, but it forms home to massive schools of bullseyes, the occasional decent size dhufish and often a few grey nurse sharks as well. The sight of these fish hanging around in the sunbeams coming through the roof are spectacular.

The cave is in an L-shape with access at the corner and both top and right. A second cave





opens off the top of the 'L' under a low shelf and heads up and back from the main cavern over a fairly steep slope covered in fine silt. It is highly recommended that divers avoid this back cave or adopt cave protocols because it does silt out very easily reducing the visibility of the exit to zero.

Remember that penetrating caves is dangerous and only for experienced divers who have the necessary training. A torch is a must when entering the cave systems.

The site is fairly exposed and so it is best dived when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong.

Roe Reef



Average depth: 15m

Maximum depth: 18m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 58.445
E 115 32.239**

This dive spot is about 2km north-east of Rottnest Island. This is one of the better dives



Rottnest Island

around Rottnest Island. The limestone reef in this area is full of canyons, gullies, caves and swim-throughs for you to explore. Remember that penetrating caves is dangerous and only for experienced divers who have the necessary training. A torch is a must when entering the cave systems.

A variety of marine life can be found here; make sure you look in all the overhangs and caverns. Under the overhangs you will find colourful sponge growth and hard corals and in the caves you will find schools of bronze bullseyes, leatherjackets, talmas and old wives and all over the reef structure you can also see wobbegongs, stingrays, harlequin fish, cuttlefish, blue devilfish and a variety of reef fish.

Depending on the direction of the wind, anchor your boat over the sandy patches around the reef and swim towards the reef to start your dive. The best time to dive this dive spot is when you have a wind out of the south when the island protects you.



David Caravias

West Kingston Reef



Average depth: 4m

Maximum depth: 9m

GPS: (WGS84) S 31 59.016 E 115 33.020

This is one of the few places in the world where

you can snorkel three wrecks in one spot. This dive and snorkeling spot is about 1km north-west of Thompsons Bay.

Three wrecks sank here almost on top of each other in the last century: the Janet, the Denton Holme and the Macedon.

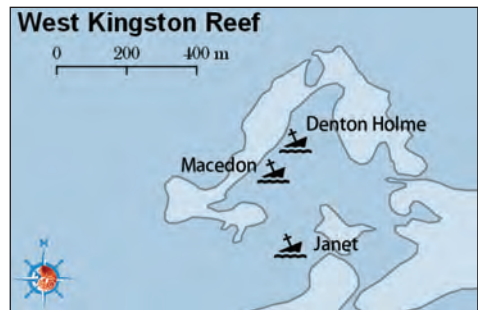
The Janet was a 3-masted ship that was built from jarrah wood and was on its inbound rout from Colombo with grain when it sank in 1887. The Denton Holme was a 998 ton iron barge that was carrying water pipes and other supplies from Glasgow when it struck the rocks in 1980. The Macedon was a British iron steamer on its way to Rottnest Island in 1883 with 50 passengers when the captain misjudged the distance of the rocks and the ship sank.

All three wrecks lie virtually on top of each other on top of Kingston Reef. The limestone reef is full of gullies and overhangs covered with sponges and corals. The reef is very interesting to explore but the main attraction for divers and snorkelers are the three wrecks.

Parts of the ships can be seen scattered all over the reef, including timber, iron beams and plates, frames, pipes, boilers and anchors. Due to big swell and winds over the years, the ships have been ripped apart.

The wreck in the best condition is the 67m long Macedon.

Depending on the direction of the wind, anchor your boat over the sandy patches around the wrecks and swim towards the reef. The best time to dive this dive spot is when you have a wind out of the south-west when the island protects you.





Johan Boshoff

It is better to dive this site when there is no swell and the winds are not that strong.

North Point Reef



Average depth: 16m

Maximum depth: 26m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 58.603
E 115 29.809**

This dive spot is about 2km north of Rottnest Island and is one of the deeper dives in the area. On this reef you will find a huge crack or canyon in the reef structure which drop from the top of the reef at about 19m to 26m at the ocean floor.

In the canyon you will find an abundance of marine life and a variety of fish species such as globefish, morwongs, bullseyes, yellowtail,

butterflyfish, blue devilfish, grouper and leatherjackets. The walls of the canyon are covered with colourful sponges and corals, and if you are lucky you could see an eagle ray passing through.

The best time to dive here is when you have a wind out of the south enabling the island to protect you. This is a wonderful dive spot if you can get the right conditions, no currents and no swells, as such conditions can create surge underwater. You have to be an advanced diver to get the best out of this site.



Shaun Terblanche

Rottnest Island

The Basin



Average depth: 4m
Maximum depth: 6m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 59.364
E 115 32.128**

This is one of the top snorkelling spots that Rottnest Island has to offer and it is situated close to Thomson Bay on the north-eastern side of the island. The best time to do this shore entry is when you have a wind out of the south when the island protects you.

Opposite the toilets you will find steps with easy access to the water, from where you can start your snorkel or your dive. When entering the water you can either start swimming to your left or to the right because the reef structure runs on both sides of the bay with a big sandy patch in the centre.

When exploring the coral reefs make sure you look in all the cracks, holes and under overhangs for marine life. Nudibranchs are commonly found in this area with a variety of wrasse and other tropical and sub-tropical fish. You can follow the edge of the reef and turn around after your dive to return the same way or you can cut over to the other side of the bay and return that way.

It is better to dive or snorkel this site when the swell is not big and the winds are not that strong or when winds are coming from the north.

City of York



Average depth: 6m
Maximum depth: 10m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 59.649
E 115 29.338**

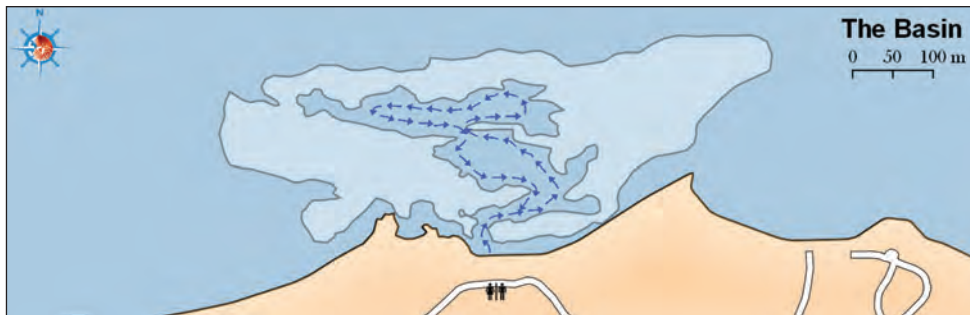
This wreck is about 500m north of Rottnest Island. To dive this wreck it is better to anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the wreck and swim towards it, but the best time to dive this dive spot is when you have a wind out of the south when the island protects you.

This ship, an iron barque that was built in

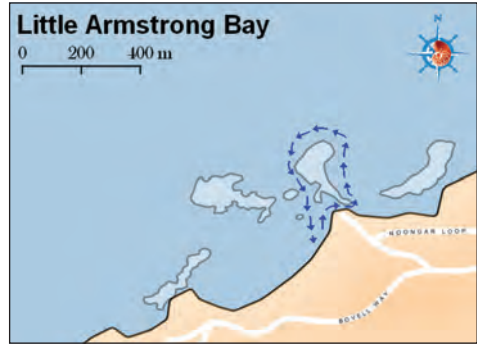


Chris Holman-uvphotog.com

Glasgow, was on its way from San Francisco with a cargo of timber and 5 000 doors. The vessel approached Rottnest Island in bad weather conditions, and when the island's lighthouse keeper realised that the barque hadn't asked for a pilot boat, he signalled the barque by flare to ask if they would need one.



The captain of the barque thought that it was the pilot boat signalling and went straight for it. On July 12, 1899, the City of York hit a rock and went down and 11 crew members died. Around the rocks and the sea weed you will find iron plates, ribs, beams and deck framing scattered all over the ocean floor. It is better to dive this site when the swell and the winds are not that strong.



Little Armstrong Bay



Average depth: 4m

Maximum depth: 7m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 59.463
E 115 30.201**

This is a very popular shore entry for snorkelers and divers. This spot is just off Little



Rottnest Island

Armstrong Bay at the northern side of the island. You can kit up on the sandy beach just to the left of the point and enter the water.

From there keep the rock formation on your right-hand side and swim approximately 300m along the rocks. At the end of the rock formation you can either go around the point and follow the rocks back from the other side, or if you are running low on air, just turn around and head back to the beach.

Along the route you will find scattered bommies that are covered with colourful sponges surrounded by sand patches and seagrass. Around the bommies you will find overhangs and ledges covered with all sorts of marine critters.

There are a variety of fish in the area which make this a very nice dive and snorkelling spot. It has an easy entry and exit in good conditions.

It is better to dive or snorkel this site when the swell is not big and the winds are not that strong or when winds are coming from the north.



Chris Holman-uwphotog.com

Swirl Reef



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 17m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 00.045
E 115 28.024**

This dive spot is about 2km north of Rottnest Island. The dive spot got its name from the massive 'footprint' that you can see on the surface when the swell goes over it.

The limestone reef here is formed like a crater, and around the crater, ledges and small caves can be found. Many swim-throughs can be found here, predominantly at the north-west and south-east sections.

The reef is home to many invertebrate species as well as harlequinfish, blue devilfish and even some crayfish. There is a lot for you to explore all over the reef.

The dive spot is completely exposed so can be very tricky if there is any swell. The best time to dive this dive spot is when there is no swell or any wind or when the wind comes from the south enabling the island to protect you.

Jackson Rock



Average depth: 8m

Maximum depth: 16m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 01.548
E 115 35.009**

This dive spot is about 3,5km south-east of Rottnest and sits on the track between the island and Fremantle. Jackson Rock is a great last shallow dive on the way home on a calm

day with no swell.

The reef sits on a sandy bottom at around 16m, and rises as shallow as 6m in places. The reef structure shows signs of its exposure to swell and as a result has numerous gullies, caves and swim-throughs and a surprising concentration of local species and fauna. Plenty of ledges just above the sand make for a great cray fishing spot if the timing is right and they are in residence.

The hardest part of diving this site is the deceptive way in which all the gullies look as if they are running in straight lines when they are actually not: it's very easy to get lost here. On a day with a strong sea breeze there can be a decent surface current running, so, if in doubt, surface with plenty of air left. That way you can find the boat, drop down and swim back under the current. All in all, it's a pretty dive with plenty of entertainment on a nice day.

It is not a particularly well sheltered site, so is best dived when the swell is less than 1m and the winds are less than 15 knots.



Horseshoe Reef



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 18m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 00.286
E 115 27.047**

This dive spot is about 1km north-west of Rottneest Island and is totally exposed to swell. The dive spot is nice and shallow and the reef has been sculpted over many years into a large complex of caves and tunnels that can be found all over the area.

Swimming along the 12m section of the reef to the north-east of the GPS mark, you should soon see either a hole in the wall on your left guarded by kelp, or further along see a series of large openings down into the cave systems. Remember that penetrating caves is dangerous and only for experienced divers who have the necessary training. A torch is a must when entering the cave systems.

It can be a bit tricky if there is any swell, but well worth it. The southern end of the cave is one of the few spots at Rottneest where you can escape the sunlight in a tunnel. Sometimes the tunnel opens out at the end, sometimes not; it all depends on how much sand is in the tunnel.

There is plenty of marine life and often crayfish around. Photographers would do well with a wide angle lens to capture the cave structure and sun's rays coming in. It is best to dive this site when there is no swell.

Rottnest Island

Crystal Palace



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 18m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 01.601
E 115 32.623**

This dive spot is one of the best dive spots around Rottnest Island and is about 850m south-west of Dyer Island. It is generally quite calm due to the position of the site, but the best time to dive this dive spot is when you have a wind from the north enabling the island to protect you.

This dive site has a labyrinth of caves and swim-throughs. This is truly a spectacular site, with vast amounts of fish including blue groupers, harlequinfish, samsonfish, buffalo bream, morwongs, leather-jackets and dhufish to name just a few.

The topography of this dive spot with all its

endless cave systems, holes and swim-throughs make it a must dive for any scuba diver. In the centre of this cave system you will find a big chamber that is packed with a variety of marine life.

Remember that penetrating caves is dangerous and only for experienced divers who have the necessary training. A torch is a must when entering the cave systems.

Parker Point



Average depth: 6m

Maximum depth: 12m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 01.708
E 115 31.999**

This dive and snorkelling spot is located very close to the island on the southern side. There





Andre Cronie

are many bommies for you to explore, but boat traffic can be a hazard so take care when diving or snorkelling. There is a channel and leading lines that allow access to the beach. Parker Point offers an easy shallow dive sheltered from the sea breeze. There is an abundance of reef fish such as butterflyfish, morwongs, scalyfins, sweetlips, drummer and wrasse. This spot is home to Western Australia's southernmost stand of cauliflower coral. Any swell makes diving close to the end of the

point uncomfortable, but if it is just a windy day this is a great spot for divers and snorkelers alike. This site is right on the edge of the sanctuary zone, so if crayfishing, keep an eye on the markers and make sure that you stay outside during your dive and afterwards. Depending on the wind direction, anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the reef and swim towards the reef, but the best time to dive this dive spot is when you have a wind out of the north when the island protects you.



Johan Boshoff



Johan Boshoff

Rottnest Island

Salmon Bay



Average depth: 10m
Maximum depth: 14m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 01.278
E 115 30.064**

This dive spot is close to the island and is about 500m from the southern side of Rottnest Island.

The dive site consists of a number of bommies which are scattered around the dive spot on a sandy bottom. The bommies are covered with kelp and have plenty of hiding places and ledges for western blue devils, crayfish, leatherjackets, cuttlefish and many more marine species.

Depending on the direction of the wind, anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the reef and swim towards the bommies. This dive spot is well protected and is best dived when the wind blows from the east enabling the island to protect you.

Eagle Bay



Average depth: 4m
Maximum depth: 5m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 01.183
E 115 27.130**

Eagle Bay is on the north side of Rottnest Island and is accessible by boat or a short swim from the shore. The bay is protected from all winds except from winds which come from the north. The white sand against the deep blue make this a spectacular bay.

Here you will find numerous reef structures covered with seaweed and seagrass. There are a number of overhangs and a small wall in the area as well as a small cave system for you to dive through. Around this dive spot and inside the cave you will find plenty fish and marine life.

Remember that penetrating caves is dangerous and only for experienced divers who have the necessary training. A torch is a must when



entering the cave systems.

It is better to dive this site when the swell and the winds are not that strong because it is so shallow.

Parker Drop-off



Average depth: 20m

Maximum depth: 24m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 01.968
E 115 31.429**

This dive spot is on the southern side of Rottnest Island and is about 1km from the dive spot Parker Point. This is a wall dive and the wall starts from about 5m and drops down to about 22m.

The wall is full off ledges and overhangs and is a favourite spot for crayfish fishermen as the wall is easily accessible and normally full of crayfish. There is more than just crayfish at this

spot though, and the site provides a habitat for plenty of other reef critters and fish.

The dive spot takes a pounding when the south-west swell is running, so try to dive it when swells and winds come from a northerly direction which enables the island to protect you. Try to anchor at the eastern side of the wall and then swim to the wall; halfway through the dive turn around and start swimming back to the boat.

This spot is best dived when the ocean is calm.



Rottneest Island

Duffield Ridge



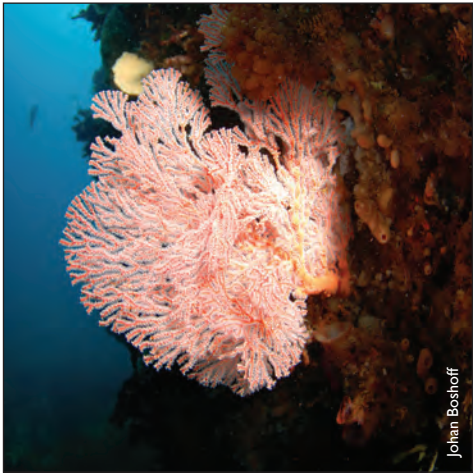
Average depth: 26m
Maximum depth: 30m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 02.108
E 115 28.469**

This dive spot is one of the deeper dive spots around Rottneest Island and sits on the south side, about 1,5km from the island. There are two sections on this reef that you can dive (the GPS coordinates are for the eastern section where a smaller section of the reef can be found). The larger reef structure is on the western side of the GPS coordinates.

This chain of reefs sit in deeper water (around 30m) and come up from the sand in majestic hills covered with plenty of reef life. Being deeper and upwind of the prevailing conditions from the island, it tends to have better visibility, but it's also very exposed to the south westerly swells.

The best time to dive this dive spot is when you have a wind out of the north when the island protects you.



Johan Boshoff

West Patch



Average depth: 20m
Maximum depth: 26m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 01.838
E 115 26.419**

West Patch is rated one of the best dive spots around Rottneest Island and is about 1km west of Rottneest Island.

This dive spot is also home to the famous 'Shark Cave'. Dropping in on the GPS mark you will find yourself on a reef with a swim-through and cave which often plays home to Port Jackson sharks and wobblygongs. Heading south-east from this reef across a flat bowl, you know you're going in the right direction when you swim over a pool-table sized boulder. On the other side of the bowl is a large overhang sitting on top of another cave which drops down to 26m and normally shelters a group of grey nurse sharks. Numbers vary but more than 20 have been spotted at on time at this dive spot.

The best strategy for visiting these beasties is to lay down at the mouth of the cave and save your air by just relaxing. The circles they swim will get smaller and smaller and they will eventually come to you to check you out.

Further east and south of this cave are other holes, often filled to the brim with crayfish and things that like eating crayfish, but beware: the whole site is inside the West End sanctuary so leave your crayfish loop on board the boat!

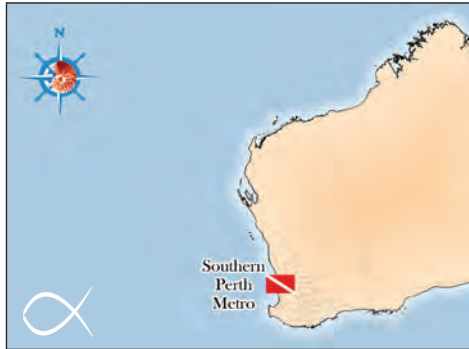
Remember that penetrating caves is dangerous and only for experienced divers who have the necessary training. A torch is a must when entering the cave systems.

The site is very exposed to swells, so it is better to dive this spot when there is no swell and the winds are not strong.



Chris Holman-uwphotog.com

Southern Perth Metro



Southern Perth Metro

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 05.444
E 115 45.449**

This area stretches from South Mole on the southern side of the Swan River at Fremantle for 15km south to Woodman Point and Carnac Island. It also includes the best Swan River dive on the south side of the river.

In this area you have the option of both boat and shore dives which you can do. Most of the boat diving here can be done from Fremantle or any other harbour close to the dive spots.

DIVE & SNORKELING SPOTS

Blackwall Reach



Average depth: 13m

Maximum depth: 15m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 01.265
E 115 46.966**

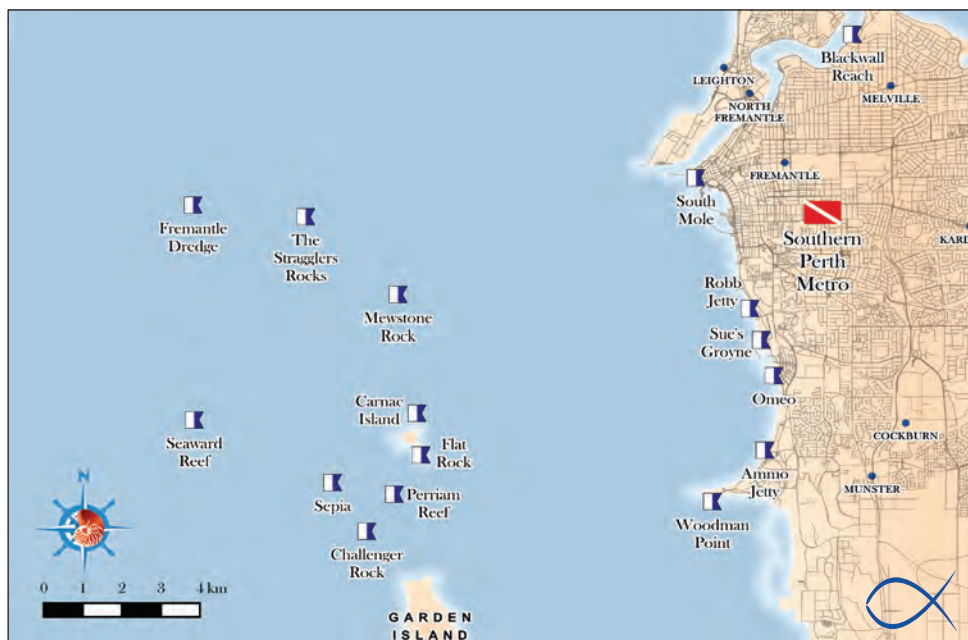
This is one of the best known dive spots on the southern side in the Swan River. It is located near to the end of Blackwall Reach Parade. At the bottom of Kent Street you will find a car park where you can kit up. Divers normally dive here when ocean diving is impossible due to bad weather.

Here you have a gradual shallow entry to the river. When entering the river start swimming to the right and follow the cliff wall. The bottom is very silty and you can find old rusted cars, a wreck and strips of metal all over the river bed. When you are halfway through your dive turn around and start swimming back to the entrance/exit point.

On the dive, you will see plenty of jellyfish and bream. Also look out for the very dangerous



Johan Boshoff



blue-ring octopus.

Be warned that there is boat traffic on the Swan River and visibility can be very poor, especially after rain, so caution has to be taken when diving here. The closer to the centre of the river you dive the stronger the current becomes.

South Mole



Average depth: 3m

Maximum depth: 5m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 03.405
E 115 44.415**

This shore entry is on the southern mole of the Swan River at Fremantle. You have to dive on the southern side of the mole and are not



Southern Perth Metro

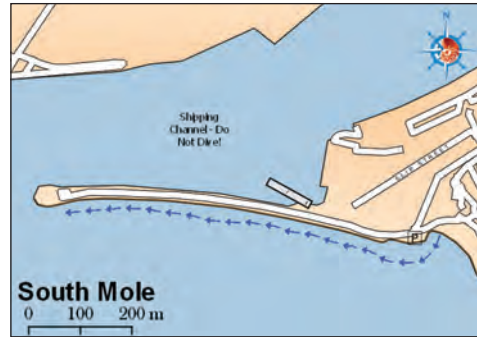
allowed to dive in the channel. This is a shipping lane and the area is administered by Fremantle Ports.

Here you have two options to dive the granite boulders of the mole; the first option is to enter from the beach where you will find a gentle slope that runs to about 5m. This is ideal for beginners as you swim against the wall. Halfway through the dive you can turn around and head back.

The second option is for the rock climbing divers. You can park your car almost at the end of the mole and then climb over the boulders down to the water. Just remember that the rocks are very slippery. From there you can either swim east or west.

You should try to take a torch to look in all the nooks and crannies. There is a variety of marine species around, but be sure to have a look in the seagrass and kelp for leafy seadragons.

This dive and snorkelling spot is very exposed to a south-west swell and it is better to dive this site when the swell is less than a one metre.



The Stragglers Rocks



Average depth: 3m

Maximum depth: 8m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 03.985
E 115 38.045**

This dive and snorkelling spot consists of a reef chain with a few lumps of rock, which permanently stick out of the water, about 10km off shore. Approaching the rocks from the east or north of the islets, it is possible to pick your way through the reef into the relatively calm waters of a small lagoon sheltered on the south and west by the lumps.

Inside the sheltered area is a good snorkelling spot between, for the most part, one and three metres deep. The larger inlet on the south harbours a swim-through which will take you outside the reef where it gets a little deeper: up to 8m in some parts. On the south-west face of the reef on the outside, you might find remnants of a ship that was wrecked here a long, long time ago.

Being such a shallow spot it is very bright and colourful on a sunny day with plenty of small reef fish, sponges, soft corals and anemones all over. All in all it is a viable alternative to Garden or Carnac Islands for taking the family for a picnic and a lazy splash on a nice day.

Depending on the wind direction, anchor your

boat on the sandy patches around the reef and swim towards the reef. It is better to dive this site when the swell and the winds are not that strong.

Fremantle Dredge



Average depth: 18m

Maximum depth: 22m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 03.811
E 115 36.216**

A wreck was discovered in 1998 about halfway between Fremantle and Rottnest Island by a group of divers that were looking for crayfish in that area. The exact identification of this wreck is still unknown but it is commonly referred to as the Fremantle Dredge while some call it the Straggler's Dredge because it lies about 2km west of Stragglers Rocks. She lies in the deeper part of Five Fathom Bank in an upright position at about 22m. Due

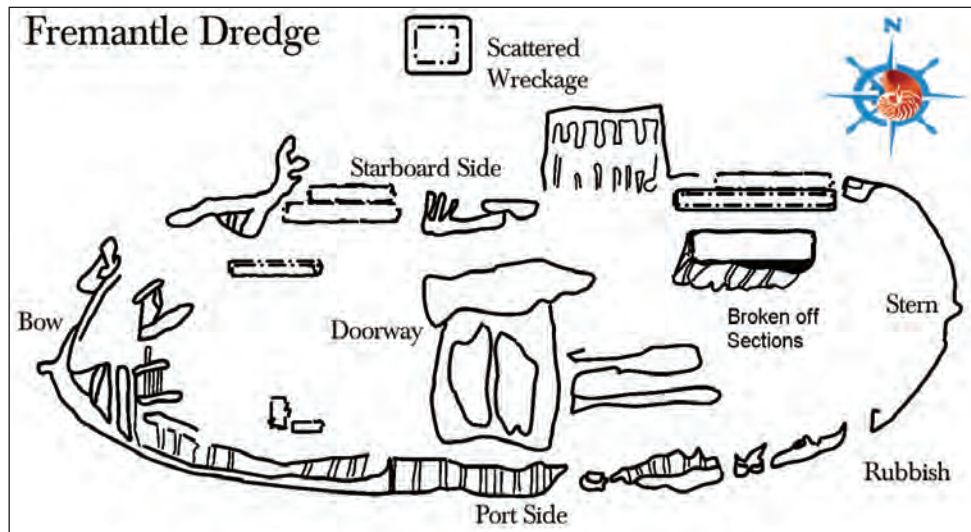


Johan Boshoff

to the depth at which she is lying, where no breakers crash over her, the wreck is still in a fairly good condition. On your dive you can generally see the ship's skeleton with a couple of openings around for fish to hide and for you to go and explore.

The wreck is covered with hard and soft coral and colourful sponges. A variety of marine life and fish can be seen on and inside the wreck which attracts marine life from the surrounding areas.

It is better to dive this site when you have no swell and the winds are not that strong because it has no protection as it sits in the open ocean. It can be a very nice dive when the conditions are good. To this day, no one know why this wreck sank or its exact name.



Southern Perth Metro

Mewstone Rock



Average depth: 4m

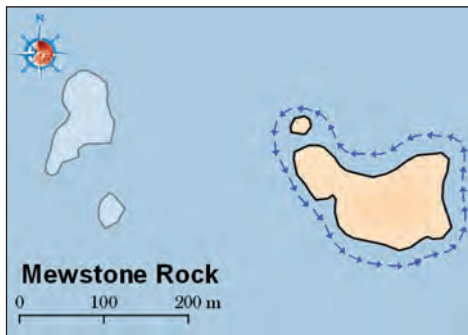
Maximum depth: 10m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 05.143
E 115 39.557**

This dive spot is characterised by a rock that permanently sticks out of the water about 8km off shore. It is an easy and shallow spot if the weather conditions are good. There is plenty of reef life to be seen here and the shallow depth enables the colours to really stand out. Approaching from the north-east, shelter can be had in a small bay. The dive is a simple circumnavigation of this island which takes about an hour with a maximum depth of 10m (although most of the dive will be spent at around 4m). Most divers will have enough air to circumnavigate the island.

Given the shallowness and how exposed this site is, it turns into a washing machine when the swell gets anything over about a half metre. You really need a flat day, but on such a day it is worth a look and is a really pretty dive.

Depending on the wind direction, anchor your boat on the sandy patches on the northern side of the rock and swim towards the reef. It is better to dive this site when the swell is low and the winds comes from the south where the rock protects you.



Johan Boshoff

Robb Jetty

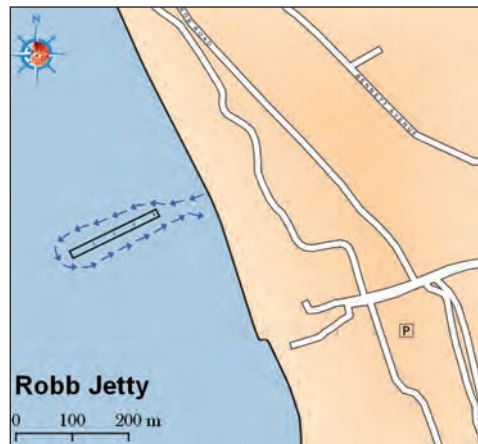


Average depth: 6m

Maximum depth: 8m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 05.352
E 115 45.298**

This dive and snorkelling spot is located at the CY O'Connor Reserve where a famous engineer took his own life many years ago by riding his horse into the water. You can still see his memorial statue in the water just to the right of the dive spot. There are two car parks close to the spot but it is better to park and kit up at the furthest one to the south where there are more people for security reasons and where



you also have toilets and other facilities.

Kit up in the car park and take the path on the right hand side of the park to the beach. When you get to the beach turn right and walk about a hundred metres. Don't worry if you don't see the jetty because it is only the remains of an old dismantled cattle jetty that was used from the 1890s to the 1970s to unload cattle. Today it is only wooden pylons under the surface.

Look for old ship wreckage on the beach and old jetty pylons. Take your compass bearing from there and head in to find the rest of the jetty. You will swim over a 50m patch of sand with no pylons before you find the remaining pylons of the jetty that stretch for more than 100m.

There is a variety of marine life around the pylons due to all the soft and hard corals as well as sponges that grow on them. Nudibranchs, sea cucumbers and stingrays are commonly found here.

It is better to dive this site when the swell and the winds are not that strong.

Seaward Reef



Average depth: 10m

Maximum depth: 16m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 07.004
E 115 36.235**

This dive spot is about 15km from the mainland sitting about 6km behind Carnac Island along Five Fathom Bank. This spot is comprised of a few bommies that become exposed on a rougher day. Around the bommies there are a few swim-throughs and caves whose walls are encrusted with coral and other invertebrates.

The caves and swim-throughs are scattered over a fairly wide area, separated by kelp banks, so it is best to either do a single group or

be prepared for a nice long swim as you move from one to the next.

The spot is totally exposed to the swell, and because it is really shallow, you need a really flat day as it is quite susceptible to silting up after a storm



Johan Besthoff

Sue's Groyne



Average depth: 3m

Maximum depth: 6m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 05.816
E 115 45.480**

This dive and snorkel spot is just on the outside wall of the northern side of Coogee Marina. It has a very easy entry and exit point straight

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Omeo



Average depth: 2m

Maximum depth: 3m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 06.344
E 115 45.689**

from the beach. When entering the water, you will find a gentle slope that runs to about 6m, ideal for beginners. There is a parking area close to the beach where you can kit up and walk down to the beach.

You can dive and snorkel the groin when winds blow from the south enabling the wall to protect you. However, it is better to dive here when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong.

It is best if you dive with a torch here to look in the dark sections because there are a number of little nooks and crannies all over for you to go and explore. There is an abundance of small marine life and a variety of fish life all around the wall.

Halfway through your dive turn around and follow the wall back to the beach.

This is one of the few wrecks that you can snorkel on the coastline. The wreck is located just south of the Coogee Marina and is fantastic for beginners because it is very shallow and you have easy access to the wreck. There is parking close to the wreck with grass where you can kit up and enter the water.

The Omeo was a 789-ton iron framed ship that was used as a coal transporter. On September 11, 1905 there was a gale force storm and the ship broke its mooring and was swept to the shore. The wreck is only 30m from shore and you can see it from the beach as some of the sections still stick out of the water. You can enter and exit the water by just climbing over the rocks.

There is some juvenile marine life around the



wreck that use the metal structures to hide. It is only protected if there are winds that are blowing from the north and it is recommended that you only snorkel when the water is calm and flat and there are no winds.



Carnac Island



Average depth: 3m
Maximum depth: 6m

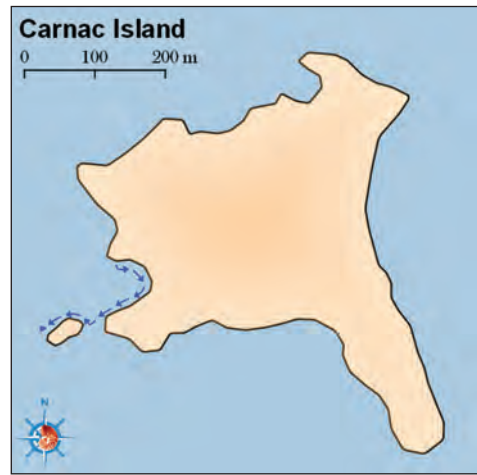
**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 07.312
E 115 39.674**

The island is about 7km west of Woodman Point and about 4km north of Garden Island. The back beach on Carnac Island makes a nice spot for a picnic lunch. Due to a narrow channel approach that is fenced off by reef either side and occasional bommies in the sand, this spot is only suitable for smaller boats on very flat days.

From the beach keep the rock formations on your left hand side, and if the weather is good, then you can snorkel around the point. It is very nice to snorkel along the reefs that fence the narrow channel, as well as the rest of the bay. There is lots of life on the reef structure and there are some big caves to explore.

It is a great spot to take the family, with a chance of a snorkel and for the kids to get off the boat and run around. Just remember, Carnac Island is home to tiger snakes, so warn

your children about the dangers and encourage them to stay on the beach and not venture into the vegetation. It is best to snorkel this spot when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong and when you have a wind out of the east when the island protects you.



Flat Rock



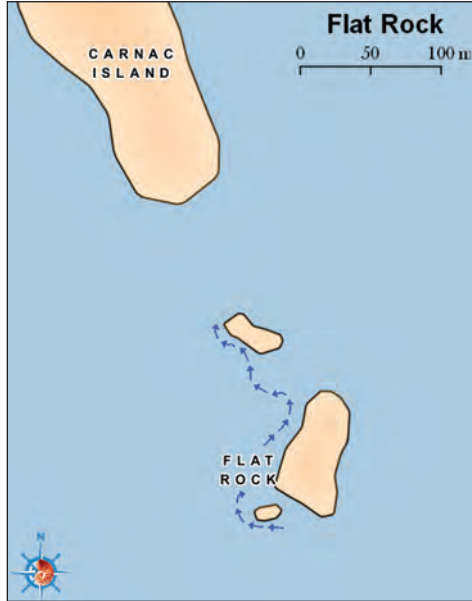
Average depth: 4m
Maximum depth: 6m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 07.525
E 115 39.936**

This dive and snorkelling spot is on the southern side of Carnac Island. On the southern side of the island, you will see a channel between the island and the rock structure known as Flat Rock where you can start your dive or snorkel. The best side to dive is the western side, but you can also dive the eastern side if the conditions don't allow you to dive on the western side. Follow the ledge and look in all the little nooks and crannies for marine life. Schools of bream and morwong, boxfish and bullseyes can be seen all over the

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reef. Depending on the wind direction, anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the reef and swim towards the reef. It is better to dive this site when the swell and the winds are not that strong.



lost. A couple of tight swim-throughs and plenty of life keep it an attractive site that is worth a visit at least once.

It is better to dive this site when you have no swell and the winds are not that strong because it has no protection as it sits in the open ocean.

Sepia



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 14m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 07.937
E 115 38.490**

This wreck lays about 3km offshore between Garden and Carnac Islands. The Sepia was a three masted barque that was built in 1864 when it was used as a trade vessel.

Perriam Reef



Average depth: 16m

Maximum depth: 18m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 08.110
E 115 39.498**

This dive spot is about 8km from the mainland sitting in the channel between Carnac and Garden Islands about 1km south of Carnac Island. This is a small reef which is susceptible to silt with strong swells over about a metre. It is another pretty oasis of coral and smaller fish sticking out of the sandy bottom. This site is pretty well defined and it is quite difficult to get



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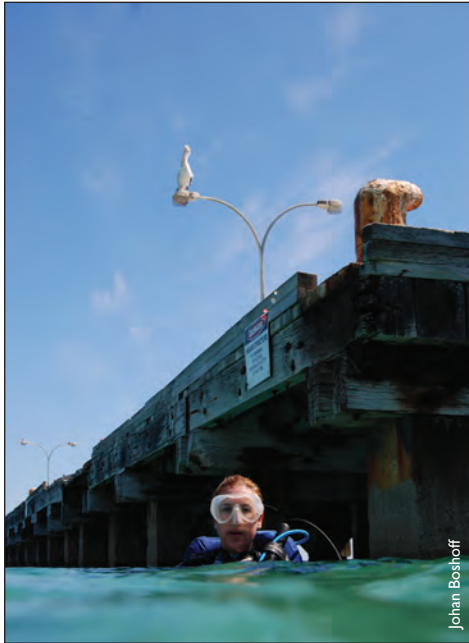
The Sepia sank on December 29 1898 as she was on her way to Fremantle from London carrying 12 crew and over a ton of mixed cargo.

Just before arriving at her destination, she struck a submerged rock at the edge of Five Fathom Bank and sank in less than 10 minutes. Today the 715-ton iron barque as well as some of her cargo rest on the ocean floor at 14m.

After more than a hundred years, you can still see a portion of her hull and anchor embedded into the limestone reef.

The wreck is reasonably well protected from bad seas and is still in a good condition if you take the amount of time that she has been resting in the ocean into account. After many years all the metal has become an artificial reef and attracts fish and other marine critters.

This dive spot is in the open ocean and has no protection so it is better to dive this site when the swell is not too big and the winds are not that strong due to surge and strong currents.



Ammo Jetty



Average depth: 8m

Maximum depth: 9m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 07.455
E 115 45.539**

Ammunition or Ammo Jetty as it is commonly known, is located in Woodman Point Recreation Reserve just off Cockburn Road in Coogee and is perhaps the best jetty that you can dive in the whole of the Perth region. Parking is available close to the jetty within Woodman Point, which has facilities such as toilets and BBQ areas. You can kit up in the car park or find yourself a nice spot under the trees on the grass.

From there it is a short walk to the 150m long T-shaped jetty with an army of pylons for you to go and explore. You can do the final kitting



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up in the water and then the slope starts gradually going deeper up to 9m as you go further from the beach. All over the pylons you will see colourful corals and sponges that are full of marine critters such as nudibranchs and sea horses. Many species of fish can be seen here such as boxfish, old wives, blennies and yellowtails just to name a few.

The key to this dive is to take your time and look everywhere and you will find something interesting.

This is a very popular site for fishermen, so watch out for fishing lines and hooks. It is better to dive this site when there is no swell and the winds are not that strong.

This dive spot is excellent for a night dive when the conditions are good. It is suitable for both novice and experienced divers.

Woodman Point

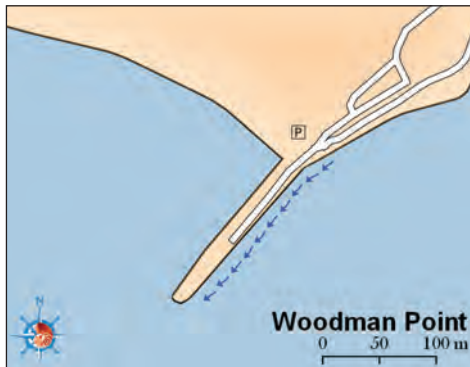


Average depth: 7m

Maximum depth: 9m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 08.220
E 115 44.683**

This dive and snorkelling spot is at Woodman Point. Here you have two options to dive the



granite boulders. The first option is to enter from the beach; there is a car park close by where you can park your car and kit up. You can enter the water by the beach where you will find a gentle slope that runs to about 9m. Swim against the wall, and halfway through the dive turn around and head back.

The second option is for the rock climbing divers. Almost at the end of the road there is another car park close by where you can park your car and kit up. Then climb over the boulders down to the water – just remember that the rocks are very slippery. From there you can swim either north or south.

It is best if you dive with a torch here to look in the dark sections of the granite rocks. Very interesting marine life can be seen all over, such as starfish, hermit crabs, octopus and small juvenile fish. Redlipped morwong, porcupinefish, blennies and toadfish can also be seen here.

The site is only protected if there are winds blowing from the north, and it is recommended



Johan Boshoff

that you only snorkel when the water is calm and flat and there are no winds.

Challenger Rock



Average depth: 13m

Maximum depth: 14m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 08.611
E 115 39.048**

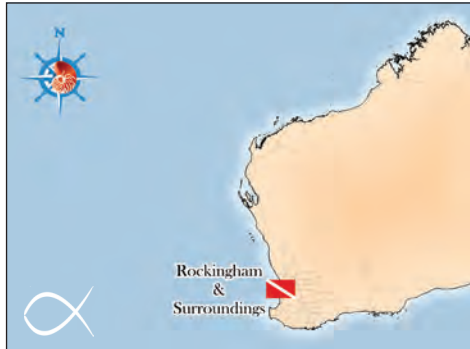
This dive spot is about 10km west of Woodman Point and about 2km north-west of Garden Island. This is one of the best dive sites in the area. Challenger Rock comes within a metre of the surface at low tide and at high tide it is almost impossible to see it. The dive is suitable for all level of divers and is

a very easy dive where you can just circle the rock formation. There are some great cave structures around the rock with an abundance of marine life and fish.

This dive spot is in the open ocean and has no protection so it is better to dive this site when the swell is not too big and the winds are not that strong due to surge and strong currents.



Rockingham & Surroundings



Rockingham & Surroundings

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 16.438
E 115 43.869**

This area runs from Woodman Point in the north for about 50km of coastline to the south. It includes all the little islands as well as Penguin Island and runs all the way through Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound to the southern part of the Shoalwater Island Marine Park at the Port Kennedy beach.

In this area you have the option of both boat and shore dives which you can do. Most of the boat diving here can be done from any of the harbours close to the dive spots.

DIVE & SNORKELING SPOTS

Jervoise Wall



Average depth: 8m

Maximum depth: 10m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 08.347
E 115 45.665**

This dive and snorkelling spot is on the southern side of Woodman Point at the Cockburn Boat Club. Here are a number of man-made rock barriers and a concrete jetty, which is located at the end of one of the barriers. The location where you want to dive or snorkel will depend on the wind direction where you will get the most protection.

Some divers and snorkelers will dive on the outside of the wall, on the northern side, where there is not a lot of boat traffic. Others will dive on the inside of the wall and under the concrete jetty. It depends on the sea conditions. It also depends on where you are going to park your vehicle; you can either enter the water from the beach or from the wall. The rocks are slippery and tricky and you need to take caution when entering and exiting from the rocks. It is best if you dive with a torch here to look in the dark sections because there are a





Rockingham & Surroundings

number of little nooks and crannies all over for you to explore, all containing an abundance of small marine life with a variety of fish life all around.

You can dive or snorkel this spot in almost any condition because you can always find a spot that is sheltered. Halfway through your dive, turn around and follow the wall back to where you have entered.



training. A torch is always necessary when entering a wreck.

This is one of the better-known wrecks to dive along the coastline of Western Australia. The wreck is covered with both soft and hard coral as well as colourful sponges. Marine life can be found hiding all over the wreck and you can also see blue grouper and schools of kingfish.

D9 Dredge



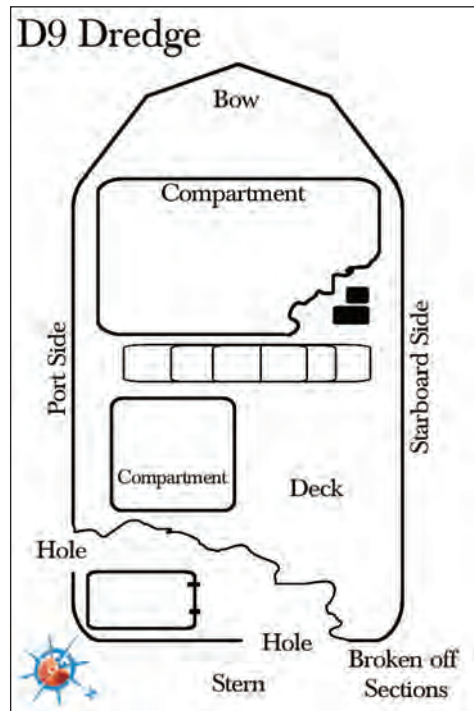
Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 14m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 11.644
E 115 44.532**

This wreck is located almost in the centre of Cockburn Sound and was formerly known as the Parmelia. It was renamed when it was sold to the D9 Dredge, the Dredging Industry of Australia, to dredge the Cockburn Sound area. It sunk in 1962 and the reason why is still unknown today. There are rumours that a rival contractor played a part in the sinking.

There are many areas for you to go and explore around the wreck, including swim-throughs and places where you can penetrate. Remember that penetrating wrecks is dangerous and only for experienced divers who have the necessary



This is also a breeding ground for snapper from around November to March.

Depending on the wind direction, anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the wreck and swim towards it.

You can dive this wreck in almost any condition as it is well sheltered because of its location, nestled between the islands, although it is better to dive this site when the swell is not present. Beware, however, as fishermen often fish on the wreck so look out for boat traffic and fishing line.

Bulk Jetty



Average depth: 6m

Maximum depth: 8m

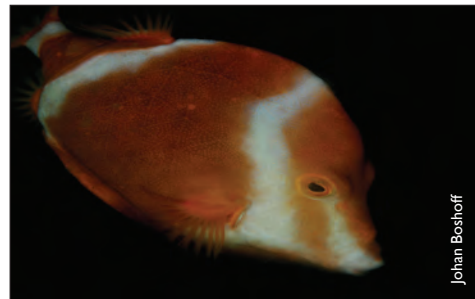
**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 12.585
E 115 46.031**

This is an old jetty that is closed off because it is not in use anymore, and although you can't get on top of the jetty anymore, you can still dive it. If you have a 4x4, you can drive up to the jetty on the beach or you can park your car in a close parking area and walk a short distance to the start of the 250m long jetty. The jetty has a very easy entrance and exit



point. Walk straight from the beach and start your dive on a gentle slope that goes gradually deeper and deeper. There is grey silt all over the ocean floor that gives you the impression that you are diving on another planet. There is some coral growth and species on the pylons with marine life and fish all around. The most common sight on this dive are the empty mussel shells scattered around as well as fields of razor clams.

This spot is protected by Garden Island and can be dived in bad conditions, but it is better to dive this spot when the swell is low and the winds are not too strong. Halfway through your dive time or air, turn around and follow the pylons back to the shore.



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Rockingham & Surroundings

Wells Park Jetty



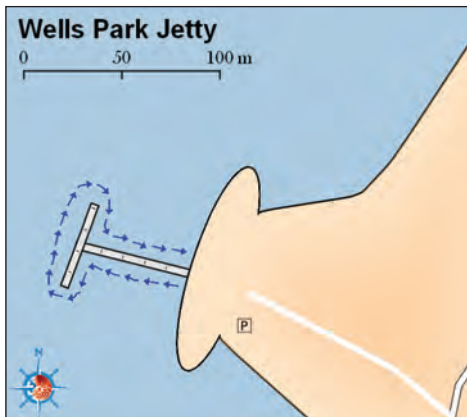
Average depth: 4m
Maximum depth: 4m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 14.870
E 115 45.371**

This dive and snorkel spot is at Wells Park at Kwinana and is an easy dive and snorkel spot for beginners. It is a small jetty which is only 65m long with easy entrance and exit points to both sides of the wreck.

Just before getting on to the jetty have a look; you are standing on the SS Kwinana. In 1922, the SS Kwinana was blown ashore and was wrecked on what was then a deserted beach. Today the beach is named after this ship. The rumours suggest they preserved the wreck because of the ships importance in the naming of the beach, today you will only see the concrete used to fill the structure of the wreck and a few rusted metal pieces on the sides.

You can snorkel and dive around the rocks surrounding the wreck or you can explore the sections under the jetty. This site is protected by Garden Island but it is better to dive and snorkel this spot when the swell is low and the winds are not too strong



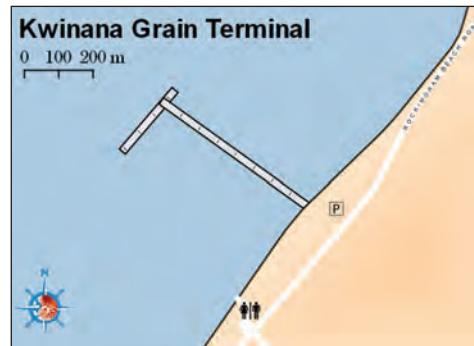
Kwinana Grain Terminal



Average depth: 12m
Maximum depth: 15m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 15.449
E 115 44.968**

Situated between Kwinana and Rockingham, this is one of the best shore entries in Western Australia. This 800m long terminal is used for transporting grain to the cargo ships and is a diver's paradise for macro photography. There is a car park close to the grain terminal where you can park your car and kit up.



The dive spot has a very easy entrance and exit. You can walk straight from the beach and start your dive on a gentle slope that gets gradually deeper and deeper as you swim further from the shore.

The army of pylons is covered with colourful hard and soft corals and sponges with a huge variety of small marine critters that hide from divers all over the pylons. Here it is better just to sit and wait and see what will come out. This dive spot is also famous for its abundance of nudibranchs. Fish are abundant all over the site and large schools of snapper can be seen around the mussel beds.

This site is protected by Garden Island and can

be dived in any condition, but it is better to dive this spot when the swell is low and the winds are not too strong. Halfway through your dive time or air, turn around and follow the pylons back to the shore. It is a long way back if you don't plan your turn around time. Also remember that this is a working terminal; try to stay under the terminal for your safety.

Rockingham Wreck Trail



Average depth: 10m

Maximum depth: 18m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 16.408
E 115 43.928**

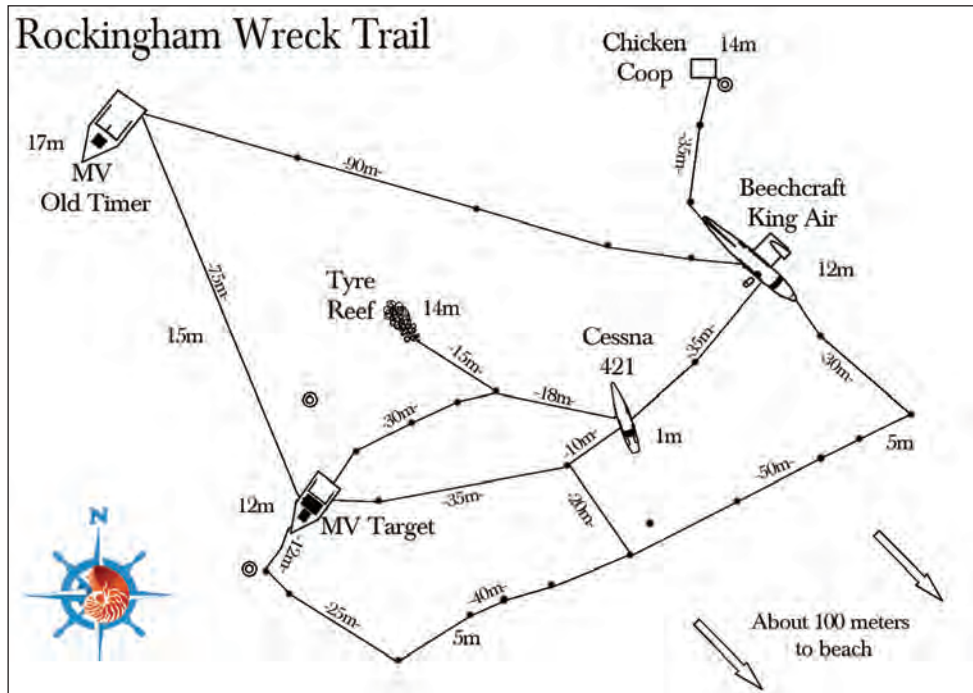
This dive spot is the most dived shore entry in

Western Australia and is known by most divers. It is situated at Rockingham foreshore and this dive spot is sheltered by Garden Island. All the facilities that you need are within walking distance of this dive spot and many divers learn to dive here.

You can park very close to the dive spot and kit up on the grass under the trees. From there it is a couple of metres to the ocean. On the surface you will see buoys with dive flags on them to show you where the wreck trail is and where the water gets deeper.

Depending on the tide, you will walk several metres in shallow water until you get to the sandy slope; it is a gentle slope which runs from about 5m to around 18m. There are many ropes laid to help you find all the wrecks underwater and some lines placed there to show direction. Do not grab or kick the ropes as there many seahorses and tiny species of nudibranch living on them.

On this wreck trail you can find two ship



Rockingham & Surroundings

wrecks, two aeroplanes, a large pile of truck tyres and a chicken coop. After many years a lot of hard and soft corals have grown on these wrecks, especially sponges. You will find an abundant variety of marine life on and around the wrecks; fish that you can see include boxfish, frogfish, eels, bullseyes, old wives, globefish, wrasse, cowfish and many more.

This is also an excellent site for night dives where you will see the marine life change from day to night. It is better to dive this site when the swell is low and the wind is not too strong.



Cape Peron / Point Peron



Average depth: 6m

Maximum depth: 8m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 16.240
E 115 41.159**

Water Islands Marine Park. Park at the most western car park at Cape Peron/Point Peron and kit up. From here you have two diving and snorkeling options. The first option is to walk over the dune to the western side and enter the water at the left hand side of the beach. The second option is closer to the car park; just follow the track down to the beach on the southern side of the car park and enter the water on the right hand side.

It is an easy shore dive and it is recommended that snorkelers keep to the section closest to shore. The area here is mostly limestone

This dive and snorkelling spot is in the Shoal



formations covered with sea grass, adorned with small caves, overhangs and swim-throughs peppering the beautiful reef formations. Remember that penetrating caves is dangerous and only for experienced divers that have the necessary training. A torch is a must when entering the cave systems.

All over the reef, you can find hard and soft coral and sponges that are surrounded by marine life such as octopus, seadragons, crayfish, sea urchins, anemones, sea horses, and if you are really lucky, a sea lion which will come and say hi.

This is really a very large spot for you to go and explore and it is recommended that you dive or snorkel this spot when there is no swell or any winds as surge can be a big problem here.

Orizaba



Average depth: 8m

Maximum depth: 12m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 16.943
E 115 37.681**

This wreck lies about 7km southwest of Garden Island on the Five Fathom Bank. On February 17, 1905, the 3 325 ton Royal Mail steamer was heading to Fremantle from London with its passengers and general cargo. The land was very difficult to see due to smoke from bush fires in the area and the captain took the wrong route. When he realised that he had made a mistake he turned around heading for deeper waters. Unfortunately it was too late and he got stuck on the reef. For many years the ship was visible from the coast until salvage and erosion finally took its toll and she collapsed into the sea.

Today the 148m long Orizaba is one of the most spectacular wrecks to dive and snorkel on and is one of the largest ships to have been



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wrecked in Australian waters. It is still amazing to see the considerable amount of scattered wreckage all over the sea bed after many years where heavy swell and surge have battered her constantly. You can still see the framework of the hull, steering gear, boilers and engine parts. This wreck is very exposed to a south west swell so it is better to dive this spot when the swell is less than one metre and you have had no wind for almost a week.



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Penguin Island



Average depth: 2m

Maximum depth: 2m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 18.501
E 115 41.490**

This snorkelling spot is on the southern side of Penguin Island and is not dived often due to its depth and the logistics to get there. Penguin Island is in a conservation area and is closed over the winter months when the penguins are breeding.

The best way to get to this snorkelling spot is to take the ferry from the Penguin Island Discovery Centre, and when you get to the island take the path and head south. Walk as

far south as possible down the beach until you can enter the water.

The limestone reef structures are covered with sea grass and there is not a lot of fish here because of the penguins that consume more than a hundred tons of fish every year. The best time to snorkel this spot is when you have a northerly wind, enabling the island to protect you.



Saxon Ranger



Average depth: 15m

Maximum depth: 20m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 19.604
E 115 42.320**

This wreck is located in Warnbo Sound within the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park. The Saxon Ranger was a 400 ton fishing vessel formerly known as the Atlantic Seal and was built around 1960 to work as a trawler on the North Atlantic Ocean.

It was later sold to work around Tasmania and Albany and did some occasional trips into the Antarctic. After a big storm in 2003 the ship's moorings broke and it was washed up on to the beach just off Rockingham.

Then the politics started... The owner claims

that the government cheated him out of a ship, the government argued differently. In short, the government gave the owner 14 days to remove the ship from the beach, otherwise they would move it for him. The owner was unable to remove the vessel in this time frame so the government did it and sent him the bill. However, the owner did not have the means to pay this bill and so it was decided that the ship should be sunk to attract divers and bring money into the area. The ship was sunk on May 22, 2005 providing divers with a fantastic dive spot.

They also decided to cut some access holes in the hull to allow easy access to the inside of the wreck for experienced divers with the appropriate training. When penetrating the ship, a torch is highly recommended and avoid silt up. Furthermore, penetration should not be taken lightly.

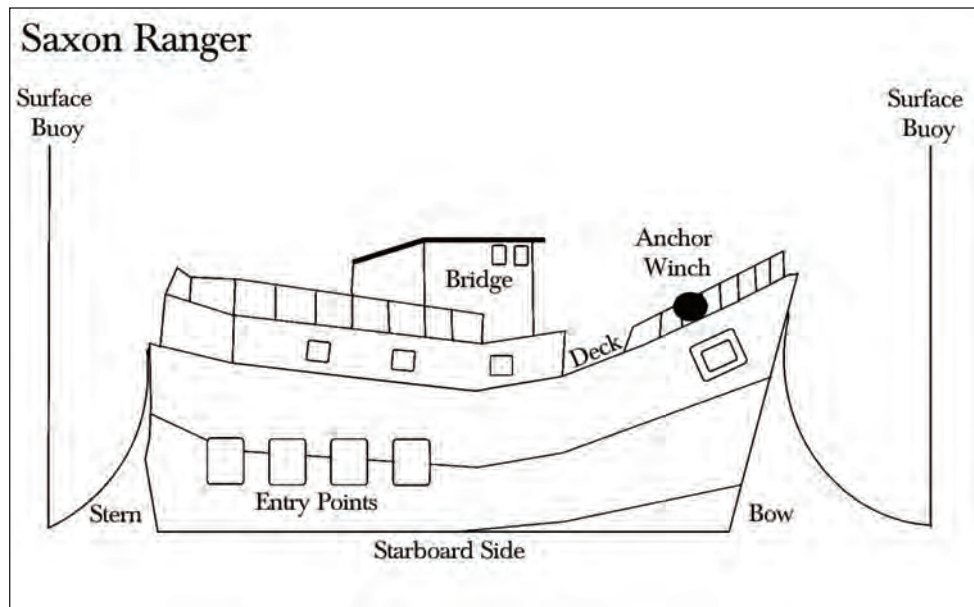
There are several marker boys that mark the wreck and you have to get a dive permit to dive it. It is advisable that you dive this wreck when the swell is low and the winds are not too strong.



Johan Boshoff



Johan Boshoff



Rockingham & Surroundings

The Sisters



Average depth: 7m

Maximum depth: 9m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 21.239
E 115 41.407**

This dive and snorkelling spot got its name from the group of rocks that are sticking out of the water on the southern side of Warnbro Sound in the Shoalwater Island Marine Park. You can't really miss this spot and its rock formations. Anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the reef depending on the wind and swim towards the reef. It is best to snorkel or dive on the south-west side of the island when there is a northerly wind, as the island provides protection.

The reef is full of ledges, overhangs and walls that are covered with anemones and gorgonian fans. Large schools of fish can be seen here, including schools of herring and old wives as well as a variety of wrasse. Plenty of crayfish can also be found at the right time of year. The best time to dive and snorkel this spot is when the swell is low and the winds are not too strong as this spot is known for its surge.







Andre Crone

South West Region



South West Region



The South West region of Australia is approximately 23 970km² in size and runs from an area just north of Bunbury to Bremer Bay. The Mediterranean climate means the summers are dry and winters are wet with most rainfall occurring between May and September.

The mining industry in the region includes the extraction of coal, alumina, minerals and mineral sands, tantalum and tin. All of Western Australia's coal is mined in this region. With the highest rainfall of the region, it is no wonder that areas such as Margaret River are known for their premium wines. Towns such as Manjimup have strong links to the timber industry along with fruit farming.

Tourism is also a big contributor to the economy as it is considered the second most popular destination after Perth.

The history surrounding the South West region goes back many years. While travelling around,

you can be sure to come across any number of places with either aboriginal or pioneer history. Places such as the Wardan Aboriginal Centre in Yallingup can be found in the Margaret River Region, or the Yarloop Steam Workshop in Harvey which is located in the Geographe Region.

Near Walpole in the Southern Forests region is The Tree Top Walk. You can look out across the forest from a walkway that is suspended 40m off the ground and stretches for about 600m. There is also a meandering path that leads you through the 300 year old tree giants. A number of national parks can be found in the region. The Leeuwin Naturalist National Park has some spectacular underground caves known as Mammoth, Lake, Jewel and Moondyne Caves which are now internationally recognised for their beauty and mostly untouched condition. Stalagmites and stalactites continue to form with limited



interruption to their development.

The coastline along the South West, offers some magnificent opportunities to watch whales, especially during their seasonal migration. Humpbacks and southern right whales are most commonly seen, however blue whales can also be spotted. The best places to see these magnificent creatures are between Albany and Augusta.

As the ocean has worn away at the coastline, unique rock formations have been left behind. Sugarloaf Rock was named due to its conical shape as it juts out of the ocean; a sugarloaf was the traditional shape of sugar after it was refined, made and sold in the late 19th century. Just to the left of Sugarloaf Rock is another rocky outcrop, that looks like a giant eagle surveying its surroundings.

Further south is another interesting series of rock formations known as Elephant Rocks, which is said to look like a herd of elephants standing together.

If you thought you have 'seen one beach, you have seen them all' you will be mistaken. You only have to stop and admire the fine, white sand and turquoise water of Dunsborough and then drive onto Hamlin Bay's crystal white sand and aquamarine water to see the difference. Hamlin Bay is said to be a great place to see stingray and apparently during mating season, the water bubbles with activity. However, if you are venturing inland, about 277km south-east of Perth is Katanning in the Great Southern region of the South West. In 1889, the Great Southern Railway was built and it was instrumental in the town's development. Nowadays, Katanning has one of the largest sheep selling complexes in Western Australia.

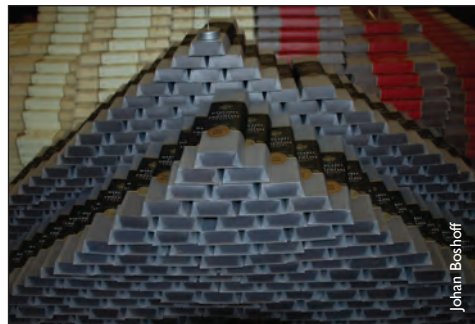
If you are heading south towards Albany on the Albany Highway, be sure to take a detour towards Cranbrook. From here you can explore the Stirling Range National Park and views of the Stirling Mountain Range are said to be spectacular. In and around these mountain ranges are beautiful wildflowers which can be seen most times of the year.



Johan Boshoff



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Bunbury & Surroundings



Bunbury and surroundings

GPS: (WGS84) S 33 18.651 E 115 38.414

Bunbury is one of the largest cities in Western Australia and is located at the northern end of Geographe Bay, about 170 kilometres south of Perth. The Bay was given its name in 1803 by French explorer, Captain Louis de Freycinet, who discovered the area: the bay was named after one of the ships in the fleet.

In 1829 the name was changed from its original name Port Leschenault to Bunbury by the Governor in acknowledgment of Lieutenant William St. Pierre Bunbury, who established the difficult inland route from Bunbury to Pinjarra. At a later stage, a military post and one of the



biggest ports on the coastline was established in Bunbury.

The port was mostly used for farming, mining and timber industries of the south west area.

Bunbury has a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters.

Summer land temperatures: 21-37°C.

Winter land temperatures: 10-20°C.

Accommodation:

A variety of accommodation is available in the area, including camp sites, hotels, self-catering chalets, lodges, back packers, B&B's and guest houses.

Shops and service stations:

Like any major city or town in Western Australia, a variety of shops are available.

Health and medical services:

There are world-class general practitioners, clinics and hospitals in this area.

Activities in and around the area:

- Dolphin and whale watching
- Quad bikes trails
- 4x4 Trails
- Fishing
- Hiking Trails
- Variety of water sports

Diving & Snorkeling:

Bunbury and its surroundings are more of a



diving destination than a snorkelling one. There are also no shore entries in the area so diving is mostly done by boat out of the marina. Dolphins jumping in the waves are commonly spotted around the marina.

The main attraction to dive in Bunbury and its surroundings is the Lena wreck that was sunk in 2003 for divers. The Lena wreck was transformed to make it dive friendly and sunk in shallow depths to attract all levels of divers.

There are shallow scattered reef structures in the area just off the coastline for divers to go and explore. On the 30m depth contour of Bunbury, you can find scattered limestone lumps that are covered with plate coral.

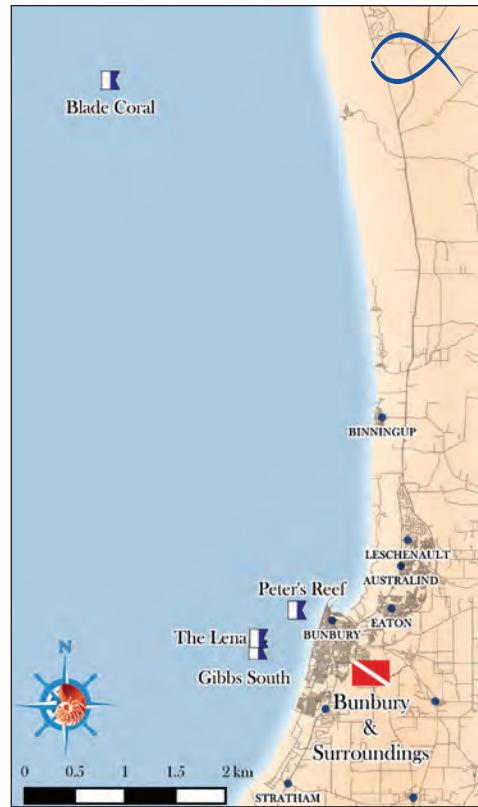
A variety of marine life can be seen in the area hiding amongst the ledges and rocks.

Summer water temperatures: 20-25°C.

Winter water temperatures: 16-22°C.

Diving facilities in the area:

- Air fills
- Gear rentals
- Nitrox fills
- Equipment sales
- Dive training
- Speciality courses



Bunbury & Surroundings

DIVE SPOTS

Blade Coral



Average depth: 25m
Maximum depth: 35m

This dive spot is about 15 nautical miles north west of Bunbury and about 12 nautical miles off shore. The dive spot gets its name from all the blade coral (also known as plate coral) that can be found on the reef. If you look on the marine charts the 'blade coral' follows the 30m depth contour just off the coastline of Bunbury. Limestone rubble and scattered coral lumps can be found all over the contour on many spots and it is covered with beautiful gardens of plate/blade coral.

The main attraction is the seemingly endless amount of blade/plate coral that stretches for miles and miles. It appears as if from nowhere, rising from sandy featureless ocean floor.

The plate coral provides a perfect habitat for a variety of marine species such as blue devils, pink snapper, skipjack, whiting and some of the biggest crayfish that you have ever see in Western Australia.

There is very little sea grass around the area but sea weed, soft corals and colourful sponges can be found all over and this makes for an excellent photographic dive spot.

It is important that if you dive this spot, you anchor next to the coral structures around the

sandy patches and use a dive operator that knows the best sites.

Because of the depth of the site you have to be an advanced diver to dive the dive spot, and because it is not sheltered and very exposed to swell, good conditions must be chosen when diving this spot.



Kevin Lee

Peter's Reef



Average depth: 10m
Maximum depth: 12m

This dive spot is a large lump of reef structure approximately three nautical miles from Bunbury and one mile offshore. If conditions are good, then this is a nice and shallow dive spot with which to end your diving day as you



Kevin Lee



Kevin Lee

are coming back towards shore from diving some of the other reef or wreck dive spots.

Due to the nature and location of the spot, which means it tends to have surge, only small corals and sponges can be found on the reef structure, but the structure is mostly covered with sea weed and sea grass.

There is not a large amount fish life in the area but some interesting species can still be seen, such as plenty of small rays and crayfish which can be found all over this dive spot.

The best time to dive this spot is when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong. If winds are blowing or you have a swell it can cause bad visibility and strong surge.



Gibbs South



Average depth: 10m

Maximum depth: 12m

This dive spot is about ten nautical miles from Bunbury. This reef structure runs just to the south of the Lena wreck and lays approximately one nautical mile offshore.

The reef structure consists of two parallel reefs that sit at a maximum depth of around 12m at the deepest part, while the top of the reef is around 6m. This is a shallow dive for all levels of divers and the scenery is nice. It has a wall with lots of broken sections, small caves and cracks to look inside.

The reef is covered with sponges and corals and here you can find a large variety of fish species which frequent the area and large numbers of small rays, crayfish and nudibranchs.

This site requires good conditions with low swell. If winds are blowing it can cause bad visibility and surge problems.



The Lena



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 18m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 20.578
E 115 33.770**

The Lena was an old fishing vessel which was illegally fishing Patagonian tooth fish in Australian waters some 4 000 kilometres south of Albany in February 2002. It took the HMAS Canberra a couple of weeks to tow the ship back to Fremantle, where the crew was charged for illegal fishing. The Bunbury Chamber of Commerce heard

Bunbury & Surroundings

about the Lena and that the Australian Government wanted to sink the ship. They requested that the Lena be sunk in the Bunbury region to attract all levels of divers to the area. It took a team of volunteers almost a year to get the wreck ready to be scuttled in December 2003, but there were some problems and this led to a delay of some weeks.

On Friday December 19, 2003 at 12:17pm the Lena finally found its place on the sea bed only three nautical miles off the Bunbury coastline, exactly one year to the day after it was towed to Bunbury.

Today you can find the Lena in an upright position on the sea bottom at 18m. The main deck lies at 10m while the shallowest part of the wreck, the roof of the cabin, lies at 5m. This is an ideal site for all levels of scuba diver

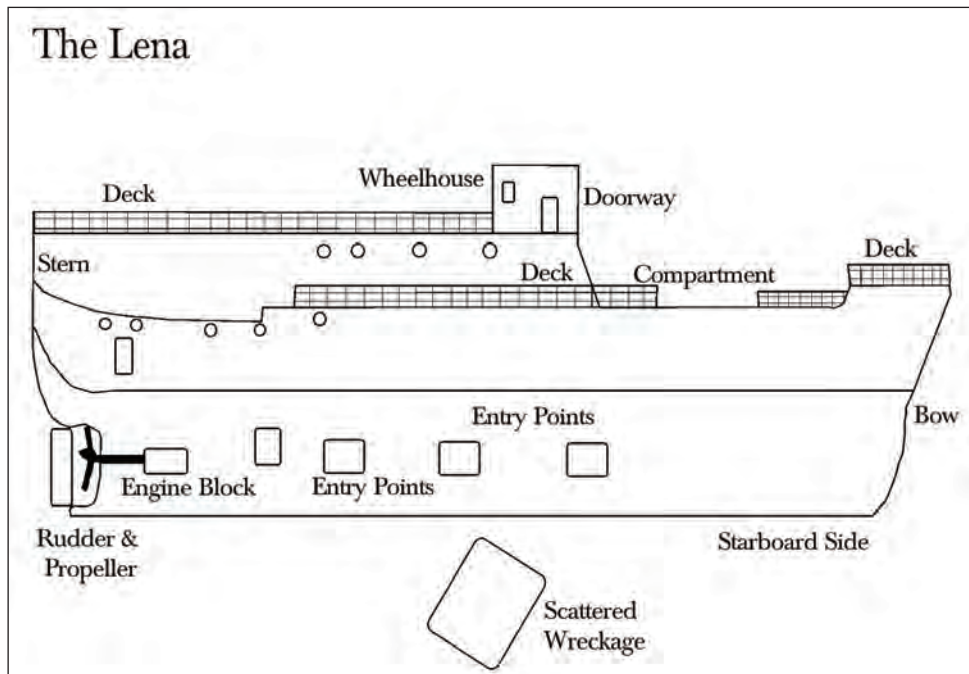
The Lena has three decks which run the length of the ship with an interesting engine room and a conveyer belt that runs along most of the middle deck. The ship is showing some signs of decay, as parts of the bow, top deck and bridge have

collapsed, however, the superstructure remains whole with the propeller and rudder still visible.

Penetration is possible and safe in good conditions, as there are large openings almost always in direct sight when you are in the wreck. Wreck penetration must only be done by experienced divers with the appropriate training. The ship is covered with coral, both on the sides and the deck rails. Port Jackson sharks are often seen underneath the side of the hull and in the wreckage around the ship, while Wobbegong sharks are sometimes seen inside the ship.

There isn't much other life inside the ship, but the outside is covered in life. Blennies are found on over the rails, scorpionfish hang out in the upper section of the bridge and nudibranchs can be seen throughout the deck. Schools of batfish hang around above the ship making it a wonderful dive.

The Lena requires good conditions to dive as heavy swell makes it difficult to penetrate. The wreck can be dived all year round in good conditions.



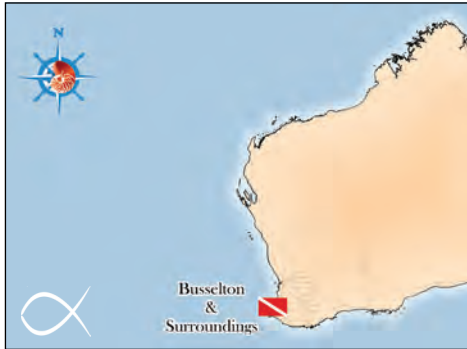


Kevin Lee



Kevin Lee

Busselton & Surroundings



Busselton and surroundings

GPS: (WGS84) S 33 38.661 E 115 20.694

This section of the book covers the area from Canal Rocks, which is on the western side of the peninsula inside the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, all the way up the coastline to the town of Busselton.

Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park's coastline stretches over 120 kilometres from the northern end at Bunker Bay to the southern end at Augusta. In the park there are many things to see such as the famous lighthouses, the dry cave systems and the Karri trees of Boranup forest just to name a few.

Busselton is a well-known city about 170



kilometres south of Perth and is situated in the bottom part of Geographe Bay where there are sheltered waters. The Bay was given its name in 1803 by French explorer Captain Louis de Freycinet who discovered the area. The bay was named after one of the ships in the fleet. This area is one of the most visited destinations for tourists in Western Australia.

Summer land temperatures: 21-35°C.

Winter land temperatures: 8-20°C.

Accommodation:

A variety of accommodation is available in the area, including camp sites, hotels, self-catering chalets, lodges, back packers, B&B's and guest houses.

Shops and service stations:

Like any major city or town in Western Australia, a variety of shops are available.

Health and medical services:

There are world-class general practitioners, clinics and hospitals in this area.

Activities in and around the area:

- Dolphin and whale watching
- Snorkelling
- 4x4 Trails
- Fishing
- Hiking Trails
- Variety of water sports
- Horse trails

Diving & Snorkeling:

There are many different dive and snorkelling spots here to choose from. There are some spots suitable for beginners, others for advanced divers and this area even offers dive spots for technical divers. You have the option to dive the west side of the peninsula on the outskirts of Geographe Bay or dive and snorkel in the sheltered surroundings of Geographe Bay.

Here you have an option to dive one of the longest jetties in the world or a 113m long



Royal Australian Navy Destroyer. In the area you will find big granite boulders and limestone bommies that create caves, overhangs and swim-throughs.

The warmer waters that are brought by the Leeuwin Current from the north allow a variety of tropical and sub-tropical fish and marine life to thrive in this area. Outcrops, reefs and submerged, human made, structures are covered with numerous hard and soft coral species as well as sponges that provide a lot of colour to the underwater world and enable fantastic photographic opportunities.

Summer water temperatures: 20-25°C.

Winter water temperatures: 16-22°C.

Diving facilities in the area:

- Air fills
- Nitrox fills
- Dive training
- Gear rentals
- Equipment sales
- Speciality courses



Busselton & Surroundings

DIVE & SNORKELING SPOTS

Busselton Jetty



Average depth: 7m

Maximum depth: 8m

GPS: (WGS84) S 33 37.832 E 115 20.322

This is one of the most famous dive spots in Western Australia. People come from all over the world to dive here.

The jetty was originally built in 1865 and is about two kilometres long making it the second longest wooden jetty in the southern hemisphere. The jetty was used to service whaling ships in the old days.

The best area to dive is the last 300m of the jetty around the observatory, a structure which enables tourists to experience the underwater world without diving. There are two ways to approach this dive and snorkelling spot; either you can take a boat to the end of the jetty and dive from it, or you can walk along the jetty. If you decide to walk the jetty then try to get a trolley for your gear – it is a very long way to carry your dive gear, and remember, you have to go back the same way after your dive. Some divers even take the train that runs on the jetty to get to the dive and snorkelling spot.

Just before the observatory you will see a ramp

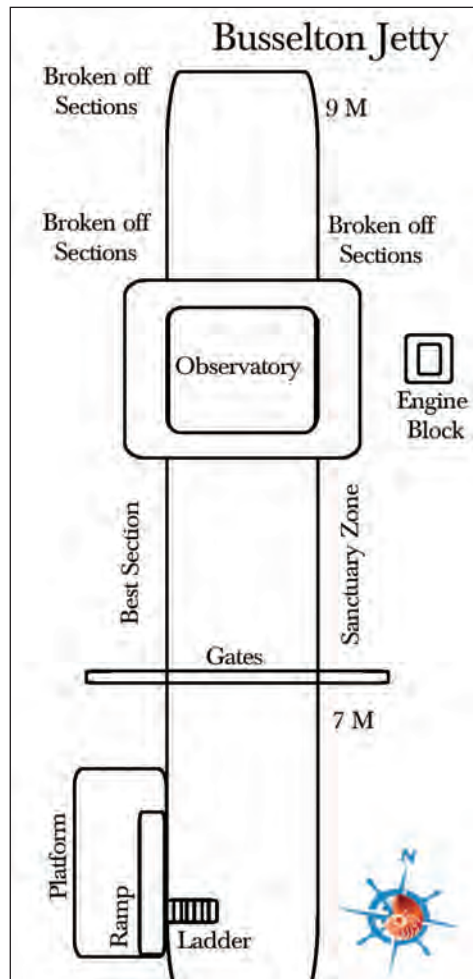


Johan Beshoff

that goes down to another platform below. Here you will find two steel ladders that you can use to enter and exit the water.

The maximum depth of the dive is 8m and there is a jungle of pylons for you to go and explore. Some of them are still in use and some that had a purpose a long time ago.

On each pylon you can spend your time looking for macro life; there are many things that you can see under the jetty. Pylons are covered with sponges, gorgonians, anemones and soft corals that make each every pylon a



colourful habitat for small critters. A variety of small marine life can be seen, includes spider crabs, nudibranchs, sea stars, gobies, brittlestars and featherstars. Huge schools of silver drummer, trevally, bulls eye, old wives and yellowtails take shelter under the jetty. You can also see boxfish, pufferfish, scorpionfish, anglerfish, octopus, wrasse, cuttlefish and many more.

This spot is also an amazing night dive and the only thing that you need to remember is that you have to stay 10m away from the observatory at all times.

This spot is a paradise for photographers, particularly for macro shots and especially at night time.



Johan Beshoff

Gannet Rocks



Average depth: 2m

Maximum depth: 5m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 34.139
E 115 05.240**

This diving and snorkelling spot is located near to Eagle Bay, about 35 kilometres west of Busselton. Follow Meclup Road to Eagle Bay and you will find a car park where you can park your car and kit up.

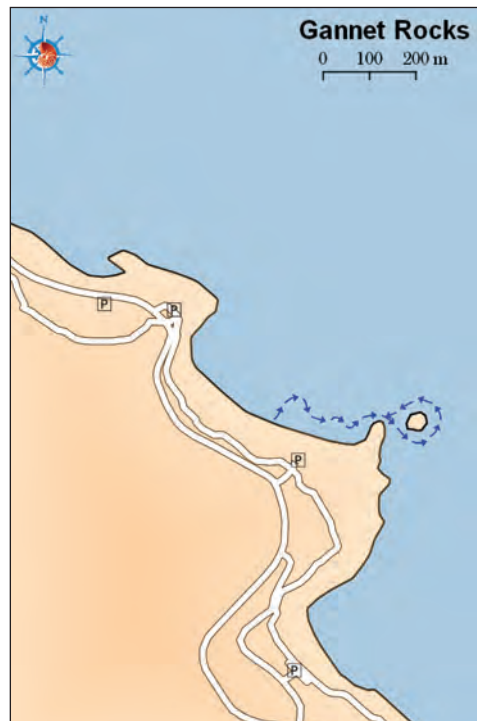
From the car park you will see Gannet Rock sticking out of the water approximately one

hundred metres from shore. The best place to enter the water is on the left hand side of the rocks just off the beach. From the entrance point, start heading to the main rock (the biggest), which you can snorkel or dive around in either direction.

This dive is suitable for new divers and is a fantastic snorkel site because it is very well protected and normally has no currents.

Along the rock you will find outcrops and ledges for you to go and explore. Marine life like sea urchins, sea cucumbers, cuttlefish and crabs can be seen here. Schools of old wife and wrasse are commonly found in this area.

Halfway through your dive, turn around and return to shore, to the same spot from which you entered. When it is low tide, it is protected from most winds but a northerly wind can generate a large swell. It is better to dive this site when the swell is low and the currents are not that strong.



Busselton & Surroundings

HMAS Swan



Average depth: 22m
Maximum depth: 31m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 33.115
 E 115 05.961**



Diveshed

After many years of servicing the Royal Australian Navy, the former HMAS Swan was decommissioned. It served as a 113m long naval destroyer for many years. The HMAS Swan was also known as 'Fluffy Duck' and was used as a Royal Australian Navy River Class Destroyer Escort.

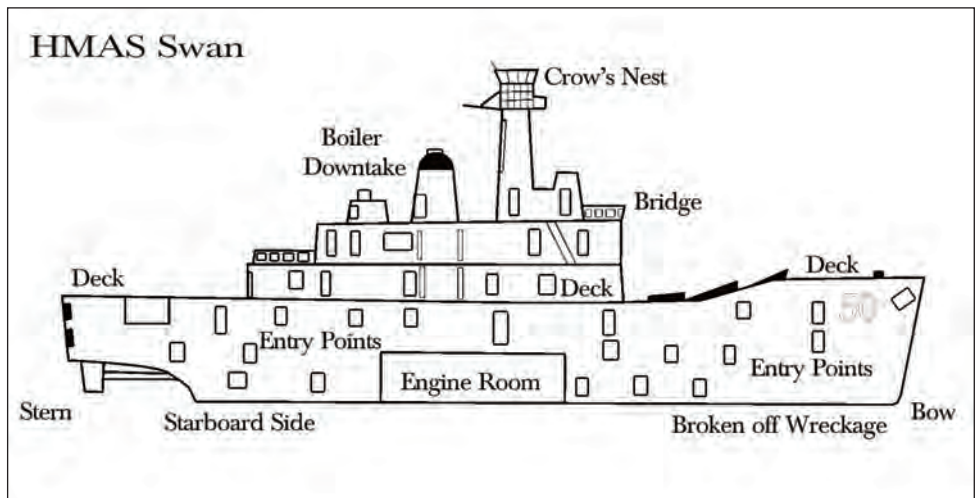
The Swan was commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy in 1970 and was the first Australian ship to have a computer-controlled and radar-guided gun turret and the first to have automatic steering in the Royal Australian Navy.

During 1971 the Swan had limited activities in Vietnam but took part in exercise 'Swan Lake' in the Indian Ocean. During her career serving the Navy she steamed almost 800 000 nautical miles until, on September 13 1996, the HMAS

Swan was decommissioned from the Royal Australian Navy.

The Australian Government wanted the Government of Western Australia to have the HMAS Swan. After many people and organisations gave their reason as to why they should be given the Swan, the Australian Government decided to give it to the Geographe Bay Artificial Reef Society; they had the best overall proposal which was to sink it for divers in a location that was safe and very sheltered. Geographe Bay Artificial Reef Society started to prepare the ship for sinking and the major task was to cause no damage to the environment, as well as make the wreck safe for divers. The ship was cleaned of all oil, insulation, false ceilings and all electrical cabling.

The society also decided to seal some of the



compartments of the ship such as the engine room and also cut 14 access holes in the hull, two at the stern and some between the compartments to make penetration easier and safer for divers.

On December 14, 1997 in Geographe Bay, less than two kilometres from Point Piquet, the HMAS Swan was scuttled as an artificial reef creating a perfect training ground for all levels of divers.

HMS Swan lies on the sand at 31m and the top of the 'crows' nest' sits in around 9m of water. There are so many things to see and areas to go and explore all around the wreck. The wreck is covered with sponges, soft and hard coral growth and plenty of fish species all over, especially inside the wreck. All year round a wide variety of pelagic fish move past the wreck at different times of the year.

The holes allow for easy access to the inside of the wreck for experienced divers with the appropriate training. When penetrating the ship, a torch is highly recommended and avoid



Chris Holman-uwphotog.com

silt up; furthermore, penetration should not be taken lightly. There are several marker buoys to mark the wreck and it can be dived throughout the year, but the best times are from September to June.

Wright Bank



Average depth: 24m

Maximum depth: 50m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 30.057
E 115 00.551**

This dive spot is located a short distance from Cape Naturaliste. It consists of a pinnacle rising steeply from the surrounding sandy bottom at 50m to within 12m at the top of the pinnacle. The Leeuwin Current catches around the Cape on its way south and this helps to keep the site full of marine life.

The biggest attraction of the spot is the terrain and the topography, it has massive cliffs and canyons. Here you will find walls with drop-offs and sheltered holes all over for marine life to shelter in.

The structure is mostly granite formations that are covered in kelp and algae which is typical of the region. Fish life is typical for the region, such as southern coral fish, octopus, cuttlefish, leatherjackets, flatheads, stingrays, nudibranchs, shrimps, seastars, brittlestars and featherstars. The depth of this spot and the frequently strong currents make sightings of big pelagic fish quite likely. This dive spot can be done either by boat from a beach launch at Eagle Bay, or the closest ramp at Dunsborough. Due to the strong currents, steep walls and exposure to the prevailing swells, this site is only diveable in the best of conditions. It is recommended that only experienced divers dive this site.

Busselton & Surroundings

Shelley Cove



Average depth: 14m

Maximum depth: 20m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 32.233
E 115 01.901**

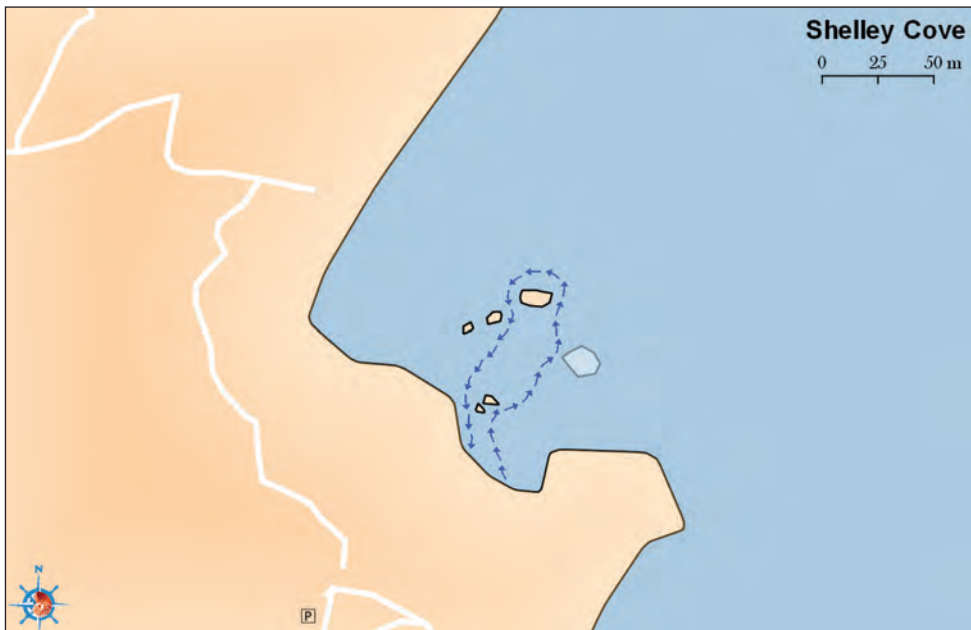
This dive spot is in Bunker Bay in the Leeuwin National Park, about 50 kilometres to the west of Busselton. There is a nice car park for you to park your car and gear up very close to the dive spot.

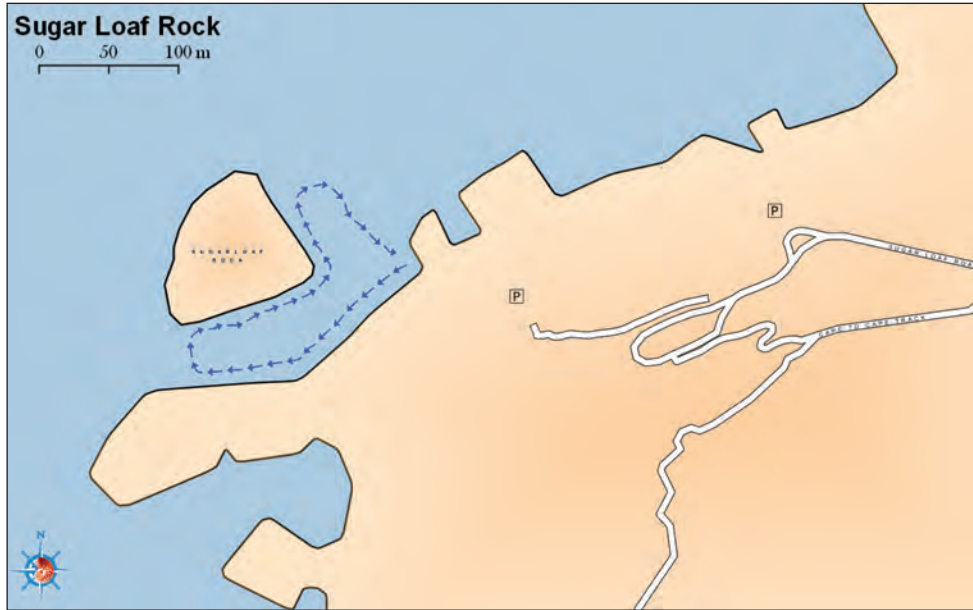
When standing at the spot you will see two rocks sticking out of the water. The best part to dive and snorkel is behind the bigger rock on the left hand side. There are scattered rock formations around the area that are covered with sea grass. A variety of wrasse can be seen here, along with scalyfin, roughies, cowfish, garfish and stripeys at this dive and snorkelling



site.

This spot is well protected, but watch out for swell if the wind comes from a northerly direction. Half way through your dive, you can turn around and return to shore the same way. It is better to dive or snorkel this site when the swell is low and the currents are not that strong.





Sugar Loaf Rock



Average depth: 14m

Maximum depth: 20m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 33.609
E 115 00.366**

This dive and snorkelling spot is on the western side of the Cape and just outside Geographe Bay; it is about a 40 minute drive from Busselton. There is a car park with toilets close to the dive and snorkel site for you to stop and gear up at. This spot has a very difficult entry and exit point, take care when going up and down the rocks and gravel.

When you get down to the water you will see the big rock in front of you. On the inside of the rock it is more protected and is the shallower part of the dive. If you want the deeper section you have to dive on the outside of the rock where the conditions can be different, but stay

mostly on the inside of the rock and explore the rock formation and surroundings.

At this spot you will see scattered rock formations with rock ledges covered in sea grass. A large variety of fish can be seen here including seapikes, breaksea cod, banded sea perch and rays.

The best time to dive and snorkel this spot is when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong.



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Busselton & Surroundings

Canal Rocks



Average depth: 16m

Maximum depth: 20m

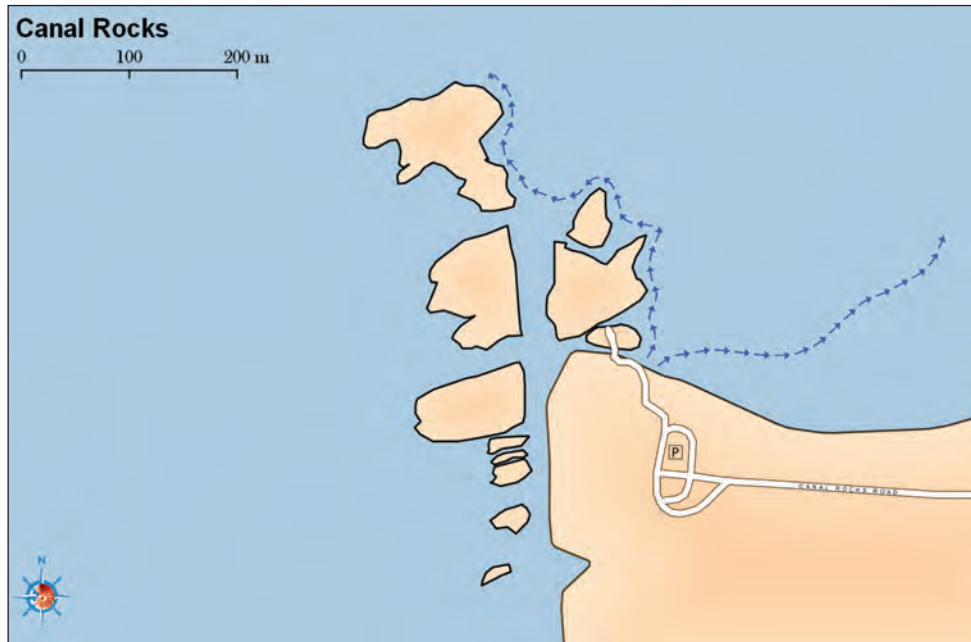
**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 40.045
E 114 59.713**

This dive spot is at the end of Canal Rocks Road, about 35 kilometres west of Busselton. There is a nice car park for you to park your car. There are two ways to get to this dive spot; you can either use a boat or swim to the site (it is about a 400m swim to get to the best part). Get into the water in the bay and start swimming outwards to the point of the rocks. You can dive the inner part of the reef where the maximum depth is about 12m while the outer part of the reef is about 20m. It is a rocky reef full of gutters and little canals with several swim-throughs. Large sponges can



be found here as well as nudibranchs, sea stars, sea ferns, leather jacket, crayfish, blue grouper and sting rays. This site is also well known for the eagle rays that can be seen here.

It is recommended that only experienced divers dive Canal Rocks because of strong currents and surge as well as the fact that the entry and exit can be challenging. The best time to dive this spot is when the swell is low and currents are not that strong.



The Honeycombs



Average depth: 5m

Maximum depth: 8m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 40.109
E 114 59.904**

This dive spot is also located at Canal Rocks about 35 kilometres west of Busselton in Cape Naturaliste and very close to the Canal Rocks dive spot. To get to this spot you have to enter at the boat ramp at the car park and start swimming at a 45 degree angle direction. The swim is about 300m where you will swim over sand, sea weed and sea grass.

When you get to the limestone rocky boulders with plate coral formations, you are at the Honeycombs dive and snorkelling spot (you can also take a boat out and drop directly onto the spot). At this spot you will be surrounded by small fish that include scalyfin, wrasse and old wife, and at the right time of the year, you can see schools of salmon and bream. The best time to dive and snorkel this spot is when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong. You must always dive with caution as there is boat traffic in the area.



Johan Boshoff



Johan Boshoff



Johan Boshoff



Johan Boshoff



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Albany & Surroundings



Albany & Surroundings

**GPS: (WGS84) S 35 01.887
E 117 53.414**

The city of Albany is about 420 kilometres southeast of Perth, and is the central business district of the South West region.

The city was founded about two years before Fremantle and Perth on December 26, 1826 and was the first settlement in Western Australia. Albany was officially named by Governor Stirling in 1832 and was named after Prince Frederick, Duke of York and Albany, second son of King George.

Albany was home to the only deep-water port in Western Australia, until the opening of the Port of Fremantle in 1900.

The major source of income in the earlier years was from whaling stations, but the operations were closed in 1978. You can still go and visit the whaling museum in the town.

Today the city of Albany's economy relies partly on tourism as well as fishing, wood chips and agriculture industries which use the port to import and export different products.

As Albany is one of the oldest cities in Australia, it is rich in history and is home to some of WA's oldest heritage buildings, including an ex-military Port.

Summer land temperatures: 21-30°C.

Winter land temperatures: 13-20°C.

Accommodation:

A variety of accommodation is available in the area, including camp sites, hotels, self-catering chalets, lodges, back packers, B&B's and guest houses.

Shops and service stations:

Like any major city or town in Western Australia, a variety of shops are available.

Health and medical services:

There are world-class general practitioners, clinics and hospitals in this area.

Activities in and around the area:

- Dolphin and whale watching
- Snorkelling
- 4x4 Trails
- Fishing
- Hiking trails
- Variety of water sports

Diving & Snorkeling:

Albany is more famous for its diving spots than its snorkeling spots due the small number of shore entries. Most of the dive spots can only be accessed by boat as they can be fair distance from shore.

The majority of spots are on the outside of the bay and diving is mostly done around the islands of the outer bays. The islands and granite boulders can provide divers with shelter





against certain winds and conditions. When strong winds are blowing or you have bad sea conditions, it is sometimes very difficult to get out to some protected areas.

The granite boulders and islands are covered with colourful sponges and corals. They are surrounded by kelp and sea grass beds that are home to a variety of sea life and also provide great scenery. The dive spots have a diverse range of sea life from the small Leafy sea dragons to the large docile blue groper. Some of the sites are close to islands that are inhabited by seals.

One of the biggest attractions in this area are the two wrecks, especially the well know HMAS Perth wreck, that was sunk a while ago

for divers as a tourist attraction, and an artificial reef.

Diving here is very weather dependent. Check the weather forecast before choosing your dive spot to get the best experience out of diving and snorkeling in Albany.

Summer water temperatures: 20-22°C.

Winter water temperatures: 16-21°C.

Diving facilities in the area:

- Air fills
- Gear rentals
- Nitrox
- Equipment sales
- Dive training



Albany & Surroundings

DIVE & SNORKELING SPOTS

Mistaken Island



Average depth: 8m

Maximum depth: 16m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 35 03.670
E 117 56.347**

This dive and snorkelling site is a fair distance drive by car from the city centre. From Quaranup Road you will find a small gravel road that you drive along for about 300m and it will lead you to a small car park close to the beach. It is recommended that you kit up here in the car park and then take a walk down the stairs to the beach.

There are two ways that you can dive these spots.

1 – (Divers and snorkelers) When heading out, swim around the small rock formation and keep the shore on your left hand side, you will pass a scattering of small bommies and patches of sand and sea grass. Half way through the dive, you can turn back and return to the entry point.

2 – (Divers) You can head out across the sand patch to the right hand side of Mistaken island. The best diving here is on the southern side of the island.

Have a look around at all the kelp beds and rock formations for silver drummers, big eyes,



leatherjackets, scorpionfish, gobies, blennies, pipefish and wrasse.

There is boat traffic in the area so take care. It is better to dive this spot when a westerly wind is blowing and the swells are not too big.

Remember that Mistaken Island is in a marine park. This is an ideal spot for night diving.



Two Sisters



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 18m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 35 03.711
E 117 57.001**

This dive spot is about 250m east of Mistaken

Island. The dive spot gets its name from the two rocks that break the waters surface. You can dive both of these rocks but the bigger one on the most eastern side is the best one to dive. Anchor your boat where it is sheltered from swells and then you can decide which way you want to dive around the rock.

Colourful sponges and soft corals cover the walls and bommies around the small out crop. The spot has a variety of local marine life and is a favourite spot for nudibranchs, sea stars and crayfish hiding under ledges and overhangs.

This dive spot can have a very strong surge, so calm conditions are recommended for diving in this spot. It is also better to dive this side when the wind blows from a North to North West direction.

When the conditions are excellent, this also makes a wonderful night dive.



Johan Boshoff

HMAS Perth



Average depth: 21m

Maximum depth: 38m

GPS: (WGS84) S 35 04.789 E 117 58.068

During the mid-1960s, three destroyers were built for the Royal Australian Navy in



Johan Boshoff

Michigan. One of them was a guided Missile Destroyer known as the HMAS Perth whose first mission was to Vietnam.

On 15 October 1999 the HMAS Perth was decommissioned after it served the Royal Australian Navy for many years. She had steamed in excess of one million nautical miles all over the world and it was time for her to rest. The guided Missile destroyer was given to the Western Australian government as a gift and on 24 November 2001 she was scuttled just off the coast of Albany.

Today she lies in 38m of water about 500m south west of Seal Island in King George Sound. The masthead still extends beyond the waters surface to a height of 4m.

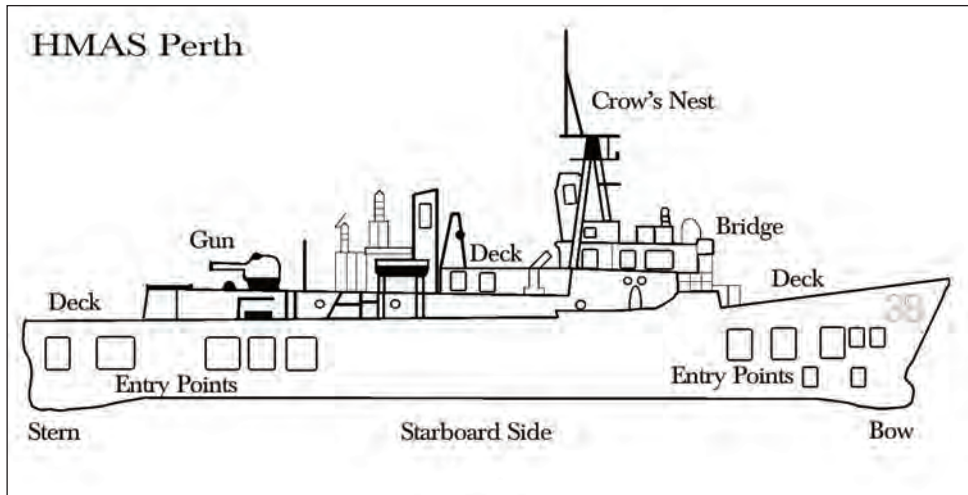
Under the surface the 133m long HMAS Perth lies from east to west. After many years, the wreck has become an artificial reef and today it is covered by extensive coral and sponge growth.

This wreck is a big attraction for scuba divers from all over the world. HMAS Perth was prepared for diver; numerous holes were cut



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Albany & Surroundings



into the side of the vessel. The holes allow for easy access to the inside of the wreck for experienced divers with the appropriate training. When penetrating the ship avoid silt up. Penetration should not be taken lightly.

You don't have to penetrate the wreck. There is more than enough to see on the outside due to the amount of the ship's equipment and machinery that was left in place when it was sunk, providing many points of interest.

Some of the places that divers must visit on the wreck is the large gun on the back, as well as the captain's chair that is still in the bridge. There are just so many things for you to go and explore.

With the ample coral growth adorning the wreck, the marine life hiding in the wrecks nooks and crannies as well as the schools of fish surrounding HMAS Perth, it is safe to say that this wreck will not disappoint.

You can also see blue devils, harlequin fish, yellow tails, nudibranchs, leather jackets, humpback boxfish, long batfish, false Tasmanian blennies and if you are really lucky, there are also resident Wobbegongs or carpet sharks.

At the end of your dive you can spend your safety stop exploring the Crows nest.

Seal Island



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 20m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 35 04.553
E 117 58.496**

Seal Island is almost in the middle of Frenchman Bay, about one nautical mile North East from HMAS Perth wreck. This dive spot is a perfect dive for new divers. You can find shelter for your boat anywhere around the island and jump in.

The Western end of the island is the shallower

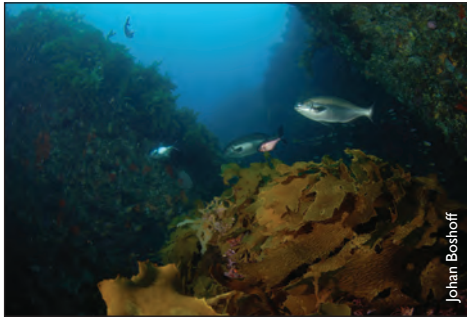


part of the island and the deeper section is on the East. The dive spot offers a variety of marine life with hard and soft coral. One of the reasons to dive here is you may see an occasional seal that is in the area.

Blue devils, pineapple fish, sea dragons, scorpion fish, queen snapper, king fish, blue groper, morwong, harlequin fish, leather jackets, scalyfin, nudibranchs and many more species can be found here.

You can dive here in almost any condition except when heavy weather comes from the east.

This dive spot is also an excellent night dive for those that love the marine life at night time.



Breaksea Island



Average depth: 13m

Maximum depth: 40m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 35 03.690
E 118 02.544**

There are a number of places to dive around the island. However, the most common places to dive are on the Northern side and on the South West section. In the southern section of the island you can get depths up to 40m of water.

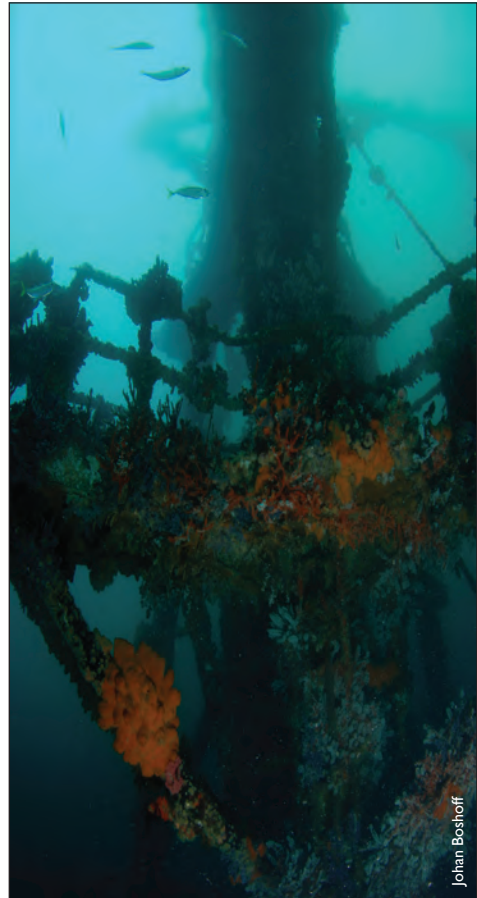
At this dive spot you have a variety of wall formations and bommies. Smallish caves and overhangs can be found here with some swim

throughs. It all depends on where you dive around the island.

The formations are covered by sponges and corals and you can find a few black coral trees and plate corals scattered around. Abundant reef fish and invertebrates are permanent residents around these waters, and that includes: blue groper, queen snapper, samson fish, trevally and other schools of pelagic fish.

It is better to dive this dive spot in calm conditions with no swell but you can protect yourself from most of the wind if you choose your dive spot correctly.

This spot is a fantastic night dive for all levels of divers.



Albany & Surroundings

Cheynes III



Average depth: 14m

Maximum depth: 23m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 35 02.645
E 118 01.638**

This 440 ton steam ship was built in 1947 and was used as a whale chaser. It was originally named the Thorgrim and then the Looma III until, in 1963, it was renamed the Cheyenes III, when it was used for whaling operations around Albany until 1978.

On the 23rd of June in 1982, it was scuttled about 100m west of Michaelmas Island and today she rests on the ocean floor at a depth of 23m. It is also believed that this 47 meter ship was one of the first ships prepared as a dive wreck in the Southern Hemisphere.

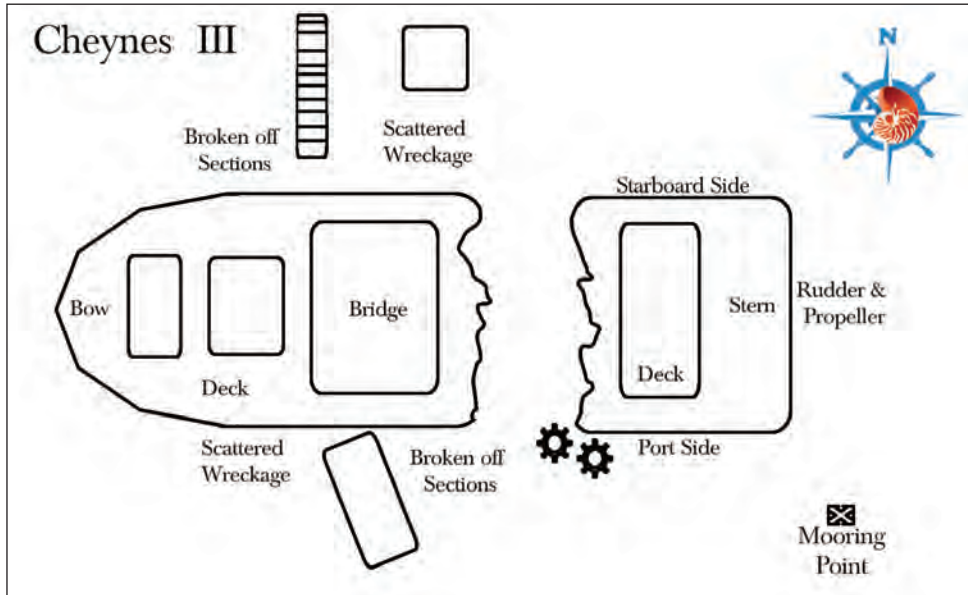
The wreck is broken into sections and broken

parts can be found scattered all around the wreck. Although the hull is broken it is still possible to explore the engine room and the wheelhouse. The engine itself was removed and is now placed in a Museum. It is always recommended that only trained and experienced divers penetrate wrecks.

On all the gangways and decks, you can find hard coral, soft coral, sponges and many species of fish and invertebrates due to the long length of time that this wreck has been submerged.

Big schools of bulls eye swim all over the deck. Other fish you can see on this wreck include blue devils, blue groper, harlequin fish, queen snapper, old wives, perch, jewfish, silver drummer, kingfish, samson fish and many other reef fish. If you are lucky you might find sea dragons on the sea grass and weedy patches around the wreck.

The dive spot is well sheltered because it is so close to Michealmas Island. There is a fixed mooring for you to use and you can dive all around the wreck. The exception is when there are strong winds from the south.



Michealmas Island



Average depth: 15m
Maximum depth: 30m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 35 02.560
E 118 02.296**

This dive spot is just one nautical mile north of Breaksea Island and the topography and scenery are almost the same as the other islands in the area. Diving can be done all around the island but most divers go to the wall at the Eastern end of the island or about 300m north of the Western end of the island.

The shoreline around the island is very steep with bommies scattered all around. Walls with ledges and a few small caves can be found around the island. The granite boulders are covered with kelp, sponges, gorgonian fan coral, black coral and sea tulips.

Schools of kingfish are often seen here with large groupers, cuttlefish, lion fish, queen snapper, morwong, sea stars, nudibranchs, harlequin fish, wrasse, leather jackets and scalyfin to just name a few.

It is better to dive this dive spot in calm conditions with no swell but you can protect yourself from most of the wind if you choose your dive spot correctly.

When the conditions are perfect then this is an excellent night diving spot. This is also a great spot for snorkelling.



Johan Boshoff

The Caves



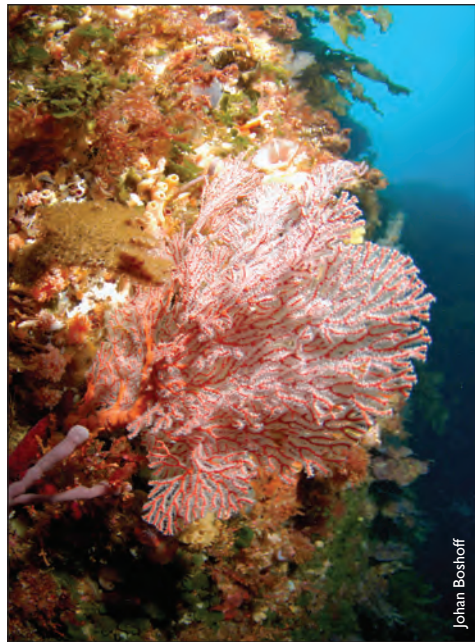
Average depth: 17m
Maximum depth: 25m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 35 02.885
E 118 03.051**

This dive spot is just a couple of metres off the southeast corner of Michealmas Island. This spot has some of the most amazing rock formations that Albany has to offer.

Here you will find huge caves in the rock formation with swim throughs. There are many caves and passages and some of them have never been explored. A torch is necessary on this dive to look in all the cracks and crevasses inside the caves and caverns.

The walls are covered with colourful sponges, soft coral and gorgonian fans. Many reef fish and invertebrates live around the caves such as,



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boarfish, blue groppers, rock lobsters, bullseyes, blue devilfish, cuttlefish and globefish.

Under water divers can hear the ocean shaping the rock formations by grinding away their surfaces to produce the huge boulders and various rock formations.

This dive is more suited to the advanced diver. The best time to dive this spot is when there is no swell because surge can be a problem inside the caves.

The Cables



Average depth: 18m

Maximum depth: 28m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 35 03.489
E 118 03.389**

This dive spot is on the Northern side of Breaksea Island, about 100m offshore just under the lighthouse.

The Cables is a maze of small and big bommies surrounded by sea grass beds and kelp. The bommies are covered with hard and soft coral. Here you can find large fan and plate corals on the walls of the bommies. The site got its name through the old mainland communication cable that is tangled around and through the bommies.

The steep granite walls of the bommies provide spectacular swim-throughs and shelter for reef fish like western blue devils and the large blue groper. This spot is rich in marine life and because it is so close to seal cove, you stand the chance of a seal coming and visiting you on a dive.

When there is a swell coming from the South, The Cables is protected by Breaksea Island.



Seal Cove



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 18m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 35 03.730
E 118 03.873**

This dive spot is on the eastern side of Breaksea Island. Here you can see the Australian sea lions and New Zealand fur seals that reside in the sheltered areas along this part of the shoreline.

Underwater you will find a group of bommies that are scattered around and create swim-throughs and big caves that are filled with bulls eyes, swallowtail fish and schools of reef fish.

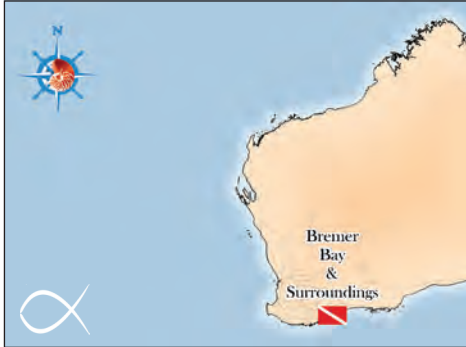
On the rock surface, you can find sponges, plate corals, gorgonian fans, southern black coral and the brittle stars.

Normally the Australian sea lions and New Zealand fur seals are a little shy when divers first arrive but after a while they may come and perform some acrobatic tricks for you.

This dive spot is sheltered from most winds, but surge can be a problem.



Bremer Bay & Surroundings



Bremer Bay & Surroundings

**GPS: (WGS84) S 34 23.556
E 119 22.764**

Bremer Bay is a small coastal town situated on the south coast of Western Australia, about 520km from Perth. It is believed that the bay got its name when Surveyor General John Septimus Roe visited the area in 1831.

Bremer Bay was originally named Wellstead, but the locals in the town wanted the name to go back to Bremer Bay as everyone knew it. In 1951 there was a local petition and the name was officially changed in 1962.

Today, Bremer Bay is well known for its white beaches and clear water. Its economy relies on tourists visiting the area for beach holidays and



whale watching. The whale watching season runs from June to October when the Southern Right whales are calving.

Summer land temperatures: 21-30°C.

Winter land temperatures: 13-20°C.

Accommodation:

Even though it is a small town, a variety of accommodation is available in the area, including camp sites, self-catering chalets, lodges, back packers, B&B's and guest houses.

Shops and service stations:

There are local dealers, a grocery store and a hardware shop as well as a post office. Diesel and Petrol is available.

Health and medical services:

There is a general practitioner in town and a medical system. They will know what to do in emergencies.

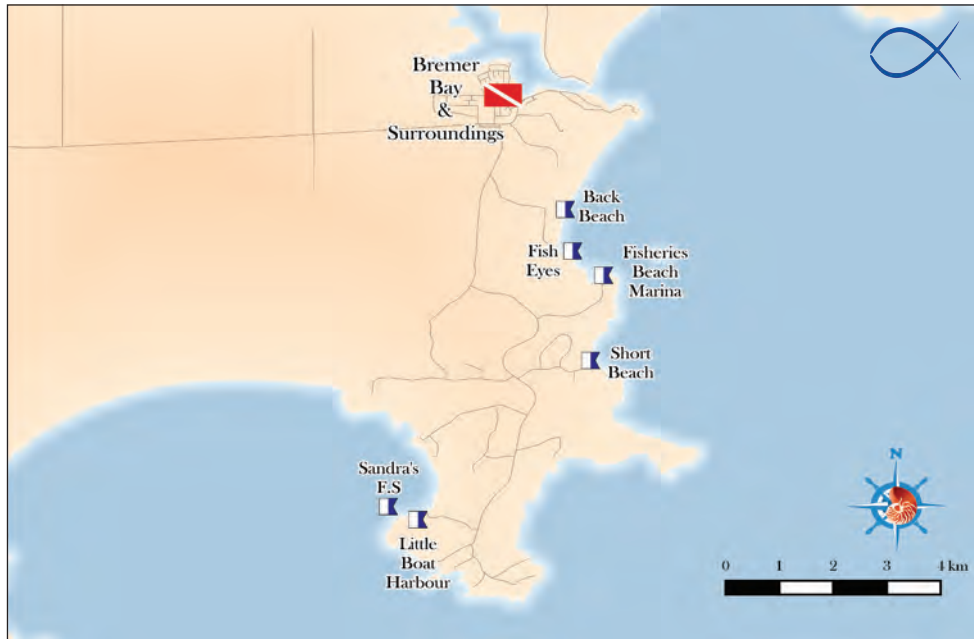
Activities in and around the area:

- Dolphin and whale watching
- Snorkelling
- 4x4 Trails
- Fishing
- Hiking trails
- Variety of water sports

Diving & Snorkeling:

Bremer Bay is a dive and snorkel destination that can be dived almost every day of the year. With its range of bays facing different





directions, it is easy to dive and snorkel in areas that are protected from winds.

There are a variety of dive spots that include shore and boat diving spots and will suite all levels of snorkelers and divers. The dive and snorkelling spots have a variety of scenery from granite boulders to walls full of sponges and areas full of seaweed. There is even a set dive trail for you to go and explore.

But what makes Bremer Bay so fantastic for divers and snorkelers, is the presence of both weedy and leafy seadragons which are commonly seen.

Summer water temperatures: 20-22°C.

Winter water temperatures: 16-21°C.

Diving facilities in the area:

- Air fills
- Gear rentals
- Equipment sales
- Dive training

DIVE & SNORKELING SPOTS

Sandra's F.S



Average depth: 13m

Maximum depth: 20m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 34 28.051
E 119 21.370**

About 400m off shore from Little Boat Harbour is a Small boat-launching site off the beach. Here you will find about half an acre of plate coral stacked on top of each other. This coral bed starts at about 18m and rises to a depth of about 8m.

The plate coral attracts a large variety of fish from the larger species to the smaller ones. You can find blue groper, nannygai and snapper with clouds of swallowtails.

Some of the bommies in the south-eastern

Bremer Bay & Surroundings

area are covered with invertebrates, sponges and gorgonian fans.

This is a boat dive but swimming from shore is possible. When you reach the site, stay with the plate coral during your dive.

It is better to dive or snorkel here when there is not much wind or current. This spot is relatively protected from wind and swell, but not if the wind is blowing from the south west.



Johan Boshoff

Little Boat Harbour



Average depth: 6m

Maximum depth: 13m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 34 28.194
E 119 21.731**

This dive and snorkel spot is composed of a combination of granite boulders, kelp and seaweed beds. The granite boulders are covered



Craig Lebens

with sponges, soft corals and scattered around are small patches of plate corals.

This spot is also host to Bremer Bay's dive trail, which is characterised by a series of 13 concrete plinths. On one side of the plinth there is text about marine life found in the area and on the other side, a photograph.

Here you will mostly find marine life habitats in sea grass and seaweed, due to the huge amount of grass and seaweed patches in the area. On the edges of these patches you can find both the Weedy and Leafy sea dragons.

When entering the water, keep the rock ledges too your left hand side and follow the ledge to the end of the point. Halfway through your dive turn around and follow the ledge back to the shore.

This site is also suitable for those divers that love night dives because it is protected against wind most of the year.



Johan Boshoff

Short Beach

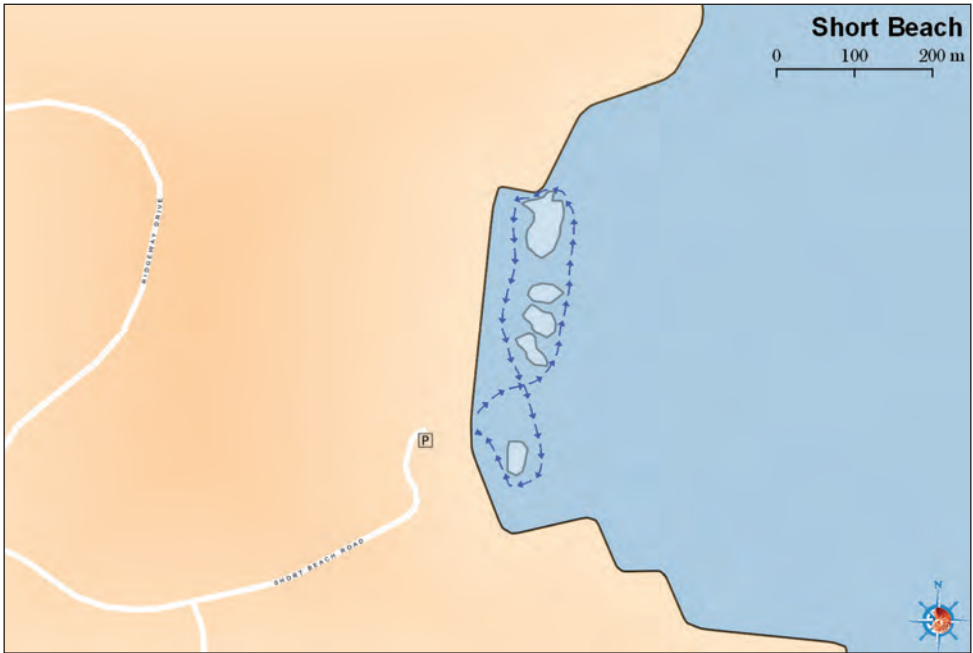
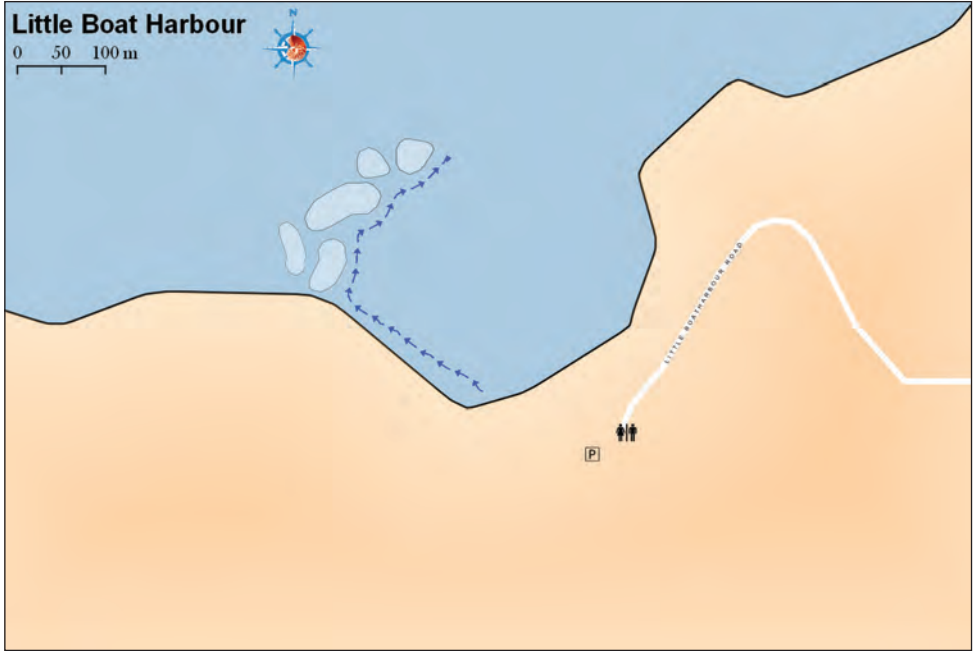


Average depth: 9m

Maximum depth: 12m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 34 26.453
E 119 23.829**

This dive and snorkel spot is excellent for beginners due to the protection offered by the



Bremer Bay & Surroundings

outer reef structure. The spot is a combination of granite and limestone boulders with overhangs covered in sponges and coral. Surrounding this, are areas with seaweed and sea grass.

The marine life here is plentiful; in this area you will normally find schools of old wife and zebra fish.

You can dive or snorkel on either the inside or the outside of this reef, and explore both sections to your left or to your right.

The best time to dive and snorkel this spot is when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong. If winds are blowing from an easterly direction, it is not recommended to dive and snorkel here.

Fisheries Beach Marina



Average depth: 5m

Maximum depth: 10m

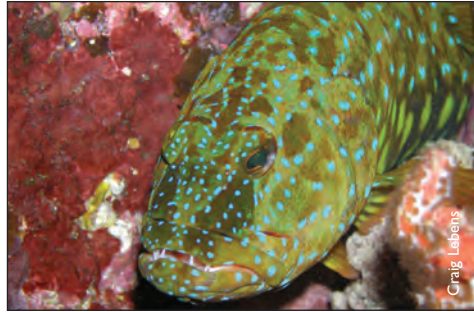
**GPS: (WGS84) S 34 25.528
E 119 23.988**

The granite rocks that were used to build the harbour wall are covered with seaweed and sponges, and it is surrounded by sea grass beds. In some of the areas, you will find some hard corals and small gorgonian fans.

It is best if you dive with a torch here to look in the dark sections of the granite rocks. Very interesting marine life can be seen all over, such as starfish, hermit crabs, octopus and small juvenile fish. Sea life increases even further as you go around the corner to the outer side of the harbour wall.

Schools of yellow tail, groper, bulleeyes, herring, skippy, old wife as well as other varieties of fish including stingrays are spotted here.

It is best to enter this dive spot on the left hand side of the wall and then swim around the corner. The best time to dive and snorkel this spot is when the swell is low and the winds are not that



strong. Halfway through your dive turn around and follow the wall back to the shore. You must always dive with caution, as there is boat traffic in this area.

Fish Eyes



Average depth: 8m

Maximum depth: 15m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 34 25.262
E 119 23.613**

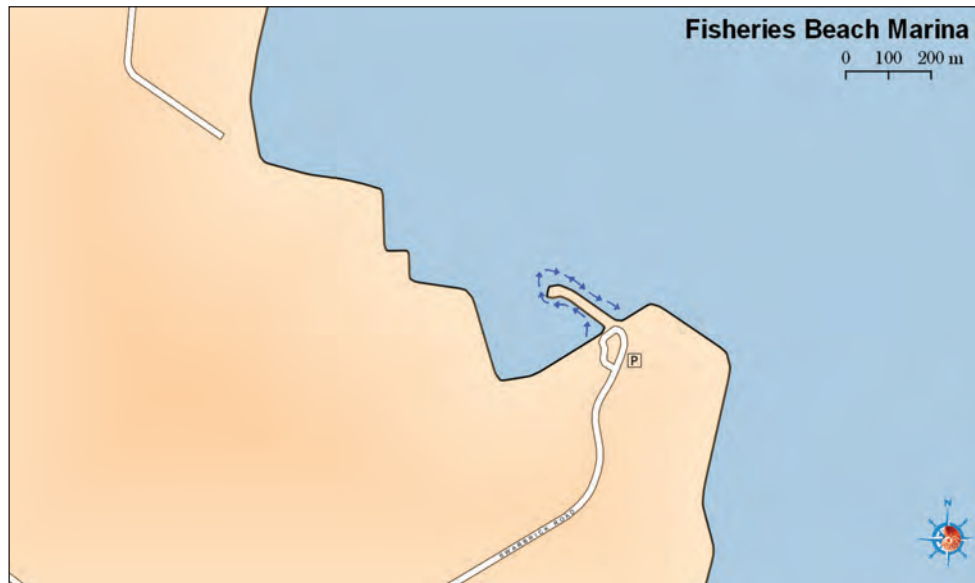
This dive spot got its name from a hole in a rock on a nearby cliff, which is the shape of an eye socket. The dive spot is scattered with granite boulders surrounded by kelp beds. The boulders are covered with hard coral, soft coral and sponges. Small tropical fish, spider crabs, sea stars, flatworms, shrimps and nudibranchs can be found here as well as schools of pelagic fish. Often in



your dive a sealion might come and say hello to you and turtles have been seen on this dive site in the past.

The main attractions for this dive spot are the leafy and weedy seadragon which can be spotted here.

This is a boat dive, as soon as you enter the water proceed east keeping the cliffs on your right hand side. You can dive this site throughout the year but the swell gets bigger when the wind is blowing from a northerly direction.



Bremer Bay & Surroundings

Back Beach



Average depth: 8m

Maximum depth: 12m

GPS: (WGS84) S 34 24.807 E 119 23.523

This dive and snorkelling spot is unique in Bremer Bay. It is characterized by very big granite bommies extend to the surface from about 10m. These massive boulders have great rock walls that are covered with hard and soft coral. They also create large gullies for you to swim through.

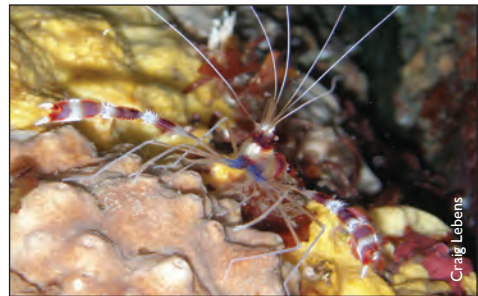
Small gorgonian fans and sponges are in abundance here. And fish can be seen everywhere, due to the fact that there is a no spear fishing rule at this dive and snorkelling spot. Schools of skip jack trevally, salmon and yellowtail are also commonly seen here.

Different star fish and even the rare basket stars, hide during the day on the reef and open up during the night. The leafy sea dragon can be found here in between all the seaweed.

It is better to dive or snorkel this spot in low tide and when there is not as much wind or current. Try not to dive or snorkel this spot when there is a wind coming from the north.

Enter the water directly opposite the car park and then swim to your right and follow the reef. When you get to the main section, stay in that area and explore all the segments.

This dive spot makes for a fantastic night dive.







Sean Bortha

Golden Outback Region



Golden Outback Region



The Golden Outback is the largest of the five tourism regions and covers about 54 percent of Western Australia. The region is divided up further into sub-regions, which run from Mount Augusta in the Gascoyne-Murchison area in the north, through the Goldfields area in the centre, west to the Wheatbelt sub area and down to Esperance on the coast. The temperature in the Gascoyne-Murchison region is pretty much warm all year round and can differ by as much as 10°C from areas on the coast.

Along the Gascoyne River, farmers grow various fruits and vegetables such as bananas, mangoes and tomatoes. The moderate arid tropical climate enables farmers to produce out-of-season fruit and vegetables for local and export markets. Moving in-land towards the Murchison area, sheep and cattle stations, otherwise called pastoral leases, can be found. These stations are now contributing to the tourism industry by offering visitors accommodation and a unique chance to experience station life.

The Goldfields sub-region is mostly hot and dry. Whilst farming is not really suitable here due to

poor soil condition, the mining of gold, nickel and platinum is a big economic contributor. The gold rush era in the late 1890s meant that towns such as Kalgoorlie-Boulder were born. Today you can visit museums in the area and take a tour to see inside the Super Pit Mining Operations. There are many national parks in the region where you can see spectacular arrays of wildflowers from July to October. The landscape changes from low lying plains to high rise mountains such as Mount Augustus, known as Burringurrah to the local Aboriginal people,



stands 1 106 kilometres above sea level.

The Golden outback region is steeped in Indigenous history. Rock art can be seen on the walls of caves at places such as Walga Rock in Cue. In the historic federation building that houses the Menzies visitor centre, work from local indigenous people is on display.

About 50km west of Menzies, is Lake Ballard and it is here where the famous British sculptor, Anthony Gormley, chose to display his 'Inside Australia' sculptures. They consist of 51 life-size statues that are positioned about 750km apart.

The Wheatbelt sub-region of the Golden Outback is closer to Western Australia's coastline. The climate in this area is higher in rainfall and is ideally suited to agriculture. Nearly two thirds of Western Australia's wheat production comes from the Wheatbelt area.

Near Hyden, one can find a magnificent rock structure called Wave Rock. It stands about 15m high and 100m long and is in the shape of a giant crested wave that looks set to break on the surrounding bush. Over many years, weather and water erosion caused this amazing structure to form. Also in the area is an unusually shaped granite rock called Hippo's Yawn that stands about 12m tall. There is plenty of indigenous wildlife, such as the bilby, which can be seen in their natural environment or in places like Barna Mia animal sanctuary.

As you head towards the south eastern part of Western Australia, you will find the coastal area of Esperance. The climate is said to be Mediterranean with warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Tourism, agriculture and fishing are major economies for this sub-region. Esperance is known for its picture perfect beaches such as Twilight Bay and Lucky Bay. Several kilometres west of Esperance is a salt lake named Pink Lake. Under the right conditions, the lake turns pink due to the high levels of algae in the water.

If you are keen to visit untouched and protected flora and fauna, visit any one of the several national parks.



Esperance & Surroundings



Esperance & Surroundings

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 51.729
E 121 53.625**

Esperance was named by the French when they discovered it in 1792 while looking for a place to shelter during a big storm. The name Esperance roughly translates to 'hope'.

Esperance is a relaxing coastal town located about 720km south east of Perth and is about

eight hours drive from Albany. There are five national parks in and around Esperance and has one of the most famous places in Australia known as the Pink Lake.

After Esperance was discovered, whalers, sealers and pirates rushed into town and they were followed by miners that heard about free land and a gold boom to the north at Kalgoorlie.

Today this coastal town relies on tourism, agriculture and fishing for its economy.

Esperance enjoys a moderate Mediterranean-like climate all year round. Between the months of June to October, Southern Right whales can be spotted.

Summer land temperatures: 21-30°C.

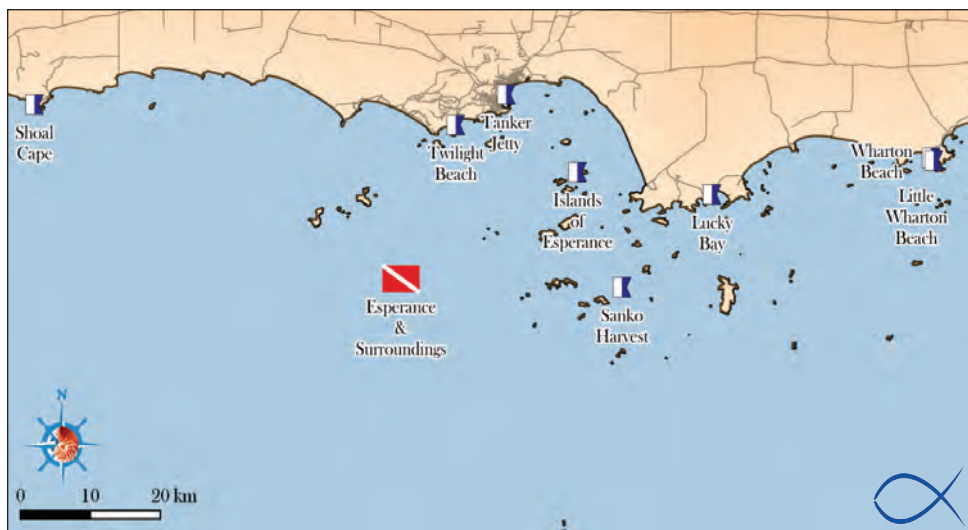
Winter land temperatures: 13-20°C.

Accommodation:

A variety of accommodation is available in the area, including camp sites, hotels, self-catering chalets, lodges, back packers, B&B's and guest houses.

Shops and service stations:

Like any major city or town in Western Australia, a variety of shops are available.



Health and medical services:

There are world-class general practitioners, clinics and hospitals in this area.

Activities in and around the area:

- Dolphin and whale watching
- Snorkelling
- Horse trails
- 4x4 trails
- Hiking trails
- Fishing
- Variety of water sports

Diving and snorkeling:

Due to the distance from Perth and all the nature parks in and around Esperance, the dive and snorkel sites are untouched and not as crowded as the ones closer to Perth. Around Esperance you will find over 280 islands that make up the Archipelago of the Recherche Nature Reserve. The islands, which are made of granite, stretch for more than 230km and run parallel with the coastline. They are all accessible by boat and offer divers a variety of diving and snorkelling experiences.

The numerous islands provide a wide variety of diving spots around Esperance, including both shore diving and snorkeling opportunities. Most of the shore dives are accessible by car and some in the more remote locations, only accessible by

4x4 vehicles.

The aquatic scenery around Esperance is mostly granite boulders that are covered with kelp, and around them big patches of sea grass. The kelp and sea grass are a fantastic spot for fish and invertebrates like the sea dragons and the rock formations host colourful sponges, soft coral, hard coral, black coral and many more. Marine life is rich here and you can see your typical fish as well as schools of pelagic fish. This area is also one of the few places in the world that you can find both the weedy and the leafy sea dragon.

On any dive, look out for seals that come and say hi to you or you can see dolphins swimming past you. In the winter months, southern right whales are also in the area.

Diving and snorkelling in Esperance is very weather dependant and planning must be done before deciding on what snorkel and dive spot to go to next.

Summer water temperatures: 19-22°C.

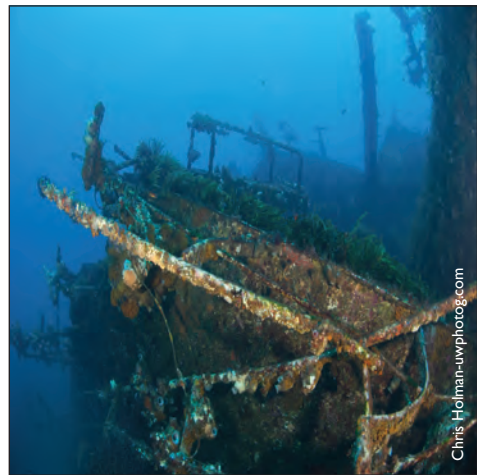
Winter water temperatures: 16-20°C.

Diving facilities in the area:

- Air fills
- Gear rentals
- Dive training
- Nitrox fills
- Gear Sales



Shaun Terblanche



Chris Holman-uwphotog.com

Esperance & Surroundings

DIVING & SNORKELING SPOTS

Shoal Cape



Average depth: 8m

Maximum depth: 20m

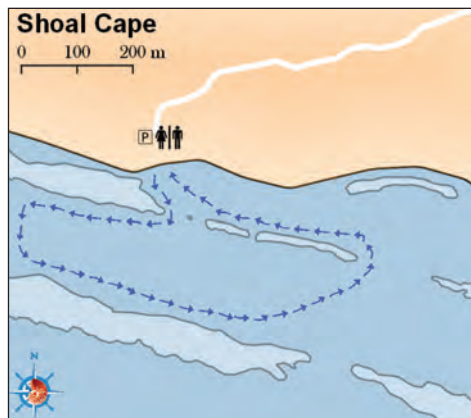
**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 52.010
E 121 10.035**

Shoal Cape is about 90km west of Esperance in the Stokes Inlet National Park. To get access to this dive and snorkelling spot, you need a 4-wheel drive vehicle and a National Park pass to enter the Stokes Inlet National Park.

Masses of colourful sea weed and beautiful sponges can be seen here on the breakaway reef. Small tropical fish, rays, blue groper, herring, skippy, zebrafish, harlequin cod, blue devils and many more can be seen between the deep crevices edging onto the sand. About 200m seawards, you will find a second reef in the area that is known as the outer reef for you to explore.

It is better to dive or snorkel this site in low tide and when there is not as much wind or current. The outer reef offers some protection when a southerly wind is blowing.

You can enter the water directly opposite the



stairs and then swim to your right and follow the reef. Half way through your dive you can turn around and head back. If the current is running, it is difficult to return to the entry point.

A small camping area, toilet and picnic table are close to this dive spot.



Johan Boshoff

Twilight Beach



Average depth: 7m

Maximum depth: 12m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 53.740
E 121 49.355**

Twilight Beach is about 5km west of Esperance. It is one of the most spectacular beaches in the whole of Australia.

This shore dive and snorkel spot is situated around a big granite rock that slopes into the ocean around 12 meters. Smaller granite boulders surround the larger rock formation



and create small caverns and gullies where marine life can hide.

For scuba divers there are caves on the western side of the big granite rock. Divers must have relevant training and experience to dive caves. Seaweed, sponges and soft coral cover the rock formation. Queen snapper, sweep, blue groper, abalone, herring, skippy, leather jacket and wrasse can be seen here while snorkelling and diving.

This spot is located in a no boating zone. You can dive all around the island. The spot can be affected by surge, therefore it is better to dive this site when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong.

You can enter the spot from the southern car park and swim across the channel. Follow the edge of the rock and after your dive, you can return same way.

Tanker Jetty



Average depth: 8m

Maximum depth: 13m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 51.155
E 121 54.063**

Tanker Jetty is a well know feature in the centre of the town. The jetty was completed in 1935 and used for fuel tankers to unload their cargo. Today it is one of the few original jetties still standing in Australia.

Over the years, fallen jetty timbers and tyres have created artificial reefs and are covered with soft corals and tube worms. Small tropical



Esperance & Surroundings

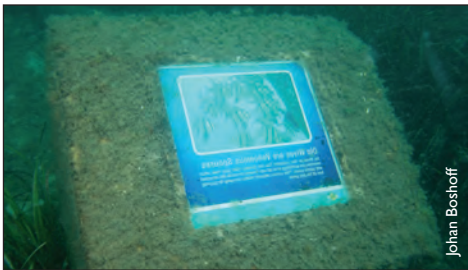


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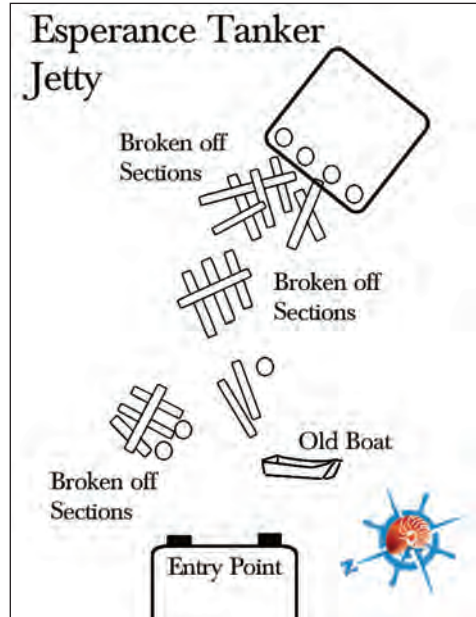
fish, immature blue groper, octopus, herring, skippy, zebra fish, wrasse, sweep, morwong, silver drummer, swallow tail, whiting, old wives, magpie perch, gurnard perch, queen snapper, boarfish can be regularly seen here and if you are lucky, even a New Zealand fur seal or an Australian sea lion.

The main part of the dive is about 20m from the end of the jetty, where the local dive club built a dive trail. You can follow guidelines from one plaque to the next. Each dive plaque will give you information about the marine life that you can encounter on the dive. On the dive trail you will find a number of objects that were purposely put there to create artificial reefs. The dive trail will stop when you pass the twelve plaques at the jetty's head.

The best way to dive this jetty is to walk 670m to the end of the jetty and do a giant stride from. It is a 12m jump and follows the dive trail. When coming back climb up any of the steel ladders or surface swim to shore. The first steel ladder is about half way along the jetty. It is better to dive this site when the swell is low and the winds are not that strong.



Johan Boshoff



Sanko Harvest



Average depth: 10m

Maximum depth: 45m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 34 07.457
E 122 04.877**

In 1991 the bulk carrier Sanko Harvest was on route to Esperance. It had 700 tonnes of fuel oil and 30 000 tonnes of phosphate on board that she was bringing from Florida. On 14 February it slammed into submerged rocks in the Archipelago of the Recherche about 21 nautical miles from Esperance and lost all its cargo worth about \$8 900 000.

No one knows what happened and a long court case was held to find out what really happened the day of the accident.

In the court case, it became apparent that the ship was unseaworthy and not properly crewed

or equipped. They also found that the passage should not be attempted at night as the Archipelago of the Recherche was inadequately surveyed, so vessels without local knowledge could not navigate the area.

In short, Justice Sheppard described the conduct of the master and the second officer as 'grossly negligent' and said that it was 'necessary to emphasise the heinousness of the shocking piece of navigation which led the vessel to the rocks.

With all the oil that was spilled, fur seals and birds died and over a hundred kilometres of coastline in the pristine National Park, became oiled.

Today this 174m long Japanese Bulk Carrier is a big attraction in Esperance for the diving community. This is one of the biggest wrecks in the world to dive on.

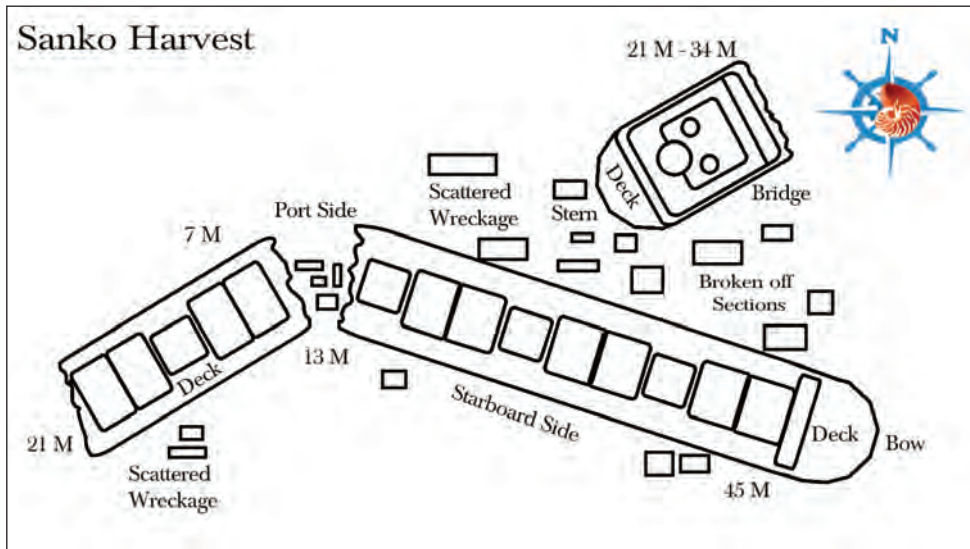
Today the wreck is divided into three sections as a result of weathering during the years it has been laying on the ocean floor. The bow and the bridge almost lie next to each other with the mid-section to the side. Scattered parts from the wreck can also be seen around the main structure.

The Sanko Harvest is now an artificial reef



covered with kelp, anemones and sponges. Blue groper, perch, yellowtail, boarfish, bulls eyes and red snapper all inhabit the wreck and it is not uncommon to see a seal or dolphin during your dive.

The depths on the wreck start from around 13m and can go as deep as 25m on the sand. The wreck is only recommended for experienced divers because of dangling wires and sharp edges all around the wreck. Divers can explore all three parts of the wreck as well as the tower cranes, bridge and engine room. It is better to dive this spot when the swell is low and the currents are not that strong.



Esperance & Surroundings

Lucky Bay



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 18m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 59.617
E 122 13.272**

Lucky Bay is in the Cape Le Grand National Park and is about 60km east of Esperance. You will need a National Park pass to enter this dive and snorkel spot.

Granite boulders that extend from the main land to the ocean floor create plenty of crevices and ledges and are covered with sea weed. Soft coral and multi coloured vegetation can be seen all over this site.

Small tropical fish, blue groper, herring, skippy, zebra fish, blue devils, wrasse, sweep, morwong, silver drummer, leather jacket, queen snapper can be seen here and this is a common place to see leafy and weedy sea dragons at around 15m deep.

Park in the top car park above the bay and follow the pathway down onto the rocks. When entering the water, watch out for the slippery rocks. When in the water keep the rock ledges

too your right hand side and follow the ledge around the point. Halfway through your dive you can turn around and follow the ledge back to the shore. This spot is also suitable for those divers that love night dives.

This spot is perfect on a day when the wind is blowing from the south. It is generally a reliable dive spot in most conditions, but beware of surge and currents.

Wharton Beach



Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 22m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 56.511
E 122 33.733**

Wharton Beach is about 80km east from Esperance in an area known as Duke of Orleans. A four-wheel drive vehicle is required if you want to drive onto the beach.

You will find sea weed covered rocks that extend out from the shoreline and granite breakaway rocks that create plenty of crevices and ledges. You will also find bommies



scattered around, soft coral with sections of flat coral and multi coloured vegetation can be also be seen all over this spot.

Small schools of fish, rays, blue groper, herring, skippy, zebra fish, harlequin cod, blue devils, wrasse, sweep, morwong, silver drummer, leather jacket, seals, queen snapper, leafy and weedy sea dragons can be seen in the area.

You have to drive to the left of the beach entry. When reaching the dive site, you need to walk to deeper water and follow the shoreline rocks. After the dive or half way through your dive, turn around and return to shore the same way. Beware of currents in the channel on your left hand side.

When it is low tide, Wharton Beach protected from north to east winds. A southerly wind can generate a large swell.



Little Wharton Beach



Average depth: 9m

Maximum depth: 18m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 56.764
E 122 33.978**

This dive and snorkel spot is about 80 kilometres east from Esperance in an area known as Duke of Orleans and is very close to Little Wharton Beach dive spot. You can do both these spots in one trip.

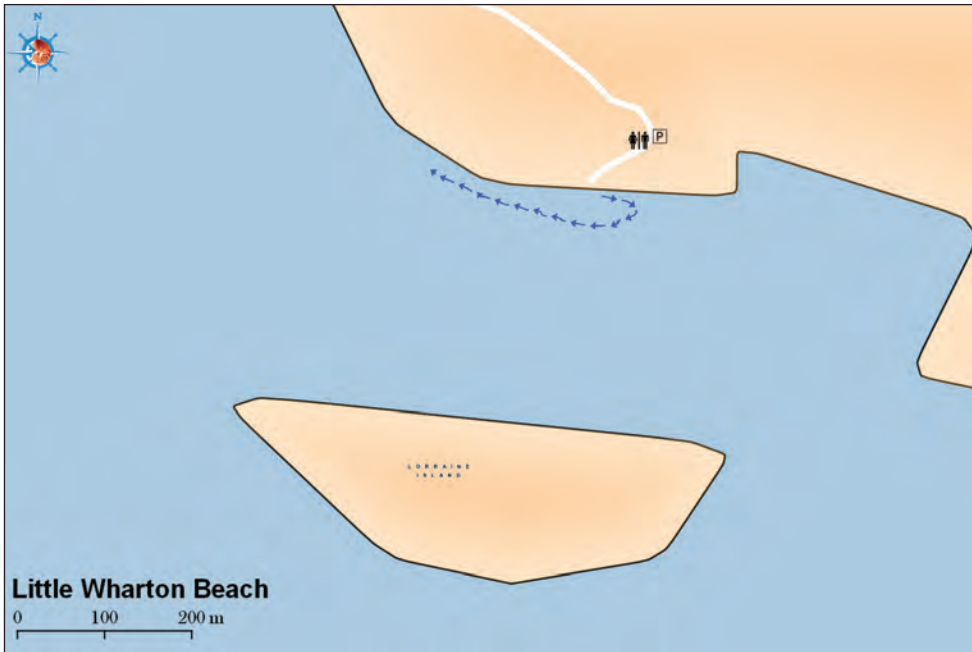
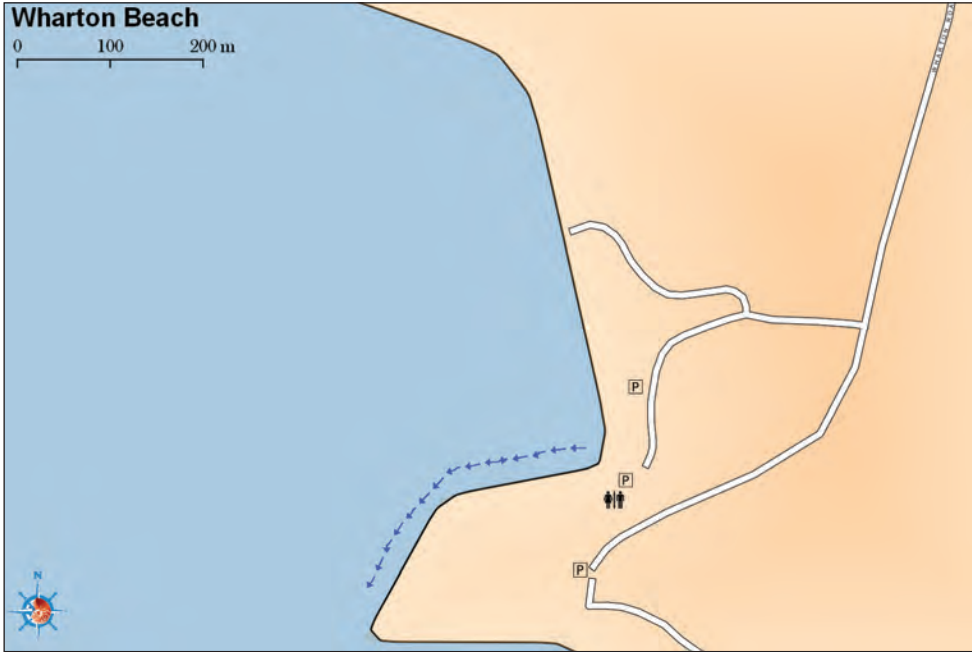
Large sections of flat coral and vegetation cover about a thousand square metres. This area has walls, gullies and breakaway rocks that extended from the rocky shoreline.

Sea Weed covered rocks and large sections of flat corals can be found here. Small tropical fish, blue groper, herring, skippy, zebra fish, wrasse, sweep, morwong, silver drummer, leather jacket, queen snapper and abalone are commonly seen here.

This dive and snorkel site is relatively protected from wind and swell, and can be dived almost all year around.



Esperance & Surroundings



Islands of Esperance



Average depth: 15m

Maximum depth: 35m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 57.723
E 122 00.717**

Around Esperance you will find over 280 islands surrounding the Recherche Archipelago Nature Reserve. The islands are huge granite structures and are scattered all over the place. With all these islands you have hundreds of dive sites that you can go and explore.

Amongst these boulders you will find the most spectacular scenery including large caves and swim-throughs. The caves and walls are covered with sponges and soft coral. Plate corals can be found in the shallower parts and black corals are

normally found in the deeper sections. Large gorgonian fan corals are also common in these areas.

A multitude of fish can be seen around every island including, queen snapper, grouper, boar fish, harlequin, schooling skipjack trevally, sweep, kingfish and sampson. For those who take the time to look warty prow fish, red snapper, swallowtail nannygai and goblin fish can be found. Furthermore, leafy and weedy sea-dragons can also be seen here.

Diving is good all year round if the sea conditions are calm enough to go out with a boat. The calmest times of the year are February to May, then October to mid-December. During the summer months, the south easterly winds can get stronger in the afternoons, however, it is calmer in the mornings.

The diversity and complexity of these dive sites are second to none.



Johan Boshoff



Chris Holman-uwphotog.com

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Top wrecks of Western Australia



Top wrecks in Western Australia



Tomi



Area: Geraldton

Average depth: 15m

Maximum depth: 31m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 28 43.879
E 114 33.327**

The 57 metre South Tomi was the illegal fishing vessel which was chased for 14 days from WA back to South Africa and captured

then bought back to WA in March 2001. It was sunk in September 2004 as an artificial reef in 26 metres of water on a sandy bottom 6 kilometres off Champion Bay near Pensioners Reef.

The main deck of the wreck is 18 metres which you can swim the entire length. At the stern there is the funnel which leads down the centre of the wreck right down to the engine room at 24 metres.

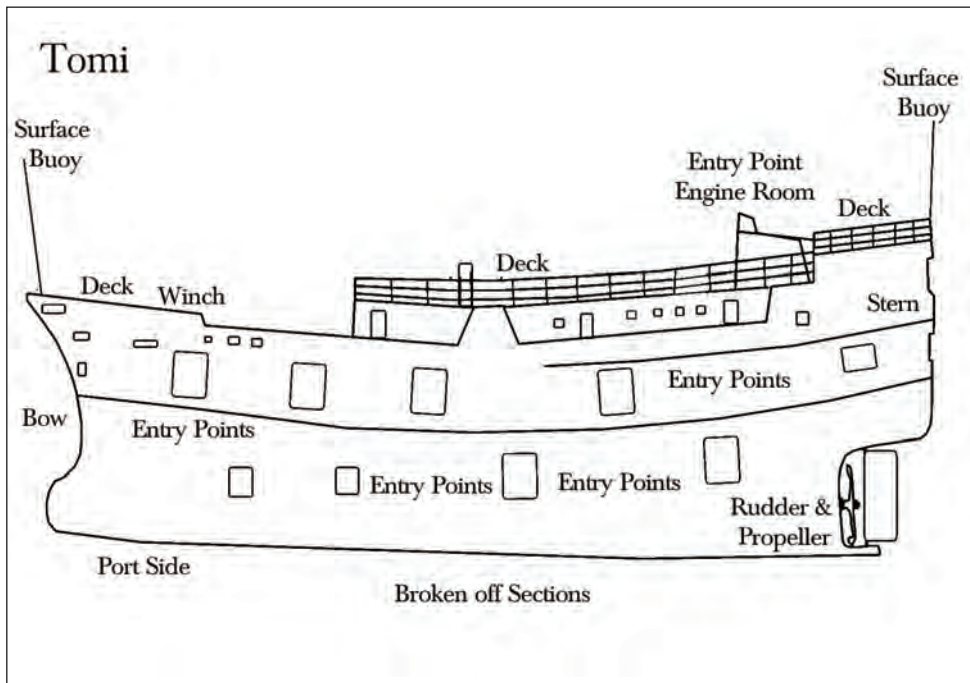
On the descent, you follow the mooring rope down, at 10 metres there is another rope that





leads off to the winch of the wreck located on the bow. It is advisable to wear gloves as there are sharp edges on the hatches and some fishing hooks have been found in some of the ropes from careless fishermen. There is always access out of the wreck either sides and above. When swimming past the hatches be aware of the surge in and out of the wreck.

In the engine room one hatch did not blow out when the ship was sunk so it is quite dark. When penetrating the ship, a torch is highly recommended and avoid silt up. Furthermore, penetration should not be taken lightly. There are several marker boys to mark the wreck. It is better to dive this wreck when the swell is low and the winds are not too strong.



Top wrecks in Western Australia



Ewan Rowell

Key Biscayne



Area: Lancelin

Average depth: 25m

Maximum depth: 42m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 31 09.877
E 115 11.837**

The Key Biscayne is one of the best wrecks on our coastline and is located about 18 kilometres south

west of Lancelin.

On September 1, 1983 the Key Biscayne, an oil platform rig, was being towed from the north down to Fremantle for repairs. On the way to Fremantle a gale force wind started blowing and big waves started braking over the platform resulting in the rig taking on water. The crew tried many times to stop it from flooding but eventually the ropes connecting the rig to the towing vessels broke. The crew evacuated the oil rig, which found its final resting place on the



Ewan Rowell

ocean floor.

Nothing could be salvaged due to the depth to which the rig sank. The wreck is now lying upside down with a rig structure shaped like a pyramid. All over the wreck there is heaps to see, including the machinery and living quarters. The highest point of the structure is 25m and the structures are covered with corals and colourful sponges.

A variety of fish schools can be found like snapper, dhufish and skippy. If bigger species attract you then grey nurse sharks, wobbegong sharks and port jackson sharks are also a common sighting on the Key Biscayne.

This is a deep dive and only for experienced divers with the appropriate training. When penetrating the wreck, a torch is highly recommended and try to avoid silt up. Penetration should not be taken lightly.

This wreck is only diveable in the best sea conditions due to its location.



Ewan Rowell



Ewan Rowell

Top wrecks in Western Australia



D9 Dredge



Area: Cockburn Sound

Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 14m

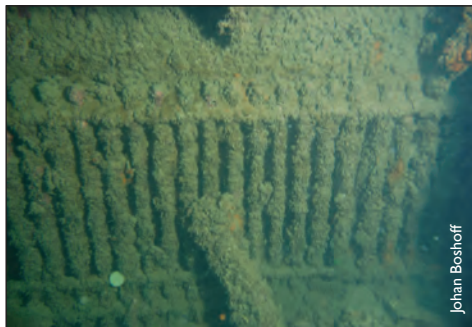
**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 11.644
E 11544.532**

This wreck is located almost in the centre of Cockburn Sound and was formerly known as the Parmelia. It was renamed when it was sold to the D9 Dredge, the Dredging Industry of

Australia, to dredge the Cockburn Sound area. It sunk in 1962 and the reason why is still unknown today. There are rumours that a rival contractor played a part in the sinking.

There are many areas for you to go and explore around the wreck, including swim-throughs and places where you can penetrate. Remember that penetrating wrecks is dangerous and only for experienced divers who have the necessary training. A torch is always necessary when entering a wreck.

This is one of the better-known wrecks to dive along the coastline of Western Australia. The wreck is covered with both soft and hard coral as well as colourful sponges. Marine life can be



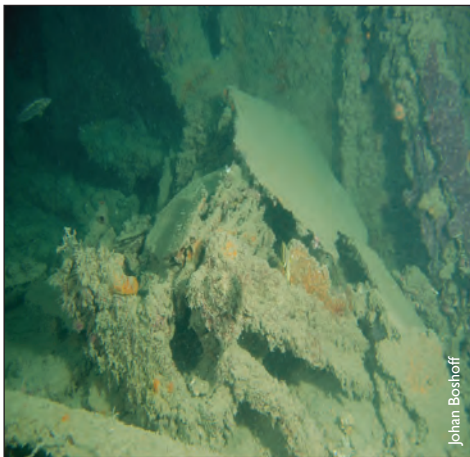
found hiding all over the wreck and you can also see blue grouper and schools of kingfish. This is also a breeding ground for snapper from around November to March.

Depending on the wind direction, anchor your boat on the sandy patches around the wreck and swim towards it.

You can dive this wreck in almost any condition as it is well sheltered because of its location, nestled between the islands, although it is better to dive this site when the swell is not present. Beware, however, as fishermen often fish on the wreck so look out for boat traffic and fishing lines.



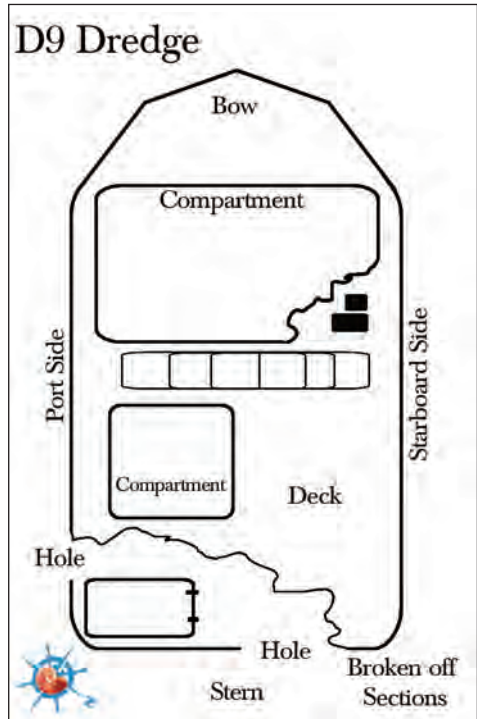
Johan Boshoff



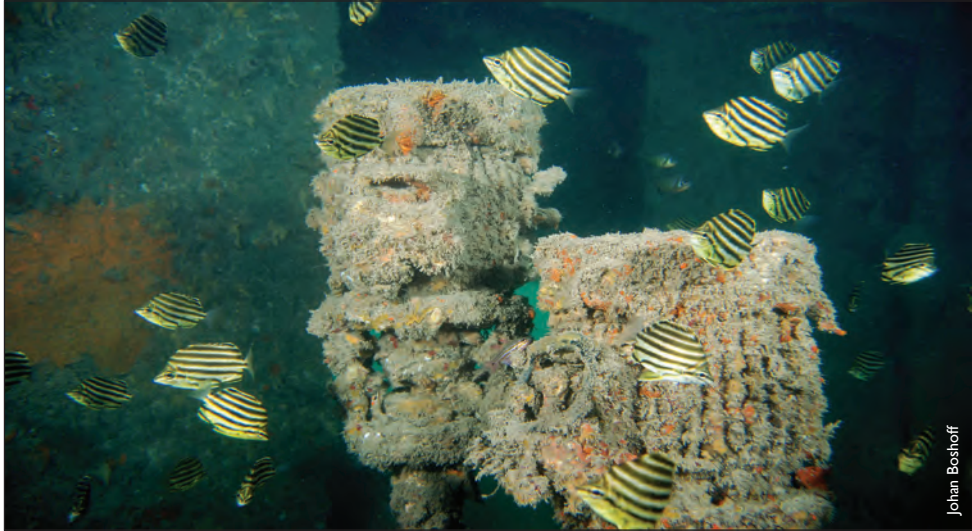
Johan Boshoff



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Top wrecks in Western Australia



Johan Bosthoff

Saxon Ranger



Area: Shoalwater

Average depth: 15m

Maximum depth: 20m

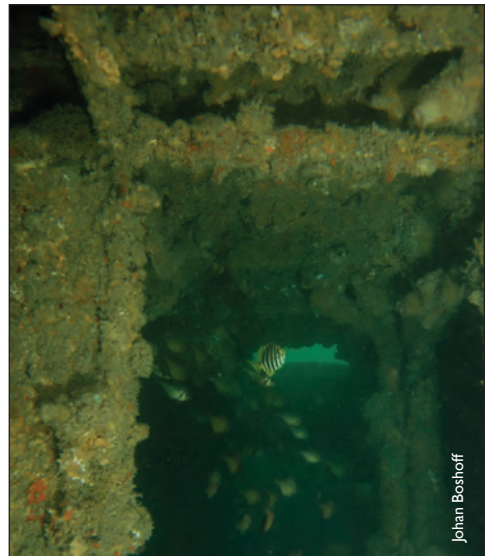
**GPS: (WGS84) S 32 19.604
E 115 42.320**

This wreck is located in Warnbo Sound within the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park. The Saxon Ranger was a 400 ton fishing vessel formerly known as the Atlantic Seal and was built around 1960 to work as a trawler on the North Atlantic Ocean.

It was later sold to work around Tasmania and Albany and did some occasional trips into the Antarctic. After a big storm in 2003 the ship's moorings broke and it was washed up on to the beach just off Rockingham.

Then the politics started... The owner claims that the government cheated him out of a ship, the government argued differently. In short, the government gave the owner 14 days to remove the ship from the beach, otherwise

they would move it for him. The owner was unable to remove the vessel in this time frame so the government did it and sent him the bill. However, the owner did not have the means to pay this bill and so it was decided that the ship should be sunk to attract divers and bring money into the area. The ship was sunk on

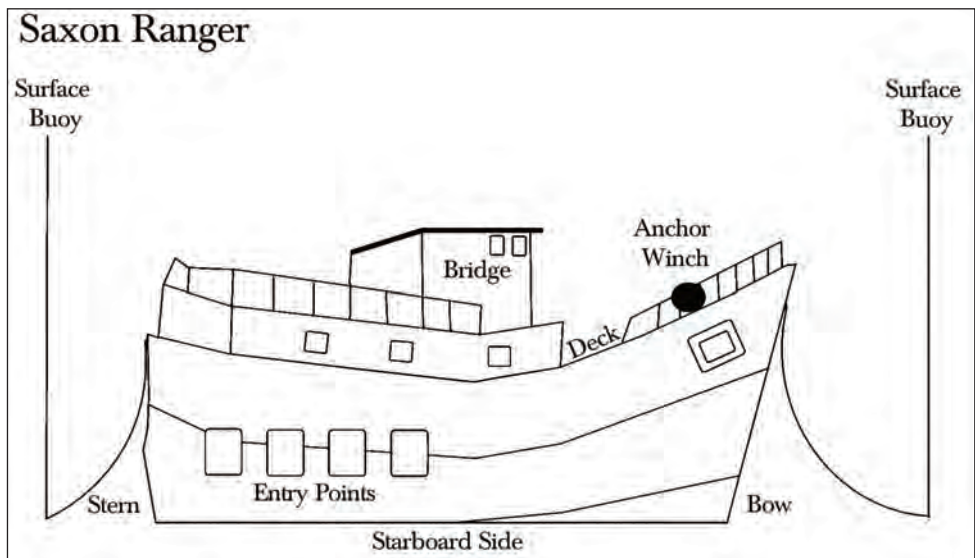


Johan Bosthoff

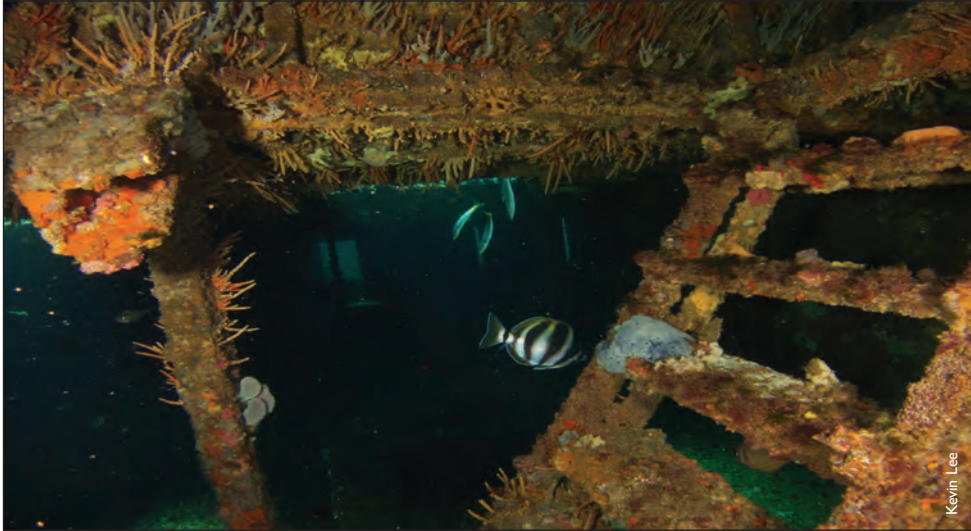
May 22 2005 providing divers with a fantastic dive spot.

They also decided to cut some access holes in the hull to allow easy access to the inside of the wreck for experienced divers with the appropriate training. When penetrating the ship, a torch is highly recommended and avoid silt up. Furthermore, penetration should not be taken lightly.

There are several marker boys that mark the wreck and you have to get a dive permit to dive it. It is advisable that you dive this wreck when the swell is low and the winds are not too strong.



Top wrecks in Western Australia



The Lena



Area: Bunbury

Average depth: 12m

Maximum depth: 18m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 20.578
E 115 33.770**

The Lena was an old fishing vessel which was illegally fishing Patagonian tooth fish in Australian waters some 4 000 kilometres south of Albany in February 2002. It took the HMAS Canberra a couple of weeks to tow the ship back to Fremantle,

where the crew was charged for illegal fishing.

The Bunbury Chamber of Commerce heard about the Lena and that the Australian Government wanted to sink the ship. They requested that the Lena be sunk in the Bunbury region to attract all levels of divers to the area. It took a team of volunteers almost a year to get the wreck ready to be scuttled in December 2003, but there were some problems and this led to a delay of some weeks.

On Friday December 19, 2003 at 12:17pm the Lena finally found its place on the sea bed only three nautical miles off the Bunbury coastline, exactly one year to the day after it was towed to Bunbury. Today you can find the Lena in an upright position on the sea bottom at 18m. The



main deck lies at 10m while the shallowest part of the wreck, the roof of the cabin, lies at 5m. This is an ideal site for all levels of scuba diver

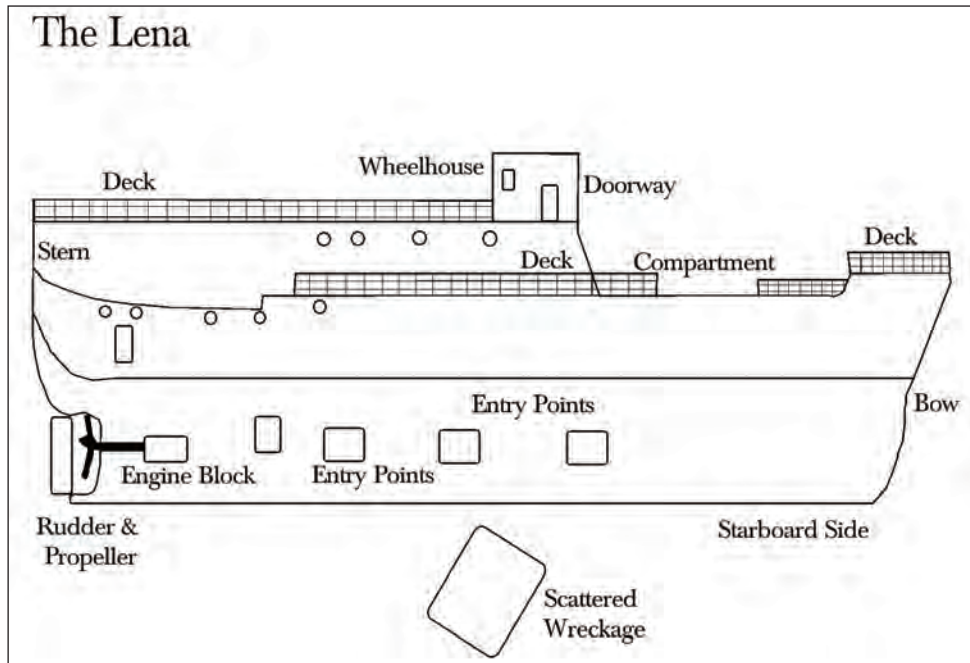
The Lena has three decks which run the length of the ship with an interesting engine room and a conveyer belt that runs along most of the middle deck. The ship is showing some signs of decay, as parts of the bow, top deck and bridge have collapsed, however, the superstructure remains whole with the propeller and rudder still visible.

Penetration is possible and safe in good conditions, as there are large openings almost always in direct sight when you are in the wreck. Wreck penetration must only be done by experienced divers with the appropriate training. The ship is covered with coral, both on the sides and the deck rails. Port Jackson sharks are often seen underneath the side of the hull and in the wreckage around the ship, while Wobbegong sharks are sometimes seen inside the ship.

There isn't much other life inside the ship, but the outside is covered in life. Blennies are found on over the rails, scorpionfish hang out in the upper

section of the bridge and nudibranchs can be seen throughout the deck. Schools of batfish hang around above the ship making it a wonderful dive.

The Lena requires good conditions to dive as heavy swell makes it difficult to penetrate. The wreck can be dived all year round in good conditions.



Top wrecks in Western Australia



HMAS Swan



Area: Dunsborough

Average depth: 22m

Maximum depth: 31m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 33 33.115
E 115 05.961**

After many years of servicing the Royal Australian Navy, the former HMAS Swan was decommissioned. It served as a 113m long naval destroyer for many years. The HMAS Swan was also known as 'Fluffy Duck' and was used as a Royal Australian Navy River Class Destroyer Escort.

The Swan was commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy in 1970 and was the first Australian ship to have a computer-controlled and radar-guided gun turret and the first to have automatic steering in the Royal Australian Navy. During 1971 the Swan had limited activities in Vietnam but took part in exercise 'Swan Lake' in the Indian Ocean. During her career serving the Navy she steamed almost 800 000 nautical miles

until, on September 13 1996, the HMAS Swan was decommissioned from the Royal Australian Navy.

The Australian Government wanted the Government of Western Australia to have the HMAS Swan. After many people and organisations gave their reason as to why they should be given the Swan, the Australian Government decided to give it to the Geographe Bay Artificial Reef Society; they had the best overall proposal which was to sink it for divers in a location that was safe and very sheltered.

Geographe Bay Artificial Reef Society started to prepare the ship for sinking and the major task was to cause no damage to the environment, as well as make the wreck safe for divers. The ship was cleaned of all oil, insulation, false ceilings



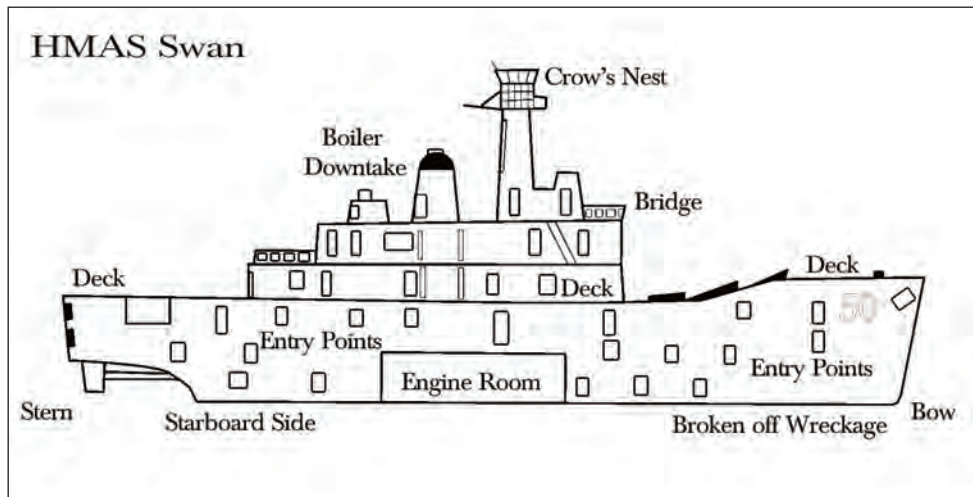
and all electrical cabling.

The society also decided to seal some of the compartments of the ship such as the engine room and also cut 14 access holes in the hull, two at the stern and some between the compartments to make penetration easier and safer for divers.

On December 14, 1997 in Geographe Bay, less than two kilometres from Point Piquet, the HMAS Swan was scuttled as an artificial reef creating a perfect training ground for all levels of divers.

HMS Swan lies on the sand at 31m and the top of the 'crows' nest' sits in around 9m of water. There are so many things to see and areas to go and explore all around the wreck. The wreck is covered with sponges, soft and hard coral growth and plenty of fish species all over, especially inside the wreck. All year round a wide variety of pelagic fish move past the wreck at different times of the year.

The holes allow for easy access to the inside of the wreck for experienced divers with the appropriate training. When penetrating the ship, a torch is highly recommended and avoid silt up; furthermore, penetration should not be taken lightly. There are several marker buoys to mark the wreck and it can be dived throughout the year, but the best times are from September to June.



Top wrecks in Western Australia



HMAS Perth



Area: Albany

Average depth: 21m

Maximum depth: 38m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 35 04.789
E 117 58.068**

During the mid-1960s, three destroyers were built for the Royal Australian Navy in Michigan. One of them was a guided Missile Destroyer known as the HMAS Perth whose first mission was to Vietnam.

On 15 October 1999 the HMAS Perth was decommissioned after it served the Royal Australian Navy for many years. She had steamed in excess of one million nautical miles all over the world and it was time for her to rest. The guided Missile destroyer was given to the Western Australian government as a gift and on 24 November 2001 she was scuttled just off the coast of Albany.

Today she lies in 38m of water about 500m south west of Seal Island in King George

Sound. The masthead still extends beyond the waters surface to a height of 4m.

Under the surface the 133m long HMAS Perth lies from east to west. After many years, the wreck has become an artificial reef and today it is covered by extensive coral and sponge growth.

This wreck is a big attraction for scuba divers from all over the world. HMAS Perth was



prepared for diver; numerous holes were cut into the side of the vessel. The holes allow for easy access to the inside of the wreck for experienced divers with the appropriate training. When penetrating the ship avoid silt up. Penetration should not be taken lightly. You don't have to penetrate the wreck. There is more than enough to see on the outside due to the amount of the ship's equipment and machinery that was left in place when it was sunk, providing many points of interest.

Some of the places that divers must visit on the wreck is the large gun on the back, as well as the captain's chair that is still in the bridge. There are just so many things for you to go and explore.



Johan Boshoff

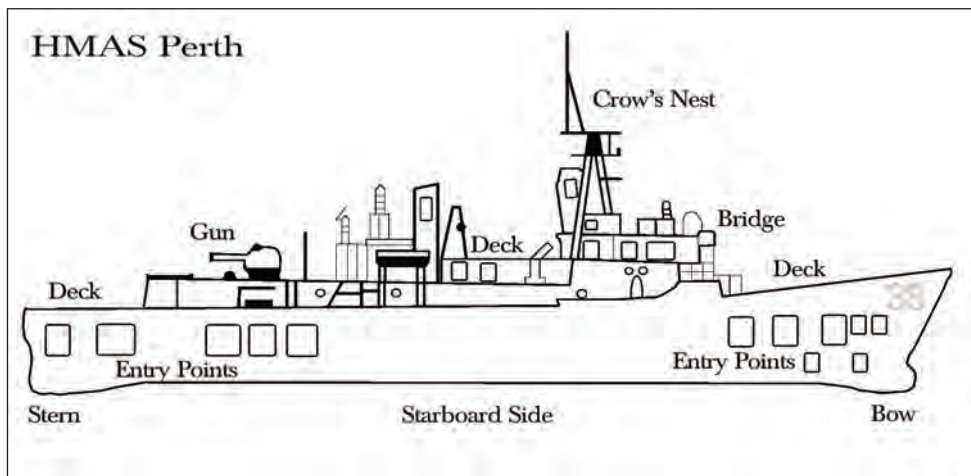
With the ample coral growth adorning the wreck, the marine life hiding in the wrecks nooks and crannies as well as the schools of fish surrounding HMAS Perth, it is safe to say that this wreck will not disappoint. .

You can also see blue devils, harlequin fish, yellow tails, nudibranchs, leather jackets, humpback boxfish, long batfish, false Tasmanian blennies and if you are really lucky, there are also resident Wobbegongs or carpet sharks.

At the end of your dive you can spend your safety stop exploring the Crows nest.



Johan Boshoff



Top wrecks in Western Australia



Sanko Harvest



Area: Esperance

Average depth: 21m

Maximum depth: 45m

**GPS: (WGS84) S 34 07.457
E 122 04.877**

In 1991 the bulk carrier Sanko Harvest was on route to Esperance. It had 700 tonnes of fuel oil and 30 000 tonnes of phosphate on board that she was bringing from Florida. On 14 February it slammed into submerged rocks in the Archipelago of the Recherche about 21 nautical miles from Esperance and lost all its cargo worth about \$8 900 000.

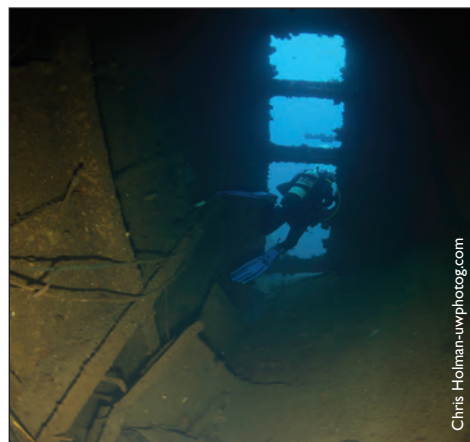
No one knows what happened and a long court case was held to find out what really happened the day of the accident.

In the court case, it became apparent that the ship was unseaworthy and not properly crewed or equipped. They also found that the passage should not be attempted at night as the Archipelago of the Recherche was

inadequately surveyed, so vessels without local knowledge could not navigate the area.

In short, Justice Sheppard described the conduct of the master and the second officer as 'grossly negligent' and said that it was 'necessary to emphasise the heinousness of the shocking piece of navigation which led the vessel to the rocks.'

With all the oil that was spilled, fur seals and birds died and over a hundred kilometres of coastline in the pristine National Park, became oiled. Today this 174m long Japanese Bulk



Carrier is a big attraction in Esperance for the diving community. This is one of the biggest wrecks in the world to dive on.

Today the wreck is divided into three sections as a result of weathering during the years it has been laying on the ocean floor. The bow and the bridge almost lie next to each other with the mid-section to the side. Scattered parts from the wreck can also be seen around the main structure.

The Sanko Harvest is now an artificial reef covered with kelp, anemones and sponges. Blue groper, perch, yellowtail, boarfish, bulls eyes and red snapper all inhabit the wreck and it is not uncommon to see a seal or dolphin during your dive.

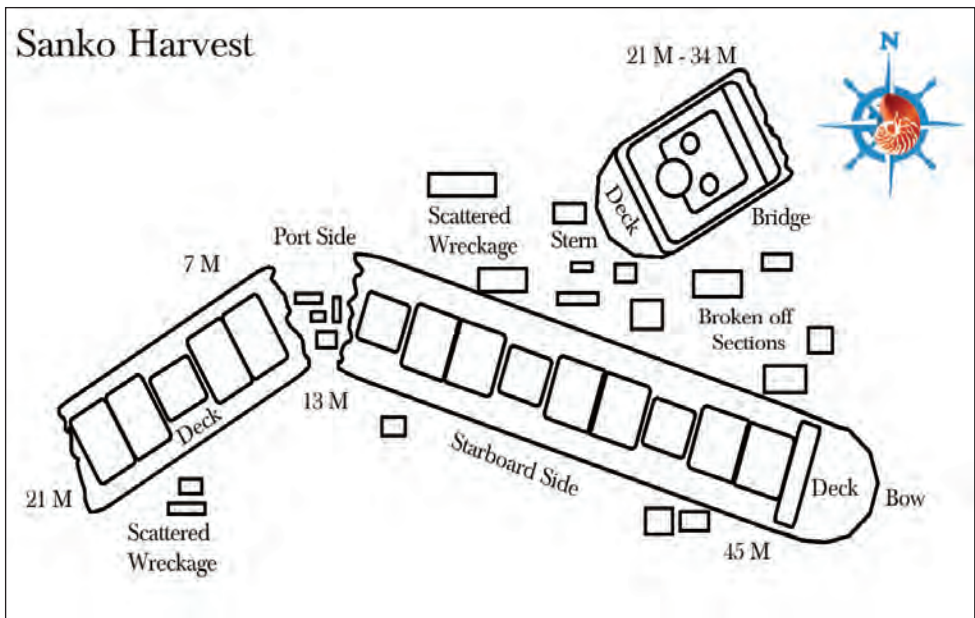
The depths on the wreck start from around 13m and can go as deep as 25m on the sand. The wreck is only recommended for experienced divers because of dangling wires and sharp edges all around the wreck. Divers can explore all three parts of the wreck as well as the tower cranes, bridge and engine room. It is better to dive this spot when the swell is low and the currents are not that strong.



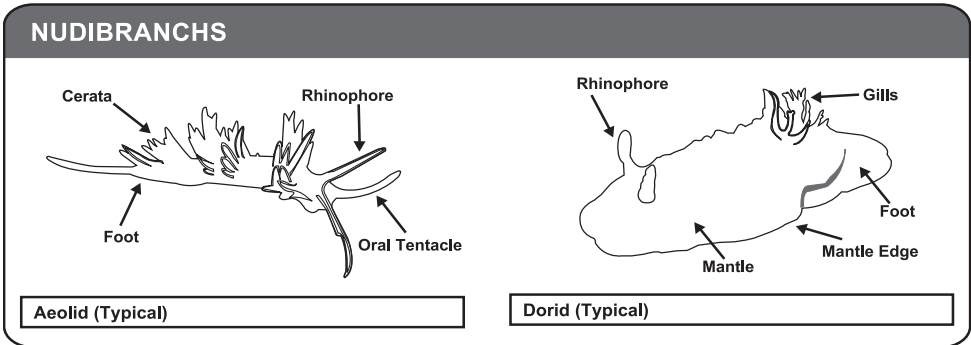
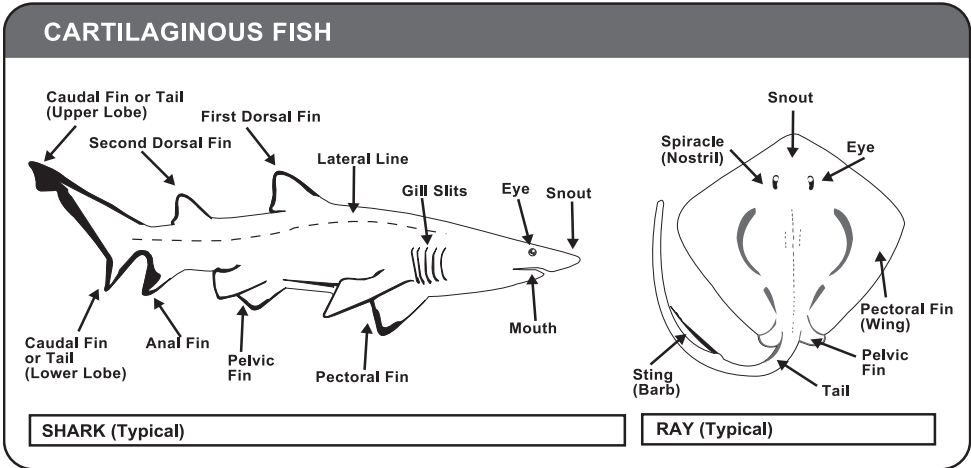
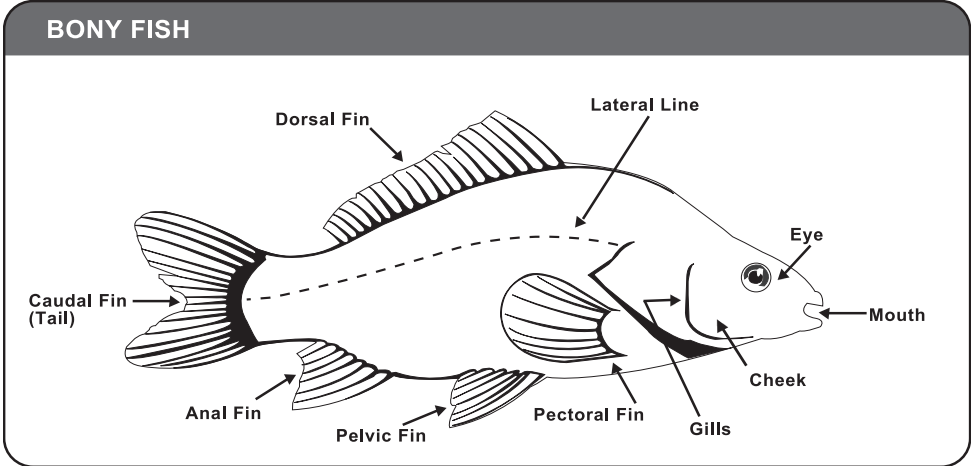
Chris Holman-uwphotog.com



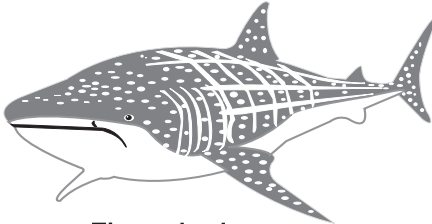
Chris Holman-uwphotog.com



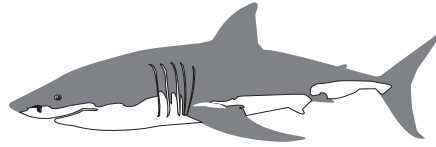
Marine Species Index



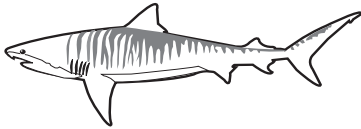
Whale shark
Rhincodon typus



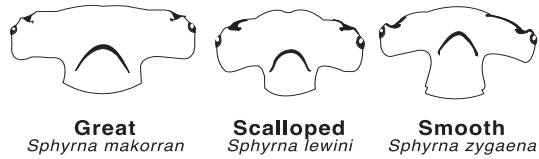
Great white shark
Carcharodon carcharias



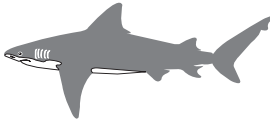
Tiger shark
Galeocerdo cuvieri



Hammerhead sharks



Bull shark
Carcharhinus leucas



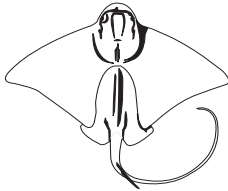
Ragged-tooth shark
Carcharias taurus



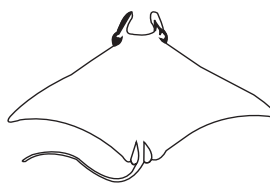
Nurse shark
Ginglymostomatidae



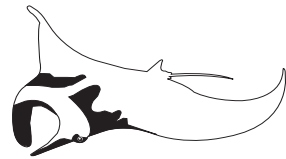
Eagle ray
Myliobatidae



Devil ray
Mobula kuhlii



Manta ray
Manta birostris



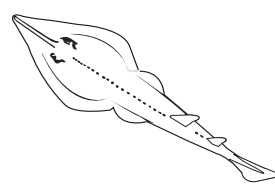
Sting rays
Dasyatidae



Skates
Rajidae

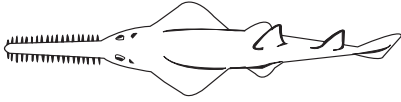


Guitar fish
Rhynchobatidae

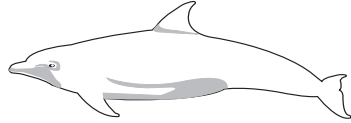


Marine Species Index

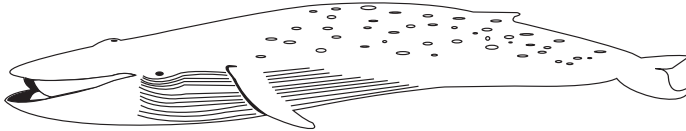
Saw fish
Pristidae



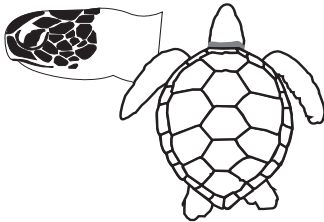
Dolphins
Delphinidae



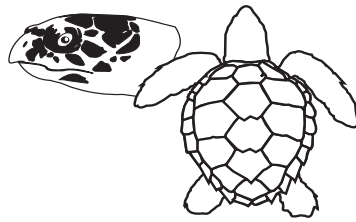
Whales
Mysticeti



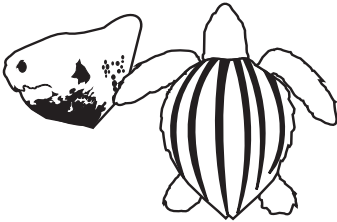
Green turtle
Chelonia mydas



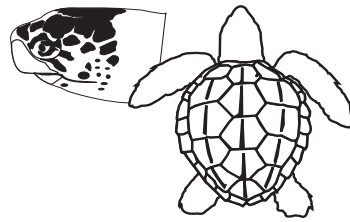
Hawksbill turtle
Eretmochelys imbricate



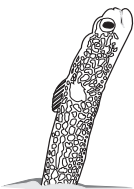
Leatherback turtle
Dermochelys coriacea



Loggerhead turtle
Caretta caretta



Garden eel
Heterocongridae



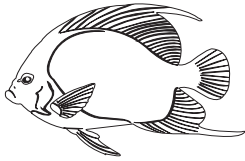
Moray eel
Muraenidae



Ribbon eel
Ophichthidae



Angelfish
Pomacanthidae



Angler/Frogfish
Antennariidae



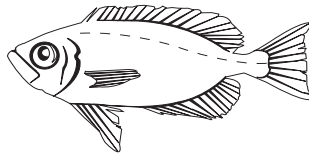
Barracuda
Sphraenidae



Batfish
Ehippidae



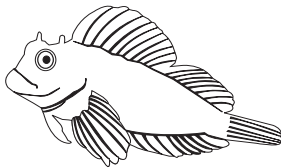
Bigeye
Priacanthidae



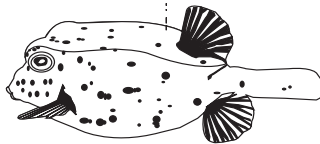
Billfish
Istiophoridae



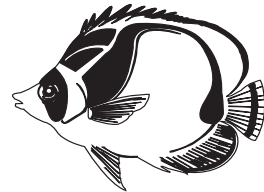
Blenny & Triplefin
Blennidae



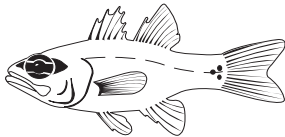
Boxfish
Ostraciidae



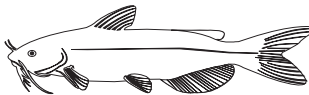
Butterflyfish
Chaetodontidae



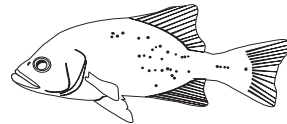
Cardinalfish
Apogonidae



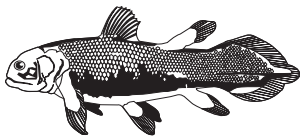
Catfish
Ariidae



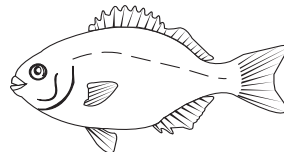
Cavebass
Dinopercidae



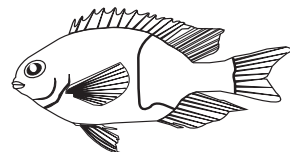
Coelacanth
Latimeriidae



Cubs/Rudderfish
Kyphosidae



Damsel
Pomacentridae

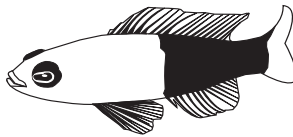


Marine Species Index

Clown damselfish
Amphiprionidae



Dottyback
Pseudochromidae



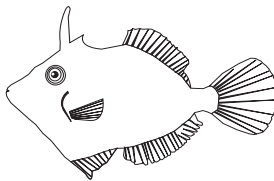
Dragonets
Callionymidae



Emperors
Lethrinidae



Filefish
Monacanthidae



Flagtails
Kuhliidae



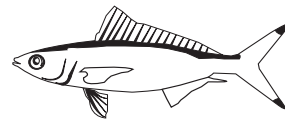
Flounders
Bothidae



Flutemouth/Cornet
Fistulariidae



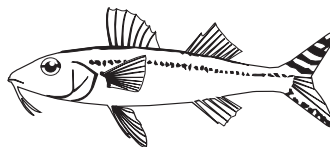
Fuselier
Caesionidae



Galjoen
Dichistiidae



Goatfish
Mullidae



Goby/Dartfish
Gobiidae



Grunters/Rubberlips
Terapontidae



Gurnards
Triglidae



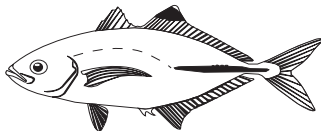
Hawkfish
Cirrhitidae



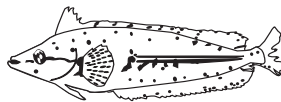
Horsefish
Congiopodidae



Kingfish/Travelly
Carangidae



Klipfish
Clinidae



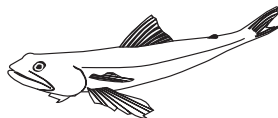
Knifejaws
Oplegnathidae



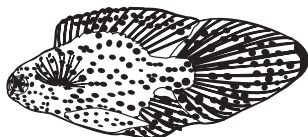
Kobs
Sciaenidae



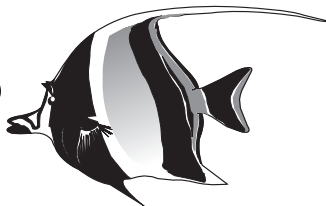
Lizardfish
Synodontidae



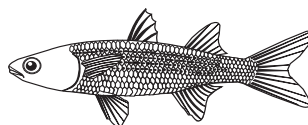
Longfins
Plesiopidae



Moorish idols
Zanclidae



Mullet
Mugilidae



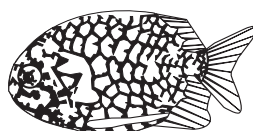
Needlefish
Belonidae



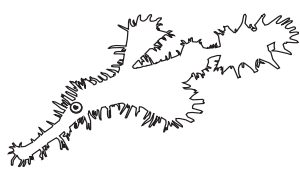
Parrotfish
Scarinae



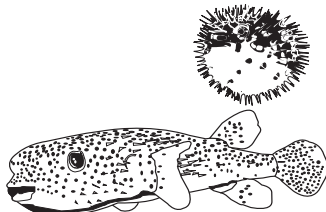
Pineapplefish
Monocentridae



Pipefish
Syngnathinae



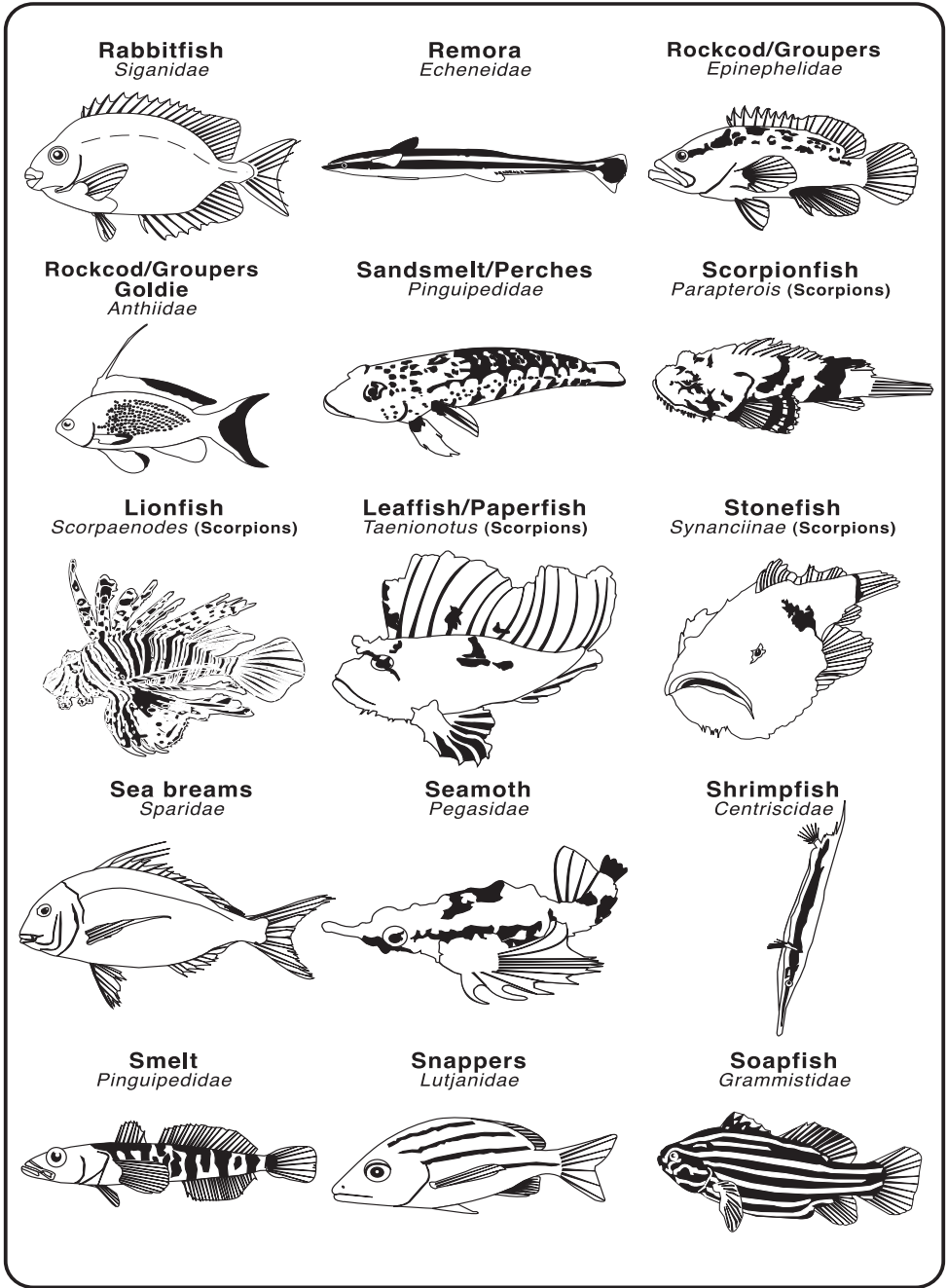
Porcupinefish
Diodontidae



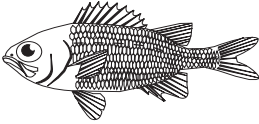
Pufferfish
Tetraodontidae



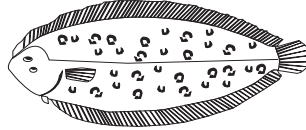
Marine Species Index



Soldierfish
Holocentridae



Sole
Soleidae



Spinecheeks
Nemipteridae



Squirrelfish
Holocentridae



Sunfish
Molidae



Surgeonfish
Acanthurus (Surgeons)



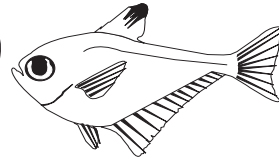
Tang
Zebрасoma (Surgeons)



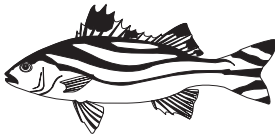
Unicornfish
Nasinae (Surgeons)



Sweeper
Pempheridae



Thornfish
Bovichtidae



Tilefish
Malacanthidae



Toadfish
Batrachoididae



Triggerfish
Balistidae



Trumpetfish
Aulostomidae

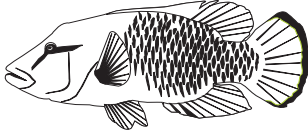


Tuna
Scombridae



Marine Species Index

Wrasse
Labridae



Sea horses
Hippocampinae



Nudibranch - Doroid



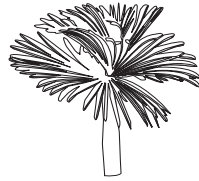
Nudibranch - Aeolid



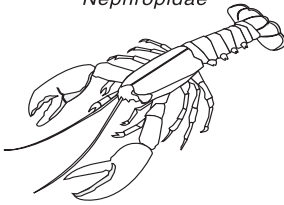
Flatworm
Pseudocerotidae



Tubeworm
Polychaeta



Lobsters
Nephropidae



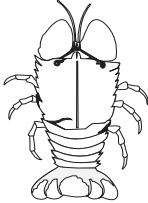
Hermit crabs
Paguroidea



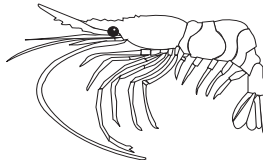
Crab
Pleocyemata



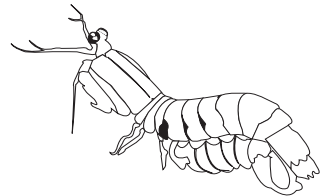
Slipper lobster
Scyllaridae



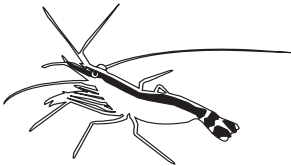
Prawns
Dendrobranchiata



Mantis shrimp
Stomatopoda



Cleaner shrimp
Caridea



Anemones
Actiniaria



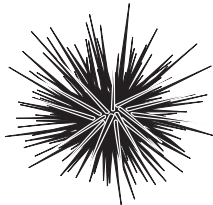
Jellyfish
Hydrozoa



Blue bottles
Physaliidae



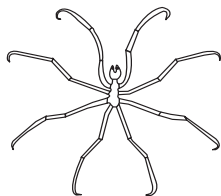
Sea urchin
Echinoidea



Brittlestar
Ophiuroidea



Sea spiders
Pantopoda



Soft coral
Octocorallia



Octopus
Octopoda



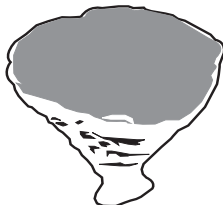
Sea cucumber
Holothuroidea



Featherstar
Crinoidea



Sponges
Porifera



Sea fans
Gorgonacea



Cuttlefish
Sepiida



Starfish
Asteroidea



Sea clams
Bivalvia



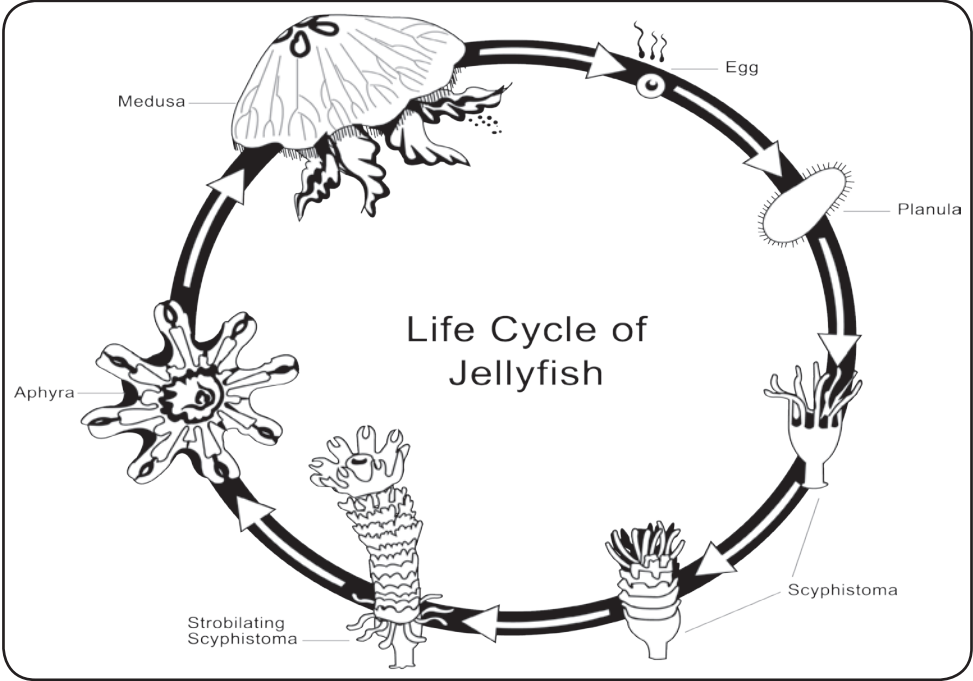
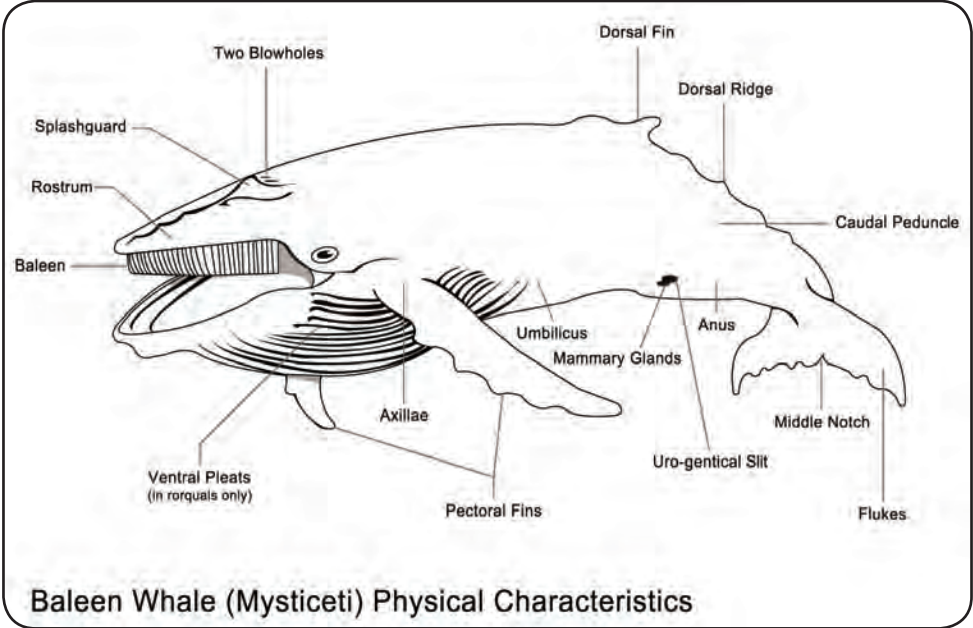
Hard coral
Hexacorallia

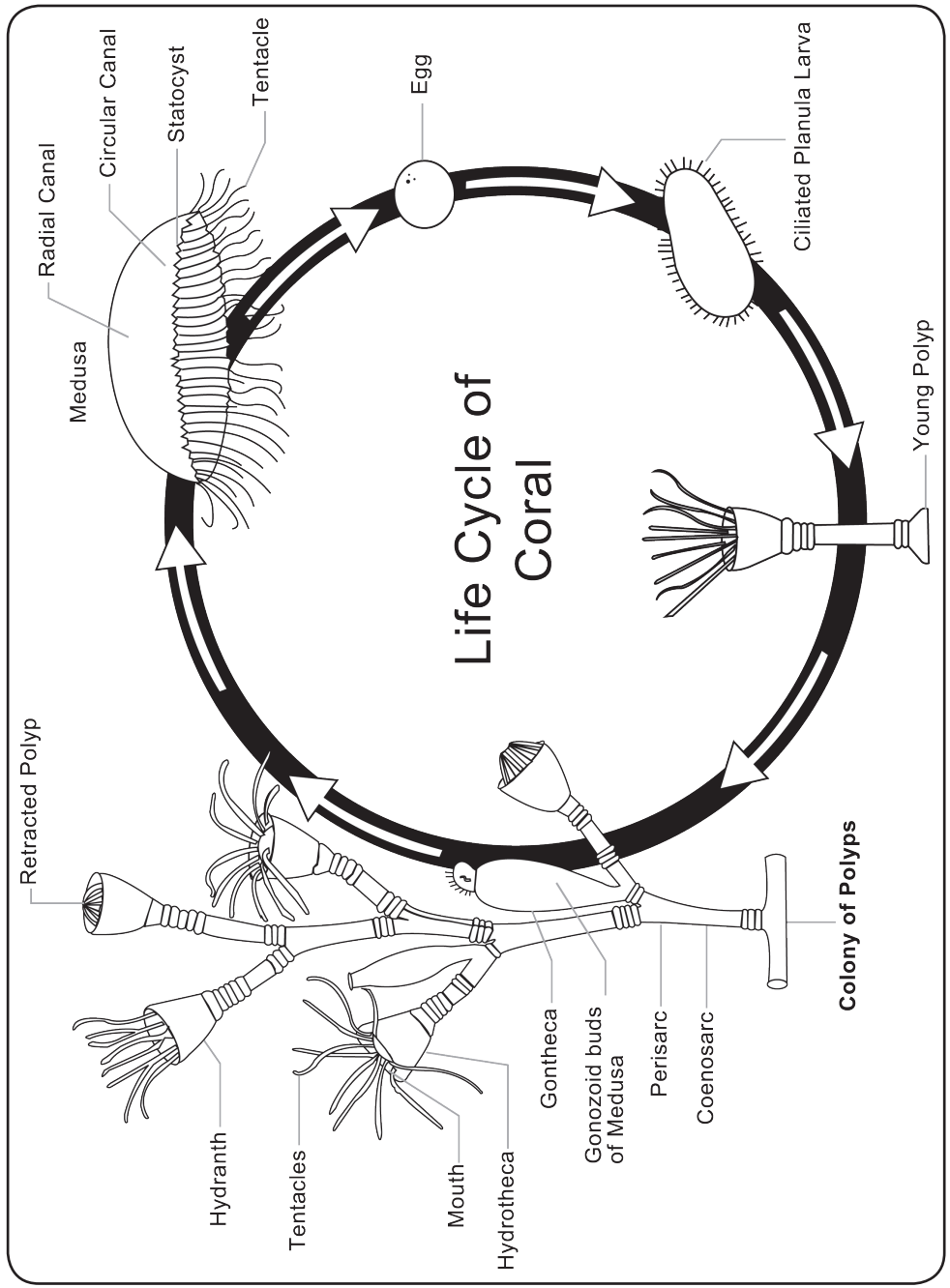


Sea weeds
Chromalveolata



Marine Species Index





Environmental



Matthew D Porenski

Saving sharks before it is too late

Look out into the blue or green waters of the ocean and know that whether they appear tempestuous or tranquil, a war is being perpetrated in its depths. This campaign has the dual distinction of being both one of the most one-sided conflicts ever to occur, yet it is virtually invisible to our everyday lives.

The battle I speak of is the systematic eradication of sharks from our oceans by the practices of modern day fishing. Sharks still inspire fear in most people despite almost three decades passing since *Jaws* first hit the theatres. On average, only five or six people die from shark attacks every year, while it is estimated that at current rates of harvest, humans are killing just over 100 million sharks per year – that's 100 000 000.

Primitive sharks first appeared hundreds of years ago, and their sinuous forms have slipped through the blue while the terrestrial environment witnessed the rise and fall of the dinosaurs and the eventual rise of humankind. Their longevity is a testament to their success as a well evolved and adapted group of organisms. They have proliferated into every marine environment

available, from warm tropical lagoons, to the icy depths of the deep, and they are even found below the polar ice caps.

For millennia sharks have reigned supreme as the top predators in marine ecosystems, serving to regulate and control the entirety of the ocean's ecosystems. However, the ocean has a new supreme predator, one that is not a natural part of the marine ecosystem and, as a result, hunts indiscriminately and unsustainably. We have become the enemy of sharks, and by default, the entire ocean. Oceans need to have sharks to maintain healthy ecosystems, yet after eons of mastery by sharks, the waves are empty.

Why do we kill sharks?

The war on sharks is primarily due to a demand for their fins, which when boiled down form a stringy, gelatinous mass that is included in a bowl of soup. The fin adds no flavour, just texture to basic chicken or pork stock, and can sell for \$100-\$150 US Dollars per bowl in Asian restaurants. Ordering and eating the soup is a status symbol – the equivalent of having a Ferrari in the driveway. I find it sad that we may effectively eliminate the top predators in the ocean simply to

appease our sense of vanity.

Shark fins are so valuable that they have caught the attention of organised crime, and in illegal activity, shark fins are on a par with narcotics and gambling. The usual method for securing shark fins is every bit as brutal as a contract 'hit'. Since the fins are worth much more than the flesh, the practice of 'finning' sharks is still utilised as a way to maximise profit. The shark is landed alive, gaffed (speared with a large hook) and dragged on board a vessel. Once there, several men descend upon the fish with large knives. It takes barely half a minute to hack all the shark's fins off before they kick the still live carcass overboard. If the shark is lucky it will bleed to death quickly, but the more likely scenario is that without fins, the shark will slowly suffocate as it sinks to the bottom. The fishermen are not concerned with the carcass because it would take up the space in their holds that could be filled with more valuable shark fins.

Shark harvesting occurs in every ocean and almost all the fins are shipped to Asian markets for sale. Even the economics of the fin trade are quite atrocious, as the fishermen who risk life and limb to get the fins make pennies, while the fins pass through several middlemen and eventually reach markets where they command small ransoms. Killing sharks is not good for the oceans, but it also turns out that it is not very good for most of the people who work to kill sharks.

There is one final ingredient to the precipitous decline of sharks, and that is their biology. Sharks are what ecologists call 'K-selective' reproducers, that means they have small numbers of well developed young that are well equipped to survive and thrive (as opposed to 'R-selective' reproducers who can have thousands or millions of eggs, of which a very small portion are able to survive). Sharks are slow growing, taking many years to reach sexual maturity and be able to reproduce. Finally, their reproductive potential increases with size (age) so that a newly mature mother can have, say two pups, a few years later she is able to have four pups and ten years after that she may have 10 pups. Fisheries usually target the largest individuals first, effectively

taking the large, most reproductively viable mothers out of the population.

Sharks have evolved over time without a large amount of predation pressure and these strategies work well in a natural environment. However, when harvesting reduces a shark population it can be disastrous, as the shark population needs decades to be able to recover and bounce back to the original levels. Sharks are being over-harvested and the fishing pressure has not lessened. A study conducted a few years ago based on catch data acquired from fisheries has shown on average a 73% decline in shark populations in the last 100 years. Sharks are truly on the brink, and without help will be pushed right over the edge and into extinction.

The solution

To effectively defend sharks from slaughter, their biology and behaviour need to be known and incorporated into any conservation plan. This is a bit of a stumbling block, as our knowledge of them is highly incomplete, with even basic life history parameters remaining blank spaces on a fact sheet. Right now, more initiative, effort and funding needs to be devoted to the study of sharks and their roles in the marine ecosystem. If we can truly comprehend the processes occurring in the oceans, then we can set a baseline to measure the extents of the effects of the deletion of sharks from the oceans. Simply changing public perceptions of sharks could pay massive conservation dividends. The negative media image of the shark as a bloodthirsty killer needs to be buried once and for all and replaced with a more enlightened view as an elegant expression of evolution distilled into a graceful package of power and purpose. Stopping the war on sharks will not be easy, but armed with additional knowledge and public support it can be accomplished. The contingent to champion sharks is relatively small, but zealous and determined by the importance of their cause. The word is getting out and the support for sharks is growing, but we are in a race against time, and time is running short.

Diving medical emergencies

Divers are constantly exposed to the intrinsic risks of this sport and measures need to be put in place to optimise safety with every dive trip taken.

From the outset of this section of the book the following needs to be made very clear – this chapter does not replace the several great first aid and diving safety courses. It is also not to be regarded as a definitive textbook of diving medicine. We do, however, feel that the practical application of this book means that you might take it along on your travels to various dive sites and therefore, a medical reference section can be handy and make up for the skill and knowledge decay since your last first aid course.

Basic life support

Basic Life Support (BLS), or Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) as most people know it, is a skill that should be kept up and renewed annually. The effectiveness of CPR is already challenged by memory and skill decay and it would therefore be appropriate to encourage you to attend a practical training programme rather than relying on this theoretical section alone. Basic Life Support implies life saving techniques implemented during apparent ‘sudden-death’ or totally unresponsive person.

Advanced Life Support means that by means of medicines and technology, higher-level interventions are implemented by trained personnel to maximise recovery and survival of the person in cardiac arrest. Please note that an integral part of BLS/CPR training is the activation or ‘early access’ to the emergency medical services (EMS).

The acronym DRS ABCD is used in the Australian Resuscitation Council Basic Life Support algorithm:



D – Dangers – Ensure that it is safe for you to approach the person in need of assistance.

R – Responsive – Assess the responsiveness of the person by calling out to him/her loudly while tapping on both shoulders.

S – Send for help – Contact the EMS - 000 in Australia.

A – Open Airway – Open the person’s airway with the head-tilt, chin-lift method and look for obvious airway obstructions.

B – Normal Breathing – Check for any signs of breathing for up to 10 seconds.

C – Start CPR – 30 Compressions to 2 breaths, in a non-breathing and unresponsive person it is enough grounds for the commencement of compressions. If unwilling or unable to perform rescue breaths, continue with compressions until help arrives.

D – Defibrillator – Attach Defibrillator (AED) as soon as available and follow its prompts.

Continue doing CPR at 30 compressions to two breaths.

Continue with CPR until:

- The person becomes responsive
- Normal breathing returns
- The rescuer is too tired
- Someone higher trained relieves you
- The person is declared dead

In closing, for CPR to be effective it needs to be done properly and as soon as possible. If an automated external defibrillator (AED) is available and someone is trained in its use, it should be implemented promptly as this could greatly enhance the unresponsive diver's chance of recovery from sudden death (no breathing/no pulse).

Pressure related disorders

Decompression illness (DCI)

To add practical value to this section, we will be focusing on what you will feel and, most importantly, what to do when you suspect DCI. Let's first take a look at what you can expect to feel or feel like when you experience DCI. To provide some structure to the varied symptoms of DCI we will allocate them according to the various systems of the human body.

The body systems and related symptoms (what you as a rescuer will feel or see) are:

Central nervous system

- Cerebrum (Higher brain function) – Confusion, change in personality, impaired memory or cognitive function, below usual mathematical capability, loss of consciousness.
- Cerebellum (Small brain) – Impaired balance and coordination.
- Cranial nerves – Impaired sight, hearing, speech, sensation or function of facial muscles, weak shoulders.
- Spinal cord – Weakness of any skeletal muscles, loss of sensation, inability to distinguish between sharp and blunt, impaired bladder control, paralysis.

Lymphatic system

Swollen and tender glands.

Musculoskeletal

Painful joints (elbows, wrists etc.).

Cutaneous

Patchy and blotchy skin patterns.

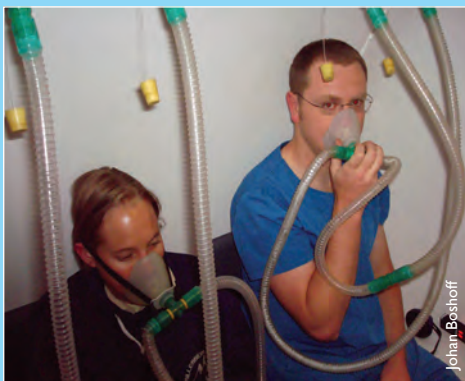
Pulmonary

Difficulty in breathing, coughing up of pink (blood stained) frothy sputum, a tight feeling in your chest on one or both sides, feeling faint, unconsciousness.

Audio-vestibular

Vertigo (disorientation, nausea, vomiting, staggering gait).

Please take note that these symptoms and signs





can mimic a wide variety of medical ailments and despite the impact DCI will have on your diving plans, travel schedule and health, rather be safe and suspect DCI until proven otherwise by someone medically trained. Statistically, what a lot of divers do when experiencing any untoward feelings after a dive is to wait... to their own detriment! Generally, injured divers don't report their symptoms when they first appear, but rather only if the symptoms don't resolve. In fact, on average, only 35% of divers report their symptoms within the first four hours.

This does not include the time taken to get to a recompression facility – the statistics clearly illustrate trends of divers with suspected DCI only arriving at recompression facilities between eight and 20 hours after the onset of symptoms. Note that in some cases, the access to remote chambers was a contributing factor. These delays don't always bode well for the prognosis of suspected DCI, especially if this happens in a remote diving

location.

The sooner a diver reports any symptoms of DCI after a dive and receives oxygen first aid, hydration and ultimately receives recompression chamber treatment, the better the outcome.

Conversely, the longer the delay of implementing these definitive measures, the greater the likelihood of the following:

- More aggressive initial treatment measures being required.
- A greater number of chamber sessions required for the achievement of optimal symptom resolution.
- In some unfortunate cases, the likelihood of the diving physician concluding an injured diver's hyperbaric oxygen therapy with some unresolved symptoms due to a diminishing therapeutic response (therapeutic plateau). This means that in some cases divers have been sent home with some unresolved symptoms.

Despite this section portraying a dark cloud, there is a silver lining – Divers Alert Network (DAN). Give yourself the benefit of the doubt and let the diving physician on-call make the assessment and diagnosis. Rather sacrifice the dive trip you're on than forfeit many others in the future. Although you might face evacuation and recompression chamber treatment, you are on the best road to optimal recovery and ultimately, a return to diving.

All that you, your DM, Instructor, skipper or dive buddy would have to do if ever faced with a diver suspected of having DCI is the following:

- After checking the ABC's, position the diver in a comfortable position, preferably in the left lateral or recovery position.
- Administer 100% oxygen via a demand valve or free flow system with an oronasal mask as soon as possible for as long as possible.
- Give the diver a sports drink (balanced salt solution) or preferably water at regular intervals. Trained individuals can administer intravenous fluids.
- Call DAN for guidance for any other further first

aid measures and to facilitate evacuation to a definitive treatment facility.

- If you are trained and you have time before handing the injured diver over to the next level of care, perform a basic neurological assessment which is a valuable diagnostic and patient monitoring tool.

In the meantime, until the day that you have to deal with your first DCI case you can do the following:

- A good start is to join DAN for your ultimate peace of mind. As an instructor you should sign up your students for the duration of their training and then encourage them to join up after certification.
- Enrol for the necessary diving safety courses to better equip yourself with the knowledge to deal with diving emergencies.
- Compile an Emergency Evacuation Plan for your planned diving destination or, if you are a dive operator, ensure that all your staff members are familiar with the details to prevent confusion (and unnecessary delay) during an emergency.
- Do not place a qualifying dive schedule or diving holiday before your health.
- Last but not least, practice safe diving principles

– adopt a zero-defect mindset.

Omitted decompression

If compulsory decompression stops have been skipped, the following is recommended:

- Do not dive again on that same day.
- Have a restful day.
- If available, breathe 100% oxygen for about an hour.
- Hydrate very well – orally.
- Monitor yourself carefully for the onset of any possible symptoms of DCI.

Flying after diving

After much retrospective analysis, experimentation and research projects by experts in the field, the guidelines are fairly well established. The guidelines used by various diving training agencies are as follows:

- For a single no-decompression stop dive – wait 12 hours before flying.
- For multiple dives over several days – wait 18 hours before flying.
- For compulsory decompression stop dives it is suggested to wait up to 24 hours before flying.
- For deep technical dives (beyond recreational limits) more than 24 hours would be the safest.



David Caravias

Please note that for someone with suspected DCI a waiting period of several weeks is advised.

Diving after flying

When arriving at a new diving destination on a tight schedule, the normal inclination is to get diving as soon as possible. If the flight has been very long it is recommended that you wait at least one day to fully recover from the travel weariness and possible dehydration.

General diving problems

Dehydration

This problem deserves some explanation as it is not only a medical problem on its own but also a significant aggravating factor to DCI.

Different levels of dehydration:

Mild – The dehydrated individual will hardly notice the symptoms as the body is compensating quite well and they might only be a little thirsty and fatigued.

Moderate – The body is finding it hard to maintain fluid balances for all metabolic requirements. They will be fairly fatigued and the diver could be quite thirsty.

Severe – At this stage the body is very short of the cooling and lubricating properties that water offers, and several systems could shut down. Symptoms include the level of consciousness dropping, sunken eyes, reduced skin recoil (turgor) and shortness of breath.

Different ways divers can dehydrate:

Alcohol – The reason why beer (or essentially any alcohol) is not suitable for hydration is because alcohol is a diuretic. This means that alcohol (and caffeine too) stimulates urine production in the kidneys. It takes water from your body's cells and bloodstream to produce urine, and if not replaced, this can lead to mild or moderate dehydration.

Perspiration – Excessive perspiration during heavy exertion in hot humid conditions can be exacerbated by the wearing of thermal protection. Wearing a dry suit or thick wetsuit when diving in cold water during hot weather can also bring about excessive perspiration when you linger in

the 'hot' suit before and/or after the dive.

Vomiting – This can be caused either by the irritation of the gastric mucosa (stomach) or triggering to vomit by stimulus to the Central Emetic Trigger Zone of the brain due to seasickness.

Diarrhoea – Caused by the intestinal tract drawing water from your body to flush out the colon as a response to the irritated (infected) mucous membranes.

Scuba air – High-pressure compressors remove excess moisture from the air which your body in turn humidifies again for optimal respiration requirements. Over the duration of a dive a significant amount of body fluids can be 'cashed in' to humidify the scuba air.

Another area of concern for a dehydrated diver is with suspected DCI. During DCI the bubbles can damage the inner linings of blood vessels, causing fluid (plasma) to seep through the blood vessel walls after which a secondary inflammatory





Johan Beshoff

response ensues. That is why it is very important to, apart from administering 100% oxygen, to hydrate the diver very well with a non-alcoholic, non-carbonated and non-caffeinated drink. Ideal hydration fluids are dependent on what's available, whether you are sustaining hydration or recovering from any one of the fluid loss mechanisms mentioned earlier. Obviously the best, cheapest and easiest way to hydrate is with fresh water. For sustained exertion where the aim is to not only replace water lost but also electrolytes, a balanced salt-solution such as one of the many sports drinks available would be sufficient.

Finally, preventing dehydration during recreational diving activities in a warm climate can be as simple as sipping regular gulps of water or your favourite sports drink throughout the day – and then a bit extra after each dive. So, drink up and help your body and immune system cope better with the onslaught of the strange little bubbles and the dry scuba air.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia can develop rapidly in cold water, and early effects may include crucial loss of judgement and dexterity. Remember that although someone in deep hypothermia may seem to be dead, never make that assumption until the core temperature of the person is warmed to 36,5°C.

Signs and symptoms:

- Excessive shivering

- A cold body
- Numbness in certain body parts
- Blueness in the fingertips and lips
- Loss of coordination
- Irregular and/or very slow heartbeat

Treatment:

- Get the patient into dry, warm clothes.
- Give the patient warm fluids to drink (only if conscious).
- The patient can also be placed in a warm bath and hot water added until a body temperature of 36,5°C is reached. Then dress the patient warmly.
- If the patient is in shock remember to administer oxygen.
- If the patient becomes unresponsive alert the EMS.
- If the symptoms become worse go to the nearest doctor or healthcare facility.

Hyperthermia

Exposure to high ambient temperatures may lead to either excessive fluid loss and heat exhaustion or failure of heat loss mechanisms and ultimately heatstroke.

Signs and symptoms:

- Excessive sweating
- A warm body
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Headaches
- Vertigo
- Fatigue
- Red, dry skin
- A very rapid pulse rate (160-180 per minute)

Treatment:

- Get the patient to a cool area or in the shade.
- Give the patient cool fluids to drink.
- Keep the patient cool in a swimming pool or bathtub.
- If the patient is in shock begin oxygen first aid and start intravenous fluids if available.
- If the patient's symptoms deteriorate, alert the EMS or go to the nearest doctor or clinic.



Seasickness

For some people this is a necessary evil of diving, for some the reason why they don't dive any more or as often as they used to, or to others a slight inconvenience that they manage quite well. This condition and the specific remedy for you should best be discussed with your own GP. What is worth mentioning is that the best solution for motion sickness is to find out how you can best manage this inconvenience by:

- Analysing past experiences to try to determine your specific physical and mental 'triggers'.
- Finding the medication that works the best for you. You should find one that has the most effect with the minimal side effects.
- Do not dive deeper than 30m when you have been taking anti-motion sickness medication.
- 'Behavioural modification' – sitting on the most stable section of the boat, kitting up quickly, avoiding certain foods before diving and eating lightly.
- Avoiding alcohol the night before diving.

Drowning, near drowning and Salt Water Aspiration Syndrome

Drowning is covered thoroughly in all Scuba Rescue and First Aid manuals. All we are going to expand on is the one that appears to be the least severe – Salt Water Aspiration Syndrome. Most aquatic emergencies, no matter how severe the predisposing condition may have been, are only concluded on the autopsy table for the cause of death being 'drowning.' The cause of the drowning, however, could have been a severe

Arterial Gas Embolism or a stonefish sting causing the person to be overcome by an 'unstable footing' and the resultant inability to self-rescue. 'Drowning' by definition means 'dead'. 'Near drowning' means that you have been plucked from the clutches of death although you could be in a critical state in an ICU or; walked away from it unscathed after a day in hospital for observation. The least dramatic and less severe condition of getting water into your lungs is Salt Water Aspiration Syndrome. This is where the salt water gets into your lungs by 'inhaling' small but frequent and significant amounts by means of a faulty regulator, the sea spray from wind caused by helicopter rotors or very windy surface conditions. The more severe effect might even be delayed as the saline rich sea water in your lungs 'pulls' water from your bloodstream into the alveoli, thereby compounding the problem by further hampering gas exchange in the lungs and bloodstream causing a tight chest, coughing and difficult breathing.

If medical interventions aren't implemented early the consequences could be severe. Even if you were exposed to salt water inhalation and appear to feel fine, consider a thorough medical check-up and when the first symptoms appear, immediately, commence with 100% oxygen first aid and seek medical attention.

Hazardous marine life injuries

This part features the hazardous marine life that you will most likely encounter as a diver and swimmer in the sea. For those of you rooting for

the sharks to be at the top position, sorry to disappoint but they are low down on the rankings. Hazardous marine life can be split in two different categories namely: stings and envenomations.

Stings:

These injuries happen when a diver or swimmer comes into contact with marine creatures such as jellyfish, stinging hydroids, fire coral, blue bottles (Portuguese man-of-war), etc.

Signs and symptoms:

- Pain or burning sensation on the site of the injury
- Skin rash
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Shock
- Swelling
- Difficulty breathing
- Difficulty swallowing
- Weakness
- Respiratory distress or arrest
- Cardiac arrest



First aid for stingers:

- Flush the area with salt water to remove stinging cells.
- Remove any remaining stinging cells with tweezers.
- Shave with a razor around the area or scrape with a sharp knife.
- You can also use household vinegar or a meat tenderiser on the wound to break down the

stinging cells. (Do not use vinegar on Box jellyfish stings).

- Apply hydrocortisone lotion or antihistamine ointment.
- If symptoms become worse, start oxygen first aid and contact the EMS or go to the nearest doctor or healthcare facility.

Envenomation:

These potentially life threatening injuries are extremely rare and normally happen when touching or handling marine animals such as Scorpionfish, lionfish, stonefish, sea urchins or cone shells.

Signs and symptoms:

- Pain
- Bleeding
- Puncture wound
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Shock
- Swelling
- Difficulty breathing
- Difficulty swallowing
- Weakness or even paralysis
- Respiratory distress or arrest

First aid for envenomation:

- Remove any objects with tweezers.
- Flush the wound with a saline filled syringe.
- Clean the wound with soap and water then apply a clean dressing.
- Immerse the infected area in hot water as hot as bearable by the rescuer (no more than 45°C) for 60-90 minutes.
- If the symptoms become worse, start oxygen first aid and contact the EMS or go to the nearest doctor or healthcare facility.
- If the patient is in shock administer oxygen first aid and start intravenous fluids ASAP.
- If paralysis of breathing muscles occurs, continue with rescue breathing until the injured diver can be placed on a ventilator.
- Contact the EMS or go to the nearest doctor or healthcare facility.

About The Author



Johan Boshoff has dedicated his life to scuba diving and marine life education around all of the world's oceans, and he is always eager to see what the big blue has to offer.

After Johan learned to dive and had seen God's wonders under the water, he decided to quit his job and make scuba diving his full-time career. He started diving in the late 1990s and today holds diving qualifications as a Technical Course Director and a commercial diver.

In 2000 he started a diving company called The Dive Spot in South Africa and has been doing business in all things related to diving ever since, including training, travel, commercial, photography, dive apparel and books. There is little that Johan and The Dive Spot have not yet attempted.

He entered the magazine publishing world when he started freelance writing for Divestyle magazine, and after being approached to become the face of the magazine Johan published his first dive magazine as editor in September 2005.

In October 2013, after eight years as editor and publisher, it was time for his final issue and new frontiers.

Back in 2008 he personally dived all the dive

spots in Southern Africa and publish his first book, *The Dive Spots of Southern Africa*. While he was on these trips, he also developed a computer programme which hosts more than 3 000 photographs of marine life and today it is also a Smart App for divers. This programme and app helps marine lovers and scuba divers to learn more about the spectacular marine life in and around the ocean.

The publishing didn't stop there; in 2009 Johan brought out an underwater 'Marine Species Guide' in book and slate form. With the slate, divers can identify what different species they see underwater and then use the book as a reference guide to learn more about them.

In 2011 he decided to publish a photographic book, 'The Diving Photographer – Sea through a lens.' This book helps all levels of



underwater photographers to improve their photographic skills, choose the right camera, set up their lights as well as offering easy ways to tweak the almost perfect shot.

Johan has been involved with a number of underwater television documentaries for local and international filming crews and is also an accomplished underwater photographer.

Today Johan is still active in the diving industry, providing dive training and operating as a dive specialist. He is currently living in Perth, Western Australia where he hopes to explore all the possibilities which scuba diving and its related activities have to offer and will start OZDiver.com.au, an exciting new portal and dive magazine for the Australian diving community. This site and magazine, dedicated to all things scuba, will keep divers up to date with the latest scuba diving news.

Johan believes that it is all about the journey and not the destination.

*This book is dedicated to our Creator.
Genesis 1.1: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*



OZDIVER



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Acknowledgements

A special thanks to God and all the following people who made this book a reality:

Researcher: Nicole Mouton (Land), Simon Lockwood (Perth Region)

Copy editors: Gregg Cocking, Libby Straughan

Maps: Tom Kimber

Proofreaders: Nicole Mouton, Amilda Boshoff, Irene Groenewald, Libby Straughan, Izak Nieuwoudt

Front Cover: Andre Crone

Back Cover: Chris Holman

Print production: Les Martens, SA Media Services, Cape Town

Printed by: WKT Ltd Hong Kong



Article Contributors:

Nicole Mouton – (About Australia, About Western Australia, Coral Coast Region, Perth Region, South West Region, Golden Outback Region, Leeuwin Current), Sean French – (Medical Article).

Photo Contributors:

Thanks to all the people who contributed photographs to the book.

Contributors:

Rodney Hilton, Jaimen & Peter Hudson (Esperance diving), Steven Norris, Craig Lebens (Bremer Bay Dive), Kim Royce - Bunbury (Octopus Garden Marine Charters), Gerry Wellstead – Albany, Simon Lockwood (Perth Region), Chris Holman, Nicole Mouton, Amilda Boshoff, Irene Groenewald, Shaun Terblanche, Izak Nieuwoudt, Tim Ellis, Ewan Rowell, Alicia Macdonald - Diveshed (Busselton & Surroundings), Cathy Brich, Michael Forster (Mindarie & Surroundings), Kevin Lee, Jim Beudoin, Vikki Hoff (Coral Bay), Jaun Terblanche, Geoff Burton (Geraldton), Darcie Young, Chris Lindren (Jurien Bay), David Ross (Exmouth - Dive Ningaloo), Kirsten Sheppard (Exmouth - Dive Ningaloo), Jason Bradley (Geraldton), Trevor Beaver (Geraldton), Travis Simmons - Rhiain Dunbar - Josh Connelly (Rockingham Wreck Trail Map).

Other:

Lohan Boshoff, Amaldi Boshoff, Dries Boshoff, Cecile Boshoff, Gerrit Martiz, Wendy Barker, Brad Gordon, Andre Crone, Chris Holman, Simon Lockwood, Mark Connors.

A very special thanks to my wife Amilda who still allows me to follow all my dreams.

DIVER