

Things to do and see

Dolphin viewing

Dolphins visit the beach whenever they choose to. They are fed on their first three visits each day which can happen anytime between 8.00 am and 12 midday. Dolphins visit the beach more frequently in the early mornings and generally don't visit in the afternoons. Please do not touch or swim with them.

Swimming and snorkelling

The clear waters of Monkey Mia are suited to swimming and snorkelling but it is permitted only outside of the dolphin interaction area.

Boating

A boat ramp is provided for access to waters of the Shark Bay Marine Park. No boating is allowed in the dolphin interaction area. There is a five knot speed zone 200 metres either side of the jetty and extending 300 metres offshore. Please don't feed the dolphins.

No camping

No camping is allowed in the Monkey Mia carpark. The Monkey Mia Resort has full accommodation facilities.

Walking

The Wulyibidi Yaninyina Trail

Distance: 2 km loop

Time: Allow one to two hours

Grade: Moderate with deep sand in places

Wulyibidi Yaninyina (Malgana Aboriginal language for 'walking person') provides a good introduction to Shark Bay's World Heritage values and to the Aboriginal and European history of the region.



Above Look for the rare thick-billed grasswren in and around thicker vegetation along the trail. Photo – Babs and Bert Wells/DEC

The trail winds through a coastal sandplain and up a small slope to a bird hide and lookout on the top of a dune. It then continues along this sandy dune through acacia shrubland before descending to the beach.


Take care, be aware

In this fragile ecosystem, the coastal dunes and sandplain are easily eroded. Please stay on the trail.

Visitors to the area are reminded to take all their rubbish with them and to wear a hat and sunscreen. Drinking water must be carried, especially during the hotter months of the year.



 **Visitor centre**
Merchandise, tour bookings and information displays on the dolphins and other reserve features.

 A special wheelchair is available from the visitor centre for access to the dolphin interaction area.

 **Wulyibidi Yaninyina Trail**

Further information

Shark Bay District
89 Knight Terrace
Denham WA 6537
Ph: (08) 9948 1208
Fax: (08) 9948 1024

Monkey Mia Reserve
Ph: (08) 9948 1366
Fax: (08) 9948 1512

www.naturebase.net



Department of Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



2007/2008-0907-50M

Monkey Mia Reserve



Information and walk trail guide



Department of Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future

RECYCLE Please return unwanted brochures to distribution points



Monkey Mia's dolphin experience

Wild dolphins have visited the beach at Monkey Mia since the early 1960s providing a unique wildlife experience that is not to be missed.

Several mature female dolphins are offered small amounts of fresh fish up to three times a day randomly between 8.00 am and 12 midday when they swim to the shore. A small number of visitors are chosen to assist with feeding them.

Dolphin feeding is carefully controlled. They are only fed under the supervision of Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) officers at the dolphin interaction area. DEC officers aim to ensure that the dolphins maintain their natural functions and continue to interact with humans.

Above and below Up to 13 dolphins spanning three generations regularly come ashore at Monkey Mia. Photos – Ian Anderson/DEC



Making the most of your interaction with the dolphins

Help care for the beach-visiting dolphins.

- Touching the dolphins is prohibited. Touching discourages them from coming close and can make them aggressive.
- Never feed the dolphins without the supervision of DEC officers. This is an offence under the *Wildlife Conservation Act*.
- Swim outside the dolphin interaction area.
- Avoid the use of sunscreen on your legs before entering the water. Sunscreens can irritate dolphin eyes.
- Stand no more than knee deep in the water and wait for the dolphins to approach you. Stay still and enjoy their company and don't touch or swim after them.
- Stay away from dolphins that seem agitated, as they can bite. Dolphin stress signs include tail slapping, head jerks, loud popping noises and an open mouth with bared teeth. You should leave the water if a dolphin is acting aggressively.

Remember that the beach-visiting dolphins are wild animals and their behaviour is unpredictable.

- You will be asked to move out of the water when the dolphins are fishing in the shallows or when a newborn calf (up to six weeks of age) is in shore.
- Children must be supervised by adults when in the water.
- Pets are prohibited in the dolphin interaction area and must be on a lead when in the reserve.



Visitor fees

Visitor fees for entry to Monkey Mia Reserve pay for the costs of managing the human-dolphin interaction and facility maintenance. Fees apply to all, including resort guests. Park passes do not apply to Monkey Mia Reserve.

Front cover Photo – Tourism WA

Above Photo – Peter and Margy Nicholas/Lochman Transparencies

Left The first dolphin feed of the day is usually the busiest. Photo – Tourism WA