



Discover

What's Special About Jervis Bay Marine Park



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The waters inside Jervis Bay are influenced by the warm water flowing south in the East Australian Current and cooler waters flowing north from the Bass Strait. These currents enter Jervis Bay near Bowen Island and flow in a clockwise direction around the bay before exiting near Point Perpendicular. It takes an average of 24 days to completely flush Jervis Bay, but sometimes this can happen in as little as 7 days.



Kelp forest :

photo D Harasti



Eastern blue devilfish :

photo D Harasti

The area supports more than 230 species of marine plants and hundreds of species of invertebrates (animals without backbones). Over 216 species of reef fish, sharks and rays occur around the shallow reefs of the marine park – eastern blue groper, leatherjackets, wrasse, snapper and bream are just a few. Endangered grey nurse sharks can be found in several locations and are a popular attraction for SCUBA divers. The harmless Port Jackson shark, one of the oldest known living sharks, breed among the shallow reefs and seagrass beds, and their empty egg cases can be found washed up on the shores in their hundreds.

The Hare Bay Sanctuary Zone contains one of the largest intact seagrass beds in NSW. These areas are commonly called “nursery areas” and provide food and shelter for many important fish species. Seagrass helps to stabilise the sediment and is one of the reasons for Jervis Bay’s crystal clear water.



Southern calamary :

photo D Harasti

Jervis Bay Marine Park

our environment

it's a living thing



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Several threatened shorebirds use habitat within the marine park for foraging, roosting or nesting. Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers can be found feeding on rock platforms and Hooded Plovers nesting in sand dunes. Royal Spoonbills, egrets and swans are protected waterbirds that forage among the mudflats and White-Bellied Sea Eagles nest in the tallest trees, plunging on fish from the sky.



White-Bellied Sea Eagle : photo R Findlay



Australian fur seal : photo D Harasti

Marine mammals are a common sight in the marine park. Humpback and southern right whales attract many spectators during their seasonal migrations and sometimes enter the bay to rest. The northern-most colony of Australian and New Zealand fur seals can be found at Drum and Drumsticks with over 100 animals hauling out there. A resident population of around 60 bottlenose dolphins are also popular with tourists and can be seen swimming and feeding around the shallow perimeter of the bay, while common dolphins are more often observed in the ocean waters outside

A zoning plan is in place which protects this valuable community asset and biologically important area while still allowing for a wide range of recreational and commercial activities including fishing, diving and snorkelling, swimming, kayaking and marine mammal watching. You can view the Jervis Bay Marine Park zoning plan at www.mpa.nsw.gov.au



Hermit crab : photo D Harasti

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