



Australian
Marine Parks

Commercial tourism in Australian Marine Parks



Australian Marine Parks strike a balance between protecting important marine habitats and allowing visitors to enjoy outstanding natural experiences on offshore reefs and deeper waters.

Marine parks contribute to the long-term health of the marine environment by helping to conserve biodiversity, build resilience against future impacts, and safeguard our incredible marine environment for all Australians. We are committed to supporting high quality tourism operators who provide visitors with engaging experiences that raise awareness about marine parks and support Australia's visitor economy.

Rules for commercial tourism in Australian Marine Parks

The 58 Australian Marine Parks managed by Parks Australia are located in Commonwealth waters, generally 3 to 200 nautical miles from the coastline. On 1 July 2018, new management plans came into effect for 44 Australian Marine Parks around Australia. These new management plans allow commercial tourism in Australian Marine Parks through licences.

Check the rules

Australian Marine Park management plans contain important information about the rules for commercial tourism operators. These rules help protect marine parks and ensure sustainable tourism into the future. If you run a commercial tourism operation, it is your responsibility to know the rules and follow them.

Know where you can operate

Australian Marine Parks are made up of different management zones – these allow different types of tourism activities. Tourism activities are allowable with a licence in most areas, however there are some exceptions. The plans detail the zones and rules for each marine park.

A licence is required

Commercial tourism operators must have a current licence from the Director of National Parks to operate the following activities in marine parks:

- charter fishing
- nature watching
- SCUBA and snorkelling
- cruise ship (where the ship stops or slows in an Australian Marine Park)
- aviation (up to 3000 metres from sea level).

How to apply for a licence

We have an online application form and information to assist you in completing it on our website at parksaustralia.gov.au/marinetourism.

Applications generally take eight weeks to assess, dependent on requirements to consult with other parties.

If you have questions or need help

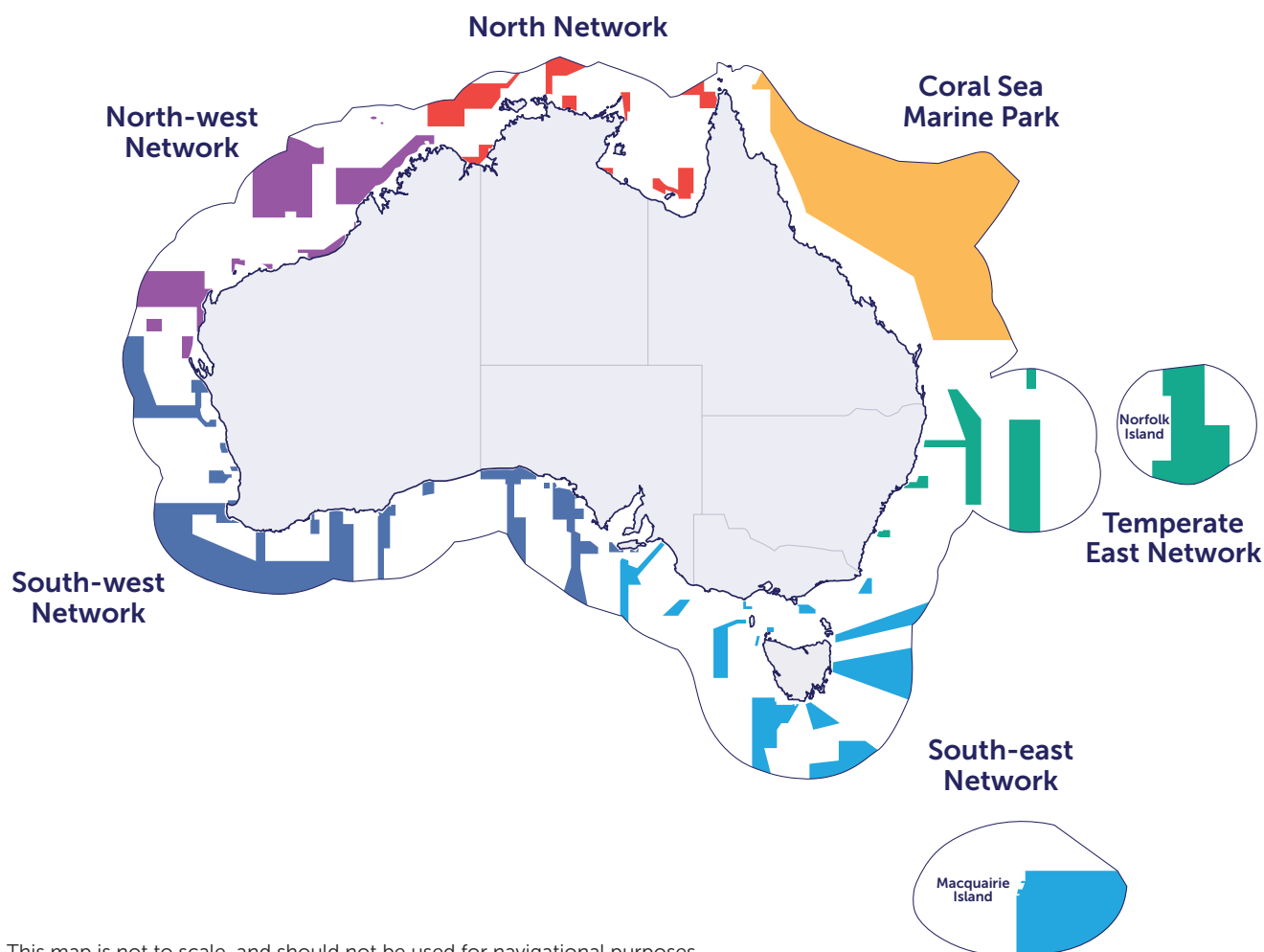
Rules and management plans for the Australian Marine Parks are found at parksaustralia.gov.au/marinetourism.

Maps of Australian Marine Parks can be downloaded at parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/maps. All common formats are available to use on vessel hardware.

Parks Australia views any incidents of noncompliance seriously and where there is evidence of noncompliance, serious penalties under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* may apply.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to protect our marine parks.

Australian Marine Parks



Further information

If you have questions regarding the Australian Marine Parks, please visit our website parksaustralia.gov.au/marine, email to marineparks@environment.gov.au or call 1800 069 352.



Australian Government
Parks Australia