

Point Peron is one of the best shore dive or snorkelling sites in the Perth metropolitan area. You can reach the site from the beach at Long Reach.

Sea urchins and sea anemones shelter in the seagrass near shore. Other inhabitants of the shallow sandy areas include turban shells, blimp sea stars and spider crabs. As you swim out to the fringing reef you will discover schools of fish such as whiting and balfish. Point Peron and MUSHROOM Rock are ideal snorkelling sites as the limestone has been carved into numerous overhangs, small caves and swimthroughs very close to shore in a maximum depth of five metres. Colourful sponges, sea squirts, feather stars, jacy bryozoans and hard corals can be found clinging to the limestone. Situated about 150 metres offshore from Long Reach beach you will find a reef more suited for the SCUBA diver. The underwater features lie in water up to seven metres deep. Here the swimthroughs are bigger and the caves deeper.

Location: Parking at end of Point Peron Rd
Depth: 3-7 metres

6. POINT PERON

The Churchill Park Wreck Trail is one of the safest and most popular shore dives in WA. The site has ample parking, a grassed area to kit up, toilets and barbecues and a range of cafes happy to cater to wet-suit-clad divers.

With a northerly aspect, the site offers good protection from the sea breezes during summer. The dive is easy to follow and also provides a good opportunity for certified specialty divers, such as night divers and photographers.

The site, about a 60 metre wide out from Rockingham foreshore, is made apparent by two floats running parallel to the shore. Each float is attached to a rope which guides the diver to each of the scuttled wrecks. During the dive you will encounter four boats and two planes. The wrecks are heavily encrusted with tube worms, soft corals, bryozoans, sponges, ascidians and other forms of marine life. The fish community consists of wrasse, blennies, old wives, stripeys, WA Butterfish, boxfish, herring, sea stars, eels and numerous crustaceans. The most striking of all would be the Western Australian sea horses that can be spotted by those with a keen eye.

Location: Rockingham Beach, Parking at end of Flinders Ln
Depth: 17 metres

5. CHURCHILL PARK WRECK TRAIL

As an added bonus there are often dolphins playing on the surface on the way to this dive site. The water clarity is high, and the area is outside major boating and shipping channels. There is good diving throughout the year, although this site can be subject to heavy swells. In summer morning dives are the best before the afternoon sea breeze arrives, while calm winter days can offer enjoyable diving conditions.

Outside of the Five Fathom Bank massive schools of fish and bigger fish can occasionally be found. There are also occasional sightings of rarer fish such as Spanish Mackerel, Shark and Tuna. In the shallower waters you will spot large numbers of crayfish which are fairly common along the bank and those armed with a loop, a licence and a keen eye should be rewarded with a catch in no time at all.

Location: West of Point Peron and Garden Island
Depth: 5-20 metres

4. FIVE FATHOM BANK

About 3 nautical miles west of Garden Island

Lying within the sheltered waters in 15 metres of water, the D9 wreck is around 50 metres long and still fairly intact due to the lack of water movement. The wreck is completely encrusted in marine growth and is a good place to find many types of nudibranchs. Diving the D9 can be in virtually any weather conditions but be wary because silt out is a danger, so dive it wisely.

Formerly known as the Parmelia, it was built as a bucket dredge during the 1930's. Renamed D9 when sold to the Dredging Industries of Australia, she was converted to a suction dredge for the excavation of the channels of Kwinana. Sunk in 1962 for unknown reasons and was then moved to the middle of Cockburn Sound where she is now located.

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Location: Middle of Cockburn Sound and Mainland
Depth: 15 metres
(WGS84)

3. THE D9

A memorable dive experience is on the wreck of the RMS Orizaba. The vessel was due to arrive in Fremantle from England in February 1905. Heavy haze caused disorientation and the vessel grounded on Five Fathom Bank.

The wreck is of historical significance as it was involved in the London to Albany mail transfer. The three boilers are the most imposing feature of the site, with crank shaft and conrods lying exposed on the reef top. The boilers are home to numerous marine life. In the darker holes you might find a stingray or wobbegong shark. Here you'll find yourself swimming with Western Australian Dhu fish, schooling bullieys, blue groper and queen snapper over limestone covered sponges, blue ascidians and corals.

Location: West of Cape Peron
Depth: 15 metres
(AGD66)

2. THE ORIZABA

Recreational dive permits must be purchased to dive the Saxon Ranger. The cost of the permit is based on a vessel carrying up to four divers at a time with a two hour time allocation on the moorings. Permits are available from the Rockingham Visitor Centre (see details back page).

A 400 tonne former fishing vessel, known as the Saxon Ranger is the first purpose sunk dive wreck in the Perth Metropolitan area. It lies in approximately 22 metres of water amongst other sunken wrecks on the sea floor in Warnbro Sound.

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Location: Warnbro Sound
Depth: 22 metres
(WGS84)

1. THE SAXON RANGER

Dive and Snorkel in Rockingham

Apart from the abundance of wildlife, historical significance and award winning restaurants and cafes within the Rockingham region, visitors will find a memorable experience when they venture into the underwater realm that surrounds Rockingham.

The waters off Rockingham including the Shoalwater Island Marine Park are home to a myriad of marine life and submerged reefs, plus a number of picturesque historic shipwrecks.

Rockingham boasts over 40km of spectacular open ocean to explore with scuba diving or snorkelling for all ages and levels of ability. Dive shops in Rockingham supply all necessary equipment for safe snorkelling and diving and conduct regular dive charters.

PLEASE consult with Fisheries before taking fish!

Contacts

- City of Rockingham**
Civic Bvd. Rockingham 6168 9528 0333
www.rockingham.wa.gov.au
- Rangers City of Rockingham 9528 0333
Community Security Patrol (Smart Watch) 1300 657 123
- Boating Weather Forecast**
Boating Weather 1900 955 350
www.bom.gov.au
- Department of Fisheries**
Rockingham 9527 3699
Fishwatch 1800 815 507
www.fish.wa.gov.au
- Hospital**
Rockingham 9527 2777
Ambulance 9334 1234
EMERGENCY 000 (mobile 012)
- Police**
Rockingham 9528 8000
Water Police 9442 8600
- Rockingham Volunteer Sea Rescue Group**
VN6KC Rockingham 9528 2222
- Yacht Clubs**
Safety Bay Yacht Club 9527 1946
The Cruising Yacht Club 9527 5468
- Dive Shops**
Scubanautics 9527 4447
Australasian Diving Academy 9527 9211
- Department of Parks and Wildlife**
Swan Coastal District Office 9503 7700
- Department of Transport**
Marine Safety Hotline 1300 863 308
- Marine Watch** 131 444
Cockburn Sound Management Council 9591 3807
www.westcoastdivepark.com.au

Rockingham visitor centre 19 Kent St, Rockingham WA 6168
Ph: 9592 3464 Fax: 9592 2778
www.rockinghamvisitorcentre.com.au

Diving and Snorkelling Guide



www.rockingham.wa.gov.au

7. LITTLE PENGUIN TRAIL

Location: Penguin Islands Southern Beaches
Depth: 2-5 metres

This is a good, fascinating site suitable for both beginners and experienced snorkellers. Take the path to the left of the Penguin Island Discovery Centre and walk along the beach to the southern most point you can reach. Here you will have to wade across the shallow reef around the base of the rocks and caves. The entry point is in 2-3 metres of water.

This shallow area is packed with marine life and is one of the more exquisite places to snorkel in the metropolitan area. One of the first things you will notice are the schools of tiny silver baitfish, which forms the basis for the diet of the Little Penguins which inhabit the island. It is an ideal place to explore with fascinating underwater ledges and overhangs, lumps, low broken reef and seagrass areas. There is no need to use SCUBA.

8. THE SISTERS

Location: A short boat trip from Rockingham or Safety Bay
Depth: 2-6 metres

The Sisters are a series of limestone reefs at the southern end of the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park. They are easy to find as they are marked by a group of rocks protruding above the surface. This site offers scuba divers and snorkellers the opportunity to experience an area rich in marine life.

The reef walls are coated with soft and hard corals, anemones, sponges, ascidians, gorgonian fan corals and sea stars. Sea cucumbers, nudibranchs and bryozoans are scattered over various underwater surfaces, while crayfish and molluscs hide under ledges and in caves. Clouds of baitfish, large schools of buffalo bream and schools of herring can also be seen.

9. FIRST ROCK

Location: A short boat trip from Rockingham or Safety Bay
Depth: 2-5 metres

The first large rock to the south of Penguin Island is called First Rock. For full appreciation of its beauty, this site is best explored by SCUBA. If you follow the ledge you may discover wobbegongs tucked tightly under ledges and if you have a keen eye you may spot an octopus hiding in the weeds and crevices.

Swim over the top of the reef and you may startle a number of large buffalo bream. Numerous high, kelp covered bombies lie to the West of the reef platform. The ledge continues virtually all the way around the reef edge. Cave networks extend right under First Rock however winds and swells over one metre can make conditions dangerous.

NAUTICAL MILE
 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0

Diving and Snorkelling Guide



Cardinal Marks
 Keep NORTH of uninterrupted quick flashes

Keep WEST of 9 flashes in a group

Keep EAST of 3 flashes in a group

Keep SOUTH of 6 flashes + 1 long flash in a group

ROCKINGHAM VOLUNTEER SEA RESCUE

LOG ON LOG OFF

with VNSKC on
 27 Mhz - Channel 90 or VHF - Channel 73
 or by Phone 9527 9988 (Radio Tower)

"It could save your life"

EMERGENCIES
 contact us 24/7 on
 27 Mhz - Channel 88 or VHF - Channel 18
 or by Phone 9528 2222



Any boat with divers (not snorkellers) operating from it must always display signals by day or night to inform other boat users. The daytime signal for divers is an international Code Flag "A". The flag must be at least 750mm long and 600mm wide.

Divers operating without a vessel, for example from a jetty, must display the International Code Flag "A". The flag must be at least 750mm long and 600mm wide in dimension.

The flag must be displayed from a buoy. If displayed from a buoy, the flag must be not less than 300mm in length and 200mm wide. The flag must be clearly visible to all vessels operating in the vicinity.

NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION
 For more detailed information, refer to Department of Transport Nautical Charts.
 Cape Peron to Dawesville WA 913, Warnbro DMH 227, Ocean Reef to Cape Peron WA 001