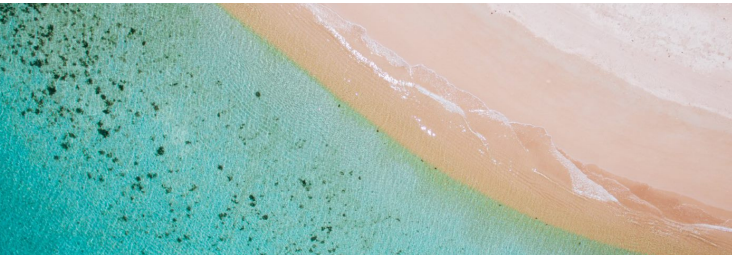


# THEVENARD ISLAND ECO TRAIL

The Thevenard Island Eco Walk Trail is an adventurous activity. The total distance is approximately 12 kilometres in length, so you will need to be reasonably fit and allow 4-5 hours to complete the trail. Please make note of the 'Pick-up Point' on the map, in case of an emergency.

Before commencing the trail, please ensure you:

- Sign out at the Shop Hub
- Wear a hat
- Put sunscreen on
- Bring plenty of water, at least 2 litres
- Take some food
- Collect the handheld VHF radio from a staff member for emergencies



# ECO TRAIL MARKERS

## 1: GHOST CRAB BEACH

Best viewed in the evening at low tide, the beach front becomes scattered with Ghost Crabs scurrying down to the water to hunt. Growing up to 5cm in size, these crabs have a sand-coloured shell making for great camouflage. They have four sets of legs, two claws and little black eyes on the end of long stalks. During the day, the crabs live in their burrows, some of which can be over a metre deep.

## 2: CORAL GARDENS

Located just offshore, there is an amazing underwater coral garden made up of a collection of large bommies growing with Staghorn, Plate and Brain coral. This garden is home to many types of fish, including Lionfish, Rock Cod and big schools of Trevally. Thevenard Island is home to naturally brown, autumn toned coral.

## 3: SWIMMING SHALLOWS

Here you will find a long sandbank which stretches approximately 5 metres from the shore. During low tides this is a great spot for laying on the beach, swimming and beachcombing where you can find beautiful shells and washed up coral.

## 4: TURTLE DUNES

Between the months of December and March, Thevenard Island becomes a nesting ground for many turtles. After mating, female turtles come ashore (generally at high tide) to nest and lay their eggs. Sometimes they will dig multiple nests before actually laying their eggs, as there are many factors such as temperature that have to be just right before eggs are laid.

## 5: TURTLE HIGHWAY

During the months of September through to November, the turtle mating season takes place. You can often observe this in the shallow waters around the island. After mating season, turtles will come ashore to lay their eggs usually during high tide. The eggs take 90 days to hatch, once they have hatched their built-in navigation guides them towards the moon and water.

## 6: SANDY CAY LOOKOUT

On top of the dunes, Sandy Cay Lookout is the perfect spot to watch waves crashing on Sandy Cay, and the golden Pilbara sunset. During the months of July and August you can often watch whales breaching on the horizon.

## 7: CRAYFISH CORNER

A stretch of bommies wrap around this Western corner providing a habitat for the large Ornate Crayfish and the smaller Painter (Green) Crayfish. It is common to see Ornate species up to 5kg around Thevenard and can be easily identified by their striking blue and green colours.

## 8: PRISTINE POINT

Pristine Point is the Western most point of Thevenard Island. When the tide is low, the reef becomes exposed, showcasing the small creatures of the reef including Nudibranchs, Sea Snails and Clams, and sometimes even Octopus.

## 9: RAPTORS REST

Ospreys are the largest nesting bird found here on the island. They have a white underbelly and brown wings, tail and back, can grow up to 65cm in height and weigh up to 1.8kg. Their life span is approximately 15 years, though some have been known to live over 20 years. You can often spot White Bellied Sea Eagles resting or hunting for prey on this part of the island.

### Did You Know?!

Ospreys typically mate for life. Their nests are made from sticks and driftwood, which are built on year after year. Ospreys use the same nest to lay their eggs, and will often pass it on to their offspring.

## 10: SEABIRD STRETCH

There are 24 species of birds recorded on the island including Gulls, Pied Oystercatchers, Terns and Beach-stone Curlew. The Nankeen Kestrel can also be found flying through the skies hunting for small reptiles, birds and insects to eat. Approximately 31 species of migratory birds call Thevenard home during the year as well.

## 11: SCHOOL SHARK SHALLOWS

Swimming along the shallows feeding on small fish and squid you can find School Sharks. Female School Sharks produce pups every 2-3 years, which are born in the 'nursery' waters during the late spring and early summer months. Litters can range in size anywhere from 15 to 43 pups.

## 12: STINGRAY BEACH

Further along the shore you will find stingrays, a relative of the shark. Like sharks, stingray skeletons are made of cartilage making it easier for them to glide through the water. Most commonly found in the waters surrounding Thevenard are the Blue Spotted Ribbon Ray and the Spotted Eagle Ray. Often under the jetty you will find Shovel Nose Sharks, which are part of the ray family.



# THEVENARD ECO TRAIL MAP

The total distance of the trail is approximately 12 kilometres long, with around 1 kilometre between each marker. Please make note of the Pick-up Point and be sure to radio through to Thevenard Base if you are in need of assistance.

