

# Ningaloo Coast, Australia

## Key facts

- Recommended by IUCN for inscription on the World Heritage List in June 2011 at the World Heritage Committee in Paris, France, for its outstanding biological diversity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems.
- The Ningaloo Reef and Coral Bay are home to the largest fish in the world, the Whale Shark, as well as to more than 500 species of tropical fish and 220 species of coral. The rich marine life includes soft and hard corals, manta rays, sea snakes, whales, turtles, dugongs and sharks.
- The Ningaloo Reef, a protected marine park in Western Australia, is an untouched barrier reef of 260km length protecting a shallow, brilliant white sandy lagoon of clear tropical waters.
- The majority of subterranean species on land and in the flooded caves are extremely rare and not found elsewhere in the southern hemisphere.
- The Ningaloo Coast is a unique place in the world with outstanding natural beauty and an exceptional combination of relict rainforest fauna and small fully aquatic animals in the same cave system.

## Key quote

*“The Ningaloo Coast is a unique place with outstanding natural beauty and biological diversity, which plays an important role in the protection of marine species,” says **Tim Badman, Director of IUCN’s World Heritage Programme.** “The Coast tells an extraordinary story of biological isolation, climate change, the movement of continents and environmental conservation.”*

## Media contact

- Borjana Pervan, IUCN Media Relations, t +41 22 999 0115, m +41 79 857 4072 ,  
e [borjana.pervan@iucn.org](mailto:borjana.pervan@iucn.org)

## Photos

Please visit: [http://iucn.org/knowledge/news/focus/world\\_heritage/photos/](http://iucn.org/knowledge/news/focus/world_heritage/photos/)

Note the images are copyright protected and can only be used to illustrate press releases in relation to IUCN’s recommendations to the World Heritage Committee.



Ningaloo Coast© IUCN, Rainer von Brandis