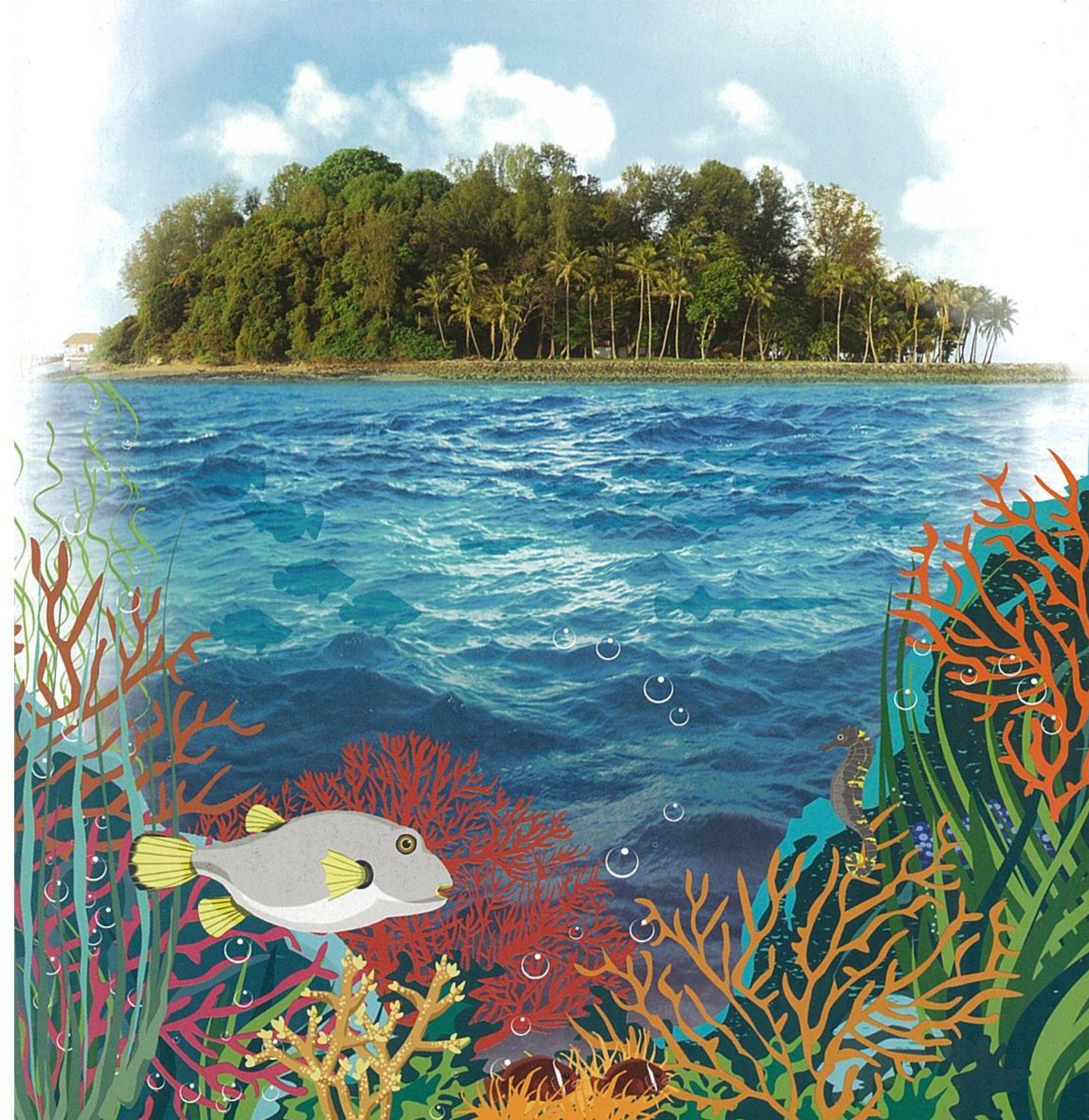


# SISTERS' ISLANDS MARINE PARK

## Visitors' Information



# Welcome to the Sisters' Islands Marine Park



The Sisters' Islands Marine Park is a 40-hectare area around Sisters' Islands and along the western reefs of both St John's Island and Pulau Tekukor. It was declared as Singapore's first marine park in 2014.

The Marine Park was established to promote outreach, education, research and conservation of Singapore's coastal and marine environment. Big Sister's Island serves as the gateway for visitors while Small Sister's Island is a dedicated site for marine conservation research.



A Marine Park Outreach and Education Centre located on St John's Island will provide visitors the opportunity to learn more about the Marine Park and participate in activities such as guided walks that showcase the unique natural and cultural features of the island. Students can also look forward to organised workshops, camps and outdoor classroom activities for a more immersive learning experience.

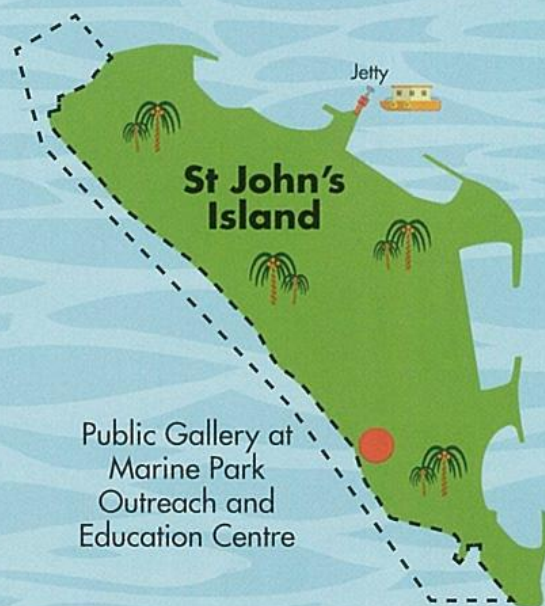


# Sisters' Islands Marine Park Map



**Pulau Tekukor**

The Sisters' Islands Marine Park is made up of two islands – Pulau Subar Laut (Big Sister) and Pulau Subar Darat (Small Sister) – and the western reefs of both St John's Island and Pulau Tekukor.



**St John's Island**

Jetty

Public Gallery at Marine Park Outreach and Education Centre

**Sisters' Islands**

Intertidal Guided Walks

Big Sister's Island Jetty

Public Dive Trail



Legend

---- **Marine Park Boundary**

# Marine Life at Sisters' Islands Marine Park

**Nudibranchs**  
Pronounced "nu-die-bran-ka", nudibranchs are a group of sea slugs that come in extraordinary colours and forms. They detect prey using a pair of horn-like sensory tentacles called rhinophores, located on their head.

**Kusu Rock Crab**  
The Kusu Rock Crab (*Uthysobolus kusu*) was described as a new species in 2009 and is named after Kusu Island where it was first discovered.

**Persian Carpet Flatworm**  
This flatworm (*Parvulibalanus buslandi*) was first discovered in Singapore in 1903. Flatworms are hermaphrodites, meaning they have both male and female reproductive organs.

**Sea Stars**  
Several species of sea stars can be found within the Marine Park. Some like the Common and Knobby Sea Stars can be seen within the intertidal areas while others, like the Cushion and Lion Stars, can only be seen in deeper waters.

**Moon Snails**  
Moon snails (*Naticida* spp.) are some of the most common snails found within the Marine Park. They are voracious predators that feed on bivalves and other snails.

**Sea Anemones**  
Flower-like in appearance, sea anemones are actually closely related to corals and jellyfish. They use stinging tentacles to capture their prey.

**Rabbitfish**  
Rabbitfish use their rabbit-like snouts to graze on seaweed. They have venomous spines on their fins for self-defence.

**Hawksbill Turtle**  
This turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) has a distinctive beak at the tip of its head used for accessing small crevices to feed on sponges and corals. Like many other turtle species, it is critically endangered. Hunted for its eggs, flesh and beautiful shell, it is also threatened by fishing nets, boats' propellers, pollution and ingestion or entrapment from marine trash.

**Eagle Ray**  
Eagle rays are excellent swimmers and can even jump out of the water. They feed mainly on clams, shrimps and crabs.

**Seahorses**  
Seahorses are unique fish that swim upright and have armoured plates instead of scales covering their bodies. In seahorses, the males give birth to the babies. Due to harvesting and loss of habitat, the population of Tiger Tail Seahorse (*Hippocampus camel*) has become vulnerable.

**Giant Clam**  
Giant Clams (*Tritolana* spp.) are the largest living bivalves in the world, with individuals displaying a variety of colourful manes. The three remaining species of Giant Clams in Singapore are locally classified as either Endangered or Critically Endangered.

**Bamboo Shark**  
With adapted pectoral fins, the blue-spotted bamboo shark (*Chelodactylus plagiatus*) crawls along the reef bottom or into crevices to look for fishes and crustaceans.

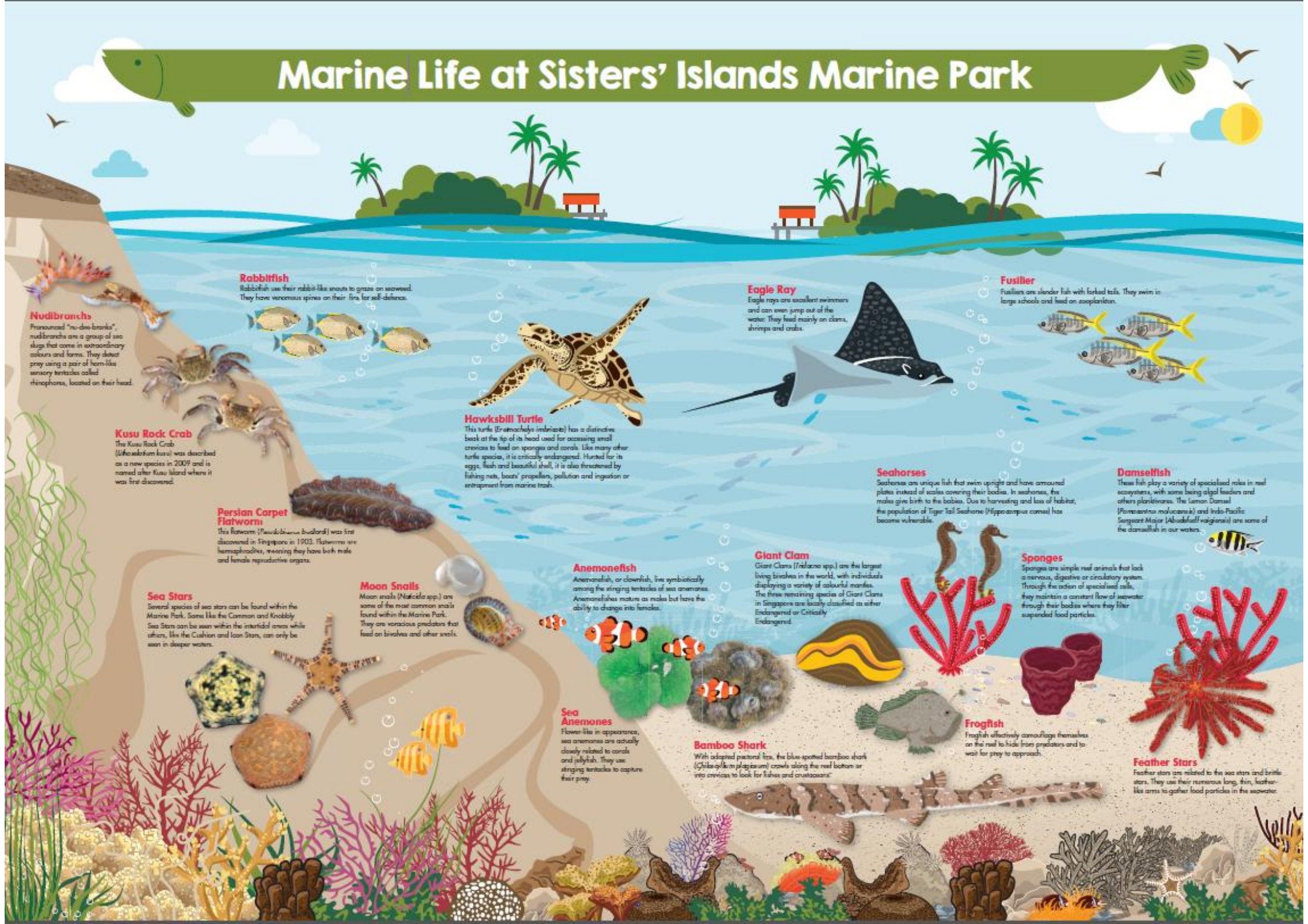
**Fusilier**  
Fusiliers are slender fish with forked tails. They swim in large schools and feed on zooplankton.

**Damselfish**  
These fish play a variety of specialised roles in reef ecosystems, with some being algal feeders and others planktivores. The Lemon Damselfish (*Pomacentrus malacanus*) and Indo-Pacific Sergeant Major (*Abudefduf vaigiensis*) are some of the damselfish in our waters.

**Sponges**  
Sponges are simple reef animals that lack a nervous, digestive or circulatory system. Through the action of specialised cells, they maintain a constant flow of seawater through their bodies where they filter suspended food particles.

**Frogfish**  
Frogfish effectively camouflages themselves on the reef to hide from predators and to wait for prey to approach.

**Feather Stars**  
Feather stars are related to the sea stars and brittle stars. They use their numerous long, thin, feather-like arms to gather food particles in the seawater.



# Marine Park Etiquette

Play your part in protecting the biodiversity in the Marine Park. By conserving the Sisters' Islands Marine Park, you help to ensure that marine animals will continue to have a safe environment to reproduce, grow and flourish.



**No Fishing or Poaching**



**No Feeding of Wild Animals**



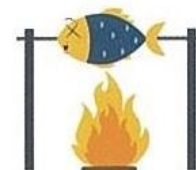
**No Releasing of Animals**



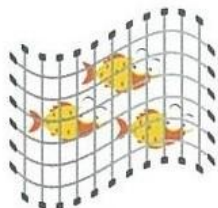
**Keep the Park Smoke-Free**



**Keep Music Volume Down**



**No Open Fires and Barbeques**



**No Casting of Nets**



**Remove Your Litter**



**No Anchoring**



**Clean Up after your Pets and Keep Them Leashed around Other Visitors**



**Fly Drones and Model Aircrafts only with a Permit**

# Coral Reefs of Singapore

Corals come in a wide range of shapes, sizes, colours and forms. The reefs support a diverse ecosystem by providing food, shelter and protection for marine life.

Singapore's waters are home to a rich diversity of marine life including:

- Over 250 species of hard corals
- More than 100 species of reef fish
- About 200 species of sponges
- 12 seagrass species and a variety of crustaceans

The protection of the waters around the Sisters' Islands Marine Park and the on-going research and conservation efforts will help safeguard this rich biodiversity for future generations.

A healthy coral reef also benefits humans. Coral reefs protect shorelines from erosion and storms. In addition, over 25% of the fish species we consume depend directly or indirectly on coral reefs for their survival. Coral reefs organisms are also important sources of new medicines being developed to combat medical ailments.

## Different forms of hard corals



Boulder coral



Free-living mushroom coral



Table-shaped coral



Leaf shaped (foliose) coral

## Threats to the Marine Park's Biodiversity



### Snorkelling and Diving-Related Coral Damage

Careless behaviour while snorkelling or diving can cause physical damage to the delicate corals and other reef organisms.

Use flotation devices, and avoid touching or standing on corals. Maintain good buoyancy when diving. Tie boats to mooring buoys instead of dropping anchor within the Marine Park.



### Trash

Plastics are not biodegradable and are harmful to the marine environment. They can cause death, injury or entanglement to marine animals.

Secure your trash and remove them when you leave the island, or dispose them properly in the bins provided.



### Poaching

Coral reefs support complex food webs with different species of plants and animals interacting and depending on each other for survival. Removing species may tip the balance and irreversibly alter the food webs.

Do not collect or remove any plant or animal life from the Marine Park.



### Shell Collection

Shells are a natural part of the marine ecosystem, even dead ones! They provide hiding places for small fish and animals, and are used as homes for hermit crabs.

Do not collect or remove any dead shells from the Marine Park.



### Animal Feeding

Feeding wild animals reduces their natural inclination to forage for food. One way to help these animals survive in the wild is to minimise contact with them.

Avoid carrying items in plastic bags and keep bags close to yourself when visiting the marine park.

# Things to Do

## Explore the Dive Trails

Certified divers who meet the minimum dive criteria can explore the dive trails located at Big Sister's Island. At each trail, divers will be guided through 10 stations marked by signs, which highlight the variety of marine biodiversity and reef features present in Singapore's waters.

## Join a Guided Intertidal Walk

Passionate nature guides will bring members of the public on a tour within Big Sister's Island to experience the Marine Park's amazing biodiversity, which can be spotted along the shore during low tide.

## Visit the Public Gallery at Marine Park Outreach and Education Centre

The Gallery on St John's Island features the rich marine biodiversity in Singapore's waters and provides an overview of the Sisters' Islands Marine Park, including a 3D diorama of its dive trails.

## Be a Volunteer

Members of the public can sign up for a variety of volunteer opportunities within the Marine Park. Look out for upcoming citizen science programmes for the Sisters' Islands Marine Park.

# Getting There

Visitors can charter a boat from West Coast Pier or Marina South Pier to visit the Big Sister's Island. Regular ferry services to St John's Island from Marina South Pier are also available, twice on weekdays and up to five times on weekends and public holidays.

**For more information, please visit [www.nparks.gov.sg/sistersislandsmarinepark](http://www.nparks.gov.sg/sistersislandsmarinepark)**

