

SWAN DIVE WRECK

Geographe Bay

CODE OF PRACTICE

Western Australia

SCOPE

This Code Of Practice provides recommendations to all divers and vessels within the gazetted area around the Swan Wreck site, to all recreational divers, recreational boaters, recreational fishers, charter vessel operators, dive shop operators, employers, employees, self employees and the general public.

This Code should be read in conjunction with the Western Australian recreational diving and snorkelling code of practice, the relevant Australian Standards including AS4005 and AS2299, training agency standards and local standards.

PURPOSE

This Code of Practice is to provide those who wish to enter the Swan Wreck site, information on the responsibilities, practical guidance and identifying risks to avoid injury or possible death.

To inform all persons and employers of their duty of care whilst inside the Swan Wreck site.

Assist all persons and employers with risk awareness issues and assessments of risk whilst diving the Swan Wreck.

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INTRODUCTION

The Swan Wreck site is managed by the Geographe Bay Artificial Reef Society (Inc) (G.B.A.R.S)
P.O. Box 206, Dunsborough, WA, 6281.

In order to keep the Swan Wreck site a safe diving environment and an ever-increasing marine habitat, your adherence to this code is paramount.

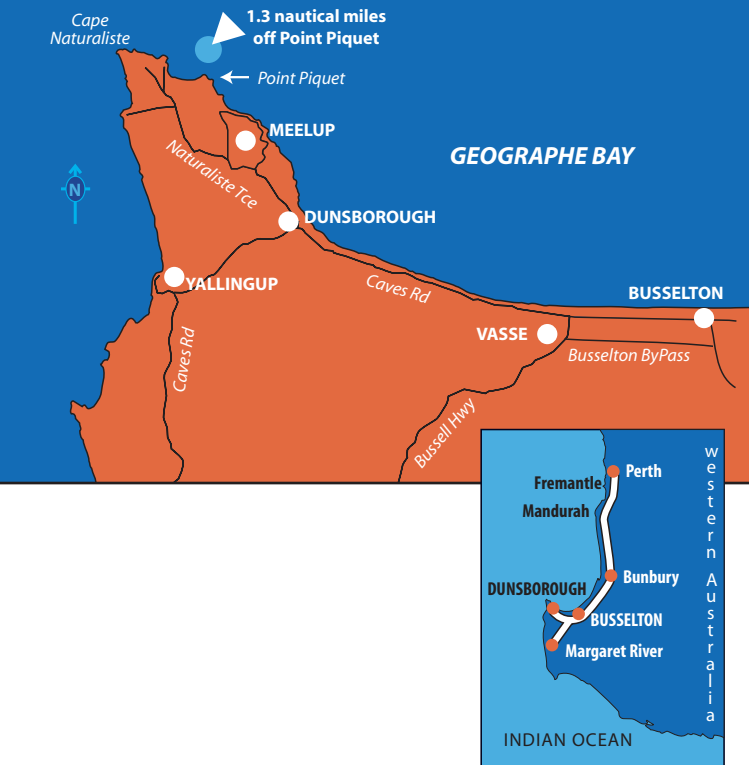
Permits are required to dive the Swan Wreck site. Permits can be obtained from the Dunsborough and Busselton Visitor Centres, phone 08 97553517 or 08 9752 1288 or from local dive operators.

All funds collected from permits pay for the cost of scuttling and ongoing maintenance as the Swan develops into an artificial reef and costs such as lighting and mooring costs.

All persons diving or snorkelling the Swan Wreck site do at their own risk and no responsibility will be held by G.B.A.R.S or any of the permit issuers.

Please report any damage you feel as dangerous and any problems with moorings to the Site Managers.





LOCATION

The final resting place of the Swan Wreck is at Latitude S33 deg 33.08' and Longitude E 115 deg 05.96' (WGS 84). Approximately 1.3 nautical miles north of Point Piquet.

The Swan Wreck site is a gazetted NO FISHING zone under the WA fisheries act. No line fishing, spear fishing, cray diving or taking of any marine plant or animal is allowed 200 metres from the centre yellow special marker buoy.

ENTRY TO THE SWAN WRECK SITE

Full compliance to this code is a condition of entry to the Swan Wreck site.

Permits

4 types of permits are available

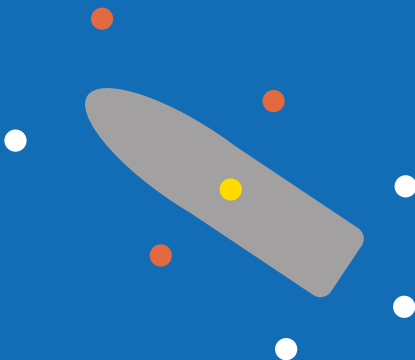
- Yearly pass at a cost of \$80.00
- Weekly pass at a cost of \$40.00
- Daily pass at a cost of \$20.00.
- Casual Commercial Mooring \$300.00.

These MUST be displayed on your vessel whilst inside the Swan Wreck site. A copy of the code of practice will be issued with your permit.

A permit allows 4 divers access to the Swan Wreck on each vessel.

Moorings

- There are 4 white mooring buoys available for public use.
- Once your dive is completed and all are on board then you must break away from the mooring allowing others to move in.
- Moorings will not hold vessels over 7 tonne in adverse weather.



● Yellow Marker Bouy ● Public ● Commercial



SKIPPERS RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the skipper's responsibility to adhere to the codes for vessels and to ensure the safety of those on board.

Codes for all vessels

- Speed limit within the zone is 8 knots
- A lookout should be in place when approaching moorings
- No anchoring is allowed within the zone
- No anchoring outside the zone and paying out line to enter the zone
- Vessels must tie up to WHITE moorings buoys for the public and ORANGE mooring buoys for the commercial operators
- Vessels must not manoeuvre or drift over the actual Swan Wreck marked with a YELLOW NO FISHING MARKER BUOY (no mooring on this marker buoy)
- Vessels must wait outside the zone until a mooring becomes available
- Vessels cannot drop off divers and return outside the zone
- Vessels cannot tie off to each other or tie off to the Swan Wreck itself
- All vessels to display a blue and white (code alpha) flag when divers and snorkellers are in the water
- A person must always remain on the vessel while diving activities are underway.

DIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

- It is the divers responsibility to ensure he or she dives within their ability and training. For those new to the Swan Wreck, it is highly recommended you solicit the services of an experienced dive guide.
- A manifest should be kept of all divers and snorkellers including dive times, depth, safety stops and surface intervals, as a minimum
- All charter operators should offer in water dive guides
- In order to become familiar with the Swan Wreck it is recommended that all divers do at least one orientation dive before exploring the wreck regardless of their training and experience.
- Whilst ongoing surveillance and maintenance of the developing artificial reef of the Swan Wreck is checked on a daily basis, it is important that if any areas of the Swan Wreck, due to deterioration and these areas become unstable and hazardous to divers, should be reported to G.B.A.R.S

Wreck accessibility and certification of diver

Open water diver

An open water diver may explore the exterior of the Swan Wreck and should not enter any part of the wreck that does not allow them direct vertical access to the surface keeping to a maximum depth of no greater than 18 metres. Diving should be within the no decompression limits and a minimum safety stop of 5 minutes at 5 metres performed after every dive.



Advanced open water diver

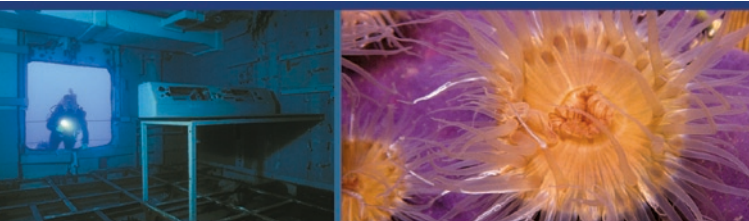
An advanced open water diver may explore the exterior of the Swan Wreck and should not enter any part of the wreck that does not allow them direct vertical access to the surface keeping to a maximum depth of no greater than 30 metres. Diving should be within the no decompression limits and a minimum safety stop of 5 minutes at 5 metres performed after every dive.

Deep Diver

A deep diver may explore the exterior of the Swan Wreck and should not enter any part of the wreck that does not allow them direct vertical access to the surface keeping inside the maximum recreational depth of 40 metres. Diving should be within the no decompression limits and personal ability and a minimum safety stop of 5 minutes at 5 metres performed after every dive.

Wreck diver

A wreck diver may explore the exterior of the Swan Wreck and can enter any part of the wreck including areas that do not allow them direct vertical access to the surface but must keep within the light zones of the wreck. The depth must be within their training and experience. Diving should be within the no decompression limits and a minimum safety stop of 5 minutes at 5 metres performed after every dive.



Wreck diver- Technical diving agencies, Cave or Penetration diver

A wreck diver trained by a technical agency, cave or penetration agency covering all aspects of wreck penetration may explore the exterior of the Swan Wreck and can enter any part of the wreck including areas that do not allow them direct vertical access to the surface except for the engine and boiler rooms that are sealed off to ALL divers. Divers must have the appropriate equipment in order to carry out their planned dive. It is recommended you do orientation dives prior to penetration. Penetration must be within their training and experience and a limit placed on decompression times.



CHARTER VESSELS

- 3 commercial moorings have been allocated by G.B.A.R.S, Orange Buoys.
- Mooring fees apply for all commercial operators, renewed each year.
- G.B.A.R.S reserves the right to contract out each of the 3 commercial moorings to full time dive operators.

Casual commercial moorings

- Casual commercial operators are allowed limited access to the Swan Wreck site.
- A application must be made to G.B.A.R.S for the use of a commercial mooring.

Mooring fees are as follows

Casual mooring fee per day.....\$300.00

Please be aware that the commercial moorings will not hold vessels over 15 tonne in calm conditions and only hold vessels of 7 tonne in adverse conditions.

It is recommended that you have dive guides with experience of diving the Swan Wreck, local dive guides can be arranged for you by contacting G.B.A.R.S or one of the local commercial operators.



CODE OF PRACTICE

GEOGRAPHE BAY
TOURISM ASSOCIATION
www.geographebay.com

Dunsborough Visitor Centre
Dunsborough Park Shopping Centre,
Seymour Boulevard,
DUNSBOROUGH WA 6281
Phone (08) 9755 3299

Busselton Visitor Centre
38 Peel Terrace,
BUSSELTON WA 6280
Phone (08) 9752 1288

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