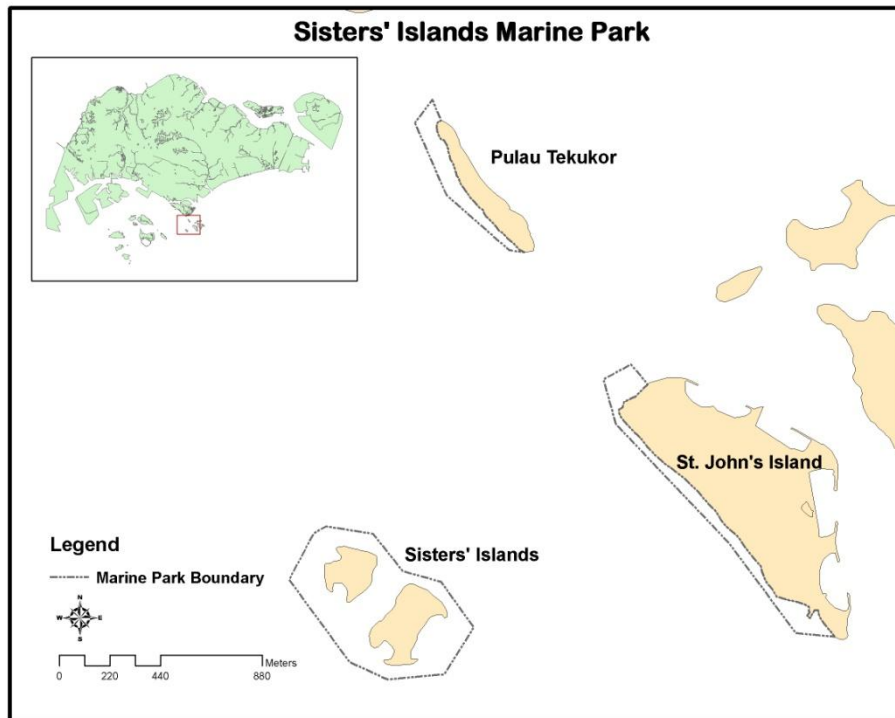


## MEDIA FACTSHEET

### Sisters' Islands Marine Park

#### Map of Sisters' Islands Marine Park



Singapore's first Marine Park, the Sisters' Islands Marine Park, will span about 40 hectares around Sisters' Islands and along the western reefs of St John's Island and Pulau Tekukor. The location was chosen due to the variety of habitats including coral reefs, sandy shores and seagrass meadows.

The new initiative aims to give Singaporeans a first-hand experience of our rich biodiversity which are submerged most of the time. The Sisters' Islands Marine Park will protect Singapore's coral reefs, which support an ecosystem inhabited by rare and endangered species of seahorses, clams, sponges and other marine life. More than 250 species of hard corals can be found in Singapore's waters out of over 500 species within the region. Being located in close proximity to one of the world's busiest ports, the Marine Park will provide a safe refuge for the teeming biodiversity around the Southern Islands and its surrounding waters, as well as safeguard our natural heritage.

#### **Biodiversity**

Singapore's waters are home to:

- More than 250 species of hard corals (32% of hard coral species found worldwide)
- More than 100 species of reef fish
- About 200 species of sponges
- 12 seagrass species

### Interesting species

1. Neptune's Cup Sponge (*Cliona patera*)
  - Large sponge with a prominent goblet shape cup sitting on a robust stem
  - Can reach up to a metre in height and width
  - Thought to be extinct for more than 100 years until it was rediscovered off Singapore's coast in 2011
  
2. Giant Clams (*Tridacna* spp.)
  - The largest living bivalve molluscs in the world
  - Individuals display a variety of colourful mantle
  - Three species are still found in Singapore
  
3. Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.)
  - Swims vertically upright
  - The male broods the young in their pouch
  - Require calm waters with many hiding places, such as seagrass meadows
  - Have bony plates just under their skin instead of scales
  
4. Dragonfish Sea Cucumber (*Stichopus horrens*)
  - Distracts predators by detaching part of its skin when stressed or attacked
  - Becomes completely limp when out of water for too long, and might completely disintegrate
  - Able to reverse this process if returned to water in time
  
5. Blacktip Reef Shark (*Carcharhinus melanopterus*)
  - Grows up to 1.8 m in length
  - Easily recognised by black-tipped fins
  - Feeds on a variety of marine creatures like fish, octopuses, squid and crabs.

### The Marine Park's multiple roles and functions

Roles	Key points
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outreach activities will bring marine life closer to the public to foster greater understanding and appreciation of the marine habitats and their biodiversity</li> <li>- The public can also sign up as volunteers to assist in marine biodiversity programmes such as               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ International Coastal Cleanup Singapore (ICCS) – gathers data on marine debris found on our beaches and mangrove areas</li> <li>○ Citizen science programmes that will be rolled out as part of the Marine Park's activities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Educational programmes will be available for interested participants to learn about marine biodiversity. These programmes include               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Remote monitoring programmes for schools</li> <li>○ Workshops, talks and seminars</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhancement activities will be carried out to improve existing marine habitats and enhance biodiversity</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Examples include nurseries for corals, giant clams, Neptune's cup sponge and other iconic marine organisms</li> <li>- Monitoring works conducted regularly</li> </ul>
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marine research will be centred around the Marine Park, focusing on various aspects of marine biology, ecology and restoration</li> </ul>

### Partners

NParks has been working with the following partners to design and run programmes at the Marine Park:

- WildSingapore
- Hantu Blog
- Leaf Monkey Workshop
- Mangrove Action Squad
- Naked Hermit Crabs
- Nature Society (Singapore) Marine Conservation Group
- Blue Water Volunteers (ReefFriends)
- TeamSeaGrass
- Tropical Marine Science Institute / National University of Singapore
- National Institute of Education / National Technological University

### Activities

Some of the activities which visitors can engage in are:

- Guided and self-guided walks
- Guided and self-guided dives
- Workshops, seminars, camps and citizen science programmes

Activities available are subject to tidal patterns.

### Getting there

Sisters' Islands Marine Park is accessible by boat transfers from the mainland. Boats will be chartered for participants of NParks' guided tours.

Opening hours: 7am to 7pm

To find out more about NParks' conservation initiatives, please visit [www.nparks.gov.sg/biodiversity](http://www.nparks.gov.sg/biodiversity)