

# Tubbataha Reefs Park Rules & Regulations

## Tubbataha Reefs Park Rules

THE FOLLOWING ACTS ARE **PROHIBITED** IN THE PARK



All forms of fishing



Touching of flora and fauna



Feeding marine life



Chasing marine life  
Or any acts that harass/stress



Collecting any flora or fauna  
Or their parts or derivatives



Introducing non-native species to the Park



Use of jet skis or other motorized sports equipment



Use of gloves while diving



Cruising around South & North Islets  
w/o clearance from marine park rangers



Landing a boat/ setting foot on North & South Islets



Swimming, snorkeling/ diving at North & South Islets & lagoons



Polluting or littering



Vandalism in any form



Anchoring



Flying of drones at North & South Islet



Use of pointer rods or tank bangers

BUT...



Report violations

## Diving Best Practices

- Always check that you are properly weighted and practice your buoyancy control in an area where you cannot damage anything.
- Observe distance. To prevent contact you should stay a safe distance from marine life – brushing against a coral could give you a painful scratch but may kill fragile coral polyps.
- Don't touch any marine life.
- Don't chase, grab or block the path of any free-swimming animal – imagine how you'd feel if a shark were to do that to you!
- Don't collect anything from within the park; Even dead corals and shells are home to other marine organisms.
- Take care not to disturb the sand – sediment and sand that land on living corals can smother and kill it.
- Do not leave your trash. Please pick up any litter that you find in or out of the water.
- Take care not to harm any marine creatures whilst you are looking for that perfect shot.

## Ban on Single Use Plastics

In accordance with [TPAMB Resolution No. 19-03](#) of the Philippines Republic Act No. 10067, single use plastics are prohibited in Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park.

Single use plastics refer to products commonly used for packaging which is intended to be used only once, then thrown away or recycled. This includes, but is not limited to, mineral / drinking water bottles, plastic cutlery, cups and plates, styrofoam cups, plates and food containers, food and clothing wrappers, carrier bags, etc.

The ban applies to all diving vessel operators and visitors, and checks are conducted by the TMO and park rangers to ensure compliance.

## Use of Drones

Drones may be used in most areas of Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, *as long as a permit has been obtained* in advance. Application for a drone permit must be submitted to the Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) two (2) weeks prior to visiting. The application form can be downloaded from the Tubbataha Reefs website here [Drone Permit Application](#) and should be submitted by email to [tmo@tubbatahareefs.org](mailto:tmo@tubbatahareefs.org)