

Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area 24638ha



Surrounded by water on three sides, Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area form a rugged peninsula with spectacular ocean views, sandy beaches and massive sand dunes.

Lincoln National Park overlooks Boston Bay, the largest natural harbour in Australia, with granite headlands, sheltered bays and scenic offshore islands. On the southern side of the park are the massive, wind-sculpted sand dunes of the Sleaford-Wanna dune system and the pounding surf of the Southern Ocean.

There is plenty to see and do in Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove – boating, fishing, beachcombing, swimming, bird watching and nature walks are all popular activities. Campgrounds in the park offer easy access to the beaches, bays and walking trails, with some accessible by 2WD vehicle. Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area protect the coastal vegetation of the lower Eyre Peninsula and provide a safe refuge for rare wildlife.

Thorny Passage Marine Park borders Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area. Find out more at marineparks.sa.gov.au.

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area

Memory Cove itself is a magnificent and secluded bay with a pure white sandy beach, cradled between densely vegetated headlands. Memory Cove provides a very special camping or day-visit wilderness experience.

Explorer Matthew Flinders named the area in honour of his crew who lost their lives while searching for water. When Flinders reached the area in 1802, fresh water supplies were so low that he sent eight of his crew off to search. They never returned.

Fees

Fees apply to enter and to camp in Lincoln National Park. Failure to display a valid permit on the designated vehicle may result in a fine. Purchase day and camping permits from the park self-registration station at the main park entrance. You will need the correct change. Annual and Holiday Park Passes can also be purchased from the Port Lincoln Visitor Information Centre. Check visitor and camping fees and buy park passes online at parks.sa.gov.au.

You must book to camp in Memory Cove, and a pass and key are required. Contact the Port Lincoln Visitor Information Centre on (+61 8) 8683 3544 or 1300 788 378.

Opening hours

Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The park may be closed on days of extreme fire danger.

Getting there

Lincoln National park is 13km south west of Port Lincoln. Access is via Proper Bay Rd. The park is on the south-eastern tip of the Eyre Peninsula and is an 8 hour, 680km drive from Adelaide.

The trip can be shortened by taking the ferry from Wallaroo to Cowell.

Memory Cove is accessed via Lincoln National Park.

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Things to see and do

Lincoln National Park protects many rare and beautiful plant species. Among the eucalypt and sheoak woodlands a wide variety of birds can be found, including the shy bush stone-curlew and the rare western whipbird.

Rangers recommend:

- Searching for stints, stilts and sandpipers; these birds travel from as far as Siberia and the Arctic Circle to summer here as part of their loop migration.
- Hiking up Stamford Hill for the spectacular views of Boston Bay, Port Lincoln and Lincoln National Park.
- Visiting the glorious Memory Cove to relax and explore, and to learn about the area's sad history.
- Exploring the Sleaford-Wanna dune system in your 4WD, stopping for a picnic lunch and to admire the vast expanses of sand and the turbulent sea.
- Waking in your campsite right next to the beach and wandering down for an early morning swim.

Fishing

There are excellent fishing spots all over Lincoln National Park. Try beach fishing for Australian salmon at Millers Hole or Salmon Hole along the Wanna-Sleaford Track (4WD only). Alternatively, cast your fishing line from any one of the sheltered bays and coves scattered throughout the park.

Take care when fishing, make sure you know the tides and do not fish from slippery rocks. Many cliffs are undercut and crumbling. Be careful when walking, fishing or driving near any coastal area. If you plan to go offshore, you can launch your boat from the beach at Taylor's Landing or from one of the boat ramps in Port Lincoln.

Please note; there are several marine parks with sanctuary zones (where fishing is not allowed from 1 October 2014) in the vicinity of Lincoln National Park. The Sleaford Bay Sanctuary Zone is in the Thorny Passage Marine Park, which runs along the southern coastline of Lincoln National Park. The zone lies between Wreck Beach and Wanna Lookout. Shore-based recreational fishing is allowed, but all other fishing is prohibited. Visit the marine parks website to find out more about local marine parks including where fishing is allowed at marineparks.sa.gov.au.

Wildlife

Lincoln National Park provides habitat to many wildlife species. There are more than 123 species of birds known to visit the area making it ideal for birdwatching. You can see the Australian sea lions and long-nosed fur seals that haul up on the coast to rest after lengthy fishing trips at sea, and the bottle-nose and common dolphins are frequently seen close to the shore.

From May to October, you may be lucky enough to see a southern right whale. These whales travel from sub-Antarctic waters to the warmer southern Australian waters where they spend time calving, mating or nursing their young before returning south in spring. Southern right whales are often spotted along Sleaford Bay. The most accessible whale spotting in the park is from the Wanna and Lone Pine lookouts.

4WD

The Sleaford-Wanna track offers some of the best sand dune driving experiences on the Eyre Peninsula. Follow the red marker posts and be rewarded with scenery of massive wind-sculpted sand dunes, pounding surf and rugged limestone cliffs along the Southern Ocean.

When four-wheel driving in Lincoln National Park, please observe all track and safety signs. Standard road rules apply when driving anywhere in the park, including the laws for speed limits, drink driving, vehicle registration and seat belts. Be careful if driving on the beach, remember tides are unpredictable and can turn quickly. Do not take your vehicle off the designated tracks. Precious indigenous sites can be damaged and wildlife threatened by off track driving.

Walking

Enjoy a leisurely walk along the park's white sandy beaches where you may be lucky enough to spot a sea-eagle or a dolphin. There is an extensive network of walking trails in Lincoln National Park that will take you through native scrub and woodland, over beaches, and along cliff tops.

The Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks maintain the walking trails and the trail information for this park. They produce an extensive brochure about the bushwalking opportunities in the park. The brochure can be downloaded from parks.sa.gov.au. It is also available for a small fee from the Port Lincoln Visitor Information Centre.

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Camping in Lincoln National Park

The campgrounds in Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area have easy access to beaches, bays and walking trails, making them an ideal base to explore the parks' natural features.

There are two developed campgrounds catering to large groups, caravans and 2WD travellers, and a number of smaller, more secluded campgrounds. In certain campgrounds you can have wood fires outside of the bushfire season. Bringing your own firewood is essential, it is illegal to collect firewood in the park.

Surfleet Cove – a sheltered campground overlooking the protected waters of Boston Bay with six sites for tents or camper trailers, 12 drive-through caravan/motorhome sites and one large group site.

September Beach – this is a great spot for fishing and beach games. Facilities include picnic shelters and wheelchair access to the beach.

Taylor's Landing – this campground is sheltered behind the coastal dunes. There is a boat ramp (4WD access only) and a large day visitor car park adjacent.

Fisherman's Point – perched on a raised rocky area overlooking sheltered bays either side, there are campsites suitable for trailers and small caravans. Small boats can be launched from the adjacent beach (4WD required).

Informal camping

There are also several places in the park where you can set up camp in secluded bushland near a stunning beach.

- Carcass Rock (2 sites)
- Donington Beach (2 sites)
- Horse Rock (4 sites, small boat access to Proper Bay)
- Engine Point (4 sites)
- MacLaren Point (3 sites)
- Richardson's Shack (4 sites)
- Spalding Cove (4 sites)
- Woodcutters Beach (2 sites)

Please note, these sites:

- don't have facilities (fees still apply to camp)
- are not formally marked out
- are not suitable for caravans, they are mainly 4WD accessible.

Camping in Memory Cove

Nestled among coastal mallee, and overlooking a white sandy beach and tranquil blue bay, Memory Cove is a perfect place for swimming, snorkelling, fishing and relaxing.

You must book to stay in one of the five campsites and there is a three night maximum. A pass and key are required to access the Memory Cove area.

To protect the wilderness qualities of this very special area, visitor numbers are restricted to 15 vehicles a day (4WD recommended).

Contact the Port Lincoln Visitor Information Centre on (+61 8) 8683 3544.

Facilities at a glance

	Surfleet Cove	September Beach	Taylor's Landing	Fisherman's Point	Memory Cove
Number of camp sites	19	13	3	8	5
Suitable for caravans	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Bookings required	N	N	N	N	Y
Access	2WD	2WD	2WD	2WD	4WD
Toilets	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Water (non-potable)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bring own drinking water	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wood fires	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Bring own firewood	-	Y	Y	Y	-
Generator (9am- 9pm)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Remove own rubbish	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Pets allowed	N	N	N	N	N

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Accommodation

Overlooking the waters of Spalding Cove is the delightful, rustic Donington Cottage. This fully restored house is a seaside escape where you can relax under the verandah and enjoy the sea views. The cottage is self-contained and can sleep up to six people. It has two bedrooms, a lounge room, kitchen, and a bathroom with a hot shower and flush toilet. Electric barbecue facilities are also available.

For bookings and further information contact the Port Lincoln Visitor Information Centre on (+61 8) 8683 3544 or 1300 788 378.

Know before you go

Every national park is different. Each has its own challenging environment and it is important to understand how to stay safe, while enjoying all the park has to offer. Please:

- do not bring pets into the park (registered guide dogs excepted). It is illegal and fines will be issued for violations
- leave the park as you found it and take your rubbish with you
- camp only in designated areas
- walk and drive only on designated tracks or trails
- respect heritage sites
- do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants
- be considerate of other park users.

Traditional owners

The Barngarla and Naou people used the rich food resources of the lower Eyre Peninsula coast long before the arrival of Matthew Flinders. They made use of a wide variety of fish, inland mammals, reptiles and plants. Fish traps made from stone arrangements, stone working sites and middens are still present in the park.

When to visit

Summer in Lincoln National Park is perfect, the weather is warm to hot and usually dry. It's great for camping and ideal for beach lovers. If you visit during late winter and spring – the best time for walking – you're likely to see the park teeming with native flora and birdlife.

Mobile phone coverage

Mobile phone coverage can be patchy and unreliable in national parks, especially if you are in a low-lying area (such as a gorge or a gully). To get a signal, you may have to drive to one of the higher areas in the park. There is no phone coverage at all in Memory Cove.

Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks

The Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks is a community-based group of volunteers who work to protect and develop the natural and cultural heritage in the park. Find out more about volunteering in parks at parks.sa.gov.au.

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Park maps on your mobile

Download free maps of this park for your mobile device from [Avenza PDF Maps](#) while you have mobile phone coverage. Used within the app, the maps allow you to calculate distances and locate yourself within the park (GPS coverage required).

Fire safety

Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area may be closed on days of extreme fire danger. Listen to your local radio station for broadcasts, or call the CFS Hotline on 1300 362 361.

- All wood fires and solid fuel fires are prohibited during the fire ban season from mid-November to mid-April.
- Fires are prohibited at all times in Memory Cove and between Surfleet Point and Spalding Cove including Surfleet Cove campground.
- On days of total fire ban all solid, liquid and gas appliances are prohibited.
- During the fire ban season wood fires and solid fuel fires are *only* permitted on beaches between the high water mark and low water mark, other than on days of total fire ban. An adult must be in attendance and the fire must be extinguished before departure.
- Small cooking fires are permitted in cooler months (from mid-April to mid-November) in designated campsites.
- The use of generators is prohibited on days of total fire ban.
- BYO firewood, it is illegal to gather firewood in the park.

Bushwalking safety

- Keep to defined vehicle tracks and walking trails at all times – don't try to take short cuts or wander off the trails.
- Pay attention to the weather– be extra careful in extreme weather conditions.
- Wear sturdy shoes, a hat and sunscreen. Make sure you have appropriate wet weather clothing.
- Carry enough food and drinking water to be self-sufficient. The hotter the conditions, the more water you will need.
- Choose a trail appropriate to your level of fitness and always leave yourself plenty of time.
- Do not rely on tanks or creeks in the park for drinking water.
- Carry a map of the park and the walks at all times.
- For longer hikes and treks – fill out a Trip Intentions Form with your route and expected time of return. They are available from parks.sa.gov.au.
- Before leaving, you will need to submit the Trip Intentions Form to park management (call (+61 8) 8688 3111 to discuss).
- You should also give a copy of your Trip Intentions Form to an emergency contact person who will know if you don't return at the designated time. Rangers are not available at all times to know when walkers return.

4WD safety

- Check tide times before driving on beaches. Avoid driving on beaches at high tide.
- Expect varying road conditions along beaches, with sandy, boggy and rocky patches.
- Take extreme care when driving in the park – be aware of blind corners, crests and narrow two-way tracks.
- Getting bogged in sand is common. Know what to do and always carry a long-handled shovel.
- When driving on sand, deflate your tyres to 105kPa (15psi) – or as appropriate for your vehicle. Don't forget to reinflate your tyres to the manufacturer's recommended pressure before leaving the park. Take care when lowering tyre pressure as there is risk you could roll the tyre off its rim. Also, remember that lower tyre pressure can mean a change in how the vehicle handles.

Unstable cliffs

Many cliffs are undercut and crumbling. Please take extreme care when walking, fishing or driving near any coastal area.

Bees

Be aware, there are feral bees in the park that are attracted to water sources in summer.

Contact

Emergency: 000

Lincoln National Park
Phone: (+61 8) 8688 3111

Port Lincoln Visitor Information Centre
Phone: (+61 8) (08) 8683 3544

General park enquiries: (+61 8) 8204 1910
DEWNR.CustomerServiceCentre@sa.gov.au
parks.sa.gov.au | facebook.com/parkssa

No internet?
No worries.



Our maps are geo-enabled meaning you will always have your location dot no matter where you are*

*when used in conjunction with the FREE Avenza app and smart phone