

Safety information – hills and bush

South Australia's scrublands are brimming with biodiversity. Whether you hike, bird watch or simply soak in the magic sounds of the bush, follow these tips to make your experience a safe and happy one:

Note park closures

From time to time we need to close sections of our parks for track repairs, prescribed burns and other maintenance. Check out the [park closures listings](#) for the latest information. It's also a good idea to plan your activities to finish before sunset. Always check closing times to make sure you don't get locked in.

Stay on the right side of barriers

We've put barriers around waterfalls, mine shafts and other cool stuff in our parks to keep you safe. When viewing these marvels make sure you enjoy them from behind the barriers.

Choose your adventure

Choose a walk, hike or other activity that suits your ability and fitness level. Our trails are marked using Australian Standards. If you plan to get adventurous or take on a longer hike let someone know before you go.

Stop the spread of root rot fungus

There's a nasty root rot fungus called phytophthora that is killing our native plants. You can help stop the spread of this soil and water borne mould by cleaning your footwear before you leave an area to prevent the transfer of infested soil. [Find out more about phytophthora and how you can help.](#)

Wear the right gear

Choose footwear with decent grip and comfortable clothes for your parks adventure. Be sun smart by wearing sunscreen and a hat.

Stay hydrated

Keep stocked up on your body's natural fuel by drinking plenty of water. Aim for 1 litre of water per hour of exercise. Make sure you carry enough drinking water as not all of our parks have this resource. We cannot guarantee the quality and availability of drinking water in our reserves.

Keep to tracks and trails

Protect the bush and keep yourself safe by sticking to designated walking trails and vehicle tracks. Surfaces can be slippery, particularly after rains. In steep terrain or dense vegetation it is easy to become disorientated. For longer hikes, let someone know before you go and complete a [trip intentions form](#).

Take care at creek crossings

Some advanced hikes include creek crossings. Only attempt these if you are an experienced trekker with appropriate footwear.

Vehicle safety

Take care on windy roads and observe speed limits. Always lock your vehicle as car parks can be a target for thieves – don't tempt them by displaying valuables.

Keep wildlife wild

The wildlife in our parks is pretty incredible. Enjoy observing native animals but don't try to interact with them or feed them as this can affect their natural behaviour. If 'humanised', animals may not be able to survive in the wild. They may also become aggressive towards parks visitors for food.

Human food does not provide the nutrients our wildlife needs to be strong and healthy. If feeling threatened wild animals will defend themselves and their young. Koalas, possums, snakes, goannas,



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kangaroos and seals all inflict nasty bites and scratches, so observe them from a safe distance and enjoy their natural behaviours.

A note on snakes and other creepy crawlies

Contrary to what you might hear elsewhere, snakes are actually pretty shy, timid animals. They prefer to move through long grass rather than open spaces where they're exposed to predators. Snakes bite in self defence, not out of aggression, so if you leave them alone and stick to marked tracks you're unlikely to be bitten.

Snake bites are serious and require medical assistance. Refer to the [St John's fact sheet on snake bite](#).

Similarly, spiders are unlikely to launch an attack on a predator bigger than themselves but will bite if threatened. Refer to the [St John's fact sheet on spider bite](#).

