

Belair National Park 835ha



Whole generations of Adelaide families have visited – and continue to visit – Belair National Park to walk, ride bikes or horses, have picnics or barbecues, and use the sporting facilities.

Set in beautiful natural bushland, Belair National Park is just 25 minutes from the Adelaide city centre. It is the ideal place to enjoy the great outdoors and get active, with tennis courts and cricket pitches, woodlands and lakes to explore, and walking trails to suit all levels of fitness.

Belair National Park is South Australia's oldest national park, and is home to Old Government House – a significant heritage building. Also in the park is State Flora, it is the oldest plant nursery in South Australia and still going strong today. The park remains one of the few relatively undisturbed areas of native vegetation in the Adelaide Hills region, making it an important refuge for native plants and animals.

Opening hours

Belair National Park is open from 8am-9pm in summer and 8am-7pm in winter. The Information Office is open from 8.30am-4.30pm Monday to Friday, and 9am-4.30pm on weekends and public holidays. Old Government House buildings are open from 1pm-4pm on Sunday and public holidays only. Belair National Park is closed on Christmas Day.

The State Flora Nursery in Belair National Park is open from 9am-5pm on weekdays and 10am-5pm on weekends and public holidays. The nursery is closed Good Friday, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Getting there

The park is located 13km south east of Adelaide. Access is via Upper Sturt Road, Belair. There is public transport to Belair from the Adelaide CBD. Visit adelaidemetro.com.au for information on bus and train services.

Fees

Fees apply to enter Belair National Park in a vehicle. Failure to display a valid permit on the designated vehicle may result in a fine. You can buy day permits and parks passes at the Information Office. Check visitor fees and buy park passes online at parks.sa.gov.au.

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).

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When to visit

In the warmer months, the park is a perfect spot for family picnics, barbecues and riding, with spring being the perfect time to visit if you love wildflowers. Winter is the best time to attempt the more challenging hikes and is also a good time of year for fungi. For sporting activities, Belair National Park is great at any time of year.

Traditional owners

The Kurna Aboriginal people were the original inhabitants of the area. The Kurna people referred to the area now known as Belair as *Piradli*, which means 'baldness'. This was in reference to the area's appearance when looking south from the Adelaide Plains – 'bald like the moon'.

Rangers recommend:

- Exploring Old Government House on a guided tour.
- Visiting the Upper Waterfall and surrounding eucalyptus woodland vegetation.
- Finding Amphitheatre Rock, a large rocky overhang located near the south-eastern corner of the park.
- Enjoying the magnificent views of the park and surrounding hills as you walk along Jubilee Drive.
- Riding your horse along the Tom Roberts Trail.
- Playing tennis on one of the 39 courts among the gum trees (available for hire).
- Bushwalking on the marked trails throughout the park.
- Letting the kids loose in the playground (equipment includes tunnels and a wooden fort).
- Hiring a sports oval in the western section of the park and gathering everyone you know for a giant game of cricket. The ovals are close to shelters, barbecues and toilets.
- Walking your dog (remember dogs must be on a lead at all times).
- Riding your bike on the roads, cycling trails and tracks.

Facilities

Almost all of the facilities in the park are available for hire. These include tennis courts, ovals, and pavilions. They are popular for school sporting events, excursions, weddings and corporate events. The gas barbecues and formal picnic areas around the park can also be hired.

Find out more about the facilities and hire fees online at parks.sa.gov.au.

To organise a booking, call the Information Office on (+61 8) 8278 8279 between 9.30am and 4.30pm weekdays.

You can find many informal picnic areas tucked away off the sides of roads and nestled in surrounding bushland. There is no fee to use these.

There are also free barbecues and picnic tables next to the Adventure Playground, at Playford Lake alongside the very popular Wood Duck Walk and between Willows and the Karka Pavillion.

The Volunteer Centre

The Volunteer Centre in Belair National Park is also available for hire through the Friends of Belair. To find out more contact the Information Office on (+61 8) 8278 8279.

Facilities at a glance

	Shelter	Barbecue	Toilet
Ovals			
Main (full oval)			Y
Gums 1 (half oval)	Y	Y	Y
Gums 2 (half oval)	Y	Y	Y
Gums (full oval)	Y	Y	Y
Pavillions			
Karka Pavillion	Y		Y
Main Pavillion	Y		Y
Open space picnic areas			
Willows Picnic Ground	Y		Y
Long Gully Picnic Ground			
Karka Picnic Ground			
Gold Escort Picnic Ground	Y	Y	
Pines Area 1	Y	Y	Y
Pines Area 2	Y	Y	
Joseph Fisher Picnic Area	Y	Y	Y
Government Farm Area 1	Y	Y	Y
Government Farm Area 2	Y	Y	Y
Walnut Paddock	Y	Y	

There are 39 tennis courts in the park, please refer to the map for locations. All are available for hire.

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Things to see and do

The summer residence of South Australia's early governors, Old Government House, sits in the heart of Belair National Park. The house is an excellent example of Victorian architecture and is set amongst magnificent gardens.

State Flora, one of South Australia's original plant nurseries, is also in the park. State Flora specialises in native Australian plants – they grow and sell thousands every year. State Flora has a gift shop with a range of gardening aids, gifts and books.

You may be surprised by the variety of orchids and other wildflowers that bloom in Belair National Park, or by the lively and colourful displays of our native birdlife. You might even catch a glimpse of the shy southern brown bandicoot scratching about in the undergrowth. These marsupials are a special feature of Belair's wildlife.

Walking

<p>Walk (easy)</p> <p><i>A walk is accessible to people of all ages and fitness levels. These are well defined trails, generally less than 3km in length, with even surfaces.</i></p>	<p>Wood Duck Walk</p> <p>This pleasant walk around Playford Lake is popular with young children, people with limited mobility and those who want to experience the park's wildlife.</p> <p>The trail starts at Playford Lake.</p>	15 minutes	1km loop
	<p>Lorikeet Loop Walk</p> <p>Wind your way past Old Government House and the State Flora Nursery, then stop for a rest at the playground – an ideal spot for family groups. Majestic old red and blue gums are the perfect habitat for lorikeets, rosellas and koalas. The wide gravelled surface is suitable for most abilities, and for strollers.</p> <p>The trail starts at the Information Office.</p>	1 hour 45 minutes	3km loop
	<p>The Valley Loop</p> <p>Follows the forested banks and lower slopes of Minnow Creek between the adventure playground and Long Gully. Please supervise children near the dam wall which can be slippery, and when crossing the sometimes busy road at Long Gully.</p> <p>The trail starts at the playground.</p>	1 hour	3km loop
<p>Hike (moderate)</p> <p><i>A moderate hike is suitable for bushwalkers with an average level of fitness. These trails can be any length and may include moderate inclines and irregular surfaces.</i></p>	<p>Microcarpa Hike</p> <p>Walk through one of the most diverse and best-preserved woodland areas remaining in the Mount Lofty Ranges. Just off the trail on Sir Edwin Avenue you'll find historic sugar gum plantings, the Hawthorn Maze and Belair Railway Station. An off-road stroller would be suitable in dry conditions. Some sections of the trail can become waterlogged, slippery or muddy during winter or wet weather.</p> <p>The trail starts at the park Information Office.</p>	1 hour 45 minutes	4km return
	<p>Waterfall Hike</p> <p>The most challenging trail in the park takes you through Echo Tunnel and to the picturesque rock escarpments of the Upper and Lower Waterfalls. Take care at both waterfalls, the escarpment lookouts are not fenced and can be slippery near the cliff edge. Children must be supervised at all times. The trail has some moderate slopes and can become slippery after rain. It is not suitable for prams or strollers.</p> <p>The trail starts at the Pines area.</p>	3 hours	6.5km return

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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:

- keep your dog on a leash
- do not feed birds or other animals, it promotes aggressive behaviour and an unbalanced ecology
- no camping
- do not bring generators, chainsaws or firearms into the park
- leave the park as you found it and take your rubbish with you
- abide by the road rules (maintain the speed limit)
- respect geological and heritage sites
- keep to defined vehicle tracks
- do not cross the railway line
- do not approach, walk along, or go into the railway tunnel
- do not remove native plants
- be considerate of other park users.



Fire safety

This park may be closed on days of extreme fire danger. Listen to your local radio station for broadcasts, check the CFS website www.cfs.sa.gov.au or call the CFS Hotline on 1300 362 361.

- Wood fires and coal fires are prohibited throughout the year.
- Gas fires are permitted in designated areas only (other than on days of total fire ban).
- Gas barbecues are available in shelters throughout the park, or you may bring your own gas barbecue.
- On some total fire ban days the park may remain open, but the use of barbecues may be restricted. Please contact the Information Office on (+61 8) 8278 8279 on the day.

Bushwalking safety

- Keep to defined walking trails and follow the trail markers.
- Wear sturdy shoes, a hat and sunscreen.
- Carry sufficient drinking water.

Mobile phone coverage

Mobile phone coverage is good in most areas of the park.

Phytophthora (Root-rot fungus)

Phytophthora (fy-TOFF-thora), otherwise known as root-rot fungus, is killing our native plants and threatens the survival of animals depending on plants for food and shelter.

This introduced fungus can be found in plant roots, soil and water. Please help stop the spread by staying on tracks and trails and by complying with all *Phytophthora* management signs.

The Friends of Belair National Park

The Friends of Belair National Park are a group of volunteers who help to maintain the natural habitat in the park, and manage bookings of the Volunteer Centre.

Find them at communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark and learn more about volunteering in parks at parks.sa.gov.au.

Friends of Old Government House

The Friends of Old Government House help to maintain the heritage assets and conduct tours at Old Government House. Find them at <http://www.communitywebs.org/FriendsOldGovernmentHouse/>

Contact

Emergency: 000

Emergency Duty Officer (24 hour service)
0427 556 676

Belair National Park
(+61 8) 8278 5477

Information Office
(+61 8) 8278 8279

Email: belairnationalpark@sa.gov.au

General park enquiries:
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