Adventurers in race around Flinders Ranges

An internationally-renowned adventure race will work its way through South Australia’s iconic national parks and marine parks this month.

Competitors from around the globe are now in the Flinders Ranges for the 2013 XPD Adventure Race.

They’ll trek, mountain bike, kayak and complete roping sections across a spectacular 700-kilometre course until Saturday, 14 September.

Thirty teams are now venturing through the 10-day course, as part of the Adventure Racing World Series, an international circuit of 10 high-profile races.

National parks featured in the race include Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges, Flinders Ranges, Mount Remarkable as well as the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park.

Pushing themselves to the ultimate limits of human endurance, competitors will race day and night to navigate through a series of checkpoints in a course inspired by the local terrain.

Race information, including live tracking from satellite tracking devices worn by competitors, is available at www.xpd.com.au.

Natural Resources South Australian Arid Lands Acting Regional Manager Vicki Linton said 2013 marks the first time the XPD Adventure Race has been held in South Australia.

“We welcome participants, organisers and spectators to our parks – the Flinders Ranges includes iconic landmarks such as Wilpena Pound and Mt Remarkable, enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year,” she said.

“We wish competitors all the best and encourage them to catch their breath while enjoying the region’s ruggedly beautiful scenery. It’s fantastic to again see visitors from around the world enjoying the many experiences our beautiful and unique parks have to offer.”

XPD Race Director Craig Bycroft said the race includes cycling legs along the famed Mawson Trail through Flinders Ranges National Park, a trek through Mount Remarkable National Park and a challenging kayaking finish at Upper Spencer Gulf.

“I’m sure the 2013 XPD Adventure Race will be a huge success and look forward to exploring the state of South Australia.”