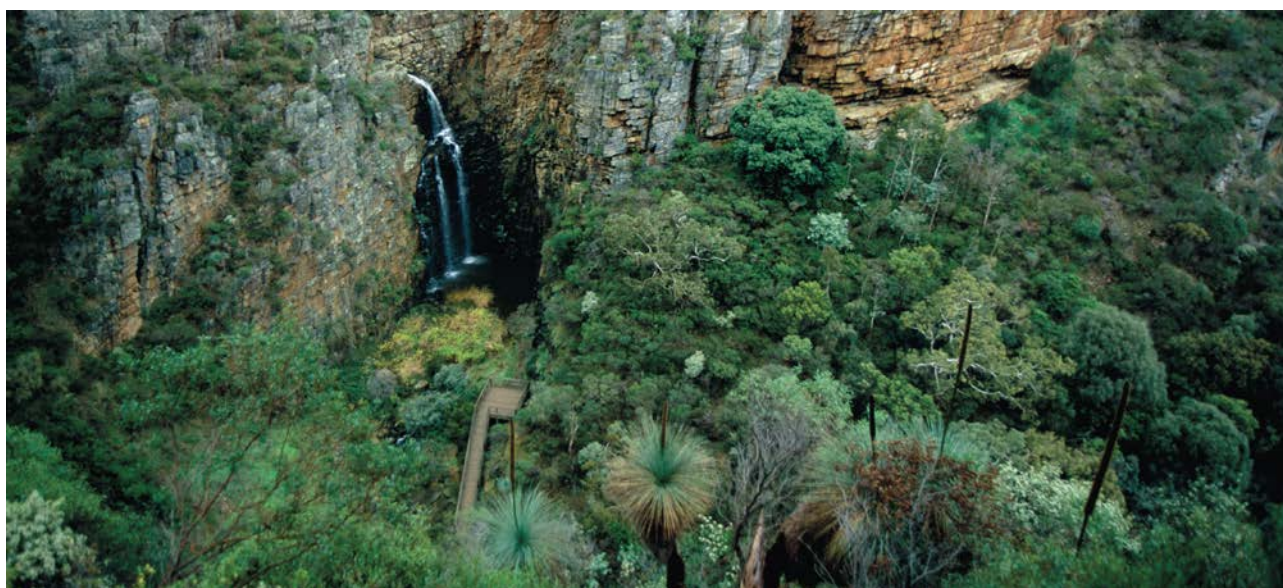


Morialta & Black Hill Conservation Parks

Morialta – 533 ha



Black Hill – 684 ha



For almost 100 years the gorges, waterfalls and woodlands of Morialta and Black Hill have provided a recreational escape just 10km from the city of Adelaide.

Morialta is a well-loved family spot for picnicking, bird watching and bushwalking. The three seasonal waterfalls along Fourth Creek are the most popular features of the park and are linked by an extensive network of walking trails. The first two falls are the grandest, each cascading over sheer quartzite cliffs after rain. Morialta is also popular for rock climbing and abseiling (within the designated area).

For wildlife lovers, Morialta's rock pools and creeks provide habitat for small reptiles and frogs. Kangaroos, koalas and even echidnas can be spotted along with a range of bird life.

In Morialta you can walk your dog on a lead within the recreation zone – along the sealed entrance road to the First Falls car park and within the grassy picnic area off Stradbroke Road. Remember, dogs and wildlife don't mix; do not walk your dog any further into the park.

Opening hours

Morialta and Black Hill Conservation Parks are open to vehicle traffic from 8.30am. The gates at Morialta close at 15 minutes before sunset. The gates at Black Hill close at 4.30pm. Walkers can access the parks from sunrise to sunset. Gates are closed on Christmas Day.

Getting there

Morialta's main entrance is via Morialta Road, just off Stradbroke Road, but other areas of the park can be accessed via Norton Summit Road and Montacute Road. There is car parking at the Morialta Road entrance and near the start of the First Falls trail.

Black Hill can be accessed via Maryvale, Gorge and Montacute roads, as well as Addison Avenue.

Public transport to Morialta and Black Hill is available. Visit adelaidemetro.com.au for information on bus services.

Traditional owners

The area was originally part of the traditional lands of the Kurna ('Gar-na) people. They used the land for hunting and gathering and obtaining wood for fire and shelter during their seasonal relocation from the coast. One of the group's most important tools was fire to aid hunting and encourage regrowth. Morialta gets its name from the Kurna word 'moriatta', meaning 'ever-flowing'.

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).

Contact

Emergency: 000
After Hours Duty Officer:
0427 556 676

Morialta and Black Hill
Conservation Parks
(+61 8) 8278 5477

General park enquiries:
(+61 8) 8204 1910

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Things to see and do

You'll see spectacular scenery and a variety of native plants and animals along the network of walking trails in the parks. In spring there's a stunning display of native flowers including many delicate and colourful orchid species. While you're bushwalking in the parks, you'll be rewarded with magnificent views of the Adelaide Plains and Gulf St Vincent.

Rangers recommend:

- Visiting Morialta during spring or winter when the waterfalls are at their best.
- Watching out for honeyeaters and thornbills among the woodlands that cover the hills.
- Following the popular interpretive trail to the First Falls in Morialta, try counting koalas on the way.
- Enjoying a picnic lunch and hunting for tadpoles with the kids in the creeks and rock pools.

Walking

Walks in the parks range from easy walks to more challenging hikes. Four very popular signposted trails start from the Morialta First Falls car park. These will take you to the waterfalls through spectacular scenery.

<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>Morialta Falls Valley Walk</p> <p>Follow Fourth Creek to the heart of Morialta Gorge along a stroller accessible trail. After autumn and winter rains, water tumbles 30 metres from the top of Morialta's best-known landmark, Morialta Falls.</p>	45 min return	1.6km return
<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>Morialta Falls Plateau Hike</p> <p>Rising above the valley floor, this trail takes you to the top of First Falls, overlooking Morialta Gorge. The trail ascends about 60 steep steps to Giants Cave. Take care descending the steep trail below Eagles Nest Lookout.</p>	1.5 hour loop	2.5km loop
	<p>Second Falls Gorge Hike</p> <p>This trail skirts the rim of the escarpment and offers outstanding views of the gorge from First Falls and Second Falls lookouts. If you prefer an easier gradient, hike in an anti-clockwise direction.</p>	2.5 hour loop	5.3km loop
	<p>Three Falls Grand Hike</p> <p>Visit all three of the waterfalls. Admire dramatic cliffs, gorges and scenic vistas over Morialta, Adelaide Plains and the River Torrens. Experienced hikers can continue beyond the gorges to Norton Summit Road and the stringybark woodlands.</p>	3.5 hour loop	7.3km loop

Other trails

There is a network of fire vehicle access tracks and walking trails in both parks. These trails are generally not signposted and are not maintained to the same standard as the Morialta trail network. Take care on these trails and when descending steep slopes as the trail surface is often loose. The network of trails in the parks includes fire tracks and the Heysen and Yurrebilla Trails. Download a map, pack your lunch and enjoy a longer walk along parts of these trails. Observe your bushwalking safety and take care on steep trails

Rock climbing and abseiling

Morialta is Adelaide's most popular spot for rock climbing and abseiling. The climbs are easy to access and the range of difficulty varies, so there's something for all levels of experience. The area is well shaded with scenic views of the gorge area and down the Fourth Creek gully towards Adelaide.

Access is via Norton Summit Road, between Second and Third Falls. Car parking is limited. The area is just a short walk from the gate – please take care as you walk in. The climbing area has bare tracks, good solid rock faces, and many secure holdfasts on the Far Crag and Boulder Bridge climbing zones. Your safety is important – please obey all signs describing conditions of use for these areas. In case of emergency, call triple zero (000).

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

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Birdwatching

There are many native bird species to be seen in Morialta and Black Hill including thornbills, wattlebirds, treecreepers, finches, lorikeets and several birds of prey. The Chestnut-rumped Heathwren is a threatened species that can be found in both parks. Be sure to bring binoculars and a bird identification field guide when walking, you will be amazed by how many different species you can discover.

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:

- respect geological and heritage sites
- do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants
- do not bring generators, chainsaws and firearms into the park
- leave the park as you found it and take your rubbish with you
- park in designated car parking spaces only
- be considerate of other park users.

Fire safety

Morialta and Black Hill Conservation Parks 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.

- Wood fires and solid fuel fires are prohibited throughout the year.
- Gas fires are permitted in designated areas only, other than on days of total fire ban.

Bushwalking and rockclimbing safety

- After rain, creek levels rise quickly and some creek crossings may become slippery and dangerous. Do not cross deep, fast-flowing creeks.
- Choose a trail or climb appropriate to your level of fitness and always leave yourself plenty of time.
- Keep to defined vehicle tracks, walking trails and climbing areas 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.
- 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 from parks.sa.gov.au with your route and expected time of return. Give it to someone who will know if you don't return.

Mobile phone coverage

Mobile phone coverage can be patchy and unreliable in 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 walk to one of the higher areas in 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.

Friends of Black Hill and Morialta

The Friends of Black Hill and Morialta is a community-based group of volunteers who work to protect and develop the natural and cultural heritage in the park. Find them at www.fobhm.org and learn more about volunteering in parks at parks.sa.gov.au.



Dogs in the park

In Morialta, dogs are permitted along the sealed entrance road to the First Falls car park and within the grassy picnic area off Stradbroke Road.

Dogs are not permitted elsewhere in either park.