Feel the sand between your toes, conquer popular surf breaks, bushwalk amid wild gorges and watch frolicking whales from dramatic cliff top views in Adelaide’s playground.
Encounter
Bay Murray
Mouth
Lake
Alexandrina
Aldinga
Bay
Yankalilla
Bay
Holdfast
Bay
Largs Bay
Goolwa
Gumeracha
Rapid Bay
Currency Creek
Port Elliot
Second Valley
Inman Valley
Inglewood
Milang
Nairne
Birnwood
Victor Harbor
Mount Compass
Mount Barker
Strathalbyn
Carrickalinga
Meadows
Normanville
Yankalilla
Willunga
Hahndorf
Hindmarsh Valley
Mount Lofty
ADELAIDE
To Mannum
To Murray Bridge
McLaren Vale
Aldinga
Scrub CP
Talisker CP
Newland Head CP
Surf fish for salmon and mulloway along Newland Head Conservation Park’s golden beaches.

Onkaparinga River NP and RP
Follow South Australia’s second longest river to the ocean on foot or by canoe.

Cox Scrub CP
Spot honeyeaters, pygmy possums and southern brown bandicoots.

Heysen Trail
Wander a section of the world famous Heysen Trail.

Deep Creek CP
Discover one of South Australia’s most popular national parks for campers.

Granite Island RP
Hitch a ride on the horse-drawn tram to Granite Island Recreation Park.

Talisker CP
Heysen Trail
Wander a section of the world famous Heysen Trail.

Newland Head CP
Surf fish for salmon and mulloway along Newland Head Conservation Park’s golden beaches.
Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park 266ha

Lacy coral lichen, nardoo, hairy sedge and several species of orchids are among the park’s rare species of flora. Look out for brush-tailed possums, short-beaked echidnas, bats and geckos.

Visit in spring to enjoy a stunning range of wildflowers as the park bursts into colour.

Opening hours
Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Location
46km south of Adelaide.

Getting there
Access via Dover St off Aldinga Beach Rd.

Contact
(+61 8) 8278 5477

Cox Scrub Conservation Park 544ha

A multitude of walking trails make Cox Scrub a haven for bushwalkers and birdwatchers searching for the park’s honeyeaters, yellow-tailed black-cockatoos, little pygmy possums and southern brown bandicoots.

Springtime brings glorious native wildflowers. Bring a packed lunch and stop for a picnic under the shade at Coles Crossing on the Finniss River, or bring a tent and extend your visit at one of Coles Crossing’s designated camp sites.

Opening hours
Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Location
70km south of Adelaide.

Getting there
Access via Goolwa Rd and South Eastern Freeway.

Contact
(+61 8) 8278 5477

Deep Creek Conservation Park 449ha

Deep Creek is one of South Australia’s most popular national parks for campers and with good reason. Home to an array of native wildlife, the park is the largest remaining block of wildlife habitat on the Fleurieu Peninsula. Look out for western grey kangaroos, short-beaked echidnas or some of the 100 bird species that can be spotted or heard when walking in the park.

Extensive walking trails, including a section of the world famous Heysen Trail, provide spectacular scenery of the Backstairs Passage, Kangaroo Island and the rugged Deep Creek valley.

After a long day exploring, extend your stay at one of the park’s five campgrounds, or relax in a private cottages or retreat accommodation.

The nearby Talisker Conservation Park offers another option for visitors and contains the heritage-listed ruins of a silver and lead mine from the 1860s.

Opening hours
Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Location
46km south of Adelaide.

Getting there
Access via Dover St off Aldinga Beach Rd.

Contact
(+61 8) 8278 5477
Granite Island Recreation Park 26ha

Crossing the long wooden causeway from Victor Harbor to Granite Island is a rite of passage for South Australians and a great experience for any visitor to the state. More than 700,000 people visit each year, making it the most visited park in South Australia.

The island is characterised by huge granite boulders tinged with orange lichen, with the sound of waves crashing against rocky shores a stirring soundtrack to your visit. Spot one of the island’s precious penguins, follow the Kaiki Walk to learn more about the area’s history or drop a fishing line from the causeway. The island’s café and the many attractions of Victor Harbor are both within easy walking distance, while dolphins and southern right whales provide a major attraction between June and October.

Granite Island Recreation Park (photo credit: Marek Lambert).

A visit to the island’s Penguin Interpretive Centre, where sick and injured penguins are cared for, is a special treat for the kids. The waters surrounding Granite Island are within Encounter Marine Park, home to some of Australia’s best-preserved ocean wilderness and rare marine species found only in South Australian waters.

Opening hours
Open daily from sunrise to sunset.
Penguin tour times vary from 6pm in winter to 9pm in summer.
The Penguin Interpretation Centre opens Thursday to Friday, 2pm to 3.30pm, with penguin feeding session at 2.30pm, and Saturday, Sunday and public holidays from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, with penguin feeding sessions at 1pm and 3pm.

Location
100km south of Adelaide.

Getting there
Via a wooden causeway from Victor Harbor.

Contact
(+61 8) 8552 3677
Newland Head Conservation Park 1035ha

With long beaches, rolling hills and rugged cliffs providing panoramic views of Waitpinga Creek, Encounter Bay, the Backstairs Passage and Kangaroo Island, Newland Head Conservation Park is a photographer’s dream.

The park protects two long beaches, Waitpinga and Parsons, both popular with fishers and surfers. There is also the opportunity to extend your stay by camping at Waitpinga Campground where you can fall asleep to the distant sound of waves rolling onto the beach.

Please note that due to strong rips and hidden gutters, the park’s beaches are not suitable for swimming.

Opening hours
Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Location
91km south of Adelaide.

Getting there
Access via Waitpinga Road, Victor Harbor.

Contact
(+61 8) 8552 3677

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Onkaparinga River National Park and Recreation Park 1846ha

Follow South Australia’s second longest river all the way to the ocean across a range of environments protecting diverse animal and plant life at Onkaparinga River National Park.

Appreciate the park’s tranquil natural surrounds on foot, or canoe unique wetland areas with abundant wildlife to reach 50m high cliffs and large permanent rock pools at the magnificent Onkaparinga Gorge.

The park incorporates the Onkaparinga River Recreation Park and includes an estuary and wetlands. Fish the estuary waters for numerous fish species or spot a diverse selection of birdlife along an array of walking trails ranging from easy walks to challenging hikes.

The Echidna Trail is home to heritage-listed huts and ruins of houses built in the 1880s. Get a bird’s eye view of the park by scaling solid cliff rock faces in designated rock climbing areas (for experienced rock climbers only). The climbing zone is subject to closures for maintenance, so please check in advance if you plan on rock climbing.

Cyclists and dog walkers are welcome within the recreational zone of this park, between South Rd and Commercial Rd. Please keep dogs on leads at all times.

Opening hours
Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Location
35km south of Adelaide.

Getting there
Access to the estuary area via River Rd and Commercial Rd, Port Noarlunga South and Sauerbiers Rd, Port Noarlunga South. Access to the main walking area on the northern side of the gorge via Piggott Range Rd.

Contact
(+61 8) 8278 5477

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Talisker Conservation Park 211ha

Nestled among a remnant patch of native vegetation, Talisker is the site of an early Cornish mining settlement containing heritage-listed ruins. Explore its well-preserved record of 19th century mining practices and enjoy lunch at the park’s picnic area.

Opening hours
Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Location
57km west of Victor Harbor.

Getting there
Access via Range Rd or Main South Rd.

Contact
(+61 8) 8278 5477