

Flinders Chase National Park 74,000ha



Flinders Chase National Park is a rugged wilderness featuring iconic landmarks such as the world-famous Remarkable Rocks and Admirals Arch. Enjoy the park and its diverse wildlife on the network of walking trails and boardwalks.

The park's coastal scenery includes Admirals Arch, a beautiful natural rock arch shaped by the powerful Southern Ocean, and the sculptured granite boulders known as Remarkable Rocks. Other attractions include wild beaches, the unspoilt Rocky River, vast wilderness areas and cultural heritage sites – including two lighthouses.

Discover some of Kangaroo Island's secrets at the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre where our natural and cultural heritage are showcased with interactive screens, a touch table and a fossil dig pit for kids. It's a great place for families, with coffee, lunch and souvenirs available from the Chase Café.

The park is accessible by 2WD, so it's perfect for day visits and an ideal place to view wildlife in its natural habitat.

Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park borders Flinders Chase National Park. Find out more at marineparks.sa.gov.au.

When to visit

Flinders Chase is a paradise all year round. The mood of the park changes with the seasons. In winter, you'll see the diverse colours and shapes of fungi, and orchids begin to bloom. The rivers and creeks are flowing and it's a great time for staying in the park's heritage-listed accommodation. Imagine a winter getaway staying in a lightkeeper's cottage in front of a warming wood fire, listening to the Southern Ocean pounding on the rocks below.

Spring brings prolific wildflowers, the frogs call and the birds and animals are breeding. Spring and summer are a wonderful time for camping, picnicking and exploring the many walking trails throughout the park. Summer is a busy time with mostly mild weather perfect for beach going.

Opening hours

Flinders Chase National Park is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Visitor Centre is open from 9am to 5pm daily. It is open every day (except Christmas Day). Day visitors are asked to leave the park by dark.

Getting there

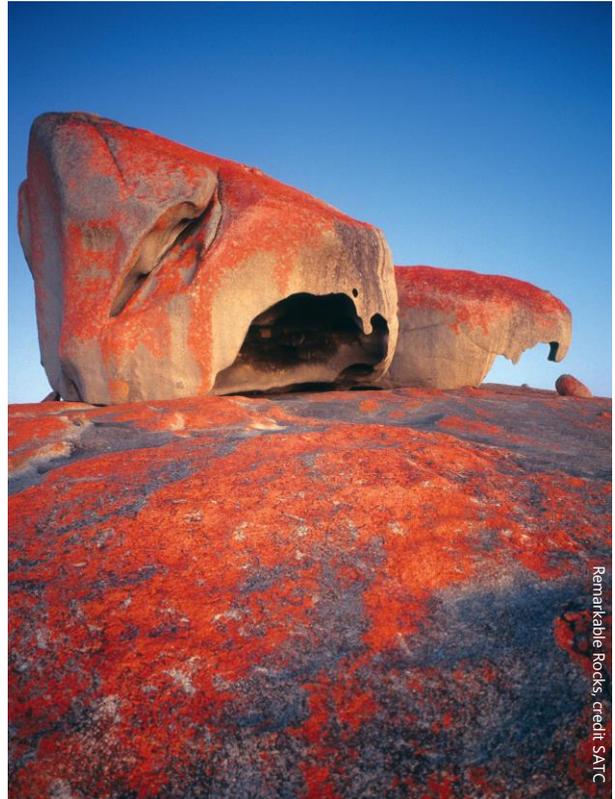
Flinders Chase National Park is located 110km west of Kingscote. Follow the Playford and West End Highways or the South Coast Road.

Fees

Fees apply to enter and to camp in Flinders Chase National Park. Purchase day and camping permits from the Visitor Centre. Outside opening hours, use the self-registration station available at the entrance to the Visitor Centre.

Alternatively, buy a Kangaroo Island Tour Pass, you'll get entry to key parks and tours and it's valid for 12 months. Just present your pass at the Visitor Centre upon arrival to receive your valid day permit. Purchase passes at parks.sa.gov.au.

Failure to display a valid permit on the designated vehicle may result in a fine.



Remarkable Rocks, credit: SATC

Contact

Emergency: 000

Flinders Chase National Park

(+61 8) 8553 4450 | flinderschase@sa.gov.au

Accommodation booking and enquiries

(+61 8) 8553 4410 | kiparksaccom@sa.gov.au

Camping bookings and enquiries

(+61 8) 8553 4490 | flinderschase@sa.gov.au

Cape Borda Lightstation

(+61 8) 8553 4465 | capeborda@sa.gov.au

General park enquiries: (+61 8) 8204 1910

DEWNR.CustomerServiceCentre@sa.gov.au
parks.sa.gov.au | facebook.com/parkssa

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Things to see and do

There are so many things to see in Flinders Chase that it's impossible to list them all. Start with the park's icons – Remarkable Rocks and Admirals Arch. These incredible geological formations are famous for good reason and look spectacular at sunrise and sunset.

You can try spotting the diverse wildlife such as echidnas, goannas, kangaroos, platypus or tammar wallabies as you walk through the many trails in the park, listening for the call of native birds as you go.

Rangers recommend:

- Watching the colony of New Zealand fur-seals surfing the Southern Ocean, playing or sunning themselves on the rocks around Admirals Arch.
- Relaxing at one of the quiet spaces around the platypus waterholes. With luck you'll spot an elusive platypus.
- Seeing the amazing shapes and bright colours of the more than 300 species of fungi that flourish during winter.
- Taking the Ravine Hike along the river to a spectacular beach with many secrets.
- Sleeping in a lightkeeper's cottage, with nothing between you and Antarctica but your blankets and a well-stoked wood stove.
- Spending some time with the kids at the Visitor Centre, digging through the fossil dig pit and learning about the landscape where megafauna once roamed.
- Taking the Discovery Walk to the Black Swamp Lookout. The kids may get a big surprise.

Cape Borda Lightstation

Take the Shackle Road self-guided drive from the Visitor Centre to Cape Borda. Once there, you can explore the Cape Borda Lightstation that sits upon towering cliffs overlooking Investigator Strait. To discover the maritime history of the area you can take a 45-minute tour of the lighthouse and museum. Don't miss the cannon firing on the 12.30pm tour. Fees apply for guided tours and the self-guided walk around the site.

Camping

Revel in the wilderness of Flinders Chase by camping under the stars at one of four secluded campgrounds.

Rocky River – A great base from which to explore the highlights at the western end of Kangaroo Island. Set up camp among the eucalypt saplings, just a short walk from the Visitor Centre. Enjoy a little luxury with facilities that include hot showers, gas barbecues and picnic shelters.

Harvey's Return – This campground is the old landing site for the lightstation and is near the historic lightkeepers' cemetery. Cape Borda Lighthouse is within walking distance. A self-registration station for camping fees is located on site.

Snake Lagoon – This campground is located 9km from the Visitor Centre and is the starting point for the Snake Lagoon Hike. The hike leads to the river mouth where you can enjoy impressive views of the Southern Ocean. The campground is set on the banks of a now-dry lagoon and is also the end point of the Rocky River Hike, which starts at the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre and explores the many riparian (river bank) communities.

West Bay – Located at the western end of the park, this secluded campground set within a stunning coastal landscape is a short walk from a tranquil bay. Picnic tables are available.

Campsites can be booked online at parks.sa.gov.au or by calling (+61 8) 8553 4490. When camping, you pay one park entry fee per person, and your nightly camping fees. If you have a Kangaroo Island Tour Pass, you pay only the nightly camping fees – the Pass includes the park entry fee.

Facilities

| | Rocky River | Harvey's Return | Snake Lagoon | West Bay |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|
| Number of camp sites | 22 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Drive through caravan sites | Y | N | N | N |
| Camp in designated sites | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Bookings taken | Y | N | Y | Y |
| Access | 2WD | 2WD | 2WD | 2WD |
| Toilets | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Hot showers | Y | N | N | N |
| Water (non-potable) | Y | N | N | N |
| Bring own drinking water | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Remove own rubbish | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Generators allowed | N | N | N | N |
| Pets allowed | N | N | N | N |

Campers please remember

Wood fires are not permitted at any time in Flinders Chase National Park.

Generators may not be used in the park.

Pets are not allowed in the park.

Please remove your own rubbish, there are no bins provided.

Unsealed roads and bush campsites at West Bay and Snake Lagoon may be closed in wet weather.

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Accommodation

Enjoy a spectacular sunset and the peaceful seclusion of a heritage listed lightkeeper's cottage at Cape Borda or Cape du Couedic and be mesmerised by the continuous flash from the lighthouse beacon, warning mariners of the land ahead. Alternatively, there are rustic huts and other heritage cottages available in the park. All accommodation can be booked online at parks.sa.gov.au/kiaccommodation, or by phoning (+61 8) 8553 4410.

Cape Borda

Flinders Light Lodge is a spacious, comfortable limestone cottage that once housed the lightkeeper and his family. Ideally situated with extensive sea views, the lodge sleeps up to seven people. **Hartley Hut** is a cabin that sleeps three people. The hut originally served as the relieving keeper's quarters. It's cosy and modern with sea views and abundant wildlife nearby. **Woodward Hut** is a quaint, single room stone cottage that sleeps two people. It is Kangaroo Island's most affordable heritage accommodation.

Cape du Couedic Lightstation

Parndana, Karatta and Troubridge lodges are classic lightkeepers' cottages, large and roomy, built in 1907 from local limestone laboriously carved into solid building blocks. Magnificently restored, featuring slate roofs and polished pine floors, these three-bedroom cottages are heritage listed and can comfortably sleep six people.

Rocky River

May's Homestead is a heritage-listed, four-roomed stone cottage, built in the early 1890s. During its early history, the occupants were the nearest source of help whenever a ship was wrecked along the rugged coastline.

Postman's Cottage is a one-roomed stone hut built for the mailman who would call and stay overnight once a fortnight. The cottage is located next to May's Homestead, near the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre.

Wildlife

In Flinders Chase you can see a range of wildlife including tamar wallabies, Kangaroo Island kangaroos, cape barren geese, Rosenberg's goannas or short-beaked echidnas.

The park is also a haven for a diversity of woodland birds, many of which are declining on the mainland. Look for the bold colours of scarlet robins and golden whistlers. Listen for the rare western whipbird and fan-tailed cuckoo.

Remember, all native animals in national parks are wild.

They should be observed and photographed from a distance. This minimises disturbance to the animal and allows you to see their natural behaviour in the wild. Move slowly and quietly and use binoculars for that close-up look. Please put the animals' welfare first and do not feed wildlife.

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Walking

Walk (easy)

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.

Discovery Walk

This short walk will take you from the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre to the Black Swamp lookout. Interpretive signs along the way may help you develop your wildlife observation skills. This trail starts at the Visitor Centre.

5 minutes 200 metres
1 way

Heritage Walk

Learn about the park's cultural heritage from the life of early settlers at Rocky River to the park's role as an island sanctuary for threatened species. This trail starts at the Visitor Centre.

30 minutes 1.5km loop

Woodland Walk

This is a sheltered stroll through sugar gum woodlands and acacia thickets. The trail connects the Visitor Centre to the Rocky River Campground and day visitor facilities. This trail starts at the Visitor Centre.

20 minutes 1km loop

Platypus Waterholes Walk

An easy walk for all the family. Take a journey across Black Swamp where ancient megafauna once roamed. Learn about the impact of bushfires and their important role in maintaining bushland. Keep quiet around the waterholes – you may see a platypus. This trail starts at either the Visitor Centre or Shackle Road car park.

2 hours 4.5km return

Remarkable Rocks Walk

Experience the changing moods of these ancient granite boulders. Stunning views across to Cape du Couedic and the Southern Ocean. Warning, strong winds. This boardwalk trail starts from the Remarkable Rocks car park.

15 minutes 1km return

Admirals Arch Walk

See the colony of New Zealand fur seals in their natural habitat. Witness the mighty Southern Ocean pounding through Admirals Arch, a significant geological formation. Warning, strong winds. This boardwalk trail starts from the Admirals Arch car park.

15 minutes 1km return

Lighthouse Heritage Walk

Explore the Cape du Couedic lightstation and immerse yourself in the history of the lightkeepers. This trail starts from the Cape du Couedic day visitor area.

10 minutes 600m loop

Hike (moderate)

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.

Black Swamp Hike

This hike incorporates parts of the Platypus Waterholes Walk. The trail meanders through forest and woodland, with picturesque views and the opportunity to watch for wallabies and echidnas. Look for delicate orchids and colourful fungi in winter and spring. This trail starts at the Visitor Centre.

3 hours 9km loop

Rocky River Hike

Follow the pristine Rocky River through to Snake Lagoon. Experience the riparian (river bank) communities, low woodlands and open forests. Even in the drier months spring-fed pools provide life-giving water to birds, reptiles, insects and mammals. This trail starts at the Visitor Centre and is the first stage of the 5 day KI Wilderness Trail.

3 hours 9.5km one way

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|--|--|--------------|------------|
| <p>Hike (moderate) continued...</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>Snake Lagoon Hike</p> <p>This popular trail winds through sugar gums and mallee before descending into Rocky River valley. The trail crosses the river and meanders along its rocky bank through to the river mouth. Be aware of powerful seas, freak waves and rips. Enjoy spectacular views through the valley and witness the power of the Southern Ocean. This trail starts at Snake Lagoon.</p> | 2.0 hours | 4km return |
| <p>Weirs Cove Hike</p> <p>Experience the park's maritime heritage and the challenges faced to deliver supplies to this remote location. This trail starts at the Cape du Couedic day visitor area, or at Weirs Cove.</p> | 1 hour | 3km return | |
| <p>Cape du Couedic Hike</p> <p>Spectacular coastal cliff top views and interpretive signs. Learn about the park's coastal vegetation and maritime history. This trail starts at the Cape du Couedic day visitor area.</p> | 40 minutes | 2km loop | |
| <p>Sandy Creek Hike</p> <p>Follow the banks of Sandy Creek across the creek bed and dunes to a remote beach. Be aware of powerful seas, freak waves and rips. Creek crossing required in wetter months. This trail starts from the Sandy Creek car park on West Bay Road.</p> | 1.5 hours | 3km return | |
| <p>Cliff top Hike</p> <p>Dramatic cliff top views across Investigator Strait from the lookout. This trail starts at the Cape Borda Lighthouse.</p> | 30 minutes | 1km return | |
| <p>Return Road Hike</p> <p>Experience our maritime heritage. Follow the track used to transport supplies and visit the lightkeepers' cemetery. This trail starts at the Cape Borda Lighthouse or Harvey's Return Campground and day visitor area.</p> | 3 hours | 9km return | |
| <p>Hike (hard)</p> <p><i>A hard hike requires some hiking experience and a reasonable fitness level, as some sections of the trail can be quite steep and uneven.</i></p> | <p>Ravine Hike</p> <p>Explore the Valley of the Cassowaries, named after the now extinct dwarf emu. Take a shaded walk into the valley, then follow the river to a remote sandy beach. This trail starts from the car park on Ravine Road, in the Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area.</p> | 3 hours | 7km return |
| <p>Harveys Return Hike</p> <p>Follow the route used by the lightkeepers to haul supplies up the cliff and see significant geological formations of zebra rock. This trail starts from Harvey's Return Campground and day visitor area</p> | 1 hour | 1.5km return | |
| <p>New trail</p> <p>A long distance hiking trail from Rocky River to Kelly Hill Conservation Park is in the planning stages. This will be a trail to undertake over several days. A <i>Trip Intention Form</i> must be completed in advance for all overnight long distance treks. They are available from the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre.</p> | | | |

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).

**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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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:

- pets are not permitted in or out of vehicles in Kangaroo Island parks
- leave the park as you found it and take your rubbish with you
- do not light fires – wood and solid fuel fires are not permitted in this park
- respect geological and heritage sites
- camp only in designated areas
- walk and drive only on designated tracks or trails
- do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants
- be considerate of other park users.

Bushwalking safety

- Keep to defined vehicle tracks and walking trails 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.
- Choose a trail appropriate to your level of fitness and always leave yourself plenty of time.
- 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.
- A *Trip Intention Form* must be completed in advance for all overnight long distance treks. They are available from the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre.

Wildlife safety

Flinders Chase has an abundance of wildlife. Please drive within the speed limit at all times. Many of the animals in the park are nocturnal so the best way to avoid a collision is to avoid driving in the early morning, late afternoon and at night. If you must drive at these times, please proceed with care.

Do not feed the wildlife. Human food can seriously disrupt their digestive systems and can be poisonous. Feeding changes natural behaviour patterns which are essential for survival in the bush. Feeding the wildlife can also cause dangerous situations – animals can become aggressive and cause injury.

Fire safety

This park will be closed on catastrophic fire danger days and may be closed on other days of heightened fire danger. Listen to ABC Radio 891AM, call the CFS Bushfire Information Hotline on 1300 362 361, read the park signage or seek advice from park staff.

- Wood fires and solid fuel fires are prohibited at all times.
- On days of total fire ban all liquid and gas appliances are prohibited.
- Gas fires and stoves are permitted (except on days of Total Fire Ban).
- Walks and hikes should not be undertaken on Total Fire Ban Days.

Water safety

- Strong currents, freak waves and rips can make swimming dangerous.
- Do not climb on, or fish from, slippery rocks.
- Do not jump from rocks into the ocean.

Mobile phone coverage

Mobile phone coverage can be patchy and unreliable in national 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 drive to one of the higher areas in the park. Some providers do not have coverage on Kangaroo Island.

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 dependant 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 using the footwear cleaning stations provided.

Friends of Parks, KI Western Districts

The Friends of Parks, KI Western Districts is a community-based group of volunteers who assist park staff to protect the natural and cultural features of the park.

To get involved, contact the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre, or visit naturalresources.sa.gov.au/kangarooisland

Find out more about volunteering in parks at parks.sa.gov.au