

Department for Environment and Heritage

Parks of the Far West



*Healthy Parks
Healthy People*



Government
of South Australia



www.environment.sa.gov.au

Parks of the Far West

The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) manages thirty-two parks and reserves in the Far West. The Far West district covers a vast tract of remote country extending from the Western Australia border across the western edge of the Eyre Peninsula and from the Great Australian Bight, north to the Great Victoria Desert. In the north, the area encompasses extensive dune fields, while to the south, it covers a significant portion of the Nullarbor Plain and is bounded by the rugged coastline of the Great Australian Bight.

The parks of the Far West vary from vast, outback deserts to small offshore reefs and islands. They are immensely valuable areas for conservation, containing some of the least degraded landscapes in southern Australia.

Inland and coastal parks

Inland parks include expansive, remote wilderness areas such as Yellabinna Regional Reserve and Mamungari Conservation Park. The coastal parks, such as Point Labatt and Wittelbee conservation parks, lie mainly on the north-western corner of the Eyre Peninsula, with exposed headlands and sheltered bays. Nullarbor National Park and Regional Reserve include both coastal and outback landscapes, with a rugged coastline and high cliffs bordering the Great Australian Bight, grading to the vast, treeless limestone plain that extends far inland.

Travel safety tips

There are very limited facilities and services available in the Far West, hence it is important that you are self-sufficient and carry adequate supplies of fuel, food and water.

All roads within the parks are unsealed and receive very little maintenance. Please keep to defined vehicle tracks and avoid damaging them. Only experienced and well-equipped travellers should attempt to cross the more remote parks.

Observe 'No Public Access' signs and do not travel along the maintenance track beside the Dog Fence.

Camping permits are required for all parks in the Far West and can be obtained by contacting the DEH office at Ceduna. Unregistered vehicles, such as quad bikes, are not permitted.

Acraman Creek Conservation Park

3999 hectares



Protected from the full force of the Southern Ocean, this mangrove estuary, samphire and mallee area provides an important feeding ground for many coastal birds. In particular, it supports migratory waders such as sandpipers and stilts that come from as far away as the Arctic Circle. The long, white sandy beach, backed by dunes, is accessible to conventional vehicles. Small boats can be launched from the beach. The creek and Point Lindsay can only be reached by four-wheel drive vehicles. A shipwreck, from past whaling activity, lies offshore.

Calpatanna Waterhole Conservation Park

3663 hectares



This park was dedicated as a representative example of coastal and salt lake environments. The area is popular for birdwatching, providing opportunities to spot Port Lincoln and Mulga parrots. The park is dominated by mallee, with scattered stands of Cypress Pine and Weeping Pittosporum, and dense thickets of Swamp Paperbark on the low-lying flats. The waterhole, from which the park derives its name, seeps through limestone into the watertable. It was once a valuable water source for Aboriginal people and early European settlers.

Chadinga Conservation Park

8193 hectares



This park contains a relatively undisturbed coastal dune system with an associated samphire community and mallee woodland. It provides important habitat for the Spinifex Hopping Mouse, Short-beaked Echidna and numerous bird species. Access is limited, and by four-wheel drive only. Please contact the DEH office in Ceduna for more information.

Fowlers Bay Conservation Park

8766 hectares



A park of outstanding natural beauty that conserves a spectacular coastline comprised of rocky headlands, high cliffs, sheltered bays and long, sandy beaches. Keep an eye out for seabirds such as the Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Hooded Plover, Pied Oystercatcher and Fairy Tern. Other wildlife includes Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats and Australian Sea-lions. The area is popular for fishing, particularly for salmon, mulloway, whiting and garfish. A ruined lookout and whale bones on Point Fowler are evidence of the area's whaling history.

Great Australian Bight Marine Park



The Great Australian Bight Marine Park was established to protect significant habitat for a diverse range of marine species, while allowing for ecologically sustainable use of marine resources. The park includes both South Australian and Commonwealth waters. It extends from the base of the Bunda Cliffs at the WA/SA border to include the beaches of Wahgunyah Conservation Park. A portion of the park extends approximately 200 nautical miles offshore.

One of Australia's outstanding wildlife spectacles, the gathering of the Southern Right Whales, occurs each winter at the Head of Bight. The cliff top viewing facilities, owned by the Yalata Aboriginal Community, allow for an up-close view of this event. Entry fees can be paid upon entry to the Visitor Interpretation Centre to access the viewing area.

Laura Bay Conservation Park

276 hectares



Lying within a sheltered bay, containing tidal samphire flats, mangroves along a small creek and rocky headlands – all backed by mallee – this park provides a good representation of the different ecosystems of the Eyre Peninsula. The mallee and tidal flats along the northern side are ideal places for birdwatching, while beachcombing or rock hopping may reveal the variety of marine life found along the west coast. You may spot birds such as Ospreys, White-bellied Sea-Eagles and Australian Kestrels. A cutting on the headland shows where ketches once loaded grain from surrounding farms.

Mamungari Conservation Park

(previously Unnamed Conservation Park)

2 135 785 hectares



Containing part of the Great Victoria Desert and the northern limits of the Nullarbor Plain, this park is one of the largest arid zone biosphere reserves in the world. The park is managed by Maralinga Tjarutja, the traditional owners of the land, together with the Department for Environment and Heritage. It is home to the beautiful Princess Parrot, Scarlet-chested Parrot and Bustard. The park also supports an array of unique plant species including the majestic Marble Gum, Desert Kurrajong and the Ooldea Mallee.

Permits are required to travel through the area. Due to the park's remoteness, visitors need to be well-equipped and experienced in outback travel. Please contact the DEH office in Ceduna for information on permit requirements.

Nullarbor National Park and Regional Reserve

581 376 hectares

National Park

2 281 244 hectares

Regional Reserve



An area of great natural value, these parks protect part of the world's largest semi-arid karst (cave) landscapes, which are associated with many Aboriginal cultural sites. Most of the area is flat and featureless consisting largely of bluebush and saltbush, except where the surface has collapsed into dolines (sinkholes) revealing underground caverns. Some of the caves contain sensitive and important scientific and cultural features of international significance.

The area is home to one of the largest populations of Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats in Australia, and Dingoes are often seen. Other spectacular wildlife includes rare and endangered species such as the Nullarbor Quail-thrush, Major Mitchell Cockatoo and Peregrine Falcon.

The most attractive feature of the Nullarbor lies where the flat plains meet the Southern Ocean. At this point, sixty metre high cliffs, stretching for 200 kilometres, command spectacular views of this unique coastline. Do not approach cliff edges, as they are undercut and unstable.

Gilgerabbie Hut, an old shepherd's outstation, is available for hire. Please contact the DEH office in Ceduna for more details.

Point Bell Conservation Park

549 hectares



This small rocky point with granite boulders contains long, sandy beaches and sand dunes. It provides excellent fishing, camping and swimming opportunities. Access is limited and by four-wheel drive only. Please contact the DEH office in Ceduna for more information.

Point Labatt Conservation Park

34 hectares



Protected by fifty metre high cliffs and rocky reefs out to sea, the park contains the largest mainland breeding colony of Australian Sea-lions. A cliff top viewing platform allows visitors to safely view the colony. Australian Sea-lions are mostly seen sleeping on the beach, because they spend several weeks at sea fishing before hauling out to sleep for several days. Bring binoculars and a camera with a zoom lens for close-up views. If you are lucky, you may see some of the majestic birds that inhabit the west coast such as the Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. These species are known to breed in the area. Adjoining the park is a 116 hectare Aquatic Reserve managed by Primary Industries and Resources SA, Fisheries. This reserve is a prohibited area.

Sceale Bay Conservation Park

529 hectares



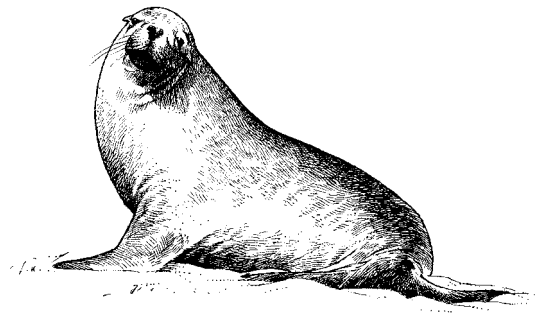
A long, sandy beach, backed by spectacular dunes and an associated coastal wetland, this park is relatively undisturbed. Adjoining the southern portion of the dunes, Seagull Lake provides an important habitat for many coastal birds including migratory waders that come from as far away as the Artic Circle. The endangered Bead Samphire is also present in this ecosystem.

Wittelbee Conservation Park

155 hectares



A small coastal park with sandy beaches and low, rocky headlands backed with sand dunes, samphire flats and mallee woodlands. Coastal Wattle, Coastal Daisy Bush, saltbush and Spinifex bind the high dunes that rise behind the beach. A relaxing spot for beachcombing, swimming and fishing. Look out for Hooded Plovers, Pied Oystercatchers and Sooty Oystercatchers along the beach.



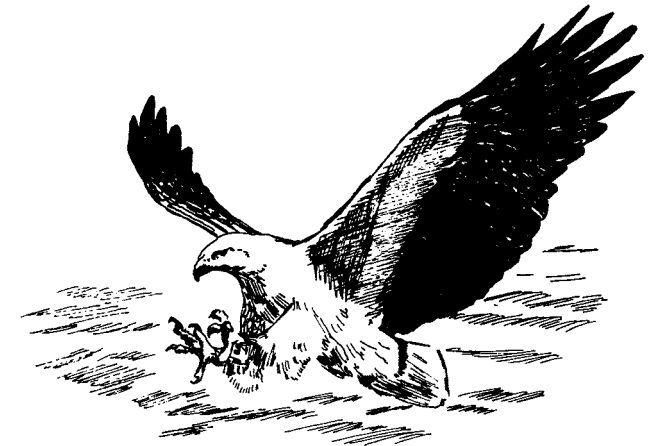
Australian Sea-lion *Neophoca cinerea*

Wahgunyah Conservation Park

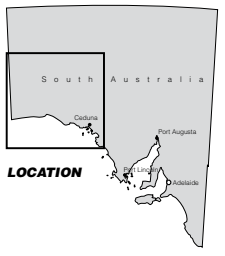
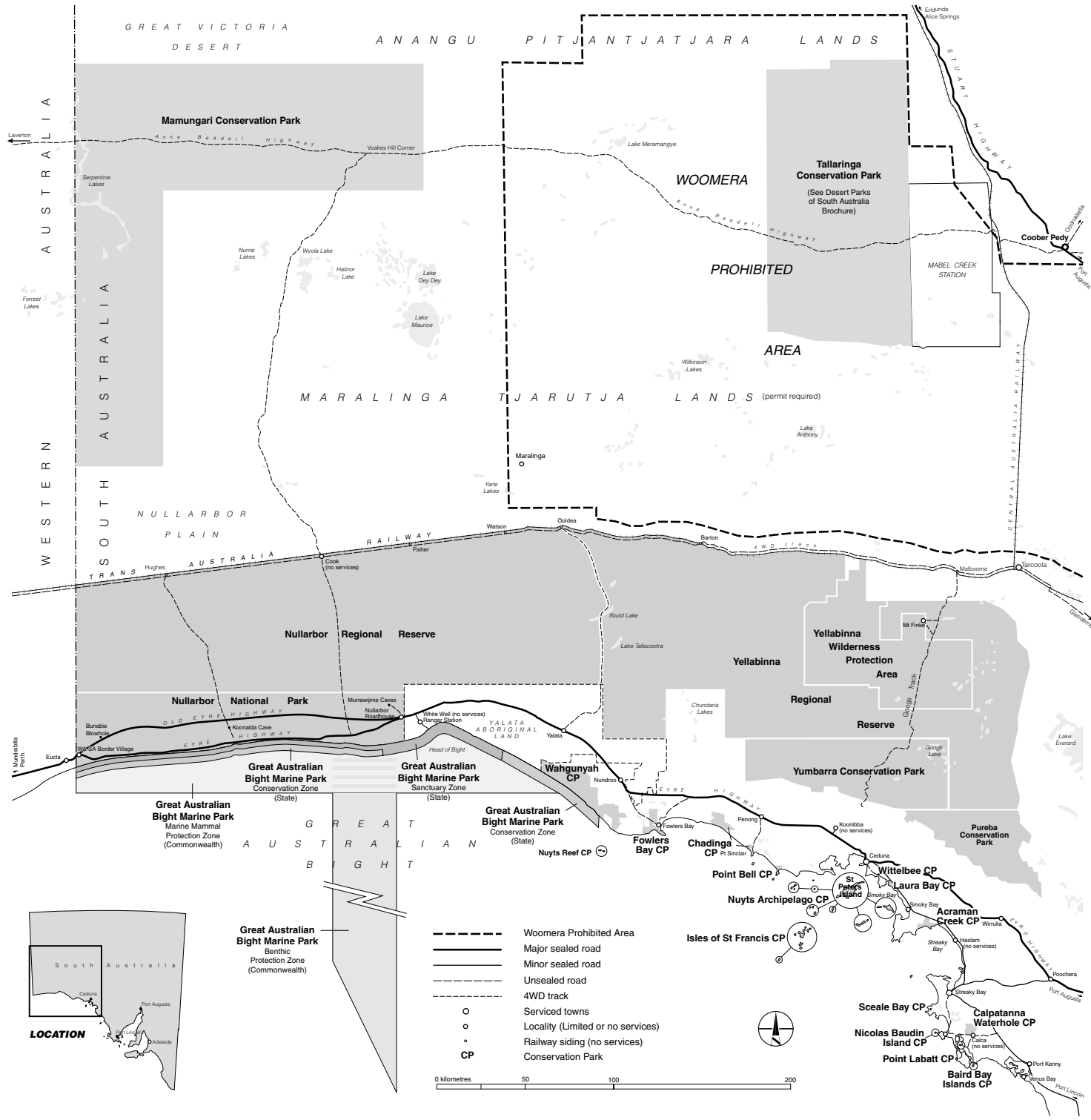
39 906 hectares



Relatively undisturbed, this park protects long windswept beaches and impressive cliffs, backed by spectacular dune systems which give way to dense coastal mallee and heath understorey. The sandy beaches provide habitat for Hooded Plovers, White-bellied Sea-Eagles and Peregrine Falcons. Dog Fence Beach is a popular fishing spot, as is Cheetima Beach with surfers. Access is four-wheel drive only and maps are required. Please contact the DEH office in Ceduna for more information.



White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*



- Woomera Prohibited Area
- ==== Major sealed road
- ===== Minor sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD track
- Serviced towns
- Locality (Limited or no services)
- Railway siding (no services)
- CP Conservation Park



Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area

503 062 hectares

Yellabinna Regional Reserve

2 012 607 hectares

Yumbarra Conservation Park

322 984 hectares

Pureba Conservation Park

150 012 hectares



These adjoining parks form a valuable wilderness area of sparsely vegetated red sand dunes in the north. The dunes stretch as far as the eye can see and provide a stark contrast of red sand and bright blue sky. The extensive mallee to the south provides a corridor linking the Great Victoria Desert to the northern Eyre Peninsula mallee. Here, rare wildlife can be found including Scarlet-chested Parrots, Major Mitchell Cockatoos, Thorny Devils, Sandhill Dunnarts and Malleefowl.

Within this parallel dune system are small islands where granite outcrops (inselbergs) trap water after rain. These are extremely important to local wildlife and have significant Aboriginal cultural associations. There are several salt lakes in the area, which also provide significant wildlife habitat. Both habitats are fragile environments. Please do not disturb or camp near a waterhole, and driving on the surface of salt lakes is prohibited.

You should only visit these parks if you are an experienced outback traveller and have a well-equipped four-wheel drive vehicle. Seek information on access and details regarding Googs Track from the DEH office in Ceduna.

The island parks

The island parks of the Far West play an important role in preserving wildlife. They are free of many of the introduced animals that compete with, or prey upon native wildlife on the mainland. The islands provide sanctuary for migratory birds and a number of endangered animals including the Greater Stick-nest Rat and Brush-tailed Bettong.

Many of these islands provide breeding sites for Australian Pelicans, Caspian Terns, Sooty Oystercatchers, Little Penguins, Pacific Gulls and Silver Gulls. Australian Sea-lions can be found basking in the sun on some islands. Seven islands make up the Nuyts Archipelago Conservation Park, whereas the Isles of St Francis Conservation Park consists of nine islands. Granite cliffs and sandy beaches border most of these islands. They support large populations of venomous Black Tiger Snakes and Common Death Adders, so visitors should wear protective footwear and leg coverings.

Isles of St Francis Conservation Park

1238 hectares

Nuyts Archipelago Conservation Park

9881 hectares

Baird Bay Islands Conservation Park

22 hectares

Nicolas Baudin Island Conservation Park

94 hectares

Island safety tips

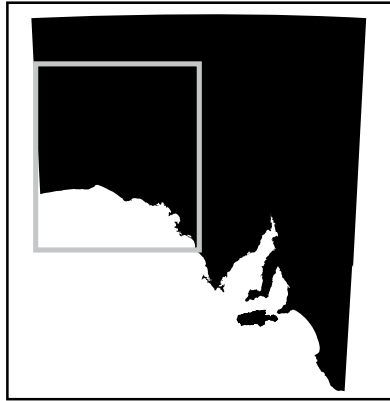
Access to some islands is hazardous and should not be attempted by inexperienced or unprepared visitors. Due to their remoteness, please contact the DEH office in Ceduna before planning a trip to these areas. The Franklin Islands in the Nuyts Archipelago and Nicolas Baudin Island Conservation Park are prohibited areas and seasonal safety conditions apply to other islands.

The National Parks Code

Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

- Leave your pets at home.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Observe fire restrictions usually 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS hotline 1300 362 361.
- Conserve native habitat by using liquid fuel or gas stoves.
- Camp only in designated areas.
- Respect geological and heritage sites.
- Keep our wildlife wild. Do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants.
- Keep to defined vehicle tracks and walking trails.
- Be considerate of other park users.

Thank you for leaving the bush in its natural state for the enjoyment of others.



**For further
information contact:**

Department for Environment and Heritage
Far West District Office
11 McKenzie Street
Ceduna SA 5690
Phone (08) 8625 3144
Fax (08) 8625 3123
www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/

**For information on Tallaringa Conservation Park
contact:**

Department for Environment and Heritage
Outback District Office
9 Mackay Street
Port Augusta SA 5700
Phone (08) 8648 5300
Fax (08) 8648 5301

Phone Information Line (08) 8204 1910
Email dehinformation@saugov.sa.gov.au
Website www.parks.sa.gov.au