

# Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park



The Flinders Ranges provides a dramatic departure from the hectic pace of big cities. Once you're there, you'll experience things that make home look boring.

Ancient and rugged mountain landscapes, peaceful tree-lined gorges and a seasonal wealth of wildlife. The sense of space unique to the semi-arid zone combine to make Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park one of South Australia's iconic destinations. The park comprises approximately 95 000 hectares and includes the Heysen Range, Brachina and Bunyeroo gorges and the vast amphitheatre of mountains that is Wilpena Pound. Experience the native wildlife, rich cultural heritage, impressive geological features, camping opportunities and a range of activities including bushwalking, four-wheel driving, birdwatching, photography and cycling.

## Getting there

Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park is situated approximately 450 kilometres north of Adelaide in the central Flinders Ranges. From Adelaide, take one of several routes to Hawker and then follow the signs to Wilpena. If arriving from Leigh Creek in the north, travel south to Parachilna and then either enter the park from the north or west, or head east from Leigh Creek towards Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park, and then follow the signs south to the park. If approaching from Broken Hill, turn north at Yunta on the Arkaroola Road and follow signs to Blinman.

The main road through the park and into Wilpena Pound is sealed. Unsealed roads with changing surfaces occur throughout the park and may be affected by weather conditions. All public roads are accessible by two-wheel drive vehicles, caravans and trailers. Please drive slowly and respect other road users.

## When to visit

Mild temperatures from April to October make this period the most comfortable for bushwalking and cycling. During the summer months, maximum temperatures range from 30°C to 45°C, making activities more difficult.

## Fees

Fees apply for entering and camping in Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park. On-the-spot fines apply to vehicles not displaying a valid permit. Entry and camping permits can be obtained from any of the self-registration stations shown within the map pdf. Fees collected are used for conservation and to maintain and improve park facilities for your ongoing enjoyment.

Park passes can be purchased from the Visitor Centre at Wilpena Pound or by phoning the DEWNR Information Line on (08) 8204 1910.

## Opening hours

This National Park is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Wilpena Pound Visitor Information Centre is open 8am-5pm daily.

Old Wilpena Station is open 8am-5pm daily.

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## Important information

If you are planning a trip for a school group or other large group, please ensure you let the park know of your intentions (+61 8) 8648 0048.

If you intend to visit remote sections of the park or undertake any risky or strenuous activities, please ensure you let a responsible person know of your intentions, and when you anticipate returning.

## Traditional Owners

Flinders Ranges National Park has a rich and complex cultural heritage combining Aboriginal and pastoral history. The park is co-managed by a board consisting of Adnyamathanha and Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources representatives. The Adnyamathanha people (meaning hills or rock people) are the traditional custodians of the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park. Their connection with the land stretches back many thousands of years. Ancient rock paintings and engravings can be seen at Arkaroo Rock, Sacred Canyon and Perawurtina Cultural Heritage Site.

There are also many historical remains from pastoral and mining activities, dating back to 1851. The most impressive is the restored Old Wilpena Station. The award-winning interpretive trail tells the stories of early pastoral life.

## Wildlife

An abundance of plants and animals can be found throughout the park, including many rare species. Thanks to conservation programs such as Bounceback, the rare Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby can be seen in Brachina and Wilkawillina gorges. Spring brings a carnival of colour, with wildflowers carpeting the plains and foothills.



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## Things to see and do

Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park holds an array of activities for all ages and abilities, including walking trails, cycling, rock climbing, bird watching, four-wheel driving and camping.

### Walking

There are four walks and fourteen hikes within the park that cater for people with different interests and abilities. This park provides some of the most scenic bushwalking in the state including a section of the Heysen Trail. The Heysen Trail is a long-distance walking trail that extends 1200 kilometres from Cape Jervis on the Fleurieu Peninsula to Parachilna Gorge, just north of the park.

Please note that some walking trails are closed during the summer months and all walking trails are closed on days of catastrophic fire danger. For details please call the Wilpena Visitor Centre.

### Cycling

Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park has a variety of scenic mountain bike opportunities for visitors. The Mawson Trail and several roads provide access to the undulating hills which are an iconic part of the scenery in this park. The Mawson Trail is accessible from Wilpena, Yanyanna and Trezona. Information on water availability en route is available at the Wilpena Visitor Centre. Please carry appropriate equipment including a puncture repair and first aid kit.

The park also contains sections of the Flinders Ranges by Bike cycle loop. Contact the Visitor Centre for more information.

### Camping and accommodation

Scenic mountain views, kangaroos browsing on grasslands, cries of cockatoos and shaded woodland sites are some of the features on offer at the 10 campgrounds in Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park. Camping is on a first in basis, with no bookings taken.

Wilpena Pound Resort is privately owned and has various facilities and a range of accommodation options, including a caravan park and motel-style accommodation.

### Rangers recommend:

- Admiring Adnyamathana rock paintings or etchings at Arkaroo Rock or Perawurtina cultural heritage sites.
- Setting up camp at Aroona or Koolamon Campgrounds and viewing early morning light on the Heysen Range
- Taking a scenic drive through Bunyeroo Gorge to include Razorback Lookout for panoramic views of Wilpena Pound
- Strolling along Wilpena Creek to Hill Homestead and then taking the hike up to Wangara lookouts for a unique view of the inside of Wilpena Pound.
- Visiting Brachina Gorge in the late afternoon to view a colony of Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies at Scree Slope.



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## Walking

<p><b>Walk (easy)</b></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><b>Hills Homestead Walk</b></p> <p>Pioneering heritage inside Wilpena Pound.</p>	2 hours return	6.6km return
	<p><b>Sacred Canyon Walk</b></p> <p>A short walk along a gum-lined creek leads to the site where ancient Aboriginal rock engravings are found in smooth sandstone walls. The images representing animal tracks, people and waterholes, have been pecked into the sheer rock faces with stone tools. Some images are very weathered and are best seen in the soft light of morning or afternoon. Out of respect for the Adnyamathanha culture please do not touch the engravings.</p> <p>Access: begins from the Sacred Canyon car park, located 19 kilometres south-east of Wilpena off the Hawker - Blinman Road.</p>	30 minutes return	500m return
	<p><b>Wilpena Solar Power Station Walk</b></p> <p>Discover the large Solar Power Station which supplies Wilpena with energy. A short walk to the lookout will give you a view of the set up.</p> <p>Access: begins from the Solar Power Station car park, one kilometre from Wilpena on the main road.</p>	30 minutes return	500m return
	<p><b>Living with Land Walk</b></p> <p>Aboriginal people, European settlers and their descendents share the pastoral heritage of the Flinders Ranges. This self-guided walk discovers the themes of self-sufficiency, improvisation and survival in the remote and isolated pastoral settlements of the Flinders Ranges.</p> <p>Access: Old Wilpena Station. Fee applies.</p>	2 hours return	1km return
<p><b>Hike (moderate)</b></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><b>Wangara Lookout Hike (includes Hills Homestead Walk)</b></p> <p>Follow Wilpena Creek through towering River Red Gums, native pines, scented acacias and a seasonal array of wildflowers for spectacular panoramic views of Wilpena Pound. 'Ikara', the local Adnyamathanha peoples' name for Wilpena Pound, is a natural rock formation resulting from millions of years of erosion. The lower lookout is 300m on from Hills Homestead. Continue on another 300m to the upper lookout.</p> <p>Lower lookout hike.</p> <p>Upper lookout hike.</p>	3 hours return 3.5 hours return	7.2km return 7.8km return
	<p><b>Yuluna Hike</b></p> <p>From the historic Aroona homestead and the restored pug and pine hut experience the landscape which inspired the famous artist Hans Heysen.</p> <p>Access: begins from the Aroona car park, 50 kilometres north of Wilpena.</p>	4 hours	8km return
	<p><b>Trezona Hike</b></p> <p>Magnificent views of the open grassland country of Heysen Range. Discover some of the earliest life forms on earth in the Trezona geological formation. This area was heavily grazed when the park was a pastoral property.</p> <p>Access: begins from Trezona Campground, 40 kilometres north of Wilpena along the Brachina Gorge Road.</p>	4 hours	8km return

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	<p><b>Boom and Bust Hike</b></p> <p>This loop trail contains a wide array of flora with a colourful display of wildflowers present in spring months.</p> <p>Access: begins from the bushwalking trailhead at the Wilpena Visitor Centre complex.</p>	1.5 hours return	2km return
	<p><b>Arkaroo Rock Hike</b></p> <p>Admire Adnyamathanha rock paintings featuring ochre and charcoal images that tell the creation story of Wilpena Pound. Enjoy spectacular views of the Chace Range at sunset. The rock paintings are best seen in morning light.</p> <p>Access: begins from the Arkaroo Rock car park, 17 kilometres south of Wilpena on the Hawker-Blinman Road.</p>	2 hours return	3km return
	<p><b>Bunyeroo Gorge Hike</b></p> <p>This peaceful gum-lined gorge is framed by rugged rock formations. The gorge provides great opportunities for observing the native wildlife. Bullock teams and coaches transporting copper, mail and produce used the gorge in the 19th century to access the western plains.</p> <p>Access: begins from the Bunyeroo car park, 18 kilometres north of Wilpena along the Bunyeroo Gorge Road.</p>	3.5 hours return	7.5km return
	<p><b>Bunyeroo and Wilcolo Creek Hike</b></p> <p>Enjoy views of Wilpena Pound, escape the heat under the shade of native pine groves along the hilltops of the ABC range.</p> <p>Access: begins from the Bunyeroo car park, 18 kilometres north of Wilpena along the Bunyeroo Gorge Road.</p>	2.5 hours return	7.5km return
	<p><b>Bridle Gap Hike</b></p> <p>The trail, which forms part of the famous Heysen Trail, bisects the floor of Wilpena Pound. A variety of mallee, native pine and heath habitats provide excellent opportunities for keen naturalists to observe local birds including wrens, robins, parrots and raptors.</p> <p>Access: begins from the bushwalking trailhead at the Wilpena Visitor Centre complex.</p>	6 hours return	18.8km return
<p><b>Hike (hard)</b></p> <p><i>A hard hike requires some hiking experience and a reasonable level of fitness, as some sections of the trail can be quite steep and uneven</i></p>	<p><b>Red Hill Lookout Hike</b></p> <p>Take in the view of Aroona Valley and beyond.</p> <p>Access: begins from the Aroona car park, 50 kilometres north of Wilpena. Quite steep in sections.</p>	4 hours return	9km return
	<p><b>Aroona to Youngoona Hike</b></p> <p>This day walk tells the story of pastoral heritage with beautiful views and contrasting rock formations. You will follow the footsteps of early shepherds and discover the ruins of old pastoral runs. Pass through contrasting rock formations and plant communities while enjoying views of the ABC, Heysen and Trezona ranges.</p> <p>Access: begins from the Aroona car park, 50 kilometres north of Wilpena</p>	7 hours one-way	15.4km one-way
	<p><b>Wilkawillina Gorge Hike</b></p> <p>This gorge is the habitat of the native Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby. Spot the wallabies on the unique geological features of this gorge. The permanent water source is in contrast to its drier surrounds.</p> <p>Access: begins at the Wilkawillina car park. 45 kilometres north-east of Wilpena off the Oraparinna – Wirrealpa Road.</p>	6 hours one-way	11.4 km one-way

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	<p><b>Mount Ohlssen Bagge Hike</b></p> <p>Steep rocky inclines followed by rewarding views of Wilpena Pound and the surrounding area. Spot the diverse reptiles which frequent this area whilst being surrounded by the magnificent view.</p> <p>Access: begins from the bushwalking trailhead at the Wilpena Visitor Centre complex.</p>	4 hours return	6.4 km return
	<p><b>St Mary Peak Hike – Ngarri Mudlanha (1171m above sea level)</b></p> <p><b>Direct route</b></p> <p><b>Loop route</b></p> <p>Enjoy a challenging, long hike to the highest peak in the Ikara - Flinders Ranges National Park where you will be rewarded with 360 degree views of the ranges, salt lakes and surrounding plains. St Mary Peak is central to the Adyamathanha creation story. The shorter option to Tanderra Saddle also afford spectacular views.</p> <p>Cooinda Camp is an overnight walker's camp site within Wilpena Pound. Gas or liquid fuel stoves only. No water or toilet facilities are available.</p> <p>Access: begins from the bushwalking trailhead at the Wilpena Visitor Centre complex. Rangers recommend you leave on this hike no later than 9am (or 10am during daylight saving hours).</p>	6 hours return 9 hours return	14.6 km return 21.5 km return
	<p><b>Malloga Falls Hike</b></p> <p>Traverses the floor of Wilpena Pound to the spectacular rock faces of Edeowie Gorge and the cascading Malloga Falls. Beyond Cooinda Camp, bushwalkers need to be experienced and possess navigational skills.</p> <p>Access: begins from the bushwalking trailhead at the Wilpena Visitor Centre complex.</p>	9 hours return	23.2 km return
	<p><b>The Heysen Trail</b></p> <p>This is a long distance walking trail, which traverses the state's principal mountain ranges between Cape Jervis, on the tip of the Fleurieu Peninsula in the south, to Parachilna Gorge in the Flinders Ranges in the north. This trail passes through some of the most diverse areas in Ikara - Flinders Ranges National Park.</p> <p>Many of the walking trails within the park utilise parts of this long-distance trail. Walkers may choose to undertake whole sections of the Heysen Trail. It is important that walkers purchase the relevant 1:50 000 topographic maps before commencing the following hikes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wilpena to Yanyanna Hike (Hard)</li> <li>- Yayanna to Trezona Hike (Moderate)</li> <li>- Tezona to Aroona Hike (Moderate)</li> </ul>	Long distance walking trail.	

# Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park



## 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:

- no pets are permitted within this park
- do not feed birds or other animals, it promotes aggressive behaviour and an unbalanced ecology
- do not bring generators, chainsaws or firearms into the park
- leave the park as you found it and take your rubbish with you
- abide by the road rules (maintain the speed limit)
- respect geological and heritage sites
- keep to defined vehicle tracks
- do not remove native plants
- be considerate of other park users
- camping is permitted in designated areas.

## Fire safety

- This park may be closed on days of extreme fire danger. Listen to your local radio station for broadcasts, check the CFS website [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) or call the CFS Hotline on 1300 362 361.
- Wood fires are not permitted during the fire danger season, usually 1 November to 30 April.
- Gas and fuel stoves are permitted except on days of Total Fire Ban when no fires are permitted.
- Wood fires are not permitted inside Wilpena Pound. Gas fires are permitted only at Coinda Camp, except on days of Total Fire Ban.
- Outside of fire ban season, wood fires are only permitted at designated areas in campgrounds. (Please remember that fallen timber plays a valuable role in the natural environment and collection of firewood within the park is not permitted – penalties apply).
- For more information regarding park closures please see 'Parks Closures' under the 'Safety' tab on the South Australia National Parks website.

## Bushwalking safety

- keep to defined walking trails and follow the trail markers
- ensure you take the relevant topographic maps and adequate supplies of food and water
- ensure you have appropriate wet weather clothing as weather can change quickly
- wear sturdy shoes, a hat and sunscreen
- carry sufficient drinking water.

## Mobile phone coverage

There is limited mobile phone coverage in this park.

## *Phytophthora* (Root-rot fungus)

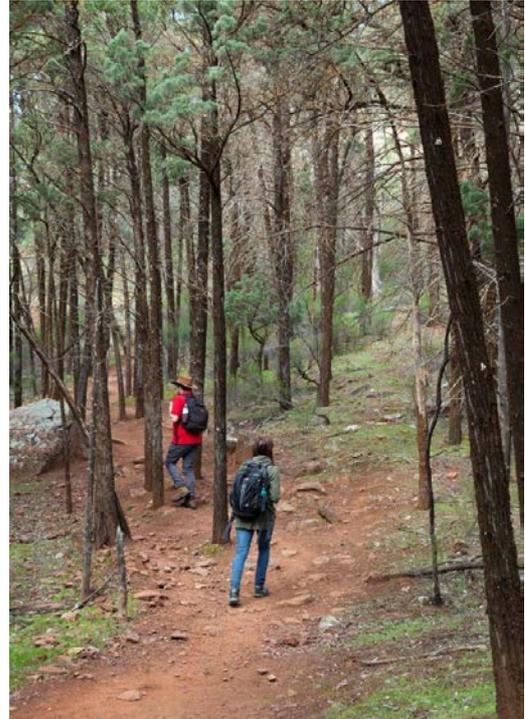
*Phytophthora* (fy-TOFF-thora), otherwise known as root-rot fungus, is killing our native plants and threatens the survival of animals depending on plants for food and shelter.

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.

## The Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

The Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park volunteer group assists in many practical ways with the preservation and restoration of the natural and cultural heritage of the park. Some of their work includes care of the garden and restoration of Old Wilpena Station outbuildings, revegetation, seed collection and weed control.

If you would like to know more about the group visit: [www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au](http://www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au)



## Contact

### Emergency: 000

Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park  
PMB 22 Wilpena via Hawker SA 5434

Wilpena Visitor Centre  
(+61 8) 8648 0048

Email: [visitorscentre@wilpenapound.com](mailto:visitorscentre@wilpenapound.com)

General park enquiries:

[parks.sa.gov.au](http://parks.sa.gov.au) | [facebook.com/parkssa](https://facebook.com/parkssa)