Parks
of Kangaroo Island
Escape to the wild
Welcome to Kangaroo Island’s parks

The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources manages one national park, eighteen conservation parks, four marine parks and five wilderness protection areas on Kangaroo Island. Some areas are vast, others small – all possessing the natural beauty unique to Kangaroo Island. The parks conserve an array of natural environments. Mallee woodlands, low open forests and woodlands, karst landscape, fresh and saline lakes, spectacular coastal cliffs and sand dune systems all provide habitat to an abundant range of wildlife.

There are a wide variety of things to see and do on Kangaroo Island. This booklet provides information about the experiences available within the parks.

Kangaroo Island is ‘a big island’ – the third largest off the coast of Australia. Many visitors frequently state ‘We wish we could have stayed longer. We didn’t realise the Island was so large!’. Don’t be disappointed. Ensure you allow adequate time to best appreciate all that is on offer within the parks.

Please consider the possible weather conditions at the site you are planning to visit. For example, when leaving your accommodation it may be mild but the conditions could be very different once you reach the south coast.

It is recommended that you always take a drinking water, a jacket and a sun hat.
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Welcome to Kangaroo Island’s parks

Getting about

The Island is traversed by 1600 km of roads. The majority are unsealed. The ironstone gravel used to form some unsealed roads resembles small marbles and can make the surface slippery. Unsealed roads are often corrugated and bumpy – please drive carefully.

*Kangaroo Island has an abundance of wildlife. Please drive slowly. The best way to avoid a collision with wildlife is to reduce speed and avoid driving in the early morning, late afternoon and at night.*

The Island is much bigger than people think:

- 4500 km² in area
- 155 km long and up to 55 km wide
- two hours by car from east to west
- most of the beaches and coves are located many kilometres off the major ring roads – allow extra driving time.

Your safety

Your safety is important. You can do much to ensure your personal safety while in the park by observing the following:

- Obey all road, track and trail signs – they have been provided for your safety.
- Large areas of the island’s coastline are dominated by tall limestone cliffs – stay well clear and use lookouts where provided.
- If you are hiking or trekking, leave an itinerary with a responsible person. They should contact police if you have not returned by a pre-arranged date and time.
- Coastal treks need to be discussed with a Ranger in advance.
- Stay on walking trails as these have been routed to ensure the easiest and safest passage to your destination.
- Drownings have occurred at Remarkable Rocks in Flinders Chase National Park. Please observe the warning signs.
- Please read the important fire safety information on page 68.
- Park closures (for purposes such as feral animal control, public safety, threatened species breeding, trail maintenance etc). Check www.parks.sa.gov.au for up to date information on park or trail closures
- The recreational use of drones is generally not permitted in national parks and reserves, including for photography and filming. This is because they can severely disrupt resting and breeding animals. They also take away from the remote wilderness experience that many of our parks offer.
Where to go, what to do

The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources offers a range of activities in parks on Kangaroo Island. Guided tours are available at Kelly Hill Caves, Seal Bay, Cape Borda and Cape Willoughby. All sites including the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre are open everyday (except Christmas day). Tour times and fees apply.

Tour and entry tickets can be purchased on a ‘pay as you go’ basis or via a Kangaroo Island Tour Pass which gives entry to key parks and tours and is valid for twelve months.

For pricing and further information please refer to the Kangaroo Island Parks Tours and Entry Guide available at the Natural Resources Centre (NRC) Kingscote and all park offices or visit www.parks.sa.gov.au.

Don’t forget to allow yourself plenty of time in addition to the tours offered as there is much to do and see.

Fires

Solid fuel or wood fires are prohibited at all times in National Parks, Conservation Parks and Wilderness Protection Areas. Gas fires may be used except on days of Total Fire Ban, when all fires are prohibited.

Campfires are only permitted in designated fire pits in the Antechamber South campground, within the Lashmar Conservation Park.
Where to go, what to do

Baudin Conservation Park

The Ironstone Hill Hike in Baudin Conservation Park follows the historic Bullock Track to Cape Willoughby and leads to Ironstone Hill. Interpretive signs explore the life of Harry Bates and his early farming endeavours. Get a sense of this area’s farming heritage and see some stunning seascapes and sheoak woodlands.

Hike
Ironstone Hill Hike page 31.

Beyeria Conservation Park

Discover some of Kangaroo Island’s rare plants. Interpretive signs along the short Beyeria Walk page 30 give an insight into ‘the many faces of the mallee scrub’. Visitors have the opportunity to read about the mallee broombush plant community, the natural process of change and rare endemic plants that grow in the area.

Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area

Adjoins Kelly Hill Conservation Park:
The full day Hanson Bay Hike page 37 takes you through a range of landscape from Kelly Hill Caves through the Wilderness Protection Area to the southern coast at Hanson Bay.

Day 5 of the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail (KIWT) traverses through this wilderness area.

Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park

Murray Lagoon

Birdwatchers: visit Kangaroo Island’s largest lagoon. The walks and hike take you through a range of wetland plant communities with spectacular views and birdwatching opportunities.

Walks and hikes
Timber Creek Walk page 34, Bald Hill Walk page 35, Curley Creek Hike page 36.
Where to go, what to do

Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park

D’Estrees Bay

Historically D’Estrees Bay was the site of a whaling station and later partly cleared for farming. Today the area conserves coastal vegetation and provides habitat for wildlife. Relax at D’Estrees Bay by doing the Tadpole Cove Walk, camping, or walking the secluded beaches.

Permits are required to camp, available online.

Walks and treks
Tadpole Cove Walk page 33.

Self-guided drive
Follow the signs marked with the osprey bird and discover the natural and cultural significance of the area.

Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area

Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area covers 20 000 hectares. Visitors may access the area on foot. For further information please speak to a ranger at the Natural Resources Centre, Kingscote.

Trek
Cape Gantheaume Coastal Trek page 25 (Seasonal closure applies, contact park office or visit www.parks.sa.gov.au for latest closure information).
Where to go, what to do

Cape Willoughby Conservation Park

Cape Willoughby Lightstation

The ocean backdrop to Cape Willoughby Lightstation is spectacular. Join a guided tour of South Australia’s first lightstation and enjoy the views across Backstairs Passage from the top of the lighthouse. Hear stories about working and living in such a harsh and remote environment. Learn about the importance of coastal shipping to early colonial trading and passenger transport well into the 20th century. The lighthouse was once used as a venue for local dances.

Walks and hikes

Cape Willoughby Lightstation Heritage Walk page 43.

Light refreshments and souvenirs are available.

- Self-guided Lightstation Heritage Hike page 32.
- Self-guided Lightstation Precinct Walk (fee applies).
- Self-guided Tours do not include access inside the lighthouse.
- Guided Lightstation tour available for fees and times refer to Kangaroo Island Tour and Entry Guide.

Accommodation

Heritage lightkeepers’ cottages – Seymour Cottage, Thomas Cottage page 18.

On the way to or from Cape Willoughby, visit Baudin and Lashmar Conservation Parks.

Please check www.parks.sa.gov.au for park and trail closures.
Where to go, what to do

Flinders Chase National Park and Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area
Admirals Arch and Remarkable Rocks at Cape du Couedic will give you a taste of rugged coastal scenery. However don’t forget to explore some of the other attractions within the park’s 34,000 hectares such as high-energy beaches, the unspoilt Rocky River, vast wilderness areas and cultural heritage sites. Discover some of Kangaroo Island’s stories in the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre: wildlife and historical displays, touch screen, touch table and a fossil dig pit for kids.

Park entry and camping fees apply.

The Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail starts at the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre.

**Rocky River Precinct**

**Walks and hikes**

- Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail page 25
- Discovery Walk page 45
- Black Swamp Hike page 48
- Platypus Waterholes Walk page 44
- Rocky River Hike page 49
- Heritage Walk page 47
- Woodland Walk page 46

**Accommodation**

- Mays Homestead page 17
- Postmans Cottage page 17
- Campground page 16

**Visitor Centre**

- Displays and activities, cafe, park offices, souvenirs, information, entry and camping permits.

**West Bay Road**

**Hikes**

- Snake Lagoon Hike page 50
- Sandy Creek Hike page 51
- Rocky River Hike page 49
- Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail page 25

**Bush camping**

- Snake Lagoon and West Bay page 16
- Harveys Return page 14

**Cape du Couedic**

**Walks, hikes and treks**

- Admirals Arch Walk page 41
- Weirs Cove Hike page 40
- Lighthouse Heritage Walk page 43
- Cape du Couedic Hike page 42
- Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail page 25

**Accommodation**

- Heritage lightkeepers’ cottage – Troubridge Lodge, Parndana Lodge, Karatta Lodge page 20

**Remarkable Rocks**

**Walks**

- Remarkable Rocks Walk page 39
- Heritage Walk page 47
Cape Borda Lightstation

Cape Borda Lightstation is located on the north-western corner of the island and is remote even today. Deep in the wilderness, perched high above the vast ocean, stands a unique square lighthouse, steeped in European history. Join a guided tour of the lightstation, including the museum, and appreciate the achievements of a bygone era. Cannon firing is conducted daily on the 12:30 pm tour. Visitors can enjoy the isolation of the area by walking one of the trails, visiting nearby sites associated with the lightstation or staying in a lightkeepers’ cottage. Light refreshments and souvenirs available. Entry Fee applies.

Tour
Guided Lightstation tour, for opening days, fees and conditions apply refer to Kangaroo Island Parks Tour and Entry guide.
Note: tour dates and times can vary, contact the Natural Resource Centre for further information on 8553 4444.

Hikes
Clifftop Hike page 53, Return Road Hike page 54.

Accommodation

Kelly Hill Conservation Park

Allow time to enjoy the karst landscape, tall woodland, the understorey plants and wildlife by walking to the Show Cave entrance via one of the walking trails. Picnic and barbecue facilities are available. End point of Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail.

Kelly Hill Caves
Delight in the unexpected magic of the underground world as you walk amidst pristine, ornate cave formations on the Show Cave Tour. Discover why caves are ‘a window into the past’ and how the amazing shape of the helictite is formed.
Once you have experienced the splendour of the Show Cave Tour, have a go at adventure caving. You will be equipped with a helmet and a light to follow your cave guide through the underground maze. Some climbing and crawling is required.

Tours
Show Cave Tour and Adventure Caving, fees and conditions apply refer to the Kangaroo Island Tour and Entry guide.

Walks and hikes
Burgess Hike incorporating Mays Walk page 38, Hanson Bay Hike page 37.
Where to go, what to do

Lashmar Conservation Park
This small park adjoins the long sandy beach at Antechamber Bay.

Antechamber Bay

Picnic and camping facilities are available at this popular swimming and fishing beach. Solid fuel fires are not permitted during fire danger season. Comfort fires are permitted in fire pits only. Comfort fires are not permitted during the fire season. Refer to www.cfs.sa.gov.au for further information. Always use the fire pits provided, do not leave fires unattended and carefully extinguish all fires before you leave. Refer to page 16 for more information about fires on parks.

Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area

The Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area is located to the north of Flinders Chase Visitor Centre and covers 40 000 hectares. Visitors may access some areas on foot. For more information please ask an Information Officer at Flinders Chase Visitor Centre. Adjoins Flinders Chase National Park. Visit Scott Cove and Harveys Return Cemetery.

Hike
Return Road Hike page 54, Ravine Hike page 52 – from the car park on the Ravine des Casoars Road.

Harveys Return

Harveys Return was initially used by sealers to load salted seal skins collected from the area in the early 1800’s. Later, Harveys Return was used as a landing site for supplies for Cape Borda Lightstation.

Hikes and treks
Harveys Return Hike page 55, Return Road Hike page 54 – from Harveys Return Campground.
Seal Bay Conservation Park

Seal Bay is home to the third largest population of one of the world’s rarest marine mammals, the Australian Sea-lion. Guided beach tours give visitors the opportunity to observe the natural behaviour of these wild animals.

The 800 metre Don Dixon boardwalk is an easy stroll through the terrestrial habitat of the Australian Sea-lion. A platform overlooking the beach gives visitors a great view of sea-lions resting and coming and going from foraging trips at sea. The boardwalk has interpretive signage along the way giving visitors an overview of the habits of the Australian Sea-lion.

Allow time to look at the visitor centre displays (including a touch table) and for buying quality souvenirs.

Picnic facilities are available at nearby Bales Bay a few kms drive.

Tours and access (Fee applies)
Guided Beach Tour
Access to lookout, boardwalk and viewing platform (disabled access) – an addition or alternative to the beach tour.

Walk
Self-guided - The Flowering Plants of Seal Bay Conservation Park, coastal plants identified along the trail to the lookout.

Seal Bay Sanctuary Zone adjoins Seal Bay Conservation Park to protect the immediate marine habitat of the Australian Sea-lions. Please be aware of the restrictions in these zones.

The beach at Bales Bay is part of the Cape Gantheume Wilderness Protection Area.
Camping

Kangaroo Island’s parks offer a range of camping options. Permits are required and camping is allowed only in designated areas.

For permits and bookings for camping in Flinders Chase National Park visit www.parks.sa.gov.au or contact Flinders Chase Visitor Centre on (08) 8553 4490.

Permits for camping in Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park, Ravine des Casoars WPA, Flinders Chase NP or Lashmar CP can be obtained.

Bush trekking camping – please discuss with a ranger at the nearest park office.

Gas fires

Gas fires permitted all year, except on declared Total Fire Ban Days. The Country Fire Service (CFS) broadcasts notices on local radio 891 ABC (AM) and 765 5CC (AM) or phone CFS hotline 1300 362 361.

Solid fuel fires

Solid fuel fires are prohibited at all times in reserves across Kangaroo Island. The only exception is at Antechamber Bay South Campground in Lashmar CP where small comfort fires are permitted within designated fire pits outside of fire danger season. Please use the firepits provided, do not leave fires unattended and carefully extinguish all fires before you leave.


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~ water supply cannot be guaranteed. If available, water must be treated.

Online payment and bookings

A new system for paying park entry fees and booking campsites online is being introduced across the state. In future, you may be required to pay and book online before entering parks. For updates visit www.parks.sa.gov.au/kiaccommodation.
Heritage accommodation

Rocky River Precinct

- **Mays Homestead** is a heritage listed quaint four-roomed stone cottage, built in the early 1890s by Charles May, the original pastoralist at Rocky River. During its early history, the occupants provided the nearest source of assistance for survivors of the many shipwrecks that occurred along the rugged coastline. Later the building was used by the first ranger at Flinders Chase National Park.

- **Postmans 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 Mays Homestead, near the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre. (Cottage has adjoining toilet and shower).

For pricing and further information please refer to the *Kangaroo Island Parks Tours and Entry Guide* available at the Natural Resources Centre Kingscote and all park offices or visit [www.parks.sa.gov.au/kiaccommodation](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au/kiaccommodation).
Heritage accommodation

Cape Willoughby

Seymour and Thomas Cottages are located on the rugged easternmost point of the Island overlooking the treacherous Backstairs Passage. These cottages, built in 1927, form part of the lightkeepers settlement of Cape Willoughby. Stones from the original 1850s lighthouse dwellings were used to build the large white fence around the cottages. Treat yourself to a relaxing experience in one of these renovated heritage-listed cottages.

Spectacular views can be seen from the Cape Willoughby Lighthouse. Tours are available at advertised times.

For pricing and further information please refer to the Kangaroo Island Parks Tours and Entry Guide available at the Natural Resources Centre Kingscote and all park offices or visit www.parks.sa.gov.au/kiaccommodation.
Heritage accommodation

Cape Borda

Situated in the very north-west corner of Kangaroo Island, Cape Borda is a classic lighthouse location. Set deep in the wilderness and perched high above a vast ocean, it is remote and stunningly beautiful. The lighthouse was built in 1858 to guide sailing ships arriving off the ‘roaring forties’ trade winds.

• Flinders Light Lodge is a spacious, comfortable limestone cottage that once housed the lighthouse keeper and his family. Ideally situated with glorious sea views.

• Hartley Hut is a prefabricated cabin that originally served as the relieving keeper’s quarters. It is cosy and modern with sea views and abundant wildlife nearby.

• Woodward Hut is Kangaroo Island’s most affordable Heritage accommodation! Quaint and different.

For pricing and further information please refer to the Kangaroo Island Parks Tours and Entry Guide available at the Natural Resources Centre Kingscote and all park offices or visit www.parks.sa.gov.au/kiaccommodation.
Heritage accommodation

Cape du Couedic

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. Situated within Flinders Chase National Park, approximately 14 km from Rocky River at Cape du Couedic, the cottages are isolated and provide comfortable accommodation in a spectacular coastal environment.

For pricing and further information please refer to the Kangaroo Island Parks Tours and Entry Guide available at the Natural Resources Centre Kingscote and all park offices or visit www.parks.sa.gov.au/kiaccommodation
Heritage accommodation

About heritage accommodation

• You will need to bring all food supplies.
• Arrival time from 2 pm onwards.
• Departure time 9 am at Cape Borda, 10 am at Cape Willoughby and Flinders Chase cottages.
• Ideal for families and those wanting a secluded getaway.
• Pets are not permitted.
## Heritage accommodation

### Special offer

Stay a total of five nights or more at any park Heritage accommodation and receive a free Kangaroo Island Tour Pass valid for duration of stay.

### For bookings and information contact:

Flinders Chase National Park PMB 246 via Kingscote 5223  
**T:** (08) 8553 4410  
**Fax:** (08) 8559 7268  
**E:** kiparksaccom@sa.gov.au

Bookings online: www.parks.sa.gov.au/kiaccommodation

### ACCOMMODATION

<table>
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Heritage accommodation

What visitors say

“We class this as being in the top three of all our trips throughout Australia. Only wish it could be longer.” Gold Coast, Queensland

“We loved every moment but the stay wasn’t long enough, the accommodation was excellent.” Laverton, Victoria

“We have travelled far and wide staying at all sorts of places from camping to five star. This beats them all. Fantastic Cape Willoughby.” NSW

“What a perfect spot for our first visit to Australia! One look at Cape Borda and the kangaroos in the backyard convinced us that we had made the right choice. It’s all we dreamed Australia could be - friendly people, great wildlife and stunning scenery! We love it here!” Pennsylvania, USA

<table>
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<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartley Hut 1</td>
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<td>yes</td>
<td>gas/mw</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yes nearby</td>
<td>small electric/mw</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flinders Light Lodge</td>
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<td>yes</td>
<td>gas/wood/mw</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>gas/wood/mw</td>
<td>yes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodward Hut</td>
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<td>nearby</td>
<td>small electric/mw</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<td>electric/mw</td>
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<td>yes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>yes</td>
<td>wood/gas/mw</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<td>wood</td>
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<tr>
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<td>yes</td>
<td>wood/electric/mw</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>woodstove</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Bushwalking

Walks and hikes
Kangaroo Island’s parks offer walks and hikes that will revitalise your spirit and senses. The trails and their features offer visitors an overview of the variety of habitats and species conserved in the parks of Kangaroo Island.

There are eleven walks and sixteen hikes. Walks are short trails of generally less than three kilometres. Hikes require some experience and a reasonable fitness level; the trail may be uneven and steep for short distances. See map on pages 26 and 27 for walk and hike locations, and pages 28 and 29 for trail descriptions.

You will be able to:
• Observe wildlife in the wild.
• Witness the wild forces of nature.
• Immerse yourself in Kangaroo Island’s wild past.
• Sense the power of the ocean.
• Delight in the many wonders of the natural world.

Walk safely
Be prepared when bushwalking:
• Wear sturdy shoes, hat and sunscreen.
• Carry sufficient drinking water. Do not rely on tanks or creeks for drinking water.
• Keep to the defined walking trail.
• Inform a responsible person of your proposed route and expected time of return.
• Weather conditions can change quickly. Ensure you have appropriate clothing.
• Be aware of fire danger and severe weather warnings.

Trails are subject to closures check www.parks.sa.gov.au for up to date information on trail closures.
Bushwalking

Coastal treks

For serious trekkers, a range of treks can be undertaken along some sections of the coast around Flinders Chase National Park, Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area, and Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area. Treks often pass through remote areas and are usually totally unmarked. A trek will be physically demanding and users must be experienced bushwalkers.

Note: some sections of our parks are closed during sensitive coastal raptor breeding season between May–December.

For further information about park and trail closures visit the Parks SA website parks.sa.gov.au

Information is available from Natural Resources Centre Kingscote and Flinders Chase Visitor Centre. Trekkers must discuss their route with a ranger prior to commencing a trek and we recommend you let a responsible person know of your plans.

The Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail

Nature’s secrets are waiting to be discovered at every step of the 61 kilometre five-day trek, with the trail weaving its way through the most botanically unique area in all of South Australia before reaching the rugged, remote and spectacular coastline of the Southern Ocean.

For more information visit kangarooislandwildernesstrail.sa.gov.au or contact the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre on (08) 8553 4410.
## Select your trail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trails</th>
<th>Trail time</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Highlights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail</td>
<td>5 days</td>
<td>61 km</td>
<td>Botanically unique area, rugged coastline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Beyeria Walk</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>1.5 km</td>
<td>Endemic plants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Ironstone Hill Hike</td>
<td>1.5 hours</td>
<td>4 km return</td>
<td>European heritage, coastal views, wildlife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Cape Willoughby Lightstation Heritage Hike</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>1.9 km</td>
<td>Great views, European heritage site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Tadpole Cove Walk</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
<td>800 m</td>
<td>European heritage, coastal views, wildlife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Timber Creek Walk</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>1.5 km</td>
<td>Wetland, wildlife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Bald Hill Walk</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>1 km return</td>
<td>Wetland, wildlife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Curley Creek Hike</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td>11 km return</td>
<td>Wetland, wildlife, unexpected vegetation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Hanson Bay Hike</td>
<td>full day</td>
<td>18 km return</td>
<td>Lagoons, sand dunes, variety of vegetation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Burgess Hike (Mays Hike)</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>1.25 km</td>
<td>Sugar Gum forest, orchids in winter and spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Remarkable Rocks Walk</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>1 km return</td>
<td>Remarkable Rocks, views of Cape du Couedic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Weirs Cove Hike</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>3 km return</td>
<td>Spectacular coastal views, history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Admirals Arch Walk</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>1 km return</td>
<td>Admirals Arch, fur-seal colony, Casuarina Islets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Cape du Couedic Hike</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
<td>2 km return</td>
<td>Coastal cliff top views, coastal plants and shipwreck information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Lighthouse Heritage Walk</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td>600 m return</td>
<td>Lighthouse, lightkeepers' cottages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Platypus Waterholes Walk</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>4.5 km return</td>
<td>Wildlife, perhaps the elusive Platypus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Discovery Walk</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td>400 m return</td>
<td>Wildlife observation interpretation - what to look for, how to get the best views.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Woodland Walk</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
<td>1 km return</td>
<td>Sugar Gum forest, birds and wildlife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Heritage Walk</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>1.5 km return</td>
<td>History, wildlife viewing including Koalas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Black Swamp Hike</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>9 km return</td>
<td>River habitats, forest, woodland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Rocky River Hike</td>
<td>4.5 hours</td>
<td>12.2 km</td>
<td>River habitats, forest, woodland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Snake Lagoon Hike</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>4 km return</td>
<td>River valley, spectacular views.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Sandy Creek Hike</td>
<td>1.5 hours</td>
<td>3 km return</td>
<td>Southern Ocean’s rugged beauty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Ravine Hike</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>7 km return</td>
<td>Spectacular views, river habitats, forest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Clifftop Hike</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>1 km return</td>
<td>Coastal views, remoteness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Return Road Hike</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>9 km return</td>
<td>History, woodlands, coastal heath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Harveys Return Hike</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>1.5 km return</td>
<td>History, geology, remoteness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Waterfall Creek Hike</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>5 km return</td>
<td>Spectacular views of a winter waterfall, sheoak and Sugar Gum forest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail notes</td>
<td>Trail difficulty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bush walking experience recommended.</td>
<td>Moderate.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great for all ages.</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some steep sections, two small creeks to cross in winter.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some sections rocky and uneven underfoot.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gently undulating, great for all ages.</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can be slippery when wet, seasonally under water.</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can be very windy, seasonally under water.</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasonally, parts under water, can be slippery.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note length of hike, some steep sandy sections.</td>
<td>Hard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gently undulating, original cave entrance.</td>
<td>Moderate (Easy)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheelchair accessible, all ages, observe the warning signs.</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gently undulating.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boardwalk leads to steps down to viewing platforms.</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some steep sections, a little rocky and uneven underfoot.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great for all ages.</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great for all ages.</td>
<td>Easy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great for all ages.</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great for all ages.</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little rocky and uneven underfoot.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little rocky and uneven underfoot.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky and uneven underfoot after footbridge.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last section on soft sand is very tiring.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some steep sections, a little rocky and uneven underfoot.</td>
<td>Hard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky and uneven underfoot.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gently undulating, a little rocky and uneven underfoot.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very steep below the capstan.</td>
<td>Hard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some steep sections, a little rocky and uneven underfoot.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Beyeria Walk

This walk is a delightful short stroll through Kangaroo Island Narrow-leaved Mallee with broombush understorey. Beyeria Conservation Park was named after the endemic Turpentine Bush, *Beyeria subtecta*. The walk has twenty interpretive signs along the way highlighting ‘The Many Faces of Mallee Scrub’.

**Access**

The walk begins at the car park adjoining Willsons Road.

Suitable for all ages.

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**Trail descriptions**

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**1. Beyeria Walk**

This walk is a delightful short stroll through Kangaroo Island Narrow-leaved Mallee with broombush understorey. Beyeria Conservation Park was named after the endemic Turpentine Bush, *Beyeria subtecta*. The walk has twenty interpretive signs along the way highlighting ‘The Many Faces of Mallee Scrub’.

**Access**

The walk begins at the car park adjoining Willsons Road.

Suitable for all ages.
2. Ironstone Hill Hike

This hike follows the coast east of Penneshaw along a section of the original bullock track to Cape Willoughby and provides spectacular views across Backstairs Passage to the Fleurieu Peninsula. After climbing through regenerating sheoak vegetation, the hike leads to the ruins of Harry Bates’ cottage and a stone threshing floor on Ironstone Hill. The farming heritage of the area is interpreted on signs along the hike.

Access

Follow Frenchmans Terrace along the foreshore at Penneshaw to the car park at the start of Binneys Track.
3. Cape Willoughby Lightstation Heritage Hike

This hike will take you into the sheltered gully of the early 1853 settlement. It will give you an insight into the early lightkeepers’ lives and how their demanding routine and sense of isolation was heightened by the distance between their homes and the lighthouse.

A self guided walking trail brochure is available at the Cape Willoughby Lighthouse Visitor Centre. It gives information about the original lightstation settlement at points of interest along the trail.

Access

This return loop hike begins and ends at the visitor centre.
4. Tadpole Cove Walk

This walk combines unusual coastal scenery with early settlement heritage sites. The walk starts at an old grain threshing floor, used by early settlers to process locally grown grain, and takes you past the ruins of a small cottage dating from the same period. The walk then meanders through regenerating vegetation to a lookout above Tadpole Cove, which is named after an unusual rock formation in the centre of the cove. Watch for ospreys soaring along the cliff edge as they hunt for fish in the calm waters of the cove.

Access

The walk begins in the car park adjacent to the threshing floor just south of Wreckers Beach, D’Estrees Bay Road.
5. Timber Creek Walk

This walk at Murray Lagoon offers the visitor a tea-tree swamp experience. Waterfowl such as ducks, swans and waders flock to the lagoon to create a bird-lovers delight. Hawks and eagles prey upon the waterfowl, while chats and little grassbirds sing among the thickly vegetated shorelines.

During drought years and late in the summer the best views of Murray Lagoon can be seen from the Bald Hill (6) and Curly Creek (7) trails.

Access

The walk begins 500 metres west of Murray Lagoon park headquarters off Seagers Road, which can be seasonally flooded.

Note: walking trail subject to flooding in winter months.
6. Bald Hill Walk

Bald Hill provides spectacular views overlooking Murray Lagoon and is an ideal spot to observe a variety of wetland birds as they feed from the lagoon below. In the distance the visitor can see the dense bush and impressive sand-dunes of the Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area to the south.

Access

Bald Hill can be accessed via the Bald Hill Walk from Seagers Road, 2 km from Murray Lagoon park headquarters, Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park. Bald Hill can also be accessed via the Curley Creek Hike from Curley Creek, 6 km from the headquarters or 4 km from the South Coast Road off Seagers Road.

Note: walking trail subject to flooding in winter months.
7. Curley Creek Hike

This hike follows an old fire access track which skirts the edge of Murray Lagoon. Walkers will not only discover a large range of birdlife but also a variety of vegetation communities. Bald Hill provides spectacular views overlooking Murray Lagoon and is an ideal spot to observe migratory waders as they feed from the lagoon below.

Access

The Curley Creek Hike begins at Curley Creek, 6 km from the Murray Lagoon park office or 4 km from the South Coast Road off Seagers Road. The Curley Creek Hike can also be accessed via the Bald Hill Walk, 2 km from the Murray Lagoon park office. Access to the trail can be subject to seasonal flooding.

Note: walking trail subject to flooding in winter months.
8. Hanson Bay Hike

This spectacular trail meanders from Kelly Hill Visitor Centre to Hanson Bay. It passes through banksia heath, Pink Gum woodlands, mallee and coastal heath, alongside freshwater lagoons, and over dunes to viewpoints that provide wonderful vistas inland and along the coast. Hike goes through Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area. Allow a full day for the return trip or try to arrange a pick-up. This is day five of the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail.

Access

This hike begins at Kelly Hill Visitor Centre.
9. Burgess Hike (incorporating Mays Hike)

This hike passes through the Sugar Gum forest at Kelly Hill Caves and introduces visitors to the surface features associated with the caves below, including the original cave entrance. If you are taking a guided tour of the Show Cave, this trail provides an interesting alternative route to or from the Show Cave entrance. In spring the wildflowers are a treat, but in winter a diversity of colour.

Access

Both trails begin at the Kelly Hill Visitor Centre.
10. Remarkable Rocks Walk

Follow this wheelchair accessible trail to the stunning geological feature of Remarkable Rocks. The wind-sculpted rocks can be seen as artworks in progress – a 500 million year old story of change. Interpretive signs explain the formation of the granite boulders.

Drownings have occurred at Remarkable Rocks. Please read the warning signs. For safety reasons access to the seaward side of the granite dome is prohibited.

Access
The walk starts at the Remarkable Rocks car park, 16 kms from the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre.

The recreational use of drones is generally not permitted in national parks and reserves, including for photography and filming.
11. Weirs Cove Hike

Imagine spending three months or more waiting for fresh supplies. Hike to Weirs Cove to understand the extreme hardship for lightkeepers involved in getting the shopping home. Discover the method of landing people and supplies along this treacherous coastline.

Access

Begin this hike at the lighthouse sign shelter, at Cape du Couedic.
12. Admirals Arch Walk

Follow the signs to the boardwalk and ponder on the eventual creation of the third Casuarina Islet. Allow plenty of time to enjoy the frolicking long-nosed fur-seals. Learn about their remarkable recovery from the uncontrolled hunting of the early 1800s. Interpretive signs tell the story of seals, marine park coastal habitats and the other wildlife that call this rugged coastline home.

Access

The walk begins at the Admirals Arch car park at Cape du Couedic, situated on the south-west corner of Flinders Chase National Park.
Trail descriptions

13. Cape du Couedic Hike

This hike provides spectacular coastal cliff top views as it meanders between the Cape du Couedic Lightstation and Admirals Arch car park. Discover the varied and impressive techniques that plants use to grow here. Find out about Aboriginal connections with Cape du Couedic and how they survived in this harsh environment. Contemplate the perils of being shipwrecked here 110 years ago. Look for the water pool built by the lighthouse builders and watch for those who still use it today.

Access

This hike begins at the lighthouse sign shelter.
14. Lighthouse Heritage Walk

Take a stroll around the Cape du Couedic Lightstation and immerse yourself in history. Marvel at the magnificence of the tower, the endurance of the lightkeepers and their families, and learn about ‘Life on the Edge’ from signs along the trail.

Access

Follow the signs from the lighthouse sign shelter to begin this walk.
15. Platypus Waterholes Walk

Walk from the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre across the Black Swamp to the Rocky River, where patience may be rewarded with the sighting of a platypus. Allow time to view the waterholes from a series of platforms. Interpretive signs provide stories about megafauna, wildlife and fire. A multitude of birdlife, kangaroos, wallabies, geese, echidnas and goannas are regularly seen on this walk.

Access

This walk begins at the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre. A shorter walk (suitable for wheelchairs) to the waterholes can be accessed from a car park off Shackle Road. Please note, there are no toilet facilities at Platypus Waterholes car park.
16. Discovery Walk

This short walk will take you from the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre to the Walking Trail Information Shelter overlooking Black Swamp. Interpretive signs along the way will help hone your wildlife observation skills.

Signs at the Black Swamp Lookout shelter give information about other hikes and walks accessed from here.

Access

This walk leaves from and returns to the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre.
17. 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. Listen for woodland birds along the way.

Access

This walk leaves from and returns to the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre.
18. Heritage Walk

Learn about our cultural heritage from the life of early settlers at Rocky River to our role as an island sanctuary for threatened species. A great walk for viewing koalas and other wildlife.

An easy and enjoyable walk for people of all ages.

Access

This walk leaves from and returns to the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre.
19. Black Swamp Hike

Linked with the Platypus Waterholes Walk, this half-day hike takes you through the diverse habitats of the Rocky River. The trail meanders through forest and woodland, providing picturesque views of the river and opportunities to watch for Platypus. Listen for honeyeaters in the forest canopy, and look for delicate orchids and colourful fungi in winter and spring.

Access

This hike starts at Flinders Chase Visitor Centre and includes the Platypus Waterholes Walk. Alternatively, the trail can be started from Rocky River Bridge on West Bay Road, or the Platypus Waterholes car park off Shackle Road.
Trail descriptions

20. 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 is the first section of the five day Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail. Allow extra time if following the trail back to the visitor centre.

Access

This hike starts at Flinders Chase Visitor Centre and includes the Platypus Waterholes Walk. Alternatively, the trail can be started from Rocky River Bridge on West Bay Road, or the Platypus Waterholes car park off Shackle Road.
21. **Snake Lagoon Hike**

Starting at Snake Lagoon campground, this popular trail winds through Sugar Gums and mallee before descending into the Rocky River valley. The trail crosses Rocky River and meanders along its bank to the mouth, providing spectacular views through the valley and across the Southern Ocean.

**Access**

Snake Lagoon is located 9 km from Flinders Chase Visitor Centre off the West Bay Road.
22. Sandy Creek Hike

Follow the bank of Sandy Creek before descending into the creek bed for the last section through sand dunes and onto a large sandy beach. Here time can be forgotten while relaxing and watching the Southern Ocean pound against the shore.

Access

This hike begins on West Bay Road approximately 10 km from Flinders Chase Visitor Centre.
23. Ravine Hike

This trail follows the ravine valley to the coast, passing along the creek bank and high above the valley floor, providing spectacular views. The French explorer, Nicolas Baudin, observed the Kangaroo Island Dwarf Emu here in 1802, mistakenly identifying them as Cassowary. Tragically, the Kangaroo Island Dwarf Emu became extinct at least ten years before the first official settlement in 1836.

Access

The hike begins on the Ravine des Casoars Road, 7 km south of the Playford Highway, near Cape Borda Lightstation.
24. Clifftop Hike

This short trail is the perfect complement to a guided tour at Cape Borda Lightstation. Meander through the picturesque rock gardens, and observe how the vegetation shortens and changes as you near the cliff top.

A stone lookout provides an ideal vantage point for spotting whales and dolphins.

Access

This trail starts at Cape Borda Lightstation.
25. Return Road Hike

Starting at Harveys Return this hike wanders through low Sugar Gum woodland, passing groves of native pine near the Lightkeepers Cemetery. Take a side trip when you cross the road to view the spectacular coastline at Scott Cove. The hike follows the lightkeepers’ old cart track used for transporting supplies between Harveys Return and Cape Borda, which they called ‘The Return Road’. Look for cobblestones which indicate the alignment of the original track.

Access

This hike can begin at either Harveys Return or Cape Borda Lightstation.
26. Harveys Return Hike

This short hike follows the original route used by the Cape Borda Lightkeepers who hauled their stores up from Harveys Return using a horse and capstan (horse-drawn winch), and small rail cars. For geology enthusiasts, there are spectacular outcrops of tightly folded, thinly bedded schists. Below the capstan, the trail is very steep, so walkers should descend carefully.

Access

The trail begins at the Harveys Return Campground on the Playford Highway.
27. Waterfall Creek Hike

Follow the trail from the car park down the valley to the creek. Stepping stones lead you up a small winding trail through sheoak trees, to a lookout with spectacular views of a winter waterfall. The sheoaks provide a valuable food source for the elusive, endangered Glossy Black-Cockatoo. The waterfall generally dries up in the summer months.

Access

This hike begins in the car park in the Western River Wilderness Protection Area, off Colmans Road.
The coastal waters of Kangaroo Island have considerable conservation significance and are recognised as being among the most biologically diverse of any along the southern Australian coastline.

There are a great variety of habitats and conditions, from southern and western coasts battered by Southern Ocean swells and dominated by inshore rocky reef systems to the sheltered northeast where protected bays harbour seagrass meadows and soft bottom communities.

There are 25 estuaries around KI with a mixture of saltmarsh, mudflat and seagrass communities. Fifteen of these estuaries are listed as wetlands of national significance.

Kangaroo Island’s pristine waters are home to a diverse and important range of marine life. These areas also support the local economy through tourism, aquaculture and commercial fishing. Their importance has been recognised through the creation of four Marine Parks that ensure increased protection to approximately two-thirds of the island’s waters.
Kangaroo Island’s Marine Parks

DEWRN managed park
Marine Park
Marine Park - Sanctuary Zone

KANGAROO

Sanctuary Zone
Cape Borda
Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park
West Bay
Maupertuis Bay
Cape du Couedic
Sanctuary Zone

Sanctuary Zone
Western River Cove
Snelling Beach

Southern Spencer Gulf Marine Park
Sanctuary Zone
Western River Cove
Snelling Beach

Sanctuary Zone
Sanctuary Zone
Sanctuary Zone
Sanctuary Zone

DEWNR managed park
Marine Park - Sanctuary Zone
Marine Parks

Encounter Marine Park

The Encounter Marine Park covers an area of approximately 3,119 km² and encompasses the waters off southern metropolitan Adelaide and the Fleurieu Peninsula, extending past the Murray Mouth to the Coorong coast. At its western boundary, the Marine Park includes all waters of Backstairs Passage and the north eastern shores of Kangaroo Island.

The Encounter Marine Park contains a diverse range of habitats: high energy sandy beaches and dune systems; coastal cliffs and rocky headlands; intertidal, shallow and deep-water limestone and granite reefs; islands, sheltered bays, estuaries and saltmarshes; seagrass meadows, sandy seafloors and deep-water trenches.

For more information on the wildlife and diversity of species in this particular area, please visit the website: www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks.

There are eleven Sanctuary Zones in the Encounter Marine Park, three of them in the waters off Kangaroo Island:

Pelican Lagoon Sanctuary Zone

This regionally unique coastal lagoon contains shallow sponge beds, tidal channels and key nursery areas for a variety of fish. It is the oldest protected aquatic area in South Australia and has been a ‘no-take’ reserve since 1971.

Sponge Gardens Sanctuary Zone

One of only two known deep sea trenches in SA waters with powerful tidal flows that provide nutrients for large, deep water sponges. Closer to shore there are spectacular walls of subtidal rocky reef, fantastic for diving.

Bay of Shoals Sanctuary Zone

The seagrass meadows of Bay of Shoals provide a highly important nursery area for a wide range of marine animals including commercially valuable fish species, while the tidal flats provide an important feeding area for local and migratory birds. The sanctuary zone also includes Busby Islet, which is recognised as a Wetland of National Importance and an important location for numerous sea and shorebirds.
Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park

Covering 673 km² the Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park abuts the southern coast of Kangaroo Island between D’Estrees Bay and the western end of Seal Bay Conservation Park. Offshore, it also includes North Rock, Young Rocks and South West Rock.

This region of Kangaroo Island is fully exposed to the strong winds and large swells of the Southern Ocean that have shaped its rugged coastline over thousands of years. Exposed cliffs, rocky headlands and wave-cut shore platforms dominate the park with high energy sandy beaches and dunes at Seal Bay and Bales Beach. Fringing and deep-water reefs are interspersed by sandy seafloor whilst the slightly more sheltered waters of D’Estrees Bay support the only significant seagrass bed on the south coast of the island.

There is only one Sanctuary Zone within Southern Kangaroo Island MP:

Seal Bay Sanctuary Zone

Seal Bay is one of the State’s most important breeding sites for Australian Sea-lions. The sanctuary zone for Seal Bay and Bales Bay has been extended to further protect key feeding areas for mothers and pups. It also provides increased protection of foraging grounds for ospreys, white-bellied sea eagles and white-faced storm petrels that nest in the area.
Marine Parks

Southern Spencer Gulf Marine Park

The Southern Spencer Gulf Marine Park covers 2,972 km² and extends around the western tip of Yorke Peninsula and across to the central north coast of Kangaroo Island.

Out in Investigator Strait, waters are up to 50 metres deep and include deeper water seagrass meadows and sandy seafloor habitats. The north coast of Kangaroo Island comprises exposed cliffs and headlands fronted by high energy intertidal reefs and rocky shore platforms, occasionally interspersed with small sandy or boulder beaches. Small, scattered seagrass meadows can also be found in some of the sheltered areas along the coast.

One of the three sanctuary zones within Southern Spencer Gulf Marine Park is located off Kangaroo Island:

Waterfall Creek Sanctuary Zone

This small, 1 km² area joins on to the Western River Wilderness Protection Area and protects the area where Waterfall Creek and Billy Goat Creek flow out into the sea. The spectacular coastline here is dominated by high cliffs with rocky shorelines and boulder beaches, while the rocky reefs support a wide range of resident reef fish.
Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park

The Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park covers 1,020 km² and is situated between Cape Forbin and Sanderson Bay, and includes the Casuarina Islets and Lipson Reef.

The southern and western coasts of the park are highly exposed to strong winds and large swells and experience seasonal nutrient-rich upwellings. The park’s shoreline is dominated by rugged, exposed cliffs and headlands interspersed by pocket beaches. Reefs extend from intertidal wave-cut shore platforms along most of the coastline and transition to sandy seafloor habitats in deeper waters.

Two of the sanctuary zones within the Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park are located off Kangaroo Island:

Cape du Couedic Sanctuary Zone

The seasonal upwelling in this region creates a nutrient-rich environment which strongly influences the food webs within this Marine Park. The result is highly productive waters close to shore, making this an attractive location for seabirds, fur seals, sharks and other predatory fish. Famous as a breeding site for long-nosed fur seals, Cape du Couedic is also the only known breeding site in South Australia for the lesser known Australian fur seal.

Cape Borda Sanctuary Zone

Joining on to the Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area and Cape Torrens Wilderness Protection Area, this significant stretch of remote coastline contains some of the tallest cliffs in South Australia and nesting sites for coastal raptors. While the near-shore reef is known to provide habitat for site-attached fish including western blue groper, harlequin fish, and western blue devils, within 2 km of the shore the sea floor can be as much as 80 metres below sea level.
Self-guided drives

D’Estrees Bay, Cape Gantheaume CP

This self-guided nature drive begins at the second boat ramp seven kilometres from the junction of Elsegood Road and D’Estrees Bay Road. It will take you to the end of D’Estrees Bay Road adjacent to Sewer Beach. The drive is approximately eight kilometres in length. The trail symbol of an Osprey and the stop number mark designated stops at points of interest along the drive. In 1803 the French explorer Nicolas Baudin circumnavigated Kangaroo Island. He named this long, sweeping bay after Jacques D’Estrees (1660–1737), a French author, Marshall of France, Vice-Admiral and Minister of State.

Shackle Road, Flinders Chase NP

This self-guided nature drive on the rugged western end of Kangaroo Island will take you from Flinders Chase Visitor Centre to Cape Borda Lightstation, when open, (or vice versa) via Shackle Road and Playford Highway. Allow at least two hours to complete the drive or a full day to really explore.

To gain a better understanding of the natural history of the Flinders Chase National Park and Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area, follow the map in this guide. The trail symbol of a Yacca bush and the stop number, mark designated stops and points of interest along the drive.
Beware... deadly phytophthora cinnamon fungus

*Phytophthora* (pronounced fy-TOFF-thora) species are soil and waterborne fungi that cause disease and often death to a wide variety of native plant species, exotic fruits and vegetables. The most common species is *Phytophthora cinnamomi* which is also referred to as Pc.

*Phytophthora* attacks the roots and stems of plants. Early symptoms of the disease are root-rot, and depending on the plant species, stem rot and eventual death. Susceptible plants die from an inability to take up sufficient water and nutrients. The first symptoms of infection are the yellowing of the foliage followed by dieback of the entire plant.

You can help stop the spread of *Phytophthora* on Kangaroo Island by preventing the transfer of infested soil or plant material please:

- avoid driving, riding or walking in areas when soils are wet and sticky.
- brush soil off vehicles, bikes, boots and camp gear before and after each trip.
- stay on designated roads, tracks and trails.
- obey ‘Road Closed’ signs.
- use wash down or hygiene stations when provided.
The National Parks code

Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

• Leave your pets at home.
• Take your rubbish with you.
• Wood fires permitted only where designated. Gas fires elsewhere. No fires on declared Total Fire Ban Days (the CFS broadcasts notices on local radio 891 ABC (AM) and 765 5CC (AM) or check CFS hotline 1300 362 361).
• 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.
• Help prevent the spread of the deadly cinnamon fungus; please comply with walking trailhead instructions.
• No drones are permitted in any Park without permission.

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

Slow down for native wildlife
Kangaroo Island is refuge to an abundant array of native wildlife. Unfortunately too many are killed on the roads.

Please reduce your speed because:
• Echidnas are slow moving animals.
• Goannas need to bask in the sun before becoming active.
• Nocturnal animals are active at night.
• Your headlights can dazzle nocturnal animals.

Please don’t feed the wildlife
Please don’t feed the wildlife – let them fend for themselves because:
• Human food may be poisonous to wildlife. It can seriously disrupt their digestive systems.
• Feeding changes natural behaviour patterns which are essential for survival in the bush.
• Feeding can cause dangerous situations when animals become aggressive and cause injury.
• Keep our wildlife healthy.

Wildlife watching guidelines
Always remember:
• Stay on the trail.
• Put the animals’ welfare first.
• Move slowly and quietly.
• Observe from a distance.
• Use binoculars for that close-up look.

For your safety
All native animals in national and conservation parks and conservation reserves are wild and should be observed and photographed from a distance. This minimises disturbance to the animal and allows you to observe many of the natural behaviours exhibited by native animals in the wild.
Bushfire safety for travellers

Bushfires can occur without warning and can quickly impact your travel route.

In South Australia, bushfires occur regularly. Being out on the road during a bushfire is extremely dangerous – last minute evacuations are a life-threatening option.

Fire danger ratings

Every day during the Fire Danger Season, weather and other factors are used to calculate Fire Danger Ratings for each District. These ratings are not predictors of how likely a bushfire is to occur, but how dangerous it could be if it did occur.

Total Fire Bans

The CFS may declare Total Fire Bans on days of severe weather, when high temperatures, strong winds and low humidity could cause fires to become uncontrollable. Certain activities like barbeques and camp fires are banned on these days.

Do you know what you can and can’t do on Total Fire Ban days?

On Total Fire Ban days

On Total Fire Ban days, it is best to postpone a trip into the bush, since the dangers of fires starting and moving rapidly are extremely high. Think about what you will do on those days: obey fire bans, avoid activities that could start a fire (such as driving through long grass, campfires), and avoid activities that can place you in areas of high risk.

For your safety

Go to www.cfs.sa.gov.au
Monitor ABC Radio 891 (AM)
Contact Bushfire Information Hotline 1300 362 361 (TTY 133677)
Seek advice from the Natural Resource Centre, Kingscote 85534444
To report a fire, dial 000.

Bushwalking

It is advisable not to go bushwalking on Total Fire Ban days, but if you are caught in a bushfire you should:

• Never try to outrun the flames.

• Head for a natural fire break, e.g. streams, clearings or rock outcrops.

• Keep away from high ground in the path of the fire.

• Never shelter in an above ground water tank or dam.

• Cover yourself or shelter behind a solid object such as a rock, to protect yourself against radiant heat.
**Fires can threaten suddenly and without warning**

**WATCH** for signs of fire, especially smoke and flames

**KNOW** the Fire Danger Rating in your area and be aware of local conditions

**HAVE** your Bushfire Survival Plan and kit ready

**CALL** 000 to report a fire

**TO SEEK INFORMATION**

- listen to local radio
- go to www.cfs.sa.gov.au
- or call the Bushfire Information Hotline on 1300 362 361 (TTY 133 677)

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### DANGER RATING | WHAT SHOULD I DO?

**CATASTROPHIC**

**TOTAL FIRE BAN**

**You need to act now**

These are the worst conditions for a bushfire – if a fire starts, it will be extremely difficult to control and will move very fast. Buildings are not built to withstand these fires.

The safest place to be is away from any bushfire prone areas.

- Avoid travelling through forests, thick bush or long dry grass.
- Leave bushfire prone areas the night before or early in the morning. Act immediately – do not wait and see.

**EXTREME**

**TOTAL FIRE BAN**

**You need to get ready to act**

Fires that start under these conditions will be unpredictable, fast-moving and difficult to control. The safest place to be is away from any bushfire prone areas: leave them early in the day, and do not travel into these areas.

**SEVERE**

**TOTAL FIRE BAN**

**You need to be aware**

Fires that start under these conditions will be difficult to control. If possible, avoid travelling into bushfire prone areas. If not, only travel if you and your vehicle are well prepared. Know where to go if there is a bushfire. Watch out for smoke or any changes in conditions.

**VERY HIGH**

**You need to be prepared**

Fires that start under these conditions are likely to be controlled. Buildings can provide safety. Know where to get more information about the weather and bushfires, and watch out for any changes.

**HIGH**

**LOW-MODERATE**
Travelling on the road

Cars are a very dangerous place to be during a bushfire, as they offer little protection from radiant heat, and driving conditions are often difficult and stressful.

If you are aware of bushfires before you leave home, plan an alternative route and do not travel to the affected area. If you come across smoke while travelling, turn around and go back. Listen to the radio and ask locally for help to find a safe way through.

Ensure your vehicle is properly maintained for the journey you are undertaking. Keep several woollen blankets and a supply of fresh water in your vehicle, just in case you are caught in a bushfire.

If you need to use your vehicle as a shelter from a bushfire

Research shows that sheltering inside a vehicle is a high risk strategy and it is highly unlikely that a person will survive in all but the mildest circumstances. The only sure way to survive a bushfire is to be nowhere near the threat.

Before the fire front reaches you

- Park behind a solid structure to block as much heat as you can. If this isn’t possible, find a clearing away from dense bush and flammable material on the ground, such as branches and leaves.
- Park the vehicle off the roadway to avoid collisions in poor visibility.
- Face vehicle towards oncoming fire front.
- Turn headlights and hazard lights on.
- Tightly close all windows and doors.
- Stay inside your vehicle – it offers better protection from the radiant heat than being in the open.
- Shut all the air vents and turn the air conditioning off.
- Turn the vehicle engine off.
- Get down below window level into foot wells and shelter under woollen blankets.
- Drink water to minimise risks of dehydration.
As the fire front passes

• During a bushfire the critical time for personal safety is during the 5 to 10 minutes it takes for the fire front to pass.

• Stay in the vehicle until fire front has passed.

• Fuel tanks are very unlikely to explode.

• Smoke gradually gets inside the vehicle and fumes will be released from the interior of the vehicle. Stay as close to the floor as possible to minimise inhalation and cover mouth with a moist cloth.

• Tyres and external plastic body parts may catch alight. In more extreme cases the vehicle interior may catch on fire.

• Once the front has passed and the temperature has dropped, cautiously exit the vehicle (be careful – internal parts will be extremely hot).

• Move to a safe area such as a strip of land that has already burnt.

• Stay covered in woollen blankets, continue to drink water and wait for assistance.

Disclaimer

While every reasonable effort has been made to verify the information in this fact sheet use of the information contained is at your sole risk. The Department recommends that you independently verify the information before taking any action.

FIS 93469
Further information

Flinders Chase Visitor Centre
T: (08) 8553 4490
E: flinderschase@sa.gov.au

Seal Bay
T: (08) 8553 4463
E: sealbay@sa.gov.au

Kelly Hill Conservation Park
T: (08) 8553 4464
E: kellyhill@sa.gov.au

Cape Borda Lightstation
T: (08) 8553 4465
E: capeborda@sa.gov.au

Cape Willoughby Lightstation
T: (08) 8553 4466
E: capewilloughby@sa.gov.au

www.parks.sa.gov.au

Natural Resources Centre Kangaroo Island
37 Dauncey Street
Kingscote SA 5223
T: (08) 8553 4444
E: kinrc@sa.gov.au

Boxer Drive towards Remarkable Rocks