

CAMPING

in South Australia's National Parks



**Your guide to 20 fabulous
camping escapes**

Camping checklist

Ideas for camping with kids

Park highlights

Frequently asked questions

Camp fire safety tips



Government of South Australia

Department for Environment
and Heritage



South Australia.
A brilliant blend.

www.parks.sa.gov.au

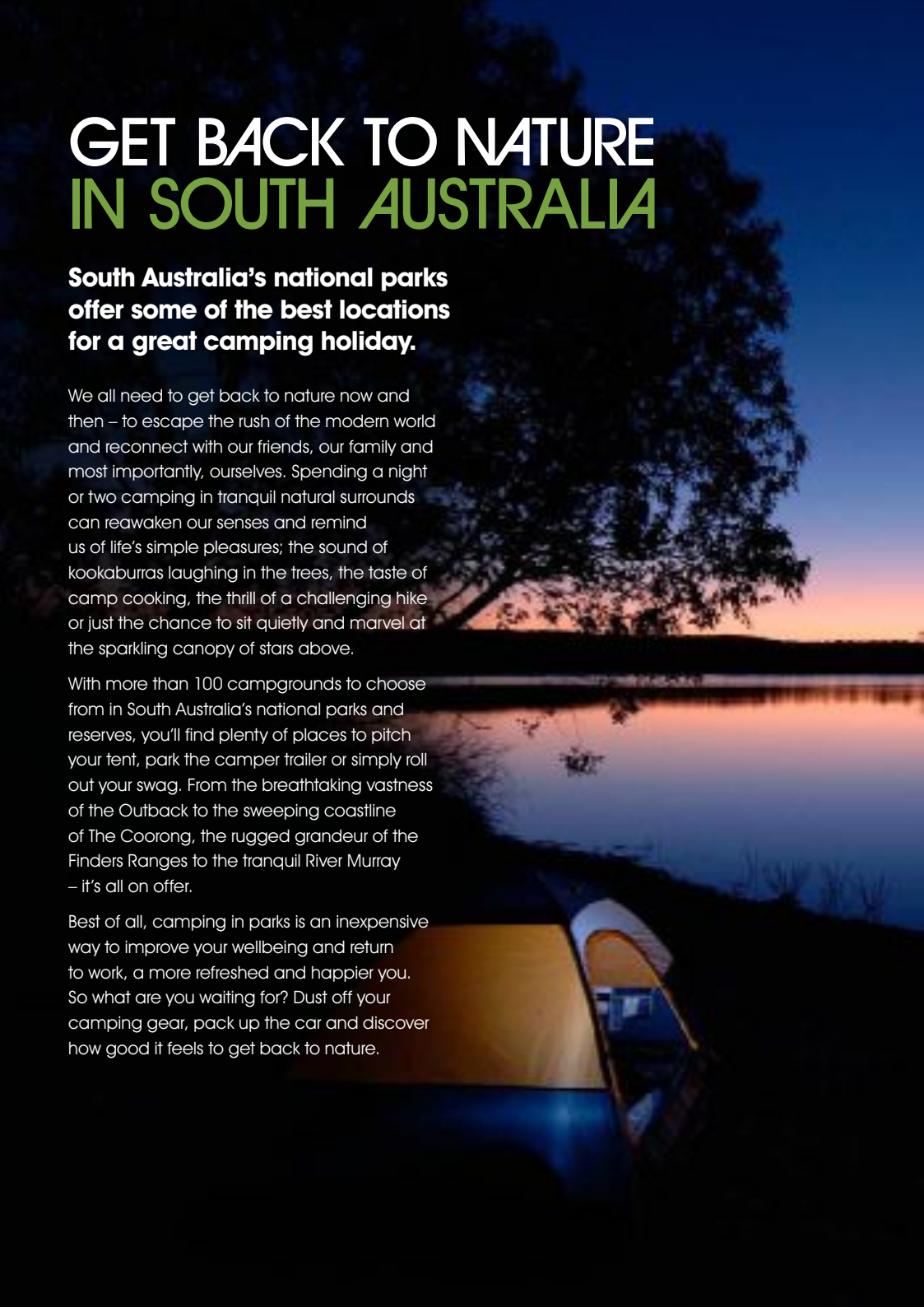
GET BACK TO NATURE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australia's national parks offer some of the best locations for a great camping holiday.

We all need to get back to nature now and then – to escape the rush of the modern world and reconnect with our friends, our family and most importantly, ourselves. Spending a night or two camping in tranquil natural surrounds can reawaken our senses and remind us of life's simple pleasures; the sound of kookaburras laughing in the trees, the taste of camp cooking, the thrill of a challenging hike or just the chance to sit quietly and marvel at the sparkling canopy of stars above.

With more than 100 campgrounds to choose from in South Australia's national parks and reserves, you'll find plenty of places to pitch your tent, park the camper trailer or simply roll out your swag. From the breathtaking vastness of the Outback to the sweeping coastline of The Coorong, the rugged grandeur of the Finders Ranges to the tranquil River Murray – it's all on offer.

Best of all, camping in parks is an inexpensive way to improve your wellbeing and return to work, a more refreshed and happier you. So what are you waiting for? Dust off your camping gear, pack up the car and discover how good it feels to get back to nature.



A person wearing a hat is silhouetted against a sunset over a body of water. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and red near the horizon, which is reflected in the calm water. The person is standing on a dark bank, looking out over the lake.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide introduces 20 wonderfully diverse camping getaways in South Australia's national parks and reserves managed by DEH (Department for Environment and Heritage). Inside you'll find tips for first-time campers, a handy camping checklist and profiles on different camping destinations. Our aim is to help you find the right campground or park to suit your needs that meets your expectations.



CAMPING LEAVE NO TRACE



www.lnt.org.au

Our national parks protect an array of amazing landscapes, rare native wildlife and cultural heritage sites.

We encourage you to enjoy these recreational areas, while conserving the very values that make them special by following the 'Leave No Trace' international code of ethics. Adopted by park agencies and people around the world, Leave No Trace encourages us to responsibly enjoy and actively care for our precious environment. You too can help keep our parks just as wild and welcoming for those who follow by practicing the seven Leave No Trace principles on the next page.



1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Find out the regulations and special concerns of the parks you plan to visit.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Prepare for extreme weather conditions, carry the correct equipment and know what to do if things go wrong.

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Keep to defined vehicle tracks and walking trails.
- Camp in designated areas to avoid damage to fragile vegetation.

3. Dispose of Waste Properly

- Take rubbish home with you – if you carry it in, carry it out.
- Always use toilets where provided. If there are no facilities, walk 100 metres from watercourses, camp sites or tracks and dig a hole around 15 cm deep to bury toilet waste including toilet paper.
- Wash 50 metres from water supplies and creek beds and use only a small amount of soap if needed.
- Clean your dishes with biodegradable detergent in a container or try a scourer, hot water and gritty sand instead.

4. Leave What You Find

- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them – pass the gift of discovery on to those who follow.
- Preserve the past – look but do not touch cultural artefacts and historic sites.



5. Minimise Camp Fire Impacts

- Observe fire bans and park fire regulations.
- Use a liquid fuel or gas stove to conserve native habitat and reduce the risk of wildfire and burn injuries.

6. Respect Wildlife

- Do not disturb or feed wildlife. Feeding animals can harm their health and cause sickness and disease. It can also make them aggressive towards people to obtain food and alter their natural behaviours. Help keep wildlife wild by storing rubbish and food securely.

7. Be Considerate of Your Hosts and Other Visitors

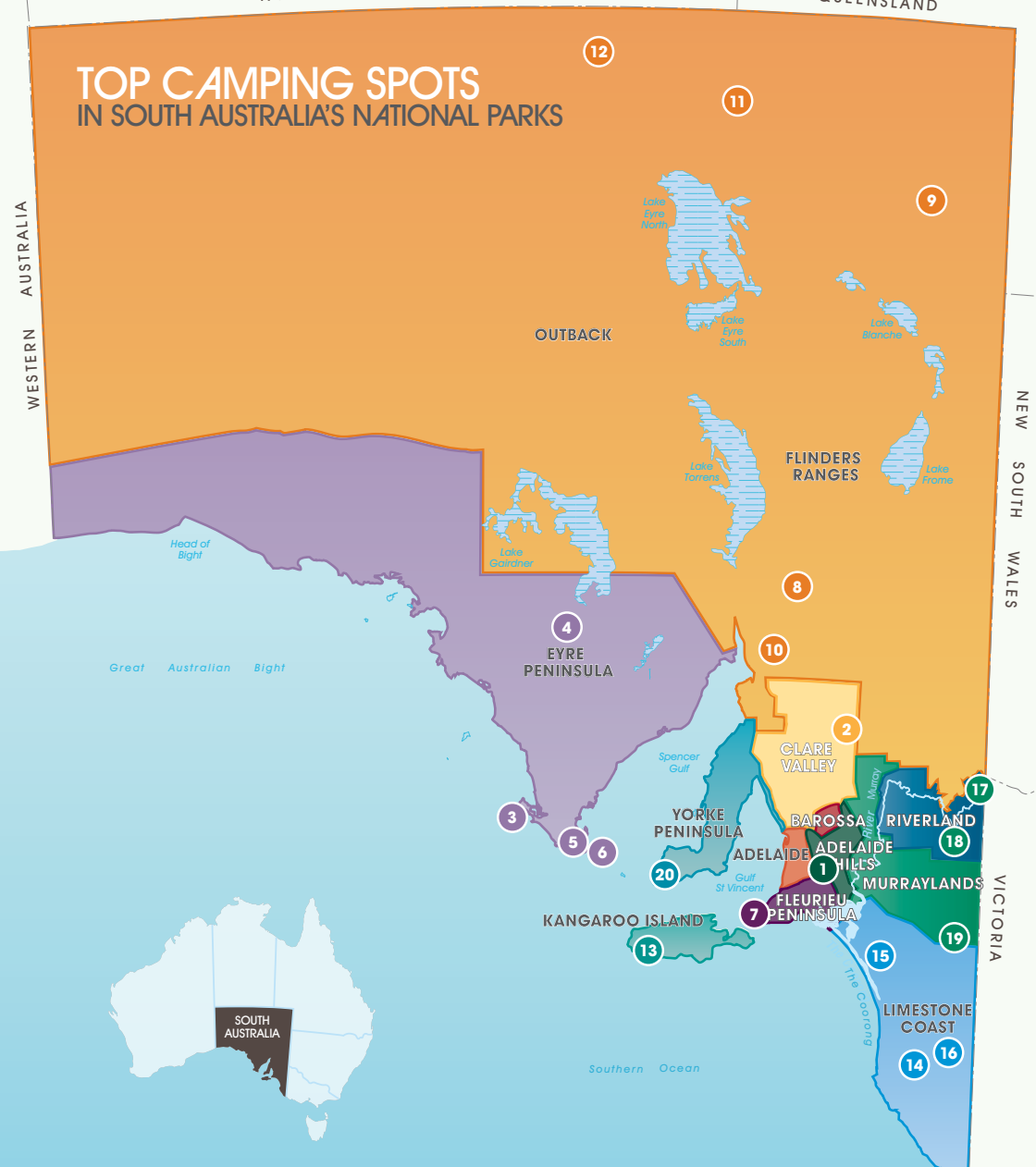
- Let nature's sound prevail. Avoid loud voices and noise from the use of radios, electronic games, mobile phones and other intrusive electronic devices.

TOP CAMPING SPOTS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL PARKS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

VICTORIA



 Intermittent Lake



0 km 50 100



Visitor Information Centres can help you make the most of your next camping holiday. To discover more regional highlights contact the visitor centres listed in this guide.

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WHAT'S YOUR CAMPING STYLE?

| What's your style? | Campground facilities | Places to go |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Camping in Comfort</p> <p>You're the type of camper who enjoys creature comforts in natural surrounds with easy access to a wide range of facilities.</p> | <p>Serviced campground</p> <p>Facilities may include: hot showers, flush toilets, water, picnic tables, gas or electric barbecues, rubbish collection, powered sites and laundry facilities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the World Heritage wonders of Naracoorte Caves National Park from Naracoorte Caves campground. • Enjoy peaceful Belair National Park Caravan Park, just 8 km from Adelaide. |
| <p>Back to Basics</p> <p>You seek discovery in natural settings with access to simple support facilities. You are willing to go without some comforts – but just for a few days.</p> | <p>Basic facilities</p> <p>Facilities may include: toilets (usually non-flushing), designated fireplaces, water tanks or no water.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try Deep Creek Conservation Park – ideal for first-time campers. • Relax along the River Murray at Chowilla Game Reserve. |
| <p>Roughing it</p> <p>You are the self-sufficient type who seeks a sense of solitude in nature. An experienced camper, you are willing to sacrifice comfort and convenience to avoid high-use areas and are aware of basic safety needs.</p> | <p>No facilities</p> <p>Bring all essential equipment and supplies.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience an overnight hike in Mount Remarkable National Park. • Camp in a swag in the Simpson Desert. |
| <p>Exclusive Camping</p> <p>For nature lovers who seek special natural settings or wilderness areas with secluded camp sites.</p> | <p>Facilities are minimal: Advance bookings or a key may be required to gain access.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience Memory Cove in the Wilderness Protection Area near Lincoln National Park. • Try Godfreys Landing in Coorong National Park (accessible by boat or canoe only). |

Disclaimer: We have done our best to try to match the style of camping with the experience on offer. The Department for Environment and Heritage however, accepts no responsibility for any inconvenience or loss arising from the use of this publication. If you have concerns about vehicle access, campground or park facilities please contact the nearest local park office directly.

Camping means different things to different people.

For some it is all about being completely self-sufficient with a swag under the stars or keeping it simple with a traditional tent. Others like to navigate new frontiers with a 4WD and off-road camper trailer, stretch out in a caravan or enjoy the freedom of a motorhome on a big lap around Australia.

To cater for everyone, campgrounds in parks have different standards and facilities.

How to find the best campground for you...









Simply choose your camping style from the four options on page three. Then look for the matching level of campground facilities highlighted in the coloured boxes for each park listed throughout this guide. These snapshots feature a mix of site-specific campgrounds and general camping experiences across South Australia's beautiful national parks and reserves.













WHAT DO THE SYMBOLS MEAN?






Key

-  Entry fee
-  Entry fee (per person)
-  Camping fees apply
-  Guided tours
-  Park information office
-  Ranger on site
-  Meals available
-  Kiosk/refreshments
-  Public phone
-  Brochure
-  Camp fires permitted
-  Camp fires not allowed
-  Campground














Facilities

-  Toilets
-  Disabled toilets
-  Picnic area
-  Barbecue facilities
-  Showers
-  Fire pit with hot plate
-  Rubbish collection
-  Water *

Type of Camping Area

-  Suitable for caravans
-  Suitable for motorhomes
-  Vehicle-based camping
-  Walk-in camping
-  Boat-access camping

Activities

-  Walking trails
-  4WD touring
-  Swimming
-  Fishing
-  Boating
-  Canoeing
-  Scuba diving/snorkelling
-  Horse riding
-  Dogs permitted on lead
-  Pets not allowed
-  Cycling
-  Rock climbing
-  Birdwatching

Directions

- N** - North
- S** - South
- E** - East
- W** - West



1 Belair National Park 840 ha



Set in the beautiful woodlands of the Adelaide Hills, Belair is South Australia’s oldest national park. Charming reminders of its colonial history still linger including wrought iron pavilions and the grand summer residence of South Australia’s early governors – Old Government House.

A popular recreational retreat among Adelaide’s city dwellers, Belair offers numerous shared walking, cycling and horse riding trails, more than 50 bush tennis courts, a playground, ovals and excellent picnic facilities – all within 20 minutes drive of Adelaide. The park is also home to a variety of orchids and colourful native birds.

Highlights

- Join a guided tour of Old Government House and its lovely cottage gardens (Sunday and public holidays 1 pm - 4 pm).
- Let the kids loose on the Adventure Playground.
- Enjoy a leisurely stroll around the lake or family bike ride.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Location | 8 km S Adelaide |
| Getting there | Upper Sturt Rd, Belair |
| Contact | Belair Caravan Park (bookings) (08) 8278 3540 |
| | Belair National Park (08) 8278 5477 |
| | Mount Lofty Summit Visitor Information Centre (08) 8370 1054 |

Belair National Park Caravan Park



Relax in tranquil bush surrounds with shady sites for caravans, camper trailers and tents. Enjoy easy access to hot showers, laundry facilities and picnic areas with free gas barbecues. This private campground is just 200 metres past the entrance to Belair National Park.

Best time to visit: All year-round

Serviced campground



39 powered sites,
10 unpowered camp sites





2 Red Banks Conservation Park 1,035 ha



Spring-fed waterholes, remnant mallee trees and meandering creeks set the peaceful scene for Red Banks Conservation Park near Burra.

Palaeontologists have called this area one of the richest megafauna sites in Australia. The soil has surrendered several significant fossil finds including remains of the *Diprotodon* (like a giant wombat), that once roamed the area some 65,000 years ago. Today Short-beaked Echidnas, Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats, birds, reptiles and present day descendants of megafauna – Western Grey and Red kangaroos are among the park's wildlife.

Highlights

- Photograph the deep-red alluvial cliffs illuminated by the afternoon sun along Baldina Creek.
- Learn about megafauna along the fascinating Landscapes of Change walking trail.
- Watch wildlife drink from permanent waterholes at dusk and dawn.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Location | 15 km E Burra |
| Getting there | Along the Barrier Highway via Gawler, Riverton, Saddaleworth and Burra |
| Contact | DEH Burra Office (08) 8892 3025 Burra Visitor Information Centre (08) 8892 2154 |

Red Banks Campground



Find a quiet spot to camp among the old growth mallee. An ideal setting for birdwatching, spacious designated sites offer vehicle-based camping. Toilets are located nearby.

Best time to visit: Mar - Nov

Basic facilities



10 designated camp sites



TOP CAMPING
SPOT





3 Coffin Bay National Park 30,997 ha



Point Avoid (2WD)

On his voyage of discovery in 1802, explorer Matthew Flinders described Coffin Bay as a place where sandy beaches and cliffs could be seen nearly all around.

The park's 55 km coastline is certainly a wild and beckoning place. An ever-changing panorama of ocean beaches, tranquil bays, windswept headlands and islands. Located at the southern end of the park, peaceful Yangle Bay is accessible by 2WD and offers an ideal place to paddle your canoe, enjoy a bush picnic or explore one of several coastal bushwalking trails. A sealed road to Point Avoid takes in spectacular island views with access to the beach.

Highlights

- Discover giant sand dunes and stunning coastal scenery.
- Watch for pods of wild dolphins – some of the park's regular visitors.
- Cast your fishing line for Australian Salmon at Gunyah Beach and Golden Island Lookout.

Point Sir Isaac (4WD)

A vast fortress of sand dunes, coastal heath and rocky headlands protect the stunning northern beaches of Coffin Bay National Park. A favourite destination for anglers, birdwatchers and surfers, this remote and beautiful area of the park is only accessible by high-clearance 4WD.

To reach the secluded destination of Point Sir Isaac, experienced 4WD enthusiasts must navigate their way along a slender 55 km coastal strip of sandy beaches and limestone outcrops. Allow three hours one-way. Before setting out, check tide times and make sure you have adequate recovery equipment and supplies of food, water and fuel. Remember to reduce your tyre pressure when driving in sand.

Highlights

- Stroll along the magnificent white sands of Sensation Beach.
- Hike into the remote Whidbey Wilderness Area.
- Catch a glimpse of resident and migratory birds feeding along the stunning Seven Mile Beach.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Location | 50 km W Port Lincoln |
| Getting there | Access via Flinders Highway |
| Contact | DEH Port Lincoln Office (08) 8688 3111 Port Lincoln Visitor Information Centre 1300 788 378 |



Yangie Bay Campground



Overlooking the calm waters of Yangie Bay, this campground is protected by low-lying hills and dense scrubland. Popular among families, several camp sites are also suitable for caravans. Access is via a sealed road with a short unsealed section suitable for 2WD vehicles.

Best time to visit: Dec - May

Basic facilities



10 designated camp sites, 4 other campgrounds (4WD access only) in the park



Camping Coffin Bay National Park



The northern section of Coffin Bay National Park offers a choice of four designated camping areas with easy beach access. The Pool campground is popular among anglers and is a short drive for surfers lured by the good waves at Mullalong Beach. Boats can also access The Pool, Black Springs and Morgans Landing campgrounds.

Best time to visit: Dec - May

Basic facilities



The Pool, Black Springs and Morgans Landing campgrounds





4 Gawler Ranges

National Park 166,199 ha



The vivid colours and extraordinary beauty of the Gawler Ranges leaves a lasting impression on all who visit.

Rocky gorges and valleys punctuate the landscape, before settling into sweeping plains of bluebush and spinifex that pastoralists once sought to tame. The park's relative isolation, 3.5 hours west of Port Augusta makes it a haven for wildlife including the endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby and Malleefowl – among 21 threatened species of native plants and animals recorded here. If you seek amazing backdrops and the solitude of bush camping, this park is for you.

Highlights

- Wonder at the amazing columns of The Organ Pipes or impressive Kolay Mirica Falls.
- See spring wildflowers dotted across the landscape after good winter rains.
- Discover the far-flung buildings of Pondanna Outstation and Old Paney Homestead – reminders of the area's pastoral heritage.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Location | 230 km W Port Augusta |
| Getting there | Access via Kimba, Wudinna or Minnipa |
| Contact | DEH Gawler Ranges Office (08) 8688 3111 |

Camping

Gawler Ranges National Park



Enjoy self-sufficient camping in the magnificent Gawler Ranges. Choose from seven bush camping areas laced together by scenic unsealed roads and tracks accessible to high-clearance 4WD vehicles.

Best time to visit: Mar - Nov

Basic facilities



Yandinga

No facilities

Waganny, Scrubby Peak, Chillunie, Mattera and Kododo Hill campgrounds





5 Lincoln National Park 31,531 ha



Revealing a rugged peninsula of striking contrasts, Lincoln National Park's picturesque scenery varies from sandy beaches and tranquil bays, ideal for swimming and boating, to spectacular headlands and limestone cliffs buffeted by fierce waves.

Inland is just as diverse with vast sweeps of coastal mallee, granite outcrops and sand dunes. Boating, fishing, beachcombing, birdwatching and nature walks are popular activities. Camping is also a favourite pastime with a variety of campgrounds offering easy access to bays and beaches.

Highlights

- Enjoy a short walk to the top of Stamford Hill for spectacular 360-degree views of Boston Bay and Port Lincoln.
- Discover the massive, wind-sculpted dunes of the Sleaford Bay shore along marked 4WD tracks.
- Hike a section of the 109 km Investigator Trail and soak up the splendour of the coastline.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Location | 15 km S Port Lincoln |
| Getting there | Access via Flinders Highway |
| Contact | DEH Port Lincoln Office (08) 8688 3111 Port Lincoln Visitor Information Centre 1300 788 378 |

September Beach Campground



This delightful camping area, located at the northern tip of the park, is just a short stroll over sand dunes to a gentle beach. It's an ideal base to explore the park, laze on the sand or try your luck fishing.

Best time to visit: Dec - May

Basic facilities



13 camp sites, 8 other campgrounds in the park



TOP CAMPING
SPOT





6 Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area 9,336 ha



Memory Cove is a truly beautiful destination with a placid turquoise bay and white sandy beach, cradled between two densely vegetated headlands.

Located in a secluded wilderness protection area, Memory Cove holds a special place in the history of European exploration. Matthew Flinders named this cove in honour of his eight crewmen who drowned when their small boat was hit by a sudden storm whilst on a separate mission to find fresh water. Their memory is certainly embraced by the tranquillity of the cove and the magnificent wilderness that surrounds it. To maintain the natural qualities of this area, access is limited to 15 vehicles per day, 4WD recommended.

Highlights

- Dig your toes into the soft, white sand.
- Day trip to attractions in the neighbouring Lincoln National Park.
- Relax and enjoy the spectacular seascapes.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Location | 50 km S Port Lincoln |
| Getting there | Access via Flinders Highway |
| Contact | Port Lincoln Visitor Information Centre (camp site bookings) 1300 788 378 DEH Port Lincoln Office (08) 8688 3111 |

Memory Cove Campground



Nestled among a canopy of coastal mallee overlooking a picturesque blue bay, Memory Cove is a special camping experience. To control visitor numbers a gate key is required from Port Lincoln Visitor Information Centre. Advance bookings essential.

Best time to visit: Dec - May

Basic facilities



Exclusive camping

5 designated camp sites





7 Newland Head Conservation Park 1,035 ha



Located less than 100 km from Adelaide, Newland Head Conservation Park is a short drive from the hustle and bustle of the city to the splendour of nature.

The park protects two long sandy beaches; Parsons and Waitpinga. Surfers come here to ride the hard-breaking waves, while anglers try their luck beach fishing for salmon, mullet and mulloway. Due to strong rips and undertows, both beaches are unsafe for swimming. The famous Heysen Trail passes through the park offering spectacular views of Waitpinga Cliffs that seem to defy the ocean swell. Keep your eyes open for echidnas and the Superb Blue Wren – one of 200 bird species recorded here.

Highlights

- Spot Southern Right Whales, often with calves, on their annual migration along the coast from July to September.
- Watch experienced surfers ride the waves.
- Admire panoramas of Encounter Bay, The Pages islands and Kangaroo Island from the Heysen Trail.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Location | 96 km SW Adelaide |
| Getting there | via Victor Harbor |
| Contact | DEH Victor Harbor Office (08) 8552 3677 Victor Harbor Visitor Information Centre 1800 557 094 |

Waitpinga Campground



Sheltered from the prevailing winds by sand dunes, Waitpinga Campground is just a few minutes walk to the beach. You can camp among the mallee or open areas protected by shrubs, with most sites a short walk to your vehicle. Toilets and a large communal gas barbecue area are available. A self-registration station is located on site.

Best time to visit: All-year round

Basic facilities



15 undesignated camp sites



TOP CAMPING
SPOT





8 Flinders Ranges National Park 91,330 ha



Wilpena Pound (*Ikara*)

Awe-inspiring mountains, peaceful gorges, sheltered creek beds lined with gnarled gum trees and beautiful wildflowers in spring, make the Flinders Ranges one of South Australia's favourite holiday destinations.

Cradled in these towering mountains is one of Australia's most famous landmarks – Wilpena Pound (*Ikara*). This natural amphitheatre is a perfectly formed geological bowl, 14 km long and 8 km wide. Dominated by St Mary Peak (*Ngarrri Mudlanha*), Wilpena Pound forms the hub of the park and is the starting point for a myriad of rewarding bushwalking trails.

Highlights

- Enjoy an invigorating bushwalk in amazing scenery.
- Take to the skies on a scenic flight for a bird's eye view of Wilpena Pound.
- Visit 'Ikara – The Meeting Place' at Old Wilpena Station for an insight into Aboriginal culture and the story of early pastoralists.

Flinders Ranges

Renowned for its natural, cultural and geological significance, the magnificent Flinders Ranges has earned its title as one of Australia's premier National Landscapes.

An artist's and photographer's delight, generations of Adnyamathanha people also recorded their awe of the ranges and spirits within, through rock engravings, ochre and charcoal drawings. Scenic drives and walking trails immerse you in the park's rugged gorges and peaks that change in mood and colour from dawn to dusk. The Flinders offers many fantastic opportunities to encounter wildlife including kangaroos, rare Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies, Emus, reptiles and soaring Wedge-tailed Eagles.

Highlights

- Learn about the Aboriginal heritage of the region at Arkaroo Rock, Periwata and Sacred Canyon.
- Head to Razorback Lookout for spectacular views of Bunyeroo Valley at sunset.
- Pass through 180 million years of the earth's history as you drive along the 20 km Brachina Gorge Geological Trail.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Location | 455 km N Adelaide |
| Getting there | via Hawker to Wilpena Pound |
| Contact | Wilpena Pound Visitor Information Centre (08) 8648 0048 |



Wilpena Pound Campground



Camp among native cypress pines, in one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world – well-established campground facilities include hot showers, a camp-kitchen and gas barbecues. A general store, petrol pump and visitor centre are nearby. Please pay your camping fees at the Wilpena Pound Visitor Information Centre or Resort as this campground is privately run.

Best time to visit: Mar - Nov

Serviced campground



46 powered sites, numerous unpowered sites, 4 bus bays, 2 permanent tents; 10 other campgrounds in the park



Camping Flinders Ranges National Park



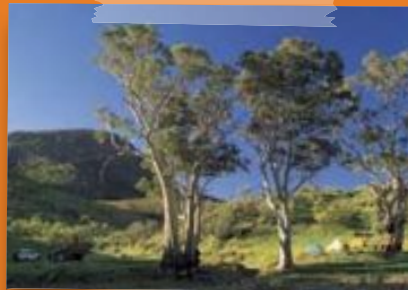
Immerse yourself in the Flinders scenic landscapes with a choice of ten campgrounds dotted throughout the park. Most campgrounds are accessible by 2WD on unsealed roads with some sites suitable for caravans. The majority have self-registration stations, offer toilet facilities and firepits with swinging hot plates. Several camp sites are located along the Heysen Trail.

Best time to visit: Mar - Nov

Basic facilities



Acraman, Cambrian, Youngoona, Trezona, Brachina East, Teamsters, Koolamon, Aroona Ruins, Dingley Dell and Coolinda (walk-in, no toilets) campgrounds





9 Coongie Lakes National Park 26,669 ha



You will need a 4WD to reach the isolated and beautiful shores of Coongie Lake. This extensive freshwater wetland system, in the flood plain of the Cooper Creek, receives its life-giving water from monsoonal rains in far north Queensland.

Recognised for its high biodiversity and conservation value, Coongie Lakes is a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance. After a major flood, Coongie's permanent and semi-permanent lakes welcome an influx of seasonal bird life including pelicans, cormorants, herons, ibis, spoonbills and ducks that come here to feed and breed. Located far from civilisation, self-sufficiency in fuel, water and food is essential. A Desert Parks Pass is required.

Highlights

- Enjoy the serenity of this oasis in the desert.
- Observe the myriad of migratory bird life that may visit from April to October.
- Step from the desert dunes into your canoe to explore the lakes and waterways.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Location | 100 km NW Innamincka |
| Getting there | Travel the Strzelecki Track via Lyndhurst and Innamincka |
| Contact | Desert Parks Hotline 1800 816 078 |

Camping Coongie Lakes National Park



At Coongie Lakes, you could sit for hours watching the seasonal bird life from the comfort of your camp site. This tranquil camping area offers brilliant panoramas of sand dunes that meet the waters edge. A large designated zone is set aside for camping. Please note wood camp fires are not allowed.

Best time to visit: Apr - Oct

No facilities

Undesignated camp sites



TOP CAMPING
SPOT





10 Mount Remarkable National Park 18,271 ha



For those yearning to get back to nature, Mount Remarkable National Park beckons, just three hours drive north of Adelaide.

Located in an easily accessible part of the South Flinders Ranges, the park's dramatic gorges, rewarding bushwalking trails and diversity of wildlife is just the beginning of its appeal. Extending from Mount Remarkable Range in the east to The Battery in the west, the park is sometimes referred to as the place where east meets west, as both arid and temperate plant and animal species thrive here. The peaks of The Battery offer sensational views across Spencer Gulf.

Highlights

- Be absorbed by the beauty of the gorges along bushwalking trails suitable for all ages.
- Enjoy a wilderness experience along the peaceful Hidden Gorge Hike.
- Enjoy a picnic at Blue Gum Flat and leisurely stroll into Alligator Gorge.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Location | 45 km N Port Pirie |
| Getting there | Access from Adelaide is via Port Pirie off National Highway One |
| Contact | DEH Mambray Creek Office (08) 8634 7068 Port Pirie Visitor Information Centre (08) 8633 8700 |

Mambray Creek Campground



Towering River Red Gums and ephemeral creeks set the scene for this well-established campground.

Access to Mambray Creek is via the park's south-west entrance (north of Port Pirie). Keep your eyes open for the occasional emu strutting by.

Best time to visit: Mar – Nov

Serviced campground



63 camp sites, 12 walk-in (back pack) camp sites, 2 large group sites which require advance booking





11 Simpson Desert Conservation Park and Regional Reserve 3,614,341 ha



The Simpson Desert is one of the world's largest and most remote deserts. Almost three times the size of Tasmania, the park stretches across 200,000 square kilometres of central Australia.

Crossing the borders of South Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland, this ever-changing desert varies from red parallel dunes to gibber plains and shimmering white salt pans. In this harsh environment, sparse vegetation provides a habitat for over 180 bird species including the Eyrean Grass Wren, lizards and small marsupials. This is 4WD country requiring experience, careful preparation and adequate supplies of water, fuel and food. The Simpson Desert Parks in SA and QLD are closed from 1 December to 15 March. A Desert Parks Pass is required.

Highlights

- Witness the endless sea of sand dunes, extending more than 300 km.
- Soak up the silence of the desert from the top of sand dunes.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Location | 1,160 km N Adelaide |
| Getting there | Access from Dalhousie Springs (Witjira National Park) from the west and Birdsville in the east |
| Contact | Desert Parks Hotline 1800 816 078 |

Camping Simpson Desert Conservation Park and Regional Reserve



Sleeping in a swag beneath a magnificent canopy of stars is a truly memorable outback experience. Camping in the Simpson Desert is allowed within 100 metres of the main track. For your safety, the side of ridges and sand dunes are best avoided. Caravans and camper trailers are not recommended in these parks.

Best time to visit: Apr - Oct

No facilities

Undesignated camp sites





12 Witjira National Park 18,271 ha



Witjira National Park is the essence of the Outback in all its diversity. Originally part of Mount Dare cattle station, the park's main drawcard is Dalhousie Springs – the largest thermal artesian springs in Australia. Enjoy a swim in Dalhousie main spring where water temperatures average 37°C or watch wildlife come in to refresh.

Witjira is of great significance to the Lower Southern Arrente and Wangkanguru people and features a legend in European folklore with relics of the Overland Telegraph Line. Entry to Witjira is included in a Desert Parks Pass, alternatively pay entry and camping fees on arrival.

Highlights

- Soak in the soothing thermal waters fringed by melaleuca and bulrushes.
- Wander the historic Dalhousie ruins, including the original homestead, blacksmith's hut and stockyards.
- Be on the lookout for the Perentie, Australia's largest goanna that can grow to 2.5 metres long.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Location | 840 km N Port Augusta, |
| Getting there | Follow the Oodnadatta Track via Oodnadatta, or the Stuart Highway via Coober Pedy |
| Contact | Desert Parks Hotline 1800 816 078 |

Dalhousie Campground



All kinds of 4WD vehicles and travellers congregate at Witjira to soak off the red dust in the warm thermal springs. This remote but well-established campground offers toilet facilities and cold showers. More camp sites are available at Three O'clock Creek and Purni Bore. Camper trailers are not recommended for travel east of Dalhousie.

Best time to visit: Apr - Oct

Basic facilities



Designated camp sites, 2 other campgrounds in the park





13 Flinders Chase National Park 32,802 ha



Rugged coastal scenery, diverse wildlife and the legendary Remarkable Rocks, one of Kangaroo Island's most iconic attractions, awaits you in beautiful Flinders Chase National Park. Flinders Chase offers a wealth of secluded and easily accessible attractions including historic Cape du Couedic Lighthouse, delightful New Zealand Fur Seals and Admirals Arch.

Bushwalking trails along cliff tops and through bushland (reinvigorated by fire), introduce you to the island's natural beauty and offer wonderful opportunities to see native wildlife such as echidnas, goannas, birds and kangaroos in their natural surrounds.

Highlights

- Photograph the wild wind-sculpted formations of Remarkable Rocks perched above the sea.
- Watch New Zealand Fur Seals bask on the rocks and ride the waves near Admirals Arch.
- Admire a beautiful sunset at secluded West Bay beach or stroll along the 3 km Snake Lagoon Hike which passes through a valley to the sea.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Location | 110 km W Kingscote |
| Getting there | via Playford Hwy or South Coast Rd |
| Contact | Flinders Chase National Park Office (08) 8553 4490 |

Rocky River Campground



Explore the highlights of the western end of Kangaroo Island. Set up camp in spacious sites set among eucalypt saplings regenerating after bushfire just a short walk from the Park Visitor Centre. Facilities include hot showers and access to gas barbecues and picnic shelters in the day visitor area.

Best time to visit: All year-round

Serviced campground



20 unpowered sites, 3 other campgrounds in the park





14 Bool Lagoon Game Reserve and Hacks Lagoon Conservation Park 4,393 ha



A wetland of international importance, Bool Lagoon Game Reserve is one of Australia's largest wetlands.

Although recent years have seen extended drought and low water levels, Bool Lagoon and the adjacent Hacks Lagoon remain a refuge for more than 150 bird species, including rare and migratory birds from as far away as China and Japan. Follow the boardwalks and walking trails to bird hides among the swamp paperbark, Tea Tree and reeds for a chance to catch a glimpse of seasonal bird life such as sandpipers, spoonbills, Ibis, Black-winged Stilts, swans and brlgas.

Highlights

- Experience the Gunawar Walk at the tip of Hacks Peninsula.
- Bring your binoculars and quietly settle in the bird hides amongst the Tea Tree.
- Look over Snake Island and the vast wetlands from on the top of Big Hill.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Location | 28 km S Naracoorte |
| Getting there | Access via Princes Highway via Keith or Naracoorte |
| Contact | DEH Naracoorte Office (08) 8762 3412 Naracoorte Visitor Information Centre 1800 244 421 |

Hacks Lagoon Campground



Awake to a pandemonium of bird life at Hacks Lagoon Campground. This spacious camping area offers toilet and barbecue facilities. Please note this wetland is also a habitat for reptiles which are protected.

Best time to visit: Sep - Nov

Basic facilities



Undesignated camp sites



TOP CAMPING
SPOT





15 Coorong National Park 48,958 ha



(Dogs are only permitted on the ocean beach)

The call of The Coorong is hard to resist. Stretching more than 130 km, this incredible string of saltwater lagoons is protected from the Southern Ocean by the sweeping sand dunes of the Younghusband Peninsula.

Although conservation and recreation are finely balanced here, the Coorong offers plenty of opportunities to enjoy fishing, camping, bushwalking and birdwatching. If you plan to explore the park's lagoons by boat or canoe, please check the weather forecast and be aware of the dredging exclusion zone at the Murray Mouth.

The Coorong is of enormous cultural significance to the Ngarrindjeri people. As you pass through the narrow strip of sand hills that protect the lagoons be on the lookout for middens. These ancient mounds of discarded shells reveal archaeological evidence of Aboriginal camp sites over thousands of years.

Despite recent periods of poor water flow, the Coorong's salty lagoons remain an important breeding area for oceanic birds and summering area for migratory waders including bird species from as far as Asia, Siberia and the Arctic Circle.

Highlights

- Bring your binoculars to Jacks Point, home to South Australia's largest population of Australian Pelicans.
- Cruise The Coorong on a guided boat tour from Goolwa.
- Bring your canoe and paddle peaceful lagoons bordered by giant sand dunes.
- Walk along the ribbon of deserted beach before watching the sunset over the Southern Ocean.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Location | 156 km SE Adelaide |
| Getting there | Princes Highway via Tailem Bend to Meningie Access to Godfreys Landing is by boat or canoe from Goolwa |
| Contact | DEH Coorong and Lakes District Office (08) 8575 1200 Goolwa Signal Point Visitor Information Centre 1300 466 592 |



Godfreys Landing Campground



Only accessible by boat or canoe, Godfreys Landing is a camping experience with a difference. Located 10 km across the water from Hindmarsh Island, the campground is nestled among the sand dunes just a short walk to the ocean beach. Camp sites cater for a maximum of six people.

Best time to visit: Apr - Oct

Basic facilities



Exclusive camping

10 small undesignated camp sites, 8 other campgrounds in the park



Camping Coorong National Park



Discover the Coorong with nine scenic campgrounds located on both sides of the lagoon. Some campgrounds are accessible by 2WD and are large enough for small caravans to manoeuvre. Others offer more solitude such as beach camping and are accessible by 4WD.

Best time to visit: Apr-Oct

Basic facilities



42 Mile Crossing, Long Point, Parnka Point, Loop Road and 28 Mile Crossing campgrounds

No facilities

32 Mile Crossing, Tea Tree Crossing and Mark Point campgrounds





16 Naracoorte Caves National Park 462 ha



The World Heritage Listed Naracoorte Caves preserves a time capsule of Australia's intriguing megafauna, long since extinct.

See fossils of giant marsupial megafauna such as *Thylacoleo*, *Zygomaturus* and *Sthenurine kangaroo* on a guided tour. Don't miss the Wonambi Fossil Centre for clues about how these megafauna looked and behaved. You can also take your pick from speciality guided tours including adventure caving, bat cave tours or show cave tours that reveal exquisite stalagmite and stalactite calcite decorations.

Highlights

- See life-size recreations of giant megafauna in the Wonambi Fossil Centre's simulated forest and swampland environment.
- Tour the spectacular Victoria Fossil Cave, Alexandra Cave and the self-guided Wet Cave.
- See the maternity cave of the endangered Southern Bent-winged Bats via infrared technology.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Location | 340 km SE Adelaide |
| Getting there | Access along the Dukes Highway and the Keith Riddoch Highway |
| Contact | Naracoorte Caves National Park (08) 8762 3412 Naracoorte Visitor Information Centre 1800 244 421 |

Naracoorte Caves Campground



Relax in spacious camp sites just 500 metres walk from the World Heritage Naracoorte Caves visitor precinct. Campground facilities include hot showers, toilets and a laundry. Great value bunkhouse accommodation is available during school holidays (booking essential).

Best time to visit: All-year round

Serviced campground



10 powered sites, 50 designated camp sites and bunkhouse accommodation for up to 45-50 people (school holidays)





17 Chowilla Game Reserve 93,397 ha



An icon of the Murray Darling Basin, Chowilla Game Reserve features almost 50 km of winding waterways lined with River Red Gums, hardy Black Box and drooping River Coobas.

This fascinating wetland and flood plain of the lower Murray is an integral part of the Bookmark Biosphere Reserve and a haven for bird life such as the vulnerable Regent Parrot, as well as emus and kangaroos in the mallee woodlands. Fishing, canoeing, camping and birdwatching are popular activities. More isolated than other parks in the Riverland, Chowilla is an ideal place to escape the rush and relax by the river.

Highlights

- Listen to the haunting calls of Bush Stone Curlews as you drift off to sleep.
- Admire the reflections of River Red Gums and pastel sky at sunset in the still waters.
- Learn about the amazing biodiversity of wetlands along the Border Cliffs Customs House Walking Trail.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Location | 280 NE Adelaide |
| Getting there | Access via Berri, Renmark and Paringa |
| Contact | DEH Berri Office (08) 8595 2111 Renmark-Paringa Visitor Information Centre 1300 661 704 |

Camping Chowilla Game Reserve



The word Chowilla is said to be an Aboriginal word meaning 'good camping place'. Flanking the River Murray, this tranquil camping area is a great place to enjoy lazy days by the river, with several camp sites accessible by boat. Please note, camp fires are only allowed outside Fire Danger Season.

Best time to visit: Mar - Nov

Basic facilities



35 designated camp sites





18 Murray River National Park 12,978 ha



An archipelago or group of islands, Murray River National Park comprises three equally fascinating sections – Katarapko, Lyrup Flats and Bulyong Island.

Dusk or dawn is the best time to observe bird life at the park's tranquil lagoons that branch off the main river. Be on the lookout for Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Sacred Kingfishers, Crimson Rosellas, Pelicans and Ibis searching for food near the water's edge. Camping, boating, canoeing, fishing and yabbying are favourite activities. If you're looking for a great camping experience along the River Murray, a short drive from the town centres of Berri or Renmark, this park is hard to beat!

Highlights

- Cruise the winding River Murray along canoe trails.
- Admire views of sweeping river bends from the comfort of your deckchair.
- Birdwatch or bushwalk in one of the most environmentally important areas of South Australia.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Location | 240 km NE Adelaide |
| Getting there | via Loxton or Berri from Adelaide |
| Contact | DEH Berri Office (08) 8595 2111 Berri Visitor Information Centre (08) 8582 5511 |

Katarapko Creek Campground



Ideal for all types of camping, Katarapko offers spacious camp sites among shady River Red Gums overlooking one of the River Murray's major backwaters. Campers need to be self-sufficient for their drinking water and wood for camp fires. Toilets are accessible from some camp sites.

Best time to visit: Mar - Nov

Basic facilities



60 designated camp sites, 3 other campgrounds in the park





19 Ngarkat Conservation Park 266,623 ha



Covering a vast 270,000 hectares of vegetated sand dunes, mallee and heath, Ngarkat Conservation Park is home to The Border Track – one of the state's most appealing 4WD adventures. This defined track is open from 1 April to 31 October for responsible four-wheel driving only.

After sufficient winter rain, wildflowers carpet the landscape attracting numerous birds including several species of honeyeaters that feed upon the sweet nectar of flowering mallee. Western Grey Kangaroos, emus, echidnas, Malleefowl and the shy Swamp Wallaby are among the park's diverse wildlife. Ngarkat also features remnants of early European settlement with many pioneer farming families unable to endure the droughts and dust storms of the mallee.

Highlights

- Explore the vastness of Ngarkat along challenging 4WD tracks on a camping adventure.
- Savour amazing views overlooking a sea of mallee from Mount Rescue.
- Discover remnants of early farming endeavours, including Pertendi Hut.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Location | 235 km SE Adelaide |
| Getting there | Along the Mallee Highway from Tailem Bend via Peake and Lameroo |
| Contact | DEH Murray Mallee Office (08) 8576 3690 |

Camping Ngarkat Conservation Park



Explore the mallee from a choice of nine campgrounds. Pertendi Hut and Pine Hut Soak campgrounds (accessible by 2WD in dry weather) offer toilet facilities. The wetlands near Box Flat campground are a great place to see bird life. Many other camp sites are remote and only accessible by 4WD.

Best time to visit: Mar - Nov

Basic facilities



Pertendi Hut and Pine Hut Soak campgrounds

No facilities

The Pines, The Gums, Rabbit Island Soak, Bucks Camp, Box Flat, Doggers Hut and Comet Bore campgrounds





20 Innes National Park 9,415 ha



The breathtaking coastal scenery of Innes National Park, with its rugged headlands, sweeping surf beaches and sheltered coves is unlike anything else on the Yorke Peninsula.

A paradise for surfers, anglers and campers alike, Innes is a favourite destination for a seaside holiday. The park offers plenty to see and do. Try your luck fishing for salmon at Browns Beach or follow interesting interpretive trails that explore the intriguing ruins of Innesston, a thriving gypsum-mining town in the 1900s. Keep your eyes open for the park's abundant wildlife including emus, White-bellied Sea-eagles, Malleefowl and the shy Western Whiptail.

Highlights

- Enjoy exhilarating vistas of rugged headlands and islands from the cliff tops at West Cape Lookout.
- See the rusted relics of a shipwreck on Ethel Beach at low-tide along the Investigator Strait Shipwreck Trail.
- Watch Emus in the grasslands and if you're lucky, spy a shy Tammar Wallaby grazing on the plains.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Location | 260 km W Adelaide |
| Getting there | Port Wakefield Road via Warooka |
| Contact | DEH Yorke District Office (08) 8854 3200 Yorke Peninsula Visitor Information Centre, Minlaton 1800 202 445 |

Pondalowie Campground



Set up camp amongst the coastal mallee just a few minutes walk from the beach. The recently upgraded Pondalowie Campground offers 52 camp sites with a special designated area for caravan and camper trailers at the western end of the campground.

Best time to visit: Sept - Mar

Basic facilities



52 designated camp sites consisting of 26 tent sites and 26 caravan sites; 6 other campgrounds in the park



SAVE TIME & MONEY WITH A NATIONAL PARKS PASS

If you enjoy visiting National Parks, then you'll appreciate the exceptional value and convenience of a National Parks Pass.

There are five different passes to choose from; each offering express entry into a variety of South Australia's favourite national parks and reserves.



Select a pass that's right for you:

| Type of pass | Valid for: (months) | A good choice for... |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Holiday Pass | 2 | Touring the state on a short visit |
| Single Park Pass | 12 | Repeat visits to your favourite park |
| Multi Park Pass | 12 | Exploring a variety of South Australia's parks throughout the year |
| Desert Parks Pass | 12 | A journey through the desert |
| Kangaroo Island Tour Pass | 12 | Enjoying the highlights of Kangaroo Island |

Add a Camping Option

Did you know that when you purchase a Holiday Pass, Single Park Pass or Multi Park Pass you can upgrade your pass to include a Camping Option? This optional-extra entitles you to camp in a fantastic range of select parks throughout the state.*

* For a list of parks included in the Camping Option, visit www.parks.sa.gov.au. Camping is included in the price of a Desert Parks Pass.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For more information or to purchase a pass contact us:

ONLINE

www.parks.sa.gov.au

PHONE

DEH Information Line
(08) 8204 1910

Desert Parks Pass Hotline 1800 816 078
(for Desert Parks Passes only)



HEALTHY PARKS HEALTHY PEOPLE

ENHANCING
YOUR WELLBEING.
NATURALLY.

Did you know that every time you visit a park you are benefiting your health and wellbeing?

Parks provide beautiful venues to enjoy all kinds of recreational activities.

Within 30 minutes drive of Adelaide, you can practice your tennis swing at Belair, enjoy a family day-out at Cleland Wildlife Park or paddle a canoe along the Onkaparinga River beneath towering cliffs. Even short and easy walks can benefit your health and with more than 100 nature trails to choose from, every season offers something new to discover.

For those living near big cities, parks offer a tranquil world away from the noise, traffic, visual and air pollution of an urban lifestyle. Parks provide wonderful opportunities to relax and reconnect with others, to learn about our environment and enjoy some of your favourite recreational activities. They can inspire and rejuvenate us with breathtaking scenery or simply offer space to enjoy reflective time alone.

So, isn't it time you got the kids out the house, left the ironing until later and the remote control behind to discover a park or garden near you?

For more healthy activity ideas in South Australia's parks, click on the Healthy Parks Healthy People link at www.parks.sa.gov.au

*Healthy Parks
Healthy People*



BECOME A CAMPGROUND HOST

Campground Hosts are volunteers who freely give their time to help campers settle in and enjoy their national parks experience. Hosts camp in some of our most popular parks during school holidays and long weekends and support park rangers by:

- welcoming campers
- maintaining visitor facilities
- sharing information about park attractions, historic sites and local flora and fauna.



New campground volunteers are always welcome. To find out how easy it is to get involved call the DEH Volunteer Support Unit on (08) 8124 4840.

CAMPING WITH KIDS

Even from a young age, children love to get outdoors and discover rocks, stick insects, shells, feathers and more. Spending time in nature can nurture your child's curiosity and understanding of the world, fostering an appreciation of the environment that often continues throughout their lives.

There are plenty of ways to keep youngsters entertained on a camping holiday.

A few ideas to get you started!

- **Teach the kids to help set up the tent.**
- **Play with torches at night – one for each child.**
- **Grab a park map and enjoy a short bushwalk.**
- **Create a photo diary of your camping adventure.**
- **Get into some bush cooking and surprise the family with a hearty meal.**
- **Look for wildlife such as skinks and wildflowers.**
- **Pinpoint the constellations in a starry night sky.**
- **Introduce the kids to your favourite outdoor games as a child.**
- **Teach your children to use a compass.**

Even chores like filling up water bottles can be fun! Increasingly families are looking to inject more action into their holidays. If your kids are more adventurous, why not cycle a section of Mawson Trail in Flinders Ranges National Park; enjoy the thrill of adventure caving at Kelly Hill or Naracoorte Caves, or soak up the scenery, floating along the River Murray by canoe.

Camping holidays allow you to enjoy quality family time together and create wonderful memories and stories often recalled for years to come. For more information about parks that welcome camping, visit www.parks.sa.gov.au





TAKE A TOUR TODAY!



Licensed
Tour Operator

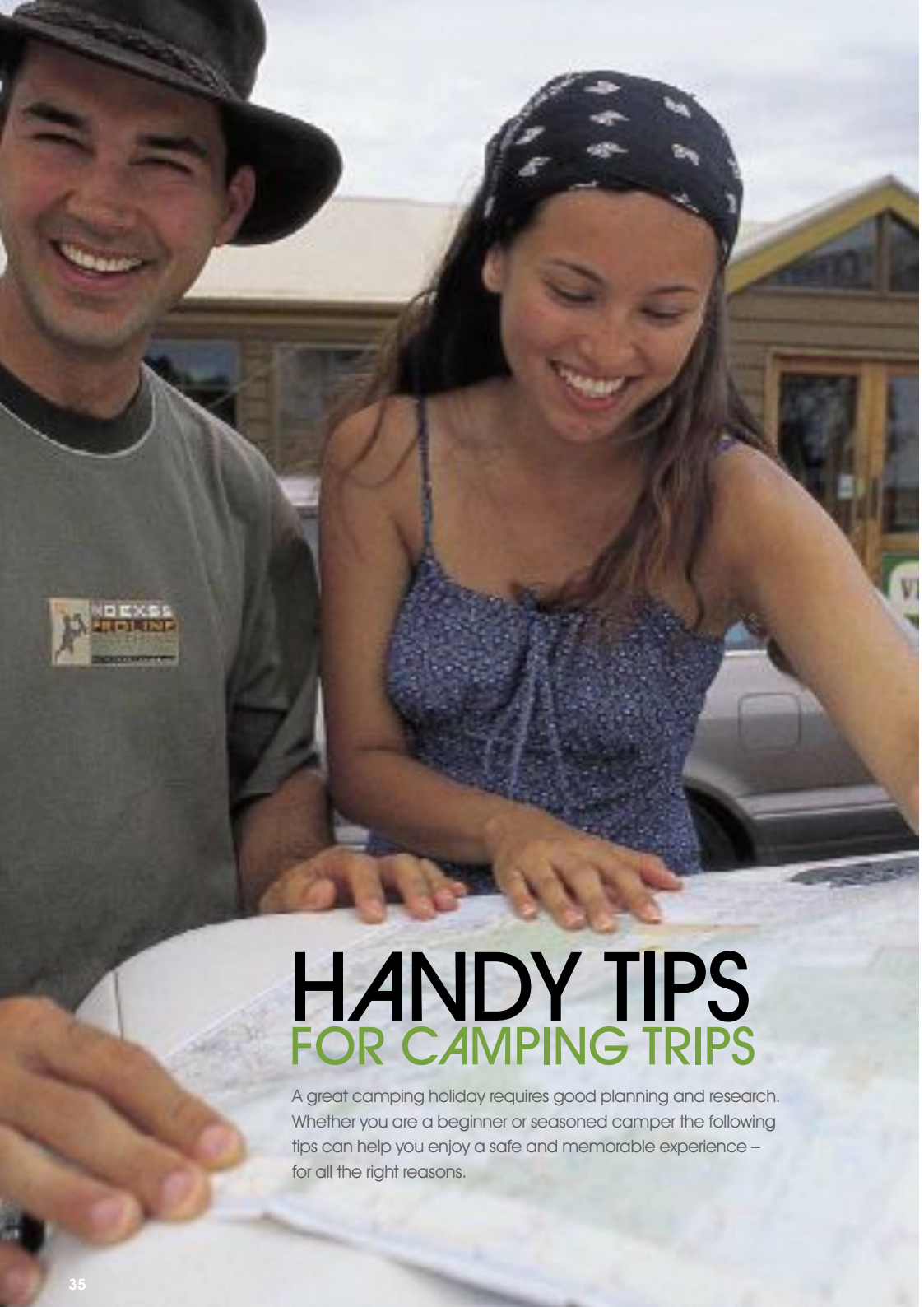
Travel with a licensed tour operator and leave the troubles of organising your camping holiday behind.

Several tour operators licensed with the Department for Environment and Heritage offer informative tours of South Australia's unique environment with camping included. These operators are identifiable by the above logo which may appear on their brochures, website and promotional material. For a current list of licensed tour operators visit:

www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/visitor/operators.html



So book a tour today and get the most out of your national parks experience!



HANDY TIPS FOR CAMPING TRIPS

A great camping holiday requires good planning and research. Whether you are a beginner or seasoned camper the following tips can help you enjoy a safe and memorable experience – for all the right reasons.



Before you leave home

- Research your destination at www.parks.sa.gov.au
- Check the weather forecast, including overnight temperatures on the Bureau of Meteorology website – www.bom.gov.au
- Plan your meals and make a checklist of all food and camping items you need to pack (see page 41 for a camping checklist). Remember to update your list after each trip.
- Take a current road map and allow sufficient time to reach your destination.
- Make sure your vehicle is mechanically sound and equipped for the conditions.
- If you're a first-time camper, do a trial run by selecting a campground close to home.
- Make arrangements for the care of your animals while you are away.
- If you have a mobile phone, remember it may not receive or transmit in some areas. If travelling somewhere remote, carry appropriate communications equipment.

The road trip

- Please adhere to speed limits and watch out for wildlife, especially at dusk and dawn when animals such as kangaroos, Euros and Emus can become more active.
- Enjoy a stress-free visit by refuelling your vehicle before you reach your overnight destination.

When you arrive

- Follow the Leave No Trace principles.
- Don't set up camp beneath overhanging branches.
- Look out for the safety of others as well as yourself.
- Always let someone responsible know your plans, including when you expect to return, particularly for day walks and overnight hikes – don't forget to tell them when you're safely back.

Before you go home

- Try to pack your tent dry. If you must pack it wet, make sure you spread it out when you get home to avoid mould and mildew.
- Aim to leave your camp site looking as if you've never been there or better than when you arrived.



ENJOY A SAFE PARK VISIT

Water

Although some parks have rainwater tanks or other water sources, the quality and quantity of water cannot be guaranteed. Water within DEH parks, gardens and along DEH managed trails is not considered suitable for drinking without treatment. Therefore we recommend that you always bring your own water, plus extra supplies for cooking and washing. To avoid dehydration, carry and drink at least 4-5 litres of water per person per day when

bushwalking. To find out where reliable water supplies are located in a park, contact the local DEH office.

When is water safe to drink?

Drinking untreated water from creeks and rainwater tanks can lead to illness such as gastroenteritis (vomiting and diarrhoea). To make water safe for drinking, boil it for 10 minutes at a steady boil, or use water purification tablets or a water filter instead.

Camp fire safety

About a quarter of South Australia's parks and reserves allow camp fires. For the safety of all visitors, wildlife and surrounding communities, it is essential to be aware of relevant camp fire regulations that apply and know what you can and cannot do.

CAMP FIRES IN PARKS THE RULES

During Fire Danger Season, wood fires are not permitted in South Australia's national parks and reserves. This can extend from 1 November to 30 April each year (dates vary slightly in each region, please check the website www.parks.sa.gov.au for current fire restrictions). You can however, usually use a gas or liquid fuel stove in parks that allow camp fires during the Fire Danger Season, except on days of extreme fire danger or Total Fire Ban when all fires including fuel stoves and naked flames are banned.

Using a gas or liquid fuel stove can save you time, save the environment and reduce the risk of an accidental bushfire. Escaped camp fires account for around 6% of all fires in South Australia's parks. Hot embers picked up by the wind from active and smouldering camp fires can often be the cause of a bushfire. So remember, if you are unsure about the safety of lighting a camp fire, particularly in hot and windy conditions please do not light it.

If a camp fire is important to you, phone the DEH Information Line or check the parks website for more information about camp fire restrictions relevant to the park or region you plan to visit.

CAMP FIRE SAFETY GUIDELINES

Please remember:

- **Observe fire ban restrictions - check if you can have a camp fire in the park.**
- **Always use designated fireplaces.**
- **If no fireplace exists, dig a small 30 cm deep trench and ensure your camp fire has a four-metre radius clear from existing vegetation.**
- **Make only small camp fires, sufficient for cooking and warmth.**
- **Ensure a responsible person is always present and closely supervises any children.**
- **Keep a full bucket of water handy in case of an emergency.**
- **Extinguish the fire properly, before you leave.**

HOW TO EXTINGUISH A CAMP FIRE

Always extinguish your camp fire with water (not sand or dirt) until the hissing sound stops. Water cools the coals of a fire, whereas sand and dirt only disguise glowing embers that remain dangerously hot, even when you think the fire is out. After drowning your fire with water, cover the coals with dirt. The South Australian Country Fire Service recommends doing both to make absolutely sure the fire is out.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do South Australian parks have an entry fee?

Many of South Australia's regional parks are free. Entry fees do however apply to around 10% of South Australia's 338 national parks and reserves – usually those with more facilities.

Signs at the park's entrances advise when fees apply. Park entry fees are usually per vehicle* (seating up to eight persons). Revenue from park entry and camping fees make an important contribution to conservation projects and facilities in parks for everyone to enjoy.

** Park entry fees are per person per day on Kangaroo Island.*

What about camping fees?

Camping in parks is an inexpensive way to enjoy a great holiday. Camping fees are usually per vehicle per night, with charges reflecting the park's maintenance costs and level of facilities. You must purchase a camping permit before you set up camp. Please note that fees in privately run campgrounds in parks may be per person, per night. For current prices, visit www.parks.sa.gov.au

If I camp in a park, do I need to pay a park entry fee every day as well?

If you camp in a park that has entry fees, you need only pay an entry fee on the first day of your extended visit, along with your nightly camping fees. Your entry fee will then give you access into the park for up to five consecutive nights. Daily entry fees apply for day visitors.

Where do I pay my fees?

You can pay your vehicle entry and camping fees at self-registration stations, which are often located at park entrances; park visitor centres; DEH regional offices during business hours and select Visitor Information Centres. See www.parks.sa.gov.au for outlets and address details. If self-registering, it's a good idea to keep a supply of loose change handy. Remember to display a valid entry permit on the window of your vehicle (passenger-side) to avoid a fine. If you're a regular visitor to national parks, refer to page 32 to find out the benefits of a National Parks Pass.



Can I book a camp site?

Camp sites in South Australia's parks are available on a first-in basis. You can however book a camp site at Lincoln National Park (Memory Cove) and privately operated campgrounds in Flinders Ranges National Park (powered sites in Wilpena Pound Campground only); Brown Hill Creek Tourist Park and Belair National Park Caravan Park.

Do I need to bring firewood if I want a camp fire?

If camp fires are allowed, bring your own firewood. Please do not collect wood from parks or roadsides as hollow and cracked wood provides refuge for many birds, lizards, insects and other small animals.

Can I use a generator?

Some parks allow generators. To check if the park you plan to visit does, call the local DEH office before you leave home. Please respect the peace of other campers by observing time restrictions.

What time do I have to leave my camp site?

Please pack up and leave your camp site by 11 am on your day of departure.

Can I take my pet into a park?

Unless there is a specially designated dog area, pets are not allowed in parks, with the exception of guide dogs on a lead assisting the visually impaired. To find out where you can take your dog, call the DEH Information Line on

(08) 8204 1910 or download the brochure, *National Parks and your Pet: a pet owners guide*. If you're already travelling with your pet and would like to visit a national park, call the nearest Visitor Information Centre for advice on local dog boarding kennels and privately run pet-friendly campgrounds.

What makes a safe camp site?

Before you set up camp, take a look around. Always camp in designated sites and never camp beneath trees with overhanging branches. In windy conditions branches can fall. In hot temperatures, trees such as River Red Gums can suffer heat stress and drop branches unexpectedly. Never erect your tent in a natural waterway. This isn't always a dry creek bed but anywhere water could naturally flow in heavy rain. It's also a good idea to check there are no ants' nests nearby.

Please note the responses are general and there may be local exceptions.

FEEDBACK WELCOME

If this guide inspires you to go camping in any of the parks listed, we would love to hear your feedback. Simply email your comments to improve this brochure, along with any extra camping tips to email: camping_guide@sa.gov.au



CAMPING CHECKLIST

Camping Equipment

- waterproof tent, pegs, and guide ropes
- small mallet for securing tent pegs
- groundsheet
- good quality sleeping bag and camping mat or inflatable mattress
- a pillow, rolled up towel or inflatable travel pillow.

The Basics

- backpack
- torch or gas lantern – headlamps are also great!
- toilet paper and hand trowel
- rubbish bags
- fold-up table and chairs
- plenty of drinking water – don't forget water bottles to take bushwalking
- walking shoes or hiking boots
- suitable clothing for your destination that can be layered for warm and cold temperatures. Bring a hat, sunglasses and long-sleeve shirt for sun protection and a beanie, warm woollen fleece and waterproof jacket for the cold and rain.
- basic toiletries including sunscreen
- first aid kit that includes bandages, bandaids for blisters, insect repellent, insect bite lotion, burn cream, tweezers and antiseptic.

Cooking

- food and drink supplies, including non-perishable food and an esky to keep items cold
- liquid fuel or gas stove (plus refills)
- firewood and waterproof matches or lighter for cooking (if camp fires are allowed)
- plates, bowls, mugs, a saucepan, frying pan and a billy
- water bucket for washing dishes and to extinguish your camp fire
- biodegradable detergent and a tea-towel
- cooking utensils, knife, cutlery, vegetable peeler, can opener or pocket knife.

Don't Forget

- spare torch batteries
- camera, binoculars, map, compass and wildlife identification book.

A Little Luxury

- moist towelettes for cleaning your hands – saves water too!
- a pack of cards or a good board game such as scrabble
- portable toilet and solar shower

This list is a starting point. Camping items will vary, particularly if you are travelling to remote destinations.

MORE INFORMATION

Check out our other South Australian park publications online or phone the DEH Information Line for your free copy of *South Australia's National Parks Guide* today.



USEFUL CONTACTS

DEH Information Line

Ph (08) 8204 1910
www.parks.sa.gov.au

South Australian Visitor & Travel Centre

Ph 1300 764 227
www.southaustralia.com

Country Fire Service

Bushfire Information Hotline
Ph 1300 362 361
www.cfs.sa.gov.au

South Australian Trails

Ph 1300 665 276
www.southaustraliantrails.com

Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure - SA Road Report Hotline

Ph 1300 361 033 (for Gawler Ranges
& Outback road conditions)
www.dfei.sa.gov.au

Caravan and Camping Industries Association of South Australia

Ph (08) 8260 4488
www.caravanandcampingsa.com.au

RAA

Ph (08) 8202 4600
www.raa.net

DISCOVER YOUR WILD SIDE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL PARKS

Call us for more information about park activities, camping options, bushwalking trails and more.

DEH Information Line

Ph (08) 8204 1910

Desert Parks Hotline

Ph 1800 816 078

(for Desert Parks only)

