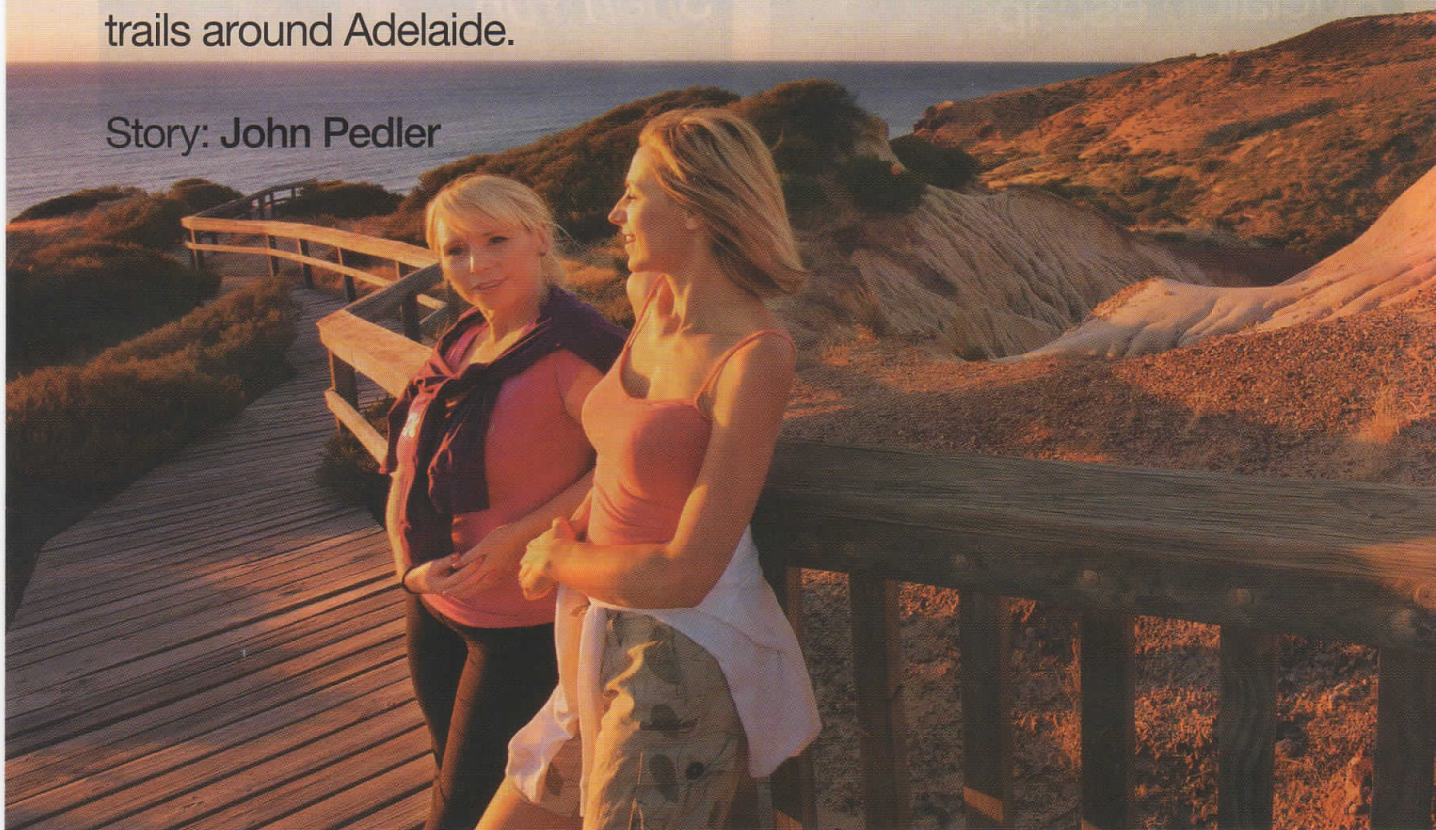


Tracks and trails

We check out five of the best walking trails around Adelaide.

Story: John Pedler



HALLETT COVE GLACIER HIKE, HALLETT COVE CONSERVATION PARK

Best geological wonders

Distance: 3km

About 280 million years ago, the Hallett Cove area was buried under thick ice. When the great ice sheets melted, they left behind the sort of wreckage that, these days, would probably incur a stiff fine. On the cliff tops you can see where material, carried by glaciers, has gouged deep scratches in the hard bedrock, and on the beach you'll find boulders that were dumped during the thaw. The melted ice also formed a lake that has since disappeared. The subsequent erosion has uncovered unusual features like the Sugarloaf – a colourful lump of sand and clay that shows the various layers of lake sediment. All these features have been linked together by a boardwalk and walking trail called the Hallett Cove Glacier Hike. There are some moderately steep sections that will require a certain level of fitness.

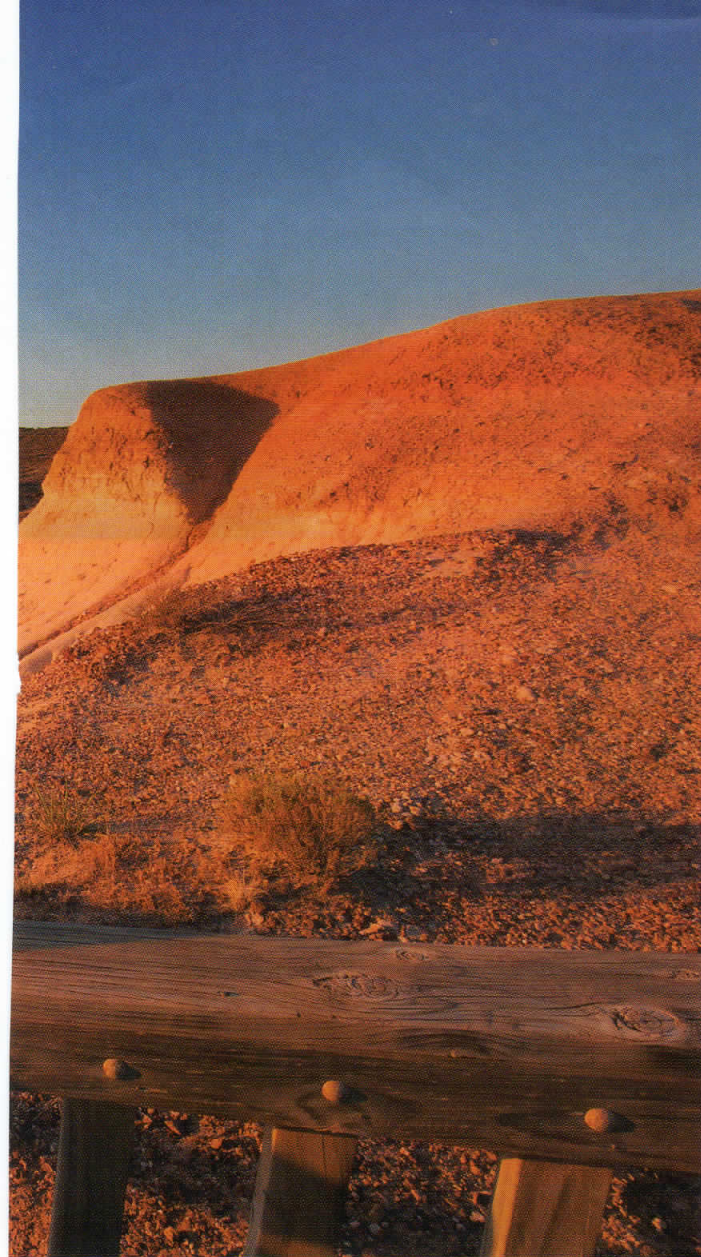


CHAMBERS HIKE, CLELAND CONSERVATION PARK

Best koalas and city views

Distance: 7km

If you don't see a koala on this hike then you haven't looked up. Starting from Waterfall Gully Road, the trail follows Chambers Creek, passing through a gorge thick with vegetation. It then climbs towards Cleland Wildlife Park, and if you turn left at Long Ridge Track, you can drop into Cleland for a coffee. Following Long Ridge back towards the city, be sure to take the 400-metre return trip to the lookout at the end of the ridge for an uninterrupted view of Adelaide. From here the trail winds back down to Chambers Gully with views across the city your constant companion. If you're keen to impress visitors or get the kids into bushwalking then this is the one.

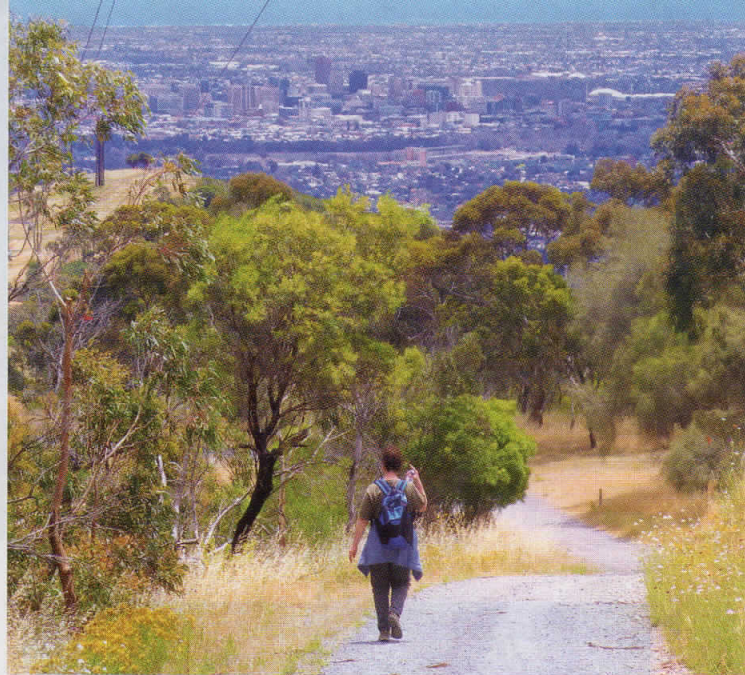


BLOWHOLE BEACH – COBBLER HILL – MARRANO CREEK HIKE, DEEP CREEK CONSERVATION PARK

Best spectacular coastal views

Distance: 6.7km

A challenging hike that's not for the faint-hearted. Starting from the Cobbler Hill picnic area, the rough, narrow track drops steeply towards Blowhole Beach. There are superb views across to Kangaroo Island but be sure to pull up before admiring the scenery, because a stumble here and you'll be first to the bottom. Just above Blowhole Beach, the track joins the Heysen Trail and heads east following the rocky coastline. Take extra care crossing the steep ravine at Marrano Creek. Of course, what goes down must come up, and you'll probably need a couple of breaks among the shady sheoaks during the long climb back to Cobbler Hill Campground. This is hard work over difficult terrain, so perhaps it's best not to take any young children you wish to keep – though they'll enjoy the kangaroos that hang around the picnic area.



CLOCKWISE: Hallett Cove Glacier Hike with the Sugarloaf in the background; Chambers Hike; a Rainbow Lorikeet.

Images © Eyefood Photography/Andy Rasheed, John Pedler, iStock.



TALISKER SILVER LEAD MINE HIKE, TALISKER CONSERVATION PARK

Best SA history

Distance: 1–2km, depending on route taken

Silver and lead were mined here between 1862 and 1872 and the small township of Silverton sprung up nearby. The town is long gone but there are still plenty of leftovers at the mine site. A map near the carpark locates everything, while detailed signs along the way help fill in the picture. There are also a few evocative photos of the mining operation in its day. Of the several ruins in the area, the most intact are the brick kiln and the crusher house with its attendant boiler. The whole site is hitched to the side of a valley, so if you take the loop track via Glyde Shaft and the drainage adit, be prepared for a steep descent and an even steeper clamber over rocky rubble back up to the mine. From the carpark there's a separate track that climbs to a lookout with an excellent view of Kangaroo Island.



LORIKEET LOOP WALK, BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

Best easy family walk

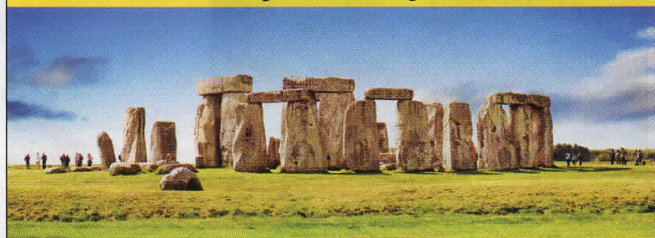
Distance: 3km

Although this walk encircles the busy part of Belair National Park, at times it feels like you're deep in the bush. Travelling clockwise the gently sloping trail passes through dense woodland dotted with towering gums, while the chorus of singing and squawking birds will keep you company. About half way along



you'll reach the plant nursery and Old Government House, once the state governors' summer residence. By 1880 the Governor was summering at the newer, grander residence at Marble Hill, and for the next few years the Belair house was used to produce poison to help deal with the state's rabbit plague. Nearby are the green lawns and mighty gums of the Gold Escort Ground, and the impressive adventure playground. This is a good spot for a break, and while the kids hit the playground, mum and dad can head off to the nursery for a spot of hakea shopping. There's free vehicle access to Belair National Park for visitors specifically visiting the nursery, so if you've parked outside the entrance gate you can head back in to pick up the hakeas after the walk.

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The second half of the walk passes through open woodland before returning to the carpark via the tennis courts. There are several toilets and barbecue areas along the way.



Watch the video online at www.raa.com.au/samotor or download the *samotor* app for iPads or Android tablets.



Want more travel advice? Check out John's weekly blog at www.raa.com.au/johnsblog

CLOCKWISE: A koala at Cleland Wildlife Park; Old Government House, Belair National Park; enjoying a power walk.

Images © SATC, John Pedler.

Travel must-haves



1. Adelaide's Best Bush/Coast and City Walks, Members \$24.95/Non-members \$29.95; **2. Walks in Nature Australia**, \$24.95/\$29.95; **3. Heysen Trail Books (South and North)**, \$26.95/\$29.95; **4. Vapur 1L Bottle**, \$19.95/\$24.95; **5. Blackwolf Classic Backpack 25L**, \$36.95/\$49.95.



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