

20 THINGS TO DISCOVER

MT REMARKABLE NATIONAL PARK

Located between Spencer Gulf and the southern reaches of the Flinders Ranges, Mt Remarkable National Park comprises of 18,000 hectares of rugged mountain ranges, dramatic gorges, steep vegetated valleys, and exposed red quartzite cliffs with parts of the landscape dating back to 800 millions years ago. The climate is unique - it is a cross-over between arid (dry with very little water) and temperate zones (moderate temperature with good levels of rain) giving rise to diverse and abundant plant and animal life.

The three main watercourses: Alligator; Mambray; and Spring Creek are lined with ancient River Red Gums, teeming with life. The Park is home to the Endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby, Lace Monitors, Echidnas, Scorpions, Wedge-tailed Eagles, Emus, Western Grey Kangaroos, Euros, rich plant life and full of geological treasures.

The three sections of the Park: Alligator Gorge; Mt Remarkable (via Melrose); and Mambray Creek have their own unique elements including walking trails, picnic areas, scenic lookouts, gorges, creek lines, ruins and camping grounds.

The Park falls within the area of the Nukunu people.

Fees collected are used for conservation and to maintain and improve park facilities for your ongoing enjoyment. For campsite booking, maps and other Park information see environment.sa.gov.au/parks

Nature Play SA AGREEMENT

When playing in nature I agree to:

- 1 Have fun
- 2 Get dirty
- 3 Learn something
- 4 Explore new places
- 5 Discover new things
- 6 Be kind to the plants and animals
- 7 Leave nothing but footprints
- 8 Come back to play again!



JT

1. Campgrounds

The Park has two formal campgrounds: Mambray Creek Campground is set amongst beautiful gum trees with a Day Picnic Area ideal for picnics, barbecue and toilet facilities and over 50 campsites; and the smaller Baroota Ruins has 10 sites. There are also sites for Group Camping and Backpacker camping.

For more details you can book online or call the Clare Natural Resources Centre (+61 8) 8841 3400



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2. Alligator Gorge

Alligator Gorge can be reached via a picturesque – but sometimes challenging – drive commencing 1km south of Wilmington on Alligator Gorge. This road is very steep and unsuitable for caravans, camper trailers and buses. Within Alligator Gorge there is a picnic area and a number of scenic walks such as: the Gorge Lookout; The Narrows; The Terraces; and Gorge Circuit Hike. All are ideal for families up for an adventure.



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3. The Terraces (Alligator Gorge)

Located within Alligator Gorge, The Terraces is a spectacular example of the ancient geology within the Park. With wildflowers, reptiles, frogs and old trees, there are things to discover and new places to explore.



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4. The Narrows (Alligator Gorge)

Located within Alligator Gorge, The Narrows form part of the Gorge Circuit Hike. The name becomes quite obvious once you reach a narrow section of the gorge – like a geological corridor with red quartzite walls and large boulders to walk across. Many of the rocks have unique patterns on them that look like water ripples – what patterns can you find.



JT

5. Mt Remarkable Summit Hike

Accessible from the War Memorial Monument at Melrose this hike will take you to the top of Mt Remarkable with views of Melrose and the rich agricultural land of the Willochra Plain. It is just over 12km return and will take around 5 hours. There are other shorter trails signposted at the entrance of the Summit Hike for those wanting a more gentle experience.



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6. Mambray Creek Walk

An easy walk for families that travels along a beautiful creek line full of sedges and towering red gums, pine woodlands and things to discover. From this walk you can also take the steeper Sugar Gum Lookout Hike where you can explore Scarfe's Hut (where a local shepherd used to live), or for an even more adventurous trek head to the Hidden Gorge Hike.



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7. Baroota Cemetery / Homestead

Forming part of the Baroota Hike, The Baroota Cemetery and Homestead provides a window into the past with signage telling the story of settlers struggling to live in such isolation up against drought, floods, and no medical supplies. The homestead was built in the 1850's and is maintained by the Friends of Mt Remarkable National Park.



FTG

8. Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (*Petrogale xanthopus*)

Living in large colonies, the Endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby is a colourful marsupial with orange ears, white cheek stripes and striped brown/orange tail. They get their name from their bright yellow-orange feet, forearms and hind legs. They have textured pads on their feet to prevent from slipping when hopping on rocks as they live in steep rocky areas.



JT

9. Western Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus fuliginosus*) Euro (*M. robustus*)

Western Grey Kangaroos (left) are common throughout the Park. You will often find their scats in places they have been (round, shiny pellets). In the Park there are also Euros (right) that are smaller, darker, and often hairier than the Western Grey Kangaroo. If you spot these marsupials – have a close look as they may have Joeys.



10. Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*)

Emus are the second-largest living bird in the world (the first being the Ostrich). Emus are common around the Park. Often it is male emus who have the striped chicks walking around with them (the stripes help them camouflage). You may notice some cone-shaped or flat pancake-like deposits along the roads and paths – these are Emus scats. They are full of berries, insects, and seeds. It is important that we don't feed Emus as it can be unhealthy for them and change their natural behavior.



11. Lace Monitors (*Varanus varius*)

The Lace Monitor is a large lizard growing up to 2 metres. It is dark grey-blue in colour with irregular cream spots and bands. The female lays eggs in active termite mounds. With the help of termites the eggs stay at a constant temperature. After many months, the eggs will hatch inside the mound and the mother will return to dig them out! Monitors can be seen up trees or along the roads within the Park.



12. Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*)

A type of Kingfisher, Kookaburras have an unmistakable sound when they start laughing! They are mostly carnivorous birds feeding on insects, lizards, mice, snakes, and occasionally other birds. Kookaburras depend on tall gum trees to perch and nest in tree hollows. They can be seen along the creeks or in old gum trees particularly in the Mambray Creek Day Visit Area.



13. Flinders Ranges Scorpion (*Urodacus elongates*)

This scorpion only occurs in the Flinders Ranges and is one of the largest in Australia with some growing over 10cm long! Scorpions are nocturnal. They feed on slaters, centipedes, beetles, spiders, millipedes and cover their prey in digestive juice to make chewing easier! Easily recognized by their claw-like pincers and sting (which can be very painful). They live under rocks and logs within gullies and gorges.



14. River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*)

Many River Red Gums in the Park are hundreds of years old particularly around the creek lines. They provide homes for wildlife such as possums, bats, lizards, insects, and birds. If you stand at the base of old River Red Gum can you spot wildlife using the tree? You may also find the tiny gum nuts on the ground.



15. Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*)

Growing up to 20 metres this tree only occurs in South Australia (known as endemic). The leaves are glossy green and the canopy spreads out like green parachutes. Their gum nuts have ridged lines and can be found on the ground around the trees. Sugar Gums can form important tree hollows for birds, bats and mammals and are valuable habitat for insects which attract even more birds!



16. Northern Cypress-pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*)

A tree growing up to 15 metres high and forming woodlands throughout the Park. They have distinctive round cones that open when dried out with the seeds providing an important food source for cockatoos. The tree also attracts Apids (a small insect) which produce a sticky honey-like substance that attracts honeyeaters. If you look closely at the trunk you may see different coloured lichen growing.



17. Pink Garland Lilly (*Calostemma purpureum*)

Small red-purple flowering lilies with six petals occurring from Summer to Autumn. The leaves come up after flowers have finished from Autumn to Winter. A good place to see them is Scarfe's Hut along the Sugar Gum Lookout Hike.



18. Lichen

Lichen is very unique. It is a combination of algae or cyanobacteria and fungus (a symbiotic relationship). The algae is able to photosynthesise, whereas the fungus is able to reproduce through spores (much like seeds). They need one another to survive and that survival is termed Lichen. Lichen comes in many different colours and can be seen on rocks, logs, trees, and even soil. Some are known to be many thousands of years old.



19. Insects and Spiders

Spiders are not insects. Insects have six legs and spiders have eight. Throughout the park there are hundreds of spiders and insects to discover. On any of the walks around the Park if you look closely at the plants, logs, leaf litter you are guaranteed to find a spider, cricket, ant, beetle, scorpion, or countless other insects and spiders. They all have an important role to play. See how many you can spot on your walk.



20. Red Quartzite

Mt Remarkable is well known for its ancient gorges and beautiful rock formations. A distinctive part of these areas is the red quartzite. Places like Alligators Gorge have fascinating examples where they can glow in the sunlight. When walking take note of all the different types of rock that occur throughout the park, some are more than 800 millions years old!

Thanks to the passionate staff at Mt Remarkable National Park for their contribution to this poster. This poster is part of the Park of the Month initiative driven by Nature Play SA and supported by Department for Environment Water and Natural Resources. Photography: Jason Tyndall (JT), Friends of Telowie Gorge (FTG), and Lorraine Edmunds (LE)

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