

# National parks of **Kangaroo Island**



**MAY  
2022**



**Government  
of South Australia**  
Department for  
Environment and Water

# Welcome to Kangaroo Island's parks

Fires on Kangaroo Island burnt more than 200,000 hectares of land – nearly half the island – in the January 2020 bushfire.

More than two years on, green vegetation has sprung out of the blackened landscape and parks have reopened to visitors to share in the rare opportunity to see the bush regenerating around iconic sites such as Remarkable Rocks and Admirals Arch.

As many people remark when they land on Kangaroo Island, it's a big place – bigger than they expected it to be. The third largest island off the coast of Australia, Kangaroo Island is home to unique natural beauty and a wide variety of things to see and do.

Even as some parks experiences remain restricted because of bushfire recovery, there's still so much to explore here, particularly in the parks that conserve an array of natural environments and provide habitat to an abundant range of wildlife.

This little book is a moment in time that shares some of the best parks and parks experiences that are ready to welcome you right now.

So head out, have a good time and be assured that we're working closely with local staff, tourism operators and the community on fire recovery. We take the safety of our visitors and staff seriously, and our wide open spaces are the perfect place to relax and renew while social distancing.

Flinders Chase National Park and the iconic sights of Remarkable Rocks, Admirals Arch, Cape du Couedic Lighthouse and Weirs Cove are open. Several trails and campgrounds have reopened. Seal Bay is ready to welcome you to a beach tour, walking trails across the island remain open and at the end of the day you can put your feet up with a stay in a unique lighthouse keeper's cottage.

Thank you for visiting and being part of the recovery of this special place. Every trip you make and every dollar you spend will make a bigger difference to the Kangaroo Island community than you're ever likely to know.



To keep up to date with fire recovery, park openings and COVID-19 updates check [parks.sa.gov.au](https://parks.sa.gov.au) and [facebook.com/NPWSSA](https://facebook.com/NPWSSA)

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# Map



-  Sealed road
-  Unsealed road
-  Walking trail location (see page 22)
-  Open DEW managed park
-  Closed DEW managed park
-  Fire affected areas





- |   |                              |     |                           |
|---|------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
|  | Marine Park                  | NP  | National Park             |
|  | Marine Park - Sanctuary Zone | CP  | Conservation Park         |
|  | Ferry                        | WPA | Wilderness Protected Area |

# What's open?

	Opening hours	Tours	Entry fees	Camping	Camping fees	Accommodation	Accommodation fees	Dogs allowed
<b>Baudin CP</b>	24/7	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
<b>Beyeria CP</b>	24/7	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
<b>Cape Gantheaume CP</b>	<b>Murray Lagoon</b>	24/7	N	N	N	N	N	N
	<b>D'Estrees Bay</b>	24/7	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
	<b>Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area</b>	24/7	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
<b>Cape Willoughby CP</b>	See pg 7	Y*	N	N	N	Y	N	N
<b>Flinders Chase NP</b>	24/7	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
<b>Cape Borda Lightstation (Flinders Chase NP)</b>	24/7	Y**	Y	N	N	N	N	N
<b>Lashmar CP</b>	24/7	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
<b>Seal Bay CP</b>	See pg 6	Y*	N	N	N	N	N	N
<b>Ravine des Casoars WPA (including Harveys Return)</b>	24/7	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N

<sup>R</sup> Campfire restrictions apply, see page 20 and [parks.sa.gov.au](https://parks.sa.gov.au) for more information.

\* Fees apply

\*\*Self-guided tour

Book camping,  
accommodation  
and tours at  
[parks.sa.gov.au](http://parks.sa.gov.au)

Toilets	Campfires <sup>R</sup>	Water	Fishing	Walking trails (see pg. 19)	Information centre	Souvenirs	Picnic area	BBQ	Wheelchair access	Public phone	Lookout	Drones allowed
N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N
N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N
N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N



## Seal Bay CP



**Park opening hours:** 9 am-5 pm daily (except Christmas Day) - last entry 4 pm.

**Please note:** additional tours run during South Australian school holidays and public holidays – please check our website for details. Tour times are subject to change.

### Seal Bay guided tours

Guided tours are available, book at [sealbay.sa.gov.au](http://sealbay.sa.gov.au) before you go to avoid disappointment. Tours are

bookable up to 9 hours before tour departure.

Seal Bay also offers sunset, private and research tours.

Self-guided boardwalk tours are also available for walk-ins.

**T:** 08 8553 4463

## Flinders Chase NP

**Park opening hours:** 24/7

Visitors can explore the iconic drawcards of Remarkable Rocks, Admirals Arch, Cape du Couedic Lighthouse and Weirs Cove.

Cape Borda Lightstation is open for self-guided walking tours. Details on page 16.

**Note:** The park has limited toilets, no rubbish bins and there is no food or drink available for purchase throughout the park.

**T:** 0428 766 269



## Cape Willoughby CP

**Park opening hours:** sunrise to sunset.      **T:** 08 8553 4466

**Visitor centre:** 10 am-4 pm daily

### Tours

Tours of the lightstation and grounds are available. Self-guided tours of the grounds are also available. Bookings and details at [parks.sa.gov.au](http://parks.sa.gov.au)

### Notes:

Opening hours, tour times and prices are subject to change.





# Welcome, you're here. Now what can you do that's near?

## 1 Get your 'gram on at Flinders Chase

Much of Flinders Chase National Park was burnt in the January 2020 bushfires, but the landscape is recovering. Drive along Cape du Couedic Road – including the part that has become one of the most instagrammable roads in South Australia. Explore the iconic drawcards of Remarkable Rocks, Admirals Arch, Cape du Couedic Lighthouse and Weirs Cove. You'll find car parking at each of these sites.



## 2 Step back in time with a lighthouse tour

Spectacular views and incredible tales of hardship and survival draw visitors to Cape Willoughby and Cape Borda lighthouses. At Cape Willoughby a local guide will transport you as they narrate the history of this iconic and rugged site. Guided tours are available on the hour from 11am to 3pm. The self-guided tour around Cape Borda Lightstation settlement gives an insight into the early lightkeepers' living conditions, and how isolation and a demanding routine dominated their often harsh lives.





### 3 Take a self-guided drive to D'Estrees Bay

This self-guided nature drive at Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park begins at the second boat ramp seven kilometres from the junction of Elsegood Road and D'Estrees Bay Road. Look out for the osprey trail markers along the eight kilometre drive that takes in bushland and coastal views. Download a self-guided drive booklet at [parks.sa.gov.au](https://parks.sa.gov.au).



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### 4 Join a tour with a local

Whether you're on Kangaroo Island for 48 hours or five days, [southaustralia.com](https://southaustralia.com) has you covered with itineraries that share the best of the island and include ideas for experiences with local tour companies. Explore marine parks by swimming with dolphins, staying dry on deck with a sightseeing tour or going fishing; and discover terrestrial parks with tours that traverse Seal Bay and beyond.



© South Australian Tourism Commission

### 5 Take a walk amongst nature's best

With its diverse landscapes that range from bushland to rugged coastline and abundant wildlife, Kangaroo Island is a walker's dream. And there's a lot of it to walk – the island is 155 km long and up to 55 km wide, ringed by 509 km of pristine coastline and has walking trails that stretch throughout its parks. Turn to page 19 for ideas on walks that range from easy 20 minute strolls to a more challenging five-day trek.

# Five of Kangaroo Island's best wildlife experiences

*Kangaroo Island is celebrated for its extraordinary wildlife and has many opportunities to see Australian animals in their native habitats. Here are just a few of the island's best wildlife experiences.*

## **Australian sea-lions**

Seal Bay is the only place in the world where you can see Australian sea-lions at close quarters and walk on a beach where pups play, bulls fight for supremacy and resting mothers suckle their young.

There are no enclosures or cages here. You can walk to the heart of the sea-lion colony on the beach with an experienced guide who will teach you about these endangered animals. If you prefer, you can set your own pace on the wheelchair accessible 900 metre (return) boardwalk which meanders through the dunes to a number of viewing platforms. More information on page 17.

## **Long-nosed fur seals**

The rocks around Admirals Arch are a popular haul-out spot for long-nosed fur seals. Watch their playful antics as they frolic in rock pools and surf the waves.

## **Kangaroos**

Kangaroo Island was named for its kangaroos, which have evolved differently from mainland kangaroos since the island was connected to the mainland 9500 years ago. Kangaroo Island kangaroos often rest during the day under vegetation, coming out to graze in the early morning and late afternoon.

## **Tammar wallabies**

Kangaroo Island has the largest remaining natural population of Tammar wallabies. Much smaller than kangaroos, Tammar wallabies have a dark grey coat with reddish-brown arms, feet and flanks, and white cheek stripes.

They're nocturnal and best seen at dawn and dusk in Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park along the D'Estrees Bay Road up to Wheatons Beach and in Baudin Conservation Park. Access to the carpark is along Frenchmans Terrace and south along Binneys Track.

## **Short-beaked echidnas**

Kangaroo Island short-beaked echidnas appear to be abundant across the island due to suitable habitat and no significant predators. They can be found across the



island and are generally solitary, feeding day and night and sheltering in hollow logs, under piles of debris, in self-constructed burrows and among tree roots.

Echidnas have exceptional hearing and a good sense of smell. They'll freeze when disturbed and then curl into a ball, often trying to bury themselves in the leaf litter or soil. If you find an echidna, watch quietly and patiently from at least 20 metres away. If they change their behaviour while you are watching then you are probably too close.

## Dolphins

Kangaroo Island's pristine waters are home to a diverse and important range of marine life. The island is surrounded by four marine parks that ensure increased protection to approximately two-thirds of its waters. Penneshaw's Hog Bay looks out over Encounter Marine Park and is home to a pod of dolphins that cruise though every day. The perfect spot to see them is from the rocks at the eastern end of the beach, near Frenchmans Rock.



© South Australian Tourism Commission

### Know before you go

Turn to page 42 for information on how to experience wildlife safely and responsibly.



# Know before you go

## What's open

Most key sites and experiences operated by National Parks and Wildlife Service are now open following the January 2020 bushfires. However, sites may operate under restrictions because of bushfire recovery activities and to be COVID-safe.

It's best to check [parks.sa.gov.au](https://parks.sa.gov.au) for up-to-date information before you go.

## What's closed

Kelly Hill Conservation Park is closed until further notice.

Parks may close seasonally or for conservation activities to be undertaken.

Information on park closures is regularly updated at [parks.sa.gov.au](https://parks.sa.gov.au) or contact your local parks office for further information.

**COVID-19 update:** Social distancing should be practiced at all times. Please do not visit a park if you are feeling sick or are required to self-isolate.

## Getting about

The island is traversed by 1600km 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 km<sup>2</sup> in area
- 155km long and up to 55km 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 parks 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.
- Please read the important fire safety information on page 44.
- Be aware of park closures (for purposes such as feral animal control, public safety, threatened species breeding, trail maintenance etc). Check [parks.sa.gov.au](https://parks.sa.gov.au) for up to date information on park or trail closures.

The recreational use of drones is strictly prohibited 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.



### Leave your pets at home



Pets are not permitted in any Kangaroo Island parks.

Assistance dogs are welcome. Before taking your assistance dog into a park that does not normally allow dogs, it is highly recommended that you contact us so we can provide you with the latest information on any potential hazards that may affect your dog.

# Parks that are open now

## 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. Sheoak woodlands make this one of the best places for spotting the endangered Glossy Black cockatoo.

### Hike

Ironstone Hill Hike page 26.

## Beyeria Conservation Park



Discover some of Kangaroo Island's rare plants. Interpretive signs along the short Beyeria Walk 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.

### Walk

Beyeria Walk page 25.

## Lashmar Conservation Park

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

### Antechamber Bay



New picnic and camping facilities are available at this popular swimming and fishing beach. Explore the park further by canoeing or kayaking your way along the tranquil Chapman River which flows through the park and into the sea at Antechamber Bay.

Solid fuel fires are not permitted during fire danger season. Comfort fires are permitted in fire pits only, and are not permitted during the fire season. See page 18 or visit [www.parks.sa.gov.au](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au) for more information about fires in parks.



## 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. The recently opened campground is ideal for caravans, RVs, camper trailers, and tents.

### Walks and hikes

Timber Creek Walk page 29, Bald Hill Walk page 30, Curley Creek Hike page 31.

### 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.

### Walks

Tadpole Cove Walk page 28.

### 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 National Parks office, Kingscote.

### Trek

Cape Gantheaume Coastal Trek (Seasonal closure applies, contact park office or visit [parks.sa.gov.au](http://parks.sa.gov.au) for latest closure information).



## Cape Willoughby Conservation Park

### Cape Willoughby Lightstation



The ocean backdrop to Cape Willoughby Lightstation is spectacular. Tours of the lightstation grounds and lighthouse are available. 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 20<sup>th</sup> century. Self-guided tours are also available. Bookings and details at [parks.sa.gov.au](https://parks.sa.gov.au)

## Seal Bay Conservation Park



Seal Bay is home to a large 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 900 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 and barbecue facilities are available at nearby Bales Bay, a few kilometres drive away. The beach at Bales Bay is part of the Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area.

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.

**Opening hours and tours**

See page 6.

**Pay online before you go**



Tours at Seal Bay are very popular so book early to avoid disappointment.

Book and pay online at [www.parks.sa.gov.au](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au)





## Flinders Chase National Park



This park is home to beautiful coastal landscapes and iconic features such as Remarkable Rocks, Admirals Arch and Cape du Couedic Lighthouse.

The majority of the park and much of its infrastructure was burnt in the January 2020 bushfire. The good news is that green vegetation has emerged in the park and there are native animal sightings in the area such as goannas, eagles, kangaroos and KI echidnas.

It now offers an incredible opportunity to witness a landscape regenerating after fire. You can explore the iconic drawcards of Remarkable Rocks, Admirals Arch, Cape du Couedic Lighthouse and Weirs Cove. You'll find car parking at each of these sites.

West Bay (including the campground) and Shackle Road are open (subject to seasonal closures). Note: West Bay Road and the campground are 4WD accessible only.

Please pack enough water and snacks for your visit, take your rubbish with you and leave no trace. This will give our bushland the best chance of recovery. The park has limited toilets, and there is no food or drink available for purchase throughout the park.

Take extra care of roaming wildlife, particularly when driving at dawn and dusk. Remain on roads and trails to give the fragile environment time and space for regeneration and recovery. The roads within Flinders Chase are not suitable for caravans and large trailers.

### Walks and hikes

Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail - Fire Recovery Experience page 24, Remarkable Rocks Walk page 32, Admirals Arch Walk page 33, Cape du Couedic Hike page 34, Lighthouse Heritage Walk page 35.

### Pay online before you go



Entry and camping fees apply and can be paid online. Internet/phone connection is very limited at Flinders Chase National Park, Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area and Cape Borda so it's best to pay before you go.

Book and pay online at [www.parks.sa.gov.au](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au).



## Cape Borda Lightstation



Cape Borda Lightstation is open for self-guided tours. Visit South Australia's third oldest lighthouse, wander around the historic buildings and discover the stories of the lighthouse keepers and their families. Follow the 1 km Clifftop Hike for views from some of the tallest cliffs in the state.

### Hike

Clifftop Hike page 37.

## Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area



The Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area is located to the north of

Flinders Chase National Park and covers 40 000 hectares. Visitors may access some areas on foot.

Visit Scott Cove and Harveys Return Cemetery.

### Hike

Ravine Hike page 36

## Harveys Return



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



# Stay in parks



Bookings and details at [parks.sa.gov.au](https://parks.sa.gov.au)

Campground	Online bookings required	Caravan accessible	Public phone	Toilets	Water	Hot showers	Camp fires	Gas BBQs
<b>Ravine des Casoars WPA</b>								
Harvey's Return	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
<b>Cape Gantheaume</b>								
Wilderness Protection Area*	*	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
D'Estrees Bay	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	**	✗
Murray Lagoon	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	**	✓
<b>Lashmar Conservation Park</b>								
Antechamber Bay	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	**	✓

\* Contact parks office, Kingscote

\*\* See fire information below.

## Solid fuel fires

Solid fuel fires are prohibited at all times in reserves across Kangaroo Island.

The only exceptions are at Lashmar Conservation Park, D'Estrees Bay and Murray Lagoon where small comfort fires are permitted within designated fire pits outside of fire danger season.

Please use the fire pits provided, do not leave fires unattended and carefully extinguish all fires before you leave.

Follow all CFS standards

[cfs.sa.gov.au](https://cfs.sa.gov.au)

## 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), phone CFS hotline 1800 362 361 or check

[cfs.sa.gov.au](https://cfs.sa.gov.au)

# Bushwalking

Kangaroo Island's parks offer walking trails 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.

The Australian Walking Track Grading System is a national standard to help you work out if a walk will suit your level of fitness and experience.

## Grade 1



No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them. Walks no greater than 5 km.

## Grade 2



No bushwalking experience required. The track is a hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps. Walks no greater than 10 km.

## Grade 3



Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps. Walks up to 20 km.

## Grade 4



Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited.

## Grade 5



Recommended for very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency first aid. Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked. Walks may be more than 20 km.

## 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](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au) for up to date information on trail closures.

# Walking trails that are open now

	Trails	Trail time	Distance
	<b>Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail – Fire Recovery Experience</b>	5 days	61 km
1.	<b>Beyeria Walk</b>	30 minutes	1.5 km loop
2.	<b>Ironstone Hill Hike</b>	1.5 hours	4 km return
3.	<b>Cape Willoughby Lightstation Heritage Hike</b>	1 hour	1.9 km return
4.	<b>Tadpole Cove Walk</b>	20 minutes	800 m return
5.	<b>Timber Creek Walk</b>	1 hour	1.5 km return
6.	<b>Bald Hill Walk</b>	30 minutes	1 km return
7.	<b>Curley Creek Hike</b>	4 hours	11 km return
8.	<b>Remarkable Rocks Walk</b>	15 minutes	1 km return
9.	<b>Admirals Arch Walk</b>	15 minutes	1 km return
10.	<b>Cape du Couedic Hike</b>	40 minutes	2 km loop
11.	<b>Lighthouse Heritage Walk</b>	10 minutes	600 m loop
12.	<b>Ravine Hike</b>	3 hours	7 km return
13.	<b>Clifftop Hike</b>	30 minutes	1 km return
14.	<b>Return Road Hike</b>	3 hours	9 km
15.	<b>Harveys Return Hike</b>	1 hour	1.5 km
16.	<b>Waterfall Creek Hike</b>	2 hours	5 km





Highlights	Trail notes	Trail classification
Recovering fire-affected landscape, rugged coastline	A mix of trail surfaces and landscapes. Available as five day-walks via a licensed operator.	Grade 4
Endemic plants	Great for all ages.	Grade 2
European heritage, coastal views, wildlife	Some steep sections, two small creeks to cross in winter.	Grade 3
Great views, European heritage site	Some sections rocky and uneven underfoot.	Grade 3
European heritage, coastal views, wildlife	Gently undulating, great for all ages.	Grade 2
Wetland, wildlife	Can be slippery when wet, seasonally under water.	Grade 2
Wetland, wildlife	Can be very windy, seasonally under water.	Grade 2
Wetland, wildlife, unexpected vegetation	Can be slippery when wet, seasonally under water.	Grade 3
Remarkable Rocks, views of Cape du Couedic	All ages, observe the warning signs.	Grade 2
Admirals Arch, fur-seal colony. Casuarina Islets.	Boardwalk leads to steps down to viewing platform.	Grade 2
Coastal clifftop views, coastal plants and shipwreck information	Some steep sections, a little rocky and uneven underfoot.	Grade 3
Lighthouse, lightkeepers' cottages	Great for all ages.	Grade 2
Spectacular views, river habitats, forest.	Some steep sections, a little rocky and uneven underfoot.	Grade 4
Coastal views, remoteness	Rocky and uneven underfoot.	Grade 3
History, woodlands, coastal heath.	Gently undulating, a little rocky and uneven underfoot.	Grade 3
History, geology, remoteness.	Very steep below the capstan	Grade 4
Spectacular views of a winter waterfall, sheoak and Sugar Gum forest.	Some steep sections, a little rocky and uneven underfoot.	Grade 3

# Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail - Fire Recovery Experience

Following the devastating fires of summer 2019-20, the bush is bouncing back in spectacular form.

Weave your way through green shoot enveloping blackened landscapes and enjoy expansive views and easier wildlife spotting opportunities before reaching the rugged, remote and spectacular coastline of the Southern Ocean.

A modified Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail has reopened for walkers hosted by our licensed tour operators. These operators

offer a range of packages from trail transfers to fully escorted trips.

Camping is not available on the trail; instead complete the trail as a series of day walks and enjoy the luxury of a hot shower and soft bed each night.

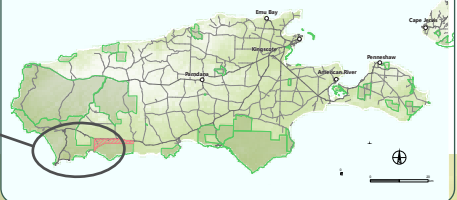
Find a list of licensed operators at [www.kangarooislandwildernesstrail.sa.gov.au](http://www.kangarooislandwildernesstrail.sa.gov.au)

Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail



**Grade 4**

Five days / 61 km




# 1. Beyeria Conservation Park, Beyeria Walk

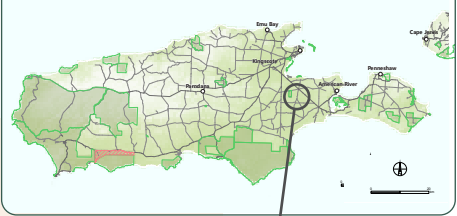
This walk is a delightful short stroll through Kangaroo Island narrow-leaved mallee with broombush understorey. Beyeria Conservation Park was named after the endemic turpentine bush, *Beyeria subsecta*. The walk has twenty interpretive signs along the way highlighting ‘The Many Faces of Mallee Scrub’.

## Access

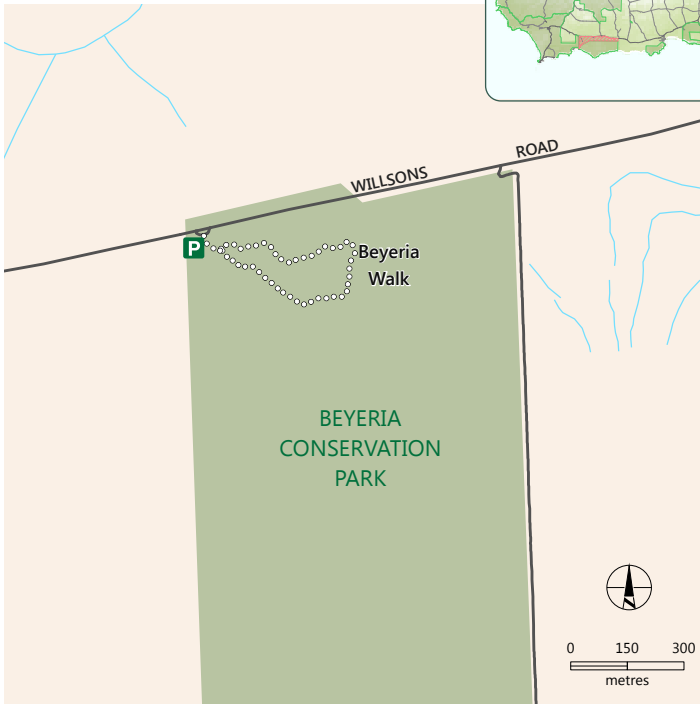
The walk begins at the car park adjoining Willsons Road.

Suitable for all ages.

 **Grade 2**  
30 min return / 1.5 km return



**Beyeria Conservation Park**



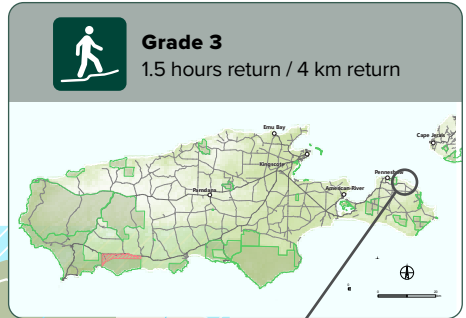
## 2. Baudin Conservation Park, Ironstone Hill Hike

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.

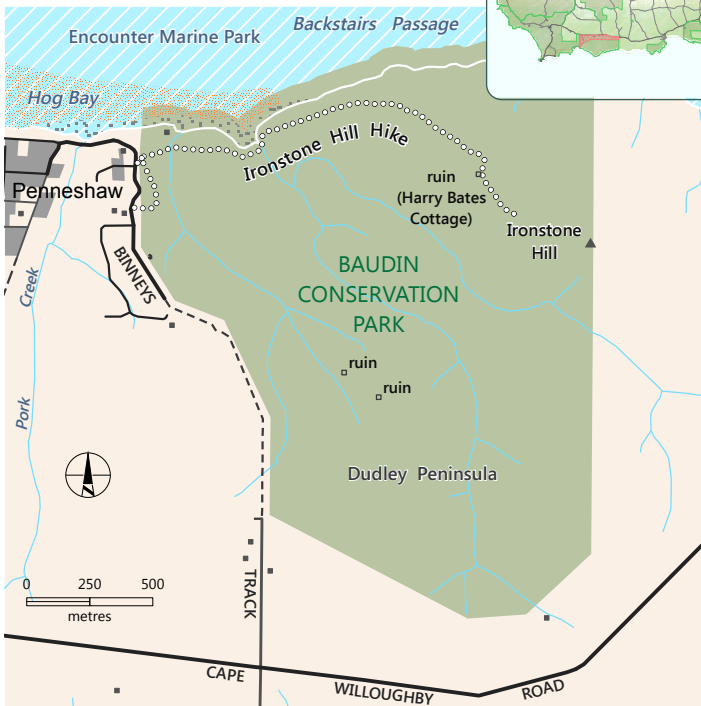
After climbing through regenerating sheoak vegetation, the hike leads to the ruins of Harry Bates' cottage and a stone threshing floor on Ironstone Hill. The farming heritage of the area is interpreted on signs along the hike.

### Access

Follow Frenchmans Terrace along the foreshore at Penneshaw to the car park at the start of Binneys Track.



**Baudin Conservation Park**



### 3. Cape Willoughby Conservation Park, 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.

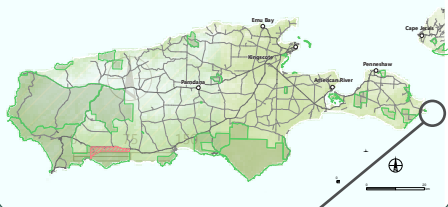
Fees apply.

#### Access

This return loop hike begins and ends at the visitor centre.



**Grade 3**  
1 hour return / 1.9 km return



**Cape Willoughby Conservation Park**

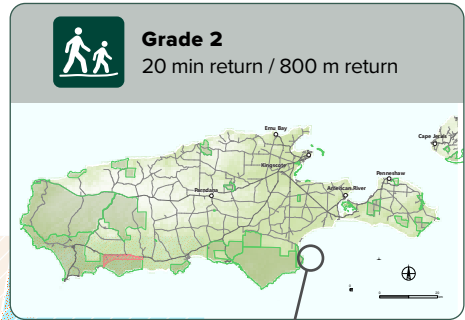


## 4. Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park, Tadpole Cove Walk

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.



**Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park**





## 5. Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park, Timber Creek Walk

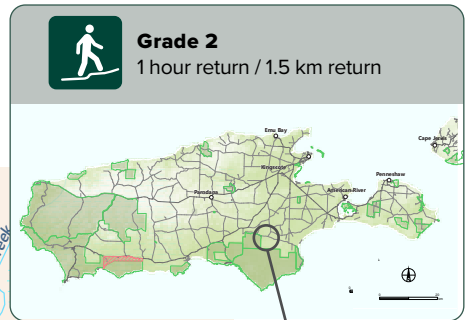
This walk at Murray Lagoon offers the visitor a tea-tree swamp experience. Waterfowl such as ducks, swans and waders flock to the lagoon to create a bird-lovers' delight. Hawks and eagles prey upon the waterfowl, while chats and little grassbirds sing among the thickly vegetated shorelines.

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.

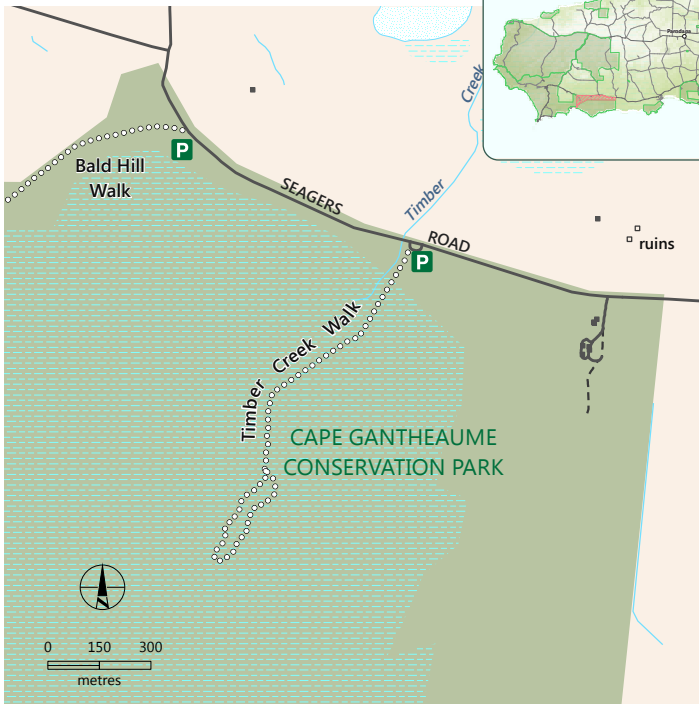
### Access

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.*



**Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park**



## 6. Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park, Bald Hill Walk

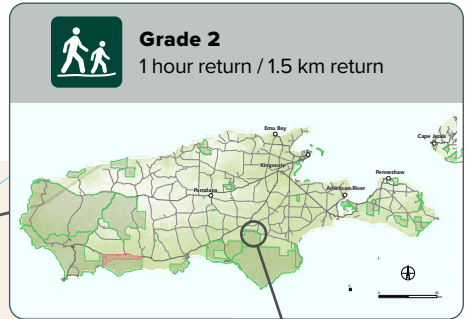
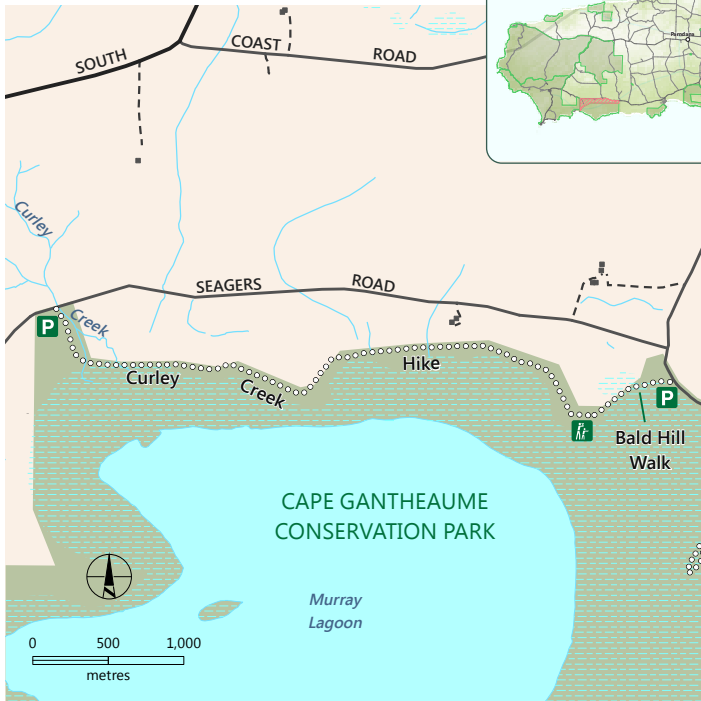
Bald Hill provides spectacular views overlooking Murray Lagoon and is an ideal spot to observe a variety of wetland birds as they feed from the lagoon below. In the distance the visitor can see the dense bush and impressive sand-dunes of the Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area to the south.

### Access

Bald Hill can be accessed via the Bald Hill Walk from Seagers Road, 3.75 km west of the Woods Road-Seagers Road

intersection. Bald Hill can also be accessed via the Curley Creek Hike from Curley Creek, 4 km from the South Coast Road off Seagers Road.

*Note: walking trail subject to flooding in winter months.*



**Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park**



**Grade 2**

1 hour return / 1.5 km return

## 7. Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park, Curley Creek Hike

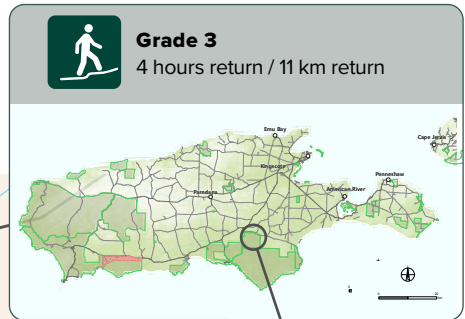
This hike follows an old fire access track which skirts the edge of Murray Lagoon. Walkers will not only discover a large range of birdlife but also a variety of vegetation communities. Bald Hill provides spectacular views overlooking Murray Lagoon and is an ideal spot to observe migratory waders as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

### Access

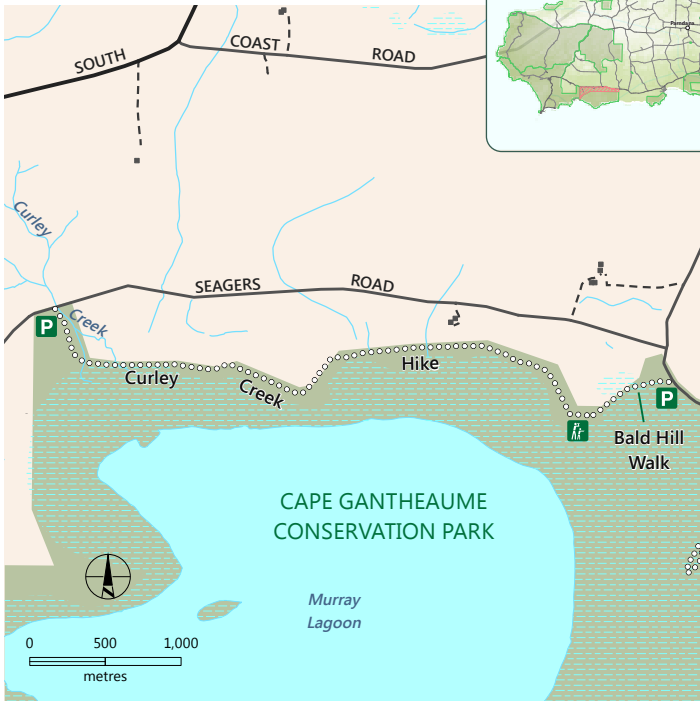
The Curley Creek Hike begins at Curley Creek, 8 km west of the Woods Road-

Seagers Road intersection or 4 km from the South Coast Road off Seagers Road. The Curley Creek Hike can also be accessed via the Bald Hill Walk.

*Note: walking trail subject to flooding in winter months.*



**Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park**



## 8. Remarkable Rocks Walk

Follow this 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.

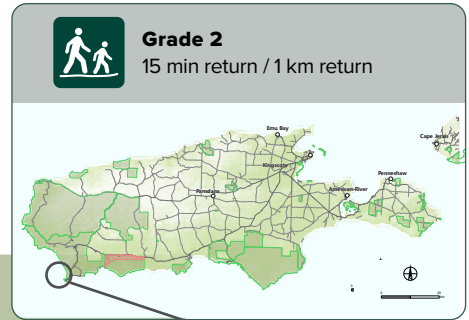
Drownings have occurred at Remarkable Rocks. Please read the warning signs. For safety reasons access to the seaward side of the granite dome is prohibited.

### Access

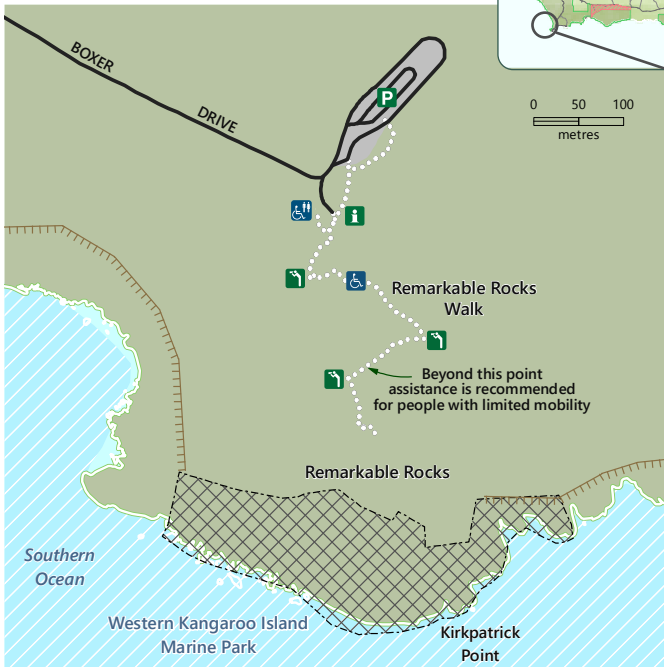
The walk starts at the Remarkable Rocks car park, 16 km from the Rocky River precinct.

The path can be busy at peak visitation times.

The recreational use of drones is not permitted, including for photography and filming.



**Flinders Chase National Park**



## 9. 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.

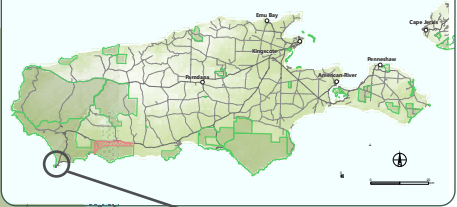
### Access

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



**Grade 2**

15 min return / 1 km return



**Flinders Chase National Park**



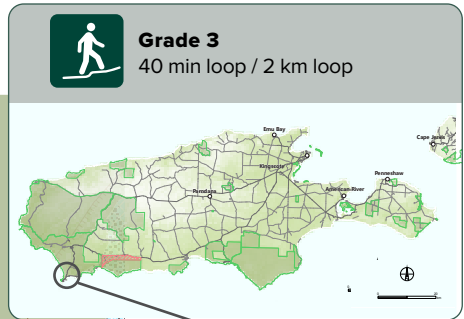
## 10. Cape du Couedic Hike

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.



**Grade 3**

40 min loop / 2 km loop

**Flinders Chase  
National Park**



# 11. Lighthouse Heritage Walk

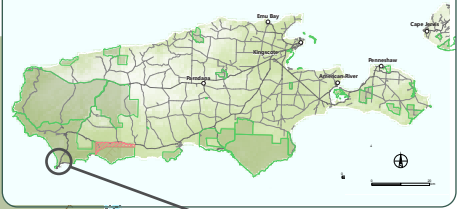
Take a stroll around the Cape du Couedic Lightstation and immerse yourself in history. Marvel at the magnificence of the tower, the endurance of the lightkeepers and their families, and learn about ‘Life on the Edge’ from signs along the trail.

## Access

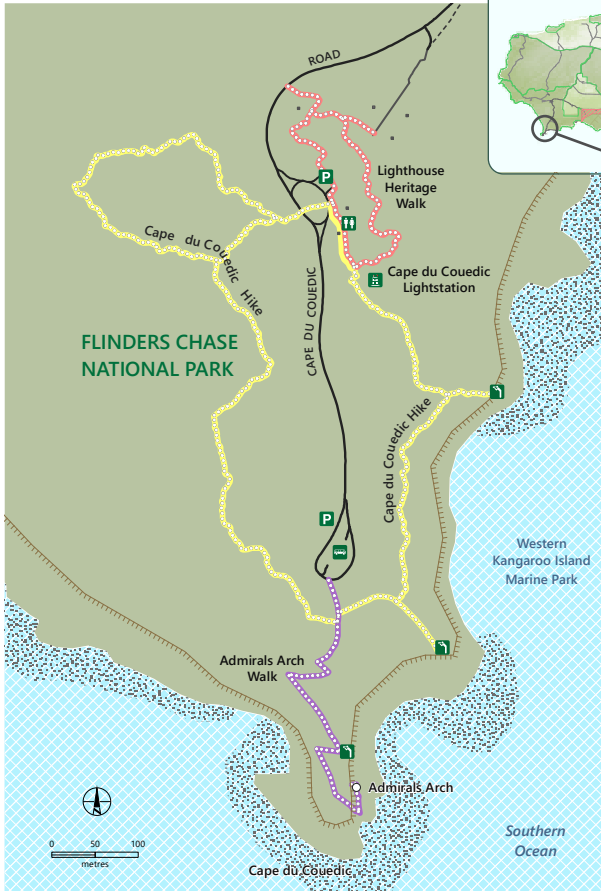
Follow the signs from the lighthouse sign shelter to begin this walk. Please respect the privacy of cottage occupants.



**Grade 2**  
10 min loop / 600 m loop



**Flinders Chase National Park**



## 12. 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.

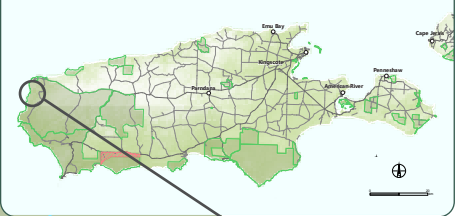
### Access

The hike begins on the Ravine des Casoars Road, 7 km south of the Cape Borda Road, near Cape Borda Lightstation.



#### Grade 4

3 hours return / 7 km return



**Ravine des Casoars  
Wilderness  
Protection Area**



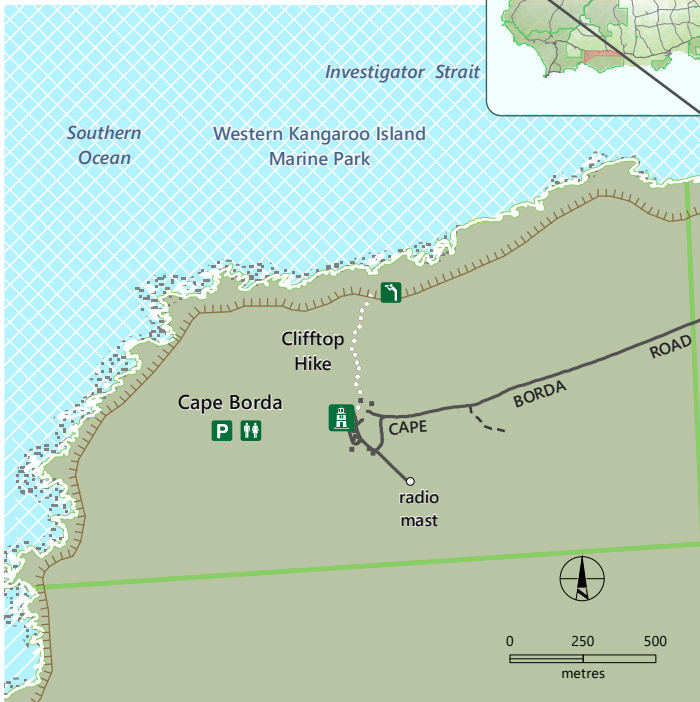
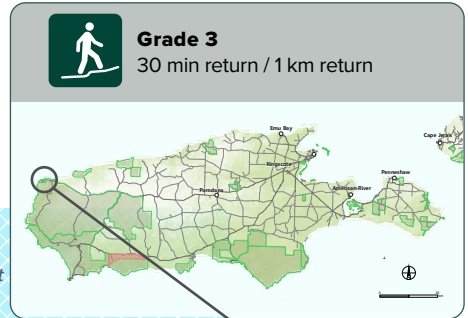
## 13. Clifftop Hike

This short trail is the perfect complement to the self-guided tour at Cape Borda Lightstation. Meander through the picturesque rocky outcrops, 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.



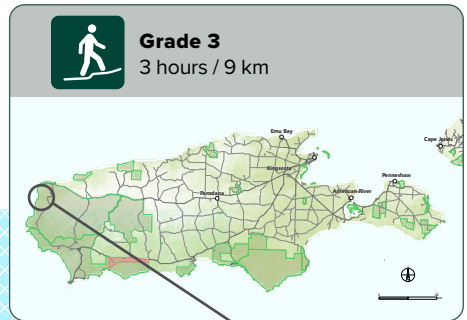
**Flinders Chase National Park**

## 14. 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.



**Grade 3**  
3 hours / 9 km



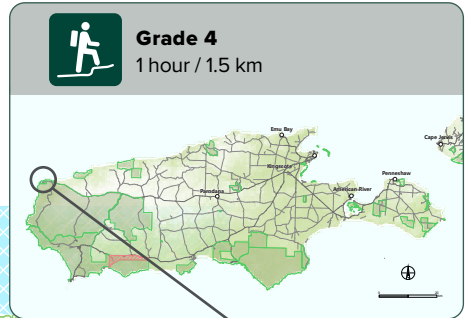
**Ravine des Casoars  
Wilderness  
Protection Area**

## 15. 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 off Cape Borda Road.



**Flinders Chase National Park**

## 16. 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.

### Access

This hike begins in the car park in the Western River Wilderness Protection Area, off Colmans Road.







**Grade 3**  
3 hours / 9 km



**Western River  
Wilderness  
Protection Area**



# Marine parks

## Encounter Marine Park



The Encounter Marine Park covers an area of approximately 3,119 km<sup>2</sup> 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](http://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 km<sup>2</sup> 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.

## Southern Spencer Gulf Marine Park



The Southern Spencer Gulf Marine Park covers 2,972 km<sup>2</sup> 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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.

### Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park



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.





# Wildlife notes

## Slow down for native wildlife

Kangaroo Island is refuge to an abundant array of native wildlife. 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 stun nocturnal animals.

## Please don't feed the wildlife

Let wildlife 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 animal's 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 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.





When observing wildlife along roadsides, take care when parking and ensure that your car is completely off the road when parked. Turn on your hazard lights so that other drivers can see you.

### **Help stop the spread of *Phytophthora***

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

This introduced fungus can be found in plant roots, soil and water. Help stop the spread by using hygiene stations, staying on tracks and trails and by complying with all *Phytophthora* management signs.

### **National Parks Code**

Please ensure that you:

- leave your pets at home
- do not feed birds or other animals—it promotes aggressive behaviour and an unbalanced ecology
- do not bring generators, chainsaws or firearms into parks
- place rubbish in the bins provided or take it with you
- abide by the road rules (maintain the speed limit)
- respect geological and heritage sites
- do not remove native plants
- are considerate of other park users
- do not use a drone in parks.

Important: Collection of firewood within national parks is prohibited.



© Quentin Chester

# 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 barbecues and campfires 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](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)

Monitor ABC Radio 891 (AM)

Contact Bushfire Information Hotline  
1800 362 361 (TTY 133677)

Seek advice from the National Parks office,  
Kingscote 8553 4444

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.





# Seal Bay

*Seal Bay is Kangaroo Island's premier tourist attraction and is consistently in South Australia's top ten tourist destinations, as voted on TripAdvisor.*

 Certificate of Excellence

## Tour times

Guided tours are available, book at [sealbay.sa.gov.au](http://sealbay.sa.gov.au) before you go to avoid disappointment. Tours are bookable up to 9 hours before tour departure. Self-guided boardwalk tours are also available for walk-ins.

*Please note: additional tours run during South Australian school holidays and public holidays – please check our website for details. Tour times are subject to change.*

See below for more contact details or visit [parks.sa.gov.au](http://parks.sa.gov.au)



## Further information

### Seal Bay

**T:** (08) 8553 4463

**E:** [sealbay@sa.gov.au](mailto:sealbay@sa.gov.au)

### Cape Willoughby Lightstation

**T:** (08) 8553 4466

**E:** [capewilloughby@sa.gov.au](mailto:capewilloughby@sa.gov.au)

### Regional Office, Kangaroo Island

37 Dauncey Street, Kingscote SA 5223

**T:** (08) 8553 4444

### Flinders Chase National Park

**T:** 0428 766 269

**E:** [flinderschase@sa.gov.au](mailto:flinderschase@sa.gov.au)

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[parks.sa.gov.au](http://parks.sa.gov.au)



Government of South Australia

Department for Environment and Water