

# 20 THINGS TO DISCOVER

## COFFIN BAY NATIONAL PARK

Spectacular coastal landscapes with rugged cliffs and sandy beaches provide the backdrop of Coffin Bay National Park. The park comprises 30,380 hectares of extensive dune systems, pounding surf beaches, sheltered sandy bays, high windswept cliffs, and large expanses of native vegetation. The Park is surrounded by Thorny Passage Marine Park (like a national park but to protect marine plants and animals).

The Nauo and Barngarla people have lived on the Lower Eyre Peninsula for many thousands of years and have deep cultural and spiritual connections to the landscape and the plants and animals within it.

The Park is home to goannas, kangaroos, emus, pygmy possums, stumpy lizards and diverse bird life such as wrens, sea eagles, ospreys, oystercatchers, and the endangered Hooded Plover. It also has a host of unique marine life that fall within the Thorny Passage Marine Park such as blue groppers, dolphins, octopus, sea stars, and Seals.

The bays and coastline around the park are great for boating (tours are available – search Coffin Bay boating and fishing charters online), sailing, fishing, scuba diving and windsurfing. The stunning northern beaches of Coffin Bay National Park are only accessible by high-clearance 4WD. This remote and beautiful area offers several secluded camping areas with easy beach access.

Fees collected are used for conservation and to maintain and improve park facilities for your ongoing enjoyment. For campsite, maps and other Park information see [environment.sa.gov.au/parks](http://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. Templetonia Lookout

Templetonia lookout, named after a common red flowering plant (*Templetonia retusa*), has stunning views of both the 2WD and 4WD section of the park and is set out with a 360 interpretive sign viewing platform showing information on all landmarks. Get a photo with the giant cut-out sleepy lizard!



JT

### 2. Yangie Bay (Sanctuary Zone)

Yangie Bay falls within the Yangie Bay Sanctuary Zone (which means its wildlife has extra protection). It is a beautiful calm section of the Park to hike, have lunch by the bay, relax, or go spotting for wildlife. Starting from the campground there are a few walks: Yangie Bay Hike (45 mins return); Yangie Bay Island Hike (1.5 hour return); or Long Beach Hike (3.5 hours return). How many fish can you spot swimming close to the sea (some of them jump!)



JT

### 3. Yangie Bay Camp Grounds

The Yangie Bay Campground is perfect for families to pitch a tent or park the Caravan to overlook the calm waters of the bay. You will often have Kangaroos and Emus wondering through and at night take a torch and search for eels and other nocturnal sea creatures in the shallow water. There are three other campgrounds in the park: Black Springs; Morgans Landing; and Pool Campground. These can only be accessed by 4WD.



JT

### 4. Almonta Beach

A beautiful white sandy beach that spans right around to Golden Island Lookout. An ideal place for a family picnic, beach exploring, fishing (for salmon) and bird watching. Some of South Australia's rarest birds can be seen here as well as the odd Heath Goanna. A stroll west of the beach between the Golden Island lookout and Point Avoid has a sea 'lagoon' protected by a reef in low tide (perfect place to dip your toes on warm day).



RL

### 5. Gunyah Dunes

Access via a signed dirt track (4WD only) off the main Coffin Bay road into the park. Gunyah dunes is a large mobile dune system that is great to explore or wander down to the beach for some surf fishing (Be cautious of very soft sand with vehicles).



JT

### 6. Long Beach

One of the most popular beaches for families that leads into Coffin Bay National Park. The shallow waters can be explored for hours with crabs dancing along the seafloor and cockles tickling at your feet. There are lots of treasures to be found from sea sponges to colourful shells. Marine ID charts are available at the Port Lincoln Natural Resource Eyre Peninsula Centre.



JT

### 7. Heath Goannas

Heath Goannas, also known as Rosenberg's Goanna, are locally endangered. When the weather is warm they wander around the park and campgrounds. Females lay their eggs at night in active termite mounds. Once hatched they feed on termites within the mound. Park rangers are researching and working to protect the Goanna. You can help by taking note of what the Goanna looks like and jumping online [www.epgoannas.com.au](http://www.epgoannas.com.au) to record where you saw it.



JT

### 8. Emus

Emus are the second-largest living bird in the world (the first being the Ostrich) and are featured on the National Emblem. Often male emus have up to 60 camouflaged striped chicks with them! In warmer weather Emus can be seen bathing to cool off. The local Aboriginal word for Emu is warraidya. You may notice some unusual cone-shaped deposits found along the roads and paths – these are Emus scats. They are full of berries, insects, and seeds. If you find some can you find any emus footprints nearby?



JT

### 9. Western Grey Kangaroo

Western Grey kangaroos are one of the largest kangaroos in Australia and are often seen around Yangie Bay campground. Dusk and dawn are the best times to see them. In tough times when food is scarce, Kangaroos have been known to eat their own scats up to four times to gain much-needed nutrients. See if you can spot a joey in a pouch but please don't feed them as they need to learn to find food themselves.





JT

### 10. Sleepy Lizard

Watch for these lizards crossing roads or walking trails. In Spring they come out of long winter hibernation to find a sunny spot to soak up the sun. Sleepy Lizards mate for life and unlike many other reptiles that lay eggs, they give birth to large live young (equivalent of a human giving birth to a 6 year old!). This lizard has other common names such as Galda (Aboriginal word), Shingleback, Stumpy Lizard and the Two-headed Lizard (can you have a guess why?).



JT

### 11. Pacific Gull

Australia's largest Gull with a very large red-tipped yellow bill. Known as Molly Gull or Lipstick Bird by locals. They like sandy beaches and rocky coastlines making Coffin Bay the perfect habitat! You may see them feeding on the reefs. Or if they happen to come across a crab or shellfish they will drop them in flight to break open for a tasty meal. Some Pacific Gulls have leg bands so Rangers can research where the adult birds go. Many were banded in Venus Bay – 200km away! If you see a banded Gull email: [dewnr.nrepadmin@sa.gov.au](mailto:dewnr.nrepadmin@sa.gov.au) There are over 120 bird species to spot in Coffin Bay, count how many you find at each place you go.



KB

### 12. Super Fairy-wren

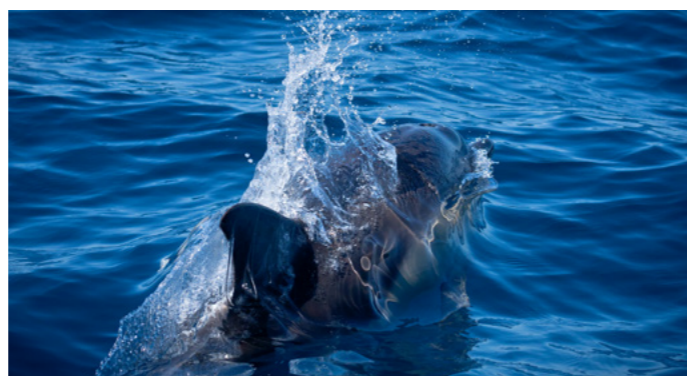
One of the most brightly coloured birds. Males are bright blue and black. Females are brown with red above their eye. They weave small dome-shaped nests. Can you see how many males and females are in a group? They can be seen in plenty of places throughout the Park such as Yangie Bay Campground and do a great job of keeping insect numbers under control.



GE & BA

### 13. Hooded Plover

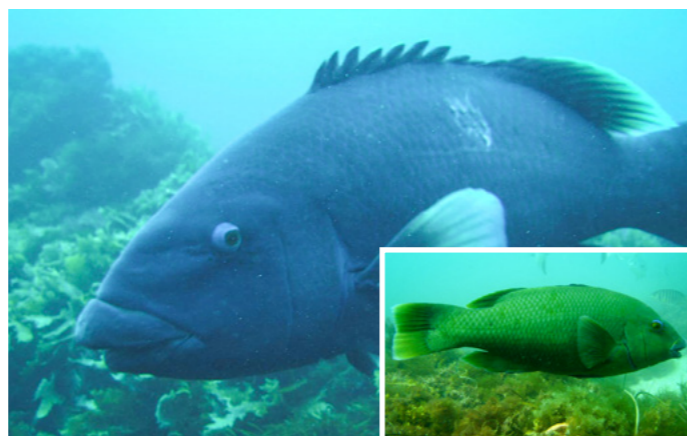
A small endangered beach nesting bird, often seen scurrying along the beaches throughout the Park. They have a distinctive black hood (head) and throat with a red ring around their eyes. Their nests are difficult to see, as they are only scrapes in the ground between the high tide line and sand dunes – so be careful where you walk! Pick up a Shorebirds booklet from the Pt Lincoln Natural Resource Centre and see how many different shorebirds you can identify.



RL

### 14. Dolphins

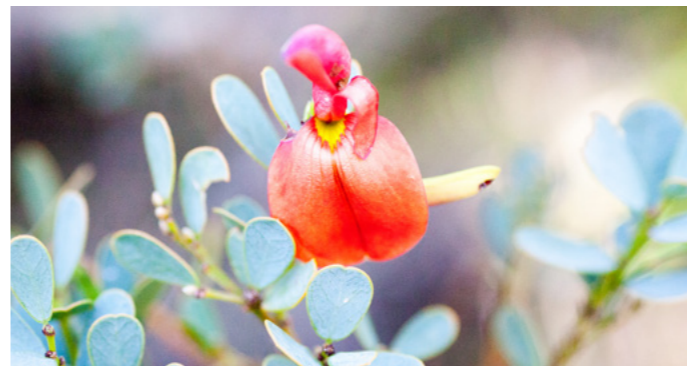
Thorny Passage Marine Park has several species of Dolphins. A good place to Dolphin spot is Golden Island lookout where you will likely see Common Bottlenose Dolphins or Short-beaked Common Dolphins. It is also thought that Burranan Dolphins may live in the bay – a rare species discovered in 2011. When schools of fish, such as salmon, are plentiful dolphins and sharks herd them in a mega fishing effort!



VB & SM

### 15. Western Blue Groper

These large fish have broad-bodies with large tails and thick lips and are known as 'puppies of the sea' as they are always playful! Gropers grow up to 1.7 metres living up to 70 years old. All Gropers begin life as a female. Each group has one dominant bright blue male (the females are brown to greenish yellow). If the dominant male dies, the largest female will grow, change colour and become the dominant male!



JT

### 16. Templetonia – or Cockies Tongue

Templetonia (*Templetonia retusa*) is common throughout the Park and is striking red colour when in flower (sometimes orange and very rarely yellow-white flowers). If you look at the flower closely can you see why it is known as 'cockies tongue'. If not flowering there are plenty of other insects in, and around, the shrub to be discovered.



JT

### 17. Coastal Bearded-Heath

The Coastal Bearded-heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*) is a common native shrub within the Park. When in bloom it produces masses of small white flowers that, in turn, become small white edible fruit (native currants). The fruit are very popular with many bird species. Count how many birds eat the fruit from this native plant.

Hint: a big flightless bird loves this fruit.



JT

### 18. Drooping Sheoak

A tree with a drooping canopy ideal for sitting under and listening to the wind. There are male and female trees. The females produce oval-shaped cones. If you find a female Drooping Sheoak, see how many cones you can find. Although Sheoaks are common in Park their woodland ecosystem has slowly disappeared, Rangers, school groups, and the Friends of Coffin Bay National Park are working hard to plant more of these trees and bring back the woodland ecosystem.



JT

### 19. Beach Treasures

Become a marine scientist for a day and do some beachcombing to discover what animals and plants have washed up on the beach. Where have they come from? What does it tell us about what lives in the sea? Things you may find include sponges, cuttlefish, shells, rocks, sea grass, crab claws, and even feathers!



JT

### 20. Animal Tracks

Become an animal tracker and see how many different animal tracks you can identify on a beach. Are they birds, dogs, cats, goannas, or foxes? Count how many toes they have. Why do you think some of those tracks are good and some are not?

Hint: are they native or not native?

Thanks to the passionate staff at Coffin Bay National Park for their contribution to this poster and the Friends of Coffin Bay Parks for their continuing work in support of Coffin Bay National Park. This Poster is part of the Park of the Month initiative driven by Nature Play SA and supported by the Department for Environment Water and Natural Resources. Photography: Jason Tyndall (JT), Vicki Billings (VB), Simon Bryars (SB), Keith Baseley (KB), Robert Lang (RL) Birdlife Australia (BA) and Glenn Ehmke (GE)

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