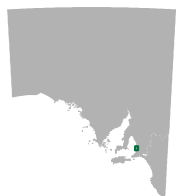
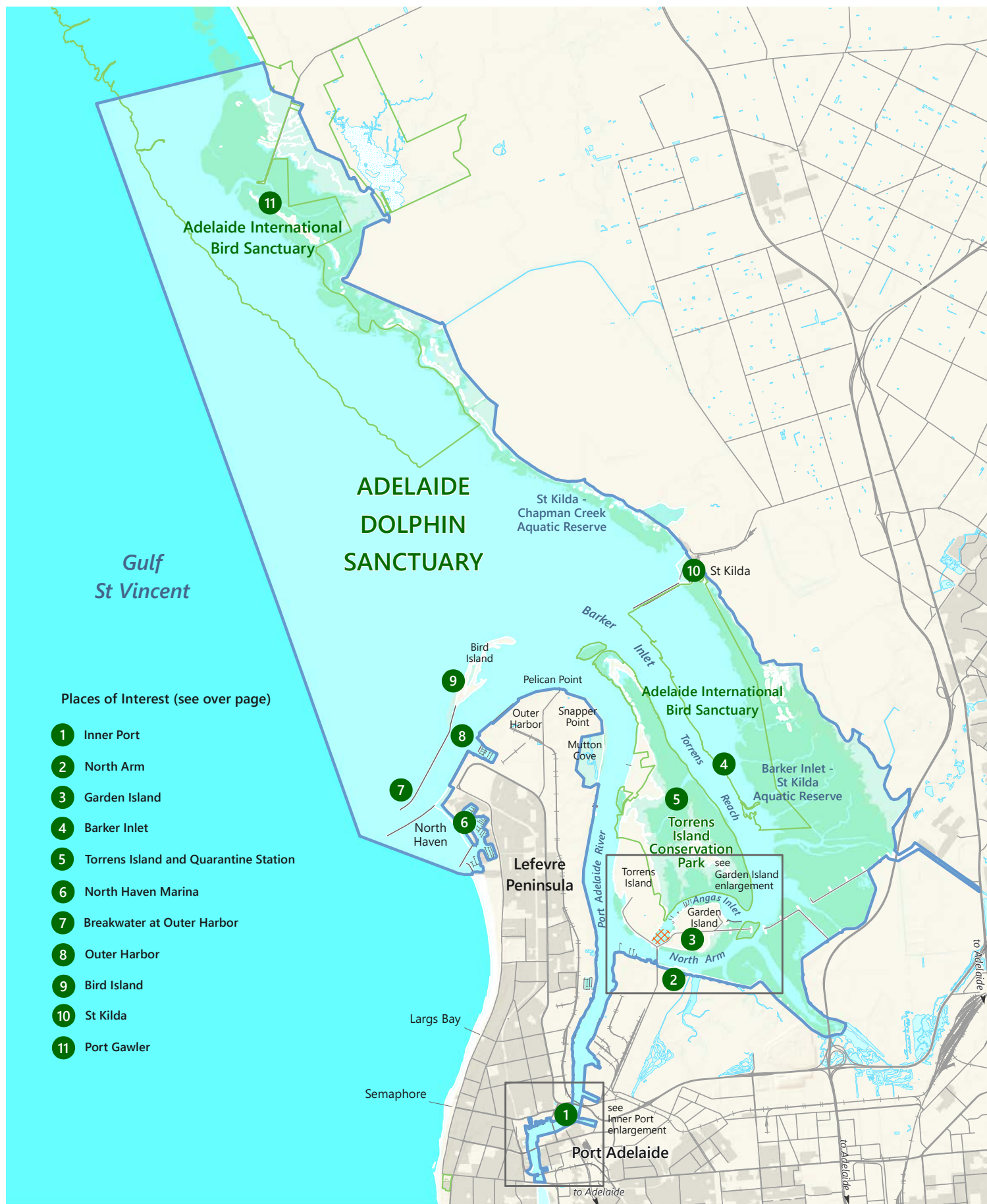
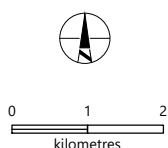


Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary



- Major road
- Railway
- Conservation park
- Built-up area
- Mangroves



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For more information, contact:
Department for Environment and Water
E: parks@sa.gov.au
P: 08 8207 7700

Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary



Places of Interest

1 Inner Port

The waterfront areas around Port Adelaide are perfect locations to spot dolphins by land, particularly in the cooler months. Elevated points like bridges and lookouts are ideal for dolphin watching.

Facilities: Boat ramp at Birkenhead beach only suitable for kayaks or small vessels. Guided walks, boat tours, coffee shops, toilets, restaurants and shops.

<https://portrivercruises.com.au/>

2 North Arm

The North Arm is a stretch of shallow water south of Garden Island. The area is ideal for fishing and kayaking. Tides are strong through this area so check the conditions and forecast before you head out. The area is popular for dolphin watching and has some vantage points to watch from land, including the Torrens Island Bridge. A unique feature of the area is the Garden Island Ship's Graveyard, the largest and most diverse ships' graveyard in Australia accessible to kayakers. Dispersed over five sites, in quiet backwaters, are the remains of a varied group of sailing, steam, motor and service vessels.

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/heritage/maritime-heritage/visiting-maritime-heritage-places/shipwreck-trails/garden-island>

No facilities.

3 Garden Island

One of the most popular spots in the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary, Garden Island is of surprisingly stunning beauty. Accessible by the Torrens Island Bridge, Garden Island is a paddlers' paradise with good opportunities to see dolphins in shallow and protected waters. The area also features a boardwalk amongst the mangroves and great birdlife. Several mangrove creeks can be explored by kayak on high tide and in some cases they can reach several kilometres into the mangrove forest.

Facilities: Boat ramp, kayak tours, toilets, picnic area and BBQ, boardwalk, parking.
<http://www.adventurekayak.com.au/>
<https://dolphinsanctuarykayaktours.com.au/>

4 Barker Inlet

Barker Inlet is a tidal inlet of Gulf St Vincent. It contains one of the southernmost mangrove forests in the world, seagrass meadows, and is an important fish and shellfish nursery habitat.

The inlet separates Torrens Island and Garden Island from the mainland and is characterised by a network of tidal creeks, artificially deepened channels and wide mudflats.

Visitors can easily spot dolphins, stingrays and several species of seabirds, shorebirds and waterfowl. Some of the birds live and breed in the area (pied and sooty oystercatchers, silver gulls, black-faced and pied cormorants, red-capped plovers), others range over a large area, but come here to breed (Australian pelicans, caspian and fairy terns).

This area is only accessible by boat and kayak. No facilities.

5 Torrens Island and Quarantine Station

Torrens Island contains two power stations and a conservation park that covers more than 70% of the island. Torrens Island is adjacent to Port Adelaide and Outer Harbor and was traditionally utilised by the Kurna people. Following European settlement, the island was used as a Quarantine Station for immigrants who arrived by sea. Today, the site is remarkably intact and evokes the experiences of those placed in quarantine from 1880 to the 1950s. Most of the buildings on the site date from 1912 to 1916, but parts of the original nineteenth century station remain.

Only accessible through the AGL power station. Tours available via SA Maritime Museum. No facilities.
<http://maritime.history.sa.gov.au/>

6 North Haven Marina

The North Haven Marina includes a public boat ramp, a yacht club and an extensive private marina. Dolphins often venture here looking for fish in the protected waters.

Facilities: Boat ramp, toilets, restaurants and shops

7 Breakwater at Outer Harbor

Both the Long-nosed fur seal and the endangered Australian sea lion haul out on the rocks of this breakwater and can be spotted throughout the year. The breakwater also has one of the biggest breeding colonies of blackfaced cormorants.

Only accessible by boat. No facilities.

8 Outer Harbor

Several lookouts and seating facilities make Outer Harbor a great place for dolphin viewing. Check out the times when tug boats or other big vessels are entering and leaving the port as dolphins often bow ride in front of them as they pass Outer Harbor. This makes for a great photo opportunity.

Facilities: Viewing platforms, playground and seating.
<https://portmis.flindersports.com.au/#>

9 Bird Island

Bird Island is a sand island formed after the Outer Harbour breakwater was built and shipping terminals were dredged in the 1970s. The island now supports an amazing diversity of birdlife; it forms a significant roost and feeding site for both migratory and non-migratory shorebirds, and is a breeding rookery for seabirds such as the endangered fairy tern. Bird Island is also home to South Australia's largest permanent Australian pelican colony outside the Coorong.

Due to significant bird breeding activity, we ask that you do not land on the island, observing the birds from your boat or kayak is the best way to appreciate them, while minimising disturbance.

Dogs should not be taken to the island at any time due to periodic fox control measures and the risk of disturbance to the birds.

No facilities.

10 St Kilda

St Kilda is the most utilised access point for the northern sections of the Barker Inlet and the Sanctuary. The boat ramp is best suited for power boats and attracts many visitors to the area. St Kilda is a great spot for bird watching and has one of the best playgrounds in the state.

Once on the water, the area is of great beauty. Shallow water, seagrass and sandbars attract both fishermen and dolphins alike.

A mangrove trail provides beautiful views over Barker Inlet and the mangrove forest. For more details visit the City of Salisbury's website.

<https://www.salisbury.sa.gov.au/activities/community-facilities-and-parks/parks-and-facilities/st-kilda-mangrove-trail-and-interpretive-centre>

Facilities: Boat ramp, toilets, picnic and BBQ area, playground, restaurants, shops and parking.

11 Port Gawler

The area of Port Gawler now also forms part of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park - Winaityinaityi Pangkara.

Port Gawler was once the main transport hub for the central area of the Adelaide Plains. In the 1920's a fire destroyed the wharf, but the area continues to be a popular fishing location. Port Gawler's saltmarsh, tidal flats, beach and mangrove areas provide roosting and feeding habitat for a variety of migratory and resident shorebirds. While you're there you may see the critically endangered eastern curlew foraging on the tidal flats, kingfishers perched in the mangroves, or red capped plovers nesting on the beach. Remember to keep your eye out for the rare bitter-bush blue butterfly that rely on the coastal bitter-bush plants.

No facilities.

<https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/parks/adelaide-international-bird-sanctuary-national-park>