

Adelaide Hills

National parks visitation snapshot

The region

The Adelaide Hills is part of the magnificent Mount Lofty Ranges and one of the most scenic places in Australia.

It is a wonderfully relaxing destination, home to the popular towns of Hahndorf, Mount Barker, Lobethal and Birdwood, and the garden village of Stirling.

The Adelaide Hills offer close access to parks, walking and cycling trails, welcoming cellar doors, quality pubs and restaurants, good shopping, an abundance of fresh local produce, and a wide range of accommodation and events.

Tourism

In 2018, the Adelaide Hills contributed \$170 million to South Australia's \$6.8 billion tourism expenditure.

The region attracts approximately 194,000 overnight visitors per year (2016-18). Of these, 54 per cent are from SA, 21 per cent from Victoria, 10 per cent from New South Wales (as the largest interstate markets), and 3 per cent from Europe and 2 per cent from Asia.

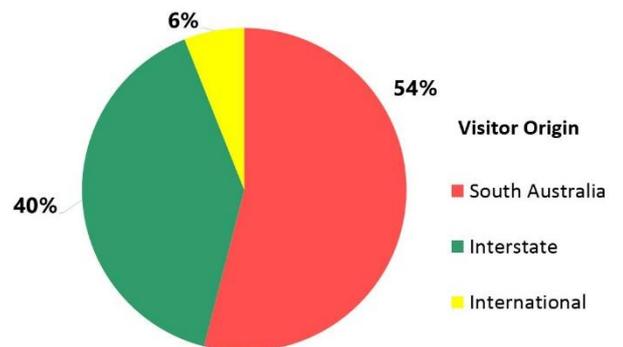
The Adelaide Hills has five visitor accommodation options*, totalling 180 rooms. Over the course of a year, occupancy rates average at 58 per cent. Peak months are April and November, with occupancy of 68 per cent and 66 per cent respectively, while August has the lowest occupancy with an average of 50 per cent.

For more in-depth analysis, view the [SA Tourism Commission regional profiles](#).

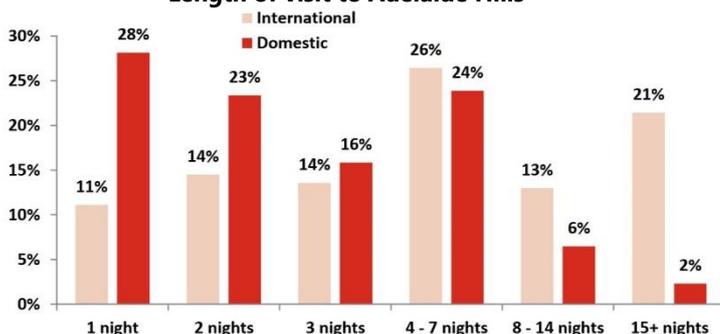
*Hotels, motels and serviced apartments with 15+ rooms

The opportunity

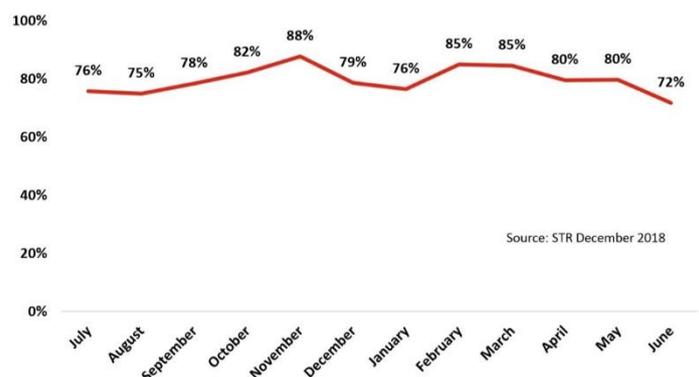
The Adelaide Hills' regional strategy is to capitalise on its proximity to Adelaide through collaboration and partnerships. The region aims to convert more visitors to stay overnight and increase visitor spend.



Length of visit to Adelaide Hills



Monthly occupancy rates 2016



Source: STR December 2018

National parks

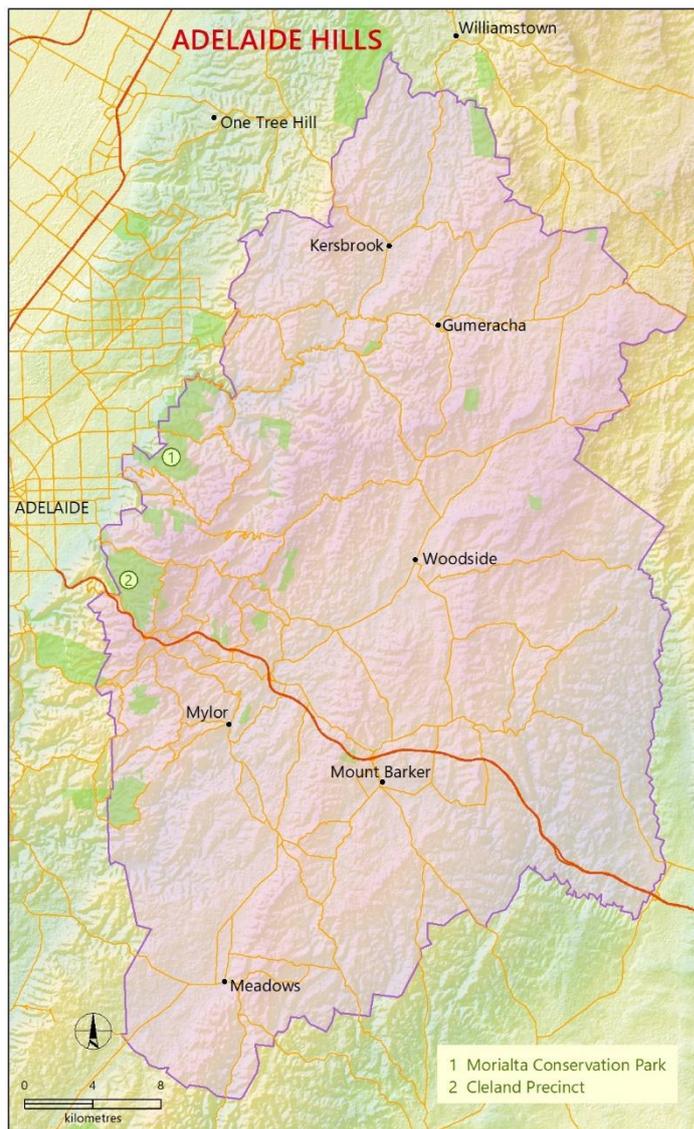
Some of SA's best-known and most frequently visited parks are found in the Adelaide Hills region, including [Belair National Park](#), the state's oldest national park, and [Morialta Conservation Park](#) with its stunning seasonal waterfalls.

Of the South Australians who live within the region, 74 per cent of those surveyed had visited at least one park in the 2018-19 financial year.

Further afield, an average of 56 per cent of South Australians surveyed said they visited a park in the Adelaide, Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula regions each year.

Read on to learn more about some of the national parks in the region that have nature-based tourism interest and potential, or visit the [National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia](#) website to learn more about other Adelaide Hills parks of tourism interest.

Note: Cleland Conservation Park is featured in the Adelaide regional snapshot.



Belair National Park

About the park

The iconic [Belair National Park](#) is just 25 minutes from Adelaide's city centre and is famed for being SA's oldest national park.

It's home to Old Government House, a significant heritage building, as well as [State Flora](#), the oldest plant nursery in SA.

Belair National Park remains one of the few relatively undisturbed areas of native vegetation in the Adelaide Hills region, making it an important refuge for native plants and wildlife.

The park is the ideal place to get active in the great outdoors with plenty of walking and mountain biking trails to suit all levels of fitness.

It also has plenty of facilities available for hire, including tennis courts, ovals, cricket pitches, pavilions and formal picnic grounds and gas barbecues.

Visitation data

Belair National Park is the most popular park in SA with 25 per cent of South Australians visiting in 2019.

Park fees only apply if you are entering the park by car, whereas entry on foot or by bike, or if you are visiting the State Flora Nursery within the park, is free.

It is estimated that 218,378 people entered the park by car* in the 2018-19 financial year. (Note: this does not include entry from bike riders or walkers).

Of those, 18,000 people booked their visit online and 98 per cent were from SA. The average number of people per booking was 5.

In addition, 8,242 people booked facilities for hire within the park.

*Figure based on the park entrance traffic counter that recorded 94,947 vehicles x 2.3 people per car.

Peak and off-peak season

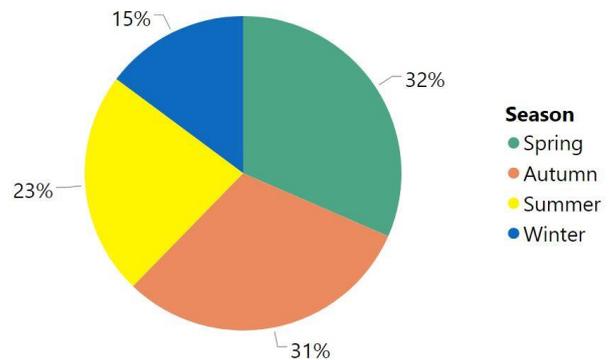
Peak season for visitation is in spring and autumn, while visitor numbers are lowest in June and July.

Accommodation usage

There are no campgrounds within this park.

Belair National Park Holiday Park is situated adjacent to the park and offers cabins, glamping, tents, cottages and camping sites. The holiday park is privately operated and usage data is not available.

Bookings by season



Assets and services report

Co-management	—
Management plan	✓
'Friends of Parks' volunteer group	✓
Recent infrastructure investment	✓
Built accommodation	☆☆☆☆ Nil
Access roads – bitumen	★★★★ Good
Internet connectivity	★★★☆☆ Limited
Camping opportunities	☆☆☆☆ Nil
Camping facilities (toilets, showers)	☆☆☆☆ Nil
Power and water	★★★☆☆ Limited

Assets of interest and facilities:

Tennis courts, ovals, cricket pitches, pavilions and formal picnic grounds for hire. Belair State Flora nursery. Good walking network.

Morialta Conservation Park

About the park

For more than 100 years, [Morialta Conservation Park](#) has been a favourite escape for Adelaide families.

Morialta Conservation Park features rugged ridges, gully scenery and seasonal waterfalls.

It protects some of the finest remaining pockets of remnant vegetation in the Adelaide region and its three waterfalls, along Fourth Creek, are popular features linked by an extensive network of walking trails.

The park has a rock climbing zone with views over Morialta Gorge and the nearby Adelaide plains, while the park's woodlands, rock pools and creeks provide habitat for small reptiles, frogs and birds.

The park is also home to Adelaide's biggest nature playground, 'Mukanthi', inspiring a new generation of park visitors with a focus on natural materials and experiences to challenge a range of ages.

Visitation data

Entry to the park is free and as such there is no online booking information available on visitor numbers or visitor place of origin.

However, information from state surveys shows that the park is the third most popular park for South Australian visitors, visited by 17 per cent of South Australians in 2019.

Peak and off-peak season

Visitation to Morialta is relatively consistent throughout the year, however peak season is from spring through to autumn and visitation is lowest in winter.

Accommodation usage

There is no camping or accommodation available within this park.

Assets and services report

Co-management	—
Management plan	✓
'Friends of Parks' volunteer group	✓
Recent infrastructure investment	✓
Built accommodation	☆☆☆ Nil
Access roads – bitumen	★★★★ Good
Internet connectivity	★★★ Limited
Camping opportunities	☆☆☆ Nil
Camping facilities (toilets, showers)	☆☆☆ Nil
Power and water	★★★ Limited

Assets of interest and facilities:

Rock Climbing zone, 'Mukanthi' nature playground, Yurrebilla Trail with overnight hiking opportunities.

Disclaimer

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data, DEW, its agents, officers and employees make no representations, either express or implied, that the data is accurate or fit for any purpose and expressly disclaims all liability for loss or damage arising from reliance upon the data