

Yorke Peninsula

National parks visitation snapshot

The region

With 700km of pristine coastline beginning little more than an hour's drive from Adelaide, Yorke Peninsula is the ultimate weekend getaway. Renowned for its relaxed atmosphere and laidback lifestyle, the region has plenty of great places for visitors to unwind.

Visitors can treat themselves to some of the best fishing in the country, simply by dropping a line off one of the region's historic jetties. Or they can visit one of the region's picturesque towns, to learn the history of the area through museums and galleries.

From pristine beaches to historic shipwrecks and the rugged wilderness in between, Yorke Peninsula is a truly special part of South Australia. Yorke Peninsula's natural wonders speak for themselves.

Tourism

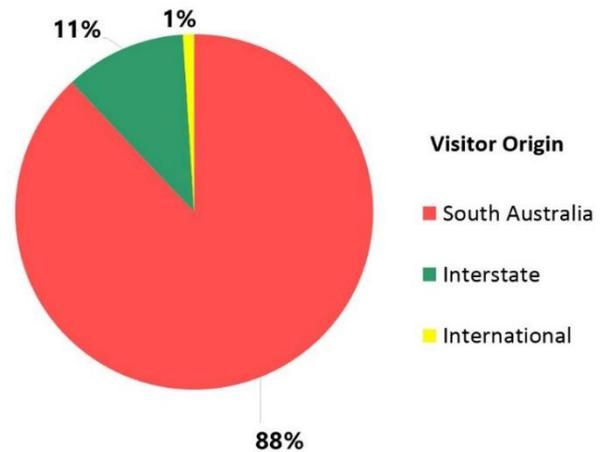
In 2018, Yorke Peninsula contributed \$205 million to SA's \$6.8 billion tourism expenditure. The region attracts approximately 528,000 overnight visitors per year (data from 2016-18). The bigger market sector is intrastate visitors, with 88 per cent of visitors coming from SA (64 per cent from Adelaide and 24 per cent from regional areas).

Yorke Peninsula has 17 visitor accommodation options*, totalling 125 available rooms. Over the course of a year, occupancy rates average at 38 per cent, peaking in December and January at 46 per cent and 49 per cent respectively. Through the winter months, occupancy averages at 30 per cent.

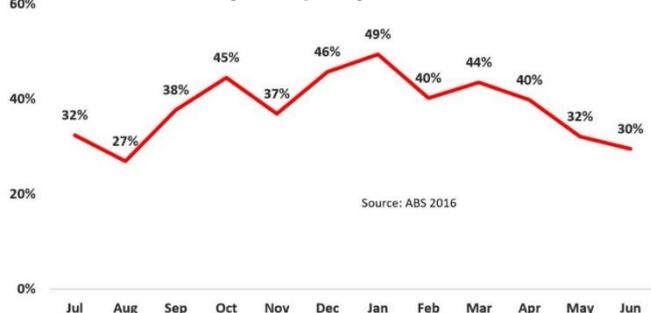
For more in-depth analysis, view the [SA Tourism Commission regional profiles](#). * Hotels, motels and serviced apartments with 15+ rooms.

The opportunity

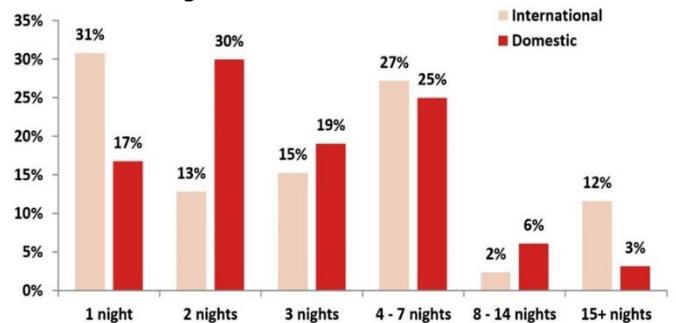
Yorke Peninsula's regional strategy is to increase the tourism market through the promotion of existing experiences and the development of new experiences that play to the region's strengths of coastal lifestyle, wildlife and nature.



Monthly occupancy rates 2015-16



Length of visit to Yorke Peninsula



National parks

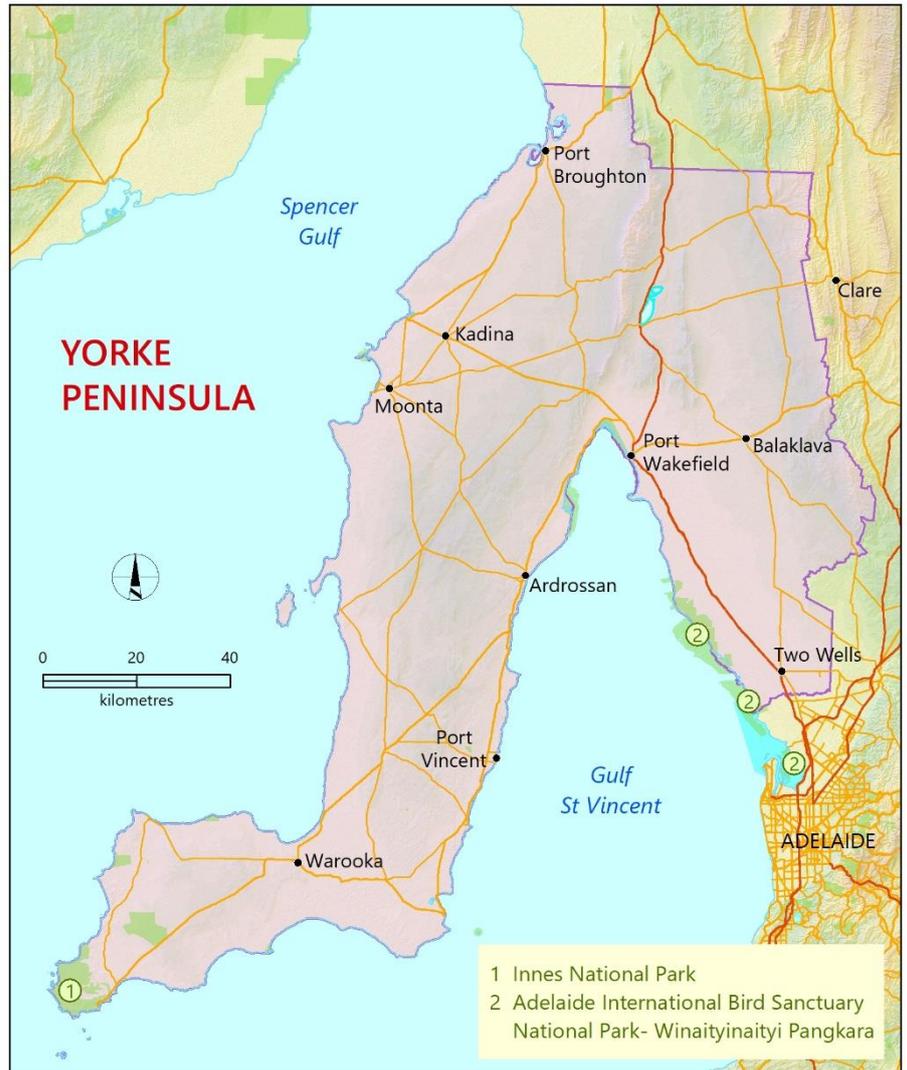
A visit to Yorke Peninsula isn't complete without a visit to one of its national parks.

At the [Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park-Winaitiyainityi Pangkara](#), the region's nearest park to Adelaide, visitors can learn about the shorebirds that fly in as part of their annual migration.

While at the Yorke Peninsula's most popular park – [Innes National Park](#), at the tip of the peninsula – visitors will be swept away by the serene bushland, rugged cliffs and secluded ocean beaches.

On average, 5 per cent of South Australians surveyed said they visited a park in the region each year. Of those living in the region, 63 per cent of those surveyed had visited at least one park in the 2018-19 financial 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 Yorke Peninsula parks of tourism interest.



Innes National Park

About the park

The popular [Innes National Park](#) has something for everyone. The entire park is accessible by 2WD, so it's perfect for day visits and a paradise for beach-lovers.

It's a favourite for camping, fishing and surfing, it has an abundance of birds and animals, and it has some of the best coastal views in SA.

Visitors can explore the lighthouses and the *Ethel* shipwreck, or simply go bushwalking to discover the park, with trails ranging from 30-minute strolls to four-hour treks.

Exploring historic Innes – an abandoned township surrounded by bushland – is an interesting way to spend an afternoon, and visitors can even stay in one of the restored Innes heritage cottages. Or there's beachside campsites for those looking for a convenient option for an early morning spot of fishing or surfing.

Innes National Park lies adjacent to [Southern Spencer Gulf Marine Park](#), which is an important spawning, nursery and feeding ground, particularly for King George whiting. Chinaman's Hat Sanctuary Zone extends from the shoreline and offers great snorkelling and diving opportunities.

Visitation data

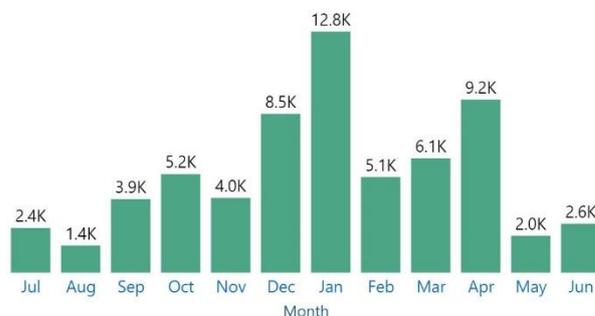
Online booking information shows that 62,000 people visited the park in the 2018-19 financial year, with 81 per cent of visitors from SA. The remainder includes 6 per cent from Victoria, 4 per cent from New South Wales and 3 per cent from Queensland.

The average length of stay per booking was 2 nights and the average number of people per booking was 2.5.

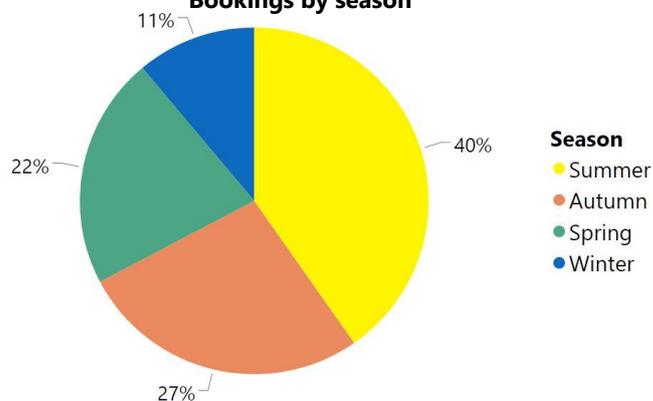
Peak and off-peak season

Peak visitation is from December to April, with the highest occupancy at the park's campgrounds and accommodation in January.

Visitors per month (K=1,000 visitors)



Bookings by season



Accommodation usage

The park's most used campgrounds include:

- Stenhouse Bay Campground: 2780 people per year (64 per cent of visitors are from SA)
- Pondelowie Bay bush camping: 2329 (83 per cent)
- Pondelowie Bay Caravan and Camper Trailers Campground: 2071 (59 per cent)
- Cable Beach Campground: 1459 (70 per cent)
- Shell Beach Campground: 1336 (39 per cent)
- Browns Beach Campground: 1629 (87 per cent)
- Casuarina Campground: 1291 (82 per cent)
- Gym Beach Campground: 922 (92 per cent)
- Shepherds Hut: 119 (92 per cent).

The park also includes Innes Heritage Accommodation (eight buildings in total). It was used by 702 people in the 2018-19 financial year, and of these visitors, 90 per cent were from SA.

There was a total of 220 bookings, the average length of stay per booking was 2.8 nights and the average number of people per booking was 3.3.



The combined data from the Inneston Heritage Accommodation facility shows seasonal variation in the monthly occupancy rates of all the facilities (see figure, above).

For the entire heritage accommodation facility, occupancy rates averaged at 32 per cent in 2018. The highest occupancy is in December, January and March, at about 43 per cent occupancy for the full facility, while the lowest is from June to October, with occupancy dipping to about 23 per cent.

Seasonal variability in bookings is consistent with Tourism SA data for the region – occupancy rates at Inneston of 32 per cent are similar to occupancy data for Yorke Peninsula of 35 per cent.

Assets and services report

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

Assets of interest and facilities:

Innes Information Centre. Stenhouse Bay Hall. Good walking network. Caravan, camper trailer and tent sites. Good facilities including BBQ and picnic spots.

Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park – Winaityinaityi Pangkara

The [Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park – Winaityinaityi Pangkara](#) is one of Adelaide’s longest continuous conservation areas, encompassing more than 60km of coastline north of Adelaide, adjacent to Gulf St Vincent.

The park was established in 2016 and sits at the southern end of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, where it’s one of the key feeding and roosting sites for migratory birds and is visited by more than 5 million birds each year.

The bird sanctuary is home to 263 unique fauna and flora species. It helps protect resident and migratory shorebirds and threatened species, and is home to important mangroves, marine and coastal assets, river systems and many significant terrestrial species and ecological communities.

Just a 30-minute drive from Adelaide, visitors can immerse themselves in the wilderness of the northern Adelaide coastline and take time out for birdwatching along one of the four walking trails.

Visitation data

There is no information collected on visitor entry to the park.

However, the annual South Australian Parks Visitation Surveys identified that 1 per cent of South Australians surveyed visited this park in 2018-19.

Assets and services report

Co-management	—
Management plan	✓
‘Friends of Parks’ volunteer group	✓
Recent infrastructure investment	✓
Built accommodation	—
Access roads – bitumen	★★★ Good
Internet connectivity	★★★ Good
Camping opportunities	★☆☆ Basic
Camping facilities (toilets, showers)	★★☆ Limited
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Assets of interest and facilities: Location of access roads, approved tracks and the closures of trails is currently being decided as part of an extensive community consultation process.

Disclaimer

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