

South Australia

The driest state on the driest continent on earth: it's a maxim all but implanted into the minds of every South Australian. The capital, Adelaide, receives an average of just 565mm of rain a year, and it is lush compared to most of the state. Appropriately, South Australia (SA) has some of the country's finest semiarid walking.

The state's showcase walking feature is the Flinders Ranges, with its ever-changing colours creating one of the country's most enticing walking destinations. To many people the Flinders begin and end inside Wilpena Pound, a circle of peaks that serves as a tourist bull's-eye, but venture outside the Pound and you quickly discover that it is just a small piece of a grand line of mountains. Alligator Gorge brings the outback nearer to Adelaide than you might otherwise have imagined, while the Heysen Highlight will convince you that the best views of Wilpena are not from within, but from the outside.

Once you have brushed the Flinders dust from your clothes you will find something a little greener in the Mt Lofty Ranges, at Adelaide's edge. On a map, the Yurrebilla Trail is an amble through suburbia but in reality you will find a corridor of wildlife-rich greenery that constitutes the city's true parklands.

Continue south, across the Investigator Strait, and a totally different walking experience beckons. On Kangaroo Island's west coast, limestone cliffs form a dramatic border to a wilderness crowded with wildlife. Toss a few Southern right whales into the sea and you could be standing atop the Great Australian Bight's celebrated cliffs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoying dawn views across Wilpena Pound and Bunyeroo Valley as you set out from **Yanyanna Hut** (p272) on the Heysen Highlight
- Watching tiny Fourth Creek morph into the high waterfalls of the **Morialta Conservation Park** (p257)
- Splashing through **Alligator Gorge** (p265) as the cliffs close around you.
- Wandering track-free and carefree across the high cliffs of **Kangaroo Island's west coast** (p258)
- Discovering Wilpena Pound's underworld as you descend into **Edeowie Gorge** (p268)

■ TELEPHONE CODE: 08

■ www.parks.sa.gov.au

■ www.southaustraliantrails.com

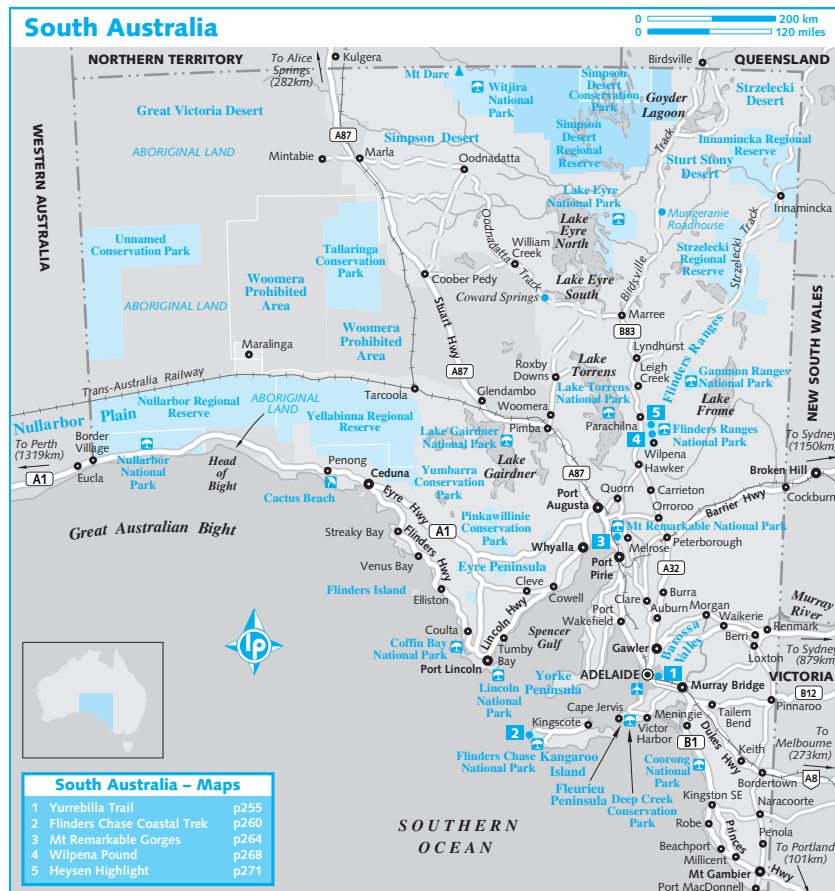
ENVIRONMENT

South Australian lands are the most protected in the country – more than 20% of the state is covered by conservation parks of some sort. The Great Victoria, Simpson, Strzelecki and Sturt Stony Deserts form a cap across the north and west of the state, seemingly held aloft by a mountain range that runs from the Strzelecki Desert south to Cape Jervis – all the mainland walks in this chapter are within this range.

As you walk you will see plenty of SA's bird emblem, the magpie, but not its mammal emblem, the southern hairy-nosed wombat. The state is home to four species of kangaroo: red, western grey, eastern grey and the euro, while koalas are easily sighted

along the Yurrebilla Trail and all but own Kangaroo Island.

The landscape is dominated by fire- and drought-tolerant plants, including acacias (wattles), eucalypts and saltbush. Most obvious are the larger eucalypts, especially the river red gums that grow along watercourses throughout the state (especially along the Heysen Highlight, p269, and in Edeowie Gorge, p267), the blue gums and candlebarks of the Mt Lofty Ranges, and the sugar gums of Kangaroo Island. There is a distinct boundary between the eucalypt-dominated communities of the south and the acacia communities further north – Mt Remarkable National Park (p263) is a good place to see this crossover.



INFORMATION

Maps

Decent maps of the state are not difficult to find, and a useful complement to any of them is Fullers *Adelaide & SA Country Towns*, with street maps of more than 80 SA towns.

Landmap publishes a 1:50,000 map series that covers areas from the Gammon Ranges south to Mt Gambier and west to Head of Bight – all walking areas in this chapter are covered by the series. For details of maps covering individual walks, see the Planning sections in the introductions to each walk.

The Map Shop (right) in Adelaide is the best place to purchase maps.

Books

Lonely Planet's *Adelaide & South Australia* is an excellent supplement to the information provided in this chapter.

For a thumbnail look at most of the walking options around the state pick up a copy of the *South Australian Trails* brochure from the South Australian Visitor and Travel Centre (below). For a scaled-down version, grab *40 Great South Australian Short Walks*, which can also be downloaded from www.southaustraliantrails.com. Jim Crinion's *40 Adelaide and Country Walks* focuses on walks around and south of the capital, while *50 Real Bushwalks around Adelaide* by George Driscoll has brief descriptions and mud maps (basic sketch maps) of walks between the Barossa Valley and Cape Jervis.

Information Sources

For general state-wide information there are several good starting points:

Bed & Breakfast Booking Service South Australia

(☎ 1800 227 677; www.bnbbookings.com) Online booking service for about 100 B&Bs around the state.

Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH)
(☎ 08-8204 1910; www.parks.sa.gov.au) The national parks authority; the website contains pages on all national parks in this chapter.

South Australian Visitor and Travel Centre

(☎ 1300 655 276; www.southaustralia.com)

Trails SA (www.southaustraliantrails.com) Government-run website to promote walking (and other) trails around the state.

Walking Federation of South Australia (☎ 08-8361 2491; www.walkingsa.org.au) Peak body for 40 bushwalking clubs; the website contains a number of walk suggestions.

Park Fees & Regulations

Entry fees apply for most of the parks in this chapter. You can pay the fee on arrival, or, if you are going to be around for a while, there are three park passes to consider. Only the Kangaroo Island passes (p259) will get you into Flinders Chase National Park, but the Multi Park Pass (\$63/99 per vehicle without/with camping) covers all other parks in this chapter, allowing you entry for 12 months. The two-month Holiday Pass (\$28/44 per vehicle without/with camping), covering the same parks, is the most useful for visiting walkers. Passes can be obtained online at www.parks.sa.gov.au/parks/visitors/pass/index.htm.

See the Planning sections of individual walks for details of fire restrictions; for information on Total Fire Bans, see p24.

Guided Walks

Ecotrek (☎ 08-8346 4155; www.ecotrek.com.au) Walks in Wilpena Pound, Kangaroo Island, the Heysen Trail and Gammon Ranges.

Parktrek (☎ 03-9486 7070; www.parktrek.com) A nine-day walking tour that includes snippets of each of the Flinders Ranges' walks in this chapter, plus a Kangaroo Island walking tour.

World Expeditions (☎ 1300 720 000; www.worldexpeditions.com.au) Seven-day walking trip in the Flinders and Gammon Ranges.

GATEWAY

Adelaide

☎ 08 / pop 1.4 million

Until recently, Adelaide felt like a small town disguised as a city. Fuelled now by coffee and juice bars, and with one of Australia's busiest cultural calendars, SA's capital gives the impression of being a whole lot more grown-up.

INFORMATION

Friends of the Heysen Trail (☎ 8212 6299; www.heysentrail.asn.au; 10 Pitt St; ☞ 10.30am-2.30pm Tue & Thu, 10.30am-1.30pm Wed & Fri) Stocks maps, brochures and books on the Heysen Trail and many other paths and parks throughout SA.

Map Shop (☎ 8231 2033; www.mapshop.net.au; 6-10 Peel St) All the books and maps you will need for walks in SA.

South Australian Visitor and Travel Centre

(☎ 1300 655 276; www.southaustralia.com; 18-20 King William St) Useful for general enquiries but not flush with walking information.

SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT

There is a gaggle of equipment stores – **Paddy Pallin** (☎ 8232 3155), **Mountain Designs** (☎ 8232 3155), **Annapurna** (☎ 8232 3155), **Scout Outdoor Centre** (☎ 8223 5544) and **Flinders Camping** (☎ 8223 1913) – at the western end of Rundle St. **Woolworths** (86 Rundle Mall) is the most central supermarket, while you can pick up scroggin (trail mix of snacks, often consisting of fruit, nuts and chocolate) items from the **Central Market** (btwn Grote & Gouger Sts; ☎ 7am–5.30pm Mon–Thu, 7am–9pm Fri, 7am–3pm Sat).

SLEEPING & EATING

Adelaide Caravan Park (☎ 8363 1566; www.adelaidecaravanpark.com.au/adelaide.html; 46 Richmond St, Hackney; powered sites for 2 \$27, cabins \$80–95, units \$100–130; ♿) is on the banks of the River Torrens, 2km northeast of the city centre. It has plenty of grass but not for camping on; that's what the gravel is for.

My Place (☎ 8221 5299; www.adelaidehostel.com.au; 257 Waymouth St; dm \$21, d & tw with TV \$55; ♿) is as welcoming as the name suggests, with the luxury of inner-spring mattresses, free use of bikes, a DVD library and a selection of video games. There is a sauna in which to sweat out those walking aches and a weekly city tour if you are new in town.

With 245 beds, the **Adelaide Central YHA** (☎ 8414 3010; www.yha.com.au; 135 Waymouth St; dm/d from \$23/60; ♿ ♿) can sleep a population larger than many SA towns. It has a large communal area with table-tennis and pool tables and views over Light Sq, plus, an industrial-sized kitchen, free DVDs in the cosy TV room and an attached travel agency.

The rooms at **Festival City Motel** (☎ 8212 7877; efestival@chariot.net.au; cnr North Tce & Bank St; s/d/tw incl breakfast \$90/110/115; ♿) are furnished a little like a retirement home, but they are immaculately clean and directly across from the train station. Ask about standby rates. Also across from the train station is the **Strathmore Hotel** (☎ 8238 2900; www.strath.com.au; 129 North Tce; d incl breakfast from \$115; ♿), a one-stop travellers' shop with an attached café, restaurant, bar, and attractive renovated rooms with all the mod cons.

Director's Studios (☎ 8213 2500; www.savillesuites.com.au; 259 Gouger St; d/studio from \$100/120; ♿) has unfussy but spacious rooms handy to the central bus station. Studios have kitchenette with microwave and toaster. The associated Director's Hotel has slightly cheaper rooms.

If you have come to town with your walking appetite already fitted, the **Cumberland Arms** (205 Waymouth St; mains \$9–16; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon–Fri) is among your best bets – plate-sized schnitzels are at the cheapest end of the menu.

If the Adelaide plain has you craving mountains, the Himalayan theme at **Everest** (187 Rundle St; mains \$13–18; ☎ breakfast, lunch & dinner), set among the equipment stores, will appeal. The pastas and risottos are good.

At **Amalfi Pizzeria Ristorante** (29 Frome St; pizzas \$11–20, mains \$15–22; ☎ lunch Mon–Fri, dinner Mon–Sat) you can join the city suits for superior pizza and pasta in the fashionable East End dining strip.

GETTING THERE & AWAY**Air**

Adelaide airport (☎ 8308 9211; www.aal.com.au) is 7km west of the city.

Qantas (☎ 13 13 13; www.qantas.com.au), **Virgin Blue** (☎ 13 67 89; www.virginblue.com.au) and **Jetstar** (☎ 13 15 38; www.jetstar.com.au) operate flights between Adelaide and other capital cities as well as major centres such as Alice Springs, the Gold Coast, Cairns and Canberra. **Skylink** (☎ 8332 0528; www.skylinkadelaide.com; adult/child \$7.50/2.50) runs shuttles between the city and the airport (via the Keswick interstate train terminal).

Bus

Adelaide's **central bus station** (101–111 Franklin St) contains terminals and ticket offices for all major interstate and statewide services. For bus timetables see www.bussa.com.au. **Greyhound Australia** (☎ 13 14 99; www.greyhound.com.au) has direct services to Melbourne (\$55, 10 hours), Sydney (\$125, 24 hours) and Alice Springs (\$235, 19½ hours), while **Firefly Express** (☎ 1300 730 740; www.fireflyexpress.com.au) operates services to/from Melbourne (\$55, 10 hours) and Sydney (\$110, 23½ hours). **Premier Stateliner** (☎ 8415 5555; www.premierstateliner.com.au) is the main operator for destinations within SA.

Car

The following companies can provide you with a hire car. Avis, Budget, Delta Europcar, Hertz, Rent-a-Bomb and Thrifty also have offices at the airport.

Airport Rent-A-Car (☎ 1800 331 033; www.airportrentacar.com.au; Adelaide airport)

Apex (☎ 1800 777 779; www.apexrentacar.com.au; 969 Port Rd, Cheltenham)

Avis (☎ 8410 5727; www.avis.com.au; 136 North Tce)

Budget (☎ 8418 7300; www.budget.com.au; 274 North Tce)

Delta Europcar (☎ 8114 6350; www.deltaeuropcar.com.au; 142 North Tce)

Hertz (☎ 8231 2856; www.hertz.com.au; 233 Morphett St)

Rent-a-Bomb (☎ 13 15 53; www.rentabomb.com.au)

Offices in New South Wales, Victoria & Queensland.

Thrifty (☎ 8410 8977; www.thrifty.com.au; 23 Hindley St)

Train

The **interstate train terminal** (Railway Tce, Keswick) is southwest of the city centre. From Adelaide, trains travel to Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, Alice Springs and Darwin, with all services operated by **Great Southern Railway** (☎ 13 21 47; www.gsr.com.au).

ADELAIDE REGION

YURREBILLA TRAIL

Duration	3 days
Distance	54km
Difficulty	easy–moderate
Start	Belair railway station
Finish	Ambers Gully
Nearest Town	Adelaide (p251)
Transport	train, bus
Summary	Discover Adelaide's truly wild side as you walk between a series of national and conservation parks overlooking the city.

Completed in 2003, the Yurrebilla Trail provides Adelaide with an asset possessed by few other major cities: a multiday walking track on its very doorstep. As you wander through Waite Conservation Reserve on Day 2 of this walk you will be just 10km from the city, yet you are more likely to see kangaroos than people. The trail traces the line of the Mt Lofty Ranges – the bump in the ironed shirt of Adelaide – linking seven national and conservation parks, including arguably Adelaide's greatest natural asset, Morialta Conservation Park. You can walk the trail's entirety or use the suburban bus network to sample it in sections. There are trail markers (and distances) every 500m along the route.

Accommodation can be tricky if you vary your stops from those described here (see

the boxed text on p254). Accommodation in the Adelaide Hills is a fluid thing, however, so it is worth checking with the South Australian Visitor and Travel Centre (p251) to see if any new options spring up.

PLANNING When to Walk

As it is so near to Adelaide, this is the sort of walk that allows you to sit back and wait for a decent burst of weather, whatever the time of year. To catch Morialta's waterfalls at their finest, you will want to come shortly after a decent rain, which is most likely between May and October.

Maps

DEH's brochure-like 1:20,000 *Yurrebilla Trail Bushwalking Map* is purpose-designed for this walking route. Landsmap's 1:50,000 topographic maps *Adelaide* and *Noarlunga* cover the area but do not show the trail.

NEAREST TOWN & FACILITIES

See Adelaide (p251).

Belair National Park

Just 1.5km from the Belair railway station, the **Belair National Park Caravan Park** (☎ 08-8278 3540; Upper Sturt Rd, Belair; unpowered/powerd sites for 2 \$18/24, cabins \$55–85) has a bush setting enjoyed by campers as well as possums, roos and koalas. The kiosk is good for a starting snack but little more.

GETTING TO/FROM THE WALK

Suburban trains depart the Adelaide railway station every 30 minutes or so (hourly on weekends) for Belair (35 to 50 minutes). To return to the city from Ambers Gully, walk west for 1km along Gorge Rd to the corner of Coulls Rd and take bus Nos 178 or 578 (30 minutes).

THE WALK

Day 1: Belair Railway Station to Brownhill Creek Caravan Park

2¼–3 hours, 9.5km

The trail begins on the southern side of the railway station, passing beneath the large 'The National Park' archway to enter **Belair National Park**, SA's first national park.

At the information board, follow the path east along the fence-line, through a stand of sugar gums and across Sir Edwin

Ave. Take the path straight ahead and descend to Perroomba Creek, turning right onto Brady Gully Track. Veer right again after 100m to recross Sir Edwin Ave, turning left onto a path that rounds **Playford Lake**, which is rimmed with gums and populated by ducks. Cross the small inlet stream to a road junction. Turn left along the road, then almost immediately right at the next road junction, turning left again onto a foot track that winds east alongside Workanda Creek. Ignore the first track junction and continue over the bridge, turning right straight after. Walk about 100m to a set of signboards and take the path to the right. Turn right again after 100m (getting dizzy yet?) – you are now paralleling the main Echo Track, which you should see just a few metres to your left.

At the foot track's end, turn left and immediately right onto the Echo Track – after making more turns than a populist politician to here, the route straightens out for a while. At **Echo Tunnel** the track burrows through a hillside beneath the Adelaide–Melbourne railway. Detouring around a side gully, you return to Workanda Creek beside its lower waterfall. It is an impressive bit of rock, though you need to be here soon after rain to see of water. Ignore the path across the top of the falls and continue southeast along Echo Track to a junction with the wider

Workanda Track. Turn left, contouring around the hills and ignoring side trails to merge into the Wilyawa Tack. Follow this to the park boundary at Sheoak Rd (one to 1¼ hours from the railway station).

Walk west on Sheoak Rd for 50m, turning right into Pony Ridge Rd. At the road's end, continue straight along the walking track, and descend steeply to a road beside Brownhill Creek. Turn left, walking along the road for 1km. At the entrance to **Brownhill Creek Recreation Park** a narrow track leaves the road to the right, crossing the creek and following its true left bank. At the charmingly named **Manure Pits** – once used to store fertiliser to try to prevent pollution of the river – recross the creek, following the road briefly before returning to a track that switches to and fro between banks. One hour from Sheoak Rd you rejoin the road (by a picnic area), crossing a bridge and walking 500m to grassy **Brownhill Creek Caravan Park** (☎ 08-8271 4824; www.brownhillcreekcaravanpark.com.au; Brownhill Creek Rd, Mitcham; unpowered/powerd sites for 2 \$20/25, cabins \$80-130), strung out along the creek.

Day 2: Brownhill Creek Caravan Park to Crystal Hill Sanctuary

6¼–7½ hours, 26km

From the caravan park entrance veer right up the Peter Nelson Walking Trail, taking the wooden steps up to **McElligott's Quarry**, for

YURREBILLA'S ACCOMMODATION CURSE

When the Yurrebilla Trail opened in September 2003, it seemed a masterly piece of accommodation planning. On the first day you walked 17.5km to Eagle on the Hill Hotel for a bed with a view. Day 2 was an easy 16km into any one of three B&Bs in ever-so-cute Norton Summit, leaving a neat 20.5km to conclude the trail on Day 3. Within two years, Eagle on the Hill Hotel and all three Norton Summit B&Bs had closed. Suddenly, the user-friendly Yurrebilla Trail was as much an exercise in logistics as walking, committing walkers to at least one long walking day.

There are now few ways to vary the itinerary described here. The main alternative is to stay in the YHA cottages below Mt Lofty Summit and outside Morialta Conservation Park.

A couple of off-track B&Bs provide another option. If you turn right at Greenhill Rd on Day 2, it is about 1km into Summertown, where you will find **Summertown Homestead** (☎ 08-8390 0497; www.summertownbnb.com.au; 4 Cummins Dr; d \$240). On reaching Lobethal Rd near the end of Day 2, you can also turn right and walk for 2km to the **Chapel B&B** (☎ 08-8390 1792; www.thechapel.com.au; Lobethal Rd, Ashton; d \$210), in a converted Chapel. The walk along Lobethal Rd, however, will be neither pleasant nor particularly safe because the road is narrow and heavily trafficked.

It is also quite possible to base yourself in Adelaide and commute by bus each morning. Buses run between the city and Eagle on the Hill (bus Nos 163 to 166), Summertown (bus 820) and Morialta Conservation Park (bus 102 stops within 1km of the main car park). Travel times are around 30 to 40 minutes. There is also a connector bus into Cleland Wildlife Park (bus No 163 or 165, changing to bus 823 at Crafer's).



views over the city and the coast at Glenelg. The trail continues north from beside the quarry, along an unsealed road.

At the entrance to Brownhill Reserve turn left through a gate. Below, you will see the mottled roof of Carrick Hill mansion. Cross through a stile into **Waite Conservation Reserve**, the nearest point to the city at

which kangaroos exist in their natural habitat. Inside the reserve the trail swings onto a rough vehicle track and into a hollow below a large water tank. Turn right and head upvalley before zigzagging back west to a **viewpoint** beyond a few she-oaks (one hour from the caravan park). The view incorporates almost the entire Adelaide plain.

The trail now turns its back on the city, heading east through grey box woodland and olive trees. Turn right onto a faint vehicle track, making a short climb to exit the reserve. Take the track to the left and you will soon see Mt Lofty Summit's white obelisk and its three ugly sisters: the TV towers that are one of Adelaide's less attractive landmarks. Pass through a gate and, about 200m on, turn left through another gate to re-enter Waite Conservation Reserve. It's a fleeting return, as the trail soon heads back out through a gate. Follow the trail towards the farmhouse. Turn left onto the driveway and walk up to Mt Barker Rd, turning right and walking 30 to 45 minutes along the road's bike lane: this was once the main road into Adelaide, now it's a ghost road virtually ceded to cyclists, motorbikers and walkers.

About 100m past the abandoned Eagle on the Hill Hotel, turn left through a stile into **Cleland Conservation Park**. Turn left in another 200m onto a narrower track that winds down through stringybark forest. Continue straight on at the next junction, heading upvalley past the ruins of **Chinamans Hut** and following the signs for Mt Lofty Summit. Watch for some finger-like coral ferns in a rock face beside the track, then cross over the footbridge to reach a track junction.

The Yurrebilla Trail follows the path signposted 'Wildlife Park' for 500m to the park entrance road (the alternative route turns right, see right). If you fancy cuddling a koala, turn left and follow the road into **Cleland Wildlife Park** (adult/child \$13/8); if you can survive without it, turn right, then left at the water tanks. Turn immediately right again onto Wine Shanty Track. In 500m an eroded track comes down from the right; you have now joined the mighty Heysen Trail.

For the next hour the Wine Shanty Track winds through gullies below Mt Bonython, ignoring all tracks to the right. Finally, you do turn right at Pillbox Track, climbing and leaving Cleland Conservation Park onto Mt Lofty Summit Rd. Turn left, walking beside the road to Greenhill Rd. Cross this busy road and pick up the track again at the bus stop, walking what feels like a full circle to meet Ridge Rd.

Follow Ridge Rd north (left), leaving it to briefly wind in behind a radar tower. About 500m on, turn left into Coach Rd, following it up to **Horsnell Gully Conservation Park**.

After rounding the first bend in the road, take the track to the right. Turn right again immediately after the phytophthora station and continue through stringybark forest. When you come to a track junction 500m on, turn right and descend towards the visible tiers of White Rock Quarry, passing through some of the thickest bushland of the walk.

Cross a blackberry-choked stream and turn right, heading upvalley to **Giles Ruins** (one to 1½ hours from Greenhill Rd). The first building was a workers' quarters, the second was the homestead. Here, the trail begins climbing away from the creek, ascending to a ridge, where it turns right. In 15 minutes the trail peels away left onto a lesser track to reach Woods Hill Rd. Turn left, then right onto a narrow sealed road after 50m. Look for a faint foot track that heads away right, doubling back to again meet Woods Hill Rd. Here, the trail turns back on itself, descending to Lobethal Rd. (This last section of trail is through private property and is closed from December through March and on days of Total Fire Ban. At these times, walk along Woods Hill Rd to Lobethal Rd, where you rejoin the trail.)

Turn left and walk along the road, turning into the second road on the left (Crescent Dr) for a quieter and safer entry into Norton Summit (one hour from Giles Ruins), which is basically a pub masquerading as a town – the **Scenic Hotel** (pub meals \$11-17, restaurant meals \$21-30; ☺ breakfast Sat & Sun, lunch & dinner daily) is an Adelaide institution, its balcony famed for its city views.

Turn right onto Colonial Dr, branching right onto a track that climbs above and away from the road to the stone **Morialta Barns**, once part of an estate belonging to a state premier. The track swings back to Colonial Dr, following it for 1.3km to **Crystal Hill Sanctuary** (☎ 08-8390 1111; partnerz@bigpond.net.au; dm from \$25, cabins \$80), which has farm cabins on one side of the road and a renovated stone cottage on the other.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: MT LOFTY SUMMIT

1 hour, 3km

Mt Lofty Summit is Adelaide's lookout of lookouts, and it is a worthwhile (if steep) diversion from the main trail. At the Bilba Track junction, turn right along a stream, following it to a small waterfall. Turning

TRAILBLAZER

For one weekend each October, the Yurrebilla Trail hosts not the usual few hikers but hundreds of runners and walkers competing in the **Trailblazer Challenge** (www.recreationsa.org). Modelled on the successful Oxfam Trailwalker events, which began in Hong King as a training program for Gurkha soldiers, competitors walk or run 18km, 25km, 50km or 100km. The 50km event has a cut-off time of 20 hours, with the 100km event to be completed within 40 hours – winning teams complete the 100km in around 16 hours.

The course begins in the Adelaide parklands and follows the River Torrens to Ambers Gully, swinging onto the Yurrebilla Trail and following it for 25km into Cleland Conservation Park. It then strikes out through Mylor and the Kuitpo Forest.

onto a spur, you begin a 250m climb to Mt Lofty Summit. About 400m below the summit you pass the **Mt Lofty Cottage YHA** (☎ 08-8414 3000; www.yha.com.au; cottage \$50-70). Turn left at the junction here, then up the narrower track to the right to reach **Mt Lofty Summit**, where there is a **restaurant** (mains \$25-30; ☺ dinner Wed-Sun), **café** (mains \$8-16), gift shop and views across the Adelaide plain and Fleurieu Peninsula.

Retrace your steps past the YHA cottage to a track junction 650m (and signposted as such) from the summit. Turn right and follow this track through a gate, crossing the sealed road and descending to meet the main trail on the Wine Shanty Track.

Day 3: Crystal Hill Sanctuary to Ambers Gully

4½–5½ hours, 18.5km

A few metres beyond the sanctuary, turn left and cross through a series of stiles. Across the creek, turn left onto the old vehicle track, walking along the boundary of **Morialta Conservation Park**, the most impressive and rugged of the Mt Lofty Ranges' parks. At the junction with Third Falls Track, turn left and then immediately right, dropping steeply to the creek (30 to 45 minutes from Crystal Hill). **Third Falls** are 50m upstream, tumbling over a 20m-high rock platform.

Continuing downstream, stay left at a junction to head through she-oaks and beneath rock walls that offer Adelaide's best rock climbing. Pass by (but not across) the bridge over **Second Falls**. Continue for 300m to **Eagles Nest Lookout**, peering down onto First Falls, which looks like a stray piece of Kimberley country. From the final lookout point take the higher tack that heads away right, winding around the escarpment to **Deep View Lookout** (45 minutes from Third

Falls) and a scene that includes the drudgery of the Adelaide suburbs in one direction and wonderful First and Second Falls in the other.

Turn up the hill (through the phytophthora station), rounding the ridge and climbing to a smooth track. About 2km from Deep View Lookout, you reach a track junction. If you take a hard right here and follow Moores Rd for 2.5km you come to **Morialta Walks YHA** (☎ 08-8414 3000; www.yha.com.au; cottage \$50-70). Take the trail to the left, leaving the Heysen Trail and descending (steeply at times) along a spur. U-turning back past Fox Dam, the track makes an undulating 1.5km descent to Montacute Rd. Turn left and walk 1.5km along the road to Quarry Track (1¼ to 1½ hours from Deep View Lookout).

Turn right onto Quarry Track, entering **Black Hill Conservation Park**, and begin to climb. One short section is the steepest ground you will have encountered for the past three days – cheer yourself up by enjoying the final **view** back to Adelaide. The trail ascends to a short side track leading away left to the viewless summit of Black Hill (one to 1½ hours from Montacute Rd). Continue northeast on the main trail to a green tank, where you turn left onto Sugarloaves Track. Stay on this track as it contours above Ghost Tree Gully and up into a grassy saddle between the knolls of the **Three Sugarloaves**.

Turn left atop the saddle, staying with Sugarloaves Track. In a few minutes turn right at Sugarloaves Walking Trail and descend into Ambers Gully. Pass a usually dry waterfall to meet Main Ridge Track, turning left before **Ambers Ruin** to re-enter suburbia and the trail's end (45 minutes to one hour from Black Hill).

KANGAROO ISLAND

Australia's second-largest island (4416 sq km) has plenty to offer walkers, including some of the best wildlife encounters in the country. The showpiece for anyone on foot is Flinders Chase National Park, gazetted in 1919 and now covering around 17% of the island. Here, you can walk for a few minutes to view platypuses or you can amble for a few days in the company of kangaroos, koalas and goannas. It quickly becomes apparent why Matthew Flinders named the place after a resident marsupial (even if only because his crew killed and ate 31 of the things).

ENVIRONMENT

Connected to the mainland at various times, Kangaroo Island's land bridge last submerged around 9500 years ago, creating an isolation that has led to much species variation between the island and the mainland. The island has 14 endemic bird subspecies, one endemic mammal species (Kangaroo Island dunnart) and 46 endemic plant species. The Kangaroo Island kangaroo is a subspecies of the western grey kangaroo, and is smaller and more solid; tiger snakes here can be entirely black; and even a bird as common and widespread as the New Holland honeyeater has different wing and beak sizes to mainland birds. As you walk, keep particular watch for glossy black-cockatoos, Australia's rarest cockatoo, with only an estimated 250 existing in the world – it is possible, though not likely, that you may spot one around Ravine des Casoars.

PLANNING

Books

Kangaroo Island on Foot by former Flinders Chase ranger Jody Gates describes 23 walks throughout the island. *Natural History of Kangaroo Island*, edited by Margaret Davies, Charles Twidale and Michael Tyler, is a good resource for delving further into the island's natural nuts and bolts.

Information Sources

Kangaroo Island Gateway visitor information centre (☎ 08-8553 1185; www.tourkangarooisland.com.au) is just outside Penneshaw. The DEH

office in Kingscote (opposite) can supply information on walks around the island, though queries about Flinders Chase are better directed to the **Flinders Chase visitor information centre** (☎ 08-8559 7235; www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/flinderschase; Rocky River).

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Rex (☎ 13 17 13; www.regionalexpress.com.au) and **QantasLink** (☎ 13 13 13; www.qantas.com.au) fly daily between Adelaide and Kangaroo Island (\$70, 30 minutes). QantasLink also flies direct from Melbourne to Kangaroo Island on Saturday and Sunday (\$230, two hours).

SeaLink (☎ 13 13 01; www.sealink.com.au) operates a ferry service across the Backstairs Passage between Cape Jervis and Penneshaw (45 minutes) up to eight times daily. Cars cost \$65 to \$80, with each passenger (including driver) an extra \$40.

GETTING AROUND

Budget (☎ 08-8555 3133; www.budget.com.au) and **Hertz** (☎ 08-8553 2390; www.hertz.com.au) have cars available at the airport; the latter also has cars available at the Penneshaw ferry terminal.

FLINDERS CHASE COASTAL TREK

Duration	2 days
Distance	35km
Difficulty	moderate
Start/Finish	Ravine des Casoars car park
Nearest Town	Kingscote (opposite)
Transport	private
Summary	Wander the isolated cliffs of Kangaroo Island's west coast, where the dramatic geography is tempered by the tropical colouring of the ocean.

Following Kangaroo Island's westernmost coast, this walk heads across limestone cliffs that rise up to 100m above the sea, passing isolated rocky coves to the welcoming beach at West Bay.

Though the walk is rated moderate, it is very much an outing in two parts. Day 1, along the cliffs, is moderate-demanding, crossing ankle-twisting, fractured limestone, while Day 2 is no more than a stroll along a closed vehicle track. The bush along this track is pleasant, though it is shaded

by the memories of the exhilarating previous day.

If you have two cars and an extra day, you can avoid the inland walk by continuing south along the coast to the lighthouse at Cape de Couedic. On the second day, walk to Snake Lagoon camping ground (20km), then to Cape de Couedic (16km) on the third day.

PLANNING

When to Walk

The island's climate is milder than the mainland – in January and February the average maximum temperature is around 23.5°C (compared to 28.5°C in Adelaide), making summer walking more feasible. Rainfall is slightly lower than in Adelaide and is concentrated between about May and August. Couple this with biting winds and the west coast can be unpleasant in winter. Numerous wildflowers bloom from late July to November, while March, April, October and November offer the best combinations of comfortable temperatures and low rainfall.

Maps

Landsmap's 1:50,000 topographic maps *Borda* and *Vennachar* cover the area – the walk along the cliffs isn't shown since it is not on marked trails. The Day 2 route is marked on the maps.

Permits & Regulations

Overnight walkers in Flinders Chase National Park must obtain a trip intentions form and discuss their plans with a ranger. Forms can be downloaded from www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/flinderschase/visit/index.htm, or picked up at the Flinders Chase visitor information centre.

Entry to the park is \$7.50 per person and walkers' camping is \$4 per night. There are also two Kangaroo Island park passes to consider: the **Kangaroo Island Tour Pass** (adult/child \$43/25) gives unlimited entry to Flinders Chase for a year, plus tours at Seal Bay, Kelly Hill Caves, and Cape Borda and Cape Willoughby lighthouses; the **South Coast Ticket** (adult/child \$28/17) allows entry into the park, plus tours at Seal Bay and Kelly Hill Caves.

Camping along the described route is only permitted at West Bay, and bookings are required. Fires are prohibited, so fuel stoves must be used.

NEAREST TOWN & FACILITIES

Kingscote

☎ 08 / pop 1400

SA's first settlement may be Kangaroo Island's main town but it is still a sleepy seaside place. It is also the closest town to this walk, despite being more than 100km away. It is the place to pick up supplies, even if it is more practical to stay nearer to Flinders Chase. The useful brochure *Bushwalking in Kangaroo Island Parks* can be picked up at the **DEH office** (☎ 8553 2381; 37 Dauncey St).

Grassy **Kingscote Nepean Bay Tourist Park** (☎ 8553 2394; www.kingscotetouristpark.com.au; First St; unpowered/powerd sites for 2 \$20/23, cabins without/with bathroom from \$50/85) is in Brownlow, roughly 3km from town, one street inland from a seaweed-carpeted beach.

KI Central Accommodation (☎ 8553 2787; 19 Murray St; dm/d \$20/50) looks a bit like a doss house and is a good place to prepare for or relax from a walk.

Seaview Motel (☎ 8553 2030; www.seaview.net.au; 51 Chapman Tce; guesthouse s/d \$65/75, motel s/d \$125/135) has great bay views, with rooms that range from boarding school-style to the classically furnished spa suite. There is a **restaurant** (mains \$17-33; ☺ dinner) on site.

Bella (54 Dauncey St; lunch \$8-15, dinner \$15-24; ☺ lunch & dinner) offers a rare mix of fine dining and greasy take-out. You can dine on pan-fried King George whiting or carry home a barbecued chook.

Ozone Hotel (Kingscote Tce; breakfast \$8, mains \$13-30; ☺ breakfast, lunch & dinner) has a typical pub menu brightened with local produce such as marron and garfish.

Foodland (Commercial St) is the best of the supermarket options.

Flinders Chase National Park

☎ 08

The closest accommodation to the trailhead is at **Harvey's Return camping ground** (sites for vehicle \$8), which has toilets and a water tank. Cape Borda Lighthouse, 3km west, has three cottages: **Flinders Light Lodge** (\$125), **Hartley Hut** (\$80) and **Woodward Hut** (per person \$16). Rocky River camping ground offers showers but is by the visitor information centre, around 50km from the trailhead.

There are a couple of private options at the park's edge. **Flinders Chase Farm** (☎ 8559 7223; chillers@internode.on.net; West End Hwy; dm/cabins \$20/50, r \$70) has a wing of motel-style rooms,

two tiny cabins and an attractive hostel with a woolshed theme. The open-air kitchen has a vinyl collection that ranges from Meatloaf to Mouskouri. **Kangaroo Island Wilderness Retreat** (☎ 8559 7275; www.kiwr.com; South Coast Rd; eco lodge r \$140, d \$200; mains \$28-33; ♿ ♻️) is set in 113 hectares, and has resident wallabies, rooms set around a native garden and its own 30-minute bushwalk through sugar gums, banksias and tea-trees.

Food options at this end of the island are as rare as the glossy black-cockatoo. **Chasers Cafe** (Flinders Chase visitor information centre; burgers \$13; ☎ 9am-5pm) will see you through the day, but the restaurant at Kangaroo Island Wilderness Retreat is only for guests.

GETTING TO/FROM THE WALK

From Kingscote drive 75km along Playford Hwy to the junction with West End Hwy. Continue straight along Playford Hwy (unsealed now) for another 27km. Turn left just beyond Harvey's Return camping ground and drive 6km to the road end at the Ravine des Casoars car park. From Rocky River join West End Hwy, turning west onto the unsealed section of Playford Hwy after 23km.

THE WALK

Day 1: Ravine des Casoars to West Bay

5–6½ hours, 19km

From the southern end of the car park, past the phytophthora station, fork left onto a sandy track that winds down into the **Ravine des Casoars**. This 'Ravine of the Cassowaries' was named by French explorer Nicolas Baudin in 1803 because it contained great numbers of dwarf emus – they were extinct by the time of settlement just 33 years later.

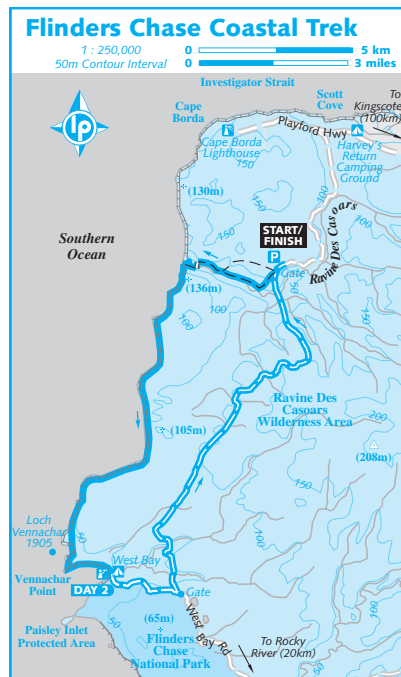
After 20 minutes the track turns west and descends slowly through sugar gums to the tannin-stained creek. Follow the creek downstream, entering mallee forest just before reaching a track junction 1km from the coast. Continue straight on, walking now along the bank of the creek, to a wooden footbridge (one to 1¼ hours from the start). Cross the bridge and walk beneath the dunes to the small **beach**. In the limestone cliffs on the opposite bank you will see a series of **caves**, but avoid the temptation to enter them as they are important wildlife refuges.

From the beach, climb steeply onto the southern hillside to the cliff top. West Bay

is 15km away to the south. There is no set trail, simply follow the cliffs all the way, across fractured limestone, keeping within about 15m of the cliff edge where the mallee scrub is thinnest. You will often find a trodden path of sorts as a guide. It is slow, undulating walking but the coastal views are such that you won't want to hurry anyway. Feral goats and the small Rosenberg's goanna are commonly seen.

After two to three hours the cliffs swing southwest, forming a large headland. Continue close to the cliff edge, avoiding the thickening scrub. Within 45 minutes you round the headland and begin south again, passing through a surreal patch of eroded limestone – you will see brittle platforms of rock and stalagmites rising from the earth.

Continue along the cliffs, rounding a series of small coves on ever-rougher limestone to **Vennachar Point**. Below here, the Glasgow-bound *Loch Vennachar* was wrecked in 1905, though such was the spread of the wreckage it wasn't located until 1976. Turn east and follow the granite and limestone cliffs into sandy **West Bay**.



A HOME AMONG THE GUM TREES

It is not by accident that Flinders Chase National Park can feel like an unfenced zoo. Cape Barren geese and kangaroos graze the lawns at Rocky River, koalas have been called a plague and tamar wallabies, virtually extinct on the mainland, flourish. Many of the animals were placed here not by nature's hand, but by human hands.

Isolated even from the settlements on Kangaroo Island, Flinders Chase was chosen early last century as a haven to preserve threatened wildlife. Between 1911 and 1957, 16 bird, six mammal and two reptile species were introduced around the island's western edge. Some, such as the emu, hairy-nosed wombat, shingle-back lizard and magpie goose, failed to colonise, but others thrived, including the koala, platypus, Cape Barren goose and ringtail possum.

Thirty minutes from the point, descend to the beach. The camping ground is at the southern end, behind the dunes and the anchor from the *Loch Vennachar*. The camping ground has a water tank and toilet.

Day 2: West Bay to Ravine des Casoars

4–5 hours, 16km

Follow the road out of camp and east through low-growing yacca, casuarina and eucalyptus scrub. After 30 to 40 minutes, turn left through a gate onto a wide 4WD track (vehicles are prohibited) and into an area of regeneration. This obvious track leads north through attractive scrub. After two to three hours of gradual climbs and descents, green fields and a long ridge become visible to the north. The track then turns northwest, dropping back to the **Ravine des Casoars**, where the gums will look like forest giants after the past two days of scrub. Scan the canopy for koalas as you climb through tall woodland to the car park.

FLINDERS RANGES

Described by Sir Hans Heysen as 'nature's bones laid bare', the Flinders Ranges are a continuation of the Mt Lofty Ranges, beginning near Crystal Brook and running north to Mt Hopeless before petering out in the Strzelecki Desert. For walkers the Flinders contain two major areas of interest: the Flinders Ranges National Park (Wilpena Pound and Heysen Highlight walks) and the Mt Remarkable National Park (Mt Remarkable Gorges walk). If you wish to spread your walking wings a little wider, head for Dutchmans Stern (p273) or Mt Brown.

Much of the Flinders average less than 400mm of annual rain, which puts it on

the cusp of the desert but without the associated deprivations – this is a great place to flirt with the outback without placing yourself at peril. The country may be harsh but the walking usually isn't. Water is easily obtainable on all three walks described here, and Wilpena Pound may contain the best-marked trails you have ever walked.

ENVIRONMENT

About 800 million years ago the earth's crust thinned and formed a long trough called the Adelaide Geosyncline. Submerged under the ocean, it reached from Kangaroo Island in the south to Mt Hopeless in the north. Over the next 300 million years it filled with sediment. Around 500 million years ago the Geosyncline was squeezed and pushed up to form a long mountain chain. Mudstone, shale and siltstone around what is now the Flinders Ranges eroded away, leaving the stronger quartzite that forms today's sharp ridges.

More than 450 native plant species have been recorded in the Flinders Ranges National Park alone, though just a few will dominate your thoughts. Primary among these is the river red gum, which towers from the Flinders' dry creek beds. Porcupine grass, a spinifex, coats the hillsides in the north, softening them visually even if the grass is like a hedgehog to the touch. Cypress pines are also a common sight on all of the walks.

The real mammal-of-the-day in the Flinders is the yellow-footed rock wallaby. Most visible in Brachina Gorge – away from the walking routes described here – it also inhabits the Mt Remarkable Gorges and the Wilcolo Valley, which you walk through on the final day of the Heysen Highlight. If you don't see this iconic creature, take

compensation from the many kangaroos that crowd the ranges – kangaroos may outnumber trees inside Wilpena Pound. Of the reptiles, it probably won't be the snakes you will need to worry about – on the Heysen Highlight you will be hard pressed not to step on the shingle-back lizards.

PLANNING Maps & Books

Hema Maps' 1:500,000 map *Flinders Ranges* is a good resource for getting around the ranges. Walking trails are marked, and there are inset maps of the Flinders Ranges and Mt Remarkable National Parks.

To whet your walking appetite seek out a copy of *Walking in the Flinders Ranges* by CW Bonython, one of the classic Australian adventure yarns, recounting a 1000km walk along the length of the ranges. *Flinders Ranges Walks*, edited by Peter Beer, has a selection of walks (and mud maps) throughout the Flinders.

Permits & Regulations

Park entry to the Mt Remarkable and Flinders Ranges National Parks is \$7 per car (\$4.50 per motorbike). Walker bush camping is \$4 per night. Fires are not permitted along any of the walks, so you will need to carry a fuel stove.

ACCESS TOWN Port Augusta

☎ 08 / pop 13,194

Port Augusta is the so-called 'crossroads of Australia', with highways radiating from this town to Perth, Darwin, Adelaide and Sydney. As such, it has an overriding feeling of functionality, and for walkers it is indeed functional, with Wilpena Pound and the Mt Remarkable National Park a short drive away. The **visitor information centre** (☎ 1800 633 060; www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au; 41 Flinders Tce) is in the Wadlata Outback Centre, while the **DEH** (☎ 8648 5020; upstairs, 9 Mackay St) has a few brochures on the Flinders Ranges and bushwalking (as well as a resident jungle python).

Better Homes Supplies (☎ 8642 3033; 16-22 Woodstock St) has a selection of camping gear.

SLEEPING & EATING

Leafy and large, the **Port Augusta Big 4 Holiday Park** (☎ 1800 833 444; www.portaugustabig4.com.au;

unpowered/powerd sites for 2 \$25/27, cabins \$55-110; ♿ ♿) is laid out in lines as straight as the Adelaide CBD and has a camp kitchen and laundry.

Poinsettia Motel (☎ 8642 2411; 24 Burgoyne St; s/d \$55/65) is the pick of the motel litter lining the highway north of town, with prices reduced by competition but facilities improved by new microwaves and TVs. It is just a stroll across the bridge to the city centre. On the highway south, **Comfort Inn Port Augusta** (☎ 8642 2755; www.comfortpa.com.au; Hwy 1; d \$75-145; ♿ ♿) was Comfort Inn of the Year in 2004 and is well shielded from the highway traffic noise. The attached **Gallery Restaurant** (mains \$18-26; ♿) gives the usual suspects an unusual twist – *wasabi* oysters, emu satays and a shared Drover's Tucker Platter (\$56), consisting of emu satays, kangaroo fillet, camel ragout and crocodile steak with bush tomato relish and quandong glaze.

Northern & Exchange Hotel (4 Tassie St; ♿) lunch & dinner) is two conjoined pubs melded into a dining conglomerate.

Maxi's Pizza Bar (pizzas \$6-14) brings the Flinders Ranges to town with standard pizzas renamed into features such as Wilpena Cheese and Brachina Gorge Hawaiian, while **Wharfie's Bistro** (mains \$10-17) does oysters, steaks and hickory chicken. Or you can just plump for a counter meal.

For a change from the hotels and motels that dominate Port Augusta's dining scene, graze at popular **Hot Peppers Café** (34 Commercial Rd; breakfast \$8, burgers \$9), where the coffee menu is like an honour roll.

Coles (Jervois St) and **Woolworths** (Tassie St) are both central.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

O'Connor Airlines (☎ 8723 0666; www.oconnor-airlines.com.au) flies between Adelaide and Port Augusta (\$185, 35 minutes) on weekdays.

The **bus terminal** (☎ 8642 5055; 23 Mackay St) is in the city centre. **Premier Stateliner** (☎ 8415 5555; www.premierstateliner.com.au) travels to Adelaide (\$41, four hours, four to six per day), while **Greyhound Australia** (☎ 13 14 99; www.greyhound.com.au) runs to Alice Springs (\$225, 14½ hours, daily). Only Premier Stateliner tickets can be purchased at the terminal.

The **train station** (Stirling Rd) is at the city centre's southeastern edge. Through **Great Southern Railway** (☎ 13 21 47; www.gsr.com.au)

you can take the *Ghan* from Port Augusta to Alice Springs (seat/sleeper/gold-class sleeper \$171/542/710, 14½ hours), Darwin (seat/sleeper/gold-class sleeper \$403/1277/1680, 43 hours) or Adelaide (seat/sleeper/gold-class sleeper \$37/113/300, four hours) on Friday and Sunday. The *Indian Pacific* travels to Perth (seat/sleeper/gold-class sleeper \$272/844/1100, 34 hours) on Sunday and Thursday, and to Adelaide (seat/sleeper/gold-class sleeper \$37/113/300, four hours) and Sydney (seat/sleeper/gold-class sleeper \$266/591/770, 31 hours) on Tuesday and Friday.

Rental cars are available from **Budget** (☎ 8642 6040; www.budget.com.au; 14 Young St) and **Avis** (☎ 8641 1010; www.avis.com.au; 35 Victoria Pde).

MT REMARKABLE GORGES

Duration	2 days
Distance	40km
Difficulty	moderate
Start/Finish	Mambray Creek (p264)
Nearest Town	Port Germein (right)
Transport	private
Summary	Wander a high ridge to link two superb gorges in the less-heralded Southern Flinders Ranges.

Mt Remarkable National Park might well be described as the forgotten Flinders – it is the place everybody drives past in their hurry to get to Wilpena Pound. But stop and walk for a while and you will discover that there is much to recommend it, especially in and around beautiful Alligator Gorge.

The 16,000-hectare national park is divided into two sections: Mt Remarkable and Mambray Creek. The walk described here is the major outing in the Mambray Creek section, beginning near the park headquarters and ranging out to the park's most striking feature: narrow, brick-red Alligator Gorge. The circular route can be comfortably completed in two days, although variations can string it out to a third day. If you have the time it is worth allowing an extra day to enjoy around the area around Alligator Gorge.

Water tanks are plentiful along the route – check with rangers at Mambray Creek as to water levels.

PLANNING When to Walk

Early spring (September to mid-October) is the ideal time for this walk, with creeks still flowing and wildflowers colouring the hillsides. It also makes a good winter walk, with the average July maximum temperature at nearby Port Pirie being a comfortable 16.4°C (1.5°C higher than Adelaide) and monthly rainfall averaging little more than 40mm. Bush camping in the park is prohibited between 1 November and 30 April. If you want to walk this route between those dates your best option is to begin at Alligator Gorge, camping the night at Mambray Creek.

Maps

Landsmap's 1:50,000 topographic maps *Melrose* and *Wilmington* cover the walk. Buy them in Adelaide.

Information Sources

Any questions about the park and its walks can be answered by rangers at the **Mambray Creek park office** (☎ 08-8643 7068; www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/mt_remarkable).

Permits & Regulations

Camping is prohibited in Alligator Gorge, Hidden Gorge and within 2.5km of the junction of Alligator and Mambray Creeks. Bush camping in the park is prohibited between 1 November and 30 April.

NEAREST TOWN & FACILITIES Port Germein

☎ 08 / pop 279

Port Germein's big claim to fame is that it supposedly has Australia's longest wooden jetty (a gong also claimed by Busselton in Western Australia), at 1283m, and when the tide is out it needs just about every metre. It is a likeable slow-paced town unless you are a crustacean – crabbing is Port Germein's prime recreation.

Port Germein Caravan Park (☎ 8634 5266; Esplanade; unpowered/powerd sites for 2 \$14/20, cabins \$50-65) is basic but has the best jetty views in town. The advertised 'grassed camping areas' are the exception not the norm.

Go easy on the alcohol if you are sleeping at the **Port Germein Hotel** (☎ 8634 8244; High St; s/d \$30/60; mains \$9-16; ♿) lunch Fri-Sun, dinner daily), where the floors of the generous-sized rooms

have more slopes than a ski resort. The counter meals are the old-fashioned sort that still believe in coleslaw and beetroot.

The **general store** (High St) only has survival-level supplies, so stock up in Adelaide or Port Augusta.

Port Germein is 240km from Adelaide along Hwy 1. **Premier Stateliner** (☎ 08-8415 5555; www.premierstateliner.com.au) buses from Adelaide (\$45, 3¼ hours, one to three daily) and Port Augusta (\$18, 45 minutes, two daily excluding Saturday) stop at Port Germein.

Mambray Creek

Inside Mt Remarkable National Park, and set among magnificent river red gums, **Mambray Creek camping ground** (per car/motorbike \$8/5) has hot showers, a cavalcade of wildlife and is just metres from the trailhead. **Mambray Cabin** (\$35-40) is within the camping ground, with a gas stove and four beds (linen not supplied).

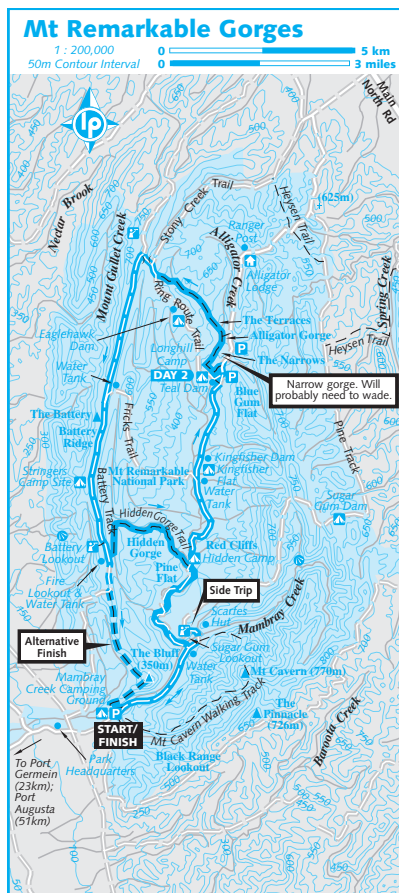
If driving to Mambray Creek, follow Hwy 1 north from Port Germein for 20km (or 48km south from Port Augusta), turning right at the signposted Mambray Creek turn-off. The camping ground is 6km from the highway. **Premier Stateliner** (☎ 08-8415 5555; www.premierstateliner.com.au) operates a service from Adelaide (\$45, 3½ hours) or Port Augusta (\$18, 30 minutes) and will drop you at the turn-off (you will have to walk the 6km to Mambray Creek).

THE WALK

Day 1: Mambray Creek to Longhill Camp 3–4 hours, 13km

From the day-visitor car park (as popular with emus as people), begin east along the 4WD track. You can stay with the track as it makes a series of fords along Mambray Creek, or you can avoid the fords by following a couple of alternative walking trails. The route is through a wooded floodplain where euros are plentiful and kookaburras and galahs provide the entertainment. After 45 minutes you reach a water tank at the junction of Mambray and Alligator Creeks.

Turn left off the 4WD track, cross Mambray Creek and head generally north along the banks of **Alligator Creek**. This is a beautiful stretch of walking, a classic Flinders' scene of river red gums, stony creek bed and rust-red cliffs. You will cross the creek numerous times as the cliffs close in first on



one side and then the other. After 40 minutes the track turns northeast, with the valley widening and filling with cypress pines. At Pine Flat swing southwest between darkening cliffs, and in 500m you come to the junction with Hidden Gorge Trail.

Continue straight ahead through Hidden Camp (no facilities), which sits below beautiful ochre cliffs, to join a rough valley track. This ford the creek a few more times to **Red Cliffs**. Here, the track climbs out of the valley through bottlebrush and mallee scrub. You will catch an occasional glimpse of the valley before you pass the junction with Fricks Trail (with water tank). Just ahead is grassy Kingfisher Flat camping ground (with toilet and water tank).

The track climbs on gradually to Teal Dam. Turn left here, following a narrow path through the bush to a vehicle track. Turn left again and cross Alligator Creek to reach Longhill Camp (1½ to two hours from Hidden Camp). The camp has no facilities but Blue Gum Flat, with toilets, gas barbecues and tap water, is just 300m away. It is worth exploring Alligator Gorge in the evening.

SIDE TRIP: SUGAR GUM LOOKOUT

30–40 minutes, 2km return

At the junction of Mambray and Alligator Creeks continue northeast on the 4WD track, crossing Mambray Creek to stone Scarfes Hut (no camping). Here, the track turns uphill to a ridge and overgrown **Sugar Gum Lookout**, set among native pines and large sugar gums. Follow the cairns to a lower ledge for the best view of the cliffs above Alligator Creek.

Day 2: Longhill Camp to Mambray Creek 6½–8 hours, 27km

Return along the vehicle track, past the trail to Teal Dam, into Blue Gum Flat. At the information board turn left, forking immediately left again to descend into **Alligator Gorge**, named not for the presence of any reptiles, but supposedly after an Aboriginal shepherd called Alli. Head upstream (north), crossing the creek several times until the closing walls force you to simply wade through the **Narrows**, where the red quartzite cliffs clamp almost shut. Continue through the gorge, passing a set of steps up to Alligator Gorge car park.

At the next fork in the creek, turn left to the **Terraces**, which are slabs of rock rippled like sand from a time when this was ocean-front real estate. Walk up the slabs and continue upstream, beginning a 250m climb to Battery Ridge. At first the track can be vague, but stay beside the creek and it will always turn up. The gorge walls soon close in again spectacularly and you will be splashing once more along the creek bed.

Fork left again at the next split in the creek. The gorge soon shallows and the path becomes more distinct, switching from bank to bank. At the next fork in the creek (45 minutes to one hour from the Terraces) continue straight on, following the path that climbs steeply between the

creeks. This grass tree-covered hillside becomes a canvas of wildflowers in spring and has great views back over the bush to Mt Remarkable.

At a junction of 4WD tracks continue straight ahead, through a stand of sugar gums, to a junction before a saddle. Turn left across the saddle and up to Battery Track. Straight ahead is a narrow path to a **viewpoint** overlooking Spencer Gulf and Port Augusta. On a clear day, Whyalla can be seen across the gulf to the southwest.

Turn left along Battery Track, which you follow for two hours, passing a water tank at the junction with Fricks Trail. There are great views of a parallel escarpment to the east, at least until the she-oaks take over the bush beyond Fricks Trail. Watch for emus, wedge-tailed eagles and sunning snakes. After 1½ hours you come to Stringers camp site (no facilities), which is little more than a cleared area of dirt beside the track, though it does have an ocean view.

From here Battery Track slowly descends, reaching a side track to **Battery Lookout** for the clearest view yet of Spencer Gulf. Port Pirie is visible to the south, framed by grass trees. Five minutes on, by a water tank and fire lookout tower, turn left onto Hidden Gorge Trail for a gradual 20-minute descent north before rounding the spur (and a meat-anthropologist) into **Hidden Gorge**. The gorge walls flicker between steep, pine-covered slopes and towering, ever-more-impressive quartzite cliffs. Where the creek turns briefly south there is a beauty, with the cliffs worn back to reveal lilac-coloured rock in the jagged face.

Take the inside corner at the next bend for a simple scramble down through a rock fall. Ten minutes later, past large rock falls on both slopes, the gorge narrows dramatically before opening out towards the junction with the trail along Alligator Creek (1¼ to 1¾ hours from Battery Ridge). Turn right and retrace your steps to Mambray Creek.

ALTERNATIVE FINISH: OVER THE BLUFF

1½ hours, 5km

If the thought of a long second day doesn't appeal, continue along the Battery Track for 1km past the fire lookout tower, then turn left where the 4WD track makes a sharp right turn. This trail heads southeast down

a long spur to the **Bluff** (350m), reached after a short climb. There are some good views over the plains. The trail then turns southwest down into more open terrain before descending steeply to Mambray Creek. Turn right and head back to the car park.

WILPENA POUND

Duration	2 days
Distance	28.8km
Difficulty	easy-moderate
Start/Finish	Wilpena Pound Resort (opposite)
Nearest Town	Hawker (right)
Transport	bus

Summary A highlights package incorporating the Pound's best tracks into an easy circuit capturing the best of this natural amphitheatre.

Wilpena Pound is a circular beauty spot on the face of the outback. Fifteen kilometres long and 8km wide, it is one of the most striking landmarks in the country, and to many people it is *the* Flinders Ranges. All of the marked trails in and around the Pound are manageable as day-walks, but the route described here combines the best tracks into a single circuit walk, with the added allure of spending a night inside the Pound. You also have the opportunity to walk much of it without your pack. Trail marking through the Pound is unequalled, with distance markers every 200m and regular directional markers.

PLANNING

When to Walk

Walking is best between May and October, when temperatures average between 13°C and 25°C and there is usually water in the creeks and the rockhole near Cooinda Camp. Prepare for cold nights – freezing dawns are not unusual in winter. Avoid summer, when temperatures frequently rise to 45°C.

Maps

Landsmap's 1:50,000 topographic map *Wilpena* covers the whole Pound. Buy it in Adelaide if possible.

Permits & Regulations

Cooinda is the only permitted camp site inside the Pound. Walks listed on the trailhead

bushwalkers' register as either 'medium' or 'difficult' (such as the walk described here) should be entered into the register.

NEAREST TOWN & FACILITIES

Hawker

☎ 08 / pop 298

Hawker is 55km south from, and in sight of, Wilpena Pound. You can whet your appetite for the Pound by checking out the **Wilpena Panorama** (cnr Wilpena & Craddock Rds; adult/child \$5/2), a stunning landscape painting depicting the 360-degree view from atop St Mary Peak. It shows most of the terrain you will cover in the Wilpena Pound and Heysen Highlight walks.

Teague Hawker Motors (☎ 8648 4014; cnr Wilpena & Craddock Rds) has that bush knack for being all things to all people: petrol station, knowledgeable visitor information centre, seismograph station and the **Flinders Ranges Accommodation Booking Service** (☎ 1800 777 880; www.frabs.com.au), which offers stays at six stations, mostly around Hawker. It also has the largest selection of books on the Flinders you are ever likely to find.

SLEEPING & EATING

Hawker Caravan Park (☎ 8648 4006; www.hawkersa.info/hcpark.htm; unpowered/powerd sites for 2 \$23-25/24-33, cabins \$80-125) has an open area featuring drive-through sites, including the outback rarity of grassy tent sites.

Hawker Hotel-Motel (☎ 8648 4102; hawhotmot@internode.on.net; cnr Elder & Wonoka Tces; s/tw/d with shared bathroom \$35/50/55, motel s/d \$70/80, meals \$11-19) has no-frills hotel rooms and self-contained motel rooms on the edge of town. Lunch and dinner are from a standard pub-grub menu with the addition of items such as salmon salad and 'cold collation'.

The spacious rooms at the **Outback Chapmanton Motel** (☎ 8648 4100; www.hawkersa.info/biz/outback.htm; 1 Wilpena Rd; s/d \$85/95) are the best in town. The associated **Chapmanton Holiday Units** (Arkaba St; s/d \$90/100) are about 500m away and are plainer and a bit frayed but offer two bedrooms and a kitchen. Shared reception is at the motel.

Hawker General Store (cnr Wilpena & Craddock Rds; sandwiches \$4-7) has supplies enough if your walking palette is undemanding. The attached café does sandwiches and hot dogs, with cameos by such notables as celery juice and zucchini and leek soup.

SAINT OR SERPENT?

St Mary Peak (1171m) is the highest mountain in the Flinders Ranges and a place of great significance to the Adnyamathana (or Hill People), who prefer that visitors don't climb it. In the Adnyamathana dreaming, two serpents travelling south camped at a waterhole near Edeowie Gorge. That night, a group of people held an initiation ceremony in the Pound. The serpents twined together around the ceremony, surrounding its participants and eating all but two of them. The serpents' bodies now form the walls of the Pound, as they lay here still watching the escape of the two initiates. St Mary Peak is the head of the male serpent (Beatrice Hill is the head of the female).

To respect the wishes of the Adnyamathana, you should not climb onto St Mary Peak beyond Tandra Saddle.

Old Ghan Restaurant (☎ 8648 4176; Leigh Creek Rd; lunch \$10-16, dinner \$17-24; ☎ lunch Wed, dinner Thu-Sat) is set in the old stone railway station at the western end of town, and has an eclectic menu that ranges from crumbed camembert with quandong chutney, to barramundi reared at the local school, to nachos.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Gulf Getaways (☎ 1800 170 170) runs buses between Port Augusta and Wilpena, stopping at Hawker. Buses depart Port Augusta (\$40, one hour 20 minutes) at 3.30pm Friday and noon Sunday, and make the return from Wilpena (\$20, 45 minutes) 2½ hours later.

Wilpena Pound Resort

The **Wilpena Pound visitor information centre** (☎ 08-8648 0048; www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/flinders_ranges) is an excellent source of walking info.

Beautifully set just outside Pound Gap, **Wilpena Pound Resort** (☎ 1800 805 802; www.wilpenapound.com.au; dm \$30, s \$115-185, d \$125-199; ☎ ☎ ☎) has four room types with localised names – Brachina, Aroona, Heysen and Edeowie – but generic motel features. For top dollar you get a kitchen and a bigger TV. The resort also manages the adjoining **camping ground** (unpowered/powerd sites for 2 \$16/22, permanent tent \$50), where your neighbours will be feathered and furred as well as human. Permanent tents have power and a fridge.

The resort store has a wide range of supplies, though it is mostly items (frozen pizzas, cheesecake etc) you won't want to stuff into a backpack. At **Captain Starlight's Bistro** (mains \$14-23; ☎ breakfast & dinner) you can watch Skippy graze metres away as you eat one of his mates. **Poddy Dodgers Bar** (mains \$13-17; ☎ lunch) offers a pub atmosphere next door.

Gulf Getaways (☎ 1800 170 170) buses leave Port Augusta for Wilpena (\$50, 2¼ hours) at 3.30pm Friday and noon Sunday, stopping at Hawker en route. They return from Wilpena 2½ hours later.

THE WALK

Day 1: Wilpena Pound Resort to Cooinda Camp via Edeowie Gorge

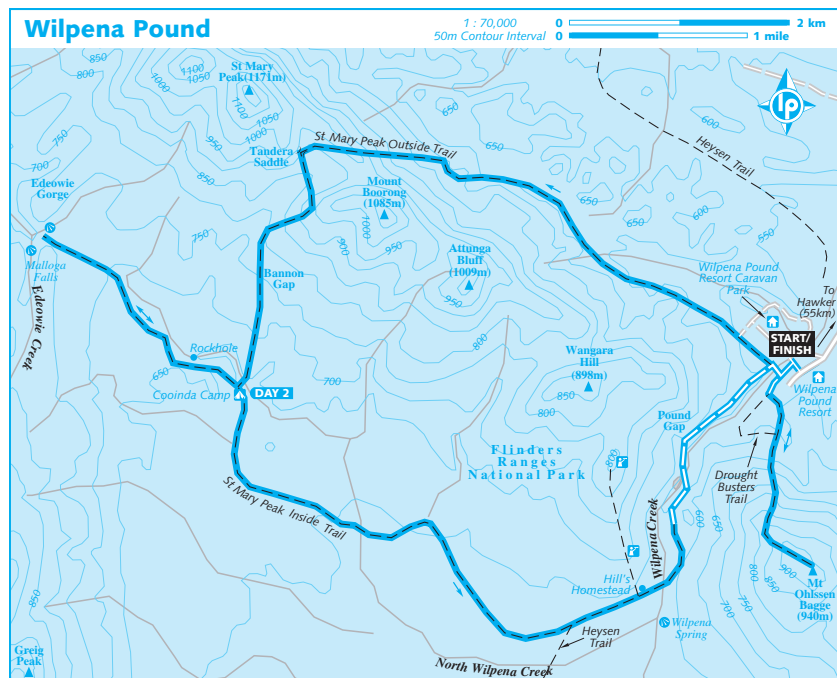
4¼–5¼ hours, 15.3km

From the bushwalkers' register beside the store begin along the bank of **Wilpena Creek**. Cross the creek at the second bridge (look out for a giant, hollowed river red gum on your right), then turn left, walk 100m and turn right. Follow the 'St Mary Peak Outside Trail' posts through open woodland to a junction where the Heysen Trail peels away right into the camping ground.

Continue straight ahead as the path undulates northwest, crisscrossed by dry gullies and kangaroo trails. You get your first glimpse of St Mary Peak's ramp-like summit at the 1.8km marker, but it is another 30 minutes before the first decent view.

Soon after, the 300m climb to Tandra Saddle begins in earnest, ascending west through several rocky outcrops – some of the climbing involves basic scrambling. There are regular views north across the arched back of the Heysen Range.

At the final outcrop, after 45 minutes to one hour of climbing, veer left (following the blue reflectors) to rise onto **Tandra Saddle**. The view includes St Mary Peak to the northwest, Mt Boorong to the southeast and the mogul-like peaks of the Pound's opposite wall in between. If you are intent on climbing St Mary Peak (see the boxed text, above), note that it involves more scrambling and can be treacherous if wet.



It should not be attempted if the summit is covered by cloud.

The old walking track straight down into the Pound is now closed (though still very visible). Instead, turn left along the ridge, descending across the slope of Mt Boorong, officially entering the Pound as you leave the ridge. If it seems like a shorter descent than the climb, it is – the floor of the Pound is around 180m higher than the surrounding land. As you descend you will get glimpses across the scrub that reveal the Pound's circular shape.

Passing through Bannon Gap, you come to stony **North Wilpena Creek** (one to 1½ hours from Tandra Saddle). Cross it to reach Cooina Camp (no facilities), set among low mallees. Water is available at a rock-hole (marked on the *Wilpena* map) about 500m from camp. To find the hole, follow the Edeowie Gorge trail until just beyond the 9.0km marker, looking for a small rock ledge on your right. The rockhole is below here; it is an easy scramble down.

Store your pack in camp and take the Edeowie Gorge trail, which leads northwest

from camp. It is a well-formed track but you will still be pushing through casuarinas much of the time. Pass the **rockhole** and cross North Wilpena Creek twice (there may be water at the first crossing) before climbing to some rock shelves with good views north to Tandra Saddle and the ribbed back of St Mary Peak. Pass another gully – look to your right and you will see a set of rock steps masquerading as a waterfall – and 10 minutes later you come to a large cairn and a glimpse into Edeowie's depths.

The trail descends into **Edeowie Gorge** and the end of the marked track. Follow the creek bed west for five minutes, edging around the left side of a waterfall. **Malloga Falls** are 20m on, inside the narrow slot of an orange side canyon.

Retrace your steps back to camp.

Day 2: Cooina Camp to Wilpena Pound Resort

3½–4½ hours, 13.7km

Get an early start this morning and you will be mingling with kangaroos most of the way to Hill's Homestead.

Head south out of camp on a path that soon becomes a wider track, passing from stands of cypress pine and young eucalyptuses into open woodland dotted with large, unruly gums. Twenty minutes after passing through a large clearing, popular with kangaroos, the trail reaches a junction with the Heysen Trail. Continue straight on to **Hill's Homestead**, a stone settlers' home built in the early 1900s. There is a water tank and toilet here and the beginning of the trail to Wangara Lookouts, set on a gentle ridge running north from the homestead.

Cross the footbridge and join the road, passing a beautiful pool where Wilpena Creek briefly widens. Walk through **Pound Gap** to the 0.8km marker, where the track to Mt Ohlssen Bagge breaks away right. Take this track, crossing Wilpena Creek and continuing straight ahead into open country.

Avoid the right turns to the Drought Buster Trail and climb gradually through porcupine grass, casuarinas and grass trees. The trail zigzags round a series of weathered outcrops, working its way southeast along a wide shelf to a break in the summit escarpment, where it turns west. Once through the escarpment it doubles back to follow the cliff edge to the summit of **Mt Ohlssen Bagge** (940m), which has a great view into the Pound, including Edeowie Gorge and the upturned nose of St Mary Peak. To the north, directly below, you will see the resort and its solar power station.

Retrace your steps to the road, turn right and follow it into the resort.

HEYSEN HIGHLIGHT

Duration	3 days
Distance	61.5km
Difficulty	moderate
Start	Parachilna Gorge
Finish	Wilpena Pound Resort (p267)
Nearest Town	Hawker (p266)
Transport	shuttle service
Summary	Follow the northern end of the Heysen Trail to discover the Heysen and ABC Ranges and the best views of Wilpena Pound.

If you don't have a spare two months to walk the entire Heysen Trail (below), consider walking this northernmost section instead. This is where the trail is arguably at its most magnificent, following the curling Heysen and ABC Ranges, which run north from Wilpena Pound. It is also the section most fitting to a Heysen Trail experience – it was around here, particularly around the Aroona Valley, that Sir Hans Heysen, the painter for whom the trail is named, took much of his artistic inspiration.

There are reliable water sources at Aroona and Yanyanna Hut and usually at the vehicle camp sites near the trail. For information on water levels at other locations, check with rangers at Wilpena.

PLANNING When to Walk

The best season is around August to mid-October when you can expect fine, warm

HEYSEN TRAIL

Named after Sir Hans Heysen (1877–1968), a renowned painter of the Flinders Ranges and Mt Lofty areas, the Heysen Trail stretches for 1200km from Cape Jervis on the Fleurieu Peninsula to Parachilna Gorge in the Northern Flinders Ranges. It is one of the most daunting long-distance walks in the country. Even if you are able to walk 30km per day, you will be on the trail for 40 days, much of the time through semiarid country. Most people take around 60 days to walk the trail.

Sections of the trail that run through private property are closed from about November through to March, while trails through national and other parks close on days of Total Fire Ban. This is not a walk you want to tackle in summer anyhow – average January maximums in Hawker are around 34°C.

The Friends of the Heysen Trail (see p251) should be your first stop if considering a walk along the Heysen Trail – its website has some excellent planning material. Pick up also the two dedicated guidebooks to the trail, *Heysen Trail – Northern Guide* and *Heysen Trail – Southern Guide*. They feature brief descriptions of each section, have excellent maps and are ring-bound for ease of use on the trail.

conditions and a decent mat of wildflowers. Day 1 of the walk runs through private property and is closed between 1 November and 15 April and on days of Total Fire Ban.

Maps & Books

The series of maps dedicated to the Heysen Trail have been phased out and replaced by two books. *Heysen Trail – Northern Guide* covers the described route and includes accurate maps and mostly accurate elevation profiles. The alternative is to buy the Landsmap 1:50,000 topographic maps *Wilpena*, *Oraparinna* and *Blinman*, though they don't show the trail.

NEAREST TOWN & FACILITIES

See Hawker (p266) and Wilpena Pound Resort (p267).

Angorichina Tourist Village

Near the head of Parachilna Gorge, **Angorichina Tourist Village** (☎ 08-8648 4842; unpowered/powered sites per person \$9/10, dm from \$14, cabins \$70; 🚻 📶) is in the literal middle of nowhere, which is handy since that places it very near to the trailhead. Camp sites are shaly but have great views onto the ABC and Heysen Ranges. Mountain bikes can also be hired (\$45 per day) if you need to ride back to Wilpena to pick up your car.

GETTING TO/FROM THE WALK

The trailhead is at a car park inside Parachilna Gorge, 3.7km west from Angorichina Tourist Village.

Alpana Station (☎ 08-8648 4864; www.alpana-station.netfirms.com) operates a shuttle service for walkers between Wilpena Pound and Parachilna (\$140).

THE WALK

Day 1: Parachilna Gorge to Aroona Valley

4–4½ hours, 16.3km
From the car park, cross the stile and the wide bed of Parachilna Creek to a tributary threading south between the Heysen Range on your right (west) and the ABC Range on your left (east). After five minutes cross another stile, turning up the far (easternmost) stream of the creek; the closest stream leads to a fenced dead-end.

The trail switches between the soft creek bed and a vehicle track, but always follows the general course of the creek. Ringneck

WARNING

River red gums (which are ominously known as widow-makers) can unload branches without warning, so choose your tent site carefully, well clear of these large trees.

parrots are common here, as are shingle-back lizards.

After 45 minutes to one hour, climb above the creek, following a fence to a small saddle. Round the spur into Wild Dog Valley and a plain covered in cypress pine, dotted with wattle. Continuing south, views open out of the Heysen Range and Mt Bell, with its red escarpment and lush gorges.

The trail dips into Wild Dog Creek a couple of times but mostly stays on the vehicle track. About one hour from the saddle you reach a fence. Walk beside this, crossing the creek and climbing steeply onto the opposite bank. Crossing a stile, you will get a glimpse west into Crisp Gorge.

Descend back to the creek, crossing it several times on a narrow and faint (but well-marked) path before rejoining a vehicle track. This continues faithfully south, beside and along the creek to Taring Saddle (45 minutes from the stile). You have now climbed around 320m since leaving Parachilna Gorge, though it should have been almost imperceptible.

Begin an equally gentle descent into the Aroona Valley, pass the windmill at **Pigeon Bore** (where you can pump iron-tasting water) and head through open woodland for 1½ hours to an old farm gate. Cross a stile and turn east, walking 100m to **Aroona Lookout**, with views across the valley to Mt Hayward and Walkandi Peak. Also here are the foundations of **Aroona Homestead**, built in 1854 for the first pastoralist in the area, John Hayward.

Over the rise is the pug-and-pine **Aroona Hut**, where Hans Heysen stayed a number of times. The Aroona Valley camping ground, a fantastic, sprawling site at the foot of the ABC Range, is 100m east of the hut. It has toilets, drinking water and bins.

Day 2: Aroona Valley to Yanyanna Hut

6–7½ hours, 24km
Head east from the camping ground on a 4WD track, climbing into the ABC Range.

It is a gentle ascent mostly, though there is a steep pinch after about 800m. The track descends east from here to reach a junction with a walking trail. Take this path southeast (the 4WD track continues straight on for 1.8km to Red Hill Lookout, which has carbon-copy views to that ahead at Brachina Lookout).

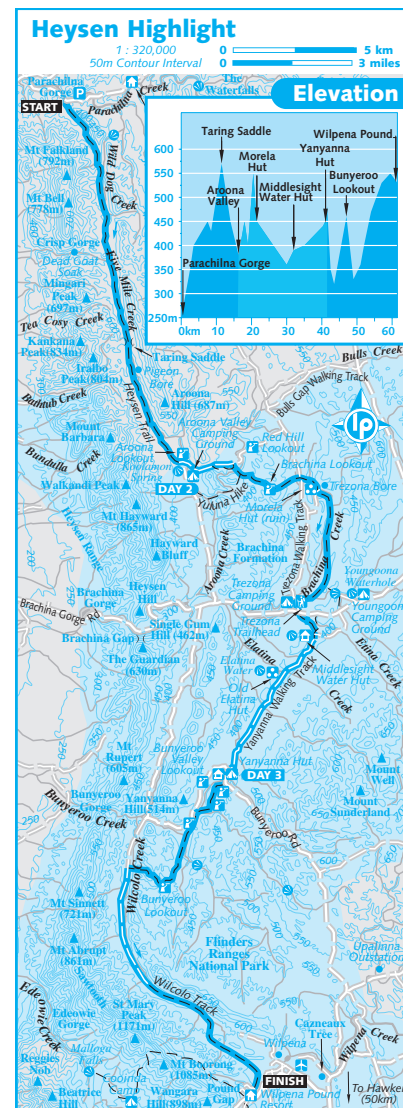
Cross a wide creek, then begin a sustained climb into the Brachina Formation. After 10 minutes you reach Yuluna Hike junction. Turn left, heading east along the spur to **Brachina Lookout**. From this fantastic vantage point you can see Wilpena Pound to the south and the long lines of the Heysen and ABC Ranges.

The trail drops off the back of the range, crosses a 4WD track and continues southeast. Crossing Brachina Creek several times you reach the ruins of **Morela Hut**, an outstation of Hayward's Aroona property, though now just a fireplace. Below the ruins you will see the Trezona Bore windmill but it has no accessible water supply.

Take the faint path (not the 4WD track) south, rounding the hillocks and then following Brachina Creek. After about 40 minutes you break from the creek, veering into open country that only becomes more open and hard-baked as you walk. As the pines disappear and the elegant wattles (looking most inelegant) become more predominant there are more good views of the Pound. The way can be confused by the many animal tracks that intersect the path – stay at a fairly constant height; the trails that head up the hills are the critters'.

Two hours from Brachina Lookout you come to a track junction with the Trezona Hike. Turn right and cross back towards Brachina Creek, which is now winding up to become one of the Flinders' most famous gorges. Within 30 minutes you reach a road. Turn right and walk 100m to the Trezona Trailhead (with water tank). If you fancy an early finish, Trezona camping ground stretches out ahead of you.

Turn left (south) at the trailhead and cross through grasslands and over Brachina Gorge Rd. Cutting southeast across the bends of a creek you reach Middlesight Water Hut after 30 minutes. The hut has four bunks, a water tank and the appearance of a power substation. In the creek beside the hut there is a permanent **spring**.



Turn right onto Yanyanna Walking Track (joining here the Mawson Trail, an 800km mountain-biking route from Adelaide to Blinman), swinging southwest. As the track zigzags through a few creeks you will see the forlorn ruin of **Old Elatina Hut** (¼ to 1½ hours from Trezona Trailhead) to the west. Just beyond, and betrayed by the greenery,

there is another **spring**, slightly upstream from where it is marked on maps.

After another 1¼ to 1½ hours you reach Bunyeroo Rd. Turn left and, 400m on, turn right into **Yanyanna Hut**, a corrugated-iron shelter with a water tank, floor space for mattresses and room outside to throw a few tents.

Day 3: Yanyanna Hut to Wilpena Pound Resort

5½–6¼ hours, 21.2km

The first 7km of this day is the most rugged of the walk, but it is a doddle thereafter. Start early and you will witness one of the Flinders' signature scenes: dawn over Bunyeroo Valley.

The trail leaves Yanyanna Hut from the western end of the stockyards. It is an ill-defined path at first but the markers are always visible as you climb the round peak south of the hut for a spectacular view of the Pound: St Mary Peak is central, with the Sawtooth running off its western shoulder, and Mt Abrupt as stark as its name suggests. Climb onto the next peak south (for an equally good view), then drop steeply west down a spur to **Bunyeroo Creek**. Turn left along the creek bed, which soon narrows to a crevice. As the valley widens again, stay in the creek bed until a sweeping S-bend. Here the trail takes to the right bank, climbing away and west onto a shelf above the creek. Follow the shelf to a creek confluence, crossing straight over to a track junction (1¼ to 1½ hours from Yanyanna Hut). Turn left and join a 4WD track after 100m.

Climb for 30 minutes along the flanks of some low hills, then veer right onto a foot track. This climbs more steeply for 400m to a crest where a side track to the left climbs further along the ridge to **Bunyeroo Lookout** for your closest look yet at the Pound.

Return to the crest, where the trail descends northwest, switching across ridges and slipping through a **gorge** in the ABC Range to emerge into the beautiful Wilcolo Valley (30 minutes from the lookout). Cross the Wilcolo Creek and continue straight on (ignoring a track to the right) to meet the Wilcolo Track. Turn left and follow the track for two to 2½ hours, passing beneath Mt Abrupt, St Mary Peak and Mt Boorong. At a gate (and a billboard-sized sign) turn

right onto a foot track, descending to a creek and then winding into a low run of hills.

The trail swings east, passing between several knolls. As the trail turns south again you get final views of the Pound, with Mt Ohlssen Bagge most prominent, and soon the trail intersects with a 4WD track. Turn left and walk 500m into the Wilpena Pound camping ground.

MORE WALKS

KANGAROO ISLAND Hanson Bay

The white-sand beach at Hanson Bay is one of the more idyllic locations on the rugged Kangaroo Island coast, and can be accessed along a walking trail from Kelly Hill Caves. The trail winds past Grassdale Lagoon and along South West River to emerge at the beach's eastern end. Return the same way to complete the 18km walk.

For information on the walk, see the DEH office in Kingscote or the Kelly Hill Caves visitor information centre. Carry Landsmap's 1:50,000 topographic map *Granger*.

Rocky River

For an enjoyable day walk encapsulating much that is great about Flinders Chase National Park, a circuit route out of Snake Lagoon is recommended. Walk to the cliff tops immediately south of the lagoon, then follow the coast north through Sandy Bay and around Cape Bedout to Breakneck River. Follow this inland to West Bay Track, returning along it to Snake Lagoon. Landsmap's 1:50,000 topographic map *Vennachar* covers the area.

FLINDERS RANGES Mt Remarkable

The walk to the summit of the Southern Flinders' standout peak used to begin from the Melrose showgrounds, but this track has been closed due to rock fall. The route now follows the Heysen Trail from the war memorial above Melrose (accessed from the road to the caravan park). The 12.2km return walk makes for a good day out, though a more appealing, two-day approach can be made from Mambray Creek, at the start of

the Mt Remarkable Gorges walk (p263). Following that route to Sugar Gum Lookout, it continues east on fire trails across the Black Range and onto the western slopes of Mt Remarkable. You can return to Mambray Creek the same way or, if you have spare wheels, you can make the shorter descent to Melrose. Landsmap's 1:50,000 topographic map *Melrose* covers both routes, though the trail from the war memorial isn't marked. The *Mount Remarkable National Park Summit Hike* brochure, obtainable from the Melrose Caravan Park, has a map sufficient for the first walk.

Dutchmans Stern

A prominent bluff 10km west of Quorn, named for its resemblance to an early Dutch sailing ship, the Dutchmans Stern's most striking feature is its quartzite escarpments. A half-day, 10.5km walk heads through she-oaks and sugar gums, and past the escarpments, to views that include Wilpena Pound and Mt Remarkable. You can rent out the old **homestead** (Sun-Thu \$70, Fri & Sat \$80) at the foot of the bluff; it sleeps up to 15 people. Landsmap's 1:50,000 topographic map *Port Augusta* covers the walk. Gulf Getaways buses from Port Augusta or Wilpena stop in Quorn but you will have to make your own way out to the peak.

Blinman Pools

Beginning at Angorichina Tourist Village (p270), a 12km return walk heads through cypress pines and river red gums to a pair of pools, and seasonal waterfalls, on Parachilna Creek (or Blinman Creek, depending on which side of Parachilna Gorge you live). Landsmap's 1:50,000 topographic map *Blinman* covers the area, though the trail isn't marked.

DEEP CREEK CONSERVATION PARK

Deep Creek is one of the most enticing walking destinations in easy reach of Adelaide. The 4500-hectare park runs along Fleurieu Peninsula's south coast, staring across to Kangaroo Island, and includes 20km of the Heysen Trail. From Aaron Creek picnic area you can follow the creek to the coast (11km) or connect to the Blowhole Beach track along the Heysen Trail. Trig Campground is the other major trailhead, offering short, challenging walks to Deep Creek Waterfall and Deep Creek Cove, or a circuit (10.4km) taking in both. Information is available at **park headquarters** (☎ 08-8598 0263). Landsmap's 1:50,000 topographic maps *Cape Jervis* and *Torrens Vale* cover the park. It is easily accessed from Adelaide, though Cape Jervis or Yankalilla make closer bases.

LINCOLN NATIONAL PARK Investigator Trail

A place of quiet coves, sheltered beaches and sheer cliffs, Lincoln National Park, 20km south of Port Lincoln, is also the location of one of South Australia's few viable long-distance trails. The Investigator Trail, named after Matthew Flinders' boat, winds 93km through the park, making a figure-eight loop that includes Pillie Lake, Cape Donington and Taylors Landing. Allow about five days. Information can be obtained at the Port Lincoln **DEH office** (☎ 8688 3111) or **visitor information centre** (☎ 1300 788 378; www.visitportlincoln.net). Pack the Landsmap 1:50,000 topographic map *Jussieu*. There are air and bus connections to Port Lincoln from Adelaide. Air connection is by **Regional Express** (Rex; ☎ 13 17 13; www.regionalexpress.com.au). Bus connection is by **Premier Staterliner** (☎ 8415 5555; www.premierstaterliner.com.au).

© Lonely Planet Publications. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'