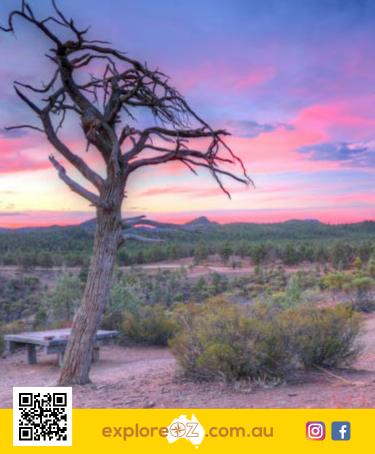


EXPLORE.

BIRDSVILLE TRACK - OODNADATTA TRACK - STRZELECKI TRACK STUART HIGHWAY - COOBER PEDY - SA/NT BORDER PORT AUGUSTA - LEIGH CREEK - ROXBY DOWNS



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Front Cover

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Flinders Ranges National Park (totajla via Shutterstock) **Graphic Design** Gap Road Design Co. **Maps** John Frith flat**EARTH**mapping.com.au **Editorial Assistance** Bonnie McLeod, Kate Foran Distribution Bonnie McLeod - outbacksa@absoluteme.com.au

Photo Credits

- (Photographers: Adam Bruzzone, Jason Charles Hill, Emile Ristevski) Bonnie McLeod Port Augusta Council Peter Taylor Shutterstock

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*All information dates and times mentioned are subject to change.

EXPLORE OUTBACK SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Embarking on an exploration of South Australia's outback unveils a trove of untamed wonders, where the call of adventure resonates amidst the rugged beauty of the Flinders Ranges. Here, nature weaves an epic tale of geological mastery, inviting you into ancient landscapes adorned with craggy peaks, meandering gorges and the raw essence of the outback.

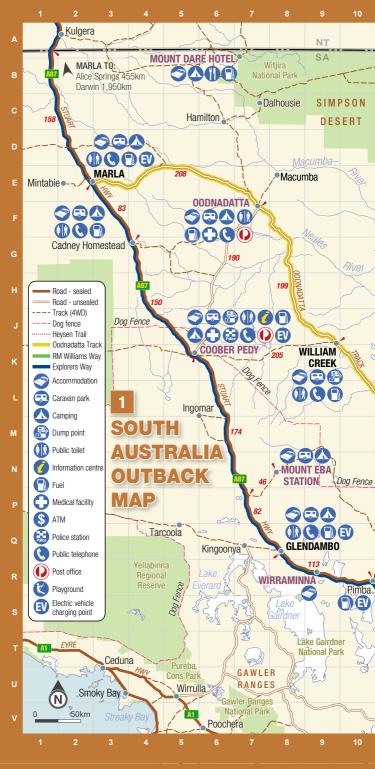
The Flinders Ranges, a glorious artist's palette of ochre tones and vivid contrasts, beckons the intrepid to unravel its secrets. This wild terrain boasts hidden treasures - Indigenous rock art, elusive wildlife, robust plantlife and panoramic vistas - that promise discoveries at every turn.

Driving alongside this majestic range, the Oodnadatta Track emerges as a passage into history, echoing with stories of resilience etched into the very fabric of the land. Following an ancient Aboriginal pathway, this route unveils a mosaic of cultural remnants, rusted relics of a bygone era, and the silent whispers of those who first negotiated this harsh, yet captivating landscape.

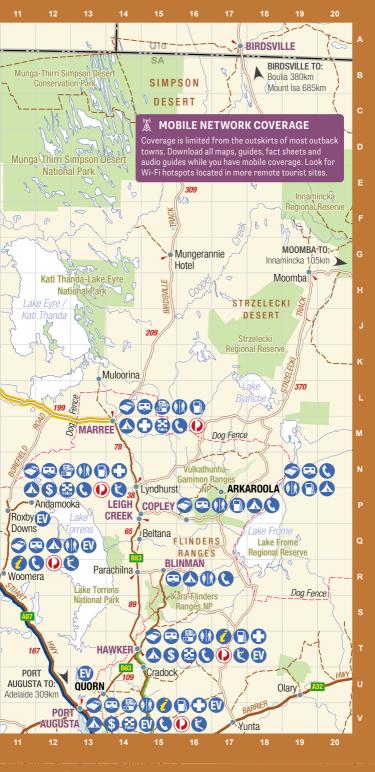
Parallel to this ancient historic trail, the Stuart Highway stands as a relatively modern frontier, weaving together tales of both exploration and connectivity. It leads adventurers through the beating heart of the outback, offering glimpses of remote oases, vast horizons and the spirit of those who dared to navigate through this boundless land.

Water is crucial to the story of this region. Ironically, early European explorers were searching for a much-rumoured inland sea, whereas instead, buried beneath the apparently dry landscape is the western fringe of the Great Artesian Basin, the largest and deepest body of artesian water in the world. Stretching over 1,700,000 square kilometres, or 22% of the entire Australian continent, this water supply has supported a vast and unique range of flora and fauna for millennia.

To explore South Australia's outback, to feel the red earth beneath your feet and witness the vast expanse of starlit skies, is to immerse yourself in a symphony of adventure. It's an invitation to traverse unmarked paths, discover hidden tales in weathered landscapes, and uncover the resilient spirit that thrives amidst nature's grandeur. Plan ahead and prepare yourself for the adventure of a lifetime through this sparsely populated wilderness. Here, in the heart of this delightfully untamed landscape, every step forward promises a revelation, making each expedition a memorable testament to the enduring allure of exploration. Visitor Information Centres abound with local and seasonal knowledge about everything to do and see as you travel this glorious region!



А





PORT AUGUSTA

Port Augusta is a regional hub, and a major tourism, shopping, government and commercial centre, offering a large range of pubs, restaurants, accommodation and tourism attractions. Known as "the crossroads of Australia", because roads to Sydney, Perth, Adelaide and Darwin all pass through the town, along with The Ghan and the Indian Pacific railways.

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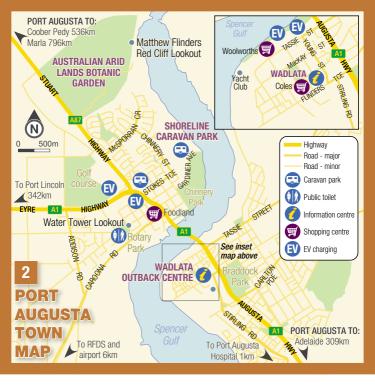


Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden www.aalbg.org

Wadlata Outback Centre www.wadlata.sa.gov.au



PortAugusta orrecover.



HISTORY

Originally named Curdnutta, the Aboriginal name meaning "place of drifting sand", Port Augusta is part of the Nukunu Barngarla country. Earliest records of Aboriginal people here date back to 40,000 years ago.

Founded by European settlers in 1852, Port Augusta was primarily a port, vital to the surrounding properties and also to the Flinders Ranges and beyond. Locally farmed wheat and wool were loaded onto ships and delivered around the world. Ships returned with tea and sugar, which were carted through the Pichi Richi Pass, sent to the Western Plain, east through Horrocks Pass, or on to the arid North & West.

Early 1860s, the port had its own troopers' barracks and brewery, and by the end of the 1860s, the town had a reliable water supply, through a pipeline from Woodundunga Springs in the Flinders Ranges; a completed Town Hall; and the first consignment of Camels had arrived from India.

In 1872 the Overland Telegraph Line linking South Australia with the rest of the world, via Port Darwin, was opened. The first power station was opened in 1954, supplied with coal from Leigh Creek. Playford B and the Northern Power Stations were closed in 2012 and 2016, respectively.

SHORELINE CARAVAN PARK



Superior waterfront views and excellent fishing with the Flinders Ranges as a spectacular backdrop! Close to town, with a wide range of accommodation options including Cabins, Powered & Unpowered Sites + DOG FRIENDLY - sites only

Gardiner Avenue, Port Augusta (08) 8642 2965



www.shorelinecaravanpark.com.au



4/5 DAY PORT AUGUSTA SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

DAY 3 15km return

Blanche Harbour

Aquatic Reserve

Botanic Garden

Red Cliff Lookout

Matthew Flinders

Andamooka

Australian Arid Lands

DAY 4/5 560km return 2WD 4WD

Woomera - Missile Park

Arid Recovery Reserve

2WD 4WD

DAY 1 10km return

- Wadlata Outback Centre -Visitor Information Centre
- Tunnel Of Time Railway Station -Curdnatta Artists Platform Gallery & Café
- RSL Military Memorabilia Museum

DAY 2 55km return 2WD 4WD

- Water Tower Lookout
- Pichi Richi Railway
- Yarta Purtli Cultural Centre & Art Gallery

BIRD WATCHING

The Australian Arid Lands Botanical Gardens are home to over 150 bird species. Among the residents are Honeyeaters, Redthroat, and Chirruping Wedgebills, alongside various other avian species thriving within the gardens. Banded stilts are often found in the coastial klagoons ©

STIRLING NORTH

8



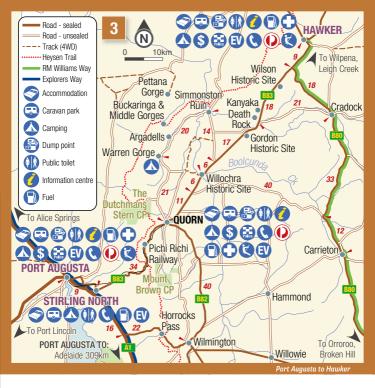
2WD 4WD

Merely 8kms from Port Augusta, Stirling North holds historical significance as a vital watering site for Indigenous communities and settlers alike since 1850. Today, it thrives as a tranquil residential area, blending historical charm with modern living.



DID YOU KNOW?

Port Augusta is a hub for "Fly in Fly out" (FIFO) operations to many mines in the north of the state. Annual passenger numbers are approximately 16,000 per year (Port Augusta City Council).



QUORN

In the late 1870s, the Nukunu people's local lands in Quorn were surveyed for the Port Augusta and Government Gums Railway, later named the Pichi Richi Railway. Originally the Great Northern Railway, it sought to tap into the anticipated grain harvest in the Flinders Ranges at Rawnsley Park Station. Quorn swiftly developed into a pivotal railhead and agricultural centre during the wheat boom, boasting three machinery workshops and two flour mills on Railway Terrace. The town derived its name from Quorndon in Leicestershire, UK.

Nowadays, Quorn is known for its picturesque Flinders Ranges views, cosy cafes and being the backdrop to many Australian films - Sunday Too Far Away, Gallipoli, The Shiralee, The Water Diviner, Tracks, Stan series The Tourist and Wolf Creek, to name a few and many attractions at its doorstep.



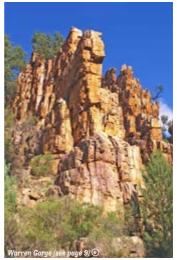


DEATH ROCK & KANYAKA WATERHOLE

Head north of Quorn, 33kms towards Hawker, and just beyond the Wirreanda Creek Bridge lies a significant Aboriginal Historic Site, Death Rock & Kanyaka Waterhole. The waterhole, named Kanyaka, translating to "Place of Stone" in Aboriginal language, remains a perennial spring-fed oasis. Adjacent to it, Death Rock, a towering seven-metre quartzite formation, promises an excellent photo moment with just a tenminute walk. This is a hidden gem to explore.

KANYAKA STATION RUINS

Located 30km south of Hawker on the Hawker-Quorn road, the Kanyaka Station ruins include a



woolshed (was one of the largest in the state and provided room for 24 blade shearers) and the main homestead building. The Great Northern Railway ran parallel to Kanyaka Station and the raised roadbed of the narrow gauge railway can still be seen. No fees apply. Unsealed dirt track – limited access – rocky terrain.

HAWKER

Hawker, the "Hub of the Flinders" sits at the crossroads connecting Port Augusta, Marree, Orroroo, Blinman, and Wilpena Pound. Originally home to the Banggarla Aboriginal people, it was named in 1880 after Commissioner of Public Works George Charles Hawker. Predominantly wheat farms in the 1880s, it later evolved into a bustling tourist centre amid severe droughts.

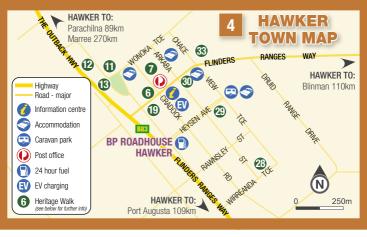
HAWKER ROADHOUSE BP



24 Hour Fuel, AdBlue, Auto Accessories, Firewood, Pet & Stock Feed, Hot Food, Snacks, Groceries, Coffee, Ice, Cold Drinks, Outdoor Dining & Clean Amenities

(08) 8648 4086 40 Elder Tce, Hawker SA 5434





- 6 JEFF MORGAN GALLERY
- **FORESTERS HALL** 1894
- 11 HAWKER RAILWAY DAM 1880
- HAWKER RAILWAY STATION 1880
- **WATERPIPE & STANDPIPE** 1880
- 19 POST OFFICE 1882
 - HAWKER AREA SCHOOL 1883
- PUG & PINE COTTAGE 1880
- 80 RED GUM JINKER early 1900s
- 33 WAR MEMORIAL 2014

For further information and more historic buildings to explore, scan here or pick up a copy from the Visitor Information Centre.



HISTORIC GUIDED WALK

Explore Hawker's township with a self-guided walk featuring 34 points of interest, showcasing a range of historic buildings from its early days. Grab a brochure at Teagues or the Hawker Visitor Information Centre for a family, pet, and wheelchair-friendly historical experience.

QUANDONGS!

Also known as wild peach, the Quandong is a tart tasting fruit rich in antioxidants and assorted nutrients and high in Vitamin C. Quandongs are endemic to Australia and thrive in the Central Deserts and Southern parts of Australia, especially South Australia.



MORALANA SCENIC DRIVE

23km North of Hawker on the main highway, the Moralana Scenic Drive takes you through Arkaba and Merna Mora Stations between Elder Range and Wilpena Pound for great scenery and views of the Flinders Ranges.

JARVIS HILL LOOKOUT

Located 7km west of Hawker, Jarvis Hill Lookout is a favoured spot, offering panoramic views of the township and its surrounding ranges.

This is favoured site away from major urban areas, contributing to minimal light pollution as the absence of artificial lights enhances the overall stargazing experience. The best times for stargazing can vary based on the time of year and weather conditions. Clear nights with minimal cloud cover provide the optimal conditions. Please note: the road is not suitable for caravans or towing.



5 DAY HAWKER suggested itineraries

Visitor Information Centre

Moralana Scenic Drive

2WD 4WD

2WD* 4WD

*2WD high clearance recommended check road cond<u>itions</u>

- DAY 3 180km return 2WD* 4WD
 - Restock at Hawker Roadhouse BP
 - Bunyeroo Gorge
 - Brachina Gorge

DAY 4 140km return 2WD* 4WD

- Skytrek Willow Springs Station stop over for 1-3+ days optional
- Hucks Lookout

 DAY 5 120km return
 2WD
 4WD

 Wilpena Pound day trip

DID YOU KNOW?

DAY 1 60km return

Heritage Walk

Jarvis Lookout

DAY 2 226km return

Arkaroo Rock

Blinman

Originally from South Africa, through Dorset Horn and Persian Blackhead crossbreeding, Dorper Sheep are well adapted for their suitability to arid climates, making them wellsuited for the challenging environmental conditions of the region. And they shed their wool so they don't need shearing!

12



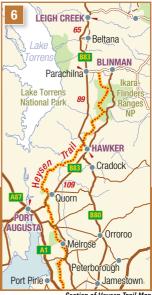
HEYSEN TRAIL

Covering 1,200kms in South Australia, The Heysen Trail traverses coastal regions, rugged gorges, historic towns, native bushland and so much more. Extending from Cape Jervis on the Fleurieu Peninsula, to Parachilna Gorge, these memorable trails cater for the casual day walker to the serious hiker enjoying the entire trail.



Scan the QR code to link on the best way to plan for your walk.

NATIONAL PARKS INFORMATION The National Parks and Wildlife Services SA offers all you need to know for exploring the outback. Book and pay online your entry fees, all before you leave home, as internet access can be limited.



Section of Heysen Trail Map

Dogs are not permitted in all National Parks. These rules are in place to protect native wildlife. Here are a few reasons why:

Risk for dogs: National parks regularly use poisonous ground baiting to target introduced species, which could be fatal to dogs.

Risk for wildlife: Native animals are vulnerable to diseases that dogs may carry and can easily be scared off by barking or the scents left by dogs.

The smell and sight of dogs are enough to cause these native animals stress, and in some cases, even abandon their babies.

Visit parks.sa.gov.au or call (08) 8204 1910 or Desert Parks information line on (08) 8648 5328.



half an hour difference applies all year.

Usually South Australia is 1.5 hours ahead of Perth in Western



BUNYEROO GORGE

Located 57 kms north, between Hawker & Blinman, the turnoff takes you through the Bunyeroo Valley and into southward stunning views of the Pound Range. Encounter diverse wildlife, designated picnic spots, campgrounds and picturesque walking trails. A Park Pass is required.

BRACHINA GORGE

BRACHINA GORGE has a unique aspect that is its significant geological diversity and preservation of ancient rock formations. Renowned for its geological significance, displaying a variety of colourful sedimentary layers and well-preserved fossils and offering a vivid chronicle of millions of years of Earth's history. This gorge serves as a geological time capsule, presenting a comprehensive cross-section of geological epochs within a relatively compact area, setting it apart as an educational and scientific treasure within the Flinders Ranges.

ANGORICHINA VILLAGE is nestled close to Brachina Gorge, offering an ideal gateway to explore the captivating walks in the area. It was originally established as the Angorichina Hostel by the Tubercular Soldiers Association in 1927, a sanatorium for returned servicemen of World War 1.

BRACHINA GORGE GEOLOGICAL TRAIL is a self-guided walk and a relatively short and easy stroll that takes you through the geological wonders of Brachina Gorge, unveiling its ancient rock formations and fossils while providing insights into the area's geological history. Approx 1 hour.

BRACHINA GORGE CREEK WALK is a shorter walk along the creek bed, allowing a closer look at the unique flora and fauna thriving in this rugged landscape. Approx 30 mins – 1 hour

HIKE TO SCENIC LOOKOUTS & RIDGETOP offering stunning vantage points and panoramic views of the gorge, showcasing its vibrant colours and towering cliffs. Signs detail the geological significance, Indigenous heritage, and unique ecological features of the area.

BIRD WATCHING

Species most commonly found in and around Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park and Wilpena Pound are the Brown Falcon, Dusky Woodswallow, Willie Wagtail, Brown Goshawk and Jacky Winter. 

WILPENA POUND

Wilpena Pound, cherished as Ikara by the Adnyamathanha people, signifies a 'meeting place.' For over 800 million years, this natural amphitheatre has stood as a stunning geological marvel. Legend speaks of its walls formed by two Akurra (giant serpents) from Yura Muda (Adnyamathanha Dreaming). These serpents, having consumed many, chose self-willed demise when too full. Today, Wilpena Pound captivates visitors with its ancient beauty, offering a glimpse into the profound cultural and geological heritage of the region.

At Wilpena Pound, explore hiking trails like the renowned St. Mary Peak, witness stunning landscapes, join guided tours unveiling Indigenous culture, and relish the unique flora and fauna.

HIKE TO ARKAROO ROCK & RAWNSLEY BLUFF

A significant cultural site for the Adnyamathanha people, the walk goes to a rock shelter with paintings that feature ochre and charcoal depicting the Yura Muda of Ikara. The trail is a 3.1km circuit and includes bridges and regular benches for sitting.

This hike at Rawnsley Park Station ascends the Wilpena Pound escarpment, offering views of the Pound from Wilpena Pound Lookout and vistas south and east to Chace Range. Starting from the station's carpark, the trail traces the creek bed, climbs the Bonney Sandstone foothills, steepening toward Lone Pine Lookout, then gently ascends toward Rawnsley Bluff. At the summit, enjoy the Pound's views and spot Rawnsley Bluff's 1858 dry stone survey cairn, crafted by Samuel Parry, though Rawnsley himself had falsely claimed to be a surveyor in 1850.

This is a challenging and steep trail. The right fork leads to Rawnsly bluff is a challenging 11kms hike - approx 5 hours.

To shorten this hike, on the escarpment, take the left fork for 600m to reach Wilpena Pound Lookout (4 hours return). see <u>www.walkingsa.org.au</u>



PETS are not permitted at Wilpena Pound, however there are dog sitting options offered at Rawnsley Park Station.

DID YOU KNOW?

Wilpena Pound covers 8 times the area of Uluru and is 300 metres higher.



ARKABA HILL LOOKOUT

An unparalleled panorama. Immerse yourself in sweeping views that unveil the rugged magnificence and vast expanses of stunning natural landscapes, inviting you to marvel at the raw beauty of this picturesque terrain.

HUCKS & STOKES HILL LOOKOUTS

Wherever you are driving, there are many lookouts & photo opportunities for lasting memories.

Nestled between Wilpena and Blinman, you'll find Hucks Lookout and Stokes Hill Lookout a little further north.



On offer are the 360 degree views of the ancient landscape of the Flinders Ranges and Wilpena Pound near Skytrek Willow Springs Station. While sunrise and sunset are highlights for all photographers, it's hard to take a shot you won't enjoy.

BIRD WATCHING

Short-Tailed Grasswren are often found around Stokes Hill Lookout, just north of Hawker.

WILLOW SPRINGS STATION, adjacent to Upalinna, dates back as an early Flinders Ranges pastoral lease. Acquired by the Reynolds family in 1952, this 70,000-acre sheep station, once named Appealinna under Joseph Wills in 1856, thrives as a renowned Station Stay.



Binman Mine Tour ①

BLINMAN

Blinman, founded upon the 1859 copper discovery, housed the Wheal Blinman Mine operational till 1907. South Australia's highest town exudes historic allure. Explore mine ruins, visit the cemetery, and relish heritage buildings. Discover the captivating history at the the Blinman Heritage Mine where tours unveil the mining legacy.

Witness the stunning landscapes on scenic drives or hikes, capturing the essence of the Flinders Ranges. Immerse in the local charm at the Blinman Hotel, serving as a cultural hub. Encounter remnants of the past, honouring the town's mining heritage, and admire the rugged beauty that characterises this quaint South Australian gem.



HAPPY CAMPER DAMPER

Damper is a traditional no-yeast bread in Australia made from 250g flour, ½ tsp salt, 175ml water and/or milk, 25g butter.

It's an Aussie tradition to bake this with dinner when you're camping in the outback. Or change the water/milk for beer!

Traditionally cooked in campfire ashes or in a cast iron camp oven.



BELTANA

Beltana is a State Heritage Listed town in Outback South Australia, 12km off the highway to Leigh Creek, on the banks of Warriota Creek. The town was surveyed in 1873, and the little township's population grew to 390 with 70 houses by 1883. A large number of stone buildings remain, and all buildings in Beltana are privately owned and occupied.

Beltana currently has a population of 35, and an active community of 65. Beltana has interpretive signage all throughout the town, which helps visitors understand the significance of the town in South Australia's development and the history of Adnyamathanha Aboriginal people.





DID YOU KNOW?

The Afghan Cameleers are honoured with a monument near the township of Beltana, on the Barndioota road. Beltana was the first Afghan settlement in Australia.

WARRAWEENA CONSERVATION PARK

In 1853 Warraweena became part of the Oratunga Run (now Moolooloo), and three years later copper was found in Warriota Creek. Not long after, the Sliding Rock Mine was opened and a smelter was built. The Sliding Rock Mine flooded in 1877, and was abandoned soon after, and from 1944 to 1955 the water from the mine shafts supplied the new coal mining town of Leigh Creek.

Warraweena has Shearers Quarters, Shepherds Hut or bush camping accommodation options. It is family friendly, and pet friendly, you just need to enquire beforehand.

WARRAWEENA STATION



"Amazing Flinders Wilderness" Stay with us for your next adventure. Various accommodation options and 4WD tracks showcasing rugged and stunning Flinders Ranges views.

warraweenastation@gmail.com 0457 165 504

www.warraweenastation.com.au



PARACHILNA

Established in 1876 when the railway held vital significance, Parachilna's allure has evolved dramatically over time. Parachilna comes from the Nukunu Aboriginal word '*patajilnda*', meaning '*place of peppermint gum trees*'. For accommodation and dining options, contact the hotel - availably is now limited. Embraced by the film industry, the area stars in various movies and TV series.

THE NILPENA EDIACARA NATIONAL PARK

Nestled in South Australia's northern Flinders Ranges, the Nilpena Ediacara National Park holds a profound geological legacy. Spanning 60,000 hectares, it preserves a pivotal chapter in Earth's history dating back over 550 million years.

The park is the epitome of ancient wonders, housing Ediacaran fossils etched in stone. These imprints, remnants of early life forms, provide a rare glimpse into a time when life on Earth was evolving. They reveal cryptic organisms that once thrived in ancient oceans, unveiling a crucial phase in time.

Vilpena Ediacara Fossil Tour @

Named after Nilpena Station,

a local sheep station enabling access, the park's guided tours offer immersive experiences. Led by knowledgeable guides, these tours unravel the mysteries of these ancient fossils, narrating their significance and the

context of Earth's early ecosystems.



At its core lies the Nilpena Fossil Site, a revered locale where exquisitely preserved fossils contribute to global scientific research, shedding light on Earth's ancient past.

Nilpena Ediacara National Park stands as a captivating testament to Earth's primordial past, inviting exploration into the origins and complexities of life on our planet.



LEIGH CREEK

8520000088000

Famous for its coal mining heritage, Leigh Creek was a government owned and company run town at the end of the Flinders Ranges. Coal was first discovered and mined in small amounts at Leigh Creek in 1888 and in the mid 1970's it was decided to move the original township 13km south, away from the coal seam. The first residents moved in 1980. By the end of the 1980's the population was around 2,500 people. In 2015, the closure of the Leigh Creek Coalfield caused a massive decline in the town.

Today, Leigh Creek is an important, peaceful stop-over for visitors to the region, with a large IGA supermarket, service station, health clinic and small dispensary, post office, caravan park, and pub with restaurant, accommodation and bottle shop.

Leigh Creek LPO & NewsXpress



Services Available:

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- Stationary
- Mobile Phone Sim Cards
- Magazina
- Magazines

Shop 11, Black Oak Drive Leigh Creek, SA, 5731

08 8675 2020 leighcreeklpo@outlook.com.au

Opening Hours 9am–2pm Monday–Friday (Closed Public Holidays)



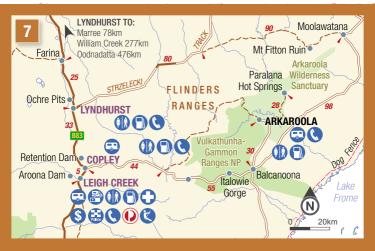
4 DAY LEIGH CREEK SUGGESTED ITINERARIES					
DAY 1	2WD 4WD	DAY 3	2WD 4WD		
 Breakfast at Outback Res Day trip to B Sliding Rock Shop & Stoc Post Office 8 	Leigh Creek ort eltana & Ruins k up at	Black Rock at Leigh Cre	Blue Sky exhibit eek Motors opley Bakery n - walks, icnic lunch		
DAY 2	2WD 4WD	DAY 4	2WD 4WD		
 Do Nilpena Ediacara Tour Stop at historic Parachilna Fettlers Cottages 					
	S DOUTES				

PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTES

A Public Access Route (PAR) allows authorised entry through South Australian pastoral leases under the Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989. Covering 650kms and 24 routes, these unimproved dirt tracks facilitate four-wheel drive travel, granting access to Conservation Parks and Historic Sites without lessee permission. Other station tracks are private.

STATION STAYS

Experience authentic Australian living in the South Australian outback with Station Stays SA. Choose from over 25 stations and pastoral properties, from bush camping to elegant homesteads, and explore unique landscapes and lifestyles. Station Stays SA was formed in 2009 & has been developing steadily throughout Outback SA and the Flinders Ranges since, with the vision of making station stays a "top-of-mind experience for visitors to the Flinders and Outback".





COPLEY

900000

Nestled 5km north of Leigh Creek, Copley boasts a rich history and serves as a gateway to the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary and Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park. Established officially in 1891, the town honours William Copley, a Legislative Council member, through its name.

Today, Copley remains a friendly outpost, featuring attractions like the award-winning Copley Bush Bakery & Quandong Café, known for its culinary delights. The town's proximity to the old Leigh Creek Railway Station enhances its appeal as a stopover. Visitors can explore the historical charm of Copley and it offers a great base for embarking on adventures.

RETENTION DAM, situated approximately 5km from Copley, attracts locals and visitors alike for activities such as swimming, kayaking, fishing, paddleboarding, and bird watching.

BIRD WATCHING

In 2018, a group of 12 experienced birders identified 69 bird species in two days, including Little Black Cormorants, Black Swans, Splendid Fairywren, Horsfields Bronze-Cuckoo, Australian White Ibis, a solitary, Yellow-Billed Spoonbill, and various rare and threatened bird species.

BIRD WATCHING

Grey-fronted Honeyeaters, Inland Thornbills, Wedge-Tailed Eagles, Red-capped Robins, Southern Whitefaces, Crested Bellbirds and occasionally Chirruping Wedgebills.





THE COPLEY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION actively contributes to the development and well-being of the local community. Through initiatives, events, and collaboration, the association works to enhance the local

environment and promote a vibrant and connected regional community.



The association has received funding for

its three-stage Botanic Garden project. This will involve the planting of a native food garden that will later link to a nursery in which these plants will be propagated in the future. The Botanic Garden is located at the front of town next to the Tourist Bay, the Community Garden & Quandong Orchard is located behind Cookes & next to the Highway on the Copley side.

COOKES OUTBACK MOTORS



Roadside assistance, towing for vehicles/caravans, bog recoveries, tyre repairs/replacement, automotive mechanical/electrical repairs. RAA service provider, Repco agent, Hydraulic Hose Replacements **17 Railway Terrace West, Copley SA 5732** (08) 8675 2618



5 DAY COPLEY SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

SUGGESTED ITINERARIE

DAY 1 125kms return 2WD 4WD

- Breakfast at Copley Bakery
- 🕨 Farina
- Lyndhurst Ochre Cliffs
- Talc Alf
- Dinner at Copley Pub

DAY 2 20kms return 2WD* 4WD

- Retention Dam swimming, bird watching, kayaking, fishing, paddleboarding
- Explore Telford Siding ruins north of dam
- Explore Community Garden
- Historic Copley Cemetery

*2WD high clearance recommended check road conditions

DAY 3 115kms return 2WD* 4WD

- Iga Warta Tours and Interpretive signage
- Dinner at Leigh Creek Outback Resort

DAY 4 230kms return 2WD 4WD

- Day trip to Marree
- Tom Kruse Museum at pub
- Lunch at Marree Hotel
- Ask a local how to find the Copley Indian
- Sunset at Summit Tank Lookout*

DAY 5 260kms return 2WD* 4WD

Arkaroola - Day trip for scenic drive and walks - dirt road



ADNYAMATHANHA PEOPLE

Local Aboriginal people of the Northern Flinders Ranges are made up of different clans; Wailpi, Kuyani, Yadliaura, Vanggarla and Biladappa. They are better understood today as family groups and have always lived together as Adnyamathanha. Recent archaeological evidence identifies that the Adnyamathanha people have lived in the region for at least 49,000 years. In Adnyamathanha Ngawarla (language) 'Adnya' means 'rock' and 'mathanha' means 'people' or 'group of people'.

Like most other First Nations groups, the Adnyamathanha people were pushed off their land by the European pastoralist settlers in the mid to late 1800s, leading to many conflicts. Some retained strong links to their language and culture amid colonisation and would gather at the campsite and ration depot at Mount Serle Station (Atuwarapanha), a significant cultural site, to speak in their languages and pass on their lore. Once rations ended, they relocated to Ram Paddock Gate (Minerawuta) during the 1920s. The Nepabunna Mission was established by the United Aborigines Mission in 1931, with most of the residents of Ram Paddock moving there. Some worked at R. M. Williams's workshop nearby, where Williams developed his trademark boots and saddlery, helping to build his business in the first two years of its existence.



ADNYAMATHANHA WORDS

ADNYAMATHANHA WORD	WORD MEANING & PRONOUNCIATION	
Adnyamathanha	Rock people AD-NYA-MAT-NA	
Yura Muda	Stories and culture	
Yarta	Land/country YAR-TA	
Awi	Water/rain AH-WI	
Urdlu	Kangaroo URD-LOO	
Urti	Quandong UR-TEE	
lga	Native Orange <i>I-GA</i>	
Minaka	Eye MIN-AR-KA	
Maiaka	Bush Banana MY-AKKA	

CAMPING & CARAVAN ETIQUETTE

NOISE - Keep your music and noise to a level that is polite for your space only. If you are in a family park, which most are, children will always be children. Be tolerant.

PETS - You may love your pets, but others may not. Always have your animals on a lead, fenced in, or appropriately caged. Always pick up waste after your animal.

WATER - Check with each park if there is a fee for filling tanks due to drought. Some places are grateful for your grey water on the ground, others not so. Check first. **AMENITIES** - Never empty your toilet cassette in the ablution block of any public toilet. Always clean up after yourself in shared bathrooms. Think of others.

SPEED LIMITS - Stick to the speed limit. You are on holidays. Slow down.

MIND YOUR SPACE - Don't cut through other people's sites, especially under their awnings, just to save a few steps. Be neighbourly.

RUBBISH - Dispose of your rubbish in bins provided. Otherwise dispose of it at your next opportunity.

ARKAROOLA

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The Adnyamathanha Aboriginal people were the first people of Arkaroola, and their Yura Muda (Adnyamathanha Dreamtime) says that Arkaroo, a large serpent, drank Lake Frome dry, then crawled up into the mountains, his movements created Arkaroola Creek and the waterholes.

Arkaroola, once known as Mount Painter country, was dry, rugged land, very challenging to the sheep-grazing efforts in the 1850s onwards. By 1930, the country was afflicted with feral vermin (rabbits, dingoes, wild camels & goats) and most pastoral leases had been abandoned. In 1936, the pioneering Greenwood family of Mt Serle, were offered the leasehold, providing they rid the vermin. In 1937, the Greenwood lease officially became Arkaroola.

BIRD WATCHING

Grey-fronted Honeyeaters, Inland Thornbills, Wedge-Tailed Eagles, Red-capped Robins, Southern Whitefaces, Crested Bellbirds and occasionally Chirruping Wedgebills.



LYNDHURST

The Kuyani Aboriginal people were the original inhabitants of the area. Gazetted in 1896, Lyndhurst sits at the southern end of the Strzelecki Track and was once a station on the original Great Northern Railway route, which was planned to go to Darwin, but only ever reached Alice Springs. The famous passenger train, The Ghan, used to stop in on its way through to Alice Springs. Cattle were droved to Lyndhurst to be loaded onto trains and transported to Adelaide

TALC ALF

Talc Alf, is a Dutch born self taught talc sculptor, artist, poet, and bush philosopher who unique creations have carved himself a place in outback art and modern history.

Carving from talc from Mount Fitton Talc Mine visitors can enjoy Alf sharing his perspectives of history in a family friendly setting.

Tele Alt

90A00

OCHRE CLIFFS

The Ochre Cliffs, a short 2kms drive from the town, is the site of an Aboriginal mine that provided colours to be used in dyes and paints.

Turn off onto a gravel road which leads you to the ochre cliffs. The colours of the ochre are vibrant from reds to yellow and white.

There are information boards explaining the cultural importance of these ochre pits.

MURTEE JOHNNY'S GRAVE

Murtee Johnny (c.1988-1977) was the last surviving member of the Yantruwanta/Yandruwandha of the Strzelecki Track, many of whom perished during the 1920s flu pandemic. He was an accomplished stockman who worked at Mount Hopeless.

MOUNT LYNDHURST IMPORTANT BIRD AREA

Located on Mount Lyndhurst Station, it is a well-known bird watching site for Chestnutbreasted Whitefaces. The tiny bird measures only 10cm in length and is seen mostly in pairs or small groups in stony plains and hills from Leigh Creek to Oodnadatta.

hestnut-breasted Whiteface 🤇



FARINA

Originally known as 'Government Gums', Farina began life as a government dug well in 1870. Almost concealed in saltbush scrub, the well is a short walk from the eastern end of the campground. A Police trooper was posted here in 1876 and the town was proclaimed in 1878. A post office and telegraph station were later followed by two hotels, an underground bakery, a bank, two breweries, a general store, churches, blacksmiths and a school. The town became a railhead of the Great Northern Railway in 1882 and peaked at a population of about 600.

After an unseasonable wet season during the 1880s, this inspired optimism. Farina became an important focal point for remote stations, attracting Afghan Cameleers, Aboriginal communities, Chinese and European settlers, all drawn by copper & silver discoveries. Draughts, wars, and railway expansions resulted in Farina falling into ruins.

Today the town is abandoned except for 6 weeks of the year, when the Farina Restoration Group mobilise around 150 volunteers, to restore the historic stone buildings. The Bakery opens from May-July selling delightful, assorted treats.

FUN FACT

Gool Mahomet (1865-1950), an Afghan cameleer, immigrated to Australia around 1890 from Kabul Afghanistan. He worked in Central Australia, carting copper from Blinman and held various jobs. Mahomet married Miriam Bebe in 1907. He leased Mulgaria Station in 1935, eventually buying it in 1939, transitioning to training racehorses.

After Gool died in 1950, his son Sallay later managed the station before moving to Alice Springs in 1962 and establishing Mahomet Trucking Company.

ebe Miriam's headstone 💿

WARNING

When travelling with pets in the Outback, always be aware that 1080 baits are laid for feral animal control. Keep your dog on a lead at all times and the use of a muzzle are suggestions that may help. Birds can carry baits to other regions so don't think baits are only where you see the warning signs.



OODNADATTA TRACK

Travelling along the Oodnadatta Track, visitors might perceive vast waterless plains, yet beneath lies the immense Great Artesian Basin. Emerging along the track's edges, the basin surfaces, forming oasis springs that attract diverse life, industries, and tourists. Despite minimal rainfall, ranging from 180 mm in the north to 115 mm in the south, and scorching temperatures, exceeding 50°C in summer, the region sustains cyclical rainfall patterns, impacting plant and animal life.

The track traverses traditional lands of the Kuyani, Arabana, and Arrernte Aboriginal groups, with Antikirinya people now residing. A string of springs, culturally significant and navigated for generations, defines this landscape, emphasizing survival over the straightest route. Aboriginal knowledge, passed down through ages, intertwines with exploration and settlement, embodying the essence of resilience and adaptability in the arid Australian outback.

GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN

The Great Artesian Basin (GAB) is one of the largest groundwater basins in the world, underlying 22% of the Australian continent. Groundwater naturally discharges from the basin via diffuse upward leakage and spring discharge. Pumping and discharge from bores over the last 100 years has also added a significant level of discharge. Recharge occurs around the margins of the basin with most of the current recharge occurs on the eastern margin. The western margin currently receives very little local recharge and only partial recharge from the east. However, the basin is vast and it is this reserve of water that maintains the springs through these dry periods.

LANDFORMS

The Oodnadatta Track showcases diverse landforms: floodouts, watercourses, vast gibber plains and sand dunes with features like swales. It includes the salt lakes of Lake William and the significant Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre. Rocky outcrops, such as the Peake and Denison Ranges, Willouran Ranges, and landmarks like Hermit and Pigeon Hill at Bopeechee, add further variety. Each land type supports distinct vegetation, while small depressions known as gilgais, ranging from a few metres to 10 metres, exhibit denser, more diverse ground cover due to water and nutrient accumulation.

PLANTS

28

Throughout the year, unpredictable rains transform landscapes along springs. Late autumn and winter paint the vast countryside with vibrant colours-dunes adorned with yellow, white, and pink daisies, regal birdflowers, and blue cattle bushes. Summer rains unveil Sturt's desert pea and Swainsona peas in hues of orange, white, pink, and purple. Roadside areas flaunt groundsel and yellow Senecio daisies, amid purple verbine and pink hollyhocks. Diverse plant life thrives amid erratic climate, varied landforms, and soil types-from clays to sandy loams, limestone to saline soils. Germination timing relies on temperature, rainfall, and unique adaptations, revealing plants' resilience. Strategies like deep tap roots and leaf shedding enable many species to endure dry periods. A gibber plain is covered with small, rounded rock fragments called gibbers. These rocks result from weathering and erosion, contributing to the distinctive, rocky terrain of arid regions.

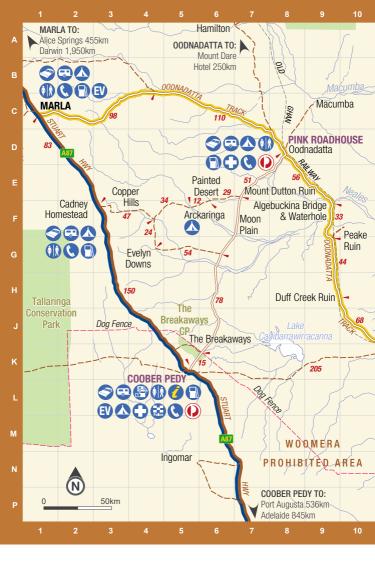
Algebuckina Bridge offers an historical retreat for campers to enjoy the echoes of bygone eras. Built in the late 19th century for the Ghan Railway, the iconic bridge stands as a testament to the pioneering past.

At Curdimurka, explore the many ruins and signage of the Great Northern Railway.

> Anna Creek Station, established in 1863, is Australia's largest cattle station and covers around 24,000 sq kms. One of the first places to drill for water in the GAB, this region is rich in pastoral history. Many of the early wells that were sunk were unsuitable.

> > To the north is Eringa Station and one of Sir Sidney Kidman's first property he owned outright in 1899. He became the largest landholder in the country.

38km south of William Creek, Strangways Springs is a large mound springs complex, nearly two square kilometres, consisting of pastoral station ruins and cemetery. Explore three walks to extinct springs and the ruins.

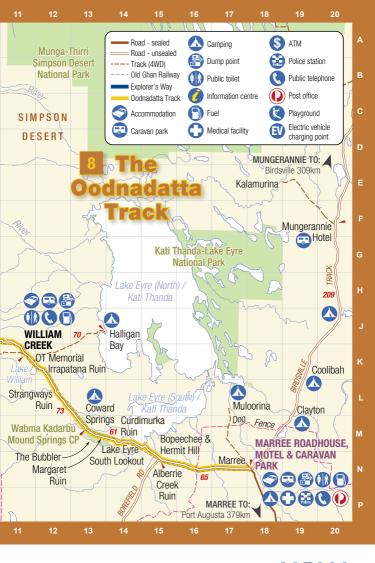


THE PAINTED DESERT

The Painted Desert reveals vibrant ochre yellow, oxide red and deep brown, contrasting with jet blacks and clean white hills in stunning rocky outcrops. Over 80 million years old, it's 100 km return, southwest of Oodnadatta or unhook your caravan at Cadney Roadhouse on the Stuart Highway, 180 km round trip.







WILLIAM CREEK

Furnished with its own power supply, cabins, and a caravan park, the Heritage Listed Hotel in William Creek is historically significant in South Australia. As Australia's tiniest town with a population of 6, it stands closest to Lake Eyre North. The town is a pivotal stop on the Coober Pedy Oodnadatta Mail Run, serving as a vital hub in the state's railway history, with twice-weekly service.

STRANGWAYS SPRINGS

38km south of William Creek, Strangways Springs is a large mound springs complex, the area is nearly two square kilometres. The site consists of pastoral station ruins and cemetery; there are three walks to explore extinct springs and the ruins.

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MARREE

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Marree is a remote town on the edge of the outback, and yet accessible on bitumen all the way from Adelaide.

Marree represents a cultural blend of Afghan cameleers, European settlers, and local Aboriginal communities—the Guyani, Kuyani, Dieri, and Arabana people.

Positioned at the crossroads of the Oodnadatta and Birdsville Tracks, it borders the Simpson Desert, Sturt's Stony Desert, Strzelecki Desert, and the immense saltpan, Lake Eyre, creating a unique convergence of landscapes.

Marree Roadhouse & Motel

Motel Accommodation

 Modern, Air-Conditioned, Self Contained Ensuite Rooms for your comfort

Dog Friendly!

Roadhouse & Caravan Park

- Meals Fuel Gas Bottles Coffee
- General Supplies Takeaway Food

(08) 8675 8360 | marreemotel@gmail.com www.marreelakeeyreflights.com.au

4/5 DAY MARREE suggested itineraries

DAY 1

2WD 4WD

- Early flight over Marree Man & Lake Eyre
- Self guided walk around town
- Oogamous Homestead
- Old Ghan Railway
- Replica of Australia's first Mosque
- Tom Kruse & John McDouall Stuart Museums
- Lake Harry Ruins (formerly largest date palm plantation in Australia)



*2WD high clearance recommended check road conditions

4WD

DAY 2 240km return

- Stock up at Marree Roadhouse
- Alberrie Creek Lookout
- Bopeechee & Hermit Hill
- Lake Eyre South Lookout

DAY 3/4

2WD 4WD

 Witchelina Nature Reserve in The Willouran Ranges Camping optional - fees apply

DAY 4/5 75km return 2WD 4WD

 Muloorina Camping optional - fees apply



ARID AIR

With 360 views of the Simpson Desert, Channel Country, Salt Lakes & National Parks, Arid Air specialises in scenic flights and tours, run from Marree. Each tour is personalised from the moment you book, with interactive commentary from experienced pilots who have comprehensive knowledge of the region. Lake Eyre Scenic Flights range from 1 hour, to full day tours. Arid Air also offers 6 Day Overnight Tours departing Adelaide.

There are many scenic flights & tours available from Marree, over Lake Eyre, the Marree Man or further up to Birdsville for lunch or to the Dalhousie Hot Springs for a swim, the Simpson Desert and lunch at Mt Dare. No visit to Outback SA is complete without a scenic flight with Arid Air over the iconic Lake Eyre, which is spectacular in flood or dry.

MARREE LAKE EYRE SCENIC FLIGHTS



SCENIC FLIGHTS available from 1.5hrs, to a full day and overnight tour packages.

- Lake Eyre South & North
- Marree Man

ARID

- Birdsville & Innamincka
- Simpson Desert
- Dalhousie Springs & Mt Dare

ARID AIR - will get you there ...

Scenic flight bookings aridair.com.au ph: 0488 444 544





KATI THANDA-LAKE EYRE

Lake Eyre, also known as Kati Thanda, stands as Australia's largest salt lake, with a catchment area spanning three states - New South Wales, South Australia, and Queensland - along with the Northern Territory.

The north lake covers a massive 144km by 77km expanse and holds the distinction of being the lowest point in Australia, situated at 15.2 metres below sea level. Its southern counterpart measures 64km by 24km. While floodwaters grace the lake approximately every eight years, on average, it has reached full capacity only three times in the last 160 years.

This unique and expansive landscape is not only a natural wonder but also a place of deep cultural significance. The Arabana and Dieri peoples have called the region around Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre home for thousands of years. For these Indigenous communities, the lake and its surroundings are not just geographical features but hold profound cultural and spiritual importance. The area is rich in stories, traditions, and connections to the land.

The lake, under water, provides a spectacular and welcoming haven for thousands of waterbirds and provides an important breeding location for birds which are salt-tolerant. Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre is an endorheic lake, or sink lake, meaning that the accumulated salt-water lacking an outlet, simply evaporates in the warm outback climate, leaving behind heavy salt deposits on the lake floor.



COWARD SPRINGS

130kms north of Marree, Coward Springs holds an historical artesian spring, vital for 19th-century Afghan cameleers and early explorers. Today, it features a museum showcasing the region's heritage, including relics from the Ghan railway. The springs, once a lifeline, now offer a unique glimpse into Australia's pioneering past.





OODNADATTA

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Nestled 1043km north of Adelaide, Oodnadatta, rests along the historic Overland Telegraph route, tracing ancient Aboriginal trade routes. A pivotal point for camel caravans, it supplied remote desert communities. From 1891, Oodnadatta thrived as a key station on the Central Australian Railway, ceasing operations in 1981. Notably, the Pink Roadhouse, a vibrant pink landmark in the town centre, offers a range of services.

RAILWAY MUSEUM

Listed on the South Australian heritage register, the family friendly old railway station is now set up as a museum, showcasing the history of the area. This was the most northern terminal of the Central Australian Railway until the line was extended another 450km northwest to Alice Springs in 1929. Pick up the key from the Roadhouse.



4 DAY OODNADATTA suggested itineraries

4WD

*2WD high clearance recommended check road conditions

DAY 1

Railway Mus	

- Kids Playground & Bike Track
- Visit the remnants of the Overland Telegraph Line
- Transcontinental Hotel visit

DAY 2 115km return	4WD
Algebuckina Bridge d	lay trip
DAY 3 160km return	4WD

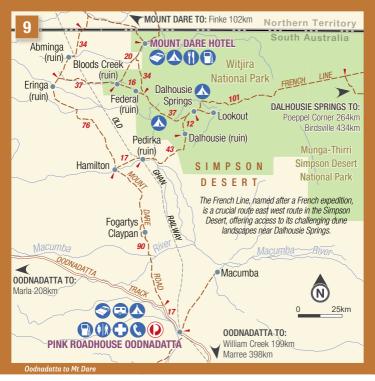
DAY 3 160km return 4 Painted Desert Day Trip

DAY 4 430km return

Dalhousie Hot Springs

Mt Dare Hotel optional over night

4WD



DALHOUSIE SPRINGS

Used by Aboriginal people for thousands of years as a source of food, shelter and medicine, Dalhousie Springs is located approximately 70kms south of Mt Dare Hotel. Visitors can swim in the main springs warm waters, which stays between 38-43 degrees Celcius. There are some easy walking tracks at Dalhousie Springs - one is around the main spring and another goes out to Kingfisher Springs. The springs are home to unique species of fish such as the Lake Eyre Hardy-Head and the Dalhousie Goby Fish.

Dalhousie Springs is part of Witjira National Park, a Parks Pass is required to visit.

MARLA

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Situated on the Stuart Highway, 1080km from Adelaide and located at the junction with the northern end of the Oodnadatta Track.





STRZELECKI TRACK

Starting at Lyndhurst, 576km north of Adelaide, the Strzelecki Track was pioneered by drover, stockman and cattle thief, Harry Redford, who was droving 1000 stolen cattle down from outback Queensland to Adelaide in 1870. The track takes you from Lyndhurst, through the Strzelecki Desert to Innamincka and today is a well traversed track, which services the Cooper Basin's Moomba gasfield.

The Strzelecki Track is linked to the Birdsville Track via the Walkers Crossing Track, which is closed during the summer months and only passable in dry weather.

INNAMINCKA

The Yandruwandha people, Innamincka's traditional owners, named it 'Yini mingka,' meaning 'your waterhole.' Charles Sturt (1845) and Augustus Gregory (1858) explored the area before the tragic Burke and Wills expedition of 1860-61 further highlighted Innamincka's historical significance.

BIRDSVILLE TRACK

Located 1167km north of Adelaide and traversing three deserts over 517km, the Birdsville Track is a well known outback road and passes through one of the driest parts of Australia. Originally an old stock route that traces back to the 1860s that was used to move cattle from Queensland to Marree, it is now a graded dirt road that is popular with tourists, and also utilised by cattle trucks carrying livestock. The three deserts that the track passes through are the Strzelecki Desert, Sturt's Stony Desert, and Tirari Desert.

MUNGERANNIE

Mungerannie on the Birdsville Track provides essential services for travellers amidst the outback terrain. The area boasts diverse birdlife, adding a natural charm to the remote and arid surroundings.

BIRDSVILLE

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Located only 14km over the Queensland border and 519km North of Marree, Birdsville lies at the start or end of the Birdsville Track, in the beautiful Channel Country on the eastern edge of the Simpson Desert. On Wongkanguru land, Birdsville's Indigenous roots and a history shaped by British settlers in the 1870s. Initially thriving, it declined after tolls were abolished post-Federation, later rebounding with cattle and tourism. Today, Birdsville remains an iconic outback town, blending history, isolation, and evolving industries.



8000







Strzelecki & Birdsville Tracks



MARREE TO PIMBA VIA BOREFIELD RD

Embark on a thrilling adventure from Marree to Andamooka, Roxby Downs, and Woomera via the Borefield Road. Travel vast expanses of the outback, where rugged landscapes unfold, revealing untamed beauty. Read the information on Arid Recovery, a wildlife reserve passionate about seeing threatened species survive.

ANDAMOOKA

852000440**0**6

A captivating outback town, Andamooka is renowned for its opal-rich landscapes and unique mining heritage, inviting visitors to explore the vivid beauty hidden within the South Australian desert.

ROXBY DOWNS

Situated on the traditional lands of the Kokatha people, Roxby Downs was purpose built - much like Leigh Creek was earlier - in the late 1980's. Built to support the Olympic Dam Mne Sit, 13kms north of the town and has a population of between 4000 and 5000 with moder

The Roxby Downs township has strategically aligned its tourist focus with **ARID RECOVERY**, an initiative dedicated to restoring and conserving the unique arid ecosystem, providing visitors with an opportunity to engage in environmental education and wildlife conservation efforts in the region.



WOOMERA

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Historically significant for its role as a missile test range during the Cold War, Woomera now attracts tourists with its rich aerospace heritage, offering a captivating blend of historical sites and educational exhibits.

PIMBA

8080040C

A small town located along the Stuart Highway, Pimba serves as a vital roadside stop for travellers and offers adventure regardless of what direction you decide to explore.

DID YOU KNOW?

John McDouall Stuart achieved the first successful south-to-north crossing of the Australian continent in 1862. Leading multiple expeditions, Stuart significantly contributed to the exploration and mapping of Australia's inland regions, opening up new territories and laying the groundwork for further development of the continent's geography.

STUART HIGHWAY

The Stuart Higway, stretching from Port Augusta to beyond the Northern Territory border, traverses a diverse and historically rich landscape. Originally a rough track forged by explorer John McDouall Stuart in the 1860s, it evolved into a crucial road connecting South Australia to the Northern Territory. The route played a pivotal role during World War II as a strategic supply line. Over the years, advancements in infrastructure transformed it into a vital national highway, witnessing changes in landscape from arid plains and salt pans to desert terrain.

The highway passes through iconic landmarks such as Woomera and Coober Pedy, each with its own historical significance. The landscape morphs from the Flinders Ranges through vast expanses of red earth and ancient mountain ranges, showcasing Australia's unique outback beauty. The Stuart Highway stands as a testament to the nation's development, offering travellers not only a route to traverse but also a journey through time and diverse landscapes.

MT. EBA STATION

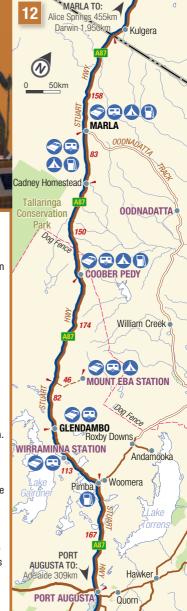


Are you looking for a unique outback experience? Why not journey out to Mt Eba Station, the Centre of South Australia. Offering accommodation, welcoming caravans, campers and light aircrafts to venture around the station and enjoy the serenity and tranquility of station life.

(08) 86 728 930



www.mtebastation.com.au



EXPLORERS WAY

Explorers Way, stretching over 3,000 km, begins in Adelaide, South Australia, and concludes in Darwin, Northern Territory. This iconic route unfolds a tapestry of history, culture, and diverse landscapes. Tracing the Flinders Ranges, it delves into Aboriginal heritage, showcasing ancient rock art and sacred sites. Travellers encounter charming outback towns, each with its unique history, from the mining hub of Coober Pedy to the historic Overland Telegraph Station in Alice Springs. The route encapsulates the explorations of early pioneers, offering a journey through Australia's heart that blends natural wonders, Indigenous richness, and the resilience of those who shaped this vast terrain.

RM WILLIAMS WAY

RM Williams Way is a 900 km drive in South Australia that pays homage to the iconic bushman RM Williams. This scenic route, from Morgan to the Flinders Ranges, traverses diverse landscapes, revealing the heart of outback Australia. The journey unfolds the history of RM Williams, showcasing his impact on bush culture. Travellers encounter picturesque riverbanks, rugged outback terrain, and historic sites. Highlights include the town of Hawker, the Flinders Ranges National Park, and landscapes that inspired Williams himself. RM Williams Way is a tribute to a legendary figure, offering a glimpse into the rich history and natural beauty of the Australian outback.

Stuart Highway 💿



ROAD TRIPS - DRIVE TIPS

- South Australia has vast stretches of variable speed and road surfaces.
- Default speed limits: 50 kms/hr in built-up areas and 100 kms/hr elsewhere.
- Road signs or license conditions may alter these limits.
- Reduce to a safe slower speed on unsealed roads.
- Do not drive on 4WD tracks with a 2WD vehicle.
- If you are not accustomed to driving long distances or in extreme heat, driver's fatigue can occur, so stop and rest frequently at regular rest stops available.
- Many national roads travel through national parks and stations. Avoid driving at dusk or dawn or even at night as stock/wildlife may cross the roads. Do not swerve suddenly and safely reduce your speed.



OUTBACK SA AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

τοων	AVE. MAX TEMP	AVE. MIN TEMP	MEAN YEARLY RAINFALL
Port Augusta	34	20	222mm
Quorn	34	20	331.7mm
Hawker	34	20	304.2mm
Blinman	36	22	307mm
Leigh Creek	36	22	217.3mm
Arkaroola	36	22	254.7mm
Marree	38	23	146.1mm
William Creek	37	24	158mm
Oodnadatta	39	24	173.2mm
Marla	37	23	234.4mm
Coober Pedy	37	22	146.3mm
Andamooka	35	20	189.2mm
Roxby Downs	35	20	146.8mm
Woomera	36	21	183.7mm

UNCONVENTIONAL COMPASS

Hold your watch horizontal to the ground, point the 12 towards the sun.

Mid-point between the 12 and hour hand indicates the northsouth line.





COOBER PEDY

Explore and enjoy the unique surroundings - filled with colour, the perennial hope of discovery and the chance of great riches. Founded by human perseverance and indomitable personalities, Coober Pedy has outlived its wild-west history to share its multicultural community with all visitors.

Situated halfway between Adelaide and Alice Springs on the Stuart Highway, the remote town of Coober Pedy is world renowned for opal mining, steeped in mineral wealth and local history.

Opal was first discovered in 1915, with an influx of prospectors from all around the world. Forty different nationalities still live within this community today.



At least 20 different retailers display the incredible beauty and variety of opal found locally. Museums & tours throughout the area feature both the mining history and the modern methods used.

View underground churches, sculpted from the beautiful sandstone, picturesque landscapes and horizons as far as the eye can see. Where better to escape the heat and dust than staying underground, where the temperature is naturally cool and the peaceful ambience ensures a good night's sleep. It's a tourism experience you can't have anywhere else in the world – you will want to stay more than one night.

TRY YOUR LUCK NOODLING!

Noodling involves searching for opal pieces in mullock mounds, often overlooked by miners. Locals and visitors enjoy this activity, with many stores in Coober Pedy offering small noodling pits for a chance to find opals or souvenirs.

MULTI AWARD WINNING COOBER PEDY UNDERGROUND COMPLEX

UNDERGROUND CINEMA Feature Film - "Story of the Opal"

200

FREE HERITAGE MUSEUM & SA Museum fossil displays

GUIDED TOURS

into an original hand dug 1920s opal mine and experience Underground Living

OPAL SHOP

Fine Opal Stones and Jewellery with an international guarantee. TAX FREE TO OVERSEAS VISITORS

ABORIGINAL INTERPRETIVE CENTRE



14 HUTCHISON STREET, COOBER PEDY SA 5723 Phone: (08) 8672 5288 umoonaopalmine.com.au

TYPES OF OPAL

GREY/WHITE/MILKY OPAL

Found in Coober Pedy, Mintabie, Andamooka, White Cliffs. The base colour is light, white or a greyish colour. Considered the lowest grade of the Precious Opal.

CRYSTAL OPAL

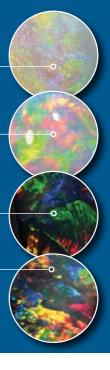
Found in the SA Opal Fields. The base colour is transparent or very translucent. The quality and value increases as range, brightness, and size of the colour play inside the stone improves.

BLACK OPAL

Predominantly Lightning Ridge in NSW. The body colouring is a smoky to very dark grey, to black. The darker, the higher the value.

BOULDER OPAL

Found in the inland QLD Fields. Layers of Opal are naturally formed in narrow cavities in ironstone – often giving the opal an uneven surface, or a mix of opal and ironstone on the surface.



ANCIENT HISTORY

Around 150 million years ago, the area that is now Coober Pedy's opal fields was an inland sea. Over millennia, the sea water receded and with the lowering of the underground water, silica solutions trapped in the cavities and faults underground became the opals found here today.

ABORIGINAL HISTORY

Over tens of thousands of years, the Indigenous people of the region, the Anangu, called Antakirinya, Matu-Yankunytjatjara, Arabana or Kokatha, walked this desert environment. They were nomadic hunter gatherers, travelling in search of food and water supplies and for their important traditional ceremonies. The present-day name of Coober Pedy is named 'Umoona' in their language, meaning 'long life'. This is also the name used for a common tree in the region, the mulga tree.

RECENT HISTORY

The first European explorer to visit the area was John McDouall Stuart in 1858. It wasn't until 1915 that opal was first discovered by 14 year old Will Hutchison, while with his father's gold prospecting party. Until 1920 this was called Stuart Range Opal Field, when a new name was decided on, so a post office could be established. Stuart Range was deemed unsuitable as it was too similar to Stewart Range also in South Australia. The new name was established by the Progress Committee, made up of local miners and Coober Pedy was chosen. The name is an Aboriginal term - Kupa Piti, meaning 'white man in a hole' derived from Anangu words.

Shafts were dug originally by hand with basic tools like pick and shovel, hand windlass and bucket. Just like the revered opals themselves, the town's treasures are all found underground. Treat yourself to visiting the range of churches beneath the earth's crust and enjoy a unique overnight stay in the underground town!



THE COOBER PEDY EXPERIENCE MOTEL is located entirely underground and sculpted from an original opal mine, and is filled with natural history and wonder. It offers guests to Coober Pedy an authentic taste of the iconic underground lifestyle. This flexible accommodation in Coober Pedy offers 16 spacious ensuite guest rooms with ability to accommodate families, individuals, couples, groups, and business

travellers alike. Enjoy the peaceful ambiance as you walk through the hallways and tunnels featuring seams of opals, hidden caves and historical images of the building and surrounding areas. There is plenty to do in a day, with trips including the Painted Desert, the Oodnadatta Loop, Kanku-Breakaways, Moon Plains & William Creek and Lake Eyre.



HISTORY MEETS LUXURY UNDERGROUND





- Underground rooms with ensuite
- Coffee shop
- Gift shop
- TV & free Wi-Fi

- Pet friendly
- Wheelchair accessible
- BBQ
- Laundry

Reception open 7:30am – 6pm 08 8672 5777 • cooberpedyexperience.com.au Crowders Gully Road, Coober Pedy SA 5723



UMOONA OPAL MINE & MUSEUM provides an award-winning tourist attraction in Coober Pedy, South Australia - the opal capital of the world. The largest underground complex in town, Umoona Opal Mine provides the complete tourism package with a unique and informative experience for visitors of all ages. Located on Coober Pedy's main road, Umoona is 850 kilometres north of Adelaide and 680 kilometres south of Alice Springs, making it ideally situated for outback tour stopovers. Indeed, for many thousands of tourists each year, Umoona is a member of the Jewellers Association of Australia, the Opal Association of Australia, and the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC).



JOHNS PIZZA BAR Come in for a steak and a cold beer; or choose from our range of pastas, with a nice bottle of red from our selection of great Australian wines; or try one of our piping-hot pizzas with an ice cold glass of Coke; or simply come in for an espresso coffee and a slice of one of our delicious cakes.









THE BREAKAWAYS

Only 32 kms north of Coober Pedy, the turn off to the Kanku - Breakaways Conservation Park, takes you along a formed dirt road to the registered Aboriginal-owned heritage site. The park consists of colourful low hills that have 'broken away' from the Stuart Range, hence their name The Breakaways. There are 2 lookout points to enjoy, highlighting the large open spaces and colourful hills, once a vast inland sea.

With fascinating formations such as Papa Kutjara in the east, many parts of this region have been used by TV advertising and blockbuster film; including Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome, Ground Zero, and more recently Mortal Kombat.

This is a photographer's delight at any time of day and especially at sunset. The 70 km round trip, taking you east along the hills, includes the famous 2m high Dog Fence - a 5,300 km wire barrier stretching along 3 states, protecting the sheep country in the south from the native dingo.

Permits are required - Purchase from the Visitor information Centre or Underground Bookstore. \$10 per vehicle or \$8 concession.

DON'T SPEED-

DON'T RISK IT!

COOBER PEDY TO

4-6 DAY Creammented recommended check read conditions SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

DAY 1 2WD* 4WD **GLENDAMBO 254kms** Visitor Information Centre **HOW FAST -**Dingo Fence - Moon Plain **HOW LONG -**🕨 Kanku/The Breakaways HOW MUCH! **DAY 2** 2WD 4WD 110 km per hour = Explore the Town - Shopping - stock up 2 hours+20 mins Underground Churches Book shop - Galleries - Cafes 120 km per hour -Heritage Trail Self Guided save 10 mins + \$450 + points DAY 3 2WD 4WD Tour of Mine - Museums 130 km per hour -(guided or self guided) save 20 mins + Multicultural Dining options \$850 + points **DAY 4.5.6** 4WD The Mail Run **Painted Desert** William Creek

COOBER PEDY HERITAGE TRAIL

The Coober Pedy Historical Society maintains and preserves a collection of over 4,000 documents & photos which are recognised as being of national significance. Volunteers of this organisation are to be commended. Interpretive signs at most sites help you to explore the Coober Pedy Heritage Trail. *See Map 13, page 48/49*

- **OLD CEMETERY** first burial in 1921 0 **OLD TIMERS MINE & DUGOUT*** 2 An original 1916 hand-dug mine 3 **OLD WATER TANK & WATER RESERVE** 1922 important story JEWELLER'S SHOP OPAL FIELD Fossicking and history 4 OLD POLICE LOCKUP, OLD DUGOUT AND UMOONA 5 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY Coober Pedy's first buildings **MEDICAL SERVICES HISTORY** from early days 6 **GEORGE BURFOD'S DUGOUT** 7 (a private dwelling) State Heritage listed 8 **COOBER PEDY CHURCHES** Heritage listed underground **UNDERGROUND POST OFFICE & OLD DUGOUTS** 9 on Post Office Hill - First of its kind THE BIG FLAT OPAL First mined in 1915 10 **COOBER PEDY AREA SCHOOL** beginning in 1960 1 JOHN MCDOUALL STUART MONUMENT 12 First European explorer
- WILL HUTCHISON MONUMENT The first opal found in 1915

Visitors must have permission before entering Umoona Community *Entry fee applies



The **OLD TIMERS MINE** is a unique experience the whole family will enjoy. Take the self-guided tour at your own pace and time and explore an underground opal mine from 1916.



COME LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

- MINE FROM 1916
- MUSEUM
- UNDERGROUND HOME
- NOODLING PITS
- OPAL SHOP

Crowders Gully Road Coober Pedy Open 7 days · 9am - 5pm Ph: 08 8672 5555 www.oldtimersmine.com.au nicko@oldtimersmine.com.au



OUTBACK SOUTH AUSTRALIA EVENTS

Copley & Districts Gymkhana & Motokhana

MARCH 2025

William Creek Gymkhana & Motokhana 15 March

APRIL 2025

Coober Pedy Gem Trade Show 18-20 April

Copley & Districts Gymkhana & Motokhana 12 April

Quorn Bronco Branding 26 April

MAY 2025

Oodnadatta Gymkhana & Motokhana 10 May

Hawker Races & Cabaret 31 May

JUNE 2025

Coober Pedy Opal Festival 13 June

Great Kanku-Breakaways Bolt 8 June

Marree Camel Cup 28 June

Mindfull Aus Pichi Richi Marathon 29 June

JULY 2025

City of Port Augusta Cup 6 July

Oodnadatta Bronco Branding 12 July

AUGUST 2025

Port Augusta WharFest 2 August

Coober Pedy Gymkhana & Motokhana 9 August

Andamooka Annual Camp Oven Cookout August

Port Augusta Golf Classic August

Quorn Cup 16 August

Flinders Ranges Photography Tour Hawker 17 August

Innamincka Bush Sprints & Horse and Bike Gymkhana 29-31 August



SEPT/OCT 2025

A Brush with Art various locations within the Flinders Ranges, September & October

Quorn Quandong Festival 25-26 Oct

DECEMBER 2025

SA Arid Lands Pastoral Field Day December



The Quorn Quandong Festival honours bush foods, flavours and the rich history of the Quandong (Kurti) in our region.

Hosting stalls laden with Quandong products, interactive cooking demonstrations, art exhibitions and cultural performances.

quandongfestival@gmail.com



FIND THE WONDER WORD!

Find every work in the list below and discover the Wonder Words to find the slogan

ADNYAMATHANHA COOBER PEDY AFGHANS COPLEY ANCIENT CULTURE AROONA DORPER BRACHINA GORGE EMU BUS FAR CAMPING FIRE CARAVAN FLINDERS							FLY GAP KANGAROO KANYAKA LAKE EYRE LOAD OODNADATTA OPAL					OUTBACK PROBY ROAD SALTLAKE SELFDRIVE TRACK WILPENA				
G	Е	Е	G	R	0	G	A	Ν	Т	Н	С	A	R	В		
Α	С	0	0	В	Е	R	Р	E	D	Υ	Х	Р	L	0		
Р	L	Α	В	Е	Е	S	R	Е	D	Ν	Т	L	F	К		
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Е	Α	0	S	A	U	F	Т	A	Α	С	К	К	U	Α		
R	D	0	S	L	С	L	Т	0	R	Α	Α	Α	Т	R		
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SPOTTO!

Keep a look out for these Spotto items as you travel and when you see one, shout out "Spotto" and name your item. • Keep your own tally • 5 points for the first one to spot a Spotto

- EMU Extra 5 points for 1 or more chicks
- Jet trail in sky
- Motorbike on dirt road
- Orange 4WD car
- Double wheel caravan

- Wedge Tail Eagle
- Camel road sign
- Bunny shaped cloud
- Lost seagull
- Rainbow
- Haystacks

ADVERTISERS

BUSINESS	PAGE	NEAREST TOWN
Arid Air	33	Marree
Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden	6	Port Augusta
Cookes Outback Motors	23	Copley
Copley Bush Bakery & Caravan Park	22	Copley
Corral Coffee	9	Quorn
Hawker Roadhouse BP	10	Hawker
Johns Pizza Bar	47	Coober Pedy
Leigh Creek Post Office	20	Leigh Creek
Marree Motel & Roadhouse	32	Marree
Mt Dare Hotel	36	Oodnadatta
Mt Eba Station	40	Coober Pedy
Old Timers Mine	51	Coober Pedy
Pink Roadhouse & Caravan Park	35	Oodnadatta
Shoreline Caravan Park	7	Port Augusta
Skytrek Willow Springs	16	Hawker
Umoona Opal Mine & Museum	43	Coober Pedy
Wadlata Outback Centre	<i>i</i> 6	Port Augusta
Warraweena Station	18	Beltana
Wirraminna Station Accommodation	41	Pimba



4WD Ridgetop Tour 🛈

EMERGENCY RADIO BROADCASTS

Official warnings from emergency agencies can be heard regularly on ABC Local Radio stations. Ph: 13 99 94 www.abc.net.au/emergency

WATER

Due to the harsh conditions, large quantities of water are not always available for free in outback towns. It is recommended that you carry 10ltrs per person per day.

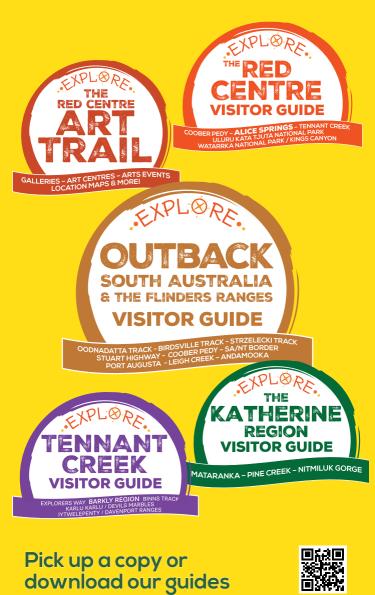
IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency - Police - Ambulance - Fire Police Assistance Road Conditions Vehicle Breakdowns Royal Automobile Association of SA (RAA) Desert Park Pass Bushfire Information Hotline Royal Flying Doctor Service RFDS HF Radio: 4

000 13 14 44 1300 361 033 13 11 A) (08) 8202 4600 (08) 8648 5328 1300 362 361 1800 733 772 4010kHz / 6890kHz / 8165kHz

											LA	ANDAMODKA	ALICE SPRINGS	ADELAIDE	DISTANCE GRID Measured in kms Approximate distances only
											ARKAROOLA	IDAI		1531	ALICE SPRINGS
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							COOBER PEDY	BROKEN HILI	BIRDSVILLE	B	150	451	1441	514	BLINMAN
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			1.0			ENDAMBO	BB	H	1219	537	710	700	1640	516	BROKEN HILL
				KA	8	EN	50	980	893	589	611	479	689	847	COOBER PEDY
			EK	INNAMINGKA	HAWKER	GL	254	726	922	503	640	225	940	593	GLENDAMBO
		LS	LEIGH CREEK	NAN	H	393	647	454	791	110	254	391	1331	404	HAWKER
ТС.,		LYNDHURST	ЮН	N	657	947	1626	649	413	599	452	780	2312	1163	INNAMINCKA
	-	IDI	H	502	155	546	800	609	636	97	128	354	1486	559	LEIGH CREEK
8	MARLA	LΥ	38	464	193	483	454	647	598	135	157	316	1140	597	LYNDHURST
MARREE	M	686	724	1150	877	486	234	1212	1125	989	843	711	454	1079	MARLA
M	607	80	118	544	273	404	375	727	519	215	237	237	1061	677	MARREE
410	212	490	528	954	683	449	194	1137	928	624	646	489	666	1042	OODNADATTA
184	966	104	66	568	89	480	734	543	702	31	194	480	1420	493	PARACHILNA
379	772	300	261	1061	107	286	540	441	898	216	389	285	1226	306	PORT AUGUSTA
339	811	259	221	723	66	325	579	437	857	176	349	324	1265	333	QUORN
208	683	288	326	752	365	197	451	697	727	474	444	32	1137	564	ROXBY DOWNS
210	399	289	327	753	482	411	167	936	728	423	446	288	853	822	WILLIAM CREEK
328	932	248	210	712	55	446	700	507	846	64	208	446	1386	459	WILPENA POUND
286	607	365	441	829	286	121	375	621	804	396	569	107	1061	488	WOOMERA

Wherever you go, take us with you



explore 🕀 Z.com.au