

Dreaming Trails

The southern Fleurieu Peninsula consists of two main Aboriginal communities, the Kaurna and Ngarrindjeri. Dreaming stories from both communities illustrate a deep spiritual connection to the land.

The creation of land formations on the Fleurieu Peninsula are illustrated through dreaming stories. The Kaurna dreaming story of Tjilbruke highlights the creation of the western side of the Fleurieu Peninsula.

The Ngarrindjeri focus on Ngurunderi, who while on his journey, created many landforms which we can now see along the River Murray and the south coast.

These landforms were made while he was travelling along the river and coastline in search of his two wives, who had run away from him. Below is an abstract of the Ngurunderi dreaming:

The two women hurriedly walked down Tunkallilla Beach to Tjirbuk (Blowhole Beach). From there they could see Kangaroo Island, the spirit land. At that time Kangaroo Island was almost connected to the mainland and it was possible to walk across. Picking up all their belongings, consisting of nets (for fish) and mats (to carry food in) they began to walk across.

*In the meantime, Ngurunderi hurried up to Tjirbuk, and could see them going across. When they had reached the centre, Ngurunderi called out in a voice of thunder, saying:
"Pink'ul'un'urn'pranukum" (fall waters-you).
Immediately the waters (sea) began to come in from the west, wave upon wave, driving the two women from their course. So rough, so strong were the tempestuous waves, that the women tried to turn their faces towards the mainland. At last,*

fighting against waves no more, they were carried into the open sea, taking their net baskets with them. But again, as the water grew calmer, they tried to swim to Tunkallilla Beach, but could not and were at last drowned. They were, however, metamorphosed into Meralong (The Pages or the Two Sisters, opposite Tunkallilla Beach on the mainland, or north-east of Cape Willoughby on Kangaroo Island).

The Pages islands can be seen from Tapanappa Lookout.

The larger rock or island is the elder sister, who with her basket tried to struggle on but could not. The next in size is the younger sister, who threw off the basket she carried. She was drowned a little before her sister. While the smallest rock, a little in front of the latter, is the basket she cast off. Ngurunderi then went across to Kangaroo Island (how is not told) and walked down the coast towards the west until he reached Kingscote, where he created a huge casuarina and rested under its shady boughs.

He then walked down to the western end of Kangaroo Island, and threw his remaining spear out into the sea. Where it struck the water, rocks emerged immediately. He walked onto these rocks to where his spear was, and from there dived into the sea and quickly out. This action was to cleanse himself of his old life. He then went up to 'Waieruwar' (the sky).

Kangaroo Island can be seen from the Cobbler Hill Picnic Area.

The National Parks Code

Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

- n leave your pets at home
- n take your rubbish with you
- n observe fire restrictions (1 November - 30 April)
- n conserve natural habitat by using liquid fuel or gas stoves
- n camp only in designated areas
- n respect geological or heritage sites
- n keep our wildlife wild – do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants
- n keep to defined vehicle tracks and walking trails
- n generators, chainsaws and firearms are not permitted
- n be considerate of other park users.

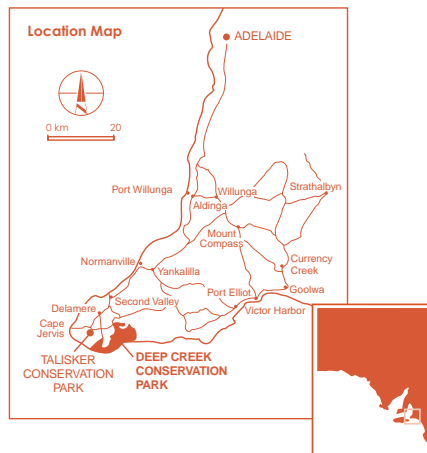
Thank you for leaving the bush in its natural state for the enjoyment of others.



Walk Safely

Be prepared when bushwalking:

- n wear sturdy shoes, hat and sunscreen
- n carry sufficient drinking water
- n keep to the defined walking trail and follow the markers
- n inform a responsible person of your proposed route and expected time of return
- n weather conditions can change quickly, ensure you have appropriate wet weather clothing.



Local emergency numbers

Police (08) 8558 2014
Ambulance 000
CFS fire calls only (08) 8558 2000

For further information contact:

Department for Environment and Heritage
Deep Creek Conservation Park
C/- Post Office DELAMERE SA 5204

Phone (08) 8598 0263
Fax (08) 8598 0269

www.environment.sa.gov.au

Cottage Accommodation
Southern Ocean Retreats
Phone (08) 8598 4169

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Bushwalking in Deep Creek Conservation Park



Government
of South Australia



Bushwalking in Deep Creek Conservation Park

Deep Creek Conservation Park is located 100 kilometres south-west of Adelaide on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

It preserves the largest portion of remaining natural vegetation on the Fleurieu Peninsula, and is home to healthy populations of Western Grey Kangaroos, Short-beaked Echidnas, Southern Brown Bandicoots and Southern Emu-wrens.

The park provides some of the most scenic and challenging bushwalking areas in the state. An extensive network of trails allows walkers to explore a variety of fascinating natural environments. Due to the park's rugged nature, a careful, responsible and well-planned approach to bushwalking is essential for your safety.



Park fees

Fees apply for entering and camping at Deep Creek Conservation Park. On-the-spot fines apply for failing to purchase and display a valid permit.

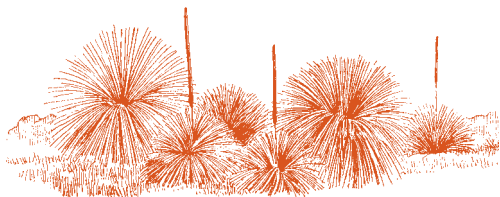
Park entry passes can be obtained from self-registration stations at the park headquarters, Boat Harbor, Tapanappa, Trig and Cobbler Hill entrances.

Camping permits are available at all campgrounds.



Short-beaked Echidna
Tachyglossus aculeatus

Walks, Hikes and Treks



Walks are recognised as short trails of generally less than three kilometres.

Hikes require some experience and a reasonable fitness level, as some sections can be quite steep and uneven.

Treks usually require an overnight stay, and demand a high level of fitness and experience.

Extended treks can be made within Deep Creek Conservation Park by linking up existing walking trails, fire access tracks and main roads. Detailed topographic maps should be used, as these treks can be unmarked in some areas and can incorporate a number of different trails.

Please discuss your desired route with a ranger prior to commencing a trek. School groups and trekkers must fill in a **Trip Intentions** form.

Select your trail

	Trail		Time*	Distance	Trail Notes
WALK EASY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> even surfaced trail suitable for small children 	Stringybark Loop Walk		30 minutes return	1.5 km return	Tall shady stringybark trees and delicate ferns
	Forest Circuit Walk		1 hour return	2.6 km return	Relaxing stroll through stringybark forest
	Spring Wildflower Walk		2.5 hours return	5 km return	Colourful wildflower display September to November
HIKE MODERATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some moderate inclines irregular surface with loose, uneven base average level of fitness 	Deep Creek Waterfall Hike from Tent Rock Road		2 hours return	3.5 km return	Year-round waterfall in a beautiful gully
	Deep Creek Cove Hike from Trig Picnic Area		2.5 hours return	6.4 km return	Spectacular ocean views to secluded cove at mouth of creek
	Aaron Creek Circuit Hike		3 hours return	5.5 km return	Cascading waterfall in winter
HIKE HARD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some steep inclines irregular surface with loose, uneven base average level of fitness some hiking experience 	Deep Creek Cove Hike from Tapanappa Lookout		2.5 hours return	3.4 km return	Rugged coastal hike with spectacular views of Deep Creek
	Blowhole Beach Hike		2.5 hours return	3 km return	Beautiful sandy cove
	Deep Creek Waterfall Hike from Tapanappa Lookout		3 hours return	6 km return	Excellent views of Deep Creek
	Blowhole Beach - Cobbler Hill Marrano Creek Hike		3.5 hours return	6.7 km return	Breathtaking coastal views
	Boat Harbor Circuit Hike		4 hours return	7.3 km return	Rocky cove at the mouth of Boat Harbor Creek
	Aaron Creek Hike		6 hours return	11 km return	Follows creek to coast, stunning views
	Deep Creek Circuit Hike		7 hours return	10.4 km return	Combining rugged coastal and spectacular creek views

* Time is generously estimated from an average walking speed varying from 1.2 to 3 km per hour - allow extra time for resting and sightseeing.

Stringybark Loop Walk

Walk under shade while admiring tall trees and delicate ferns in this remnant stringybark forest. These stringybark trees are some of the oldest in South Australia and provide ideal nesting hollows for a variety of birds, including the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo. Picnic tables are provided near the beginning of the trail. An ideal family walk.

Access: This walk begins at the picnic ground near park headquarters on Tapanappa Road.

Forest Circuit Walk

Ideal for an afternoon walk, while camping at Stringybark Campground. The circuit walk meanders its way through beautiful, tall stringybark forest. The highlights of this walk are the fogs that settle among the trees during the autumn months.

Access: This walk begins from Stringybark Campground, opposite site 11. The campground is located on the road leading to park headquarters.

Spring Wildflower Walk

This is a perfect stroll for botanists, or if you just enjoy admiring nature's colours. A beautiful array of wildflowers can be seen on display during late winter to early spring throughout this regenerating sclerophyll forest. A Deep Creek Conservation Park Plant List is available from park headquarters.

Access: This walk begins at the Stringybark Campground, opposite site 9.

Deep Creek Waterfall Hike from Tent Rock Road

This trail, which forms part of the famous Heysen Trail, takes you down to a year-round waterfall nestled in the heart of the park. Good lookout points have been placed along the hike, providing spectacular views of the densely vegetated hills that protect Deep Creek on its journey towards the cove.

Access: This hike can be started from either of two points located on Tent Rock Road. One follows a fire track and the other the Heysen Trail.

Deep Creek Cove Hike from Trig Picnic Area

This hike offers spectacular views of the Southern Ocean. The highlight of this hike is Backstairs Passage and the south coast. It finishes at a secluded cove where the mouth of Deep Creek finally finishes its journey to the ocean.

Access: This hike begins at Trig Picnic Area. Follow Tent Rock Road past Trig Campground to the picnic area.

Aaron Creek Circuit Hike

The trail meanders along Aaron Creek, incorporating tall gums and scented wattles. You will pass a cascading waterfall that flows in winter. Many Western Grey Kangaroos may be seen resting under the gums at the beginning of the hike. This area was once farming land. Eagle Waterhole Campground is on this trail.

Access: The hike starts at the car park, 15 metres from Goondooloo Cottage, on Blowhole Road.

Deep Creek Cove Hike from Tapanappa Lookout

A rugged coastal hike through steep terrain. Spectacular views of Deep Creek, ending at the secluded Deep Creek Cove. Only experienced and fit walkers should attempt this hike. The cove is surrounded by dense, remnant vegetation that encloses around you along this beautiful hike.

Access: The return time and distance is measured from Tapanappa Lookout, but the hike can also be started from Tapanappa Campground (add 3 km return).



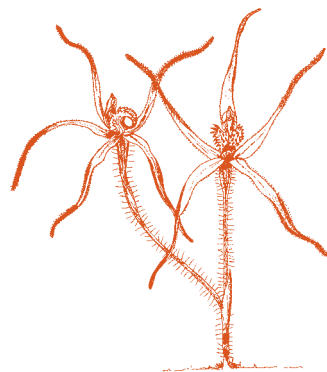
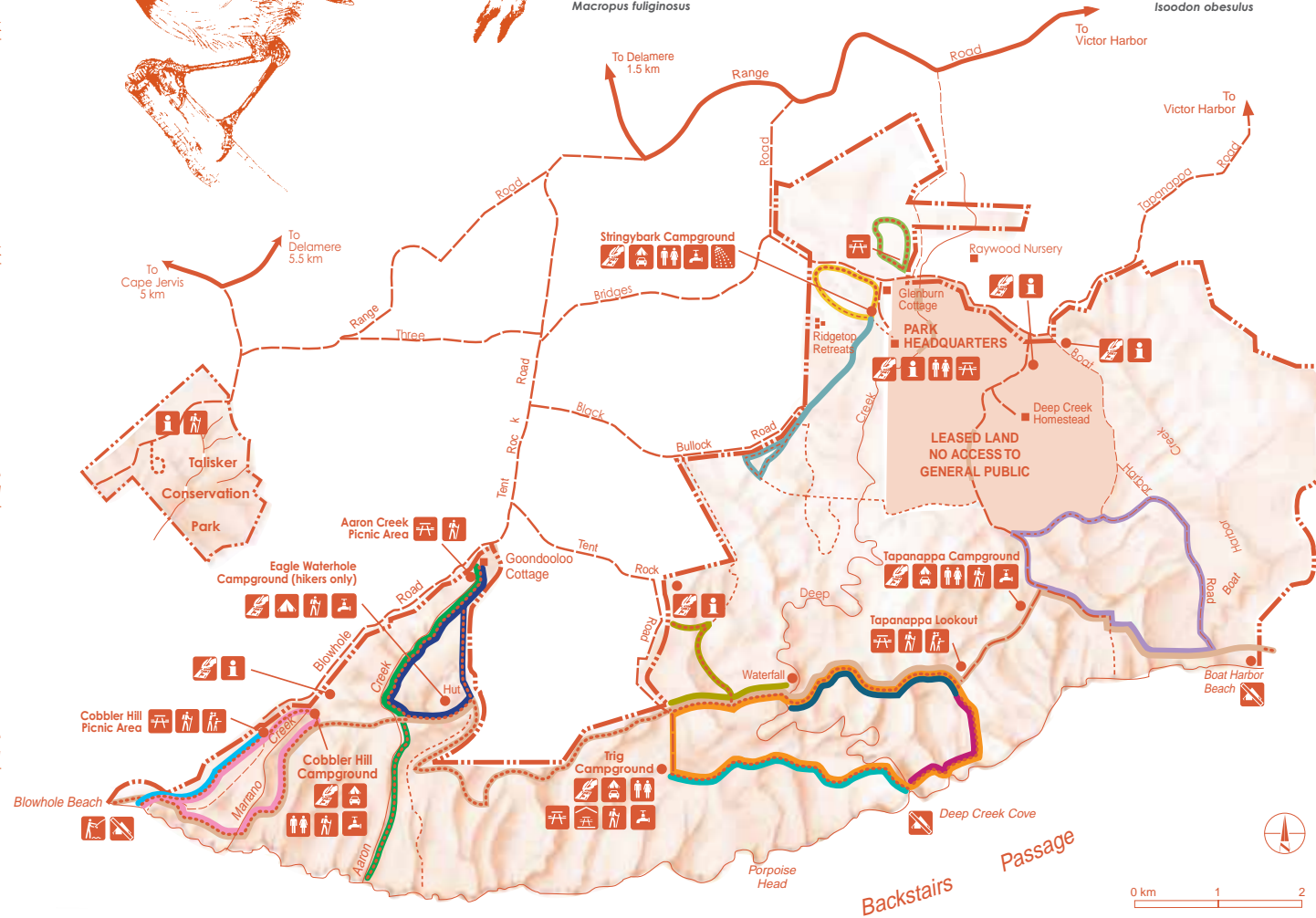
Superb Fairy-wren
Malurus cyaneus



Western Grey Kangaroo
Macropus fuliginosus



Southern Brown Bandicoot
Isoodon obesulus



Spider Orchid
Caladenia patersonii



Eastern Spinebill
Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris

- Information
- Campground
- Bush camping
- No camping
- Fishing
- Bushwalking
- Lookout
- Self-registration Station
- Drinking water
- Toilets
- Hot showers
- Picnic area
- Sheltered picnic area

- Park boundary
- Sealed road
- 2WD track
- 4WD track
- Fire access (Authorised Vehicles Only)
- Walking trail
- Heysen Trail Mine
- Building

Blowhole Beach Hike

Extensive views of Backstairs Passage and Kangaroo Island can be seen from the picnic area at Cobbler Hill. This trail winds itself down a steep hill to the sandy beach known as Blowhole.

Access: This hike begins from Cobbler Hill Picnic Area, located on Blowhole Road.

Deep Creek Waterfall Hike from Tapanappa Lookout

Excellent views of Deep Creek can be seen along the trail. During this hike you will find yourself among the heart of the thick and rugged vegetation that Deep Creek is renowned for. Only experienced and fit walkers should attempt this hike.

Access: The suggested time and distance are measured from the Tapanappa Lookout. Alternatively you can start from Tapanappa Campground (by adding an extra 3 km return).

Blowhole Beach - Cobbler Hill Marrano Creek Hike

This hike follows the Blowhole Beach Hike to the sandy beach below. Here you will join the Heysen Trail and follow it up to Cobbler Hill Campground, crossing Marrano Creek on your travels. From this point follow the main road back to Cobbler Hill Picnic Area. Provides excellent views of Kangaroo Island and The Pages Islands.

Access: This hike begins from Cobbler Hill Picnic Area or Cobbler Hill Campground.

Boat Harbor Circuit Hike

Part of this unique hike is along the Heysen Trail. You will experience breathtaking views of Kangaroo Island, The Pages Islands and Tunkallilla Beach. By making a small diversion off the circuit trail you can walk down to Boat Harbor Beach, which is a rocky cove where Boat Harbor Creek enters the Southern Ocean.

Access: This hike begins on Tapanappa Ridge. Follow the road towards Tapanappa Campground and turn to the ridge on your left before reaching the campground. This hike does not start at Tapanappa Lookout.

Aaron Creek Hike

The upper section of this trail follows the Aaron Creek Circuit Hike. The lower section follows natural bushland, becoming more rugged near the coast. After a steep climb you are rewarded with views of Kangaroo Island before descending into a small rocky cove.

Access: This hike begins at the car park located on Blowhole Road, 15 metres from the turn-off into Goondooloo Cottage.

Deep Creek Circuit Hike

Deep Creek Circuit includes some of the best views on offer in the park. The hike incorporates the waterfall and cove. Difficulties may be experienced crossing Deep Creek during wet weather. Take care at all times, and do not attempt to cross when flooded. Only experienced and fit walkers should attempt this hike.

Access: You can start from Trig Picnic Area or from Tapanappa Lookout.