

Deep Creek Conservation Park 4496ha



Deep Creek Conservation Park is a favourite with bushwalkers, nature lovers and campers. The valleys of dense bushland and rugged coastline offer an extensive network of walking trails and some of the best coastal views in the country.

Deep Creek is the only national park within 100km of Adelaide that offers bush camping. All four campgrounds are accessible by 2WD, making it an ideal environment for a family adventure.

The 15 walking trails in the park, range from easy to very difficult – there is something for all ages and abilities – including sections of the famous Heysen Trail.

Encounter Marine Park borders Deep Creek Conservation Park. Find out more at marineparks.sa.gov.au.

Opening hours

Deep Creek Conservation Park is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Getting there

The park is located 108km south of Adelaide. Access is via Main South Rd from Adelaide or Range Rd from Victor Harbor.

Fees

Fees apply to enter and camp in Deep Creek Conservation Park. Please note that payments and bookings can only be made online - cash payments are no longer accepted.

Check visitor and camping fees and buy park passes online at parks.sa.gov.au.

Traditional owners

The aboriginal people of the southern Fleurieu Peninsula fall into two language groups, the Kurna and Ngarrindjeri. Dreaming stories from both groups illustrate a deep spiritual connection to the land.

Things to see and do

Deep Creek Conservation Park preserves the largest portion of remnant natural vegetation on the Fleurieu Peninsula. Even the easiest of walks will surprise you with views that will take your breath away. Look out for kangaroos, echidnas or some of the 100 bird species that can easily be heard or spotted in the park.

Contact

Emergency: 000

Deep Creek Conservation Park
(+61 8) 8598 0263

Online Bookings
parks@sa.gov.au

Southern Ocean Retreats
(+61 8) 8598 4169
southernoceanretreats.com.au

General park enquiries: (+61 8) 8204 1910
DEWNR.CustomerServiceCentre@sa.gov.au
parks@sa.gov.au | facebook.com/parkssa

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Park maps on your mobile

Download free maps of this park for your mobile device from [Avenza PDF Maps](#) while you have mobile phone coverage. Used within the app, the maps allow you to calculate distances and locate yourself within the park (GPS coverage required).

Rangers recommend:

- Taking in the views of Kangaroo Island from the Cobbler Hill Picnic Area.
- Spending an afternoon walking the Deep Creek Waterfall Hike from Tapanappa Lookout.
- Fishing at Blowhole Beach.
- Seeing kangaroos feed at dusk at Tapanappa Ridge or along the Aaron Creek hiking trail.
- Lunching at Stringybark Walk or Aaron Creek picnic area.
- Camping under the stars at one of the bush campgrounds.
- Watching for whales as they migrate east during the winter months.
- Challenging yourself on the difficult Aaron Creek Hike and being rewarded by stunning views.

Camping

Deep Creek is the only park within 100km of Adelaide where you can camp in a spectacular bushland setting. All campgrounds are accessible by 2WD (except Eagle Waterhole which is hike-in only). Stringybark and Trig Campgrounds can also accommodate caravans.

Camping in Deep Creek is only permitted in designated sites in campgrounds. Fees apply. Book online at [parks.sa.gov.au](#) to avoid disappointment.

Campfires are only permitted in the designated campsites, but not during bushfire season (generally 1 November to 30 April) or on days of total fire ban.

Campground facilities

	Stringybark	Trig	Tapanappa	Cobbler Hill	Eagle Waterhole
Number of camp sites	16	25	17	6	-
Camp in designated sites	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Bookings taken	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Access	2WD	2WD	2WD	2WD	Hike
Caravan & trailer access	Y	Y	N	N	N
Toilets	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Hot showers	Y	N	N	N	N
Campfires allowed (in fire pits only)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Bring own firewood	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Remove own rubbish	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bring own drinking water	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Pets allowed	N	N	N	N	N

Groups

School groups planning to camp in the park must book online at [parks.sa.gov.au](#) to reserve a site. There are limits on group size, and site availability.

Accommodation

In Deep Creek you can stay in self-contained accommodation ranging from rustic cottages to architecturally designed eco-retreats. The accommodation is managed by Southern Ocean Retreats. Contact (+61 8) 8598 4169 or visit [southernoceanretreats.com.au](#).

Deep Creek Conservation Park 4496ha



Walking

<p>Walk (easy)</p> <p><i>A walk is accessible to people of all ages and fitness levels. These are well-defined trails, generally less than 3km in length, with even surfaces.</i></p>	<p>Stringybark Loop Walk.</p> <p>A short, relatively flat walk through old growth stringybark forest. There is a lot of wildlife in this area of the park. Close to the popular Stringybark campsite, this walk is ideal for families. The walk starts at the picnic ground near park headquarters on Tapanappa Road.</p>	30 minutes loop	1.5km return
	<p>Forest Circuit Walk.</p> <p>This is a fairly flat and easy stroll through tall stringybark forest. This is a lovely morning or late afternoon walk. In autumn you may see fog settle among the trees. In late winter and early spring you will see a profusion of wildflowers. The trail starts from Stringybark Campground, opposite site 10.</p>	1 hour return	2.6km return
	<p>Goondooloo Ridge Walk.</p> <p>This trail along Goondooloo Ridge offers spectacular views of Backstairs Passage. Along the way you can often view large mobs of kangaroos grazing in the open fields, or resting under eucalypts. This walk begins at the Aaron Creek picnic area located on Blowhole Road, 15 metres from Goondooloo Cottage.</p>	2 hours return	4km return
	<p>Spring Wildflower Walk.</p> <p>A perfect nature walk. You'll see native wildflowers during late winter and early spring in this regenerating sclerophyll forest. The walk follows roads and fire trails so it is fairly flat and good for families. The trail starts at Stringybark Campground, opposite site nine.</p>	2.5 hours return	5km return
<p>Hike (moderate)</p> <p><i>A moderate hike is suitable for bushwalkers with an average level of fitness. These trails can be any length and may include moderate inclines and irregular surfaces.</i></p>	<p>Deep Creek Waterfall Hike from Tent Rock Road.</p> <p>Incorporating part of the famous Heysen Trail, this hike takes you down to a year-round waterfall nestled in the heart of the park. Along the way you can see spectacular views of densely wooded hills. Although short, certain parts of this hike can be quite steep. The trail starts from the car parking area on Tent Rock Road.</p>	2 hours return	3.5km return
	<p>Deep Creek Cove Hike from Trig Picnic Area.</p> <p>On this popular trail you'll have great views of the Southern Ocean as you wind your way down to the secluded cove where Deep Creek finishes its journey to the ocean. Be prepared to scramble over rocks to get down to the cove. The trail starts at the Trig Picnic Area. Follow Tent Rock Road past Trig Campground to the picnic area.</p>	2.5 hours return	6.4km return
	<p>Aaron Creek Circuit Hike.</p> <p>One of the park's hidden gems. This hard but rewarding hike takes you down to Aaron Creek through tall gums and scented wattles. In winter (the best time for this hike) you will pass a cascading waterfall. Be prepared for moderate inclines and some rock scrambling. The trail starts at the car park, 15m from Goondooloo Cottage, on Blowhole Creek Road.</p>	3 hours return	5.5km return
	<p>Talisker Silver Lead Mine Hike.</p> <p>This interpretive hike, in Talisker Conservation Park, guides you through a nineteenth century mining and ore processing operation. Learn about the ingenuity of the Cornish miners and their families as you walk through naturally regenerating bushland teeming with wildflowers and wildlife. The trail starts in Talisker Conservation Park, 9km west of Deep Creek.</p>	2.5 hours return	6.4km return

Deep Creek Conservation Park 4496ha



Walking (continued)

Hike (hard)		2.5 hours return	3.4km return
<p><i>A hard hike requires some hiking experience and a reasonable fitness level, as some sections of the trail can be quite steep and uneven.</i></p>	<p>Deep Creek Cove Hike from Tapanappa Lookout</p> <p>A rugged coastal hike through steep terrain and dense vegetation with spectacular views of Deep Creek. Suited to experienced and fit bushwalkers. Be prepared to scramble over steep rocks on your way down to the cove. The trail starts at the Tapanappa Lookout. It can also be started from Tapanappa Campground (add 3km return).</p>		
	<p>Blowhole Beach Hike</p> <p>This trail winds down a steep hill to beautiful Blowhole Beach, a popular local fishing and surfing spot. From the picnic area at Cobbler Hill you'll have extensive views of Backstairs Passage and Kangaroo Island. This hike may seem easy on the way down, but on the return climb the incline is steep. The trail starts from Cobbler Hill Picnic Area, on Blowhole Creek Road.</p>	2.5 hours return	3km return
	<p>Blowhole Beach - Cobbler Hill Marrano Creek Hike</p> <p>See excellent views of Kangaroo Island and The Pages Islands on this loop, which follows the Blowhole Beach Hike down to the beach, joins the famous Heysen Trail and follows it up to Cobbler Hill Campground and Marrano Creek. Take the main road to finish back at the Cobbler Hill Picnic Area. The trail starts from Cobbler Hill Picnic Area or Cobbler Hill Campground.</p>	3.5 hours return	6.7km return
	<p>Deep Creek Waterfall Hike from Tapanappa Lookout</p> <p>See excellent views of Deep Creek amid the park's renowned thick vegetation and rugged terrain on this hike for experienced and fit walkers to the waterfall. The trail begins at the Tapanappa Lookout. Alternatively you can start from Tapanappa Campground (add an extra 3km return).</p>	3.5 hours return	7km return
	<p>Boat Harbor Circuit Hike</p> <p>Taking in part of the Heysen Trail, this unique hike has breathtaking views of Kangaroo Island, The Pages Islands and Tunkalilla Beach. Those prepared for a steep trail and rock scramble can take a small diversion off the circuit trail to Boat Harbor Beach, a rocky cove where Boat Harbor Creek enters the Southern Ocean. The trail 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.</p>	4 hours return	7.3km return
	<p>Aaron Creek Hike</p> <p>The first section of this magnificent trail follows the Aaron Creek Circuit Hike, then into natural bushland. After a steep climb you'll look out to Kangaroo Island before descending into a small rocky cove. This hike is challenging but rewarding with steep sections and a rock scramble at the ocean end. Give yourself plenty of time. The trail starts at the car park on Blowhole Rd, 15m from the Goondooloo Cottage turn-off.</p>	6 hours return	11km return
	<p>Deep Creek Circuit Hike</p> <p>This hike offers some of the best ocean and bush views in the park. It takes you to the waterfall and down into Deep Creek Cove. In wet weather it can be difficult to cross Deep Creek, do not try to cross when flooded. Best taken in a clockwise direction, this is the most challenging trail in the park. Suited to experienced, fit walkers. The trail can be started from Trig Picnic Area or from Tapanappa Lookout.</p>	7 hours return	10.9km return

Deep Creek Conservation Park 4496ha



Know before you go

Every national park is different. Each has its own challenging environment and it is important to understand how to stay safe while enjoying all the park has to offer. Please:

- leave your pets at home
- take your rubbish with you
- observe fire restrictions, usually 1 November to 30 April (check CFS hotline 1300 362 361)
- bring your own firewood (it is illegal to gather firewood in the park)
- camp only in designated areas
- respect geological and heritage sites
- do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants
- do not bring generators, chainsaws and firearms into the park
- be considerate of other park users.

Fire safety

This park may be closed on days of extreme fire danger. Listen to your local radio station for broadcasts, or call the CFS Hotline on 1300 362 361.

- Wood fires and solid fuel fires are prohibited in fire danger season, usually from November to April.
- Gas fires are permitted except on days of total fire ban. Fire ban information: cfs.sa.gov.au.
- Small cooking fires are permitted at designated campsites from May to October. More information: parks.sa.gov.au.



Bushwalking safety

- Keep to defined vehicle tracks and walking trails at all times– don't try to take short cuts or wander off the trails.
- Pay attention to the weather– be extra careful in extreme weather conditions.
- Wear sturdy shoes, a hat and sunscreen. Make sure you have appropriate wet weather clothing.
- Carry enough food and drinking water to be self-sufficient. The hotter the conditions, the more water you will need.
- Choose a trail appropriate to your level of fitness and always leave yourself plenty of time.
- Do not rely on tanks or creeks in the park for drinking water.
- Carry a map of the park and the walks at all times.
- For longer hikes and treks – ensure you let a responsible person know of your route and expected time of return. Give it to someone who will know if you don't return.

Mobile phone coverage

Mobile phone coverage can be patchy and unreliable in national parks, especially if you are in a low-lying area (such as a gorge or a gully).

Phytophthora (Root-rot fungus)

Phytophthora (fy-TOFF-thora), otherwise known as root- rot fungus, is killing our native plants and threatens the survival of animals depending on plants for food and shelter.

This introduced fungus can be found in plant roots, soil and water. Please help stop the spread by staying on tracks and trails and by complying with all *Phytophthora* management signs.

Friends of Deep Creek

The Friends of Deep Creek Conservation Park is a community-based group of volunteers who work to protect and develop the natural and cultural heritage in the park. Find out more about volunteering in parks at parks.sa.gov.au.