

# Kan̄ku - Breakaways Conservation Park 14,320ha



## From the flat-topped mesas to the stony gibber desert, Kan̄ku - Breakaways Conservation Park features 14,320 hectares of majestic arid scenery.

Kan̄ku - Breakaways Conservation Park covers almost 14,320 hectares featuring majestic arid scenery. From the flat-topped mesas to the stony gibber desert, these remnants over millions of years provide a wealth of geological interest and breathtaking views.

The area is home to almost 60 native flora species including acacias, mallee and eremophila. It is also home to lots of wildlife including red kangaroos, euros, echidnas, numerous bird species and the fat-tailed dunnarts (a mouse-like marsupial).

The Kan̄ku - Breakaways Conservation Park forms part of the traditional country of the Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara people. It is owned by the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation (AMYAC). The park is under a unique co-management agreement between the AMYAC, District Council of Coober Pedy and Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

### When to visit

The best time to view the wonderful colours of the escarpment and surrounding hills are at sunrise or sunset although it is beautiful at any time. Parts of the park, particularly along the dog fence, are best viewed during the middle of the day to see the sparkle of the gypsum covering the surface.

It is very hot in the park during summer but the evenings can be perfect for a picnic at the lookout while watching the sunset.

### Opening hours

The park is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Getting there

The Kan̄ku - Breakaways Conservation Park is located approximately 25 km north-west of Coober Pedy.

All roads in the park are unsealed. Please check road conditions with the District Council of Coober Pedy if you have any concerns. Telephone 08 8672 4600.

### Contact

**Emergency: 000**

Kan̄ku - Breakaways Conservation Park

#### Booking Offices

District Council of Coober Pedy  
Phone (+61 8) 8672 4600  
[breakaways@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:breakaways@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au)

Underground Books  
Coober Pedy  
Phone (+61 8) 8672 5558

**General park enquiries:** (+61 8) 8672 4600  
[DEWNR.CustomerServiceCentre@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWNR.CustomerServiceCentre@sa.gov.au)  
[parks.sa.gov.au](http://parks.sa.gov.au) | [facebook.com/parkssa](https://facebook.com/parkssa)

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## Traditional owners

The Kan̄ku - Breakaways Conservation Park is owned by the Antakirinja Matu-Yankuntjartjara Aboriginal Corporation, the traditional owners of the area. The entire park is a registered Aboriginal Site under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*. You can read the stories about this area and learn about its spiritual significance to the traditional owners at the main lookout information shelter.

Since 2013 the Kan̄ku - Breakaways Conservation Park has been managed by the Kan̄ku - Breakaways Co-management Board, a unique co-management arrangement between the Antakirinja Matu-Yankuntjartjara Aboriginal Corporation, District Council of Coober Pedy and Government of South Australia.

## Fees

Vehicle entry fee is \$10 per vehicle or \$8 (concession) per day.

A vehicle entry permit is required to enter the park unless you are a Coober Pedy resident or an AMYAC member.

The vehicle entry permit can be purchased in Coober Pedy from:

Visitor Information Centre  
District Council of Coober Pedy  
Lot 773 Hutchison Street  
Coober Pedy  
Phone (+61 8) 8672 4600

Underground Books, in Coober Pedy  
Post Office Hill Rd  
Coober Pedy  
Phone (+61 8) 8672 5558

## Things to see and do

This is a conservation park with a rich local history. It is a significant place for Aboriginal and European people who have called the area home. As you explore the lookouts and enjoy the varied landscapes you will see a number of different animal and plant species.

### Natural Resource Officers recommend:

- Admire the view from the main lookout and read the cultural information displayed at the information shelter.
- Keep a lookout for euros, red kangaroos, lizards and birds that call the area home.
- Take in the view from Ungkata looking out over the northern end of the park.
- View the changing landscape through the park by undertaking the scenic drive from the Stuart Highway entrance through the park to Kempe Road and back to Coober Pedy. The drive takes you to the lookouts, down the escarpment through the coloured hills, and through to the 'moon plain' and dog fence. Finally, you pass through Ooogelima Creek with its majestic gum trees on your way back to Coober Pedy.

## Driving

The entire public access track is accessible via 2WD unless otherwise signposted. Explore the track as it winds through the escarpment area down onto the flat open country known as the 'moon plain'. It travels parallel to the dog fence for approximately 9km. The dog fence stretches over 5,300km through Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia and is designed to keep Dingoes from entering the sheep-grazing areas south of the fence.

You will find a number of parking areas and lookouts along with way with views of this colourful, varied desert landscape.



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## Walking

Take a short walk from the main lookout to the original regional reserve plaque where you will find information on the dedication of the park as a regional reserve back in 1986.

Every year the annual *Great Breakaways Marathon* sees runners traversing 42.2km of this colourful and diverse park. This event provides an opportunity for runners and spectators alike to enjoy the most scenic parts of the park on a well-defined trail.

## Mobile phone coverage

There is limited mobile phone coverage in this park. Reception is particularly poor from the escarpment through to the dog fence. For emergencies use only UHF radio channel eight (duplex) for Coober Pedy.

## Cultural conservation zone

The public access zone in the park includes the main access tracks, lookouts and car parks.

For access to the rest of the park, permission must be sought from the Kan̩ku - Breakaways Conservation Park Co-management Board through [breakaways@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:breakaways@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au) or by contacting the Executive Officer on 0499 982 999.

Please stay on the formed roads and do not remove any rocks, artefacts or plants from the park.

## Know before you go

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

- respect geological and heritage sites
- you may bring a dog to this park provided it is kept on a leash no longer than 3m in length at all times
- leave other pets at home
- take your rubbish with you and bury toilet waste away from watercourses
- no camping is allowed in the park
- keep to defined vehicle tracks
- no firearms are allowed into the park
- no swimming or paddling in dams
- do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants
- be considerate of other park users.

## Fire safety

This park may be closed on days of extreme fire danger. Also:

- wood fires are not permitted
- gas appliances may be used during fire restrictions
- no fires, gas appliances, or fuel stoves are permitted on days of total fire ban
- collecting firewood from within the park is not allowed
- no chainsaws

## Bushwalking safety

- keep to defined walking trails and follow the trail markers
- wear sturdy shoes, a hat and sunscreen
- carry sufficient food and drinking water.

## Get involved

If you would like to be involved in volunteering at the Kan̩ku - Breakaways Conservation Park please contact the Executive Officer on 0499 982 999.

