

# Mount Remarkable National Park



*Healthy Parks  
Healthy People*



## Mount Remarkable National Park

Mount Remarkable National Park, in the southern Flinders Ranges, is a key conservation area with an intriguing mix of flora and fauna from the arid north and the wetter southern regions of South Australia.

The 16 000 hectare park stretches from the coastal plain adjacent to Spencer Gulf, across the ranges, to Mount Remarkable on the edge of the Willochra Plain in the east.

Within easy reach of Adelaide, visitors can experience the beauty of the southern Flinders Ranges from deep within red quartzite gorges, atop rugged mountain ranges with dramatic views, or along creeks lined with magnificent river red gums.

### How to get there

Visitors can drive to three major access points where a network of walking trails provide access to most of the park. Mount Remarkable is accessible to walkers from Melrose. Mambray Creek is 45 km north of Port Pirie off National Highway One. Alligator Gorge is reached via a picturesque drive commencing 1 km south of Wilmington on Main North Road. Note that this steep road is unsuitable for caravans and large buses.

**There are no public roads in the park. Horrocks Pass and Port Germein Gorge are the nearest public roads to the park that pass over the ranges in an east-west direction.**

### Park Fees



Entry and camping permits are required in Mount Remarkable National Park. Permits are available from self-registration stations at Mambray Creek and Alligator Gorge. Fees collected are used for conservation and to maintain and improve park facilities for your ongoing enjoyment.

## Exploring the park

With dramatic scenery, significant geological features, rich cultural heritage and natural diversity, the park offers a wide range of recreational activities.



Enjoy an extensive walking trail network including the Heysen Trail. Some highlights:

- Traverse rocky floors of towering red quartzite gorges and glimpse the beautifully marked rare yellow-footed rock-wallaby.
- Discover spectacular wildflowers in spring including several threatened orchid species.
- Marvel at ancient geological features including: The Narrows and The Terraces at Alligator Gorge, and Cathedral and Gibraltar rocks near Melrose.
- Discover early pastoral life at restored shepherd huts, Old Baroota Station ruins and cemetery, and nearby Spring Creek mine.



Camp near grand river red gums and relax while listening to laughing kookaburras.



Photograph the incredible diversity of native plants and animals, the rugged landscapes and spectacular views.



A birdwatcher's delight, the park has 117 native bird species including brightly coloured variegated wrens, Australian ringneck parrots, rainbow bee-eaters and wedge-tailed eagles.

## Day Visitors



Day visitor areas are located at Alligator Gorge and Mambray Creek. These spacious areas are ideal for visitors to enjoy a picnic or barbecue in natural surrounds. Toilets, gas barbecues, picnic tables and bushwalking trailhead signs are provided.

## Camping

Mount Remarkable National Park is a great location for camping. Four different camping options are available. Which do you prefer?

### 1. Mambray Creek Campground

Set amongst majestic River Red Gums alongside Mambray Creek, this large campground offers 54 unpowered, level sites. Tents, caravans and vehicles must be kept on designated sites. Amenity blocks, suitable for the disabled, are centrally located with hot showers, flushing toilets and a baby change room.

### 2. Baroota Ruins Campground

Set amongst a beautiful stand of native pines, adjacent to Mambray Creek and Baroota Ruins, this campground offers 10 unpowered level sites. Tents, caravans and vehicles must be kept in designated sites. An amenity block is centrally located with running water and basic toilet facilities.

Wood fires are an enjoyable part of camping at Mambray Creek and Baroota Ruins campgrounds. To ensure others can experience camp fires in the future, please note:

- Fires must be kept within designated fireplaces.
- Children must be supervised around fires by a responsible person at all times.
- Collection of firewood in the park is prohibited. Firewood can be purchased at Mambray Creek campground or you are encouraged to bring your own.
- Wood fires are not permitted during the Fire Danger Season usually 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS hotline 1300 362 361.

### 3. Group Sites

Red Gums and Native Pines are two large group sites adjacent to the Mambray Creek Campground ideal for school, community and family groups. Red Gums accommodates up to 60 people and Native Pines up to 40. Bookings are essential.

### 4. Backpack Camping

Backpack camping is a walk-in with your pack, low impact activity. Eleven backpack camp sites are located within the park allowing walkers to explore the entire park. If you are planning to backpack camp please note:

- Wood fires are not permitted at backpack camp sites. Use gas or liquid fuel stoves only.
- Camp only within the designated sites.
- Take all rubbish with you.
- Do not disturb or remove native habitat.
- Bury toilet waste deep and away from watercourses.
- Groups (15 people maximum) must book backpack camping sites well in advance as numbers per camp site are restricted. Trip Intention forms must be lodged a fortnight before arrival.

**To minimise risk of bushfire and danger to park staff, backpack camping is not permitted during the Fire Danger Season usually 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS Hotline 1300 362 361.**

## Accommodation

**Mambray Creek Cabin** is comfortable yet basic accommodation located in the Mambray Creek Campground. Sleeping a maximum of four people, this small cabin has a gas stove, double bed, table and chairs. Cooking and eating utensils are provided but refrigeration is not. B.Y.O linen. Bookings are essential.

**Alligator Lodge** is the original ranger's three-bedroom house situated at Alligator Gorge. This facility can accommodate a maximum of ten people. Features include gas stove and refrigerator, solar lighting, wood heater, cooking and eating utensils, open living area, bathroom and toilet facilities. B.Y.O linen. Bookings are essential.

### Keep wildlife wild

Emus, goannas and kookaburras are regular visitors to the campground and day visitor areas. Feeding wildlife can cause serious problems for wildlife and visitors. Our food can cause sickness and disease in native animals. Wildlife may also become aggressive towards people to obtain food. To help us keep our wildlife wild, store food securely. Do not leave plastic bags unattended and please do not feed wildlife.

### Water

Water is a scarce resource in the park. Use water sparingly by reducing shower duration and ensure taps are turned off firmly after use.

Rainwater tanks are available in several locations throughout the park, but the quality and quantity of the water is not guaranteed.

## Drive safely

Native animals have right of way on roads within the park. Kangaroos, euros, emus and reptiles are often on or near park roads and can move unexpectedly if startled. To avoid accidents, adhere to speed limits within the park and drive carefully.

## Noise

Please keep noise to a minimum to avoid disturbing wildlife and other campers, particularly early in the morning and evenings. Generators, chainsaws and firearms are not permitted in the park.

## Rubbish

Rubbish collection facilities are not provided in the park. Please take all your rubbish with you when you leave.

## Bushwalking in Mount Remarkable National Park

A variety of walking trails allow visitors to explore the park's major attractions, highlighting the contrasting diversity of plant and animal communities unique to this region.

The mild temperatures from April to October make this period the most comfortable for walking. During the summer months, temperatures range from 30°-45°C making walking more difficult. A careful responsible approach to bushwalking is essential for your safety.

Walking trails commence from Mambray Creek, Alligator Gorge and Melrose. These trails lead visitors along marked routes throughout the park. Trails vary in length and difficulty. Please refer to the map and selection guide to choose a trail most suited to your needs.

## Walks, Hikes and Treks

### WALK – Easy

A Walk is accessible to people of all ages and fitness levels. They are well-defined trails, generally less than three kilometres in length, with even surfaces.

### HIKE – Moderate

A 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.

### TREK – Challenging

A Trek is generally physically demanding, therefore users should be experienced bushwalkers with good navigational skills. Treks often require several days to complete, and pass through remote areas where the trail is unmarked. Prior to commencing a Trek, bushwalkers must discuss their route with a ranger and fill in a *Trip Intention Form*.

### Daveys Gully Hike

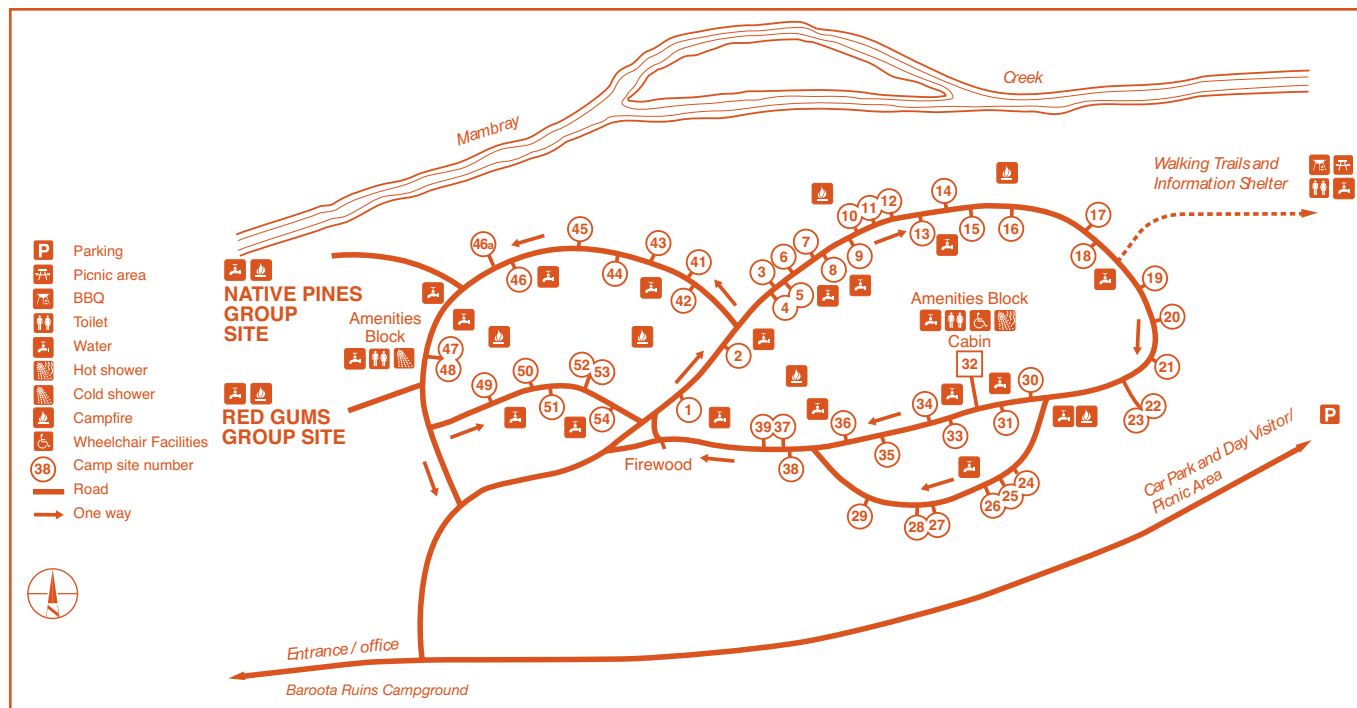
**(2.4 km return; 1 hour return)**

This popular trail starts and finishes at the day visitor area at Mambray Creek and passes through Daveys Gully. The best time for this hike is late afternoon, sunset and sunrise when wildlife is more active and the views across Spencer Gulf to Whyalla are spectacular. Keep a lookout for native wildlife including euros, emus and kookaburras. This hike is recommended for visitors, who only have a short time to spend in the park.

### Gorge Lookout Walk

**(600 metres return, 20 minutes return)**

For spectacular views of the Alligator Basin through to Mambray Creek take this short and easy walk to the lookout.



## Sugar Gum Lookout Hike

**(8 km return; 3 hours return)**

A pleasant, easy hike following Mambray Creek upstream along a deep valley shaded by majestic river red gums. The final short climb to the lookout is more strenuous but walkers are rewarded with a splendid view of red quartzite cliffs and sugar gum habitat. Starts and ends at the day visitor area at Mambray Creek.

## Hidden Gorge Hike

**(18 km return; 7 hours return)**

This popular loop hike starting at Mambray Creek day visitor area highlights the diversity of landforms and biodiversity found within the southern Flinders Ranges. Meander along the Mambray and Alligator creeks pleasantly shaded by majestic river red gums. Through Hidden Gorge, the red quartzite walls of the gorge enclose dense communities of native pine. A steady climb from the gorge to the high Battery Range provides magnificent views overlooking the nearby coastline and the distant northern arm of Spencer Gulf.

## Mambray Creek to Alligator Gorge Hike

**(13 km one way; 5 hours one way)**

This long and interesting hike follows the course of the Alligator and Mambray creeks. Start from the day visitor area at either end of the park. From Mambray Creek, the trail passes through a variety of vegetation, from stands of river red gum, and native pine through to dense mallee on the pound floor and finally, to the inviting shade of sugar gums on the ridges around Alligator Gorge. An alternative to returning on the same route is to use the Battery Track. It is advised that only fit hikers should try to return in one day. It is best to plan a two-day walk staying at a nearby camp site overnight or as many walkers do, meet a friend with a vehicle at the end of your walk.

## Mount Cavern Trek

**(11 km return; 6 hours return or 3.6 km return; 2 hours return to Black Range Lookout only)**

From Mambray Creek day visitor area, a demanding trek crosses the high ridges of the Black Range to the summit of Mount Cavern and then descends steeply into Mambray Creek. The view from Mount Cavern is restricted by tall trees but there are fine vantage points along the route.

If your time is limited, an hours walk along the Mount Cavern Trek trail will lead to the Black Range Lookout. This lookout provides magnificent views of the plains and towns of upper Spencer Gulf. Return along the same route to Mambray Creek.

## Black Range Trek

A demanding trek from Mambray Creek to Alligator Gorge or Mount Remarkable through the rugged Black Range. The Mambray Creek Track crosses steep terrain past Sugar Gum Lookout for 8 km before meeting the Pines Track. This section of trail has breathtaking views of the Mambray Creek catchment, Alligator Basin and Black Range.

Head north along Pines Track to reach Alligator Lodge via Woods Hut Track and Tower Track, or to the junction with Alligator Gorge-Wilmington road.

Alternatively, head south along Pines Track to reach Mount Remarkable Summit via Mungola Hut Track passing through grassy woodland. Descend via the Mount Remarkable Summit Hike trail to Melrose.

## Ali Lookout Walk

**(400 metres return, 15 minutes return)**

A short, easy walk to a lookout overlooking spectacular Alligator Gorge. Abundant wildflowers line this path in spring.

## Gorge Circuit Hike

**(2 km return, 2 hours return)**

A popular hike, suitable for most abilities, traversing the full length of Alligator Gorge. From Alligator Gorge

car park, descend the steep steps down into Alligator Gorge. Take time to view The Terraces to the north before heading south to pass through the spectacular 'Narrows'. Walkers should wear sturdy shoes, as the gorge floor can be uneven and slippery when wet. Return to Alligator Gorge car park via Blue Gum Flat Picnic Area.

## Alligator Gorge Ring Route Hike

**(9 km return; 4 hours return)**

Following the full length of the inspiring Alligator Gorge, this hike is ideal in spring when wildflowers are abundant and water may be flowing in the gorge. From The Terraces, continue on (north-west) up the catchment of Alligator Creek to the Ring Route Track.\* Turn left (south-east) following the vehicle track past Eaglehawk Dam and Longhill Camp to Blue Gum Flat Picnic Area. It is a short walk back up to the gorge car park via The Narrows in Alligator Gorge or along the Blue Gum Trail.

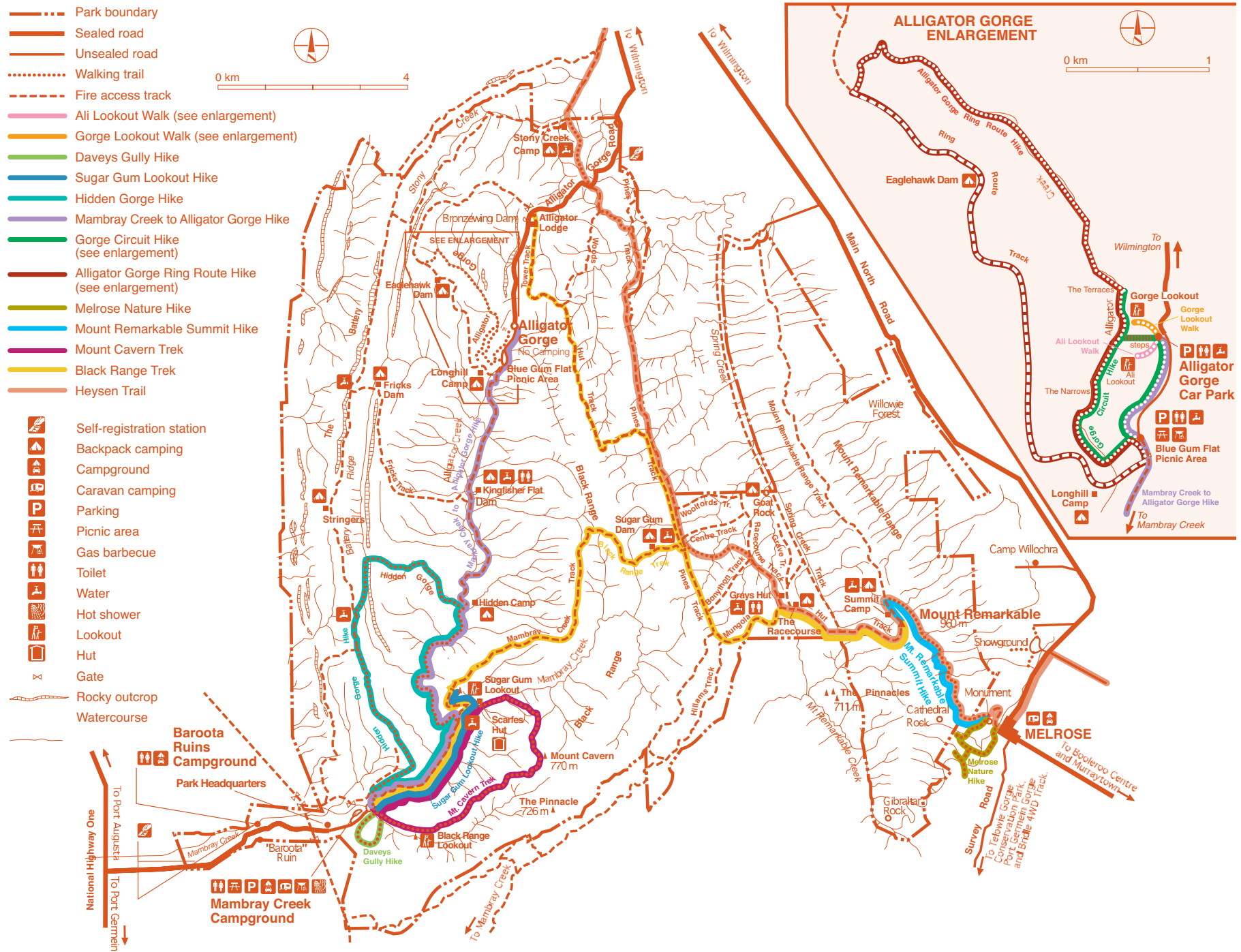
\*If you have more time, at the Ring Route Track junction, continue on north-westerly for another kilometre to reach The Battery. See magnificent examples of towering sugar gums and spectacular views over the western plains to Spencer Gulf. Return to the Ring Route Track junction. Add another hour for this section.

## Melrose Nature Hike


**(4.7 km return, 3 hours return)**

This is a pleasant hike through the foothills of Mount Remarkable with fantastic views of the nearby town of Melrose.





## Select your trail

 <b>WALK</b> <b>EASY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• even surfaced trail</li> <li>• suitable for small children</li> </ul>	Trail		Time*	Distance	Trail Notes
	Ali Lookout Walk		15 minutes return	400 m return	A short and easy walk. Spectacular views of Alligator Gorge below.
 <b>HIKE</b> <b>MODERATE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some moderate inclines</li> <li>• irregular surface with loose, uneven base</li> <li>• average level of fitness</li> </ul>	Gorge Lookout Walk		20 minutes return	600 m return	A short and easy walk. Spectacular views of the Alligator Basin.
	Daveys Gully Hike		1 hour return	2.4 km return	Easy gradient. Great views into the Alligator Basin and across Spencer Gulf to Whyalla.
	Sugar Gum Lookout Hike		3 hours return	8 km return	An easy hike along Mambray Creek with the final short climb to the lookout more strenuous.
	Hidden Gorge Hike		7 hours return	18 km return	Discover narrow gorges and magnificent views from the high Battery Ridge. Uneven gorge floor.
	Mambray Creek to Alligator Gorge Hike		5 hours one way	13 km one way	Only suitable for fit visitors to return in one day. Plan a two day hike if returning or get picked up from either end.
	Gorge Circuit Hike		2 hours return	2 km return	A popular hike for most abilities through Alligator Gorge. Steep steps and uneven gorge floor. Slippery when wet.
	Alligator Gorge Ring Route Hike		4 hours return	9 km return	Follow the full length of Alligator Gorge. Uneven and loose gorge floor.
 <b>TREK</b> <b>CHALLENGING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• long distance trail with some steep inclines</li> <li>• irregular surface with loose, uneven base</li> <li>• suitable for experienced walkers with navigational skills</li> <li>• high level of fitness</li> </ul>	Melrose Nature Hike		3 hours return	4.7 km return	A pleasant hike through the foothills of Mount Remarkable. Provides great views of Melrose.
	Mount Remarkable Summit Hike		5 hours return	12.2 km return	Magnificent views of the Willochra Plain. Relatively easy access to the summit.
	Mount Cavern Trek		6 hours return (2 hours return to Black Range lookout only)	11 km return (3.6 km return to lookout only)	Demanding trek to the summit of Mount Cavern descending steeply back into Mambray Creek. Magnificent views of the Alligator Basin.
	Black Range Trek		1 day one way	Mambay Creek to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alligator Gorge 22 km one way</li> <li>• Mount Remarkable 20 km one way</li> </ul>	A demanding trek. Use a topographic map when walking in this area. Discuss plans with a ranger before you go.

\* Time is generously estimated for an average walking speed varying from 1 to 3 km per hour. Allow extra time for resting and sightseeing.

## Mount Remarkable Summit Hike

**(12.2 km return, 5 hours return)**

Commencing from the War Memorial Monument above Melrose, this trail contours across the eastern face of Mount Remarkable. Walkers are rewarded with magnificent views of Melrose and the rich agricultural land of the Willochra Plain. Wildflowers abound in spring.

## The Heysen Trail



From Melrose the trail to the summit of Mount Remarkable is also part of the Heysen Trail. From the summit, the Heysen Trail follows east along Mungola Hut Track passing through grassy woodland before heading north along the Pines Track to the Alligator Gorge area. If you plan to walk the Heysen Trail, use topographic maps or the *Heysen Trail Northern Guidebook*. When walking on the Heysen Trail through private land, please keep to the trail. The Heysen Trail is closed during the Fire Danger Season.



## Walk Safely

### Be prepared when bushwalking:

- Wear sturdy shoes, hat and sunscreen.
- Carry sufficient food and drinking water. Allow 4 litres of water per person per day.
- Do not rely on tanks or creeks in the park for drinking water.
- Keep to the defined walking trail.
- Inform a responsible person of your proposed route and expected time of return.
- Weather conditions can change quickly, ensure you have appropriate wet weather clothing.

## The National Parks Code

Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

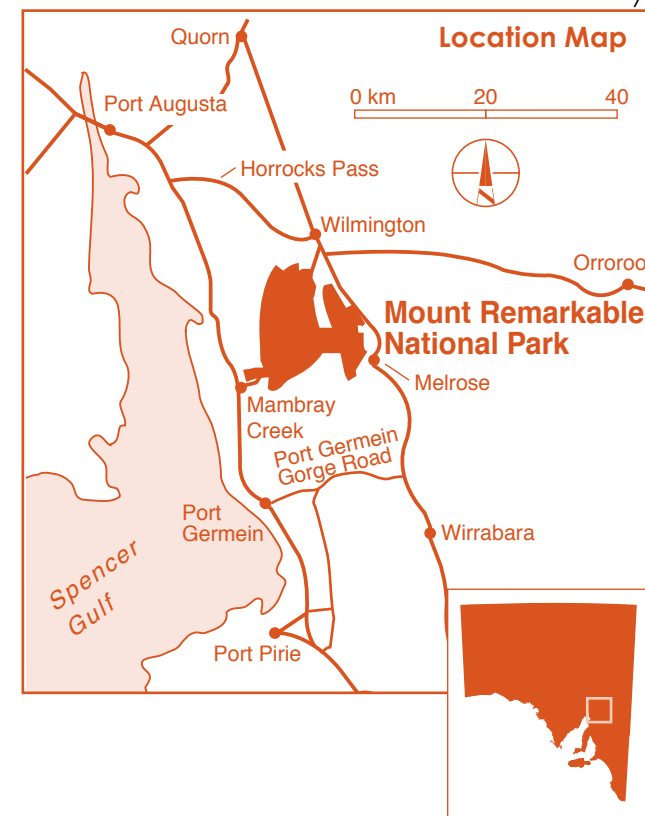
- Leave your pets at home.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Observe fire restrictions usually 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS hotline 1300 362 361.
- Conserve native habitat by using liquid fuel or gas stoves.
- Camp only in designated areas.
- Respect geological and heritage sites.
- Keep our wildlife wild. Do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants.
- Keep to defined vehicle tracks and walking trails.
- Be considerate of other park users.
- Generators, chainsaws and firearms are not permitted.

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

## Fire Danger Season

The fire danger season usually extends from 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS hotline 1300 362 361. The following regulations reduce the potential for bushfires and enhance visitor safety:

- Wood fires are not permitted in the park during the fire danger season. Please use liquid fuel or gas stoves only.
- On Total Fire Ban Days all fires (liquid, gas and wood) are prohibited in the park and access to walking trails is restricted.
- Backpack camping is not permitted during the fire danger season, please plan day walks only. Camping is allowed only at Mambray Creek and Baroota Ruins campgrounds.



## For further information contact:

**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**

**Southern Flinders District Office**

**Mount Remarkable National Park**

PMB 7 Mambray Creek

via Port Pirie SA 5540

Phone (08) 8634 7068

Fax (08) 8634 7085

Email [mrnp@sa.gov.au](mailto:mrnp@sa.gov.au)

Phone Information Line (08) 8204 1910

Email [denrinformation@sa.gov.au](mailto:denrinformation@sa.gov.au)

Website [www.parks.sa.gov.au](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au)

© Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
June 2011 • FIS 91143 • Printed on recycled paper