



40 THINGS TO DO IN BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

A park that's familiar to so many with endless things to discover and new places to explore. Kangaroos and Emus stroll across paths whilst colourful orchids and fungi are a few of the magical things to adore. The Park has many stories to tell with ancient trees, fire scars and Aboriginal tree carvings giving a window into the past. Let the story continue as your new adventures unfold and together, explore its natural beauty and make memories that will last.

Whole generations of Adelaide families have visited – and continue to visit – Belair National Park to walk, ride bikes or horses, have picnics or barbecues, use the sporting facilities and to simply explore the natural world. There are woodlands, lakes, creeks and geological formations to discover, trails to suit all levels of fitness, recreational facilities available for hire, and open spaces for sport or family celebrations.

Belair National Park is South Australia's oldest National Park, second in Australia and eighth in the world. It is home to over 200 animals including Western Grey Kangaroos, Koalas, Short-beaked Echidnas, Brushtail and Ringtail Possums, Emus, Yellow-footed Antechinus, *Nationally Endangered* Southern Brown Bandicoots, Tawny Frogmouths, Bearded Dragons, Stumpy Lizards, and many species of butterflies,

beetles and other insects. It has many species of fungi, lichen, moss with over 1000 native plants!

The Kaurna Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of the area. The Kaurna people referred to the area now known as Belair as Piradli, which means 'baldness'. This was in reference to the area's appearance when looking south from the Adelaide Plains – 'bald like the moon'.

The Park is cared for by park rangers and the passionate Friends of Belair National Park who work hard to conserve the Park's flora and fauna.

You can download a map for Belair National Park from environment.sa.gov.au/parks

PARK PROFILE



Toilets



Wheelchair access



Pram access



Shared trails



Walking only

Name: Belair National Park.

First established: Proclaimed in 1891.

Size: 840 hectares.

Location: 13 kilometres south of Adelaide in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Number of plants and animals: 1063 flora species and 213 fauna species.

Some endangered or rare species:

Southern Brown Bandicoot, Crested Shrike-tit, Square-tailed Kite, Bassian Thrush, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Leafy Greenhood Orchid (*Pterostylis cucullata*), Pink-lipped Spider Orchid (*Arachnorchis behrii*), White Spider Orchid (*Arachnorchis rigida*), Blue Devil (*Eryngium rostratum*), and Pale Flax-lily (*Dianella longifolia*).

Endangered Plant Community: Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodland.

AUTUMN



Autumn in the park sees the leaves of old heritage trees begin to change colour to hues of red, orange, yellow and green.

Fungi, moss and lichen await the autumn rain and you're bound to discover things you've never seen.

- 1 Explore Valley Loop Hike and take a short stroll along Heritage Tree Walk where you'll walk amongst 100-year-old oaks, pines, sequoias, cork trees, and other introduced trees planted in the late 1800's. You might spot the whimsical yet poisonous red and white Fly Agaric fungi.
- 2 Head to the Railway Dam and see how many different duck species you spot such as the Pacific Black Duck and Australian Wood Duck.
- 3 Visit State Flora nursery and find a native plant to purchase for your garden to encourage wildlife to visit your backyard.
- 4 Take in the autumn colours as you meander along the RSL Walk (20 mins, 1km) where you'll walk through a Japanese Cherry plantation into Sparkes Gully along a forest-like trail leading you to an old Sequoia plantation. Walk quietly as you may encounter Nationally Endangered Southern **Brown Bandicoots!** 🦘
- 5 Bring along your mountain bike and choose a section of the Adventure Loop to cycle (watch out for walkers as this is a shared-use trail). 🚲
- 6 Those up for some sport amongst nature bring along your basketball or tennis gear to play on one the many courts in the park or your football, soccer ball, frisbee, or kite to make the most of the open lawned areas surrounded by trees.
- 7 Have a family picnic across the bridge near the Adventure Playground amongst the autumn leaves. Venture down to the creek and listen out for the crick-crick-crick of the Common Froglet. 🐸 🐸 🐸
- 8 From the Playford Lake head along Moorowie Track and loop back onto Brady Gully Track and spot the different types of moss and fungi such as **Dye Balls**, Spectacular Rust Fungus and Collared Earthstars. 🍄 🍄
- 9 Let the children select one of the many trails in the Park to explore and let them lead the way. Keep a lookout out for signs of wildlife such as Adelaide Rosella feathers, echidna diggings, ant mounds, and kangaroo or emu scats.
- 10 Walk along the Microcarpa Hike (1hr 45mins, 4km) where you'll meander beneath an ancient Grey Box Grassy Woodland. As you walk through keep a look out for Spotted Pardalotes, White-throated Tree Creepers, and Golden Whistlers. 🐦

WINTER



Winter in the Park sees fog, mist and rain as the creeks and waterfalls flow, fungi emerge and wildflowers begin to wake.

Echidnas are on the move and Golden Wattles eventually bloom, the Park prepares for spring and is full of life on any path you take.

- 1 Have a family picnic at Long Gully and venture to the cave-like Amphitheatre Rock that, after rains, has water trickling from the rocks above. 🌧️
- 2 Explore the top of the Park via Saddle Hill Track where you may get a glimpse of a **Short-beaked Echidna** as they forage for ants or form Echidna 'trains' as the males search for a mate. 🦘
- 3 For families with experienced young hikers venture along the Waterfall Hike (3 hours, 6.5km), where you'll see picturesque rock escarpments around waterfalls (Lower Waterfalls is fenced and more suitable to families, Upper Waterfalls is unfenced with a steep cliff face). 🌧️
- 4 For those wanting to get active and up for an adventure there are orienteering and geocaching opportunities in the Park that you can find online or ask the Park's staff at the entrance.
- 5 In late winter head out along Lorikeet Loop and spot the yellow-flowering Golden Wattle as it begins to bloom. 🌼 🌼
- 6 Have a winter's picnic around Playford Lake and take a gentle stroll along Wood Duck Walk (30mins return, 1km) – see if you can spot some **Australian Wood Ducks**. 🦆 🦆 🦆 🦆
- 7 Have a family picnic at Karka Picnic Ground and explore the flowing creek and test what natural materials float. Keep a listen out for the high-pitched weep-weep-weep of the Brown Tree Frog. 🐸 🐸 🐸
- 8 On a cold winter's morning, rug up and put on your gum boots and a camera and explore the trails around the entrance of park as the fog and mist drift through the trees - see what wildlife you can capture on your camera (or sketch it in a nature journal).
- 9 In late winter explore the Microcarpa Hike and keep an eye out for colonies of Dwarf Greenhoods and Mosquito Orchids as they begin to flower. 🌸
- 10 Select a part of the Adventure Loop Trail to explore and see what winter flowers or wildlife you can spot. 🌼

SPRING



Spring in the Park sees the air fill with the scent of hundreds of wildflowers and soft hum of insects.

The warm sunshine, drifting clouds, and deep blue sky set the scene for adventures that you'll never forget.

- 1 Hike the Microcarpa Hike and spot spring-flowering wildflowers such as Donkey Orchids, Spider Orchids, Blue Squill and the insectivorous **Scented Sundew**. 🦋🌸
- 2 Some trees in the Park are more than 400 years old! Stroll around the Gums Oval and see how many ancient trees you can spot with hollows being used by birds such as Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Galahs and Kookaburras. 🦘🦋
- 3 Visit the Cherry Plantation to view the Cherry Blossoms - a memorial to returned servicemen. Continue along the RSL Walk and see how many Koalas you can spot in the forks of trees. 🦘
- 4 On a sunny day explore Thelymitra Track and spot Salmon Sun Orchids, Lemon Sun Orchids, and the Great Sun Orchids. 🌸
- 5 Take a stroll around the Playford Lake and listen out for male Koalas calling (it's their breeding season) and spot tiny ducklings as they begin to emerge from the reeds. 🦘🦆🦆🦆
- 6 Explore Lorikeet Loop and keep an eye out for curious Superb Fairywrens and Grey Fantails as well as **King Spider Orchids** and Vanilla Lilies as they bloom. 🦋🌸
- 7 Have a family picnic at the Adventure Playground and explore the nearby creeks, trails, hollowed out trees and find a spot to build a cubby. 🦘🦋🦆
- 8 Head along the Waterfall Hike where you'll come across various seats and viewing platforms. Find a place to close your eyes and listen to the sound of birds, soft hum of insects and take in the many scents of spring. 🦋
- 9 Explore some of the many creeks within the Park such as the one flowing through Echo Tunnel on Echo Track where you can spot tadpoles of the Eastern Banjo Frog. 🐸
- 10 In the early morning explore the Park's entrance and try to spot an Emu. If you're lucky you may see the well-camouflaged chicks as they follow their dad around.

SUMMER



Summer in the Park sees families and wildlife seeking the shade of old trees.

As the Christmas Bush blooms their beautiful scent drifts through the summer breeze.

- 1 Starting from State Flora nursery head out for an early morning adventure to 'Vera's Seat' on Queens Jubilee Drive for beautiful views over the park and out to the ocean. 🦋
- 2 Head along Waterfall Hike and spot the unusual flower of the **Blue Devil** and keep an eye out for Koalas as they sleep high in the canopies. 🦘
- 3 Head out for an early morning stroll along Lorikeet Loop and spot hundreds of purple Garland Lilies blooming. 🦋🌸
- 4 Head to Gums Oval, Main Oval or Willows Picnic Ground for a game of cricket, footy or soccer. Keep an eye out for resident Emus and Kangaroos as they move through.
- 5 Plan a twilight BBQ at Long Gully and spend the evening observing Kangaroos as they graze in the open areas (it's important to never feed wildlife). 🦘
- 6 Explore the Lodge Track and its adjoining trails where you'll observe native grasses such as Kangaroo, Wallaby and Spear Grasses. 🦋
- 7 Explore the trails around the main entrance of the Park and spot the white flowers of the Christmas Bush as it blooms. Take some time to smell their sweet scented flowers. 🦋🌸
- 8 Choose one of the many trails in the Park to explore in the early morning. Walk slowly or find a place to sit quietly to see if you can spot a Bearded Dragon, Stumpy Lizard or Three-toed Earless Skinks.
- 9 Take a gentle morning stroll around Playford Lake, observe the ducks and see how much Mistletoe you can spot hanging in trees. 🦋🦆
- 10 Explore Saddle Hill Track where you'll likely be joined by dozens of **Common Brown Butterflies** as they flutter across your path.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Mistletoe is an important part of the Park's habitat. It's spread by the Mistletoebird that eats
- the sticky fruit causing its droppings to be sticky. The bird wipes the stickiness onto a branch,
- which contains the seeds, and Mistletoe can then grow.

L: Bandicoot (BS)
R: Dye ball (JT)



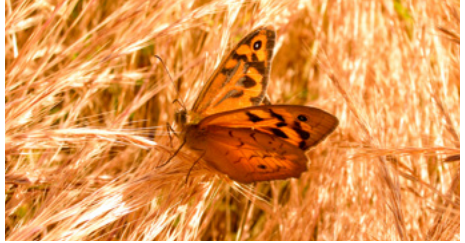
L: Echidna (TG)
R: Wood Duck (JMG & JS)



L: Spider Orchid (BS)
R: Scented Sundew (JT)



L: Blue Devil (TG)
R: Common Brown Butterfly (JT)



LOOKING AFTER THE PARK

- 1 Keep wildlife wild:** Feeding wild animals can be harmful to their health as they rely on natural food sources to provide them with all their nutritional requirements. They can also develop a dependence on unnatural food and at times become aggressive as a result. To keep them wild and healthy observe only from a distance.
- 2 Leave things as you found them:** By staying on the trails you can prevent trampling of native plants and damaging the natural habitat of wildlife - the Park is home to some fragile and rare plants and animals that we all need to protect.
- 3 Care for Wildlife:** Always be quiet around wildlife and keep your dog on a lead as they can scare and sometimes harm wildlife.
- 4 Leave nothing but footprints:** By taking all your rubbish with you we can ensure wildlife isn't eating it or it's not making its way into the Park's healthy creeks and waterways.
- 5 Share my Trail:** If bike riding in the Park remember to keep left, ride slow, and say g'day.

This resource is part of the Park of the Month, an initiative run in partnership between Nature Play SA and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. Photos by Jason Tyndall (JT), Tina Gallasch (TG), James McGregor (JMG), Jenny Skinner (JS) and Bevan Scholz (BS). Writings by Jason Tyndall, Nature Play SA.