



40 THINGS TO DO IN DEEP CREEK CONSERVATION PARK

A rugged park where thousands of stories have been shared with friends and family around the warmth of a campfire. With towering Stringybark trees, giant yaccas, wildflowers, butterflies, kangaroos and an array of wildlife to admire. The night sky is so clear you can see deep into the Milky Way and gaze at the millions of stars shining bright. Whether a daytrip or camping, prepare for a wild escape and keep adventure in your sights!

Deep Creek Conservation Park is a much loved camping destination for many South Australian families. It has four campgrounds that are accessible by 2WD and one is 'hike-in' only. Campers need to bring their own firewood (can be purchased at the Delamere local store).

The Park preserves the largest remaining remnant of Stringybark forest in the region and boasts 15 walking trails that provide spectacular scenery and encounters with wildlife. The Park is home to Western Grey Kangaroos, Tawny and Bearded Dragons, Stumpy and Bluetongue Lizards, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, Scarlet Robins, Short-beaked Echidnas, Southern Emu-wrens, Beautiful Firetails, Southern Brown Bandicoots, bats, butterflies and other amazing wildlife. The Park has wildflowers that bloom in every season with over 400 native plants throughout.

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.

Whilst visiting the Park there are other Highlights of the Fleurieu Peninsula including Second Valley Forest; the Festival Fleurieu; Ingalalla Waterfall; Raywood Nursery; Tunkalilla wilderness beach; and local markets at Cape Jervis and Second Valley.

Mountain biking is not permitted on walking tracks and trails within the Park. However, bikes are permitted on vehicle roads and public roads within the Park. Campfires are only permitted at certain times of the year, fees apply to enter and camp in the Park. For all booking and fire related information go to parks.sa.gov.au. Please note many places within the Park have no phone reception.

You can download a map for Deep Creek Conservation Park from environment.sa.gov.au/parks

PARK PROFILE



Toilets

Name: Deep Creek Conservation Park

First established: 1971

Size: 4558 hectares

Location: 100km south of Adelaide

Number of plants and animals: 406 native plant species, 113 species of birds, 11 native mammal species, 9 native species of reptiles and 5 species of native fish.

Some endangered or rare species:

Southern Brown Bandicoot, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Beautiful Firetail, Southern Emu-wren.

AUTUMN



Autumn in the park sees the start of cooler days, rain begin to fall, and sea treasure washed ashore, with new life emerging from bare soil, rugged cliff tops and the Stringybark forest floor.

- 1 Watch the sunset over Kangaroo Island from Cobbler Hill Picnic Area and keep an eye out for wildlife such as Ring-tailed Possums, bats and Western Grey Kangaroos as they become active at dusk.
- 2 In late autumn and early winter take a stroll along the Stringybark Loop and spot the different fungi such as **Coral Fungi**, dye balls, and little bleeders.
- 3 Following the end of total firebans ban in late autumn book a site such as Tapanappa Campground and toast marshmallows over a camp fire.
- 4 For those up for a day-long challenge walk the Deep Creek Circuit Hike (11km return) which offers amazing views of the Park and plentiful wildlife such as Echidnas and Bluetongue Lizards.
- 5 From Cobbler Hill, Tapanappa, or Trig Campground, or as a daylong venture, find a part of the Heysen Trail to walk in the early morning and spot the resident birds such as the Superb Fairy-wrens and White-browed Scrub-wrens.
- 6 Head to Tapanappa Lookout and walk either the Deep Creek Cove Hike that leads down to the beach or the Deep Creek Waterfall Hike for a glimpse at the beautiful waterfall.
- 7 In the evening, just before sunset find a spot around your campground to sit and watch the sky for bats as they become active. You may also get a glimpse of the Yellow-footed Antechinus or the elusive **Southern Brown Bandicoot!**
- 8 On a calm day head down to Blowhole Beach via Blowhole Beach Hike or your 4WD to explore the shoreline and see what natural treasures have washed up such as cup sponges, cuttlefish and different types of seaweed.
- 9 On a clear night find somewhere around your campsite to watch the night sky and spot the Milky Way and Southern Cross (stargazing smartphone apps are available to help).
- 10 On a foggy morning stroll along the Forest Circuit Walk and experience how different the forest feels in these conditions.

WINTER



Winter in the Park sees warm campfires, toasted marshmallows and hot cups of tea.

With fungi, moss, and new life emerging from winter rains some of the many things to see.

- 1 On a clear winter's morning head up to Aaron Creek Picnic Area to hike the Goondooloo Ridge Walk that leads to a lookout. Keep an eye out for grazing **Western Grey Kangaroos**.
- 2 Book a campsite such as Stringybark Campground (ideal for first-time campers) and make your own damper on a stick using a mixture of flour, water and salt.
- 3 Rug up and head to Blowhole Beach to watch the wintery weather roll in. It's the ideal time to spot Southern Right Whales who may have calves.
- 4 At night in your campsite invent or play a game with a torch such as spotlight.
- 5 For those with a 4WD experience the spectacular views of Backstairs Passage while heading down to Blowhole Beach.
- 6 For a late winter challenge walk along the Aaron Creek Circuit Hike and take time to smell the Golden Wattle as it begins to bloom. Keep an eye out for the caterpillar of the Wattle Blue Butterfly as they eat new leaves and wattle buds.
- 7 Walk along the Boat Harbor Circuit Hike and see the views of Kangaroo Island, The Pages Island Group and Tunkalilla Beach. Keep an eye out for playful Bottlenose Dolphins (you can also drive down in a 4WD).
- 8 Take an early morning walk along Forest Circuit or Stringybark Loop and spot or photograph the different types of moss, lichen, fungi and wildflowers such as the **Dwarf Greenhood**.
- 9 For enthusiastic hikers, pack a picnic and head to the Eagle Waterhole (walk in campsite, fires not permitted).
- 10 Let the children choose a short winter hike that is close to your campground and be sure to rug up with a raincoat, umbrella and your gum boots.

SPRING



Spring in the Park sees wildflowers, reptiles, frogs, birds and butterflies galore.

With sunny days and early mornings perfect for adventure and an ideal time to explore.

- 1 On a clear night find somewhere around your campsite to watch the night sky for shooting stars and spot constellations such as Orion's Belt (stargazing smartphone apps can help).
- 2 From your campsite find a part of the Heysen Trail to walk early morning and spot the resident birds such as the brightly coloured Superb Fairy-wrens and Eastern Spinebills.
- 3 In the evening take a stroll along the Forest Circuit Hike or Stringybark Loop and see what birds you can hear and spot such as **Scarlet Robins** or Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos - who nest in the old hollows of the Stringybark trees. 
- 4 Book a campsite such as Trig Campground and take an evening stroll in search of animal tracks and traces such as echidna diggings, kangaroo scats, feathers, and termite or ant mounds. 
- 5 Take a morning stroll around the Cobbler Hill Picnic Area and see if you can find the tallest flower stalk of the Grass Trees and keep an eye out for Common Brown Butterflies.
- 6 Explore Blowhole Beach and float cuttlefish or driftwood in the creek that flows onto the beach.
- 7 From the Stringybark Campground explore the Spring Wildflower Walk and spot the colourful wildflowers such as orchids, lilies and the insectivorous **Scented Sundews**. 
- 8 Explore the fascinating mining history of the nearby Talisker Conservation Park.
- 9 From the Trig Picnic Area explore the Deep Creek Cove Hike that leads to a secluded cove where Deep Creek flows into the Southern Ocean.
- 10 In early spring before the total fire ban starts, have a campfire and cook potatoes, fish or for something sweet, some s'mores over the fire.

SUMMER



Summer in the Park is hot and dry but there are still things to do and places to discover.

Like early morning beach adventures with shorebirds to see and natural treasure to uncover.

- 1 Take an early morning walk along a section of the Heysen Trail and see how many lizards you can spot as they sun themselves such as **Stumpy Lizards** and Tawny Dragons.
- 2 Set up at Blowhole Beach for a family picnic, some beachcombing, and sand creations.
- 3 Head to Pages Lookout or Tapanappa Lookout and see if you can spot some soaring birds of prey such as Wedge-tailed Eagles or Nankeen Kestrels.
- 4 On a cool summers day, from Tent Rock Road take the Deep Creek Waterfall Hike to see the year-round waterfall.
- 5 Go for a morning walk along a section of the Heysen Trail, the Forest Circuit or Cobbler Hill Creek Picnic Area and try to spot the Common Brown Butterflies as they flutter across the paths.
- 6 Watch the surfers, explore the shoreline or try your luck at fishing along Blowhole Beach.
- 7 At night use a torch to see what nocturnal wildlife you can spot in the canopies in and around your campsite such as Ring-tailed Possums and Southern Boobook Owls.
- 8 Take an early morning stroll along the Goondooloo Ridge Walk and spot the mobs of kangaroos.
- 9 Let the children choose a lookout: Tapanappa; Pages; or from Aaron Creek Picnic Area to watch the sunset.
- 10 Take a morning stroll along the Spring Wildflower Walk and spot the flowering **Tall Bluebell** and white scented flowers of the Christmas Bush. 

DID YOU KNOW?

- Sundews are common insectivorous plants throughout the Park. Their leaves are so sticky that
- insects stick to them. Once stuck the sundew slowly absorbs the insect for nutrients!

L: Southern Brown Bandicoot (JT)
R: Coral Fungi (JG)



L: Western Grey Kangaroos (JG)
R: Dwarf Greenhoods (JT)



L: Scarlet Robin (JT)
R: Scented Sundew (JT)



L: Stumpy Lizard (CM)
R: Tall Bluebell (JG)



LOOKING AFTER THE PARK

- 1 Keep wildlife wild:** We must never feed wildlife (or leave food scraps) as it can be unhealthy for them and impact their natural behaviour. Always keep a safe distance so you don't frighten them and leave your pets at home.
- 2 Leave things as you found them:** If you discover ant mounds, decaying logs or bark hanging off trees they all provide important habitat and should be left undisturbed. Firewood needs to be brought in and never taken from the Park as it is important habitat.
- 3 Leave nothing but footprints:** Always take your rubbish with you or pack a litter-free lunch. Stick to designated pathways to prevent damage to plants and natural, cultural and geological features.

- 4 Be careful on the roads:** There is plenty of active wildlife particularly at night so drive slowly & carefully.
- 5 Campfire Restrictions:** Restrictions apply throughout the year for wood fires and gas fires, it is important to get up-to-date information online before you go.

The Park is closed on days of Catastrophic Fire Danger and may be closed on days of Extreme Fire Danger and Severe Weather.

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), Jeremy Gramp (JG) and Coral Marsden (CM). Writings by Jason Tyndall, Nature Play SA.