



40 THINGS TO DO IN MOUNT REMARKABLE NATIONAL PARK

Mount Remarkable National Park is defined by rugged mountain ranges, dramatic gorges, steep vegetated valleys, and exposed red quartzite cliffs with parts of the landscape dating back to 800 millions years ago. The climate is unique – it is a cross-over between arid (dry with very little water) and temperate zones (moderate temperature with good levels of rain) giving rise to diverse and abundant plant and animal life.

The three main watercourses: Alligator; Mambray; and Spring Creek are lined with ancient River Red Gums, teeming with life. The Park is home to the Endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby, Lace Monitors, echidnas, Scorpions, Wedge-tailed Eagles, Emus, Western Grey Kangaroos, Euros, rich plant life and full of geological treasures.

The three sections of the Park: Alligator Gorge; Mt Remarkable (via Melrose); and Mambray Creek have their own unique elements including walking trails, picnic areas, scenic lookouts, gorges, creek lines, ruins and two formal camping grounds.

Camp fires are only permitted at certain times of the year, fees apply to enter and camp in the Park. For all booking, fire related information, and maps go to parks.sa.gov.au. Please note many places within the Park have no phone reception.

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

PARK PROFILE



Scenic views



Uneven surface



Toilets

Name: Mt Remarkable National Park.

First established: 1972.

Size: 18,000 hectares.

Location: Approx. 240km from Adelaide. Located between Spencer Gulf and the southern reaches of the Flinders Ranges 25 km east of Port Augusta.

Some endangered or rare species:

Yellow-footed Rock walaby, Krefts Tiger Snake, Flinders Ranges Spider Orchid (*Caladenia xantholeuca*) Woolcocks Spider Orchid (*Caladenia woolcockiorum*), Bush Stone-curlwe.

AUTUMN



Autumn in the Park is a time for nature to recover from the summer heat.

Awaiting much needed rain to see life emerge from the ground, ancient rocks and trees.

- 1 Have a family picnic and explore the Mambray Creek Day Visitor Area, read the interpretive signage and watch the canopies for Kookaburra's, Scarlet Robins, and Yellow-rumped Thornbills. (M)
- 2 From Mambray Creek Campground or Day Visitor Area take a stroll along the Mambray Creek Walk (1hr return, 3km) and see what life you can spot in the towering River Red Gums and ancient **Northern Cypress Pine forest**. (M)
- 3 From Baroota Ruins Campsite head along the Baroota Hike (2 hours return, 6km) and explore the ruins and old cemetery (the ruins may be unstable and sensitive - climbing can damage them). (M)
- 4 In late autumn and early winter take a stroll along the short Wirra Water Loop (1hr return, 1.6km) and spot the different **lichen** and fungi such as Earth Stars and Mycena species.
- 5 Following the end of total fire ban in late autumn, book Mambray Creek Campground or Baroota Ruins Campground and tell stories whilst toasting marshmallows over a campfire.
- 6 In the evening, just before sunset, find a spot around your campground to sit and watch the sky for bats as they become active, and listen out for the ghost-like call of the Bush Stone-curlew.
- 7 Grab your torch and go spotlighting. Scan the canopies for the glowing eyes of Brush-tail or Ring-tail Possums.
- 8 From the Melrose Monument trek along a part of the Heysen Trail to the lookout and keep an eye out for the majestic Lace Monitor or Western Grey Kangaroos. (A)
- 9 For a family day-long adventure head along Hidden Gorge Track (7hrs return 18km, uneven surface) or up to the Mt Remarkable Summit Hike (5 hrs return, 12.2km) and keep a watch out for soaring Wedge-tailed Eagles. (A)
- 10 Select one of the many trails in the Park and do some early morning bird spotting for Red-capped Robins, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Common Bronzewing, or Adelaide Rosellas.

WINTER



Winter in the Park sees the rain set in and creeks flow through gorges and creeks,

With campfires the perfect way to share stories over warm mugs of hot chocolate and tea.

- 1 At your campsite make some damper on a stick using a mixture of flour, water and salt.
- 2 Head to Ali Lookout Walk (15 mins return, 400m) for amazing views of Alligator Gorge. (A)
- 3 At night in your campsite invent or play a game with a torch such as spotlight.
- 4 Let the children choose a short winter hike close to your campground and be sure to rug up with a raincoat, umbrella and gum boots.
- 5 Explore the nearby town of Melrose and stroll along the Melrose Nature Hike (3 hrs return, 4.7km). (M)
- 6 From Mambray Creek explore Davey's Gully Hike (1 hr return, 2.4km) and spot insects on flowers, shrubs and crawling amongst leaf litter such as Mitchell's Diurnal Cockroach. (A)
- 7 Take your gum boots and stroll along Mambray Creek Walk where you'll walk through puddles, hear flowing creeks and feel the winter chill of the Park.
- 8 On a clear day head up to Sugar Gum Lookout overlooking a colony of the endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby. This has a short but challenging climb (3 hrs return, 8km). Keep an eye out for the Flinders Ranges Scorpion. **Flinders Ranges Scorpion**. (A)
- 9 Take a camera or sketch pad to the park and capture, sketch, or write something about the wintry landscape.
- 10 In late winter, walk along the Alligator Gorge Hike and take time to smell the **Golden Wattle** as it begins to bloom. (A)

SPRING



Spring in the Park sees the sounds of frogs, smell of wildflowers and butterflies taking flight. It's a perfect time for camping with beautiful sunshine and clear starry nights.

- 1 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).
- 2 Take an evening stroll around your campsite in search of animal tracks and traces such as echidna diggings, kangaroo scats, feathers, and termite or ant mounds.
- 3 Head to Alligator Gorge and venture along the Gorge Circuit Hike (2 hours return, 2km) where you'll pass through The Narrows. Keep a lookout for **Euros** as they sip water from rock pools or graze for food. (A) (S)
- 4 Have a family picnic at the Blue Gum Flat Picnic Area and explore the Gorge Lookout Walk (20 minutes return, 600m). (A) (R)
- 5 Spend the day at the Mambray Creek Day Picnic Area exploring the creek, and watching for **Emus** and Kangaroos as they curiously stroll through (it is important to never feed wildlife). (R)
- 6 Pick a trail within Alligator Gorge for a morning stroll and spot or photograph the different types of birds, moss, lichen, fungi and wildflowers such as Swamp Donkey Orchids and Common Comb Spider Orchids. (A) (S)
- 7 On a sunny spring day find some flowers to quietly observe. Watch for bees, beetles, butterflies, hover flies, and other insects as they collect pollen and sip nectar.
- 8 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.
- 9 Head to Alligator Gorge and walk to the The Terraces and back where you'll see fossilized patterns in rocks, different shaped lichen and may even spot tadpoles in the rock pools. (A) (S)
- 10 Stroll along the Mambray Creek Walk or the Wirra Water Loop and spot the butterflies warming their wings such as the Chequered Swallow-tail or Lesser Wanderer.

SUMMER



Summer in the Park sees wildlife seeking the cooler temperatures of the gorges and sleeping under shady trees. Early morning walks, watching evening sunsets, and stargazing are ideal ways to avoid the heat.

- 1 Summer is the perfect time for an early morning walk or bird spotting on any of the trails in the park. You may spot the brightly coloured Variegated Wrens and Australian Ringneck Parrots.
- 2 Choose a walk in the Park and go on a spider web hunt (but don't touch). Look on the logs, between trees and see if you can spot some of the many spiders that call the Park home such as the Golden Orb.
- 3 Take an early morning venture along Mambray Creek Walk and see how many lizards you can spot as they sun themselves such as Stumpy Lizards.
- 4 Have an early morning picnic or late evening stroll along Mambray Creek Track and keep an eye out for the endangered **Yellow-footed Rock walaby**.
- 5 At dusk head out to some open areas around your campsite and spot some grazing Kangaroos, Wallabies or Euros.
- 6 Go for a short morning stroll around Mambray Creek in search of the white scented flowers of the **Curry Bush** or spot white flowers in the tall Sugar Gums.
- 7 In early morning or late afternoon find a spot to watch the sunrise or sunset from the Davey's Gully walk. (A)
- 8 After summer rains stroll along Mambray Creek and take in the smells, sounds and spot the purple Garland Lily as it begins to bloom.
- 9 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).
- 10 Take a stroll along the shaded creek lines in search of low hanging River Red Gum branches and watch the flowers for visiting insects; observe birds using the ancient hollows; or spot the Lace Monitors scratches on the trees.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Flinders Ranges Scorpion only occurs in the Flinders Ranges and is one of the largest in Australia
- with some growing over 10cm long! Scorpions are nocturnal. They feed on slaters, centipedes,
- beetles, spiders, millipedes and cover their prey in digestive juice to make chewing easier!

L: Northern Cypress Pine (JT)
R: Lichen (JT)



L: Golden Wattle (JT)
R: Flinders Ranges Scorpion (JT)



L: Euro (JT)
R: Emu (JT)



L: Yellow-footed Rock wabaly (JT)
R: Curry Bush (JT)



LOOKING AFTER THE PARK

- 1 Keep wildlife wild:** We must never feed wildlife as it can be unhealthy for them and impact their natural behaviour. If you encounter wildlife always keep a safe distance so you don't frighten them.
- 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. Ruins can be unstable and easily damaged so please don't climb or take any parts of it.
- 3 Leave nothing but footprints:** Always take your rubbish with you or even better pack a litter-free lunch. Stick to designated pathways as many of the plants, rocks and other geological features are fragile and easily damaged.
- 4 Be careful on the Roads:** There is plenty of active wildlife particularly at night so drive slow and 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). Writings by Jason Tyndall, Nature Play SA.