



# 40 THINGS TO DO IN CLELAND CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE PARK

*Cleland is well known for the internationally renowned Cleland Wildlife Park and South Australia's most walked trail – the Waterfall Gully to Mt Lofty Summit Hike.*

In addition to these iconic elements, the Park has some lesser-known attributes such as old growth stringy bark forests, historic ruins, Dreaming stories, swamps, hidden walking trails, an array of bike trails, and rare plant and animal life such as the Southern Brown Bandicoot, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Bassian Thrush, Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, and a range of native orchids.

The Park is rich in Aboriginal, European, and natural history and is the traditional lands of the Kaurna (Gar-na) people. The Park has interpretive trails ideal for any age and ability.

For more information such as Park maps visit [parks.sa.gov.au](http://parks.sa.gov.au)

## PARK PROFILE



Toilets



Wheelchair access



Pram access



Walking only

**Name:** Cleland Conservation & Wildlife Park.

**First established:** 1945.

**Location:** 10km 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.

# AUTUMN

*Autumn in the park sees the start of cooler days, rain begin to fall, and creeks beginning to flow,*

*With new life emerging on waterfall cliff faces and the Stringybark forest floor with fungi beginning to grow.*

- 1 Watch the sunset over Adelaide from Mt Lofty Summit and keep an eye out for Ring-tailed Possums, and Western Grey Kangaroos as they become active at dusk.   
- 2 Download the new Mt Lofty Precinct App to take yourself on a guided walking tour along the short but sweet Discovery Trail, it's only 350 meters long!
- 3 Cast your eye down to the ground to find nature's recyclers. Fungi found among the groundcover and in the Stringy Bark trees help break down dead plant and animal material. Note: wild fungi should never be eaten.
- 4 Try to capture the perfect photo of the sunlight trickling through the red, orange and yellow of the Park's changing deciduous tree colours. Popular ornamental trees including Liquid Amber and Elm trees.
- 5 Explore the Crafers to Mt Lofty link trail. If trekking early morning or later afternoon you may also catch a glimpse of an Antechinus or the Endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot.
- 6 Take a bike ride down Winter Track or Chinamans Hut Track. As you cruise past the old growth trees listen out for the White-throated Treecreeper. Its call is like a short whistle that gets louder and louder.
- 7 For those wanting to get active there are geocaching and trail running opportunities in the Park which you can find online, or sign up for the weekly parkrun along Long Ridge Track.
- 8 Have a family picnic alongside the Cleland Wildlife Park. The picnic area adjacent to the carpark provides the perfect setting for a free bush barbecue experience. Listen to the sounds of the laughing kookaburras and white-browed scrubwrens.   
- 9 On a clear night head up to the Mt Lofty Summit (open til midnight) for some stargazing and spot the Milky Way and Southern Cross (stargazing smartphone apps are available). 
- 10 On a foggy morning take a short hike to Second Falls from Waterfall Gully and experience how different the forest feels in these conditions.  

# WINTER

*Winter in the Park sees fog, mist and rain as water fills the creeks and waterfalls.*

*Echidnas are on the move as Golden Wattles bloom and Currawongs call.*

- 1 Hike up Winter's Track to Long Ridge Track for views over Chambers' Gully. Look for Western Grey Kangaroos grazing at dawn and dusk, or spot them laying around under trees during the day.
- 2 Take a short stroll from Waterfall Gully to view the First Falls. The stonework here was rejuvenated after the weir wall was almost entirely washed away in 2016.   
- 3 Take your gumboots and discover the Carro Creek Catchment, where creeks seasonally flood throughout the year. Creeks are important habitat for the Eastern Banjo Frog which is often heard croaking after rains. 
- 4 If you're lucky enough to see snow at Mt Lofty Summit during the winter, see if you can catch a snowflake on your tongue!
- 5 Meander along the Crafers Link Trail and see if you can catch a glimpse of the Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo. These birds nest in the hollows of old trees that are also important for nocturnal animals such as owls and common Brush-tailed Possums.
- 6 Look out for fresh green growth sprouting from blackened tall trees. This is from carefully managed burns actioned throughout autumn and spring in certain areas of the Park to both protect the Mt Lofty Summit, and to help the native vegetation thrive.
- 7 Take an early morning walk along the Waterfall Gully to Mt Lofty Summit hike and spot or photograph the different types of moss, lichen, fungi and wildflowers such as the Dwarf Greenhood. 
- 8 The yellow ball-like flowers of our national floral emblem, the Golden Wattle, can be seen and smelt throughout the park during winter. You may notice green ball-like attachments on the tree. These are known as Galls and are from a Bud-galling Wasp that lay their eggs in the buds causing them to swell up. Inside the Galls are wasp larva which eventually emerge as adult wasps.
- 9 As Winter turns into Spring, watch the pink or white tubular flowers of the Common Heath appear. Birds such as the New Holland Honeyeater feed daintily from the nectar.
- 10 Purchase a bag of animal food on entry into Cleland Wildlife Park and spend the day hand feeding a variety of Kangaroos, wallabies and potoroos living throughout the park. (Fees apply)

# 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 At 710 metres above sea level, the Mt Lofty Summit is an ideal place for families to visit. Take your binoculars and see if you can see the Yorke Peninsula in the distance, on a clear day you can often see this with your own eyes.   
- 2 Wander down Wine Shanty Track and if you're lucky you'll be joined by clouds of Common Brown butterflies flying up out of the ground cover.
- 3 Look up into the old growth Stringy Bark trees which provide habitat for rare animals such as the Southern Brown Bandicoot, and Bassian Thrush. The tree hollows are home to possums, and bats and take over 100 years to develop!
- 4 Get down close to the ground along the short Bilba Hike to Cleland Wildlife Park and check out the native orchids which bloom close to the ground during the winter and into spring such as the Nodding Greenhood.
- 5 For enthusiastic hikers, pack a picnic and take a hike along the Wine Shanty track. Notice the changes in vegetation as you traverse down into the cool, moist gullies.
- 6 At the top of Mt Lofty Summit, take a moment to reflect on the area's rich cultural heritage. Mt Lofty and Mt Bonython form part of the Nganno (pronounced 'Nar-na') Dreaming story – an important part of Kaurna culture.
- 7 Get up close with one the Wombats at Cleland Wildlife Park. Feed and take a photo with one of our iconic Australian wildlife species. (Fees apply)
- 8 Stay a night or two in the Mt Lofty YHA, a renovated farmer's cottage destroyed by a fire in the 1930's. Grab your torch for a night walk to discover the nocturnal animals awakening from their daily slumber.
- 9 Examine the mysterious ruins of Chinaman's Hut. What did the house look like? Who built it? Who lived there? How did it get its name? Nobody knows!
- 10 Take the family on a gentle ride up the Crafers to Mt Lofty Link Trail. Cycling trails are classified as easy, moderate and advanced. How many Koalas can you see sleeping in the tree forks?

# SUMMER



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

*Like early morning bird watching, nocturnal adventures to undertake, and natural wonders to uncover.*

- 1 Take an early morning walk along a section of the Heysen Trail from Mt Lofty Summit to Summertown and see how many lizards you can spot such as Stumpy Lizards and Painted Dragons.
- 2 Join experienced guides for a night time tour of Cleland Wildlife Park. Get up close to potoroos, bettongs and bandicoots. Hear the haunting cry of owls and the Bush Stone Curlew. The tour coincides with feeding times for Tasmanian Devils – something most visitors never get to experience. (Fees apply)   
- 3 Explore the Perimeter Track around the Wildlife Park and spot the flowering Fire Weed and white scented flowers of the Christmas Bush. Take your pencils and sketch what catches your eye. 
- 4 Head to Waterfall Gully and walk slowly or find a place to sit quietly to see if you can get a glimpse of an Eastern Striped Skink or Cunningham's Rock Skink darting in and out of the rocks.   
- 5 Watch the sun go down from the vantage points offered by Mt Lofty Summit. Listen out for the Lesser Long-eared Bats, who become active at dusk to forage for insects.
- 6 Start from Measdays Lookout and hike along Measdays loop track to search for Cleland's top five; a Koala, Western Grey Kangaroo, the elusive Southern Brown Bandicoot, Kookaburra and the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo.
- 7 Explore some of Cleland's Historic ruins. The Tin Lines Ruins can be found just off the road as you enter the Wildlife Park, and also at the northern entry of the park along the Wine Shanty Hike Trail.
- 8 Take an easy stroll from Mt Lofty Summit, down Long Ridge Track for a different view of Adelaide as you head towards Burnside Quarry. Short-beaked Echidnas may be seen along the track as they forage for ants.
- 9 Take an exclusive tour with the Cleland Wildlife Park expert bird keeper before the park opens at 8am. Get up close and personal with critically endangered bird species and hear about how the Park is actively involved in their conservation and protection. (Fees apply)
- 10 Pack your torch and embark on a short night walk from First to Second Falls at Waterfall Gully. Look up into the trees for Ring-tailed Possums or the well-camouflaged Tawny Frogmouth. 

L: Southern Brown Bandicoot (JT)  
R: White-throated Treecreeper (JT)



L: Common Heath (JT)  
R: Dwarf Greenhoods (JT)



L: Common Brown Butterfly (JT)  
R: Koala (JG)



L: Stumpy Lizard (JT)  
R: Yellow Black-tailed cockatoo (JT)



## LOOKING AFTER THE PARK

- 1 Keep wildlife wild:** Outside of the Cleland Wildlife Park, 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 is never to be 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 and carefully.
- 5 Share the trail:** Many trails within Cleland are shared between walkers and bike riders. To protect the surrounding environment and to ensure the safety of all riders and shared trail users, please be aware of the international Trail Users Code of Practice when using shared trails.

*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) and Jeremy Gramp (JG).*