

L: Hooded Plovers (JT)
R: Tamar Wallaby (JT)



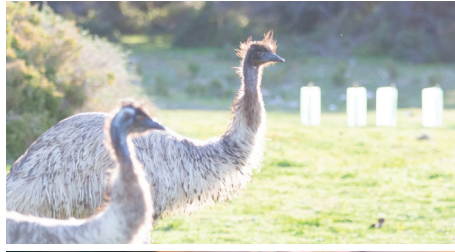
L: Cockles Tongue (JT)
R: Rosenberg's Heath Goanna (JT)



L: Golden Whistler (JT)
R: Curtiebones (JT)



L: White-bellied Sea Eagle (DEWNR)
R: Emu (JT)



40 THINGS TO DO IN INNES NATIONAL PARK

Spectacular coastal landscapes with rugged cliffs and sandy beaches provide the backdrop of Innes National Park. The park comprises 9,415 hectares of coastal vegetation, contributing to one of the few large areas of significant vegetation on the Yorke Peninsula.

The Narungga people have lived on Yorke Peninsula for many thousands of years and know the land intimately – its physical features, animal and plant life and water resources. The Park is home to Kangaroos, the once locally extinct Tamar Wallaby, Emus, Malleefowl, Pygmy Possums, Hooded Plovers, and a whole host of unique marine life that fall within the Southern Spencer Gulf Marine Park.

Innes National Park is a popular camping destination for many South Australian families, surfers and field naturalists with seven camping grounds spread across the Park and six heritage accommodation houses at Inneson offering a peaceful experience immersed in the Park's wilderness, it offers something for everyone.

Fees collected are used for conservation and to maintain and improve park facilities for your ongoing enjoyment. For campsite bookings, maps and other Park information see environment.sa.gov.au/parks

- 1 Keep wildlife wild:** We must never feed wildlife (or leave food scraps) as it can be unhealthy and impact their natural behavior. 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, Mallee fowl 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 and carefully.
- 5 Be prepared:** Restrictions apply throughout the year for wood fires and gas fires, it is important to get up-to-date information online before you go. Gas fires only from 1st November – 30th April.

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 the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR).

PARK PROFILE

Name: Innes National Park.

First established: 1970.

Size: 9415 hectares.

Location: Southern Yorke Peninsula approximately 260 km (3 hours) west of Adelaide.

Number of native plants and animals: Over 450 species of plants and 140 species birds.

Some threatened and endangered plants and animals: Osprey and White-bellied Sea Eagle, Tamar Wallaby, Western Whipbird, Rosenberg's Heath Goanna, Mallee fowl, Western Pygmy Possum.

AUTUMN

Autumn in the park sees the start of cooler days, calm conditions, rain begin to fall and sea treasure washed ashore, with new life emerging from bare soil and rugged cliff tops it is an ideal time to discover something you've never seen before.

- 1 Watch as surfers catch the ocean swells at Pondalowie Bay and Chinaman's Hat surf breaks and keep an eye out for the majestic White-bellied Sea Eagle.
- 2 When conditions are warm and calm try your hand at fishing for mullet at any of the Parks beaches such as Chinaman's Hat, Pondalowie Bay or Browns Beach.
- 3 Explore the old mining town of Inneston and discover the oven in the old bakery (still in operation). Keep an eye out for signs of wildlife such as Kangaroo, Wallaby and Emu scats.
- 4 On a clear dark night find somewhere around your campsite to watch the night sky. Spot the Southern Cross, Milky Way, and if you're lucky, perhaps a shooting star.
- 5 Take a walk out to either Cape Spencer or West Cape Lighthouses and count the Islands you can see and you may spot shorebirds or Ospreys soaring high in the wind thermals.
- 6 After sunset walk out to the Cape Spencer Lighthouse and count how many other lighthouses you see flashing in the distance.
- 7 Take a walk along the beautiful and deserted West Cape Beach and look for sea treasure such as driftwood, sponges and cowrie shells.
- 8 Get up early and watch the sunrise from the Stenhouse Bay Jetty or the lookout above Stenhouse Bay – early mornings are the ideal time for bird watching.
- 9 Take advantage of the cooler calm days and hike out along the Royston Head walking trail and photograph some of the stunning scenery this vantage point offers of the coast north to Daly Heads in the distance. Trail begins at carpark on Dolphin Bay Road.
- 10 In the late evening head to Jolly's Beach to take a short stroll and spot mobs of Kangaroos that gather in the late evening to graze. Jolly's Beach is accessed via the unsealed road east from the Innes Visitors Centre.

WINTER

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

The landscape softens with new life emerging from winter rains and storms rolling in across the sea.

- 1 On a stormy day head to Ethel Beach Lookout and watch the wintery weather roll in over the mighty Southern Ocean and feel the power of the wind as it rushes up the cliff face.
- 2 Enjoy the warmth of a campfire and make your own damper on a stick using a mixture of flour, water and salt.
- 3 Find a beach to walk along after a storm and discover what beach treasure has washed up such as sponges, shells, and cuttlebones.
- 4 Take the West Cape Lighthouse Walk and discover the stainless steel light house.
- 5 Try your luck fishing for squid (Southern Calamari) from the Stenhouse Bay Jetty.
- 6 Take a walk along the Thomson-Pfzner Plaster Trail and learn about the history of gypsum mining at Inneston. While walking see how many different woodland bird species you can count such as Golden Whistler or the Scarlet Robin. If you're lucky you may even spot the elusive Mallee fowl.
- 7 Try and spot a whale from any of the Parks coastal vantage points as they cruise past on the journey to their winter calving grounds.
- 8 In late winter discover the exposed wrecks of the Ethel and Ferret that lay on the beach at Ethel Beach. Learn the history of these two vessels and walk among the skeletal remains
- 9 Cast a line at the famous Browns Beach and see if you can catch an Australian Salmon during their annual winter run.
- 10 Take a walk on the Stenhouse Bay Loop and learn the story of the Seaman's Grave and discover what the Goofy Hut was, all the while taking in the stunning coastal scenery of Innes National Park and the Southern Spencer Gulf Marine Park.

SPRING

Spring in the Park sees wildflowers, reptiles, emu chicks and kangaroos galore.

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

- 1 Head along any of the Parks roads or walking trails and discover the floral beauty of the Park as all the native plants begin to flower such as Cockies Tongue (*Templetonia retusa*) Old Man's Beard (*Clematis microphylla*), Common Fringe Myrtle (*Calytrix tetragonia*), Coast Beard Heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*)
- 2 As you drive or walk in the park watch for newly hatched emu chicks as they wander around with their dad. Can you work out why they are referred to as 'stripies'?
- 3 Choose a trail to explore and spot the Parks reptiles as they awaken from their winter hibernation. You may see Stumpy Lizards, Blue-tongue Lizards, Bearded Dragons, Brown Snakes, and if you're lucky maybe Rosenberg's Heath Goanna.
- 4 Try and spot the resident pod of dolphins at play in the surf from the Pondalowie Bay surfer's boardwalk.
- 5 Learn about the Narungga culture and the story of Ngarna at the Innes Visitor Centre.
- 6 Head to Cape Spencer Lighthouse Lookout and look west towards Reef Head and try to spot the blowhole in the cliffs.
- 7 Take a hike along the Gym Beach Walking Trail and see how many different species of birds you see such as Variegated Fairywrens, White-browed Scrubwrens, or even the rare Western Whip Bird.
- 8 Explore the fascinating mining history of the nearby Inneston with the restored ruins of workers houses, General Store, a school and the Bakery.
- 9 Look for Osprey as they hunt for fish while riding the updraft from the Cable Bay Cliffs.
- 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 treasures to uncover.

- 1 Walk north along Shell Beach and find the Blue Pool at the rocks, jump in and have a swim
- 2 Take a walk along Grouper Bay Beach where you will discover West Bay Beach with stunning scenery of West Cape cliffs.
- 3 Go for a late evening walk around the historic Inneston village and see if you can spot the elusive Tamar Wallaby at dusk as it comes out to graze.
- 4 Watch the sun set from the Cape Spencer Lighthouse Lookout.
- 5 Take a 360 degree panoramic photograph from the centre of the circular stone lookout at the start of the West Cape Light House Walking Trail. Read the interpretive 360 degree signage and identify locations, points of interest and offshore islands.
- 6 Watch the surfers, explore the shoreline or try your luck at fishing along Chinamans Hat Beach.
- 7 Visit Ethel Beach and draw your name in big letters or create some art in the sand so you can see it when you get back to the top of the lookout.
- 8 Spend the day on the beach in the beautiful Pondalowie Bay, count shorebirds, build a giant sand castle and watch the fishing boats come and go. You may see birds such as the Sooty or Pied Oyster Catcher, Hooded Plovers, and in the shallows keep an eye out for the resident black stingrays as they patrol the shallows for food in the evening.
- 9 Visit Dolphin Bay and see if you can spot why it got its name.
- 10 Go snorkeling at Chinamans Hat beach in the Southern Spencer Gulf Marine Park Sanctuary Zone where you may encounter a variety of colorful reef fish such as wrasses, leather jackets, blue devils and, if you look under ledges, you may even spot a Southern Rock Lobster (it's a Sanctuary Zone so look but don't take).