



Adelaide & South Australia

POP 1.7 MILLION / 2008

Includes ➔

Adelaide	715
Fleurieu Peninsula	743
Kangaroo Island	750
Barossa Valley	759
Clare Valley	764
Murray River	767
Limestone Coast	772
Yorke Peninsula	778
Eyre Peninsula	781
Flinders Ranges	785
Outback SA	791

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Peel Street (p728)
- ➔ Gin Long Canteen (p729)
- ➔ Star of Greece (p747)
- ➔ Metro Bakery (p776)
- ➔ Dudley Wines Cellar Door (p755)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Adabco Boutique Hotel (p725)
- ➔ Port Elliot Beach House YHA (p749)
- ➔ Dawes Point Cottage (p783)
- ➔ Mayfair Hotel (p726)
- ➔ Bethany Chapel B&B (p745)

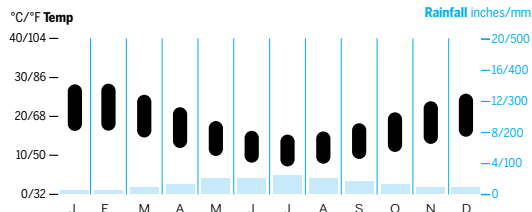
Why Go?

Travellers both domestic and foreign are waking up to the diverse appeal of South Australia (SA), which has been long underrated. Its capital, Adelaide, beats the heat by celebrating life's finer things: fine landscapes, fine festivals, fine food, and (...OK, forget the other three) fine wine.

Further afield, there's plenty of scope for exploration. Highlights range from the legendary wine regions of the Barossa and Clare Valleys to the cliffs and caves of the Eyre Peninsula and pastoral scenes of the Yorke Peninsula, bisected by the mighty Murray River.

To cap it off, the Flinders Ranges and Stuart Hwy to the north are pure outback fantasy: cattle stations, Indigenous culture, red sand, unending straight-line roads and ochre-coloured peaks.

When to Go Adelaide



Feb–Mar SA's festival season hits its straps: the Adelaide Fringe and WOMAdeelaide are highlights.

Mar–May Beat the city heat in the shoulder season and benefit from autumn colours in the vineyards.

Jun–Aug Empty beaches, affordable accommodation and cosy fireside dining.

ADELAIDE

POP 1.34 MILLION

Sophisticated, cultured, neat-casual – the self-image Adelaide projects, a nod to the days of free colonisation without the ‘penal colony’ taint. Adelaidians may remind you of their convict-free status, but the stuffy, affluent origins of the ‘City of Churches’ did more to inhibit development than promote it. Boggled down in the old-school doldrums and painfully short on charisma, this was a pious, introspective place.

But these days things are different. Multicultural flavours infuse Adelaide’s restaurants; there’s a pumping arts and live-music scene; and the city’s festival calendar has vanquished dull Saturday nights. There are still plenty of church spires here, but they’re hopelessly outnumbered by pubs and a growing number of hip bars tucked away in lanes.

Just down the tram tracks is beachy Glenelg: Adelaide with its guard down and boardshorts up. Nearby Port Adelaide is slowly gentrifying but remains a raffish harbour ‘hood with buckets of soul.

History

South Australia was declared a province on 28 December 1836, when the first British colonists landed at Holdfast Bay (current-day Glenelg). The first governor, Captain John Hindmarsh, named the state capital Adelaide, after the wife of the British monarch, William IV. While the eastern states struggled with the stigma of convict society, Adelaidians were free citizens – a fact to which many South Australians will happily draw your attention.

Adelaide has maintained a socially progressive creed: trade unions were legalised here in 1876; women were permitted to stand for parliament in 1894; and SA was one of the first places in the world to give women the vote, and the first state in Australia to outlaw racial and gender discrimination, legalise abortion and decriminalise gay sex.

Sights

Central Adelaide

Central Market

MARKET

(Map p724; ☎08-8203 7494; www.adelaidecentralmarket.com.au; Gouger St; ☀7am-5.30pm Tue, 9am-5.30pm Wed & Thu, 7am-9pm Fri, 7am-3pm Sat) A tourist sight, or a shopping op? Either way, satisfy your deepest culinary cravings

at the 250-odd stalls in superb Adelaide Central Market. A sliver of salami from the Mettwurst Shop, a crumb of English Stilton from the Smelly Cheese Shop, a tub of blueberry yoghurt from the Yoghurt Shop – you name it, it’s here. Good luck making it out without eating anything. Adelaide’s Chinatown is right next door. **Adelaide’s Top Food & Wine Tours** (☎08-8386 0888; www.topfoodandwinetours.com.au) offers guided tours.

Art Gallery of South Australia

GALLERY

(Map p724; ☎08-8207 7000; www.artgallery.sa.gov.au; North Tce; ☀10am-5pm) **FREE** Spend a few hushed hours in the vaulted, parquet-floored gallery that represents the big names in Australian art. Permanent exhibitions include Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Asian, European and North American art (20 bronze Rodins!). Progressive visiting exhibitions occupy the basement. There are free guided tours (11am and 2pm daily) and lunchtime talks (12.30pm every day except Tuesday). There’s a lovely cafe out the back too.

South Australian Museum

MUSEUM

(Map p724; ☎08-8207 7500; www.samuseum.sa.gov.au; North Tce; ☀10am-5pm) **FREE** Dig into Australia’s natural history with the museum’s special exhibits on whales and Antarctic explorer Sir Douglas Mawson. An Aboriginal Cultures Gallery displays artefacts of the Ngarrindjeri people of the Coorong and lower Murray. Elsewhere, the giant squid and the lion with the twitchy tail are definite highlights. Free tours depart 11am weekdays and 2pm and 3pm weekends. The cafe here is a handy spot for lunch/recaffeination.

Adelaide Botanic Gardens

GARDENS

(Map p724; ☎08-8222 9311; www.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au; cnr North Tce & East Tce; ☀7.15am-sunset Mon-Fri, from 9am Sat & Sun) **FREE** Meander, jog or chew through your trashy airport novel in these lush city-fringe gardens. Highlights include a restored 1877 palm house, the water-lily pavilion (housing the gigantic *Victoria amazonica*), the First Creek wetlands, the engrossing **Museum of Economic Botany** and the fabulous steel-and-glass arc of the **Bicentennial Conservatory** (10am to 4pm), which recreates a tropical rainforest. Free 1½-hour **guided walks** depart the Schomburgk Pavilion at 10.30am daily. The classy **Botanic Gardens Restaurant** (Map p724; ☎08-8223 3526;