



Western South Australia

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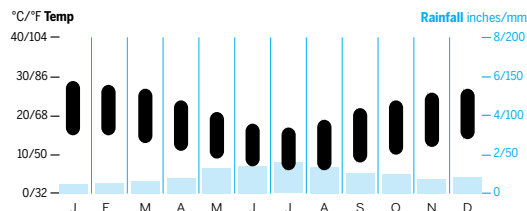
Why Go?

Within striking range of Adelaide, the Yorke Peninsula bills itself as 'Agriculturally Rich – Naturally Beautiful'. Indeed, the Yorke Peninsula is thin of urban hubbub, but it does exude agrarian beauty: deep azure summer skies and yellow barley fields spread across hazy rolling hills. The coastline here is gorgeous, with surf breaks, roaming emus and ospreys, and little beach towns, most of which have a pub and a fishing jetty.

Further west on the gargantuan Eyre Peninsula, wheat fields extend from horizon to horizon, while tuna, whiting and oysters abound offshore. Victoria's scenic Great Ocean Road gets all the press, but the Eyre Peninsula's west coast is just as spectacular, with craggy limestone cliffs, caves, wild surf and deep-orange-sand beaches. Towns here range from raggedy frontier outposts (Ceduna) to downright civilised centres (Port Lincoln).

When to Go

Ceduna



Dec–Feb Tourist season in full swing and it's warm enough to swim.

Mar–May Warm autumn days and cool nights: perfect beach, camping and fishing weather.

Sep–Nov The wheat heads are bobbing and the roads are empty.

YORKE PENINSULA

For history buffs, the northwestern end of boot-shaped 'Yorkes' – just under two hours northwest of Adelaide – has a trio of towns called the Copper Triangle: Moonta (the mine), Wallaroo (the smelter) and Kadina (the service town). Settled by Cornish miners, this area drove the regional economy following a copper boom in the early 1860s. In the big-sky peninsula country to the east and south, things are much more agricultural and laid-back, with sleepy holiday towns, isolated Innes National Park, remote surf breaks and empty coastline.

Tours

Heading Bush

OUTDOORS

(☎08 8356 5501; www.headingbush.com; 3-day tours from \$695) Explore Yorkes – wildlife, cliffs, beaches, Aboriginal culture and even a winery – on a three-day tour ex-Adelaide. Price includes dorm accommodation; single, double or twin is available at extra cost.

Information

Copper Coast Visitor Information Centre

(☎1800 654 991, 08 8821 2333; www.yorkepeninsula.com.au; 50 Mines Rd; ☉9am–5pm Mon–Fri, 10am–4pm Sat & Sun) Yorke Peninsula's main visitor info centre, stocked to the rafters with brochures: look for the *Walk the Yorke* pamphlet detailing a dozen interesting trails, short and long, all around the peninsula; and the *Kadina Walking Trail* map. The **Farm Shed Museum** (☎08 8821 2333; www.farmshed.net.au; Copper Coast Visitor Information Centre, 50 Mines Rd; adult/child/family \$10/5/23, railway per ride \$2; ☉9am–5pm Mon–Fri, 10am–4pm Sat & Sun, railway 1st & 3rd Sun of the month) is here too.

Yorke Peninsula Visitor Information

Centre (☎08 8853 2600, 1800 202 445; www.visityorkepeninsula.com.au; 29 Main St, Minlaton; ☉9am–5pm Mon–Fri) In agricultural Minlaton, right in the middle of the southern Yorke Peninsula. It's a good source of info on the lower half of the peninsula (including shipwrecks!)

Getting There & Away

Yorke Peninsula Coaches (☎08 8821 2755; www.yppoaches.com.au) Daily buses from Adelaide to Kadina (\$40, 2¼ hours), Wallaroo (\$40, 2½ hours) and Moonta (\$40, three hours), with another route running down the peninsula's east coast daily except Tuesday and Thursday, stopping at Port Vincent (\$52, 3¼ hours), Stansbury (\$52, 3½ hours) and Edithburgh (\$54, four hours).

West Coast

Fronting Spencer Gulf, the Yorke Peninsula's west coast has a string of shallow swimming beaches, plus the 'Copper Triangle' historic mining towns of Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta, all a short drive from each other. **Kernewek Lowender** (www.kernewek.org; ☉May), aka the Copper Coast Cornish Festival, happens around here in May of odd-numbered years. Further south, Point Turton is a magical little spot with a beautiful caravan park and hillside tavern.

Wallaroo

POP 3230

Still a major wheat port and fishing town, Wallaroo is on the way up: there's a huge new subdivision north of town, a new shopping complex inserted in the middle of the old town, and the shiny new Copper Cove Marina is full of expensive boats. There are plenty of pubs here, and the pubs are full of folks.

That said, the old town area retains a romantically weathered 'seen-better-days' vibe: wander around the compact little streets and old cottages in the shadows of the huge grain silos and soak up the atmosphere (the place to pen your next novel?).

Sights

Wallaroo Heritage & Nautical Museum

MUSEUM

(☎08 8823 3015; www.nationaltrust.org.au; cnr Jetty Rd & Emu St; adult/child \$6/3; ☉10am–4pm) Down by the water, the stoic 1865 post office now houses the Wallaroo Heritage & Nautical Museum. There are several of these little National Trust museums around Yorkes: in Port Victoria, in Ardrossan, in Milaton, in Edithburgh... But this is the best of them, with tales of square-rigged English ships and George the pickled giant squid.

Sleeping & Eating

Sonbern Lodge Motel

HOTEL, MOTEL \$

(☎08 8823 2291; www.sonbernlodgemotel.com.au; 18 John Tce; d/f from \$85/100; ☉) The old Sonbern – a 100-year-old grand temperance hotel – is looking a bit weather-beaten these days, but it remains an old-fashioned charmer, right down to the old wooden balcony and antique wind-up phone. There are basic pub-style rooms in the main building (with bathrooms), and newish motel units out the back. Breakfast available.