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South Australia

PDF ebook

Excerpt from Australia
guidebook, 18th Edition

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From cage diving to fine dining, there's a wine barrel full of reasons why South Australia was named as one of Lonely Planet's best regions to visit in 2017.

Adelaide is South Australia's culture-rich capital, with a buzzing, boutique vibe all year-round. Home to some of Australia's coolest small bars and restaurants serving dishes prepared by world-famous chefs. Take-in the city sights on the Adelaide Oval RoofClimb, visit beautiful galleries and museums or indulge in some quality retail therapy.

Relax with a glass of red at 18 world-famous wine regions and over 200 cellar doors within an hour's drive of the CBD. Linger for a sumptuous long lunch in the Barossa, feast of the Fleurieu in McLaren Vale, stroll through the stunning Adelaide Hills, and escape to the charming Clare Valley or immerse yourself in the unique tastes of our Coonawarra.

Kangaroo Island transforms into a ruggedly beautiful landscape. Wildlife abounds with teetering cliffs, green planes and open sea as its backdrop. Bring your adventurer's spirit and discover mouth-watering food and wine, breathtaking scenery and a laid-back lifestyle.

In the Flinders Ranges and Outback you'll find silent, dusty red roads bordered by towering ancient cliffs and deep craters. Dawns are grey-blue, and dusks, deep red. You'd be forgiven for thinking you were navigating the unexplored face of Mars.



Adelaide & Around

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Best Places to Eat

- Peel Street (p725)
- Gin Long Canteen (p726)
- Star of Greece (p740)
- Flying Fish Cafe (p743)
- Dudley Cellar Door (p750)

Best Places to Stay

- Adabco Boutique Hotel (p721)
- Port Elliot Beach House YHA (p743)
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Why Go?

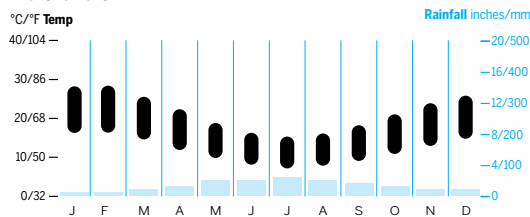
Escape the frenzy of Australia's east coast with a few days in gracious, relaxed Adelaide. Capital of the driest state on the driest inhabited continent, Adelaide beats the heat by celebrating life's finer things: fine landscapes, fine festivals, fine food, and (...OK, forget the other three) fine wine.

Just down the tram tracks is beachy Glenelg, Adelaide with its guard down and board shorts up. Nearby, Port Adelaide is slowly gentrifying but remains a raffish harbour 'hood with buckets of soul. Inland, Adelaide's winking plains rise to the Adelaide Hills, just 12 minutes up the freeway. The Hills' gorgeous valley folds, old-fangled towns and cool-climate vineyards are all close at hand.

A day trip away, the Fleurieu Peninsula is Adelaide's weekend playground, with surf and safe-swimming beaches, historic towns and the fabulous McLaren Vale wine region (love that shiraz...). Further afield, Kangaroo Island's wild-life, forests and seafood await just offshore.

When to Go

Adelaide



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

Mar–May Beat the summer city heat in shoulder season (also September to November).

Sep Football finals time: yell yourself silly in the stands, beer and pie in hand(s).



Spencer
Gulf



Adelaide & Around Highlights

- 1 Sniffing out the ripest cheese, fullest fruit and strongest coffee at Adelaide's **Central Market** (p710).
- 2 Swirling, nosing and quaffing your way through

McLaren Vale (p737), our favourite SA wine region.

- 3 Day tripping through the **Adelaide Hills** (p733), checking out cellar doors, markets and historic towns.

- 4 Listening to the seals snort on **Kangaroo Island** (p745).

- 5 Joining the after-work booze hounds on Adelaide's **Peel St** (p727) or at the **Exeter Hotel** (p727).



6 Catching a cricket match or some AFL football at the revamped **Adelaide Oval** (p712).

7 Riding the tram to **Glenelg** (p715) for a swim and some sunset fish and chips by the sea.

8 Cycling along the Encounter Bikeway from Victor Harbor to **Goolwa** (p743), keeping an eye out for passing whales.

ADELAIDE

POP 1.29 MILLION

Sophisticated, cultured, neat-casual – this is 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.

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 p714; www.adelaidecentralmarket.com.au; Gouger St; ☀ 7am-5.30pm Tue, 9am-5.30pm Wed & Thu, 7am-9pm Fri, 7am-3pm Sat) Satisfy both obvious and obscure culinary cravings at the 250-odd stalls in Adelaide’s superb Central Market. A sliver of salami from the Mettwurst Shop, a crumb of English Stilton from the Smelly Cheese Shop, a tub of blueberry yogurt 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 (p718) offer guided tours.

★ Art Gallery of South Australia

GALLERY

(Map p714; 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 Tuesdays).

ADELAIDE IN...

Two Days

If you’re here at Festival, WOMAdelaide or Fringe time, lap it up. Otherwise, kick-start your day at the **Central Market** (p710) then wander through the **Adelaide Botanic Gardens** (p711), finishing up at the **National Wine Centre** (p711). After a few bohemian beers at the **Exeter Hotel** (p727), have a ritzy dinner on **Rundle St**. Next day, visit the **Art Gallery of South Australia** (p710) and then wander down to the revamped Adelaide Oval to check out the **Bradman Collection** (p713). Grab a cab out to **Coopers Brewery** (p714) for a beer-tinged tour, then ride the tram to **Glenelg** (p715) for an evening swim and fish and chips on the sand.

Four Days

Follow the two-day itinerary – perhaps slotting in the **South Australian Museum** (p711) and **Jam Factory Contemporary Craft & Design Centre** (p711) – then pack a picnic basket of Central Market produce and take a day trip to the nearby **Adelaide Hills**, **McLaren Vale** or **Barossa Valley** wine regions. Next day, truck out to the museums and historic pubs of **Port Adelaide**, then catch a live band at the **Grace Emily Hotel** (p727) back in the city, before dinner on **Gouger St** (p724).

National Wine Centre of Australia WINERY
(Map p714; www.wineaustralia.com.au; cnr Botanic & Hackney Rds; ☉8am-9pm Mon-Fri, 9am-9pm Sat, 9am-7am Sun, tours & tastings 10am-5pm) **FREE** Check out the free self-guided, interactive *Wine Discovery Journey* exhibition, paired with tastings of Australian wines (from \$10), at this very sexy wine centre (actually a research facility for the University of Adelaide, rather than a visitor centre per se). You will gain an insight into the issues winemakers contend with, and can even have your own virtual vintage rated. Friday-evening 'uncorked' drinks happen at 4.30pm, and there's a cool cafe here, too.

South Australian Museum MUSEUM
(Map p714; 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. 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 good spot for lunch.

Adelaide Zoo ZOO
(Map p720; www.zoossa.com.au/adelaide-zoo; Frome Rd; adult/child/family \$32.50/18/85; ☉9.30am-5pm) Around 1800 exotic and native mammals, birds and reptiles roar, growl and screech at Adelaide's wonderful zoo, dating from 1883. There are free walking tours half-hourly (plus a slew of longer and overnight tours), feeding sessions and a children's zoo. Wang Wang and Funi are Australia's only giant pandas – they arrived in 2009 (pandemonium!) and always draw a crowd. Other highlights include the nocturnal and reptile houses. You can take a river cruise to the zoo on *Popeye* (p722).

Adelaide Botanic Gardens GARDENS
(Map p714; www.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au; North Tce; ☉7.15am-sunset Mon-Fri, from 9am Sat & Sun) **FREE** Chew through your trashy airport novel or go jogging in these lush gardens. Highlights include a restored 1877 palm house, the water-lily pavilion (housing the gigantic *Victoria amazonica*), the new First Creek wetlands, the engrossing **Museum of Economic Botany** and the fabulous steel-and-glass arc of the **Bicentennial Conservatory** (open 10am to 4pm), which recreates a tropical rainforest. Free 1½-hour guided walks depart the Schomburgk Pavilion at 10.30am daily.

Migration Museum MUSEUM
(Map p714; www.migrationmuseum.com.au; 82 Kintore Ave; ☉10am-5pm Mon-Fri, 1-5pm Sat & Sun) **FREE** This engaging social-history museum tells the story of the many migrants who have made SA their home. The museum has info on 100-plus nationalities (as opposed to individuals) in its database, along with some poignant personal stories. Occupies the site of a former Aboriginal boarding school and destitute asylum.

West Terrace Cemetery CEMETERY
(Map p714; ☎08-8139 7400; www.aca.sa.gov.au; West Tce; ☉6.30am-6pm Nov-Apr to 8.30pm May-Oct) **FREE** Driven-by and overlooked by most Adelaidians, this amazing old cemetery (established in 1837, and now with 150,000 residents) makes a serene and fascinating detour. The 2km self-guided **Heritage Highlights Interpretive Trail** meanders past 29 key sites; pick up a brochure at the West Tce entrance. Guided tours run at 10.30am Tuesday and Sunday (\$10 per person); call for bookings.

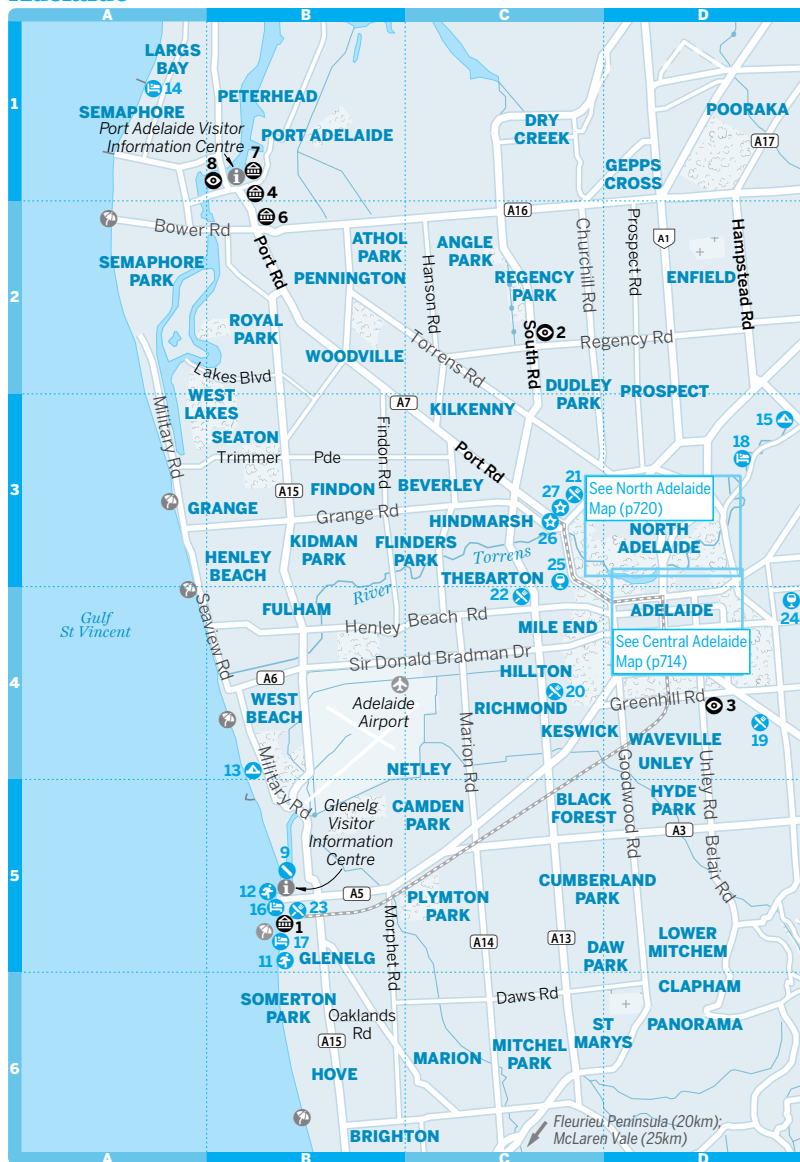
Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute GALLERY
(Map p714; ☎08-8224 3200; www.tandanya.com.au; 253 Grenfell St; ☉9am-4pm Mon-Sat) **FREE** Tandanya offers an insight into the culture of the local Kurna people, whose territory extends south to Cape Jervis and north to Port Wakefield. Inside are interactive visual-arts gallery spaces, plus a gift shop and a cafe. Call for info on regular didgeridoo or Torres Strait Islander cultural performances and prebooked group tours.

Adelaide Park Lands GARDENS
FREE The city centre and ritzy North Adelaide are surrounded by a broad band of parkland. Colonel William Light, Adelaide's controversial planner, came up with the concept, which has been both a blessing and a curse for the city. Pros: heaps of green space, clean air and playgrounds for the kids. Cons: bone dry in summer, loitering perverts and a sense that the city is cut off from its suburbs.

Don't miss the **playgrounds** and **Adelaide-Himeji Garden** (Map p714) on South Tce, and the **statue of Colonel William Light** (Map p720) overlooking the Adelaide Oval and city office towers from Montefiore Hill.

Jam Factory Contemporary Craft & Design Centre ART GALLERY
(Map p714; ☎08-8410 0727; www.jamfactory.com.au; 19 Morphet St; ☉10am-5pm Mon-Sat)

Adelaide



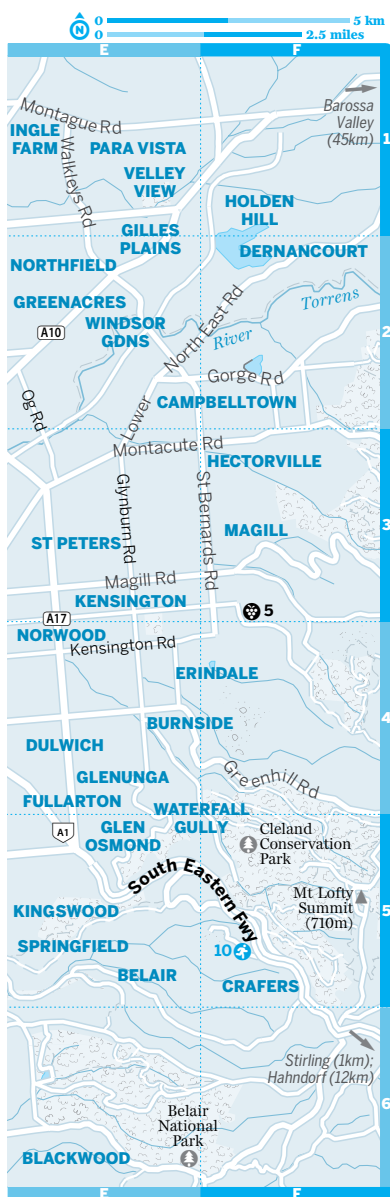
FREE Quality contemporary local arts and crafts, plus workshops and a hellishly hot glass-blowing studio (watch from the balcony above) turning out gorgeous glass. Group tours (six or more people) by arrangement.

North Adelaide

★ Adelaide Oval

LANDMARK

(Map p720; ☎ 08-8205 4700; www.adelaideoval.com.au; King William Rd, North Adelaide; tours adult/child \$20/10; 🕒 tours 11am & 2pm Mon-Fri



nongame days) Hailed as the world's prettiest cricket ground, the Adelaide Oval hosts interstate and international cricket matches in summer, plus national AFL football and state football games in winter. A wholesale redevelopment has boosted seating capaci-

Adelaide

Sights

- 1 Bay Discovery Centre.....B5
- 2 City of Adelaide.....(see 7)
- 3 Coopers Brewery.....C2
- 4 Haigh's Chocolates Visitor Centre.....D4
- 5 National Railway Museum.....B1
- 6 Penfolds Magill Estate Winery.....F3
- 7 South Australian Aviation Museum.....B2
- 8 South Australian Maritime Museum.....B1
- 8 Wild at Hart Fresh Food Market.....B1

Activities, Courses & Tours

- 9 Adelaide Scuba.....B5
- 10 Dolphin Explorer Cruises.....(see 7)
- 11 Eagle Mountain Bike Park.....F5
- 12 Glenelg Bicycle Hire.....B5
- 13 Temptation Sailing.....B5

Sleeping

- 13 BIG4 Adelaide Shores.....B4
- 14 Glenelg Beach Hostel.....(see 1)
- 15 Largs Pier Hotel.....A1
- 16 Levi Park Caravan Park.....D3
- 17 Oaks Plaza Pier.....B5
- 18 Port Adelaide Backpackers.....(see 4)
- 19 Seawall Apartments.....B5
- 20 Watson.....D3

Eating

- 19 Bar 9.....D4
- 20 Café de Vili's.....C4
- 21 Good Life.....(see 1)
- 22 Jarmer's Kitchen.....C3
- 23 Parwana Afghan Kitchen.....C4
- 24 Zest Cafe Gallery.....B5
- 25 Zucca Greek Mezze.....(see 12)

Drinking & Nightlife

- 24 Colonist.....D4
- 25 Pier Bar.....(see 12)
- 26 Wheatsheaf.....C3

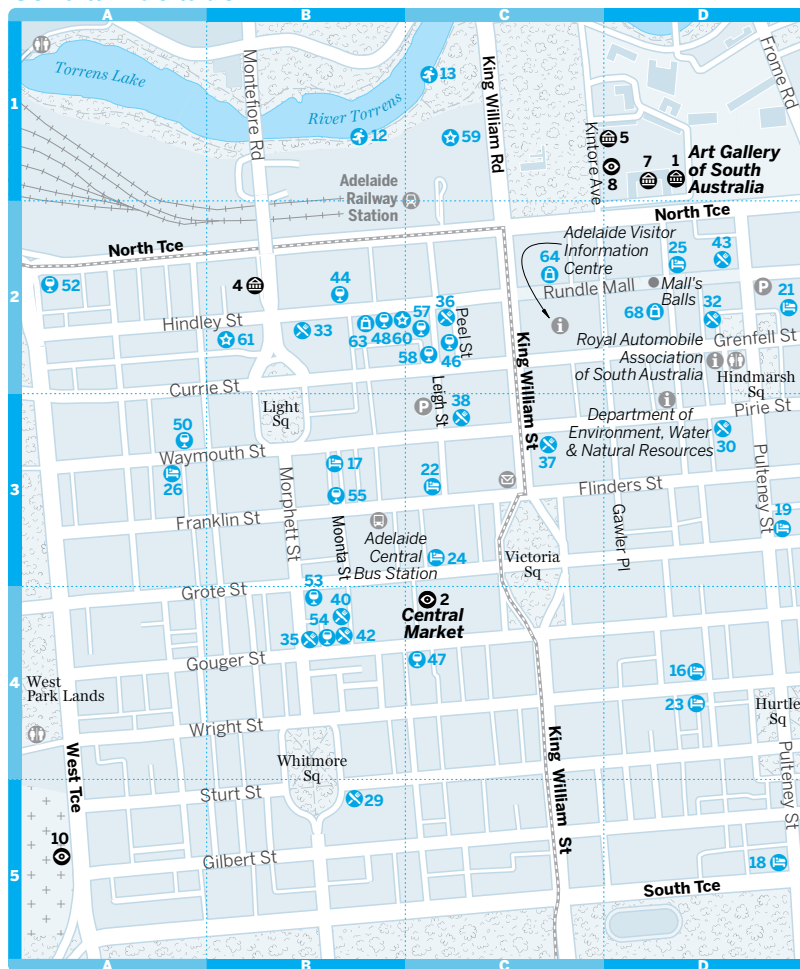
Entertainment

- 26 Adelaide Entertainment Centre.....C3
- 27 Governor Hindmarsh Hotel.....C3

ty to 50,000 – when they're all yelling, it's a serious home-town advantage! Guided tours depart from the Riverbank Stand, off War Memorial Dr: call for bookings.

Also here is the **Bradman Collection** (Map p720; Riverbank Stand; ☺10am-4pm Mon-Fri) **FREE**, where devotees of Don Bradman, cricket's greatest batsman, can pore over the minutiae of his legend. Check out the bronze statue of the Don cracking a cover drive out the front of the stadium.

Central Adelaide



Inner Suburbs

Coopers Brewery

BREWERY

(Map p712; ☎08-8440 1800; www.coopers.com.au; 461 South Rd, Regency Park; 1hr tours per person \$22; ☺tours 1pm Tue-Fri) You can't possibly come to Adelaide without entertaining thoughts of touring Coopers Brewery. Tours take you through the brewhouse, bottling hall and history museum, where you can get stuck into samples of stouts, ales and lagers. Bookings required; minimum age 18. The brewery is in the northern suburbs – grab a cab, or walk 1km from Islington train station.

Penfolds Magill Estate Winery

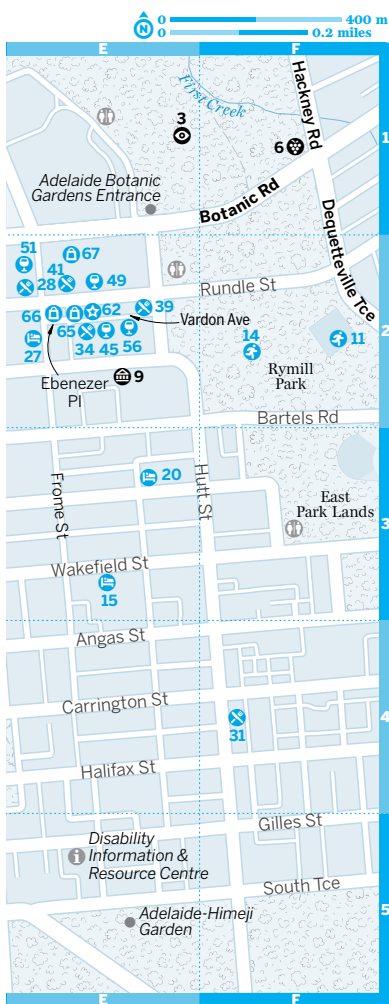
WINERY

(Map p712; ☎08-8301 5569; www.penfolds.com; 78 Penfolds Rd, Magill; tastings free-\$50; ☺10am-5pm) This 100-year-old winery is home to Australia's best-known wine – the legendary Grange. Taste the product at the cellar door; dine at the restaurant; take the Heritage Tour (\$15); or steel your wallet for the Great Grange Tour (\$150). Tour bookings are essential.

Haigh's Chocolates Visitor Centre

CHOCOLATE

(Map p712; ☎08-8372 7070; www.haighschocolates.com; 154 Greenhill Rd, Parkside; ☺8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat) **FREE** If you've got a chocolate problem, get guilty at this iconic factory.



Free 20-minute tours take you through the chocolate life cycle from cacao bean to hand-dipped truffle (with samples if you're good). Call for tour times and bookings.

📍 Glenelg

Glenelg, or 'the Bay' – the site of SA's colonial landing – is Adelaide at its most LA. Glenelg's **beach** faces towards the west, and as the sun sinks into the sea, the pubs and bars burgeon with surfies, backpackers and sun-damaged sexagenarians. The tram rumbles in from the city, past the **Jetty Rd** shopping strip to the al fresco cafes around **Moseley Sq**.

The **Glenelg Visitor Information Centre** (Map p712; ☎08-8294 5833; www.glenelgsa.com.au; Shop 22, Marina Pier, Holdfast Shores, Glenelg; ☀9am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat & Sun) has the local low-down, including information on **diving** and **sailing** opportunities.

From the city, take the tram or bus 167, 168 or 190 to get to Glenelg.

📍 Bay Discovery Centre

MUSEUM

(Map p712; www.glenelgsa.com.au/baydiscover; Moseley Sq, Town Hall; admission by donation; ☀10am-5pm Oct-Mar, to 4pm Apr-Sep) This low-key museum in Glenelg's 1887 Town Hall building depicts the social history of Glenelg from colonisation to today, and addresses the plight of the local Kaurna people, who lost both their land and voice. Don't miss the relics dredged up from the original pier, and the spooky old sideshow machines.

📍 Port Adelaide

Mired in the economic doldrums for decades, Port Adelaide – 15km northwest of the city – is slowly gentrifying, morphing its warehouses into art spaces and museums, and its brawl-house pubs into boutique beer emporia. There's even an organic food market here now: things are on the up!

The helpful **Port Adelaide Visitor Information Centre** (Map p712; ☎08-8405 6560, 1800 629 888; www.portenf.sa.gov.au; 66 Commercial Rd, Port Adelaide; ☀9am-5pm; 📖) stocks brochures on self-guided history, heritage-pub and dolphin-spotting walks and drives, plus the enticements of neighbouring Semaphore, a very bohemian beach 'burb. Activities include dolphin cruises and kayaking.

Adelaide's solitary tram line is rumoured to be extending to Port Adelaide at some stage. Until then, bus 150 will get you here from North Tce, or take the train.

📍 South Australian Maritime Museum

MUSEUM

(Map p712; www.samaritimemuseum.com.au; 126 Lipson St, Port Adelaide; adult/child/family \$10/5/25; ☀10am-5pm daily, lighthouse 10am-3pm Sun-Fri) This salty cache is the oldest of its kind in Australia. Highlights include the iconic **Port Adelaide Lighthouse** (\$1 on its own, or included in museum admission), busy figureheads made everywhere from Londonderry to Quebec, shipwreck and explorer displays, and a computer register of early migrants.

Central Adelaide

📍 Top Sights

- 1 Art Gallery of South Australia D1
2 Central Market C4

📍 Sights

- 3 Adelaide Botanic Gardens E1
4 Jam Factory Contemporary Craft
& Design Centre B2
5 Migration Museum D1
6 National Wine Centre of
Australia F1
7 South Australian Museum D1
8 State Library of South Australia D1
9 Tandanya National Aboriginal
Cultural Institute E2
10 West Terrace Cemetery A5

📍 Activities, Courses & Tours

- 11 Adelaide Bowling Club F2
12 Captain Jolley's Paddle Boats B1
13 Popeye C1
14 Rymill Park Rowboats F2

📍 Sleeping

- 15 Adabco Boutique Hotel E3
16 Adelaide Backpackers Inn D4
17 Adelaide Central YHA B3
18 Adelaide City Park Motel D5
19 Backpack Oz D3
20 Clarion Hotel Soho E3
21 Crowne Plaza Adelaide D2
22 Franklin Central Apartments C3
23 Hostel 109 D4
24 Hotel Metropolitan C3
25 Hotel Richmond D2
26 My Place A3
27 Roof Garden Hotel E2

📍 Eating

- 28 Amalfi Pizzeria Ristorante E2
29 Café Troppo B5
Central Market (see 2)
30 Earth's Kitchen D3
31 Good Life F4
32 Jasmin Indian Restaurant D2
33 Jerusalem Sheshkabab House B2
34 Kutchi Deli Parwana E2

Lucia's Pizza & Spaghetti

- Bar (see 2)
35 Mesa Lunga B4
36 Peel Street C2
37 Pizza e Mozzarella Bar C3
38 Press C3
39 Sosta E2
40 T-Chow B4
41 Vego And Loven' It E2
42 Ying Chow B4
43 Zen Kitchen D2

📍 Drinking & Nightlife

- 44 Apothecary 1878 B2
45 Belgian Beer Café E2
46 Clever Little Taylor C2
47 Cork Wine Cafe C4
48 Downtown HDCB B2
49 Exeter Hotel E2
50 Grace Emily Hotel A3
51 Howling Owl E2
52 HQ Complex A2
53 Lotus Lounge B4
54 Mars Bar B4
55 Publishers Hotel B3
56 Tasting Room E2
57 Udaberri C2
58 Zhivago C2

📍 Entertainment

- 59 Adelaide Festival Centre C1
60 Adelaide Symphony Orchestra B2
Fowlers Live (see 4)
61 Jive B2
Mercury Cinema (see 4)
62 Palace Nova Eastend Cinemas E2
Rhino Room (see 51)

📍 Shopping

- 63 Imprints Booksellers B2
64 Jurlique C2
65 Midwest Trader E2
66 Miss Gladys Sym Choon E2
67 Streetlight E2
68 Tarts D2
Urban Cow Studio (see 51)

Wild at Hart Fresh Food Market MARKET
(Map p712; www.wildathart.com.au; Mundy St, Port Adelaide; ☺ 9am-1pm Sun) Skip the trashy mainstream market on the wharf: this one is a much better bet, with organic produce, buskers, home-cooked meals, baked goods, coffee and a great vibe. Love the old Hart's Mill buildings, too.

National Railway Museum MUSEUM
(Map p712; www.natrailmuseum.org.au; 76 Lipson St, Port Adelaide; adult/child/family \$12/6/32;

☺ 10am-5pm) Trainspotters rejoice! A delightfully nerdy museum crammed with railway memorabilia. The bookshop stocks as much *Thomas the Tank Engine* merchandise as you can handle.

City of Adelaide SHIP
(Map p712; www.cityofadelaide.org.au; Divett St, Port Adelaide; ☺ 24hr) **FREE** Wander down to the end of Divett St for a look (through the fence) at the oldest clipper ship in the world (1864).

The high-and-dry hulk of the *City of Adelaide* was transported here from Scotland in 2013.

Activities

Adelaide is a flat town – perfect for cycling and walking (if it's not too hot!). You can take your bike on trains any time, but not on buses. **Trails SA** (www.southernaustraliantrails.com) offers loads of cycling- and hiking-trail info: pick up its *40 Great South Australian Short Walks* brochure.

There are free guided walks in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens (p711). The riverside **Linear Park Trail** is a 40km walking/cycling path running from Glenelg to the foot of the Adelaide Hills, mainly along the River Torrens. Another popular hiking trail is the steep **Waterfall Gully Track** (three hours return) up to Mt Lofty Summit and back.

For a free **Adelaide City Bike** for a day, contact Bicycle SA (p733).

Eagle Mountain Bike Park MOUNTAIN BIKING
(Map p712; www.bikesa.asn.au; Mt Barker Rd, Leewood Gardens; ☀ dawn-dusk) **FREE** Mountain bikers should check out the this bike park in the Adelaide Hills, which has 21km of trails. Check the website for directions.

Escapegoat BICYCLE TOURS
(☎ 0422 916 289, 08-8121 8112; www.escapegoat.com.au) Ride from the 710m Mt Lofty Summit down to Adelaide (\$99), or take a day trip through McLaren Vale by bike (\$129). Flinders Ranges bike trips also available.

Adelaide Bowling Club BOWLING
(Map p714; ☎ 08-8223 5516; www.adelaidebowlingclub.com.au; 58 Dequetteville Tce; per person \$15; ☀ 2pm-late Sun Oct-Mar) Trundle down a few lawn bowls on Sunday Superbowlz sessions at this old club, just east of the CBD. Take a break with dinner and drinks in the clubhouse.

Bikeabout MOUNTAIN BIKING
(☎ 0413 525 733; www.bikeabout.com.au) Barnstorming one-day 'Radelaide' mountain-bike sessions in the Adelaide Hills (from \$130), plus mountain-bike hire (from \$65 per 24 hours) and tours through the Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale and Clare Valley wine regions.

Glenelg Bicycle Hire BICYCLE RENTAL
(Map p712; ☎ 08-8376 1934; www.glenelgbicyclere.com.au; 71 Broadway, Norfolk Motor Inn, Glenelg South; per 4hr/day \$25/50, tandems \$40/60) Down at the beach, hire a bike from Glenelg Bicycle Hire.

Water Activities

Adelaide gets *reeeeally* hot in summer. Hit the beach at Glenelg, or try any other activity that gets you out on the water. For more options, check out *Popeye* (p722) river cruises and Captain Jolley's Paddle Boats (p722).

Adelaide Aquatic Centre SWIMMING
(Map p720; www.adelaideaquaticcentre.com.au; Jeffcott Rd, North Adelaide; adult/child/family \$750/6/21; ☀ 6am-9pm Mon-Fri, 7am-7pm Sat & Sun) The closest pool to the city, with indoor swimming and diving pools, and the usual gym, sauna and spa stuff.

Adventure Kayaking SA KAYAKING
(☎ 08-8295 8812; www.adventurekayak.com.au; tours adult/child from \$50/25, kayak hire per 3hr 1/2/3 seater \$40/60/80) Family-friendly guided kayak tours around the Port River estuary (dolphins, mangroves, shipwrecks). Also offers kayak hire.

Rymill Park Rowboats BOATING
(Map p714; ☎ 08-8232 2814; www.rymillparkkiosk.com.au; Rymill Park, East Tce; boats per hr \$8; ☀ 9am-4.30pm Sat & Sun) Hire a dinky little dinghy and row the kids around the duck-filled lake in Rymill Park, just east of the city centre.

Temptation Sailing BOATING
(Map p712; ☎ 0412 811 838; www.dolphinboat.com.au; Holdfast Shores Marina, Glenelg; 3½hr dolphin watch/swim per adult \$68/98, child \$58/88)

TAKE THE LONG WAY HOME

South Australia has three epic long-distance trails for hiking and cycling, all running through or past Adelaide.

Heysen Trail (www.heysentrail.asn.au) Australia's longest walking trail: 1200km between Cape Jervis on the Fleurieu Peninsula and Parachilna Gorge in the Flinders Ranges. Access points along the way make it ideal for half- and full-day walks. Note that due to fire restrictions, some sections of the trail are closed between December and April.

Kidman Trail (www.kidmantrail.org.au) A 10-section cycling and walking trail between Willunga on the Fleurieu Peninsula and Kapunda, north of the Barossa Valley.

Mawson Trail (www.southernaustraliantrails.com) A 900km bike trail between Adelaide and Blinman in the Flinders Ranges, via the Adelaide Hills and Clare Valley.

Eco-accredited catamaran cruises to watch or swim with dolphins. There are twilight and 1½-hour day cruises too (adult/child \$24/16).

Earth Adventure

KAYAKING

(☎08-8165 2024; www.earthadventure.com.au; 3hr kayaking per person from \$75) Earth Adventure offers morning kayaking trips exploring the mangroves and shipwrecks around the Port River near Port Adelaide. Trips are more expensive per person for groups smaller than five people. Longer paddles around the Murray River, Kangaroo Island and Coffin Bay are also available.

Dolphin Explorer Cruises

BOATING, CRUISE

(Map p712; ☎08-8447 2366; www.dolphinexplorer.com.au; Commercial Rd, Port Adelaide; 2hr cruises from adult/child \$10/6; ☺daily) 🍃 Cruises departing Port Adelaide's Fishermen's Wharf to ogle bottlenose dolphins in the Port River. Lots of cruise-and-dine options also available.

Adelaide Scuba

DIVING

(Map p712; ☎08-8294 7744; www.adelaidescuba.com.au; Patawalonga Frontage, Glenelg North; ☎9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm Sat & Sun) Hires out snorkelling gear (per day \$30) and runs local dives (single/double dive \$65/130). There are also two-weekend learn-to-dive courses for \$450.

👉 Tours

A great way to see Adelaide is to circle around the main sights on the free city buses (p733). Beyond the city, day tours cover the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula, Barossa Valley and Clare Valley. One-day trips to the Flinders Ranges and Kangaroo Island tend to be rushed and not great value for money.

Adelaide's Top Food & Wine Tours

TOUR

(☎08-8386 0888; www.topfoodandwinetours.com.au) Uncovers SA's gastronomic soul with dawn (\$70 including breakfast) and morning (\$55) tours of the buzzing Central Market where stallholders introduce their produce. Adelaide Hills, McLaren Vale, Barossa and Clare Valley wine tours are also available.

Bookabee Tours

CULTURAL TOUR

(☎08-8235 9954; www.bookabee.com.au) 🍃 Indigenous-run half-/full-day city tours (\$180/255) focusing on bush foods in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute and the South Australian Museum. A great insight into Kaurna culture. Longer Flinders Ranges tours also available.

Bums on Seats

GUIDED TOUR

(☎0438 808 253; www.bumsonseats.com.au; per person \$55, combo \$85) One of the few tours which runs through Port Adelaide. See the Port on it's own, or do a combo tour with Adelaide's main sights and landmarks.

Adelaide Sightseeing

GUIDED TOUR

(☎1300 769 762; www.adelaidesightseeing.com.au) Runs a city highlights tour (\$64) including North Tce, Glenelg, Haigh's Chocolates and the Adelaide Oval (among other sights). Central Market, Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale, Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island tours also available.

Haunted Horizons

GUIDED TOUR

(☎0407 715 866; www.adelaidehauntedhorizons.com.au; per adult \$30) Get spooked on these two-hour, adults-only nocturnal walking tours, digging up the dirt on Adelaide's macabre, murderous and mysterious past.

Integrity Tours

GUIDED TOUR

(☎08-8382 9755; www.integritytoursandcharters.com.au) Adelaide city-lights evening tours (\$59), plus half-/full-day tours to the Adelaide Hills (from \$69/99) and full-day McLaren Vale/Fleurieu Peninsula trips (from \$99).

★ Festivals & Events

Tour Down Under

SPORTS

(www.tourdownunder.com.au) The world's best cyclists sweating in their lycra: six races through SA towns, with the grand finale in Adelaide in January.

Adelaide Fringe

ARTS

(www.adelaidefringe.com.au) This annual independent arts festival in February and March is second only to the Edinburgh Fringe. Funky, unpredictable and downright hilarious.

Adelaide Festival

ARTS

(www.adelaidefestival.com.au) Top-flight international and Australian dance, drama, opera, literature and theatre performances in March. Don't miss the Northern Lights along North Tce – old sandstone buildings ablaze with lights – and Lola's Pergola late-night club.

Clipsal 500

SPORTS

(www.clipsal500.com.au) Rev-heads flail their mullets as Adelaide's streets become a four-day Holden versus Ford racing track in March.

WOMAdelaide

MUSIC

(www.womadelaide.com.au) One of the world's best live-music events, with more than 300 musicians and performers from around the globe. In March.

ADELAIDE ARTS & FESTIVALS

Emma Fey, Adelaide arts doyen and former Development Manager at the Art Gallery of South Australia, filled us in on some highlights of Adelaide's festival calendar and arts scene.

Festival Season

The Adelaide Festival, the Fringe Festival, Adelaide Writers' Week and the Clipsal 500 (V8 race) all happen around February/March. Energy breeds energy: everyone is out and about and the weather's good. I can't think of anywhere else where you can see alternative Fringe-dwellers next to racing enthusiasts. The people-watching is great!

Art in the City

The Art Gallery of South Australia is in the middle of the North Tce precinct (next to the museum and the university, between the city and the river). The gallery has refurbished and rehung its Elder and Melrose wings, and is engaging a wider audience – especially young people and children with a new dedicated art-making space called the Studio. There are also contemporary art spaces popping up in little lanes around the precinct.

Best Free Events

All sorts of amazing free events appear around the city, especially during the Adelaide Festival. Guerilla street art teamed with pop-up dining experiences, the sensational Adelaide Festival late-night club Lola's Pergola, and the Art Gallery of SA's free daily programs.

Tasting Australia

(www.tastingaustralia.com.au) **FOOD, WINE** SA foodie experiences around the city, categorised as either 'Eat', 'Drink', 'Share' or 'Think'. Classes, demonstrations and lots to put in your mouth. Held in late April.

Adelaide Cabaret Festival **PERFORMING ARTS** (www.adelaidecabaretfestival.com) The only one of its kind in the country. Held in June.

Adelaide Guitar Festival **MUSIC** (www.adelaideguitarfestival.com.au) Annual axe-fest with a whole lotta rock, classical, country, blues and jazz. In July.

South Australian Living Artists Festival **ART** (SALA; www.salafestival.com.au) Progressive exhibitions and displays across town in August (expired artists not allowed).

City to Bay **SPORTS** (www.city-bay.org.au) In September there's an annual 12km fun run from the city to Glenelg: much sweat and cardiac duress.

Royal Adelaide Show **CULTURAL** (www.theshow.com.au) The agricultural, the horticultural and plenty of carnies and show bags. In September.

OzAsia Festival **CULTURAL** (www.ozasiafestival.com.au) Food, arts, conversation, music and the mesmerising Moon Lantern Festival. September.

SANFL Grand Final

(www.sanfl.com.au) **SPORTS** September is the zenith of the local Aussie Rules football season. Watch it at the Adelaide Oval, watch it at the pub, watch it on TV – just watch it!

Christmas Pageant **CULTURAL** (www.cupageant.com.au) An Adelaide institution for 70-plus years – kitschy floats, bands and marching troupes occupy city streets for a day in (oddy) November.

Feast Festival **GAY & LESBIAN** (www.feast.org.au) Adelaide's big-ticket gay-and-lesbian festival happens over two weeks in November, with a carnival, theatre, dialogue and dance.

Sleeping

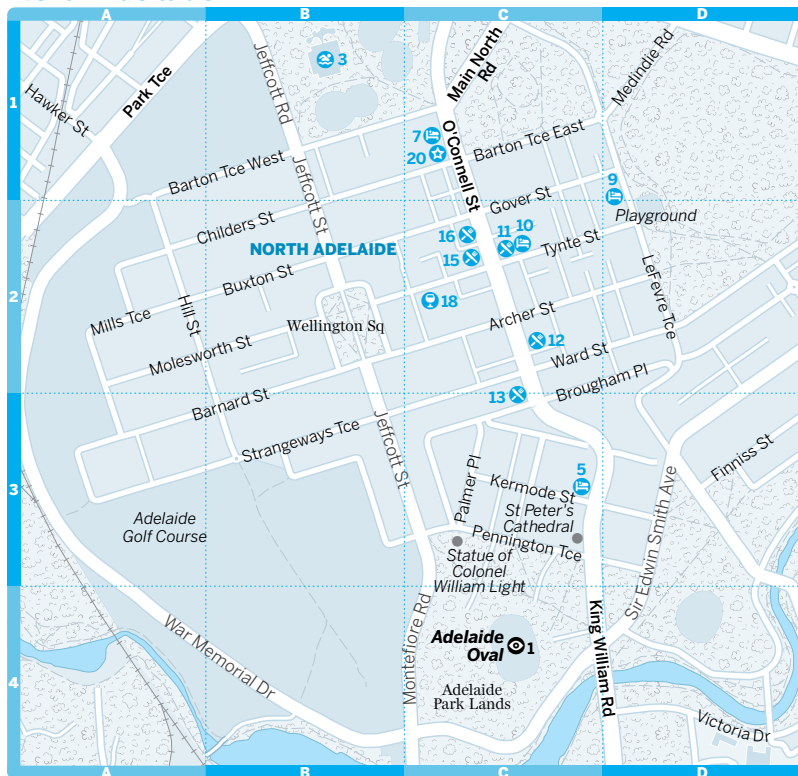
Most of Adelaide's budget accommodation is in the city centre, but in a town this easy to navigate, staying outside the CBD is viable. North Adelaide is under the flight path, but is low-key. For beachside accommodation, try Glenelg. 'Motel Alley' is along Glen Osmond Rd, the main southeast city access road.

See www.bandbfsa.com.au for B&B listings.

Central Adelaide

My Place **HOSTEL \$** (Map p714; ☎ 1800 221 529, 08-8221 5299; www.adelaidehostel.com.au; 257 Waymouth St; dm/tw/d incl breakfast from \$26/72/72; 📶 🚰 🚿) The antithesis of the big formal operations, My Place has a welcoming, personal vibe and is just a

North Adelaide



stumble from the Grace Emily, arguably Adelaide's best pub! There's a cosy TV room, a barbecue terrace above the street, free bikes and wi-fi, hiking trips and regular pizza and pub nights – great for solo travellers.

Adelaide Central YHA

HOSTEL \$

(Map p714; ☎ 08-8414 3010; www.yha.com.au; 135 Wymouth St; dm from \$32, d with/without bathroom from \$105/90, f from \$130; 📶 📶 📶) The YHA isn't known for its gregariousness – you'll get plenty of sleep in the spacious and comfortable rooms here. This is a seriously schmick hostel with great security, a roomy kitchen and lounge area, and immaculate bathrooms. A real step up from the average backpackers around town. Parking from \$10 per day.

Backpack Oz

HOSTEL \$

(Map p714; ☎ 1800 633 307, 08-8223 3551; www.backpackoz.com.au; cnr Wakefield & Pulteney Sts; dm/s/d/tw/tr \$26/65/70/75/105; 📶 📶 📶) It doesn't look like much externally, but this converted pub (the old Orient Hotel) strikes

the right balance between party and placid. There are spacious dorms and an additional no-frills guesthouse over the road (good for couples). Get a coldie and shoot some pool in the bar. Lots of free stuff, too: breakfast, wi-fi, bikes, linen and Wednesday night BBQ.

Hostel 109

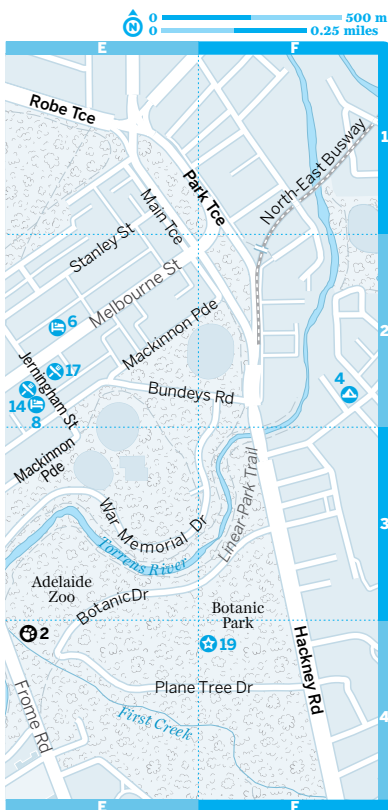
HOSTEL \$

(Map p714; ☎ 1800 099 318, 08-8223 1771; www.hostel109.com; 109 Carrington St; dm/s/tw/d/tr \$30/65/75/90/105; 📶 📶 📶) A small, well-managed hostel in a quiet corner of town, with a couple of little balconies over the street and a cosy kitchen/communal area. Spotlessly clean and super-friendly, with lockers, good security and gas cooking. The only negative: rooms open onto light wells rather than the outside world. Free on-street parking after 5pm.

Hotel Metropolitan

PUB \$

(Map p714; ☎ 08-8231 5471; www.hotelmetro.com.au; 46 Grote St; s/tw/d/f from \$55/90/90/180; 📶) The 1883 Metropolitan pub has 26 rooms upstairs, with stripy linen, high ceilings, little



North Adelaide

📍 Top Sights

- 1 Adelaide Oval..... C4

📍 Sights

- 2 Adelaide Zoo..... E4
Bradman Collection..... (see 1)

🏊 Activities, Courses & Tours

- 3 Adelaide Aquatic Centre..... B1

🏠 Sleeping

- 4 Adelaide Caravan Park..... F2
5 Greenways Apartments..... C3
6 Minima Hotel..... E2
7 O'Connell Inn..... C1
8 Old Lion Apartments..... E2
9 Princes Lodge Motel..... D1
10 Tynte Street Apartments..... C2

🍴 Eating

- 11 Amarin Thai..... C2
12 Gin Long Canteen..... C2
13 Good Life..... C3
14 Lion Hotel..... E2
15 O'Connell St General..... C2
16 Royal Oak..... C2
17 Store..... E2

🍷 Drinking & Nightlife

- 18 Daniel O'Connell..... C2

🎬 Entertainment

- 19 Moonlight Cinema..... F4
20 Piccadilly Cinema..... C1

flat-screen TVs and various bedding configurations. 'It used to be quite an experience staying here..' says the barman, raising his eyebrows. We're not sure what he meant, but these days you can expect a decent budget sleep in a beaut location. Shared bathrooms.

Adelaide Backpackers Inn HOSTEL \$

(Map p714; ☎ 1800 099 318, 08-8223 6635; www.abpi.com.au; 112 Carrington St; dm from \$27; 🍷🍷🍷) A relaxed, decent hostel filling out an 1841 pub (the ol' Horse & Jockey) that's had a recent facelift; new bathrooms, fridges, carpets, washing machines, snappy paint colours etc. Handy to Hutt and Rundle Sts. There are cars and mopeds for rent, and free bikes to borrow. Free on-street parking after 5pm.

★ Adabco Boutique Hotel BOUTIQUE HOTEL \$\$

(Map p714; ☎ 08-8100 7500; www.adabcohotel.com.au; 223 Wakefield St; d from \$139; 🍷🍷) This excellent, stone-clad boutique hotel – built in 1894 in high Venetian Gothic style – has at

various times been an Aboriginal education facility, a rollerskating rink and an abseiling venue! These days you can expect three levels of lovely rooms with interesting art and quality linen, plus complimentary breakfast, free wi-fi and smiling staff. A top choice.

Hotel Richmond

HOTEL \$\$

(Map p714; ☎ 08-8215 4444; www.hotelrichmond.com.au; 128 Rundle Mall; d from \$140; 🍷🍷🍷) This opulent hotel in a grand 1920s building in the middle of Rundle Mall has modernist rooms with king-sized beds, marble bathrooms, and American oak and Italian furnishings. Oh, and that hotel rarity – opening windows. Rates include movies and newspapers. Parking from \$20 per day.

Clarion Hotel Soho

HOTEL \$\$

(Map p714; ☎ 08-8412 5600; www.clarionhotel.soho.com.au; 264 Flinders St; d from \$145; 🍷🍷🍷) Attempting to conjure up the vibe of London's Soho district, these plush suites in Adelaide's East End (some with spas, most with balconies) are complemented

ADELAIDE FOR CHILDREN

There are few kids who won't love the **tram ride** from the city down to Glenelg (kids under five ride for free!). You may have trouble getting them off the tram – the lure of a splash in the shallows at the **beach** then some fish and chips on the lawn should do the trick.

During school holidays, the **South Australian Museum** (p711), **State Library of South Australia** (Map p714; ☎ 08-8207 7250; www.slsa.sa.gov.au; cnr North Tce & Kintore Ave, 1st fl; ☀ 10am-8pm Mon-Wed, to 6pm Thu & Fri, to 5pm Sat & Sun), **Art Gallery of South Australia** (p710), **Adelaide Zoo** (p711) and **Adelaide Botanic Gardens** (p711) run inspired kid- and family-oriented programs with accessible and interactive general displays. The Art Gallery also runs a **START at the Gallery** kids' program (tours, music, activities) from noon to 3pm on the first Sunday of the month.

Down on the River Torrens there are **Popeye** (Map p714; www.thepopeye.com.au; return adult/child \$12/6, one way \$4/2; ☀ 10am-4pm) river cruises and **Captain Jolley's Paddle Boats** (Map p714; www.captainjolleyspaddleboats.com.au; Elder Park; hire per 30min \$20; ☀ 9.30am-6pm daily summer, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun winter), which make a satisfying splash. **Rymill Park Rowboats** (p717) are along similar nautical lines.

In Port Adelaide, you can check out the **Maritime Museum** (p715), **National Railway Museum** (p716) or **South Australian Aviation Museum** (Map p712; www.saam.org.au; 66 Lipson St, Port Adelaide; adult/child/family \$10/5/25; ☀ 10.30am-4.30pm), or set sail on a **dolphin-spotting cruise**.

The free monthly paper **Child** (www.childmags.com.au), available at cafes and libraries, is largely advertorial, but does contain comprehensive events listings. **Dial-An-Angel** (☎ 1300 721 111, 08-8267 3700; www.dialanangel.com.au) provides nannies and babysitters to all areas.

by sumptuous linen, 24-hour room service, Italian marble bathrooms, jet pool and a fab restaurant. Rates take a tumble midweek. Parking from \$20; free wi-fi.

Franklin Central Apartments APARTMENTS \$\$\$
(Map p714; ☎ 1300 662 288, 08-8221 7050; www.franklinapartments.com.au; 36 Franklin St; 1-/2-/3-bedroom apt from \$148/199/298; ☐☎☎) This old red-brick office building has heaps of charm, and now houses five levels of good-value downtown apartments with smart interiors. The marketing angle sways towards corporate, but the location and rates spell 'h-o-l-i-d-a-y'. Parking \$15 per day.

Adelaide City Park Motel MOTEL \$\$
(Map p714; ☎ 08-8223 1444; www.citypark.com.au; 471 Pulteney St; d with/without bathroom from \$110/88, f from \$210; ☐☎☎) One of the better motels around town (there are surprisingly few that pass muster), with immaculate bathrooms, leather lounges and winsome French prints. An easy walk to the Hutt St restaurants, and well-placed for the freeway to the Adelaide Hills and Melbourne. Free parking, DVDs and wi-fi, too.

Crowne Plaza Adelaide HOTEL \$\$\$
(Map p714; ☎ 08-8206 8888; www.crowneplaza.com/adelaide; 16 Hindmarsh Sq; d from \$180; ☐☎☎☎) The Crowne Plaza spreads it-

self through two 14-storey towers just back from Rundle St, with little balconies overlooking the neat lawn-scapes of Hindmarsh Sq. Don't expect anything too soulful: it's a slick, corporate, international set-up... But the location is primo. Parking \$36 per day.

Roof Garden Hotel HOTEL \$\$\$
(Map p714; ☎ 1800 008 499, 08-8100 4400; www.majestichotels.com.au; 55 Frome St; d from \$200; ☐☎☎☎) Everything looks new in this central, Japanese-themed place. Book a room facing Frome St for a balcony and the best views, or take a bottle of wine up to the namesake rooftop garden to watch the sunset. Free wi-fi and good walk-in and last-minute rates. Parking from \$20 per day.

North Adelaide

Princes Lodge Motel MOTEL \$
(Map p720; ☎ 08-8267 5566; www.princeslodge.com.au; 73 LeFevre Tce, North Adelaide; s/d/f incl breakfast from \$65/85/145; ☐☎☎) In a grand 1913 house overlooking the parklands, this friendly, eclectic lodge has high ceilings, new TVs and a faded grandeur. Close to the chichi North Adelaide restaurants and within walking distance of the city, this is a great value motel with heaps of character. The budget rooms in the old coachhouse out the back are a steal.

Minima Hotel

HOTEL \$\$

(Map p720; ☎08-8334 7766; www.majestichotels.com.au; 146 Melbourne St, North Adelaide; d from \$100; 📶📶📶) A spaceship has landed in ye olde North Adelaide! The Minima offers compact but stylish rooms, each decorated by a different SA artist, in a winning Melbourne St location. Check-in is DIY – use the touch screen in the lobby. Limited parking from \$10 per night.

Greenways Apartments

APARTMENTS \$\$

(Map p720; ☎08-8267 5903; www.greenwaysapartments.com.au; 41-45 King William Rd, North Adelaide; 1-/2-/3-bedroom apt \$127/168/220; 📶📶📶) These 1938 apartments ain't flash, but if you have a pathological hatred of slick, 21st-century open-plan 'lifestyles', then Greenways is for you! And where else can you stay in clean, perfectly operational apartments so close to town at these rates? It's a must for cricket fans, as the Adelaide Oval is a lofted hook shot away – book early for Test matches.

O'Connell Inn

MOTEL \$\$

(Map p720; ☎08-8239 0766; www.oconnellinn.com.au; 197 O'Connell St, North Adelaide; d/f from \$155/185; 📶📶📶) It's absurdly difficult to find a decent motel in Adelaide (most are mired in the '90s), but this one makes a reasonable fist of the new century. It's smallish, friendly, affordable and in a beaut location – handy for forays north to the Barossa, Clare, Flinders etc.

Tynte Street Apartments

APARTMENTS \$\$

(Map p720; ☎1800 779 919, 08-8334 7783; www.majestichotels.com.au; 82 Tynte St, North Adelaide; d & 1-bedroom apt from \$140; 📶📶📶) A complex of 24 postmodern, red-brick, self-contained apartments on a tree-lined street near the O'Connell St cafes and pubs, sleeping three. Check-in is 1km away at the affiliated **Old Lion Apartments** (Map p720; ☎1800 779 919, 08-8334 7799; 9 Jerningham St, North Adelaide; d from \$145.1-/2-/3-bedroom apt from \$155/205/305; 📶📶📶). Free parking and wi-fi to boot.

Inner Suburbs**Levi Park Caravan Park**

CARAVAN PARK \$

(Map p712; ☎08-8344 2209; www.levipark.com.au; 1a Harris Rd, Vale Park; unpowered/powerd sites from \$36/38, cabins/apt from \$105/145; 📶📶📶) This leafy, grassy park is 4km from town and loaded with facilities, including tennis courts and a palm-fringed cricket oval. Apartments are in the restored Vale House, purportedly Adelaide's oldest residence!

Adelaide Caravan Park

CARAVAN PARK \$

(Map p720; ☎08-8363 1566; www.adelaidecaravanpark.com.au; 46 Richmond St, Hackney; powered sites \$35-40, cabins & units from \$129; 📶📶📶) A compact, no-frills park on the River Torrens, rather surprisingly slotted in on a quiet street 2km northeast of the city centre. Clean and well run, with a bit of green grass if it's not too far into summer.

Watson

BOUTIQUE HOTEL \$\$

(Map p712; ☎1800 278 468, 08-7087 9666; www.artserieshotels.com.au/watson; 33 Warwick St, Walkerville; d from \$155, B&B from \$205; 📶📶📶) Brand new in 2014, the Watson (named after Indigenous artist Tommy Watson, whose works dazzle here) is a sassy, multilevel 24-unit complex 4km north of the CBD in Walkerville (an easy commute). There's a gym, a lap pool, 24-hour concierge, bike-hire...but the simple fact that it's a new boutique hotel in unchanging Adelaide was enough to grab our attention! Nice one.

Glenelg, Port Adelaide & Around**Glenelg Holiday & Corporate Letting**

(☎08-8376 1934; www.glenelgholiday.com.au; 📶) and **Glenelg Letting Agency** (☎08-8294 9666; www.baybeachfront.com.au; 📶) offer self-contained beachside apartments in Glenelg from around \$140 per night.

Glenelg Beach Hostel

HOSTEL \$

(Map p712; ☎1800 359 181, 08-8376 0007; www.glenelgbeachhostel.com.au; 1-7 Moseley St, Glenelg; dm/s/d/f from \$25/60/70/110; 📶📶) A couple of streets back from the beach, this beaut old terrace (1879) is Adelaide's budget golden child. Fan-cooled rooms maintain period details and are mostly bunk-free. There's cold Coopers in the basement bar (live music on weekends), open fireplaces, lofty ceilings, girls-only dorms and a courtyard garden. Book *waaay* in advance in summer.

Port Adelaide Backpackers

HOSTEL \$

(Map p712; ☎08-8447 6267; www.portadelaidebackpackers.com.au; 24 Nile St, Port Adelaide; dm/s/d from \$19/60/65; 📶📶) We're unashamed fans of Port Adelaide, and it gladdens the heart to see a new backpackers here. Still a work-in-progress when we visited – abuzz with painting, tiling, and general upgrading – we have high hopes for this re-imagined, bricky seaman's lodge in the Port's historic hub. Tell us how things are shaping up! Free wi-fi and on-street parking.

BIG4 Adelaide Shores CARAVAN PARK \$

(Map p712; ☎1800 444 567, 08-8355 7320; www.adelaideshores.com.au; 1 Military Rd, West Beach; powered sites \$38-53, eco-tents \$92, 1-/2-/3-bed cabins from \$105/141/245; 📶📶📶📶) Hunkered-down behind the West Beach dunes, with a walking/cycling track extending to Glenelg (3.4km) in one direction and Henley Beach (3.5km) in the other, this is a choice spot in summer. There are lush sites, permanent eco-tents, glistening amenities and passing dolphins.

★ Largs Pier Hotel HOTEL \$\$

(Map p712; ☎08-8449 5666; www.largspierhotel.com.au; 198 Esplanade, Largs Bay; d/f/apart from \$164/184/199; 📶📶📶) What a surprise! In the snoozy beach 'burb of Largs Bay, 5km north of Port Adelaide, is this gorgeous, 130-year-old, three-storey wedding-cake hotel. After extensive renovations, it's looking great: sky-high ceilings, big beds, taupe-and-chocolate colours and beach views. There's also a low-slung wing of motel rooms off to one side, and some apartments across the street.

Oaks Plaza Pier HOTEL, APARTMENTS \$\$

(Map p712; ☎1300 551 111, 08-8350 6688; www.oakshotelsresorts.com; 16 Holdfast Promenade, Glenelg; d from \$185, 1-/2-/3-bedroom apt from \$210/299/499; 📶📶📶) The pick of the multi-level apartment buildings along the Glenelg foreshore, the eight-storey Oaks Plaza Pier offers flashy corporate-style rooms, free wi-fi, sea-view balconies, bars and restaurants (but no pier). Parking \$20.

Seawall Apartments APARTMENTS \$\$\$

(Map p712; ☎08-8295 1197; www.seawallapartments.com.au; 21-25 South Esplanade, Glenelg; 1-/2-/3-/4-bed apts from \$200/329/499/599; 📶📶📶) This renovated row of old houses is a five-minute wander along the sea wall from Moseley Sq in Glenelg. They really didn't need a gimmick – the location seals the deal – but the facades are festooned with kitsch nautical paraphernalia (anchors, boats, oars, shark jaws...). Inside the apartments are roomy, contemporary and immaculate.

🍴 Eating

Foodies flock to West End hotspots such as Gouger St (pronounced 'goo-jeer'), Chinatown and the food-filled Central Market. There are some great pubs here too. Arty/alternative Hindley St – Adelaide's dirty little secret – has a smattering of good eateries. In the East End, Rundle St and Hutt St offer al fresco cafes and people-watching. North Ad-

elaide's Melbourne and O'Connell Sts have a healthy spread of bistros, cafes and pubs.

🍴 Central Adelaide**Central Market** MARKET \$

(Map p714; www.adelaidecentralmarket.com.au; Gouger St; ☎7am-5.30pm Tue, 9am-5.30pm Wed & Thu, 7am-9pm Fri, 7am-3pm Sat) This place is an exercise in sensory bombardment: a barrage of smells, colours and yodelling stallholders selling fresh vegetables, breads, cheeses, seafood and gourmet produce. Cafes, hectic food courts, a supermarket and Adelaide's Chinatown are here, too.

Zen Kitchen VIETNAMESE \$

(Map p714; ☎08-8232 3542; www.facebook.com/zenkitchenadelaide; Unit 7, Tenancy 2, Renaissance Arc; mains \$5-11; ☎10.30am-4.30pm Mon-Thu, 10.30am-8pm Fri, 11am-3pm Sat) Superb, freshly constructed cold rolls, *pho* soups and super-crunchy barbecue-pork bread rolls, eat-in or take away. Wash it all down with a cold coconut milk or a teeth-grindingly strong Vietnamese coffee with sugary condensed milk. Authentic, affordable and delicious.

Café Troppo CAFE \$

(Map p714; ☎08-8211 8812; www.cafetroppoelaide.com; 42 Whitmore Sq; mains \$9-16; ☎7.30am-4pm Tue-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat & Sun; 📶) 🌿 Breathing new vigour into Whitmore Sq, the least utilised of central Adelaide's five squares, corner-café Troppo has jaunty exposed timberwork and a sustainable outlook (local ingredients, recycling, organic milk, ecofriendly cleaning products etc). The coffee is fab, and so are their marinated kangaroo and haloumi sandwiches, and baked eggs with spinach and local Swiss-style cheese.

Lucia's Pizza & Spaghetti Bar ITALIAN \$

(Map p714; ☎08-8231 2260; www.lucias.com.au; 2 Western Mall, Central Market; meals \$8-14; ☎7am-4pm Mon-Thu & Sat, to 9pm Fri) This little slice of Italy has been around since Lucia was a lot younger. All her pasta, sauces and pizzas are authentically homemade. If you like what you're eating, you can buy fresh pasta next door at Lucia's Fine Foods.

Vego And Loven' It VEGETARIAN \$

(Map p714; www.vegoandlovenit.webs.com; Level 1, 240 Rundle St; meals \$7-14; ☎10am-4pm Mon-Fri; 📶) Get your weekly vitamins disguised in a scrumptious veggie burger, wrap or focaccia at this arty upstairs kitchen. Dreadlocked urban renegades order 'extra alfalfa but no hummus'. Look for the mosaic sign and take the skinny stairs.

Jerusalem Sheshkabab**House**

MIDDLE EASTERN \$

(Map p714; ☎08-8212 6185; 131b Hindley St; mains \$10-15; ☀noon-2pm & 5.30-10pm Tue-Sun; 🍷) A skinny Hindley St room that's been here forever, serving magnificent Middle Eastern and Lebanese delights: falafels, hummus, tabouleh, tahini and (of course) sheshkababs. The plastic furniture and draped tent material are appropriately tacky.

★ **Peel Street**

MODERN AUSTRALIA, ASIAN \$\$

(Map p714; ☎08-8231 8887; www.peelst.com.au; 9 Peel St; mains \$20-30, tasting menu \$68; ☀7.30am-3pm Mon-Fri, 6.30pm-late Thu-Sat) A long-neglected service lane in Adelaide's West End, Peel St has spawned a slew of new bar-eateries recently, the first (and still best) of which is Peel Street itself, a supercool cafe-bistro-wine bar that just keeps packing 'em in. Glam city girls sit at window seats nibbling parmesan-crumbed parsnips and turkey meatballs with preserved lemon. Killer wine list.

Pizza e Mozzarella Bar

ITALIAN \$\$

(Map p714; ☎08-8164 1003; www.pizzaemozza.rellabar.com.au; 33 Pirie St; pizzas \$19-23, mains \$20-36; ☀11.30am-3pm Mon-Thu, 1.30-9.30pm Fri, 5.30-9.30pm Sat) Everything at this split-level, rustic Italian eatery – adorned with bread baskets and terracotta; beautified by Italian staff and leadlight – is cooked in the wood oven you see when you walk in the door. Pizzas are thin-based (Roma style); mozzarella plates come with wood-oven bread and meats (octopus, tuna, salumi). Super Italian/SA wine and beer list. Just super!

Jasmin Indian Restaurant

INDIAN \$\$

(Map p714; ☎08-8223 7837; www.jasmin.com.au; basement, 31 Hindmarsh Sq; mains \$17-29; ☀noon-2.30pm Thu & Fri, 5.30-9pm Tue-Sat) Magical North Indian curries and consummate professional staff (they might remember your name from when you ate here in 2011). There's nothing too surprising about the menu, but it's done to absolute perfection. Bookings essential.

Earth's Kitchen

VEGETARIAN \$\$

(Map p714; ☎08-8215 0458; www.kitchenson.earthcommunities.com.au; 131 Pirie St; mains \$17-21; ☀7am-4pm Mon-Thu, 7am-9pm Fri, 9.30am-2.30pm Sat; 🍷) An alternative to the myriad glass-and-granite lunch spots around town, this hippie cafe – all terracotta, hessian sacks and racks of organic produce – serves beaut salads, dips and pizzas. It's almost all vegetarian, but we couldn't go past the spicy braised kangaroo pizza with roast capsicum and mozzarella.

DON'T MISS**SA WINE REGIONS**

Let's cut to the chase: we all know why you're here. South Australian wines are arguably the best in the world, and there's no shortage of wine regions – both established and emerging – in which to taste them. Most of them are but a day trip away from Adelaide.

Adelaide Hills (p733) Impressive cool-climate wines in Adelaide's back yard.

Barossa Valley (p758) Old-school estates and famous reds.

Clare Valley (p763) Niche riesling vintages and cosy weekend retreats.

Coonawarra (p778) Lip-smacking cabernet sauvignon on the Limestone Coast plains.

McLaren Vale (p737) Awesome shiraz and vine-covered hillsides rolling down to the sea.

Mesa Lunga

MEDITERRANEAN \$\$

(Map p714; ☎08-8410 7617; www.mesalunga.com; cnr Gouger & Morphett Sts; tapas \$4-19, mains \$18-31; ☀noon-3pm Fri, noon-late Sun, 6pm-late Tue-Sat) In a fishbowl corner room with a dark-wood wine wall, sassy Mesa Lunga serves tapas and quality pizzas. Order some *gamba* (black-salted prawn and chorizo in pastry) and Manzanillo olives stuffed with anchovies, washed down with some sparkling sangria. Magic.

Ying Chow

CHINESE \$\$

(Map p714; ☎08-8211 7998; 114 Gouger St; mains \$11-24; ☀noon-2.45pm Fri, 5pm-midnight daily) This fluoro-lit, bossy-staffed eatery is a culinary gem; serving cuisine styled from the Guangzhou region, such as 'BBC' (bean curd, broad beans and Chinese chutney) and steamed duck with salty sauce. It gets packed – with queues out the door (no bookings) – but it's worth the wait.

Amalfi Pizzeria Ristorante

ITALIAN \$\$

(Map p714; ☎08-8223 1948; 29 Frome St; mains \$17-32; ☀noon-2.30pm Mon-Fri, 5.30-10.30pm Mon-Sat) This classic old joint has been around since the days when Adelaide phone numbers only had seven digits. Authentic pizza and pasta with bentwood chairs, terrazzo floors, specials scribbled on a chalkboard, sleep-defeating coffee and imagined Mafioso mutterings in the back room.

T-Chow

(Map p714; ☎08-8410 1413; www.tchow.eatout-adelaide.com.au; 68 Moonta St; mains \$13-25; ☺11am-3pm & 5-11pm; 🍴) Big, bright and brassy: quick-fire Chinese on the main Chinatown strip, with an impressive menu ranging from the predictable (braised beef hotpot, steamed garlic prawns) to the fearless (pork intestines with salted cabbage, tender duck with 'most fats drained'). Yumcha daily 11am to 3pm.

★ Press

(Map p714; ☎08-8211 8048; www.pressfoodandwine.com.au; 40 Waymouth St; mains \$16-48; ☺noon-late Mon-Sat) The best of an emerging strip of restaurants on office-heavy Waymouth St. Super-stylish (brick, glass, lemon-coloured chairs) and not afraid of offal (pan-fried lamb's brains, grilled calf's tongue) or things raw (beef carpaccio, grav-lax salmon) and confit (duck leg, onion, olives). Tasting menu \$68 per person. Book for upstairs seating only; otherwise they'll fit you downstairs near the bar.

Sosta

(Map p714; ☎08-8232 6799; www.sostaargentiniankitchen.com.au; 291 Rundle St; tapas \$16-26, mains \$33-45; ☺noon-2.30pm Mon-Fri, 6pm-late daily) Beef, lamb, pork, chicken, fish... vegetarians run for the hills! Sosta's aged 1kg T-bone steaks are legendary. With crisp white tablecloths and blood-brown floorboards, it's an elegant place to launch your nocturnal East End foray.

North Adelaide**O'Connell St General**

(Map p720; www.foodland.net.au; 113 O'Connell St, North Adelaide; ☺8am-10pm) A Foodland supermarket with a nifty deli/butcher counter out the front.

★ Gin Long Canteen

(Map p720; ☎08-7120 2897; www.ginlongcanteen.com.au; 42 O'Connell St, North Adelaide; small plates \$5-13, mains \$18-24; ☺noon-2.30pm Tue-Fri, 5.30pm-late Tue-Sat) This energetic food room is a winner. Chipper staff allocate you a space at the communal tables (no bookings) and take your order pronto. The food arrives just as fast: fab curries, slow-braised Thai beef and pork, netted spring rolls, Malay curry puffs... It's a pan-Asian vibe, bolstered by jumbo bottles of Vietnamese beer and smiles all round.

CHINESE \$\$

Store

(Map p720; ☎08-8361 6999; www.thestore.com.au; 157 Melbourne St, North Adelaide; breakfast \$10-20, mains \$15-28; ☺7am-3pm Mon, 7am-10pm Tue-Fri, 8am-10pm Sat, 8am-3pm Sun; 🍴) Store is an enticing combo of casual Parisian bistro and jazzy cafe. The vibe is retro-kitsch (art nouveau posters, stag horns, Tretchikoff prints), while on your plate you can expect rapid-fire pastas, risottos, burgers and classy fish, chicken and beef dishes, none of which will break the bank. Impressive wine list, too.

CAFE, BISTRO \$\$

Royal Oak

(Map p720; ☎08-8267 2488; www.royalokahotel.com.au; 123 O'Connell St, North Adelaide; mains \$18-29; ☺8am-noon Sat & Sun, noon-3pm & 6-9pm daily) Winning pub grub at this enduring (and endearing) local: steak sangers (sandwiches), vegie lasagne, lamb-shank pie, pulled-pork buns and French toast with maple syrup (not all at once). There's a quirky retro vibe, and live jazz/indie-rock Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

PUB FOOD \$\$

Amarin Thai

(Map p720; ☎08-8239 0026; www.theamarinThai.com.au; 108 Tynte St, North Adelaide; mains \$13-27; ☺noon-2.30pm Wed-Fri, 6-9.30pm daily) Unpretentious and reliable neighbourhood Thai just off the main North Adelaide strip. The scatter of mustard-coloured chairs on the footpath is the place to be on a warm night.

THAI \$\$

Lion Hotel

(Map p720; ☎08-8367 0222; www.thelionhotel.com; 161 Melbourne St, North Adelaide; mains \$38-43; ☺noon-3pm Mon-Fri & Sun, 6-10pm Mon-Sat) Off to one side of this upmarket boozier (all big screens, beer terraces and business types) is a sassy restaurant with a cool retro interior and romantic vibes. Hot off the menu are luscious Coorong Angus steaks, market fish and chilli prawn fettuccine, served with very unpubby professionalism. Breakfast is available next door in the bar (mains \$10 to \$21) from 8am to noon Monday to Friday, and 8am to 3pm on weekends.

PUB FOOD \$\$\$

Inner Suburbs**Bar 9**

(Map p712; ☎08-8373 1108; www.bar9.com.au; 96 Glen Osmond Rd, Parkside; mains \$9-18; ☺7.30am-4pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-2pm Sat & Sun) If you're serious about coffee, this bean barn – a short hop southeast of the city centre – is for you. Food is almost secondary here: the hipster, cardigan-wearing customers are too busy

CAFE \$

discussing the coffee-specials board to eat. But if you are hungry, they do a mean bacon and eggs, vanilla bircher muesli, or truffled mushrooms on toast.

Café de Vili's

FAST FOOD \$

(Map p712; www.vilis.com; 2-14 Manchester St, Mile End Sth; meals \$4-14; ☺ 24hr) Vili's pies are a South Australian institution. Next to its factory, just west of the CBD, is this all-night diner, serving equally iconic pie floaters (a meat pie floating in pea soup, topped with mashed potato, gravy and sauce – outstanding!), plus sausage rolls, pasties, burgers, pancakes, cooked breakfasts, custard tarts, donuts...

Parwana Afghan Kitchen

AFGHAN \$\$

(Map p712; ☎ 08-8443 9001; www.parwana.com.au; 124b Henley Beach Rd, Torrensville; mains \$14-25; ☺ 6-10pm Tue-Thu & Sun, 6-10.30pm Fri & Sat) Nutty, spicy, slippery and a little bit funky: Afghan food is unique, and this authentic restaurant, west of the CBD across the parklands, is a great place to try it. The signature *banjaan borani* eggplant dish is a knockout. There's also a lunchtime branch just off Rundle St in the city called **Kutchi Deli Parwana** (Map p714; ☎ 08-7225 8586; 7 Ebenezer Pl; ☺ 11.30am-4pm Mon-Fri). BYO; cash only.

Jarmer's Kitchen

CAFE, MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$

(Map p712; ☎ 08-8340 1055; www.jarmerkitchen.com.au; 18 Park Tce, Bowden; mains \$11-33; ☺ 7.30am-4pm Mon, 7.30am-10pm Tue-Fri, 8am-10pm Sat, 8am-4pm Sun) This flagship eatery heralds the newly redeveloped Bowden, a city-edge suburb once an industrial wasteland, now home to hundreds of hip new town houses and the hip urbanites who live in them. Jarmer's is a fancy day/night cafe in an old pub building, serving savvy sandwiches, pastas, burgers and substantial mains: try the pork-and-fennel sausages. Terrific wine list, too.

Glenelg

Zest Cafe Gallery

CAFE \$

(Map p712; ☎ 08-8295 3599; www.zestcafegallery.com.au; 2a Sussex St, Glenelg; meals \$9-17; ☺ 7.30am-5pm Mon-Sat, 8am-5pm Sun; ☎) Little sidestreet Zest has a laid-back vibe and brilliant breakfasts – more than enough compensation for any shortcomings in size. Baguettes and bagels are crammed with creative combos, or you can banish your hangover with some 'Hell's Eggs': baked in a ramekin with rosemary, tomato salsa, cheese and Tabasco

sauce. Great coffee, arty staff, and vegetarian specials, too.

Good Life

PIZZA \$\$

(Map p712; ☎ 08-8376 5900; www.goodlifepizza.com; Level 1, cnr Jetty Rd & Moseley St, Glenelg; pizzas \$14-35; ☺ noon-2.30pm Tue-Fri & Sun, 6pm-late daily; ☎) ☎ At this brilliant organic pizzeria above the Jetty Rd tram-scape, thin crusts are stacked with tasty toppings like free-range roast duck, Spencer Gulf prawns and spicy Hahndorf salami. *Ahhh*, life is good... Also has branches in the **city** (Map p714; ☎ 08-8223 2618; 170 Hutt St; pizzas \$14-35; ☺ noon-2.30pm Mon-Fri, 6pm-late daily; ☎) ☎ and **North Adelaide** (Map p720; ☎ 08-8267 3431; Shop 5, 11 O'Connell St, North Adelaide; pizzas \$14-35; ☺ noon-2.30pm Tue-Thu, 6pm-late Tue-Sun; ☎) ☎.

Zucca Greek Mezze

GREEK \$\$

(Map p712; ☎ 08-8376 8222; www.zucca.com.au; Shop 5, Marina Pier, Holdfast Shores, Glenelg; mezze \$5-24, mains \$17-48; ☺ noon-3pm & 6pm-late) Spartan linen, marina views, super service and a contemporary menu of tapas-style mezze plates – you'd struggle to find anything this classy on Santorini. The grilled Hindmarsh Valley haloumi with spiced raisins and the seared scallops with feta and pistachio are sublime.



Drinking & Nightlife

Rundle St has a few iconic pubs, while in the West End, Hindley St's red-light sleaze collides with the hip bars on Leigh and Peel Sts. Cover charges at clubs can be anything from free to \$15, depending on the night. Most clubs close Monday to Thursday.



Central Adelaide

★ Exeter Hotel

PUB

(Map p714; ☎ 08-8223 2623; www.facebook.com; 246 Rundle St; ☺ 8am-late) Adelaide's best pub, this legendary boozier attracts an eclectic mix of postwork, punk and uni drinkers, shaking the day off their backs. Pull up a stool at the bar, or a table in the grungy beer garden, and settle in for the evening. Original music nightly (indie, electronica, acoustic); no pokies. Book for curry nights in the upstairs restaurant (usually Wednesdays).

★ Grace Emily Hotel

PUB

(Map p714; www.graceemilyhotel.com.au; 232 Waymouth St; ☺ 4pm-late) Duking it out with the Exeter Hotel for the title of 'Adelaide's Best Pub' (it pains us to separate the two) the Gracie has live music most nights (alt-rock,

country, acoustic, open-mic nights), kooky '50s-meets-voodoo decor, open fires and great beers. Regular cult cinema; no pokies. Are the Bastard Sons of Ruination playing tonight?

Downtown HDCB

BAR

(Map p714; ☎ 08-8212 7334; www.facebook.com/DowntownHDCB; 99 Hindley St; ☉ noon-midnight Wed-Fri, 6pm-2am Sat) HDCB equals Hot Dogs, Cold Beer. You'll find plenty of each inside this slender Hindley St bar, plus walls spangled with vintage music posters and tattooed DJs playing rock and hip hop. It's something different for Hindley St – a beacon of grit and substance amidst the strip clubs, fluoro-lit convenience stores, sex shops and mainstream beer barns.

Cork Wine Cafe

WINE BAR

(Map p714; www.corkwinecafe.com.au; 61a Gouger St; ☉ 4pm-midnight Mon-Thu, 3pm-1am Fri & Sat) A down-sized, Frenchie hole-in-the-wall wine bar, unexpected among the fluoro-lit Chinese restaurants along this stretch of Gouger St. Well-worn floorboards, Bentwood chairs, absinthe posters...perfect for a quick vino before dinner (see fluoro-lit Chinese restaurants, above).

Udaberri

BAR

(Map p714; www.udaberri.com.au; 11-13 Leigh St; ☉ 4pm-late Tue-Thu, 3pm-late Fri, 6pm-late Sat) Taking a leaf out of the Melbourne book on lanese boozing, nouveau-industrial Udaberri is a compact bar on Leigh St, serving Spanish wines by the glass, good beers on tap and *pintxos* (Basque bar snacks) like oysters, cheeses, *jamón* and tortillas. The crowd is cashed-up and city-centric.

Howling Owl

BAR, CAFE

(Map p714; www.thehowlingowl.com.au; 13 Frome St; ☉ 8.30am-6pm Mon & Tue, 8.30am-late Wed-Fri, noon-late Sat) Gin, anyone? This cafe/bar keeps the caffeine coming by day, then slows the pace by night with a devastatingly good selection of 'mother's ruin', infused with everything from coriander to cardamom. SA beers and wines too, plus quirky tunes, a brilliant booth seat at the back and offbeat urban drinkers. Another gin, anyone?

Clever Little Taylor

BAR

(Map p714; www.cleverlittletaylor.com.au; 19 Peel St; ☉ 4pm-late) CLT was one of the vanguard which ushered in a new brigade of small bars in Adelaide's lanes. Good liquor is the thrust here, along with fine SA wines and a hip brick-and-stone renovation (no priz-

es for guessing what this space used to be). Zippy bar food, too.

Apothecary 1878

WINE BAR

(Map p714; www.theapothecary1878.com.au; 118 Hindley St; ☉ 5pm-late) Classy coffee and wine at this gorgeous chemist-turned-bar, dating from (you guessed it) 1878. Dark-timber medicine cabinets and Parisian marble-topped tables: perfect first-date territory.

Tasting Room

WINE BAR

(Map p714; www.eastendcellars.com.au; 25 Vardon Ave; ☉ 9am-7pm Mon & Tue, 9am-9pm Wed & Thu, 9am-10pm Fri, 10am-10pm Sat, noon-7pm Sun) A commercial offshoot of East End Cellars, Adelaide's best bottle shop, this classy new wine room gives you the chance to try before you buy. The range is vast: prop yourself on a window seat, watch beautiful East Enders sashay past, and work your way through it.

Publishers Hotel

BAR

(Map p714; www.publishershotel.com.au; cnr Cannon & Franklin Sts; ☉ 11am-late Tue-Sat, 3pm-late Sun) 'Established 1914' says the signage. By our reckoning it was closer to 2014... Either way, the Publishers of today is an upmarket bar with white-jacketed bartenders, interesting wines and craft beers (love the Lobethal Bierhaus pilsner from the Adelaide Hills). Weekend DJs spin everything from old soul to Dire Straits (the vibe is very over-30s).

Belgian Beer Café

BAR

(Map p714; www.oostende.com.au; 27-29 Ebenezer Pl; ☉ 11am-midnight Sun-Thu, to 2am Fri & Sat) There's shiny brass, sexy staff, much preslucing of glasses, and somewhere upwards of 26 imported Belgian superbrews (we lost count...). Order some *moules-frites* to go with your *weiss* beer. Off Rundle St.

Zhivago

CLUB

(Map p714; www.zhivago.com.au; 54 Currie St; ☉ 9pm-late Fri-Sun) The pick of the West End clubs (there are quite a few of 'em around Light Sq – some are a bit moron-prone), Zhivago's DJs pump out everything from reggae and dub to quality house. Popular with the 18 to 25 dawn patrol.

Lotus Lounge

CLUB

(Map p714; www.lotuslounge.net.au; 268 Morphett St; ☉ 6pm-late Wed-Sat) We like the signage here – a very minimal fluoro martini glass with a flashing olive. Inside it's a glam lounge with cocktails, quality beers and Adelaide dolls cuttin' the rug. Expect queues around the corner on Saturday nights.

HQ Complex

CLUB
(Map p714; www.hqcomplex.com.au; 1 North Tce; ☎8pm-late Wed, Fri & Sat) Adelaide's biggest club fills five big rooms with shimmering sound and light. Night-time is the right time on Saturdays – the biggest (and trashiest) club night in town. Retro Wednesdays; live acts Fridays.

Mars Bar

CLUB
(Map p714; www.themarsbar.com.au; 120 Gouger St; ☎9pm-late Fri & Sat) The lynchpin of Adelaide's nocturnal gay and lesbian scene, always-busy Mars Bar features glitzy decor, flashy clientele and OTT drag shows.

**North Adelaide****Daniel O'Connell**

PUB
(Map p720; www.danieloconnell.com.au; 165 Tynte St, North Adelaide; ☎11am-late) An 1881 Irish pub with just enough of a whiff of Celtic kitsch. Great Guinness, open fires, 170-plus SA wines, acoustic music, contemporary menu (mains \$12 to \$26) and a house-sized pepper tree in the beer garden (168 years old and counting).

**Inner Suburbs****★Wheatsheaf**

PUB
(Map p712; www.wheatsheafhotel.com.au; 39 George St, Thebarton; ☎11am-midnight Mon-Fri, noon-midnight Sat, noon-9pm Sun; 📶) A hidden gem under the flight path in industrial Thebarton, with an arty crowd of students, jazz musos, lesbians, punks and rockers. Tidy beer garden, live music (acoustic, blues, country), open fires and rumours of a new kitchen opening soon. Kick-ass craft beers.

Colonist

PUB
(Map p712; www.colonist.com.au; 44 The Parade, Norwood; ☎9am-late) Funky countercultural boozing on Norwood's otherwise mainstream Parade. Wonderfully well-worn, with crafty beers and Gustav Klimt-esque murals. Packed after Norwood FC (Aussie Rules football) games empty out from the ground across the road.

**Glenelg****Pier Bar**

BAR
(Map p712; www.glenelgpier.com.au; 18 Holdfast Promenade, Glenelg; ☎noon-late Mon-Fri, 11am-late Sat & Sun) A cavernous mainstream sports bar with voyeuristic beach views and fold-back windows for when the sea breeze

drops. Has as many screens as staff (there's a lot of each) and raucous Sunday sessions.

★ Entertainment

Arty Adelaide has a rich cultural life that stacks up favourably with much larger cities.

For listings and reviews see **Adelaide Now** (www.adelaidenow.com.au) and **Adelaide Review** (www.adelaidereview.com.au).

There are a few agencies for big-ticket event bookings:

BASS (☎13 12 46; www.bass.net.au)

Moshtix (☎1300 438 849; www.moshtix.com.au)

Venue Tix (☎08-8225 8888; www.venuetix.com.au)

Live Music

Adelaide knows how to kick out the jams! Top pub venues around town include the Wheatsheaf, Grace Emily (p727) and Exeter Hotel (p727).

The free street-press papers *Rip It Up* (www.ripitup.com.au) and *dB* (www.dbmagazine.com.au) have band and DJ listings and reviews. For gig listings see **Music SA** (www.musicsa.com.au) and **Jazz Adelaide** (www.jazz.adelaide.onau.net).

★Governor Hindmarsh Hotel LIVE MUSIC

(Map p712; www.thegov.com.au; 59 Port Rd, Hindmarsh; ☎11am-late) Ground Zero for live music in Adelaide, The Gov hosts some legendary local and international acts. The odd Irish band fiddles around in the bar, while the main venue features rock, folk, jazz, blues, salsa, reggae and dance. A huge place with an inexplicably personal vibe. Good food, too.

Jive

LIVE MUSIC
(Map p714; www.jivevenue.com; 181 Hindley St; ☎hours vary) In a converted theatre, Jive caters to an off-beat crowd of student types who like their tunes funky, left-field and removed from the mainstream. A sunken dance floor = great views from the bar!

Fowlers Live

LIVE MUSIC
(Map p714; www.fowlerslive.com.au; 68 North Tce; ☎hours vary) Inside the former Fowler Flour Factory, this 500-capacity venue is a devilish temple of hard rock, punk and metal.

Adelaide Entertainment

Centre CONCERT VENUE
(Map p712; www.theaec.net; 98 Port Rd, Hindmarsh; ☎box office 8.30am-5pm Mon-Fri) Around 12,000 bums on seats for everyone from the Wiggles to Stevie Wonder.

Adelaide Symphony Orchestra CLASSICAL
(Map p714; www.aso.com.au; 91 Hindley St; ☎ box office 9am-4.30pm Mon-Fri) The estimable ASO: check the website for performance info.

Cinema

See www.my247.com.au/adelaide/cinemas for movie listings.

Palace Nova Eastend Cinemas CINEMA
(Map p714; ☎ 08-8232 3434; www.palacecinemas.com.au; 250 & 251 Rundle St; tickets adult/child \$19.50/15.50; ☎ 10am-late) Facing-off across Rundle St, both these cinema complexes screen 'sophisticated cinema': new-release art-house, foreign-language and independent films as well as some mainstream flicks. Fully licensed, too.

Mercury Cinema CINEMA
(Map p714; ☎ 08-8410 0979; www.mercurycinema.org.au; 13 Morphett St, Lion Arts Centre; tickets adult/concession \$17/13; ☎ hours vary) The not-for-profit Mercury screens art-house releases, and is home to the Adelaide Cinémathèque (classic, cult and experimental flicks). Check the website for screen times.

Moonlight Cinema CINEMA
(Map p720; ☎ 1300 551 908; www.moonlight.com.au; Botanic Park; tickets adult/child \$18/14; ☎ 7pm daily mid-Nov-Feb) In summer, pack a picnic and mosquito repellent, and spread out on the lawn to watch old and new classics under the stars. 'Gold Grass' tickets, which cost a little more, secure you a prime-viewing beanbag.

Piccadilly Cinema CINEMA
(Map p720; ☎ 08-8267 1500; www.wallis.com.au; 181 O'Connell St, North Adelaide; tickets adult/child \$18.50/14; ☎ 10am-late) A beautiful old art deco cinema on the main North Adelaide strip, with a sexily curved street frontage and chevron-shaped windows spangled across the facade. Mostly mainstream releases.

Theatre & Comedy

See **Adelaide Theatre Guide** (www.theatre-guide.com.au) for booking details, venues and reviews for comedy, drama and musicals.

Adelaide Festival Centre PERFORMING ARTS
(Map p714; www.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au; King William Rd; ☎ box office 9am-6pm Mon-Fri) The hub of performing arts in SA, this crystalline white Festival Centre opened in June 1973, four proud months before the Sydney Opera House! The **State Theatre Company** (www.statetheatrecompany.com.au) is based here.

Rhino Room COMEDY
(Map p714; www.rhinoroom.com.au; 13 Frome St; tickets \$20-25; ☎ 6.30pm-late Mon, Fri & Sat) Live stand-up acts from around Australia and overseas on Friday and Saturday nights, plus open-mic comedy on Mondays.

Sport

As most Australian cities do, Adelaide hangs its hat on the successes of its sporting teams. In the **Australian Football League** (www.afl.com.au), the Adelaide Crows and Port Adelaide Power have sporadic success and play at the Adelaide Oval. Suburban Adelaide teams compete in the confusingly named **South Australian National Football League** (www.sanfl.com.au). The football season runs from March to September.

In the **National Basketball League** (www.nbl.com.au), the Adelaide 36ers have been a force for decades. In netball, the Adelaide Thunderbirds play in the **ANZ Championship** (www.anz-championship.com) with regular success. In soccer's **A League** (www.a-league.com.au), Adelaide United are usually competitive. In summer, under the auspices of **Cricket SA** (www.cricketsa.com.au), the Redbacks play one-day and multiday state matches at the Adelaide Oval. The Redbacks rebrand as the Adelaide Strikers in the national **T20 Big Bash** (www.bigbash.com.au) competition.

Shopping

Shops and department stores line Rundle Mall. The beautiful old arcades between the mall and Grenfell St retain their original splendour and house eclectic little shops. Rundle St and the adjunct Ebenezer Pl are home to boutique and retro clothing shops.

★ **Streetlight** BOOKS, MUSIC
(Map p714; www.facebook.com/streetlightadelaide; 2/15 Vaughan Pl; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Thu & Sat, 10am-9pm Fri, 11am-5pm Sun) Lefty, arty and subversive in the best possible way, Streetlight is the place to find that elusive Miles Davis disc or Charles Bukowski poetry compilation.

Midwest Trader CLOTHING, ACCESSORIES
(Map p714; www.facebook.com; Shop 1 & 2 Ebenezer Pl; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Thu & Sat, 10am-9pm Fri, noon-5pm Sun) Stocks a snarling range of punk, skate, vintage, biker and rockabilly gear, plus second-hand cowboy boots. Rock on!

Imprints Booksellers BOOKS
(Map p714; www.imprints.com.au; 107 Hindley St; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Wed, 9am-9pm Thu & Fri, 9am-5pm Sat, 11am-5pm Sun) The best bookshop

in Adelaide in the worst location (in the thick of the Hindley St strip-club fray)? Jazz, floorboards, Persian rugs and occasional live readings and book launches.

Urban Cow Studio

DESIGN

(Map p714; www.urbancow.com.au; 11 Frome St; ☺ 10am-6pm Mon-Thu, 10am-9pm Fri, 10am-5pm Sat, noon-5pm Sun) ☹ The catch cry here is 'Handmade in Adelaide' – a brilliant assortment of paintings, jewellery, glassware, ceramics and textiles, plus a gallery upstairs. Their 'Heaps Good' T-shirts are appropriately pro-SA on a hot summer's day.

Miss Gladys Sym Choon

FASHION

(Map p714; www.missgladysymchoon.com.au; 235a Rundle St; ☺ 9.30am-6.15pm Mon-Thu, 9.30am-9.30pm Fri, 10am-6pm Sat, 10.45am-5.30pm Sun) Named after a famed Rundle St trader from the 1920s, this hip shop is the place for fab frocks, rockin' boots, street-beating sneakers, jewellery, watches and hats.

Jurlique

COSMETICS

(Map p714; www.jurlique.com.au; Shop 2Ga, 50 Rundle Mall Plaza; ☺ 9am-6pm Mon-Thu, 9am-9pm Fri, 9am-5pm Sat, 11am-5pm Sun) An international success story, SA's own Jurlique sells fragrant skincare products (some Rosewater Balancing Mist, anyone?) that are pricey but worth every cent.

Tarts

DESIGN

(Map p714; www.tartscollective.com.au; 10g Gays Arcade, Adelaide Arcade, Rundle Mall; ☺ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat) ☹ Textiles, jewellery, bags, cards and canvasses from a 35-member local arts co-op. Meet the artists in-store.

i Information

EMERGENCY

Ambulance, Fire, Police (☎ 000) Adelaide's main police station is at 60 Wakefield St.

RAA Emergency Roadside Assistance (☎ 13 11 11; www.raa.com.au) Car break-down assistance.

INTERNET ACCESS

Arena Internet Café (Level 1, 264 Rundle St; ☺ 11am-midnight Mon-Thu, 10am-late Fri-Sun)

Wireless Cafe (53 Hindley St; ☺ 7am-7.30am Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm Sat) Hindley St hotspot.

MEDIA

Adelaide's daily tabloid is the parochial *Advertiser*, though the *Age*, *Australian* and *Financial Review* are also widely available.

Adelaide Review (www.adelaidereview.com.au) Highbrow articles, culture and arts. Free monthly.

i PINT OF COOPERS PLEASE!

Things can get confusing at the bar in Adelaide. Aside from the 200ml (7oz) 'butchers' – the choice of old men in dim, sticky-carpet pubs – there are three main beer sizes: 285ml (10oz) 'schooners' (pots or middies elsewhere in Australia), 425ml (15oz) 'pints' (schooners elsewhere) and 568ml (20oz) 'imperial pints' (traditional English pints). Now go forth and order with confidence!

Blaze (www.gaynewsnetwork.com.au) Gay-and-lesbian street press; free fortnightly.

dB (www.dbmagazine.com.au) Local street press; loaded with music info.

Rip it Up (www.ripitup.com.au) Rival street press to dB; buckets of music info plus eating and drinking reviews.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Emergency Dental Service (☎ 08-8222 8222; www.sadental.sa.gov.au) Sore tooth?

Midnight Pharmacy (☎ 08-8231 6333; 13 West Tce; ☺ 7am-midnight Mon-Sat, 9am-midnight Sun) Late-night subscriptions.

Royal Adelaide Hospital (☎ 08-8222 4000; www.rah.sa.gov.au; 275 North Tce; ☺ 24hr) Emergency department (not for blisters!) and STD clinic.

Women's & Children's Hospital (☎ 08-8161 7000; www.cywhs.sa.gov.au; 72 King William Rd, North Adelaide; ☺ 24hr) Emergency and sexual-assault services.

MONEY

American Express (www.americanexpress.com; 147 Rundle Mall, Citi Centre Arcade; ☺ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat) Foreign currency exchange.

Travelex (www.travelex.com.au; HSBC, 55 Grenfell St; ☺ 9.30am-4pm Mon-Thu, to 5pm Fri) Foreign currency exchange in the HSBC building.

POST

Adelaide General Post Office (GPO; Map p714; www.auspost.com.au; 141 King William St; ☺ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri) Adelaide's main (and rather stately) post office.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Adelaide Visitor Information Centre (Map p714; ☎ 1300 588 140; www.adelaidecitycouncil.com; 9 James Pl, off Rundle Mall; ☺ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun, 11am-3pm public holidays) Adelaide-specific information, plus abundant info on SA including fab regional booklets.

Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources (DEWNR; Map p714; ☎ 08-8204 1910; www.environment.sa.gov.au; Level 1, 100 Pirie St; ☉ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri) National parks information and bookings.

Disability Information & Resource Centre (DIRC; Map p714; ☎ 1300 305 558, 08-8236 0555; www.dircsa.org.au; 195 Gilles St; ☉ 10am-4pm Mon-Fri) Info on accommodation, venues and travel for people with disabilities.

i Getting There & Away

AIR

International, interstate and regional flights via a number of airlines service **Adelaide Airport** (ADL; Map p712; ☎ 08-8308 9211; www.adelaideairport.com.au; 1 James Schofield Dr, Adelaide Airport), 7km west of the city centre.

Jetstar (www.jetstar.com.au) Direct flights between Adelaide and Perth, Darwin, Cairns, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sydney and Melbourne.

Qantas (www.qantas.com.au) Direct flights between Adelaide and Perth, Alice Springs, Darwin, Cairns, Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne.

Regional Express (Rex; www.regionalexpress.com.au) Flies from Adelaide to regional centres around SA – Kingscote, Coober Pedy, Ceduna, Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln and Whyalla – plus Broken Hill in NSW and Mildura in Victoria.

Tiger Airways (www.tigerairways.com.au) Direct flights between Adelaide and Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Virgin Australia (www.virginaustralia.com.au) Direct flights between Adelaide and Perth, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne.

BUS

Adelaide Central Bus Station (Map p714; ☎ 08-8221 5080; www.adelaidemetro.com.au/bussa; 85 Franklin St; ☉ 6am-9.30pm) is the hub for all major interstate and statewide bus services; see the website for route and timetable info. Note: there is no Adelaide-Perth bus service.

Firefly Express (www.fireflyexpress.com.au) Runs between Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide.

Greyhound Australia (☎ 1300 473 946; www.greyhound.com.au) Australia's main long-distance player, with services between Adelaide and Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney, Alice Springs and Darwin.

Premier Stateliner (☎ 1300 851 345; www.premierstateliner.com.au) State-wide bus services.

V/Line (☎ 1800 800 007; www.vline.com.au) Bus and bus/train services between Adelaide and Melbourne.

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

The major international car-rental companies have offices at Adelaide Airport and in the city. There are also a handful of local operators. Note that some companies don't allow vehicles to be taken to Kangaroo Island.

Acacia Car Rentals (☎ 08-8234 0911; www.acaciacarrentals.com.au; 91 Sir Donald Bradman Dr, Hilton; ☉ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat) Cheap rentals for travel within a 100km radius of Adelaide; scooter hire available.

Access Rent-a-Car (☎ 08-8340 0400, 1800 812 580; www.accessrentacar.com; 464 Port Rd, West Hindmarsh; ☉ 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat & Sun) Kangaroo Island travel permitted; 4WDs available.

Cut Price Car & Truck Rentals (☎ 08-8443 7788; www.cutprice.com.au; cnr Sir Donald Bradman Dr & South Rd, Mile End; ☉ 7.30am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm Sat & Sun) 4WDs available.

Smile Rent-a-Car (☎ 08-8234 0655; www.smilerentacar.com.au; 315 Sir Donald Bradman Dr, Brooklyn Park; ☉ 8am-6pm) 'Service with a smile!'

TRAIN

Interstate trains run by **Great Southern Rail** (☎ 08-8213 4401, 1800 703 357; www.greatsouthernrail.com.au) grind into the **Adelaide Parklands Terminal** (Railway Tce, Keswick; ☉ 6am-5pm Mon & Fri, 6.30am-5.30pm Tue, 9am-5pm Wed, 9am-7pm Thu, 8.30am-1pm Sun), 1km southwest of the city centre. The following trains depart Adelaide regularly; back-packer discounts apply:

The Ghan To Alice Springs (seat/sleeper \$449/1089, 19 hours)

The Ghan To Darwin (\$889/2099, 47 hours)

The Indian Pacific To Perth (\$569/1599, 39 hours)

The Indian Pacific To Sydney (\$389/779, 25 hours)

The Overland To Melbourne (from \$129, 11 hours)

i Getting Around

TO/FROM THE AIRPORT & TRAIN STATION

Prebooked private **Adelaide Airport Flyer** (☎ 08-8353 5233, 1300 856 444; www.adelaideairportflyer.com) minibuses run door-to-door between the airport and anywhere around Adelaide; get a quote and book online (into the city from the airport for one person costs \$35). Public Adelaide Metro **JetBuses** (www.adelaidemetro.com.au/routes/J1; tickets \$3.20-5.10; ☉ 6.30am-11.15pm Mon-Fri, 8am-11.15pm Sat & Sun) connect the airport with Glenelg and the CBD.

Taxis charge around \$30 into the city from the airport (15 minutes); or about \$15 from Adelaide

Parklands Terminal (10 minutes). Many hostels will pick you up and drop you off if you're staying with them. Adelaide Transport also offers transfers.

BICYCLE

Adelaide is pancake-flat: great for cycling! With a valid passport or driver's licence you can borrow a free **Adelaide City Bike** from **Bicycle SA** (☎ 08-8168 9999; www.bikesa.asn.au/bikehire; 111 Franklin St; ☎ 9am-5pm); helmet and lock provided. There are 18 other locations around town: you can collect a bike at any of them, provided you return it to the same place.

Down at the beach, hire a bike from Glenelg Bicycle Hire (p717).

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Adelaide Metro (☎ 1300 311 108; www.adelaidemetro.com.au; cnr King William & Currie Sts; ☎ 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat, 11am-4pm Sun) runs Adelaide's decent and integrated bus, train and tram network.

Tickets can also be purchased on board, at staffed train stations and in delis and newsagents. Ticket types include day trip (\$9.70), two-hour peak (\$5.10) and two-hour off-peak (\$3.20) tickets. Peak travel time is before 9am and after 3pm. Kids under five ride free! There's also a new three-day, unlimited-travel visitor pass (\$25).

Bus

Adelaide's buses are clean and reliable. Most services start around 6am and run until midnight.

99C & 99A City Loop Buses (www.adelaidemetro.com.au; ☎ 9am-7.30pm Mon-Fri) Adelaide Metro's free 99C and 99A City Loop buses run clockwise and anticlockwise respectively around the CBD fringe, passing Adelaide Station, North Tce and the Central Market en route. Every 20 minutes. The 98C and 98A buses ply the same route, but they extend into North Adelaide and run on weekends too.

After Midnight Buses (www.adelaidemetro.com.au; ☎ midnight-5am Sat) Adelaide Metro's After Midnight buses run select standard routes but have an 'N' preceding the route number on their displays. Standard ticket prices apply.

Train

Adelaide's hokey old diesel trains depart from **Adelaide Station** (www.railmaps.com.au/adelaidemetro.htm; North Tce), plying five suburban routes (Belair, Gawler, Grange, Noarlunga and Outer Harbour). Trains generally run between 6am and midnight (some services start at 4.30am).

Tram

Adelaide state-of-the-art trams rumble to/from Moseley Sq in Glenelg, through Victoria Sq in

the city and along North Tce to the Adelaide Entertainment Centre. Trams run approximately every seven or eight minutes on weekdays (every 15 minutes on weekends) from 6am to midnight daily. Standard ticket prices apply, but the section between South Tce and the Adelaide Entertainment Centre is free.

TAXI

Adelaide Independent Taxis (☎ 13 22 11, wheelchair-access cabs 1300 360 940; www.aitaxis.com.au) Regular and wheelchair-access cabs.

Adelaide Transport (☎ 08-8212 1861; www.adelaidetransport.com.au) Minibus taxis for four or more people, plus airport-to-city transfers.

Yellow Cabs (☎ 13 22 27; www.yellowcabgroup.com.au) Regular cabs (most of which are white!).

ADELAIDE HILLS

When the Adelaide plains are desert-hot in the summer months, the Adelaide Hills (technically the Mt Lofty Ranges) are always a few degrees cooler, with crisp air, woodland shade and labyrinthine valleys. Early colonists built stately summer houses around Stirling and Aldgate, and German settlers escaping religious persecution also arrived, infusing towns like Hahndorf and Lobethal with European values and architecture.

The Hills make a brilliant day trip from Adelaide: hop from town to town (all with at least one pub), passing carts of fresh produce for sale, stone cottages, olive groves and wineries along the way.

👉 Tours

In addition to the local offerings, there are a number of day-tour options (p718) departing ex-Adelaide.

Adelaide Hills Ambler

GUIDED TOUR

(☎ 0414 447 134; www.ambler.net.au; half-/full-day tours per person \$70/100) See the Hills in style with these personalised, locally run tours starting in Hahndorf. Plenty of wine, cheese, chocolate and arts.

Tour Adelaide Hills

GUIDED TOUR

(☎ 08-8563 1000, 1300 136 970; www.touradelaidehills.com; full-day tours per person \$145) Full-day tours through the Hills with pick-up locally, or from Adelaide or the Barossa Valley. Views, vines and fine food.

Adelaide Hills



i Getting There & Around

To best explore the Hills, BYO wheels. Alternatively, **Adelaide Metro** (www.adelaidemetro.com.au) runs buses between the city and most Hills towns. The 864 and 864F city–Mt Barker buses stop at Stirling, Aldgate and Hahndorf. The 823 runs from Crafers to Mt Lofty Summit and Cleland Wildlife Park; the 830F runs from the city to Oakbank, Woodside and Lobethal on weekdays.

Hahndorf

POP 1810

Like the Rocks in Sydney, and Richmond near Hobart, Hahndorf is a 'ye olde worlde' colonial

enclave that trades ruthlessly on its history: it's something of a kitsch parody of itself.

That said, Hahndorf is undeniably pretty, with Teutonic sandstone architecture, European trees, and flowers overflowing from half wine barrels. And it *is* interesting: Australia's oldest surviving German settlement (1839), founded by 50 Lutheran families fleeing religious persecution in Prussia. Hahndorf was placed under martial law during WWI, and its name changed to 'Ambleside' (renamed Hahndorf in 1935). It's also slowly becoming less kitsch, more cool: there are a few good cafes here now, and on a sunny day the main street is positively lively.

Sights & Activities

Hahndorf Academy MUSEUM
(www.hahndorfacademy.org.au; 68 Main St, Hahndorf; ☺10am-5pm) **FREE** This 1857 building houses an **art gallery** with rotating exhibitions and original sketches by Sir Hans Heysen, the famed landscape artist and Hahndorf homeboy (ask about tours of his nearby former studio, **The Cedars**). The **museum** depicts the lives of early German settlers, with churchy paraphernalia, dour dresses and farm equipment. The Adelaide Hills Visitor Information Centre is here, too.

Beerenberg Strawberry Farm FARM
(☎08-8388 7272; www.beerenberg.com.au; Mount Barker Rd, Hahndorf; strawberry picking per adult/child \$4/free, strawberries per kg from \$9.50; ☺9am-5pm) 🍷 Pick your own strawberries between November and May from this famous, family-run farm, also big-noted for its myriad jams, chutneys and sauces. Last entry for picking 4.15pm; open til 8.30pm Fridays in December and January.

Lane WINERY
(☎08-8388 1250; www.thelane.com.au; Ravenswood Lane, Hahndorf; ☺10am-4pm) Wow! What a cool building, and what a setting! Camera-conducive views and contemporary varietals (viognier, pinot grigio, pinot gris), plus an outstanding restaurant (book for lunch). Tasting fee refundable if you buy a bottle.

Hahndorf Walking Tours WALKING TOUR
(☎0477 288 011; www.facebook.com/hahndorfwalkingtours; 45/90min tours per person \$18/25; ☺45min tour noon & 1pm Sat & Sun, 90min tour 2pm Sat & Sat plus 6pm daily Oct-Mar) Short on distance but big on insight, these history-soaked walks are a great way to get a feel for the old town. Bookings essential.

Sleeping & Eating

Hit the **German Arms Hotel** (☎08-8388 7013; www.germanarmshotel.com.au; 69 Main St; mains \$16-30; ☺8.30am-10pm) or **Hahndorf Inn** (☎08-8388 7063; www.hahndorfinn.com.au; 35 Main St; mains \$17-32; ☺8.30am-9pm) for German-style bratwursts, schnitzels and strudels. The Lane also offers meals.

Manna MOTEL, APARTMENTS \$\$
(☎08-8388 1000; www.themanna.com.au; 25 & 35a Main St; d with/without spa from \$225/150, 1-1/2-bedroom apt from \$159/318; 🍷🍷🍷) The Manna is a stylish, contemporary maze of motel suites on the main street, spread

over several buildings. The older (more affordable) units occupy a refurbished, exposed-brick motel complex set back from the street. Free wi-fi.

Thiele House Retreat APARTMENT \$\$\$
(☎0421 983 291; www.stayz.com.au; 102 Main St; per 6 people from \$570, extra person \$50; 🍷) Behind Rockbare cellar door is this renovated former restaurant – brilliant value for groups. Sleeping six comfortably (and up to eight in total), the stone-walled apartment has two bathrooms and an industrial kitchen, and is all decked out in chic urbane colours with exposed timbers and abstract art. Partial-rental arrangements possible for couples.

Udder Delights CAFE \$
(www.udderdelights.com.au; 91a Main St; meals \$12-25; ☺9am-5pm; 🍷) This udderly delightful cheese cellar/cafe serves salads, tarts, pies, soups, cakes, generous cheese platters, funky fondue and the best coffee this side of Stirling. Free cheese tastings, too.

Seasonal Garden Cafe CAFE \$
(☎08-8388 7714; www.facebook.com/theseasonalgardencafe; 79 Main St; mains \$8-20; ☺8am-5pm; 🍷) 🍷 Swimming against Hahndorf's mainstream currents, this earthy, zero-waste cafe is adorned with bags of oranges, pots of spices, piles of pumpkins by the counter and bowls of chubby chillies. Food-wise it's good coffee, grass-green smoothies and lots of local, seasonal and organic ingredients (try the potted baked eggs with house-made beans).

Haus CAFE \$\$\$
(☎08-8388 7555; www.haushahndorf.com.au; 38 Main St; breakfast mains \$8-22, lunch & dinner \$20-55; ☺7.30am-11pm) Haus brings some urban hip to the Hills. Rustic-style pizzas are laden with local smallgoods, and the wine list is huge (lots of Hills drops). Also on offer are baguettes, pasta, burgers, salads and quiches. Good coffee, too.

Information

Adelaide Hills Visitor Information Centre
(☎1800 353 323, 08-8388 1185; www.visitadelaidenhills.com.au; 68 Main St; ☺9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) The usual barrage of brochures, plus accommodation bookings.

Stirling Area

The photogenic little villages of old-school **Stirling** (population 2870) and one-horse **Aldgate** (population 3350) are famed for

their bedazzling autumn colours, thanks to the deciduous trees the early residents saw fit to seed. Oddly, Aldgate has also been home to both Bon Scott and Mel Gibson over the years.

Sights

Cleland Wildlife Park WILDLIFE RESERVE
(☎07-8339 2444; www.clelandwildlifepark.sa.gov.au; 365 Mt Lofty Summit Rd, Crafrers; adult/child/family \$22/11/50; ☀9.30am-5pm, last entry 4.30pm) Within the steep **Cleland Conservation Park** (www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks; ☀24hr), this place lets you interact with all kinds of Australian beasts. There are keeper talks and feeding sessions throughout the day, plus occasional NightWalks (adult/child \$45/35) and you can have your mug-shot taken with a koala (\$30, 2pm to 3.15pm daily and 11am to 11.45am Sundays). There's a **cafe**, here too. From the city, take bus 864 or 864F from Grenfell St to Crafrers for connecting bus 823 to the park.

Mt Lofty Summit VIEWPOINT
(www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks; Mt Lofty Summit Rd, Crafrers; ☀24hr) From Cleland Wildlife Park you can bushwalk (2km) or drive up to Mt Lofty Summit (a surprising 710m), which has eye-popping views across Adelaide. **Mt Lofty Summit Visitor Information Centre** (☎08-8370 1054; www.mtloftysummit.com; ☀9am-5pm) has info on local attractions and **walking tracks**, including the steep Waterfall Gully Track (8km return, 2½ hours) and Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens Loop Trail (7km loop, two hours). The video of the Ash Wednesday bushfires of 16 February 1983 is harrowing. There's a snazzy **cafe-restaurant** here, too.

Deviation Road WINERY
(www.deviationroad.com; 214 Scott Creek Rd, Longwood; ☀10am-5pm) Nothing deviant about the wines here: sublime pinot noir, substantial shiraz, zingy pinot gris and a very decent bubbly, too. Grab a cheese platter and wind down in the afternoon in the sun.

Mt Lofty Botanic Garden GARDENS
(www.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au; gates on Mawson Dr & Lampert Rd, Crafrers; ☀8.30am-4pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat & Sun) **FREE** From Mt Lofty, truck south 1.5km to the cool-climate slopes of the botanic garden. Nature trails wind past a lake, exotic temperate plants, native stringybark forest and bodacious rhododendron blooms. Free guided walks depart the

Lampert Rd car park at 10.30am on Thursdays from September to October and March to May.

Stirling Markets

MARKET

(www.stirlingmarket.com.au; Druids Ave, Stirling; ☀10am-4pm 4th Sun of the month, 3rd Sun in Dec) This lively market takes over oak-lined Druids Ave in Stirling; much plant-life, busking, pies, cakes and Hills knick-knackery (not many druids...).

Sleeping & Eating

Mt Lofty Wilderness Cottage YHA CABIN \$\$
(☎08-8414 3000; www.yha.com.au; Mt Lofty Summit Rd, Crafrers; per night from \$110) A short detour off the road on the steep flanks of Mt Lofty, this 1880 stone cottage was originally a shepherd's hut. Today it's a basic, self-contained, two-bedroom cabin sleeping eight, with peek-a-boo views of Adelaide through the eucalyptuses. Minimum two-night stay.

Mt Lofty House HISTORIC HOTEL \$\$\$
(☎08-8339 6777; www.mtloftyhouse.com.au; 74 Summit Rd, Crafrers; d from \$242; ♿ ♿ ♿) Proprietorially poised above Mt Lofty Botanic Garden (*awesome* views), this 1850s stone baronial mansion has lavish heritage rooms and garden suites, plus an upmarket restaurant (also with killer views). The perfect honeymooner/dirty weekender. See also www.mtloftycottages.com.au for classy cottage accommodation on-site.

Organic Market & Café CAFE \$
(www.organicmarket.com.au; 5 Druids Ave, Stirling; meals \$6-16; ☀8.30am-5pm; ♿) ☹ Rejecting Stirling's pompous tendencies, hirsute Hills types flock to this vibrant, hippie eatery. It's the busiest cafe in town – and rightly so; the food's delicious and everything's made with love. Gorge on bruschetta, plump savoury muffins, great coffee and wicked Portuguese custard tarts.

★ **Stirling Hotel** PUB FOOD \$\$
(☎08-8339 2345; www.stirlinghotel.com.au; 52 Mt Barker Rd, Stirling; mains \$16-32; ☀noon-3pm & 6-9pm Mon-Fri, 8am-9pm Sat & Sun) The owners spent so much money tarting up this gorgeous old dame, it's a wonder they can pay the staff. A runaway success, the free-flowing bistro (classy pub grub and pizzas) and romantic restaurant (upmarket regional cuisine) are always packed.

Upstairs are five elegant, contemporary suites (doubles from \$280), three of which have open fireplaces (for winter) and breezy

balconies (for summer). All have flat-screen TVs, quality linen and luxe bathrooms you'll actually want to spend time in.

Oakbank & Woodside

Strung-out **Oakbank** (population 450) lives for the annual **Oakbank Easter Racing Carnival** (www.oakbankracingclub.com.au), said to be the greatest picnic horse race meeting in the world. It's a two-day festival of equine splendour, risqué dresses and 18-year-olds who can't hold their liquor.

Agricultural **Woodside** (population 1830) has a few enticements for galloping gourmants. **Woodside Cheese Wrights** (www.woodsidecheese.com.au; 22 Henry St, Woodside; tastings free, cheeses from \$5; ☺10am-4pm) is a passionate and unpretentious gem producing classic, artisan and experimental cheeses (soft styles a speciality) from locally grazing sheep and cows. Stock up on rocky road, scorched almonds and appallingly realistic chocolate cow pats at **Melba's Chocolate & Confectionery Factory** (www.melbaschocolates.com; 22 Henry St, Woodside; tastings free, chocolates from \$2; ☺9am-4.30pm).

Gumeracha, Birdwood & Lobethal

A scenic drive from Adelaide to Birdwood leads through the **Torrens River Gorge** to **Gumeracha** (population 400), a hardy hillside town with a pub at the bottom (making it hard to roll home). The main lure here is climbing the 18.3m-high **Big Rocking Horse** (www.thetoyfactory.com.au; Birdwood Rd, Gumeracha; admission \$2; ☺9am-5pm), which doesn't actually rock, but is unusually tasteful as far as Australia's 'big' tourist attractions go.

Behind an impressive 1852 flour mill in **Birdwood** (population 1130), the **National Motor Museum** (☎08-8568 4000; www.motorhistorysa.com.au; Shannon St, Birdwood; adult/child/family \$12/5/30; ☺10am-5pm) has a collection of immaculate vintage and classic cars (check out the DeLorean!) and motorcycles. The museum marks the finishing line for September's **Bay to Birdwood** (www.baytobirdwood.com.au): a convoy of classic cars chugging up from the city.

Nearby is **Lobethal** (population 1660), established by Lutheran Pastor Fritzsche and his followers in 1842. Like Hahndorf, Lobethal was renamed during WWI – 'Tweedale' was the unfortunate choice. The town

hits its straps during December's **Lights of Lobethal** (www.lightsoflobethal.com.au) Christmas lights festival. Repair to the **Lobethal Bierhaus** (☎08-8389 5570; www.bierhaus.com.au; 3a Main St, Lobethal; ☺noon-10pm Fri & Sat, to 6pm Sun) for some serious microbrewed concoctions (try the Red Truck Porter).

FLEURIEU PENINSULA

Patterned with vineyards, olive groves and almond plantations running down to the sea, the Fleurieu (pronounced *floo-ree-oh*) is Adelaide's weekend playground. The McLaren Vale Wine Region is booming, producing gutsy reds (salubrious shiraz) to rival those from the Barossa Valley (actually, we think McLaren Vale wins hands down). Further east, the Fleurieu's Encounter Coast is an engaging mix of surf beaches, historic towns and whales cavorting offshore.

McLaren Vale

POP 3870

Flanked by the wheat-coloured Willunga Scarp and encircled by vines, McLaren Vale is just 40 minutes south of Adelaide. Servicing the wine industry, it's an energetic, utilitarian town that's not much to look at – but it has some great eateries and offers easy access to some excellent winery cellar doors.

👁 Sights & Activities

Most people come to McLaren Vale to cruise the 60-plus **wineries** here: you could spend days doing nothing else! Pick up a winery map at the visitor information centre (p739).

It seems like most of Adelaide gets tizzied up and buses down to the annual **Sea & Vines Festival** (www.mclarenvalseaandvines.com.au) over the June long weekend. Local wineries cook up seafood, splash wine around and host live bands.

Goodieson Brewery

BREWERY

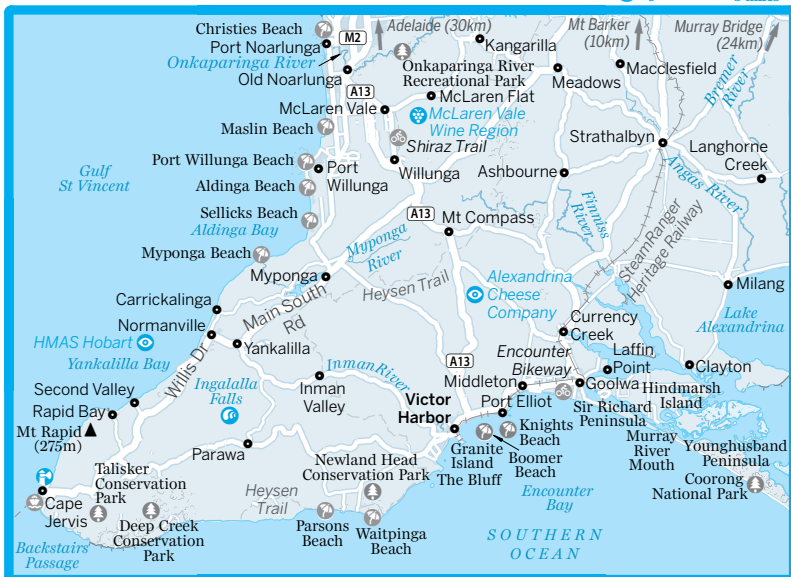
(www.goodiesonbrewery.com.au; 194 Sand Rd; tastings \$5; ☺11am-5.30pm) There sure are a lot of wineries around here... Anyone for a beer? This family-run outfit brews a pale ale, pilsner, wheat beer and brown ale, plus brilliant seasonal beers. Sip a few on the sunny terrace.

Shiraz Trail

CYCLING

Get the McLaren Vale vibe on this 8km walking/cycling track, along an old railway

Fleurieu Peninsula



line between McLaren Vale and Willunga. If you're up for it, the trail continues another 29km to Marino Rocks as the **Coast to Vines Rail Trail**. Hire a bike from **Oxygen Cycles** (☎08-8323 7345; www.oxygenicycles.com; 143 Main Rd; bike hire per half/full day/overnight \$15/25/40; ☀10am-6pm Tue-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat, plus Sun & Mon Dec-Feb); ask the visitor information centre for a map.

Tours

Most tours can be taken from Adelaide, or, for a few dollars less, from McLaren Vale itself.

Chook's Little Winery Tours GUIDED TOUR
(☎0414 922 200; www.chooks littlwinerytours.com.au; per person from \$90) Small-group tours visiting some of the lesser-known boutique McLaren Vale wineries, ex-Adelaide.

McLaren Vale Wine Tours GUIDED TOUR
(☎0414 784 666; www.mclarenvaletours.com.au) Customised, locally run group tours around McLaren Vale and the Fleurieu; call for prices. Ex-Adelaide.

Off Piste 4WD Tours GUIDED TOUR
(☎0423 725 409; www.offpistetours.com.au; half-/full-day tours \$129/225) Full- or half-day 4WD adventure tours around the Fleurieu for two to 10 folks, with lots of wilderness, wine, beer and beaches.

Sacred Earth Safaris

GUIDED TOUR

(☎08-8555 3838; www.sacredearthsafaris.com.au) Two-day 4WD Fleurieu tours from Adelaide (\$595), and McLaren Vale day tours from Victor Harbor (\$99).

Sleeping & Eating

In addition to options in town, you can eat at many of McLaren Vale's cellar doors.

McLaren Vale Lakeside

Caravan Park

CARAVAN PARK \$

(☎08-8323 9255; www.mclarenvale.net; 48 Field St; unpowered/powered/en-suite sites from \$28/33/43, cabins \$110-155; ♿) A short walk from town, this grassy park by an artificial lake (any water this summer?) occupies the affordable end of McLaren Vale's accommodation scale. There's a camp kitchen, pool, spa, tennis court and trashy book exchange. Good winter rates. The Shiraz Trail (p737) runs right past.

McLaren Vale Backpackers

HOSTEL \$

(☎08-8323 0916; www.mclarenvalebackpackers.com.au; 106 Main Rd; dm/s/d from \$27/75/80; ♿ @ ☎) In the final stages of construction when we visited, this new backpackers fills an old heath club on the main street, with winery workers' beds in the old squash courts and regular dorms and private rooms out the front. Plus there's a sauna, spa and

plunge pool! Drop us a line and tell us about the finished product (we're optimistic).

Red Poles

B&B \$\$\$
(☎ 08-8323 8994; www.redpoles.com.au; 190 McMurtrie Rd; d with/without bathroom \$125/115; ☼☼) Bushy, eccentric Red Poles is a great place to stay (and eat!). Aim for the rustic en suite room (bigger than its two counterparts). Order some gnocchi with goats curd (mains from \$14, serving 9am to 4.30pm), and check out some local artwork while you wait. Live music Sunday afternoons, and tastings of McLaren Vale Beer Company (www.mvbeer.com) ales.

McLaren Vale Studio Apartments

APARTMENTS \$\$\$
(☎ 08-8323 9536; www.mvsa.com.au; 222 Main Rd; d from \$225, extra person \$50; ☼) A tightly arranged crop of six fancy units on the main road (each sleeping six), with snappy contemporary furnishings, full kitchens, BBQs and architectural appeal. Walking distance to cafes, eateries and the pub.

★ Blessed Cheese

CAFE \$
(www.blessedcheese.com.au; 150 Main Rd; mains breakfast \$6-16, lunch \$11-28; ☼ 8am-4.30pm Mon-

Thu, to 5pm Fri-Sun) The cute staff at this blessed cafe crank out great coffee, croissants, wraps, salads, tarts, burgers, cheese platters, murderous cakes and funky sausage rolls. The menu changes every couple of days, always with an emphasis on local produce. The aromas emanating from the cheese counter are deliciously stinky.

Salopian Inn

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$
(☎ 08-8323 8769; www.salopian.com.au; cnr Main & McMurtrie Rds; mains \$28-58; ☼ noon-3.30pm daily, 6pm-late Thu-Sat) This old vine-covered inn has been here since 1851. Its latest incarnation features super Mod Oz offerings with an Asian twist: launch into the Berkshire pork buns or blue swimmer crab and prawn dumplings, with a bottle of something local which you can hand-select from the cellar. And there are 170 gins with which to construct your G&T!

i Information

McLaren Vale & Fleurieu Visitor Information Centre (☎ 1800 628 410, 08-8323 9944; www.mclarenvale.info; 796 Main Rd; ☼ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) At the northern end of McLaren Vale. Winery info, plus

DON'T MISS

MCLAREN VALE WINERIES

If the Barossa Valley is SA wine's old school, then McLaren Vale is the upstart teenager smoking cigarettes behind the shed and stealing nips from dad's port bottle. The gorgeous vineyards around here have a Tuscan haze in summer, rippling down to a calm coastline that's similarly Ligurian. This is shiraz country – solid, punchy and seriously good.

Alpha Box & Dice (www.alphaboxdice.com; Lot 8 Olivers Rd; ☼ 11am-4pm Mon-Thu, 10am-5pm Fri-Sun) One out of the box, this refreshing little gambler wins top billing for interesting blends, funky retro furnishings, quirky labels and laid-back staff.

Coriole (www.coriole.com; Chaffey Rd; ☼ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun) Take your regional tasting platter out into the garden of this beautiful cottage cellar door (1860) to share kalamata olives, homemade breads and Adelaide Hills' Woodside cheeses, made lovelier by a swill of the Redstone shiraz or the flagship chenin blanc.

d'Arenberg (☎ 08-8329 4888; www.darenberg.com.au; Osborn Rd; ☼ 10am-5pm) 'd'Arry's' relaxes atop a hillside with mighty fine views. The wine labels are part of the character of this place: the Dead Arm shiraz and the Broken Fishplate sauvignon blanc are our faves. Book for lunch.

Samuel's Gorge (☎ 08-8323 8651; www.gorge.com.au; Chaffey Rd; ☼ 11am-5pm) On a hill behind McLaren Vale township is this understated winner, inside an 1853 stone barn and with valley views that are bordering on English. Great grenache; BYO picnic.

Wirra Wirra (www.wirrawirra.com; McMurtrie Rd; ☼ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat, 11am-5pm Sun) Fancy some pétanque with your plonk? This barnlike, 1894 cellar door has a grassy picnic area, and there's a roaring fire inside in winter. Sample reasonably priced stickies (desert wines) and the super-popular Church Block blend. Whites include a citrusy viognier and an aromatic riesling.

accommodation assistance and Sealink bus/ferry bookings for Kangaroo Island.

i Getting There & Away

Regular **Adelaide Metro** (www.adelaidemetro.com.au) suburban trains run between Adelaide and Noarlunga (one hour). From here, buses 751 and 753 run to McLaren Vale and Willunga (45 minutes). Regular Adelaide Metro ticket prices apply.

Willunga

POP 2420

A one-horse town with three pubs (a winning combo!), arty Willunga took off in 1840 when high-quality slate was discovered nearby and exported across Australia. Today, the town's early buildings along sloping High St are occupied by some terrific eateries, B&B accommodation and galleries. The Kidman Trail (p717) kicks off here.

👁 Sights

Willunga Farmers Market

MARKET

(www.willungafarmersmarket.com; Willunga Town Sq; ☀️ 8am-12.30pm Sat) Heavy on the organic, the bespoke and the locally sourced, Willunga Farmers Market happens every Saturday morning, on the corner of High St and Main Rd.

Willunga Slate Museum

MUSEUM

(www.nationaltrust.org.au/sa/willunga-slate-museum; 61 High St; adult/child \$5/1; 🕒 1-4pm Tue, Sat & Sun) At the top end of Willunga's ascending high street is this cluster of old stone buildings, which at various times have housed a police station, a courthouse, a prison and a boys' school. These days the emphasis is on Willunga's slate-mining history and the Cornish miners who did all the dirty work.

🛏 Sleeping & Eating

Willunga House B&B

B&B \$\$\$

(☎️ 08-8556 2467; www.willungahouse.com.au; 1 St Peters Tce; d incl breakfast \$210-280; 🍷 🍷 🍷) If you're looking for a real treat, this graceful, two-storey 1850 mansion off the main street is for you: Baltic-pine floorboards, Italian cherrywood beds, open fires, Indigenous art and a swimming pool. Breakfast is a feast of organic muesli, fruit salad and poached pears, followed by cooked delights.

Fino

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$

(☎️ 08-8556 4488; www.fino.net.au; 8 Hill St; mains \$28-33; 🕒 noon-3pm Tue-Sun, 6.30-9pm Fri & Sat)

A regular on 'Australia's Top 100 Restaurants' lists and with a cabinet full of regional awards for both food and wine, Fino is fine indeed. It's a low-key conversion of a slate-floored stone cottage, with a small, simple menu of small, simple dishes, sourced locally as much as possible. The Coorong Angus rib with mustard leaves is a winner.

Russell's Pizza

PIZZA \$\$

(☎️ 08-8556 2571; www.facebook.com; 13 High St; pizzas from \$24; 🕒 6-11.30pm Fri & Sat) It may look like a ramshackle chicken coop, but Russell's is the place to be on weekends for sensational wood-fired pizza. No one minds the wait for a meal (which could be an hour) – it's all about the atmosphere. It's super popular, so book way ahead.

Gulf St Vincent Beaches

The stretch of coast from Adelaide's southern suburbs down to Cape Jervis is prime territory for a beachy day trip from the city. The area also makes a handy overnight stop on the way to Kangaroo Island, or for some seaside time-out from the McLaren Vale vines.

There are some ace swimming beaches (but no surf) along the Gulf St Vincent coastline from suburban **Christies Beach** onto **Maslin Beach**, the southern end of which is a nudist and gay hang-out. Maslin is 45 minutes from Adelaide by car – just far enough to escape the sprawling shopping centres and new housing developments trickling south from the city.

Port Willunga is home to the eternal-busy, cliff-top seafood shack the **Star of Greece** (☎️ 08-8557 7420; www.starofgreececafe.com.au; 1 The Esplanade, Port Willunga; mains \$29-35; 🕒 noon-3pm Wed-Sun, 6pm-late Fri & Sat), named after a shipwreck. Expect funky decor, great staff and a sunny outdoor patio. We asked the waiter where the whiting was caught; he looked out across the bay and said, 'See that boat out there?' There's a take-away kiosk, too (snacks \$4 to \$8, open 10am to 3pm October to May).

On the highway above **Sellicks Beach** is a classily renovated 1858 pub, the **Victory Hotel** (☎️ 08-8556 3083; www.victoryhotel.com.au; Main South Rd, Sellicks Beach; mains \$17-35; 🕒 noon-2.30pm & 6-8.30pm). There are awesome views of the silver gulf, a cheery, laid-back vibe and a beaut beer garden. Factor in inspired meals, an impressive cellar

and wines by the glass and you'll be feeling victorious. Three B&B cabins, too (doubles from \$150).

Keep trucking south to cute little **Yankalilla**, which has the regional **Yankalilla Bay Visitor Information Centre** (☎1300 965 842, 08-8558 0240; www.yankalilla.sa.gov.au; 163 Main South Rd, Yankalilla; ☺9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun; 📶). There's a small local history **museum** (www.yankalilla.sa.gov.au; 169 Main South Rd, Yankalilla; admission \$5; ☺9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) out the back (look for the radar antenna from the scuttled **HMAS Hobart** (www.exhmas.hobart.com.au), now a nearby dive site offshore. Also in 'Yank' is quirky **Lilla's Cafe** (☎08-8558 2525; www.lillascafe.com.au; 117 Main South Rd, Yankalilla; mains breakfast \$7-20, lunch & dinner \$15-32; ☺8.30am-4pm Sun-Tue & Thu, to 11pm Fri & Sat) – perfect for coffee and cake, or generous wood-fired pizzas on Friday and Saturday nights.

About 60km south of Adelaide is **Carriakalinga**, which has a gorgeous arc of white sandy beach: it's a very chilled spot with no shops. For supplies and accommodation, head to neighbouring **Normanville**, which has a rambling pub, a supermarket and a couple of caravan parks. Also here is **One Little Sister** (☎08-8558 3759; www.onelittlesister.com.au; 4/48 Main Rd, Normanville; mains \$10-18, pizzas \$19-23; ☺8am-4pm Sun-Thu, to 8.30pm Fri & Sat), a hip, city-style cafe doing a roaring trade in coffee, big breakfasts and pizzas. About 10km out of Normanville along Hay Flat Rd are the picturesque little **Ingalalla Falls** (follow the signs from the Yankalilla side of town). Along similar lines, the **Hindmarsh Falls** are off Hindmarsh Tiers Rd, inland from Myponga.

There's not much at **Cape Jervis**, 107km from Adelaide, other than the Kangaroo Island ferry terminal, and the start point for the Heysen Trail (p717). Nearby, **Deep Creek Conservation Park** (www.environment.sa.gov.au; per car \$10) has sweeping coastal views, a wicked waterfall, man-size yakkas (*Xanthorrhoea semiplana tateana*), sandy beaches, kangaroos, kookaburras and bush camping areas (per car from \$13).

Off the road to Deep Creek Conservation Park you'll find the curved roofs of **Ridgetop Retreats** (☎08-8598 4169; www.southernoceanretreats.com.au; Tapanappa Rd; d \$245), three superb, corrugated-iron-clad, self-contained luxury units in the bush, with wood heaters, leather lounges and stainless-steel

benchtops. See Ridgetop's website for more-affordable local options.

Victor Harbor

POP 13,850

The biggest town on the Encounter Coast is Victor Harbor (yes, that's the correct spelling: blame one of SA's poorly schooled early Surveyor Generals). It's a raggedy, brawling holiday destination with three huge pubs, and migrating whales offshore. In November the grassy foreshore runs rampant with teenage school-leavers blowing off hormones at the **Schoolies Festival** (www.schooliesfestival.com.au).

👁️ Sights & Activities

South Australian Whale Centre MUSEUM (☎08-8551 0750; www.sawhalecentre.com; 2 Railway Tce; adult/child/family \$9/4.50/24; ☺10.30am-5pm) Victor Harbor is on the migratory path of southern right whales (May to October). The multilevel South Australian Whale Centre has impressive whale displays (including a big stinky skull) and can give you the low-down on where to see them. Not whale season? Check out the big mammals in their new 3D-cinema. For whale sightings info, call the **Whale Information Hotline** (☎1900 942 537).

Alexandrina Cheese Company CHEESE (www.alexandrinacheese.com.au; Sneyd Rd, Mt Jagged; tastings free, cheese platters \$10-13; ☺noon-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4.30pm Sat & Sun) On the road to Mt Compass, 18km north of Victor Harbor, this Fleurieu success story opens its doors to cheese fans and milkshake mavens. Taste the gouda, the edam and the feta, then buy a block of the powerful vintage cheddar to go.

Horse-Drawn Tram TRAM (☎08-8551 0720; www.horsedrawntram.com.au; Foreshore; return adult/child/family \$9/7/25; ☺hourly 10.30am-3.30pm) Just offshore is the boulder-strewn **Granite Island**, connected to the mainland by a 632m causeway built in 1875. You can walk to the island, but it's more fun to take the 1894 double-decker tram pulled by a big Clydesdale. Tickets are available from the driver or visitor information centre.

Encounter Bikeway CYCLING (www.fleurieupeninsula.com.au/pdfs/bikeway_brochure09.pdf) **FREE** The much-wheeled

Encounter Bikeway extends 30km from Victor Harbor to Laffin Point beyond Goolwa. The visitors centre stocks maps; hire a bike from **Victor Harbor Cycle Skate Bay Rubber** (☎08-8552 1417; www.victorharborcycles.com; 73 Victoria St; bike hire per 4/8hrs \$30/40; ☀9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat & Sun).

Big Duck

BOAT TOUR

(☎0405 125 312; www.thebigduck.com.au; 30min tours adult/child/family \$35/25/110, 1hr tours \$60/50/195) Do a lap of Granite Island and check out seals, dolphins and whales (in season) on the rigid inflatable Big Duck boat. Call or go online for times and bookings.

Sleeping & Eating

Anchorage

GUESTHOUSE \$

(☎08-8552 5970; www.anchorageseafronthotel.com; 21 Flinders Pde; s/d/tr/q/apt from \$55/80/110/160/240; ☎) This grand old seafront guesthouse is the pick of the local crop. Immaculately maintained, great-value rooms open off long corridors. Most rooms face the beach, and some have a balcony (you'd pay through the nose for this in Sydney!). The cheapest rooms are view-free and share bathrooms. The cafe-bar downstairs is a winner. Free wi-fi (patchy in some rooms).

Victor Harbor Holiday & Cabin Park

CARAVAN PARK \$

(☎08-8552 1949; www.victorharborholiday.com.au; 19 Bay Rd; unpowered/powered sites \$32/39, cabins/units/villas \$114/114/174; ☎@☎) The friendliest caravan park in town (there are a few – none of them particularly contemporary in their approach), with tidy facilities, free barbecues and wi-fi and a rambling grassed area to pitch your tent on.

Nino's

CAFE, ITALIAN \$\$

(☎08-8552 3501; www.ninoscafe.com.au; 17 Albert Pl; mains \$18-29; ☀10am-10pm Mon-Thu, to midnight Fri-Sun) Nino's cafe has been here since 1974, but it manages to put a contemporary sheen on downtown VH. Hip young staff and a mod interior set the scene for gourmet pizzas, pasta, salads, risottos and meaty Italian mains. Good coffee, cakes and take-aways, too.

Anchorage Cafe

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$

(☎08-8552 5970; www.anchorageseafronthotel.com; 21 Flinders Pde; tapas \$4-17, mains \$16-34; ☀8-11am, noon-2.30pm & 5.30-8.30pm) This salty sea cave at the Anchorage hotel has an old whaling boat for a bar and a Med/Mod Oz menu (baguettes, pizzas, souvlaki) pep-

pered with plenty of seafood. There's great coffee, tapas and cakes, plus Euro beers and a breezy terrace on which to drink too many of them.

Information

Victor Harbor Visitor Information Centre

(☎08-8551 0777; www.tourismvictorharbor.com.au; Foreshore; ☀9am-5pm) handles tour and accommodation bookings. Stocks the *Beaches on the South Coast* brochure for when you feel like a swim, and the *Old Port Victor* history walk brochure.

Getting There & Away

BUS

Premier Staterliner (www.premierstaterliner.com.au) runs buses to Victor Harbor from Adelaide (\$24, 1½ hours, one to three daily), continuing on to Goolwa.

TRAIN

On the first and third Sundays from June to November inclusive, **SteamRanger Heritage Railway** (☎1300 655 991; www.steamranger.org.au) operates the *Southern Encounter* (adult/child return \$71/37) tourist train from Mt Barker in the Adelaide Hills to Victor Harbor via Strathalbyn, Goolwa and Port Elliot. The Cockle Train (adult/child return \$29/15) runs along the Encounter Coast between Victor Harbor and Goolwa via Port Elliot every Sunday and Wednesday, and daily during school holidays.

Port Elliot

POP 3100

About 8km east of Victor Harbor, historic (and today, rather affluent) Port Elliot is set back from **Horseshoe Bay**, an orange-sand arc with gentle surf and good swimming. Norfolk Island pines reach for the sky, and there are whale-spotting updates posted on the pub wall. If there are whales around, wander out to **Freemans Knob** lookout at the end of the Strand and peer through the free telescope.

Activities

History buffs should look for the *Walk Into History at Port Elliot* pamphlet (try Goolwa Visitor Information Centre, p745) detailing a couple of history walks around town.

Port Elliot Bike & Leisure Hire

BIKE HIRE

(☎0448 370 007; www.portelliottbikeleisurehire.myob.net; 85-87 Hill St; per day from \$40; ☀9am-5pm Mon-Sat, from 10.30am Sun) Pick

up a mountain bike and hit the Encounter Bikeway (p741), running through Port Elliot to Goolwa (15km east) and Victor Harbor (7km west).

Surfing

Comodore Point, at the eastern end of Horseshoe Bay, and nearby **Boomer Beach** and **Knights Beach**, have reliable waves for experienced surfers, with swells often holding around 2m. The beach at otherwise missable **Middleton**, the next town towards Goolwa, also has solid breaks. Further afield, try wild **Waitpinga Beach** and **Parsons Beach**, 12km southwest of Victor Harbor.

The best surfing season is March to June, when the northerlies doth blow. See www.southaustralia.com for info, and www.surfsouthoz.com for surf reports. There are a few good surfing schools in Middleton.

South Coast Surf Academy SURFING
(☎0414 341 545; www.danosurf.com.au; Surfers Pde, Middleton) Learn to surf for around \$50 for a two-hour lesson, including gear.

Surf & Sun SURFING
(☎1800 786 386; www.surfandsun.com.au; 44 Victor Harbor Rd, Middleton) Offers board/wetsuit hire (per half day \$20/10), and surfing lessons (around \$50 for a two-hour lesson, including gear).

Big Surf Australia SURFING
(☎08-8554 2399; www.bigssurfaustralia.com.au; 24 Goolwa Rd, Middleton; surfboards/bodyboards/wetsuits per day \$20/15/15; ☺9am-5pm) For surf-gear hire try Big Surf Australia in Middleton.

Sleeping & Eating

★**Port Elliot Beach House YHA** HOSTEL \$
(☎08-8554 1885; www.yha.com.au; 13 The Strand; dm/tw/d/f from \$28/90/90/125; 📶@☺) Built in 1910 (as the old Arcadia Hotel), this sandstone beauty has sweeping views across the Port Elliot coastline. If you can drag your eyes away from the scenery, you'll find polished floorboards, nice linen and contemporary colours splashed around: literally a million-dollar fit-out. Surf lessons are almost mandatory, and the Flying Fish Cafe – home of the southern Fleurieu's best fish and chips – is 200m away.

Port Elliot Holiday Park CARAVAN PARK \$
(☎08-8554 2134; www.portelliolitholidaypark.com.au; Port Elliot Rd; powered sites/cabins/units/cottages from \$34/90/115/145; 📶@☺) In an

unbeatable position behind the Horseshoe Bay dunes (it can be a touch windy), this grassy, 5-hectare park has all the requisite facilities, including a shiny camp kitchen and all-weather barbecue area. Lush grass and healthy-looking trees. Prices plummet in winter.

Royal Family Hotel PUBLI \$
(☎08-8554 2219; www.royalfamilyhotel.com.au; 32 North Tce; tw/s/tr/d \$40/50/60/65) It's doubtful that Prince Chuck has ever stayed here, but if he did he'd find surprisingly decent pub rooms with clean shared bathrooms, a TV lounge and a balcony over the main street. Downstairs there's Bon Jovi on the jukebox and counter meals fit for a king (mains \$13 to \$25, serving noon to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm).

Jetty Food Store CAFE, DELI \$
(☎0448 147 097; www.jettyfoodstore.com; 42 North Tce; meals \$8-16; ☺9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-4pm Sat, 9am-3pm Sun) 🍴 The motto here is 'Coastal food hunted and gathered for you'. Grab an organic coffee, a dozen Kangaroo Island oysters, some local organic wine, or raid the fridge for gourmet cheeses, dips and olives. Zingy juices, too.

★**Flying Fish Cafe** MODERN AUSTRALIAN, FISH & CHIPS \$\$
(☎08-8554 3504; www.flyingfishcafe.com.au; 1 The Foreshore; mains cafe \$5-18, restaurant \$19-34; ☺cafe 9am-4pm daily, restaurant noon-3pm daily & 6-8pm Fri & Sat) Sit down for a cafe breakfast and you'll be here all day – the views of Horseshoe Bay are sublime. Otherwise, grab some takeaway Coopers-battered flathead and chips and head for the sand. At night things get classy, with à la carte mains focusing on independent SA producers.

Getting There & Away

Premier Stataliner (www.premierstataliner.com.au) has daily bus services between Adelaide and Port Elliot (\$24, two hours, one to three daily), via Victor Harbor and continuing to Goolwa.

Goolwa

POP 6500

Much more low-key and elegant than kissing cousin Victor Harbor, Goolwa is an unassuming town where the rejuvenated Murray River empties into the sea. Beyond

CURRENCY CREEK & LANGHORNE CREEK WINERIES

Once slated as the capital of SA, **Currency Creek**, 10km north of Goolwa, is now content with producing award-winning wines (www.currencycreekwineregion.com.au). **Currency Creek Winery** (☎08-8555 4069; www.currencycreekwinery.com.au; Winery Rd, Currency Creek; ☀10am-5pm) has 160 acres under vine (brilliant cabernet sauvignon) plus a fab restaurant (mains \$26 to \$30, open noon to 3pm Wednesday to Sunday and 6pm to 9pm Friday and Saturday). Bookings advised.

Further north, 16km east of Strathalbyn, **Langhorne Creek** is one of Australia's oldest wine-growing regions (www.langhornecreek.com). It's home to 20-plus wineries, producing shiraz, cabernet sauvignon and chardonnay. **Bleasdale Winery** (www.bleasdale.com.au; Wellington Rd, Langhorne Creek; ☀10am-5pm) was the district's first, and has a large range, historic cellars and an old red-gum lever press. Run by two sisters, **Bremerton** (www.bremerton.com.au; Strathalbyn Rd, Langhorne Creek; ☀10am-5pm) is an innovative operator in an old-school region. Top chardonnay and shiraz.

the dunes is a fantastic beach with ranks of breakers rolling in from the ocean, same as it ever was... The **South Australian Wooden Boat Festival** (www.woodenboatfestival.com.au) happens here in February in odd-numbered years.


Sights & Activities

At **Goolwa Beach** there's a little cafe and a boardwalk traversing the dunes, looking out at the barrelling surf: learn to carve it up with **Ocean Living Surf School** (☎0487 921 232; www.olsurfschool.com.au; 2/4hr lessons \$35/65).

The coastal **Encounter Bikeway** (www.fleurieupeninsula.com.au/pdfs/bikeway_brochure09.pdf) runs for 30km between Goolwa and Victor Harbor (maps available at the Goolwa visitor centre).

Steam Exchange Brewery BREWERY
(☎08-8555 3406; www.steamexchange.com.au; Goolwa Wharf; tastings \$3.20; ☀10am-5pm Wed-Sun) Down on the wharf, the Steam Exchange Brewery is a locally run brewery, turning out stouts and ales. Sip a Southernly Buster Dark Ale and look out over the rippling river. And SA's only single malt whiskey distillery is here! Small tasting fee; group tours by arrangement.

Canoe the Coorong CANOING
(☎0424 826 008; www.canoethecoorong.com; adult/child \$135/85)  Full-day paddles around the Coorong and Murray River mouth departing Goolwa. Includes lunch and a bush-tucker walk through the dunes. Longer tours also available.

Spirit of the Coorong CRUISE
(☎08-8555 2203, 1800 442 203; www.coorongcruises.com.au; Goolwa Wharf)  Spirit of the Coorong runs eco-cruises on the Murray and into the Coorong National Park, including lunch and guided walks. The four-hour Coorong Discovery Cruise (adult/child \$90/66) runs on Thursdays all year, plus Mondays from October to May. The six-hour Coorong Adventure Cruise (\$105/72) runs on Sundays all year, plus Wednesdays from October to May. Bookings essential.

There's also a two-hour Murray Mouth Cruise (\$38/19) on Saturdays from October to April.

Goolwa Riverboat Centre CRUISE
(☎1300 466 592, 08-8555 2108; www.oscar-w.info; Goolwa Wharf; adult/child/family \$20/8/48; ☀10am-3pm, call for cruise times) Check out the Murray River on a one-hour paddle-steamer ride aboard the 130-year-old *Oscar W*. It's hard to imagine now, but in 1875 there were 127 riverboats plying the river between here and NSW! Call for times and bookings.

Sleeping

Holiday rentals in and around Goolwa are managed by **LJ Hooker** (☎08-8555 1785; www.ljh.com.au/goolwa; 25 Cadell St) and the **Professionals** (☎08-8555 2122; www.goolwaprofessionals.com.au; 1 Cadell St), both of whom have houses for as little as \$80 per night (though most are around \$130) with good weekly rates.

Jackling Cottage B&B B&B \$\$
(☎08-8555 3489; www.goolwaheritagecottages.com; 18 Oliver St; d 2 nights incl breakfast from \$340; ☎) A lovely old 1860s cottage on a

nondescript Goolwa backstreet (just ignore the petrol station across the road), surrounded by rambling roses and limestone walls. There are two bedrooms, sleeping four – good for families or a couple of couples looking for a low-key weekend by the sea. It's a short stroll to the main drag. Two night minimum.

Also available as a holiday rental (no breakfast).

★ Australasian

BOULIQUE HOTEL \$\$\$

(☎08-8555 1088; www.australasian1858.com; 1 Porter St; d incl breakfast from \$395; 🍷🍷) This gorgeous 1858 stone hotel at the head of Goolwa's main street has been reborn as a sassy B&B, with a sequence of Japanese-inspired decks and glazed extensions, and an upmarket dining room. The five plush suites all have views, and the breakfast will make you want to wake up here again. Two-night minimum.

🍴 Eating

Café Lime

CAFE \$

(1/11 Goolwa Tce; meals \$9-20; ☀9am-4pm daily, to 8pm Fri & Sat Dec-Feb) Pick up heat-and-eat gourmet dinners or a takeaway cone of salt-and-pepper squid with lime-salted fries. If you feel like lingering, nab a table for beer-battered Coorong mullet (not a description of a haircut at the pub), baguettes, curries, soups and pasta. Espresso perfecto.

Hector's

CAFE, MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$

(☎08-8555 5885; www.hectortontheharf.com; Goolwa Wharf; mains \$15-30; ☀9am-5pm daily, 6pm-late Fri & Sat Dec-Feb) Right on the Murray under the span of the Hindmarsh Island Bridge, eating at Hector's (festooned with fishing rods) is like hanging out in your mate's boathouse. Seafood chowder, crumbed scallops and spinach-and-feta pie are sweetly complemented by jazzy tunes and local wines. Good coffee, too.

📍 Information

Goolwa Visitor Information Centre (☎1300 466 592; www.visitalexandrina.com; 4 Goolwa Tce; ☀9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) Inside an 1857 post office, with detailed local info (including accommodation).

🚗 Getting There & Away

Premier Staterliner (www.premierstaterliner.com.au) runs buses daily between Adelaide and Goolwa (\$24, two hours, one to three daily).

KANGAROO ISLAND

From Cape Jervis, car ferries chug across the swells of the Backstairs Passage to Kangaroo Island (KI). Long devoid of tourist trappings, the island these days is a booming destination for wilderness and wildlife fans – it's a veritable zoo of seals, birds, dolphins, echidnas and (of course) kangaroos. Still, the island remains rurally paced and underdeveloped – the kind of place where kids ride bikes to school and farmers advertise for wives on noticeboards. Island produce is a highlight.

History

Many KI place names are French, attributable to Gallic explorer Nicholas Baudin who surveyed the coast in 1802 and 1803. Baudin's English rival, Matthew Flinders, named the island in 1802 after his crew feasted on kangaroo meat here. By this stage the island was uninhabited, but archaeologists think Indigenous Australians lived here as recently as 2000 years ago. Why they deserted KI is a matter of conjecture, though the answer is hinted at in the Indigenous name for KI: Karta (Land of the Dead). In the early 1800s an Indigenous presence (albeit a tragically displaced one)

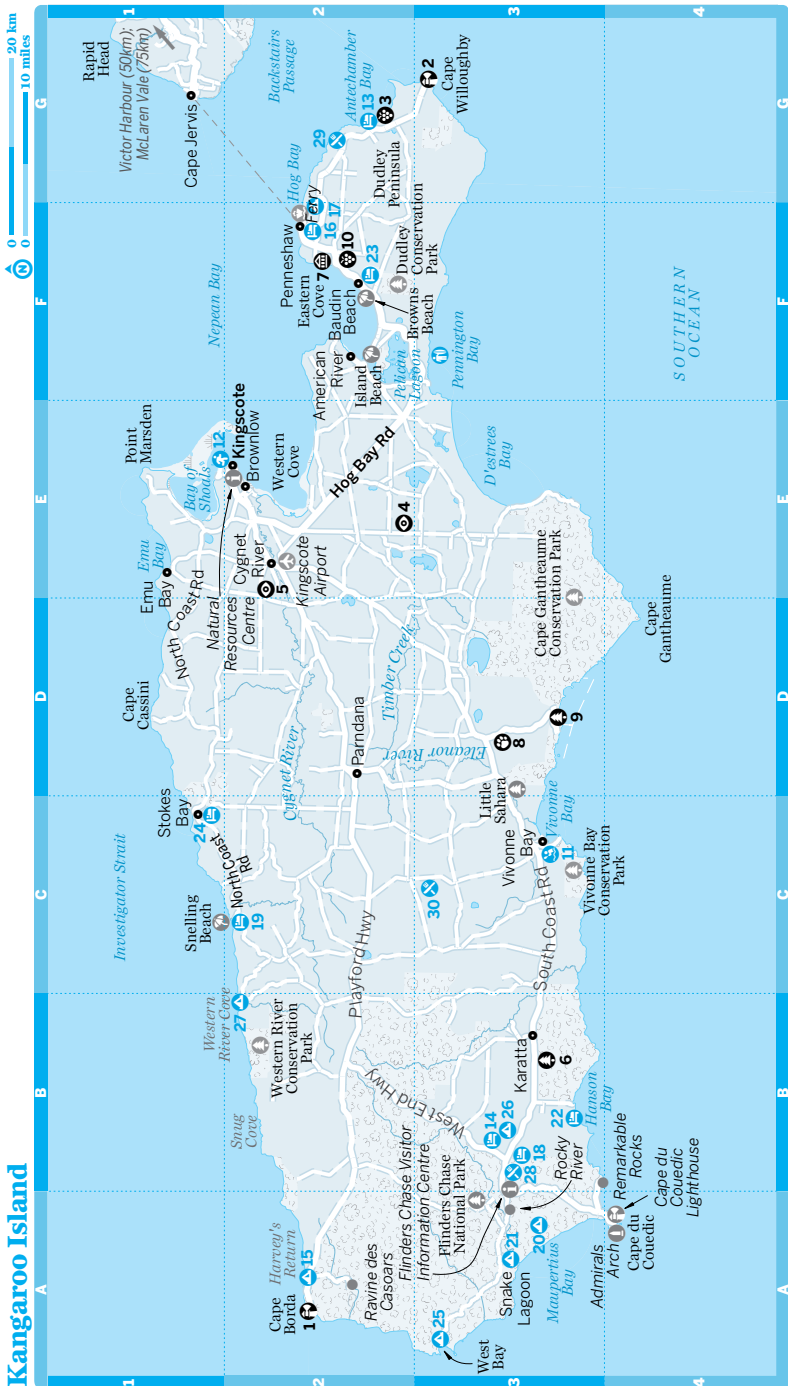
ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL

You bump into a lot of wildlife on KI (sometimes literally). Kangaroos, wallabies, bandicoots and possums come out at night, especially in wilderness areas such as Flinders Chase National Park. Koalas and platypuses were introduced to Flinders Chase in the 1920s when it was feared they would become extinct on the mainland. Echidnas mooch around in the undergrowth, while goannas and tiger snakes keep KI suitably scaly.

Of the island's 267 bird species, several are rare or endangered. One notable species – the dwarf emu – has gone the way of the dodo. Glossy black cockatoos may soon follow it out the door due to habitat depletion.

Offshore, dolphins and southern right whales are often seen cavorting, and there are colonies of little penguins, New Zealand fur seals and Australian sea lions here, too.

Kangaroo Island



Kangaroo Island

📍 Sights

- 1 Cape Borda Lightstation..... A2
- 2 Cape Willoughby Lightstation..... G3
- 3 Chapman River Wines..... G2
- 4 Clifford's Honey Farm..... E2
- 5 Island Pure Sheep Dairy..... E2
- 6 Kelly Hill Conservation Park..... B3
- 7 Penneshaw Maritime & Folk Museum..... F2
- 8 Raptor Domain..... D3
- 9 Seal Bay Conservation Park..... D3
- 10 Sunset Winery..... F2

🏞️ Activities, Courses & Tours

- 11 Kangaroo Island Outdoor Action..... C3
- 12 Pelican Feeding..... E1

🛏️ Sleeping

- 13 Antechamber Bay Ecocabins..... G2
- 14 Flinders Chase Farm Gateway Visitor Information Centre..... (see 16)
- 15 Harvey's Return..... A2

- 16 Kangaroo Island Backpackers..... F2
- 17 Kangaroo Island Shores..... F2
- 18 Kangaroo Island Wilderness Retreat..... B3
- 19 Lifetime Private Rentals..... C2
- 20 Rocky River..... A3
- 21 Snake Lagoon..... A3
- 22 Southern Ocean Lodge..... B3
- 23 Wallaby Beach House..... F2
- 24 Waves & Wildlife..... C1
- 25 West Bay..... A3
- 26 Western KI Caravan Park..... B3
- 27 Western River Cove Campsite..... B2

🍴 Eating

- 28 Chase Cafe..... B3
- 29 Dudley Cellar Door..... G2
- Isola Pizza..... (see 16)
- 30 Marron Café..... C3

📍 Information

- Gateway Visitor Information Centre..... (see 16)

was re-established on KI when whalers and sealers abducted Aboriginal women from Tasmania and brought them here.

🚶 Activities

The safest **swimming** is along the north coast, where the water is warmer and there are fewer rips than down south. Try Emu Bay, Stokes Bay, Snelling Beach or Western River Cove.

For **surfing**, hit the uncrowded swells along the south coast. Pennington Bay has strong, reliable breaks; Vivonne Bay and Hanson Bay in the southwest also serve up some tasty waves. Pick up the *Kangaroo Island Surfing Guide* brochure from visitor information centres, or download it from www.tourkangarooisland.com.au.

There's plenty to see under your own steam on KI. Check out www.tourkangarooisland.com.au/wildlife for info on **bush-walks** from 1km to 18km long.

The waters around KI are home to 230 species of fish, plus coral and around 60 shipwrecks – great **snorkelling** and **diving!** **Kangaroo Island Dive & Adventures** (☎08-8553 3196; www.kangarooislanddiveandadventures.com.au) runs diving trips (boat dives start from \$320) and offers gear and kayak hire (snorkelling equipment hire from \$35, and kayak full-day hire \$70).

Skidding down the dunes at **Little Sahara** is great fun. **Kangaroo Island Outdoor Action** (☎08-8559 4296; www.kioutdooraction.com.au; 188 Jetty Rd, Vivonne Bay) rents out sandboards/toboggans (\$29/39 per day), plus single/double kayaks (\$39/69 for four hours).

There's plenty of good **fishing** around the island, including jetties at Kingscote, Penneshaw, Emu Bay and Vivonne Bay. Fishing charter tours (half/full day per person from \$150/250) include tackle and refreshments, and you keep what you catch. Try **Kangaroo Island Fishing Adventures** (☎08-8559 3232; www.kangarooislandadventures.com.au).

👉 Tours

Stay at least one night on the island if you can (one-day tours are hectic).

Adventures Beyond

ADVENTURE TOUR

(☎1300 736 014; www.adventuresbeyond.com.au; 1-/2-day tours \$258/415) All-inclusive, two-day island wildlife tours (small backpacker groups), departing Adelaide, with lots of activities (sandboarding, snorkelling, hiking...). One-day tours also available.

Cruising Kangaroo Island

KAYAKING

(☎0418 767 667; www.cruisingkangarooisland.com; tours per person from \$80) 🍃 Two-hour guided kayak paddles around choice KI

i KANGAROO ISLAND TOUR PASS

If you plan on seeing most of the main sights, you'll save cash with a **Kangaroo Island Tour Pass** (www.environment.sa.gov.au; adult/child/family \$68/42/185), which covers all park and conservation area entry fees, and ranger-guided tours at Seal Bay, Kelly Hill Caves, Cape Borda and Cape Willoughby. The pass is available online, at visitor centres or at most sights.

coastal spots ex-Browns Beach. Ask about sunset paddles.

Groovy Grape

TOUR
(☎ 08-8440 1640, 1800 661177; www.groovygrape.com.au) Two-day, all-inclusive, small-group wildlife safaris (\$415) ex-Adelaide, with sandboarding, campfires and all the main sights.

Kangaroo Island Ocean Safari

ADVENTURE TOUR
(☎ 0419 772 175; www.kangarooislandoceansafari.com.au; tours adult/child \$77/55) Hop aboard this buoyant 12-seater for a 75-minute nautical tour ex-Penneshaw, spying seals, dolphins, birds and (sometimes) whales.

Kangaroo Island Adventure Tours

GUIDED TOUR
(☎ 08-8202 8678; www.kiadventuretours.com.au) Two-day, all-inclusive tours ex-Adelaide (from \$436 with dorm accommodation; more for private rooms) with a backpacker bent and plenty of activities.

Kangaroo Island Marine Adventures

TOUR
(☎ 08-8553 3227; www.kimarineadventures.com) One-hour North Coast boat tours (\$60) and longer half-day jaunts (\$190) which include swimming with dolphins, visiting seal colonies and access to remote areas of KI.

🛏 Sleeping

KI accommodation is expensive, adding insult to your wallet's injury after the pricey ferry ride. Self-contained cottages, B&Bs and beach houses start at around \$160 per night per double (usually with a two-night minimum stay). There are some great camp sites around the island though, plus a few midrange motels. Quality caravan parks and hostels are scarce.

There are a few agencies which can help book accommodation on the island.

Gateway Visitor

Information Centre ACCOMMODATION SERVICES
(☎ 1800 811 080; www.tourkangarooisland.com.au/accommodation)

Kangaroo Island Holiday

Accommodation ACCOMMODATION SERVICES
(☎ 08-8553 9007; www.kangarooislandholidayaccommodation.com.au)

Sealink

ACCOMMODATION SERVICES
(☎ 13 13 01; www.sealink.com.au/kangaroo-island-accommodation)

i Information

The main Gateway Visitor Information Centre (p750) is in Penneshaw. **Kangaroo Island Hospital** (☎ 08-8553 4200; www.countryhealthsa.sa.gov.au; The Esplanade, Kingscote; ☎ 24hr) is in Kingscote. There are ATMs in Kingscote and Penneshaw. Island mobile phone reception can be patchy outside the main towns (reception is best with Telstra). There are supermarkets at Penneshaw and Kingscote, and a general store at American River.

Online, see www.tourkangarooisland.com.au.

i Getting There & Away

AIR

Regional Express (Rex; www.regionalexpress.com.au) flies daily between Adelaide and Kingscote (return from \$240).

BUS

Sealink operates a morning and afternoon bus service between Adelaide Central Bus Station and Cape Jervis (return adult/child \$52/28, 2½ hours one way).

FERRY

Sealink (☎ 13 13 01; www.sealink.com.au) operates a car ferry between Cape Jervis and Penneshaw on KI, with at least three ferries each way daily (return adult/child from \$98/50, bicycles/motorcycles/cars \$22/64/286, 45 minutes one way). One driver is included with the vehicle price (cars only, not bikes).

i Getting Around

There's no public transport on the island: take a tour or bring or hire some wheels. The island's main roads are sealed, but the rest are gravel, including those to Cape Willoughby, Cape Borda and the North Coast Rd (take it slowly, especially at night). There's petrol at Kingscote, Penneshaw, American River, Parndana and Vivonne Bay.

TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

Kingscote Airport (www.kangarooisland.sa.gov.au/airport) is 14km from Kingscote.

Kangaroo Island Transfers (☎ 08-8553 3133, 0427 887 575; www.kitransfers.com.au) connects the airport with Kingscote (per person \$20, minimum two people), American River (\$30) and Penneshaw (\$45). Solo travellers pay double (eg Kingscote \$40). Bookings are essential. Sealink offers a similar service.

TO/FROM THE FERRY

Sealink runs daily shuttles between Penneshaw and American River (adult/child \$15/8, 30 minutes) and Kingscote (\$18/10, one hour). Bookings essential.

CAR HIRE

Not all Adelaide car-rental companies will let you take their cars onto KI. **Budget** (www.budget.com.au) and **Hertz** (www.hertz.com.au) supply cars to Penneshaw, Kingscote and Kingscote Airport.

Penneshaw & Dudley Peninsula

Looking across Backstairs Passage to the Fleurieu Peninsula, **Penneshaw** (population 300), on the north shore of the **Dudley Peninsula**, is the ferry arrival point. The passing tourist trade lends a certain transience to the businesses here, but the pub, hostel and general store remain authentically grounded. En route to American River, **Pennington Bay** has consistent surf.

👁 Sights**Chapman River Wines**

WINERY

(www.chapmanriverwines.com.au; off Cape Willoughby Rd, Antechamber Bay; ☎ 11am-4.30pm Thu-Mon Sep-Jun) Occupying a converted aircraft hangar, this eccentric winery makes a mean shiraz. The interior is festooned with art and quirky bits of salvage from churches, pubs and homesteads from around SA. Good coffee, too.

Kangaroo Island Farmers Market

MARKET

(www.goodfoodkangarooisland.com; Lloyd Collins Reserve, Frenchmans Tce, Penneshaw; ☎ 9am-1pm 1st Sun of the month) Baked goods, chutneys, seafood, olive oil, honey, eggs, cheese, yogurt...and of course buskers and wine! Sealink (p748) offers dedicated passenger-only return tickets from the mainland if you'd just like to visit the market for the day.

Cape Willoughby Lightstation

LIGHTHOUSE

(☎ accommodation 08-8553 4410; www.environment.sa.gov.au; Cape Willoughby Rd; self-guided tours grounds only per person \$3, guided incl lighthouse adult/child/family \$15/9/39; ☎ guided tours 11.30am, 12.30pm & 2pm) About 28km southeast of Penneshaw (unsealed road), this lighthouse first shone in 1852 and is now used as a weather station. Lots of shipwreck info, plus basic cottage accommodation (doubles from \$170, extra person \$28). Extra tours at 3pm and 4pm during school holidays.

Sunset Winery

WINERY

(www.sunset-wines.com.au; 4564 Hog Bay Rd, Penneshaw; ☎ 11am-5pm) Wow, what a view! If you can't make it up the steep driveway, there's another access around the back. Either way, expect brilliant sauvignon blanc and sparkling shiraz. Sunset also serves savoury platters to go with the panorama.

Penneshaw Maritime & Folk Museum

MUSEUM

(www.nationaltrustsa.org.au; 52 Howard Dr, Penneshaw; adult/child/family \$4/2/7; ☎ 3-5pm Wed-Sun Sep-May) Displays artefacts from local shipwrecks and early settlement (check out those girthing millstones!), plus endearingly geeky models of Flinders' *Investigator* and Baudin's *Geographe*.

🛏 Sleeping & Eating**Kangaroo Island YHA**

HOSTEL \$

(☎ 08-8553 1344; www.yha.com.au; 33 Middle Tce, Penneshaw; dm \$35, d with/without bathroom \$110/75, f \$160; @ ☎) Occupying an old '60s motel with faux-brick cladding close to downtown Penneshaw, the island YHA has neat, spacious rooms, mostly with en suite bathrooms. There's a sunny communal kitchen, little lounge, laundry and handsome hammock.

Kangaroo Island Backpackers

HOSTEL \$

(☎ 0439 750 727; www.kangarooislandbackpackers.com; 43 North Tce, Penneshaw; dm/s/tw/d/f from \$28/38/58/80/120) A tidy, affable independent hostel a short wander from both the pub and the ferry dock. It's a simple set-up and there's no wi-fi, but hey, you're on holiday on an island – who needs interior design and social media? Dangle a line off the jetty instead.

Kangaroo Island Shores CARAVAN PARK \$
(☎ 08-8553 1028; www.seafront.com.au; Lot 501, Talinga Tce, Penneshaw; unpowered/powered sites \$25/30) The closest camping to the ferry, a short wander around the foreshore from the Penneshaw jetty. Not the most wild or interesting of settings, but certainly clean and convenient.

Antechamber Bay Ecocabins CABINS \$\$
(☎ 08-8553 1557; www.kiecocabins.com; 142 Creek Bay Rd, Antechamber Bay; d from \$130, extra adult/child \$20/free, unpowered sites adult/child \$20/free) 🍃 Off Cape Willoughby Rd, these two eight-bed cabins are on 22-hectares behind the dunes: rudimentary but perfectly comfortable, with roofless showers, self-composting toilets, and solar power and hot water. Or you can pitch a tent and use the quirky camp kitchen. Kayaks and fishing gear available (there's bream in the river).

Wallaby Beach House RENTAL HOUSE \$\$
(☎ 08-8362 5293; www.wallabybeachhouse.com.au; Browns Beach; d from \$180, extra person \$25) A secluded, self-contained three-bedroom beach house, 13km west of Penneshaw on unpeopled Browns Beach. Simple but stylish decor, with broad sunset views and passing seals, dolphins and penguins to keep you company. Sleeps six.

Fish SEAFOOD \$
(☎ 0439 803 843; www.2birds1squid.com; 43 North Tce, Penneshaw; mains \$13-18; ☎ 4.30-8pm mid-Oct-Apr) Takeaway fish and chips like you ain't never had before – grilled, beer-battered or crumbed whiting and garfish – plus giant KI scallops, marron, lobster medallions, prawns and oysters. Dunk them in an array of excellent homemade sauces. Hours can vary – call in advance.

★ **Dudley Cellar Door** CAFE \$\$
(☎ 08-8553 1333; www.dudleywines.com.au; 1153 Cape Willoughby Rd, Cuttlefish Bay; mains \$25-28; ☎ 10am-5pm) KI's pioneering winery has a superb cellar door, 12km east of Penneshaw. It's a fancy corrugated-iron shed, with astonishing views back to the mainland and serving superb pizzas (try the King George whiting version), oysters and buckets of prawns – perfect with a bottle of chardonnay on the deck.

Isola Pizza PIZZA \$\$
(☎ 08-8553 1227; www.facebook.com/isolapizzakangarooisland; 43 North Tce, Penneshaw; mains \$15-30; ☎ 5-8pm; 🍷) Sun going down, wait-

ing for the ferry, getting hungry and eaten all your supplies? Duck into Isola (Spanish for 'island') and snare a fab pizza for dinner. The Greek lamb version takes the cake.

i Information

Gateway Visitor Information Centre (☎ 1800 811 080, 08-8553 1185; www.tourkangarooisland.com.au; Lot 3 Howard Dr, Penneshaw; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun; 🍷) Just outside Penneshaw on the road to Kingscote, this centre is stocked with brochures and maps. Also books accommodation, and sells park entry tickets and the Kangaroo Island Tour Pass.

American River

POP 230

Between Penneshaw and Kingscote, on the way to nowhere in particular, American River squats redundantly by the glassy **Pelican Lagoon**. The town was named after a crew of American sealers who built a trading schooner here in 1804. There's no such industriousness here today, just a general store and a gaggle of pelicans.

From the end of Scenic Dr, a **coastal walk** (2km one way) passes through natural scrub, sugar gums and she-oak en route to some old fish-cannery ruins.

🏠 Sleeping & Eating

American River Camping Ground

CAMPGROUND \$

(☎ 08-8553 4500; www.kangarooisland.sa.gov.au; Tangara Dr, American River; unpowered/powered sites per 2 people \$15/25, extra person \$5) Shady, council-run camping by the lagoon, with fire pits, showers, toilets and a nifty BBQ hut. Pay via self-registration.

Mercure Kangaroo Island Lodge

MOTEL \$\$

(☎ 1800 355 581, 08-8553 7053; www.kilodge.com.au; Lot 2, Scenic Dr, American River; d incl breakfast from \$180; 🍷 @ 🍷 ☎) Up-to-scratch motel suites overlooking either the pool or lagoon (the rammed-earth wing has the best rooms). The restaurant plates up buffet breakfasts and dinners featuring lots of local seafood (mains \$20 to \$30, serving 7.30am to 9am and 6pm to 8.30pm).

Island Coastal Units

MOTEL, CABINS \$\$

(☎ 08-8553 7010; www.kangarooislandcoastalunits.com.au; Tangara Dr, American River; units/cabins from \$100/120, extra person \$20) A low row of basic one- and two-bedroom motel-

style units among trees opposite the foreshore, plus four beautiful self-contained cabins with solar hot water, gas cooktops and air-con (pay the extra \$20!). Minimum two-night stay.

Oyster Farm Shop

SEAFOOD \$

(☎08-8553 7122; www.goodfoodkangarooisland.com/food/kio_shop.asp; 486 Tangara Dr, American River; meals \$9-21; ☎11am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, kitchen to 2.30pm) Run by a local oyster farm, this little shack acts as an outlet for sustainable seafood producers from all over KI. Oysters, marron, abalone, King George whiting... even barramundi, cooked into meals or take-away uncooked. Get change from \$10 for a dozen fresh unshucked oysters.

Kingscote

POP 1700

Snoozy seaside Kingscote (pronounced 'kings-coat') is the main settlement on KI, and the hub of island life. It's a photogenic town with swaying Norfolk Island pines, a couple of pubs and some decent eateries.

👁 Sights & Activities

Kangaroo Island Spirits

DISTILLERY

(KIS; www.kispirits.com.au; 856 Playford Hwy, Cygnet River; tastings free, bottles from \$42; ☎11am-5pm Wed-Mon, daily during school holidays) This feisty little moonshiner makes small-batch gin with KI native juniper berries, plus vodka, brandy and liqueurs (pray the organic honey-and-walnut version hasn't sold out).

Island Beehive

APIARY

(www.island-beehive.com.au; 59 Playford Hwy, Kingscote; tours adult/child/family \$4.50/3/13; ☎9am-5pm, tours every 30min 9.30am-3.30pm) Runs factory tours where you can study up on passive, hard-working Ligurian bees and beekeeping, then stock up on by-products (bee-products?) including delicious organic honey and honeycomb ice cream. Tours for groups available.

Island Pure Sheep Dairy

DAIRY

(www.islandpure.com.au; 127 Gum Creek Rd, Cygnet River; tours adult/child/family \$6.50/5.50/22; ☎noon-4pm) Near Cygnet River, 12km from Kingscote, this dairy features 1500 sheep lining up to be milked (from 2pm daily). Take a tour of the factory, which includes yogurt and cheese tastings (the haloumi is magic).

Pelican Feeding

BIRDWATCHING

(☎08-8553 3112; Kingscote Wharf, Kingscote; adult/child \$5/3; ☎5pm) Pull up a pew and watch the daily feeding frenzy of 20-something ravenous pelicans at Kingscote Wharf. The host is well protected - hatted, gloved and booted - and mic'd-up so you can hear the spiel above the voraciously snapping beaks.

Kingscote Tidal Pool

SWIMMING

(www.kangarooisland.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?u=572&c=8272; Chapman Tce, Kingscote; ☎daylight hours) **FREE** Kingscote beaches are lousy for swimming; locals usually head 18km northwest to **Emu Bay**, or to this 50m tidal swimming pool, which has a couple of pontoons and grassy banks on which to sun yourself on.

🛏 Sleeping & Eating

Kangaroo Island Central

Backpackers

HOSTEL \$

(☎08-8553 2787; www.kicentralbackpackers.com; 19 Murray St, Kingscote; dm/d from \$25/60; 🍷🍺) Just a couple of blocks from Kingscote's main strip, this small, innocuous hostel is clean and affordable, and has a cosy lounge, lush lawns and a beautiful suite double cabin out the back. It feels like staying at someone's house - good or bad, depending on how sociable you're feeling.

Kingscote Nepean Bay

Tourist Park

CARAVAN PARK \$

(☎08-8553 2394; www.kingscotetouristpark.com.au; cnr First & Third Sts, Brownlow; unpowered/powered sites \$34/40, cabins/units from \$90/135; 🍷🍺) You'll find the standard gamut of caravan park delights behind the dunes in Brownlow, 3km southwest of Kingscote. You can walk back to Kingscote via a coastal walking trail. Better for camping than cabins.

Aurora Ozone Hotel

HOTEL \$\$

(☎08-8553 2011, 1800 083 133; www.aurorareorts.com.au; cnr Commercial St & Kingscote Tce, Kingscote; d pub/motel from \$162/248, 1-2-/3-bed apt from \$270/482/543; 🍷🍺🍻) Opposite the foreshore with killer views, the 100-year-old Ozone pub has quality pub rooms upstairs, motel rooms, and stylish deluxe apartments in a new wing across the street. The eternally busy bistro (mains \$20 to \$48) serves meaty grills and seafood, and you can pickle yourself on KI wines at the bar.

Seaview Motel

MOTEL, GUESTHOUSE \$\$

(☎ 08-8553 2030; www.seaview.net.au; 51 Chapman Tce, Kingscote; guesthouse s/d \$90/100, motel s/d \$146/156, extra adult/child \$25/15; 🍷🍷) It seems like this place is always full – a good sign! Choose from older-style 1929 guesthouse rooms with shared facilities (no air-con), or refurbished 1980s motel rooms. Family-owned, and affordable by KI standards.

Kangaroo Island Fresh Seafoods

SEAFOOD \$

(www.goodfoodkangaroosland.com/eatingout/kifreshseafood.asp; 26 Telegraph Rd, Kingscote; meals \$8-16; ☺ 8am-8pm Mon-Sat) This unassuming place attached to a petrol station has some of the best seafood you're ever likely to taste. Fat oysters go for around a dollar each, then there are all manner of cooked and fresh KI seafood packs and combos. Superb!

Bella

ITALIAN \$\$

(☎ 08-8553 0400; www.goodfoodkangaroosland.com/eatingout/bella.asp; 54 Dauncey St, Kingscote; pizzas \$15-39, mains \$26-32; ☺ 10am-late) Sit inside or on the pavement, al fresco, at Bella, a cheery Italian cafe-restaurant-pizza bar. Pizzas start around lunchtime (eat in or takeaway); dinner is à la carte, featuring American River oysters, Spencer Gulf king prawns, local roo and whiting.

i Information

Natural Resources Centre (☎ 08-8553 4444; www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/kangarooisland; 37 Dauncey St, Kingscote; ☺ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri) Sells the Kangaroo Island Tour Pass and has info on national parks.

North Coast Road

Exquisite beaches (calmer than the south coast), bushland and undulating pastures dapple the North Coast Rd, running from Kingscote along the coast to the Playford Hwy 85km west (the bitumen expires at Emu Bay). There's not a whole lot to do here other than swan around on the beach – sounds good!

About 18km from Kingscote, **Emu Bay** is a holiday hamlet with a 5km-long, white-sand beach flanked by dunes – one of KI's best swimming spots. Around 36km further west, **Stokes Bay** has a penguin rookery and broad rock pool, accessible by scrambling through a 20m tunnel in the cliffs at the bay's eastern end (mind your head!). Beware the rip outside the pool.

The view as you look back over **Snelling Beach** from atop Constitution Hill is awesome! Continue 7km west and you'll hit the turn-off to **Western River Cove**, where a small beach is crowded in by sombre basalt cliffs. The ridge-top road in is utterly scenic (and steep).

🏠 Sleeping & Eating**Western River Cove Campsite**

CAMPGROUND \$

(☎ 08-8553 4500; www.kangaroosland.sa.gov.au; unpowered sites per 2 people \$15, extra person \$5) It's a steep drive into this self-registration camp site, just a short walk from the beach and with a footbridge over the river (so tempting to dangle a line). There's a toilet block and a barbecue hut but no showers.

Emu Bay**Holiday Homes**

CABINS, RENTAL HOUSE \$

(☎ 08-8553 5241; www.emubaysupervIEWS.com.au; 21 Bayview Rd, Emu Bay; cabins \$96, holiday homes \$122-152, extra person \$22; 🍷🍷) Great-value (if a little frilly) cabins and holiday homes in a large flower-filled garden on the hill above Emu Bay beach (great views!). The self-contained cabins (caravan-park cabins with a facelift, sans air-con) sleep four or six; the holiday homes sleep six or 10.

Waves & Wildlife

COTTAGES \$\$

(☎ 08-8559 2232; www.wavesandwildlife.com.au; North Coast Rd, Stokes Bay; 1-/3-bedroom per 2 people from \$125/145, extra person \$20) This phalanx of trim, tidy, newish cottages (built 2006) marches down a grassy hillside above Stokes Bay (love the tunnel and the rock pool!). There are one- and three-bedroom configurations, with full kitchens, sweeping views and kangaroos hopping around at dusk. Linen charges and minimum stays apply, but it's still good bang for your buck.

Lifetime Private Rentals

RENTAL HOUSES \$\$\$

(www.life-time.com.au; North Coast Rd, Snelling Beach; d from \$490; 🍷) Pricey but worth every penny, these four gorgeous self-contained stone-and-timber houses dot the hillsides above beautiful Snelling Beach (...actually, they're not that pricey if there's a few of you: from \$510 for six people in three bedrooms). Expect decks, big windows, quirky artworks and knock-out views.

Rockpool Café

CAFE \$\$

(☎ 08-8559 2277; www.facebook.com/therockpoolcafe; North Coast Rd, Stokes Bay; mains \$15-28; ☺ 11am-5pm) Don't worry about sandy

feet at this casual, al fresco joint in Stokes Bay. 'What's the house special?', we asked. 'Whatever I feel like doin'', said the chef (usually seafood, washed down with local wines and decent espresso).

South Coast Road

The south coast is rough and wave swept, compared with the north.

Sights & Activities

Seal Bay Conservation Park NATURE RESERVE
(☎08-8553 4460; www.sealbay.sa.gov.au; Seal Bay Rd; guided tours adult/child/family \$32/18/80; ☀ tours 9am-4pm year-round, extra tours Dec-Feb, twilight tours Oct-Mar) 🌿 'Observation, not interaction' is the mentality here. Guided tours stroll along the beach (or boardwalk on self-guided tours; adult \$15, child \$9, family \$40) to a colony of (mostly sleeping) Australian sea lions. Twilight tours December and January (adult \$60, child \$38, family \$165). Bookings advised.

Clifford's Honey Farm FARM
(www.cliffordshoney.com.au; 1157 Elsegood Rd, Haines; ☀9am-5pm) It's almost worth swimming the Backstairs Passage for the honey ice cream (sourced from a colony of rare Ligurian bees) at this charming, uncommercial farm. A bit off the tourist radar (again, charming).

Kelly Hill Conservation Park NATURE RESERVE
(☎08-8553 4464; www.environment.sa.gov.au; South Coast Rd; tours adult/child/family \$18/10/45, adventure caving adult/child \$70/40; ☀10.15am-4.30pm) This series of dry limestone caves was 'discovered' in the 1880s by a horse named Kelly, who fell into them through a hole. Take the standard show cave tour (10.30am, then hourly 11am to 4pm), or add on an adventure caving tour (2.15pm; bookings essential). The **Hanson Bay Walk** (9km one way) runs from the caves past freshwater wetlands. There are extra show cave tours during school holidays.

Raptor Domain ZOO
(www.kangarooslandbirdsofprey.com.au; cnr South Coast & Seal Bay Rds; birds of prey adult/child/family \$16.50/12/50, reptiles \$12/10/35; ☀10.30am-4pm) Check out some KI wedge-tailed eagles, barn owls and kookaburras at a one-hour birds-of-prey display (11.30am and 2.30pm), or go scaly at a one-hour lizards and snakes show (1pm).

SOUTHERN OCEAN LODGE

Millionaires, start your engines! The shining star in the SA tourism galaxy is **Southern Ocean Lodge** (☎08-8559 7347; www.southernoceanlodge.com.au; Hanson Bay Rd; d per night from \$1050; 📶@☎🚰), a sexy, low-profile snake tracing the Hanson Bay cliff-top – a real exercise in exclusivity. There's a two-night minimum stay; you get airport transfers, all meals and drinks, and guided tours of KI.

If you want a stickybeak, don't expect to see anything from the road: all you'll find is a steely set of gates and an unrecognizable intercom: privacy is what guests are paying for here (Hey, wasn't that Teri Hatcher in that 4WD?). But you can catch a sneaky glimpse from Hanson Bay beach.

Sleeping & Eating

Western KI Caravan Park CAMPGROUND \$
(☎08-8559 7201; www.westernki.com.au; 7928 South Coast Rd, Flinders Chase; unpowered/powered sites \$25/30, cabins \$110-190; 📶) A few minutes' drive east of Flinders Chase National Park, this friendly park has shady gums and resident roos. Check out the kōala and lagoon walks, and the phone booth inside an old bakery truck. The shop sells groceries, homemade heat-and-eats and (for guests only) beer and wine.

Flinders Chase Farm HOSTEL, CABINS \$\$
(☎08-8559 7223; www.flinderschasefarm.com.au; 1561 West End Hwy, Karatta; dm/cabins \$25/70, d/f with bathroom from \$110/120) A working farm with charm, a short drive from Flinders Chase National Park. Accommodation includes tidy dorms, a couple of cosy cabins and en-suite rooms in a lodge. There's also a terrific camp kitchen, fire pits and 'tropical' outdoor showers.

Kangaroo Island Wilderness Retreat HOTEL, RESORT \$\$
(☎08-8559 7275; www.kiwr.com; Lot 1, South Coast Rd, Flinders Chase; d/apt/ste from \$175/182/256; 📶@☎🚰) A low-key, log cabin-style resort on the Flinders Chase doorstep, with resident grazing wallabies. Accommodation ranges from basic motel-style rooms to flashy spa suites. There's also a petrol pump and a bar, and a **restaurant** (breakfast \$15-25, dinner \$24-36; ☀7.30-9.30am & 6-8.30pm).

Marron Café

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$
 (☎08-8559 4114; www.andermel.com.au; 804 Harriet Rd, Central Kangaroo Island; mains \$16-38; ☉11am-4.30pm Sep-Apr, noon-3.30pm May-Aug) Around 15km north of Vivonne Bay you can check out marron in breeding tanks, then eat some! It's a subtle taste, not necessarily enhanced by the heavy sauces issued by the kitchen. There are steak and chicken dishes, too, for the crustacean-shy. Last orders 30 minutes before closing.

Flinders Chase National Park

Occupying the western end of the island, Flinders Chase National Park is one of SA's top national parks. Much of the park is mallee scrub, and there are also some beautiful, tall sugar-gum forests, particularly around Rocky River and the Ravine des Casoars, 5km south of Cape Borda. Pay your park entry fees at the Flinders Chase Visitor Information Centre.

👁 Sights & Activities

Once a farm, **Rocky River** is now a rampant hotbed of wildlife, with kangaroos, wallabies and Cape Barren geese competing for your affections. A slew of good walks launch from behind the visitors centre, including the **Rocky River Hike**, on which you might spy a platypus (9km loop, three hours).

From Rocky River, a road runs south to a remote 1906 **lighthouse** atop wild Cape du Couedic (pronounced 'coo-dick'). A boardwalk weaves down to **Admirals Arch**, a huge archway ground out by heavy seas, and passes a colony of New Zealand fur seals (sweet smelling they ain't...).

At Kirkpatrick Point, a few kilometres east of Cape du Couedic, the much-photographed **Remarkable Rocks** are a cluster of hefty, weather-gouged granite boulders atop a rocky dome that arcs 75m down to the sea. Remarkable!

On the northwestern corner of the island, the 1858 **Cape Borda Lightstation** (☎08-

8559 3257; www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks; admission free, tours adult/child/family \$14.50/9/38; ☉9am-5pm, tours 11am, 12.30pm & 2pm) stands tall above the rippling iron surface of the Southern Ocean. There are walks here from 1.5km to 9km, and extra tours at 3.15pm and 4pm during summer holidays.

At nearby Harvey's Return a **cemetery** speaks poignant volumes about the reality of isolation in the early days. From here you can drive to **Ravine des Casoars** (literally 'Ravine of the Cassowaries', referring to the now-extinct dwarf emus seen here by Baudin's expedition). The challenging **Ravine des Casoars Hike** (8km return, four hours) tracks through the ravine to the coast.

🏠 Sleeping & Eating

There are campgrounds at **Rocky River** (per person/car \$10/28), **Snake Lagoon** (per person/car \$7/13), **West Bay** (per person/car \$7/13) and **Harvey's Return** (per person/car \$7/13); book through the **Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources** (DEWNR; ☎08-8553 4490; flinderschase@sa.gov.au).

There's also refurbished cottage accommodation at Rocky River – the budget **Postmans Cottage** (d \$72) and family-friendly **Mays Homestead** (d \$171) – and lightkeepers' cottages at **Cape du Couedic** and **Cape Borda** (d \$48-219). Book online, by email or by phone through the **Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources** (☎08-8553 4410; www.environment.sa.gov.au).

On the food front, if you're not self-catering the only option here is the **Chase Cafe** (☎08-8559 7339; www.thechasecafe.com.au; Flinders Chase Visitor Information Centre; meals \$7-28; ☉9am-3.30pm) at the visitors centre, serving burgers, wraps, soup, coffee, and wines by the glass.

📍 Information

Flinders Chase Visitor Information Centre (☎08-8559 7235; www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks; South Coast Rd, Flinders Chase; park entry adult/child/family \$10/6/27; ☉9am-5pm) Info, maps and camping/accommodation bookings, plus a cafe and displays on island ecology.



Barossa Valley & Southeastern SA

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Best Places to Eat

- Skillogalee (p766)
- Terroir (p764)
- Banrock Station Wine & Wetland Centre (p769)
- Pipers of Penola (p778)
- Ferment Asian (p760)

Best Places to Stay

- Reilly's (p765)
- Waikerie Hotel Motel (p768)
- Dalton on the Lake (p773)
- Bompas (p775)
- BIG4 Renmark Riverfront Holiday Park (p771)

Why Go?

From legendary wine regions north of Adelaide, around the lugubrious bends of the Murray River and down along the Limestone Coast, this vast swathe of South Australia demands your undivided attention.

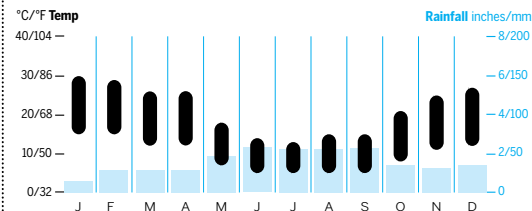
You can tackle the Barossa and Clare Valleys as day trips from Adelaide, but when the wine and food are this good, why rush? Spend a few days in each, exploring old-fangled towns, cycling between cellar doors, eating and revelling in general hedonism. These compact corners of SA are custom-built holiday haunts.

Conversely, the Murray River is vast, curling across the entire state. Towns here are utilitarian, with country sensibility at the helm. Silently sliding by, the river is undeniable in its beauty and grace.

Heading southeast, trace the Limestone Coast through the sea-salty Coorong, past beachy holiday towns to Mount Gambier, SA's second city. And, if you haven't already OD'd on wine, the Coonawarra Wine Region awaits.

When to Go

Tanunda



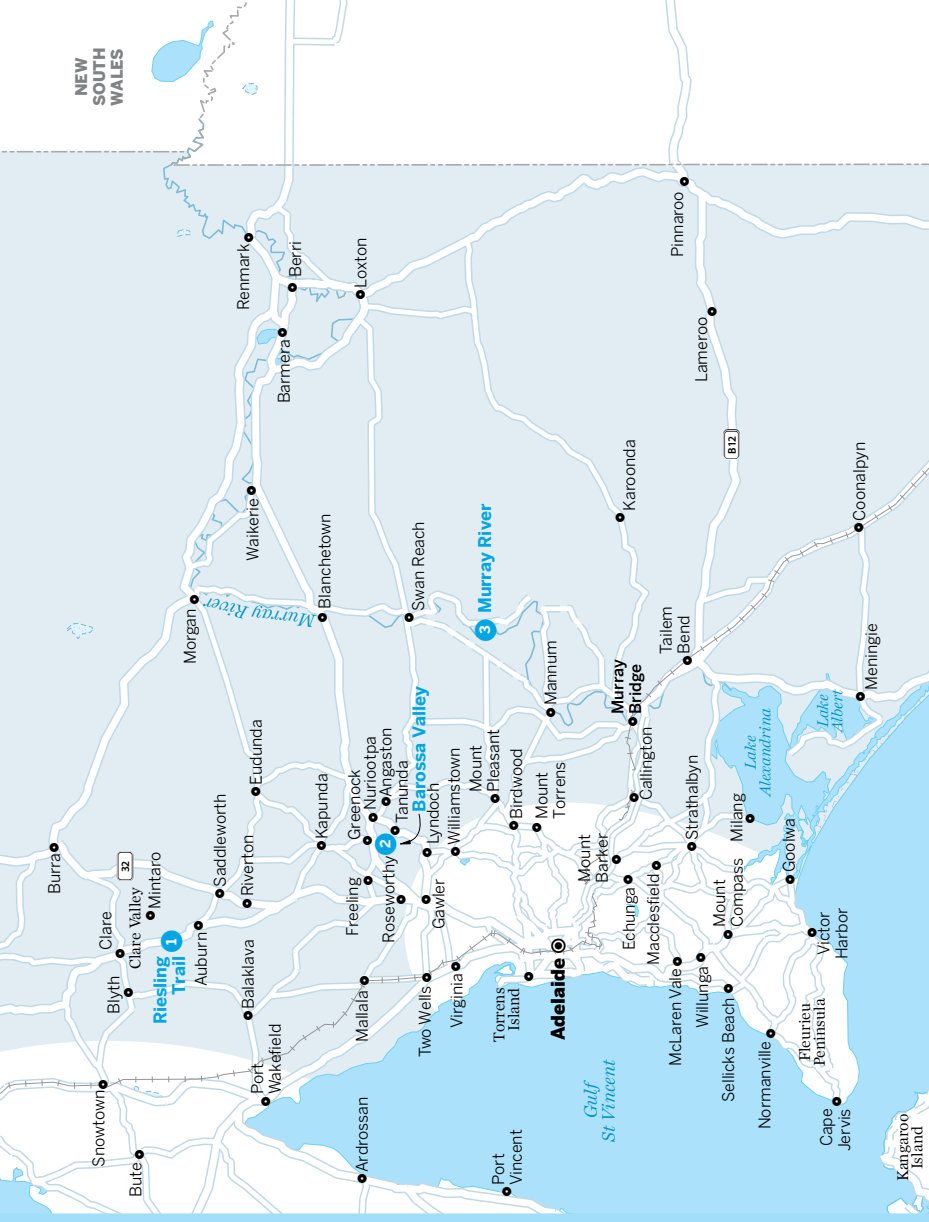
Mar–May Low autumn sunsets and russet-red grapevines: harvest is in the air.

Oct & Nov Spring-time on the Murray River, before the jet skis arrive en masse.

Dec–Feb Summer's here and the time is right for snoozing on the beach.

Barossa Valley & Southeastern SA Highlights

- 1 Cycling between cellar doors along the **Riesling Trail** (p763) in the Clare Valley.
- 2 Eating some sauerkraut and schnitzels in the **Barossa Valley** (p758), washed down with fine wine.
- 3 Hiring a houseboat and chug around the bends of the **Murray River** (p766).
- 4 Losing a few hours (or days) exploring the quiet corners of the **Coorong National Park** (p772).
- 5 Assessing the colour of the Blue Lake in **Mount Gambier** (p775).
- 6 Going underground at the World Heritage-listed **Naracoorte**



Caves National Park
(p778).

7 Learning to tell your cab sav from your shiraz in the **Coonawarra Wine Region** (p777).

8 Chilling-out on the beach in **Robe** (p773) after a hard day in the surf.



BAROSSA VALLEY

With hot, dry summers and cool, moderate winters, the Barossa is one of the world's great wine regions – an absolute must for anyone with even the slightest interest in a good drop. It's a compact valley – just 25km long – yet it manages to produce 21% of Australia's wine, and it makes a no-fuss day trip from Adelaide, 65km to the southwest.

The local towns have a distinctly German heritage, dating back to 1842. Fleeing religious persecution in Prussia and Silesia, settlers (bringing their vine cuttings with them) created a Lutheran heartland where German traditions persist today. The physical remnants of colonisation – Gothic church steeples and stone cottages – are everywhere. Cultural legacies of the early days include a dubious passion for oom-pah bands, and an appetite for wurst, pretzels and sauerkraut.

Tours

Wine-flavoured day tours departing Adelaide or locally are bountiful; the Barossa Visitor Information Centre (p761) makes bookings.

Balloon Adventures BALLOONING
(☎ 08-8562 3111; www.balloonadventures.com.au; flights adult/child \$300/195) Fly the Barossa sky in a hot-air balloon. One-hour flights depart Tanunda and include a champagne breakfast.

Barossa Wine Lovers Tours TOUR
(☎ 08-8270 5500; www.wineloverstours.com.au; tours incl lunch from \$75) Minibus tours to wineries, lookouts, shops and heritage buildings...a good blend. Good for groups; minimum numbers apply.

Groovy Grape TOUR
(☎ 1800 661 177; www.groovygrape.com.au; full-day tours \$90) Backpacker-centric day tours ex-Adelaide with a BBQ lunch: good value, good fun. November to April only.

Taste the Barossa TOUR
(☎ 08-8357 1594; www.winetoursbarossa.com; full-day tours \$99) Great-value minibus tours ex-Adelaide visiting a fistful of top wineries, with lunch at Peter Lehmann.

Uber Cycle Adventures CYCLING
(☎ 08-8563 1148; www.ubercycle.com.au; 2hr/half-/full-day tours \$95/145/195) Get on your bike and see the Barossa on two wheels, with lots of native flora and fauna en route (oh, and some wine!).

Festivals & Events

Barossa Vintage Festival FOOD, WINE
(www.barossavintagefestival.com.au) A week-long festival with music, maypole dancing, tug-of-war contests etc; around Easter in odd-numbered years.

Barossa Gourmet Weekend FOOD, WINE
(www.barossagourmet.com) Fab food matched with winning wines at select wineries; happens in late winter or early spring.

A Day on the Green MUSIC
(www.adayonthegreen.com.au) Mature-age mosh-pit at Peter Lehmann Wines, with mature-age acts (Jimmy Barnes, Cheap Trick, Dragon). Held in December.

Getting There & Around

BICYCLE

The 27km Jack Brobridge Track runs from Gawler to Tanunda, with a 13km rail trail continuing through Nuriootpa to Angaston, passing plenty of wineries.

Based in Nuriootpa, **Barossa Bike Hire** (☎ 0412 380 651; www.barossabikehire.com.au; 5 South Tce, Nuriootpa) rents out quality cycles/tandems from \$35/70 per day. **Angaston Hardware** (☎ 08-8564 2055; www.facebook.com/angastonhardware; 5 Sturt St; ☀ 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun) also rents out bikes for \$25/40 per half/full day. Pick up the *Barossa by Bike* brochure at the Barossa Visitor Information Centre (p761) in Tanunda.

BUS & TRAIN

Adelaide Metro (www.adelaidemetro.com.au) runs regular daily trains to Gawler (\$5.10, one hour), from where **LinkSA** (www.linksa.com.au) buses run to Tanunda (\$9.60, 45 minutes), Nuriootpa (\$12.20, one hour) and Angaston (\$14.80, 1¼ hours).

TAXI

Barossa Taxis (☎ 0411 150 850; www.barossa.taxis.com.au; ☀ 24hr) Taxis for up to nine people.

Tanunda

POP 4680

At the centre of the valley both geographically and socially, Tanunda is the Barossa's main tourist town. Tanunda manages to morph the practicality of Nuriootpa with the charm of Angaston without a sniff of self-importance. The wineries are what you're here for – sip, sip, sip!

BAROSSA VALLEY WINERIES

The Barossa is best known for shiraz, with riesling the dominant white. There are around 80 vineyards here and 60 cellar doors, ranging from boutique wine rooms to monstrous complexes. The long-established 'Barossa Barons' hold sway – big, ballsy and brassy – while spritely young boutique wineries are harder to sniff out.

Henschke (www.henschke.com.au; Henschke Rd, Keyneton; ☀ 9am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat) About 10km southeast of Angaston in the Eden Valley, old-school Henschke is known for its iconic Hill of Grace red, but most of the wines here are classics.

Penfolds (www.penfolds.com.au; 30 Tanunda Rd, Nuriootpa; ☀ 10am-5pm) You know the name: Penfolds is a Barossa institution. Book ahead for the 'Make Your Own Blend' tour (\$65), or the 'Taste of Grange' tour (\$150), which allows you to slide some Grange Hermitage across your lips.

Peter Lehmann Wines (www.peterlehmannwines.com.au; Para Rd, Tanunda; ☀ 9.30am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10.30am-4.30pm Sat & Sun) The shiraz and riesling vintages here (oh, and semillon) are probably the most consistent, affordable and widely distributed wines in the Barossa. Peter Lehmann passed away in 2013: pay your respects with a cellar door visit.

St Hallett (www.sthallett.com.au; St Hallett Rd, Tanunda; ☀ 10am-5pm) Using only Barossa grapes, improving St Hallett produces reasonably priced but consistently good whites (try the Poacher's Blend) and the excellent Old Block Shiraz. Unpretentious and great value for money.

Rockford Wines (www.rockfordwines.com.au; Krondorf Rd, Tanunda; ☀ 11am-5pm) One of our favourite boutique Barossa wineries, this 1850s cellar door sells traditionally made, small-range wines, including sparkling reds. The Black Shiraz is a sparkling, spicy killer.

👁 Sights

Mengler Hill Lookout VIEWPOINT
(Mengler Hill Rd; ☀ 24hr) **FREE** From Tanunda, take the scenic route to Angaston via Bethany for hazy valley views (just ignore the naff sculptures in the foreground). The road tracks through beautiful rural country, studied with huge eucalyptuses.

Barossa Museum MUSEUM
(www.community.history.sa.gov.au/barossa-museum; 47 Murray St; adult/child \$2/1; ☀ 10am-5.30pm Tue-Fri, 9am-12.30pm Sat) Inside this 1856 post office building (access via the bike-repair shop out the front) are displays of bone-handled cutlery, butter-making gear, photos of top-hatted locals, a re-created colonial bedroom and an amazing map of Germany pinpointing the homelands of Barossa settlers. The Indigenous coverage could use a little help.

Keg Factory FACTORY
(www.thekegfactory.com.au; 25 St Hallett Rd; ☀ 10am-4pm) **FREE** Watch honest-to-goodness coopers make and repair wine barrels, 4km south of town. Amazing!

Goat Square HISTORIC SITE
(cnr John & Maria Sts) **FREE** Tanunda is flush with historic buildings, including the cot-

tages around this square, on John St. This was the *ziegenmarkt*, a meeting and market place, laid out in 1842 as Tanunda's original town centre.

Barossa Regional Gallery GALLERY
(www.freewebs.com/barossagallery; 3 Basedow Rd, Soldiers Memorial Hall; ☀ 11am-4pm Wed-Mon) **FREE** Has an eclectic collection of paintings, crafts and touring exhibitions, plus an impressive set of organ pipes at the back of the room.

🛏 Sleeping

Barossa Backpackers HOSTEL \$
(☎ 08-8563 0198; www.barossabackpackers.com.au; 9 Basedow Rd; dm/s/d from \$27/80/80; @☎) Occupying a converted, U-shaped winery office building 500m from Tanunda's main street, this newish backpackers is a clean, secure and shipshape affair, with good weekly rates. Management can help you find picking/pruning work. Bike hire \$20 per day.

Tanunda Hotel PUB \$
(☎ 08-8563 2030; www.tanundahotel.com.au; 51 Murray St; d with/without bathroom \$80/70, apt from \$200; ♿☎) This boisterous ol' 1846 pub in the town centre is a real community hub. Pub rooms upstairs are good value and clean; out the back are nine ritzy mauve-coloured

BAROSSA REGIONAL PARKS

For a little grape-free time away from the vines, you can't beat the Barossa's regional parks, with walking tracks for everyone from Sunday strollers to hardcore bushwalkers. The Barossa Visitor Information Centre can help with maps and directions.

Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park (📞 08-8280 7048; www.environment.sa.gov.au; Tanunda Creek Rd, Angaston; ☀️ daylight hours) Known for excellent walks, 390-hectare Kaiserstuhl is en route from Mengler Hill to Angaston. The Stringybark Hike (2km loop) and Wallowa Hike (4.7km one way) start at the entrance, with fantastic views from atop the Barossa Ranges. Look for Nankeen kestrels and western grey roos.

Para Wirra Recreation Park (📞 08-8280 7048; www.environment.sa.gov.au; Humbug Scrub Rd, One Tree Hill; per person/car \$4/10; ☀️ 8am-sunset) In the northern Mt Lofty Ranges, a 45km hook south of Tanunda, Parra Wirra offers 1417 hectares of walking tracks, scenic drives, barbecues and tennis courts. Emus search hopefully around picnic areas; western grey roos graze in the dusk.

Warren Conservation Park (📞 08-8280 7048; www.environment.sa.gov.au; Watts Gully Rd, Kersbrook; ☀️ daylight hours) Explore 363 tranquil hectares of wattles, banksias and spring heaths, plus pink, blue and statuesque river red gums. Steep tracks for experienced hikers.

apartments. Downstairs, Duran Duran wails on the jukebox and schnitzels fall off the edges of plates (mains \$18 to \$37, serving noon to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm).

Discovery Holiday Parks

Barossa Valley

CARAVAN PARK \$

(📞 1800 991 590, 08-8563 2784; www.discoveryholidayparks.com.au; Barossa Valley Way; unpowered/powered sites from \$33/36, cabins with/without bathroom from \$115/99, villas from \$285; 🚻 📶 🚰) This spacious park just south of town is dotted with mature trees offering a little shade to ease your hangover. Facilities include a playground, barbecues, a laundry and bike hire for guests (per day \$35). The flashy villas sleep up to six and have a two-night minimum stay.

Stonewell Cottages

B&B \$\$\$

(📞 0417 848 977; www.stonewellcottages.com.au; Stonewell Rd; d cottages incl breakfast from \$335; 🍷) These romantic, waterfront spa retreats and cottages are surrounded by vines and offer unbeatable privacy, comfort and serenity. Pet ducks waddle around rusty old ploughs as waterbirds splash down in the reservoir. Pricy, but worth it (good online specials; cheaper for multinight stays).



Eating

Die Barossa Wurst Haus Bakery

BAKERY \$

(86a Murray St; meals \$4-26; ☀️ 7am-4pm) 'Give people what they want' is the creed at this German bakery, serving *mettwurst* (Bavarian sausage) rolls, cheeses, pies, cakes, strudel and all-day breakfasts. It's hard to go past a

trad German roll with kransky sausage, sauerkraut, cheese and mustard. An emasculating display of phallic wursts dangles above the counter.

Cafe Pod

CAFE \$

(58 Murray St; mains \$10-19; ☀️ 9am-3pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat, 8.30am-4pm Sun; 📶) A casual slice of hippie life on main-street Tanunda, with plenty of GF and vegetarian options, and open fires and macramé rugs for chilly winter mornings. Falafels, Asian fish cakes, sandwiches, veggie burgers, nachos, herbal teas...centre your karma then head back out to the wineries.

★ Ferment Asian

SOUTHEAST ASIAN \$\$

(📞 08-8563 0765; www.fermentasian.com.au; 90 Murray St; mains \$23-33; ☀️ noon-2pm Thu-Sun, 6pm-8.30pm Wed-Sat) In a lovely old stone villa facing Tanunda's main street at a jaunty angle, Ferment always does things a little differently. What sounds exotic is actually refreshingly simple: *cari rau* = yellow vegetable curry; *vit voi hoa chuoi* = duck breast salad. Chef Tuoi Do really knows how to put it all together.

1918 Bistro & Grill

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$

(📞 08-8563 0405; www.1918.com.au; 94 Murray St; mains \$29-40; ☀️ noon-2.30pm daily, 6.30-9pm Mon-Sat, to 8pm Sun) This enduring restaurant occupies a lovely old villa, set back from the street beneath a massive Norfolk Island pine. It's a sassy affair serving adventurous mains such as Szechuan-spiced roast duck with mandarin caramel. Book a verandah table.

i Information

Barossa Visitor Information Centre (📍1300 852 982, 08-8563 0600; www.barossa.com; 66-68 Murray St, Tanunda; ☺9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun; 📶) The low-down on the valley, plus internet access, and accommodation and tour bookings. Stocks the *A Town Walk of Tanunda* brochure.

Nuriootpa

POP 5705

Along an endless main street at the northern end of the valley, Nuriootpa is the Barossa's commercial centre. It's not as endearing as Tanunda or Angaston, but has a certain agrarian appeal. Lutheran spirit runs deep in Nuri: a sign says, 'God has invested in you – are you showing any interest?'

Don't miss a drive along **Seppeltsfield Road** (www.seppeltsfieldroad.com), an incongruous avenue of huge palm trees meandering through the vineyards behind Nuri. Beyond Marananga the palm rows veer off the roadside and track up a hill to the **Seppelt Family Mausoleum** – a Grecian shrine fronted by chunky Doric columns.

🏠 Sleeping & Eating

Barossa Valley Tourist Park CARAVAN PARK \$\$\$ (📍08-8562 1404; www.barossatouristpark.com.au; Penrice Rd; unpowered/powerd sites from \$30/35, cabins from \$78; 📶📶📶) There are at least six different kinds of cabin at this shady park lined with pine trees, next to the Nuriootpa football oval (go Tigers!). All cabins have TVs, fridges and cooking facilities (not all come with with linen). Check out the 1930 Dodge 'House on Wheels' out the front – the seminal caravan?

Whistler Farm B&B \$\$\$ (📍0415 139 758; www.whistlerfarm.com.au; 616 Samuel Rd; d incl breakfast \$250; 📶📶) Surrounded by vineyards and native shrubs, this farmhouse B&B has a private guest wing with exposed timber beams, separate guest entry and two country-style rooms. Snooze on the wide verandah and contemplate a day's successful (or imminent) wine touring.

Barossa Old Garage B&B B&B \$\$\$ (📍0407 203 016; www.barossaoldgaragebnb.com.au; Lot 15 Saleyards Rd; d from \$265, extra person \$75; 📶📶) Until a few years ago this quirky, retro place was actually a garage: now it's a bright B&B crammed full of amazing '50s and '60s memorabilia – everything from an

old petrol pump to Coca-Cola glassware and chrome-and-red-vinyl barstools. Sleeps six in two bedrooms (no kids, sadly).

Maggie Beer's Farm Shop DELI \$ (www.maggibeer.com.au; 50 Pheasant Farm Rd; items \$5-20, picnic baskets from \$16; ☺10.30am-5pm) Celebrity SA gourmet Maggie Beer has been hugely successful with her range of condiments, preserves and pâtés (and TV appearances!). The vibe here isn't as relaxed as it used to be, but stop by for some gourmet tastings, an ice cream, a cooking demo or a takeaway hamper of delicious bites. Off Samuel Rd.

Barossa Indian Cuisine INDIAN \$\$ (📍08-8562 4005; www.barossa-indian-cuisine.com.au; 15 Murray St; mains \$13-19; ☺noon-3pm Wed-Sun, 6-9pm Tue-Sun; 📶) Spice up your Barossa experience with a visit to this converted red-brick bank (love the old brass vault!), now the backdrop for select Indian offerings such as ginger and garlic prawns, vegetable korma and a 'ridiculously tasty' chicken vindaloo.

Angaston

POP 1910

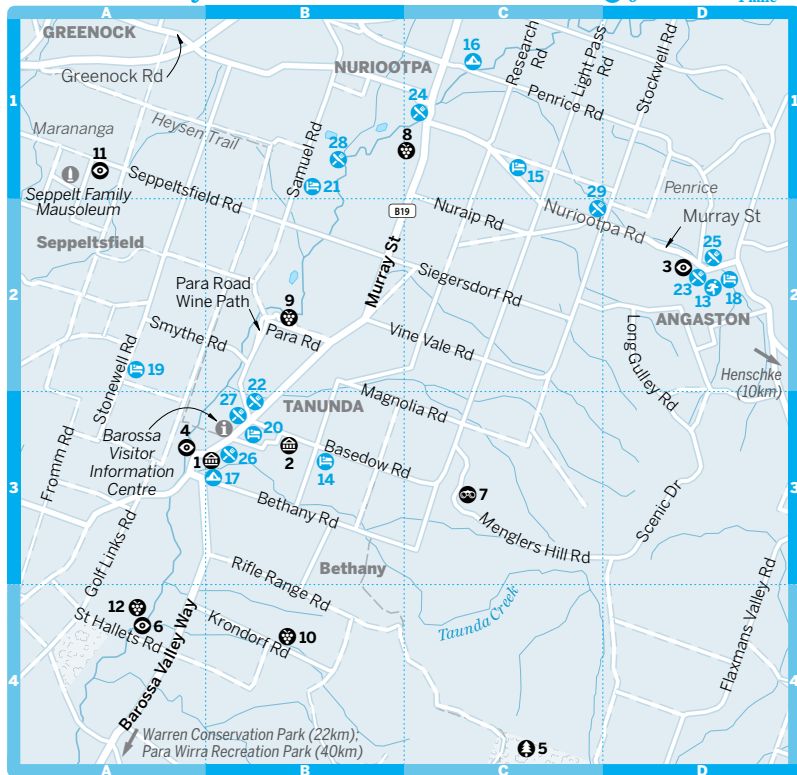
Photo-worthy Angaston was named after George Fife Angas, a pioneering Barossa pastoralist. An agricultural vibe persists, as there are relatively few wineries on the town doorstep: cows graze in paddocks at end of the town's streets, and there's a vague whiff of fertiliser in the air. Along the main drag are two pubs, some terrific eateries and a few B&Bs in old stone cottages (check for double glazing and ghosts – we had a sleepless night!).

👁 Sights

Barossa Valley Cheese Company CHEESE WRIGHT (www.barossacheese.com.au; 67b Murray St; ☺10am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat, 11am-3pm Sun) The Barossa Valley Cheese Company is a fabulously stinky room, selling handmade cheeses from local cows and goats. Tastings are free, but it's unlikely you'll leave without buying a wedge of the Washington Washed Rind.

Barossa Farmers Market MARKET (www.barossafarmersmarket.com; cnr Stockwell & Nuriootpa Rds; ☺7.30-11.30am Sat) Happens in the big farm shed behind Vintners Bar & Grill every Saturday. Expect hearty Germanic

Barossa Valley



Barossa Valley

📍 Sights

- Barossa Farmers Market..... (see 29)
- 1** Barossa Museum..... B3
- 2** Barossa Regional Gallery..... B3
- 3** Barossa Valley Cheese Company..... D2
- 4** Goat Square..... A3
- 5** Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park..... C4
- 6** Keg Factory..... A4
- 7** Mengler Hill Lookout..... C3
- 8** Penfolds..... C1
- 9** Peter Lehmann Wines..... B2
- 10** Rockford Wines..... B4
- 11** Seppeltsfield Road..... A1
- 12** St Hallett..... A4

🏠 Activities, Courses & Tours

- 13** Angaston Hardware..... D2

🛏 Sleeping

- 14** Barossa Backpackers..... B3

- 15** Barossa Old Garage B&B..... C1
- 16** Barossa Valley Tourist Park..... C1
- 17** Discovery Holiday Parks Barossa Valley..... B3
- 18** Marble Lodge..... D2
- 19** Stonewell Cottages..... A2
- 20** Tanunda Hotel..... B3
- 21** Whistler Farm..... B1

🍴 Eating

- 22** 1918 Bistro & Grill..... B3
- 23** Angaston Hotel..... D2
- 24** Barossa Indian Cuisine..... C1
- 25** Blond Coffee..... D2
- 26** Cafe Pod..... B3
- Die Barossa Wurst Haus Bakery..... (see 27)
- 27** Ferment Asian..... B3
- 28** Maggie Beer's Farm Shop..... B1
- 29** Vintners Bar & Grill..... C2

offerings, coffee, flowers, lots of local produce and questionable buskers.

Sleeping & Eating

Marble Lodge

B&B \$\$\$

(☎08-8564 2478; www.marblelodge.com.au; 21 Dean St; d \$225; 🏠🚶) A grandiose 1915 Federation-style villa on the hill behind the town, built from local pink and white granite. Accommodation in two plush suites behind the house (high-colonial or high-kitsch, depending on your world view). Breakfast is served in the main house.

Blond Coffee

CAFE \$

(www.blondcoffee.com.au; 60 Murray St; mains \$6-18; ☺7.30am-4pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-3pm Sat, 9am-3pm Sun) An elegant, breezy room with huge windows facing the main street, Blond serves nutty coffee and all-day cafe fare, including awesome pumpkin, capsicum and feta muffins, plus blackboard specials (beef and shiraz pie!). Fake-blonde, botoxed tourists share the window seats with down-to-earth regulars.

Angaston Hotel

PUB FOOD \$\$

(☎08-8564 2428; www.angastonhotel.com.au; 59 Murray St; mains \$16-30; ☺noon-2.30pm & 6-8.30pm) The better looking of the town's two pubs, the friendly 1846 Angaston serves Barossa wines and the cheapest steaks this side of Argentina. Just try to ignore the *Triumph of Silenus* mural on the dining room wall ('Oh, it's hideous!' says the barmaid). There's basic shared-bathroom pub accommodation upstairs (singles and doubles \$70).

Vintners Bar & Grill

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$

(☎08-8564 2488; www.vintners.com.au; cnr Stockwell & Nuriootpa Rds; mains lunch \$16-36, dinner \$34-39; ☺noon-2.30pm daily, 6.30-9pm Mon-Sat) One of the Barossa's landmark restaurants, Vintners stresses simple elegance in both food and atmosphere. The dining room has an open fire, vineyard views and bolts of crisp white linen; menus concentrate on local produce (pray the cider-baked pork belly is on the menu when you visit).

CLARE VALLEY

At the centre of the fertile midnorth agricultural district, two hours north of Adelaide, this skinny valley produces world-class rieslings and reds. This is gorgeous countryside, with open skies, rounded hills, stands of large gums and wind rippling over wheat

fields. Towns here date from the 1840s; many were built to service the Burra copper mines.

Tours

Adelaide's Top Food & Wine Tours

WINE

(☎08-8386 0888, 0412 268 829; www.topfoodandwinetours.com.au; tours per person incl lunch from \$200) Full-day, small group 'Clare Valley Explorer' tours ex-Adelaide, with a heavy/heady wine focus and some interesting small-town sights en route.

Clare Valley Experiences

TOUR

(☎08-8842 1880; www.clarevalleyexperiences.com; tours per 2 people incl lunch \$430) Small-group winery tours ex-Clare Valley, including a winery lunch. Cheaper per person if you're with a group (eg \$115 per person for five people). Tours with a half day of cycling incorporated also available.

Grape Valley Tours

TOUR

(☎0418 881 075; www.grapevalleytours.com.au; per person incl lunch from \$265) Full-day, small-group tours (two to seven people) ex-Adelaide or the Clare Valley, taking in plenty of wineries and with lunch included (angle the driver towards Skilloalee winery).

Swagabout Tours

TOUR

(☎0408 845 3780, 08-8266 1879; www.swagabouttours.com.au; tours from \$190) Dependable, informative, small-group, full-day Clare Valley day trips, ex-Adelaide. Low on the 'wine ponce' factor.

THE RIESLING TRAIL

Following the course of a disused railway line between Auburn and Barinia, north of Clare, the fabulous Riesling Trail is 33km of wines, wheels and wonderment. It's primarily a **cycling** trail, but the gentle gradient means you can walk or push a pram along it just as easily. It's a two-hour dash end to end on a bike, but why hurry? There are three loop track detours and extensions to explore, and dozens of cellar doors to tempt you along the way. The **Rattler Trail** continues for another 19km south of Auburn to Riverton.

For bike hire, check out **Clare Valley Cycle Hire** (p765) or **Riesling Trail Bike Hire** (p765) in Clare, or **Cogwebs** (p764) in Auburn.

★ Festivals & Events

A Day on the Green

MUSIC

(www.adayonthegreen.com.au) The Barossa's favourite festival comes to Annie's Lane winery in the Clare Valley in February. Jimmy Barnes, Crowded House, Daryl Braithwaite...

Clare Valley Gourmet Weekend

FOOD, WINE

(www.clarevalley.com.au) A frenzy of wine, food and music in May.

Clare Show

FAIR

(www.sacountryshow.com) The largest one-day show in SA, held in October.

📍 Getting There & Around

BICYCLE

In Auburn and Clare you can hire a bike to pelt around the wineries. Rates are around \$25/40 per half/full day.

BUS

Yorke Peninsula Coaches (☎08-8821 2755; www.yproaches.com.au) Runs Adelaide to Auburn (\$32, 2¼ hours) and Clare (\$40, 2¾ hours) Tuesday to Friday and Sunday. Extends to Burra (\$40, 3¼ hours) on Thursday.

TAXI

Clare Valley Taxis (☎08-8842 1400; www.131008.com) Drop-off/pick-up anywhere along the Riesling Trail.

Auburn

POP 320

Sleepy Auburn (1849) – the Clare Valley's southernmost village – is a leave-the-back-door-open-and-the-keys-in-the-ignition kinda town, with a time-warp vibe that makes you feel like you're in an old black-and-white photograph. The streets are defined by beautifully preserved, hand-built stone buildings; cottage gardens overflow with untidy blooms. Pick up a copy of the *Walk with History at Auburn* brochure from the Clare Valley Visitor Information Centre.

Now on the main route to the valley's wineries, Auburn initially serviced bullockies and South American muleteers whose wagons – up to 100 a day – trundled between Burra's copper mines and Port Wakefield.

The brilliant 33km **Riesling Trail** starts (or ends) at the restored Auburn Train Station. **Cogwebs** (☎08-8849 2380, 0400 290 687; www.cogwebs.com.au; 30 Main North Rd; bike hire per half/full day \$25/40, tandems \$35/60; ☉8.30am-6pm, reduced winter hours; 📶) has bike hire (and internet access).

🏠 Sleeping & Eating

Auburn Shiraz Motel

MOTEL \$

(☎08-8849 2125; www.auburnshirazmotel.com.au; Main North Rd; s/d/tr from \$85/95/125; 📶) This small motel on the Adelaide side of town has been proudly renovated with shiraz-coloured render and cabernet-coloured doors. There are nine bright units and friendly hosts. Bike hire \$40 per day.

Rising Sun Hotel

PUB FOOD \$\$

(☎08-8849 2015; www.therisingsunhotel.com.au; 19 Main North Rd; mains \$18-30; ☉noon-2pm & 6-8pm; 📶) This classic 1850 pub has a huge rep for its atmosphere, food and accommodation. The pub food is inventive with plenty of local wines to try. Accommodation takes the form of en suite pub rooms and cottage mews rooms out the back (doubles including breakfast from \$80 and \$125, respectively).

★ Terroir

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$

(☎08-8849 2509; www.facebook.com/terroir.auburn; Main North Rd; mains breakfast \$17-20, lunch \$18-25, dinner \$35-40; ☉noon-2pm & 6-8pm Thu-Sat, 8.30-11am & noon-2pm Sun; 📶) 'Terroir' – a word often associated with the wine trade – defines the nature of a place: its altitude, its soil, its climate, its vibe. At this excellent restaurant it applies to ingredients, sourced seasonally from within 100 miles, and cooked with contemporary savvy. The menu changes weekly (pray for the house halloumi). Love the Mintaro slate floor!

Mintaro

POP 230

Heritage-listed Mintaro (founded 1849; pronounced 'min-tair-oh') is a lovely stone village that could have been lifted out of the Cotswolds and plonked into the Australian bush. There are very few architectural intrusions from the 1900s – the whole place seems to have been largely left to its own devices. A fact for your next trivia night: Mintaro slate is used internationally in the manufacture of billiard tables. Pick up the *Historic Mintaro* pamphlet around the valley.

👁 Sights & Activities

★ Martindale Hall

HISTORIC BUILDING

(☎08-8843 9088; www.martindalehall.com; 1 Maanoora Rd; adult/child \$10/2.50; ☉11am-4pm Mon-Fri, noon-4pm Sat & Sun) Martindale Hall is an astonishing 1880 manor 3km from Mintaro. Built for young pastoralist Edmund Bow-

man Jnr, who subsequently parted away the family fortune (OK, so drought and plummeting wool prices played a part...but it was mostly the partying), the manor features original furnishings, a magnificent black-wood staircase, Mintaro-slate billiard table and an opulent, museumlike smoking room. The hall starred as Appleyard College in the 1975 film *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, directed by Peter Weir. *Mirandaa*...

B&B, and dinner plus B&B, packages allow you to spend a spooky night here (\$130 and \$260, respectively).

Mintaro Maze

MAZE

(www.mintaromaze.com; Jacka Rd; adult/child \$12/8; ☉10am-4pm Thu-Mon, daily school holidays, closed Feb) Hedge your bets at Mintaro Maze as you try to find your way into the middle and back out again. There's a cafe here, too.



Eating

★ Reilly's

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$

(☎08-8843 9013; www.reillyswines.com.au; cnr Hill St & Leasingham Rd; mains \$18-30; ☉10am-4pm) Reilly's started life as a cobbler's shop in 1856. An organic veggie garden out the back supplies the current restaurant, which is decorated with local art and serves creative, seasonal Mod Oz food (antipasto, rabbit terrine, spanikopita) and Reilly's wines. The owners also rent out four gorgeous old stone cottages on Hill St (doubles from \$145).

Magpie & Stump Hotel

PUB FOOD \$\$

(☎08-8843 9014; www.mintaro.com.au/attractions/eateries; Burra St; mains \$18-40; ☉noon-2pm Fri-Sun, 6-8pm Wed-Sat) The old Magpie & Stump was first licensed in 1851, and was a vital rehydration point for the copper carriers travelling between Burra and Port Wakefield. Schnitzels and steaks, log fires, a pool table, Mintaro-slate floors and a sunny beer garden out the front – the perfect pub?

Clare

POP 3280

Named after County Clare in Ireland, this town was founded in 1842 and is the biggest in the valley – it's more practical than charming. All the requisite services are here (post, supermarket, fuel etc), but you'll have a more interesting Clare Valley experience sleeping out of town.

👁 Sights & Activities

Old Police Station Museum

MUSEUM

(☎08-8842 2376; www.nationaltrustsa.org.au; cnr Victoria & Neagles Rock Rd; adult/child \$2/0.50; ☉10am-noon & 2-4pm Sat & Sun) The 1850 cop shop and courthouse is now the Old Police Station Museum, displaying Victorian clothing, old photos, furniture and domestic bits and pieces.

Riesling Trail Bike Hire

BICYCLE RENTAL

(☎0418 777 318; www.rieslingtrailbikehire.com.au; 10 Warena Rd; bike hire per half/full day \$25/40, tandems \$40/60; ☉8am-6pm) Quality two-wheelers (including two-seaters) right on the Riesling Trail itself.

Clare Valley Cycle Hire

BICYCLE RENTAL

(☎08-8842 2782, 0418 802 077; www.clarevalleycyclehire.com.au; 32 Victoria Rd; bike hire per half/full day \$17/25; ☉9am-5pm) Also has baby seats and pull-along buggies for the little 'uns.

🛏 Sleeping

Bungaree Station

B&B \$

(☎08-8842 2677; www.bungareestation.com.au; Main North Rd; per person per night \$59-99; ☹) About 12km north of Clare this beautiful, 170-year-old homestead – once with 50 staff members, a church and a school – is still a 3000-acre working farm. Accommodation is in simple, renovated heritage buildings, sleeping two-to-10, some with shared bathrooms. You can also feed farm animals, walk a history trail (per person \$15) or have a dip in the pool.

Clare Caravan Park

CARAVAN PARK \$

(☎08-8842 2724; www.clarecaravanpark.com.au; Lot 136, Main North Rd; unpowered/powered sites from \$20/35, cabins from \$89; ☹☹☹) This efficiently-run park 4km south of town towards Auburn has secluded sites, all en suite cabins, a creek, and giant gum trees. There's also an in-ground pool for cooling off post-cycling.

Battunga B&B

B&B \$\$

(☎08-8843 0120; www.battunga.com.au; Upper Skilly Rd, Watervale; d/q incl breakfast \$195/315, extra person \$60; ☹) On an 80-hectare farm over the hills 2km west of Watervale (it's a little hard to find – ask for directions), Battunga has four apartments in two stone cottages with Mintaro-slate floors, barbecues, kitchenettes and wood fires. This is beautiful country – undulating farmland studded with huge eucalyptuses.

CLARE VALLEY WINERIES

The Clare Valley's cool microclimates (around rivers, creeks and gullies) noticeably affect the local wines, enabling whites to be laid down for long periods and still be brilliant. The valley produces some of the world's best riesling, plus grand semillon and shiraz.

Hop & Vine (www.clarevalleybrewing.com.au; 20 Main North Rd, Auburn; ☺ 10am-5pm) This charismatic Auburn shopfront is an outlet for the Clare Valley Brewing Co – try their excellent red ale, Australian pale ale and grape cider. It's also the cellar door for three valley vineyards: Jeanneret, County Clare and Good Catholic Girl. Good bang for your buck!

Knappstein (www.knappstein.com.au; 2 Pioneer Ave, Clare; ☺ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 11am-5pm Sat, 11am-4pm Sun) Taking a minimal-intervention approach to wine making, Knappstein has built quite a name for itself. Shiraz and riesling steal the show, but they also make a mighty fine semillon-sauvignon blanc blend (and beer!).

Pikes (www.pikeswines.com.au; Polish Hill River Rd, Sevenhill; ☺ 10am-4pm) The industrious Pike family set up shop in 1984, and have been producing show-stopping riesling ever since (and shiraz, sangiovese, pinot grigio, viognier...). It also bottles up the zingy 'Oak-bank Pilsener', if you're parched.

Sevenhill Cellars (☎ 08-8843 4222; www.sevenhill.com.au; College Rd, Sevenhill; ☺ 10am-5pm) Want some religion with your drink? This place was established by Jesuits in 1851, making it the oldest winery in the Clare Valley (check out the incredible 1866 St Aloysius Church). Oh, and the wine is fine, too!

Skillogalee (☎ 08-8843 4311; www.skillogalee.com.au; 23 Trevarrick Rd, Sevenhill; ☺ 10am-5pm) Skillogalee is a small family outfit known for its spicy shiraz, fabulous food and top-notch riesling (a glass of which is like kissing a pretty girl on a summer afternoon). Kick back with a long, lazy lunch on the verandah (mains \$20 to \$35; book ahead).

Riesling Trail & Clare Valley Cottages

(☎ 0427 842 232; www.rtcvcottages.com.au; 9 Warenda Rd; d incl breakfast from \$150, extra person \$50; ☹) A well-managed outfit offering seven contemporary cottages, encircled by country gardens and right on the Riesling Trail (Riesling Trail Bike Hire (p765) is across the street). The biggest cottage sleeps six; there are good deals on multnight stays.

Eating

Wild Saffron CAFE \$
(☎ 08-8842 4255; www.wildsaffron.com.au; 288 Main North Rd; mains \$7-18; ☺ 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-12.30pm Sat, 9am-12.30pm Sun) We're not sure how much wild saffron grows in the Clare Valley (most of it seems to be 'under vine', as they say), but this cafe is hugely popular, regardless. No surprises on the menu (focaccias, steak sandwiches, soup, homemade cakes), but it's simple stuff done well.

Artisans Table MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$
(☎ 08-8842 1796; www.artisanstable.com.au; Lot 3, Wendouree Rd; mains \$28-32; ☺ noon-3pm Sat & Sun, 6-9pm Wed-Sat) This mod, airy, hillside bar-restaurant has a broad, sunny balcony – perfect for a bottle of local riesling and some

internationally inspired culinary offerings: a bit of Thai, a bit of Indian, a bit of Brazilian... Lots of seasonal and local produce.

Information

Clare Valley Visitor Information Centre
(☎ 1800 242 131, 08-8842 2131; www.clarevalley.com.au; 33 Old North Rd; ☺ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat & Sun; ☹) Local info, internet access, valley-wide accommodation bookings and the *Clare History Walk* brochure. Located inside the Clare Library.

MURRAY RIVER

On the lowest gradient of any Australian river, the slow-flowing Murray hooks through 650 South Australian kilometres. Tamed by weirs and locks, the Murray irrigates the fruit trees and vines of the sandy **Riverland** district to the north, and winds through the dairy country of the **Murraylands** district to the south. Flocks of white corellas and pink galahs launch from cliffs and river red gums, darting across lush vineyards and orchards.

Prior to European colonisation, the Murray was home to Meru communities. Then came shallow-draught paddle steamers,

carrying wool, wheat and supplies from Murray Bridge as far as central Queensland along the Darling River. With the advent of railways, river transport declined. These days, waterskiers, jet skis and houseboats crowd out the river, especially during summer. If your concept of riverine serenity doesn't include the roar of V8 inboards, then avoid the major towns and caravan parks during holidays and weekends.

i Getting There & Away

LinkSA (www.linksa.com.au) runs several daily bus services between Adelaide and Murray Bridge (\$22, 1¼ hours) sometimes via a bus change at Mt Barker in the Adelaide Hills; plus Murray Bridge to Mannum (\$8, 30 minutes) from Monday to Friday.

Premier Staterliner (www.premierstaterliner.com.au) runs daily Riverland buses from Adelaide, stopping in Waikerie (\$45, 2½ hours), Barmera (\$56, 3¼ hours), Berri (\$56, 3½ hours) and Renmark (\$56, four hours). Buses stop at Loxton (\$56, 3¾ hours) daily, except Saturday.

Murray Bridge

POP 16,710

SA's largest river town is a rambling regional hub (the fifth-biggest town in SA) with lots of old pubs, an underutilised riverfront, a huge prison and charms more subtle than obvious.

i Sights & Activities

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery GALLERY (www.murraybridgegallery.com.au; 27 Sixth St; ☺ 10am-4pm Tue-Sat, 11am-4pm Sun) **FREE** This is the town's cultural epicentre, a great space housing touring and local exhibitions: paintings, ceramics, glassware, jewellery and prints. A terrific diversion on a rainy afternoon.

Monarto Zoo ZOO (www.monartozoo.com.au; Princes Hwy, Monarto; adult/child/family \$32.50/18/85; ☺ 9.30am-5pm, last entry 3pm) About 14km west of Murray Bridge, this excellent open-range zoo is home to Australian and African beasts including cheetahs, rhino, zebras and giraffe (and the photogenic offspring thereof). A hop-on/hop-off bus tour is included in the price; keeper talks happen throughout the day.

Riverglen Marina Kayak Hire KAYAKING (☺ 08-8532 1986; www.riverglen.com.au; Jervois Rd; per hr kayaks/lifejackets \$10/2.50) Hire a two-person kayak for a DIY river exploration.

Captain Proud Paddle Boat Cruises CRUISE (☺ 0466 304 092; www.captainproud.com.au; Wharf Rd; 3hr cruises lunch/dinner \$59/79) Mainstream river cruises with lunch or dinner to boot. Call for times and bookings.

i Sleeping & Eating

Houseboating on the Murray is a popular option. See p1074 for more details.

Balcony on Sixth LODGE \$\$ (☺ 08-8531 1411; www.balconyonsixth.com.au; 6 Sixth Ave; s/d without bathroom \$109/159, d/f with bathroom \$189/259; ☺☺) Upstairs in this reimagined 1918 corner building are 10 surprisingly mod motel-style rooms. Very central, and with a long balcony above the street on which to sit, sip and survey. Two- and three-bedroom apartments also available (from \$259).

Murray Bridge Hotel PUB \$\$ (☺ 08-8532 2024; www.murraybridgehotel.com.au; 20 Sixth St; mains \$16-31; ☺ noon-2pm & 6-8pm; ☺) There are plenty of rambling old pubs around town, but the stately Murray Bridge Hotel is your best bet for a feed, with roasts, sticky BBQ beef ribs and more seafood than steaks. Savvy wine list, too.

i Information

Murray Bridge Visitor Information Centre (☺ 08-8339 1142, 1800 442 784; www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au; 3 South Tce; ☺ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) Stocks the Murray Bridge *Accommodation Guide* and *Dining Guide* brochures, and history walk and drive pamphlets. Also has information on river-cruise operators.

Mannum to Waikerie

Clinging to a narrow strip of riverbank 84km east of Adelaide, improbably cute **Mannum** (population 2170) is the unofficial houseboat capital of the world! The *Mary Ann*, Australia's first riverboat, was knocked together here in 1853 and made the first paddle-steamer trip up the Murray. The Mannum Visitor Information Centre (p768) incorporates the **Mannum Dock Museum of River History** (☺ 08-8569 1303, 1300 626 686; www.psmarion.com; 6 Randell St; adult/child \$7.50/3.50; ☺ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun), featuring info on local Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal communities, an 1876 dry dock and the restored 1897 paddle steamer *PS Marion*, on which you can occasionally chug around the river.

Breeze Holiday Hire (☺ 0439 829 964; www.murrayriver.com.au/breeze-holiday-hire-1052)

hires out canoes and kayaks (per day \$75), dinghies with outboards (per day \$95) and fishing gear (per day \$15); they can get you waterskiing, too.

From Mannum to Swan Reach, the eastern riverside road often tracks a fair way east of the river, but various lookouts en route help you scan the scene. Around 9km south of Swan Reach, the Murray takes a tight meander called **Big Bend**, a sweeping river curve with pock-marked, ochre-coloured cliffs.

Sedentary old **Swan Reach** (population 850), 70km southwest of Waikerie, is a bit of a misnomer: there's an old pub, a museum and plenty of pelicans, but not many swans.

A citrus-growing centre oddly festooned with TV antennas, **Waikerie** (population 4630) takes its name from the Aboriginal phrase for 'anything that flies'. There's plenty of bird life around here, with 180 species recorded at **Gluepot Reserve** (☎08-8892 8600, Shell service station 08-8541 2621; www.gluepot.org; Gluepot Rd; cars per day/overnight \$5/10; ☀8am-6pm), a mallee scrub area 64km north of Waikerie (off Lunn Rd) that's part of Unesco's Riverland Biosphere Reserve. Before you head off, check with Waikerie's Shell service station on Peake Tee to see if you'll need a gate key.

Also in Waikerie is **Nippy's** (www.nippys.com.au; 2 lan Oliver Dr, Waikerie; ☀8am-4pm Mon-Fri), a local fruit-juice company with factory-front sales.

Tours

Proud Mary CRUISE
(☎08-8406 4444; www.proudmmary.com.au; 1½hr tours adult/child \$60/42.50) Lunch cruises on a big boat on the big river, departing Mannum on Mondays. Brush up on your Creedence Clearwater Revival lyrics.

Jester Cruises CRUISE
(☎0419 909 116; www.jestercruises.com.au; 1/2hr tours per person \$16/36, 2hr tours incl lunch \$44) Cruise up and down the river from Mannum on the 40-seat *Jester*, running most days. Minimum numbers apply.

Sleeping & Eating

Mannum Caravan Park CARAVAN PARK \$
(☎08-8569 1402; www.mannumcaravanpark.com.au; Purnong Rd, Mannum; unpowered/powered sites from \$29/32, cabins/villas from \$64/132; 📶📶📶) A clean-cut caravan park right on the river next to the Mannum ferry crossing. Ducks and water hens patrol the lawns, and there's a pool table in the games

room for when it rains. Lots of shade-giving gums.

Murray River Queen HOSTEL \$
(☎0410 416 655; www.murrayriverqueen.com; Leonard Norman Dr, Waikerie; dm \$30, d with/without bathroom from \$90/55; 📶📶) This 1974 paddle boat is done with chugging up and down the river: these days it's a floating backpackers on the Waikerie riverfront, with basic bunkrooms – low-ceilinged and a tad dim, but undeniably novel. Also onboard are a bar, pool table, sundeck and Thai cafe (mains \$14 to \$20). Popular with the fruit-picking set.

★ **Waikerie Hotel Motel** HOTEL, MOTEL \$\$
(☎08-8541 2999; www.waikeriehotel.com; 2 McCoy St, Waikerie; d \$99-149; 📶📶) Much of this pub burnt down in 2012, two days shy of its 100th birthday! The 19 rebuilt en suite pub rooms upstairs are awesome: fancy linen, bar fridges and big TVs, with leather and granite everywhere. The bistro does pub-grub classics (mains \$16 to \$35). Slightly cheaper are the updated motel rooms out the back.

River Shack Rentals ACCOMMODATION SERVICES \$\$
(☎0447 263 549; www.rivershackrentals.com.au; d from \$100) Offers a raft of riverside properties to rent from Mannum heading upstream, sleeping two to 20 bods. Most of them are right on the water: 36 River Lane is a solid Mannum-centric option with room for 10 (from \$450). Houseboats also available.

Pretoria Hotel PUB FOOD \$\$
(☎08-8569 1109; www.pretoriahotel.com.au; 50 Randell St, Mannum; mains \$18-32; ☀11.30am-2.30pm & 5.30-8.30pm) The family-friendly Pretoria (built 1900) has a vast bistro and deck fronting the river, and plates up big steaks, roo medallions, parmas and good seafood. When the 1956 flood swamped the town they kept pouring beer from the 1st-floor balcony!

Information

Mannum Visitor Information Centre (☎1300 626 686, 08-8569 1303; www.psmarion.com; 6 Randell St; ☀9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) Cruise and houseboat bookings, *Mannum Historic Walks* brochures and the Mannum Dock Museum of River History (p767).

Barmera & Around

On the shallow shores of Lake Bonney (upon which world land-speed record holder Donald Campbell unsuccessfully attempted to

break his water-speed record in 1964), snoozy **Barmera** (population 3020) was once a key town on the overland stock route from NSW. These days the local passion for both kinds of music (country *and* western) lends a simple optimism to proceedings. **Kingston-On-Murray** (population 260; aka Kingston OM) is a tiny town en route to Waikerie.

Sights & Activities

The once ephemeral **Lake Bonney** has been transformed into a permanent lake ringed by large, drowned red gums, whose stark branches are often festooned with birds. If you're feeling uninhibited, you might like to know that there's a nudist beach at **Pelican Point Holiday Park** (www.riverland.net.au/pelicanpoint) on the lake's western shore.

There are wildlife reserves with walking trails and camping (per person/car \$6/10) at **Moorook** on the road to Loxton, and **Loch Luna** across the river from Kingston-On-Murray. Loch Luna backs onto the Overland Corner Hotel. Both reserves have nature trails and are prime spots for birdwatching and canoeing. Self-register camping permits are available at reserve entrances.

There are also **walking trails** at the Overland Corner Hotel.

★ **Banrock Station Wine & Wetland Centre**

WINERY

(☎ 08-8583 0299; www.banrockstation.com.au; Holmes Rd, Kingston OM; tastings free, wetland walks by gold-coin donation; ☺ 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, to 5pm Sat & Sun) 🍃 Overlooking regenerated, feral-proofed wetlands off the Sturt Hwy at Kingston OM, carbon-neutral Banrock Station Wine & Wetland Centre is a stylish, rammed-earth wine-tasting centre (love the tempranillo). Their jazzy lunchtime restaurant (mains \$20 to \$30 – try the Banrock pizza) uses ingredients sourced locally. There are three **wetland walks** here too: 2.5km, 4.5km and 8km.

Rocky's Hall of Fame Pioneers Museum

MUSEUM

(www.murrayriver.com.au/barmera/rockys-hall-of-fame-pioneers-museum; 4 Pascoe Tce, Barmera; admission \$2; ☺ 9am-noon Mon, Wed & Thu, 8.30am-noon Fri) Country music is a big deal in Barmera, with the **South Australian Country Music Festival & Awards** (www.riverlandcountrymusic.com) happening here in June, and Rocky's Museum blaring sincere rural twangings down the main street from outdoor speakers. Don't miss the 35m Botanical

Garden Guitar out the back, inlaid with the handprints of 160 country musos: Slim Dusty to Kasey Chambers and everyone in-between.

Sleeping & Eating

Discovery Holiday Parks

Lake Bonney

CARAVAN PARK \$

(☎ 08-8588 2234; www.discoveryholidayparks.com.au; Lakeside Ave, Barmera; unpowered/power sites from \$22/31, cabins from \$94; 🍷 🍷 🍷) This keenly managed, facility-rich lakeside park has small beaches (safe swimming), electric barbecues, a camp kitchen, a laundry and plenty of room for kids to run amok. Lots of trees and waterfront camp sites too, plus tandems, canoes and paddleboats for hire.

Barmera Lake Resort Motel

MOTEL \$

(☎ 08-8588 2555; www.barmeralakeresortmotel.com.au; Lakeside Dr, Barmera; d \$80-135, f from \$195; 🍷 🍷) Right across the road from the lake, this tidy, good-value motel has a pool, in case the lake is looking a bit soupy. Rooms are compact and nothing flash, but they're immaculate and many have lake views.

Overland Corner Hotel

PUB FOOD \$\$

(☎ 08-8588 7021; www.overlandcornerhotel.com.au; 205 Old Coach Rd; mains \$16-28; ☺ noon-2pm Tue-Sun, 6-8pm Fri & Sat) About 19km northwest of Barmera, this moody 1859 boozier is named after a Murray River bend where drovers used to camp. The pub walls ooze character and the meals are drover sized, plus there's a museum, resident ghosts, a beaut beer garden and four walking trails leading down to the river (pick up the *Historic Overland Corner* brochure in Barmera).

Information

Barmera Visitor Information Centre (☎ 08-8588 2289; www.barmeratourism.com.au; Barwell Ave, Barmera; ☺ 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat & Sun) Can help with transport and accommodation bookings. Pick up the *Historic Overland Corner and Heritage Walk Barmera* walking trail brochures.

Loxton

POP 3780

Sitting above a broad loop of the slow-roaming Murray, Loxton proclaims itself the 'Garden City of the Riverland'. The vibe here is low-key, agricultural and untouristy, with more tyre distributors, hardware shops and irrigation supply outlets than anything else.

Sights & Activities

From Loxton you can canoe across to **Katarapko Creek** in the **Murray River National Park** (www.environment.sa.gov.au); hire canoes from Loxton Riverfront Caravan Park.

Tree of Knowledge

LANDMARK

(Grant Schubert Dr) Down by the river near the caravan park, the Tree of Knowledge is marked with flood levels from previous years. The bumper flows of 1931, '73, '74, '75, and 2011 were totally outclassed by the flood-to-end-all-floods of 1956, marked about 4m up the trunk.

Loxton Historic Village

MUSEUM

(www.thevillageloxton.com.au; Allen Hosking Dr; adult/child/family \$12.50/6.50/32; ☺ 10am-4pm) Down by the river, the mildly kitsch (but nonetheless interesting) Loxton Historic Village is a re-created time warp of 45 dusty, rusty old buildings and old country curios.

Sleeping

Loxton Riverfront Caravan Park

CARAVAN PARK \$

(☎ 1800 887 733, 08-8584 7862; www.lrcp.com.au; 1 Sophie Edington Dr; unpowered/powered sites from \$27/32, cabins with/without bathroom from \$115/85; ♿ ♿) On the gum-studded Habels Bend, 2km from town, this affable riverside park bills itself as 'The Quiet One'. You can hire a canoe (per hour \$15), and there's a free nine-hole golf course (usually sandy, occasionally flooded). Free wi-fi.

Loxton Hotel

HOTEL, MOTEL \$\$

(☎ 1800 656 686, 08-8584 7266; www.loxtonhotel.com.au; 45 East Tce; hotel s/d from \$90/115, motel from \$135/150; ♿ ♿ ♿) With all profits siphoned back into the Loxton community, this large complex offers immaculate rooms with tasty weekend packages. The original pub dates from 1908, and it has been relentlessly extended. Bistro meals available for breakfast, lunch and dinner (mains \$18 to \$32). Free wi-fi, too.

Information

Loxton Visitor Information Centre (☎ 1300 869 990, 08-8584 8071; www.loxtontourism.com.au; Bookpurnong Tce, Loxton Roundabout; ☺ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun) A friendly place for accommodation, transport and national-park info, plus there's an art gallery and local dried fruits for sale. Look for the *History Walk of Loxton* brochure.

Berri

POP 4110

The name Berri derives from the Aboriginal term *berri berri*, meaning 'big bend in the river', and it was once a busy refuelling stop for wood-burning paddle steamers. These days Berri is an affluent regional hub for both state government and agricultural casual-labour agencies; it's one of the best places to chase down casual harvest jobs.

Sights & Activities

Road access to the scenic **Katarapko Creek** section of the **Murray River National Park** (www.environment.sa.gov.au) is off the Stuart Hwy between Berri and Barmera. This is a beaut spot for bush camping (per car/person \$10/6), canoeing and birdwatching.

Riverland Farmers Market

MARKET

(www.riverlandfarmersmarket.org.au; Crawford Tce, Senior Citizens Hall; ☺ 7.30-11.30am Sat) All the good stuff that grows around here in one place. A bacon-and-egg roll and some freshly squeezed orange juice will right your rudder.

A Special Place for Jimmy James

GARDENS

(Riverview Dr; ☺ 24hr) A short amble from the visitor centre, this living riverbank memorial honours an Aboriginal tracker who could 'read the bush like a newspaper'. Whimsical tracks and traces are scattered around granite boulders.

River Lands Gallery

GALLERY

(www.courtyardsarts.org.au; 23 Wilson St; ☺ 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat) As the murals and totem poles around the base of Berri Bridge attest, Berri is an arty kinda town. This gallery displays local, Indigenous and travelling painting, sculpture, weaving and digital media exhibitions.

Canoe Adventures

CANOEING

(☎ 0421 167 645; www.canoeadventure.com.au; canoe hire per half/full day \$55/65, tours per adult/child half day \$75/50, full day \$120/80) Canoe hire, guided canoe trips and camping expeditions, ahoy! This outfit conducts all of the above from its Berri base, and can also deliver to most Riverland towns.

BMS Tours

CRUISE

(☎ 0408 282 300; www.houseboatadventure.com.au; tours from \$70) Murray tours from Berri on an Everglades-style airboat called *Elka*. Call for bookings, times and minimum numbers.

Sleeping & Eating

Berri Backpackers

HOSTEL \$

(☎ 08-8582 3144; www.berribackpackers.com.au; 1081 Old Sturt Hwy; dm per night/week \$35/160; 🏠🚻) This eclectic hostel is destination *numero uno* for work-seeking travellers, who chill out in quirky New Age surrounds after a hard day's manual toil. Rooms range from messy dorms to doubles, share houses, a tepee and a yurt – all for the same price. The managers can hook you up with harvest work (call in advance).

Berri Hotel

HOTEL, MOTEL \$\$

(☎ 1800 088 226, 08-8582 1411; www.berrihotel.com; Riverview Dr; hotel s/d \$77/145, motel d/f \$155/175; 🏠🚻🚿) This mustard-and-maroon monolith near the river has hotel rooms (shared bathrooms) and a wing of spacious en suite motel rooms. The cavernous bistro serves upmarket pub grub (mains \$19 to \$33, open for dinner), or there's a cafe for lighter breakfasts and lunches. A slick operation, albeit a bit Vegas. Free wi-fi.

Sprouts Café

CAFE \$

(☎ 08-8582 1228; www.sproutscafe.com.au; 28 Wilson St; mains \$7-14; ☺ 8.30am-4pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-1pm Sat) A cheery new cafe on the hill a few blocks back from the river, with a natty lime-green colour scheme. Serves soups, quiches, burgers, curries, wraps and good coffee. Homemade cakes, scones and chocolate pecan pudding, too.

Information

Berri Visitor Information Centre (☎ 08-8582 5511, 1300 768 582; www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au; Riverview Dr; ☺ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat, 10am-2pm Sun) Right by the river, with brochures, internet, maps, waterproof canoeing guides (\$10) and clued-up staff.

Renmark

POP 7500

Renmark is the first major river town across from the Victorian border, and is about 254km from Adelaide. It's not a pumping tourist destination by any means; it has a relaxed vibe and a grassy waterfront, where you can pick up a houseboat. This is the hub of the Riverland wine region: lurid signs on the roads into town scream 'Buy 6 Get 1 Free!' and 'Bulk port \$5/litre!' On the other side of the river, 4km upstream, is Renmark's low-key satellite town, Paringa.

RIVERLAND FRUIT PICKING

The fruit- and grape-growing centres of Berri, Barmera, Waikerie, Loxton and Renmark are always seeking harvest workers. Work is seasonal but there's usually something that needs picking (stone fruit, oranges, grapes, apples...), except for mid-September to mid-October and mid-April to mid-May when things get a bit quiet. If you have a valid working visa and don't mind sweating it out in the fields (for around \$100 a day once you get the hang of it), ask the local backpacker hostels about work. Also try the **MADEC Labour Hire** (☎ 08-8586 1900; www.madec.edu.au; 8 Ral Ral Ave, Renmark) office in Renmark and the **National Harvest Information Service** (☎ 1800 062 332; www.jobsearch.gov.au/harvestrail).

Sights & Activities

Chowilla Regional Reserve

NATURE RESERVE

(www.environment.sa.gov.au) Upstream from town, Chowilla is great for bush camping (per person/car \$6/10), canoeing and bushwalking. Access is along the north bank from Renmark or along the south bank from Paringa. For more info, contact the **Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources** (DEWNR; ☎ 08-8595 2111; 28 Vaughan Tce, Berri) in Berri.

Riverland Leisure Canoe Tours

CANOEING

(☎ 08-8595 5399; www.riverlandcanoes.com.au; half-/full-day tours \$75/120) Slow-paced guided canoe tours on the Murray, departing Paringa, across the river from Renmark. Canoe/kayak hire (per day \$65/55) and evening and moonlight tours also available.

Sleeping & Eating

BIG4 Renmark Riverfront Holiday Park

CARAVAN PARK \$

(☎ 1300 664 612, 08-8586 6315; www.big4renmark.com.au; Sturt Hwy; unpowered/powered sites from \$30/42, cabins with/without bathroom from \$104/80; 🏠🚻🚿) Highlights of this spiffy riverfront park, 1km east of town, include a camp kitchen, canoe and paddleboat hire, and absolute waterfront cabins and powered sites. The newish corrugated-iron cabins are top notch, and look a little 'Riviera' surrounded by scraggy palms. The waterskiing fraternity swarms here during holidays.

Renmark Hotel

HOTEL, MOTEL \$\$

(☎1800 736 627, 08-8586 6755; www.renmarkhotel.com.au; Murray Ave; hotel/motel d from \$90/110; ♿) What a beauty! The sexy art deco curves of Renmark's huge pub are looking good. Choose from older-style hotel rooms and upmarket motel rooms. On a sultry evening it's hard to beat a cold beer and some grilled barramundi on the balcony at Nanya Bistro (mains \$18 to \$37, serving noon to 2.30pm and 5.30pm to 9pm). Free wi-fi.

Renmark Club

PUB FOOD \$\$

(☎08-8586 6611; www.renmarkclub.com.au; Murray Ave; mains \$13-35; ☺noon-2.30pm & 6-8.30pm) Right on the river, this old pub/club has been reborn as a shiny mod bistro, serving upmarket pub food (rustic shank pie, brandy-braised beef cheeks) with unbeatable water views. The club also runs the slick new taupe-and-timber **Renmark Holiday Apartments** (☎1300 855 563; www.renmarkholidayapartments.com.au; 161 Murray Ave; 1-/2-bedroom apt from \$195/235; ♿), across the road.

i Information**Renmark Paringa Visitor Information Centre**

(☎1300 661 704, 08-8586 6704; www.visitrenmark.com; 84 Murray Ave; ☺9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) Has the usual local info, brochures and contacts for backpacker accommodation around town, plus an interpretive centre and bike hire (per half-/full-day \$25/40). The recommissioned 1911 paddle steamer *PS Industry* goes for a 90-minute chug every Sunday (adult/child \$20/10).

LIMESTONE COAST

The Limestone Coast – strung-out along southeastern SA between the flat, olive span of the lower Murray River and the Victorian border – is a curiously engaging place. On the highways you can blow across these flatlands in under a day, no sweat, but around here the delight is in the detail. Detour off-road to check out the area's lagoons, surf beaches and sequestered bays. Also on offer are wine regions, photogenic fishing ports and snoozy agricultural towns. And what's *below* the road is even more amazing: a bizarre subterranean landscape of limestone caves, sinkholes and bottomless crater lakes – a broad, formerly volcanic area that's known as the **Kanawinka Geopark** (www.kanawinkageopark.org.au).

i Getting There & Away

The Dukes Hwy (Rte A8) is the most direct route between Adelaide and Melbourne (729km), but the coastal Princes Hwy (Rte B1; about 900km) adjacent to the Coorong National Park, is definitely more scenic.

AIR

Regional Express (Rex; www.regionalexpress.com.au) flies daily between Adelaide and Mount Gambier (one way from \$170).

BUS

Premier Stataliner (www.premierstateliner.com.au) runs two bus routes – coastal and inland – between Adelaide and Mount Gambier (\$80, six hours). From Adelaide along the coast (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday) via the Coorong you can stop at Meningie (\$39, two hours), Robe (\$70, 4½ hours) and Beachport (\$74, five hours). The inland bus runs daily via Naracoorte (\$74, five hours) and Penola (\$76, 5½ hours).

Coorong National Park

The amazing **Coorong National Park** (www.environment.sa.gov.au) is a fecund lagoon landscape curving along the coast for 145km from Lake Alexandrina towards Kingston SE. A complex series of soaks and salt pans, it's separated from the sea by the chunky dunes of the **Youngusband Peninsula**. More than 200 species of waterbirds live here. *Storm Boy*, an endearing film about a young boy's friendship with a pelican (based on the novel by Colin Thiele), was filmed here.

In the 1800s the bountiful resources of the Coorong supported a large Ngarrindjeri population. The Ngarrindjeri are still connected to the Coorong, and many still live here.

At the edge of the Coorong on **Lake Albert** (a large arm of Lake Alexandrina), **Meningie** (population 900) was established as a minor port in 1866. These 'lower lakes' have returned to life recently in the wake of the 2011 Murray River floods. A momentary reprieve from climate change? Time will tell...

The Princes Hwy scuttles through the park, but you can't see much from the road. Instead, take the 13km, unsealed **Coorong Scenic Drive**. Signed as Seven Mile Rd, it starts 10km southwest of Meningie off the Narrung Rd, and takes you right into the landscape, with its stinky lagoons, sea mists, fishing shanties, pelicans, black swans and wild emus. The road rejoins the Princes Hwy 10km south of Meningie.

With a 4WD you can access **Ninety Mile Beach**, a well-known surf-fishing spot. The easiest ocean access point is 3km off the Princes Hwy at 42 Mile Crossing, 19km south of Salt Creek – a worthy dirt-road detour.

On the southern fringe of the Coorong is Kingston SE (population 2200; www.kingstonse.com.au). The town is a hotbed of crayfishing; try some nearby at the **Cape Jaffa Seafood & Wine Festival** (www.capejaffafest.com.au) in January. One of Australia's 'big' tourist attractions, the anatomically correct **Larry the Lobster**, is a famed resident.

For a watery perspective, try Spirit of the Coorong (p744) cruises or Canoe the Coorong (p744), both based in Goolwa on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Sleeping & Eating

There are 11 bush **camp sites** (www.environment.sa.gov.au; per person/car \$7/13) in the park; book online via the DEWNR website (www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks). There are also 'honesty boxes' at most of the campgrounds.

Lake Albert Caravan Park CARAVAN PARK \$ (☎ 08-8575 1411; www.lakealbertcaravanpark.com.au; 25 Narrung Rd, Meningie; unpowered/powerd sites from \$20/30, cabins with/without bathroom from \$110/75; 🏠 🚻) A breezy park with a beaut aspect overlooking pelican-prone Lake Albert (the best camp sites are right on the lakefront). The four deluxe two-bedroom cabins (\$155) are the pick of the cabins.

★ **Dalton on the Lake** B&B \$\$ (☎ 0428 737 161; admason@lm.net.au; 30 Narrung Rd, Meningie; d from \$145; 🏠) Generous in spirit and unfailingly clean, this lakeside B&B goes to great lengths to ensure your stay is comfortable. There'll be fresh bread baking when you arrive, jars of homemade biscuits, and bountiful bacon and eggs for breakfast. There's a modern self-contained studio off to one side, and a renovated stone cottage – book either, or both.

Cheese Factory Restaurant PUB FOOD \$\$ (☎ 08-8575 1914; www.meningie.com.au; 3 Fiebig Rd, Meningie; mains \$15-33; ☺ 10.30am-3pm Tue-Sun, 5.30pm-late Wed-Sat) Lean on the front bar with the locals, or munch into steaks, schmitzels, Coorong mullet or a Coorong wrap (with mullet!) in the cavernous dining room of this converted cheese factory (you might have guessed!). The very lo-fi **Meningie Cheese Factory Museum** (☎ 08-8575 1914; www.meningiecheesefactorymuseum.

com; admission \$5; ☺ 8.30am-5pm) is here too (butter churns, old typewriters, domestic knick-knackery).

Information

Meningie Visitor Information Centre (Coorong Cottage Industries; ☎ 08-8575 1770; www.meningie.com.au; 14 Princes Hwy; ☺ 10am-4.30pm) Coorong camping permits and local info.

Robe

POP 1020

Robe is a cherubic little fishing port that's become a holiday hotspot for Adelaidians and Melburnians alike. The sign saying 'Drain I Outlet' as you roll into town doesn't promise much, but along the main street you'll find quality eateries and boundless accommodation, and there are some magic beaches and lakes around town. Over Christmas and Easter, Robe is packed to the heavens – book *waay* in advance.

Sights & Activities

Heritage-listed buildings dating from the late 1840s to the 1870s litter the streets of Robe, including the upstanding little 1863 **Customs House** (www.nationaltrustsa.org.au; Royal Circus; adult/child \$2/0.50; ☺ 2-4pm Tue & Sat Feb-Dec, 2-4pm Mon-Sat Jan), now a nautical museum.

Little Dip Conservation Park (www.environment.sa.gov.au) **FREE** runs along the coast for about 13km south of town. It features a variety of habitats including lakes, wetlands and dunes, and some beaut beaches, Aboriginal middens, walks and camping spots (per person/car \$7/13). Access is via Nora Creina Rd.

Robe's small town beach has safe swimming, while **Long Beach** (2km from town), is good for surfing, sailboarding and lazy days (safe swimming in some sections – ask at the visitors centre). **Stevie's Place** (☎ 08-8768 2094; stevesplace66@internode.on.net; 26 Victoria St; ☺ 9.30am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-1pm Sat, 10am-1pm Sun) rents out boards (per day \$40), bodyboards (\$20) and wetsuits (\$20). It's also the place for info on surfing lessons and the annual **Robe Easter Classic** in April, SA's longest-running surf comp (since 1968).

Sleeping

Local rental agents with properties from as low as \$80 per night in the off season include **Happyshack** (☎ 08-8768 2341, 0403 578

382; www.happyshack.com.au), **SAL Real Estate** (☎ 08-8768 2737; www.salrealestate.com.au; 25 Victoria St) and **Robe Lifestyle** (☎ 1300 760 629; www.robelifestyle.com.au).

Caledonian Inn HOTEL \$
(☎ 08-8768 2029; www.caledonian.net.au; 1 Victoria St; d from \$75; 🍷) This historic inn (1859) has a half-dozen bright and cosy upstairs pub rooms with shared bathrooms – great value. The pub grub is good, too (mains \$17 to \$40, serving noon to 2pm and 6pm to 8.30pm).

Lakeside Tourist Park CARAVAN PARK \$
(☎ 08-8768 2193; www.lakesiderobe.com.au; 24 Main Rd; unpowered/powerd sites from \$34/35, cabins/villas from \$70/105; 🚻📶📶) Right on Lake Fellmongery (a ‘fellmonger’ is a wool washer, don’t you know), this abstractly laid out, rather boutique park has heritage-listed pine trees and reception building (130-year-old former stables), plenty of grass, basic cabins and flashy villas.

Robe Harbour View Motel MOTEL \$\$
(☎ 08-8768 2155; www.robearbourview.com.au; 2 Sturt St; d/f from \$120/155; 🍷📶) At the quiet end of town (and a five-minute walk from the action), this tidy, well-run motel has namesake harbour views from the best half-dozen rooms at the front. The standard rooms out the back don’t have views but are perfectly decent (who needs views when you’re asleep?). Expect nice linen, subtle colours and vamped-up bathrooms.

Robe Lakeview Motel & Apartments MOTEL \$\$
(☎ 08-8768 2100; www.robelaekviewmotel.com.au; 2 Lakeside Tce; d/2-bedroom apt from \$125/240, extra person \$15; 🍷📶) Overlooking the water-skiing mecca Lake Fellmongery, Lakeview is one of Robe’s better motels. The decor is on the improve (slowly banishing the late-90s), the rooms are roomy and immaculately clean, and the barbecue area pumps during summer. Free wi-fi.

Grey Masts B&B \$\$\$
(☎ 0419 571 003; www.greymasts.com.au; cnr Victoria & Smillie Sts; house incl breakfast from \$200) A lovely, low-ceilinged 1850s stone cottage behind the local bookshop. The two bedrooms sleep four, and there’s a compact kitchen, welcoming lounge and flower-filled garden. The Savage family (Mr and Mrs Savage and their 12 sons!) once lived here. Minimum stay of three nights during summer.

Eating

Union Cafe CAFE \$
(☎ 08-8768 2627; 4/17-19 Victoria St; mains \$7-16; ☺ 8am-4pm; 🍷) Always busy, this curiously angled corner cafe has polished-glass fragments in the floor and surf art on the walls. Unionise your hangover with an EBT (egg and bacon on Turkish bread with cheese and house-made tomato sauce), plus good coffee, pancakes, curries, salads and wraps.

Polly’s Fish ‘n’ Chips FISH & CHIPS \$
(☎ 08-8768 2712; www.pollysfishnchips.com.au; Lot 1, Lipson Tce; meals \$5-16; ☺ 10am-8pm Sun-Wed, to 9pm Thu-Sat) Down on Robe’s harbour is this beaut little fish ‘n’ chipper, cooking up today’s catch, straight off the fishing boats. It’s not always the fastest of fast food, but quality takes time: sit and study the boats while you wait.

Mahalia Coffee CAFE \$
(☎ 08-8768 2778; www.mahaliacoffee.com.au; 2 Flint St; items \$5-9; ☺ 8.30am-5pm) Everywhere you go on the Limestone Coast you’ll see Mahalia Coffee signs: a marketing success story! Visit the roasting rooms in Robe’s industrial back blocks for a double-shot flat white, a croissant, or a white-chocolate and macadamia muffin.

Sails MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$
(☎ 08-8768 1954; www.sailsatrobe.com.au; 21 Victoria St; mains \$31-38; ☺ 6pm-late) Sails is Robe’s classiest restaurant, and comes with a big rep for seafood. Not in an undersea mood? Try the kangaroo fillets with beetroot fritters and horseradish, or the lentil empanadas with goats cheese, cauliflower and sweet onion. Lovely ambience; smooth service.

Information

Robe Visitor Information Centre (☎ 1300 367 144, 08-8768 2465; www.robe.com.au; Mundy Tce, Public Library; ☺ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat & Sun) History displays, brochures and free internet. Look for the *Scenic Drive*, *Heritage Drive* and *A Walk Through History* pamphlets.

Beachport


POP 890

‘See and be seen: headlights 24 hours!’ say signs around this stretch of the Limestone Coast. Is Beachport desperate to be noticed? A plaintive cry for attention? We like it the way it is: low-key and beachy, with aquamarine

surf, the famous 772m-long jetty, staunch stone buildings and rows of Norfolk Island pines. Forget about being seen – your time here will be perfectly anonymous.

Sights & Activities

Old Wool & Grain Store Museum MUSEUM

( 08-8735 8029; www.nationaltrust.org.au/sa; 5 Railway Tce; adult/child/family \$5/2/10; ☺ 10am-4pm) In a stately National Trust building on the main street you'll find relics from Beachport's whaling and shipping days, rooms decked out in 1870s style, and a display on the local Buandi people.

Beachport Conservation Park NATURE RESERVE

(www.environment.sa.gov.au) **FREE** There are some great walking tracks in this 710-hectare park, sandwiched between the coast and Lake George 2km north of town. Aboriginal middens, sheltered coves, lagoons and bush camping (per person/car \$7/13).

Pool of Siloam SWIMMING


(Bowman Scenic Dr) **FREE** In the dunes on the western outskirts of town, the pool is great for swimming (and floating: the water is seven times saltier than the sea!). Ask at the visitor information centre for directions.

Sleeping

Southern Ocean Tourist Park CARAVAN PARK \$


( 08-8735 8153; www.southernoceanoustopark.com.au; Somerville St; unpowered/powered sites from \$25/28, cabins \$95-160; 🚻🚰) A well-pruned, shady park nooked into the base of a hill in the town centre; new management has really lifted it off the canvas. Facilities include a laundry, covered barbecues, crayfish cookers and a great little playground. The kitchen cabins on the hilltop are lovely.

Bompas HOTEL \$\$\$

( 08-8735 8333; www.bompas.com.au; 3 Railway Tce; d with/without bathroom from \$125/100; 🚻) In what was Beachport's first pub (1873), Bompas is an all-in-one small hotel and licensed restaurant-cafe. Rooms upstairs are generously sized and strewn with modern art (room No 3 has million-dollar views). Menu offerings downstairs (mains \$13 to \$32, serving noon to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm) include Chinese stir-fries, lamb shanks and steaks, plus there are quiz nights and decent beers.

Information

Beachport Visitor Information Centre

( 08-8735 8029; www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au; Millicent Rd; ☺ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) An info-packed centre on the road into town. Look for the *Beachport's Bowman Scenic Drive* and *Beachport's Historic Buildings Drive* brochures.


Mount Gambier

POP 25,200

Strung out along the flatlands below an extinct volcano, Mount Gambier is the Limestone Coast's major town and service hub. 'The Mount' sometimes seems a little short on urban virtues, but it's not what's above the streets that makes Mount Gambier special – it's the deep Blue Lake and the caves that worm their way though the limestone beneath the town. Amazing!

Sights

Blue Lake LAKE

(www.mountgambierpoint.com.au/attractions/blue-lake; John Watson Dr; ☺ 24hr) **FREE** Mount Gambier's big-ticket item is the luminous, 75m-deep lake, which turns an insane hue of blue during summer. Perplexed scientists think it has to do with calcite crystals suspended in the water, which form at a faster rate during the warmer months. Consequently, if you visit between April and November, the lake will look much like any other – a steely grey. **Acquifer Tours** ( 08-8723 1199; www.aquifertours.com; cnr Bay Rd & John Watson Dr; adult/child/family \$9/4/25; ☺ tours hourly 9am-5pm Nov-Jan, 9am-2pm Feb-May & Sep-Oct, 9am-noon Jun-Aug) runs hourly tours, taking you down near the lake shore in a glass-panelled lift.

Riddoch Art Gallery GALLERY

( 08-8723 9566; www.riddochartgallery.org.au; 1 Bay Rd; ☺ 10am-5pm Mon & Wed-Fri, 11am-3pm Sat & Sun) **FREE** If Mount Gambier's famed Blue Lake isn't blue, don't feel blue – cheer yourself up at one of Australia's best regional galleries. There are three galleries housing touring and permanent exhibitions, contemporary installations, community displays. In the same 'Main Corner' complex are heritage exhibits and a cinema screening local history flicks. Free tours 11am Thursday.

Cave Gardens CAVE

(www.mountgambierpoint.com.au/attractions/cave-gardens; cnr Bay Rd & Watson Tce; ☺ 24hr) **FREE** A 50m-deep sinkhole right in the

middle of town, with the odd suicidal shopping trolley at the bottom. You can walk down into it, and watch the nightly Sound & Light Show (from 8.30pm) telling local Aboriginal Dreaming stories.

Engelbrecht Cave

CAVE

(☎ 08-8723 5552; www.engelbrechtcave.com.au; Jubilee Hwy W, off Chute St; tours adult/child/family \$12.50/8/35; ☺ tours hourly 10am-3pm Thu-Tue) A rubbish dump prior to 1979, this meandering cave system runs beneath Jubilee Hwy and 19 local houses! Tours last 45 minutes and take you down to an underground lake (call for cave-diving info). There's a cafe here, too. Reduced winter hours.

Sleeping

Old Mount Gambier Gaol

HOSTEL \$

(☎ 08-8723 0032; www.theoldmountgambiergaol.com.au; 25 Margaret St; dm/tw/d/f from \$26/60/80/150; ☺) If you can forget that this place was a prison until 1995 (either that or embrace the fact), these refurbished old buildings make for an atmospheric and comfortable stay. There's a backpacker dorm in one building, or you can up the spooky stakes and sleep in a former cell. There's a bar with occasional live bands, too. Free wi-fi.

Blue Lake Holiday Park

CARAVAN PARK \$

(☎ 1800 676 028, 08-8725 9856; www.bluelake.com.au; Bay Rd; unpowered/poweredsites \$34/39, cabins/units/bungalows from \$99/127/156; ☺@☺☺) Adjacent to the Blue Lake, a golf course and walking and cycling tracks, this amiable park has some natty grey-and-white cabins and well-weeded lawns. There are also spiffy contemporary, self-contained 'retreats' (from \$192) that sleep four.

Colhurst House

B&B \$\$

(☎ 08-8723 1309; www.colhursthouse.com.au; 3 Colhurst Pl; d from \$170; ☺) Most locals don't know about Colhurst – it's up a laneway off a side street (Wyatt St), and you can't really see it from downtown Mt G. It's an 1878 mansion built by Welsh migrants, and manages to be old-fashioned without being overly twee. There's a gorgeous wrap-around balcony upstairs with great views over the rooftops. Cooked breakfast.

Park Hotel

PUB \$\$

(☎ 08-8725 2430; www.parkhotel.net.au; 163 Commercial St W; d/f from \$140/190; ☺☺) In Mount Gambier's western wastelands, this old corner pub has spent a fortune renovating its three upstairs rooms. Polished timber floors,

double glazing, marble bathrooms and coffee-and-cream colour schemes – a really slick product. Shared kitchen for cooking breakfast (provisions provided).

Barn

APARTMENTS, MOTEL \$\$

(☎ 08-8726 9999; www.barn.com.au; 747 Glenelg River Rd; d/apt/house from \$135/190/280; ☺☺) A 7km drive out of town on the road to Nelson, the Barn is a complex of fancy new motel-style accommodation options – from doubles to two-bedroom apartments and four-bedroom houses – plus a fab steak restaurant, plating up local beef (mains \$33 to \$38, serving dinner nightly).



Eating

★ Metro Bakery & Cafe

CAFE \$

(☎ 08-8723 3179; www.metrobakeryandcafe.com.au; 13 Commercial St E; mains \$8-23; ☺) 8.30am-5pm Mon-Wed, to late Thu-Sat) Ask a local where they go for coffee: chances are they'll say 'Metro'. Right in the thick of things on the main drag, it's an efficient cafe with natty black-and-white decor, serving omelettes, focaccias, sandwiches, pastries and meatier mains (try the cider-braised pork belly). There's a wine bar here, too, brimming with Coonawarra cabernets. Book for dinner.

Yoeyes

CAFE, DELI \$

(www.yoeyes.com.au; 32 James St; items \$5-15; ☺) 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, to 1.30pm Sat) This gourmet cafe-providore has shelves full of cakes, muffins, breads, chocolates, pasta and gourmet foodie hampers; a fabulous cheese fridge; and good coffee. Soups, pies and salads, too. Nice one!

Wild Ginger

THAI \$\$

(☎ 08-8723 6264; www.wildginger.com.au; 17 Commercial St W; mains \$16-24; ☺) 11.30am-2pm Tue-Fri, 5.30pm-late Tue-Sun) Locals recommend this authentic, gilt-fringed Thai nook on the main street, plating-up the likes of citrus-rich larp chicken salad and menacingly good red beef curry. It's a classy operation, with a lot of attention to detail (food presentation, interiors, staff attire etc). Good stuff.

Jens Town Hall Hotel

PUB FOOD \$\$

(☎ 08-8725 1671; www.jenshotel.com; 40 Commercial St E; mains \$18-32; ☺) noon-2pm & 6-8pm) The most palatable place for a beer in the Mount (there are a lot of rambling old pubs here), the 1884 Jens has a vast dining room plating up equally large steaks, pastas, seafood and damn fine minted lamb chops. The lunch specials are winning value (\$6 to \$12).

i Information

Mount Gambier Visitor Information Centre

( 1800 087 187, 08-8724 9750; www.mountgambiertourism.com.au; 35 Jubilee Hwy E;  9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) Has details on local sights, activities, transport and accommodation, plus *Heritage Walk* and *Historic Hotels* pamphlets and a town history movie. The **Lady Nelson Discovery Centre** (adult/child/family \$4/2/10) is here too, featuring a replica of the historic brig *Lady Nelson* (which named 192m-high Mount Gambier as it sailed past in 1800) and displays on geology, wetlands and Indigenous history.


Penola & the Coonawarra Wine Region

A rural town on the way up (what a rarity!), **Penola** (population 1710) is the kind of place where you walk down the main street and three people say 'Hello!' to you before you reach the pub. The town is famous for two things: first, for its association with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, cofounded in 1867 by Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop; and secondly, for being smack bang in the middle of the **Coonawarra Wine Region**.

Sights

Mary MacKillop Interpretive Centre

MUSEUM

(www.mackilloppenola.org.au; cnr Portland St & Petticoat Lane; adult/child \$5/free;  10am-4pm) The centre occupies a jaunty building with a gregarious entrance pergola (perhaps not as modest as Saint Mary might have liked!). There's oodles of info on Australia's first saint here, plus the Woods MacKillop Schoolhouse, the first school in Australia for children from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.


John Riddoch Centre

MUSEUM

(www.watterange.sa.gov.au/tourism; 27 Arthur St;  9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) **FREE** In the visitor centre building, this museum casts a web over local history back to the 1850s, covering the local Pinejunga people and original Penola pastoralist Riddoch, who 'never gave in to misfortune' and was 'steady and persistent'.

Petticoat Lane

STREET

( 24hr) **FREE** One of Penola's first streets. Most of the original buildings have been razed, but there are still a few old timber-slab houses, red-gum kerbs and gnarly trees to see.

Sleeping & Eating

See www.coonawarradiscovery.com for B&B listings. Many local wineries also have restaurants.

Penola Backpackers

HOSTEL \$

( 08-8736 6170, 0428 866 700; www.penolabackpackers.com.au; 59 Church St; dm/s/d/f from \$35/45/95/140;  ) In a Spanish Mission-style house on the main street, this five-bedroom backpackers is a timely addition to the Limestone Coast accommodation scene. There's a tidy and clean kitchen, roses and daffodils out the front and a BBQ terrace out the back. Air-con in some rooms. Ask about their beach house in Southend.

Heyward's Royal Oak Hotel

PUB \$

( 08-8737 2322; www.heywardshotel.com.au; 313 Church St; s \$66, d & tw \$99) This lace-trimmed megalith (1872) is Penola's community hub. The rooms upstairs are nothing flash and share bathrooms, but they're decent bang for your buck. Downstairs is a huge tartan-carpeted dining room (mains \$15 to \$23, serving 11.30am to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm) serving contemporary pub food and schnitzels as big as your head.



Must@Coonawarra

MOTEL \$\$

( 08-8737 3444; www.mustatcoonawarra.com. au; 126 Church St; r from \$160;  ) Plush Must has roof curves reminiscent of a certain opera venue in Sydney. Accommodation ranges from studios to apartments, with sustainable features aplenty: rainwater showers, double glazing and insulation, solar hot water, natural cleaning products etc. Bike hire is \$20 per day.



Georgie's Cottage

B&B \$\$\$

( 08-8737 3540; www.georgiescottage.com; 1 Riddoch St; d from \$200; ) Feeling romantic? A short stroll from town on the road to Millicent, Georgie's is a cute little stone cottage fronted by blooming roses and hollyhocks. Gourmet provisions include chocolates and sparkling wine, which you may or may not feel like cracking into for breakfast.

diVine

CAFE, DELI \$

( 08-8737 2122; www.penola.org/listing/divine-cafe; 39 Church St; mains \$9-19;  9am-4.30pm Mon & Tue, 8am-4.30pm Wed-Sun) A bright, mod cafe serving baguettes, all-day breakfasts, great coffee and internationally inspired lunches (try the Chinese pork-and-prawn rice paper rolls). Nattering Penolans chew muffins and local cheeses, discussing the nuances of various vintages.

COONAWARRA WINERIES

When it comes to spicy cabernet sauvignon, it's just plain foolish to dispute the virtues of the Coonawarra Wine Region (www.coonawarra.org). The *terra rossa* (red earth) soils here also produce irresistible shiraz and chardonnay.

Balnaves of Coonawarra (www.balnaves.com.au; Riddoch Hwy; ☉9am-5pm Mon-Fri, noon-5pm Sat & Sun) The tasting notes here ooze florid wine speak (dark seaweed, anyone?), but even if your nosing skills aren't that subtle, you'll enjoy the cab sav and chardonnay.

Majella Wines (www.majellawines.com.au; Lynn Rd; ☉10am-4.30pm) The family that runs Majella are fourth-generation Coonawarrans, so they know a thing or two about gutsy reds (love 'The Musician' shiraz cabernet).

Rymill Coonawarra (www.rymill.com.au; Riddoch Hwy; ☉10am-5pm) Rymill rocks the local boat by turning out some of the best sauvignon blanc you'll ever taste. The cellar door is fronted by a statue of two duelling steeds – appropriately rebellious.

Wynns Coonawarra Estate (www.wynns.com.au; 1 Memorial Dr; ☉10am-5pm) The oldest Coonawarra winery, Wynns' cellar door dates from 1896 and was built by Penola pioneer John Riddoch. Top-quality shiraz, riesling and golden chardonnay are the mainstays.

Zema Estate (www.zema.com.au; Riddoch Hwy; ☉9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) A steadfast, traditional winery started by the Zema family in the early '80s. It's a low-key affair with a handmade vibe infusing the shiraz and cab sav.

★ **Pipers of Penola** MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$
(☎08-8737 3999; www.pipersofpenola.com.au; 58 Riddoch St; mains \$30-37; ☉6-9pm Tue-Sat) A classy, intimate dining room tastefully constructed inside an old Methodist church, with friendly staff and seasonal fare. The menu is studded with ingredients like truffled parsnip, date couscous and mustard 'liaison' – serious gourmet indicators! The prices are going up, but so is the quality. Superb wine list with lots of locals (...the beer list could be craftier).

i Information

Penola Visitor Information Centre (☎1300 045 373, 08-8737 2855; www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au/tourism; 27 Arthur St; ☉9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) Services the Coonawarra region, with info about local cycling routes and winery tours. The John Riddoch Centre is also here. Pick up the *Walk With History* brochures.

Naracoorte Caves National Park

About 10km southeast of Naracoorte township, off the Penola road, is the only World Heritage-listed site in SA. The discovery of an ancient fossilised marsupial in these limestone caves raised palaeontological eyebrows around the world, and featured in the BBC's David Attenborough series *Life on Earth*.

The park visitor centre doubles as the impressive **Wonambi Fossil Centre** (☎08-8762

2340; www.environment.sa.gov.au/naracoorte; 89 Wonambi Rd; adult/child/family \$13/8/36; ☉9am-5pm) – a re-creation of the rainforest that covered this area 200,000 years ago. Follow a ramp down past grunting, life-sized reconstructions of extinct animals, including a marsupial lion, a giant echidna, *Diprotodon australis* (koala meets grizzly bear), and *Megalania prisca* – 500kg of bad-ass goanna.

The 26 limestone caves here, including **Alexandra Cave**, **Cathedral Cave** and **Victoria Fossil Cave**, have bizarre formations of stalactites and stalagmites. Prospective Bruce Wayne should check out the **Bat Cave**, from which thousands of endangered southern bentwing bats exit en masse at dusk during summer. You can see the **Wet Cave** by self-guided tour (adult/child/family \$9/5.50/25), but the others require ranger-guided tours. Single-cave tours start at \$20/12/55 per adult/child/family; adventure caving starts at \$60/35 per adult/child. There's also budget accommodation available at **Wirreanda Bunkhouse** (☎08-87622340; www.environment.sa.gov.au/naracoorte; unpowered/powerd sites from \$27.50/30, dm/f from \$22/75), which is often full of school kids but can be booked by travellers.

For more local info and tips on places to stay, contact **Naracoorte Visitor Information Centre** (☎1800 244 421, 08-8762 1399; www.naracoortelucindale.com; 36 MacDonnell St; ☉9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) in Naracoorte.



Yorke Peninsula & Western SA

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Why Go?

A couple of hours west of Adelaide, boot-shaped Yorke Peninsula (aka 'Yorke') bills itself as 'Agriculturally Rich – Naturally Beautiful'. And indeed, while Yorke is thin on urban hubbub, it does have a certain agrarian beauty – deep azure summer skies and yellow barley fields spread across hazy, gently rolling hills. The coastline here is gorgeous, with great surf, roaming emus, kangaroos and ospreys, plus whales and dolphins cruising by.

Further west, the vast, straw-coloured triangle of Eyre Peninsula is Australia's big-sky country, and is the promised land for seafood fans. Meals out here rarely transpire without the option of trying the local oysters, tuna and whiting. Sublime national parks punctuate the coast along with world-class surf breaks and low-key holiday towns, thinning out as you head west towards the Great Australian Bight, the Nullarbor Plain and Western Australia (WA).

Best Places to Eat

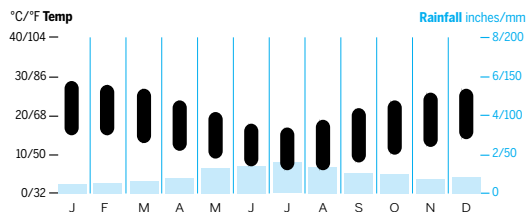
- Fresh Fish Place (p787)
- Dragon Well (p781)
- Mocean (p789)
- Ceduna Oyster Bar (p789)

Best Places to Stay

- Point Turton Caravan Park (p783)
- Tanonga (p787)
- Port Lincoln YHA (p786)
- Dawes Point Cottage (p788)

When to Go

Ceduna



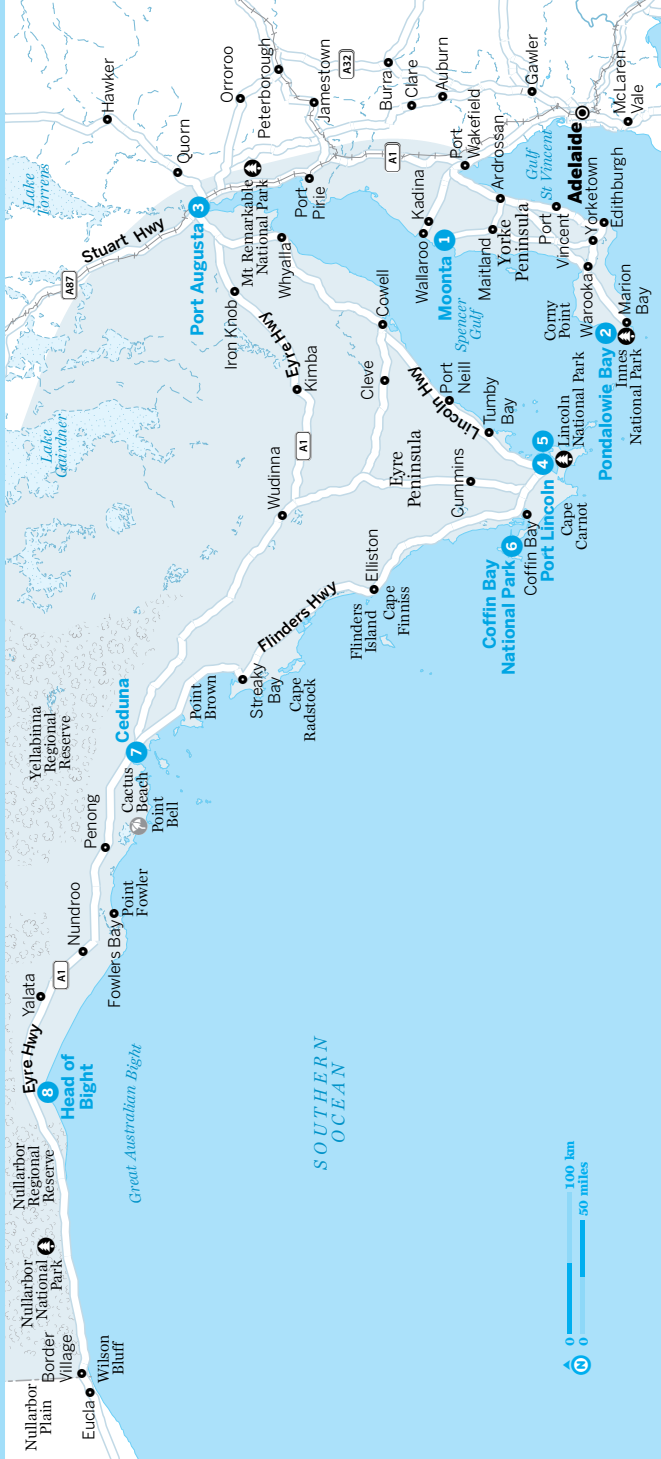
Nov–Dec The tourist season hits its straps and it's warm enough to swim.

Mar–May Warm autumn days and cool nights: perfect beach and oyster-slurping weather.

Aug–Oct Spring is in the air, the wheat fields are green and the roads are empty.

Yorke Peninsula & Western SA Highlights

- 1 Digging into Cornish copper-mining history in **Moonta** (p782).
- 2 Paddling out into the surf at isolated **Pondalowie Bay** (p783).
- 3 Getting a feel for Australia's desert heart at the **Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden** (p785) in Port Augusta.
- 4 Seeing some seafood (or better still, eating some) in **Port Lincoln** (p786), the tuna capital of Australia.
- 5 Staring mortality in the eyes on a **shark-cage dive** (p786) off Port Lincoln.
- 6 Exploring bays, dunes and remote walking tracks in **Coffin Bay National Park** (p787).
- 7 Slurping down a dozen briny oysters au naturel in **Ceduna** (p789).
- 8 Scanning the sea for migrating southern right whales at **Head of Bight** (p790).



YORKE PENINSULA


For history buffs, the northwestern end of 'Yorke' 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. 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

Aboriginal Cultural Tours


South Australia

CULTURAL

(☎0429 367 121; www.aboriginalsa.com.au; half-/1-2-/3-day tours \$85/150/350/495)  Highly regarded Indigenous cultural tours of the peninsula, exploring the incredibly long Narungga Aboriginal association with this country. Lots of culture, wilderness and camping. Tours ex-Adelaide.

Heading Bush

WILDERNESS

(☎1800 639 933, 08-8356 5501; www.headingbush.com; 3-day tours from \$695)  Explore Yorke – wildlife, cliffs, beaches, Aboriginal culture and even a winery – on a three-day tour ex-Adelaide. Price includes dorm accommodation; single, double or twin accommodation is available at extra cost.

Sleeping

There are 15 council-run **camp sites** (☎08-8832 0000; www.yorke.sa.gov.au; per night \$10) around the peninsula.

For holiday-house rentals from as little as \$100 per night, try **Accommodation on Yorke** (☎08-8852 2000; www.accommodationonyorke.com.au) or **Country Getaways** (☎08-8832 2623; www.countrygetaways.info).

Getting There & Around

BUS

Yorke Peninsula Coaches (☎08-8821 2755; www.yppoaches.com.au) Daily buses from Adelaide to Kadina (\$36, 2¼ hours). Wallaroo (\$36, 2½ hours) and Moonta (\$36, three hours), travelling as far south as Edithburgh and Yorketown (\$52, four hours, daily except Wednesday).

FERRY

SEASA (☎08-8823 0777; www.seasa.com.au; one way adult/child/car \$35/10/140) Daily vehicle ferry between Wallaroo (Yorke Peninsula) and Lucky Bay (Eyre Peninsula) – a shortcut which shaves 350km and several hours off

the drive via Port Augusta. The voyage takes around 1¾ hours one way.

West Coast

Fronting Spencer Gulf, the west coast has a string of shallow swimming beaches, plus the Copper Triangle towns, all a short drive from each other. **Kernewek Lowender** (www.kernewek.org), aka the Copper Coast Cornish Festival, happens around here in May of odd-numbered years.

Kadina





POP 4470

Baking-hot, inland Kadina (ka-dee-na) has some impressive copper-era civic buildings and a slew of massive old pubs, car yards and petrol stations. The **Copper Coast Visitor Information Centre** (☎08-8821 2333, 1800 654 991; www.yorkepeninsula.com.au; 50 Moonta Rd; ☎9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) is here – it's the peninsula's main visitor centre. Behind it is an amazing collection of old farming, mining and domestic bits and pieces at the **Farm Shed Museum** (www.nationaltrust.org.au/sa; 50 Moonta Rd; adult/child/family \$8/3/20; ☎9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3.30pm Sat & Sun).

Sleeping & Eating

Kadina Gateway Motor Inn

MOTEL \$\$

(☎1800 665 005, 08-8821 2777; www.kadinagatewaymotorinn.com.au; 4754 Copper Coast Hwy; d/f from \$110/155;    ) If you're just after a basic, clean place to rest your head, try this well-run motel on the Adelaide side of town, with a bistro for dinner and a pool for those hot Yorke afternoons.

Dragon Well

CAFE \$

(cnr Graves & Digby Sts; items \$3-6; ☎7am-5pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat & Sun) What a surprise! A grungy little graffiti-spangled coffee bunker in downtown Kadina, with kooky retro furniture, a tattooed barista and walls covered with old record sleeves: straight outta Redfern! Super coffee, plus biscuits and cake.

Wallaroo

POP 3050

Still a major wheat port, Wallaroo is a town on the way up: the Eyre Peninsula ferry is running, there are plenty of pubs and the pubs are full of folks. There's a huge new subdivision north of town, and the shiny new **Copper Cove Marina** (www.coppercoastproperty.com.au/marina) is full of expensive boats.

Eyre Peninsula & Yorke Peninsula



Down by the water, a stoic 1865 post office now houses the **Heritage & Nautical Museum** (www.nationaltrust.org.au; cnr Jetty Rd & Emu St; adult/child \$6/3; ☎10am-4pm), with tales of square-rigged English ships and George the pickled giant squid. For more on local history, pick up the *Discovering Historic Wallaroo* walk/drive brochures from the Copper Coast Visitor Information Centre (p781).

Sleeping

Sonbern Lodge Motel HOTEL, MOTEL \$
 (☎08-8823 2291; www.sonbernlodgemotel.com.au; 18 John Tce; s/d/f from \$80/95/125; 🏠) A 100-year-old grand temperance hotel, Sonbern is 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.

Wallaroo Marina Apartments

HOTEL, APARTMENT \$\$
 (☎08-8823 4068; www.wallarooapartments.com.au; 11 Heritage Dr; d/apt from \$144/184; 🏠 📶) The new multistorey Wallaroo Marina Apartments, at the marina on the northern edge of town, has spiffy suites, plus cold Coopers Pale Ale, bistro meals (mixed grills, local seafood), seductive marina views and regular live bands downstairs in the **Coopers Alehouse** (☎08-8823 2488; www.wallaroomarinahotel.com; mains \$17-30; ☎noon-2.30pm & 6-8.30pm).

Moonta

POP 3350

In the late 19th century, the Moonta copper mine was the richest in Australia. These days the town, which calls itself 'Australia's Little Cornwall', maintains a faded glory and a couple of decent pubs. Shallow Moonta Bay is 1km west of the town centre, with good fishing from the jetty and a netted swimming area.

Moonta Visitor Information Centre

(☎08-8825 1891; www.moontatourism.org.au; Old Railway Station, Blanche Tce; ☉9am-5pm) has a smattering of history pamphlets, and details on the **Moonta Heritage Site** 1.5km east of town. The site includes the excellent **Moonta Mines Museum** (www.nationaltrust.org.au/sa; Verran Tce; adult/child \$8/4; ☉1-4pm), once a grand school with 1100 pupils; the **Old Sweet Shop** (Verran Tce; ☉10am-4pm) across the road (built 1846); and a fully restored **Miner's Cottage** (Verco St; adult/child \$4/2; ☉1.30-4pm Wed, Sat & Sun, daily during school holidays).

Sleeping & Eating

Moonta Bay Caravan Park CARAVAN PARK \$
(☎08-8825 2406; www.moontabaycaravanpark.com.au; 5 Tossell St, Moonta Bay; unpowered/powered sites from \$32/34, cabins without/with spa from \$112/150; ♿☎) Handy to the beach and jetty, this caravan park has a decent crop of cabins with spas and little decks. The grassy camping areas are almost on the beach (wi-fi reception can be patchy down here...but the sunsets are awesome!).

Cottage by Cornwall B&B \$\$\$
(☎0438 313 952; www.cottagebycornwall.com.au; 24 Ryan St; d incl breakfast from \$160, extra adult/child \$20/free; ♿☎) The classiest accommodation in Moonta by a country mile, this tizzied-up 1863 cottage has three bedrooms (sleeping six), plus fancy bedding, mod furnishings and a claw-foot bath. It's just a short stroll to the pub and the Cornish Kitchen. Two-night minimum stay.

Cornish Kitchen FAST FOOD \$
(10-12 Ellen St; items \$4-11; ☉9am-3pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat) After a hard day's copper mining, swing your shovel into the Cornish Kitchen for the ultimate Cornish pastie.

Point Turton

Heading south on the west coast, Point Turton (population 250) is a laid-back beach town with a lot of new building going on. You can learn to surf near here with **Nep-tunes Surf Coaching** (☎0417 839 142; www.neptunes.net.au; 2hr lessons from \$50).

Sleeping & Eating

Point Turton Caravan Park CARAVAN PARK \$
(☎08-8854 5222; www.pointturtoncp.com.au; Bayview Rd; unpowered/powered sites from \$22/27, cabins \$55-150; ♿☎) Down on the shore, this superfriendly caravan park has grassy sites and cabins overlooking the sea.

Tavern on Turton

(☎08-8854 5063; www.tavernonturton.com; 154 Bayview Rd; mains \$17-35; ☉9am-2pm & 6-8pm) Fab water views and seafood salads.

Inland Sea

SEAFOOD \$\$
(☎08-8854 5499; www.inlandsea.com.au; 12918 Yorke Hwy, Warooka; mains \$19-34; ☉noon-2pm & 6-8pm Wed-Sat) A few kilometres inland from Point Turton, Inland Sea is a seafood diner that's close enough to the coast for the catch of the day to still be wriggling.

East Coast

The east-coast road along Gulf St Vincent traces the coast within 1km or 2km of the water. En route, roads dart east to sandy beaches and holiday towns. Like the suburban Adelaide beaches across the gulf, this is prime **crab fishing** territory.

Most of the coastal towns have a tavern, a jetty and a caravan park or camping ground, including unpretentious **Port Vincent** (population 480). Continuing south, **Stansbury** (population 550) has a couple of motels and the beaut waterside **Dalrymple Hotel** (☎08-8852 4202; www.facebook.com/thedalrymplehotel; 1 Anzac Pde; mains \$16-33; ☉noon-2pm & 6-8pm) – sit on the deck and chew some calamari.

Further south again, **Edithburgh** (population 400) is roughly aligned with Adelaide's latitude, and has a **tidal swimming pool** in a small cove. From the clifftops, views extend offshore to sandy **Troubridge Island Conservation Park** (www.environment.sa.gov.au). You can stay the night at the **Troubridge Island Lighthouse** (☎08-8852 6290; www.environment.sa.gov.au; per adult/child incl transfers \$90/45, min charge \$360). It sleeps 10; BYO food and linen.

Back on the mainland, the surprisingly hip **Tipper's B&B** (☎08-8852 6181; www.tippersedithburgh.com.au; 35 Blanche St; d/q incl breakfast from \$150/210; ♿☎) is on Edithburgh's main street, with two suites occupying an ochre-coloured former blacksmiths (1890s). Two-night minimum stay.

South Coast & Innes National Park

The peninsula's south coast is largely sheltered from the Southern Ocean's fury by Kangaroo Island, so there are some great **swimming** beaches along here. The surf finds its way through around Troubridge Point and Cape Spencer.

THE PENINSULA FINGER

Something strange happens below a certain latitude on both the Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas: drivers in oncoming vehicles begin raising their index fingers off their steering wheels in cheery acknowledgement of your passing. It's a country courtesy, as if to say, 'Hello! Good to see you driving along this same sunny road today!' Stew in your cityside cynicism and ignore them, or respond in kind and see who can deliver the Peninsula Finger first!

Cape Spencer is part of **Innes National Park** (☎08-8854 3200; www.environment.sa.gov.au; Stenhouse Bay Rd, Stenhouse Bay; per car \$10; ☀ visitor centre 10.30am-3pm Wed-Sun), where sheer cliffs plunge into indigo waters and rocky offshore islands hide small coves and sandy beaches. **Marion Bay** (www.marionbay.com.au), just outside the park, and **Stenhouse Bay** and **Pondalowie Bay**, both within the park, are the main local settlements. Pondalowie Bay has a bobbing lobster-fishing fleet and a gnarly surf beach.

The rusty ribs of the 711-tonne steel barque *Ethel*, which foundered in 1904, arc forlornly from the sands just south of Pondalowie Bay. Follow the sign past the Cape Spencer turn-off to the ghost-town of **Inneston**, a gypsum-mining community abandoned in 1930.

Sleeping

Innes National Park CAMPGROUND, LODGE \$
(☎08-8854 3200; www.environment.sa.gov.au; camping per car \$10, lodges \$108-160) Innes National Park has seven bushy camp sites. Our favourite spot is Pondalowie, or try Cable Bay for beach access, Surfers for surfing or Browns Beach for fishing. Alternatively, the heritage lodges at Inneston sleep four to 10 people and have showers and cooking facilities. Book camp sites and lodges online, or with a credit card at the park visitor centre; BYO drinking water in summer.

★ **Marion Bay Motel & Tavern** MOTEL \$\$
(☎08-8854 4044; www.marionbaymotel.com.au; Jetty Rd, Marion Bay; s/d/tr \$120/140/160; ☹ ☺) The highlight of tiny Marion Bay is this wing of five spiffy motel rooms (white walls, new TVs, nice linen). The glass-fronted tavern next door (mains \$17 to \$38; serving noon to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm) surveys the bay, with

a pizza oven in a corrugated-iron water tank and Asian-influenced pub standards (try the Vietnamese chicken salad).

EYRE PENINSULA & THE WEST COAST

Eyre Peninsula's photogenic wild western flank is an important breeding ground for southern right whales, Australian sea lions and great white sharks (the scariest scenes of *Jaws* were shot here). There are some memorable opportunities to encounter these submariners along the way.

Tours

Goin' Off Safaris

GUIDED TOUR

(☎0427 755 065; www.goinoffsafaris.com.au; tours from \$150) Check the big-ticket items off your Eyre Peninsula 'to-do' list – sharks, tuna, sea lions and seafood – with local guides. Day trips around Port Lincoln and Coffin Bay, plus overnight jaunts, seafood-focused trips and fishing expeditions.

Getting There & Away

A handy car ferry (p781) runs between the Yorke Peninsula and the Eyre Peninsula.

AIR

Regional Express (Rex; www.regionalexpress.com.au) Daily flights from Adelaide to Whyalla (one way from \$154), Port Lincoln (from \$115) and Ceduna (from \$190).

BUS

Premier Staterliner (www.premierstaterliner.com.au) Daily buses from Adelaide to Port Augusta (\$60, 4¼ hours), Whyalla (\$68, 5½ hours), Port Lincoln (\$119, 9¾ hours), Streaky Bay (\$122, 10 hours) and Ceduna (\$135, 11¼ hours).

TRAIN

The famous Ghan train connects Adelaide with Darwin via Port Augusta, and the Indian Pacific (between Perth and Sydney) connects with the Ghan at Port Augusta. **Pichi Richi Railway** (☎1800 440 101; www.prr.org.au; Port Augusta Train Station, Stirling Rd; one way adult/child/family \$52/19/122) runs between Port Augusta and Quorn (two hours) on Saturdays.

Port Augusta

POP 13,900

From utilitarian Port Augusta – the 'Crossroads of Australia' – highways and railways roll west across the Nullarbor into WA, north

to the Flinders Ranges or Darwin, south to Adelaide or Port Lincoln, and east to Sydney. Not a bad position! The old town centre has considerable appeal, with some elegant old buildings and a revitalised waterfront: locals cast lines into the blue as Indigenous kids backflip off jetties.

Sights & Activities

Australian Arid Lands

Botanic Garden

GARDENS

(www.aalbg.sa.gov.au; Stuart Hwy; tour charges apply; ☀gardens 7.30am-dusk, visitor centre 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) **FREE** Just north of town, the excellent (and free!) botanic garden has 250 hectares of sand hills, clay flats and desert flora and fauna. Explore on your own, or take a guided tour (10am Monday to Friday). There's a cafe here too.

Port Augusta Aquatic & Outdoor

Adventure Centre

OUTDOORS

(☎08-8642 2699, 0427 722 450; www.augustaoutdoors.com.au; 4 El Alamein Rd; ☀9am-4pm Mon-Fri) Offers lessons and gear rental for kayaking, windsurfing, rock climbing, abseiling, snorkelling, bushwalking, sailing... Bike hire \$20 per hour.

Sleeping & Eating

Shoreline Caravan Park

CARAVAN PARK \$

(☎08-8642 2965; www.shorelinecaravanpark.com.au; Gardiner Ave; unpowered/powerd sites \$30/33, dm \$40, cabins \$60-130; 🏠🚻🚿) It's a dusty site and a fair walk from town (and from the shoreline when the tide is out), but the cabins here are decent and there are simple four-bed dorm units for backpackers. The cheapest beds in town for those who don't fancy sleeping above a pub.

Oasis Apartments

APARTMENT \$\$

(☎08-8648 9000, 1800 008 648; www.majestichotels.com.au; Marryatt St; apt \$153-219; 🏠🚻🚿) Catering largely to conventioners, this group of 75 luxury units (from studios to two bedrooms) with jaunty designs is right by the water. All rooms have washing machines, dryers, TVs, fridges, microwaves, fortresslike security and flashy interior design. Free wi-fi too.

Crossroads Ecomotel

MOTEL \$\$

(☎08-8642 2540; www.ecomotel.com.au; 45 Eyre Hwy; d from \$120; 🏠🚻🚿)  Brand new when we visited, this is one cool motel (literally). Built using rammed earth, double glazing and structural insulated panels (SIPs), the aim is to provide a thermally stable environment for guests, plus 100% more architect-

tural style than anything else in Port Augusta. Desert hues, nice linen and free wi-fi seal the deal. A pool is on the cards.

Standpipe

INDIAN \$\$

(☎08-8642 4033; www.standpipe.com.au; cnr Stuart Hwy & Hwy 1; mains \$18-39; ☀6-9pm) The sprawling Standpipe motel attracts government delegates and business types with its pool, adjacent golf course and 85 reasonably hip units (doubles/two-bedroom apartments from \$128/233), but the main lure is the awesome (and very unexpected) Indian restaurant here. Unbelievable!

Information

Port Augusta Visitor Information Centre

(☎08-8641 9193, 1800 633 060; www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au; Wadlata Outback Centre, 41 Flinders Tce; ☀9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) This is the major information outlet for the Eyre Peninsula, Flinders Ranges and outback. It's part of the **Wadlata Outback Centre** (www.wadlata.sa.gov.au; 41 Flinders Tce; adult/child/family \$19.50/11/42; ☀9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun), where the 'Tunnel of Time' traces Aboriginal and European histories using audiovisual displays, interactive exhibits and a distressingly big snake.

Whyalla

POP 21,130

An hour's drive south of Port Augusta is Whyalla – the third-biggest city in South Australia (SA) – with a deep-water port sustaining steel mills, oil and gas refineries and a morass of chugging chimneys, port facilities and industrial estates. Ugly, yes, but the old town has some good pubs, well-preserved domestic architecture and migrating giant Australian cuttlefish in the waters offshore (May to August).

Whyalla Visitor Information Centre

(☎1800 088 589, 08-8645 7900; www.whyalla.com; Lincoln Hwy; ☀9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) can help with cuttlefish info, tour bookings for the One Steel facility and accommodation listings. Next to the visitor centre is the **Whyalla Maritime Museum** (☎08-8645 8900; www.whyallamaritimemuseum.com.au; Lincoln Hwy; adult/child/family \$12/7/31; ☀10am-3pm, ship tours hourly 11am-2pm), which includes the HMAS *Whyalla*, allegedly the largest landlocked ship in Australia (...who keeps track of these things?). The utilitarian **Foreshore Motor Inn** (☎08-8645 8877; www.whyallaforeshore.com.au; Watson Tce; d/f from \$145/165; 🏠🚻🚿) is down by the white sandy expanse of Whyalla's foreshore.

Port Lincoln

POP 15,000

Prosperous Port Lincoln, the 'Tuna Capital of the World,' overlooks broad Boston Bay on the southern end of Eyre Peninsula. It's still a fishing town a long way from anywhere, but the vibe here is energetic (dare we say progressive!). The grassy foreshore is a busy promenade, and there are some good pubs, eateries and aquatic activities here to keep you out of trouble.

If not for a lack of fresh water, Port Lincoln might have become the South Australian capital. These days it's saltwater (and the tuna therein) that keeps the town ticking. A guaranteed friend-maker here is to slip Dean Lukin's name into every conversation. Straight off the tuna boats, Big Dean won the Super Heavyweight weightlifting gold medal at the 1984 Olympics in LA – what a champ!

The annual **Tunarama Festival** (www.tunarama.net) on the Australia Day weekend in January celebrates every finny facet of the tuna-fishing industry.

Sights & Activities

There's good beginner/intermediate surfing at Fisheries Bay, Lone Pine and Wreck Beach. For info visit **Lincoln Surf** (☎08-8682 4428; www.facebook.com/lincolnsurfsa; 7-11 Lewis St; ☀9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat).

If you'd rather be on the water than in it, you're in luck; the local fishing is outstanding. Ask **Spot On Fishing Tackle** (www.spotonfishing.com.au; 39 Tasman Tce; ☀8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm Sat, 9am-2pm Sun) about what's biting where.

Boston Bay Wines

WINERY

(☎08-8684 3600; www.bostonbaywines.com.au; Lincoln Hwy; ☀noon-4pm) Seems like everywhere you go in SA these days there's a winery cellar door (...well, except the desert). Port Lincoln is no exception. On the northern outskirts of town, Boston Bay Wines does a mean merlot and a 'Great White' sauvignon blanc, in keeping with the local aquatic fauna.

Adventure Bay Charters

ADVENTURE TOUR

(☎08-8682 2979; www.adventurebaycharters.com.au) 🌿 Carbon-neutral Adventure Bay Charters takes you swimming with sea lions (adult/child \$195/135) and cage diving with Great White sharks (\$345/245). Multiday ocean safaris are also available, plus more laid-back 90-minute cruises around the Port Lincoln marina (\$45/25).

Calypso Star Charters

ADVENTURE TOUR

(☎08-8682 3939, 1300 788 378; www.sharkcagediving.com.au; 1-day dive adult/child \$495/345) Runs shark cage dives with Great White sharks around the Neptune Islands. Book in advance; it's cheaper if you're just watching nervously from the boat. Also runs four-hour swimming with sea lion trips (adult/child \$150/105).

Swim with the Tuna

ADVENTURE TOUR

(☎1300 788 378, 08-8682 6010; www.swimwiththetuna.com.au; adult/child \$90/60) Three-hour boat tours out to a floating tuna enclosure, where you can check out the big fish from an underwater observatory or jump into the brine with them.

Port Lincoln Walk & Talk

History Tours

GUIDED TOUR

(☎0474 222 020; www.facebook.com/portlincolnwalkandtalktours; adult/child \$12/10) Tag along on a 90-minute walk along the Port Lincoln foreshore with a fifth-generation local who knows the town backwards.

Sleeping & Eating

★ Port Lincoln YHA

HOSTEL \$

(☎08-8682 3605; www.yha.com.au; 26 London St; dm/tw/d/f from \$33/80/100/200; 🚻📶📺) Run by a high-energy couple who have spent a fortune renovating the place, this impressive 84-bed hostel occupies a former squash-court complex. Thoughtful bonuses include chunky sprung mattresses, reading lights, a cafe/bar and power outlets in lockers (for phones!). Outrageously clean, and with 300 movies for a rainy day (including *Jaws*). Staff can help with activities bookings too.

Pier Hotel

PUB \$

(☎08-8682 1322; www.portlincolnpier.com.au; 33 Tasman Tce; d/tw/2-bedroom apt from \$80/80/130; 🚻) The old Pier has had a facelift, including the dozen en suite rooms upstairs – they're now bright and clean with polished floorboards and TVs. The **bistro** (mains \$18-34; ☀noon-2pm & 6-8pm) downstairs is big on local seafood: oysters, calamari and scallops reign supreme.

Port Lincoln Tourist Park

CARAVAN PARK \$

(☎08-8621 4444; www.portlincolntouristpark.com.au; 11 Hindmarsh St; unpowered/powerd sites \$25/32, cabins & units \$70-155; 🚻📶📺) This breezy waterside operation is Port Lincoln's best caravan park, with some beautiful executive cabins by the water and plenty of elbow room. Fish from the jetty and swim at the private beach. BYO linen in the basic cabins.

Port Lincoln Hotel

HOTEL \$\$

(☎) 1300 766 100, 08-8621 2000; www.portlincolnhotel.com.au; 1 Lincoln Hwy; d \$145-250; ♿ ♿ ♿) Bankrolled by a couple of Adelaide Crows Australian Football League (AFL) footballers, this ritzy seven-storey hotel lifts Port Lincoln above the fray. It's a classy, contemporary affair with switched-on staff. Good on-site bars and eateries too, open all day (mains \$25 to \$42).

★ Tanonga

B&B \$\$\$

(☎) 0427 812 013; www.tanonga.com.au; Charlton Gully; d incl breakfast from \$310, minimum 2-night stay; ♿) 🌿 Two plush, solar-powered, architect-designed ecologies in the hills behind Port Lincoln. They're both superprivate and surrounded by native bush, bird life and walking trails. Roll into town for dinner, or take advantage of the DIY packs of local produce available.

★ Fresh Fish Place

SEAFOOD \$

(☎) 08-8682 2166; www.portlincolnseafood.com.au; 20 Proper Bay Rd; meals \$10-14; ☺ 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, to 12.30pm Sat) Check the fish of the day on the blackboard out the front of this fabulous seafood shack. Inside you can buy fresh local seafood straight off the boats (King George whiting, tuna, kingfish, flathead etc), plus Coffin Bay oysters for \$12 a dozen and superb fish and chips. Seafood-tasting tours and cooking classes also available.

GLO

CAFE \$

(Good Living Organics; ☎) 08-8682 6655; www.goodlivingorganics.net; 23 Liverpool St; items \$6-12; ☺ 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat; ☎) 🌿 A local hang-out a block away from the beach (and thus not on many tourist radars), GLO serves wholesome organic quiches, wraps, salads, falafels, cous-cous and Port Lincoln's best coffee. What's the soup of the day?

Del Giorno's

ITALIAN \$\$

(☎) 08-8683 0577; www.delgiornos.com.au; 80 Tasman Tce; mains \$17-33; ☺ 7.30am-9pm Mon-Sat, 8.30am-9pm Sun) The busiest eatery in town, and with good reason: there's good coffee, big breakfasts and excellent local produce (especially seafood) at prices lower than at the pubs. Fab pizzas, pastas and pots of Kinkawooka mussels with tomato, chilli and white wine.

i Information**Port Lincoln Visitor Information Centre**

(☎) 1300 788 378, 08-8683 3544; www.visitportlincoln.net; 3 Adelaide Pl; ☺ 9am-5pm

Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) Books accommodation, has national parks' information and passes, and stocks the *Port Lincoln & District Cycling Guide*. Ask about the interesting local railway, maritime and heritage museums.

Port Lincoln to Streaky Bay**Around Port Lincoln**

About 50km north of Port Lincoln, **Tumby Bay** (www.tumbybay.com.au) is a quiet little town with a beach, jetty, pub, caravan park and motel – serious holiday territory!

About 15km south of Port Lincoln is **Lincoln National Park** (www.environment.sa.gov.au; per car \$11), with roaming emus, roos and brush-tailed bettongs, safe swimming coves and pounding surf beaches. Entry is via self-registration on the way in. If you want to stay the night, the two-bedroom, self-contained **Donnington Cottage** (per night \$93) at Spalding Cove, built in 1899, sleeps six and has photo-worthy views. Book through Port Lincoln visitor information centre; BYO linen and food. The visitor centre can also advise on **bush camping** (per car \$10) in the park, including sites at Fisherman's Point, Memory Cove, September Beach and Surfleet Cove.

The Port Lincoln visitor information centre also sells permits to **Whalers Way** (24hr pass per car incl 1 night camping \$30), a scenic 14km coastal drive 32km southwest of Port Lincoln.

Coffin Bay

POP 650

Oyster lovers rejoice! Deathly sounding Coffin Bay (named by Matthew Flinders after his buddy Sir Isaac Coffin) is a snoozy fishing village basking languidly in the warm sun... until a 4000-strong holiday horde arrives every January. Slippery, salty **oysters** from the nearby beds are exported worldwide, but you shouldn't pay more than \$1 per oyster around town. Online, see www.coffinbay.net.

Along the ocean side of Coffin Bay there's some wild coastal scenery, most of which is part of **Coffin Bay National Park** (www.environment.sa.gov.au; per car \$10), overrun with roos, emus and fat goannas. Access for conventional vehicles is limited: you can get to picturesque **Point Avoid** (coastal lookouts, rocky cliffs, good surf and whales passing between May and October) and **Yangie Bay** (arid-looking rocky landscapes and walking trails), but

otherwise you'll need a 4WD. There are some isolated **camp sites** (per car \$10) within the park, generally with dirt-road access.

Coffin Bay Explorer (☎0428 880 621; www.coffinbayexplorer.com; adult/child \$85/45) runs half-day wildlife and seafood tours with plenty of dolphins and oysters, or you can go kayaking with Earth Adventure (p718).

Sleeping & Eating

For holiday shacks from \$50 to \$300 per night try **Coffin Bay Holiday Rentals** (☎0427 844 568; www.coffinbayholidayrentals.com.au) or **Coffin Bay Holiday Homes** (☎0447 658 288; www.coffinbayholidayhomes.com.au).

Coffin Bay Caravan Park CARAVAN PARK \$ (☎08-8685 4170; www.coffinbaycaravanpark.com.au; 91 Esplanade; unpowered/powerd sites \$24/33, cabins with/without bathroom from \$100/85, villas \$120; ☎) Resident cockatoos, galahs and parrots squawk around the she-oak shaded sites here, and the cabins offer reasonable bang for your buck (BYO linen). Lovely two-bedroom family villas, too.

★ **Dawes Point Cottage** RENTAL HOUSE \$\$ (☎0427 844 568; www.coffinbayholidayrentals.com.au/2_DawesPoint.htm; 5 Heron Ct; per night \$140-200; ☎) This old-fashioned fishing shack (Aussie author Tim Winton would call it 'fish deco') was won by the present owners in a card game! Now a million-dollar property, it maintains its modesty despite sitting right on the water.

Coffin Bay Pizza & Homemade Food PIZZA \$ (☎0458 248 725; www.coffinbaypizza.com.au; 4/61 Esplanade; meals \$7-17; ☎10am-2pm Mon, 11am-9.30pm Wed-Sun) An unassuming little takeaway that's been here forever, serving decent pizzas, basic pastas, and fish and chips, plus homemade pies, pasties and sausage rolls. Gotta try the oyster pie! Open daily during school holidays.

Coffin Bay to Streaky Bay

There's reliable surf at **Greenly Beach** just south of **Coulta**, 40km north of Coffin Bay. There's also good salmon fishing along this wild stretch of coast, notably at **Locks Well**, where a long, steep stairway called the **Staircase to Heaven** (283 steps? Count 'em...) leads from the car park down to an awesome surf beach, the deep orange sand strewn with seashells.

About 15km further north, tiny **Elliston** (population 380) is a small fishing town

on soporific Waterloo Bay, with a beautiful swimming beach and a fishing jetty (hope the whiting are biting). Waterside **Waterloo Bay Tourist Park** (☎08-8687 9076; www.visitelliston.net; 10 Beach Tce; unpowered/powerd sites \$25/30, cabins \$65-130; ☎☎) is a small-ish operation with decent cabins (aim for one on top of the dunes) and fishing gear for sale. Check out the old council-chambers building out the front.

Elliston Visitor Information Centre (☎08-8687 9200; www.elliston.com.au; Beach Tce; ☎9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat & Sun) can direct you towards the **Great Ocean Tourist Drive** just north of town – a 10km detour to **Anxious Bay** via some anxiety-relieving ocean scenery. En route you'll pass **Blackfellows**, which boasts some of the west coast's best surf. From here you can eyeball the 36-sq-km **Flinders Island** 35km offshore, where there's a sheep station and the self-contained, nine-bed **Flinders Island Getaway** (☎0428 261 132; www.flindersgetaway.com; per person from \$90). To get here you have to charter a plane from Port Lincoln or a boat from Elliston (additional to accommodation costs); ask for details when you book.

At **Venus Bay** there are sheltered beaches (and the not-so-sheltered Mount Camel Beach), a squadron of pelicans, a small caravan park and the obligatory fishing jetty.

If you feel like taking a plunge and swimming with sea lions and dolphins, stop by **Baird Bay** and organise a tour with **Baird Bay Ocean Eco Experience** (☎08-8626 5017; www.bairdbay.com; 4hr tours adult/child \$150/75; ☎Sep-May) ☎. Accommodation is also available.

If you'd rather stay high and dry, the road to **Point Labatt**, 43km south of Streaky Bay, takes you to one of the few permanent sea-lion colonies on the Australian mainland; ogle them from the clifftops (with binoculars).

A few kilometres down the Point Labatt road are the globular **Murphy's Haystacks** (www.streakybay.sa.gov.au; per person/family \$2/5), an improbable congregation of inselbergs (colourful, weather-sculpted granite outcrops which are millions of years old).

Streaky Bay

POP 1150

This endearing little seaside (actually on Blanche Port) takes its name from the streaks of seaweed Matt Flinders spied in the bay as he sailed by. Visible at low tide, the seagrass attracts ocean critters and the bigger critters that eat them – first-class fishing.

Sights

The **Streaky Bay Museum** (www.nationaltrust.org.au/sa; 42 Montgomery Tce; adult/child \$6.50/1; ☺ 1.30-4pm Tue & Fri) is inside a 1901 schoolhouse, and features a fully furnished pug-and-pine hut, an old iron lung and plenty of pioneering history. More recently (1990), a 5m-long, 1.5-tonne **White Pointer shark** was reeled in off Streaky Bay; check out the unnerving replica inside **Stewarts Roadhouse** (☎ 08-8626 1222; 15 Alfred Tce; ☺ 7am-9pm).

Sleeping & Eating

Foreshore Tourist Park CARAVAN PARK \$
(☎ 08-8626 1666; www.streakybayftpark.com.au; 82 Wells St; unpowered/powerd sites from \$23/29, cabins & units \$87-133; ☹) Right on Doctors Beach just east of town, this sandy park is overrun with cavorting families in summer and caravanning grey nomads in winter. Plenty of space and sea-based things to do.

Streaky Bay Hotel/Motel HOTEL, MOTEL \$
(☎ 08-8626 1008; www.streakybayhotel.com.au; 33 Alfred Tce; hotel d & tw \$50-135, motel d \$110; all incl breakfast; ☹) The upstairs rooms at this 1866 beauty have rip-snorting views and a balcony from which to snort them! The downstairs rooms don't have views, bathrooms, TV or air-con but are decent. Motel rooms are unglamorous but more private. Meals happen in the **bistro** (mains \$16-35, ☺ 7-9am, noon-2pm & 6-8.30pm).

Streaky Bay Motel & Villas MOTEL \$\$
(☎ 08-8626 1126; www.streakybaymotelandvillas.com.au; 11-13 Alfred Tce; motel d \$130, villa d/f \$160/220; ☹☹☹) A tidy row of brick, older-style motel units (with a facelift), plus a crop of new family-size villas that are much more 'now' (spiky pot plants, mushroom-hued render, lime-coloured outdoor furniture). Cheaper off-season rates and three-bedroom houses also available.

★ **Mocean** CAFE \$\$
(☎ 08-8626 1775; www.moceancafe.com.au; 34b Alfred Tce; mains \$17-35; ☺ 10am-3pm Tue, Wed & Sun, 10am-late Thu-Sat; ☺) It looks like a big shipping container from the street, but this jaunty corrugated-iron-clad cafe is the town's social pacemaker, with murals, Moroccan lanterns and water views from the wrap-around balcony. Dishes focus on scrumptious Eyre Peninsula seafood; try the chilli-and-lime squid or the abalone. Super coffee and takeaways, too. Closed in August.

Information

Streaky Bay Visitor Information Centre (☎ 08-8626 7033; www.streakybay.com.au; 21 Bay Rd; ☺ 9am-12.30pm & 1.30-5pm Mon-Fri) For the local low-down, swing by the visitor info centre.

Ceduna

POP 2290

Despite the locals' best intentions, Ceduna remains a raggedy fishing town that just can't shake its tag as a blow-through pit stop en route to WA (there are *five* caravan parks here). But the local oysters love it! **Oysterfest** (www.ceduna.sa.gov.au/oysterfest) in early October is the undisputed king of Australian oyster parties. And if you're heading west in whale season (May to October), Ceduna is the place for updates on sightings at Head of Bight.

Sights

Ceduna School House Museum MUSEUM
(www.nationaltrust.org.au/sa; 2 Park Tce; adult/child/family \$4/2.50/9; ☺ 10am-noon Mon, Tue & Thu-Sat, 2-4pm Wed & Thu) This little museum has pioneer exhibits, Indigenous artefacts and a display on the tragic British nuclear tests at Maralinga.

Sleeping & Eating

Ceduna Foreshore Hotel/Motel MOTEL \$\$
(☎ 08-8625 2008; www.cedunahotel.com.au; 32 O'Loughlin Tce; d \$125-195, f \$160-180; ☹☹) The renovated 54-room Foreshore is the most luxurious option in town, with water views and a **bistro** (mains \$17-38, ☺ 6.30-9am, noon-2pm & 6-8.30pm) focused on west-coast seafood. The view from the outdoor terrace extends through Norfolk Island pines and out across the bay.

★ **Ceduna Oyster Bar** SEAFOOD \$\$
(☎ 08-8626 9086; www.facebook.com/oysterbarceduna; Eyre Hwy; 12 oysters \$12, meals \$14-22; ☺ 9.30am-7.30pm) Pick up a box of freshly shucked molluscs and head for the foreshore, or sit up on the rooftop here (are the renovations finished yet?) and watch the road trains rumble in from WA. Fresh as can be.

Information

Ceduna Visitor Information Centre (☎ 1800 639 413, 08-8625 2780; www.cedunaturism.com.au; 58 Poynton St; ☺ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, to 5pm Sat & Sun) The Ceduna Visitor Information Centre can help with local info.

Ceduna to the Western Australian Border

It's 480km from Ceduna to the WA border. Along the stretch you can get a bed and a beer at Penong (72km from Ceduna), Fowlers Bay (141km), Nundroo (151km), the Nullarbor Roadhouse (295km) near Head of Bight, and at Border Village on the border itself.

Wheat and sheep paddocks line the road to Nundroo, after which you're in mallee scrub for another 100km. Around 20km later, the trees thin to low bluebush as you enter the true Nullarbor (Latin for 'no trees'). Road trains, caravans and cyclists of questionable sanity are your only companions as you put your foot down and careen towards the setting sun.

Turn off the highway at **Penong** (population 200), and follow the 21km dirt road to Point Sinclair and **Cactus Beach**, which has three of Australia's most famous surf breaks. Caves is a wicked right-hand break for experienced surfers (locals don't take too kindly to tourists dropping in). There's **bush camping** (www.youcamp.com/properties/51; unpowered sites \$13) on private property close to the breaks; BYO drinking water.

The viewing platforms at **Head of Bight** (☎0407 832 297; www.yalata.org; adult \$20, child under/over 15 free/\$15; ☀8am-5pm) overlook a major southern-right-whale breeding ground. Whales migrate here from Antarctica, and you can see them cavorting from May to October. The breeding area is protected by the **Great Australian Bight Commonwealth Marine Reserve** (www.environment.gov.au), the world's second-largest marine park after the Great Barrier Reef.

Head of Bight is a part of the Yalata Indigenous Protected Area. Pay your entry fee and get the latest whale information from the **White Well Ranger Station** on the way in to the viewing area. The signposted turn-off is 14km east of the Nullarbor Roadhouse.

While you're in the Head of Bight area, you can also check out **Murrawijinie Cave**, a large overhang behind the Nullarbor Roadhouse, and have a look at the signposted coastal lookouts along the top of the 80m-high **Bunda Cliffs**.

If you're continuing west into WA, dump all fruit, vegetables, cheese and plants at Border Village (as per quarantine regulations), and watch out for animals if you're driving at night. Note that if you're driving east rather than west, SA's quarantine check-point isn't until Ceduna.

Sleeping

Penong Caravan Park

CARAVAN PARK \$

(☎08-8625 1111; www.nullarbor.net.com.au/towns/penong.html; 3 Stiggants Rd, Penong; unpowered/powered sites from \$22/25, on-site vans/cabins from \$45/75; 📶) A short hop from Ceduna, this well-kept park is rated by some travellers as the best on the Nullarbor. The cabins are in good shape, and the camping area has a laundry and barbecues. Extra charge for linen.

Fowlers Bay Eco Park

CARAVAN PARK \$

(☎08-8625 6143; www.fowlerseco.com; Esplanade, Fowlers Bay; powered sites per 2 people \$28, extra person \$8) 🌿 You'll find powered sites, a kiosk and sophisticated solar systems at this cheery caravan park. Nearby are heritage buildings, good fishing, passing whales and rambling dunes. Ask about whale-watching tours (May to October). The Fowlers Bay turn-off is 106km from Ceduna.

Fowlers Bay Holiday Flats

APARTMENT \$\$

(☎08-8625 6179; www.fowlersbay.com; Fowlers Bay; d from \$100; 📶) Basic motel-style units sleeping four, with full kitchens. It's a short walk from the town jetty (bring your fishing rod).

Nundroo Hotel Motel

MOTEL \$

(☎08-8625 6120; www.nundrooaccommodation.com; Eyre Hwy, Nundroo; unpowered/powered sites \$8/20, d \$99; 📶📶) If you're heading west, Nundroo has this decent hotel/motel and the last mechanic until Norseman, WA, 1038km away. Expect worn but comfy motel rooms with updated bathrooms. There's also a **bar-restaurant** (meals \$15-35; ☀11am-late) on-site.

Nullarbor Roadhouse

MOTEL \$

(☎08-8625 6271; www.nullarbor.net.com.au/towns/nullarbor.html; Eyre Hwy, Nullarbor; unpowered/powered sites \$20/25, budget rooms s/d/tr \$47/57/67, motel s/d/tr from \$125/145/165; 📶) Close to the Head of Bight whale-watching area, this roadhouse is a real oasis for weary road warriors. Also has an on-site **bar-restaurant** (meals \$15-30; ☀7am-10pm).

Border Village Motel

MOTEL \$

(☎08-9039 3474; www.nullarbor.net.com.au/towns/bordervillage.html; Eyre Hwy, Border Village; unpowered/powered sites \$15/20, budget s/d/tr \$40/60/70, motel s/d/f from \$95/110/120; 📶📶📶) Just 50m from the WA border, this rebuilt motel has a variety of modern rooms and cabins, plus a licensed restaurant (meals \$15 to \$28; open noon to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm).



Flinders Ranges & Outback SA

Includes →

Flinders Ranges	794
Mt Remarkable National Park	796
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Best Places to Eat

- Rawsley Park Station (p797)
- Prairie Hotel (p799)
- John's Pizza Bar & Restaurant (p804)
- Quorn Cafe (p797)

Best Places to Stay

- North Star Hotel (p796)
- Quorn Caravan Park (p796)
- Wilpena Pound Resort (p798)
- Down to Erth B&B (p803)

Why Go?

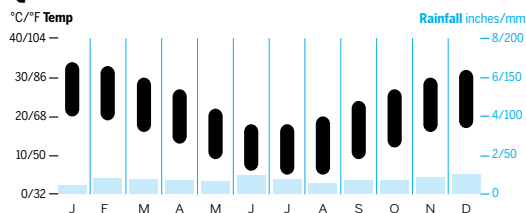
If you want to experience the Outback (the loose geographic zone comprising 70% of mainland Australia) wheeling into the Flinders Ranges is a great way to start.

Approaching the Ranges from the south, the wheat fields and wineries of South Australia's midnorth district give way to arid cattle stations beneath ochre-coloured peaks. This is ancient country, imbued with the Dreaming stories of the Adnyamathanha people. Emus wander across roads; yellow-footed rock wallabies bound from boulder to boulder.

Further north on the Stuart Hwy and along the legendary Oodnadatta and Strzelecki Tracks, eccentric outback towns such as Woomera, William Creek, Innamincka and Coober Pedy emerge from the heat haze. This is no country for the faint-hearted: it's waterless, flyblown and dizzyingly hot. No wonder the opal miners in Coober Pedy live underground!

When to Go

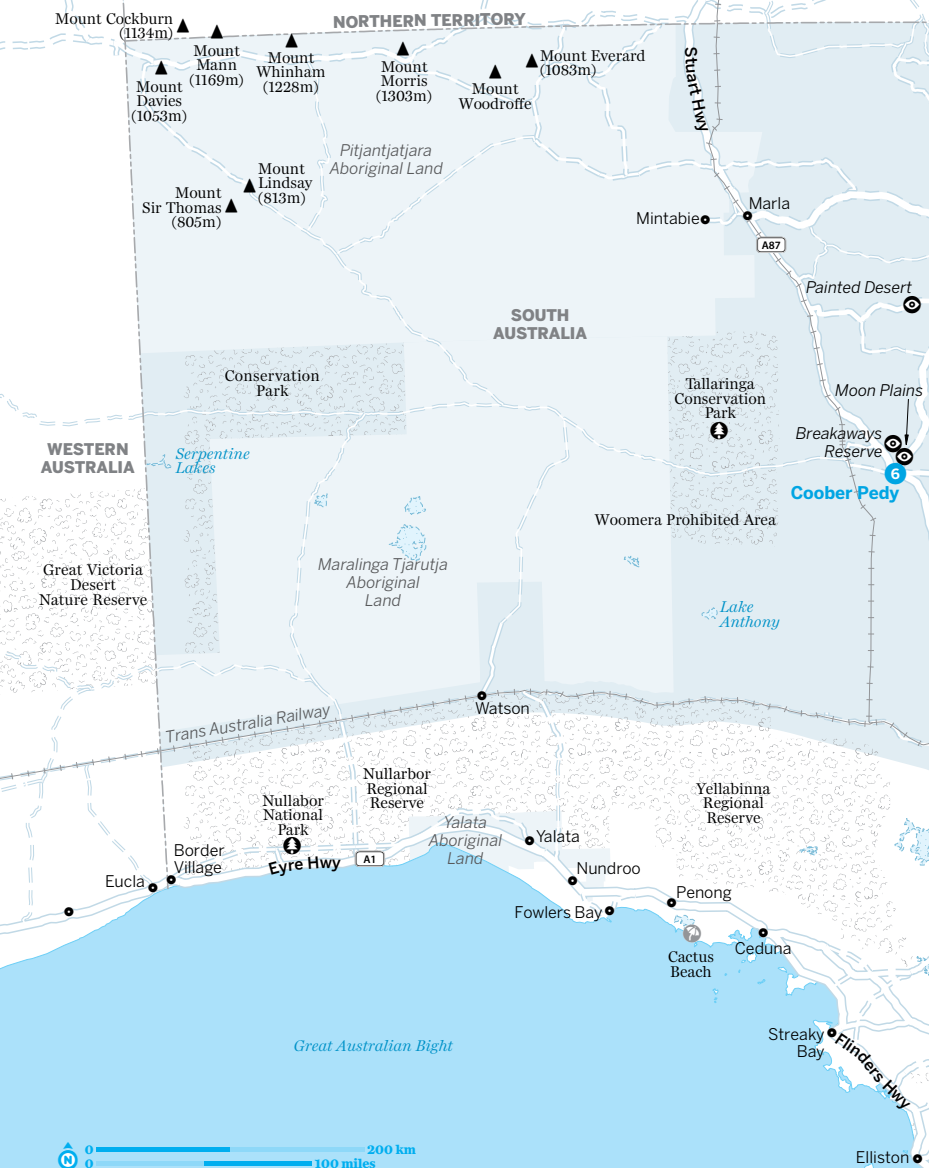
Quorn



May Sunbaked desert colours shimmer as the Outback cools at the end of autumn.

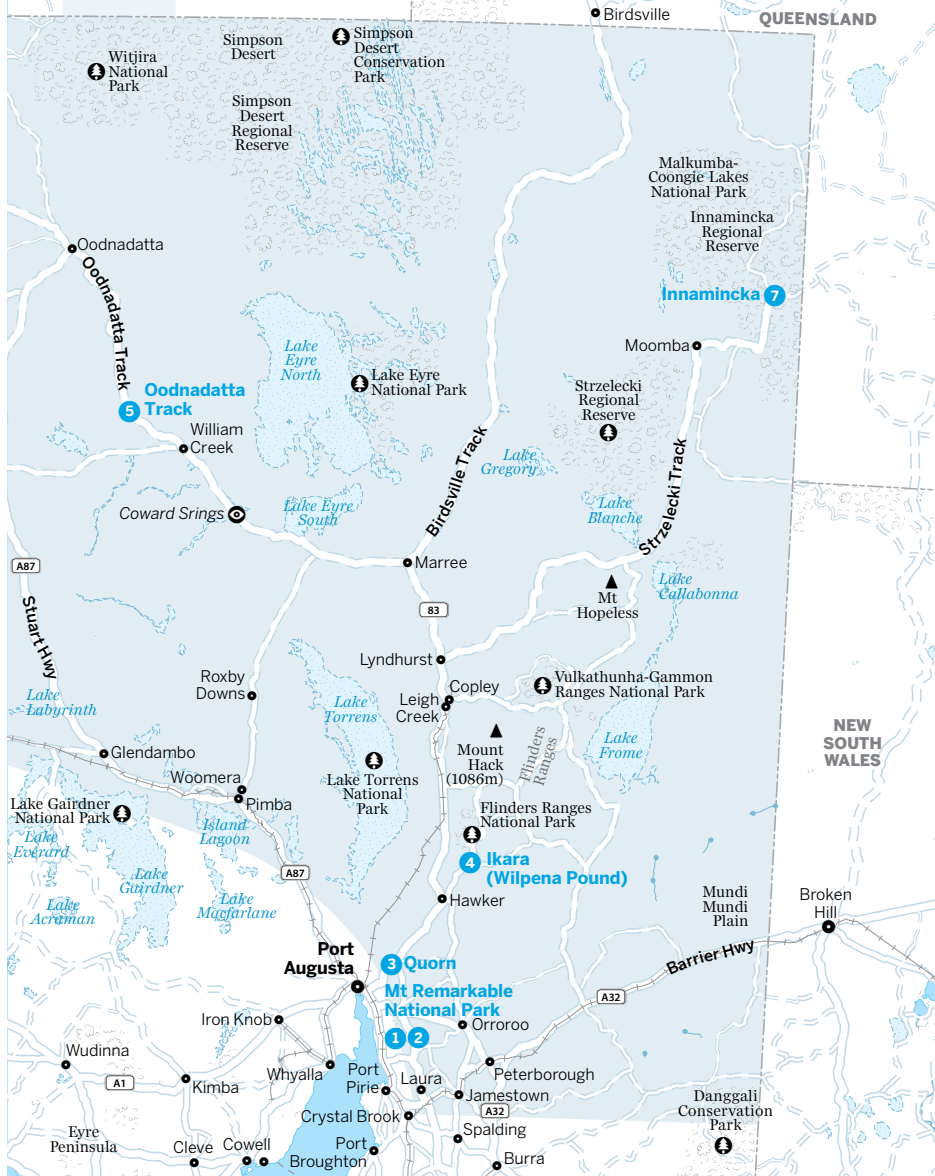
Jun-Aug Winter is peak season in the Outback: mild temperatures, clear skies and Grey Nomads.

Sep Last chance to hit the Outback without 35-degree days. Spring flowers in the Flinders Ranges.



Flinders Ranges & Outback SA Highlights

- 1 Exploring the gorges and scenic slopes of **Mt Remarkable National Park** (p796).
- 2 Kicking back with a cold beer at the **North Star Hotel** (p796) in Melrose.
- 3 Checking out the old buildings and Wild West vibes in **Quorn** (p796).
- 4 Hiking up to Wangarra Lookout at **Ikara** (Wilpena Pound; p798).
- 5 Jumping in a 4WD and truck along the **Oodnadatta Track** (p805), a great Australian adventure.



6 Noodling for opals in **Coober Pedy** (p801), then bunking down underground.

7 Camping under the stars along Cooper Creek at **Innaminka** (p806).

FLINDERS RANGES

Known simply as 'the Flinders', this ancient mountain range is an iconic South Australian environment. Jagged peaks and escarpments rise up north of Port Augusta and track 400km north to Mt Hopeless. The colours here are remarkable: as the day stretches out, the mountains shift from mauve mornings to midday chocolates and ochre-red sunsets.

Before Europeans arrived, the Flinders were prized by the Adnyamathanha peoples for their red ochre deposits, which had medicinal and ritual uses. Sacred caves,

rock paintings and carvings exist throughout the region. In the wake of white exploration came villages, farms, country pubs, wheat farms and cattle stations, many of which failed under the unrelenting sun.

Tours

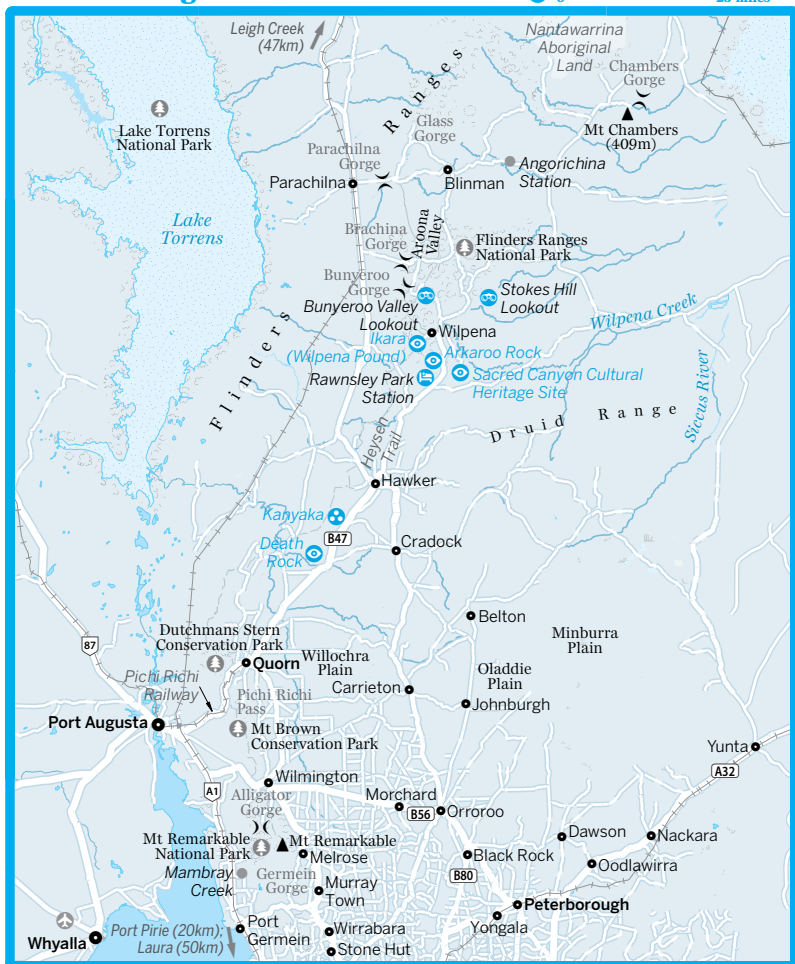
Arkaba Walk

WALKING

(☎02-9571 6399, 1300 790 561; www.arkabawalk.com; per person \$2150; ☀mid-Mar–mid-Oct) Hike for four days through the Flinders in fine (guided) style. Prices include park entry fees, chef-cooked meals, luggage portage, deluxe camping and a night at the super-

Flinders Ranges

0 50 km
0 25 miles



plush Arkaba Station (p798). A once-in-a-lifetime treat!

Groovy Grape

OUTDOORS

(☎1800 661 177, 08-8440 1640; www.groovygrape.com.au) Small-group tours including: four days, Adelaide to Coober Pedy return via the Flinders Ranges (\$495); and seven days, Adelaide to Alice Springs via the Flinders Ranges, Coober Pedy and Uluru (\$975). Meals, camping and national park entry fees are included.

Heading Bush

OUTDOORS

(☎08-8356 5501, 1800 639 933; www.headingbush.com) Rugged, small-group, 10-day Adelaide to Alice Springs expeditions are \$2495 all-inclusive, and run via the Flinders Ranges, Coober Pedy, the Simpson Desert. Aboriginal communities, Uluru and the West MacDonnell Ranges. Three-day Flinders Ranges camping tours are \$695, or from \$1250 with cabin accommodation.

Flinders Ranges By Bike

MOUNTAIN BIKING

(☎08-8648 0048; www.flindersrangesbybike.com.au; per person 1/2/3/4 days \$35/40/45/50) Pedal your way along a 200km circuit through the best bits of the Flinders Ranges, starting (and ending) at Rawnsley Park Station (p797), south of Wilpena. Fees cover park entry and access to private properties en route; book your own accommodation. Luggage transfers also available.

Wallaby Tracks Adventure Tours

OUTDOORS

(☎08-8648 6655, 0428 486 655; www.wallabytracks.com; 1-4-day tours \$250/1200) Small-group, backpacker-savvy 4WD tours around the Ranges and Ikara (Wilpena Pound). One-day tours ex-Port Augusta; four-day tours ex-Adelaide. Lake Eyre and Arkaroola tours are also available.

Getting There & Away

Exploring the Flinders on a tour or under your own steam is the only way to go. From Port Augusta, **Pichi Richi Railway** (☎1800 440 1011800 440 101; www.prr.org.au; one way \$52) runs trains to Quorn (two hours) on Saturdays.

Southern Ranges Towns

Port Pirie (population 13,830) is a big lead- and zinc-smelting town on the edge of the Southern Flinders Ranges; the Nyrstar smelter dominates the skyline. It's a good spot to stock up on supplies before heading north. The **Port Pirie Regional Tourism & Arts**

ADNYAMATHANHA DREAMING

Land and nature are integral to the culture of the traditional owners of the Flinders Ranges. The people collectively called Adnyamathanha (Hill People) are actually a collection of the Wailpi, Kuyani, Jadjlaura, Piladappa and Pangkala tribes, who exchanged and elaborated on stories to explain their spectacular local geography.

The walls of Ikara (Wilpena Pound), for example, are the bodies of two *akura* (giant snakes), who coiled around Ikara during an initiation ceremony, eating most of the participants. The snakes were so full after their feast they couldn't move and willed themselves to die, creating the landmark.

Centre (☎1800 000 424, 08-8633 8700; www.pirie.sa.gov.au; 3 Mary Elie St; ☀9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun) has local info.

You enter the Southern Ranges proper near **Laura** (population 550), which emerges from the wheat fields like Superman's Smallville (all civic pride and 1950s prosperity). The long, geranium-adorned main street has a supermarket, chemist, bakery, bank, post office...even a shoe shop!

The oldest town in the Flinders (1853) is **Melrose** (population 200), snug in the elbow of the 960m Mt Remarkable. It has the perfect mix of well-preserved architecture, a cracking-good pub, quality accommodation and parks with *actual grass*. Don't miss the decaying multistorey ruins of **Jacka's Brewery** (1878) on Mount St, which once employed 40 staff. Mountain biking is big here: **Over The Edge** (☎08-8666 2222; www.otesports.com.au; 6 Stuart St, Melrose; ☀9am-5pm Wed-Mon) has spares, repairs and a cafe.

Sleeping

Melrose Caravan Park

CARAVAN PARK \$

(☎08-8666 2060; www.parks-sa.com.au/caravan_park/250; Joe's Rd, Melrose; dm \$20, unpowered/powered sites \$20/25, cabins \$60-120; ♿) Bounded by 5 acres of bush camp sites, this small, tidy park has self-contained cabins salvaged from the 2000 Sydney Olympics (all with TVs and cooking facilities – the cheaper ones are sans bathrooms). The 12km return hike up **Mt Remarkable** starts on the back doorstep. Next door is a converted agricultural shed with basic dorm facilities.

★ North Star Hotel

(☎08-8666 2110; www.northstarhotel.com.au; 43 Nott St, Melrose; d/trucks from \$125/160; ☹️🚰) As welcome as summer rain: the North Star is a fab 1854 pub renovated in city-meets-woolshed style. Sit under spinning ceiling fans at the bistro (mains \$16 to \$30, serving noon to 2pm Wednesday to Sunday and 6pm to 8pm Thursday to Sunday) for a fresh menu, great coffee and cold beer. Accommodation ranges from plush suites upstairs, to Bundaleer Cottage next door (sleeps 16) and quirky cabins built on two old trucks.

Mt Remarkable National Park

Bush boffins rave about the steep, jagged **Mt Remarkable National Park** (☎08-8634 7068; www.environment.sa.gov.au; per person/car \$4/10), which straddles the Southern Flinders. Pay park entry fees via self-registration at Mambray Creek, off Hwy 1 about 21km north of Port Germein; or at Alligator Gorge on the inland route (Main North Rd between Melrose and Wilmington). Wildlife and bushwalking are the main lures, with various tracks (including part of the **Heysen Trail**) meandering through isolated gorges.

From the car park at **Alligator Gorge** take the short, steep walk (2km, two hours) down into the craggy gorge (no sign of any 'gators), the ring route (9km, four hours), or the walk to **Hidden Gorge** (18km, seven hours) or **Mambray Creek** (13km, seven hours). Or you can sweat up the track to the 960m-high summit of **Mt Remarkable** (12km, five hours); the trail starts behind Melrose Caravan Park (p795).

If you want to stay the night, there's plenty of **bush camping** (per adult/child \$18/free) and two lodges, at **Mambray Creek** (per night from \$57) and **Alligator Gorge** (per night from \$160). Both are solar powered; Alligator Gorge has better cooking facilities and showers. Book camp sites and lodges online; with cash at the Port Pirie, Port Augusta or Quorn visitor information centres; or at Over The Edge (p795) bike shop in Melrose.

Quorn

POP 1210

Is Quorn a film set after the crew has gone home? With more jeering crows than people, it's a cinematographic little outback

town. Wheat farming took off here in 1875, and the town prospered with the arrival of the Great Northern Railway from Port Augusta. Quorn (pronounced 'corn') remained an important railroad junction until trains into the Flinders were cut in 1970.

👁️ Sights & Activities

Quorn's streetscapes, especially **Railway Terrace**, are a real history lesson, and have featured in iconic Australian films such as *Gallipoli* and *Sunday Too Far Away*. Out of town, derelict ruins litter the Quorn-Hawker road, the most impressive of which is **Kanyaka**, a once-thriving sheep station founded in 1851. From the ruins (41km from Quorn) it's a 20-minute walk to a waterhole loomed over by the massive **Death Rock**. The story goes that local Aboriginal people once placed their dying kinfolk here to see out their last hours.

👉 Tours

Four Winds Cultural Guiding CULTURAL (☎08-8648 6993; www.southaustralia.com; tours per person from \$35) Guided one-hour bushwalking tours with Adnyamathanha guides, covering either local culture and Dreaming stories, or bush tucker, tracking and hunting.

🏠 Sleeping & Eating

★ **Quorn Caravan Park** CARAVAN PARK \$ (☎08-8648 6206; www.quorncaravanpark.com.au; 8 Silo Rd; unpowered/powered sites \$26/32, dm \$40, van s/d \$60/70, cabins \$90-135; ☹️🚰) Fully clued-in to climate change, this passionately run park on Pinkerton Creek is hell bent on reducing emissions and restoring native habitat. Features include spotless cabins, a backpacker cabin (sleeps eight), a camp kitchen made from recycled timbers, shady sites, rainwater tanks everywhere and a few lazy roos lounging about under the red gums.

Austral Inn HOTEL, MOTEL \$ (☎08-8648 6017; www.australinn.info; 16 Railway Tce; motel s/d \$70/90, pub s/d \$110/115; ☹️) There's always a few locals here giving the jukebox a workout. The pub rooms are renovated – simple and clean with new linen (nicer than the five motel rooms out the back). Try a kangaroo schnitzel in the bistro (mains \$16 to \$24, serving noon to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm).

Savings Bank of South Australia

RENTAL HOUSE \$\$

(☎0448 727 622; www.stayz.com.au/131032; 39 First St; d from \$180; 🏠) Bank on a good night's sleep at Quorn's lovely old red-brick bank, a two-storey, two-bathroom, three-bedroom conversion of this 1906 charmer. It's a terrific base for exploring the Flinders. Sleeps six; two-night minimum stay (good weekly rates).

★ Quorn Cafe

CAFE \$

(☎08-8648 6368; www.quorncafe.com.au; 43 First St; mains \$9-17; ☺9am-5pm; 🍴) The menu board at this unexpected hippie cafe is an old door hung on the wall, covered with brown-paper sandwich bags. Each bag has a menu item scribbled on it: lamb burger, chicken and smoked salmon salad, egg and bacon sandwich... Everything is homemade and generous. Try the goat curry ('a little bit bony, but delicious'). Quorn's best coffee, too.

i Information

Flinders Ranges Visitor Information Centre

(☎08-8620 0510; www.flindersranges.com; Railway Tce, Quorn Railway Station; ☺9am-5pm Mar-Oct, 10am-4pm Nov-Feb) Maps, brochures, internet access and advice.

Hawker

POP 300

Hawker is the last outpost of civilisation before Ikara (Wilpena Pound), 55km to the north. Much like Quorn, Hawker has seen better days, most of which were when the old Ghan train stopped here. These days Hawker is a pancake-flat, pit-stop town with an ATM, a general store, a pub and the world's most helpful petrol station.

👁 Sights & Activities

It's not so much what's in Hawker that's interesting – it's more what's around it – but for those who like their great outdoors inside (and a little bit eccentric), the Wilpena Panorama at the **Jeff Morgan Gallery** (☎08-8648 4071; www.wilpenapanorama.com; cnr Wilpena & Cradock Rds; adult/child/family \$8/5.50/20; ☺9am-5pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat, closed Jan & Feb) is a large circular room with a painting of Ikara (Wilpena Pound) surrounding you on all sides.

Around 40km north of Hawker towards Wilpena, **Arkaroo Rock** is a sacred Aboriginal site. The rock art here features reptile

and human figures in charcoal, bird-lime, and yellow and red ochre. It's a short(ish) return walk from the car park (2km, one hour).

👉 Tours

Derek's 4WD Tours

DRIVING TOUR

(☎0417 475 770; www.dereks4wdtours.com; half-/full-day tours from \$160/220) These are 4WD trips with an environmental bent, including visits to Bunyerroo and Brachina Gorges.

Bush Pilots Australia

SCENIC FLIGHTS

(☎08-8648 4444; www.bushpilots.com.au; 60 Elder Tce; 30min flights per person \$180) Get up and above the Flinders with these scenic flights, operating out of Hawker. Longer outback jaunts are also available.

🛏 Sleeping

BIG4 Hawker Flinders Ranges Holiday Park

CARAVAN PARK \$

(☎08-8648 4006; www.big4hawker.com.au; 44 Chace View Tce; unpowered/powered sites \$28/32, en suite sites \$42-50, cabins \$96-162; 🏠📶🚰) At the Wilpena end of town, this upbeat, fastidiously maintained acreage has generous gravelly sites and a range of cabins. And there's a pool! It runs an additional overflow site at 12 Carpenter Rd from April to October (no pool here...).

★ Rawnsley Park Station

RESORT \$\$

(☎ caravan park 08-8648 0008, reception 08-8648 0030; www.rawnsleypark.com.au; Wilpena Rd, via Hawker; unpowered/powered sites \$25/35, hostel per adult/child \$38/28, cabins/units/villas from \$98/150/410; 🏠📶🚰) This rangy homestead 35km from Hawker offers everything from tent sites to luxe eco-villas, plus caravan-park cabins set up as **YHA** (www.yha.com.au) dorms. Outback activities include mountain-bike hire (per hour \$15), bushwalks (30 minutes to four hours), 4WD tours and scenic flights. The excellent **Wooshed Restaurant** (☎08-8648 0126; www.rawnsleypark.com.au; Wilpena Rd, via Hawker; mains \$27-36; ☺noon-2pm Wed-Sun, 5-8.30pm daily) does bang-up bush tucker, plus curries, seafood and pizzas.

Outback Motel & Chappanton Holiday Units

MOTEL \$\$

(☎08-8648 4100; www.outbackmotel.com.au; 1 Wilpena Rd; s/d motel \$120/125, s/d units \$130/150; 🏠) Like a transplanted vision from the Utah desert, this orange-brick, drive-up

motel offers the best rooms in downtown Hawker. The two-bedroom units are good value for families: the biggest one sleeps six (extra person \$15).

Arkaba Station BOUTIQUE HOTEL \$\$\$
(☎02-9571 6399, 1300 790 561; www.arkabastation.com; Wilpena Rd via Hawker; d from \$1632) Flashy outback station accommodation in an 1850s homestead. 'Wild bush luxury' is the marketing pitch.

i Information

Hawker Motors (☎08-8648 4014, 1800 777 880; www.hawkermotors.com.au; cnr Wilpena & Cradock Rds; ☎7.30am-6pm) The town's petrol station (fill up if you're heading north) doubles as the visitor information centre.

Flinders Ranges National Park

One of SA's most treasured parks, **Flinders Ranges National Park** (www.environment.sa.gov.au; per car \$10) is laced with craggy gorges, sawtoothed ranges, abandoned homesteads, Aboriginal sites, native wildlife and, after it rains, carpets of wild flowers. The park's big-ticket drawcard is the 80-sq-km natural basin **Ikara (Wilpena Pound)** – a sunken elliptical valley ringed by gnarled ridges (don't let anyone tell you it's a meteorite crater!).

The only vehicular access to the Pound is via the Wilpena Pound Resort's **shuttle bus** (return adult/child/family \$5/3/10), which drops you about 1km from the old **Hills Homestead**, from where you can walk to **Wangarra Lookout** (another 300m). The shuttle runs at 9am, 11am, 1pm and 3pm. Otherwise it's a three-hour, 8km return walk between the resort and lookout.

The 20km **Brachina Gorge Geological Trail** features an amazing layering of exposed sedimentary rock, covering 120 million years of the earth's history. Grab a brochure from the visitors centre.

The **Bunyeroo–Brachina–Aroona Scenic Drive** is a 110km round trip, passing by Bunyeroo Valley, Brachina Gorge, Aroona Valley and **Stokes Hill Lookout**. The drive starts north of Wilpena off the road to Blinman.

👁 Sights & Activities

Bushwalking in the Flinders is unforgettable. Before you make happy trails, ensure

you've got enough water, sunscreen and a massive hat, and tell someone where you're going. Pick up the *Bushwalking in Flinders Ranges National Park* brochure from the visitor information centre. Many walks kick off at Wilpena Pound Resort.

For a really good look at Ikara, the walk up to **Tanderra Saddle** (return 15km, six hours) on the ridge of **St Mary Peak** is brilliant, though it's a thigh-pounding scramble at times. The Adnyamathanha people request that you restrict your climbing to the ridge and don't climb St Mary Peak itself, due to its traditional significance to them.

The quick, tough track up to **Mt Ohlssen Bagge** (return 6.5km, four hours) rewards the sweaty hiker with a stunning panorama. Good short walks include the stroll to **Hills Homestead** (return 6.5km, two hours), or the dash up to the **Wilpena Solar Power Station** (return 500m, 30 minutes).

Just beyond the park's southeast corner, a one-hour, 1km return walk leads to the **Sacred Canyon Cultural Heritage Site**, with Aboriginal rock-art galleries featuring animal tracks and designs.

👉 Tours

Four-wheel-drive park tours are run by both Wilpena Pound Resort (half/full day from \$189/295) and Rawnsley Park Station (half/full day from \$160/245). There are also tour companies operating from Hawker.

✈ Air Wilpena Scenic Flight Tours

SCENIC FLIGHTS
(☎08-8648 0048; www.airwilpena.com.au; flights 20min/30min/1hr \$169/199/299) Scenic flights from Wilpena Pound Resort.

🏠 Sleeping

Permits for **bush camping** (per person/car \$7/13) within the national park (ie outside the Wilpena Pound Resort) are available from the visitor information centre, and via self-registration stations at camp sites.

★ Wilpena Pound Resort

RESORT \$\$\$
(☎1800 805 802, 08-8648 0004; www.wilpenapound.com.au; Wilpena Rd via Hawker; unpowered/powered sites \$23/34, safari tent \$180-230, d \$236-300; 🍷🍷🍷) Accommodation at this excellent resort includes motel-style rooms, more upmarket self-contained suites, and a great (although hugely popular) camp site with plush safari tents. Book way in advance over winter (high season). Don't miss a swim in the pool, happy hour at the bar (5pm to

6.30pm) and dinner at the bistro (mains \$19 to \$32 – try the roof!).

i Information

Wilpena Pound Visitor Information Centre

(📞1800 805 802, 08-8648 0048; www.wilpena.pound.com.au; Wilpena Pound Resort; 🕒8am–5pm) At the resort's info centre you'll find a shop, petrol, park and bushwalking info, internet access and bike hire (per half/full day \$35/65). Also handles bookings for scenic flights and 4WD tours. Pay your park entry fees here.

Blinman & Parachilna

About an hour north of Ikara (Wilpena Pound) on a sealed road, uber-cute Blinman (population 30), owes its existence to the copper ore discovered here in 1859 and the smelter built in 1903. But the boom went bust and 1500 folks left town. Today Blinman's main claim to fame is as SA's highest town (610m above sea level).

Much of the old **Heritage Blinman Mine** (📞08-8648 4782; www.heritageblinmanmine.com.au; Main St, Blinman; tours adult/child/family \$28/11/65; 🕒9am–4pm, reduced hours Dec–Mar) has been redeveloped with lookouts, audiovisual interpretation and information boards. One-hour tours run at 10am, noon and 2pm.

Chunky slate floors, old-time photographs and colonial-style rooms collide at the renovated 1869 **North Blinman Hotel** (📞08-8648 4867; www.blinmanhotel.com; Main St, Blinman; unpowered/power sites \$10/20, d motel/hotel \$90/155; 🍷), which has raggedy tent sites out the back (...D'oh! They filled in the pool!). The bistro (mains \$20 to \$30; serving noon to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm) plates up pubby delights. En route to Arkaroola, **Angorichina Station** (📞08-8648 4863; www.angorichina.com.au; Blinman–Arkaroola Rd; unpowered sites \$20, shearers quarters per 5 people \$200, cottages per 4 people \$200; 🍷) offers shearers-quarters beds, camping and a lovely self-contained cottage.

The road between Blinman and Parachilna tracks through gorgeous **Parachilna Gorge**, where you'll find free creekside camping and chill-out spots. The northern end of the **Heysen Trail** starts/finishes here. Halfway between Blinman and Parachilna the **Blinman Pools Walk** (12km return, five hours) kicks off, following a creek past abandoned dugouts and river gums.

i NATIONAL PARKS HOLIDAY PASS

Around 22% of South Australia's land area is under some form of official conservation management, including national parks, recreation parks, conservation parks and wildlife reserves. The **Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources** (www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks) manages the state's conservation areas and sells park passes and camping permits. A two-month 'Holiday Pass' (\$40 per vehicle; \$80 including camping) covers entry to most of SA's parks, excluding the desert parks and Flinders Chase on Kangaroo Island. Purchase online or at park offices.

On the Hawker–Leigh Creek road, Parachilna (population somewhere between four and seven) is an essential Flinders Ranges destination. The drawcard here is the legendary **Prairie Hotel** (📞1800 331 473, 08-8648 4895; www.prairiehotel.com.au; cnr High St & West Tce, Parachilna; powered sites \$35, budget cabins s/d \$65/80, hotel s/d/tr from \$195/225/320; 🍷🍷), a world-class stay with slick suites, plus camping and workers' cabins across the street. Don't miss a meal in the bar (mains \$18 to \$35; serving 11.30am to 3pm and 6pm to 8.30pm) – try the feral mixed grill (camel sausage, kangaroo fillet and emu). We arrived at 10.42am: 'Too early for a beer!' Whose rules are those?' said the barman.

Leigh Creek & Copley

In the early 1980s, the previously nonexistent town of Leigh Creek (population 700) was built by the state government – it's a coal-mining town, supplying the Port Augusta power stations. The **Leigh Creek Tavern** (📞08-8675 2025; leighcreektavern@alinta.energy.com.au; Black Oak Dr, Leigh Creek; motel s/d \$115/140, cabins s/d/f \$100/110/150; 🍷) offers jaunty '90s-style motel rooms, basic cabins and miner-sized bistro meals (mains \$18 to \$30; serving noon to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm). The **Leigh Creek Visitor Information Centre** (📞08-8675 2315; www.loccleighcreek.com.au; Shop 2, Black Oak Dr, Leigh Creek; 🕒8.30am–5.30pm Mon–Fri, to 2pm Sat) is at Liz's Open Cut Cafe.

About 6km north of Leigh Creek is the sweet meaninglessness of little Copley (population 80). **Copley Caravan Park** (☎08-8675 2288; www.copleycaravan.com.au; Lot 100 Railway Tce W, Copley; unpowered/powerd sites \$25/30, cabins d \$80-150, f \$150; ♿) is a small, immaculate park. At reception is the **Quandong Cafe** (Lot 100 Railway Tce W, Copley; items \$5-7; ☺8am-5pm), serving delicious quandong pies (a quandong is a kind of native cherry).

Iga Warta (☎08-8648 3737; www.igawarta.com; Arkaroola Rd; unpowered sites \$22, dm & tents per person \$36, cabins/safari tents d \$104/150), 57km east of Copley on the way into Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park, is an Indigenous-run establishment offering Adnyamathanha cultural experiences (\$25 to \$84) as well as 4WD and bushwalking tours (\$138).

Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park

Blanketing 1282 sq km of desert, the remote **Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park** (www.environment.sa.gov.au) has deep gorges, rugged ranges, yellow-footed rock wallabies and gum-lined creeks. Most of the park is difficult to access (4WDs are near compulsory) and has limited facilities. The rangers hang out at the **Balcanoona Park Headquarters** (☎08-8204 1910, 08-8648 5300), 99km from Copley.

The park has five bushcamping (per person/car \$10/6) areas: pick up camping permits at park HQ. There are also a couple of huts here: **Grindells Hut** (up to 8 people \$155) and **Balcanoona Shearers' Quarters** (d/tr \$44/65, exclusive use up to 19 people \$285); book through the park HQ.

Arkaroola

A privately operated wildlife reserve-resort 129km east of Copley on unsealed roads, **Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary** (☎08-8648 4848; www.arkaroola.com.au) ♿ occupies a far-flung and utterly spectacular part of the Flinders Ranges. The **visitor centre** (☺9am-5pm) has natural-history displays, including a scientific explanation of the tremors that often shake things up hereabouts.

The Arkaroola must-do is the four-hour 4WD **Ridgetop Tour** (☎08-8648 4848; www.arkaroola.com.au; adult/child \$145/55) through wild mountain country, complete

with white-knuckle climbs and descents towards the freakish Sillers Lookout. You can also book guided or tag-along **tours** (drives and walks) through the area.

The **resort** (Arkaroola Rd Camp; unpowered/powerd sites \$22/29, cottages f \$130-175, motel d \$149-179; ♿) includes a motel complex, caravan park, bar-restaurant (mains \$20 to \$30, serving noon to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm), supermarket and service station.

OUTBACK

The area north of the Eyre Peninsula and the Flinders Ranges stretches into the vast, empty spaces of SA's outback. If you're prepared, travelling through this sparsely populated and harsh country is utterly rewarding.

Heading into the red heart of Australia on the Stuart Hwy, Woomera is the first pit stop, with its dark legacy of nuclear tests and shiny collection of leftover rockets. Further north, the opal-mining town of Coober Pedy is an absolute one-off: a desolate human anomaly amid the blistering, arid plains. If you're feeling gung-ho, tackle a section of the iconic Oodnadatta Track, a rugged outback alternative to the Stuart Hwy tarmac.

Tours

In addition to dedicated Outback tours, tours of the Flinders Ranges sometimes extend further north into the Outback. There are also scenic flights departing from Coober Pedy (p803), William Creek (p805) and Marree (p805).

Arabunna Tours

CULTURAL TOUR

(☎08-8675 8351; www.arabunnatours.com.au; 7-day tours ex-Adelaide from \$1800) Aboriginal-owned company offering cultural tours from Adelaide to the Flinders Ranges, Marree, Oodnadatta Track and Lake Eyre.

Sacred Earth Safaris

ADVENTURE TOUR

(tours per adult/child \$4900/4700) Epic 10-day Outback 4WD tours trundling along the big three desert tracks – Oodnadatta, Strzelecki and Birdsville – plus Coober Pedy and the Flinders Ranges.

Getting There & Around

AIR

Regional Express (Rex; www.regionalexpress.com.au) Flies most days between Adelaide and Coober Pedy (from \$247, two hours).

BUS

Greyhound Australia (www.greyhound.com.au) Daily coaches from Adelaide to Alice Springs (\$244, 20½ hours), stopping at Pimba (\$82, seven hours), Glendambo (\$95, 8¼ hours) and Coober Pedy (\$147, 11¼ hours).

CAR

The Stuart Hwy tracks from Port Augusta to Darwin. In SA, fuel and accommodation are available at Pimba (171km from Port Augusta), Glendambo (285km), Coober Pedy (535km), Cadney Homestead (689km) and Marla (771km). Pimba, Coober Pedy and Marla have 24-hour fuel sales.

The Oodnadatta, Birdsville and Strzelecki Tracks are subject to closure after heavy rains; check conditions with the **Royal Automobile Association** (RAA; Map p714; ☎08-8202 4600; www.raa.com.au; 41 Hindmarsh Sq; ☎8.30am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat) in Adelaide, or online at www.dpti.sa.gov.au/OutbackRoads.

TRAIN

Operated by Great Southern Rail (p732), the Ghan train runs through Outback SA between Adelaide and Alice Springs. Different services stop at (or near) Coober Pedy and Marla; see the website for details.

Woomera

POP 200

A 6km detour off the Stuart Hwy from **Pimba** (population 50), Woomera began in 1947 as HQ for experimental British rocket and nuclear tests at notorious sites like Maralinga. Local Indigenous tribes suffered greatly from the resulting nuclear fallout. These days Woomera is an eerie artificial town that's still an active Department of Defence test site.

Rocket into the **Woomera Heritage & Visitor Information Centre** (☎08-8673 7042; www.southaustralia.com; Dewrang Ave; museum adult/child \$6/3; ☎9am-5pm Mar-Nov, 10am-2pm Dec-Feb), with its displays on Woomera's past and present (plus a bowling alley!). Just across the car park is the **Lions Club Aircraft & Missile Park**, studded with jets and rocket remnants.

Built to house rocket scientists, the **Eldo Hotel** (☎08-8673 7867; eldohotel@transfieldservices.com; Kotara Ave; d from \$110; 🍷) has comfortable motel-style rooms and serves meals in an urbane bistro (mains \$19 to \$32, serving 7am to 9am, noon to 2pm and 6pm to 8.30pm). Try the meaty game plate.

DESERT PARKS PASS

Explore the outback environment with a **Desert Parks Pass** (☎08-8648 5328, 1800 816 078; www.environment.sa.gov.au; per vehicle \$150); this allows access to seven outback parks (including camping), and comes with a map and handbook. Pick one up from the Royal Automobile Association in Adelaide, order one online and have it mailed to you (Australia only), or see www.environment.sa.gov.au for regional pass agents in the Flinders Ranges and Outback South Australia.

Continue north past Woomera for 90km (sealed road) and you'll hit **Roxby Downs** (www.roxydowns.com), population 4500, a bizarrely affluent desert town built to service the massive Olympic Dam Mine, which digs up untold amounts of copper, silver, gold and uranium.

Woomera to Coober Pedy

Around 115km northwest of Pimba and 245km shy of Coober Pedy, middle-of-nowhere **Glendambo** (population 30) was established in 1982 as a Stuart Hwy service centre. This is the last fuel stop before Coober Pedy.

You can bunk down at the oasislike **Glendambo Hotel-Motel** (☎08-86721030; manager@glendambo.com.au; Stuart Hwy; unpowered/powered sites \$23/27, s/d/f from \$94/99/140; 🍷🍷), which has bars, a restaurant and a bunch of decent motel units. Outside are dusty camp sites; inside are meaty mains at the bistro (\$16 to \$30, serving noon to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm).

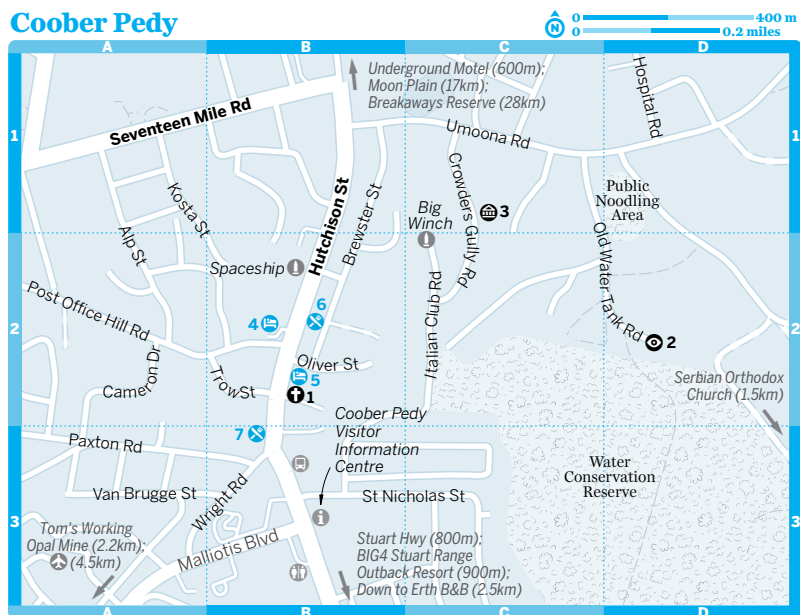
North of Glendambo the Stuart Hwy enters the government-owned **Woomera Prohibited Area** – the highway itself is unrestricted, but don't go a-wanderin' now, y'hear?

Coober Pedy

POP 3500

Coming into cosmopolitan Coober Pedy (there are 44 nationalities represented here!) the dry, barren desert suddenly becomes riddled with holes and adjunct piles of dirt – reputedly more than a million around the township. The reason for

Coober Pedy



Coober Pedy

📍 Sights

- 1 Catholic Church of St Peter & St PaulB2
- 2 Faye's Underground HomeD2
- 3 Old Timers MineC1

🏠 Sleeping

- 4 Desert Cave HotelB2
- 5 Radeka DownunderB2

🍴 Eating

- 6 John's Pizza Bar & RestaurantB2
- 7 Tom & Mary's Greek TavernaB3
- Umberto's(see 4)

all this rabid digging is opals. Discovered here 100 years ago, these gemstones have made this small town a mining mecca. This isn't to say it's also a tourist mecca – with swarms of flies, no trees, 50°C summer days, cave-dwelling locals and rusty car wrecks in front yards, you might think you've arrived in a postapocalyptic wasteland – but it sure is interesting! The name derives from local Aboriginal words *kupa* (white man) and *piti* (hole).

The surrounding desert is jaw-droppingly desolate, a fact not overlooked by international film-makers who've come here to

shoot end-of-the-world epics like *Mad Max III*, *Red Planet*, *Ground Zero*, *Pitch Black* and the slightly more believable *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*.

👁 Sights

Big Winch

SCULPTURE, VIEWPOINT

You can't miss the Big Winch, from which there are sweeping views over Coober Pedy. An optimistic 'if' painted on the side of the big bucket sums up the town's spirit.

Spaceship

SCULPTURE

Check out this amazing leftover prop from the film *Pitch Black*, which has crash-landed on Hutchison St.

Tom's Working Opal Mine

MINE

(www.tomsworkingopalmine.com; Lot 1993, Stuart Hwy; tours adult/child/family \$25/10/55; ☀8am-5pm) The best place to check out a working excavation is Tom's, 2km southwest of town: miners continue their search for the big vein; visitors noodle for small fortunes. Self-guided tours run from 8am to 5pm and cost \$10 per adult, \$5 per child.

Old Timers Mine

MUSEUM

(www.oldtimersmine.com; 1 Crowders Gully Rd; self-guided tours adult/child/family \$15/5/40; ☀9am-5.30pm) This interesting warren of tun-

nels was mined in 1916, and then hidden by the miners. The mine was rediscovered when excavations for a dugout home punched through into the labyrinth of tunnels. As well as the great self-guided tunnel tours, there's a museum, a re-created 1920s underground home, and free mining-equipment demos daily (9.30am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm).

Dugout Homes & Churches

Even when it's face-meltingly hot here in summer, subterranean temperatures never exceed 23°C – no air-con required for underground houses! The same goes for churches (miners are big on faith and hope).

Faye's Underground Home UNDERGROUND
(☎ 08-8672 5029; www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au; Old Water Tank Rd; adult/child \$5/1.50; ☀ 8am-5pm Mon-Sat Mar-Oct) Faye's was hand dug by three women in the 1960s. It's a little flowery, but the living-room swimming pool is a winner!

Serbian Orthodox Church CHURCH
(☎ 08-8672 3048; Saint Elijah Dr, off Flinders St; admission \$5; ☀ 24hr) This is the town's largest and most impressive underground church, with intricate rock-wall carvings and a gorgeous vaulted ceiling. It's about 3km south of town.

Catholic Church of St Peter & St Paul CHURCH
(cnr Halliday Pl & Hutchison St; ☀ 10am-4pm daily, Mass 10am Sun) **FREE** Coober Pedy's first church still has a sweet appeal, with statue-filled nooks and hushed classical music.

👉 Tours

Arid Areas Tours DRIVING TOUR
(☎ 08-8672 3008; www.aridareastours.com; 2-4-/6hr tours per 2 people from \$120/240/420) Offers 4WD tours around town, extending to the Painted Desert and the Breakaways.

Desert Cave Tours TOUR
(☎ 1800 088 521, 08-8672 5688; www.desertcave.com.au; 4hr tours per adult/child \$98/49) A convenient highlight tour taking in the town, the Dog Fence, the Breakaways and Moon Plain. Also on offer are four-hour 'Down 'N' Dirty' opal-digging tours (adult/child \$110/55).

Mail Run Tour DRIVING TOUR
(☎ 08-8672 5226, 1800 069 911; www.mailruntour.com; tours per person \$195) Coober Pedy-based full-day mail-run tours through the desert

and along the Oodnadatta Track to Oodnadatta and William Creek return.

Opal Air SCENIC FLIGHTS
(☎ 08-8670 7997; www.opalair.com.au; flights per person from \$470) Half-day scenic flights from Coober Pedy winging over Lake Eyre, William Creek and the Painted Desert.

🛏 Sleeping

Riba's CAMPGROUND \$
(☎ 08-8672 5614; www.camp-underground.com.au; Lot 1811 William Creek Rd; underground sites \$30, above-ground unpowered/powered sites \$20/28, s & d \$66; ☀) Around 5km from town, Riba's offers the unique option of underground camping! Extras include an underground TV lounge, cell-like underground budget rooms and a nightly opal-mine tour (adult \$24; free for underground and unpowered-site campers, discounted for other guests).

BIG4 Stuart Range Outback Resort CARAVAN PARK \$
(☎ 08-8672 5179; www.stuartrangeoutbackresort.com.au; Yanikas Dr; unpowered/powered sites \$27/34, d from \$99, 1-2-bedroom apt \$170/255; 🚰 🚿 🚻) Spending up big on renovating their units and extensive landscaping (oh look – olive trees!), Stuart Range is probably the best traditional (ie above ground!) caravan park around town. The pool was being renovated when we visited: make sure it's full before you dive in. Tours also available.

Radeka Downunder HOSTEL \$
(☎ 08-8672 5223; www.radekadownunder.com.au; 1 Oliver St; dm/d/tr/q \$35/85/120/155, motel units d/tr/f \$130/165/200; 📶 🚰) The owners started excavating this place in 1960: they haven't found much opal, but they sure have an interesting backpackers! On multiple levels extending 6.5m underground are budget beds, plus passable individual rooms and motel units. There's also a shared kitchen/bar, barbecue, laundry, tours and airport transfers. Getting some mixed reviews of late.

★ **Down to Erth B&B** B&B \$\$
(☎ 08-8672 5762; www.downtoerth.com.au; Lot 1785 Monument Rd; d incl breakfast \$165, extra person \$25; 🚰 🚿) A real dugout gem about 3km from town: your own subterranean two-bedroom bunker (sleeps five – perfect for a family) with a kitchen-lounge area, a shady plunge pool for cooling off after a day

exploring the Earth, wood-fuelled BBQ and complimentary chocolates.

Desert Cave Hotel

HOTEL \$\$

(☎08-8672 5688; www.desertcave.com.au; Lot 1 Hutchison St; d/tr from \$170/200, extra person \$35; ♿@☎☎) Top of the CP price tree, the Desert Cave brings a much-needed shot of desert luxury – plus a beaut pool, a daytime cafe, airport transfers and the excellent **Umberto's** (☎08-8672 5688; www.desertcave.com.au; Lot 1 Hutchison St; mains \$28-38; ☎6-9pm) restaurant. Staff are supercourteous and there are tours on offer. Above-ground rooms also available (huge, but there are more soulful places to stay in town).

Underground Motel

MOTEL \$\$

(☎08-8672 5324; www.theundergroundmotel.com.au; Catacomb Rd; standard s/d/f \$110/125/157, ste \$125/135/182; ♿) Choose between standard rooms and suites (with separate lounge and kitchen) at this serviceable spot with a broad Breakaways panorama. It's a fair walk from town, but friendly and affordable. One of a few decent motel options on Catacomb Rd.



Eating

★ John's Pizza Bar & Restaurant ITALIAN \$\$

(☎08-8672 5561; www.johnspizzabarandrestaurant.com.au; Shop 24, 1 Hutchison St; mains \$13-32; ☎10am-10pm) You can't go past John's, where staff serve up table-sized pizzas, hearty pastas and heat-beating gelato. Grills, salads, burgers, yiros, and fish and chips also available. Sit inside, order some takeaways, or pull up a seat with the bedraggled pot plants by the street.

Tom & Mary's Greek Taverna

GREEK \$\$

(☎08-8672 5622; Shop 4/2 Hutchison St; mains \$17-32; ☎6-9pm Mon-Sat) This busy Greek diner does everything from a superb moussaka to yiros, seafood, Greek salads and pastas with Hellenic zing. Sit back with a cold retsina as the red sun sets on another dusty day in Coober Pedy.

i Information

24-hour Water Dispenser (Hutchison St; per 30L \$0.20) Fill your canteens next to the visitor information centre.

Coober Pedy Visitor Information Centre

(☎1800 637 076, 08-8672 4617; www.opalcapitaloftheworld.com.au; Council Offices, Lot 773 Hutchison St; ☎8.30am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat & Sun) Free 30-minute internet access (prebooked), history displays and comprehensive tour and accommodation info.

Coober Pedy Hospital (☎08-8672 5009; www.sahealth.sa.gov.au; Lot 89 Hospital Rd; ☎24hr) Accident and emergency.

i Getting There & Around

Note that the closest Ghan train stop is 42km northeast at Manguri: you'll need to arrange transport into town.

Budget (☎08-8672 5333; www.budget.com.au; Coober Pedy Airport) Cars, 4WDs and camping vehicles from around \$80 per day.

Coober Pedy to Marla

The **Breakaways Reserve** is a stark but colourful area of arid hills and scarps 33km north from Coober Pedy along a rough road; turn off the highway 22km west of town. Entry permits (per adult/child \$2.20/free) are available at the Coober Pedy Visitor Information Centre (note that Indigenous land owners may change this process at some stage in the future).

An interesting 70km loop on mainly unsealed road from Coober Pedy takes in the Breakaways, the **Dog Fence** (built to keep dingos out of southeastern Australia) and the tablelike **Moon Plain** on the Coober Pedy-Oodnadatta Rd. If it's been raining, you'll need a 4WD.

If you're heading for Oodnadatta, turning off the Stuart Hwy at Cadney Homestead (151km north of Coober Pedy) gives you a shorter run on dirt roads than the routes via Marla or Coober Pedy. En route you pass through the aptly named **Painted Desert** (bring your camera).

Cadney Homestead (☎08-8670 7994; cadney@bigpond.com; Stuart Hwy; unpowered/powered sites from \$16/25, d cabin/motel \$85/125; ♿@☎) itself has caravan and tent sites, serviceable motel rooms and basic cabins (BYO towel to use the shared caravan-park facilities), plus petrol, puncture repairs, takeaways, cold beer, an ATM, a swimming pool...

In mulga scrub about 82km from Cadney Homestead, Marla (population 245) replaced Oodnadatta as the official regional centre when the Ghan railway line was rerouted in 1980. **Marla Travellers Rest** (☎08-8670 7001; www.marla.com.au; Stuart Hwy; unpowered/powered sites \$20/30, cabins \$40, d from \$120; ♿@☎) has fuel, motel rooms, camp sites, a pool, a cafe and a supermarket.

Frontier-style **Mintabie** (population 250) is an opal-field settlement on Aboriginal land

35km west of Marla; there's a general store, restaurant and basic caravan park here.

From Marla the Northern Territory (NT) border is another 180km, with a fuel stop 20km beyond that in Kulgera.

Oodnadatta Track

The legendary, lonesome Oodnadatta Track is an unsealed, 615km road between Marla on the Stuart Hwy and Marree in the northern Flinders Ranges. The track traces the route of the old Overland Telegraph Line and the defunct Great Northern Railway. **Lake Eyre** (Kati Thanda; www.environment.sa.gov.au), the world's sixth-largest lake (usually dry), is just off the road. Bring a 4WD – the track is often passable in a regular car, but it gets bumpy, muddy, dusty and potholed.

i Information

Before you hit the Oodnadatta, check track conditions (and for closure after rains) with the Coober Pedy visitor information centre, the Royal Automobile Association (p801) in Adelaide, or online at www.dpti.sa.gov.au/OutbackRoads.

Fuel, accommodation and meals are available at Marla, Oodnadatta, William Creek and Marree.

For track info, download the *Oodnadatta Track – String of Springs* brochure from www.southaustralia.com. Also see the sketchy-but-useful 'mud maps' on the Pink Roadhouse website.

Oodnadatta to William Creek

Around 209km from Marla, Oodnadatta (population 170) is where the main road and the old railway line diverged. Here you'll find the **Pink Roadhouse** (☎1800 802 074, 08-8670 7822; www.pinkroadhouse.com.au; unpowered/powerd sites from \$22/32, cabins d from \$120), a solid source of track info (it's big on maintaining correct tyre pressure) and meals (try the 'Oodnaburger'). The roadhouse also has an attached caravan park; options run from basic camping through to self-contained cabins.

In another 201km you'll hit William Creek (population six), best enjoyed in the weather-beaten **William Creek Hotel** (☎08-8670 7880; www.gdaypubs.com.au; William Creek; unpowered/powerd sites \$24/30, d cabin/hotel \$90/150; ☎), an iconic 1887 pub festooned with photos, business cards, old licence plates and money stapled to the walls. There's a dusty camping ground, and modest cabins and motel rooms. Also on

offer are fuel, cold beer, basic provisions, all-day meals (mains \$16 to \$32) and spare tyres.

William Creek is also a base for **Wrightsair** (☎08-8670 7962; www.wrightsair.com.au; William Creek; flights per person from \$285), which runs scenic flights over Lake Eyre (two-passenger minimum).

Coward Springs to Marree

Some 130km shy of Marree, **Coward Springs Campground** (☎08-8675 8336; www.cowardsprings.com.au; unpowered sites adult/child \$12.50/6.25) is the first stop at the old Coward Springs railway siding. You can soak yourself silly in a **natural hot-spring tub** (per adult/child \$2/1) made from old rail sleepers, or take a six-day **camel trek** (per person \$1760) to Lake Eyre from here.

Next stop is the lookout over **Lake Eyre South**, which is 12m below sea level. For a Lake Eyre water-level report, see www.lakeeyre.com. About 60km from Marree is the **Mutonia Sculpture Park** (☎24hr) **FREE**, featuring several planes welded together with their tails buried in the ground to form 'Planehenge'.

Marree (population 100) was once a vital hub for Afghan camel teams and the Great Northern Railway, and is the end (or start) of both the Oodnadatta and Birdsville Tracks. The big, stone 1883 **Marree Hotel** (☎08-8675 8344; www.marreehotel.com.au; Railway Tce S; unpowered sites free, d hotel/cabin \$120/140; ☎☎☎) has decent pub rooms (shared bathrooms), smart en suite cabins and free camp sites! Marree is also a good place to organise scenic flights: try **Aus Air Services** (☎08-8675 8212; www.ausairservices.com.au; 2hr flights per person from \$280).

From the air you'll get a good look at **Marree Man**, a 4.2km-long outline of a Pitjantjatjara Aboriginal warrior etched into the desert near Lake Eyre. It was only discovered in 1988, and no one seems to know who created it. It's eroding rapidly these days.

From Marree it's 80km south to Lyndhurst, where the bitumen kicks back in, then 33km down to Copley at the northern end of the Flinders Ranges.

Birdsville Track

This old droving trail runs 517km from Marree in SA to Birdsville (p463), just across the border in Queensland, passing between the Simpson Desert to the east

and Sturt Stony Desert to the west. It's one of Australia's classic outback routes. For road conditions see www.dpti.sa.gov.au/OutbackRoads (...a 4WD is the only way to go, regardless).

Strzelecki Track

Meandering through the sand hills of the **Strzelecki Regional Reserve** (www.environment.sa.gov.au), the Strzelecki Track spans 460km from Lyndhurst, 80km south of Marree, to the tiny outpost of Innamincka. The discovery of oil and gas at Moomba (closed to travellers) saw the upgrading of the road from a camel track to a decent dirt road, though heavy transport travelling along it has created bone-rattling corrugations. The newer Moomba–Strzelecki Track is better kept, but longer and less interesting than the old track, which follows Strzelecki Creek. Accommodation, provisions and fuel are available at Lyndhurst and Innamincka, but there's nothing in between.

Innamincka

POP 12

On Cooper Creek at the northern end of the Strzelecki Track, Innamincka is near where Burke and Wills' ill-fated 1860 expedition expired. The famous **Dig Tree** marks the expedition's base camp, and although the word

'dig' is no longer visible you can still see the expedition's camp number.

Part of the **Innamincka Regional Reserve** (www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks; per vehicle \$10; ☺24hr), Cooper Creek has deep, permanent waterholes. There are also semi-permanent lakes in **Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park** (www.environment.sa.gov.au; per vehicle \$10; ☺24hr). Prior to European settlement this area had a large Aboriginal population; relics such as middens and grinding stones can still be seen.

The **Innamincka Trading Post** (☎08-8675 9900; www.innaminckatp.com.au; South Tce; ☺8am-5pm) sells fuel, Desert Parks passes, camping permits and provisions, including fresh bread and rolls. There's accommodation here too in air-conditioned en suite cabins (doubles from \$150). The old-fashioned **Innamincka Hotel** (☎08-8675 9901; www.theoutback.com.au/innaminckahotel; 2 South Tce; s/d \$130/155; ☹) also offers accommodation (decent motel-style rooms, a family-friendly bunkhouse and single cabins), cold beer (Innamincka Pale Ale!) and hefty counter meals (mains \$20 to \$30, serving noon to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm).

There are plenty of shady **bush camping sites** (☎08-8648 5328; per vehicle \$18) along Cooper Creek; Innamincka Trading Post sells permits, or you can use a Desert Parks Pass. There's a hot shower (\$2) and toilet outside the Trading Post.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Charles Rawlings-Way

Brisbane & Around, Hobart & Southeast Tasmania, Launceston & Eastern Tasmania, Adelaide & Around, Barossa Valley & Southeastern SA, Yorke Peninsula & Western SA, Flinders Ranges & Outback SA

As a likely lad, Charles suffered in shorts through Tasmanian winters, and in summer counted the days til he visited his grandparents in Adelaide. With desert-hot days, cool swimming pools and *four*

TV stations, this flat city held paradisiacal status. Little did he know that Brisbane was just as alluring – a fact confirmed by more recent encounters with the city's bookshops, bars and band rooms. Returning to Tasmania, he was thrilled to discover that Hobart has good coffee now, and there's still snow on the mountain. Charles has penned 20-something Lonely Planet guidebooks. Charles also wrote the Australia Today, Food & Drink, Sport, Planning and Survival Guide chapters.



Meg Worby

Brisbane & Around, Hobart & Southeast Tasmania, Launceston & Eastern Tasmania, Adelaide & Around, Barossa Valley & Southeastern SA, Yorke Peninsula & Western SA, Flinders Ranges & Outback SA

Let's do this by the numbers: this was Meg's fourth trip to ever-beautiful Tasmania, her seventh trip to temperate Queensland and her 780th re-entry into her most habitable home state of South Australia. She is a former member of Lonely Planet's languages, editorial, web and

publishing teams in Melbourne and London. This is her eighth Lonely Planet guidebook as an author. Meg also wrote the Australia Today, Food & Drink, Sport, Planning and Survival Guide chapters.



Kate Armstrong

Surfers Paradise & the Gold Coast, Noosa & the Sunshine Coast, Broome

Kate is a Victorian, but for years has enjoyed migrating northwards for the warmth and laid back attitudes of sunny Queensland. Having recently ditched her surfboard, for this edition, she bodysurfed at 6am daily. She also loved hitting the regions' foodie scenes and was thrilled to visit the Dampier Peninsula for the first time. With over 30 overseas LP titles to her name, Kate also finally enjoyed getting her car dirty in

her own backyard. See more adventures at www.katearmstrong.com.au and @nomaditis.



Brett Atkinson

Canberra & NSW South Coast, Southern NSW, Perth & Fremantle, Around Perth, Margaret River & the Southwest Coast, Southern WA, Monkey Mia & the Central West

For this edition, Brett flew across the gorges of WA's Karijini National Park, explored the galleries, museums and emerging urban vibe of Canberra, and uncovered even more excellent Australian craft breweries on both the west and east coasts of the country. Brett is based in Auckland, New Zealand and has covered around 50 countries as a guidebook author and travel and food writer.

See www.brett-atkinson.net for his most recent work and upcoming travels.

OVER MORE
PAGE WRITERS

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