

Self Drive Information Kit

Think of an island seven times the size of Singapore. Think of native bushland, wildlife and pristine beaches. Think of adventure and days of exploring. Think of beach houses, local wines and sunsets. You're thinking of Kangaroo Island, a brilliant blend.

Welcome to Kangaroo Island, the island is Australia's third-largest island, covering some 4,500 sq km. Over a third of it is conservation land, while the coast-with it's beaches, cliffs, shipwrecks, lighthouses and marine parks-runs for some 540km. A day trip? It's possible, but it would be a shame to miss out on so much more this amazing island has to offer.

Important Information about Driving on Kangaroo Island

Before you head of on your adventure, please read the following, we hope a few tips will give you a lot more confidence on the roads, because it is the best way to see Kangaroo Island. Good luck and happy driving!!

Driving on Kangaroo Island

There are nearly 1,600km of roads on the island. The major roads between Penneshaw, American River, Kingscote, Parndana and Flinders Chase are sealed. The remainder are unsealed and require reduced speed and caution-particularly on corners and when approaching other traffic.

- Please take the time to read road safety pamphlet in your kit.
- **Click here to down load map of Kangaroo Island**

<http://www.tourkangarooisland.com.au/lib/docs/mf674.pdf>

Wildlife on the Roads

Kangaroo Island Wildlife is precious and protected-and active at night!! Native animals are blinded by bright light. So **SLOW DOWN**, dip your lights and take time to observe the wildlife. During the day, the animals still wonder around especially Goannas, Snakes and Echidnas. So care is to be taken during the day as well as night. It is recommended at night to not exceed a speed of 80km, as precious as wildlife is- you are just as precious

Fuel on Kangaroo Island

Fuel is available from Penneshaw, Island Beach, American River, Kingscote, Parndana, Vivonne Bay, KI Wilderness retreat. LPG is available at Penneshaw and Kingscote only. A full tank is recommended before heading out on a full day of touring.

Penneshaw opening hours:

Kingscote opening hours: 7am-8pm 7 days a week

Eating On Kangaroo Island

Tip: When leaving in the morning to go on your adventure to discover Kangaroo Island, ask the reception staff the best places are to eat or visit www.goodfoodkangarooisland.com

Climate

Weather changes can occur very quickly and without much warning, Kangaroo Islands is very exposed with a large proportion of its landmass facing the southern ocean.

Average Temperatures

Months	Min Temp	Max temp
Mar-May (Autumn)	12° C	20° C
Jun-Aug (Winter)	8° C	15° C
Sept-Nov (spring)	10° C	18° C
Dec-Feb (summer)	15° C	24° C

Note: Summer temperatures can occasionally get as high as 35 C

What to Bring

Kangaroo Island is casual. Although seldom cold, pack a warm jacket to counter the fresh ocean breezes and comfortable walking shoes with grip, hat and sunscreen.

Fitness Levels

MEDIUM- Most of the tour are walking destinations and need an average level of fitness.

Mobile Phones

Telstra CDMA coverage is widely available across the Island and limited Optus and Telstra GSM digital coverage is available from Penneshaw and Kingscote. Public telephones are located at all centres and some attractions.

Suggested Self drive Itinerary

Day 1

Head straight for the island largest national park **Flinders's Chase** at the western end of the Island. You will get the chance to see the wonderful native wildlife such as kangaroo's, wallabies and birds at Rocky River. From there we drive through the park to **Admirals Arch** and see the colony of New Zealand Fur Seals, from the viewing platform you will get fantastic photo opportunity's not to missed. Next stop are the **Remarkable Rocks**, these's are large granite boulders standing dramatically on the cliff top which plunges 75 meters into the Southern Ocean

After all this fresh air you can then stop for lunch at the Flinders Chase Cafe, you can sit back with a glass of Kangaroo Island Wine and admire the surroundings and hopefully see more wildlife.

Then head off to **Koala Avenue** just outside the Park where we have the chance to view Koala's in their natural habitat.

Next it's off to **Kelly Hill Caves** where you get to have a guided tour of the Caves. You'll discover an amazing underground world with sinkholes and caverns that possibly extend 9km underground to the coast of Australia's Southern Ocean.

Now it's time to head back to Penneshaw to your beautiful accommodation the **Kangaroo Island Seafont Resort**, you now have time to relax and have time to decide what's for dinner? After dinner you can stroll down to the Penguin Centre (only 200meters from Resort) and join others for a guided **Penguin Tour**. You will marvel at these little creatures. You can purchase tickets from us.

TIP: IF YOU HEAD STRAIGHT FOR FLINDERS CHASE YOU WILL MISS MOST OF THE TOUR BUSES AS THEY GO THE OTHER WAY.

Day 2

First stop is to **Pennington Bay** just 18km out of Penneshaw, this is also one of KI spectacular beaches if you feel energetic there is a 550 step hill to climb to see an amazing view of Kangaroo Island.

Now off to the **Eucalyptus farm**, take this opportunity to find out how a traditional Aussie Bush Product is made. It's South Australia's only commercial Eucalyptus Oil Distillery operating only on solar, steam and wind power.

Now head to **Seal Bay** Conservation Park where your guide will take you on the beach to get up close and personal with the Australian Sea-Lion colony. Watch them surf the waves for feed their young, this is an experience you will never forget.

Why not head North to **Snellings Beach**, along on the way stop and have lunch at Parndana. Now you get to work off that lunch with a stroll through **Lathami National Park** and observe the Kangaroos and wallabies, this is also the habitat of the rare Glossy Black Cockatoo's and the shy and very cute Echidna.

Straight after you can head to **Stokes Bay** along the fantastic coastline of North Kangaroo Island we get to show you a hidden beach- we make our way through the tunnel on the eastern end of the beach.

And if time is on your side, call into the town centre Kingscote to pick yourself up some Kangaroo Island souvenirs.

TIP: WHEN DRIVING UPTO THE NORTH COAST BE CAREFUL ON THE DIRT ROADS, WE SUGGEST YOU STAY TO A COMFORATBLE SPEED BETWEEN 60-70KMS.

- If you are staying longer on the Island please see reception staff for more information on what to see and do

Must See Must Do on Kangaroo Island

[Click here to download Parks of Kangaroo Island Tour and Entry Fees](#)

Flinders Chase National Park



Marvel at Remarkable Rocks and Admirals Arch, just two of the many amazing land formations within the 33,000-hectare Flinders Chase National Park. There's also the 1909 Cape du Couedic lighthouse and wildlife aplenty, including kangaroos, koalas, echidnas and the endangered Cape Barren geese. Start with a visit to the fabulous Flinders Chase Visitor Centre.

KI Caving



Sympathize with the poor horse that discovered Kelly Hill Caves in 1881 by accidentally falling into one, as you tour this beautiful cave system of caverns and sinkholes. Showcase tours run daily, but the more daring can also book an adventure caving tour for a deeper look into this underground world of ornate calcite formations.

Seal Bay Conservation Park



Walk among the nation's third largest and most accessible colony of Australian Sea Lions as these cute creatures doze in the sun after lengthy fishing forays in the Southern Ocean. Various tours are available at the hugely popular Seal Bay Conservation Park: you can join a park ranger for a guided walks on the beach, or take a self-guided tour on the more accessible boardwalk.

See the Light (house)



Envelop yourself in the Island's history with a tour of its spectacular lighthouses. Dating back to 1852, Cape Willoughby is SA's oldest lighthouse: you can tour it daily. At Cape Borda, tour the lighthouse and museum before exploring the old landing site and lightkeeper's cemetery. And at Weirs Cove wonder at how life was for the early keepers of Cape du Couedic lighthouse, visiting the remains of the jetty, water tank and storerooms that sustained life in this isolated post between infrequent supply ships.

Cape Willoughby Conservation Park



Location: Cape Willoughby
Map Reference: C10
Opening Hours: 11.30-2pm (extended in holiday periods)
Telephone: (08) 8553 1191

Visit South Australia's first lighthouse for an insight into the important role Cape Willoughby played in the early history of South Australia. Relive the stories of light keepers and enjoy spectacular views atop the lighthouse.

Penneshaw Penguin Centre



Location: Lloyd Collins Reserve, Penneshaw

Map Reference: B9

Opening Hours: Tours daily 7.30pm and 8.30pm winter, 8.30pm and 9.30pm summer

Telephone: (08) 8553 1103

Have you ever wondered where Little Penguins go at night? Get close to nature and meet Kangaroo Island's Little Penguins. Informative nightly tours of approximately 45 minutes duration include entrance to the interpretive centre and viewing platform walks. See these unique birds in their habitat from close range. Bookings are not required.

Fee applies. Easy viewing and access for all - children, aged, disabled.

Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary



Location: South Coast Rd, Western Kangaroo Island

Opening Hours: Koala Walk - access available during daylight hours. Guided Nocturnal Tours and Spotlight Driving Tours - Nightly (bookings essential)

Telephone: (08) 8559 7344

The Koala Walk is open everyday. Stroll along the avenue of tall gum trees to see wild koalas. This is one of the best places to view a sustainably managed koala population on Kangaroo Island. At night Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary comes alive with its Guided Nocturnal Tours or Spotlight Driving Tours allowing visitors to see the abundant wildlife and the great southern skies.

Paul's Place



Location: Stokes Bay Road, Stokes Bay

Opening Hours: Seasonal tour times

Telephone: (08) 8559 2232

For a hands-on wildlife experience, you can't go past Paul's Place. Cuddle a koala, bottle-feed baby animals or carry a kangaroo. Hand-feed lorikeets or hold a possum or get wrapped by a snake!

A great fun experience for people who love all creatures great and small. Fee applies. Easy viewing and access for all - children, aged, disabled.

Tips For Wildlife Spotting

Taking your time to discover wildlife is paramount. Take advice from National Park, accommodation and tour staff and choose walking trails and designated paths, rather than making your own trail. Wildlife is most visible during winter and, in summer, during the cooler parts of the day. Most of Kangaroo Island's mammals are nocturnal; ask your accommodation or tour providers about wildlife spotting at night in your area. Wildlife is most successfully observed (and least stressed) from a distance, so as not to interrupt their natural behaviour. Sit quietly and keep noise to a minimum. Please do not feed animals as human foods can cause illness, even death.



WHAT YOU MIGHT SEE

The Kangaroo Island Kangaroo, Tammar Wallaby, Brush tail Possum, Short Beaked Echidna, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Western and Little Pygmy Possum, endemic Sooty Dunnart, Bush and Swamp Rat, six bat species, six frog species, Heath Goanna, Black Tiger Snake, Pygmy Copperhead, Australian Sea-lion and New Zealand Fur-seal are all native to Kangaroo Island. The koala, platypus and Ringtail Possum are introduced species and still thrive today. As you tour the Island, you are sure to spot some of the wild locals along the way. The roadsides can see many of the land animals such as kangaroos, Tammar Wallabies, echidnas and Heath Goannas.

At Flinders Chase National Park docile kangaroos can usually be seen around the Visitor Centre. The Tammar Wallaby, with smaller and finer features than the Kangaroo, is abundant on the Island. By comparison, mainland populations are extinct in southeastern Australia with a small population in Western Australia. Wallabies are frequently seen at night along the roads, where vehicle lights easily dazzle them. Only cautious and attentive driving will prevent damage to the wildlife and vehicles. The Heath Goanna, a reptile up to one metre in length, is a predator of smaller reptiles, young birds and eggs. It is often seen on warm days basking and digging for ants and termites, or even licking up ants with its sticky tongue. Kangaroo Island Echidnas have distinctive 'blonde' spines.

Many marine mammals are found along the Island's 450km of largely undeveloped coastline. The Australian Sea-lion spends as much time on land as at sea. They can be seen, by guided tour, on the sandy beach at Seal Bay. Over 7,000 New Zealand Fur-seals live and breed around Cape du Couedic. They breed in summer and can be seen energetically interacting in and around Admirals Arch in Flinders Chase National Park. The patient and dedicated watcher can sometimes see a shy platypus in Flinders Chase on the Platypus Waterholes Walk. Koalas can be found wherever their favoured foods, the large gum trees of the river systems, are located. Introduced to Kangaroo Island, koalas have had a severe impact on these eucalypts through overgrazing. Their entire diet consists of the mildly toxic eucalypt leaves. The lengthy digestive process and the low nutrients in their diet means the koala has little energy and needs to sleep for about 19 hours a day. Hanson Bay Sanctuary and Western KI Caravan Park are great or scavenging on dead animals along the roads. The Echidna is an unusual egg-laying mammal. Sightings are unpredictable but if you do spot one, watch quietly and you might observe it searching places to find koalas.

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WALKS

Explore the island's scenic terrain. There are trails ranging in length and difficulty to cater for all fitness levels. The Clifftop Hike at Cape Borda is the perfect introduction to this spectacular site. Sometimes you will be rewarded with dolphin or whale sightings, or views of soaring sea-eagles. The Hanson Bay Hike at Kelly Hill Conservation Park is also spectacular. It is 18km (return) taking 6 hours to complete. However the scenery is worth it. The trail meanders from the visitor centre to the south coast at Hanson Bay and showcases Pink Gum woodlands, mallee, coastal heaths, freshwater lagoons and ancient dunes. There are several spectacular viewpoints along the way.



BEACHES

When Sydney University evaluated 10,000 beaches across Australia (rating them on things like clarity of water, privacy and cleanliness) it was only natural that Kangaroo Island's Vivonne Bay would come out tops. But with so many long, curved, sandy beaches - perfect for beachcombing, picnics, surfing, swimming or fishing - it's a wonder the Island's other beaches didn't receive similar recognition.

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FUN ACTIVITIES

Roar through bushland on a four-wheel bike. Surf the sand-dunes of Little Sahara. (And don't forget to let the kids have a go!)

KI Outdoor Action



Location: South Coast Road, Vivonne Bay

Opening Hours: Bookings essential

Telephone: (08) 8559 4296 or 0428 822 260

Enjoy nature-based adventures at the breathtaking Vivonne Bay. To get the adrenalin pumping, try kayaking or Yamaha Odyssey all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Take adult and mini (available for children over 12 years) ATV bikes through 500 acres of bushland trails. ATV night tours are also conducted where you are guaranteed to see kangaroos, wallabies and possums and much more! Sailboards, bodyboards, sandboards and surfboards are also available for hire. Fee applies.

Little Sahara



Location: Off the South Coast Road, Vivonne Bay

Opening Hours: Open access

Telephone: n/a

This is an area of spectacular white sand-dunes, surrounded by bush vegetation. Climbing over the first ridge you are confronted by a second much higher dune which, when scaled, does not reveal the coast as one would expect, but more dunes flanked by bushland. Take your sandboard and climb to the top of the razorback ridges and enjoy a thrilling ride back to the bottom of the dune. There is no charge for your enjoyment of Little Sahara, please respect this environment and leave only your footprints behind.

Kangaroo Island Marine Tours



Location: Kingscote Jetty

Tour Times: Daily, subject to weather

Telephone: 0427 315 286 or 0418 816 515

From environmentally focused pleasure cruises to full-throttle Ocean Extreme rides, Kangaroo Island Marine Tours has something for everyone. Join a one-hour, half or full-day excursion from Kingscote or Emu Bay and soak up the fun and meet the marine life on this comfortable, purpose-built craft. Tours are conducted according to weather on the day. Phone for details.

KI Marine Centre



Location: Kingscote Wharf

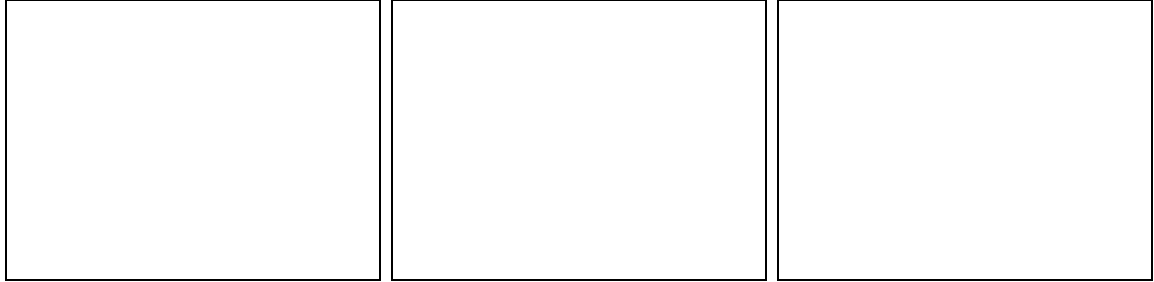
Opening Hours: Aquarium and Penguin Tour daily. Winter open 7pm, tours 7.30 and 8.30pm. Summer open 8pm, tours 8.30 and 9.30pm. December-January open 8.15pm, tours 8.45pm and 9.30pm. Pelican feeding - daily at 5pm

Telephone: (08) 8553 3112

See giant cuttlefish, seahorses, little penguins and more! Enjoy the fascinating and educational saltwater aquarium - a real insight into Kangaroo Island's underwater world. Penguin tours are conducted every evening and you must not miss the spectacular daily pelican feeding. Fee applies. Easy viewing and access for all - children, aged, disabled.

SWIMMING

Generally, the north coast provides safe areas for all ages, while the south coast is more rugged with areas requiring particular care. Do not swim alone and, if in doubt, ask for some local knowledge before entering the water.



Keep Yourself Safe

Although beaches are beautiful, there are some dangers associated with open ocean. Beware of rips and undertows. Seek advice from locals on current conditions. Shark attacks, although rare, have occurred in waters around the world and indeed around the Australian coastline.

See the beaches section of this site for more information about individual beaches.