



# Fleurieu Peninsula

## National parks visitation snapshot

### The region

South Australia's Fleurieu Peninsula is the place to go for adventure, with its coastal thrills, secluded beaches, adventurous tours and unspoilt wildlife.

It's an easy day-trip from Adelaide, with the tip of the peninsula barely more than 100km south of the CBD.

Fleurieu Peninsula is also home to some of the best local food and wine in the country, and is alive year-round with vibrant and creative festivals and events.

### Tourism

In 2018, Fleurieu Peninsula contributed \$493 million to SA's \$6.8 billion tourism expenditure.

The region attracts approximately 771,000 overnight visitors per year (2016-18). Of these, 78 per cent are from SA – three out of four from Adelaide and its surrounds.

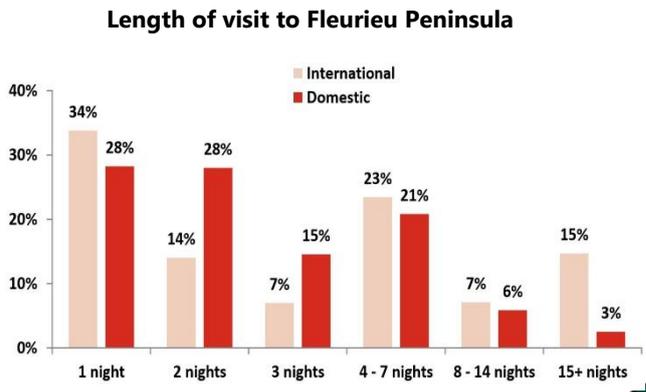
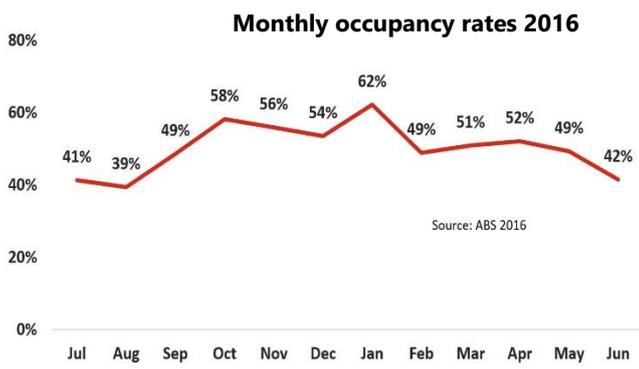
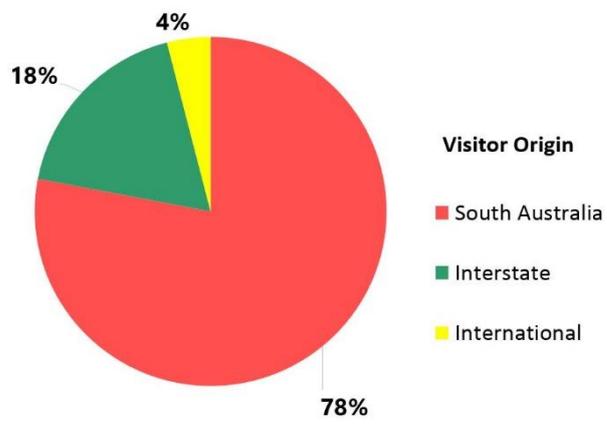
Fleurieu Peninsula has 16 visitor accommodation options\*, totalling 504 available rooms. Over the course of a year, occupancy rates average at 50 per cent, peaking in January and October at 62 per cent and 58 per cent respectively, and dipping in August at 39 per cent.

For more in-depth analysis view the [SA Tourism Commission regional profiles](#).

\*Hotels, motels and serviced apartments with 15+ rooms

### The opportunity

The Fleurieu Peninsula's regional strategy is to grow the spend from day-trippers as well as convert some day trips into overnight stays and to encourage year-round visitation and drive visitor yield.



## National parks

The national parks of the Fleurieu are diverse and beautiful. And their popularity is unquestionable – several feature in the list of SA’s 10 most popular parks,

From [Granite Island Recreation Park](#), with the intrigue of its little penguins that come out of hiding after dark, through to [Deep Creek Conservation Park](#), the favourite for campers and bushwalkers, this region has a special slice for everyone. Not to mention it’s home to a fabulous section of the world-class Heysen Trail.

On average, 56 per cent of South Australians surveyed said they visited a park in Adelaide and Fleurieu Peninsula each year. And of people living in the region, 74 per cent of those surveyed had visited at least one park in the 2018-19 financial year.

Read on to learn more about some of the national parks in the region that have nature-based tourism interest and potential, or visit the [National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia](#) website to learn more about other Fleurieu Peninsula parks of tourism interest.



# Granite Island Recreation Park and Encounter Marine Park

## Granite Island Recreation Park

### About the park

Off the coast of the popular tourist town of Victor Harbor is [Granite Island Recreation Park](#) – the 4<sup>th</sup> most popular park visited by South Australians (visited by 15 per cent of South Australians in 2019).

Just in getting to the park, visitors are already exposed to its unique setting. A wooden causeway connects the mainland to the island park, and visitors can even opt for a horse-drawn tram ride to get across.

The entire island is a recreation park characterised by huge granite boulders tinged with orange lichen. The Kaiki Walk takes visitors around the island, and interpretive signs explain the wildlife, geology and history around them.

Adding to the island's appeal is the 'Sculpture Encounters - Granite Island' exhibition, the magnificent granite boulders like Umbrella Rock, the sweeping views of Encounter Bay and the Bluff, and the possibility of sighting a southern right whale in winter.

Plus there's the Granite Island Guided Penguin Tours at dusk, where visitors can observe the island's famous little penguins as they return to shore after several days feeding at sea.

### Visitation data

Entry to the park is free and as such there is no information available on visitor numbers or visitors' place of origin.

### Accommodation usage

There is no camping or accommodation available within this park.

### Peak and off-peak season

Granite Island has high visitation throughout the year. Visitation in the warmer months from September to May is similar to June and October when it's not the weather that's enticing, but the chance of seeing whales during their breeding season.

## Encounter Marine Park

### About the park

Stretching from Fleurieu Peninsula to the north-eastern coast of Kangaroo Island and the Coorong is [Encounter Marine Park](#)

This park provides plenty of opportunities to see SA's diverse marine life, including little penguins, leafy sea dragons, Australian sea lions, dolphins and southern right whales.

There are 11 sanctuary zones in Encounter Marine Park. Each one is unique and designed to protect important habitats, marine species, breeding grounds or important refuge areas. Kayaking, boating, snorkelling and scuba diving are popular activities in these areas.

Boat tours from Victor Harbor provide whale watching opportunities through the winter months, while tours departing from Goolwa provide wonderful views of the Coorong lagoons, the Murray Mouth and the sand dunes.

Professional dive charter tours allow scuba divers to visit iconic dive sites like Aldinga Reef, the ex-HMAS Hobart shipwreck and Rapid Bay Jetty – one of the best places in the world to see leafy sea dragons.

Or there's safe, guided snorkelling tours that allow even first-timers the chance to see the beautiful reef systems along the coast.

And for those looking for a unique adventure experience, there's swimming with southern bluefin tuna off Granite Island.

The stunning beaches of the Fleurieu Peninsula really are great for adventure or relaxation all year round. For the four-wheel drive enthusiast, driving on Goolwa Beach all the way to the Murray Mouth is a particular highlight.

### Visitation data

Entry to the park is free and as such there is no information available on visitor numbers or visitors' place of origin

## Assets and services report

(For Granite Island Recreational Park and Encounter Marine Park)

Co-management	—
Management plan	✓
'Friends of parks' volunteer group	✓
Recent infrastructure investment	✓
Built accommodation	—
Access roads – bitumen	★★★ Good
Internet connectivity	★★★ Good
Camping opportunities	☆☆☆ Nil
Camping facilities (toilets, showers)	☆☆☆ Nil
Power and water	★★★ Good

Assets of interest and facilities:

Recent upgrades have include improvements to the onsite café, walking trail network, road, boardwalks and the Sculptures by the Sea exhibition.



# Onkaparinga River National Park and Recreation Park

## About the park

While they are tucked within the Fleurieu region, the neighbouring parks of Onkaparinga River National Park and Onkaparinga Recreation Park are just 35km south of Adelaide's CBD.

[Onkaparinga River National Park](#) is the 8<sup>th</sup> most popular park visited by South Australians (visited by 8 per cent of South Australians in 2019).

It features rugged ridge tops and the narrow river valley of the spectacular Onkaparinga Gorge. This park protect some of the finest remaining pockets of native vegetation in the southern Adelaide region.

Diverse hiking trails take you from cliff tops with magnificent views to permanent rock pools. Shared-use trails offer opportunities for mountain bike riders and horse riders to enjoy the rugged beauty of the park. The park also features abseiling and rock climbing locations.

To the west of the national park, [Onkaparinga River Recreation Park](#)'s tranquil wetland is easy to explore along the boardwalks or, for those looking for something different, by kayak.

## Visitation data

Online booking information shows that 4293 people used the campground at Onkaparinga River National Park for the 2018-19 financial year.

Of those, 65 per cent were from SA, 10 per cent were from Victoria, 6 per cent were from New South Wales, 5 per cent were from Western Australia and 4 per cent were from Queensland. International visitors\* accounted for approximately 5 per cent.

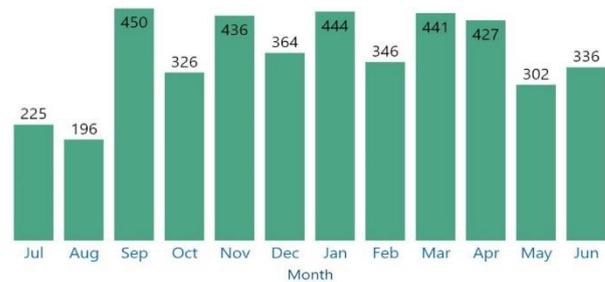
The average length of stay booked was 1.5 nights and the average number of people per booking was 3.

\*Maximum estimated on 'other' postcodes identified

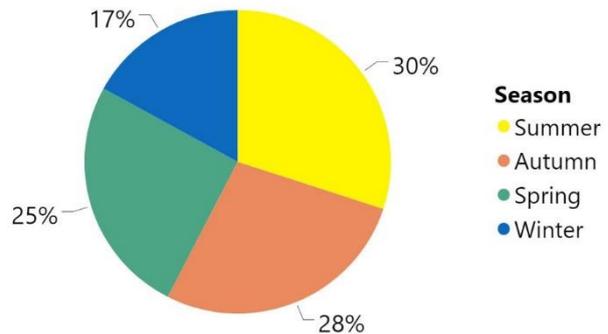
## Peak and off-peak season

Onkaparinga River National Park's Pink Gum Campground is the only campground at the park. It is consistently occupied throughout the year, but peak occupancy is from September to April and lowest occupancy is in July and August.

Visitors per month



Bookings by season



## Accommodation usage

Onkaparinga River National Park's only campground is:

- Pink Gum campground: 4293 people per year (65 per cent of visitors are from SA).

## Assets and services report

Co-management	—
Management plan	✓
'Friends of parks' volunteer group	✓
Recent infrastructure investment	✓
Built accommodation	☆☆☆☆ Nil
Access roads – bitumen	★★★★ Good
Internet connectivity	★★★☆☆ Limited
Camping opportunities	★★★☆☆ Limited
Camping facilities (toilets, showers)	★★☆☆☆ Basic
Power and water	★★☆☆☆ Basic

Assets of interest and facilities:

Campground, lookouts and walking trails. Recent upgrade of rock climbing area, and walking trails. New kayak launch area, lookouts, car parks and toilet facilities

# Deep Creek Conservation Park

## About the park

[Deep Creek Conservation Park](#) at the foot of the Fleurieu Peninsula is the 10<sup>th</sup> most popular park visited by South Australians (visited by 6 per cent of South Australians in 2019).

It contains the largest portion of remaining natural vegetation on the Fleurieu Peninsula and is home to an array of native wildlife such as western grey kangaroos, short-beaked echidnas and 100 species of birds. Whales can be seen cruising the coast during their annual migration that takes place from June to October.

Five campgrounds are dotted throughout the park with four of them accessible by 2WD vehicles. The other campground is 'hike-in' only and situated on the Heysen Trail, making it an ideal setting for a family adventure.

The 15 walking trails in the park provide spectacular scenery of Backstairs Passage, Kangaroo Island and the rugged Deep Creek Valley.

## Visitation data

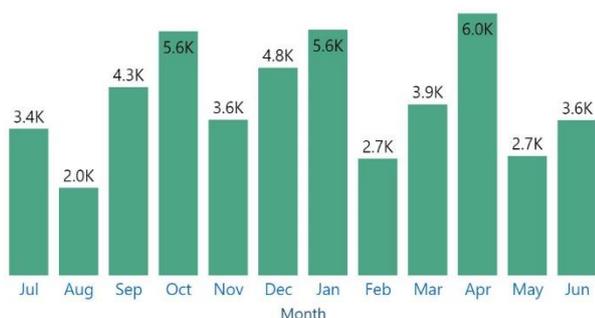
Online booking information shows that 48,000 people visited the park in the 2018-19 financial year, with 87 per cent from SA.

Of those who booked, 35 per cent stayed overnight and the average length of stay was 1.7 nights. The average number of people per booking was 2.9.

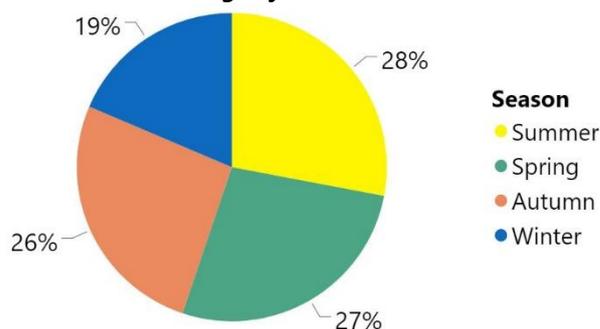
## Peak and off-peak season

Peak visitation is from September to April with the highest occupancy in April followed by the Christmas holiday period in December and January (reaching 100 per cent occupancy at campgrounds across some weeks), followed by September and October.

Visitors per month (K=1,000 visitors)



Bookings by season



## Accommodation usage

The park's most used campgrounds include:

- Trig Campground: 5,850 people per year (90 per cent of visitors are from SA)
- Tapanappa Campground: 4,650 (89 per cent)
- Stringybark Campground: 4,535 (89 per cent)
- Cobbler Hill Campground: 2268 (83 per cent)
- Eagle Waterhole Campground: 607 (92 per cent)

## Assets and services report

Co-management	—
Management plan	✓
'Friends of Parks' volunteer group	✓
Recent infrastructure investment	✓
Built accommodation	★★★ Good
Access roads – bitumen	★★★ Good
Internet connectivity	★★☆ Limited
Camping opportunities	★★★ Good
Camping facilities (toilets, showers)	★★★ Good
Power and water	★☆☆ Basic

Assets of interest and facilities:

New infrastructure being constructed over the next 3 years to enhance existing facilities and to facilitate the development of the Wild South Coast Way on the Heysen Trail.

### Disclaimer

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data, DEW, its agents, officers and employees make no representations, either express or implied, that the data is accurate or fit for any purpose and expressly disclaims all liability for loss or damage arising from reliance upon the data.