

# FLINDERS RANGES & OUTBACK

Bunyerroo Valley

Step back in time and discover the raw, rugged and natural beauty of the Flinders Ranges and Outback. This truly wonderous, 540 million-year-old landscape covers more than half of South Australia. You'll see a landscape that changes its colours in every light, gnarled gum trees, stony ruins, red earth and a carpet of wildflowers during spring. You may even bump into a few colourful locals here and there too.

- ▶ Covering more than 70% of the State, and made up of nearly 50 towns, the Flinders Ranges and Outback is a region of great diversity with drives to the region ranging from a three-hour drive to Melrose, 263km north of Adelaide, to a nine-hour drive to Coober Pedy, 842km north of Adelaide.
- ▶ South Australia's Outback is home to the world's largest farm. At six million acres, Anna Creek Station is about the size of Israel and supports more than 17,000 cattle.
- ▶ Famous for its spectacular geology of rugged mountains, steep peaks and deep gorges, the Flinders Ranges hold a number of surprises with beachside experiences nestled at the base of the picturesque Southern Flinders Ranges.
- ▶ One of the best ways to experience the Flinders Ranges and Outback is through camping. Pitch a tent or try one of the permanent tents, made from heavy duty canvas and solid floors.
- ▶ Try some local dishes that creative chefs serve in the Flinders Ranges and Outback, such as an emu egg omelette, kangaroo tail soup and camel sirloin.
- ▶ From Port Germein, where coastal winds cool the vines, to the hillier vineyards around Jamestown and Wilmington, vines grow in everything from deep sandy loam, to red clay and shallow stony ground. Like the soil, Flinders Ranges' wines are mostly red with Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Tempranillo and Sangiovese among the favourites.
- ▶ Port Augusta and Port Pirie are among the seaside towns with the Spencer Gulf teeming with aquatic life, large and small, including dolphins, blue swimmer crabs, snapper and King George whiting.
- ▶ Wilpena Pound, a natural basin in the Flinders Ranges, has some of the best hiking trails, bush walks and 4WD experiences in the country.



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*The Breakaways Conservation Park, Coober Pedy*

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- ▶ Lake Eyre National Park is Australia's largest salt-lake; having only reached capacity three times in 150 years. If you'd like to experience this natural wonder first hand, Outback Spirit Tours offer an award-winning six-day adventure. Soak-up the vast wilderness, wildflowers and water from the land and the air.
- ▶ Coongie Lakes is listed as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance and is a significant feeding and resting area for more than 74 species of waterbirds and 13 other wetland species.
- ▶ Go subterranean in Coober Pedy, the famous opal mining town where many of the residents live underground, to survive the scorching sun.
- ▶ The Heysen Trail meanders through the rugged Mount Remarkable National Park and past the spectacular Alligator Gorge. This park is close to Hancocks Lookout, which has panoramic views of the Spencer Gulf.
- ▶ Take a flight over Marree to see the ancient Marree Man, a 4.2km tall depiction of what is thought to be an Indigenous Australian man hunting with a boomerang or stick.
- ▶ Golden North Ice Cream in Laura produces more than 10 million litres of ice cream, sorbet and frozen yoghurt every year for local and interstate markets.
- ▶ Jump on The Ghan and experience the awe-inspiring outback from the comfort of your cabin. Known internationally as 'The Great Southern Rail', the Ghan will take you on a journey through the ever-changing landscape of Adelaide through to Darwin. Incorporated day-trips to the Katherine River, Uluru and Kakadu if you wish, you'll be granted access to parts of Australia few have seen.
- ▶ Visit the Andamooka Yacht Club, set in the moonspace surrounds of one of Australia's oldest mining towns, for a delicious coffee, bite to eat and chance to see some of the region's best art work.
- ▶ The Dingo Fence, one of the longest structures in the world (longer than the Great Wall of China), can be seen 40km from Marree. Stretching 5,400km long, the fence crosses Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia to separate the sheep-farming areas in the south from the dingoes in the north.
- ▶ The Flinders Ranges and Outback is rich in Aboriginal heritage and living culture.
- ▶ Indigenous rock art can be seen at Yourambulla Caves, Arkaroo Rock and Sacred Canyon, with much of this stunning art dating back some 6,000 years. The best rock art can be found at Parachilna, Chambers Gorge and Wilpena Pound.
- ▶ Before rail or road infrastructure connected the Flinders Ranges to Adelaide, Port Augusta was the main port for the movement of wool, minerals and wheat produced in the northern Flinders Ranges.
- ▶ Due to the high temperatures in the Outback, the cooler months of May to October are the best times to travel.
- ▶ In spring 2016, the Flinders Ranges was unseasonably green with local elders only recalling seeing the landscape so lush twice before in their lifetime.

