

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT TRAVELLING TO KANGAROO ISLAND

1. IS AUSTRALIA ON FIRE?

No, Australia is not on fire. 3% of our country has been impacted, and our country is big. There's no doubt our country has suffered this summer. We have a big job ahead of us to help communities recover and we're eternally grateful for the emergency personnel and farm fire units for protecting us. The reality is that whilst we've suffered, we're a resilient people. There are people, places and communities that are welcoming travellers in with open arms, and nearly all of these have not been affected. For those parts of Australia that have been affected we stand as one to rebuild and our country is asking you to help us do this through tourism.

2. IS IT SAFE TO GO BACK TO KANGAROO ISLAND?

Yes! All travel is unrestricted to Kangaroo Island. We encourage that most travel to Kangaroo Island is spent mostly in the east end from Cygnet River to Penneshaw where wildlife, food and wine, beaches, tours and incredible accommodation are all in abundance. The east end of Kangaroo Island (some 2,500 hectares east of the airport) is picture perfect, exactly like you'd expect it to be - entirely unaffected by fire.

3. WHAT IS THE AIR QUALITY LIKE ON KANGAROO ISLAND?

Near perfect. The air quality on Kangaroo Island is almost as pure as you can get. The smoke from the bushfires have dissipated and there is no smoke that is affecting the air quality on Kangaroo Island right now. Instead, there are bright blue skies, pristine oceans and the air is clean.

4. WHAT WILL I SEE WHEN I GET TO KANGAROO ISLAND?

The stunning Kangaroo Island you'd expect to see! The east end of Kangaroo Island has not been affected and remains pristine and pure. In these areas you wouldn't know that the Kangaroo Island bushfires have impacted much of the west end. You can still expect spectacular coastal views over rolling plains, abundant wildlife, pristine beaches, ocean safaris and dolphin adventures, wineries, conservation parks and local produce that Kangaroo Island is known and loved for. We recommend staying for two to four days exploring over 2,500 hectares in the east end of Kangaroo Island.

5. HOW MUCH WILDLIFE IS LEFT ON KANGAROO ISLAND AFTER THE BUSHFIRE?

Kangaroo Island is a big island, so big in fact that it's six times larger than Singapore. Whilst the sad reality is that a lot of wildlife living in the west end have perished in the Kangaroo Island bushfires, there is a substantial amount of wildlife and habitats left to thrive. You will see magnificent wedge tailed eagles, playful dolphins (that you can swim with), koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas, goannas and more. Kangaroo Island is a mecca for wildlife and you'll most definitely be able to see a lot in the wild, as well as at family friendly parks like Raptor Domain, KI Wildlife Park, KI Outdoor Action, KI Marine Adventures and KI Ocean Safaris. We recommend that you book a tour with one of the tour operators who will be able to show you parts of the island that are not accessible to the public; walk among habitats and ecosystems unlike anywhere else in the world. We don't recommend driving between dusk and dawn as goannas, echidnas, kangaroos and wallabies are often crossing the road.

6. WILL I BE GETTING IN THE WAY OF THE RECOVERY EFFORT?

You are an important and welcome part of the recovery effort on Kangaroo Island and in the Adelaide Hills. Locals are welcoming visitors with open arms as it's vital to these communities in the

recovery and rebuild phase. Some operators and accommodation providers are open for business but are in the restricted travel zone so travel into these areas may be required if you have booked with these tourism businesses. Please respect the privacy and relief efforts that are in full swing in the western area of Kangaroo Island and do not travel into the no-travel zone unless necessary.

7. DOES TOURISM REALLY MATTER WHEN PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR LIVELIHOODS?

The loss of loved ones, wildlife, stock and property is devastating and our sympathies are extended to all who have experienced this tragic loss. Kangaroo Island's biggest industries are tourism and agriculture, both of which have been substantially impacted by the fires. Tourism is also important to the Adelaide Hill's economy. Given the importance of tourism, the industry and the locals are campaigning together to encourage people to plan and visit. Every dollar spent in these communities goes back into their economy and keeps them going. Many volunteers bravely fought fires to protect and return to their businesses – tourism businesses. Your travel and spend in these regions allows businesses to pay staff, re-stock and invest with their local suppliers to help them sustain their operations. If tourists avoid these areas, and worse yet, cancel their forward bookings the outlook is grim both for the individual operators and industry. A good example is the Kangaroo Island Wildlife Park who have been at the epicentre of the incredible rescue and emergency work with wildlife (the animal hospital) on the Island. To act so selflessly means they have set aside their tourism business, losing revenue during what is normally a peak time. Their income is derived from the park, and without it operating effectively, they will not be able to pay staff, maintain and re-order supplies from the (mostly) local businesses. There are so many examples this like across the regions, so getting out and supporting them during the rebuild is vital.

8. HOW MANY PLACES ARE STILL OPEN ON KANGAROO ISLAND?

A lot! There are more businesses that are open than closed on Kangaroo Island. The variety of things to see and do is vast. From wineries, distillers, honey farms, fishing charters, wildlife tours, to lavender farms, pristine beaches, lighthouses, Seal Bay and incredible accommodation, there's still so much to see and do.