

# KANGAROO ISLAND



Minutes from the mainland, but a million miles away, Kangaroo Island is a sanctuary for wildlife and natural, rugged beauty. A place where people can walk among endangered Australian sea lions, watch kangaroos feeding at dusk or discover shipwrecks laying on the sea bed. Escape to an island you'll never want to leave.

- ▶ The idyllic destination that is Kangaroo Island, or 'KI' as the locals call it, is just 15km from the mainland and is accessible by ferry or air, with 30 minute flights between Adelaide and Kingscote, and a 45-minute ferry from Cape Jervis to Penneshaw.
- ▶ At 4,400km<sup>2</sup> and 155km long, Kangaroo Island is Australia's third largest island.
- ▶ Kangaroo Island was declared a bee sanctuary in 1885, one year after the South Australian Chamber of Manufacturers imported Ligurian bees from Italy. Importation of bees and honey products are now prohibited to Kangaroo Island.
- ▶ One in ten Kangaroo Island residents are involved in the arts in some way with more than 10 galleries, studios and artists' spaces dotted around the island.
- ▶ Little penguins, sea lions, dolphins, koalas and an abundance of birdlife call Kangaroo Island home. There's also giant cuttlefish, sea horses and a whole host of marine life.
- ▶ At Seal Bay Conservation Park, take a walk with one of our friendly rangers to a colony of endangered Australian sea lions.
- ▶ Kangaroo Island's southern coastline is a "best kept secret" for surfing enthusiasts. There are five main surf bays that produce gentle swells to beach breaks all the way from Antarctica.
- ▶ Walkers can also experience the island's rugged coastal beauty on a hike along the 61km Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail.

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Remarkable Rocks

- ▶ If you're looking to soak-up a little sun, you can't go past Vivonne Bay. Named as one of the best beaches in Australia, it's a popular place for visitors with its long, sandy beach and turquoise water.
- ▶ The Sufferfest Triathlon in November is the perfect excuse for aspiring athletes to visit the island. As Australia's newest iron distance race and the most scenic, the event offers a range of triathlon distances for all ages and abilities.
- ▶ Kangaroo Island is protected through conservation zoning, wildlife reserves and heritage listing.
- ▶ Vines aren't new to Kangaroo Island, grown as far back as 1836, but it was only in 2001 that Kangaroo Island was declared an official Australian wine region.
- ▶ There are a small community of 25 wine growers in Kangaroo Island and around 150 hectares of vines. Guests on the island are able to pick from 18 home-grown labels, five of which are being exported to the UK, USA, Europe and Asia.
- ▶ The Kangaroo Island Farm Gate and Cellar Door Trail invites travellers-in to taste the unexpected and unique - from Andermel marron, goat's cheese, honey from the local Ligurian bees and gin from Kangaroo Island's native juniper berries.
- ▶ For foodies, the Enchanted Fig Tree is another must-see. Hidden amongst the dunes, this secluded beach hides a restaurant unlike any other, a 150-year-old fig tree. Underneath a sprawling canopy, restauranteurs Rachel Hannaford and Sasha Sachs invite you to dine from a Greek-inspired degustation of seafood, local produce and of course figs!
- ▶ There are more than 60 recorded shipwrecks strewn across the ocean floor, with KI providing some of the best scuba diving experiences in Australia.
- ▶ The first non-Aboriginal people to live on Kangaroo Island were sealers, escaped convicts and runaway sailors, who sought refuge here in the early 1800s.
- ▶ It's believed Aboriginal people were living on the island at least as long as 16,000 years ago and as recently as 2,000 years ago. Intriguingly, today mainland Indigenous people call KI 'Karta' or 'Land of the Dead'.
- ▶ For birdwatchers, the island is a treasure-trove of feathered friends, with over 267 recorded species of birds. Nesting in a diverse range of habitats, including coastal cliffs, beaches and estuaries it pays to keep a pair of binoculars nearby.
- ▶ To see all the island has to offer, a minimum of three days is recommended. Three days will give you a small taste of the island and allow you time to see some of the major highlights. However, anyone who has been to KI before will tell you that you really need about seven days to truly gain an appreciation for the people, environment, culture and geology of the island.
- ▶ The region's main industries are agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, and tourism and the average maximum temperatures range from 28°C in summer to 15°C in winter.

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