



Eyre Peninsula

National parks visitation snapshot

The region

South Australia's Eyre Peninsula is the ultimate coastal getaway – but without the coastal crowds.

It boasts more than 2,000 kilometres of coastline stretching from the tip of Spencer Gulf 300km northwest of Adelaide through to the Great Australian Bight in the state's west.

Eyre Peninsula is known for its quality seafood, scenic national parks, productive farmland, pounding surf and adventure activities, like shark cage diving and swimming with sea lions.

Tourism

In 2018, Eyre Peninsula contributed \$310 million to SA's \$6.8 billion tourism expenditure.

The region attracts approximately 212,000 overnight visitors per year (2016-18) – with almost three quarters being intrastate visitors. Of these, about half are from Adelaide and its surrounds, and the remainder from regional areas of the state.

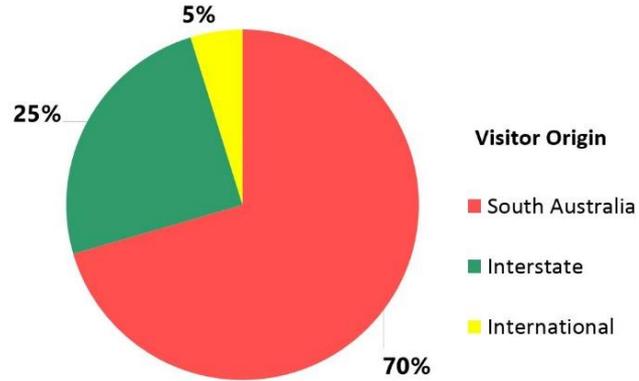
Eyre Peninsula has more than 26 visitor accommodation* options, totalling 987 available rooms. Over the course of a year, occupancy rates average at about 50 per cent – peaking at 52-53 per cent from September to November and 50-52 per cent from February to April, and dipping to 48 per cent in the winter months.

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

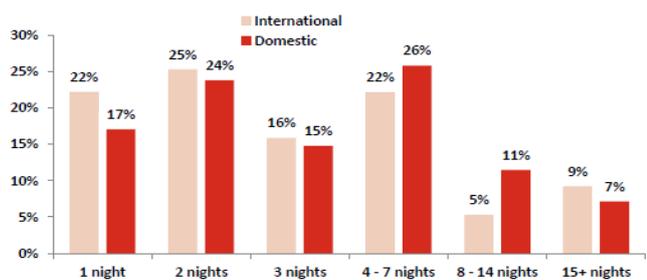
*Hotels, motels and service apartments with 15+ rooms

The opportunity

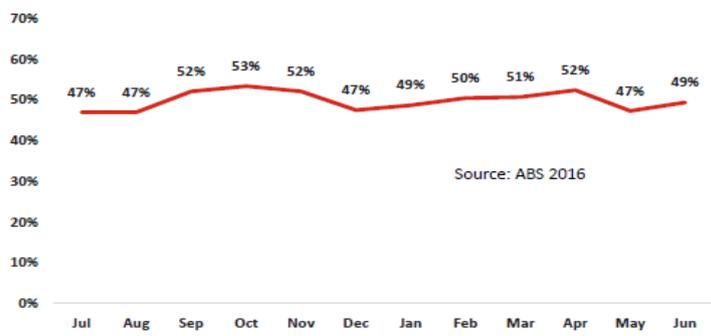
Eyre Peninsula's regional strategy is to capitalise on its pristine nature, immersive wildlife experiences and coastal lifestyle to drive increased overnight stays from international and domestic visitors.



Length of visit to Eyre Peninsula



Monthly occupancy rates 2015-16



National parks

Eyre Peninsula's national parks are one of the region's main drawcards.

In fact, in 2018-19, 80 per cent of Eyre Peninsula locals who were surveyed visited at least one of the region's national parks. On average, 4 per cent of South Australians surveyed said they visited a park on Eyre Peninsula every year.

For many, a trip to Eyre Peninsula's Port Lincoln – proudly known as the seafood capital of Australia – wouldn't be complete without a visit to the nearby [Lincoln National Park](#) and [Coffin Bay National Park](#).

Then there's the world's largest semi-arid cave landscapes at [Nullarbor National Park](#) and the critically important breeding and calving area for endangered southern right whales at [Far West Coast Marine Park](#). Both provide a unique chance to spot southern right whales during winter and both are popular with interstate visitors.

And for the adventure-seekers, shark cage diving at [Neptune Islands Group Marine Park](#) is a once-in-a-lifetime experience popular with interstate visitors.

But it's not just the coast that lures in the visitors. Eyre Peninsula's inland parks really are a world of their own.

History, conservation and Aboriginal culture truly come together in the heart of the peninsula at [Gawler Ranges National Park](#), while further north is [Lake Gairdner National Park](#), where red sand hills surround Australia's third largest salt lake.

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 Eyre Peninsula parks of tourism interest.



Coffin Bay National Park

About the park

[Coffin Bay National Park](#) has something for everyone, with remote coastal scenery and nature-based activities like boating, fishing, sailing, kayaking, coastal bushwalking, scuba diving and windsurfing.

For visitors with a high-clearance 4WD, there's also the pristine northern beaches to explore.

Visitation data

Online booking information shows that for the 2018-19 financial year, 26,982 people visited the park – 58 per cent of them from SA.

Of those, 22 per cent booked to stay overnight. The average length of stay that they booked was two nights and the average number of people per booking was 2.4.

Note: Online booking information does not capture the number of times visitors who have purchased annual parks passes visit the park.

Peak and off-peak season

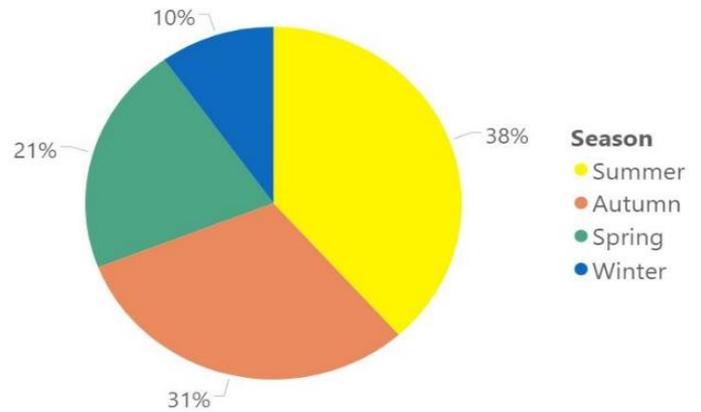
Peak season for visitation to Coffin Bay National Park is from September to April.

The highest occupancy at campgrounds is over the Christmas holidays (through to January), where campgrounds reach 100 per cent occupancy across some weeks. March, April and October also have high occupancy rates.

Visitors per month (K=1,000 visitors)



Bookings by season



Accommodation usage

The park's most used campgrounds include:

- Yangie Bay Campground: 3,260 people per year (26 per cent of visitors are from SA)
- Black Springs Campground: 936 (54 per cent)
- The Pool Campground: 641 (70 per cent)
- Morgans Landing Campground: 473 (67 per cent)

Assets and services report

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

Assets of interest and facilities:

Good walking network. Six designated campgrounds in the park, most can only be accessed by 4WD.

Lincoln National Park

About the park

[Lincoln National Park](#) overlooks Australia's largest natural harbour – Boston Bay.

The park's granite headlands, sheltered bays and scenic offshore islands offer the perfect setting for boating, fishing, beachcombing, swimming, bird watching, whale watching and nature walks, while its campgrounds offer easy access to the beaches, bays and walking trails.

Visitation data

Online booking information shows that 31,856 people visited Lincoln National Park in the 2018-19 financial year, with 63 per cent from SA. The remainder includes 11 per cent from Victoria, 9 per cent from New South Wales and 5 per cent from Queensland.

Of those who booked online, 26 per cent stayed overnight, with an average length of stay of two nights.

Note: Online booking information does not capture the number of times visitors who have purchased annual parks passes visit the park.

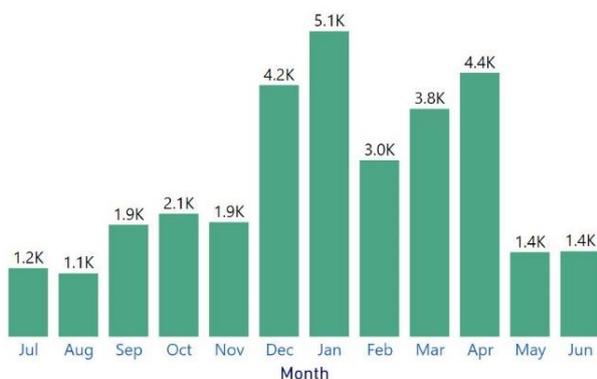
Peak and off-peak season

Peak season for visitation to Lincoln National Park is from September to April.

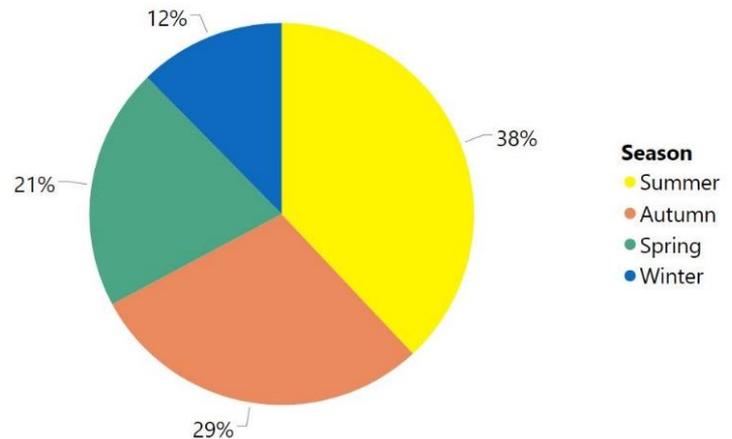
The highest occupancy at campgrounds and accommodation is over the Christmas holidays and through to January, followed by April, March and February.

Occupancy was lowest in May, June, July and August.

Visitors per month (K=1,000 visitors)



Bookings by season



Accommodation usage

The park's most used campgrounds include:

- September Beach Campground: 1991 people per year (49 per cent of visitors are from SA)
- Surfleet Cove Campground: 1659 (41 per cent)
- Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area campgrounds: 1036 (54 per cent)
- Fisherman Point Campground: 1686 (50 per cent)

Assets and services report

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

Assets of interest and facilities:

Heritage accommodation available at Donington Cottage (currently under a long-term lease). Boat ramp at Taylors Landing. Good walking network. BBQ and picnic spots available. 13 campgrounds and 54 facilities available.

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area

About the area

Located within Lincoln National Park is [Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area](#) – a secluded bay with a pure white sandy beach, cradled between densely vegetated headlands.

Memory Cove provides a very special camping or day-visit wilderness experience. Vehicle entry and camping needs to be booked and is under lock and key.

Visitation data

Online booking information shows that 2883 people visited in the 2018-19 financial year, with 57 per cent from SA. The remainder includes 15 per cent from VIC, 11 per cent from NSW and 4 per cent from QLD.

Of those who booked their visit online, 31 per cent stayed overnight and the average number of people per booking was two.

Peak and off-peak season

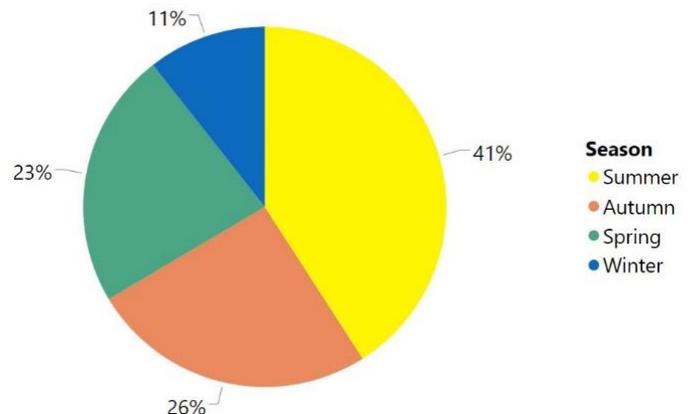
Peak season for visitation at Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area is from September to April with the highest occupancy from January to March.

Occupancy was lowest in May, June, July and August.

Visitors per month



Bookings by season



Assets and services report

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

Assets of interest and facilities:

Five campsites available with one toilet.

Gawler Ranges National Park

About the park

Gawler Ranges National Park is a special place where history, conservation and Aboriginal culture come together.

The park is famous for the magnificent Organ Pipes, formed more than 1500 million years ago as a result of volcanic eruptions, and its equally stunning rocky outcrops at Yandinga Falls and Kolay Mirica Falls.

Heavy rains transform the park's Sturt's Lake from shimmering salt pan to a wide, watery mirror.

Visitation data

Online booking information shows 4356 people visited in the 2018-19 financial year, with 48 per cent from SA.

The remainder includes 18 per cent from VIC, 12 per cent from NSW, 8 per cent from Western Australia and 7 per cent from QLD.

The average length of stay booked was one night and the average number of people per booking was two.

Peak and off-peak season

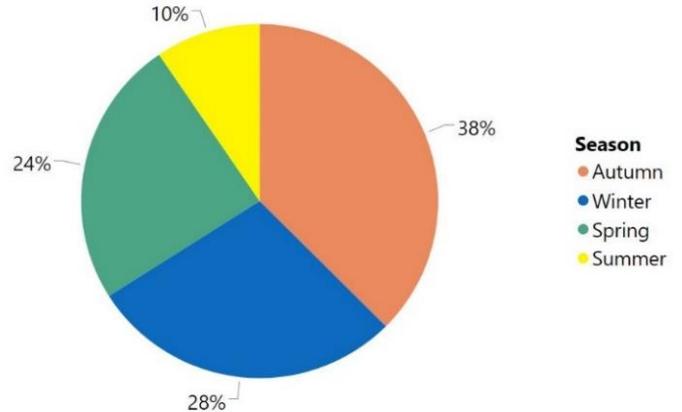
Peak season for visitation to Gawler Ranges National Park is from March to October.

The highest occupancy is in April, followed by September, and the lowest is from November to February.

Visitors per month



Bookings by season



Accommodation usage

The park's most used campgrounds include:

- Yandinga Campground: 517 people per year (42 per cent of visitors are from SA)
- Kolay Hut Campground: 412 (61 per cent)
- Waganny Campground: 325 (42 per cent)
- Mattera Campground: 279 (57 per cent)
- Scrubby Peak Campground: 247 (69 per cent)
- Chillunie Campground: 195 (42 per cent)

Assets and services report

Co-management ✓

Management plan ✓

'Friends of Parks' volunteer group ✓

Recent infrastructure investment —

Built accommodation ☆☆☆ Nil

Access roads – bitumen 🚗 4WD only

Internet connectivity ★☆☆ Basic

Camping opportunities ★★★★★ Good

Camping facilities (toilets, showers) ★☆☆ Basic

Power and water ★☆☆ Basic

Assets of interest and facilities:

There are six campgrounds and basic toilet facilities available.

Nullarbor National Park and Far West Coast Marine Park

About the park

The [Nullarbor National Park and Regional Reserve](#) precinct includes the [Far West Coast Marine Park](#), which adjoins the Great Australian Bight National Park (governed under Australian Government legislation).

Nullarbor National Park offers the intrepid and patient visitor a sense of remote beauty and isolation. It is managed by a Co-management Advisory Committee of Mirning community members.

The park is home to the world's largest semi-arid karst (cave) landscapes, featuring sinkholes and large underground caverns.

It also features the Head of Bight Visitors Centre, which offers a platform for visitors to view southern right whales and their calves that come to the area to breed in winter.

Visitation data

Head of Bight Visitors Centre booking information showed that 23,624 people visited the centre in the 2018-19 financial year.

Peak and off-peak season

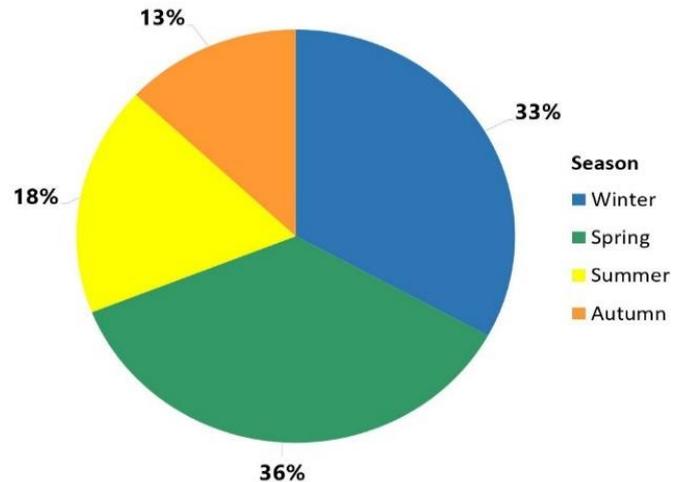
Peak season for visitation is during whale breeding season, from May to October.

The highest occupancy is from July to September.



Data Source: John Evans ALT

Bookings by season



Accommodation usage

There are no entry fees to Nullarbor National Park and only one campground at Koonalda Homestead.

Online booking information showed that 124 people camped at Koonalda Homestead in the 2018-19 financial year. The average length of stay was 1 night and the average number of people per booking was 2.8.

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	★☆☆☆ Basic
Camping opportunities	★★★☆☆ Limited
Camping facilities (toilets, showers)	★☆☆☆ Basic
Power and water	★☆☆☆ Basic

Assets of interest and facilities:

Head of Bight Visitors Centre. Two roadhouses.

Neptune Islands Group Marine Park

About the park

The [Neptune Islands Group Marine Park](#) consists of two groups of islands located close to the entrance to Spencer Gulf.

They are best known as the place to go for cage diving with great white sharks, being the only established great white shark tourism site in Australia.

The islands are also home to Australia's largest colony of long-nosed fur seals, with half the Australian population breeding here, and are also considered a bird-lover's paradise.

Visitation data

Tour booking information shows that 9809 people visited the Neptune Islands on a shark cage diving tour in the 2018-19 financial year. Of these bookings, 63 per cent were Australian visitors and 36 per cent were international visitors.

Peak and off-peak season

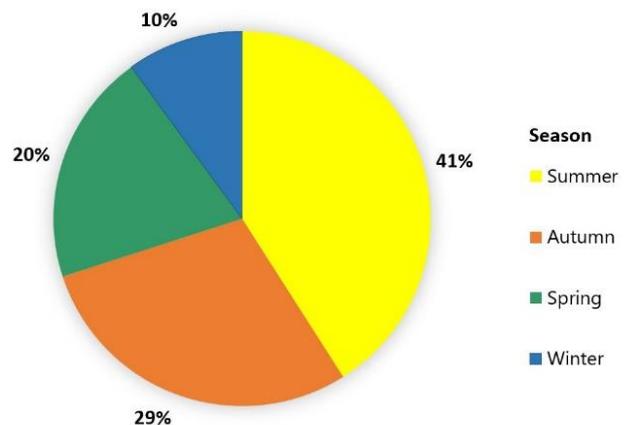
Peak season for visitation is from October to May.

The highest number of visitors is in summer, from December to January, and during autumn, particularly in April and May.

Occupancy was lowest from June to September.



Bookings by season



Assets and services report

Co-management

Management plan



'Friends of parks' volunteer group



Recent infrastructure investment



Built accommodation



Access roads – bitumen

NA

Internet connectivity

☆☆☆ Basic

Assets of interest and facilities:

There are no facilities in the park. All islands in the park are prohibited areas (access is by permit only). The waters surrounding North Neptune Island are a declared sanctuary zone, so no fishing is allowed.

Disclaimer

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