



Adelaide region

National parks visitation snapshot

The region

The Adelaide region is the top destination for international visitors to South Australia, with its location providing easy access for visitors travelling to regional areas of the state.

Adelaide is best-known for its quality food and wine, with its arts and culture a close second.

The abundance of urban park areas, with their stunning natural landscapes, also give visitors an idyllic taste of the city. Whether it's walking, riding, swimming, climbing, fishing, kayaking or relaxing, Adelaide's parks, reserves and marine parks are fantastic places to visit.

Plus there's Adelaide's highest peak – Mount Lofty – that affords unsurpassed views across the city and its coastal suburbs.

Tourism

In 2018, the Adelaide region contributed \$3.8 billion to SA's \$6.8 billion tourism expenditure.

Adelaide attracts approximately 3,168,000 overnight visitors per year (data from 2016-18). Of these, 55 per cent are interstate visitors. Of the international market, a third travel from Europe and a third from Asia.

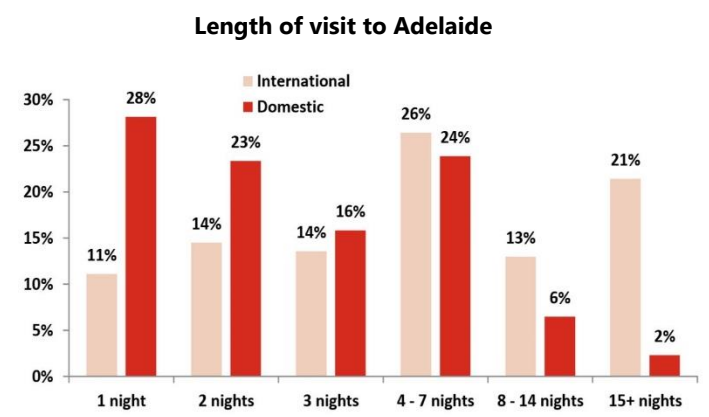
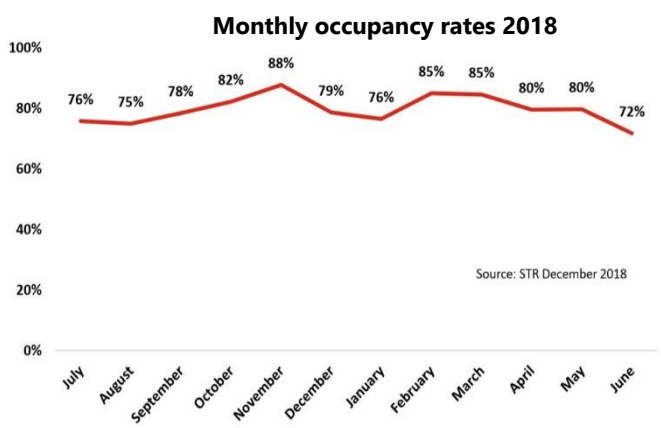
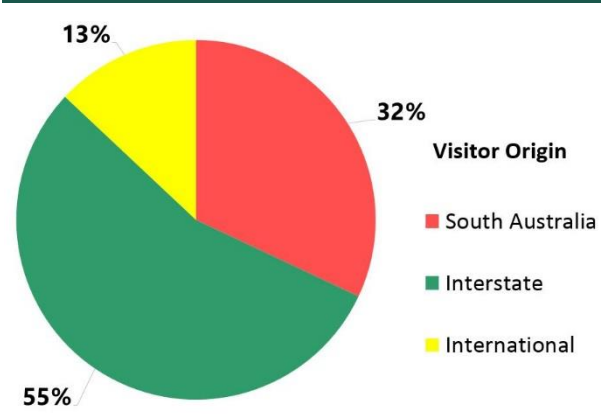
Adelaide has more than 122 visitor accommodation options, totalling 8,914 available rooms. Over the course of the year, occupancy rates average at 80 per cent. Peak occupancy is during March and November (with occupancy of 88 per cent and 85 per cent respectively) and lowest occupancy is during winter, where rates drop to an average of 72 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 Adelaide region's tourism strategy is to promote its accessibility to nature-based tourism, urban parks and liveable cities.



National parks

Some of SA's best-known and most frequently visited parks are found in the Adelaide Hills.

Just 22km from Adelaide CBD are [Cleland Conservation Park](#) with its network of walking and cycling trails and the ever-popular [Cleland Wildlife Park](#), where visitors can get up-close and personal with iconic native animals.

Then there's [Mount Lofty Summit](#), with its panoramic views across Adelaide's city skyline and the coast.

But it's not just the Adelaide Hills that are popular with park-goers.

On the northern side of the city, the [Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary](#) is one of the gems of metropolitan Adelaide. Located in the Port River and Barker Inlet, the sanctuary is one of the few places in the world where wild dolphins can be found living just 20 minutes from a major capital city.

South of the city, visitors can enjoy the recently established [Glenthorne National Park](#) precinct, which includes several parcels of land with a total area of more than 1,500 hectares.

Of those who live in the Adelaide region, 74 per cent of people surveyed visited at least one park in the 2018-19 financial year.

Further afield, an average of 56 per cent of South Australians surveyed said they visited a park in Adelaide and its surrounds (namely the Fleurieu Peninsula) each 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 Adelaide parks of tourism interest.

Note: The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary is featured in the Yorke Peninsula regional snapshot.



Cleland Conservation Park, Cleland Wildlife Park and Mount Lofty Summit

About the parks

[Cleland Conservation Park](#) conserves an important area of bushland situated in the Adelaide Hills face zone.

Its fantastic network of walking trails introduce visitors to the diverse native wildlife, cultural heritage and spectacular views of the Adelaide Hills and surrounds, and there is also a great selection of trails and fire tracks for mountain-biking.

Meanwhile, neighbouring [Cleland Wildlife Park](#) has been a major tourist attraction in SA since 1967, providing an opportunity for visitors to connect with animals in their natural environment.

Just a stroll away through native bushland is [Mount Lofty Summit](#). One of SA's most popular walking trails traverses this unique area from Waterfall Gully to the summit, proving popular with nature-lovers and fitness-enthusiasts alike.

Visitation data

For South Australians, Cleland Conservation Park is the second most popular park in the state, with 23 per cent visiting in 2019. Entry to the park is free, which means online booking data is not available.

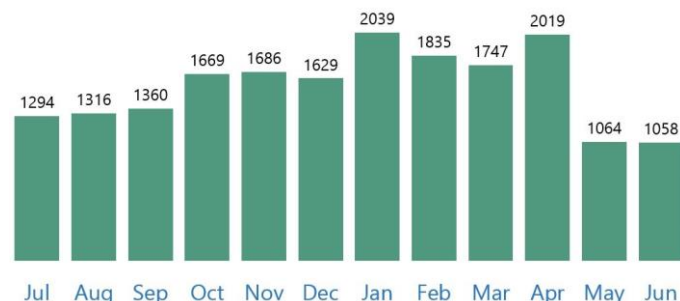
Booking information for Cleland Wildlife Park shows that 139,411 people visited the park in the 2018-19 financial year. Parks online booking information identified that 67 per cent were South Australians, 8 per cent were Victorian, 3 per cent were from New South Wales and 1 per cent was from Western Australia. International visitors accounted for 21 per cent.

The Mount Lofty Summit Visitor Information Centre noted that 18,712 people visited the centre in the 2018-19 financial year. Traffic counters estimate 310,000 trips were taken to the Mount Lofty Summit in over 12 months in 2019-20.

Peak and off-peak season

Visitation at Cleland Conservation Park is fairly evenly spread across the year.

Visitors per month – Mount Lofty Summit



Accommodation usage

There is no camping available within these parks.

Accommodation is available at the Mount Lofty YHA (Youth Hostel Association) located in Cleland Conservation Park.

Assets and services report

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

Assets of interest and facilities:

Good walking network.

At Waterfall Gully there are lookout platforms, toilets, picnic shelter, foot paths, information and seating provided.

At Mount Lofty Summit, a lookout area, toilets, walking trails, information and seating are provided.

Cleland Wildlife Park has extensive visitor facilities and conference rooms for hire.

Anstey Hill Recreation Park

About the park

[Anstey Hill Recreation Park](#) in Adelaide's north-east features the ruins of the original Newman's Nursery, and is home to abundant bird life, western grey kangaroos and koalas, among other wildlife.

The park conserves rare vegetation that was once widespread throughout the Adelaide Plains and Mount Lofty Ranges.

Walkers can design their own adventure using the extensive network of walking trails, while eight mountain bike trails, ranging in difficulty from easy to advanced, will provide a challenge for even the most experienced rider.

Visitation data

Due to its recently completed infrastructure upgrades and in-park events, Anstey Hill has become increasingly popular. It is now the 7th most popular park for South Australians to visit, with 9 per cent of them visiting in 2019.

Entry to the park is free, which means online booking data is not available.

Accommodation usage

There is no camping or accommodation available within this park.

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	☆☆☆ Nil
Camping facilities (toilets, showers)	☆☆☆ Nil
Power and water	★★★ Good

Assets of interest and facilities:

Recent upgrades include: new and improved car parks around the boundary of the park, public toilets, improvements to trails for both walking and cycling, and improvements to park and trail information.

Grassy area for picnics with trees for shade and shelters with seating.

Glenthorne National Park-Ityamaiitpinna Yarta Precinct

About the park

The creation of the [Glenthorne National Park-Ityamaiitpinna Yarta Precinct](#) in Adelaide's southern suburbs facilitates a coordinated park planning and management approach across several important parcels of land in the area.

This includes [Glenthorne National Park-Ityamaiitpinna Yarta](#), (which includes the former [O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park](#)), [Marino Conservation Park](#), [Hallett Cove Conservation Park](#), Happy Valley Reservoir and areas of the Field River Valley.

The total area is more than 1,500 hectares, which makes it one of the biggest parks within the metropolitan area.

Glenthorne National Park-Ityamaiitpinna Yarta

While [Glenthorne National Park-Ityamaiitpinna Yarta](#) is still being created, when it opens it will include picnic areas, heritage buildings, walking and cycling trails, and up to 165 hectares of native revegetation creating an urban forest that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

The park also includes the previously named O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park, which was once cleared for grazing but today features regenerated grey box eucalypts and river red gums – a perfect spot for a picnic. It has stunning views of the city, hills face and coastline, and 8km of mountain bike trails, ranging from easy through to intermediate and advanced – with some great downhill options.

Marino Conservation Park

[Marino Conservation Park](#) conserves the last remaining stands of coastal heath vegetation along this part of the Adelaide coastline, forming a green buffer between the suburbs.

The park's botanical walking trail and fire access tracks allow visitors to explore the park, taking in its stunning scenic views over Brighton, Glenelg, Grange and the Marino Rocks Lighthouse.

Hallett Cove Conservation Park

[Hallett Cove Conservation Park](#), is one of Australia's most outstanding geological and archaeological sites. The park also conserves native flora and fauna and has a beach for swimming and fishing.

An interpretative walking trail describes the park's cultural and geological heritage, including the outstanding glacial pavements along the northern cliff tops that have international significance.

Visitation data

Entry to all of these parks is free, which means online booking data is not available.

However, traffic counters at the 'upstart' entrance of Glenthorne National Park-Ityamaiitpinna Yarta estimate 42,000 bike trips on this trail in the 2018-19 financial year.

In addition, the coastal boardwalk between Hallett Cove and Marino Conservation Park was visited by 13 per cent of South Australians in 2019 making it the fifth most popular park destination for South Australians.

Traffic counters at the entrance of Hallett Cove Conservation Park estimate 258,000 trips were taken along the boardwalk in the 2018-19 financial year.

Accommodation usage

There is currently no camping or accommodation available within these parks.

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	☆☆☆ Nil
Camping facilities (toilets, showers)	☆☆☆ Nil
Power and water	★★★★ Good

Assets of interest and facilities:

Glenthorne National Park-Ityamaiitpinna Yarta is the base for rangers servicing parks across the Glenthorne precinct. * A management plan is available for Hallett Cove Conservation

Park and Marino Conservation Park. The Glenthorne National Park-Ityamaiitpinna Yarta management plan is being developed at the time of publication.



Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary

About the park

The [Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary](#) is located 20 minutes from Adelaide, is a part of SA's largest port and has a number of Aboriginal and European cultural and historical points of interest.

This marine park is home to about 30 resident bottlenose dolphins, with another 400 transient dolphins that visit at various times of the year. These wild dolphins come to the sanctuary to feed, play, socialise and nurse their calves.

Other wildlife that can easily be spotted include sting rays, long-nosed fur seals and endangered Australian sea lions.

Kayaking, paddle boarding and fishing are popular activities at the sanctuary, and large and small tour boats and supervised kayak tours provide great opportunities to view dolphins and other wildlife. Or for visitors who prefer to stick to dry land, there are plenty of great on-shore vantage points to observe wildlife.

The area is also home to a 10,000 year-old mangrove forest, as well as seagrass, saltmarsh, tidal flats and tidal creeks, which all provide habitat and food for the dolphins. It is a popular bird-watching site and shares most of its northern coastal habitat with the [Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park- Winaityinaityi Pangkara](#), as well as sharing a boundary with Torrens Island Cosnervaiton Park and the Adelaide Quarantine Station.

Visitation data

Entry to the park is free, which means online booking data is not available, but during 2018 67,374 visitors participated in dolphin watching cruises within the area. (Note: this figure excludes kayaking and walking tours or independent visitors.)

Accommodation usage

There is no camping or accommodation available within this park.

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

Assets of interest and facilities:

Along the shoreline boundary of the sanctuary there are numerous council and privately owned facilities that might be useful to visitors; including picnic area/BBQ facilities, public toilets, and boat ramps and cleaning facilities for boats, boardwalks and lookouts.

Adelaide Gaol

About the park

The Adelaide Gaol in the heart of the city was decommissioned in 1988 and reopened as a museum, function centre and tourist attraction.

Its museum provides an insight into Adelaide's penal history and the gaol's architecture.

The Adelaide Gaol is a valuable part of SA's heritage and is one of the two oldest public buildings in Adelaide.

Visitation data

Adelaide Gaol booking information shows that 27,432 people* visited the Adelaide Gaol in the 2018-19 financial year.

* Numbers for June 2019 using a five year average

Peak and off-peak season

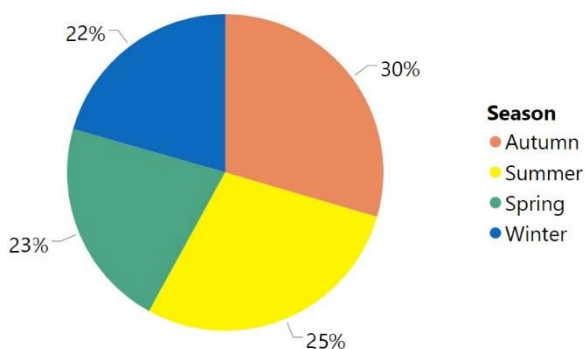
Visitor numbers peak during the school holidays in January, April, July and October.

Visitors per month



* Numbers for June 2019 using a five year average

Bookings by season



Accommodation usage

There is no accommodation available within this facility.

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	★★★★ Good
Camping opportunities	☆☆☆ Nil
Camping facilities (toilets, showers)	☆☆☆ Nil
Power and water	★★★★ Good

Assets of interest and facilities:

Conference centre.

Disclaimer

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