

Adelaide is the capital city of South Australia and is located on the coast of the Southern Ocean, on the Adelaide Plains, with the Fleurieu Peninsula to the south. Adelaide is Australia's fifth largest city and has a population of nearly 1.5 million people.

It's often known as the 'city of churches' due to the large number found throughout the city, however more and more, this thriving city is known for its vibrant and energetic outdoors culture. This comes from its bustling restaurant and cafe scene, the local's passion for sport and the booming arts scene that is particularly displayed during the Adelaide Fringe Festival held each March.

Regions around Adelaide such as The Barossa and Clare Valley produce fantastic world acclaimed wine, as well as gourmet goods such as cheese, meats and chocolate, so the city is also known for its fantastic wine and food produce. In the outlying areas such as these, as well as the city centre, there are many styles of accommodation on offer from campgrounds to backpackers to 5 star hotels, there's something for everything.

Sights & Attractions

Adelaide boasts the oldest wine region in Australia, 'The Barossa Valley' within an hour's drive from the city centre. This area is a major tourist attraction and can be best explored with a wine tour from Adelaide for the day, where you'll visit famous wineries such as Penfolds, the home of Grange, Australia's most famous wine. There are also a number of German, Polish and English settlements in the surrounding areas, that are famous for their local produce of meats and cheeses that are well worth visiting. In Adelaide city itself, the National Wine Centre showcase's Australia's wine industry, covering all aspects of wine making and a working vineyard, there's also a wine-tasting gallery. The Adelaide Central Market is a gem for local fresh produce and has been trading since 1869. Each Sunday, there's also the Adelaide Showground Farmers Market for more quality produce from all over South Australia. The only chocolatier that still imports and roasts their own beans in Australia, is Haigh's Chocolates, found a short distance from the city centre.

Most of Adelaide's city sights, such as galleries, botanic gardens, historic homes and museums are strung along the picturesque North Terrace. Here you'll find the Art Gallery of South Australia (that boasts an impressive international and national collection). The South Australian Museum can also be found on North Terrace, where you'll find excellent exhibits on Australia's natural and cultural history. The Adelaide Botanic Gardens are a pretty spot for a picnic or to just while away an afternoon. Adelaide's city centre is semi circled by the Torrens River, the banks of which offer beautiful spots to relax and soak up the sunny weather, just minutes from the main shopping district.

Adelaide has some fantastic shopping areas, well worth a visit. The Rundle Street Mall is Adelaide's main shopping district and is regarded as the most competitive shopping precinct in Australia. The Rundle Mall is serviced by a free City Loop Bus and the Bee Line Bus. The mall

is a great place to pick up some Aussie souvenirs, clothes from top Australian designers, books, aboriginal crafts, or one of South Australia's famous opals. Adelaide offers a diverse range of restaurants from fine dining and a bustling café culture to great pubs and bars. To sample some of this high quality food and wine culture head to Hindley Street in the city or areas such as Glenelg and North Adelaide.

A favourite spot to visit while in Adelaide is the seaside town of Glenelg. Glenelg is a half hour tram trip from the city centre and is a pretty beach spot that boasts a lovely alfresco cafe strip. The foreshore is a pretty spot for an evening stroll. In the summer months, there are sun beds, wave skis, beach umbrellas and body boards for hire, high speed jet boats you can take a ride on and a dolphin swim cruise available.

Adelaide has a thriving music scene for both bands and dance music. Around Light Square in the city centre you'll find plenty of clubs and pubs. Rundle Street East has a number of night spots as does Glenelg and North Adelaide, near Wellington Square. Adelaide is a big sporting city, with two Australian Rules Football teams and a fierce rivalry between them, creating a great vibe for any matches in this 'Aussiest' of sports, throughout the winter months. Cricket and Soccer are also very popular sports here. Adelaide is host to a number of international sporting events, including the Clipsal 500 Adelaide and Classic Adelaide Rally (rally car racing), the Tour Down Under (cycling) and an international 3 day equestrian event each year.

Adelaide is renowned for its numerous festivals throughout the year, most famously the Adelaide Fringe Festival. At the 'Fringe' you'll find a diverse program of dance, music, theatre, circus, poetry, comedy, film, video, new media and visual arts, that runs over a month long period each year over February and March. There are music festivals such as WOMAdelaide, the Big Day Out each year, the International Guitar Festival, East End Jazz Festival and Adelaide Cabaret Festival. A number of film festivals take place throughout the year also. When you are in Adelaide it is worth checking out what's on at that particular time of year, as usually there is quite a lot on offer.

Climate

Adelaide experiences a Mediterranean climate characterized by mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers. Adelaide receives minimal rainfall in summer, though has a reasonable fall in the winter months with June receiving the most rainfall. During these months, the daily temperature is between 15°C and 18°C. The average summer temperature for Adelaide is 29°C, however like most of the southern Australian cities, it has been known to have hot spells where the temperature can reach over 40°C or the late 30's, sometimes for consecutive days, without respite.

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