

Flinders Ranges

The Flinders Ranges is located in South Australia, approximately 200 kilometres North West of Adelaide. It's the largest in South Australia, the ranges stretch for over 430 kilometres from Port Pirie to Lake Callabonna.

The Flinders are often visited by a short trip from Adelaide or by people travelling between Alice Springs and Adelaide, where this spectacular scenery is part of a red centre, outback tour. There are a number of budget tour companies that offer fantastic outback camping experiences in this region that remains nearly as untouched as when it was first formed.

The Flinders Ranges have actually been officially recognised as one of Australia's first National Landscapes. The ranges are divided into 3 sections, the northern, southern and central regions which each boast amazing outback scenery, beautiful hiking opportunities, a multitude of flora and fauna and aboriginal history and culture. For accommodation, there are a number of camp grounds within the national park and hotels, motels, backpacker hostels available in the main towns of Quorn and Hawker.

Sights & Attractions

The Flinders Ranges are the place to visit for spectacular rugged outback scenery, encounters with native wildlife, adventure activities, a chance for spiritual reflection and an education on the native history of this ancient land. One of the most famous landmarks found in the central Flinders Ranges is Wilpena Pound, a large, sickle-shaped, natural amphitheatre covering nearly 80 square kilometers. Wilpena Pound contains the range's highest peak, St Mary Peak (1170m) and a scenic flight over here is well worth it for the amazing views. While Wilpena Pound is the main draw card for visiting the central flinders, you'll also find secret caves, beautiful gorges and fantastic 4WD tracks. The Wadlata Outback Interpretive Centre in Port Augusta is great to visit for a historical overview of the area, from early Aboriginal culture to feats of the early pioneers and all aspects of the current living landscape. The Pichi Pichi Railway is another favourite in this part of the ranges, as it takes you on a journey through beautiful gorges, past the gum trees and deep rock cuttings, superb stone wall embankments and spectacular iron bridges, between Quorn and Port Augusta. The townships of Hawker and Rawnsley Park Station can also be found in the Central Flinders.

The Southern Flinders Ranges, while also famous for its beautiful gorges and native wildlife, is home to Mount Remarkable National Park. As the name suggests, this region is an amazing place for scenery, particularly from the peak of Mount Remarkable itself. There are numerous trails in the park for year round hiking and cycling. Also in the Wirrabara and Bundaleer forests, you'll find some great recreational trails. The Southern Flinders Ranges Heritage Trail is worth a look for those interested in social history and heritage, where you can explore the regions museums and heritage buildings. The Southern Flinders Flavours Trail features

a number of locations that offer various local produce from honey, condiments and pastries to gourmet meat and olive products.

The Northern Flinders Ranges are where you'll find the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary, an area, over 600 square kilometers in size, that features magnificent gorges, rugged mountains, towering peaks, pretty waterholes and many 4 wheel drive tracks from which to explore this great area. The sanctuary is home to the protected Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby, over 160 bird species and many native plants. In the Northern Flinders there's also the opportunity to get involved and learn about Aboriginal culture, particularly at Iga Warta, a community that is completely run and owned by the local Aboriginals.

Climate

The Flinders Ranges experience very hot summers, with most days over 40°C and in extreme cases in outback regions, can get as high as 50°C. If you're travelling here in the months from November to March, be prepared for the heat and remember to drink 3 litres of water each day. Between April and October, daily temperatures are between 16 and 20°C, and the majority of rainfall happens in winter (from June to August.)

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