

# Yorke Peninsula and Clare Valley

*Yorke Peninsula is the perfect place to reconnect with nature.*

Yorke Peninsula is home to one of South Australia's top parks – Innes National Park. Most of Yorke Peninsula has been cleared for farming, making Innes one of the most significant areas of native vegetation for conserving biodiversity in the area. It is home to over 110 species of birds, including the Western Whipbird which was rediscovered in 1962 and leading to the park's dedication in 1970.

Innes National Park has a fascinating Aboriginal and European heritage. The Narunga people have lived on

the Yorke Peninsula for thousands of years and still maintain strong cultural links to the region. The park was named after William Innes, who developed a gypsum mine in the area in the 1890s. Today, visitors can explore the ruins of the historic Inneson village or stay in one of the restored lodges.

The area also has a rich maritime heritage. The remains of around 40 shipwrecks lie on the ocean bed off the coast of Yorke Peninsula. Discover the stories behind the

wrecks on the Investigator Strait Maritime Heritage Trail. This interpretive trail extends along the coast and shares the stories of many a fateful shipwreck on information signs. Visitors can also enjoy good camping facilities, relaxing coastal walks and secluded beaches.





View of Althorpe Island from Cape Spencer Lighthouse, Innes National Park

Troubridge Island is an important breeding area for seabirds. A private tour operator conducts tours out to this small and fascinating island.

Clare Valley and Burra districts are home to some interesting parks, including Martindale Hall Conservation Park. Here, visitors can take a self-guided tour of the grand nineteenth century mansion, built by Edmund Bowman in 1879. At Red Banks Conservation Park, explore the disused gold mine and miners' dugouts, and see native wildlife.

### Visitor Information Centres

**Burra Visitor Information Centre**  
 ☎ (08) 8892 2154

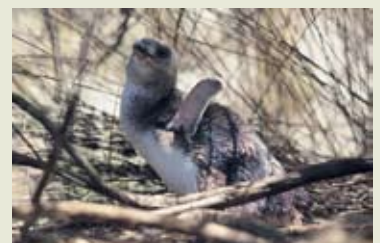
**Clare Valley Visitor Information Centre**  
 ☎ 1800 242 131

**Harvest Corner Yorke Peninsula Visitor Information Centre**  
 Minlaton  
 ☎ (08) 8853 2600

**Innes National Park and Yorke District Office Visitor Centre**  
 Stenhouse Bay  
 (08) 8854 3200

### Little Penguins and Short-tailed Shearwaters

Research is under way on Troubridge Island and Althorpe Island conservation parks to understand the needs of seabirds, seals and predatory fishes for pilchards as a main food source. Little Penguins and Short-tailed Shearwaters are being monitored to establish their diet and foraging requirements. This is a long-term study, which is informing the management of the pilchard fishery.



Innes National Park Visitor Centre

### 1 Innes National Park



**Location**

Travel from Adelaide via Port Wakefield Road

**Size**

9432 hectares

**Contact**

(08) 8854 3200

Innes National Park features a wealth of early Maritime and mining history. Set amongst almost 10 000 hectares of coastal mallee, it is one of the largest uncleared areas on the peninsula. The park is exposed to the winter fury of the Southern Ocean, which has resulted in sculpted rocky headlands, wavecut platforms and sandy beaches. It is home to up to 110 species of birds including the White-bellied Sea-Eagle and the shy Western Whipbird. Western Grey Kangaroos and Emus can often be seen roaming the park. Southern Right Whales pass along the coast between May and September and dolphins play in the shallows all year round. The park offers excellent surfing and fishing, while historic Inneston village, an old gypsum mining town, offers a fascinating insight into the areas early European history. Stenhouse Bay lookout is a scenic walking trail where you can learn about the resourcefulness of local people and resilience of the plants. The Investigator Strait Maritime Heritage Trail tells of shipwrecks dotted along the coast on interpretive signs.



Innes National Park

### 2 Troubridge Island Conservation Park



**Location**

63 km west of Adelaide off the coast of Edithburgh

**Size**

260 hectares

**Contact**

(08) 8854 3200

Troubridge Island Conservation Park is a fragile sand island and important breeding area for birds. It is home to a large colony of Little Penguins, Black-faced Cormorants and Crested Terns. Access to the island is by permit available from the Yorke District office. Heritage lighthouse keeper's cottage accommodation and island tours can be booked directly at Troubridge Island Charters on (08) 8852 6290.

### 3 Martindale Hall Conservation Park



**Location**

130 km north of Adelaide off Main North Road

**Size**

20 hectares

**Contact**

(08) 8892 3025

Martindale Station was established by the Bowman family between the 1840s and 1880s as a sheep property. In 1879, Edmund Bowman built the grand Martindale Hall at a cost of £30 000. However, Edmund's extravagant lifestyle, combined with the 1880s depression and a fall in the price of wool, meant the family was forced to sell the property in 1891. It was purchased by William Mortlock and was owned by the Mortlock family until 1950. Today, the hall and surrounding land is open to the public for self-guided tours. It offers a fascinating insight into the lives of South Australia's landed gentry during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Accommodation packages are available.



Troubridge Island Conservation Park



Baldina Creek, Red Banks Conservation Park

#### 4 Red Banks Conservation Park



##### Location

170 km north of Adelaide  
off Barrier Highway

##### Size

1035 hectares

##### Contact

(08) 8892 3025

Red Banks features a scenic landscape of rugged earth gorges and native vegetation. Palaeontologists have called this area one of the richest mega-fauna sites in Australia. Up until approximately 65 000 years ago Red Banks was home to *Diprotodon's*, a huge marsupial that weighed between 1 – 2 tonnes, often likened to a giant wombat. From the day visitor area, take the Landscapes of Change interpretive walk, which passes deep gorges and permanent waterholes and learn what the landscape was like 60 000 years ago when these large marsupials were alive. The park provides an important habitat for birds, reptiles, Short-beaked Echidnas, Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats, Western Grey and Red Kangaroos and Euros.

#### 5 Spring Gully Conservation Park



##### Location

130 km north of Adelaide  
off Main North Road

##### Size

398 hectares

##### Contact

(08) 8892 3025

Spring Gully Conservation Park protects a picturesque, regenerating natural landscape. The park has a steep, undulating terrain that leads into the creek bed of Spring Gully. The park protects the only stand of Red Stringybarks in South Australia, and is home to Western Grey Kangaroos, Euros, Common Brushtail Possums and bats. Over 50 species of birds, along with nine species of reptiles may be observed. From Blue Gum Lookout take a walk through grassy woodlands to a waterfalls that plunge from a height of 18 metres after rain. The park is at its best during spring when willdflowers and orchids bloom. There are rewarding views across the plains to the west.

### Grasslands

Native grasslands were once very widespread in the state's Mid-North. Over the past 100 years their habitat has been modified greatly, and largely been cleared for cropping. Mokota Conservation Park is the first reserve in South Australia solely set-aside to conserve native grasslands. The park is too small to conserve native grassland in the region adequately, so its conservation also depends on the management of privately owned areas for the combined goals of conservation and pastoral production. The Mid North Grasslands Working Group is committed to ongoing trials to determine how broader grassland conservation can be achieved.

