

Bushwalking in Flinders Ranges National Park



*Healthy Parks
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Government
of South Australia



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Ancient and dramatic mountain landscapes, peaceful tree-lined gorges, a seasonal wealth of wildlife and the sense of space unique to the semi-arid zone combine to make the Flinders Ranges National Park one of South Australia's best bushwalking destinations.

Flinders Ranges National Park is located 450 kilometres north of Adelaide in the central Flinders Ranges. The park comprises approximately 95,000 hectares and includes the Heysen Range, Brachina and Bunyeroo gorges and the breathtaking Wilpena Pound. There are a variety of walking trails that allow visitors to explore the park's major attractions, highlighting the contrasting diversity of plant and animal communities unique to this region.

Mild temperatures from April to October make this period the most comfortable for walking. During the summer months, temperatures range from 30°C - 45°C making walking more difficult. Some walking trails may be closed on days of Extreme Fire Danger.

No matter what time of year you are visiting, a careful responsible approach to bushwalking is essential for your safety.

Walks and Hikes

There are four walks and fourteen hikes within the park. Walks are accessible to people of all ages and fitness levels including children. They are well-defined, even surfaced trails. Hikes require some experience and a reasonable fitness level, as some sections can be quite steep and uneven.

Where to start?

1. Select a walk or hike from this brochure to suit your ability.
2. Allow enough time to comfortably complete your hike before dark.
3. Be prepared, and carry relevant maps, a compass, whistle, jacket and plenty of water (at least 4 litres of water per person for walks of more than two hours).
4. Enter your details into the Bushwalkers Register at the Wilpena bushwalking trailhead if you are planning a walk of three or more hours.
5. Inform a responsible person of your planned route and expected time of return. Searches will only be initiated if staff are informed that walkers are overdue.
6. Study the trailhead sign and familiarise yourself with the checkpoints and landmarks.
Hint: take a digital photo of the map and refer to it while hiking.
7. Follow the markers, keep to the trail and enjoy!

The maps in this brochure are a guide only. Please collect further maps, brochures and information on some of the walking trails described in this brochure from the Wilpena Visitor Centre.

Hills Homestead Walk

Follow Wilpena Creek and encounter relics and reminders of pioneering life inside Wilpena Pound. Signs titled 'If the walls could talk', tell the story of Jessie Hill, daughter of the first pioneer family to live in the homestead. A shuttle bus is available to shorten the walk.

Access: begins from the bushwalking trailhead at the Wilpena Visitor Centre complex.

Sacred Canyon Walk

A short walk along a gum-lined creek leads to the site where ancient Aboriginal rock engravings are found in smooth sandstone walls. The images representing animal tracks, people and waterholes, have been pecked into the sheer rock faces with stone tools. Some images are very weathered and are best seen in the soft light of morning or afternoon. Out of respect for the Adnyamathanha culture please do not touch the engravings.

Access: begins from the Sacred Canyon car park, located 19 kilometres south-east of Wilpena off the Wilpena - Blinman road.

Wilpena Solar Power Station Walk

Discover the large Solar Power Station which supplies Wilpena with energy. A short walk to the lookout will give you a view of the set-up.

Access: begins from the Solar Power Station car park, one kilometre from Wilpena on the main road.

Living with Land Walk

Aboriginal people, European settlers and their descendents share the pastoral heritage of the Flinders Ranges. This self-guided walk discovers the themes of self-sufficiency, improvisation and survival in the remote and isolated pastoral settlements of the Flinders Ranges.

Access: Old Wilpena Station. Fee applies.

Wangara Lookout Hike

Follow Wilpena Creek through towering River Red Gums, native pines, scented acacias and a seasonal array of wildflowers for spectacular panoramic views of Wilpena Pound. 'Ikara', the local Adnyamathanha peoples' name for Wilpena Pound, is a natural rock formation resulting from millions of years of erosion.

A shuttle bus is available to shorten the walk. The lower lookout is 300m on from Hills Homestead. Continue on another 300m to the upper lookout.

Access: begins from the bushwalking trailhead at the Wilpena Visitor Centre complex.

Trezona Hike

Discover some of the earliest life forms on earth in the Trezona geological formation. This area was heavily grazed when the park was a pastoral property.

Access: begins from Trezona Campground, 40 kilometres north of Wilpena along the Brachina Gorge Road.

Yuluna Hike

From the historic Aroona homestead and the restored pug and pine hut, experience the landscape that inspired painter Hans Heysen on his visits to the Flinders Ranges. The trail weaves through an impressive enclave in the ABC Range.

Access: begins from the Aroona car park, 50 kilometres north of Wilpena.

Drought Busters Hike

Discover how plants survive water shortages in arid conditions. This short hike features a seasonal array of wildflowers.

Access: begins from the bushwalking trailhead at the Wilpena Visitor Centre complex.

Arkaroo Rock Hike

Admire Adnyamathanha rock paintings featuring ochre and charcoal images that tell the creation story of Wilpena Pound. Enjoy spectacular views of the Chace Range at sunset. The rock paintings are best seen in morning light.

Access: begins from the Arkaroo Rock car park, 17 kilometres south of Wilpena on the Hawker-Blinman Road.

Red Hill Lookout Hike

Enjoy spectacular views of the Aroona Valley and Heysen Range with Wilpena Pound in the distance.

Access: begins from the Aroona car park, 50 kilometres north of Wilpena. Quite steep in sections.

Aroona to Youngoona Hike

Follow in the footsteps of early shepherds and discover the ruins of old pastoral runs. Pass through contrasting rock formations and plant communities while enjoying views of the ABC, Heysen and Trezona ranges.

Access: begins from the Aroona car park, 50 kilometres north of Wilpena.

Wilkawillina Gorge Hike

Habitat of the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby, this gorge features unique geological landscapes and permanent water in contrast to its drier surrounds.

Access: begins at the Wilkawillina car park, 45 kilometres north-east of Wilpena off the Oraparinna - Wirrealpa road.

Mount Ohlssen Bagge Hike

Steep rocky inclines followed by rewarding views of Wilpena Pound and the surrounding area. This hike incorporates excellent reptile habitat.

Access: begins from the bushwalking trailhead at the Wilpena Visitor Centre complex.

Bunyeroo Gorge Hike

This trail follows Bunyeroo Gorge, one of the most peaceful and scenic gorges in the park. The gorge provides great opportunities for observing wildlife and interesting rock formations. Bullock teams and coaches transporting copper, mail and produce used the gorge in the 19th century to access the western plains.

Access: begins from the Bunyeroo car park, 18 kilometres north of Wilpena along the Bunyeroo Gorge Road.

Bunyeroo and Wilcolo Creek Hike

Follow this well-marked trail through native pine groves along the hilltops of the ABC Range.

Enjoy views of Wilpena Pound.

Access: begins from the Bunyeroo car park, 18 kilometres north of Wilpena along the Bunyeroo Gorge Road.

Bridle Gap Hike

The trail, which forms part of the famous Heysen Trail, bisects the floor of Wilpena Pound. A variety of mallee, native pine and heath habitats provide excellent opportunities for keen naturalists to observe interesting local birds including wrens, robins, parrots and raptors.

Access: begins from the bushwalking trailhead at the Wilpena Visitor Centre complex.

St Mary Peak Hike Ngarri Mudlanha

Enjoy a challenging, long hike to the highest peak in the Flinders Ranges where you will be rewarded with 360° views of the ranges, salt lakes and surrounding plains. St Mary Peak (1171m above sea level) is central to the Adnyamathanha creation story. For this reason the Adnyamathanha people of the Flinders Ranges would prefer that visitors do not climb to the summit of the peak. The shorter option to Tanderra Saddle also affords spectacular views.

Cooinda Camp is an overnight walkers camp site within Wilpena Pound. Gas or liquid fuel stoves only. No water or toilet facilities are available.

Access: begins from the bushwalking trailhead at the Wilpena Visitor Centre complex. Rangers recommend you leave on this hike no later than 9 am (or 10 am during Daylight Saving hours).

Malloga Falls Hike

A long flat trail that traverses the floor of Wilpena Pound to the spectacular rock faces of Edeowie Gorge and the stunning Malloga Falls. Beyond Cooinda Camp, bushwalkers need to be experienced and possess navigational skills. Prior to commencing this hike, bushwalkers must discuss their route with the Wilpena Visitor Centre staff and fill in a *Let Us Know Before You Go* trip intention form.

Access: begins from the bushwalking trailhead at the Wilpena Visitor Centre complex.

The Heysen Trail

The Heysen Trail is a long distance walking trail, which traverses the state's principal mountain ranges between Cape Jervis, on the tip of the Fleurieu Peninsula in the south, to Parachilna Gorge in the Flinders Ranges in the north. This trail passes through some of the most spectacular areas in Flinders Ranges National Park.

Many of the walking trails within the park utilise parts of this long-distance trail. Walkers may choose to undertake whole sections of the Heysen Trail. It is important that walkers purchase the relevant 1:50 000 topographic maps before commencing the following hikes:



Wilpena to Yanyanna Hike (Hard)
6 hours one way – 20.5 km one way



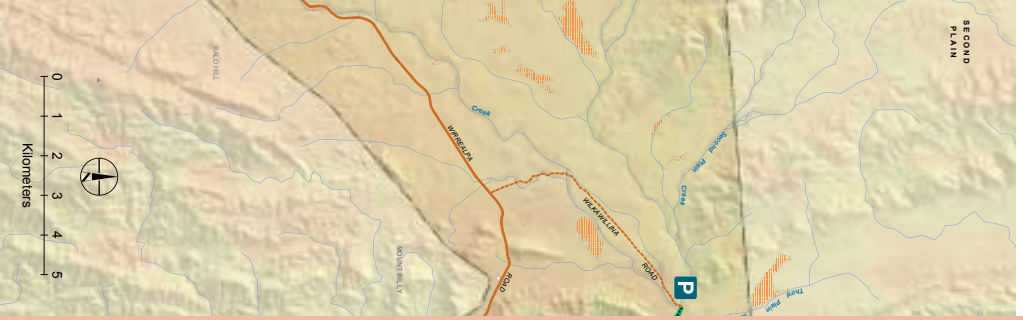
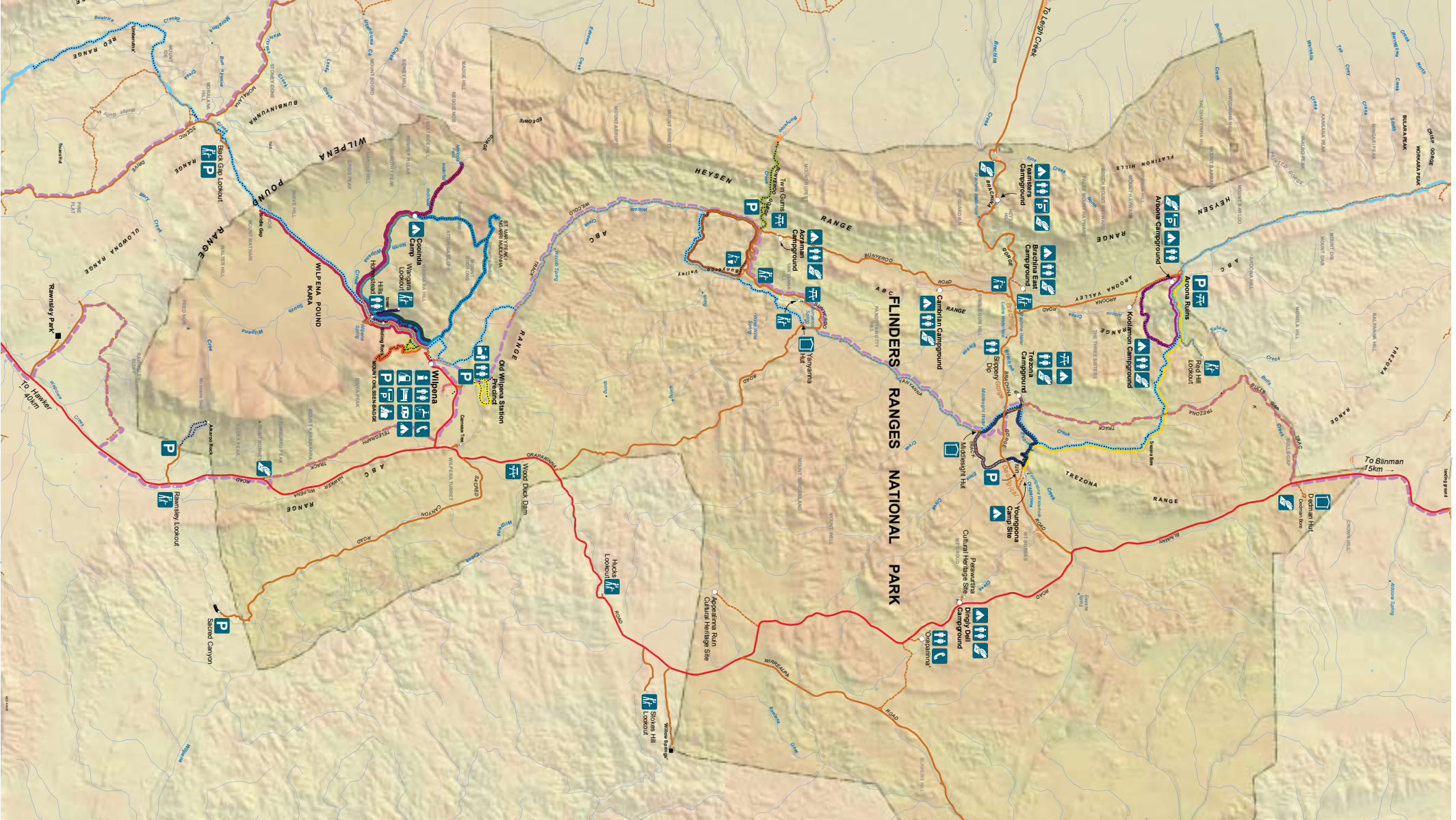
Yanyanna to Trezona Hike (Moderate)
3 hours one way – 9.5 km one way



Trezona to Aroona Hike (Moderate)
4 hours one way – 1w3 km one way

Within the Flinders Ranges National Park, the Heysen Trail is closed on days of broadcast Total Fire Ban.





-  Self registration station
-  Lookout
-  Phone
-  Hut
-  Rubbish bin
-  Camping
-  Parking
-  Bus parking
-  Toilets
-  Information
-  Drinking water
-  Ranger station
-  Caravan park
-  Picnic area
-  Fuel
-  Accommodation
-  Supplies
-  Sealed road
-  Unsealed road
-  4WD track
-  Walking trail
-  Watercourse
-  Heysen Trail
-  Mawson Trail

Select your trail	Trail	Time*	Distance	Trail Notes	
EASY WALK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> even surfaced trail suitable for small children 	Hills Homestead Walk	2 hours return	6.6 km return	Pioneering heritage inside Wilpena Pound	
	Sacred Canyon Walk	1 hour return	500 m return	Adnyamathanha (Aboriginal) rock carvings	
	Wilpena Solar Power Station Walk	30 minutes return	500 m return	Short walk to discover the Solar Power Station at Wilpena	
	Living with Land Walk	2 hours return	1 km return	Explore the pastoral heritage of the Flinders Ranges	
	MODERATE HIKE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some moderate inclines irregular surface with loose, uneven base average level of fitness 	Wangara Lookout Hike <small>(includes Hills Homestead Walk)</small>			Follows creek, spectacular views inside Wilpena Pound
		Lower lookout hike	3 hours return	7.2 km return	
		Upper lookout hike	3.5 hours return	7.8 km return	
		Yuluna Hike	4 hours return	8 km return	Landscape that inspired Hans Heyesen. Loop trail
		Trezona Hike	4 hours return	8 km return	Views of Heyesen Range, open grassland country. Loop trail
		Drought Busters Hike	1.5 hours return	2 km return	Adaptations of plants, seasonal array of wildflowers. Loop trail
Arkaroo Rock Hike		2 hours return	3 km return	Adnyamathanha (Aboriginal) rock paintings. Loop trail	
Bunyerroo Gorge Hike		3.5 hours return	7.5 km return	Peaceful gum-lined gorge, interesting rock formations	
Bunyerroo and Wilcolo Creek Hike		5 hours return	9.2 km return	Native pine groves along hilltops, cool, gum-lined creeks	
HARD HIKE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some steep inclines irregular surface with loose, uneven base average level of fitness some hiking experience 		Bridle Gap Hike	6 hours return	18.8 km return	Observe wildlife through the floor of Wilpena Pound
	Red Hill Lookout Hike	4 hours return	9 km return	Arroona Valley and beyond views	
	Arroona to Younggoona Hike	7 hours one-way	15.4 km one-way	Pastoral heritage, excellent views, contrasting rock formations	
	Wilkawillina Gorge Hike	6 hours one-way	11.4 km one-way	Habitat of Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby, unique geological features	
	Mount Chissen Baggie Hike	4 hours return	6.4 km return	Excellent views of Wilpena Pound, diverse reptile life	
	St Mary Peak Hike - direct route (outside trail)	6 hours return	14.6 km return	Breathtaking views of central Flinders Ranges	
	loop route (inside trail)	9 hours return	21.5 km return		
	Malloga Falls Hike	9 hours return	23.2 km return	Spectacular Edeowie Gorge	

*Time is generously estimated from an average walking speed varying from 1 to 3 km per hour. Allow extra time for resting and sightseeing.

Cycling in the park

Flinders Ranges National Park has fantastic mountain bike opportunities for visitors. The Mawson Trail and several roads provide access to some of the most stunning scenery in the park.

The Mawson Trail is accessible from Wilpena, Yanyanna and Trezona. Information on water availability en route is available at the Wilpena Visitor Centre. Please carry appropriate equipment including a puncture repair and first aid kit.

The park also contains sections of the Flinders Ranges by Bike cycle loop. Contact the Visitor Centre for information on the cycle loop.



Fire restrictions

- Wood fires are not permitted during the fire danger season, usually 1 November to 30 April. Gas and fuel stoves are permitted except on days of Total Fire Ban when **no fires** are permitted.
- Wood fires are not permitted inside Wilpena Pound. Gas fires are only permitted at Cooinda Camp except on days of Total Fire Ban.
- Outside of fire ban season, wood fires are only permitted at designated areas in campgrounds.
- Please remember that fallen timber plays a valuable role in the natural environment and collection of firewood within the park is not permitted - penalties apply.

The National Parks Code

Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

- Leave your pets at home.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Observe fire restrictions, usually 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS hotline 1300 362 361.
- Conserve native habitat by using liquid fuel or gas stoves.
- Camp only in designated areas.
- Respect geological, cultural and heritage sites
- Keep our wildlife wild. Do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants.
- Keep to defined vehicle tracks and walking trails.
- The use of generators and chainsaws are not permitted
- Be considerate of other park users.

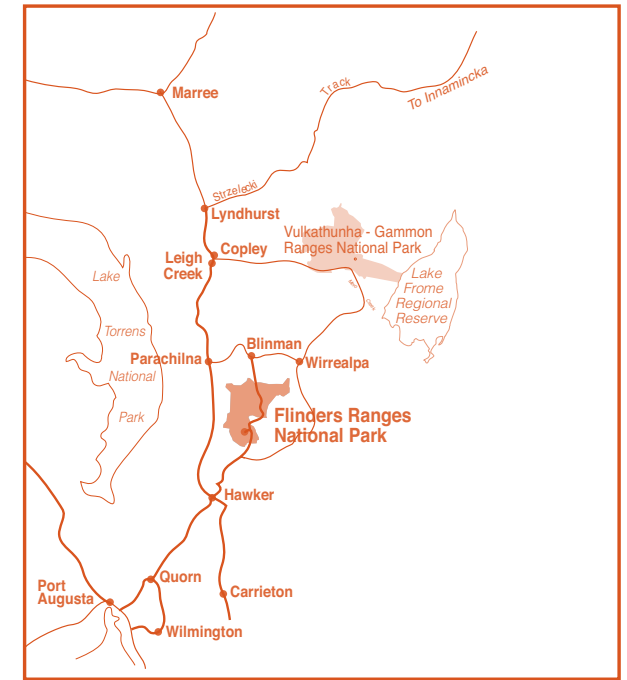
Thank you for leaving the bush in its natural state for the enjoyment of others.

Walk Safely



Be prepared when bushwalking:

- Wear sturdy shoes, hat and sunscreen.
- Carry sufficient drinking water. Allow at least 4 litres of water per person per day.
- Keep to the defined walking trail and follow the markers.
- Inform a responsible person of your proposed route and expected time of return.
- Weather conditions can change quickly, ensure you have appropriate wet weather clothing.
- Allow enough time to comfortably complete your hike before dark.



Local emergency numbers

Police: (08) 8648 4028
 Ambulance: 000
 Fire/CFS: Wilpena (08) 8648 0049
 or Hawker (08) 8648 4065

For further information contact:

Flinders Ranges National Park
 PMB 22 Wilpena via Hawker SA 5434

Wilpena Visitor Centre

Phone: (08) 8648 0048
 Fax: (08) 8648 0092

Phone Information Line (08) 8204 1910
 Email: denrinformation@sa.gov.au
 Website: www.parks.sa.gov.au

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