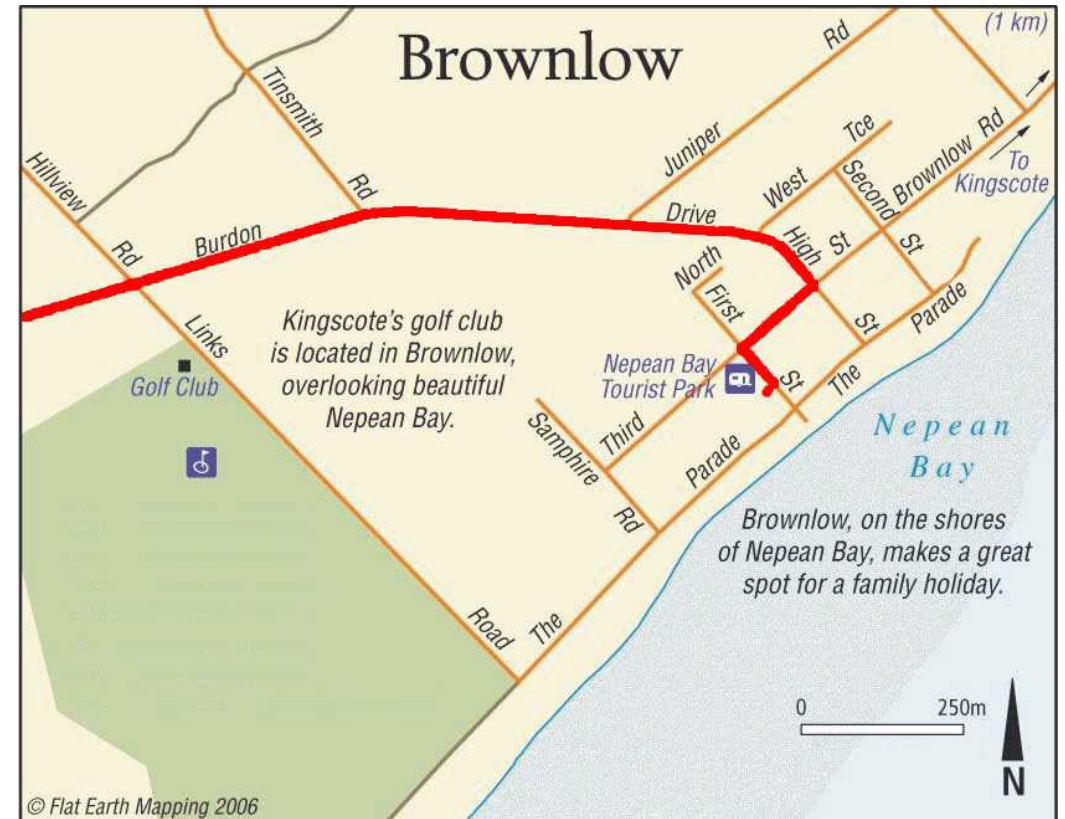


Welcome to Kangaroo Island





ISLAND FACTS

Kangaroo Island is one of Australia's great scenic treasures and a must for anyone interested in travel to wilderness destinations.

Located 110 km (70 miles) south-west of Adelaide and easily accessible by Ferry or Plane. A mix of attractive small townships and fascinating wilderness; Kangaroo Island is Australia's third largest island.

Due to its size and the number of things to do and discover, it is impossible to see it all in a day or 2. If you only have one or two days available on your itinerary, choose places from the things that interest you most.

Kangaroo Island statistics:

509 km (318.2 miles) coastline

155 km (96 miles) from east to west

55 km (34.5 miles) at its widest point

1 km (.6 miles) at its narrowest point

Area about 4350 square km (1680 square miles) making it the second largest of the southern Australian system of islands after Tasmania

Approximately 1600 km (1000 miles) of sealed and unsealed roads

Population 4259 (2006 Census)

The Island has a fascinating History and was almost claimed by the French in 1804.

Throughout the nineteenth century various attempts were made to establish a viable industry on the Island. Salt was mined; farmers tried to carve pastoral leases out of the poor soils; eucalyptus oil stills were set up, Yacca was threshed for its gum to produce lacquer and explosives; commercial fishing was undertaken, gypsum mining established itself and the tourism industry began.

From the start of the 20th century tourism became a fundamental component of the islands economy. To this day Kangaroo Island's numerous natural wonders, beaches, conservation parks and wildlife sanctuaries are visited by tens of thousands of people each year.

The agricultural industry has adapted to the poor soil and forestry, sheep dairying, bee keeping and marron farming has become popular. There are still traditional farms but these are diminishing in number as the land is broken up into smaller 'hobby' style farms, making this island an ever changing wonder of lifestyle choices and experimental agricultural pursuits.

Viticulture has commenced here and the vines grow well in the moderate climate. The wines produced are world standard.

A fabulous place to stay and explore, this relatively large Island has many facets and is an interesting and welcoming location.

THE NORTH COAST ROAD

The road runs along the North Coast of Kangaroo Island and is in parts an iron-bauxite road. Care should be taken on all roads of this type as they can get slippery. This road provides access to a number of parks, beaches and attractions.

Starting at the Emu Bay turn off near Kingscote, while travelling on the Playford Highway, be aware that the road is shared by animals and keep speeds down to allow time to stop if one of them should cross your path.

After reaching Emu Bay, and spending time at the magnificent beach, you will travel about 9 kms (5.6 miles) and find yourself against the coast again at Smith Bay.

Veering away from the coastline again, 7 kms (4.4 miles) will bring you within sight of Mt McDonnell. Another 17 kms (10.6 miles) and you are travelling through Latham Conservation Park, one Island home of the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo.

3 kms (1.8 miles) further and you are at Stokes Bay. Here you can visit a hidden beach, which can only be accessed through a natural rock tunnel.

The North Coast Road then meanders for 10 kms (6.25 miles) crossing an access road to the right that runs to King George Beach.

Drive another 5 kms (3.1 miles) and you are at Snelling Beach. A further 8 kms (5 miles) takes you into Western River Cove.

Leaving Western River Cove a 16 kms (10 miles) trip will take you to Gosse and back to the Playford Highway. Turning right onto the highway takes you to Cape Borda and some stunning scenery along the way as you traverse the North-eastern edge of the Flinders Chase National Park and the Ravine Des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area.

Playford Highway (West of Gosse)

Once on the highway there are some stops that are scenically spectacular. 10 kms (6.25 miles) west of Gosse is a turnoff to the right, which takes you along Colmans Road to the Western River Wilderness Protection Area. You will find a walking trail called 'The Billygoat Trail' which leads to the spectacular Billygoat Falls (flowing only after rain).

Coming back onto the Playford Highway and turning right takes you to Jump Off Road after 10 kms (6.25 miles). This Road is about 7 kms (4.4 miles) long and at the end of this road is the Cape Torrens Wilderness Protection Area. Here you will find the tallest cliff faces in South Australia.

Re-joining the highway and 15 kms (9.4 miles) further down the road is the Lighthouse Keepers Cemetery, Harvey's Return and Scott Cove.

Another 1 km (0.62 miles) takes you to the Cape Borda Lighthouse, where accommodation and guided tours are available.

THE SOUTH COAST ROAD

This road runs along part of the South Coast of Kangaroo Island and is the access road to many attractions.

Starting at the end of Birchmore Road which begins at the turnoff near the Airport, this road is sealed and easy to drive along in any vehicle. Be aware that the road is shared by animals and keep speeds down to allow time to stop, if one of them should cross your path.

The first turnoff about 2 kms (1.25 miles) to the left is Seagers Road, which will take you to Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park, Murray Lagoon, and D'Estrées Bay.

The next turnoff 10 kms (6.25 miles) to the left is Seal Bay Road, taking you to Seal Bay Conservation Park.

8 kms (5 miles) further down the South Coast Road is the turnoff to the "Little Sahara" sand dunes.

7 kms (4.5 miles) on is the turnoff to Harriet Township, Vivonne Bay surf beach, a camping ground and Vivonne Bay Conservation Park.

Travelling west a further 21 kms (13 miles) will take you to Kelly Hill Caves.

After crossing the South West River and having

driven another 5 kms (3.1 miles), a turnoff to the left takes you to Hanson Bay and the Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area.

Another 11 kms (6.8 miles) and you find yourself at the Visitors Centre in Flinders Chase National Park. The road now turns to the Southwest corner of Kangaroo Island and takes you after 14 kms (8.75 miles) to Cape Du Couedic.

Returning 1 km and turning right into Boxer Road takes you 4 kms (2.5 miles) to Remarkable Rocks.

It is possible to access the South Coast Road via unsealed roads from the Playford Highway, which runs through the centre of the Island.

KINGSCOTE

35°39' S, 137°37' E

Population: 1450 (census 1996)

Kingscote is a smart looking small township, with a population of around 1450. It is situated overlooking the waters of the Bay of Shoals to the Northeast and on the Southside the beaches of Nepean Bay.

It was the first settlement in South Australia in 1836. There was some idea about it becoming the new free colony's Capital. A shortage of reliable fresh water ended this thought and the migrants that survived the rigours of the trip from England and the hardships faced on Kangaroo Island, moved to what is now known as Adelaide.

At Rennie's Bluff near Reeves Point stands a Mulberry tree which was planted by the original immigrants. It still bears fruit. Around the location of the tree is a cemetery and lots of historical information. Up the road from this point is the Hope Cottage Museum. Hope Cottage is the remaining cottage out of a set of three identical cottages named 'Hope', 'Faith' and 'Charity' built in the 1850's by the Calnan brothers. Exhibits depict the pioneering history of Kingscote and Kangaroo Island.

First named 'Angas', after George Fife Angas, one of the colony's founders. An argument resulted in it being named 'Kingscote' after Henry Kingscote, another of the founders. Swimming Pool Reserve Locals believe that another name the town was known by was 'Queenscliffe'. But this is unsourced information at this time. There are 2 hotels in the town. One is the 'Queenscliffe' locally known as the 'Queenie' and the other one the 'Ozone'.

Kingscote was an important port until the 1990's, with ferry and freight services coming here. In the early days, the basalt and bricks for the road which was built between Port Adelaide and the new town of Adelaide were shipped from here.

Kingscote is the Island's main town and its centre of commerce and tourism. It boasts several retail shops where groceries, clothing, shoes and souvenirs can be obtained. 2 hardware stores, 2 petrol stations and 2 banks with ATM facilities, can also be found here. There are a variety of other services and amenities to cater for the local and visitor needs. There are 2 art galleries in the town as well - both offer artworks of various types produced by local artists.

The well staffed Kangaroo Island General Hospital and Health Centre are located to the North of the jetty and overlook yachts and fishing vessels that dot the water.

Fishing is excellent from the jetty and the larger fishing vessels use this port facility to off load their catches.

On the Southeast of the town, a steep rise provides a good vantage point for views over the town, the bay and Western Cove.

To the Southwest is Brownlow. The Kingscote Yacht Club is midway between Kingscote and Brownlow. The rise gives way to beach and swampland near the mouth of the Cygnet River where birds nest and breed in profusion.