

# KANGAROO ISLAND



*Freedom isn't a state of mind, it's an island. Minutes from the mainland, but a million miles away, Kangaroo Island is a sanctuary for wildlife and natural, rugged beauty, a place where people can walk among endangered Australian sea lions, watch kangaroos feeding at dusk or catch a glimpse a of a shy koala.*

*Escape to an island you will never want to leave.*

- The idyllic destination that is Kangaroo Island (or 'KI' as the locals call it) is just 15km from the mainland and is accessible by ferry or air, with 30 minute flights between Adelaide and Kingscote, and a 45 minute ferry from Cape Jervis to Penneshaw.
- At 4,400km<sup>2</sup> and 155km long, Kangaroo Island is Australia's third largest island.
- The region's main industries are agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, and tourism and the average maximum temperatures range from 28°C in summer to 15°C in winter.
- There are seven regions on Kangaroo Island; Dudley Peninsula, American River, Kingscote and Districts, Heartland, North Coast, West End and the South Coast.
- About 300 kilograms of salt falls across the island per hectare per year.
- Kangaroo Island Spirits is South Australia's first and only boutique distillery and was established in 2005.
- The Remarkable Rocks have been shaped by erosion over thousands of years to create shapes that look a lot like modern works of art.
- Kangaroo Island was declared a bee sanctuary in 1885, one year after the South Australian Chamber of Manufacturers imported Ligurian bees from Italy. Importation of bees and honey products are now prohibited to Kangaroo Island.
- One in ten Kangaroo Island residents is involved in the arts in some way with over 10 galleries, studios and artists' spaces dotted around the island.
- Little penguins, sea lions, dolphins, koalas and an abundance of bird life call Kangaroo Island home. There are also giant cuttlefish, sea horses and a whole host of marine life.
- Kangaroo Island's dynamic southern coastline is one of surfing's "best kept secrets". There are five main surf bays that produce gentle swells to beach breaks all the way from Antarctica.
- Vivonne Bay has been named as one the of the best beaches in Australia and is a popular place for visitors with its long, sandy beach and turquoise water.
- Kangaroo Island is protected through conservation zoning, wildlife reserves and heritage listing.
- Vines aren't new to Kangaroo Island, grown as far back as 1836, but it was only in 2001 that Kangaroo Island was declared an official Australian wine region.
- There are 25 wine growers in Kangaroo Island and around 150 hectares of vines, with visitors able to choose from 18 home-grown labels, five of which are being exported to the UK, USA, Europe and Asia.
- There are over 60 recorded shipwrecks strewn across the ocean floor, with KI providing some of the best scuba diving experiences in Australia.
- The first non-Aboriginal people to live on Kangaroo Island were sealers, escaped convicts and runaway sailors, who sought refuge here in early 1800s.
- It is believed Aboriginal people were living on the island at least as long as 16,000 years ago and as recently as 2,000 years ago. Intriguingly, today mainland indigenous people call KI 'Karta' or 'Land of the Dead'.
- 267 recorded species of birds can found among a diverse range of habitats, including coastal cliffs, beaches and estuaries.
- To see all the island has to offer, a minimum of three days is recommended. Three days will give you a small taste of the island and allow you time to see some of the major highlights. However, anyone who has been to KI before will tell you that you really need about seven days to truly gain an appreciation for the people, environment, culture and geology of the island.

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