

Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail

FAQ's – Small Group Guided Touring



What is the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail?

The Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail is a world class, 61 kilometre, 5-day walking experience giving visitors access to some of the most rugged, remote and spectacular coastlines in South Australia. The trail is located in the south west of Kangaroo Island and encompasses new and upgraded trails through Flinders Chase National Park, Kelly Hill Conservation Park and the Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area. Along with encounters with some of the island's most unique wildlife, the trail provides access to the iconic attractions of Remarkable Rocks, Admirals Arch, Weirs Cove, Hanson Bay and Kelly Hill Caves.

What are my walk options?

Kangaroo Island Odysseys offer 1 or 2 day guided walks as part of their 2 and 3 day packages. Whilst there are set departure dates for these packages, alternative dates can be requested, subject to minimum numbers and availability.

What is included in the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail package?

Your package includes return coach/ferry transfers to Kangaroo Island, personalised 4x4 touring, all entrance fees and special permits, full day tour with a delicious gourmet picnic lunch, one or two nights accommodation at the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Retreat including dinner and continental breakfast, plus one or two days guided walk along the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail. Exclusive to Kangaroo Island Odysseys, you will receive a souvenir backpack containing water, packed lunch, trail food, hat, sunscreen, trail guide and map.

How many people are allowed to depart each day?

A maximum of 36 guided walkers (including guides) are permitted to depart each day. This is to avoid overcrowding, to preserve the wilderness experience for everyone, to reduce our environmental impact and to ensure sustainable management of the track. Our group departures are restricted to a minimum of 5 and maximum of 11 participants.

What happens if minimum numbers are not met?

Should we not reach minimum numbers, an alternate date will be offered or a full refund will be provided.

Do I have to travel on the set date departures?

The set dates are to assist single travellers and couples to travel with others and meeting the minimum numbers required. As long as you are part of a group that has at least 5 participants, and there is availability on the trail and accommodation, we can book whatever date you are after.

Do I need to pay a separate park entry fee?

No, the park entry fee has been incorporated into the charge for walking the trail.

What is the process for checking in to the trail?

As you are booked on a guided tour, your Kangaroo Island Odysseys guide will undertake the registration process as well as provide you with the safety talk and procedures before starting the walk.

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What level of walking experience do I need?

The Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail is categorised as a Grade 4 walking trail under the Australian Walking Track Grading System, meaning that some sections are long, rough and very steep and directional signage is at times limited. Bushwalking experience is recommended.

How fit do I need to be to walk the trail?

A good level of fitness is required to walk the trail. You can expect to walk up to 7.5 hours a day, depending on your fitness level, weather conditions and time taken for breaks and wildlife viewing. If you need to build up your level of fitness prior to the walk, we recommend starting with a 30 minute daily walk and building up to 7.5 hours.

Is the trail suitable for children?

The trail is not recommended for children under the age of 10 due to the distances travelled, exposed coastal environment and often adverse weather conditions.

When is the best time to walk?

Every season on Kangaroo Island offers something different, so you're sure to have an amazing experience whenever you visit. Kangaroo Island's weather is variable year round and changes in temperature and conditions can occur suddenly and without much warning given the island's exposed location. You're likely to experience a bit of everything on your walk – sunshine, wind and rain. Walkers should be aware that on catastrophic fire days the park will be closed and walkers will be required to leave the trail. Some of the seasonal highlights include the following:

SPRING (September – November): the season of rebirth and a wonderful time to see the island's spectacular array of wildflowers, birds and mammals.

SUMMER (December – February): wildlife retreats to bushland habitat to shelter during the heat of the day, summer wildflowers and the new growth of native trees add colour to the landscape, fur seals start to breed and cool sea breezes provide relief on hot days.

AUTUMN (March – May): a time of transition with modest rainfall bringing waterways back to life and providing new growth for wildlife to feed on, newborn seal pups make their debut in the colonies along the coast, platypus sightings are easier to come by and sea winds are calmer.

WINTER (June – August): orchids and fungi are prolific, rivers are flowing, winter swells crash into towering cliffs providing a breathtaking spectacle, echidna's form 'mating trains', majestic Southern Right Whales pass the shores and high rainfall produces lush, green vegetation.

What do I need to take with me?

Packing the right equipment will help you have a great experience on the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail. We've made things easy by providing a packing list with all of your essentials.

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What map/guidebook should I take with me?

You will be provided with the following two products as part of your souvenir backpack:

- The Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail Map
- Trail Guide 'Walk the Wild Isle' produced by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources contains trip notes and interpretive notes on the landforms, flora, fauna, fungi and history of the island.

Is drinking water available along the trail?

As part of your souvenir backpack, you will be provided with 2 x 600ml bottles of water each day, plus juice and water will be available at lunch. Although potable water is available at the campsites, our tour group will not be utilising these sites, so we suggest you also bring a bottle of water or liquid of your preference.

Is there mobile phone reception on the trail?

Mobile phone reception may be possible with a Telstra 3G or 4G phone service at some of the higher points along the trail, but it is not guaranteed. You should anticipate being out of contact with the outside world for the time you are on the walk unless you are carrying a satellite phone or a personal locator device such as an EPIRB. Guides on the 2 & 3 day packages will be equipped with a satellite phone.

Can I stay on Kangaroo Island before or after my walking tour?

Kangaroo Island Odysseys can assist you with accommodation either before or after your tour, and can change your ferry/coach or flight details to fit in with this. We can also assist with any additional touring arrangements required.