

Bool Lagoon Game Reserve and Hacks Lagoon Conservation Park



*Healthy Parks
Healthy People*



Bool Lagoon

Discovering Wetlands of International Importance

Located midway between Adelaide and Melbourne, Bool Lagoon is one of the largest and most diverse freshwater lagoon systems in southern Australia. The area is home to a wide range of wetland wildlife and provides essential drought refuge for many rare and endangered bird species. Hacks Lagoon Conservation Park adjoins Main Basin of Bool Lagoon Game Reserve.

Whether you are a birdwatcher, a lover of open space, or merely wish to escape the hustle and bustle of modern life, Bool Lagoon is well worth a visit.

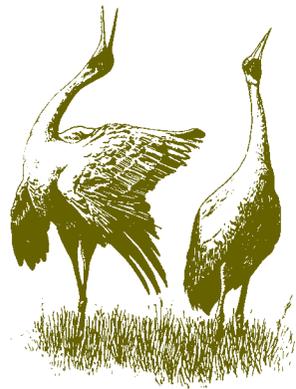
How to get there

A sealed road takes you right to the lagoon edge. Simply follow the signs from the turn-off 18 km south of Naracoorte on the Naracoorte-Penola Road.

Bool Lagoon may be closed on days of total fire ban, and, due to seasonal conditions may be dry.

What to do there

You can do a variety of things such as self-guided tours on the many boardwalks, a drive to Big Hill, or to Little Bool Lagoon, camping, picnicking, birdwatching — the choice is yours.



Brolgas are perhaps the most spectacular of the 150 species of birds that visit this area, one of the most valuable wetland conservation areas in Australia. It is recognised under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as a Wetland of International Importance. It is protected under the Japan/Australia and China/Australia Migratory Bird Agreements because of the importance of the area as a summer refuge for migratory waders.

Drives

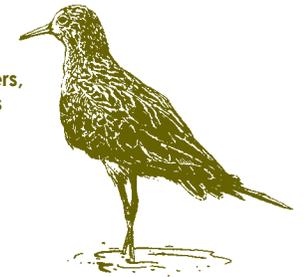
Big Hill

The short drive to the top of Big Hill provides an opportunity to see just how big these wetlands really are. Brolgas are often seen feeding in The Black Rush Swamp just west of Big Hill.

Little Bool Lagoon

The extended drive via Bool Lagoon and Moyhall Roads to Little Bool Lagoon is usually well worth the effort. The deep, open water of Little Bool Lagoon is a popular venue for many waterbirds while the nearby Lily Ponds are very important nesting sites for ibis.

Many summer visitors, like Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, fly thousands of kilometres to be at Bool Lagoon. You don't have to travel so far . . .



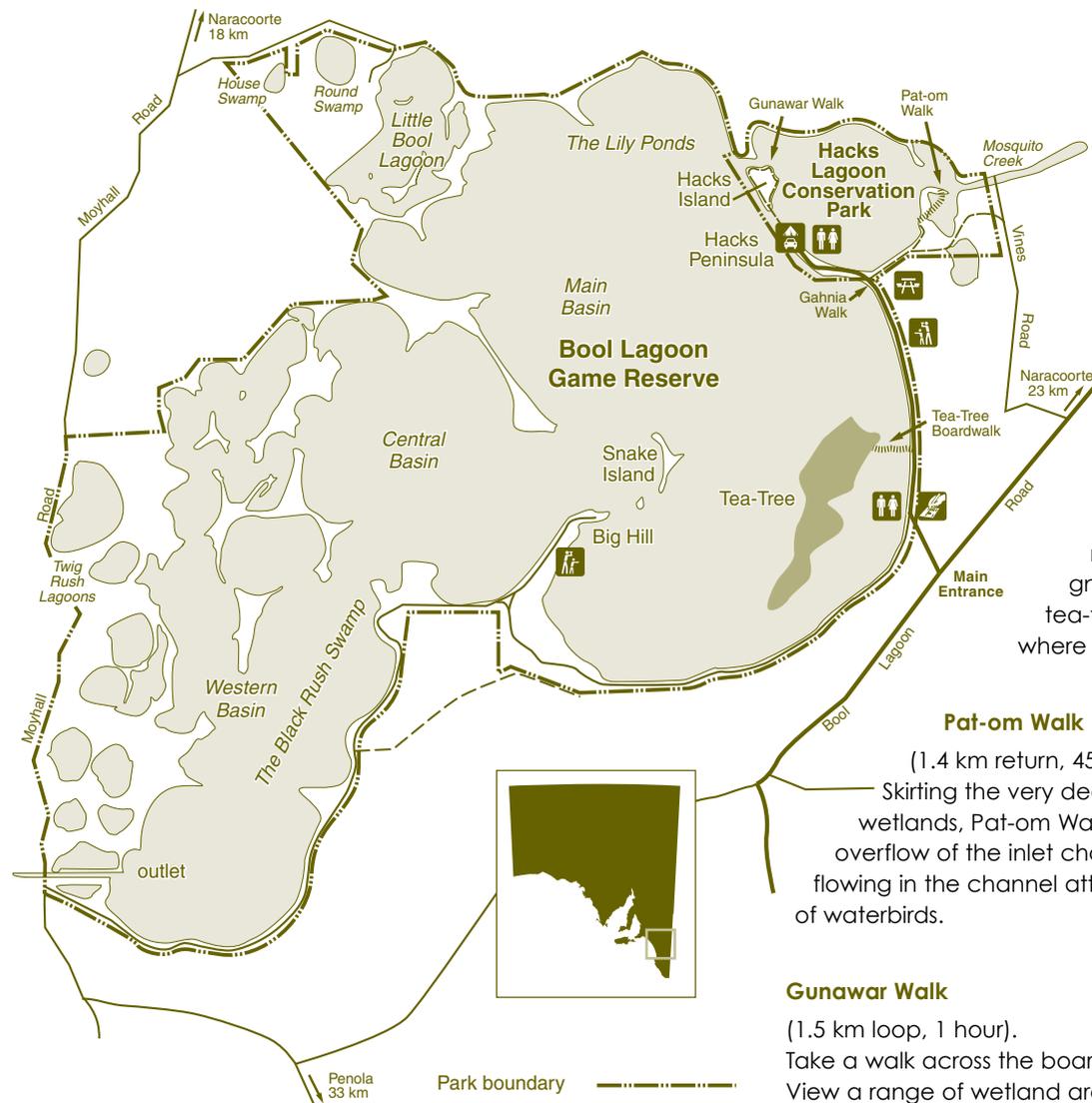
Camping

Campers are most welcome — waking to the sounds of a wetland at dawn is not to be missed. Keep an eye out for snakes, this is their natural habitat. You should not be afraid of them, but be aware that they are around. Please obtain a camping permit from the self-registration station.

What to bring

Bring your binoculars, camera and a pair of comfortable walking shoes. Bird identification books may make your visit more enjoyable. Please remember your hat and sunscreen for adequate sun protection.

A warm waterproof jacket is advisable in the cooler months. Don't let the thought of rain put you off a visit. You can't have wetlands without water!



Tea-Tree Boardwalk
 (1 km return, 30 minutes return). Take a walk into the heart of the lagoon. See the nest areas of ibis, spoonbills and many other birds in the gnarled and weathered tea-trees. Learn who lives where in the wetland.

Pat-om Walk
 (1.4 km return, 45 minutes return). Skirting the very deepest water in these wetlands, Pat-om Walk leads you to the overflow of the inlet channel. The fresh water flowing in the channel attracts many thousands of waterbirds.

Gunawar Walk
 (1.5 km loop, 1 hour). Take a walk across the boardwalk to Hacks Island. View a range of wetland areas including freshwater marsh, reeds, rushes and open water. These all provide homes for a variety of birds, reptiles, frogs, elusive water-rats and many aquatic insects.

Gahnia Walk
 (300 metres return, 10 min return). A short walk through the tussocks, reeds and tea-tree provides excellent viewing of a range of small birds that use the area as a feeding ground and nesting area.

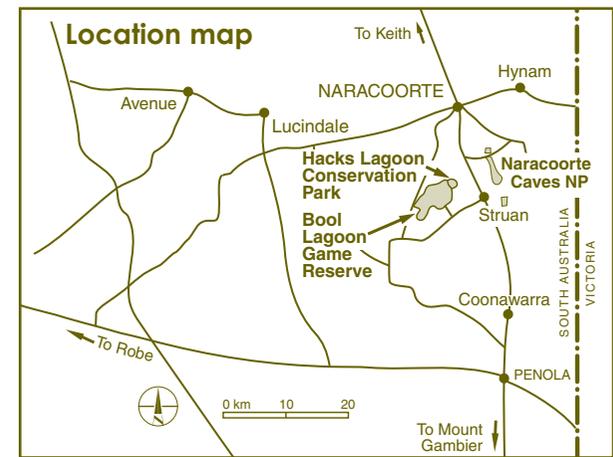
- Park boundary
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Track
- Self-registration station
- Toilets
- Camping area
- Lookout
- Picnic area
- Wetlands

The National Parks Code

Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

- Leave your pets at home. (1080 poison, lethal to pets, is used in the park to control foxes)
- 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 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.
- Be considerate of other park users.

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



For further information contact:

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