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**National Parks
and Wildlife Service**
South Australia

Ewens Ponds Conservation Park



About

Discover the spring-fed limestone ponds at the Ewens Ponds Conservation Park by snorkelling along the shallow channels or scuba diving into the ponds.

The channels connect three basin-shaped ponds which are approximately 10 metres deep. The clarity of the water enables plants to grow underwater to a depth of about six metres. Some of these plants are not found growing fully submerged underwater anywhere else in the world.

Opening hours

Open daily.

Snorkelling and diving

One hour time slots are available daily, 5:00 am - 12:00 am (midnight)*.

*Ewens Ponds are closed annually for snorkelling and diving from 1 September to 30 November (inclusive).

Closures and safety

This park is closed on days of Catastrophic Fire Danger and may also be closed on days of Extreme Fire Danger.

You can determine the current fire danger rating by checking the [Fire Ban District map \(https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/bans_and_ratings.jsp\)](https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/bans_and_ratings.jsp) on the CFS website.

Check the [CFS website \(https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/home.jsp\)](https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/home.jsp) or call the CFS Bushfire Information Hotline 1800 362 361 for:

- [Information on fire bans and current fire conditions \(https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/bans_and_ratings.jsp\)](https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/bans_and_ratings.jsp)
- [Current CFS warnings and incidents \(https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/warnings_and_incidents.jsp\)](https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/warnings_and_incidents.jsp)
- [Information on what to do in the event of a fire \(https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/prepare_for_a_fire.jsp\)](https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/prepare_for_a_fire.jsp).

Listen to your [local area radio station \(https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/public/download.jsp?id=104478\)](https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/public/download.jsp?id=104478) for the latest updates and information on fire safety.

Contact details

Visitor information, bookings and park management:

National Parks and Wildlife Service Mount Gambier Office

Phone: (+61 8) 8735 1177

Booking enquiries please email:

[DEW.SEOnlineBookings@sa.gov.au \(mailto:DEW.SEOnlineBookings@sa.gov.au\)](mailto:DEW.SEOnlineBookings@sa.gov.au)

Emergency contacts:

Medical, fire (including bushfire) and police emergency situations

Phone: Triple Zero - 000

Police Assistance

Phone: 131 444 for non-urgent police assistance

National Parks and Wildlife Service SA – After-hours duty officer

Phone: (+61 8) 8735 1177

Injured wildlife:

Within the park

Please contact National Parks and Wildlife Service Mount Gambier Office on (08)8735 1177

Outside of the park

Please contact a local wildlife rescue group

Marine mammals

If you find a sick or stranded marine mammal (including whales, seals, sealions and dolphins), please contact National Parks and Wildlife Service Mount Gambier Office on (08) 8735 1177

Getting there

Ewens Ponds Conservation Park is located 36km south of Mount Gambier. Access is via Port MacDonnell Road.

- [Park map \(#maps\)](#)

Assistance dogs

Assistance dogs are permitted in most public places and are therefore welcome in South Australia's parks and reserves. Assistance dogs must be appropriately restrained on a lead and remain under your effective control at all times while in a park or reserve.

As per the dogs in parks and reserves policy, if the dog is not an accredited assistance dog, they must be trained to assist a person with a disability to alleviate that disability and meet standards of hygiene and behaviour appropriate for a dog in a public place. However, refusal may be given if the person with the disability is unable to produce evidence the dog is an assistance dog with the appropriate training.

Before taking your assistance dog into a park that does not normally allow dogs, it is highly recommended that you contact us so we can provide you with the latest information on any potential hazards within specific parks that may affect your dog. Please contact the park via the contact details provided under the contact tab or contact the visitor service centre via [email \(https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/contact-us/get-in-touch-online\)](https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/contact-us/get-in-touch-online) or on [Facebook \(https://www.facebook.com/NPWSSA\)](https://www.facebook.com/NPWSSA), or you can live chat with a customer service representative on the website Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Dogs not allowed

Dogs are not permitted in this park.

Discover which parks you can walk your dog in on our [find a park \(https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/find-a-park\)](https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/find-a-park) tool or read [12 dog-friendly walks in Adelaide Parks \(http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/goodliving/posts/2017/12/dogs-part-2\)](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/goodliving/posts/2017/12/dogs-part-2)

by Good Living for inspiration.

Facilities

There are picnic areas, toilets and disabled toilets located in this park.

Useful information

- [Parks management plans \(https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/park-management/state-wide-park-strategies/park-management-plans\)](https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/park-management/state-wide-park-strategies/park-management-plans)
 - [Trails SA \(http://www.southaustraliantrails.com/\)](http://www.southaustraliantrails.com/)
 - [SA Marine Parks \(https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/home\)](https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/home)
- **Important:** Collection of firewood within National Parks is prohibited. Dead wood plays a vital role in providing shelter for animals and adding nutrients to the soil.

Plants and animals

Flora and fauna species lists

To download flora (plants) and fauna (animals) species lists for this park, use the 'Create Simple Species List' tab under 'Flora Tools' or 'Fauna Tools' in [NatureMaps \(https://data.environment.sa.gov.au/NatureMaps/Pages/default.aspx\)](https://data.environment.sa.gov.au/NatureMaps/Pages/default.aspx).

Traditional owners

Aboriginal peoples have occupied, enjoyed and managed the lands and waters of this State for thousands of generations. For Aboriginal first nations, creation ancestors laid down the laws of the Country and bestowed a range of customary rights and obligations to the many Aboriginal Nations across our state.

There are many places across the State that have great spiritual significance to Aboriginal first nations. At some of these places Aboriginal cultural protocols, such as restricted access, are promoted and visitors are asked to respect the wishes of Traditional Owners.

In places where protocols are not promoted visitors are asked to show respect by not touching or removing anything, and make sure you take all your rubbish with you when you leave.

Aboriginal peoples continue to play an active role in caring for their Country, including in parks across South

Australia.

- **DEW Park management (<https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/park-management>)**
- **DEW Aboriginal partnerships (<https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/park-management/co-management-of-parks>)**

See and do

Bushwalking

There is currently no bushwalking information available for this park, please contact the park office for more information.

Mountain biking

There are no designated mountain biking trails in this park.

- [Which parks can you ride in? \(https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/know-before-you-go/mountain-biking\)](https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/know-before-you-go/mountain-biking)

Stay in the park

Camping is not permitted within this park.

- Use [Find a Park \(https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/find-a-park\)](https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/find-a-park) to discover which parks you can camp in.

Snorkelling and diving

Go snorkelling and diving in the ponds and come face to face with a variety of fish, ranging from the tiny, rare Ewens pygmy perch hiding among the reeds to the freshwater crayfish scuttling along the pond floor.

As the average water temperature is between 10-15 degrees, a wetsuit is highly recommended.

Volunteering

Want to help?

To find out how you can help in this park or nearby, please visit [Natural Resources South East \(https://landscape.sa.gov.au/lc/contact-us\)](https://landscape.sa.gov.au/lc/contact-us).

Want to join others and become a Park Friend?

To find out more about Friends of Parks groups please visit [Friends of Parks South Australia. \(https://friendsofparkssa.org.au/\)](https://friendsofparkssa.org.au/)

You could join others to help look after a park. You can take part in working bees, training and other events.

Safety

Bushwalking

Bushwalking is a fantastic way to connect with nature, keep fit and spend time with family and friends. South Australia's national parks feature a range of trails that let you experience a diversity of landscapes.

Fire

Can I have a fire or barbecue?

- Wood fires and solid fuel fires are prohibited throughout the year.
- Gas fires and liquid fuel fires are permitted, other than on days of total fire ban.
- Ensure you are familiar with the [fire restrictions](#) (https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/docs/dew_park_fire_restrictions_2020_to_2021.pdf) for this park.

Closures and safety

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- [Information on what to do in the event of a fire](#) (https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/prepare_for_a_fire.jsp).

Listen to your [local area radio station](#) (<https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/public/download.jsp?id=104478>) for the latest updates and information on fire safety.

Water

As the average water temperature is between 10-15 degrees, a wetsuit is highly recommended.

Due to the cold water and potential for damage to the aquatic environment, recreational swimming, aside from diving and snorkelling, is not allowed.

Know before you go

Every national park is different, each has its own unique environment, it is important to be responsible while enjoying all the park has to offer.

Please ensure that you:

- **leave your pets at home**
 - **do not feed birds or other animals, it promotes aggressive behaviour and an unbalanced ecology**
 - **do not bring generators (except where permitted), chainsaws or firearms into the park**
 - **leave the park as you found it - there are no bins in national parks, please come prepared to take your rubbish with you.**
 - **abide by the road rules (maintain the speed limit)**
 - **respect geological and heritage sites**
 - **do not remove native plants**
 - **are considerate of other park users.**
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- **Important: Collection of firewood within National Parks is prohibited. Dead wood plays a vital role in providing shelter for animals and adding nutrients to the soil.**

Maps

Google Street View

Want to explore a trail before you leave home or use Google Maps to navigate straight from your door to the trailhead?

We've worked with Google to film more than 600km of walking trails (<https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/get-inspired/google-street-view-trekker>), park roads, campgrounds and waterways in some of our most beautiful places. Click to see what the parks offer and the available facilities before you go. This is an especially great tool if you have accessibility needs, are visiting with people of varying ages or fitness levels or are pushing a pram and want to view a trail before leaving home.

You can start exploring this park on Google Street View using the links below.

- [Walking trails \(<https://www.google.com.au/maps/@-38.0259757,140.7906366,3a,75y,146.07h,86.34t/data=!3m9!1e1!3m7!1sYz-91jnEPATaFwlqcsZd4A!2e0!7i13312!8i6656!9m2!1b1!2i38?hl=en>\)](https://www.google.com.au/maps/@-38.0259757,140.7906366,3a,75y,146.07h,86.34t/data=!3m9!1e1!3m7!1sYz-91jnEPATaFwlqcsZd4A!2e0!7i13312!8i6656!9m2!1b1!2i38?hl=en)

Fees

Entry fees

Entry to this park is free, however fees apply for permits to snorkel and dive at Ewens Ponds. Permits are issued to individuals on an annual or a single basis.

- **Book snorkelling and diving permit (<https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/booking/other/91777>)**

For online bookings enquires please email:

DEW.SEOnlineBookings@sa.gov.au (<mailto:DEW.SEOnlineBookings@sa.gov.au>)

Snorkelling and diving

A permit is required to snorkel and dive at Ewens Ponds. Permits are issued to individuals on an annual or a single basis.

You must purchase a permit and book your dive or snorkel sessions before arriving at the park.

- Time slots are one hour long, with a maximum of two dives or snorkel sessions per person, per day. Bookings are essential.
- If you book two time slots, they may follow each other, but a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 6 people per diving or snorkelling group is allowed.
- You must be out of the water before your time slot expires.
- All snorkellers and divers must enter at the first pond and exit at the third pond.
- Each snorkeller must wear a full length wet suit, fins, face mask and snorkel. No weight belts to be worn for snorkelling.
- Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Divers must meet the minimum standard of ISO 24801-2 (Autonomous diver) which is equivalent to PADI Open Water Diver, CMAS one star, SSI Open Water Diver or NAUI Scuba Diver.

Snorkelling and diving

- **Book snorkelling and diving (<https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/booking/id/45267>)**

For online bookings enquires please email:

DEW.SEOnlineBookings@sa.gov.au (<mailto:DEW.SEOnlineBookings@sa.gov.au>)

Park pass

This park is not included in the park pass system.

- **Which parks are included in the park pass system? (<https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/book-and-pay/parks-passes>)**

Camping and accommodation

There is no camping or accommodation available within this park.

Other fees and permits

Diving qualifications

The minimum qualification for divers is open water.