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**National Parks
and Wildlife Service**
South Australia

Fowlers Bay Conservation Park



About

When you visit this park, keep an eye out for seabirds such as the Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Hooded Plover, Pied Oystercatcher and Fairy Tern. Other wildlife includes Southern Hairynosed Wombats and Australian Sea-lions.

Don't forget your fishing rod! You have a good chance of catching salmon, mulloway, whiting and garfish.

Opening hours

Open daily.

Contact details

Visitor information, bookings and park management:

National Parks and Wildlife Service Ceduna office

Phone: (+61 8) 8625 3144

Email: DEWEPOnlineBookings@sa.gov.au (mailto:DEWEPOnlineBookings@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: 0428 253 144

Injured wildlife:

Within the park

Please contact National Parks and Wildlife Service Ceduna office on (08) 8625 3144 or the after-hours duty officer on (08) 0428 253 144

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, sea lions and dolphins), please contact National Parks and Wildlife Service Ceduna office on (08) 8625 3144 or the after-hours duty officer on (08) 0428 253 144

Dogs not allowed

This park has something for everyone all year round.

Southern Right Whales can be seen through the Winter period from May to Oct, on their migration to their breeding ground at the Head of the Great Australian Bight.

The park offers variety of sheltered and semi sheltered bays & headlands from which to camp and fish throughout the year.

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.

Getting there

Access is from Eyre Hwy at two main points:

119km from Ceduna to Fowlers Bay turn off (access via Fowlers Bay township)

147.47km from Ceduna to Coorabie turn off (access via Coorabie township)

Roads and beaches are all sign posted.

Access across salt lake from Fowlers Bay to Scott's Beach is a dry weather road only. Other roads are signposted if hazards are present.

Pets in parks

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 toilet facilities located at Mexican Hat within Fowlers Bay Conservation Park.

Public toilets can also be found within Fowlers Bay township.

Plants and animals

Keep an eye out for seabirds such as the osprey, white-bellied sea-eagle, hooded plover, pied oystercatcher and fairy tern.

Other wildlife to spot includes the southern hairy-nosed wombat and Australian sea-lions.

Whales

There has been 29 different types of whales recorded in South Australia. The most common are the southern right whale, humpback whale, sperm whale, blue whale and orca whale (killer whale). Of these you are most likely to spot a southern right whale along the South Australian coast.

Southern right whale

Every year, between May to October, southern right whales gather along the southern coastline of Australia to mate and calve, before returning to sub-Antarctic waters to feed.

The southern right whale is a large whale which can grow up to 17.5 metres and weigh over 80 tons. The vast majority of southern right whales are black in colour with distinctive white patterns on their heads that are calluses formed by small crustaceans known as 'whale lice'. The patterns are visible at birth and are unique to each whale allowing researchers to identify individual whales.

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>).

Useful information

- [Camping safety \(#safety\)](#)
- [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.

Traditional Owners

Fowlers Bay Conservation Park is managed by the Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board. The Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board would like to acknowledge the Fowlers Bay Conservation Park is part of the traditional lands of the Far West Coast people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board also acknowledges the Far West Coast people as the custodians of the Far West Coast region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Far West Coast people today.

Co-management in South Australia is a partnership between the state government and Aboriginal groups to help manage our national parks that combines traditional knowledge with contemporary park management. The co-management of parks plays an important role in advancing the reconciliation process and resolving issues relating to traditional land ownership. The involvement of Aboriginal people in the management of their traditional lands contributes to improved cultural site protection, maintenance of traditional practices that may have otherwise been excluded, and improved management of parks through the combination of traditional knowledge and contemporary science. Co-management arrangements are established by agreement with the Aboriginal traditional owners and are often established with the determination of native title.

European history

A ruined lookout and whale bones on Point Fowler is evidence of the area's whaling history. Other history about and around Fowlers Bay can be found on Fowlers Bay Esplanade/ Seafront.

See and do

Bushwalking

While there are no designated walking trails within this park, visitors are free to explore the nearby headland, sheltered bays and beaches.

Stay in the park

Camping

There are 3 designated bush camping areas within Fowlers Bay Conservation Park, enjoy the tranquil scrubland and views of the coastal islands as the surf rolls in.

- [Book before you go \(/booking#Fowlers%20Bay%20Conservation%20Park\)](#)

Accommodation

Privately owned visitor accommodation is available within Fowlers Bay Township (apartments/ caravan park).

4WDDriving

4WD access is permitted across the dunes and along the beaches.

Bogging areas are present, please adhere to warning signage and seek local advice where possible.

Unregistered vehicles are prohibited.

Whale watching

During the whale watching season from May to October Fowler's Bay Conservation Park provides an excellent overnight stop for camping whilst whale watching along the Eyre Peninsula Coast.

You can find a ruined lookout and whale bones on Point Fowler which are evidence of the area's whaling history.

Fishing

Fowler's Bay blessed with an abundance of good fishing. A good time can be had catching Mulloway, Whiting, Garfish, Tommy Ruff, Trevally and Sweep.

Scott's Beach and 'Mexican Hat' are very popular for surf fishing. You will need your vehicle to visit these areas.

For those of you with a boat in tow fishing opportunities are nothing short of excellent. Should you intend to fish from a boat it is recommended you seek local advice as weather conditions in this part of the world can be very changeable.

Ensure you are familiar with fishing restrictions of the **Nuyts Archipelago marine park** (<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/find-a-park/far-west-coast/nuyts-archipelago>) prior to arrival.

Fishing is actively managed in South Australia by the **Department of Primary Industries and Resources SA**. (<http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing>)

Check out these useful links before embarking on your fishing adventure:

- **Recreational fishing regulations** (http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/recreational_fishing)
- **SA recreational fishing guide app** (<http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/recfishingapp>)
- **Aquatic reserves** (http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/closures_and_aquatic_reserves/aquatic_reserves)

Safety

Camping

When camping in a National Park, it's important to remember the following:

- Always let someone responsible know your travel plans, especially when travelling in remote areas. It's a good idea to let them know when you expect to return.
- Check the weather forecast before you leave, including overnight temperatures on the [Bureau of Meteorology \(http://www.bom.gov.au/sa/\)](http://www.bom.gov.au/sa/). Even during very mild weather, the nights can get very cold.
- The quality and quantity of water cannot be guaranteed within parks. Please bring plenty of water and food to be self-sufficient.
- Always camp in designated sites (where applicable) - do not camp beneath trees with overhanging branches, as they can drop without warning. It's also a good idea to check that there are no insect nests nearby.
- Check to make sure you're not camping in a natural waterway, flash floods can happen anytime.
- If camp fires are permitted, you must bring your own firewood, as the collection of firewood within National Parks is prohibited. Extinguish your camp fire with water (not sand or dirt) until the hissing sound stops.
- Ensure that you are familiar with the [fire restrictions \(https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/know-before-you-go/fires-and-bbqs\)](https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/know-before-you-go/fires-and-bbqs) for this park.

Fire

Can I have a fire or barbecue?

- Wood fires and solid fuel fires are prohibited between 1 November 2020 to 15 April 2021.
- You must bring your own firewood, as the collection of firewood within National Parks is prohibited.
- Gas fires are permitted through the year, other than on days of total fire ban.
- Ensure you are familiar with the [fire restrictions \(https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/docs/dew_park_fire_restrictions_2020_to_2021.pdf\)](https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/docs/dew_park_fire_restrictions_2020_to_2021.pdf) for this park.

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.

Water

There are no facilities at the campgrounds within the park, ensure you bring enough water to sustain your visit.

Strong currents and rips can make swimming dangerous in this area.

Do not climb on, or fish from slippery rocks.

4WD

When 4WD driving in the park, it is important to be aware of the following:

- Standard road rules apply when driving anywhere in the park, including the laws for speed limits, drink driving, vehicle registration and seat belts.
- Take extreme care when driving in the park – be aware of blind corners, crests and narrow two-way tracks.
- Observe all track and safety signs, especially 'No public access' signs.
- Do not take your vehicle off the designated tracks. Wildlife can be threatened and precious habitat and indigenous sites can be damaged by off track driving.
- Make sure you know what to do in the event of getting bogged and always carry a shovel.
- When driving on sand, deflate your tyres as appropriate for your vehicle. Don't forget to reinflate your tyres to the manufacturer's recommended pressure before leaving the park. Take care when lowering tyre pressure as there is risk you could roll the tyre off its rim. Also, remember that lower tyre pressure can mean a change in how the vehicle handles.

Whale watching

Maintaining the legal distance from marine mammals such as whales, dolphins and seals is important, both for our safety and that of the animals.

The animals may be seriously injured if they are struck by a vessel or frightened young may become separated from their mothers. Even if there is no contact, coming too close can disrupt feeding, breeding and migratory behaviours.

Regular water users should make themselves familiar with all the rules for interacting with marine mammals by viewing the National Parks and Wildlife (Protected Animals – Marine Mammals) Regulations 2010

([https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/R/NATIONAL%20PARKS%20AND%20WILDLIFE%20\(PROTECTED%20ANIMALS%20MARINE%20MAMMALS\)%20REGULATIONS%202010/CURRENT/2010.263.UN.PDF](https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/R/NATIONAL%20PARKS%20AND%20WILDLIFE%20(PROTECTED%20ANIMALS%20MARINE%20MAMMALS)%20REGULATIONS%202010/CURRENT/2010.263.UN.PDF)).

([https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/R/NATIONAL%20PARKS%20AND%20WILDLIFE%20\(PROTECTED%20ANIMALS%20MARINE%20MAMMALS\)%20REGULATIONS%202010/CURRENT/2010.263.UN.PDF](https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/R/NATIONAL%20PARKS%20AND%20WILDLIFE%20(PROTECTED%20ANIMALS%20MARINE%20MAMMALS)%20REGULATIONS%202010/CURRENT/2010.263.UN.PDF))

In the Water

- **Prescribed vessels** (http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/sa/consol_reg/npawamr2010634/s4.html) (high-powered craft such as jet-skis, hydrofoils and boats used for water skiing or paragliding): Never closer than 300m.
- **Other vessels** (http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/sa/consol_reg/npawamr2010634/s4.html) (for example, cabin cruisers, yachts, ‘tinnies’, inflatables, kayaks, wind surfers and kite surfers): No closer than 100m.
- **Other vessels within 300m of a whale:** No anchoring; maximum speed 4 knots; maximum time 60 minutes.
- **Swimmers** (http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/sa/consol_reg/npawamr2010634/s4.html) (including surfers and boogie boarders): No closer than 30m.

On Land

- No closer than 30m (or 50m if the whale is distressed, stranded or entangled)

In the air

- **Planes and remotely piloted aircrafts (drones)** must be at least 300m from any whale or other marine mammal (additional Civil Aviation Safety Authority (<https://www.casa.gov.au/aircraft/landing-page/flying-drones-australia>) restrictions apply).
- **Helicopters and gyrocopters** must be at least 500m from any whale or other marine mammal.

Special rules exist for:

- **whale calves:** all vessels and swimmers – no closer than 300m
- **distressed, stranded or entangled whales:** all vessels and swimmers – no closer than 300m

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.**
-
- **Be self sufficient and carry sufficient water**
 - **There is limited mobile phone coverage throughout the park, phone range can be sought from Esplanade Fowlers Bay township and the higher points within the park.**

Maps

Park maps

- **[Fowlers Bay Conservation Park map \(pdf\)](https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/docs/fowlers-bay-conservation-park/fowlers-bay-conservation-park-map.pdf)** (<https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/docs/fowlers-bay-conservation-park/fowlers-bay-conservation-park-map.pdf>)

Campground maps

- **[Fowlers Bay Conservation Park - Mexican Hat Flat Campground map](https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/docs/fowlers-bay-conservation-park/fowlers-bay-conservation-park-mexican-hat-flat-campground.pdf)** (<https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/docs/fowlers-bay-conservation-park/fowlers-bay-conservation-park-mexican-hat-flat-campground.pdf>)
- **[Fowlers Bay Conservation Park - Mexican Hat Headland Campground map](https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/docs/fowlers-bay-conservation-park/fowlers-bay-conservation-park-mexican-hat-headland-campground-map.pdf)** (<https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/docs/fowlers-bay-conservation-park/fowlers-bay-conservation-park-mexican-hat-headland-campground-map.pdf>)
- **[Fowlers Bay Conservation Park - Scotts Beach Campground map](https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/docs/fowlers-bay-conservation-park/fowlers-bay-conservation-park-scotts-beach-campground.pdf)** (<https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/docs/fowlers-bay-conservation-park/fowlers-bay-conservation-park-scotts-beach-campground.pdf>)

Maps on your mobile

If you have a smartphone or tablet you can download the free [Avenza Map app](https://www.avenzamaps.com/maps/how-it-works.html) (<https://www.avenzamaps.com/maps/how-it-works.html>) and have interactive national park maps on hand when you need them.

The app uses your device's built-in GPS to plot your real-time location within the park onto a map. The app can be used without a network connection and without roaming charges. You can also measure area and distance, plot photos and drop placemark pins.

How to get it working on your device:

1. Download the Avenza Maps app from the app store ([iOS \(https://apps.apple.com/au/app/avenza-maps/id388424049\)](https://apps.apple.com/au/app/avenza-maps/id388424049)/[Android \(https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.Avenza&hl=en_AU\)](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.Avenza&hl=en_AU)) whilst you are still in range (its free!).
2. Open up the app and click the shopping cart icon.
3. Click 'Find' and type the name of the national park or reserve you are looking for.
4. Click on the map you are after and install it (all our maps are free).
5. You will now find a list of your installed maps on the home page of the Avenza Maps app.
6. Use our maps through the Avenza Mapa app while in the park and never take a wrong turn again.

Fees

Entry fees

Entry to this park is free, however fees apply to camp.

Camping

Fees apply to camp in this park. Please pay for vehicle entry and book your campsite prior to arrival as self registration stations are no longer available in this park.

Check the online booking page for more details about individual campgrounds and fees.

- [Book before you go \(/booking#Fowlers%20Bay%20Conservation%20Park\)](/booking#Fowlers%20Bay%20Conservation%20Park)
- [FAQs about booking online \(https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/book-and-pay/frequently-asked-questions\)](https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/book-and-pay/frequently-asked-questions)

If you are planning a trip for a school group or other large group, please ensure you let the park know of your intentions.

Fees collected are used for conservation and to maintain and improve park facilities.

Where can I book and pay in person?

If you are unable to book and pay online you can do so, in person, at these [booking agents \(https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/book-and-pay/where-can-i-book\)](https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/book-and-pay/where-can-i-book) across the state.

For online bookings enquiries please email:

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