

ABW ACTIVITY INVENTORY (AI) - Activity Information Record

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Activity Code W Area code Y Record No 0001

Activity

Walk

Location

Kangaroo Island - South Coast - D'Estrees Bay to Vivonne Bay

Outline of activity

Three day walk of around 58km. The walk is mostly coastal except for 5km or so.

Permits & permissions required, with contact details

Trip intentions form to be submitted to Kingscote National Parks office and park entry/camping permit required. Ph 85534444, fax 85532531

Maps required

I used maps created from Nature Maps website
<http://www.naturemaps.sa.gov.au/>
Maps attached.

Travel: recommendations, times, car shuffling, parking etc.

Sealink ferry to KI. Didn't take cars to save expense and time of car shuffle. 9am ferry on day 1 of walk OK. Car pool or take Sealink bus to Cape Jervis. (6:30am departure Adelaide). Used Kangaroo Island Transfers Ph: 0427 887 575 www.kitransfers.com.au to pick up from ferry and take to trail head by minibus. It would be possible to return on the evening of day 3 but there is some risk if the walk is delayed for any reason. Best to go home on day 4 following the walk. Used KI transfers again to pick up from Vivonne Bay and return to ferry.

Water availability

There is no water until the evening of day 2 so need to start with around 7 litres. There is water at Bales Bay picnic area which is about 1km from Bales Beach up the access Rd.

Restrictions (fires, gates etc.)

No fires. Wouldn't be allowed to do walk during summer/fire danger season. (although we did it over Easter which was near the end of the fire danger season - up to Parks ranger)

Route overview

The first two days are the officially recognised Cape Gantheaume Trek.

Day 1. D'Estrees Bay trailhead to Cape Gantheaume. This is all on an old 4WD track. Gently undulating so normally easy going except on days of high winds (which we had). Allow around 6 hours.

Day 2. The track runs out just past Cape Gantheaume. Don't go to the end of the track but break off and descend to the beach visible from the track. This day is all off track, a mix of cliff top, sand dunes and beach. The day finishes by leaving Bales Beach via the access track and following the access road to the picnic area. Allow 9 hours.

Day 3. The first 5 km are on Seal Bay Track which starts across the bitumen road just up from the picnic area. This is necessary to bypass the Seal Bay visitor area as that part of the coast is accessible by guided tour only. At the end of Seal Bay Track turn left back to the coast. From here it is again mostly off track following the coast although there is a short section of track that can be followed for a couple of KM. The walk finishes at Vivonne Bay campground. Need to stay on the beach until after crossing the mouth of the Harriet River (the second river). From there you follow a foot pad along and up through the dunes to an access track to the campground. Allow 7 hours.

Campsites used & possible alternatives

Day 1 campsite is a bush camp where ever you can find at or near Cape Gantheaume. At the cape there are clear flat sandy spots but it may be too exposed on windy days. A more sheltered spot can be found approx 2km before the cape.

Day 2 campsite. We camped at the Bales Beach picnic area where there is water, shelter and toilets. This is not really allowed but as you are only there over night you can get away with it. The alternative would be to pick up water and continue to Seal Bay Track. Some flat clearish areas can be found along the track, just go in a comfortable distance from the road (there is no night traffic as it's only the Seal Bay access road).

Day 3 campsite. Assuming your pickup is day 4 then camp at the Vivonne Bay campground, water, toilets, showers, shelter. The Vivonne Bay general store is 2km away on the South Coast Rd near the Harriet River bridge. It has takeaway food and alcohol.

Walk Ratings:

Distance	S: Short, 0-9 km	M: Medium, 10-17 km	L: Long, 18+ km
Gradient	E: Undulating	M: Steep	H: Very steep/exposed
Terrain	E: Track/open, 4 km/h	M: Medium scrub, 2-4 km/h	H: Heavy scrub/rock, 0-2 km/h
Qualifying? (Q)	yes Walk Rating: L, E, M		

Supplementary information

There is spectacular coastal scenery on this walk. There is a large NewZealand fur seal colony at Cape Gantheaume and several vantage points where you can watch the seal pups play. We saw Australia Sea Lions at other beaches along the way. You should also encounter other wildlife including snakes so keep an eye out.

Note: This activity outline has been compiled from information provided by ABW members. Its accuracy is subject to variations in individual members' observations, climate and weather conditions, land and ownership, accessibility, national park rules and permits.

Members should not rely on this information but use it as a guide and supplement it with their own research as appropriate.

While all endeavours will be made to ensure that the information is kept current, it is the responsibility of the member using this document to determine whether it is the most up to date version.

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