



TREKKING INFORMATION SHEET

Flinders Chase Coastal Trek

Flinders Chase National Park and Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area, Kangaroo Island

Trekking in Flinders Chase National Park and Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area

Kangaroo Island's rugged coastline offers keen bushwalkers spectacular coastal scenery, pristine rivers, tracts of undisturbed native vegetation and opportunities to observe abundant and diverse wildlife. Most of the coast is very isolated and provides walkers with a true wilderness experience. However, this isolation also means that good planning is essential to ensure that your walk is as enjoyable and safe as possible.

This leaflet is designed to help you plan your walk by providing information on where to camp, where to get water, the distances involved, and what you need to do before you begin your trek. The information relates to the coastal areas between Cape du Couedic on the south coast and Harvey's Return on the north west coast, including Maupertuis Bay, West Bay, Ravine des Casoars and Cape Borda. (Trekking in other areas not permitted).

DISTANCES OF SECTIONS	
Section of Trek	Distance
1. CAPE DU COUEDIC TO SNAKE LAGOON	16 km
Cape du Couedic to Rocky River Mouth	14 km
Rocky River Mouth to Snake Lagoon (via walking trail)	2 km
2. SNAKE LAGOON TO WEST BAY	20 km
Snake Lagoon to Sandy Creek	5 km
Sandy Creek to Breakneck River	8 km
Breakneck River to West Bay	7 km
3. WEST BAY TO RAVINE DES CASOARS	18 km
West Bay to Ravine des Casoars Car Park - via coast 15 km then walking trail 3 km OR - via road 2 km then fire track 16 km	18 km
OTHER DISTANCES	
Ravine des Casoars Car Park to Harveys Return Campground (via road)	10 km
Harveys Return Campground to Cape Borda Lightstation (via walking trail)	4.5 km

Maps

You should carry the appropriate 1:50 000 topographical maps to walk Kangaroo Island's remote coastline. BORDA sheet covers Harvey's Return, Cape Borda and Ravine des Casoars; and VENNACHAR sheet covers West Bay to Cape du Couedic.

Minimum Impact Bushwalking

To minimise your impact on this wilderness area, please adhere to the Minimum Impact Bushwalking brochure guidelines.

Access

One of the major obstacles to overcome is that trekking the coast does not allow for easy loop-walks, and it can be difficult to get back to your car without backtracking or using roads. To do a one-way trek you will need a vehicle at your start and finish points. If you only have one vehicle and wish to do an overnight loop trek, we recommend you trek from Ravine des Casoars to West Bay via coast, and return via the road/fire track the following day (18 km each way). Harveys Return Campground is ideally located for camping the night before and the night you finish your trek (bookings required for all campgrounds).

The Route

The trek can begin at either end or be accessed from a number of locations using existing walking trails and roads. It is usually walked in 3 sections: Cape du Couedic to Snake Lagoon; Snake Lagoon to West Bay; West bay to Ravine des Casoars car park. Experienced bushwalkers may choose to complete the entire trek, while people with an average fitness level can undertake shorter routes.

When to walk

Kangaroo Island's weather is generally milder than the mainland with cooler summers, and fine weather is not uncommon during winter. The best weather for walking occurs during spring and autumn, and long periods of fine and mild weather can occur in these seasons. During summer, temperatures on the cliff-tops can be extreme, and in winter cold fronts roar in straight off the Southern Ocean creating very poor conditions for walking. Both of these extremes represent potentially dangerous situations and must be carefully considered when planning your trip. During the warmer months you must carry ample water, along with sunscreen and a hat, and in the cooler months warm clothing and rain jackets are essential. As a general rule, because weather can be so unpredictable, expect the unexpected and be prepared!

Campsites

Where possible, please plan your trek around existing campgrounds (Snake Lagoon, West Bay and Harveys Return) to minimise your environmental impact. Bookings are required for all campgrounds.

Water

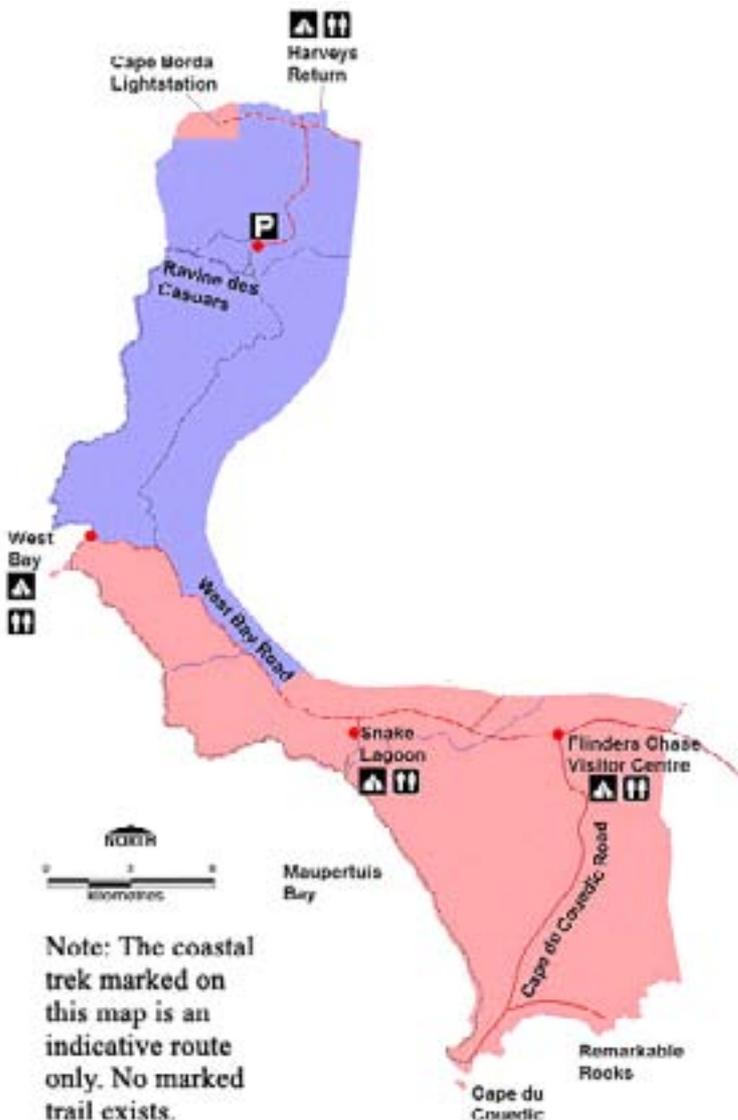
Water can be very limited and it is crucial that you plan your trek around water supplies. Several rivers along the route flow to the coast in most winters and early spring. Water should be treated prior to consumption. Rainwater tanks are located at Snake Lagoon, West bay and Harveys Return campgrounds, however water supply cannot be guaranteed and water should be treated prior to use.

Fires

Please note that this trek is a fuel stove only route (except on days of Total Fire Ban).

Heritage Accommodation

Looking for a comfortable way to start or end your trek? Various types of heritage accommodation, including lightkeepers cottages and backpackers huts are available at Cape Borda, Cape Du Couedic and Rocky River (book through Flinders Chase Visitor Centre).



Fungus Alert

Phytophthora cinnamomi or Cinnamon Fungus is a disease that kills many native plants and destroys vital wildlife habitats. It is widespread on Kangaroo Island and your help is required to halt its spread. Bushwalkers can spread the fungus in soil sticking to their boots, tent pegs and toilet trowels. Make sure you start your trek and leave each campsite with clean gear and remove soil from your boots before leaving an area.

Bush Trekking Registration

- Before your trek commences you MUST complete a Trip Intentions form and post or fax it back to Flinders Chase National Park. Once you have completed the form please contact Flinders Chase, as your proposed route must be discussed with a Ranger.
- There is a daily fee for bush trekking which covers camping and a per person entry fee to the park, which are to be paid in advance at Flinders Chase Visitor Centre.
- You should leave a copy of your itinerary with a responsible person. They should contact Police if you have not logged out with them by a pre-arranged date and time.

Wildlife – Observe, don't interact

Every season presents fantastic opportunities to view wildlife on western Kangaroo Island. Trekkers in remote coastal areas are often rewarded with sightings of whales, ospreys, seals and sea-eagles. Mallee and woodland areas provide a home for abundant birds, goannas and mammals such as echidnas and kangaroos.

For your personal safety and for the protection of the animals, always use the following Wildlife Watching Guidelines:

- Stay on the trail
- Put the animals welfare first
- Move slowly and quietly
- Observe from a distance
- Use binoculars for the close-up view

Failure to do so will cause unnecessary disturbance and stress, particularly for seal colonies and coastal raptors.

Please remember that all plants, animals and natural features in parks and wilderness areas are protected.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD
Please do not feed the animals

Feedback

Please help us to make the trek safe and enjoyable for other trekkers. If there is anything you would like to bring to our attention, please fill in a feedback Information Sheet at DEH office on Kangaroo Island.

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