

South Australia – Permits and permissions required to access indigenous and other lands, including national parks

Northern Areas:

For travel over aboriginal lands in the northern part of South Australia, which includes for example, the Giles-Mulga Park Road from Mulga Park Station to Wingellina, contact the Anangu Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara Land Council on telephone (08) 8954 8111 for the General Office or (08) 8954 8104 for the Permits Officer or fax (08) 8954 8110. But bear in mind that currently the Land Council does not normally issue transit permits for that part of the Giles-Mulga Park Road, nor for any of the other tracks in the area. However, if you simply wish to visit any of the very worthwhile art galleries located on AP-Y lands at Indulkana, Fregon, Nyapari, Amata and Papulankutja, then it is strongly suggested that you simply contact the Manager of the particular art gallery concerned. The web site for Amata is www.minymakuarts.com.au and information on a number of other art galleries in the area is available on www.marshallarts.com.au. If you do manage to gain a permit to visit any of those areas you will find that it is the most beautiful document you will ever have been issued. The permits are a work of aboriginal art in themselves. There is a per person charge of \$22 for the issue of a Permit.

AP-Y do have a website where some further information about Permits is available, but bear in mind the general principle that AP-Y do not normally simply issue transit permits.

If you go to their website (see below) and have a look at the pdf download Permit Application Form on page 2, there is a prominent note that states: “No Transit Permits will be issued for tourists/travelers wishing to pass through any part of the AP-Y Lands”.

To gain a permit you must have a need to travel to conduct proper and appropriate business in a community or to visit someone in a community. Their website is www.waru.org/organisations/ap and click on “Permits”. A pdf download application form for a permit is available on the site. Application forms must then either be faxed or posted to: The Permits Officer, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara, PMB 227, Umuwa via Alice Springs, NT 0872. The Permits Officer can be contacted on (08) 8954 8104 or fax (08) 8954 8110.

Surveyor-General’s Corner:

To visit Surveyor-General’s Corner, the normal access is from Warakurna on the Great Central Road down to Wingellina (where you pick up an escort/guide) and then out to the Corner. The turn off from the Great Central Road onto the Giles-Mulga Park Road to access Wingellina is 29 k’s east of the Warakurna Roadhouse. Applications for permits

are made to the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council – see under *Western Australia – Surveyor-General's Corner* information.

Central Areas:

For travel over aboriginal lands in the central part of South Australia, for example to traverse the Anne Beadell Highway, contact the Maralinga Lands Council at Maralinga Tjarutja Inc., Att. Permits Officer, P.O. Box 435, Ceduna, SA 5690. Telephone (08) 8625 2946. Their fax number is (08) 8625 3076.

Also bear in mind that a range of other permits are also required to travel the Anne Beadell Highway, including a Desert Parks Pass (see below), or at least a permit to access and camp in the Tallaringa Conservation Reserve and one for the (now named – see below) Unnamed Conservation Park. And very importantly, you will need a pass for the Woomera Prohibited Area (also see below). As the Desert Parks Pass does not include in its coverage the Unnamed Conservation Park (now named – see below), you will still need a permit for there even if you have a Desert Parks Pass. For Tallaringa Regional Reserve contact the Department for Environment and Heritage, Outback Region, P.O. Box 78, Port Augusta, SA 5700. Telephone (08) 8648 5300 and fax (08) 8648 5301. Costs in January, 2009 are \$7.50 per vehicle Entry Fee and \$5.00 per vehicle per night Camping Fees.

Unnamed Conservation Park (now called Munangari Conservation Park):

The area previously known as the Unnamed Conservation Park now has a name: it is now the Munangari Conservation Park. For permit and camping applications for Munangari please contact the Ceduna Office of the Department for Environment and Heritage (for contact details see below under Googs Track). Entry and Camping Fee costs (2009) are the same as Tallaringa, i.e.: \$7.50 per vehicle Entry Fee and \$5.00 per night per vehicle Camping Fee.

Woomera Prohibited Area:

You must also have a permit to traverse and visit locations within the Woomera Prohibited Area. Contact the Defence Support Centre, Att. Wally Broome, P.O. Box 157, Woomera, SA 5270. Telephone (08) 8674 3370 (which is a 24 hour number) and fax (08) 8674 3308. The permits are free. And, when traveling through Mabel Downs Station which is located at the Coober Pedy end of the Anne Beadell Highway, ensure you observe the signs and leave all gates exactly as you find them.

Mt. Davies Track:

Permits to travel the Mt Davies Track, which most maps show as running from Anne's Corner on the Anne Beadell Highway north west to Iltur, are also NOT being issued by the Land Council. Apparently the track has never been used since it was first put in by Len Beadell in the 1960's and in the main simply no longer exists.

Entry and Camping Fees (General) including the Desert Parks Pass:

South Australia is very similar to WA in that many of their parks require the payment of an entry fee. Camping fees can also apply. The SA Department for Environment and Heritage offers a very wide range of Passes (with an equally wide range of costs) for entry into their parks – (see their website address below). From a four wheel driver's perspective the best pass is the Desert Parks Pass. This pass covers both entry fees and camping (where permitted) in the following parks: Simpson Desert Conservation Park; Simpson Desert Regional Reserve; Witjira National Park; Innamincka Regional Reserve; Coongie Lakes National Park; Strzelecki Regional Reserve; Lake Eyre National Park; Tallaringa Conservation Park and Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park, (camping where permitted). But again note that the Desert Parks Pass does not include the (now named) Unnamed Conservation Park (see above under *Central Areas*). The current cost (January, 2009) of a Desert Parks Pass is \$105 for 12 months. However, when you renew the next year, the cost is then only \$65, and renewals remain at a cheap rate for the next following 2 years. (N.B.: These rates could increase in April, 2009).

When purchasing a Desert Parks Pass, you get a lot more for your money than simply the Pass. You also receive a full information kit, including a series of maps. Any updates are issued with renewals. So it does represent reasonable value for money. Most of the parks covered by the Pass charge entry and/or camping fees. Some examples would be: \$37.50 for a two night stay at Coongie Lakes; \$22.50 per park for a one night stay at each of Witjira, Dalhousie and Lake Eyre; and \$12.50 for a one night stay in Tallaringa Regional Reserve. So two nights spent at Coongie and a night each at the other locations would cost a lot more than the 12 month Desert Parks Pass which gives you unlimited visits and camping at all the locations covered.

A Holiday Pass (for Entry only or Entry and Camping) is available for a 2 month period from date of purchase which provides access (and camping for up to five nights at a time at any one place) in all SA National Parks with the exception of Kangaroo Island (Flinders Chase NP), Naracoorte Caves (for camping purposes only) and those areas covered by the Desert Parks Pass. It also excludes the Wilpena Pound Resort Campground. Costs are \$30 for an Entry only pass or \$24 concession; or \$50 for a pass covering Entry and Camping or \$44 concession.

Single Park Passes and a Multi Park Pass are also available, and a Camping option can be added to both. The Kangaroo Island Pass covers entry costs and tour costs to some of Kangaroo Island's most popular natural attractions. Cost is \$46.50 per adult (concession \$36.50) and \$28.00 per child with a Family Pass costing \$126.00. The Kangaroo Island Pass is valid for twelve months from date of purchase, but you should do some homework before you go to ensure that it offers you good value in comparison to simply paying day entry and tour costs at the attractions you may wish to visit.

Most of the Passes can be bought at the various Department for Environment and Heritage Regional offices throughout SA. They are all listed on the website.

The Department for Environment and Heritage Help Line in Adelaide is on (08) 8204 1910. Their extremely helpful website is www.parks.sa.gov.au and includes information on current and seasonal Park and access restrictions. There is also a Desert Parks Pass Hotline which is on freecall 1800 816 078 or email desertparks@saugov.sa.gov.au

Desert Parks Passes (and other Passes applicable in their local areas) are also available from:

The Pink Roadhouse, Oodnadatta on Freecall 1800 802 074 or (08) 8670 7822;
The William Creek Hotel, William Creek on (08) 8670 7880;
The Outback Roadhouse, Maree on (08) 8675 8360;
The Innamincka Trading Post on (08) 8675 9900;
The Innamincka Hotel on (08) 8675 9901; and
the Mt. Dare Hotel on (08) 8670 7835.

Simpson Desert areas:

For travel through any part of the Simpson Desert in South Australia, each vehicle MUST have a Desert Parks Pass. Remember also that the Simpson Desert is now closed to visitation over the period of each summer. The closure period is December 1 to March 15 and covers the Simpson Desert Conservation Park and the Simpson Desert Regional Reserve and the Simpson Desert area in Queensland. Fines of up to \$1,000 can apply to transgressors. Note though that Witjira National Park and the camping area at Dalhousie Springs will remain open during the closure period.

Googs Track:

To access Googs Track you will need a Camping Permit issued by the SA Department for Environment and Heritage at 11 McKenzie Street, Ceduna, SA 5690. Their postal address is PO Box 569, Ceduna, SA 5690. Telephone (08) 8625 3144 and fax (08) 8625

3123. Camping Permits (in 2009) cost \$5 per night per vehicle. So a 3 night stay will only cost you \$15. There is no entry fee. Most of Googs Track is now located within the Yumbarra Conservation Park and the Yellabinna Regional Reserve. Best camping areas are at Googs Lake and at Mount Finke. You will get a small information package and mud map with your permit.

Trans Continental Railway:

In South Australia you are permitted to travel the few kilometres along the rail line past Tarcoola to pick up Googs Track. In WA you can now only follow the rail line from Kalgoorlie to Rawlinna. It is illegal to travel east of Rawlinna and absolutely no permits are being issued. The track beside the rail line is now on private property. This was a result of the corporatisation of Australian National Railways. Regrettably, there had been far too many instances of travelers breaking down, or needing help, and they were, incredibly, flagging down the trains! Management have now simply barred access and will have transgressors dealt with as trespassers. The fine can be quite hefty. You have been warned!

Public Access Routes:

South Australia also operates what they refer to as Public Access Routes. These are mainly old stock routes, most of which traverse private property or leasehold land. They have now been upgraded to the status of tracks, and vehicular access is provided. No specific permits are required to traverse these tracks, however where they are within, or give access to, a National Park or Reserve, then a permit may be required to both access and/or camp in the Park or Reserve. Examples of these tracks include both the Level Post Bay and Halligan Bay Track within Lake Eyre National Park. A permit is required to access and camp in the Park. The most recently opened Public Access Route that I am aware of is the Walker Crossing Track which runs from the Birdsville Track some 122 k's south of Birdsville through to Innamincka.

Bore Track:

To traverse the Bore Track which runs south from a point about 19 k's east of Innamincka on the Adventure Highway to Bollards Lagoon near Cameron Corner, a \$10 per vehicle fee is payable at Bollards Lagoon Homestead on your arrival. It's an "Honesty Box" system which is clearly signposted. But please, give them a call on (08) 8091 3873 before traversing the Track as it is on their private property.

Yalata Indigenous Protected Area:

The Yalata lands are located in the extreme south west of South Australia. Essentially they straddle the Eyre Highway from a point commencing at about the Nullarbor Motel in the west to a point in the east about 20k's east of the Nundroo Hotel/Motel. The Yalata Roadhouse (which is now closed) lies at about the mid point of the east/west extent of the lands. In a north/south direction the lands extend from the coast on the Bight to about 30 k's north of the Eyre Highway. The "Head of the Bight" whale watching tourist attraction is a part of the Yalata Lands.

The Community allow camping (by Permit only) at about 7 locations right on the coast, east of the "Head of The Bight", giving access to some absolutely fabulous white sand dunes and to some of the best beach fishing to be found anywhere on the Bight. Each location has a limited number of camp sites, and camping fees apply. Access is via the Red Gate Track or the Coombra Track.

Due to the extremely good Mulloway fishing the (summer) period from November to about Easter can see all of the sites booked out. During winter however, (May to about October), sites are generally readily available, but it can be very windy and uncomfortable. Most of the camp sites are nestled in the lee of dunes which does give some protection.

There is a very informative web site at www.yalata.org; the web site also contains a camp site bookings monitor that tells you at a glance which sites are booked on any date/s you care to nominate.

For bookings telephone 0407 832 297, or you can call into Yalata itself which is located about 3 k's in on a bitumen road just east of the Roadhouse. When you get into Yalata turn right at the big boomerang and then left to access the Administrative Office.

Road Conditions:

For road reports including closures and seasonal closures go to www.transport.sa.gov.au or telephone 1300 361 033.

Can I get a Concession?:

Don't forget, if you are dealing with a National Park Service or any Government Agency, and you have a Seniors Card or a Pension Card of some description; always ask whether a Seniors Discount is available. In most cases the answer is, yes!

Disclaimer:

Whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of this information, no responsibility can be accepted for either the accuracy of the contents or for any errors or omissions.

With your assistance we might also endeavour to maintain this information in an updated form. So if you wish to amend, or add to any of the information contained in this article, please contact the undersigned on (02) 9523 9266 or email john.greig@bigpond.com

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Please also be sure to read the first part of this site titled “Heading Outback – Do I Need a Permit? – Can I drive that track?” in conjunction with the information above.