



TREKKING INFORMATION SHEET

Cape Gantheaume Coastal Trek

Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area

Trekking in Cape Gantheaume 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 trekkers with a true wilderness experience. However, this isolation also means that good planning is essential to ensure that your trek is as enjoyable and safe as possible.

This leaflet is designed to help you plan your trek by providing information on where to camp, where to find water, the distances involved, and what you need to do before you begin your trek. The information relates to the coastal areas between D'Estrees Bay and Bales Bay on the south coast of Kangaroo Island.

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. The best way to avoid this is to arrange a car pool if possible. Please note that Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) staff will not transport trekkers to and from vehicles.

The trek can be accessed from two locations: on the eastern end via Sewer car park on the D'Estrees Bay Road; or via Bales Bay on the western end.

DISTANCES OF SECTIONS	
Section of Trek	Distance
D'Estrees Bay to Cape Gantheaume	18km
Cape Gantheaume to Bales Bay	16km

Maps

You should carry the appropriate 1:50,000 topographical maps to walk Kangaroo Island's remote coastline. DESTREES and SEDDON sheets cover D'Estrees Bay to Bales Bay.

Minimum Impact Bushwalking

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

The Route

The trek begins at the Sewer car park at D'Estrees Bay. From this point follow the old vehicle track to Cape Gantheaume where you will find an isolated pristine beach dotted with New Zealand Fur-seals. (Warning: Cape Gantheaume beach has strong rips and is unsafe for swimming).

From Cape Gantheaume, the trek is unmarked and trekkers need to find their own path through the coastal vegetation until they reach the Bales Bay car park.



When to walk

Kangaroo Island's weather is generally milder than the mainland. Cool summers and fine winter weather are not uncommon. The best weather for walking occurs during spring and autumn when long periods of fine and mild weather can occur. 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 a rain jacket are essential. As a general rule, because weather can be so unpredictable, expect the unexpected and be prepared!

Campsites

Trekkers may need to walk inland a short distance to camp in sheltered areas with level ground, away from windswept limestone cliff-tops. Please practice 'no trace' camping by leaving a campsite looking as if you had never been there. Camping is not permitted at Bales Bay Picnic Area.

Water

There is no water for the entire length of the trek. Sufficient water supplies must be carried to meet your needs.

Fires

Please not that this is a fuel stove only route (except on days of Total Fire Ban).

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 the Kingscote office of the Department for Environment and Heritage. Once you have completed the form please contact our Kingscote Office, as your proposed route must be discussed with a Ranger.
- There is a daily fee for bush trekking which covers camping, which is to be paid in advance at the DEH Kingscote Office.
- 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 in the Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area. Walkers in this remote coastal area may be rewarded with sightings of whales, seals, ospreys and sea eagles from the cliffs as well as kangaroos, echidnas, goannas and abundant birds in the heath and mallee.

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

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