

SELF DRIVE

YORKE PENINSULA TOP TO TOE



DAY 1 > ADELAIDE TO STANSBURY

From Adelaide, travel north along the Sapphire Coast, which takes in the coastline from Port Gawler to Port Wakefield and around to Ardrossan. This coastline features some of the state's best areas to view shorebirds.

After Port Wakefield, branch off from Highway 1 as you round the top of Gulf St Vincent to explore the east coast of Yorke Peninsula.

Travelling south you will pass by small coastal towns such as Port Clinton and Price, down to Ardrossan, which is one of the major towns on the peninsula.

4 day itinerary includes discovering stunning beaches, friendly coastal towns, spectacular national parks and historic mining villages.



From top: Ethel Beach, Innes National Park; Boat fishing, Port Vincent.

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Situated on the top of imposing red cliffs, Ardrossan is home to blue swimmer crabs, which can be easily caught during the warmer months. It's also the home of the stump jump plough, which was invented in 1876 and was used to farm some of the world's finest barley. It's proudly on display at the local museum. Get a bird's eye view of the area at the local mines lookout.

As you continue south, you'll come across more coastal towns, which each boast excellent fishing and camping spots and lots of photo opportunities, including Pine Point, Black Point and Port Julia. Port Vincent's safe harbour is popular with yachties sailing over from Adelaide.

A short drive on and you'll discover Stansbury, a popular spot for swimming, waterskiing, windsurfing, fishing and fresh local oysters (seasonal). If you haven't already stopped off at one of the picturesque towns beforehand, a range of accommodation is available in Stansbury – a caravan park, motels and holiday houses.

> Adelaide to Ardrossan:

150 kilometres, 1 hour 48 minutes

> Ardrossan to Stansbury:

57 kilometres, 43 minutes

DAY 2 > STANSBURY TO MARION BAY

Continue your journey south through more picturesque coastal towns including Wool Bay which once served as a port for the district's farms. On the cliff top are remains of the lime kilns that once were common on this part of the peninsula.

Sticking to the scenic coastal road you will come across Port Giles and Coobowie, before reaching Edithburgh, one of the landmark towns of Yorke Peninsula. Edithburgh features parklands similar to Adelaide and by the same designer, Colonel William Light. It also boasts popular coastal walks to Sultana Point and Coobowie and you can learn about the historic shipwrecks of the *Clan Ranald* and the *Marion*.

Wattle Point Wind Farm and its giant turbines provide a landmark of a different kind to the south of Edithburgh.

From Edithburgh you can also take a boat out to Troubridge Island Conservation Park. Access is by permit only but allows for a truly peaceful island experience. Relax in the heritage-listed Lighthouse keeper's cottage, observe the park's birdlife, including little penguins, go for a snorkel or try your luck at fishing from this small sand island.

Choose to continue your travels via the coastal road or head inland through Yorketown and Warooka before arriving at Marion Bay.

A great spot for fishing with plenty of beach hot spots to throw a line in. If you want some deep sea fishing action, there are a number of fishing charters that operate in the area.

Just a short distance from Marion Bay is the famous Innes National Park, with its rugged headlands, secluded sandy bays, limestone cliffs and mallee woodlands dotted with salt lakes.

The impressive scenery is just one drawcard for visitors, with the park also offering plenty of activities, including bushwalking, surfing, fishing, bird watching and camping. The historic Inneston village, the views around Cape Spencer and the West Cape Lighthouses, as well as the limestone cliffs, are fantastic for photographers.

A rich maritime history also abounds with more than 20 shipwrecks resting offshore, the Investigator Strait Shipwreck Trail attracts scuba divers from around the world. To explore the rusted relics of *The Ethel* - the park's most famous shipwreck - and the boiler of the *SS Ferret*, head to Ethel Beach.

A range of accommodation is found in Marion Bay. You can camp or stay in heritage-character lodges at Innes National Park.

> Stansbury to Edithburgh:

24 kilometres, 21 minutes

> Edithburgh to Marion Bay:

87 kilometres, 1 hour 5 minutes

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DAY 3 > MARION BAY TO MOONTA

Having reached the toe of the Yorke Peninsula, it's time to return to the top. Head north to Corny Point and visit the Lighthouse before continuing to Point Turton, then on to Minlaton.

Located in the middle of the Yorke Peninsula, Minlaton is known as the 'Barley Capital of the World', with lush farming lands surrounding the town. Explore the memorial to Captain Harry Butler, who flew across the Gulf from Adelaide with the Royal Mail in 1919. See his *Red Devil* Bristol monoplane behind glass on the edge of town.

Head back to the coast with a visit to Port Victoria, which was once a windjammer port with grain loaded onto sailing ships bound for Europe, via Cape Horn. The last ships that set sail from here were in 1949.

These days, Port Victoria is a paradise for fishers and for scuba divers, who can explore the eight wrecks off nearby Wardang Island Maritime Heritage Trail, which form a diving trail.

Re-live the maritime history at Port Victoria's Maritime Museum. For those wanting to stretch the legs, the 3-kilometre Geology Trail highlights volcanic action from nearly 2 million years ago.

An excellent guide book, which explains the sites and geological features, is available from the foreshore kiosk.

From Port Victoria you can join one of a number of tours from multi, award-winning Aboriginal Cultural Tours. Explore the Aboriginal township of Point Pearce with an experienced and knowledgeable Adjahdura guide (traditional owner of the country).

Discover the history of this settlement, which was once an Aboriginal mission, and how the Aboriginal people survived European settlement. Half day, full day and extended tour options are available showcasing the rich Aboriginal heritage and culture found on the Yorke Peninsula.

Turn inland again towards Maitland, the centre of the Yorke Peninsula and visit the region's first commercial vineyard and winery, Barley Stacks Wines.

Continue your trip up the west coast of Yorke Peninsula to the Copper Coast. Moonta has a rich mining history and was once one of the richest copper mines in Australia. The cultural mix that flooded the area at this time has led to the Kernewek Lowender – the world's largest Cornish festival which is held in odd numbered years in May.

The Moonta Mines Museum is well worth a visit and the tourist train is a great way to tour around some of the heritage areas. The sandy coves, stunning beaches and jetties of Port Hughes, Moonta Bay and Wallaroo are well worth a visit and are perfect spots to watch the sun set.

A range of accommodation options are available in Moonta, Moonta Bay, Port Hughes and Wallaroo.

> Marion Bay to Minlaton:

83 kilometres, 58 minutes

> Minlaton to Port Victoria:

34 kilometres, 28 minutes

> Port Victoria to Maitland:

23 kilometres, 20 minutes

> Maitland to Moonta:

36 kilometres, 26 minutes

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DAY 4 > MOONTA TO ADELAIDE

Explore the largest town on the Yorke Peninsula - Kadina. A town full of history, it once boasted a population of 20,000 during the peak of the region's mining era, but is now a large farming community.

You can see the full history of Kadina at the Farm Shed Museum. The town's Royal Exchange Hotel was simply the Exchange Hotel until the Duke of Clarence stayed there in 1880. Theories abound that the Duke was involved in the Jack the Ripper case.

From Kadina you can head back to Adelaide, or continue further north to the seaside town of Port Broughton at the very top of the Yorke Peninsula.

Port Broughton is a delightful town with attractive beaches and is popular with visitors looking to fish and relax. Explore the walking trails around the town and the annual Rubber Duck Race is a fun time to visit.

From the Yorke Peninsula it is very easy to explore surrounding regions such as the Clare Valley, Southern Flinders Ranges and beyond.

> **Moonta to Kadina:**
17 kilometres, 17 minutes

> **Kadina to Adelaide:**
167 kilometres, 2 hours 6 minutes

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Ardrossan
- Edithburgh
- Marion Bay
- Innes National Park
- Minlaton
- Port Victoria Maritime Museum
- Aboriginal Cultural Tours
- Moonta Mines Museum
- Farm Shed Museum

**Distances and times are approximate and do not include detours or stops.*

For further information
visit southaustralia.com

