

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 at 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 the *Western Australia pdf* on this web site – *Surveyor-General's Corner* information.

Central Areas and the Anne Beadell Highway:

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 Munangari Conservation Park (see below). And very importantly, you will need a pass for the Woomera Prohibited Area (also see below). And, as the Desert Parks Pass does not include in its coverage the Munangari Conservation Park, you will still need a permit for there even if you have a Desert Parks Pass. For the Tallaringa Regional Reserve contact the Department of Environment & Natural Resources, Outback Region, P.O. Box 78, Port Augusta, SA 5700. Telephone (08) 8648 5300 and fax (08) 8648 5301. Costs as at August, 2010 were \$8.50 per vehicle Entry Fee and \$6.00 per vehicle per night Camping Fees. Concession rates are not available.

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 of Environment & Natural Resources (for contact details see below under Googs Track). Entry and Camping Fee costs (2010) are the same as Tallaringa, i.e.: \$8.50 per vehicle Entry Fee and \$6.00 per night per vehicle Camping Fee with no concessions being available.

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 Creek 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 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:

(Please note that very recently the (previous) SA Department for Environment and Heritage has changed its name (back) to the Department of Environment & Natural Resources).

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 of Environment & Natural Resources 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; Lake Eyre National Park; Tallaringa Conservation Park and Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park (camping is not permitted in Wabma Kadarbu). But again note that the Desert Parks Pass does not include Munangari Conservation Park (previously known as the Unnamed Conservation Park - see above). The current cost (August, 2010) of a Desert Parks Pass is \$110 for 12 months. However, when you renew the next year, the cost is then only \$67, and renewals remain at a cheap rate for the next following 2 years. (N.B.: These rates could increase in the near future).

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 fees and/or camping fees. Some examples would be: \$38.50 for a two night stay at Coongie Lakes; \$24.50 for a one night stay within Witjira NP; \$24.50 for a one night stay at Dalhousie Springs and \$8.50 for a one night stay at Lake Eyre (excluding Muloorina as it is a privately operated camping area); and \$14.50 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 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. Current costs (August, 2010) are \$34 for an Entry Only Pass or \$27 Concession; or \$58 for a pass covering Entry and Camping or \$46.50 Concession.

Single Park Passes and a Multi Park Pass are also available, and a Camping option can be added to both.

A Multi Park Pass is valid for 12 months and costs (as at August, 2010) \$76.50 or \$61.00 Concession for an Entry Only Pass, (but note that this excludes entry to Kangaroo Island (Flinders Chase National Park) and those areas covered by the Desert Parks Pass. An Entry and Camping Multi Park Pass costs (as at August, 2010) \$130.50 and Concession is \$104.50. A Pass for a second vehicle is \$65.00. This entitles you to Entry and Camping (for up to five (5) nights in any one location) excluding those areas covered by the Desert Parks Pass, Kangaroo Island, Wilpena Pound Resort Campground and it also excludes camping at Naracoorte Caves National Park.

The Kangaroo Island Pass covers entry costs and tour costs to some of Kangaroo Island's most popular natural attractions. Current cost (August, 2010) is \$61.00 per adult (concession \$49.00) and \$36.50 per child. A Family Pass costs \$166.00. 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 of Environment & Natural Resources Regional offices throughout SA. They are all listed on the website.

The Department of Environment & Natural Resources 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 closures and access restrictions. There is also a Desert Parks Pass Hotline which is on freecall 1800 816 078 or email desertparks@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

Desert Parks Passes are also available from a very wide range of other outlets in both SA and other States. See the Department of Environment & Natural Resources website for details.

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 National Park 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 normally issued by the SA Department of Environment & Natural Resources 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 (as at August, 2010) cost \$6 per night per vehicle. So a 3 night stay will only cost you \$18. There is no entry fee.

N.B.: Currently, (2010), the Dept. of Environment & Natural resources office in Ceduna appears to be restricted to an administrative office only, with no public counter facilities available. Camping Permits for Googs Track however, are available from the Ceduna Visitor Information Centre which is located at 58 Poynton Street, Ceduna, 5690. Their telephone number is (08) 8625 3343. Like most Visitor Information Centres they are open 7 days a week, except Christmas Day and Good Friday.

Most of Googs Track is now located within the Yumberra 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. The Department makes the suggestion that if possible, Googs Track should be traveled from south to north. This is a request in the interests of safety and on the basis that travel from south to north is a little easier over the dunes.

The northern end of Googs Track has recently been realigned, and now exits on to the access road beside the Transcontinental Railway about 10 kilometres west of Malbooma via a properly constructed and marked crossing. When you get to that point you must turn right and head towards Tarcoola. The access track beside the Transcontinental

Railway is a public road from the top end of Googs Track to the Stuart Highway. (See Transcontinental Railway info immediately below).

Please note that none of the tracks immediately to the north of Malbooma are public roads; all of them are private station tracks.

Transcontinental Railway:

The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) has confirmed that the only publicly accessible parts of the access road which runs parallel to the transcontinental rail line are those parts between Kalgoorlie and Haig in Western Australia and between Kingoonya and a point a short distance west of where the recently realigned northern end of Googs Track now exits to the transcontinental rail access road in South Australia. Both of those sections remain gazetted as public roads.

It is thus illegal to travel east of Haig or essentially west of the Googs Track northern exit point utilising the rail access road. It is private property and absolutely no permits are being issued. This situation arose consequent to the corporatisation of Australian National Railways some years ago. Regrettably, there had been far too many instances of travellers breaking down, or needing help, and they were, incredibly, flagging down the trains! Management have simply barred access and will have transgressors dealt with as trespassers. The fine can be quite hefty. You have been warned!

Additionally, ARTC advise that the only places where it is legal to actually cross the rail line are at properly constructed and marked rail crossings.

Public Access Routes:

South Australia also operates what they refer to as Public Access Routes. These are generally station tracks that lead to a place of interest on a station property where no public road otherwise provides access. This allows for public access without seeking permission from the lessee. Generally, PAR's can be categorized as "non maintained tracks" and should not be compared to the normal road network in terms of surface, maintenance or general condition.

The SA Government Department of Environment & Natural Resources and the Department of Water publish an excellent information brochure and map titled "4WD Tracks & Repeater Towers" which also lists and maps nineteen (19) of the current twenty two (22) PAR's. (The additional (3) PAR's have only very recently been added to the list).

Generally, each PAR is signposted at its start point. Information as to whether or not camping is permitted, and if so where, is generally included.

No specific permits are required to traverse these PAR's, however if they fall 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.

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. 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. A mud map of the Track is usually available at the "Honesty Box".

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 or alternatively go to www.exploroz.com/Roads/Default.aspx for up to date conditions.

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.