



# Backpacking in South Australia

Picture: Zoltan Balogh



Remarkable Rocks, Kangaroo Island

**OK, you've climbed the bridge, circled the rock and snorkelled the reef. Now it's time to meet the real Australia ...**

We're talking about a wild night in an outback pub with the townfolk of Parachilna (population four).

We're talking about a week of hiking around Kangaroo Island, the wildlife haven they're calling the 'Galapagos of Australia'.

We're talking about a month's work during the crazy 'Vintage' season, harvesting grapes in the beautiful Barossa Valley – doing hard yakka, earning good coin and kicking back with the locals.

It's time to do the stuff that other people are only just beginning to discover ... diving with Australia's fearsome Great White Sharks off Port Lincoln, looking for opals in Coober Pedy, cycling through valleys and vineyards, swimming with sea lions and dolphins in Baird Bay, exploring unrivalled collections of art in Adelaide, driving cattle for a day in the Flinders, relaxing with a beer on the deck of your own houseboat as you drift down the River Murray, and doing the massive Adelaide Fringe Festival when the entire city becomes the butt of its own jokes ...

In South Australia you're not following a backpacker trail. You're

mixing with the rest of us, doing what we like to do – eating well, living large and immersing in what we call 'good country'.

Whether you chose to join some of our award-winning tour operators or head out armed only with a hire car and a spirit of adventure, be sure of one thing. You'll be experiencing the greatest icon of them all. The Aussie way of life.

## South Australia Highlights

**Shark diving:** Cruise out to one of Port Lincoln's outlying islands, get suited and booted then dive in a steel cage to meet Australia's most fabled and feared native – the Great White Shark. It's difficult to gasp/laugh/scream when you have a regulator in your mouth, but this is still one of the hottest tickets in SA.

**Kangaroo Island:** KI is about wilderness and wildlife, scenery and solace, country living and kicking back. Highlights include walking among sea lions on Seal Bay, witnessing the Remarkable Rocks, going on a night time penguin tour, and losing yourself on a big, bronzed, bonza beach. Rightly being considered as one of the world's great destinations.

**Coober Pedy:** A cowboy town that's as wild as it is weird as it is wonderful. Here's where you'll find underground hostels, Martian landscapes (much favoured by Hollywood), hippy cultures, the 'dog fence' (the world's longest man-made structure), a stunning 'paintbox' desert called the Breakaways and – if you're lucky – opals. Remember to try your hand at 'noodling' for the fiery stones and if you don't strike it rich, do what all desert diggers do – go to the pub.

**Barossa:** Much like its famous red wines, Barossa is beautiful, rich and fruity. Join any number of tours out of Adelaide – after an hour's drive you're in amongst stunning scenery, charming towns, renowned wine labels and (oops) lots of free tastings. If you get an urge to propose to your partner, try ballooning over the Barossa at dawn – guaranteed to elicit a 'Yes'.

**Aboriginal:** Tour the world's largest collection of Aboriginal artefacts at the SA Museum, meet the local Kurna people at nearby Tandanya,



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do a bush tucker tour of the Botanic Garden ... then take off into 'Country' to immerse yourself in the many cultures of SA's Aboriginal peoples. Aboriginal guides in the Adelaide Hills, Coorong and Flinders Ranges can help you go bush, find tucker, see rock art and most importantly, learn how the bond between the people, the land and the ancestors has ultimately meant survival.

**Adelaide Fringe and WOMAdelaide:** Second in size only to Edinburgh, Adelaide Fringe is a three-week fun-fest when the city surrenders to an all-out offensive from the world's comedians. WOMAdelaide is a three-day bliss-out to the best of world music, held in the sublime Botanic Garden. Both events run in February/March.

For more information visit [www.southaustralia.com](http://www.southaustralia.com).

## Prime Mini Tours

Prime Mini Tours is one of Adelaide's best-known and established day tour operators. We offer a variety of excellent value tours such as the:

**Barossa Valley Experience** visiting four wineries, sightseeing and three-course lunch is a great way to experience the Barossa Valley; **Barossa Valley Supreme** offers five wineries, Maggie Beers and a vineyard tour for the more serious wine drinkers;

**Hahndorf/Victor Harbor** for spectacular scenery both through the rolling landscape of The Adelaide Hills and the coastal scenery of The Fleurieu Peninsula;

**McLaren Vale Premium Food and Wine Experience** where you will enjoy a four-course shared cold platter progressive lunch with each course served at a different winery – a great combination of food and wine.

## New Tours

We have introduced two new tours to our range:

**Barossa Valley From The Vine To The Bottle** is a perfect way to learn all about the processes from the grapevine right through to the finished wine and being able to sample in excess of 20 wines along the way. Includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea (commenced October 2009).

**Adelaide City Experience** visits our two new Giant Panda arrivals to the Adelaide Zoo (Wang Wang & Funi) as well as The Adelaide Central Market, Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute and The National Wine Centre (commences mid December 2009).

For more information call **1300 66 76 50** or visit our website at [www.primeminitours.com](http://www.primeminitours.com).

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Left: Shark cage diving, Eyre Peninsula. Above: WOMAdelaide. Below: The Breakaways, Flinders Ranges and Outback. Inset: Swimming with sea lions, Baird Bay, Eyre Peninsula.



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Grassdale wildlife, Kangaroo Island

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