



Kangaroo Island

Wildlife and Natural Events Calendar WHAT TO SEE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN KANGAROO ISLAND



SEEN ALL YEAR ROUND	SUMMER (Dec – Jan – Feb)	AUTUMN (Mar – Apr – May)	WINTER (Jun – Jul – Aug)	SPRING (Sep – Oct – Nov)
<p>Kangaroo Island kangaroos, tamar wallabies, echidnas, brush-tailed possums, bottle-nosed dolphins, Australian sea-lions, Australian and New Zealand fur-seals and many of the 260 birds listed for the Island can be seen year round in their natural habitats.</p>	<p>In December, black swans move in large numbers to the sheltered waters around American River as the freshwater wetlands dry up.</p>	<p>Glossy black cockatoos begin to choose their nesting hollows in preparation for their annual nesting (April through June and in October).</p>	<p>◆ June sees Southern right whales make their annual visit to the protected waters around Kangaroo Island and they head back south to Antarctic waters in October.</p>	<p>◆ Shearwater migration – in September, hundreds of thousands of birds move past the South Coast of the Island in a continuous stream rising and falling on the air currents above the ocean swell (best site for viewing is any of the lighthouse promontories).</p>
	<p>Australian and New Zealand fur-seal breeding peaks in January with fierce territorial battles which can be viewed by visitors from the safety of the boardwalk at Admiral's Arch.</p>	<p>◆ Little penguins return in April to start their annual breeding, with males selecting burrows and renovating them in the hope of attracting a female.</p>	<p>Black swans nest on their large and elaborate nests in the wetlands and along the rivers in June.</p>	<p>In November, Australian sea-lions use the broader Summer beach to bask on the sand in between fishing trips to the continental shelf.</p>
	<p>Hooded dotterels nest on many of the Island's sandy beaches in January.</p>	<p>Black Swamp in Flinders Chase National Park becomes alive in May with Cape Barren geese selecting nesting territories.</p>	<p>Echidna mating trains are seen occasionally across the Island during winter with one female doggedly pursued by up to ten males.</p>	<p>Tiny terrestrial orchids can be found flowering in deep protected leaf litter in many habitat types across the Island. These are part of a flora of almost 900 native plant species, nearly 50 of which are found nowhere else on earth. On the Eastern end of the Island, striking white or pink-tinged Centenary Starburst (<i>Thryptomene ericaea</i>) dominates the roadsides.</p>
	<p>Watch out for the Island's largest terrestrial predator, the threatened Rosenberg's goannas on the roadside. They are active Island-wide as February is courtship and egg-laying season.</p>	<p>The lime green and yellow shades of new growth transforms thousands of hectares of mallee wilderness across the Island.</p>	<p>In August, migratory waders arrive from their Northern hemisphere summer breeding (best sites include American River, Murray Lagoon and Reeves Point).</p>	<p>Kangaroos and wallabies have their joeys emerging from the pouch and starting to explore in August.</p>

◆ A significant natural event that can be experienced on an annual basis within this Landscape