

Adelaide is the [capital](#) and most populous city of the [Australian state](#) of [South Australia](#), and is the fifth-largest city in Australia, with a population of more than 1.1 million.^[3] It is a coastal city situated on eastern side of [Gulf St. Vincent](#), and is situated on the [Adelaide Plains](#), north of the [Fleurieu Peninsula](#), between the [Gulf St. Vincent](#) and the low-lying [Mount Lofty Ranges](#). It is roughly 20 km (12 mi) from the coast to the foothills but sprawls 90 km (56 mi) from [Gawler](#) at its northern extent to [Sellicks Beach](#) in the south.

Colonel William Light, Adelaide's controversial founder wrote:

‘The reasons that led me to fix Adelaide where it is I do not expect to be generally understood or calmly judged of at present. My enemies, however, by disputing their validity in every particular, have done me the good service of fixing the whole of the responsibility upon me. I am perfectly willing to bear it; and I leave it to posterity, and not to them, to decide whether I am entitled to praise or to blame.’

Colonel Light should be commended for his brilliant choice. The wide sweeping streets, city squares and lush green boundaries make Adelaide an enchanting city to explore. And if you think that's all there is to it, think again. You only need scratch the surface of the quiet achiever of Australian cities to tap into its hedonistic vein. This epicurean playground boasts world-renown major events, spanning the cultured and cerebral, artistic and gastronomic, petrol-burning and sports crazed. The pleasure-seeking spirit flows from varied cuisines and magnificent wines through to the healthy live music and bar scene and numerous galas that celebrate a thriving arts community. During the innovative Adelaide Fringe Festival, the artistic flair of this historically progressive, yet still conservative, city truly emerges.

The traditional owners of the [Adelaide](#) area are the Kaurna people, whose territory extends south towards Cape Jervis and north towards Port Wakefield. Early European colonists (free settlers) began to arrive in 1836, creating a lush, European-style capital, while successive waves of settlers have added to the cosmopolitan mix.

Adelaide is just a cycle away from native bushland hiking in the Mt Lofty Ranges. The city makes an excellent base for trips into the nearby wine regions, surf lessons on the Fleurieu Peninsula and hikes through the wildlife lair of Kangaroo Island.

As South Australia's seat of government and commercial centre, Adelaide is the site of many governmental and financial institutions. Most of these are concentrated in the city centre along the cultural boulevard of [North Terrace](#), [King William Street](#) and in various districts of the metropolitan area.

[SA Whale Centre](#)

This is South Australia's key source of information on where to find the visiting Southern Right Whales during whale season - May to October each year.

[Temptation Sailing - Dolphin Swim](#)

The *Temptation* is a 57ft sailing catamaran - but the most important thing to know about *Temptation*, is that it has never been out on a dolphin swim or watch cruise without seeing a dolphin. The swim is so successful, you are promised your money back if you don't get to swim with dolphins. Can't swim? Not a problem - all swimmers wear a full length wetsuit that acts as a flotation device. Part proceeds from each swim goes to dolphin research.

Whether you want to party or relax on your next holiday, South Australia's capital has it all. With spacious boulevards and vibrant inner-city districts, sophisticated architecture and lush gardens, Adelaide is the perfect venue for all sorts of holiday activities - big or small.

You might want to immerse yourself in the culture of Adelaide's [North Terrace](#), with its museums and city cafes. You might want to indulge in retail therapy while shopping at [Rundle Mall](#), sample the tastes on offer at the famed [Adelaide Central Market](#), or sip award-winning wines at the [National Wine Centre](#).

You might prefer to follow in the footsteps of sporting champions at the world-famous [Adelaide Oval](#). Or enjoy a retreat to the cosmopolitan seaside suburbs of [Glenelg](#) and Brighton.

In Adelaide, there is a brilliant blend of things to see and do. All you have to do is choose.

[Adelaide shop for sale southern adelaide hackham west](#)

British Captain [Matthew Flinders](#) and French Captain [Nicolas Baudin](#) independently charted the southern coast of the Australian continent. In [1802](#) Flinders named [Mount Lofty](#) but recorded little of the area which is now Adelaide. 28 years later [Charles Sturt](#) explored the [Murray River](#) and was impressed with what he briefly saw, later writing:

"Hurriedas my view of it was, my eye never fell on a country of more promising aspect, or more favourable position, than that which occupies the space between the lake ([Lake Alexandrina](#)) and the ranges of the [St. Vincent Gulf](#), and, continuing northerly from [Mount Barker](#) stretches away, without any visible boundary".

Captain [Collet Barker](#), sent by [New South Wales](#) Governor [Ralph Darling](#) conducted a more thorough survey of the area in [1831](#), as recommended by Sturt. After swimming the [mouth of the Murray River](#), Barker was killed by natives who may have had contact with sealers and escaped convicts in the region. Despite this, his more detailed survey led Sturt to conclude in his [1833](#) report:

Named in honour of [Queen Adelaide](#), the [consort](#) of [King William IV](#), the city was founded in 1836 as the [planned capital](#) for the only freely-settled British [province](#) in Australia. [Colonel William Light](#), one of Adelaide's founding fathers, designed the city and chose its location close to the [River Torrens](#) in an area traditionally inhabited by the [Kaurna](#) aboriginal peoples. Light's design set out Adelaide in

a grid layout, interspaced by wide boulevards and large public squares, and entirely surrounded by [parkland](#). Early Adelaide was shaped by religious freedom and a commitment to political [progressivism](#) and civil liberties, which led to world-first reforms. Today Adelaide is known for its many [festivals](#) as well as for its wine, arts and sports.

"It would appear that a spot has at last been found upon the south coast of [New Holland](#) to which the colonists might venture with every prospect of successAll who have ever landed upon the eastern shore of the St. Vincent's Gulf agree as to the richness of its soil and the abundance of its pastures."

A group in Britain led by [Edward Gibbon Wakefield](#) were looking to start a colony based on free settlement rather than convict labour. After problems in other Australian colonies arising from existing settlement methods, the time was right to form a more methodical approach to establishing a colony. In [1829](#) an imprisoned Wakefield wrote a series of letters about systematic colonisation which were published in a daily newspaper. He suggested that instead of granting free land to settlers as had happened in other colonies, the land should be sold. The money from land purchases would be used solely to transport labourers to the colony free of charge, who were responsible and skilled workers rather than paupers and convicts. Land prices needed to be high enough so that workers who saved to buy land of their own remained in the [workforce](#) long enough to avoid a [labour shortage](#).

[Robert Gouger](#), Wakefield's secretary promoted Wakefield's theories and organised societies of people interested in the scheme. In [1834](#) the South Australian Association, with the aid of such figures as [George Grote](#), [William Molesworth](#) and the [Duke of Wellington](#) persuaded British Parliament to pass the [South Australian Colonisation act](#), succeeding where two previous organisations had failed. Wakefield wanted the colony's capital to be called [Wellington](#) but [King William IV](#) preferred it to be named after his [consort](#), [Queen Adelaide](#). The British government appointed a Board of Commissioners from people nominated by the South Australian Association, with the task of organising the new colony and meeting the condition of selling at least £3,500 worth of land. The province and its capital were named, planned, advertised and largely sold before a single settler had set foot in their new home.

Free passage was given to "suitable" labourers, generally men and women under 30 years of age who were healthy and of good character, expected to carry out a promise of working for wages until they have saved enough to buy land of their own and employ others, a process taking at least 3 or 4 years. Land sales were encouraged by granting one acre (4,000 m²) of town land in Adelaide for every 80 acres (324,000 m²) of rural land sold. The largest buyer of land was the [South Australia Company](#) headed by [George Fife Angas](#), which bought enough land for South Australia to proceed, and continued to influence the colony's future development. With the government's conditions met, King William IV signed the [Letters Patent](#) and the first settlers and officials set sail in early 1836.

[Adelaide Zoo](#)

Considered one of the world's best intimate zoos, the Adelaide Zoo is where you can see more than 3000 mammals, birds, reptiles and fish, all in beautiful botanic surroundings. Don't miss the Australian native animals, the South East Asian Rainforet, the Children's Zoo and Seal Bay. Feeding time is always popular.

[Cleland Wildlife Park](#)

Wander freely among kangaroos, wallabies, emus and waterbirds and see dingoes, Tasmanian devils, wombats, koalas and reptiles. This park is internationally famous for its Koala Close-ups, where you can meet and hold these loved residents. There are good walking trails through the park and organised night walks reveal a world of nocturnal native animals.

[Gorge Wildlife Park](#)

Not your average wildlife park, but a place where people and animals come together. Follow paths through the 14 acres of land here, looking out for your favourite Australian animals such as koalas, kangaroos and wombats. There are also many exotic animals - monkeys, alligators, meerkats, otters and more. You'll also see a vast range of birds, from Fairy Wrens to ostriches. There are koala-holding sessions every day.

[Monarto Zoological Park](#)

Take a safari bus tour and spot African, Asian and Australian animals. There are lions, Southern White Rhinoceros, cheetahs, giraffes, zebras, bison and African Painted Dogs. You can choose from three nature walks too. Monarto also offers exclusive behind-the-scenes experiences including Working With Wildlife, Meet Our Cheetah, and Meet Our Lions. This special place is world renowned for its conservation of rare and endangered species.

[Rodney Fox Shark Experience](#)

Since Rodney Fox's miraculous survival of a shark attack in 1963, he has spent his life studying and filming the Great White Shark. In his museum, see full size Great White Shark models and jaws. To see a shark in the wild, join one of Rodney's expeditions!

[Urmbirra Wildlife Experience](#)

Explore this 16 hectares of bush and woodland that's home to a wide range of mammals, birds and reptiles. The park also has evidence of Aboriginal tribal activity and canoe and shield trees. Paths through the park give you the chance to see more than 70 species of Australian fauna in their natural surroundings, including kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, emus, dingoes and wombats. There are also pelicans, spoonbills, black swan, egrets and Cape Barren Geese on the lake. Don't miss the Nocturnal House, where you can see some of Australia's interesting night creatures at feed and play.

[Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary](#)

This natural paradise gives a powerful glimpse of Australia 200 years ago - a sanctuary for native plants and rare and endangered animals. Take a guided nocturnal walk, or a self-guided daytime adventure along the waterways and into the rainforest. You may see bettongs, potoroos, bandicoots, wallabies, kangaroos, bilbies, quolls and platypus.