

Editorial: Wallaroo

Footsteps gradually wash away into the sandy beaches of the Wallaroo foreshore. The waves rise and fall like steady breathing, while locals and visitors stroll untroubled into the sunset. The breathtaking skies of the Yorke Peninsula mirror on the water, waves crash gently against rocks as the sound echoes tranquilly in the distance. It is easy to see why Wallaroo is known to many as one of South Australia's most popular coastal escapes: kilometres of white sandy beaches, a prominent fishing jetty, a picturesque setting with the sun reflecting off the waters and the relaxed atmosphere of the Yorke Peninsula's largest seaside town.

Less than a two-hour drive from Adelaide and a one-hour trek from the Clare Valley and Flinders Ranges regions, this charming town was once the second busiest port in the state when the scramble to find copper was on. Now, Wallaroo is a goldmine for tourists, as every place you turn is a reminder of the land's riches—both old and new. Wallaroo's foreshore offers an experience like no other. Drive straight onto the scenic North Beach. Gaze your eyes on the last remaining Welsh Hughes Chimney Stack of one of the largest smelting industries in the Southern Hemisphere. Still enjoy beautiful sights once the sun sets with a nightly light show illuminating the silos into an art installation for all to enjoy under a starry night.

Walking down the 869 metre Wallaroo Jetty, your foreshore experience is truly complete. Wandering hand-in-hand with a loved one, the fresh ocean breeze glides through your hair as the friendly locals are more than willing to show off their catch. You may even be convinced to run to the nearest tackle shop and throw in your own line.

Squid, whiting, tommies, garfish and blue swimmer crabs are regulars to the surface—perhaps they enjoy the serenity as well, catching a glimpse of the horizon as dinghies, trawlers, ships and boats glide through the myriads of shining blue gems we call the ocean. A dive underwater and behold all the wonder of the marine life. Take a swim or paddle and you may find yourself some company in one of our friendly dolphins or seals. These elements set the scene for cherished memories to be created. Reminisce about your time while digging into some freshly caught fish and chips by the foreshore...just watch out for the seagulls; they will want their share!

Away from the shores, the extensive redevelopment of the main street awaits; the new modern structures complimenting the vintage characteristics that remain. With a range of shops, cafes, restaurants and hotels, be sure to take a break, find that boutique souvenir, soak in the main street arts and watch your troubles melt away as you indulge in the gourmet foods, coffee blends, distilled gins and brewed beers of Wallaroo; there is something for everyone. Seafood is an obvious highlight, and even if you fail to haul in a big catch, our local eateries put a spin on their own signature dishes that are sure to tantalise those taste buds.

Travel back in time with 44 various Wallaroo Heritage Trail stops and let the walls of the popular Nautical & Heritage Museum tell Wallaroo's tales with the largest pictorial display of Sailing Ships in the State—and no visit is complete without meeting George the Giant Squid.

The cycling and walking paths of Wallaroo will lead you in the right direction, connecting all areas to explore this seaside town at your own leisure. If you're looking to break a sweat, the Saturday morning Copper Trail ParkRun will leave you streaming

alongside the old train tracks between Wallaroo and Kadina, beholding the sights of the inland like the thousands of inbound miners before you.

Don't "fur-get" to take your furry-friend to the Wallaroo Dog Park. The "pup-arazzi" will be required as your dog will be "paw-sing" for a photo aboard the Wallaroo dragon boat. Open 24/7, you'll be left "retrieving" your best friend, who won't want to leave the dog agility and exercise equipment alone.

To get the full Wallaroo experience, make sure you time your visit to immerse yourself in the local culture with the biennial FLAME Festival or Kernewek Lowender - Copper Coast Cornish Festival. Get your FLAME on and experience the Food, Light, Art, Music and Entertainment our region has to offer, or delve into our Cornish Mining roots and dress the part of Cousin Jack and Jenny with numerous events and activities on offer. Once the days are done, you'll still be mesmerised by the sights some of our accommodation spots offer, with hotels, caravan parks and resorts only a stone throw away from the sea.

Visit Wallaroo and we promise it won't be your last.