

Welcome to one of South Australia's key diving and snorkelling areas. Explore the huge diversity and abundance of marine life found around our shores and jetties, thanks to a unique combination of unspoilt ocean waters and variety of habitats including sandy beaches, reefs and island.

There are two underwater Maritime Heritage Trails providing excellent diving opportunities. The Wardang Island Maritime Heritage Trail has eight wrecks to view, while the Investigator Strait Trail offers twenty eight vessels. We encourage you to explore, photograph and enjoy our shipwrecks, but please do not interfere with them or disturb them in any way. Be mindful not to anchor over a shipwreck, as anchors can do immense damage to these fragile wrecks.

Edithburgh Jetty - this world renowned spot offers spectacular diving. It's a very easy dive, nine metres maximum and good for all levels of experience. Expect to see plenty of marine life such as big-bellied seahorses, Port Jackson sharks, leafy sea dragons, ornate cow fish, giant cuttlefish and dumpling squid

Stenhouse Bay Jetty in Innes National Park is a diving treasure. With a depth of ten metres, it's a fantastic reward after a steep climb down a cliff face. Expect to see leafy sea dragons, basket star fish, box fish and many other creatures not found elsewhere.

Point Turton Jetty - a relatively shallow dive with a maximum depth of four to five metres. The jetty is quite small, with lots of juvenile fish making it their home. The dive can be extended to take in the whole bay, with abalone and crayfish to be found amongst the rocks to the left of the jetty. Around the bay you might expect to find a soft sandy bottom with lots of grassy patches that shelter small Port Jackson sharks and stingrays.

Ardrossan Jetty - under this small jetty, divers can expect to find abundant marine life including a big school of long finned pike near the end of the jetty. Sting rays and fiddler rays are often seen in the area, attracted by scraps from the local fishermen. The **Zanoni** shipwreck is found ten nautical miles south east of Ardrossan. Permits for diving on the wreck can be obtained from the Maritime Heritage Branch of the Department for Environment and Heritage.

Port Giles Jetty - plenty of marine life to be found here including leafy sea dragons, box fish and cuttlefish. This jetty is a commercial jetty for the use of grain ships, so check with authorities first.

Wool Bay Jetty - a very shallow and pleasant dive with a maximum depth of four to five metres, possibly the best spot in South Australia to see the leafy sea dragon.



Please be wary of poking around rocks, rubble and other places which are ideal hiding places for venomous creatures such as the blue ring octopus.



Parsons Beach Reef - on a calm day this is the perfect spot for beginners to snorkel. The reef runs the length of Parsons Beach with a variety of marine life to observe in the shallows. Park your car in the car park and walk along the beach.

Hardwicke Bay - known for its crystal clear and relatively shallow water, Hardwicke Bay is an ideal snorkelling and swimming spot for adults and children alike. Dolphins regularly feed around the shallow reefs directly in front of the beach, which shelter beautiful sandbar strips.

Bluff Beach Reef - leafy sea dragons shelter in sea grasses in this area or explore the shallow reefs and rock pools.

Port Moorowie - Point Gilbert offers fantastic shallow snorkeling, with great visibility. Expect to see a Port Jackson shark nursery and huge eagle rays.

Browns Beach, Innes National Park - when the tide is out on a calm day a beautiful reef is exposed, providing rock pools to snorkel in. The swell at Browns Beach is powerful and swimming/snorkelling is not recommended when the tide is in.

Local Dive and Scuba Clubs

Wallaroo and Districts Dive Club – Diving Yorke Peninsula and Beyond – Phone President Kim Gloyn: 0400 168 739, Secretary Miranda Westbrook: 0418 859 334 or email: peter.moody@ypdive.org.au

Wallaroo Scuba Association - Wallaroo Scuba Association is for recreational dives and consists of scuba diving enthusiasts who get together in the name of fun and diving. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Wallarooscubadiving>, Phone: 08 8381 1119, E-mail: mark@wallarooscubaclub.com.au

* * SAFETY FIRST * *

*Remember to slip, slop, slap, seek and slide
and remain hydrated*

Visitors participating in activities near the coast or in the water should be aware of unstable cliffs, rips, slippery rocks, submerged objects and changing conditions. Beaches on Yorke Peninsula do not have flags or life savers. Always take notice of the safety signs on beaches and respect the potentially dangerous nature of these areas. Seek advice from locals and experienced surfers.

Be vigilant with small children and swimmers, as even the tamest conditions can be dangerous for the unwary. Never allow children to swim or surf unsupervised. Most incidents involving young children at the beach occur because their parents' attention is somewhere else. The best way to supervise your child is to actively interact and engage with them.

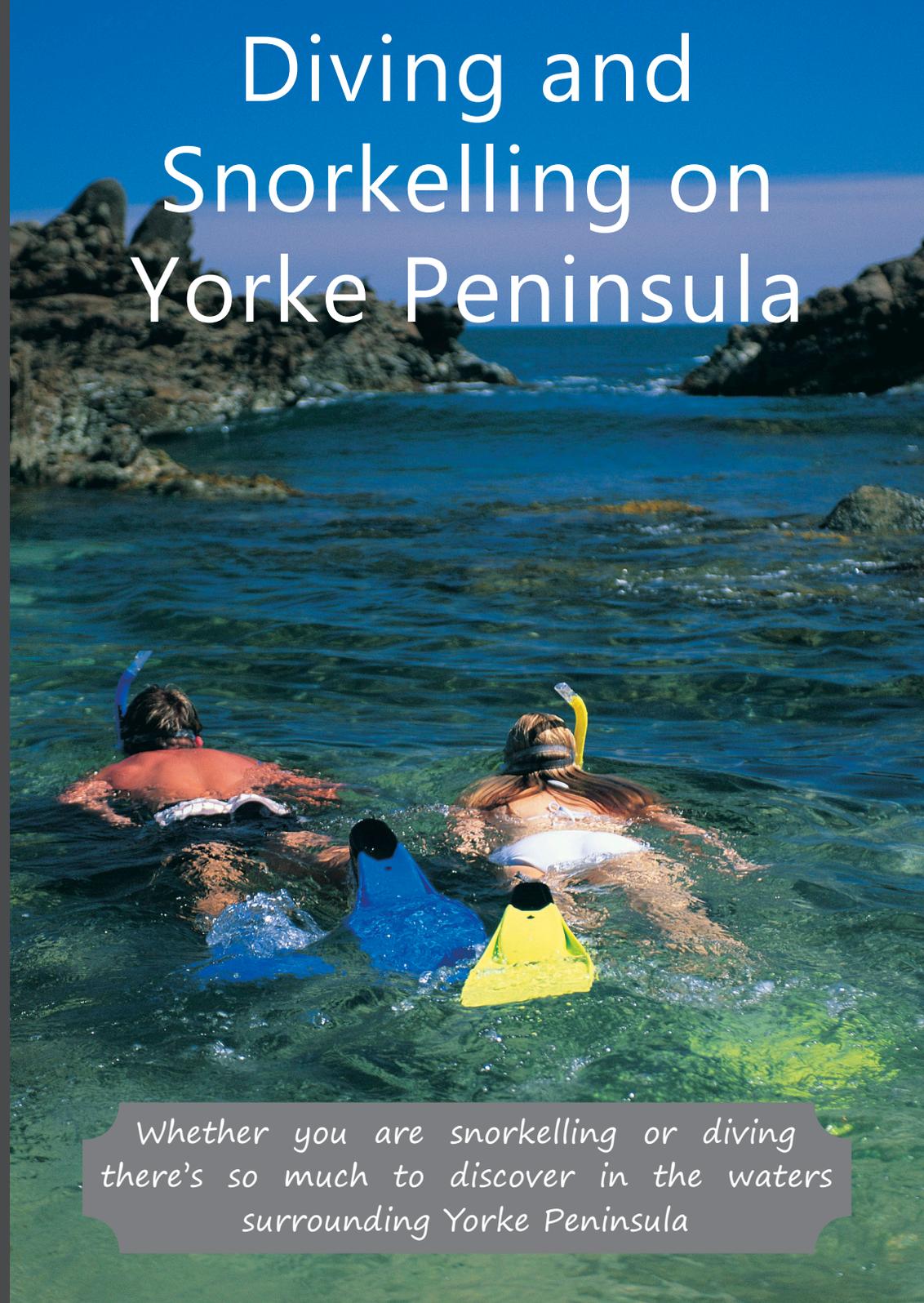
Rips are the number one hazard on Australian beaches.

Many people think it's just tourists and poor swimmers who get caught in rip currents. In fact, young men aged 15-39 years are most likely to die in rips. The majority of drownings occur after swimmers begin to panic and attempt to swim against the current directly back to the shoreline. This leaves them exhausted and unable to stay afloat. Rip currents have also been responsible for claiming the lives of non-swimmers, who were dragged from shallow and waist-deep water into deeper surf.

How to spot a rip current - Rips are complex, can quickly change shape and location, and at times are difficult to see. The things to look for are deeper, dark-coloured water; fewer breaking waves; a rippled surface surrounded by smooth waters; and anything floating out to sea or foamy, discoloured, or sandy water flowing out beyond the waves. Rips don't always show all of these signs at once.

How to survive a rip current - Stay calm and consider your options. Raise an arm to seek help. Try floating with the current, it may bring you back to shore. Swim parallel to the shore or towards breaking waves and use them to help you in. Reassess your situation. If what you're doing isn't working, try one of the other options until you're rescued or return to shore.

Diving and Snorkelling on Yorke Peninsula



*Whether you are snorkelling or diving
there's so much to discover in the waters
surrounding Yorke Peninsula*