



FOUR SEASONS OF BOATING & FISHING ON KANGAROO ISLAND

It's hard not to boast about the fishing around Kangaroo Island. Some say it has the finest eating and game fishing in southern waters. Kangaroo Island's mostly moderate weather allows recreational fishing all year round.

Fishing is a daily ritual for many Kangaroo Islanders, and if anyone knows, a local does. So, dangle a line from a jetty, cast off from a beach, hire a dinghy, leap into your kayak, or charter a deep-sea boat – and enjoy.

The most popular fish by far is King George Whiting, sought by three-quarters of all recreational fishers. And the good news is it's available year round, and right around the island.

While the fish of Kangaroo Island, their habitat and breeding grounds are protected, recreational fishing is allowed everywhere except sanctuary zones and restricted access areas (check the signs at launch points across the island).

That leaves most jetties, bays, beaches, rocks and waters around Kangaroo Island free for your fishing pleasure with many top fishing spots accessible without going to sea in a boat. Jetties are dotted around the coast and are the perfect place to drop a handline over the edge while you relax as you listen to the lapping of waves against the piers, and the cries of sea birds. Emu Bay and Pennington Bay are great spots for beach fishing. You'll rarely have competition from other anglers. Chat to locals as they wander by and immerse yourself in the fishing experience, anything you catch will be a bonus.

Bait, tackle and ice are available at several locations across the Island. If you want to maximise your catch with the minimum of effort, get on board with one of our local fishing experts and treat yourself to a fishing charter experience.

Autumn

The mild, calm weather of autumn makes fishing all the more relaxed and comfortable.

King George Whiting are biting, squid are widespread, particularly over seagrass meadows, Tommy Ruff and Snapper are waiting in sheltered waters off the north coast and flathead lie mainly in sheltered shallow sandy beaches. Gummy Shark can be found off sandy beaches around the island, and in sheltered north coast bays.

Trevally are also widespread along the north and south coasts, Red Mullet schools arrive at Wreckers Beach. Yellowtail Kingfish can be found at a few locations – try Cape Willoughby and around artificial structures in Nepean Bay.

Tuna are active off the north coast, west of Snellings Beach, off the south coast, and around the Pages Islands. Take your family along to the annual American River Fishing Spectacular competition on the Easter weekend, and compare your fishing prowess with the locals.

Winter

Winter seas can be pounding on Kangaroo Island, which can add to the fishing excitement – and the rewards are plenty. Always take care when fishing off rocks and heed any warning signs.

Eastern Cove, Smith Bay and Boxing Bay are brimming with King George Whiting. School Mulloway are pouring into Snellings Beach. It's Snapper time at Smith Bay and other north coast locations.

The prospects are good for large Salmon Trout off exposed south coast beaches like Hanson Bay. In D'Estrees Bay, large snook are plentiful. Sweep are widespread around rocky reefs and other artificial structures, and Nannygai are offshore of north and south coast rocky reefs.

Try D'Estrees Bay, Cape Dutton and Stokes Bay for large snook.

And there's always squid over seagrass meadows, Tommy Ruff in sheltered parts of the north coast and flathead at sheltered shallow sandy beaches.

Spring

In the changeable spring weather, try fishing inshore at American River and Nepean Bay for snook, King George Whiting, Trevally, Southern Calamari, Tommy Ruff and Salmon Trout.

Or cast a line from jetties at Kingscote, Penneshaw, Vivonne Bay for Southern Calamari, Snook, Australian Herring, Trevally and some King George Whiting.

If you're keen to go out in a boat you might expect Southern Bluefin Tuna, Bight Redfish, Snapper, Blue Morwong, Gummy Shark, Silver Trevally and King George Whiting.

Spring is the most productive time for Black Bream which is abundant in brackish estuaries of rivers such as Chapman, Cygnet, Middle, South West and Harriet.

Summer

When the water is warm in summer, the garfish come alive in sheltered bays. Try your hand at dab-net fishing for these tasty streaks.

Squid, snook, Red Mullet and crabs are also more abundant and widespread in the warmth. And Tommy Ruff numbers expand in the sheltered parts of the north coast.

Trevally are plentiful on the north coast. Silver Drummer is also widespread in rocky inshore coasts but is difficult to catch. Sand crabs are common in warmer months around American River.

Discover more

Launch your boat from Kangaroo Island Council ramps at American River, Bay of Shoals (Kingscote), and Christmas Cove (Penneshaw) for a fee, or from Baudin Beach or Emu Bay for free. See www.kangarooisland.sa.gov.au/recreation/boating-facilities for more information and beach launching locations.

Kayak fishing is an attractive alternative to fishing from a jetty, beach or boat. You can access places on a kayak that you cannot get to on foot or with a boat.

Download the SA Recreational Fishing Guide app (www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/recfishingapp) for details of the state's marine park sanctuary and restricted access zones and what fishing restrictions apply within these zones. You can also check limits on size, bag, boat and possession for all fish and shellfish, and season closures, for example for Rock Lobster and Snapper.

And before you head out. Always. Check. The. Weather.

Use weather apps to check the forecast before you head out and chat to a local about what to expect.

For more information visit Kangaroo Island Tourism Alliance our website www.tourkangarooisland.com.au or find a friendly local who can point you towards the best fishing spots and hire of boats and fishing gear, or can recommend a fishing charter.