



## PENNESHAW AND DUDLEY PENINSULA

**The second largest town on Kangaroo Island, with around 300 residents, the tranquil seaside town of Penneshaw is where new arrivals come ashore from the ferry and get their first glimpse of Hog Bay and the island beyond.**

Sitting at the eastern end of Kangaroo Island, tightly held by an isthmus (a narrow piece of land connecting two larger areas across an expanse of water) is the Dudley Peninsula dotted with coastal villages, including Baudin Beach, Brown Beach and Island Beach.

Nearby, the stair climb to the top of Prospect Hill will reward with views right across the peninsula and beyond towards Kingscote. Take in Pennington Bay, Pelican Lagoon and a birds eye view of that isthmus.

Whilst the northern sections of the Dudley Peninsula provide prosperous farming country, the southern coast is largely untouched and conserved in parks. You will find Dudley and Simpson Conservation Parks, along with Baudin Conservation Park, Cape Willoughby, Lashmar, Lessuer, Pelican Lagoon and Simpson Conservation Parks. A large tract of private land is protected under heritage agreement adjoining conservation parks on the southern side of the Dudley Peninsula, resulting in a continuous block of native vegetation.

The coastline at the eastern reaches, near Cape Willoughby consists of a cliff-line in the order of 40 metres to 70 metres in height. In contrast, the coast is also dotted with sandy bays such as Antechamber Bay in the north-east and Pennington Bay on the south-west coast, with wild wintery seas often pounding the coast.

The small boat harbour of Christmas Cove is on the western side of the Penneshaw town, surrounded by 20 metre high bluffs. The cove is an important geological site, with signs of our long past lying on the beach. Called glacial erratics, they developed when glaciers picked up chunks of rocks and transported them over long distances far from their origin. Look for the ice scratches in the cliff face from over 250 million years ago. Large granite boulders carried by a glacier are also now a monument to Captain Matthew Flinders.

Found in the old Hog Bay School building, the Penneshaw Maritime and Folk Museum provides a brief history of Kangaroo Island and its inhabitants. Explore their small exhibition delving into island life, including the School Room, reflecting the history of this building and the educational struggles of an isolated community. Learn about the whaling and sealing history of Kangaroo Island and a display that conveys island life, celebrating the pioneering spirit of the community who have built their lives here.

Standing proud at the easternmost point of Dudley Peninsula, keeping a watchful eye over the treacherous Backstairs Passage is the Cape Willoughby Lighthouse, South Australia's first lighthouse, built in 1852. You can join a guided tour here to learn about the life of light keepers who kept the light burning to assist safe passage and enjoy breathtaking views across Backstairs Passage from the top of the lighthouse.

Located just to the north is the Cape St Albans Lighthouse, built in 1908 to help improve the safety of this important shipping passage. It was one of the three earliest purpose-built fully automated lights installed in that era, and the only one that still exists with its original structure today.

The art culture of the Dudley Peninsula is strong, with a variety of gallery spaces and art exhibition events across the calendar. Most often featuring local artists, keep an eye out for annual SALA exhibitions and events. The Sculpture Trail right in the heart of town, is a gentle, quiet meandering walk, where nature and its various forms have been interpreted with a range of sculptural and landscape elements in a range of materials. The trail is ever evolving, growing and developing as new sculpture and landscape form is added.

Wildlife abounds on the Dudley Peninsula with Kangaroo Island Kangaroos easily spotted grazing near dawn and dusk on the edges of Pelican Lagoon and surrounding grazing land, or Chapman River. Nearby Antechamber Bay, typical of Kangaroo Island's long white sandy beaches, is bordered by Lashmar Conservation Park.

At dusk and into the evening Tammar Wallabies begin to emerge from the wooded bushland and feed near the fringes on grassy flats. Also known for its plentiful and varied birds as they pass over on their way to Lashmar Lagoon. From bush birds such as playful wrens to a myriad of coastal birds nesting and feeding on the samphire flats nearby.

Baudin Conservation Park borders the town of Penneshaw and provides great opportunity for the quiet to spy timid wildlife, such as Echidnas and Tammar Wallabies, carefully grazing on pastures or hunting for food, and quiet dusk walkers will be rewarded with sightings of the endangered Glossy Black-cockatoos feeding on carefully selected sheoak trees fringing the town.

Coastal tours depart from Penneshaw, where you will get the chance to see dolphins, seals and coastal birds of prey, or even immerse yourself totally and swim with dolphins and seals on a coastal snorkelling safari.

From atop Cape Willoughby lighthouse you can occasionally see large schools of Salmon, or Humpback, Southern Right and maybe Killer Whales.

Penneshaw is the second largest service town on the Island, with a post office, fuel station, visiting medical and community health services, a large supermarket, hotel and various cafes and dining locations. South Australia's first modern seawater desalination plant was established at Penneshaw in the 1990s, to supplement the town's limited dam water supply.

The Dudley Peninsula with its varied landscapes plays host to a range of industries including sheep and cattle farming, crop growing, vineyard holdings and wineries. The undulating landscape is dotted with lines of remnant vegetation and small creek lines, where towering Sugar Gums stand.

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