

KANGAROO ISLAND

# SURFING

Kangaroo Island's surf varies dramatically throughout the year. This guide lists five locations around Kangaroo Island where surf breaks can occasionally be found. The main swells role in from the South-Westerly direction making waves on the South and West coasts of Kangaroo Island. Northerly winds and larger swells are more common in Winter which turns on better waves. Large Westerly swells combined with a Southerly wind can often produce waves on the North Coast of Kangaroo Island.



Kangaroo Island has a very delicate ecosystem, both in and out of the water. Locals enjoy un-crowded waves throughout most of the year and take pride in the abundance of clean beaches and waters. Respect for the environment and locals must be completely understood before even thinking about a surfing holiday on Kangaroo Island. The waters are constantly cold and a full length wetsuit is a must.

Accessibility to some breaks is difficult without a 4WD and knowledge of the Island. Bitumen roads to the main beaches of Pennington Bay and Vivonne Bay makes for easy access to a surf break.



The Kangaroo Island Surfing Guide has been produced by the Kangaroo Island Gateway Visitor Information Centre. Every endeavor has been made to ensure the information contained in this leaflet is correct. The Gateway Information Centre shall not be held responsible for any personal injuries you may receive as a result of this information.

KANGAROO ISLAND

# SURFING GUIDE



**YOUR GUIDE TO SURFING ON  
KANGAROO ISLAND**





# Hanson Bay

95km from Kingscote  
125km from Penneshaw

Definitely not for beginners. Hanson Bay has one main beach with occasional sand banks and a permanent rocky point break. The best winds to look for is a North-East to Northerly. Strong rips and undertows occur in the bay, as well as Hanson Bay's exposure to larger waves, makes surfing at Hanson Bay more strenuous. Caution and a fair amount of experience are a necessity. On days of no swell the point offers spectacular diving and the main beach has excellent fishing.



# Vivonne Bay

61km from Kingscote  
93km from Penneshaw

Suitable for beginners through to advanced surfers. Vivonne Bay is a 6km long beach with two rivers (Harriet and Eleanor) following into the sea. The best winds for Vivonne Bay are from the North-East to Westerly directions. The waves are mainly sand breaks and vary in size depending on which end of the beach you are surfing. The closer to the Western end of the beach you are, the smaller the waves become. This fact, as well as relatively mild rips and undertows, makes Vivonne Bay an ideal destination for people learning to surf. However, the sand banks can turn on quality waves for more advanced surfers.



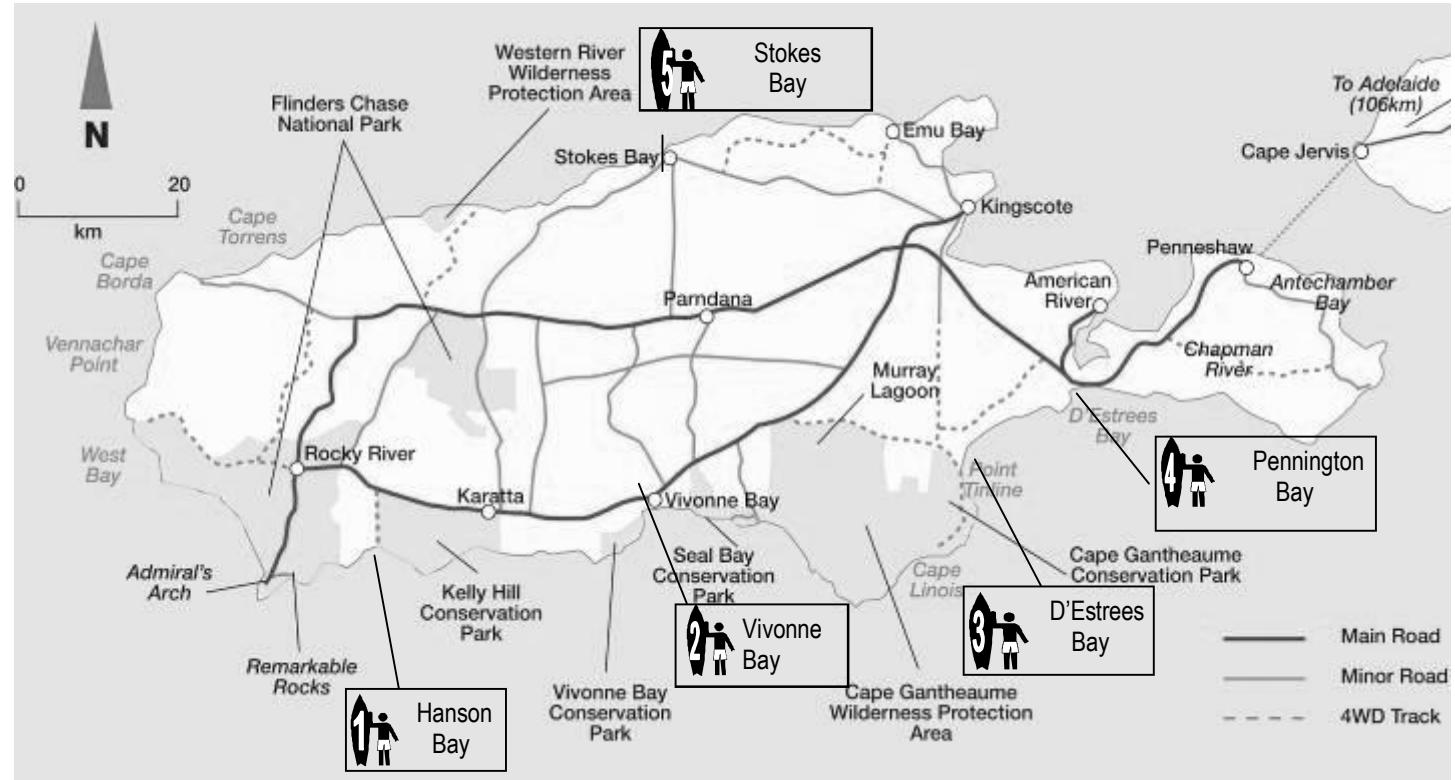
# D'Estrees Bay

40km from Kingscote  
63km from Penneshaw

Suitable for advanced surfers. The main beach of D'Estrees Bay is sheltered from the South Westerly swells and only on a big swell can you get waves on the beach. The main surfing breaks are located in the Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park. This area is protected by National Parks, so respect speed limits and the environment. Surfing here is not recommended for beginners and those who are not confident in their

ability. The waves tend to work best on North-West to Westerly winds. D'Estrees Bay surfing is all reef banks, channels and rips. Being very exposed to the Southern Ocean, occasional massive swells wrap around the reefs creating spectacular, but un-surfable waves. 4WD vehicle may be required to access this location in Winter.

beach breaks. Pennington is popular so be prepared to share the waves.



# Pennington Bay

37km from Kingscote  
32km from Penneshaw

Suitable for beginners through to advanced surfers. Pennington Bay works best on a small swell when the winds are from the North-Easterly direction. Shallow sand banks makes surfing on small days possible and car parks on the cliff gives observers easy viewing. The small land mass between Pennington Bay and American River means Pennington Bay is not affected by sea breezes as much as other breaks on the South Coast. Big waves tend to shut down the bay and make surfing difficult. Experienced surfers can occasionally enjoy quality



# Stokes Bay

50km from Kingscote  
88km from Penneshaw

Suitable for beginners through to advanced surfers. Stokes Bay has reef and beach breaks depending on the size of the swell. The North Coast requires a large westerly swell, unlike the South Coast where the coast constantly receives strong swell, the best winds to have at Stokes Bay are Southerly. The North Coast rarely produces quality waves due to its sheltered coastline and lack of swell, but when there are waves, Stokes Bay can turn it on as good as any South Coast break.