



Self-guided Field Trip to the Flinders Ranges

The following itinerary is based on the proposed 5-day GeoSciEd X Flinders Ranges Field Trip that was unfortunately cancelled.

This link takes you to a [Google Maps view](#) of the trip, starting and finishing at Adelaide Botanic High School. Some options have been provided. It is peak season in the outback, particularly with the flooding in the Lake Eyre and desert regions. You need to have some flexibility built into your plans to accommodate unforeseen events; however, several factors require consideration before you leave Adelaide:

- accommodation availability – bookings essential
- tours and flight availability – bookings essential – see guide for links
- outback road closures – if there has been rain, unsealed roads may be closed – Parachilna, Brachina, and Bunyerroo Gorge Roads are often closed or have restricted use in winter – have a Plan B
- type of vehicle (strongly recommend hiring a 4-wheel drive with high clearance)
- limited mobile phone reception
- fuel availability

There are many resources available online regarding places to visit and accommodation options in the Flinders Ranges. Those that were going to be used for the conference trip are included. If your main goal is to visit the Nilpena Ediacara Fossil site, then this can be done comfortably in a 2-night, 3-day trip and does not require travel off the sealed main highway.

The SA Outback has experienced an unusual rainfall since February 2026 and is now quite green! A fantastic time to visit and enjoy.



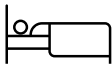
View of the Heysen Range from Trezona campsite, June 2026.



Aerial view of Witchelina Nature Reserve near Marree showing the Willouran Ranges seen during a flight from Marree in June 2026

These notes have been prepared by Dr Bronte Nicholls for delegates attending GeoSciEd X

DAY 1

0900 – 1015		Depart Adelaide heading towards Port Augusta via the Port Wakefield Road
1015 – 1045		Morning tea Port Wakefield
1045 – 1300		Drive to Saltia via Stirling North
1300 – 1330		Visit Geosites at Saltia and in the Pichi Richi railway cutting
1330 – 1345		Drive to Quorn
1345 – 1415		Lunch in Quorn
		Note: before leaving Quorn – you are entering a remote area with limited services and phone reception Quorn has a small supermarket, other supplies and fuel. Hawker has a General Store with basic supplies and two fuel stations. Leigh Creek has a small supermarket and fuel. There are no fuel or groceries at Parachilna or Blinman. There are, however, pubs and a bakery in Blinman. Agorichina Village on the Parachilna Gorge Road has fuel. Wilpena Resort has a visitors' centre hosting the National Parks and Wildlife information centre with a general store with basic supplies and fuel.
1415 – 1615		Drive to Parachilna via Hawker
1615 – 1645		Parachilna – observe the Ediacaran fossil collection outside the Prairie Hotel and displays around the town.
1800		Stay overnight and have dinner at: Prairie Hotel, Parachilna OR Leigh Creek Resort and Tavern (approx. 40-minute drive further north) Bookings essential
		You may want to add an extra day and stay overnight – lots to see and do! ○ Visit the newly (re-) opened Bakery ○ Have a tasting at Flinders Gin ○ If visiting on a Saturday, the Pichi Richi Historic Railway may be operating Bookings essential ○ Visit Warren Gorge and do the loop walk (2 hours)

DAY 2

0730		Breakfast
		Note: Check outback road conditions for Parachilna Gorge Road to Blinman. It is unsealed and may be closed or have restrictions after rain
0815		Drive to Nilpena Ediacara National Park from Leigh Creek (45 min) or Parachilna (30 min)
0930 - 1230		Nilpena Ediacara National Park Fossil Field Exploration tour (half day): Bookings can be made through the website – make sure you select the Exploration tour to visit the field site 3 hours (9:30 – 12:30)
1230 - 1300		Drive to Parachilna
1300 – 1345		Lunch at the Prairie Hotel Parachilna or picnic in Parachilna Gorge
1345 – 1430		Drive to Blinman via Parachilna Gorge – you will pass Angorchina Village where fuel may be available
1500 – 1600		Blinman Underground Mine Tour (this is the last tour of the day and needs to be booked online to avoid missing out!) Blinman surface self-guided tour after underground tour
		○ You may want to stay in Blinman and the North Blinman Hotel for a great outback pub experience ○ Visit Wadna have a chat with Kristian Coulthard and learn more about Adnyamathanha culture ○ Visit the Blinman Miner's Crib Café and Bakery ○ There are several accommodation locations and options – Blinman and Wilpena are close to Brachina and Bunyerroo Gorges and on sealed roads
1645 - 1745		Drive to Wilpena Resort – check in and settle in, OR stay at the North Blinman Hotel – bookings for both essential
		Note: Check outback road conditions for Brachina and Bunyerroo Gorge. There is little to no mobile reception once out of Blinman and Wilpena and no reception in the gorges

DAY 3

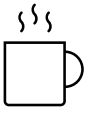
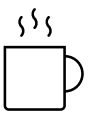
0730		Breakfast
		Note – there is no mobile reception in the Gorge, before you leave Wilpena ○ Check outback road conditions for Parachilna Gorge Road to Blinman. It is unsealed and may be closed or have restrictions after rain ○ Download Flinders Ranges Walks app ○ Pay Park entrance fees online – Ikara Flinders Ranges National Park
0815 – 0900		Drive to Brachina Gorge Road via Flinders Ranges Way which is a sealed road Turn west on to the Brachina Gorge Road which is an unsealed road with creek crossings
0915 – 1000		○ Stop at the information area just after you turn on to the Brachina Gorge Road to orientate yourself to the ‘Corridor through time’ and stops along the way and begin the trail, stopping when you see a marker ○ Drive to the Trezona campsite and turn off at the marker to the ‘Golden Spike’ Optional: Flinders Ranges Walks: Walk 7. Trezona (<i>Flinders Ranges Walks app</i>) 8.2 km allow 4 hrs. Trail head at Trezona Campsite – geosites include stromatolites and other points of interest
1000 - 1300		Follow the Brachina Gorge Road <i>using these guides</i> (there are new geosite signposts located along the trail with updated information – look for posts rather than boards) ○ Geology of the Flinders Ranges guide ○ Many other visitor guides can be found on the Flinders Ranges Council website ○ Make sure you have a water for pouring on the Wilkawillina Limestone to show off the Archaeocyatha!  Brachina-Gorge_fin al.compressed.pdf
1300 – 1330		Lunch at the Brachina Gorge West information bay/ lookout (nearest toilets at Teamsters campground)
1330 – 1400		Drive back through the Brachina Gorge Road and turn off on to the Bunyerroo Gorge Road. Follow the road through to the Bunyerroo car park where the Bunyerroo Trailhead is located (see below).
1400 – 1530		Flinders Ranges Walks: Walk 4. Bunyerroo Gorge (<i>Flinders Ranges Walks app</i>) Visit Geosite 1 – Acraman Debris – approx. 150m north from the trail head. You may be able to get to Geosite 5 depending on time – allow return walk time.

		Optional: Full walk - 8km return - allow 5 hrs for a ½ day hike
1545 - 1645		Continue driving south along the Bunyeroo Gorge Road, stopping at Razorback and Buyeroo Valley lookouts – stay for sunset!
1645 – 1730		Return to accommodation and dinner

DAY 4

0730		Breakfast
0800 – 1300	 	Optional morning activities: Flight from Wilpena Resort over the Flinders Ranges and beyond Wrights Air Wilpena Pound Flights from Rawnsley Park (a 20min drive from Wilpena Resort) Flight from Rawnsley Park OR A hike from Wilpena Pound resort for views of Wilpena Pound Ohlssen Bagge Hike or Wangara Lookout Hike
1300 – 1330		Lunch at the Wilpena Pound Visitors Centre
1345 - 1700	 	Sacred Canyon Indigenous Heritage Tour (3 hours) – bookings essential You will need to follow the guide in your vehicle along an unsealed track into Sacred Canyon. It is then a guided hike into the canyon. NB – these tours generally operate in the morning, however contact the providers below for afternoon availability or swap morning and afternoon activities - Wadna - Wilpena Pound Resort
1700 – 1830		Return to accommodation and dinner

DAY 5

0730		Breakfast
0800 – 0930	 	Leave Wilpena Resort and drive towards Hawker stopping at various lookouts along the way which have interpretation boards describing the local geology: Rawnsley Lookout Elder Range Lookout Arkaba Hill Lookout
0930 - 1100	 	Morning tea in Hawker Visit the Jeff Morgan Gallery – Panorama paintings of the Flinders and other displays OR Arkaroo Rock cultural site hike – 3 km loop track (allow 2 hrs) Recently reopened, it is certainly worth a visit to view significant Adnyamathanha rock paintings, adding to the Sacred Canyon experience
1100 – 1400	 	Drive to Clare via Orroroo and Jamestown – observe the wind farms along the way Lunch in Orroroo or Jamestown
1400 – 1600	  	Visit the Quarry Hill Lookout – about 5km out of Clare, turn off the Horrocks Hwy east onto Quarry Road Visit one of the many nearby wineries for a tasting and coffee break: bookings may be required
1600 - 1800		Drive to Adelaide CBD
		You may want to add an extra day and stay overnight in the Clare Valley – lots to see and do! This guide :Clare Valley Rocks – the earth beneath our vines was developed for the 23rd Australian Earth Sciences Convention in June 2016 and provides a useful resources for exploring the geology of the Clare Valley.