King Island

RESERVES

Visitors to the reserves of King Island can enjoy a variety of activities including swimming, bushwalking, surfing, fishing and bird watching. Visitor information, picnic tables and barbeques are also provided at several locations.

Lavinia State Reserve

Lavinia State Reserve is situated on the North East coast of King Island. The reserve was named after the 52 ton schooner Martha Lavinia that, in 1871 travelling from Tasmania to Adelaide struck a reef offshore near the reserve.

The reserve contains spectacular coastal and bush scenery, wildlife and a significant lagoon and wetland system. The reserve is listed under the RAMSAR convention as a Wetland of International Importance. This reserve is also home for a number of rare birds including the endangered orange-bellied parrot.

Northern section

Within the northern section of Lavinia State Reserve lays Lavinia Beach and two fresh water lakes: Lake Martha Lavinia and Penny's Lagoon.

With white sand seeming to stretch forever and a world class surf break Lavinia Beach is one of the most popular surfing and fishing locations on the island.

Penny's Lagoon is a rare perched lake found in only three locations in the world. It's freshwater is held by compacted sand and organic matter. The lagoon is a favourite swimming spot for locals and visitors. Facilities provided are picnic tables, wood fired barbecues and a toilet.

Southern Section - Sea Elephant

Sea Elephant named after the Southern elephant seals that used to be abundant here. A walk along the river provides easy access to view King Island's abundant bird species. This area is also a temporary home for the endangered Orange Bellied Parrot that visits the Island in autumn and spring. Visitor facilities provided here are toilets, a picnic area and information panels.

Cape Wickham State Reserve

Situated on the northern tip of the island this reserve contains the famous Cape Wickham Lighthouse which at

52 metres high is the tallest in Australia. The lighthouse was constructed in 1861 and still guards the entrance to the strait today. Also within the reserve are the gravesites of some of the crew of Loch Leven, a ship that was wrecked nearby. A cairn shows a map of the old Victoria Cove settlement that used to exist here, and interpretation boards tell the story of numerous wrecks in the area.

Facilities include a picnic shelter, toilet and and visitor information panels.

Seal Rocks State Reserve

In the south-west of the island the Seal Rocks State Reserve contains the 7000 year old calcified forest and spectacular cliffs at Seal Rocks.

Walking Tracks

Short walks	Difficulty	Time
Calcified Forest	Easy	30 mins
Seal Rocks Lookout	Easy	10 mins
Copperhead/Cliff top walk	Moderate	1.5 hrs
King Island beaches	Easy	
Sea Elephant Estuary	Easy	20 mins

Calcified Forest

A short walk from the car park takes you to the fascinating calcified forest, where you can view the calcified root systems of an ancient forest. Look out for Bennets wallabies, echidnas, blue tongue lizards and an abundance of bird life along the way.

Visitor facilities provided here are a toilet and picnic shelter.

Seal Rocks

The coast here is dominated by the tallest cliffs on the Island rising to 60 metres. Take the easy 80 metre boardwalk to the spectacular view of the cliffs of Seal Rocks and across the Southern Ocean where you can watch the roaring forties roll in. Thousands of kilometres of ocean separate King Island from South America the closest landmass to the west.

Copperhead /Cliff top Walk

This inspiring walk follows the spectacular cliffs of Seal Rocks. The Copperhead/Cliff top walk is a minimal impact walk that allows you to choose your own path, this helps to minimise erosion in this sensitive area. Please use the track markers as a guide and ensure appropriate safe footwear is worn. Please take care as this walk is remote and follows steep cliffs. It is not suitable for children.

Minimal Impact Bushwalking

- Keep your group small to minimise trampling damage
- Avoid walking on sensitive vegetation.
- Where possible walk on rocks and not vegetation.

Your Safety

Beaches are not patrolled. Please look out for surf rips and undertows.

Please keep vehicles to formed roads.

Caring for your Reserves

Fires

Fires may only be lit in the designated fireplaces provided, however the use of fuel stoves is recommended to reduce environmental impacts.

Firewood is not supplied.

Chainsaws are not permitted in the reserves.

Fires must not be left unattended, and must be fully extinguished before you leave.

On total fire ban days no fires are allowed.

Rubbish

'If you carry it in, please carry it out'

Rubbish bins are not provided please take all your rubbish with you when you leave.

Further Information

Parks and Wildlife Service
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www.parks.tas.gov.au

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