

Coorong National Park *Secrets*

Camp sites

Salt Creek

Some consider Salt Creek to be the heart of the Coorong. Drainage from the South-east of South Australia flows into the Coorong at this point creating welcome freshwater flows to the highly saline Coorong southern lagoon. Islands along the lagoon provide important habitat for migratory birds visiting in spring and summer from as far away as Siberia. The islands are also important breeding grounds for the Australian pelican and a variety of wetland birds (refer to the separate "Nursery of the Coorong" information sheet).

There are three small bush camp grounds in the immediate Salt Creek area. All are accessible from the Loop Road. A fourth small camp ground further along the Loop Road at the Tea Tree Crossing is covered in a separate information sheet. Camping is also available at the Salt Creek Roadhouse. Apart from one or two individual sites at the 42 Mile Crossing, the Salt Creek camp grounds are the only sites within the Coorong National Park providing shade. You have a good chance of seeing emus and kangaroos along the walking trails in this area, in particular along the Lakes Nature Trail. Mallee fowl can also be found in the area.

Directions given in the sheet are based on entry to the Loop Road, off the Princes Highway, from the Salt Creek end.



Look for these camping signs on the Loop Road



Typical campsite



Picnic facilities are a stroll away from Bush Camp 1



Information bay near Bush Camp 1



Head north along the Nukan Kungun Hike to the Colin Thiele memorial



Head north along the Nukan Kungun Hike to the weir. This is the point at which water from the South-east Draining scheme enters the Coorong



The Lakes Nature Trail commences near the entrance to Bush camp 1



View of ephemeral salt lake from the Lakes Nature Trail



Remnant signs of salt harvesting as viewed from the Lakes Nature Trail

Bush Camp 1

Bush Camp 1 is the most accessible of the three camp grounds. It is in a great location just opposite the Pipe Clay Lake and the start of the Lakes Nature Trail, and is in walking distance (1 km) of the Salt Creek Roadhouse. From the camp ground a trail connects you to the Nukan Kungun Hike. Bush Camp 1 is the closest National Park camp ground to the Ngrugie Ngoppun Walk.

From Salt Creek make your way on to the Loop Road. After 900 m you will see a turn-off on your right. There are eight generous camp sites at Bush Camp 1. Most are on flat ground, provide a good degree of shade and have good clearance overhead for large recreational vehicles. This camp ground has been well set out providing adequate turning circles for most vehicles and good privacy between sites. A toilet is in walking distance from this site and is located adjacent to picnic facilities 300 m further along the Loop Road.



Bush Camp 2:

Bush Camp 2 is the most secluded of the three camp grounds. It is tucked away on your left as you progress south along the Loop Road. There are six small to medium sized camp sites with possible space for a seventh. The camp sites generally have a good, flat base suited to erecting a tent or parking a small caravan. A vehicle turning loop is provided at the end of the camp ground. A toilet is within driving or walking distance (a bit of a hike) and is located adjacent to picnic facilities and an information bay 500 m back along the Loop Road.

Bush Camp 3:

Bush Camp 3 is the closest camp ground to the Coorong. There are nine medium to large camp sites all with good overhead clearance and generally with flat ground. There is a 100m walking track extending from the camp ground to the edge of the Coorong where during times of high water you can launch a kayak and paddle for 1.7 km across to the Younghusband Peninsula. The energetic can continue on by

foot for a further 1.3 km to the ocean beach. The end of this track is a perfect spot to observe birdlife, admire the sand dunes of the Peninsula or relax and watch the sunset.

You can create your own loop walk along a section of the Nukan Kungun hike from Bush Camp 3. Cross over the Loop Road by the entrance to the camp ground, head up 70 m along the road to your right (south) and walk across a clearing to join up with the trail. Once you reach the trail you can head north, taking in a section of the Lakes Nature Trail, and return via the Loop Road or you can head south and once again return to the camp ground having met up with or cut across to the Loop Road. Bush Camp 3 is the nearest camp ground to the mallee-fowl nest which is on your left 40 m before you reach the entry to the camp ground. A toilet is provided driving distance back along the Loop Road by the picnic spot and information bay.



General information:

You will need to be totally self-sufficient, including taking your own water. Fuel, meals, refreshments, ice and bait are available at the Salt Creek Roadhouse/Caravan Park. Toilets, showers and water are available for their guests. Water can be obtained from the tap in the Lions Park in the main street of Meningie. You will need to take your rubbish away with you. The nearest rubbish bins are in Meningie. There is a caravan dump point on the Princes Highway at the southern outskirts of Meningie. Gas fires only are permitted in the Coorong National Park. Check local regulations regarding fire restrictions. Marginal Telstra 3G reception is available in the vicinity of the campgrounds. Camping permits apply – refer to [Parks SA website](#).



The Coorong is just a short stroll along this track from Bush Camp 3



A mallee fowl nest and interpretive signage is a short stroll from Bush Camp 3



This mallee fowl was spotted in 2014 in Bush Camp 3.



Produced by Friends of the Coorong with local community support

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