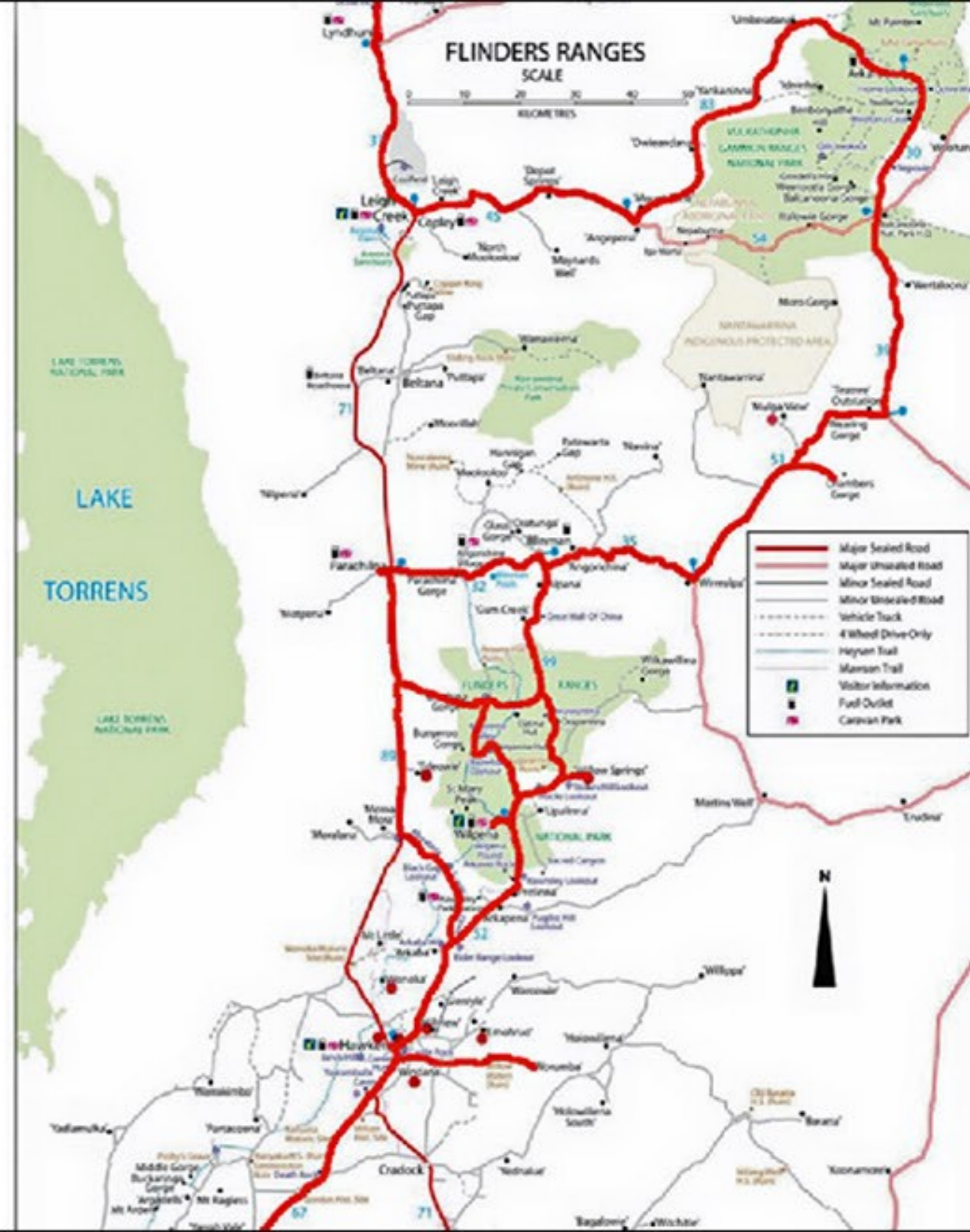




South Australia Flinders Ranges



The Journey Adelaide to Flinder Ranges



South Australia

South Australia enjoys the distinction of being Australia's first freely settled state. It's capital Adelaide, known as the "City of Churches" and known for its parklands.

To the north of Adelaide, is the Flinders Ranges national park, this ancient mountain range has jagged peaks and escarpments that rise up north of Port Augusta and track 400km north to Mt Hopeless. The colours are stunning: throughout the day, the mountains shift from mauve in the mornings to midday chocolates and ochre red at sunset. The Adnyamathanha people used the red ochre deposits, which had medicinal and ritual uses. There are Sacred caves, rock paintings and carvings that exist throughout the region.

Within the Flinders Ranges there's Wilpena Pound, Bunyeroo Gorge's ancient seabed, brilliant Brachina Gorge. There is plenty of Wildlife, wedge-tailed eagles hover majestic in the clear blue sky. Emus and kangaroos, colourful birds and reptiles.

Travelling further north are the Gammon ranges with the stunning mountains and Arkaroola township.



The journey using a Toyota pop top camper will be from Adelaide to Port Augusta via Mambray creek, then north via Quorn and Hawker. Then Flinders ranges national park, taking in Wilpena Pound, Bunyeroo gorge, Brachina Gorge. Then north to Parachina and back through the gorge to Blinman, then on to Arkaroola in the Gammon ranges.



Adelaide

Top left; The Adelaide Festival center

Top right; The Adelaide Post office.

Bottom left; The Adelaide central market.





Mambray creek

Top left; An old Homestead.

Bottom right; Kangaroo eating.

Bottom left; Young kangaroo feeding off mum.



Port Augusta

Top left; West or North

Bottom right; Train coming over the bridge.

Bottom left; Road train.





Hawker

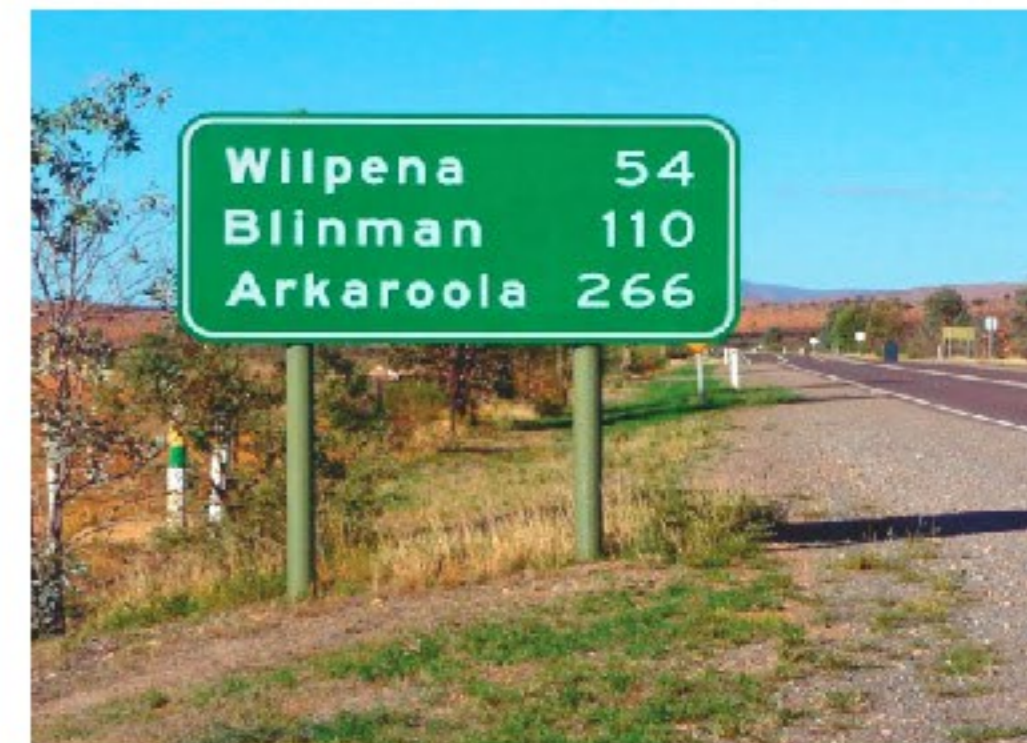
Hawker is a town in the Flinders Ranges, 365 kilometres north of Adelaide.
Hawker is the gateway to the Flinders Ranges National Park.

Yourambulla Caves

Top left; Aboriginal Rock paintings.

Top right; Aboriginal Rock paintings.

Bottom right; Yourambulla caves sign.





Top left; Free camp.

Bottom left; Goat on the side of mountain.

Bottom right; mountain.

Left Willow waters creek.



Ikara/Wilpena Pound

Adnyamathanha people are the Traditional Owners of the Wilpena Pound (Ikara) and Flinders Ranges,

'Adnya' means rock and 'mathana' means people, the Adnyamathanha people are 'the people of the rocks'.



Wilpena Station

Wilpena Station is one of the most significant pastoral sites in South Australia, the old station is being developed by the National Parks and Wildlife of South Australia.



Elder Range, Flinders Ranges, South Australia

The Flinders Ranges is a country of gum trees, growing alongside stony creeks. There are ruins of farms left by pioneers beaten by the harsh landscape. The Flinders Ranges is an ancient part of Australia full of layers, colours, and vastness. The ranges themselves are beautifully rugged, 540 million years old landscape that changes the way you look at the world.

Right; The Elder Range at sunrise.



Rawnsley range
From the Rawnsley lookout



Akurra Adnya - Arkaroo Rock

We have always been here . . . We are still here.

Ngarlparlaru yata – welcome to our land.

This traditional welcome from the Adnyamathanha community is extended to all visitors to Akurra Adnya or Arkaroo Rock.

Adnyamathanha

(pronounced Ad-na-mat-na)

are the descendants of traditional groups of Aboriginal people who lived in the Flinders Ranges and on the surrounding plains.

We are the oldest living culture on Earth.

We were here when Egyptian pharaohs built the great pyramids.
We were here when Christ was born and the prophet Muhammad died.

We were Ararra (north wind) and Mathara (south wind).

We sang our way across country, following ancient songlines
carried with a firestick placed between us, north wind and south wind.

We traded our sacred red ochre and grinding stones

for pituri (tobacco) and stone knives.

We listened to our elders who taught us rules for living through stories.

We painted and carved on rocks created by our Dreaming Ancestors.

We lived by our customary Law for one thousand generations.

We have always been here.

In just one generation
from 1850 – 1880,
white settlers
took possession
of our land.

We struggled
We suffered
We resisted
We bled
We died
We waited
We listened
We watched.

After one thousand and six generations
we remain a living culture.
We have retained our language
and many of our beliefs.
We have close contact
with our traditional country.
We are still here.



The creation of Ikara (Wilpena Pound)
Yarlfa (the King) came to his home at Karkarapunta (Tennant Creek) to attend a ceremony at Ikara (Wilpena Pound). He lit fires to signal his presence, forming the oval shape of Ikara Creek and elsewhere in the ranges.

At the same time as Yarlfa, left Karkarapunta, two Akarra, or large snakes, left their home at Ikara. Akarra, Akarra, and also travelled around Ikara.

The Akarra entered Ikara at Karkarapunta. The following morning they cut out steps in the hills on the north-western end of the range and climbed up to see what was happening.

People were gathered at Ikara for a ceremony. When they had up on the shoulders it was time to begin their ceremony. They looked the eyes of the Akarra for signs. When the ceremony began the Akarra spoke up, planning to surround the people. Yarnanpari (the male serpent) went to the north-west. Marawinda (the female serpent) went to the south-west.

They climbed, whistled and in the procession sang. And all over the ceremony except Waka the last part. Yarlfa the King and two people - Marawinda and Yarnanpari.

Yarlfa and Waka also went. The two people went to the west. Marawinda became the red cattings in the Grindstone Hill and Yarnanpari became the black cattings in the Mount Rouse. The bodies of the two Akarra form the walls of Wilpena Pound.



Arkaroo Rock



Arkaroo Rock
Aboriginal rock art



Arkaroo Rock
Aboriginal rock art

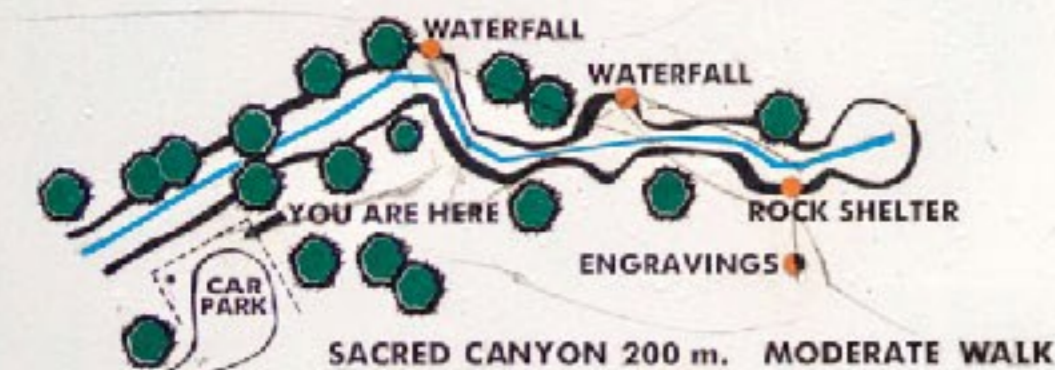
SACRED CANYON ABORIGINAL ENGRAVING SITE

Aboriginal Art of the Flinders Ranges in the form of engravings, paintings and drawings is called *Yura Marika* by the Adnyamathanha people of the Flinders Ranges.

The Adnyamathanha people are a mix of the formerly distinct but related Wailpi, Kuyani, Jadiaura Piladappa and Pankala groups. The name Adnyamathanha is a collective term now used by the groups and literally means hills people. *Adnya*-stone, hill *matha*-group

Sacred Canyon is a significant site for the Adnyamathanha people and is protected through the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988

You are asked to respect the unique value of this area and not damage the engravings. With your cooperation this site will continue to be protected for present and future generations to appreciate.



Where else can you see Aboriginal art?

Other Aboriginal art sites of interest in the Northern Flinders Ranges are Yourambulla Caves near Hawker and Arkaroo Rock in the Flinders Ranges National Park.



The Engravings



Rockhole or Spring



Kangaroo



Windbreak



Emu

Aboriginal rock engravings are found throughout South Australia. They were produced by repeatedly hitting the surface of the rock with a sharp object to produce a series of inter-connecting pits or by rubbing the rock surface with a sharp object to produce a groove. Common motifs in South Australia include geometric circles or linear designs and animal tracks. Animals and human like figures can accompany these designs.

As you walk through Sacred Canyon you will see many engravings, including motifs depicting animal tracks, geometric circles and linear designs. If you look closely you will see emu and kangaroo tracks among the engravings. The age of the engravings is not known, but the Adnyamathanha people believe that the engravings were not made by people but were created for them by ancestral beings during the Dreaming.

Photographing Engravings

Please do not try to touch up the engravings in order to photograph them better. This not only damages the engraving but causes great offence to the Aboriginal community.

The engravings will show up in any light, however, the best time to photograph engravings is when the sun is fairly low in the sky. Morning or afternoon is best. If you cannot choose your time of day, engravings on rocks that lie at an angle to the sun will photograph better than engravings on a vertical rock face.





Sacred Canyon

Aboriginal rock art



Sacred Canyon

Aboriginal rock art

Dreamtime of Yurlu the Kingfisher.

Yurlu the Kingfisher came Kakaripunha (Termination Hill), to attend an important ceremony at Ikara (Wilpena Pound), Yurlu made a big signal fire at Leigh Creek, the smoke was a sign that he was on his way to the ceremony. His fire created the coal at Leigh Creek.

At the same time, two Akurra powerful serpents set out from Arrunha Akurra Awl (Aroona Dam) to travel south to Ikara (Wilpena Pound). The people at the ceremony looked up and saw bright stars rising, they took this as a sign to start the ceremony. They didn't realise that the stars were actually the eyes of the Akurra looking down at them.

When Yurlu the kingfisher arrived, the ceremony was well under way. Yurlu snatched the firestick from Walha the turkey and threw it up into the sky. This stick turned into the red star Wildu (Mars). The two Akurra serpents came up on either side of the ceremonial ground in whirlwinds and caught and ate the people.

Four people escaped, Vardnapa, the new Vardnapa, and Yakamburu, the new Wilyanu, Walha the turkey and Yurlu the kingfisher.

Walha and Yurlu flew off south and the two new people fled eastwards, watched by the Akurra. The bodies of the two Akurra form the sides of Wilpena Pound.

Wilpena Pound/Ikara

The Adyamanthanha Aboriginal people live out here.





Dreamtime say's two giant serpents (Akurra or Arkaroo), each 20 kilometers long, surrounded a hunting party who were preparing for a ceremony. After a battle, hunters killed the snakes and their bodies petrified forming the walls of the Wilpena Pound. Two peaks of the Wilpena Pound St Mary's Peak and Beatrice Hill are heads of these serpents.

Geologists say that the Pound was formed 600 million years ago by erosion of the soft rock on the valley floor, comparing to harder rocks which form cliffs of the pound.

Wilpena Pound
From the plane



Wilpena animals

Top left; A Kangaroo.

Top right; Wedgetail Eagle.

Bottom left; Euro.

Right; Male Emu with his chicks.



Wilpena Pound

Top right; Wilpena Pound.



Bottom left; Abc range

Top left; Rawnsley range.





Bunyeroo Gorge

Bunyeroo valley road with its impressive views to Wilpena Pound's Razorback Ridge.

Top right; Rock layers.

Bottom left; Razorback range

Top left; Ghost gum.

Left; Bunyeroo Gorge.

Brachina Gorge

Top right; In the rain.

Bottom right; Abc range

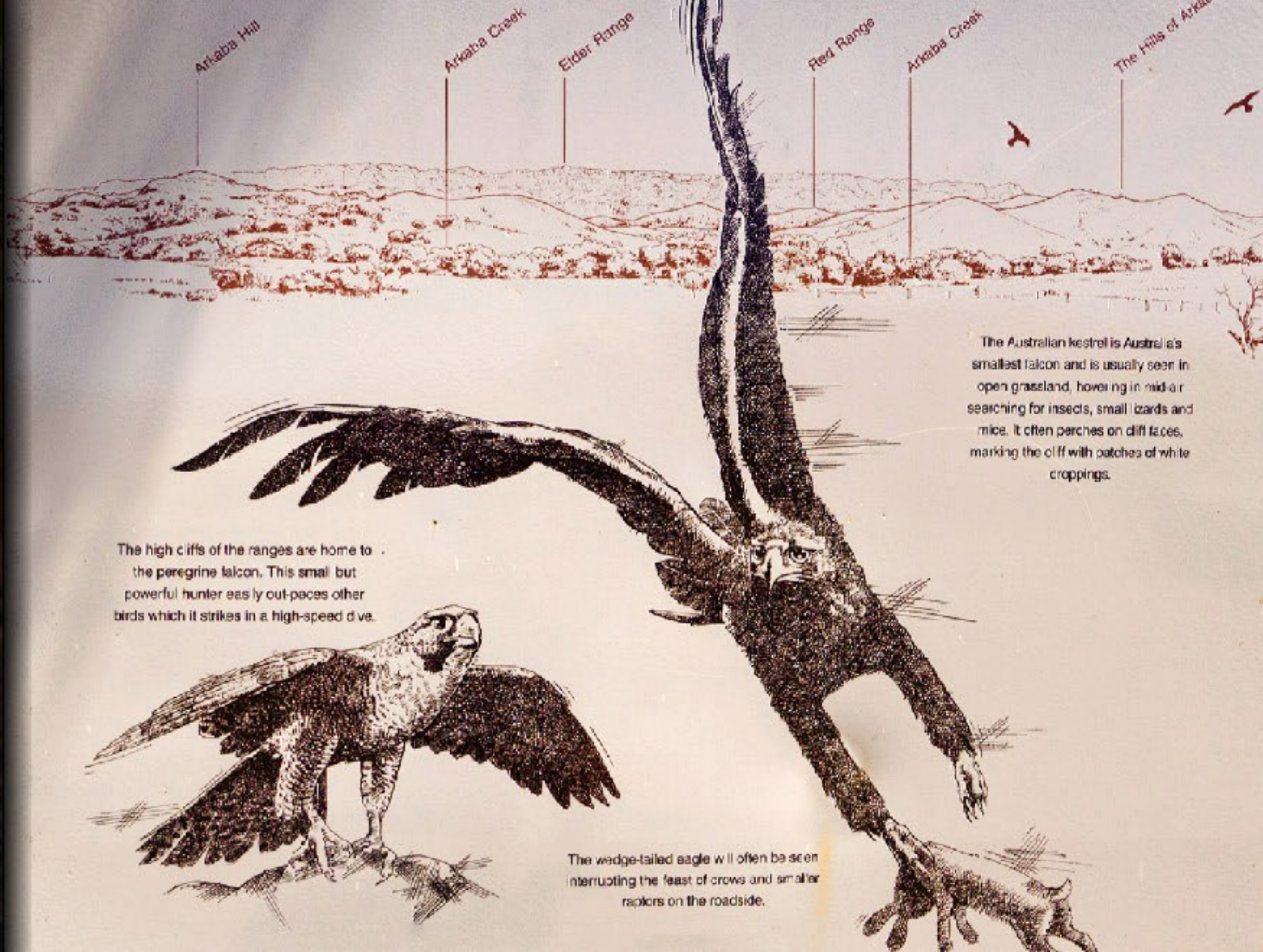
Bottom left; after the rain.

Right; Brachina Gorge water crossing.





Yellow Tailed Rock Wallaby



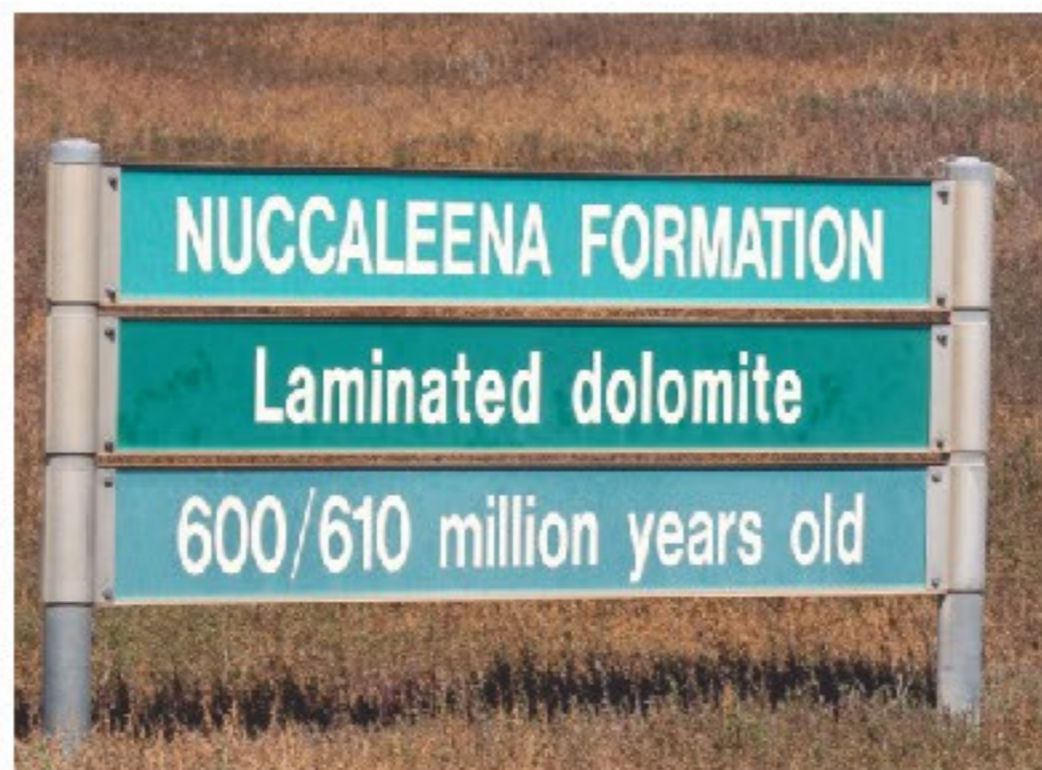
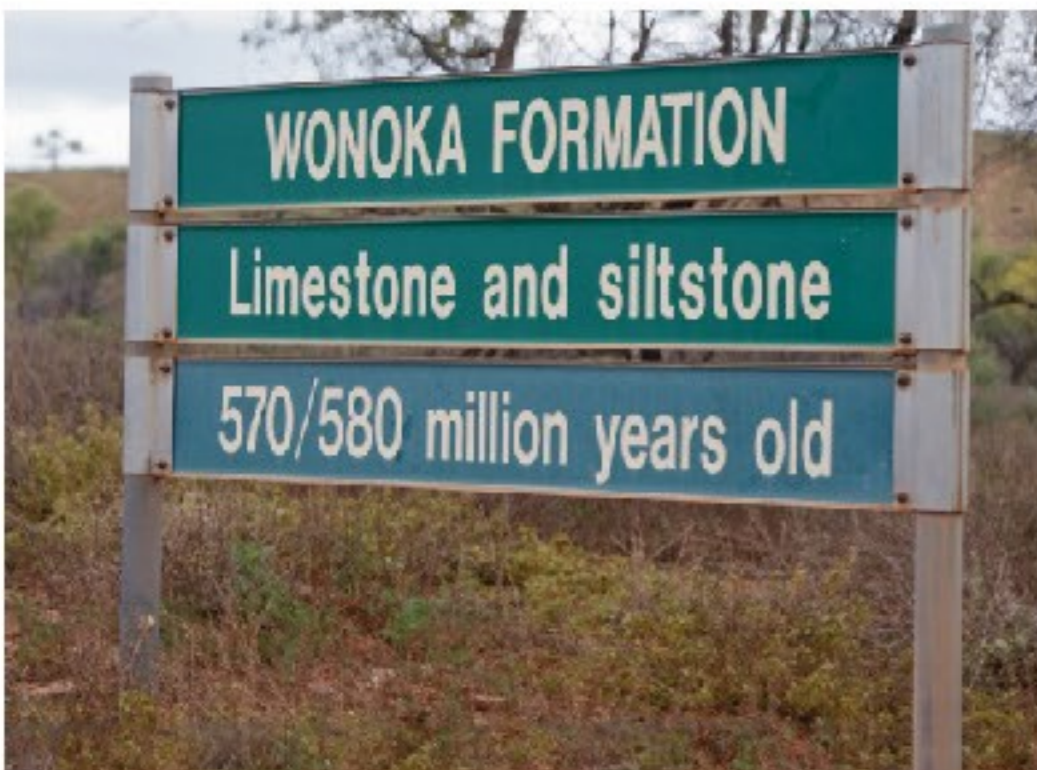
The high cliffs of the ranges are home to the peregrine falcon. This small but powerful hunter easily out-paces other birds which it strikes in a high-speed dive.

The Australian kestrel is Australia's smallest falcon and is usually seen in open grassland, hovering in mid-air searching for insects, small lizards and mice. It often perches on cliff faces, marking the cliff with patches of white droppings.

The wedge-tailed eagle will often be seen interrupting the feast of crows and smaller raptors on the roadside.



Rock Formations
rock formations of 500 to 600 million years old.



Sturt's Desert Pea



The Prairie Hotel

The Prairie hotel is located at Parachilna and is famous for it's road kill food.

Parachilna Gorge



Angorichina village

Blinman pub



Great Wall of China





Wilkawillina Gorge

Top left; Wilkawillina gorge.

Bottom right; Miners dugout.

Bottom left; Wilkawillina gorge



Mt Chambers Dreamtime

The creation story for Mt Chambers explains that the purple backed wren, yuri yuralu, threw a boomerang, wadna, at the northern end of the mountain creating a fracture. Not satisfied with the result, the wren threw the boomerang again making a more complete fracture through the mountain. The boomerang cut right through the mountain and circled spinning to form the knob at the top of the mountain.

Chambers Gorge is privately owned by Wertaloona Station and the owners kindly allow access and camping for no cost. A magnificent stone carving signifies the Aboriginal cultural significance of the gorge to the local Adnyamathanha people.

'Adnya' means rock and 'mathana' means people, the Adnyamathana people are 'the people of the rocks'.





Chambers Gorge

Top left; Chambers Gorge, the Knob.

Bottom right; Aboriginal rock art at Chambers Gorge.

Bottom left; Aboriginal rock art at Chambers Gorge.

Left; Aboriginal rock art.





Arkaroola

Top left; The Bunkhouse.

Top right; Types of Rocks.

Bottom right; Arkaroola from Sillars Lookout.

Right; Arkaroola mountains.

Sillars Lookout

Grass Tree



Sillars Lookout

Memorial



South Australia.

This book is made from two trips to the Flinders Ranges, the second trip taking in Arkaroola in the Gammon Ranges.

The distance covered was 1800 kilometers.



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