Between a Rock and a Dry Place
Geotourism in South Australia

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Overview

- Nature-based tourism
- S Aust. Geotourism opportunities
- New Geosite
Tourism Australia

Markets Australia to the world

To international visitors interested in nature-based tourism

Vision: for Australia to be the most desirable and memorable destination on earth.

Global Marketing Campaign ‘There’s nothing like Australia’

• Outback SA has desired visitor experiences in:
  - Geology
  - Landscape
  - flora and fauna
  - star-gazing in pristine Outback skies
  - traditional and contemporary indigenous Aboriginal culture
What do tourists want

 Desired Visitor Experiences

- a range of (tourism) opportunities so people can choose the experience, and hence the visit, that works best for them

- Four categories of visitors seeking 'desired experiences':
  - Social visitors
  - Learn together families
  - Intellectual visitors
  - Sensualists
What do tourists want?

Social Visitors

• visit in pairs or groups and want to talk to each other
• site is a backdrop for their visit; may not be very interested in it

Learn together families

• looking for quality time and shared experiences; learning together
• Stimulation and active learning, doing things that adults and children can do together; self-directed exploratory and play opportunities
What do tourists want?

Intellectual visitors
• have some interest and curiosity in natural or cultural heritage of site
• have a wide range of interests and may not be particularly knowledgeable about site so need support in understanding it
• Keen to learn

Sensualists
• relate to the site on an intuitive or spiritual level
• like time to relax and reflect and 'just be'. Spending time in the outdoors or in beautiful, resonant or inspiring places is important.
• quite self-sufficient on site and may well visit alone
Geotourism opportunities
Near Adelaide

• Kangaroo Island
  • folds, faults & fossils

• Fleurieu Peninsula
  • Hallett Cove
  • McLaren Vale Tertiary basins

• Mt Lofty Ranges
  • Wine regions terrior
Remarkable Rocks, KI
Hallett Cove Conservation Park and Marion Coast Walking Trail

Conservation Park since 1976

Geoconservation and Geodiversity Heritage Site

Many thousand annual visitors and tourists
Geotourism opportunities

More Distant
• Flinders Ranges
  • Folds, faults and fossils
• South East
  • Recent volcanism
  • Naracoorte cave fossils
• Eyre Peninsula
  • Craton
  • Gawler Range Volcanics
  • Nullabor Cliffs
Geotourism opportunities – Flinders Ranges
Information Shelters
Information shelter

Interpretive signs

Stratigraphic information
Brachina Gorge - Corridor through time

- Brachina Gorge - E-W cross-section
- Cambrian-Precambrian boundary and
  - Neoproterozoic soft bodied fossils and algal 'fossils'
  - periods of icehouse-greenhouse “Snowball Earth”
  - Ancient meteorite impact
  - Cambrian fossils
Corridor through time
Brachina Gorge - 15 kilometres

Precambrian/Cambrian boundary
Corridor Through Time

Ediacara fossil layer
Possible geotourism site

WITCHELINA
“Stunning views from Space”
Witchelina Geotour Guide - First Example Tour

Bubble Rocks - Ridgetop
“Spectacularly complex”
Geotrail – turn left towards N Bungarider

“An Ideal Location for Geotourism”
Track to Homestead (4km)

BALANOPINA CREEK

Track south to Rocky Dam
Tertiary? breakaway creek with silcrete capping (foreground). Middle distance “bubble rock” concretions in heavily weathered Adelaidean basement.
Slightly more resistant layers with zones of concretions in some layers. Host rock is weathered dark laminated (ferruginous) siltstones.
Outer rims of fine laminated ferruginous layers in nodules. Note appearance of host layering/foliation, undeflected by nodule boundaries.
host layering/foliation, undeflected by concretion boundaries and layers
Thank You