

Adventure in an Ancient Land

What better way to discover the Flinders Ranges than on your own 4WD self guided tour? Discover the unique rock formations, steep gorges and the beautiful Australian landscape at its best. This booklet will guide you through an unforgettable adventure through the Central Flinders Ranges, with map and GPS coordinates to keep you on track.

1. Wide River Beds and River Red Gums

Eucalyptus Camaldulensis

S 31 41.298' E 138 34.835'

These river beds rarely see water more than once or twice a year. Without river flooding every few years these gum trees would not be able to survive in such a semi-arid area.

2. Native Pines

Callitris Glaucophylla

S 31 41.565' E 138 35.267'

These tall green pines regenerated significantly after two consecutive wet years over 1973 and 1974, where the annual rainfall doubled the long term average of 300mm. In favourable conditions these trees can reach heights of up to 8 metres, their wood is often used for fence posts as it contains a resin which is resistant to termites.

3. Narrow Leaved Hop Bush

Dodonaea Viscosa

S 31 41.690' E 138 35.720'

An erect perennial shrub, with sticky narrow green leaves. The hop bush is very hardy and thrives on disturbed grounds.

4. Chace and Elder Range

S 31 41.704' E 138 35.968'

The Chace and Elder Range you can see to your right and left are composed of rock over 560 million years old; predominantly the red brown Bonney Sandstone and the orange red Rawnsley Quartzite. The different coloured strata within the ranges are a result of the different sedimentary layers that were deposited when this region was covered by a shallow ocean 550-850 million years ago.

5. Black Oak

Casuarina Pauper

S 31 41.900' E 138 36.555'

A medium sized tree with dark grey bark and slender striated branchlets. The species propagates readily from exposed roots and is often grazed upon by sheep in the area although the nutritional content is low.

6. Gregory Gap

S 31 41.793' E 138 38.503'

The Gregory Gap can be viewed within the Chace Range on your right. The track was cleared by brothers; Ron and Jack Gregory in 1963 in order to transport sheep to the brothers land on the other side of the range.

7. Dog Fence

S 31 41.709 E 138 38.426

The old and worn wire fence you find alongside the track was built in the late 1800's to keep dingoes out of the newly settled farming land. Between 1910 and 2000 dingoes were almost extinct in the Flinders Ranges area, however over the last decade many sightings have been reported.

8. Quandong/Native Peach

Santalum Acuminatum

S 31 41.675' E 138 38.490'

This lonely quandong tree is a rare yet widespread plant, its fleshy edible fruits are well utilised by parrots of the area, as they are very high in vitamin C (twice that of an orange). The berries have a similar taste to rhubarb and are commonly made into jams or stewed in pies.

9. Bullock Bush

Alectryon Oleifolius

S 31 40.601 E 138 40.587

A medium sized bush with dark grey bark and olive green foliage, often grazed upon by sheep. The bush is commonly found here within the Wonoka formation; this surface is predominantly limestone and approximately 570 million years old.

10. Jim Gehling Camp

S 31 39.905' E 138 42.141'

Beside this ancient river red gum is where palaeontologist Dr Jim Gehling and other scientists regularly camp when searching the ridges of the Chace Range for Ediacaran fossils. The Ediacaran fossils are the oldest known animal fossils; between 542 and 635 million years old. The species consist of many plants and animals found on the ocean floor, as well as jellyfish, sea slugs, sea stars and worm like organisms.

11. Martins Well Road

S 31 39.229' E 138 43.642'

This is the end of the AWD track, turn left onto Martins Well Road to return to Rawnsley Park via Pugilist Hill Lookout. 4WD's continue on Martins Well Road to stops 12-18 to complete the 4WD section of the track.

12. Pugilist Hill Lookout

S 31 39.784' E 138 40.672'

Pugilist: meaning to fight with fists.

This lookout was given its name after two station hands has a fist fight on top of this hill in the early 1930's. The hill provides a fantastic view of Wilpena Pound which stretches 17 km long, 8 km wide and reaches heights of up to 1171m above sea level.

4WD vehicles turn right onto the track before the grid on Martins Well Road leading to stop 13.

13. 4WD Gate

S 31 38.292 E 138 40.535

This is the beginning of the steep ascent to Prelinna Lookout.

ENGAGE 4WD INTO LOW RANGE

14. Lichen on Pine Trees

S 31 38.110 E 138 41.302

The orange lichen you see growing on the pine trees found only on the shaded southern hill slope. The lichen breaks down the wood and bark of the pine trees replenishing the topsoil with nutrients.

15. Prelinna Lookout

S 31 38.156' E 138 41.471'

Approximately 680 metres above sea level, Prelinna Lookout provides a beautiful panoramic view of the central Flinders Ranges, including Wilpena Pound, the ABC range, Heysen Range, The Bunkers, Druid, Chace, Yourambulla and Elder Ranges. Please sign the visitor's book provided in the letterbox.

16. Prelinna Descent

S 31 37.694' E 138 42.976

Steep descent as you depart the first crest after leaving Prelinna Lookout.

ENGAGE 4WD INTO LOW RANGE FIRST GEAR

17. Wilpena Creek Lookout

S 31 38.090' E 138 43.446

Wilpena Creek follows the line of river red gums seen in the middle distance with the bald red hills of Upalinna behind. Wilpena Creek is the major creek flowing from Wilpena Pound and draining into Lake Frome.

18. Lunch/Morning Tea Stop

S 31 38.558' E 138 43.385

A picnic table and long-drop toilet are located at Baldoura Creek before the final exit gate taking you to Martins Well Road.

Congratulations you have finished your 4WD Adventure!

Turn right at Martins Well Road to return to Rawnsley Park via Pugilist Hill.



HOW TO FIND US
Rawnsley Park Station is located 430 kilometres north of Adelaide, South Australia, along sealed roads. Our airstrip can accommodate planes of up to 20-seat capacity. Commercial flights are available to Port Augusta and Whyalla.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The Woodshed Restaurant(08) 8648 0126
Wilpena Pound Visitor Centre(08) 8648 0048
Wilpena Pound Resort(08) 8648 0004
Department of Environment and Heritage, Wilpena.....(08) 8648 0049
Hawker Memorial Hospital(08) 8648 4007

UHF RADIO CHANNELS

Rawnsley Park Channel13
Hawker Channel7
Mt Caernarvon4

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Self guided 4WD tours

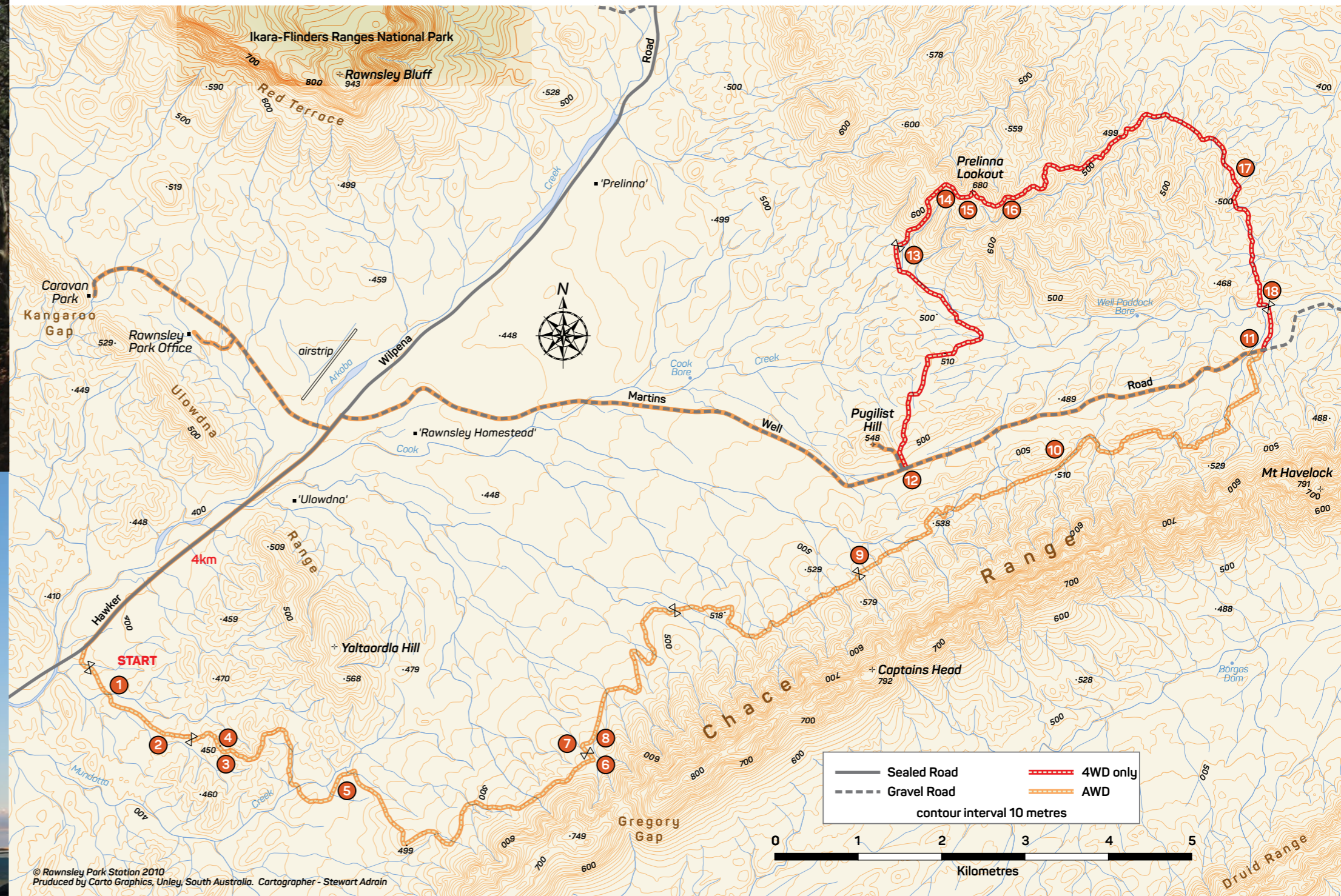
explore



Maxime Coquard

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Discover the beautiful, untouched landscapes of the Flinders Ranges in your own 4WD or AWD



PREPARING FOR YOUR TOUR

- The Arkapena Track is made up of two sections AWD and 4WD
- AWD return time: approximately 3.5 hours
- AWD and 4WD (combined) return time: approximately 4.5 hours
- Pick up key from Office or Caravan Park, sign "terms and conditions" and pay access fee
- Ensure your vehicle has enough fuel and is well maintained
- Carry an adequate amount of water and food
- Sunscreen, hat and sunglasses are recommended
- Notify Rawnsley Park of your departure and expected return



See www.rawnsleypark.com.au for more information