

Bushwalking in Morialta and Black Hill Conservation Parks



Healthy Parks Healthy People



Government
of South Australia



Bushwalking on Adelaide's doorstep

For over eighty years, the gorges, waterfalls and woodlands of Morialta and Black Hill have provided an escape for Adelaide residents. Today, the parks boast some of the most rewarding and accessible bushwalking opportunities in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Use this information to explore new parts of the parks, or rediscover familiar trails.

To help you navigate, the trails in this brochure and on the trailhead are colour coded. You can follow a suggested walk or hike, or use the map provided in this brochure to design your own route.

Walk, hike and trek

National Parks has introduced a walking trail classification system that grades walks, hikes and treks. A description of the classification is included for each trail.

The following suggested walks and hikes commence from Morialta First Falls car park. All distances and return times are measured from this starting point.



Kookaburra Lookout, Morialta Conservation Park.

Greater trail network

Many tracks and trails take you to more remote corners of the parks. They are signposted, however you should take a map to help you navigate safely.

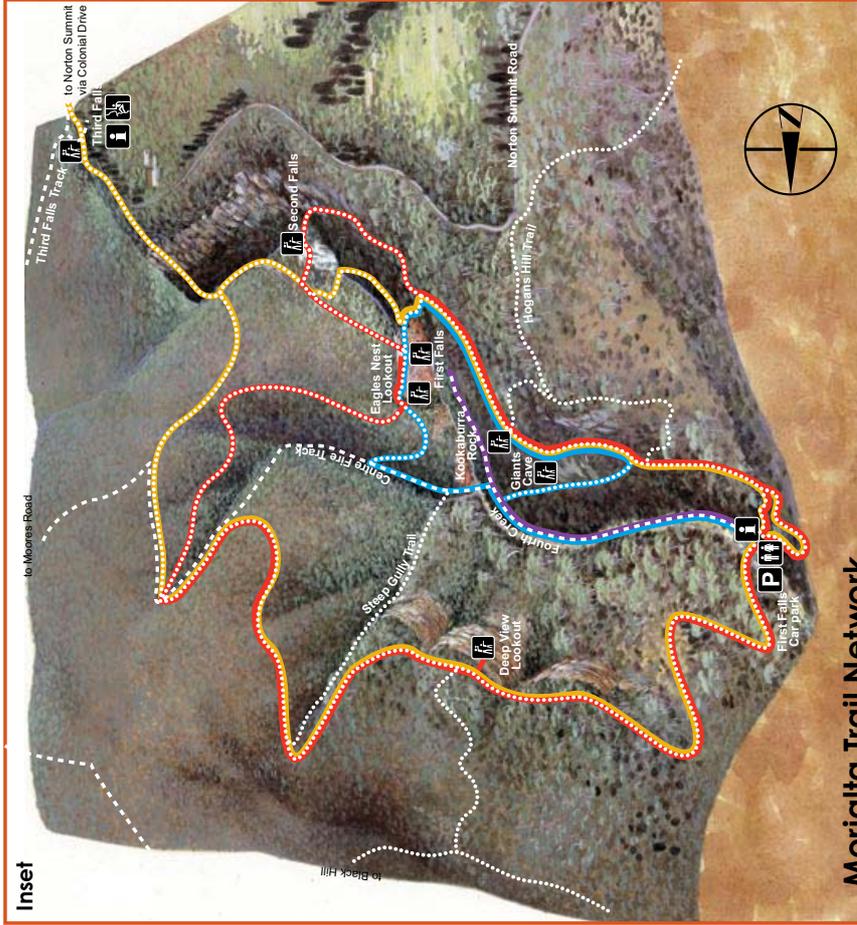
Some of the Black Hill trails are not maintained to the same standard as the Morialta trail network. Take care when descending steep slopes as the trail surface is often loose.

Please keep to the trails – they take you to beautiful places without harming them.



Scuttle.. rustle...
pause.....dart!

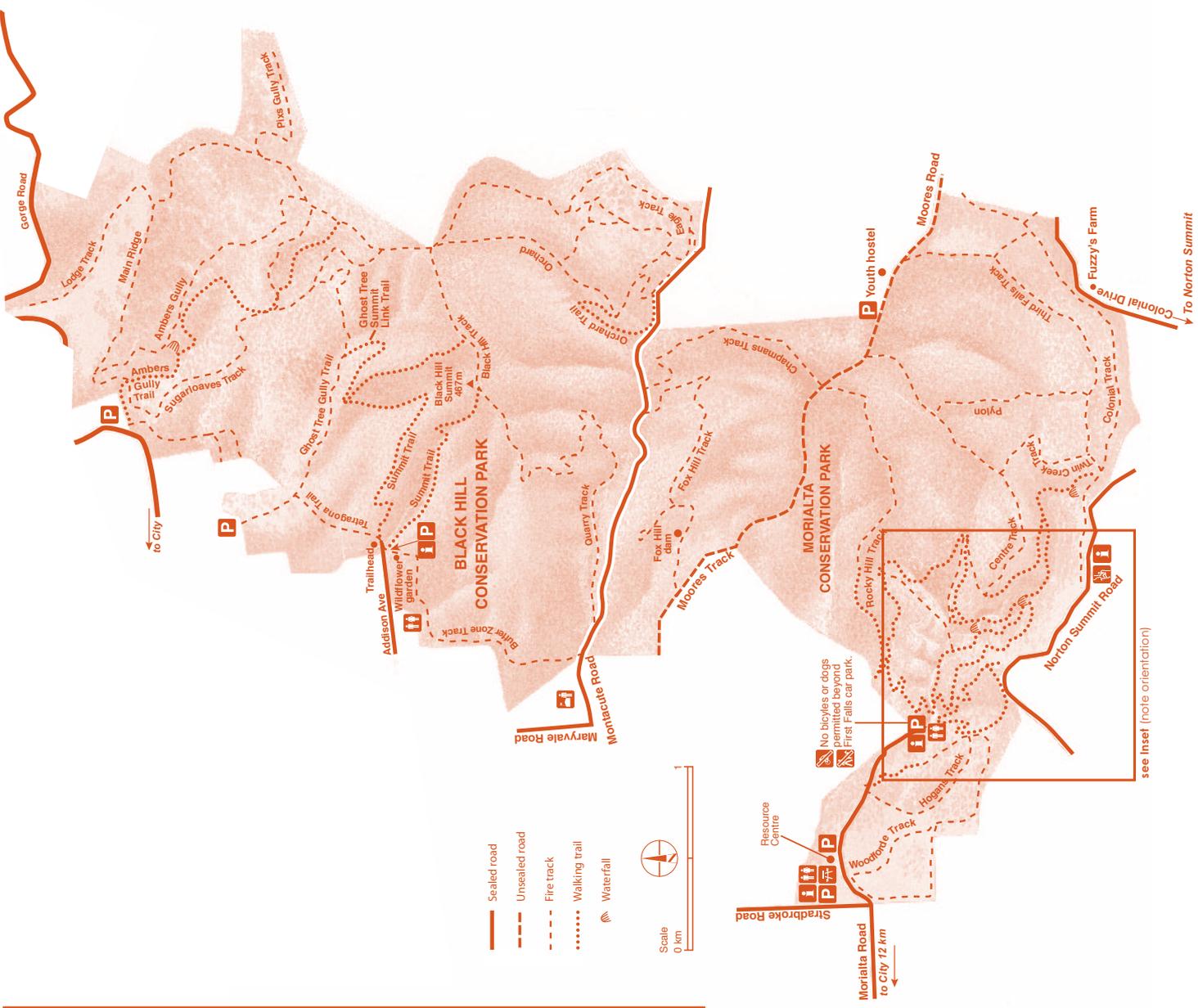
The Tawny Dragon, *Ctenophorus decresii*, is regularly seen and heard along the trails, basking on rocks and rustling through leaf litter.



Inset

Morialta Trail Network

- First Falls Valley Walk
- First Falls Plateau Hike
- Second Falls Gorge Hike
- Three Falls Grand Hike
- Fire track
- Walking trail
- Toilets
- Information
- Parking
- Picnic area
- Lookout
- Rockclimbing
- DEH office



see inset (note orientation)

First Falls Valley Walk

***45 min return 1.6 km return**

Follow Fourth Creek to the heart of Morialta Gorge along a stroller accessible trail.

During summer the creek is dry. After autumn and winter rains, water tumbles thirty metres from the top of Morialta's best known landmark, First Falls.

Look for information signs and discover which animal never reaches its first birthday and why huggable trees are good for wildlife.



Second Falls Gorge Hike

***2.5 hr return 5.3 km loop**

This trail skirts the rim of the escarpment and offers outstanding views of the gorge

from First Falls and Second Falls lookouts. Stretch your legs and ascend the steep slope to Deep View Lookout for a view of the city. The first 700 m is a heart starter! If you prefer an easier gradient, hike in an anti-clockwise direction.



First Falls Plateau Hike

***1.5 hr return 2.5 km loop**

Rising above the valley floor, this trail takes you to the top of First Falls, overlooking Morialta Gorge.

The trail ascends about 60 steep steps to Giants Cave.

A little further along the trail, First Falls appears – rest a moment and enjoy the view from Kookaburra Rock Lookout. As you continue, look for differences in the vegetation on each side of the gorge. Sheoaks prefer the drier, sunnier north-facing slope and the stringybark eucalypts grow along the wetter south-facing slope.

Take care descending the steep trail below Eagles Nest Lookout.



Three Falls Grand Hike

***3.5 hr return 7.3 km loop**

Visit all three of the waterfalls. Admire the dramatic cliffs, gorges and scenic vistas over

Morialta, Adelaide Plains and the River Torrens.

Experienced hikers can continue beyond the gorges to Narton Summit Road and the stringybark woodlands.



Phytophthora (Root-rot fungus)

Phytophthora (fy-TOFF-thora), otherwise known as root-rot fungus, is killing our native plants and threatens the survival of animals depending on plants for food and shelter. This introduced fungus can be found in plant roots, soil and water. Please help stop the spread by staying on tracks and trails and by complying with all *Phytophthora* management signs.



Morialta and Black Hill conservation parks, and their trails may be closed on days of Total Fire Ban. Listen to your local radio station for broadcasts, or contact the CFS Hotline on 1300 362 361



An emergency public phone is located near the toilets at the First Falls car park. Mobile phone reception is poor in the gorge.



Free car parking is available at the Stradbroke Road, and Resource Centre car parks. A parking fee applies for the First Falls car park at the end of Morialta Road. All car parks in Morialta Conservation Park are closed 15 minutes prior to sunset.



The Heysen Trail is a long-distance bushwalking trail (about 1200 km in length) that extends from Cape Jervis in the south to Parachina Gorge in the north of South Australia.

The Heysen Trail enters Morialta at Moores Road and Colonial Drive.

Yurrebilla

Morialta and Black Hill conservation parks are part of the Greater Mount Lofty Parklands – Yurrebilla. The parklands contain around 40 000 hectares of lands managed by DEH, Forestry SA, SA Water and Planning SA.

The Yurrebilla Trail enters Morialta at Colonial Drive and makes its way through Morialta and Black Hill parks to its northern limit, the River Torrens, near Ambers Gully.

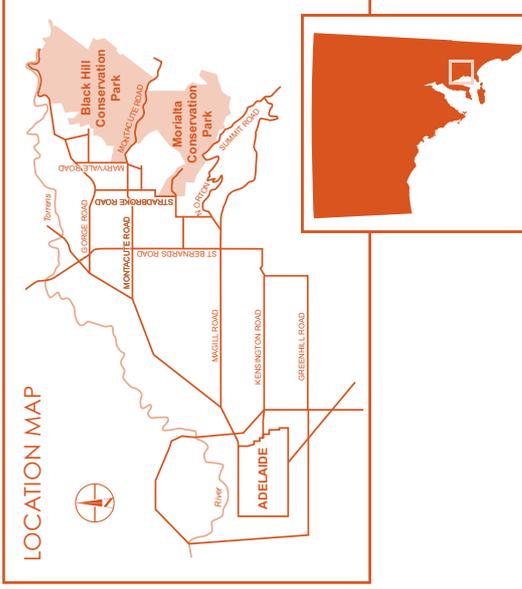
www.yurrebilla.parklands.sa.gov.au.



Walk safely

Be prepared when bushwalking:

- Wear sturdy shoes, hat and sunscreen.
- Carry sufficient drinking water.
- Keep to the defined trails and follow the markers.
- Inform a responsible person of your proposed route and expected time of return.
- Weather conditions can change quickly. Ensure you have appropriate wet-weather clothing.



For further information contact:

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