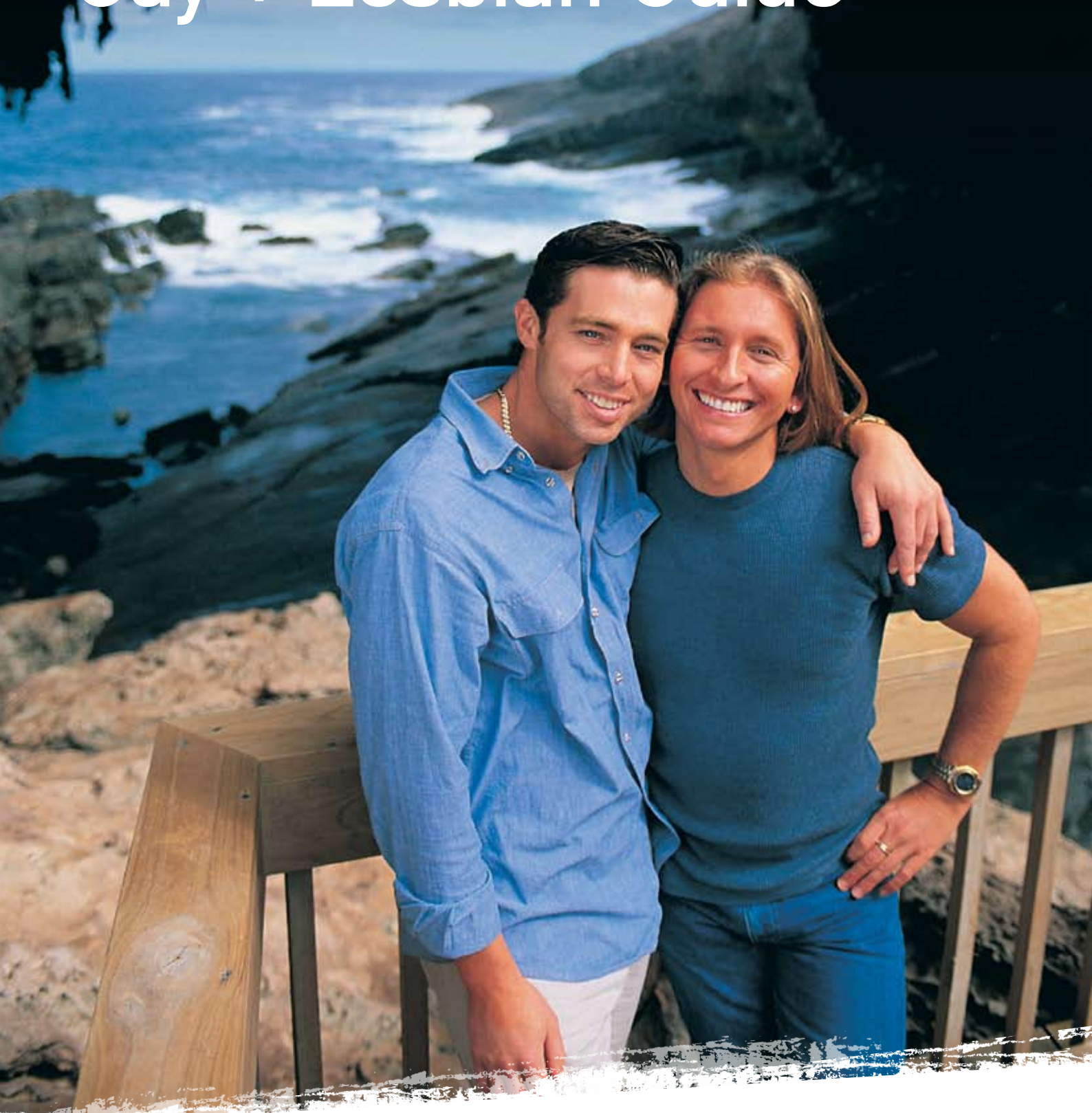


ADELAIDE + SOUTH AUSTRALIA

# Gay + Lesbian Guide



[southaustralia.com](http://southaustralia.com)



South Australia.  
A brilliant blend.



*The New Yorker* once described Adelaide, capital of the state of South Australia, as “possibly the last well planned and contented metropolis on earth”. It’s hard to disagree, for here is a city of great visual harmony and a classical elegant style, superbly set beside the River Torrens between the Adelaide Hills and waters of Gulf St Vincent.

It’s always been a pretty progressive and hip city – as far back as 1895 when South Australian women became the first in the world to be allowed to stand for parliament. When Don Dunstan became Premier of the State in 1970, he and his government introduced a program of massive reform – including decriminalising homosexuality in 1975 – and changed forever the nation’s social, legal and cultural landscape.

In this short guide, we’d like to give you some good reasons to visit and to introduce you to some of our gay and lesbian friendly businesses, events and places.

## Nature and Ecotourism

South Australia is a wildlife wonderland – nowhere in Australia can you get so up close with the native fauna and flora. And nowhere is nature so accessible. You can cuddle a koala, potter about with potoroos or watch a wallaby within 30 minutes of the Adelaide city centre. Across the state, passionate people are waiting to guide you through amazing natural experiences – from swimming with sea lions and bird watching to stargazing and cave diving. There are national parks and World Heritage Areas to explore. The ancient landscapes of Australia’s Outback are easily reached from Adelaide as is Kangaroo Island, home to remarkable wildlife and nature experiences.



## Coastal Encounters

South Australia has 4800 kilometres of coastline and most South Australians live within smell of the sea. Aboriginal communities have lived along it for over 30,000 years. Europeans first charted it when the Dutch came along its western fringe in the early seventeenth century.

In Adelaide alone, just 15 minutes from the city, the waters of Gulf St Vincent wash onto a wide band of fine, white sand that stretches virtually unbroken for more than 30 kilometres.

With the freshest of air and the cleanest of waters, these beaches have a laid back, uncrowded style that belies their proximity to a major city. Wide, long, and backed by ochre cliffs, Maslin Beach was Australia’s first nude beach, and is still one of the country’s best.

Further afield, the drive between Adelaide and Melbourne, via the Limestone Coast and Great Ocean Road, is a stunning three to five day coastal journey between the two cities.



## Art and Culture

These are a natural part of life in South Australia and we enjoy a rich heritage from Indigenous and settler cultures. No matter when you visit South Australia you’re sure to enjoy quality performances by our symphony orchestra, opera, theatre and dance companies. The visual arts are also thriving with numerous galleries spread across the state – some are even located in the cellar door precincts of wineries. All these art forms and our many cultures are celebrated in festivals throughout the year.

## Food and Wine

South Australia’s Mediterranean climate, with more than its fair share of sunshine, is largely responsible for our rich bounty of wine and food. Some of the nation’s finest and most innovative chefs call Adelaide home and it’s no secret that the new wave of Australian cuisine began here.

The state is also the very heart of Australian wine industry, producing 50 per cent of all the wine made in Australia, and 70 per cent of international exports. Of our 17 picturesque and welcoming wine regions, most are within a two-hour drive from the city – self-drive touring is easy, but there’s also a great range of private and organised tours to most regions.





## Dining Streets

You'll find some of the best and least expensive dining in Australia right here.

In fact, you'll find entire streets devoted to dining:

Stylish Rundle Street, in Adelaide's East End, is home to more than 50 cafés, restaurants, wine bars and pubs as well as some of the best shopping in town. The stretch of retail and culinary bliss is the bustling centre of Adelaide almost 24 hours a day. Hutt Street, too, has quickly grown into a vibrant café strip.

Set alongside the Central Market, Gouger Street's restaurants and cafés can't help but be some of the best in Adelaide – it has been described as Adelaide's United Nations of food.

Across the River Torrens in North Adelaide, O'Connell and Melbourne Streets 'do' fine dining and café society side by side, interspersed with good shopping. Melbourne Street's weekend breakfast crowd affords great people watching.

Just a short drive from the city centre, seaside suburbs Glenelg and Semaphore have great offerings. Always-buzzy Glenelg covers everything from five star dining with ocean views to quality take-away to enjoy on the jetty. Semaphore is more laidback with a wonderful community atmosphere and a growing number of cafés. It's an increasingly popular residential choice for the local lesbian community.

## Shopping Streets

All you need to know for a bout of retail therapy in Adelaide is that good shopping starts in the heart of the city and spreads like tentacles in all directions.

Rundle Mall is the retail backbone of the city, with international and national flagship stores and boutiques, local institutions and specialty shops, cafés, elegant arcades, buskers, flowers stall, lots of art and seven-day trading. Hindley Street in the revitalized West End has a recent influx of cosmopolitan cafés, bookstores and galleries, creating a daytime energy to match that of its traditional nightlife buzz.

King William Road at Hyde Park is great for fashion, books and design, while Glen Osmond Road at Eastwood or Harbour Town at West Beach are the centres for seconds and clearance

shops. The Parade at Norwood is much-loved by locals and visitors, and nearby Magill Road is known for elegant European antiques and Australian classics through to funky 70s design. North Adelaide has modish Melbourne and O'Connell streets for designer Australian fashion and great coffee.

## Late Nights

Relax or party, Adelaide has a strong mix of gay and lesbian venues, including:

### Edinburgh Castle Hotel

233 Currie Street, Adelaide

The Edinburgh is Adelaide's most popular gay and lesbian pub. As such, most roads lead here at some stage of the night. The venue has a couple of bars and a dance floor, and is open seven days till late. It gets busy on the weekends, and attracts a good mix of locals.

### Hampshire Hotel

110 Grote Street, Adelaide

The Hampshire provides the gay community with a fun environment in smart surroundings and allow people to connect with each other. They keep the music to background levels, provide friendly efficient service, and offer quality food, wine and other stuff at pub prices.

### The Mars Bar

120 Gouger Street, Adelaide

Wednesday – Saturday (Sunday nights on long weekends)

The city's longest standing gay and lesbian venue (nearly 30 years), The Mars Bar makes a point of making everyone welcome. Friday and Saturday nights feature famous drag shows and it's considered the place for serious dancing.

## Festivals and Events

Festivals and major events occur in Adelaide with remarkable frequency for a city of its size. They stir the city's blood, turning the population into a high-spirited and enthusiastic crowd that floods the streets with infectious energy. Some favourites are:

### Feast

One of Australia's top gay and lesbian events, this three-weekend, two-week festival includes

contemporary theatre, outrageous drag, fantastic comedy, literature, Indigenous events, conferences, visual arts, forums, community and special events. Held annually, in November.

[www.feast.org.au](http://www.feast.org.au)

### Adelaide Cabaret Festival

The Adelaide Cabaret Festival is Australia's premier cabaret event, bringing some of the finest cabaret artists from around the world to Adelaide for 17 days of life, love and lounge.

[www.adelaidecabaret.com](http://www.adelaidecabaret.com)

### Adelaide Festival of Arts

Every two years the entire city becomes a stage for the Adelaide Festival.

Started in 1960, the Adelaide Festival is considered, along with Edinburgh and Avignon, as one of the three great arts festivals in the world and in addition to performing and visual arts includes the leading Writers' Week.

[www.adelaidefestival.com.au](http://www.adelaidefestival.com.au)

### Adelaide Film Festival

A dynamic program of film screenings, special events, workshops and forums, attracting more than 45,000 film lovers and film makers to the heart of Adelaide.

[www.adelaidefilmfestival.org](http://www.adelaidefilmfestival.org)

### Adelaide Fringe

Now held annually, this marvellous event features comedy, cabaret, theatre and a host of shows by rising and established performers.

[www.adelaidefringe.com.au](http://www.adelaidefringe.com.au)

### Tasting Australia

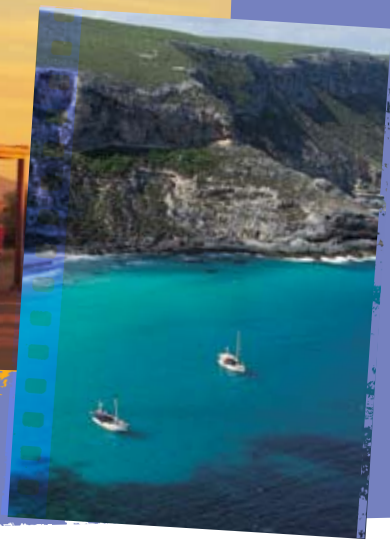
Every two years Adelaide turns on Australia's most comprehensive and inspiring food, beer and wine festival, and includes the wildly popular Beer, Food & Wine Writers' Festival. Held in October in 'odd' years.

[www.tasting-australia.com.au](http://www.tasting-australia.com.au)

### Tour Down Under

This internationally renowned annual cycling race attracts cycling superstars from around the world. The six-day race features various stages held in key locations in both Adelaide and regional South Australia.

[www.tourdownunder.com.au](http://www.tourdownunder.com.au)



# ACCOMMODATION

South Australia has a full range of accommodation, from fabulous 5-star hotels to comfortable 3-star hotels, grand country lodges, self-contained apartments and many bed and breakfasts. Just a few are listed in this guide and members of Gay & Lesbian Tourism Australia Ltd (GALTA) are also identified.

## Adelaide

**Greenways Apartments**  
**King William Road, North Adelaide**  
GALTA member

These comfortable one, two and three bedroom apartments are gay-friendly and close to restaurants, theatres, parklands, shopping and city attractions.

**Rochdale Bed and Breakfast**  
**Glen Osmond Road, Glen Osmond**  
GALTA member

The only exclusively gay and lesbian bed and breakfast in Adelaide, Rochdale is friendly, relaxed, elegant and close to city, venues, hills and wineries.

**Saville City Suites**  
**Hindley Street, Adelaide**

Located in the West End, these self-contained studios and apartments are close to the city's popular nightclubs and bars – and the newly invigorated university and arts precinct.

**Oaks Embassy**  
**North Terrace, Adelaide**

This sleek and modern boutique hotel is sure to impress. On North Terrace in the heart of Adelaide's cultural, shopping and tourism precincts, the hotel has luxurious apartments with spectacular views of the city and coast.

**The Chifley on South Terrace**  
**South Terrace, Adelaide**  
GALTA member

Overlooking the picturesque South Parklands, this 4-star property offers superior accommodation and excellent facilities.

**Majestic Roof Garden Hotel**  
**Frome Street, Adelaide**

This chic 4½ star inner-city hotel is the embodiment of urban style. The signature roof garden can't be beaten for sheer 'wow' factor and is a must-see during your stay.

**Hotel Richmond**  
**Rundle Mall, Adelaide**

The only hotel in Rundle Mall, Hotel Richmond has undergone a substantial refurbishment – its striking 1929 façade remains, and its new interior is smart and modern, including First bar and restaurant.

**Oaks Plaza Pier**  
**Holdfast Promenade, Glenelg**

Located on the beachfront at the popular beach suburb of Glenelg, this luxury hotel captures a wonderful seaside feeling all year round.

**North Adelaide Heritage Group**  
**Various locations, North Adelaide**

This range of charming historic properties around swish North Adelaide, include lovingly restored mansions and cottages, and a converted fire station. Close to cafés and restaurant precincts, each property has a distinct personality and complete privacy. Room service is available and a free bus runs past your accommodation into Adelaide.

**Maslin House**  
**Tuit Road, Maslin Beach (near McLaren Vale)**

This luxurious Tuscan villa in 12 acres of landscaped gardens has views towards the sea, hills and vines and is a short walk to the famous nude beach. The house is about a 40-minute drive south of Adelaide, and 10 minutes from McLaren Vale with its dozens of wineries and award-winning restaurants.

**All Seasons Adelaide Meridien**  
**Melbourne Street, North Adelaide**

Surrounded by trendy shops and cafés, the Adelaide Meridien is also only minutes from Adelaide's city centre.

**Pacific International Suites**  
**Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide**  
GALTA member

At this luxurious 5-star property, guests enjoy beautifully appointed accommodation in a secluded picturesque setting within moments of the city's main attractions.

## Beyond Adelaide

### Kangaroo Island

**The Lookout**  
**Penneshaw, Kangaroo Island**

With superb views across Backstairs Passage to mainland Australia, this two-bedroom apartment is set in magnificent gardens surrounded by rural tranquillity. Breakfast and lunches are included and private 4WD tours can be arranged.

### Clare Valley

**Thorn Park Country House**  
**College Road, Sevenhill**  
GALTA member

Set in the heart of the famous Clare Valley wine country, Thorn Park is considered one of Australia's foremost gourmet retreats. The 150-year-old homestead is surrounded by extensive gardens, has six guest rooms, several dining rooms and an elegant sitting room and library.

### Barossa

**Linfield Cottage**  
**Williamstown**  
GALTA member

This beautifully restored federation home provides total relaxation and comfort. Set in a vineyard, you can indulge in the local wine, picnic under the towering red gums or just soak up the ambience in the spa.

**Novotel Barossa Valley Resort**  
**Gofflinks Road, Rowland Flat**

In the heart of the Barossa, this gay-friendly resort is an ideal base from which to explore the unique towns and welcoming cellar doors and restaurants of the area.



## Fit and Fun

There are many good gyms and fitness centres in Adelaide in addition to those found in most major hotels. Next Generation ([www.nextgenerationclubs.com.au/sa/index.php](http://www.nextgenerationclubs.com.au/sa/index.php)) is generally regarded as Adelaide's premier health, fitness and lifestyle club and is on War Memorial Drive, North Adelaide. The City Gym and Fitness Centre ([www.citygymsa.com](http://www.citygymsa.com)), in Light Square, is regarded as the city's 'biggest little gym'. Fitness First ([www.fitnessfirst.com.au](http://www.fitnessfirst.com.au)) in the Adelaide CBD also offers excellent facilities, including one-to-one personal training, solariums, ultra-cleansing monsoon showers, aromatherapy lounges, and even its very own in-house music video station.

The jogging and cycling tracks along the River Torrens are a refuge from the city streets, and run all the way to the coast. The ride west to Henley Beach and its fabulous beachside cafés takes about an hour. Bikes are available for hire in Elder Park, while the Adelaide City Council has free two-hour bike hire for use within city limits. Full day hire is also available with charges applying after two hours or more.

## Touring

There is a fantastic range of tours available to all parts of the state including personalised luxury tours to wine regions; specialist 4WD drives to meet our wildlife; short or long distance coach tours; and shopping and market tours in the city.

South Australia is an easy self-drive destination, with good roads and uncongested highways. Along with conventional vehicles, car hire companies also offer 4WD vehicles so you can create your own Outback adventure.

## Media

Nothing will get you up to speed with events, venues, businesses and news faster than the fortnightly free gay and lesbian lifestyle newspaper blaze, available throughout the city. [www.blazemedia.com.au](http://www.blazemedia.com.au)

For more information on visiting South Australia, accommodation, transport and tours, regions, events, experiences and travel ideas visit [www.southaustralia.com](http://www.southaustralia.com)

### Our offices are also keen to help:

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#### Within Australia

South Australian Visitor & Travel Centre  
Phone: 1300 655 276  
Email:  
[informationandbookings@southaustralia.com](mailto:informationandbookings@southaustralia.com)

Thanks to Gay Travel Guides for some information and details.

#### [www.gaytravelguides.info](http://www.gaytravelguides.info)

For more information about Gay & Lesbian Tourism Australia Pty Ltd (GALTA) visit [www.galta.com.au](http://www.galta.com.au)



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### Your travel agent:

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