HISTORIC BRIGHTON

A self-guided walk

CITY OF
HOLDFAST BAY
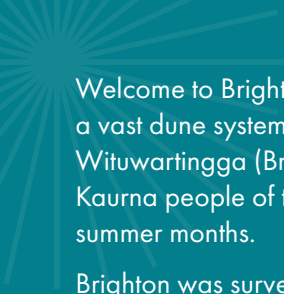
Welcome to Brighton. Originally dominated by a vast dune system and long sandy beaches, Wituwartingga (Brighton) was the home of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains during the summer months.

Brighton was surveyed by Colonel William Light in 1838. As European settlement progressed, the area was developed agriculturally, and soon rose in popularity. Wealthy professionals and prominent citizens of the day built holiday houses. Estates were established for those who needed care, including Townsend House and the Minda complex which still stands today.

With the advent of railway and motorised transport, the population grew rapidly and Brighton became a popular destination for day trips as people flocked to the beach. The growing number of visitors brought prosperity to the region. Hotels and guest houses opened, and the commercial strip of shops and cafés along Jetty Road became the place to be seen.

Walk duration approximately 1 hour.
Refer to the map at the back of this brochure for assistance on your walk.

Begin your walk at the Brighton Civic Centre on the corner of Jetty Road and Torr Avenue.

Please respect the privacy of all homes along the way.

✳ Additional properties of interest

01

BRIGHTON CIVIC CENTRE
1937 | 24 JETTY ROAD

The announcement of Peace at Brighton Civic Centre, 1945. PH-AH-00622.

Designed by civic architect Christopher A. Smith, the Art Deco design is considered to be one of the finest surviving examples of its period in South Australia. Its construction during the Depression was a notable event in the district. The eastern wing, the former City Hall, was built in 1959. An extension between the two buildings, built in 1979, complements the original design.

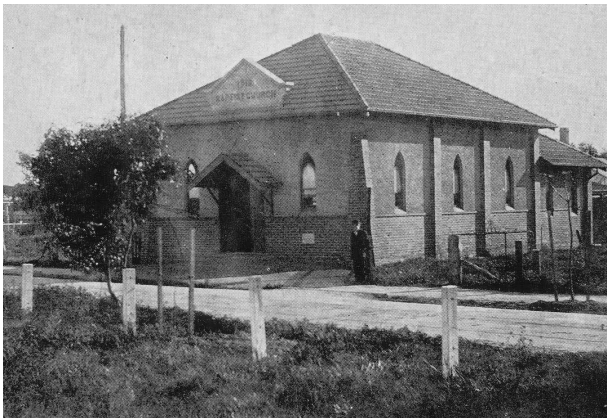State Heritage Listed, the building was restored by Council in 2018.

Head west, crossing over the train line. Turn right, walking in a northerly direction along The Crescent.

02

BRIGHTON BAPTIST CHURCH
1918 | 26 JETTY ROAD

Brighton Baptist Church, circa 1927. PH-AH-04226.

Opened by Mrs. H.R. Heard, wife of the pastor Mr. Roy Heard, in 1918. Prior to its construction, services were held in the old Brighton Town Hall on Brighton Road. To accommodate an increasing congregation, a new building was erected in 1924 and an extension added to the western end in 1927. Following the rapid growth of Brighton after WWII a new hall was built.

During the 1920s a small school, Serena College, was run from the church by Amy Bazley Partridge. Twenty-four girls were taught painting and French amongst other subjects.

03
MAYOR ANTHONEY'S HOUSE
CIRCA 1914 | 34 THE CRESCENT

34 The Crescent, Brighton circa 1920. PH-BR-0204.

This house was built for Ernest Anthoney who was Mayor of Brighton 1923 – 1924. The house is typical of its time with timber fretwork and detailing. Ernest moved to Adelaide from Sydney in 1909 and was appointed resident master at Prince Alfred College. He later went on to serve as a Member of Parliament for 35 years.

Ernest married Edith Ashton, daughter of notable artist James Ashton, who lived in Cambridge Terrace.

The couple and child pictured are likely to be Ernest and Edith with their only son, Rex Ashton Anthoney.

04
DUNLUCE AVENUE & ATHELNEY AVENUE

An example of Tudor Revival style, 9 Dunluce Avenue Brighton, 1929. PH-BR-0402.

The land around Dunluce and Athelney Avenues was subdivided from 1913 onwards as a result of the opening of the Adelaide to Willunga train line. As the popularity of Brighton rose steadily in the early years of the 20th century, architecture in the area began to follow the trend of Californian Bungalow and Tudor Revival styles. Strolling along Dunluce and Athelney Avenues you will notice this influence on the housing.

The Athelney estate (the house can still be seen if you take an additional stroll to number 2 Athelney Avenue) was developed by Dr. Alexander Stewart Paterson in the 1880s as his family's seaside residence. Paterson was Resident Medical Officer at the Parkside Lunatic Asylum and Colonial Surgeon. The magnificent forest red and manna gums which line Alfreda Street were planted by Paterson as part of his estate.

Turn west onto Yester Avenue.

05
DUNLUCE CASTLE
1912 | 12 YESTER AVENUE

Dunluce Castle on Yester Avenue, Brighton, circa 1920. PH-AH-02030.

This grand design is based on a wing of Dunluce Castle in Antrim, Northern Ireland. The baronial-style residence incorporates a castellated round corner tower. The home was built for Reverend Alexander Macully who was rector of St Jude's Church. The original estate of 12 acres included a stable and coach house. The house sits prominently on sand dunes and would once have had a 360-degree view of Brighton to the sea and across the Adelaide Plains.

From 1913 much of the land was subdivided and sold for housing development.

Directions: Make your way along the paved lane opposite Dunluce Castle, between numbers 11 and 13 Yester Avenue. At the top of the lane, take one last look back at the Castle.

Continue on, making your way south along Gurrs Road to Jetty Road.

06
JETTY ROAD
1898

Jetty Road, Brighton looking west towards the jetty, circa 1940. PH-AH-01017.

With the development of the jetty and kiosk, Jetty Road grew in popularity as a service street for the surrounding houses. The road, originally known as Beach Road, was renamed in 1898. Note the typical 1920s building styles, especially the shaped parapets of some of the older remaining shop fronts. The most prominent at 67-69 was built in 1924 by Alfred McLeod, a greengrocer and hairdresser. Next door (to the west) was built by Harry Southcott in 1912 as Tea Rooms.

Turn west onto Jetty Road, crossing over the Esplanade to the steps of the Arch of Remembrance. Stops 7 to 11 can be viewed here.

07
THE ESPLANADE HOTEL
1888 | 135 ESPLANADE

The Residential Café, circa 1925. PH-AH-01009

Built as a guesthouse and kiosk in the 1880s, the building was renovated and extended in 1924. It has had numerous names over the last century, including the Grosvenor Private Hotel, followed by the Willa-Willa and Residential Café before being licensed in 1955 as The Esplanade Hotel. A favourite drinking hole for locals.

Near the steps of the Arch of Remembrance. Look for Stop 8 the Kitty Whyte Memorial Drinking Fountain.

08

KITTY WHYTE MEMORIAL DRINKING FOUNTAIN

1926 | ESPLANADE

Boy at Kitty Whyte Drinking Fountain, circa 1930. SLSA.

Kathleen "Kitty" Whyte was the daughter of Reverend Alexander Macully of Dunluce Castle (stop 5). She was a keen swimmer, becoming one of the first women in South Australia to receive the highest diploma of the Royal Lifesaving Society. Despite moving away after marriage, Kitty visited Brighton regularly and continued to teach many local children how to swim. In March 1926, Kitty aged 35 and mother of two young girls, was taken by a shark soon after jumping off Brighton Jetty. She became South Australia's first shark attack victim. She is buried in St Jude's Cemetery.

The memorial was erected by the women of Brighton in memory of Kitty who was a beloved member of the local community.

Remain at the steps of the Arch of Remembrance.

09
ARCH OF REMEMBRANCE
1926 AND 1964 | ESPLANADE

The dedication ceremony, 1926. PH-AH-10104B.

Commissioned after WWI, the Arch commemorates the 114 Brighton residents who served, of whom 22 were killed. Unveiled and dedicated on 26 November 1926, its construction was funded by the Brighton Corporation with support from public subscription.

The Arch was severely damaged by a storm in May 1963 and rebuilt in a similar style. It now commemorates those from Brighton who have fought in all wars since the Boer War. The reconstructed Arch was dedicated on 19 April 1964.

Remain at the steps of the Arch of Remembrance.

10
BRIGHTON JETTY
1886, 1996

Damage to Brighton Jetty and Kiosk after the 1953 storm. PH-AH-01269.

The original jetty was built by the Brighton Corporation in 1886 at a cost of £1650. Severe storms caused serious damage to the structure in 1928, 1948 and 1953 when portions were destroyed or washed away. After extensive storm damage in May 1994, the wooden jetty was replaced by a concrete jetty. It was opened in 1996.

While standing on the jetty, look in a southerly direction along the Esplanade. Victorian houses and summer residences once lined the then dirt road, which was built in 1930.

Remain at the steps of the Arch of Remembrance.

11
PIER BUILDING
1922 | 136 ESPLANADE

Pier Building, 1922. PH-BR-0065.

This landmark building was one of the first major structures on the Esplanade. It is a symbol of the high aspirations held in the 1920s for the future of Brighton. Designed by architects Garlick and Jackman, the purpose of the building has remained relatively constant over the years, with shops and cafés at street level and accommodation above. In 2004 the building underwent extensive restoration work to return it to its 1920s splendour.

Looking south along the Esplanade, circa 1914. PH-AH-01486.

Luxmore Estate, now the site of Bindarra Reserve and the Brighton Lifesaving Clubrooms, 1935. PH-AH-01060A.

12

THE SOMERVILLE HOUSE
1913 | 154 ESPLANADE

This house was built by Archibald Somerville and his wife Frances (nee Lewin), the parents of Dorothy C. Somerville. A highly respected solicitor, Dorothy was the third South Australian woman to be called to the Bar.

13

DR. SWIFT'S HOUSE
CIRCA 1900 | 156 ESPLANADE

Built by Dr. Harry Swift and his wife Kate, Swift was Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Adelaide. One of their sons was WWI Military Cross recipient and renowned gynaecologist Sir Brian Swift. Between 1946 and 1976, the property was well-known as the home of J.W. Aldridge. During his occupation, the entire back garden was converted into an aviary for hundreds of birds, including some rare species.

14

ANGLICAN DIOCESE HOLIDAY HOUSE
CIRCA 1900 | 158 ESPLANADE

This house was given to the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide in 1918 by Mrs. E.W Van Senden and Miss F.M. Richardson. It was used as holiday accommodation for clergy and their families, especially those working in country districts.

Continue south along the Esplanade.

15

KIT HOUSE
CIRCA 1913 | 161 ESPLANADE

Esplanade looking north. The kit house is second on the right, 1920.
PH-AH-01061.

Imported in kit form from Canada by prominent surgeon Dr. Charles E. Todd, this house is built of western red cedar. Dr. Todd was the president of the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association (now the AMA) and the son of Sir Charles Todd, famous for initiating the Overland Telegraph.

Original features of the house included a flagpole, a well in the garden, a 'dumb waiter' that carried items from beneath the house to the kitchen and a coach house. The family also owned a private bathing box along the beach in front of the home, which was common at the time.

Turn back towards the jetty and walk north along the Esplanade to Beach Road. Turn right, walking east along Beach Road.

16
BEACH ROAD
1858

Brighton railway station entrance looking west along Beach Road, circa 1914. PH-AH-06045.

Beach Road, running from Brighton Road to the Esplanade, was reserved by Colonel William Light as a government road. The original Brighton railway station divided the road into two parts. The eastern part, now known as Old Beach Road, remains a narrow residential road.

As you make your way along Beach Road, note some of the old homes still standing and built atop levelled sand dunes.

Continue east to the corner of Beach Road and Cedar Avenue.

17
SHOP & RESIDENCE
CIRCA 1920 | 20 CEDAR AVENUE

View across the old Brighton railway station gardens to Cedar Avenue and the corner store, 1930. PH-AH-06064.

This property was once a corner shop and café built by fruiterer and confectioner David E. Ellis. The original layout included two shops and a five-room dwelling. Built opposite the location of the original Brighton railway station, the shop often captured passing trade, especially day-trippers to Brighton Beach. The shop was also a favourite for locals, a place to buy milk and bread and for the kids, mixed lollies and chocolate. It is now a private residence.

Cross over Cedar Avenue and the train line using the pedestrian crossing.

18

ADELAIDE TO WILLUNGA LINE
1913, 1976

Constructing the railway at Brighton, 1913. PH-AH-06035.

The first train to arrive in Brighton had just nine passengers. By 1915 however, 6,500 people arrived in Brighton on New Year's Day, outnumbering the locals 20 to one!

The original Brighton station was weatherboard. It had a ladies' waiting room, ticket office, and an open fireplace. The station's fine service was noted by elderly patrons. Some dried their wet stockings near the engine during the trip or their shoes by the open fire on arrival. The original station divided Beach Road from Old Beach Road. The station was moved to its current location in 1976.

19
HIGHET'S HOUSE
1849 | 21 OLD BEACH ROAD

21 Old Beach Road. PH-AH-02089B.

Henry Highet arrived in South Australia in 1839 with his wife Mary and nine children. After several years of farming, they settled in Brighton and built this cottage, along with two others (since demolished) on the street. They eventually had 15 children. Henry built several of the earliest buildings in Brighton, including the Thatched House Cottage in 1846 (later named Brighton Hotel). Mary died in 1868, but Henry continued to live at 21 Old Beach Road until his death in 1893 at the age of 90.

20
WINDSOR THEATRE
1925 | 1 COMMERCIAL ROAD

The shop on the corner of Jetty Road and Commercial Road was once Hulbert's Deli. During interval, Windsor Theatre patrons would go there to purchase an ice-cream. Windsor Theatre to the right, circa 1978. PH-AH-00314.

Architect A.C. Stremple designed this building for Masonic Lodge Number 108. The Brighton branch of Freemasons was formed in 1860. The building was used as a lodge and community hall before the front section was leased as the Brighton Picture Theatre. In 1933, the Cunnew family leased the hall and renamed it Windsor Theatre. Their first showing was Zoo in Budapest and Sailor's Luck. Shows ran every night except Sundays. The front section was extended in 1935 to provide a new dress circle and expanded seating capacity from 412 to 600. To facilitate this, the roof was raised and a new facade added. The Freemasons have since built an extension on the northern side.

21
RINGWOOD HOUSE
1924 | 14 JETTY ROAD

Ringwood House, circa 1930. Image courtesy of the Goode Family.

Ringwood House was built as a family residence by Dr. Matthew Goode, honorary surgeon and physician to the South Australian Institute for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb. Then named Taperie, the home cost £4000, making it one of the most expensive houses built in Brighton. To the west of Ringwood is the Brighton Library, originally the site of Bindarra Hospital. In 1966 Ringwood was converted to a private geriatric hospital.

The Brighton Corporation eventually purchased the property in 1975 for use as a community centre. It currently houses the Holdfast Bay History Centre. If you're wanting to learn more about the history of the area, your family or your home, please contact the Centre for assistance.

Susan Grace Benny Bust
Wander into the garden between Ringwood House and the library to view the bronze bust of Susan Grace Benny, who in 1919, was the first Australian woman to enter local government.

✳ BRIGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

1880 | 442 BRIGHTON ROAD

Brighton Public School, Circa 1885. PH-AH-05000.

Opened in September 1880 by the Honourable T. King, Minister of Education, the school could accommodate up to 150 pupils. The first headmaster was William Jemson who, with his wife Mary Ann, had run a licensed school at Brighton since 1858. They lived in the bluestone residence north of the original school building on Brighton Road. They are both buried in St Jude's Cemetery.

To the north, on the western side of Brighton Road is the Uniting Church built in 1864 and constructed of local limestone with red brick dressings. The cross on the facade is constructed from the old Brighton Jetty timbers.
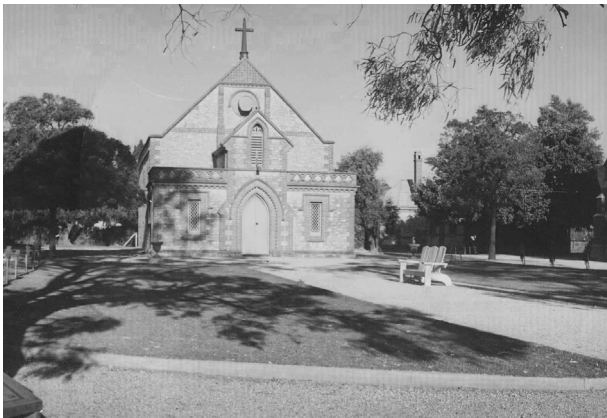
Refer to map for direction.

✳ ST JUDE'S CHURCH COMPLEX
1855, 1964 | 444 BRIGHTON ROAD

St Jude's Church prior to the earthquake. Grundy Hall to the right, circa 1947. PH-BR-0268.

At the rear of the modern church, you can still see part of the original building, opened by Bishop Short on Easter Day 1855 and financed by funds raised by local businessmen. Bishop Short was never able to dedicate the building because £100 was still owed to the contractors. Dedication eventually took place 122 years later in 1977.

An earthquake in 1954 caused major damage to the original church and after some demolition, the modern church was built. The church bell on the southern side was donated by William Voules Brown, benefactor and administrator of the church and the cemetery. In the years before heavy traffic on Brighton Road, the bell could be heard from as far away as O'Halloran Hill.

✳ ST JUDE'S CEMETERY
1854

St Jude's Cemetery was the second burial ground in Brighton, after North Brighton Cemetery. It was administered by William Voules Brown, who was curator and gravedigger. The cemetery was handed over to the church in 1923. Members of many pioneer families are buried here, including some who arrived on the HMS Buffalo, which landed at Holdfast Bay in 1836. There are graves of members of well-known South Australian families such as the Bickfords, Cudmores, Rymills and Hardys.

Catherine Helen Spence, who championed the causes of women and children, lies buried here alongside her brother. Sir Douglas Mawson, the famous geologist and Antarctic explorer is buried near the western fence. Near his grave is a boulder of porphyry granite from Arkaroola in the Flinders Ranges with a plaque that recognises his achievements. The cemetery is on the State Heritage Register.
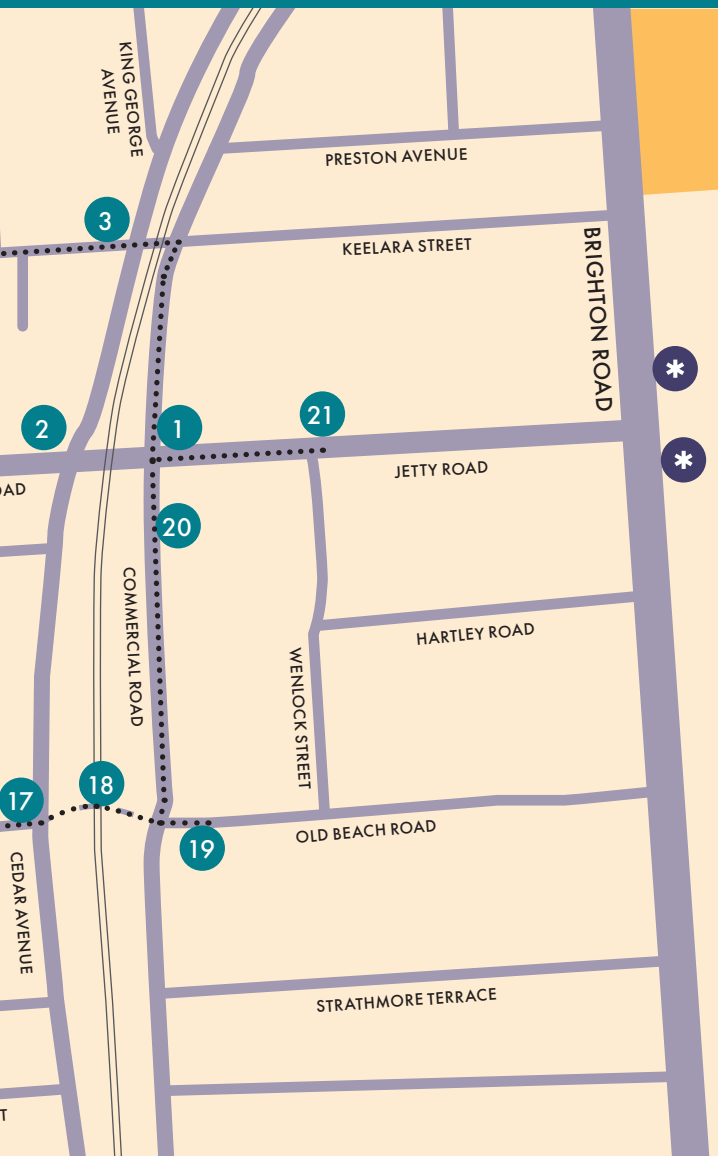
Refer to map for direction. St Jude's Cemetery is located behind the Church.

N

ESPLANADE

INDRA TERRACE

YESTER AVE

⑤

④

ATHELNEY AVE

LINWOOD TERRACE

DUNLUCE AVENUE

GURRS ROAD

⑨ ⑦

⑥

JETTY RO

⑩

⑧ ⑪

TWINING LANE

ELM STREET

ESPLANADE

BINDARRA ROAD

CURNOW ST

⑯

BEACH ROAD

⑫

⑬

⑭

CAMBRIDGE TERRACE

⑮

MARLBOROUGH STREE

①	**BRIGHTON CIVIC CENTRE** 24 Jetty Road	⑦	**THE ESPLANADE HOTEL** 135 Esplanade
②	**BRIGHTON BAPTIST CHURCH** 26 Jetty Road	⑧	**ARCH OF REMEMBRANCE** Esplanade
③	**MAYOR ANTHONEY'S HOUSE** 34 The Crescent	⑨	**KITTY WHYTE MEMORIAL DRINKING FOUNTAIN** Esplanade
④	**DUNLUCE & ATHELNEY AVENUE**	⑩	**BRIGHTON JETTY**
⑤	**DUNLUCE CASTLE** 12 Yester Avenue	⑪	**PIER BUILDING** 136 Esplanade
⑥	**JETTY ROAD**	⑫	**THE SOMERVILLE HOUSE** 154 Esplanade

KING GEORGE AVENUE

PRESTON AVENUE

3

KEELARA STREET

BRIGHTON ROAD

*

*

2 **1** **21**

JETTY ROAD

20

COMMERCIAL ROAD

HARTLEY ROAD

WENLOCK STREET

17 **18**

OLD BEACH ROAD

19

CEDAR AVENUE

STRATHMORE TERRACE

13 **DR. SWIFT'S HOUSE**
156 Esplanade

14 **ANGLICAN DIOCESE HOLIDAY HOUSE**
158 Esplanade

15 **KIT HOUSE**
161 Esplanade

16 **BEACH ROAD**

17 **SHOP & RESIDENCE**
20 Cedar Avenue

18 **ADELAIDE TO WILLUNGA TRAIN LINE**

19 **HIGHET'S HOUSE**
21 Old Beach Road

20 **WINDSOR THEATRE**
1 Commercial Road

21 **RINGWOOD HOUSE**
14 Jetty Road

* **BRIGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOL**
442 Brighton Road

* **ST JUDE'S CHURCH COMPLEX**
444 Brighton Road

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF HOLDFAST BAY?

Visit the Bay Discovery Centre
Glenelg Town Hall, Moseley Square, Glenelg
Open daily 10am – 4pm
8179 9599
holdfast.sa.gov.au/BDC

Visit the Holdfast Bay History Centre
14 Jetty Road, Brighton
Open Thursdays 10am – 4pm and by appointment
8229 9916
history@holdfast.sa.gov.au
holdfast.sa.gov.au/historycentre

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