

HISTORIC SEACLIFF & KINGSTON PARK

A self-guided walk



CITY OF
HOLDFAST BAY

Marni niina pudni Kaurna yarta-ana
Welcome to Kaurna Country, welcome to Seacliff.

The coastal plains of Witawartingga (Seacliff Park) and Tulukudangga (Kingston Park) are highly significant to the Kaurna people, with Tulukudangga being a place of great spiritual and cultural significance. Though colonists first landed in Glenelg in 1836, it wasn't until 1839 that the pristine lands and waters of Seacliff and Kingston Park were touched by settlers. Over a period of years, the Kaurna people would be systematically dispossessed of their lands.

The new settlers surveyed and offered the land for public ballot in 1839. Sections 242 and 243 were purchased by Matthew Smith and named New Brighton (later Seacliff), while section 244 was claimed by George Strickland Kingston. Over the course of the next 100 years, Seacliff and Kingston Park developed from sleepy fishing villages to a thriving coastal community. Buildings were erected, streets kerbed and transportation routes were introduced. Eventually holiday makers came and Wheatland Street became the heart of a seaside destination.

Walk duration approximately 1.5 hours with some inclines and stairs.

Refer to the map at the back of this brochure for assistance on your walk.

Begin your walk at the Brighton and Seacliff Yacht Club at 246 Esplanade, Seacliff.

Please respect the privacy of all homes along the way.



Additional properties of interest

Cover image: Seacliff Beach 1926. Holdfast Bay History Collection.

01

BRIGHTON AND SEACLIFF YACHT CLUB

1919 | 246 Esplanade, Seacliff



Seacliff Yacht Club, circa 1919. PH-AH-10000.

The sailing club was formed in 1919 and Benjamin Benny, local solicitor and councillor, was elected Commodore. The first building was a modest hut followed by a corrugated iron building, erected in November 1926 under Commodore Thomas Hardy. A memorial hall was built in 1956/57 with further additions made in 1983. The original clubhouse was demolished in 2016. In 1966, the club held the World 505 Championship, which was the first sailing World Series ever held in Australia.

Walk south along the coast path, past the yacht club and the Brighton Beachfront Holiday Park until you reach the southern car park. Stops 2 and 3 are viewable from here.



02

BRIGHTON BEACHFRONT HOLIDAY PARK

1927 | 4 Burnham Road, Kingston Park



Brighton Caravan Park, circa 1950. PH-AH-01304.

Once private land held by the Kingston family, in 1924 the State Government purchased 20 acres of land for the establishment of a pleasure resort. In 1927 the new coastal reserve was opened to the public for recreation and included camp ground provisions. The spot quickly became a popular tourist destination with a formal caravan park established. During the building material shortages after WWII, many families lived in caravans on site while waiting for houses to be available. In 1981, the South Australian Government transferred control of the caravan park to the then Brighton Council. Since then it has been progressively upgraded and remains a popular holiday destination for many people.

**Remain at southern car
park.**



03

NORFOLK ISLAND PINES

1865 | KINGSTON PARK



Kingston Park camping ground, circa 1935. PH-KP-0054.

These two iconic Norfolk Island pines today mark the entrance to the Brighton Beachfront Holiday Park. They were planted in 1865 by George Strickland Kingston and his two sons, Strickland Gough and Charles Cameron, at the base of the cliff stairs leading to their property, Kingston House.

The two trees have since been known locally as Paddy and Charlie.

**Continue walking south
along the Coast Path,
stopping when you reach
the small footbridge over
the spring.**



04

TJILBRUKE SPRING

KINGSTON PARK COASTAL RESERVE



Tjilbruke Spring, circa 1890. PH-AH-01070A.

The Tjilbruke Spring site is of great cultural importance and spiritual significance to the Kurna people and to the wider Aboriginal population. For thousands of years the permanent freshwater spring has been bubbling away in the sand and once formed a freshwater coastal lagoon. The sacred spring site is part of the extensive Tjilbruke Dreaming Story. It is here that the ancestral being, Tjilbruke, stopped with his dead nephew, Kulultuwi, on his long journey south. In 2019, not far from this place, the Kurna Nation laid to rest the remains of Old Peoples returned to country from the Natural History Museum in the UK and the South Australian Museum.

Further information on the Tjilbruke Dreaming Story can be seen on signage across the site, extending upwards to the Tjilbruke Monument.

Head north back to the Brighton Beachfront Holiday Park car park. In the south east corner of the car park, you will find a set of stairs that will lead you to the Tjilbruke Monument.



05

TJILBRUKE MONUMENT

1972 | STRICKLAND ROAD, KINGSTON PARK



Tjilbruke Monument at sunset, circa 1998. PH-AH-0077.

The Tjilbruke Monument was erected in 1972 to commemorate the Tjilbruke Dreaming Story. It was funded via public conscription and designed and created by celebrated South Australian sculptor John Dowie. The gneiss rocks, sourced from Tungkillo in the Adelaide Hills, are placed in such a way as to represent the head, body and haunches of Tjilbruke with another stone lying horizontally, representing his dead nephew Kulultuwi. Tjilbruke faces toward Karta Pintingga (Kangaroo Island), meaning Island of the Dead. Today the monument stands proudly overlooking the Tjilbruke Spring and Kaurna country.

You can read more about the Tjilburke Dreaming Story on the plaques placed at the base of the monument.

From the monument, walk east inland, crossing over Strickland Road to the grounds of Kingston House.



06

KINGSTON HOUSE 'MARINO'

1839 | 5 CAMERON AVENUE

Kingston House is one of the oldest buildings in South Australia. George Strickland Kingston purchased 80 acres of prime coastal land in 1839 and gave permission for Robert Bristow to erect a prefabricated three room weatherboard building known as the Marino Inn; which proved very popular with sailors and quarry men. By 1851 the house had been extended into the substantial building that it is today and it became the summer residence for the Kingston family.

The house remained in the Kingston family for 70 years, until the death of Lucy Kingston, wife to Charles Kingston. Lucy Kingston became known locally as 'Mad Lucy' due to her anger toward anyone trespassing on her property, including the beach below. She was often armed with multiple weapons and was not afraid to use them; in one instance hitting a cyclist with a piece of wood. Since Lucy's death, there have been reports of strange occurrences within the home.

The South Australian Government purchased the house in 1924 and it was converted into a hostel in 1927. After a community campaign, Kingston House opened to the public in the 1980s.

**Remain at
Kingston House.**



Follow the Pioneer Path around the gardens to learn more about 15 local identities who contributed to the establishment of Brighton and Seacliff. Further information on these people can be found at the Holdfast Bay History Centre.

Enjoy a Devonshire Tea at Kingston House on Sundays, March to November. Call 8358 1666 to book.



View of Kingston Park and Marino with the gardens of Kingston House to the right, circa 1920. PH-KP-0003.

From Kingston House, walk north to Kingston Crescent. Enjoy the views from the coastal path. Seats are available if you want a rest. Continue north along Kingston Crescent to the signed entrance to Pine Gully.

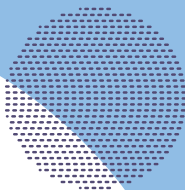
07

KINGSTON PARK CLIFF FACE RESERVE

1972 | KINGSTON CRESCENT

Kingston Park Cliff Face marks where the foothills meet the sea. The reserve includes 76 original plant species, demonstrating how the metropolitan coast once looked.

**Remain at the entrance
to Pine Gully Reserve.**



08

PINE GULLY RESERVE AND OVERLOOK

1972 | KINGSTON CRESCENT



Pine Gully Reserve Revegetation Group, 1972. PH-SE-0158a

This steep reserve was retained when the land was divided for housing in order to leave open areas for recreation. Though Brighton Council burnt off the native vegetation during the 1970s, Girl Guides and the Pine Gully Revegetation Group replanted the area, returning it to its natural beauty. The overlook also acted as the boundary for the Kingston Estate.

At this point you can return to your car by taking the steps in Pine Gully down towards the yacht club or continue the walk.

Take the lower gravel path through the reserve, continue onto Pine Avenue via a walkway between two houses. Turn left onto Myrtle Road and continue north to Maitland Terrace. Turn left and follow until you reach Marine Parade.



09

ZIG ZAG PATH

1922



Maitland Terrace, circa 1923. PH-AH-02091.

In 1922, Maitland Terrace was extended to the beach, leaving the houses either side balancing precariously. Displeased with the outcome of the recent works, the Hardy and Haselgrove families who owned the properties either side of Maitland Terrace, took Brighton Council to court. Despite losing the case, the gap between the houses was soon filled in and the path known to locals as the 'Zig Zag path' was built down to the beach. During WWII, these sand hills were covered in barbed wire to slow the enemy and trenches were dug into the cliff side.

Remain at the Zig Zag path.

10

HARDY'S PROPERTY

1920 | 44 MAITLAND TERRACE



View of Seacliff from Hardy's property, circa 1934. PH-SE-0094.

At 44 Maitland Terrace, is the State Heritage listed home of the Hardy family. The house was built in 1920 by Thomas Mayfield Hardy, grandson to Thomas Hardy and founder of the Hardy Wine Company. After Thomas' tragic death in a plane crash in 1938, his wife Eileen championed the business while caring for her young family. During WWII, the Hardy family home was taken over by the army and used as headquarters for officers.

Walk back east along Maitland Terrace. Cross the railway line and turn left, walking north along Kauri Parade, stopping at 29 Kauri Parade.



WILLUNGA RAILWAY

1913



Seaclyff Railway Station, 1920. PH-SE-1981.

The railway began operating in 1913 and was officially opened in 1915. Gangs of men worked from 7am until 7pm. They lived in various camps, 15 miles apart along the railway line. In Seaclyff, the workmen lived in canvas tents by the side of the track on Kauri Parade, with local, Mrs Deer, cooking daily meals for them. Those who did not want to camp would lodge at "De La Haye" Boarding House nearby on Brighton Road.

Remain at 29 Kauri Parade.

12

SEACLIFF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1924, 1963 | 29 KAURI PARADE



Seacliff Presbyterian Church, circa 1950. PH-AH-04775.

In 1922, a Presbyterian Church group was formed by local residents, led by Benjamin and Susan Benny. Susan would historically be the first female in Australia appointed to Local Government in 1919 as Councillor for Brighton Council. The couple's home, Stoneywood, was at 81 Marine Parade. Initially the congregation met at the Kiosk Hall in Wheatland Street until the newly built church opened at 29 Kauri Parade in 1924. A new building was erected next to the original in 1963 with the original building becoming the church hall.

**Continue north to
Wheatland Street, turn
right and walk east
towards Brighton Road.**



13

SEACLIFF POLICE STATION

1937 | 9 WHEATLAND STREET



*Wheatland Street looking towards 24 Wheatland Street, circa 1920.
PH-AH-10111.*

The Seacliff Police Station was constructed in January 1937. When it was opened, it was manned by a Mounted Policeman due to the sand hills and beach. It has been rumoured that the Mounted Policeman was actually on a bicycle. Many locals also visited the station to obtain their learner permits. The station closed in 1973 when the Darlington headquarters was opened. The original cell can be seen in the rear garden behind the shed.

**Walk next door
and stop at 5
Wheatland Street.**



14

SEACLIFF UNITING CHURCH

1928 | 5 WHEATLAND STREET



*New Brighton Camp with 2–8 Wheatland Street in the distance, 1910.
State Library of South Australia PRG/280/1/14/689.*

The Seacliff Methodist Church opened in 1928 in a Spanish mission style, designed by architect E. Lancelot Blight. Prior to the church, the area directly behind Wheatland Street, close to Brighton Road, was the site of New Brighton Camp. In January and February 1910, 1130 Army personnel and 800 horses assembled to meet British Field Marshall Lord Kitchener. On 5 February the Infantry dismantled the camp and walked back to Adelaide. Local residents lined Brighton Road to farewell the men.

**Cross the road
and stop at 2-8
Wheatland Street.**



15

ROW HOUSING

1909 | 2-8 WHEATLAND STREET



Brighton Cement Works off Ocean Boulevard and Brighton Road, circa 1919. PH-MI-0010.

These eight attached cottages are rare examples of workers' cottages in the Brighton and Seacliff area. The homes were built in 1909 by Sarah Shephard. Sarah was a local who owned land and houses across Seacliff. The average occupants were labourers for the Brighton Cement Works and men who worked on the train line as rail porters and engine drivers. One resident, William Wheatland, was son to Samuel and Ruth who lived at 43 Wheatland Street.

Head west along Wheatland Street.



Aerial view of Seacliff, circa 1938. PH-AH-01121.



16

SEACLIFF'S FIRST SHOP

1912 | 24 WHEATLAND STREET



Springbett family home and general store at 24 Wheatland Street, circa 1915. PH-SE-0095.

This Queen Anne style home was built in 1912 by Miriam and Joseph Boots. In 1914, Edwin Springbett bought the house and soon after, built a small shop of wood and asbestos on the eastern side of the property. Following the death of Edwin Springbett in 1919, the house was bought by Sophia and Joseph Allen Folland. In 1921, the Follands subdivided the land to create a new shop at number 22 Wheatland Street. The Folland family would be influential in the development of Wheatland Street, eventually operating two stores, the Post Office and a billiards saloon.

**Continue west along
Wheatland Street,
crossing over Yacca Road.**



17

SEACLIFF MEAT STORE

1922 | 26 WHEATLAND STREET



Wheatland Street showing Follands General Grocery at 24 Wheatland Street and the Seacliff Meat Store, circa 1920. PH-SE-0003.

The Seacliff Meat Store was built in 1922 for Edward George Gregory, with son Norm operating it. E.G Gregory Butchers operated at 496 Brighton Road from 1888 until 1946 with a slaughter house on Gregory Street. The establishment of the new Wheatland location ensured fresh produce was available to the emerging suburb of Seacliff. By the 1940s the site was also used as a Post Office and a hairdressers.

**Continue west along
Wheatland Street,
crossing the train tracks.**



18

PUBLIC SQUARES

1840 | 40A KAURI PARADE



Worthley Bus, circa 1940. PH-GL-1953.

The two open areas at the junction of Wheatland Street, Kauri Parade and the railway line are all that remain of three public squares laid out across Seacliff in 1840 by Matthew Smith. The square was reduced when the railway was laid in 1913. It was here that local children would catch the Worthley Bus to Brighton Primary School.

**Continue west along
Wheatland Street, crossing
over Waratah Street.**



19

LOCAL SHOPS

1927 | 44-46 WHEATLAND STREET



Vernon Folland in the Unity Store, located at 43 Wheatland Street, circa 1937. PH-SE-0086.

Lower Wheatland Street was once a busy high street with multiple stores and entertainment venues. Today, 44 and 46 Wheatland are the last reminders of another time. Built in 1927, shop 44 operated as a hairdresser and tobacconist and shop 46 was rented by butcher John Giles. The original produce board can be seen on the front of the building. The lane behind once serviced the outside 'dunnies'.

Stop 20 is directly opposite Stop 19, on the southern side of Wheatland Avenue.



20

WHEATLAND COTTAGE

1896 | 43 WHEATLAND STREET



*Possibly Ruth Wheatland in front of 43 Wheatland Street, circa 1900.
PH-SE-0224.*

Samuel Wheatland and family arrived in South Australia in 1878 aboard the ship *Oaklands*. Initially settling at Glenelg, Samuel found work with Brighton Council in 1886 and subsequently built this small cottage of limestone and pug in 1896. The street, previously known as 'Forty Foot Road', was renamed Wheatland Street after the family in 1898. By the 1940s, the Folland family from 24 Wheatland Street had moved into the premises and Vernon Folland built Folland's Unity Store in front of the cottage. The shop remained until 1994 when it was demolished and the cottage was restored.

**Continue west
along Wheatland
Street, crossing
over Myrtle Road.**



21

THE JAZZ HOUSE

1890s | 40 MYRTLE ROAD



Marjorie Ellen and Doreen Heaslip swimming at Seacliff prior to the development of the foreshore and rotunda with 40 Myrtle Road in the distance, circa 1920. PH-SE-0225

Once home to artist David Dallwitz AO and family, this home embodies a lost era of Seacliff. Constructed as a simple four room limestone cottage, it was one of the earliest homes in the area. It was extended in 1904 and operated as a boarding house by the Dove sisters. The Dallwitz family purchased the home in 1955 and added an artist studio and band room in the high ceiling. They regularly hosted parties and artist friends, such as Francis Roy Thompson, Ivor Francis and Jeff Smart, would spend their days painting and swimming. Seacliff proved a popular artist retreat and poet Ian Mudie lived at 53 Marine Parade.

Continue west along Wheatland Street towards the ocean. Stop at the corner of Esplanade and Wheatland Street.



22

SEACLIFF HOTEL

1927 | 221 ESPLANADE, SEACLIFF



Australia Hotel, circa 1935. PH-AL-0039.

1927 was a big year for the development of the Seacliff foreshore as a premier seaside destination. The Hotel Australia was built by Jim Handby, a Glenelg football player and Magarey Medal winner who later became Mayor of Glenelg. The hotel initially operated as seaside accommodation for 30 guests with a cafe. As the hotel did not have an alcohol licence, the guests were collected in a charabanc (early bus) and delivered to the Thatched House Tavern in Brighton, on the corner of Brighton and Sturt roads. In 1937 the building was sold and renamed Seacliff Hotel. In 1974 a severe fire destroyed the third floor, leaving the two storey establishment as it is today.

**Turn north along Esplanade.
Stop at 218 Esplanade.**

23

THE ARGOSY

1924 | 218 ESPLANADE, SEACLIFF



The Argosy, AilsCraig Flats and Australia Hotel, 1929. PH-AH-0343.

Charles Garner's vision of a premier seaside attraction was realised in 1924 with the development of the AilsCraig Flats and later The Argosy in 1927. The Argosy opened as a large entertainment hall offering social functions, dancing and movies with shops and a cafe in the front. Out the back, a large cement slab became the Argosy Skating Rink; a popular attraction for the youth of Seacliff and Brighton. The glory days by the sea came to an end in 1959 when the Argosy burnt down and was replaced with these flats. Today one of the only remaining buildings from this period is the Pirate Cat Cafe, once the Pioneer Cafe. Though extensively modified, you can just make out an original roof line on the western side.

Cross Esplanade and walk south along the Coast Path toward the roundabout. Stops 24 and 25 can be viewed from here.



24

SEACLIFF ROTUNDA AND SEAWALL

1927 | OCEAN END OF WHEATLAND STREET



Seacliff Rotunda with Hotel Australia and the Astoria Flats in the background, 1931. PH-AH-01346.

The Seacliff foreshore became an important social place for the emerging seaside destination of Seacliff in 1927, when the newly built rotunda and seawall were opened to the public. The unique circular design incorporated cement slabs from the old Glenelg Breakwater. The Brighton and Colonel Light Municipal Band were a common fixture at the rotunda with regular galas and open air dances held for the public. The seawall and rotunda were severely damaged in the 1964 storm. Though much was demolished, you can still make out the semi-circular cement slabs from certain angle under the current boardwalk.

Remain at the roundabout.

25

SEACLIFF MEMORIAL CLOCK

1931 | OCEAN END OF WHEATLAND STREET



Seacliff Memorial Clock, circa 1931. PH-AH-VS-0286B.

The Seacliff Memorial Clock was erected in 1931, at the entrance of the rotunda, in memory of WWII. The clock was a poor design choice for a coast often battered by storms. Within months, it constantly malfunctioned and in the 1964 storm it was severely damaged. The clock was subsequently installed on the balcony of the Seacliff Hotel, permanently stopped at 1:25. It was stolen in 1989 - never to be seen again.

**Enjoy a leisurely walk
along the foreshore
back to your car.**





N

23

22

21

19

18

24

25

20

WHEATLAND STREET

ESPLANADE

MARINE PARADE

MYRTLE ROAD

10

9

WARATAH STREET

1

BRIGHTON BEACHFRONT
HOLIDAY PARK

7

8

PINE GULLY
RESERVE

2

3

4

5

6

KINGSTON CRESCENT

SINGLETON ROAD

KINGSTON PARK
COASTAL RESERVE

KINGSTON HOUSE



- 1 **BRIGHTON AND SEACLIFF YACHT CLUB**
246 Esplanade, Seacliff
- 2 **BRIGHTON BEACHFRONT HOLIDAY PARK**
4 Burnham Road, Kingston Park
- 3 **NORFOLK ISLAND PINES**
Kingston Park
- 4 **TJILBRUKE SPRING**
Kingston Park Coastal Reserve
- 5 **TJILBRUKE MONUMENT**
Strickland Road, Kingston Park
- 6 **KINGSTON HOUSE 'MARINO'**
Kingston Crescent
- 7 **KINGSTON PARK CLIFF FACE RESERVE**
Kingston Crescent
- 8 **PINE GULLY RESERVE AND OVERLOOK**
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- 10 **HARDY'S PROPERTY**
44 Maitland Terrace
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44 – 46 Wheatland Street
- 20 **WHEATLAND COTTAGE**
43 Wheatland Street
- 21 **THE JAZZ HOUSE**
40 Myrtle Road
- 22 **SEACLIFF HOTEL**
221 Esplanade, Seacliff
- 23 **ARGOSY**
218 Esplanade, Seacliff
- 24 **SEACLIFF ROTUNDA AND SEAWALL**
Ocean end of Wheatland Street
- 25 **SEACLIFF MEMORIAL CLOCK**
Ocean end of Wheatland Street

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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

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holdfast.sa.gov.au/historycentre

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