



# CAPE ST ALBAN'S WILDLIFE



Credit: Don Fuchs

Echidnas are solitary anteaters and fascinating spiky creatures that are entertaining to observe. Seeing one in the wild is an incredible memorable experience. Did you know that female echidnas lay a single egg, which they incubate in a pouch on their belly? Once the egg hatches, the baby echidna, known as a puggle, stays in the pouch for up to three months before venturing out into the world. Echidnas are also excellent swimmers and can hold their breath for up to 10 minutes while swimming.



Credit: Tourism Australia

Kangaroo Island Kangaroos are a sub-species of the Western Grey Kangaroos with dark chocolate brown fur and a shorter, stockier in build. They are an important part of the ecosystem on Kangaroo Island and are admired for their unique characteristics and behaviours. The peak breeding season is typically from December to April, so be aware of dominating males trying to impress the females! Females will give birth to a single joey, which will remain in her pouch for around 8 months to feed on the mother's milk which is high in fat and protein. You may be lucky to see a joey poking its head out the pouch, or once large enough, leaving mum to graze on grass and other vegetation.



Tammar Wallabies are much smaller than the Kangaroo Island Kangaroos and have a dark grey coat with reddish-brown arms and white cheek stripes. They prefer areas with dense vegetation like woodlands, shrublands, and heathlands. They are very timid so sit quietly to observe from a safe distance. Female wallabies have a unique reproductive adaptation called embryonic diapause. This means that after mating, the fertilized egg can delay its development and implantation into the uterus until environmental conditions are suitable.



The Great Southern Skies offer a unique and awe-inspiring view of the universe, and even amateur stargazers can experience this incredible sight in all its glory at Cape St Albans. The Milky Way is a spiral galaxy that contains billions of stars, including our own sun. It is visible for much of the year and is a breathtaking sight to behold, appearing as a bright band of stars stretching across the sky.



The bird species that can be found at Cape St Albans include a breeding pair of the endangered, White-bellied Sea-Eagles, that have been known to successfully breed an offspring. White-bellied Sea-Eagles are admired for their strength, grace, and beauty and are known to build large, sturdy nests in tall trees or shrubs near the water. South Australia only has a small, isolated population of these majestic birds, with only 70-80 pairs of White-bellied Sea-Eagles and one pair making Cape St Albans their home.



The Glossy Black Cockatoo is a rare and distinctive cockatoo endemic to Kangaroo Island that has a dark body with distinctive patches on its tail feathers. It is considered a vulnerable species and an important part of the biodiversity of Kangaroo Island. The male and female Glossy Black Cockatoos have slightly different appearances. The males have glossy black feathers with bright red panels on their tails, while the females have a more muted brownish-black coloration with yellow patches on their tails.