

# Holiday Safety

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**Plan. Prepare. Prevent!**



**SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE**  
SAFER COMMUNITIES



**Government  
of South Australia**



## BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Thieves will try to take advantage of a vacant property if they are aware it's empty.

- Consider installing external sensor lighting.
- Cancel newspapers and redirect your mail or have a relative collect it for you.
- Store valuables out of sight or leave them with relatives.
- If you have a wall calendar, keep it away from windows so your plans can't be seen.
- Consider when and what you post on social media whilst you are away. Don't advertise that your home may be vacant.
- Activate your alarm if you have one installed and consider putting interior lights on timers.
- Lock your property (including sheds) and tell your neighbours and relatives that you will be away.

If your neighbour is away on holiday and you observe suspicious activity around their property, report it to the police by calling **131 444**.





## HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

- Note displayed emergency plans in your accommodation.
- Secure your valuables inside the room safe or take them with you.
- Don't leave bikes or sporting equipment unsecured outside your accommodation.
- On leaving your accommodation, lock the doors and close the windows.
- Take your keys with you; do not hide them.

If you are on a camping or caravanning holiday, further advice is available by searching 'caravan and recreational vehicle' on the SA Police website [www.police.sa.gov.au](http://www.police.sa.gov.au).

## VEHICLE SECURITY

- Keep vehicle doors locked when driving and remember, an open window whilst stationary may invite theft.
- Have your keys or remote entry ready before approaching your vehicle.
- Lock or remove your sporting or leisure items fitted to your boat or vehicle.
- Securely attach trailers and boats to a vehicle or solid fixture when not in use.
- At night, park your vehicle in an illuminated area.
- Remove all valuables from your vehicle or conceal them in the boot.
- Never leave your vehicle running and unattended, even for a short period.





## ROAD SAFETY

- In Australia, you must drive on the left-hand side of the road.
- When driving long distances, share the driving and rest for at least 15 minutes every two hours. Be realistic about how many kilometres you can drive in a day.
- South Australian speed limits are 100km/h on open roads and 50km/h in built-up areas unless sign-posted otherwise.
- You and your passengers must wear a seatbelt.
- It is an offence to drive whilst using a mobile phone.
- It is an offence to drive a motor vehicle whilst exceeding the prescribed concentration of alcohol for your class of driver's licence.
- It is an offence to drive a motor vehicle whilst under the influence of a drug.
- Interstate and overseas visitors must carry a current driver's licence when driving in South Australia. International drivers' licences not printed in English need to be accompanied by an English translation.
- Never pick up hitchhikers and never accept a ride with strangers.
- You must wear a correctly fitted and approved helmet when riding motor bikes, bicycles and wheeled recreational devices such as skateboards and scooters.





## REMOTE TRAVEL

**Planning to breakdown is planning to survive**

Common reasons people seek rescue or recovery are:

- Mechanical breakdown.
- Poor vehicle maintenance or suitability for conditions.
- Collisions due to inexperience, poor conditions, animal strikes.
- Getting lost.

Be well prepared for remote travel. Resources may be limited and you need to be self-sufficient.

- Inform someone of your whereabouts and have regular check-in times.
- Stay on designated routes and be wary of GPS shortcuts. It may be the road less travelled. You don't know the track conditions and it may lead to nowhere causing you to use limited fuel and have to backtrack.
- Consider travelling with a group for extra safety and share the weight of extra equipment needed for the trip.
- Mobile phones should not be relied upon for remote travel. Have a backup communication method like a satellite phone or emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB) and know how to operate it.



- Carry safety and recovery equipment (first aid kits, shovels, recovery straps and tools) along with spare parts and two spare tyres if possible.
- Ensure your vehicle is suitable for your route (2WD/4WD). Understand your vehicle's capabilities.
- Ensure your driver has sufficient experience for the selected roads and that passengers can take over if required.
- Ensure you have adequate food and water for the trip and build in a contingency supply of an extra three to four days just in case. In mild weather, each person will need six litres of water per day. In extreme weather, carry 10 litres of water per person per day.

## In the event of a breakdown

In rural and remote areas, open your bonnet and **STAY** with your vehicle. This will make it easier to find you.

In all likelihood, at some time on your remote travels you are at greater risk of a mechanical breakdown. Knowledge is free, adds no extra weight to your setup and is one of the greatest assets you can take with you.

- Learn basic mechanical skills before going (e.g. change a tyre, check fluid levels, clean an air filter etc.).
- Learn how to read from paper maps as a backup to GPS devices. The **emergency+** or **what3words** apps are useful to have on your phone and can help to identify your location. Note, these may require mobile coverage to function.
- Think through your route and plan early exit points in case your vehicle starts to experience problems or in case of medical or supply issues.





## REMOTE TRAVEL (continued)

- Think 'What if' scenarios and try to risk manage your travel accordingly.
- Plan for the worst - 'What if I have a vehicle fire and need to leave the vehicle'? Have some form of basic shelter and supplies you can grab quickly when exiting your vehicle.
- Research basic survival and first aid skills.
- Plan and identify fuel stops carefully. Your vehicle will use more fuel than normal driving.
- Animal movements increase around sunset and sunrise. Avoid driving at these times.
- Never drive into moving water or flooding. Visit **[www.sa.gov.au/emergencies](http://www.sa.gov.au/emergencies)**.
- Further information and advice on South Australian outback road conditions is available from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport **[www.dit.sa.gov.au](http://www.dit.sa.gov.au)**.
- Regularly monitor the weather for quickly changing conditions by visiting **[www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)**.
- Regularly check current firebans and incidents in your area by visiting the Country Fire Service **[www.cfs.gov.au](http://www.cfs.gov.au)**.





## PERSONAL SAFETY

- Where possible, travel with a friend or group and keep to illuminated areas at night.
- Keep your mobile phone charged and in your possession in case of an emergency.
- Only carry what cash you need for the day and do not wear expensive jewellery.
- Be aware of people and surroundings when using cash machines.
- The Australian sun can be very strong. Wear a shirt, hat, sunglasses and use plenty of sunscreen.



- When planning a walk, visit: [www.alert.sa.gov.au](http://www.alert.sa.gov.au) for the latest news from South Australia's Emergency Services.
- Take enough food, water, suitable clothing, basic first aid and shelter in case your circumstances change.







## WATER SAFETY

- When at the beach, always swim between the red and yellow flags, which indicates that a lifesaving service is on the beach.
- Never leave personal items under a beach towel. Take it with you in a watertight container or leave them secured in your holiday accommodation.
- When swimming, people often get into difficulty because they overestimate their ability or underestimate the risks. Never underestimate current flow or depth of water.
- Always supervise children around water.
- Learn swimming, water safety and lifesaving skills.
- Wear a lifejacket when boating, rock fishing or paddling.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs around water.
- Further safety information around water activities and operating a boat or watercraft is available by searching 'water safety' on the SA Government website **[www.sa.gov.au](http://www.sa.gov.au)**.



South Australia is a safe place to live, visit and do business. When holidaying in South Australia, please read, follow and share these simple safety and crime prevention tips to ensure you and your travel companions stay safe.

For more information visit  
[www.police.sa.gov.au](http://www.police.sa.gov.au)

### EMERGENCIES

Call **Triple Zero (000)** when there is an emergency.

For example, any situation where life or injury is threatened or any event that may cause danger to people or property.

### NON-EMERGENCIES

Call **131 444** for non-urgent police assistance.

For example, reporting a crime that has already happened or reporting a missing person.



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