

ROBE

A brief history

Robe is situated on Guichen Bay, about 350km south east of Adelaide. Nicolas Baudin, a French explorer first viewed the bay in 1802. Guichen Bay was named in honour of Admiral de Guichen. Surveying by Governor Robe in April 1846 resulted in the county of Robe being proclaimed. Pastoral pioneers legalised their claims and the first sale of building allotments took place in Adelaide. In 1847 Robe was declared a port and wool began to arrive for shipment.

Until 1840 Aborigines in the South East of South Australia lived an almost undisturbed tribal situation. The region was divided into tribal areas which had clearly defined boundaries, much of the South East being occupied by the Boandik tribe. The Aborigines did not build in the European sense, but they left many physical traces of the occupation of area near Robe.

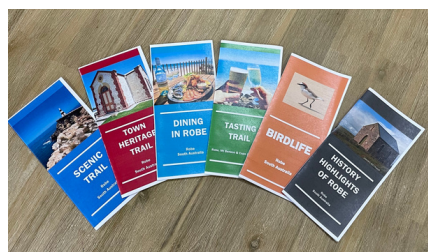
A pioneer agent named George Ormerod established himself as Robe's shipping agent and by 1856 Robe was the second major colonial out-port. Hearing of Robe's prosperity the town attracted many settlers and merchants arriving by sailing vessel, bullock wagon or on horseback. In 1857 "Land of Cakes" sailed into Robe's Bay with 264 Chinese passengers. The numbers swelled to 17,000 Chinese staying in Robe for a short time to avoid the Victorian poll tax, before paying local guides to take them 150km to the unguarded border and another 400km to the Victorian Goldfields.

Several factors in the 1870's led to the decline of Robe as a thriving port. Pastoralists concerned that their leases would not be renewed from the 1850's led to a decline in trade. Lack of confidence, a poor agricultural season, falling wool prices and construction of the railway to Port Caroline (Kingston) in 1878. "Robe was closed as a port and became a quiet little country village" wrote A.H. Barrowman.

Robe remained relatively unchanged until the 1940's when the extension of roads and the increasing use of motor transport made it easier for summer visitors and increased its popularity as a tourism destination. Coupled with the development of the Rock Lobster Industry in the 1950's in response to demand from abroad. Now home to around 1500 locals, Robe continues to offer charm, fine hospitality and fresh seafood as a popular holiday destination for all.

As a visitor to the town you can still immerse yourself in Robe's seafaring history - full of extraordinary events and over 84 historic buildings and sites. Special care has been taken to restore most of the original buildings.

The Robe Visitor Information Centre has a range of brochures for free and explore Robe via self-guided tours!



See the sights

- Enjoy a walk along the coastal trail from Long Beach right through to West Beach. Along the way you'll see some of Robe's icon's: Obelisk, Old Gaol Ruins, Jetty, Lake Butler Marina & so much more!
- Go off road in the Little Dip Conservation Park. Grab a 4WD guide from the VIC which includes all of the important information you need to know before hitting the tracks. Or ask the friendly staff about booking a 4WD Tour with one of our expert locals
- Enjoy freshly caught seafood or fish 'n' chips on the foreshore overlooking Guichen Bay
- Grab yourself a copy of Robe's Tasting Trail from the VIC and enjoy a day of wine & beer tasting, locally made chocolate, beef jerky & roasted coffee topped with a milking tour at Humpalicious camel farm
- Check out the range of unique Robe gift shops along Victoria Street
- Head to Transmutation and explore their range of homewares made from recycled bread tags
- Learn to surf on Robe's iconic Long Beach, or tackle the waves yourself out at 3rd ramp. If surfing isn't your thing, why not go for a stroll along the 12km of white sandy beach or go for a dip in the aquamarine water?
- Step back in time with a self-guided Heritage Walk through town past old shops built from paddock stone and quaint cottages
- Explore the ROMBA Mount Bike trails at Beacon Hill or book a TRACX adventure tour with Kylie Peel. She'll customise your bike tour to your skill level and desires
- Take to the skies for an aerial view of the landscape in a Tiger Moth or light aircraft

Stay in Robe

Robe has a large selection of accommodation to suit everyone's needs and desires ranging from:

- Caravan Parks & Cabins
- Hotels
- Motels
- Self-Contained Holiday homes
- Apartments
- Bed and Breakfast
- Farmstay

A majority of Robe's accommodation options are not found online, but luckily the Robe Visitor Information Centre have developed a 'Robe Accommodation Guide' which includes all providers, and a brief description of the style and price. The guide is available for free collection at the VIC or can be found online: www.robe.sa.gov.au/explore

Dine in Robe

There is no shortage of delicious dining options here in Robe and naturally, most restaurants specialise in seafood dishes, with a feed of locally caught crayfish taking place as a permanent resident on their summer menus. However, if seafood isn't your go to we have a range of other options including, Italian, Greek, Mexican & Chinese Cuisines or classic pub and café style food. We also have some of the best coffee and ice-cream in Australia so be sure to treat yourself!



ROBE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE (VIC)

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