



Southern Flinders Ranges

How much does it cost?



Fact Sheet

Costs of Living in the Southern Flinders Ranges Region

South Australia is well known for its low costs of living compared to other states in Australia. However, costs can vary between the city of Adelaide and between regional towns in South Australia. This fact sheet outlines the cost of living in the Southern Flinders Ranges.

Housing:

- In Port Pirie, the median house price for the December 2007 quarter was \$152,500, this is compared to the state average of \$320,000. The Real Estate Institute of SA updates these figures every quarter—visit www.reisa.com.au;
- Renting a property is another option in the Southern Flinders Ranges. Rental properties start at around \$130 per week for a basic dwelling or unit, with larger executive style residences available for around \$300 per week. Of course, there is also everything in between! Your rental payment does not include amenities and services such as electricity, gas or a telephone connection and rental properties generally come unfurnished; however, occasionally a property will be available that is fully or partly furnished. A cash bond is almost always required to be paid upfront, and this bond will be refunded at the end of the tenancy provided that the property is assessed as being in good condition. Occasionally, a landlord will ask for payment of rent in advance. For further information and to search for properties, visit www.realestate.com.au.

Living Expenses:

- If you own your home, you will need to pay annual rates to your local council, with rates varying between different councils and dependant upon the value of your house or property. For further information, visit local council websites:
Port Pirie Regional Council: www.pirie.sa.gov.au;
Northern Areas Council: www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au;
Mount Remarkable Council: www.mtr.sa.gov.au
- Electricity, water, telephone and gas are the main amenities that you will need to pay for when living in your home. Generally, these bills are paid quarterly; however, you can sometimes request for a monthly account if preferred. Costs for these services will vary depending on your provider and usage;
- It is recommended that you insure your property and its contents. Insurance policy costs vary greatly, depending on the insurance required, so shop around. You can always combine policies for ease as well, including property, contents, car etc.

Travel:

- Fuel costs can vary depending on where you are located in South Australia, from around \$1.20 per litre up to \$1.50 per litre in more remote locations for unleaded petrol. Fuel prices continually fluctuate throughout the year. Most cars run on unleaded petrol as a standard; however, cars on LP Gas and diesel can be more cost effective over long distance. For costs of cars, visit www.drive.com.au or www.redbook.com.au. Car registration in South Australia is compulsory. People from the age of 16 can commence learning to drive. For more information regarding registration and licensing, visit www.transport.sa.gov.au;
- Port Pirie has a public bus service which runs daily around the city centre and suburbs. It travels a circuit of central Port Pirie and the eastern and southern suburban areas, covering 49 streets. It is an hourly service commencing at 6.50am and finishing at 5.40pm. There are 16 runs each weekday, 8 clockwise and 8 anticlockwise, alternating between each direction. On Saturday the service runs four times between 9.00am and 11.40am. There is a small cost for the service;
- Personal car is the most popular way to travel to Adelaide or other regions, with the drive being only about 2^{1/2} hours into the CBD of Adelaide. Premier Stateliner run a bus service on which you can travel all over South Australia. The Adelaide to Port Pirie service generally takes under 3 hours. You can also use this service to travel to places such as Whyalla and Port Lincoln, or south to Victor Harbour or Mount Gambier. A return ticket from Port Pirie to Adelaide costs around \$70, with a high school student costing about \$35. For further information, visit: www.premierstateliner.com.au



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Education/Schooling:

- Pre-school, primary school and secondary school levels are covered by public and private schools in the SFR. State education is free in South Australia, although by law, public schools can charge up to \$235 per student per year. Quite often, parents are asked to voluntarily contribute financially over and above the set costs for each child, with this amount varying depending on the year level of the student. For a list of Public Schools in the region, visit: <http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/locs/>
- Private schools, of which there are a few in the Southern Flinders Ranges, charge set fees depending on the year level of the child. For information on the colleges in Port Pirie, visit: <http://www.stmarks.pp.catholic.edu.au> and <http://www.midnorthcc.sa.edu.au/index.html>

Eating and Drinking:

- South Australia is the second cheapest state in Australia to buy groceries (www.choice.com.au). There are two major grocery chains in the region, being Coles and Woolworths. Both stores offer competitive prices on food with discounts and specials on grocery items offered every week. Smaller towns in the SFR also have independent supermarkets and stores available; however, these are generally more expensive than the larger chain stores;
- Eating out in Port Pirie and the Southern Flinders Ranges is generally a lot cheaper than in capital cities including Adelaide. A main meal at a café, restaurant or hotel dining room ranges from as little as \$10 to around \$25 for a fine dining restaurant;
- Port Pirie boasts several fast food chain outlets including McDonalds, KFC, Subway and Pizza Hut, with the prices for take away food comparable to Adelaide;
- The price of alcohol when out in either a restaurant or hotel (pub) is again comparable to Adelaide, but is cheaper than other capital cities such as Melbourne or Sydney. A glass of good quality wine costs around \$5 and a bottle of Australian beer is around \$4.

Your Health:

- The Southern Flinders Ranges region boasts high quality medical care. There are many health insurance providers available for private health cover. Cover can be “Hospital Cover” and/or “Extras Cover”. Hospital cover includes expenses relating to hospital stays and visits such as surgery, theatre fees, accommodation, etc. Always make sure that your fund includes ambulance cover, otherwise you may have to cover this separately. Extras cover includes services such as optical, dental and physiotherapy. The cost of cover varies between different companies and the level of cover required; however, as an example, a family of two adults and two children would look to pay around \$150 per month for medium—high level cover. For more information, visit: www.phio.org.au/links_he.html

Wages and Employment

- Some sites that include specific information about wages and workplace conditions include:
 - * SafeWork SA (<http://www.safework.sa.gov.au>) - the South Australian Government’s industrial relations and workplace legislation administration body. The *Industrial Relations* section of this website provides extensive information on workplace regulations and entitlements. You can find information about wages and conditions and worker rights.
 - * www.wagenet.gov.au is the current Australian government website that contains information about federally based Awards.
 - * <http://www.oea.gov.au> is the Office of the Employment Advocate website, providing information and support relating to Workplace Agreements.
- The Australian Taxation Office website – www.ato.gov.au has information about income tax rates, Tax File Numbers (mandatory for anyone who undertakes paid work in Australia) and levies.

This information is correct to the best of our knowledge as at February 2008. The SFRDB does not endorse any products or services listed as part of this information.