

Encounter Lakes and Franklin Island Information Sheet

The beautiful Encounter Lakes and Franklin Island waterways are human made saltwater lakes situated in Encounter Bay (just a few minutes from Victor Harbor). The lakes have multiple public swimming beaches, making them the perfect location for a day of swimming, a family picnic and many different aquatic activities. The beaches are extremely popular places for swimming, windsurfing, kayaking, canoeing, snorkelling and stand up paddle boarding.

How big are the lakes?

Encounter Lakes is 204 mega litres in volume, and 2100m down centre from end to end.

Franklin Island is 36 mega litres in volume, and approximately 670m in length.

What is the depth / water level of the lakes?

The water in the lakes is fed from pipes from the ocean, therefore the depth and water level are variable, dependent on the sea level.

Do the lakes connect to the ocean?

Yes, the lakes do connect to the ocean via pipes, the ocean is not accessible via the lakes.

Can people swim in the lakes?

Yes, swimming is permitted in the lakes.

Can dogs swim in the lakes?

No, dogs are not permitted to swim or bathe in the lakes, and all dogs must be on leash while on the beach or reserve area (By-law 5).

Can I use a motorised model boat in the lakes?

No, motorised model boats are not permitted in the lakes.

Can I put a boat in the lakes?

No, boats are not permitted in the lake unless prior Council approval is given.

Can I have a jet ski in the lakes?

No jet skis are not permitted in the lakes.

Can I paddleboard in the lakes?

Yes, paddle boarding is permitted in the lakes.

Can I canoe/kayak in the lakes?

Yes, canoeing/kayaking is permitted in the lakes.

Can I snorkel in the lakes?

Yes, snorkelling is permitted in the lakes.

Can I scuba dive in the lakes?

Yes, scuba diving is permitted in the lakes.

Can I jump/dive in from the bridge/jetty?

No, bridge/jetty jumping is not permitted in the lakes.

Can I fish in the lakes?

Yes, under specific conditions - catch and release fishing only –you must return any aquatic life caught, and fishing is not permitted:

- at any portion of the inlet structure
- within 20 metres of a bridge
- within 20 metres of swimmers
- within 6 metres of the property boundaries of private residents
- within 10 metres of the pump station

For more information visit www.victor.sa.gov.au or call 8551 0500.

Are tests undertaken to monitor the water quality of the lakes?

Yes, to ensure that water in the lakes is safe for recreational activities, water samples are taken for testing between December and August each year. This is to test for bacteria and assess the health of the water.

Are the beaches located around the lakes public?

Yes, all the beaches surrounding the lakes are free for public use, however, some of the beaches are only accessible via the water.

Do I need a permit to use the lakes for organised aquatic activities?

Yes, schools/sporting clubs/commercial businesses etc. require an aquatic permit to undertake organised aquatic activities in the lake.



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