Living in Adelaide

Find the suburb, lifestyle and connections that suit your move.

Adelaide brings together city dining and cultural venues, coastal neighbourhoods and suburban centres with their own everyday rhythm. From a central apartment to a furnished home near the beach, your choice of base can shape both the working week and the way you enjoy the city. [2]

For a relocation, start with your workplace, household needs and daily services. Compare the full journey rather than assuming a smaller capital city means every destination is close. A northern industrial assignment, a city office and a southern workplace can require very different accommodation choices.

Adelaide at a glance

Topic	What to know
Location	Capital of South Australia, between the metropolitan coastline and the Adelaide Hills.
Time zone	Australian Central Standard Time, with seasonal daylight saving.
City layout	A central city surrounded by suburban areas; work destinations extend well beyond the CBD.
Lifestyle	City dining, cultural activities, coastal recreation and neighbourhood shopping. [2]
Housing choices	Apartments, townhouses and detached homes; furnished stock varies by location and stay length.
Getting around	Adelaide Metro buses, trains and trams, plus walking or cycling for some local journeys. [7]

People and demographics

The 2021 Census recorded 1,387,290 people in Greater Adelaide and an average household size of 2.5 people. These figures refer to the metropolitan statistical area, rather than only the City of Adelaide council area or the CBD. [1]

Family households accounted for 68.6% of occupied private dwellings in the 2021 Census, while 27.7% were single-person households. These city-wide figures provide context; explore the community facilities and services around each shortlisted home to understand the local routine. [1]

Demographic figures describe the 2021 Census, not a current population estimate. The suburb suggestions below are editorial starting points based on location and amenities. The right fit depends on your household, workplace and the specific property.

Central and inner Adelaide

City centre

Explore: Adelaide CBD. A central base puts city dining and cultural activities within reach, with apartments a useful starting point for your property search. [2]

Consider this area for: a city-based assignment or central arrival base. Transport: compare nearby buses, trams and the walk to your workplace [7].

Before choosing: confirm floor area, storage, lifts, noise and parking costs.

North Adelaide

Explore: North Adelaide and nearby city-edge streets. Melbourne Street is one of Adelaide's established dining precincts, offering another option for a neighbourhood routine near the centre. [3]

Consider this area for: renters wanting a city-edge base. Transport: check bus connections and the complete walk to work or local services [7].

Before choosing: inspect evening activity, event-day traffic, parking and building access.

Norwood and the inner east

Explore: Norwood, Kent Town and nearby eastern streets. Norwood offers boutique shopping and a food-focused local precinct. Explore the streets around The Parade as well as the property itself. [4]

Consider this area for: renters who value local shopping and dining east of the centre. Transport: compare buses and the walk to the nearest useful stop [7].

Before choosing: check street noise, parking, stairs and the journey to work.

Inner south

Explore: Unley, Goodwood and Hyde Park. Use these distinct neighbourhoods as starting points when comparing a home just south of the city. Investigate local shopping, parks and everyday services around each address.

Consider this area for: renters with inner-south or city destinations. Transport: check bus, train or tram access individually for each listing [7].

Before choosing: a suburb name does not guarantee a short station walk; test your daily route.

Relo tip: Compare a typical weekday from three shortlisted addresses. Include work, groceries, exercise and travel home after an evening out.

Coastal and western Adelaide

Glenelg and nearby coastal streets

Explore: Glenelg, Glenelg North and Glenelg South. Glenelg provides a beachside setting with local dining and recreation. It is one of Adelaide's established coastal destinations. [5]

Consider this area for: people prioritising beach access. Transport: compare the tram or bus journey from the exact address; the full city-to-Glenelg tram trip is not free [7,8].

Before choosing: test the weekday commute; inspect weekend activity, cooling and parking.

Henley Beach and the western coast

Explore: Henley Beach, Henley Beach South and West Beach. Henley Beach offers coastal dining and recreation, with neighbouring suburbs providing additional property-search options. [6]

Consider this area for: renters wanting to investigate a western coastal base. Transport: check bus routes and any transfers to your workplace [7].

Before choosing: inspect wind exposure, traffic and aircraft noise where relevant; compare the walk to shops.

Semaphore and Port Adelaide

Explore: Semaphore, Port Adelaide and nearby north-western streets. Compare Semaphore's coastal setting with Port Adelaide's waterfront history and cultural attractions. These are different local routines, so investigate each area separately. [9,10]

Consider this area for: renters with north-western work destinations or coastal interests. Transport: compare train and bus access for the actual workplace [7].

Before choosing: test the final connection to work; inspect surrounding industry, traffic and parking.

Inner west and airport-side areas

Explore: Thebarton, Mile End and surrounding western suburbs. Start here when comparing accommodation for western-side work or access to the airport area. Match the home to the precise workplace rather than a broad location label.

Consider this area for: renters with inner-west or airport-side destinations. Transport: compare local buses and other useful connections; check airport bus timetables separately [7,11].

Before choosing: check operating hours for shift work, traffic, aircraft noise and parking.

Choosing with family needs in mind

Use the South Australian Department for Education's school finder to check the exact home address against school zones or catchment areas. Contact the school about enrolment and

documentation before relying on a particular place. Research childcare and preschool availability separately. [12]

For a furnished family home, confirm beds, laundry, storage, a dining area and space for homework or working from home. Compare the daily journey to school, shops, parks and activities.

Northern, southern and hills-side options

Inner north and north-east

Explore: Prospect, Walkerville and surrounding suburbs. Compare a northern city-edge base around your workplace and everyday services. Visit local shopping streets, community facilities and open space near each listing.

Consider this area for: renters with northern or city destinations. Transport: check local bus routes and the nearest practical connection [7].

Before choosing: inspect traffic, parking and the walk to services; compare school requirements using the exact address.

North-eastern suburban centres

Explore: Modbury, Tea Tree Gully and nearby suburbs. Use these centres as starting points when your routine is in the north-east. Choose around work, schools and local services rather than distance from the CBD alone.

Consider this area for: renters with north-eastern commitments. Transport: check O-Bahn and local bus connections, including the journey to the interchange [7].

Before choosing: test the complete route and evening services; decide whether daily trips require a car.

Northern employment and residential centres

Explore: Mawson Lakes, Salisbury and Elizabeth. These are separate northern search areas. Match the property to the actual job site, especially when work is outside a town centre.

Consider this area for: renters whose main destinations are on the northern side. Transport: compare train and bus access and the final connection to work [7].

Before choosing: investigate shift-time services, driving routes, parking and total travel costs.

Southern suburbs and hills-side options

Explore: Marion, Bedford Park, Blackwood and nearby southern or foothills areas. These locations offer different settings and travel patterns. Compare them when work, study or family commitments are south of the city or near the foothills.

Consider this area for: renters with southern or hills-side destinations. Transport: check train and bus services and onward travel for each address [7].

Before choosing: inspect heating and cooling, slopes and the daily route; a quieter setting may add travel time.

Choose the area around your routine

Your priority	Starting points to compare
City-based assignment	CBD, North Adelaide or a well-connected inner suburb.
Neighbourhood dining	Norwood, North Adelaide or another suitable local centre.
Beach access	Glenelg, Henley Beach or Semaphore, subject to the commute.
Northern work	A northern address matched to the actual job site.
Southern or western work	A home on the relevant side of the city with a practical final connection.

Transport, climate and everyday life

Getting around Adelaide

Use Adelaide Metro's journey planner and current maps to compare buses, trains and trams. Include the walk from the property, transfers and the final journey to work. Check weekday, weekend and early or late services separately. [7]

Tickets and free city services

Adelaide Metro offers metroCARD, Tap and Pay and the Buy & Go app. Check current fares, concession eligibility and validation instructions for the ticket you choose. Use the official guidance when travelling on an unfamiliar service. [7,13]

Free travel applies on designated tram sections and City Connector bus services. It does not cover every city or suburban journey. Check the current free-service map before travelling; the full tram journey between the city and Glenelg requires a fare. [8]

Getting to the airport

Adelaide Metro buses serve Adelaide Airport. Check the current route, timetable and luggage arrangements for your arrival or departure, including the walk between the stop and your accommodation. Compare other transfer options if the service does not suit your flight time. [11]

Do you need a car?

Plan a complete week: work, shopping, school, evening activities and weekend outings. Some well-connected addresses can support daily life without a car; other workplaces require further connections. Compare parking and fuel with the cost, time and convenience of public transport.

Weather and the home you choose

Adelaide's climate has warmer, drier summers and cooler, wetter winters. Bureau of Meteorology observations provide a city reference; coastal, suburban and hills locations can experience different conditions. [14]

Inspect effective cooling and heating, ventilation, shade and window coverings. Ask about direct afternoon sun, draughts and electricity inclusions or usage limits. A furnished home should remain comfortable across your entire stay, especially if you will work indoors.

Lifestyle beyond work

Explore local dining, cultural venues and coastal outings as you settle in. Adelaide's neighbourhoods provide different everyday routines, so allow time to experience several areas before choosing a longer-term base. [2]

Libraries, council recreation facilities and community groups can help you establish local connections. Check nearby activities, opening hours and accessibility directly.

Budget for the whole stay

Compare accommodation, utilities, internet, parking, cleaning and other disclosed charges. Confirm inclusions, usage limits, payment dates and written terms. Furnished availability and prices vary by property, location and stay length.

Settling in with Relo Rentals

Your accommodation checklist

- Set your move-in date, expected stay, household size and total budget.
- Shortlist addresses around work, school and everyday services.
- Test journeys at your real start and finish times.
- Confirm beds, linen, kitchen equipment, laundry, internet and workspace.
- Check heating, cooling, parking, accessibility and any pet arrangements.
- Request the full inclusions, payment schedule and extension or cancellation terms.
- Keep a record of the agreed details and arrival arrangements.

Frequently asked questions

Which Adelaide suburb is best for a relocation?

Start with your workplace, household needs and budget. Central areas may suit city assignments, while northern, southern or western homes can work better for other job sites. Compare the actual property and the full daily journey.

Is the tram to Glenelg free?

The entire journey from the city to Glenelg is not free. Only designated sections are free; check Adelaide Metro's current map and ticketing guidance before travelling. [8]

Does Adelaide observe daylight saving?

Yes. Adelaide uses Australian Central Standard Time in winter and Australian Central Daylight Time during the daylight-saving period. Check time differences when coordinating with colleagues in other states.

How do I check schools before booking a home?

Use the Department for Education's school finder with the exact address and contact the school directly. Research childcare and preschool availability, hours and the route from home separately. [12]

What should a furnished rental include?

Check each listing and written agreement individually. Ask about furniture, bedding, kitchen items, appliances, laundry, internet, utilities and parking. Confirm heating and cooling, plus the items your household needs.

Ready to make Adelaide your next home?

Explore furnished accommodation for your move and find a base that fits the way you want to live. Whether you are relocating for work, moving with family or coordinating an employee assignment, start with the location, space and stay length you need.

Sources

Information reviewed: 13 October 2026. Demographic reference period: 2021 Census. Check current transport arrangements and property information when planning your move.

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