

The Government township of Moonta was surveyed in March 1863 on a grassy plain mid-way between the shafts and the sea, the name being derived from the aboriginal Moonta-Moonterra meaning 'impenetrable scrub'. It was laid out in a symmetrical grid pattern with a central square and surrounded by parkland reserves and cemetery. Allotments were auctioned in April 1863 but the town was initially slower to develop than nearby Kadina or Wallaroo.

Commercial buildings were the first to be established in Moonta as most miners continued to live on mining leases. The area east of the central square, along George and Ryan Streets, became the centre of business because of its proximity to the main road and the mines. In response to the prosperous mining operations after 1865, the commercial structure of the town began to expand, resulting in the town's most vigorous building period, which continued to the mid 1870s.

By 1870, the population of the Moonta district reached 10,000 of whom more than 6000 lived on mining leases, and all building blocks in the town had been sold. When the mines flourished after 1900, the new prosperity was again reflected in town growth. However, there was a rapid decline in population after the closure of the mines and, by 1926, there were only 1350 residents.

This guide was made as a quick reference
for your convenience by the
Copper Coast Visitor Information Centre.



50 Mines Road, Kadina.

Phone: 8821 2333

info@coppercoast.sa.gov.au

www.coppercoast.sa.gov.au

Moonta Historical Town Drive



MOONTA HERITAGE TRAIL

1. Town Hall - 1885
2. Queen Square - 1897
3. Row Cottages - c.1865
4. Early Cottage- c.1865
5. Tramway Cutting -1892
6. Vercoes Shop and Residence-c.1878
7. Pollys Bonnet Shop-c.1870
8. Methodist Church-1873
9. Bible Christian Church-1873
10. Row Cottages-c.1880
11. Salvation Army Hall-1901
12. School of Mines-1866/1903
13. Fire Station-1920
14. Oval and Show Pavilion
15. Cothele House-c. 1890
16. Victoria Park-1887
17. All Saints Anglican Church-1873
18. Masonic Lodge- 1875
19. Moonta School-1877
20. St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church-1869
21. Moonta Hotel-1863
22. Site of Old Showgrounds-1872
23. Assayers Residence-1863
24. Hancocka Tailings Dump
25. Miners Cottage-c. 1870
26. Site of Hamley Tramline-1896
27. Site of Hamley Mine-1862
28. Treuers Shaft-c. 1880
29. Hughes Engine Pool-c.1865
30. Moonta Mines Methodist Church-1865
31. Site of Primitive Methodist Church-1865
32. Site of Bible Christian Church-c.1865
33. Former Post Office-1946
34. Moonta Mines School-1877
35. Ryan's Tailings Heap
36. Ryans Shaft-1861
37. Reservoir-1873
38. Powder Magazine-c. 1875
39. Ruins of General Manager's Residence-1875
40. Ruins of Mine Offices-1875'
41. Richmans Enginehouse-1869
42. Taylors Shaft-1862
43. Hughes Enginehouse-1865
44. Site of Mine Workshops-c.1865
45. East Moonta Methodist Church-1872
46. Wild Dog Mine-1924
47. Yelta Mine-1861
48. Cross Roads Methodist Church-1873
49. Cross Roads Primitive Methodist Church-1873
50. Ruins of Precipitation Works-1901
51. Railway Station-1908
52. Royal Hotel-1865
53. Rossiters Residence and Store-c.1865
54. Druids Hall-1866

