

# Fitzgerald



**Fitzgerald Bay** is a large bay located between Point Lowly and Backy Point in South Australia's upper Spencer Gulf. It offers stunning views of the blue gulf waters framed by picturesque hills and the Southern Flinders Ranges. Semi-desert vegetation reaches to the beaches that are mainly formed by pebbles, sand and a line of mangroves.

The Freycinet heritage trail starts here.

Fitzgerald Bay was home to a kingfish farm operator. The sea cages are still visible from the shoreline.

Bush camping is available at Fitzgerald Bay in three designated areas. Sixteen kilometres along the Point Lowly/Port Bonython road is the turn-off to Fitzgerald Bay. In 1937, Backy Bay was officially named Fitzgerald Bay after a former South Australian parliamentarian and member for Port Pirie, John Christopher Fitzgerald who believed that a prosperous future for the upper Spencer Gulf could be built on the back of iron ore mining.

The Fitzgerald Bay stranded shingle ridge area protects a rare 5000 year old geological formation. The Fitzgerald Bay ridge with other smaller ridges along the coastline are the only ones of their kind in Australia. In recognition of this, the shingle ridge was confirmed as a state heritage place in 2017.

Mangroves protect shorelines from damaging storm and hurricane winds, waves, and floods. Mangroves also help prevent erosion by stabilising sediments with their tangled root systems. They maintain water quality and clarity, filtering pollutants and trapping sediments originating from land.

