



Robe has been described as the Jewel of the South East of South Australia—otherwise known as the Limestone Coast of South Australia. This is also the home of some well known wine producing areas, Coonawarra, Padthaway, Wrattobully, Mount Benson, and Robe. Many cellar doors welcome visitors to taste the wine produced on the Terra Rosa soil, which covers the masses of limestone.

Robe was selected as a port for entry into this region of Australia in 1856 for the intake of overseas migrants, and as a principle port for the export of produce of this burgeoning agricultural lands and pastoral activities. It is very well known as the port where many Chinese fortune hunters landed to amass their “fortunes” from the Victorian gold fields without paying the landing fees demanded by the Victorian Government of the time. The Chinese men were defrauded by many of the Robe inhabitants in numerous ways before beginning their long walk to the gold diggings in the lands around Bendigo and Ballarat.

Today there is still a large primary production output in the district of Robe. Apart from its many land based activities, Robe is better known for its participation in the Crayfish (Southern Rock Lobster) fishing of the southern coast of South Australia, carried out during the season from October to the end of May by boats also from Cape Jaffa, Beachport, Southend, Carpenters Rocks, and down to Port Macdonnell.

There are buildings of the past years to be seen in the town together with the old Customs House, an historic Institute Building, and a cemetery of 160 odd years significance. There are interesting and scenic walking trails for those looking to work off the effects of the tempting food varieties available in the main streets. Robe has a variety of shops providing an interesting attraction to the ladies, in particular, and cafes, restaurants, together with sources of liquid refreshment.

Sporting activities are to be found in Robe. Beginning with those related to nature there is swimming, surfing, canoeing, sailing, fishing, boating, and under water exploration. There is a go-cart track and a challenging trail bike course with exploration tracks for bikes and 4wd vehicles. Horses are also to be seen. A 14 hole golf course welcomes visitors as does a sea-front bowls club during the playing season. There are tennis courts in the town, and a bridge club plays every Monday. A skate board site is available and wind for kites.

