Explore Kinchega National Park’s history and culture whilst enjoying the peace and tranquillity; where the red sand meets the grey clay soil of the majestic Darling River and the Menindee Lakes System. The Kinchega NP Visitor Centre is a great place to start your adventure, with lots of information on things to see and do and the fascinating story of Kinchega.

**GETTING THERE**

The park is located to the south-east of Broken Hill; in Far West New South Wales.

The road leading to Kinchega NP from Broken Hill is sealed; all other access roads are unsealed. The roads are accessible by 2WD vehicles however their condition varies over time. Be prepared to drive slowly and always drive to conditions.

Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes when travelling to Kinchega NP from Broken Hill.

The park becomes inaccessible after rain and internal roads may be closed.

For road closure information contact:
- Central Darling Shire 08 8083 8900
- Broken Hill RMS 08 8082 6660
- www.livetraffic.com

**TOUR RATES**

**General Tours**

- Adults (16yrs+) - $10 / head
- Children (5 – 16) - $5 / head
- Children (under 5) - Free
- Families (2A&2C) - $25 / family

**WilderQuest Tours**

- Children (5 – 12) - $10 / head
- Accompanying adults – Free

**School Excursions**

- Half day tour - $5 / student
- Full day tour - $10 / student

Please note these prices do not include park entry, camping or accommodation fees.

You must have 10 or more people to book a tour out of the school holiday period.

Half day excursions to Kinchega NP are up to 3 hours and may include the Old Kinchega Homestead Cultural Walk and the Woolly Tales tour of the Historic Kinchega Woolshed.

Full day excursions to Kinchega NP are over 3 hours and may include additional talks and / or games. Please see pages 3 and 4 for full descriptions of tours, games and activities.

Our Discovery Rangers are happy to tailor talks to meet your syllabus requirements. Please talk to us about your student’s needs.


**WHEN TO COME**

Kinchega NP experiences extreme temperatures. Summer months can peak above 38°C and winter nights can drop below 0°C. Normally, the windiest months are September to October and the coldest are June to July.

**IF Milder Weather is Preferred, the Best Time to Visit is During Autumn and Spring.**
PARK ENTRY FEE

The park entry fee is per vehicle/coach and per day. It applies to each day you are in the park and to day visitors and campers.

Entry fees must be paid on entry to the park at the information shelter located at the start of the River Drive, next to the Menindee Lake Regulator or in the Woolshed complex car park, using self-registration envelopes. Make sure to display the top copy on your dash. Change is not available and the Visitor Centre is not usually staffed.

NPWS annual pass holders are exempt from entry fees.

PARK FIRE BANS

Kinchega NP has a park fire ban during the hotter months (October - March). During this period open fires (wood, heat beads etc) are prohibited but gas cookers are permitted, except on TOTAL FIRE BAN days.

PLACES TO STAY

Camping: There are 34 sites located along the River Drive. A number of sites are also provided at Emu Lake and Lake Cawndilla. There is no need to book.


OTHER INFORMATION

- There is limited mobile phone coverage in the park.
- A pay phone is available at the Kinchega NP Visitor Centre
- Provisions (food/water) are the responsibility of the group.
- OHS protocols and procedures are the responsibility of the group.
- Please observe Cultural respect at all times.
- The ratio of adults to students and associated supervision is the responsibility of the school/group leader.

ENTRY FEES

- Up to 8 seater = $8.00
- Mini coach less than 22 seater = $15.00
- Coach 22 to 44 seater = $30.00
- Coach greater than 44 seater = $40.00
- Commercial Tour Operations = fee per head as per PEP

CAMPING FEES

- Adults (16 + years) = $6.00/night
- Children (5- 16 – years) = $3.50/night
- Under 5’s = free

KINCHEGA SHEARERS’ QUARTERS FEES

- Adults (16 + years) = $20/night
- Children (5- 16 – years) = $10/night
OLD KINCHEGA HOMESTEAD CULTURAL WALK

Stage 2: History – Community and Remembrance
Stage 2: Geography – Earth’s Environment

Join NPWS staff in a guided walk around the Old Kinchega Homestead precinct. Be enthralled by the abundance of Aboriginal and European heritage of the area. Discover the history of the park and the significance of its cultural heritage. Accompany an Aboriginal Discovery Ranger to view and discuss a variety of Aboriginal sites (there is a limit of 30 students per group to visit cultural sites). Also learn about the triumphs and tragedies of the enduring years of settlement and pastoralism.

- Meet at the Old Kinchega Homestead car park for a short introduction to Kinchega NP.
- Explore the ruins of the Old Kinchega Homestead and learn about early pastoral life. Compare the current structure to early photographs of the Homestead. Suggest why the homestead was built here in relation to natural features.
- Traditional bush foods and medicines are identified when in season.
- Visit 3 Aboriginal sites and learn how they can tell us about Aboriginal life.
- The group then has the option to continue around the billabong to look at different types of vegetation and the importance of natural features for the animals that live here.
- Look around the campsite and talk about sustainable recreation.

WOOLLY TALES – A TOUR OF THE HISTORIC KINCHEGA WOOLSHED

Stage 2: Built Environment

Step back in time and be enthralled by the grandeur of the Historic Kinchega Woolshed. Learn about Kinchega’s vast pastoral history and woolshed operations while taking a guided tour of the heritage listed building and its surrounds.

- Meet at the Historic Kinchega Woolshed car park for a short introduction to Kinchega NP.
- Then travel through the building taking the route a sheep would have and then following the journey of the fleece from sheep’s back to timber cart on the way to market.

GAMES AND FUN ACTIVITIES

The following games and activities can also be held in your classroom.

Aboriginal Site Game
Learn about human and environmental processes that threaten Aboriginal sites while playing a game similar to musical chairs.

Tracks and Traces
Learn how to recognise different animal tracks while making them with paint and your own hands. This is quite messy but always a lot of fun.

Barkindji Bush Foods
Hunt and gather photos of bush foods, students learn about responsible harvesting by only collecting one picture each and how bush food is prepared and eaten. At Kinchega students can try bush foods when in season.

Threatened Species Game
Learn about habitat fragmentation and human impacts on our native species while playing a game similar to musical chairs, things get interesting when you start adding feral animals the activity evolves into a game of tip.
KIDS ACTIVITIES JUST FOR FUN

WilderQuest – Track Detective
Join the quest with a ranger to look for clues to discover who lives in Kinchega National Park. Look for animal tracks and make some of your own. Find out how to read what they are telling us about what the animal is doing and how it moves.

Water Bug Dip
When the Old Kinchega Homestead Billabong is full it is the perfect place to dip a net and hunt for water bugs, you never know what each dip of the net will bring. It may be a water scorpion, a dragonfly larvae or even baby perch. Discovery is only a dip net away.

SECONDARY SCHOOL EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Geography of the Homestead Bend
Stage 4: 4G2 Global Environments – Rivers
Learn how the Homestead Billabong was formed and how the environment changes as it leaves the Darling River. See Aboriginal occupation sites and the ruins of the Old Kinchega Homestead and interpret how and why both the Aboriginal people and early pastoralists lived here.
Students will:
- Use maps and satellite images to interpret the natural and built environments
- Describe and record the environment using simple line drawings
- Interpret why Aboriginal occupation sites are located in this area
- Calculate distances using topographic maps
- Explain the geographical processes that formed the Homestead Billabong

A Local Ecosystem
Stage 6: Senior Science
Stage 6: Biology
Perform a field study across an environmental gradient as the sand dunes transition into the floodplain. Take a range of abiotic measurements and compare them to the distribution of plants and animals.
Students will:
- Take abiotic samples along a transect including pH, temperature, light, slope and elevation
- Identify and record the distribution of plants along the transect
- Use random quadrats to estimate the abundance of plants
- Compare different methods for calculating tree height
- Tabulate the results
GENERAL TOURS

Billy Tea with Barkindji Aboriginal Elders
Enjoy an afternoon on the banks of the Darling River joining local Barkindji Elders in making Billy Tea and Johnny Cakes (a type of damper). Take the time to chat about contemporary Aboriginal culture. Learn about times long since and not so long since passed. Sit back, relax and enjoy the rewards of your cooking!

Explorer Trail
Partake in Kinchega NP’s newest Discovery tour! Join NPWS Rangers in a vehicle convoy exploring sites around Kinchega National Park of importance to notable explorations parties of the 1800’s. Be captivated by the stories of Mitchell, Sturt and of course the fateful expedition of Burke and Wills.

Billabong meander
Come and explore the Homestead Billabong on a guided bush walk. Learn about the River Red Gums and Black Box trees and other plants and animals of the forest. Be amazed by the local Aboriginal people’s crafts and how they made use of the flooded forest for hunting and gathering foods.

‘Past to Present’ Slide Night
Be captivated by the history and beauty of the Kinchega slide collection. Learn about the pre-history of the area where Mega-fauna once roamed; Aboriginal occupation and connection to country; explorer history, and; the development of pastoralism which saw Kinchega thrive as one of the dominate sheep stations of the West Darling. Witness the progression of Kinchega into its present state as a National Park.

Vehicle Tag-Along Tour
Come, look, see and learn about archaeology, landforms, Indigenous culture, pastoralism, park and water management. A must! Tag-Along with Rangers and Aboriginal Elders into areas in the south of Kinchega National Park normally restricted to the public. Gain personal insight into the Park; its history, function and future.

Old Kinchega Homestead Cultural Walk
Join NPWS staff in a guided walk around the Old Kinchega Homestead precinct. Be enthralled by the abundance of Aboriginal and European heritage of the area. Discover the history of the park and the significance of its cultural heritage. Accompany an Aboriginal Discovery Ranger to view and discuss a variety of Aboriginal sites. Also learn about the triumphs and tragedies of the enduring years of settlement and pastoralism.

Woolly Tales – A tour of the Historic Kinchega Woolshed
Step back in time and be enthralled by the grandeur of the Historic Kinchega Woolshed. Learn about Kinchega’s vast pastoral history and woolshed operations while taking a guided tour of the heritage listed building and it’s surrounds.

Updated 15 July 2016
Kinchega National Park
School Excursion meeting points

Legend
- Main Road
- NPWS road
- National Park
- Walking Track
- Toilet
- Parking
- Camping Area

Meeting points:
- Old Kinchega Homestead Cultural Walk
- Water Bug Dip Geography of the Homestead Bend
- Woolly Tales WilderQuest - Track Detective
- A Local Ecosystem

Inset:
- Old Kinchega Homestead Ruins
- Billabong Walk
- Billabong Walk

To Menindee
Kilometers

Metres

Legend:

Main Road
NPWS road
National Park
Walking Track
Toilet
Parking
Camping Area

0 0.5 1 1.5 2
Kilometers

0 50 100
Metres

Inset:
Homestead Bend
Billabong Walk
Billabong Walk
Ruins Walk
Start
End
Old Kinchega Homestead Ruins

Meeting point:
Woolly Tales
WilderQuest - Track Detective
A Local Ecosystem