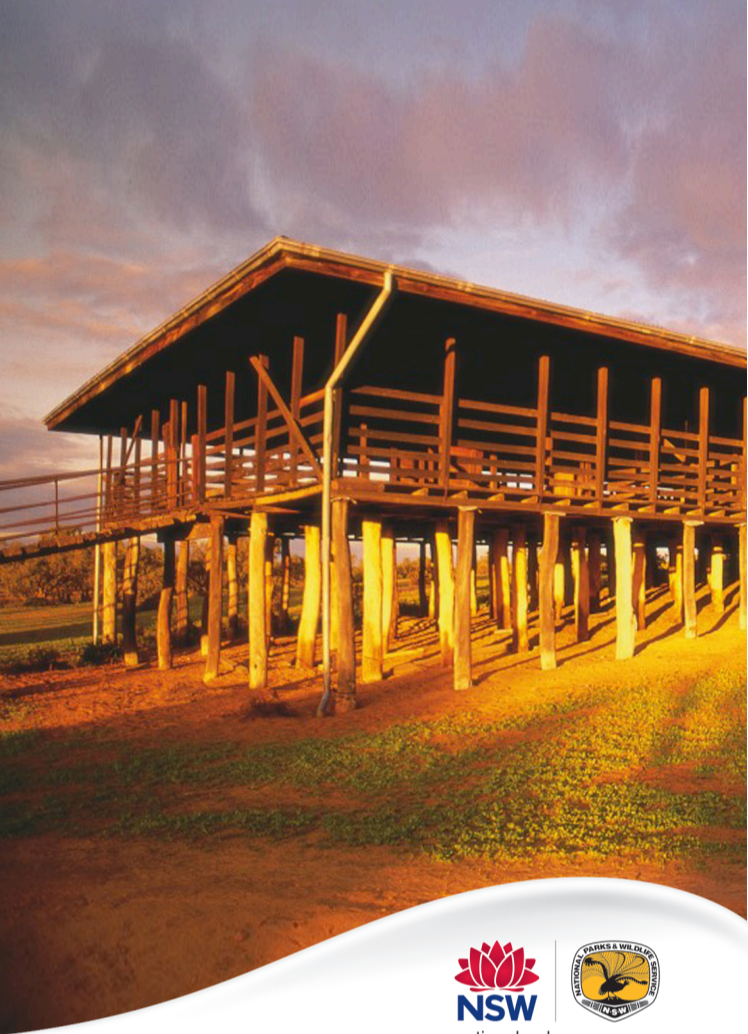


Kinchega National Park



ABOUT THE PARK

Kinchega National Park ... a land of tumbling, life-giving rain and deep, thirsty drought. Rolling red sand dunes seem to touch the infinite blue skies, amazing waterways teem with birdlife after rainfall. There is a rich natural, Aboriginal and pioneer heritage to explore.

Meander amongst the river red gums that silhouette the Darling River, enjoy a spot of fishing, or sit back and watch the birds, kangaroos and emus. It's truly an oasis of wildlife in the desert, with photo opportunities at every turn.

After rain, discover sand plains and dune fields alive with vivid displays of wildflowers. Explore sites significant to the Paakantji (Barkindji) Aboriginal people and important relics of early pastoral days, such as the historic Kinchega Woolshed. Stay a while. You can camp in designated sites along the river and lakes, where dazzling star-filled skies and awesome sunrises and sunsets are commonplace. Or, stay in the Shearers' Quarters that were part of the former Kinchega Station, an ideal base for park exploration.

FEES AND CHARGES

Kinchega National Park is well cared for. Visiting is subject to purchase of a vehicle day pass, and camping fees apply. All fees go directly to managing, protecting and conserving native flora, fauna and cultural heritage in the park.

The entrance, information and pay stations are found at the Menindee Outlet Regulator, Cawndilla Camping Area and the Woolshed car park.

You're also welcome to pre-pay at the Broken Hill office, 183 Argent Street, Broken Hill, or phone 08 8080 3200. Annual Park Passes may be purchased on line at: www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/passes-and-fees or visit your local NPWS office.

Camping and accommodation fees are extra. This map and brochure gives you a basic overview of features and facilities. For more detailed information on topography and landscape, we recommend that you buy a topographic map before you go exploring.

GETTING THERE

Kinchega National Park is located 111km south-east of Broken Hill along the sealed road to Menindee. It can also be reached via Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and Wentworth on unsealed roads. For your safety, check for road closures – roads inside the park are unsealed and are closed after rain and in times of flood. Public road access may also be closed due to flooding and/or rains in the area. We suggest you check with the relevant authorities prior to travel. Contact the Broken Hill National Park office on **T: 08 8080 3200** or visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety/outback.

You can also contact the Broken Hill Visitor Information Centre on **T: 08 8080 3560**.

STAYING ON PARK

Enjoy a stay at Kinchega Shearers' Quarters. Available to all guests are a self-contained kitchen, communal lounge, laundry and BBQ; BYO linen, blankets, pillows and provisions. The Quarters sleep up to 27 people in bunks in six rooms and there is limited disabled access.

Hot showers are available for Shearers' Quarters clients and by gold coin donation for campers. You'll find instructions for accessing borewater clearly posted.

Bookings are essential – contact the Broken Hill office on **T: 08 8080 3200**.

Campers can choose from 34 campsites along the Darling River Drive, with more dedicated sites on the lakes.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact the NPWS office in Broken Hill
183 Argent Street Broken Hill
PO Box 788 Broken Hill 2880

T: 08 8080 3200.

E: npws.westdarling@environment.nsw.gov.au

NPWS is part of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage

Brochure 10/2015

Cover photo: Kinchega Woolshed. M. Cufer OEH

MUST SEE AT KINCHEGA

- Kinchega Visitor Centre at the far end of the Shearers' Quarters provides information on exploring and touring – the centre is unmanned, so is always open.
- Some 6 million sheep were shorn at Kinchega's Woolshed. Discover how shearing evolved in the pioneer era, and see examples of shearing machinery. The woolshed is of State significance. The woolshed and shearers' quarters were listed on the Register of the National Estate in 1978.
- Explore the Old Kinchega Homestead and cemetery... built in 1870s, they tell the story of harsh life on an Outback sheep station.
- Follow the Old Homestead Billabong Walk, a 2.3km ramble that reveals Kinchega's Aboriginal, European, pastoral and natural history, with interpretive signs. Brochure available.
- The Darling River Drive is a 27km meander under a canopy of majestic river red gums, with premier camping and picnic locations.
- Remnants of the paddle steamer, the PS Providence, can be found on the River Drive between campsites 32 and 33. It exploded at this location in 1872.
- If fishing, please be aware of NSW Fisheries Regulations.
- Watch an amazing sunset at Lake Cawndilla, a great spot for a BBQ. Morton Boulka Day Use Area is an enticing, shaded picnic area densely populated with native trees.



Kinchega Visitor Centre precinct, Kinchega NP. J. Spencer OEH

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

The Paakantji (Barkindji) Aboriginal people are the traditional owners of Kinchega National Park and adjacent Darling River and Menindee overflow lake system.

Continuous occupation dates back around 35,000 years and along your journey you'll see abundant evidence of this. There are scar trees along the river – remnants of canoe, shelter building and food gathering. Lunettes on the lakes edges preserve thousands of years of Aboriginal history and heritage including burials, middens and stone tools.

Kinchega National Park remains a place of great importance to the local Aboriginal community. Please join us in preserving these valuable sites, by treading with care and leaving objects undisturbed.

Many historic structures and relics of the early pastoral days at Kinchega Station can also be discovered.

At its peak operation, Kinchega Station comprised over 800,000 hectares and stretched from Menindee to the South Australian border and north-west past Broken Hill.

In 1967 Kinchega Station was acquired by the NSW Government to form Kinchega National Park, the first national park west of the Great Dividing Range.

ECOLOGY

Kinchega National Park protects diverse flora and fauna within three unique land systems. There are eight identified amphibian, 103 bird, 17 mammal and 40 reptile species, and more than 450 species of plants.

The floodplains of the Darling River support an open forest of huge river red gums, lining the riverbanks on heavy textured cracking clays.

Extending further away from the river, the black-soil floodplains are where you'll find black box and coolabah trees. Bright red sands form the base of sand plains and dune fields; belah and rosewood trees dominate the dunes and black bluebush, prickly wattle and needle wood characterise the sand plains.

Watch out for bearded dragons and sand monitors, basking on the road before dashing back to the safety of the bushes.

Visit after rain and you might catch an awesome sight ... carpets of colour on the dunes as ephemeral wildflowers quickly complete their lifecycles.

The Menindee overflow lake system supports a vast array of internationally important waterfowl rookeries. When the lakes fill, huge flocks gather to breed and feed including threatened blue billed and freckled ducks, magpie geese and broilgas.

The cycle of lake flooding and drying supports native plants, including the threatened Menindee nightshade. When the lakes begin to dry, emus benefit from grazing on the nutrient-rich soils.



Kangaroos, Kinchega NP. D. Finnegan OEH



Camping by the Darling River, Kinchega NP. D. Haaskard OEH

Management of waters stored within the external boundaries of Kinchega National Park, as part of the Menindee Lakes Scheme, is the responsibility of the NSW Dept of Primary Industries – Water NSW. The lands subject to this scheme are not reserved as national park but are held as a permissive occupancy from the Department and are conditional of the Department maintaining a number of works, rights of access, and the flooding and draining of Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla.

Broken Hill 110km

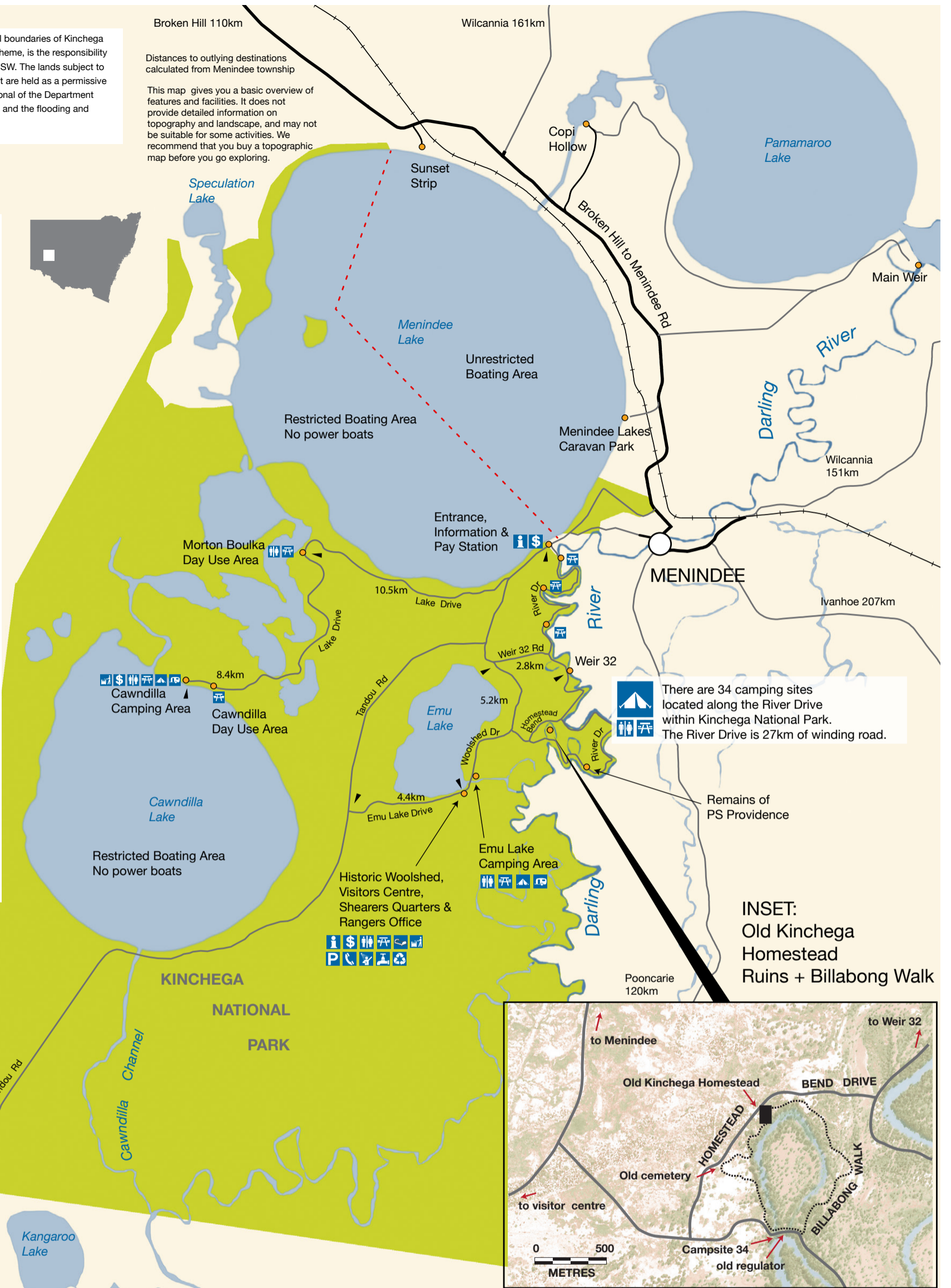
Wilcannia 161km

Distances to outlying destinations calculated from Menindee township

This map gives you a basic overview of features and facilities. It does not provide detailed information on topography and landscape, and may not be suitable for some activities. We recommend that you buy a topographic map before you go exploring.

KINCHEGA PARK MAP

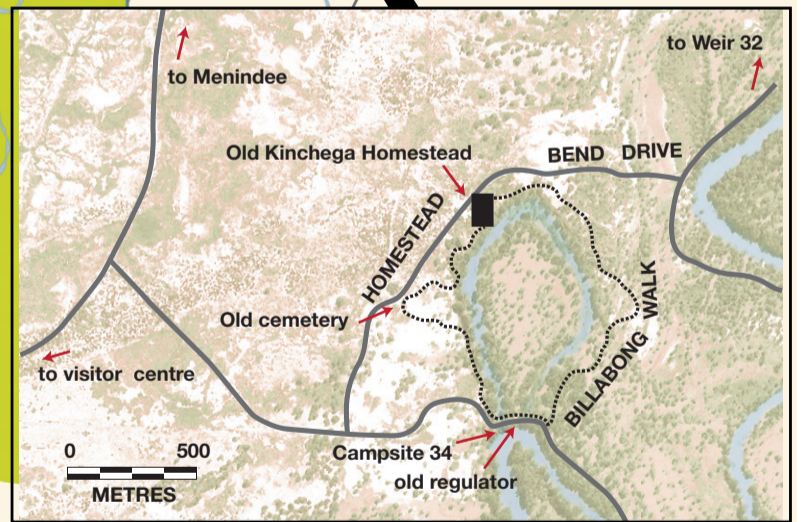
- Kinchega National Park
- Lake
- Major sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Railway
- River
- Power boat restriction boundary
- Information
- Fee pay station
- Toilet
- Picnic Area
- Camping Area
- Shearers Quarters' Accommodation
- Caravan Camping
- Parking
- Public telephone
- Showers
- Recycling
- Water
- BBQ



There are 34 camping sites located along the River Drive within Kinchega National Park. The River Drive is 27km of winding road.

Remains of PS Providence

INSET:
Old Kinchega Homestead Ruins + Billabong Walk



VISITING KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK

Take a step back in time, following in footsteps that are thousands of years old. Kinchega's natural attractions will leave you awestruck ... abundant bird and animal life, ancient landscapes, blazing sunsets and sunrises, a sky that is infinite blue by day and gorged with stars at night.

The Aboriginal and European cultural heritage of Kinchega is best explored in your own time. It's a place to meander, along the River Drive and the Lake Drive and along its short walks. Everywhere you'll discover inspiring wildlife and landscape photo opportunities.

Relax at one of the day use areas, or for a genuine pioneer experience stay at the Kinchega Shearers' Quarters. There are also abundant camping areas to choose from along the Darling River or at Lake Cawndilla.

As part of the ancient cycle of flood and dry, wildflower season is usually in late winter, and spring after good rains over winter. This is when the waterbirds will descend. During dry weather, other wildlife such as emus benefit from rich, exposed soils.



Menindee Lakes, J. Spencer, OEH

CARING FOR THE PARK

Unfortunately, we can't welcome your pets. We do, however, allow service animals to accompany you during your visit. Aboriginal and historical artefacts are part of Kinchega's heart, and are entirely protected. Please tread softly and take only pictures and memories with you.

If you love the idea of an open fire (in designated fire pits), you'll need to bring your own firewood, as we can't allow you to collect wood in the park. A fire ban is in place between the beginning of October and the end of March each year, but we do provide gas and electric barbecues for your use all year round.

Help us care for native animals and birds by refraining from sharing food with them.

For your safety and to protect Kinchega's fragile environment, please only drive on formed roads. Note that cycling is permitted on all roads, motorists please take care. Generators can be used between 8am and 9pm.