Fishing in the Murrumbidgee Valley

Fishing is a great way to get back to nature. And what better place to drop a line than in the Murrumbidgee Valley, nestled within the stunning river red gum forests of southern NSW?

ABOUT THE AREA

With over 500km of Murrumbidgee River frontage, the Murrumbidgee and Yanga National Parks — especially from Narrandera to Balranald — are great for fishing. Here you’ll find waterways filled with fish that rely on the shelter of the gums’ fallen branches and trunks (during flooding) to breed and are, most importantly, ready to bite.

Wrestle with a massive Murray Cod. Catch a Catfish and say g’day to a Golden Perch or a Yellow Belly. Add in the multiple boat ramps, stunning setting and array of birds and wildlife, and it’s truly a fishing paradise.

You can also take in the history of the area, including the amazing engineering from the region’s early days of irrigation, and the past and current practice of freshwater culture by the Wiradjuri, Nari Nari and Muthi Muthi Aboriginal people of the Murrumbidgee Valley.

GETTING THERE

The Murrumbidgee Valley can be found in the Western Riverina district of southern NSW.

WHERE TO STAY

Pitch a tent anywhere in the Murrumbidgee Valley Reserves for free, or check out nearby tourist parks:

- Lake Talbot Tourist Park: www.laketalbot.com.au
- Gogeldrie Weir Park: www.gogeldrieweirpark.com.au
- Darlington Point Riverside Caravan Park (ph: 6968 4237)

FISHING LICENCE

To fish in NSW, you’ll need a NSW recreational fishing licence. www.licence.nsw.gov.au

TOP FISHING HOTSPOTS

This area has plenty of top fishing spots, either from the banks of the Murrumbidgee, or on the river itself by making use of the boat ramps. For more hotspots visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au.

NARRANDERA REGIONAL PARK

A local favourite, the northern precinct of Narrandera Regional Park is renowned for its shore-based fishing.

HOW TO GET THERE

From Leeton, head towards Narrandera on Irrigation Way via Yanco. Go past the airport, turn right into McLays Road and follow the signs to Narrandera Regional Park.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This is an unsealed road and suitable for dry weather driving only. Bring your own drinking and cooking water.

GOGELDRIE WEIR

The concrete ramp at Gogeldrie Weir near Leeton provides good river access to the weir pool.

HOW TO GET THERE

Gogeldrie Weir is a major irrigation structure 26 km south-west of Leeton. Head west out of Leeton on Griffith Road for around 10km, then turn left onto Murrami Road for 3.8km. Turn right onto Whitton Road and head left towards the river on Darlington-Point Whitton Road.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Gogeldrie Weir is open 8 to 6pm daily. There are also BBQs, picnic areas, a kiosk and camping ground.

MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION AREA (MIA) II
Located south of Leeton, MIA II has some fishing gems including Middle Beach with its nearby boat-ramp.

HOW TO GET THERE
From Leeton, head south to Yanco, then at the end of town go over the train line. Turn right into Euroley Rd. At the second sweeping corner, turn right into the forest. At the park entrance, veer left, and make your way down to Middle Beach

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
This is an unsealed road and suitable for dry weather driving only.

WHEN TO GO
The fishing is fantastic all year round (especially in spring and autumn). Please note fishing for Murray Cod is closed every year from September 1 to November 30 to protect the species during breeding season.

FISHING SUPPLIERS AND TOURS
Riverina Experience: www.riverinalexperience.com.au
Gone Yonder Freshwater Fishing: www.goneyonderfishing.com.au

SAFETY INFORMATION
Steer away from camping or sitting beneath the larger trees, which have a deadly reputation for dropping limbs (they’re nick-named ‘widow makers’ for a reason!).

Many NSW parks are remote and rugged places, weather can change quickly and conditions may be unpredictable. When visiting a national park, be aware of the risks and take responsibility for your own safety and the safety of any children in your care. Remember to plan ahead, choose activities to match your stamina and fitness level, ensure you take enough fresh drinking water and food, and tell someone where you’re going and when you’ll be back.

PARK RULES
Camping is free in the river red gum reserves, and there’s no need to book. Just pull up your caravan or car and pick your own spot.

Cooking outdoors is part of the camping experience, so pack a gas or liquid fuel stove. Unlike many other bush camping spots, small campfires are allowed in the river red gum reserves outside of the solid fuel ban period, but you may need to bring your own firewood.

If you do have a small campfire, make sure you completely extinguish all fires before leaving an area or going to bed.

Don’t feed native animals - it can damage their health and make them dependent on campers for food. To avoid attracting scavengers, store food and garbage in secure containers.

And don’t forget, dogs are only allowed in certain areas, so best to check before you bring Fido along for the ride!

TO FIND OUT MORE

*Use a QR code reader app on your Smartphone (or download one free of charge) then scan the code.