

Murrumbidgee Valley National and Regional Parks



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Wake to the cackle of kookaburras and make a splash casting a line into the Murrumbidgee River, the lifeblood of the Riverina that flows through the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park and the Murrumbidgee Valley Regional Park; parks that provide the freedom to choose where to pitch a tent and enjoy the warm glow of a campfire during an ultimate bush camping experience.

ABOUT THE AREA

As day breaks, grey kangaroos bound through the morning mist of these parks; parks that protect over 87,000 hectares of river red gum forest, box eucalypt woodlands, cypress pine sandhills and wetlands. With few facilities and infrastructure, the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park and the Murrumbidgee Valley Regional Park provide the freedom to be as secluded or as sociable as you like.

Opportunities for fishing, swimming, picnicking, birdwatching or simply taking a GPS to 'go bush' are in abundance at the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park and the Murrumbidgee Valley Regional Park, a natural wonderland teeming with wildlife, waterways and woodland tracks waiting to be explored.

GETTING THERE

Dotted across the landscape between Narrandera and Balranald, you'll find a series of river red gum forests that make up the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park and the Murrumbidgee Valley Regional Park.

For those travelling through New South Wales' Riverina area, the parks are close to Narrandera, Yanco, Leeton and Hay. Get off the highway just 83 km southeast of Griffith or 110 km northwest of Wagga Wagga to discover the entrance to one of the main sections of the parks.

CARING FOR YOUR PARK

Camping is free in the river red gum forests, and there's no need to book. Just pull up your caravan or car and pick a spot.

Cooking outdoors is part and parcel of the camping experience, and it's a good idea to pack a gas or liquid fuel stove for your trip. Unlike many other bush camping spots, small campfires are allowed in the river red gum forests outside of the solid fuel ban period.

A solid fuel fire ban applies between 31 October and 31 March each year. Park management may vary this if local conditions change.

If you do have a small campfire, make sure you completely extinguish all fires before leaving an area or going to bed. A small amount of glowing embers can start a bushfire.

Please 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 a secure container.

Don't forget, dogs are only allowed in regional parks, so best to check before you bring Fido along for the ride!



There are plenty of beautiful spots by the river to camp

TOP EXPERIENCES

Narrandera Regional Park

Cast a line, set up camp and launch the canoe. Narrandera Regional Park is the perfect place to enjoy the great outdoors. Take the dog for a walk, enjoy a swim off one of the sandy beaches, catch a fish and return to camp for a quiet night. Do a little or do a lot; the choice is yours and the options endless.

Narrandera Nature Reserve (Koala Park)

The 71 hectare reserve is just 2.9 km from the town of Narrandera and hugs the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. With at least 39 species of birds and eight types of mammal recorded in the reserve, the Nature Reserve is a haven for wildlife. Have fun spotting for koalas as you listen to the sounds of the forest. Freshwater fishing and swimming are just a few of the recreational activities also on offer within the reserve.

MIA I

The largest of the river red gum forests between Narrandera and Darlington Point, MIA I is home to several popular beaches. Set up camp and wake up to a symphony of bird song on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. Drop a line and your patience might just be rewarded with a catch of murray cod or yellow belly.

McCaughey's Lagoon

Take a trip within MIA I to McCaughey's Lagoon, part of a long-term wetland rehabilitation project and home to a range of plants and animals. From the lagoon, meander along the trails on a 3.4 km return

track to Watts Bend and enjoy a picnic lunch on the bank followed by a dip in the river. Dry off in the shade of a river red gum and watch the world go by as you listen for the frogs calling on the lagoon's edge.

Turkey Flat Wetland

Created by Murrumbidgee floodwaters, Turkey Flat is a wetland with a rich diversity of plant and animal life. Ideal for birdwatching, the wetland is located on the Murrumbidgee floodplain and gives visitors an insight into the boom and bust nature of life that is typical of this habitat. Call into the bird hide before walking or cycling the 6.4 km loop past ancient river red gum forests and the Murrumbidgee River.

MIA II

Immerse yourself in the beauty and tranquillity of this magnificent forest before taking a tourist drive from Euroley Road to the Coonancoocabil wetlands. Gogeldrie Weir is an ideal picnic and camping spot in MIA II, and there's even a boat ramp for easy access to the mighty Murrumbidgee.



Drop a line – you may end up with a murray cod

SAFETY INFORMATION

As beautiful as they are, river red gums are also habitat trees. They provide important tree hollows for a range of animals. As a result of the tree hollows, sometimes branches do fall, so it's important to be aware of what's happening above you.

Many NSW parks are rugged places, weather can change quickly and conditions in the bush or on the water 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 your activities to match your stamina and fitness level, ensure you take enough fresh drinking water and food for your trip, and tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back. Road conditions can also be hazardous when wet.

TO FIND OUT MORE

For further information, including detailed maps and directions, visit:

nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/murrumbidgee-valley-national-park

nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/murray-valley-national-park

nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/yanga-national-park

