

Outback and Rivers Itineraries

Murray Valley National Park Photo: D.Finnegan



nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

ITINERARY 1

THE MURRAY TO BROKEN HILL TREK

DAY 1

Begin your trip at **Echuca/Moama** and what could be better than fishing the Mighty Murray? If you love your fishing, the best experiences are to be had at Picnic Point on the Murray River, at the start of the Edward River off the Murray and the junction area where Gulpa Creek rejoins the Edward River.

A 'must do' is to take in the Kingfisher Cruise at Barmah. Nowhere else in the world can you experience such timeless, natural beauty and peace as when you are gliding through the World-Heritage listed Barmah-Millewa Wetlands aboard the MV Kingfisher. You'll understand why they have been named "Wetlands of International Importance" as you slip quietly across the water in the dappled shade of towering gums of the world's largest single stand of River Red Gum.

Next travel on to **Mathoura** on the Cobb Highway and take the Picnic Point road to visit the Reed Beds Bird Hide within **Murray Valley National Park**, about 5km from town. This is home to extensive populations of bush bird and waterbird species. Enjoy the company of egrets and the Australian little bittern, keep an eye out for the endangered superb parrot, and watch like a hawk for night herons, black swans, yellow rosellas, musk ducks and the royal spoonbill. Turn around the bird panels as you stroll down the boardwalk, use your smart phone to learn more, or just relax with the bird symphony. The River Red Gums are simply unbeatable for bird watching.

Now head north along the Cobb Highway and drive the drovers' dream on **The Long Paddock** Cobb Highway Touring Route. Immerse yourself in the pioneering days of the Long Paddock staying at the historic Royal Mail Hotel at Boorooban, one of the last remaining Cobb and Co change stations on the Long Paddock Cobb Highway Touring Route. Take in a sunset at the iconic Headless Horseman Sculpture before heading back to the hotel for a cooling ale.

DAY 2

Head to **Hay** (just 40 minutes drive) where you can explore the history of shearing in Australia at the award winning Shear Outback. Hear the colourful yarns of life in and around the woolsheds. Shear Outback is an exciting interpretive centre devoted to the culture, stories, passion and language of Australian shearing - past, present and future.

Travel west along the Sturt Highway towards **Balranald** and visit **Yanga National Park** 8km east of the town. Discover fascinating chapters in our natural, pastoral and Aboriginal heritage with a visit to Yanga in the River Red Gum forests of NSW. Take a tour of the historic 1860s homestead on Yanga Lake conducted most days at 10.30am. At other times, pick up a self guiding leaflet in the homestead car park, or call into the Yanga Office and ask about the self guided audio tours. Relive the last shearing in the Yanga Woolshed as you follow the path of the wool on a self-guided tour through the sheep runs and pens. Only two kms from the Sturt Highway Yanga National Park is one of the most accessible national parks in the state.

Camp in Mamanga Campground by the majestic Murrumbidgee River or overnight in

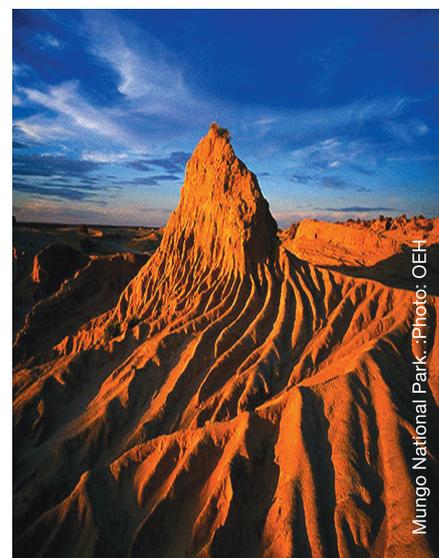
Balranald which has a variety of motel and tourist park accommodation.

DAY 3

This morning head to **Mungo National Park** - one of the world's very special places. Aboriginal people have walked here at Mungo in the footsteps of their ancestors since the Dreamtime.

Scientists have discovered artefacts of this ancient culture dating back over 50,000 years across the expanses of the last ice age.

This makes Mungo one of the oldest places outside of Africa to have been occupied by modern humans since ancient times. Catch a glimpse of the heart of Mungo at the Mungo National Park Visitor Centre and meeting place before you visit this World Heritage treasure. Explore the Pastoral Heritage walk or cycle to Zanci Woolshed and Homestead ruins. You can also take on



Mungo National Park Photo: OEH

the Foreshore Walk or drive the Mungo Track.

The Walls Lookout and Boardwalk offers you a wonderful vantage point from which to appreciate this iconic feature of Mungo National Park. If you would like to go up onto the Walls of China you can join an Aboriginal Discovery Tour (check out [Whats on at nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)) To protect the Walls unaccompanied access is not permitted. You may meet Discovery Rangers of the Paakantji, Ngyiampaa and Mutthi Mutthi tribal groups who conduct the National Parks Discovery Walks, Talks and Tours. Alternatively contact one of the tour companies licensed to access this significant area.

Camp inside Mungo National Park close to many features at remote Belah Camp on the Mungo Track or at Main Camp 1km from the visitor centre. Wake up to the sounds of silence when you stay at the [Shearers Quarters](#) on Mungo National Park. It's a BYO linen, blankets and food and enjoy the comfortable accommodation with shared facilities adjacent to the Visitor Centre. [Bookings are essential](#). Nearby and just outside the park is Mungo Lodge, an alternative to staying on the park.

DAY 4

Depart Mungo this morning and travel through to Pooncarie on the Darling River and onto Menindee lakes where you can see the expanse of the lake system and the Darling River - the lifeblood of the outback. Then on to [Kinchega National Park](#), just next

to Menindee township, which is an oasis for wildlife amid the red sandy plains. Explore the Aboriginal sites and European structures such as the Kinchega Woolshed and the ruins of the old homestead.

Join a [Discovery Tour](#) during the autumn, winter and spring School Holidays for an enjoyable experience with a ranger. Stay in the Kinchega [Shearers Quarters](#) (bookings essential) or camp at one of the many sites along the Darling River or lakes.

DAY 5

[Broken Hill](#) is a fascinating outback oasis. The city is steeped in mining history due to the discovery of a rich deposit of silver, lead and zinc. Broken Hill - the accessible Outback - features dramatic red landscapes, and magnificent terrain, making Broken Hill a vibrant Mecca for artists and film makers. Take a trip out to Silverton. On the way visit the Historic Day Dream mine and take a guided underground tour. Silverton is a popular filming location (think A Town like Alice, and Mad Max 2). Visit the old gaol and the galleries and outback Cafes. Pay a visit to the famous Silverton Hotel. Mundi Mundi lookout, just 6.5km from Silverton shares one of the best outback views. Check out the Royal Flying Doctor Service at the Broken Hill airport and view the entire operations of this amazing service.

DAY 6

Experience a nature walk with a difference in the unique and arid landscape at the Living Desert Reserve nestled amongst the Barrier Ranges and located approximately 12km

from the City of Broken Hill.

This afternoon take an Outback Art Adventure immersing yourself in the works of famous Australian art icons such as Pro Hart, Jack Absalom and Howard Steer, or take a picnic up to watch the sunset over the sandstone Sculptures Site.

As an option, consider travelling north to [Sturt National Park](#) or perhaps [Mutawintji National Park](#). The Historic Site within Mutawintji National Park is accessible with a licensed Tour Operator.

DAY 7

Now travel south to [Wentworth](#), at the confluence of the Darling and Murray Rivers the oldest settlement in the Outback. First stop is the Wentworth Visitor Information Centre, where you can pick up a 'Drive Trail' for the town, with information on the various sites.

Take a trip to the vivid red sand Perry Sandhill and visit the Pioneer Museum to learn their stories. From the viewing tower in Junction Park photograph the meeting place of two great rivers where the 'latte' coloured Darling joins the darker green colour of the Murray. A sight to behold!

This is also the home of the magnificent semi-arid Australian Inland Botanic Gardens near Buronga.

Finish your Murray to the Outback trip with a visit to the local wineries, fine local foods and a relaxing afternoon in the shade by the Murray River.



Gundabooka National Park. Photo: D.Finnegan

ITINERARY 2

THE BACK O'BOURKE EXPLORER

DAY 1

Your journey on this trek starts in **Echuca/Moama** at the mighty Murray River. Visit the Echuca Wharf and take a ride (and lunch!) on a paddlesteamer.

Cross the river and relax at Moama with a wander through 'Old Moama', down Chanter street.

DAY 2

Head north along the **Long Paddock** to **Mathoura** to visit this historic river red gum forestry town. Take a drive along the Picnic Point Road to the Reed Beds Bird Hide in **Murray Valley National Park** (find out more by touring with Australian Ornithological Services), and stop by the Edward River Bridge Picnic Area. On now to **Deniliquin**. Visit the Peppin Heritage Centre, then take the Beach to Beach board walk along the Edward River.

Travel north to Boooroorban on the Cobb Highway, view the Headless Horseman Sculpture at the Black Swamp and stop at the historic Boooroorban Pub. Visit the Peppin Ram Memorial at Wanganella and while you are there read about the history of the Cobb & Co.

DAY 3

Start your tour of **Hay's** five museums with a visit to Shear Outback; the Australian shearer's hall of fame. Follow this with a visit to Bishop's Lodge Historic House. Finish your afternoon by exploring the town via the Heritage Walk.

Visit the Hay gaol then experience the Hay Internment and Prisoner of War Camps Interpretive Centre, housed at Hay's historic railway station. Learn more about Hay's war time contribution at the Hay War Memorial High School Museum in Pine street.

DAY 4

Head north to the One Tree Hotel – a former Cobb & Co changing station. Then head to Booligal and view the giant Theodolite – a memorial to explorer and surveyor John Oxley. Stay overnight at the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel in Booligal. Here you'll find a cold beer and friendly locals. Travel north on the Cobb Highway and stop at Ivanhoe and take the town heritage walk.

On now to historic **Wilcannia**. Make your way to the Athenaeum Library (1883) now the town's Pioneer Museum, and visit the beautiful sandstone Post Office in Wilcannia.

DAY 5

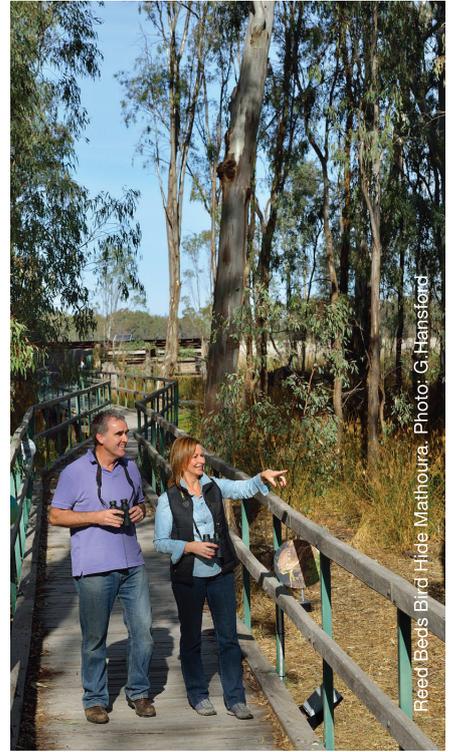
Divert your travel to the amazing underground opal town of **White Cliffs**, approximately 90km from Wilcannia. Stay underground and experience White Cliffs - mining, opal and really interesting locals.

You can also enjoy a station stay at Goodwood Station. From White Cliffs you can explore the **Paroo Darling National Park**. Drop into the state of the art Visitor Centre at White Cliffs and arrange a visit. Walk the beat of the timeless pulse of the Peery Lake – the only location in NSW where artesian mound springs are found in a lakebed.

DAY 6

On the way to Tilpa you can take a break at the Horse and Coach campsite on the Darling's east side of the river. This site has good outback toilets, barbeques on the east side of the river and is approximately 50km NE of Wilcannia.

Relax for a while with **Outback Beds** member, Trilby Station on the Darling river, you'll be pleased you did. Trilby Station is situated near the village of Louth, 125km south west of Bourke, on the **Darling River Run**.



Reed Beds Bird Hide Mathoura. Photo: G.Hansford

DAY 7

Complete your trip with a visit to the iconic township of **Bourke** where you will be immersed in the 'real' Australia. There is plenty to see and do in the area.

You can start by visiting the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre, which is nestled in a spectacular natural setting amongst the river red gums on the banks of the Darling River.

Enjoy a coffee in the Back O Bourke Café overlooking the Darling floodplain and book your tour to relive the river boats days of the Darling on the PVJandra. Back into town to enjoy a great lunch back at Diggers on the Darling.

In the afternoon head over the river to North Bourke for some Outback inspiration from the Back O'Bourke gallery, before taking in a sunset from Mount Oxley, or having a great night of fun with Poetry on a Plate.

DAY 8

Combine a visit to Bourke with a stay at **Gundabooka National Park** and you will gain the best of both worlds accessing first hand both European and Aboriginal culture. Mount Gunderbooka rises to 500m among the rust-coloured cliffs of the Gunderbooka Range. The range has a history of ceremonial gatherings and rock art of the local Ngemba people.

To take advantage of this wonderful park why not stay at Yanda campground on the Darling River, with great shaded BBQ areas and good toilet facilities.

If you've got time to stay in Bourke for just one more day, visit Toorale National Park, one of the newest parks in the Bourke area. Toorale has recently commenced **Discovery Tours**. Be sure to make enquiries at the NPWS Bourke Area Office for the dates and times of the Toorale Discovery Tours.



Yanga National Park. Photo: G.Hansford

ITINERARY 3

THE RIVER TO THE OUTBACK

The River to the Outback will take you to three great rivers and superb National Parks.

You can experience the River Red Gums on the Murray River, spectacular wildflowers along the Darling River, pastoral Heritage at Yanga National Park on the Murrumbidgee River, fabulous Indigenous heritage at Mungo National Park and lakes teeming with waterbirds in the Outback.

DAY 1

Start to explore the River Red Gums at **Echuca Moama**. Enjoy fishing the Murray River; there are new boat ramps at **Murray Valley National Park** at Moama Five Mile, and Swifts Creek on The Narrows near Mathoura. On your way to Deniliquin check out the superb fairy wrens while you have a picnic or barbecue at the Edward River Picnic Area and Campground.

With over 200 recorded bird species, it's no wonder that birdwatchers flock to the Reed Beds Bird Hide at Mathoura.

Listen to the bird noises as you turn the panels at The Reed Beds Bird Hide. Find out if birds really do use Twitter.

Muster up, and head along the **Long Paddock**, stopping on the way to check out the Peppin Heritage Centre at **Deniliquin**. Take a break from driving and stroll the along the Edward River Beach to Beach walk.

Continue north on the Cobb Highway to Hay. Go on the boards at Shear Outback, dip your feet in the Murrumbidgee River and throw in a line. Camp by the **Murrumbidgee River**, or choose from a range of accommodation options in Hay.

DAY 2

From Hay, travel west to **Yanga National Park**. Tour the historic Yanga Homestead, where you can discover the history of Yanga Station just 10 km south east of **Balranald**. **Tours** at 10.30am most days tell the astounding pastoral history of this amazing property or call into the Yanga National Parks Office to enrich your experience with an audio tour that guides you at your own pace.

Camp at Mamanga Campground by the Murrumbidgee River, a great place for birdwatching or explore the Yanga Woolshed - a special place to wander and experience the shed come to life with interpretative boards and audiovisual displays.

If you are travelling with your kayak or boat, Regatta Beach boat ramp is the perfect place to launch onto Yanga Lake to fish or quietly go bird watching.

DAY 3 – Option A

Head out to **Mungo National Park** and take a tour of the iconic sand dunes, the



Mungo National Park, Zanci Woolshed: Photo: D.Haskard

Walls of China in the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area with a tour operator or a **Discovery guide**. Be sure to bring your camera for dramatic photos.

DAY 3 – Option B

Detour to Griffith, then on to the **Cocoparra National Park** where you can walk through a rare remnant of magnificent Riverina forest. After heavy rains, the Cocoparra waterfalls are sure to be spectacular.

Stop off at the **Murrumbidgee National and Regional Parks** close to **Narrandera**, Yanco, **Leeton** and **Hay**; this natural wonderland teeming with wildlife, waterways and woodland tracks is waiting to be explored.

DAY 4

Travel up the Kidman Way to Hillston, and follow the signs to **Willandra National Park**. Willandra offers a fascinating insight into our pastoral history; the Willandra Station homestead and gardens are great to explore.

Go wildlife and birdwatching on a gentle walk through the park. Willandra Creek offers swimming, fishing and boating.

DAY 5

Head back towards **Cobar**, leaving plenty of time to visit **Mt Grenfell Historic Site**. It's a well kept secret. Amazing Aboriginal art sites are within easy walking distance – take time to appreciate these ancient rock paintings.

Take the 5km Ngiyampaa walk for its breathtaking scenery and enjoy a picnic at the picnic ground in this free entry park.

Engage with nature and camp at the Horse and Coach campsite on the eastern side of the Darling, approximately 50km NE from **Wilcannia** on **Paroo-Darling National Park** and along the Bourke road.

DAY 6

Head to the Paroo Darling National Park – start at the NPWS visitor centre at White Cliffs to learn about the area and its people. Enjoy Peery Lake, magnificent in wet or dry seasons. **Book an Discovery Tour** during the spring, winter and autumn school holidays.

With abundant wildlife and magnificent tree lined sandy creeks, Paroo Darling is the perfect for walking. Visit Peery Lake, a fascinating lake bed when filled from the Paroo and teeming with water birds, or dry when you can walk to the artesian mound springs.

Sleep underground, fossick for opal and meet the locals at White Cliffs, a place you will always remember.

STAYING SAFE IN PARKS

Safety in the Outback and Rivers is paramount and especially in isolated areas with great distances to the next town or city.

Ensure your vehicle is well maintained and you have plenty of food, water and fuel.

Check on the road conditions prior to travel. Fires and road closure information can be found at www.nationalparks.com.au or contact your local Visitor Information Centre, Police and relevant road authority.

For more information on national parks visit: nationalparks.nsw.gov.au or call: 13000 72 757