Camping in the River Red Gums

Towering majestically over a network of picturesque waterways, the river red gum reserves in the Western Riverina district stretch for over 100,000 hectares, making it the largest continuous region of river red gum forest in the world. What better place to set up camp than in the national and regional parks that preserve these spectacular trees — along with the many threatened plant and animal species that call this region home — all the while offering a great range of things to see and do? It’s the ultimate bush camping experience!

ABOUT THE RESERVES

River red gums are a type of eucalypt and a true-blue Aussie native. Lining the banks of rivers and wetlands, sometimes growing up to 45 metres, they provide welcome shade to a myriad of plant and animal life, help stabilise river banks, and provide the perfect backdrop for a scenic trip back to nature.

The river red gum reserves of NSW include a range of national parks, regional parks and nature reserves. They’re a great place to take your next camping or caravanning trip.

GETTING THERE

Three parks — Yanga, Murrumbidgee and Murray Valley National and Regional Parks — are ideal places to get up close and personal with the river red gums. All three can be found in the Western Riverina district of southern NSW. So if you’re within coo-ee distance of towns such as Deniliquin, Balranald, Moama, Narrandera, Leeton or Hay, then you’re in the right place. And if you’re not, then it’s definitely worth the trip.

TOP SPOTS

There are so many great campgrounds in the river red gum reserves, far too many to list here! Whether you are camping, caravanning or travelling with your RV you’ll enjoy:

MATHOURA Edward River Bridge Campground: Located near the town of Mathoura, and set on the Edward River in the Murray Valley Regional Park, the dog-friendly Edward River Bridge campground is bush camping at its best.

BALRANALD Mamanga Campground: Pitch your tent on the banks of the Mamanga campground on the Murrumbidgee River in the Yanga National Park. Located 7km east of Balranald on the Sturt Highway.

The Willows Campground and Picnic Area: Perfect for nature-lovers, The Willows in the Yanga National Park offers a quiet woodland location and is a birdwatchers paradise.

BAROOGA Quicks Beach: A stunning sandy beach takes you down to the Murray. A great place to fish, launch your kayak or just relax.

FACILITIES

Within the river red gum reserves you’ll find a campground with facilities to suit everyone — from experienced campers to those still on their camping ‘L’ plates.

Families will enjoy the campgrounds with ‘the works’ (think toilets, picnic tables and barbeques), but for those who wish to channel their inner adventurer, there are plenty of remote sites where you can completely ‘go bush’.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

You’re spoilt for choice when it comes to activities in the river red gums reserves.

Go bushwalking along the tranquil trails. Fish for your dinner in the mighty Murray River. Go bush on your bike along one of the many cycling routes. Paddle down the Murrumbidgee River in a kayak and admire the beauty of the gums from the water. Enjoy a tour of the historic homestead at Yanga National Park, or enjoy a self-guided tour of the Yanga Woolshed.

The bird watching in the region is also second-to-none, with a large range of migratory birds visiting the area. In fact, there are over 150 species of birds in the park’s trees, skies and wetlands, with great viewing spots at the Reed Beds Bird Hide at Mathoura and Swamp Horse Lagoon and Turkey Flat near Leeton.

And whatever you do, don’t forget the camera! You’ll need it to capture the incredible photo opportunities, including the beauty of the flora and fauna, the spectacular sunrises and sunsets and the breathtaking morning river mists.
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 steer away from camping beneath the larger trees.

Many NSW parks are remote and 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 walks and 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.

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 a spot in the designated campground.

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 reserves 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!

TO FIND OUT MORE


Please note: This document is for reference purposes only and the content may not be up-to-date. Always check the latest information online or at the park's visitor center.