Cycling in the River Red Gums

Venture off the beaten track and discover a world of towering guards that protect the banks of the mighty Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers and their linked waterways in the River Red Gum forests of southern NSW.

ABOUT THE AREA

Lining the banks of rivers and wetlands, sometimes growing up to 45 metres, the River Red Gums provide welcome shade to a myriad of plant and animal life, help stabilise river banks, and provide the perfect backdrop for nature tours, leisurely jaunts and challenging adventures.

The River Red Gum reserves of NSW include a range of national parks, regional parks and nature reserves, all perfect settings for your next bush biking experience.

GETTING THERE

The Murray Valley, Murrumbidgee Valley and Yanga National Parks are great places to get behind the bars and ride through the shadows of the majestic river red gums.

You’ll find the Murray Valley National Park hidden in the Riverina along the New South Wales side of the Murray River, accessible from any of the Riverina towns and rivers between Deniliquin and Mulwala.

For those travelling through the Western Riverina area, it’s just a 30-minute drive south of Griffith before venturing into the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park, or drive west just a couple hours more to find yourself ready to peddle the tracks of Yanga National Park.

If you’re a little further away, it’s still worth making the trip.

TOP EXPERIENCES

RIVERINA EXPERIENCE

Whether you have a couple of hours, half a day or are ready to take on a full day tour, weave your way through a Riverina cycling tour and discover the stories behind the towns of Leeton, Yanco or Narrandera. Visit the Riverina Experience website (www.riverinaexperience.com.au) for more information about departing times and locations.

MIA II

Created by Murrumbidgee floodwaters, the Turkey Flat bird hide provides the perfect lookout to witness a fascinating array of bushland birds. From the bird hide, jump on a bike and cycle the 6.4km loop track past ancient River Red Gum forest and the Murrumbidgee River to Middle Beach. Nearby Eurell’s of Leeton (02 6953 2999) has bike hire facilities, so no need to bring your own.

NARRANDERA REGIONAL PARK

Known locally as ‘Koala Park’, catch a glimpse of these iconic animals in the treetops as you explore 23 kilometres of Narrandera’s most beautiful natural areas with a journey on the popular ‘Bike and Hike’ network. More than 200 koalas inhabit the young and old red gums.

MOAMA - FIVE MILE

Riders can test their skills over 7 kilometres of built track that winds its way through the River Red Gum forest. For those wanting a real challenge, why not try the pump and skills track? Need a bike? Contact the YMCA (03 5482 2517) for bike hire enquiries in the Echuca Moama area.

GULPA CREEK WALKING AND CYCLING TRACK

There’s something about riding a bike alongside the Gulpa Creek that soothes the soul. It’s a flat 5km ride filled with the colour and movement of birdlife, and light that reflects off the River Red Gums making this ride more than special with its spectacular scenery.

WILLOUGHBY’S BEACH

Experience the natural beauty of Deniliquin’s River Red Gum forests with a cycle along the many forest tracks at Willoughby’s Beach. Set along the banks of the Edward River, follow the sealed Beach to Beach path and stop off in the centre of town for a look around before continuing on a leisurely adventure.

QUICK’S BEACH CAMPGROUND

Only 3.5km from Barooga, Quick’s Beach Campground is accessible by unsealed roads during dry weather. These unsealed tracks were not purpose built for bikes but do make for a beautiful, picturesque ride following the shadows of the River Red Gums.
YANGA NATIONAL PARK
A relaxed cycle through Yanga’s enchanting River Red Gum forests will showcase more of the natural beauty of Yanga National Park on one of the old tracks and trails with stunning Yanga Lake views.

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.

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.

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