Looking for a home among the gum trees? Then look no further than river red gum forests of the southern NSW for the ultimate bush experience. Towering majestically over a network of waterways, these reserves in the Western Riverina offer a range of things to do for all ages and interests.

ABOUT THE AREA

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 in height, 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, established to conserve these natural beauties. They’re also a great place to take your next bush adventure.

GETTING THERE

The Yanga, Murrumbidgee Valley and Murray Valley Regional and National Parks are ideal places for experiencing 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, Mathoura, Narrandera, Leeton or Hay, then you’re in the right place. And if you’re not, then it’s worth the trip.

TOP THINGS TO DO

Whether you have a day, a week or even a month, there’s no shortage of things to see and do amongst the river red gums.

CAMPGING

Camping in the river red gums is not only an unforgettable experience, it’s also completely free. There are family friendly campsites with all the ‘must have’ facilities, as well as those that offer a completely ‘bush’ experience.

WALKS

This is a walker’s paradise! Take a stroll along the Yanga Lake Walking Trail and Bird Hide in Balranald. Look for birds amongst the reeds with a stroll along the Murrumbidgee River and take in the native bushland of the Hay Nature Walk. You’re spoilt for choice when it comes to stunning nature walks.

BIRDWATCHING

There are more than 150 species of birds in the trees, skies and the wetlands of the river red gum forests. From superb parrots and black swans to kingfishers and owls, the river red gums are THE spot for birdwatching. Get up close and watch the birds from the hides at Mathoura, Leeton and Yanga Lake just near Balranald.

FISHING

With over 500km of Murray and Murrumbidgee River frontage, and fish such as Murray Cod and Yellow Belly just ready to bite, the river red gum forests are one of the best spots in NSW to cast a line. From either a boat or the shore, the rivers and creeks here are ideal for chasing your next catch of the day.

KAYAKING/CANOEING

Get to know the mighty Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers from the river itself and admire the reflection of the gums in the water. Whether you’re a paddle sport expert or novice, there’s a waterways experience just waiting for you.

CYCLING

You’ll find a great range of tracks for some back-to-nature cycling in the river red gums. The ride from Turkey Flat to the perfect swimming spot of Middle Beach in the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park is well-known for its abundant birdlife, so you may want to pack your binoculars AND your swimmers!
PHOTOGRAPHY
From wildlife to waterways, treescapes to sunsets, there is no end of subject matter for photography in the river red gum forests. The majestic gums lining the waterways are a truly special sight, one that you’ll want to capture and keep forever. Don’t wait, grab your camera and start exploring!

For more information visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

SAFETY INFORMATION
As beautiful as they are, river red gums are also habitat trees, providing 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 walks and activities to match your stamina and fitness level, and ensure you take enough fresh drinking water and food for your trip. Most importantly 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 a 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.

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

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:
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au
murray-valley-national-park
murrumbidgee-valley-national-park
yanga-national-park