Kayaking and canoeing in the River Red Gums

Become acquainted with the mighty Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers in the River Red Gum forests of southern NSW through the best way possible – on the river itself.

The river red gum forests provide the perfect setting for paddling through the waterways, which also include lakes, lagoons and wetlands. Whether you’re a paddle sport expert or a humble novice, there’s an aqua experience just waiting for you.

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 a scenic canoe or kayaking adventure.

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 experience.

GETTING THERE

The Yanga, Murrumbidgee Valley and Murray Valley Regional and National Parks are ideal places for an aquatic adventure. 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 WATERWAY EXPERIENCES

Absorb the beauty of the natural scenery and water life of this gorgeous pocket of paradise at one of these top spots for kayakers and canoeists, or join in a guided kayaking tour with the Riverina Experience www.riverinaexperience.com.au.

BALRANALD Hire a canoe from Balranald Caravan Park, on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River, and embrace the calm setting from the shade of the ancient river gums.

LEETON Go with the flow of the Murrumbidgee River alongside MIA II, and paddle your way to the picturesque Middle Beach.

NARRANDERA A paddle past the Narrandera Nature Reserve and Narrandera Regional Park is a must-do for kayakers, with the abundant birdlife and wildlife sure to sneak a peek at you as you take your water journey. Keep an eye out for the koalas!

MATHOURA Grab your kayak and get up close to the waterbirds near the Reed Beds Bird Hide, then set up camp at the riverside Edward River Bridge Campground.

MOAMA Set on the banks of the mighty Murray River and with easy boating access, Five Mile is perfect for a paddle, as is the nearby Benarca Campground, with its sandy beach and magnificent views.

Drop in at Echuca Boat and Canoe Hire www.echucaboatcanoehire.com to get the gear you need.

DENILIQUIN It’s inland beaches aplenty in this neck of the woods, and what better way to enjoy the Edward River than a canoe trip between the picturesque McLean Beach and Willoughby’s Beach.

BAROOGA Ski Beach has been a magnet for leisure-loving families for years. Come and see what makes it so popular, particularly for kayakers, then set up camp at the nearby Quicks Beach Campground.
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.

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

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