Photography in the River Red Gums

From wildlife to waterways, treescapes to sunsets, there is no end of subject matter for photography in the river red gum forests of southern NSW.

The towering trees of the river red gum forests are the perfect backdrop for nature photography.

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, they provide welcome shade to a myriad of plant and animal life, help stabilise river banks, and provide the perfect backdrop for photographers both professional and amateur.

The river red gum reserves of NSW include a range of national parks, regional parks and nature reserves, all with beautiful flora and fauna just waiting for you.

GETTING THERE
The Yanga, Murrumbidgee Valley and Murray Valley Regional and National Parks are ideal places for photography in 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 PHOTOGRAPHY SPOTS
There are so many spots to take pictures among the river red gum reserves, far too many to list here! Whether you’re a serious photographer or out for a leisurely expedition, there’s a spot to suit you.

MURRAY VALLEY NATIONAL PARK
There are some beautiful locations for taking photos near and around Mathoura in the Murray Valley National Park. Stroll along the Gulpa Creek Walking Track for stunning wetland shots of the local birds and wildlife. The sandhills are particularly beautiful in spring with their masses of wildflowers, and there’s also the Reed Beds Bird Hide across the wetlands.

YANGA NATIONAL PARK
Not far from Balranald you’ll find Yanga Lake in Yanga National Park.
Visit the Homestead Peninsula for stunning views across the lake, with the sunrise and sunsets proving particularly popular with photographers capturing the reflections of the gums in the still water.

Morning shots of the Yanga Woolshed are also gorgeous with the Murrumbidgee River in the background. In fact, across the whole Yanga National Park you’ll find plenty of great photo opportunities, with kangaroos and emus regularly striking a pose for visitors.

MURRUMBIDGEE VALLEY NATIONAL PARK
Create your own postcard with a shot of a Koala napping in the Narrandera Nature Reserve.
Or if you like to have more active subjects, the colourful birds at McCaugheys Lagoon — from rosellas to the superb parrot — are the perfect stars for a pretty picture or two.

For more great photography spots visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au.
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 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 bush 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: