

# Yanga National Park



Yanga Lake viewing deck. Photo: D.Finnegan



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Embrace the freedom and breathtaking beauty of Yanga National Park, just 10km south east of Balranald. With a fascinating mix of Indigenous cultural heritage and European pioneering history, the Park is one of the most accessible in the state and home to enchanting River Red Gum forests waiting to be explored on foot or bike. Experience an intimate insight into a working pastoralist's home as you wander through the historic Yanga Homestead, and breathe in the smells of the past in a self-guided tour through the maze of sheep pens in the Yanga Woolshed.

## ABOUT THE AREA

Yanga National Park is one of the state's newest parks, but the land itself boasts a long and significant history. Yanga is rich with history, ancient River Red Gum forests and waterways teeming with birdlife. It sits in the far southwest of NSW in close proximity to the Victorian border and measures 76,000ha, including over a hundred kilometres of stunning river frontage.

Spend your time exploring its lovely picnic spots, walking tracks, cycling trails and historic attractions, or just simply relax by the river. Whether you stay for a day or a week, your experience is sure to be memorable with plenty on offer at Yanga National Park.

## GETTING THERE

Yanga National Park's Office and Homestead precinct are open 8.30am to 4.30pm every day and are an easy drive from Swan Hill to the South, Mildura to the West and Hay to the East. All other visitor areas are always open, only closing in extreme weather conditions.

From Balranald, take the Sturt Highway east for 8km before turning south on Old Sturt Highway at the Yanga rest area. Once you see the Yanga National Park sign, turn left and drive a further 2km along the main road where you will arrive at the Park Office and Homestead.

## TOP EXPERIENCES

### Yanga Homestead and the Homestead Peninsula

Wander through the well-preserved Yanga Homestead and experience an intimate insight into a working pastoralist's home, complete with antique table settings, vintage barometer and hand-wound gramophone — just a few of the many furnishings that remain intact. Regular ranger-guided tours reveal more about the lives of the people who lived and worked on the once productive Riverina property. But if you'd rather take it slow, then enrich your experience with an audio tour that guides you at your own pace.

## SAFETY INFORMATION

As beautiful as they are, river red gums are habitat trees known for dropping limbs, 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.



Yanga Woolshed. Photo: G.Hansford

### Cooks Cottage

Learn more about the lives of the people who once lived around the flooded country of Yanga in the People-Lake-Country exhibition at Cook's Cottage, which features fascinating station memorabilia, photos and home movies, as well as accounts from local characters. This fascinating exhibition is located in the homestead precinct adjacent to the old tennis court.

### Yanga Lake walking trail and Bird Hide

An easy 1km walk from the Homestead, the Yanga Lake Walking Trail meanders its way along the edge of Yanga Lake to the majestic bird hide, where you can spot a variety of migratory birds nestled amongst the River Red Gums.

### Regatta Beach

Embrace the calm lakeside setting from the generous shade of the ancient River Red Gums or launch your kayak from the sandy shores of Regatta Beach when paddling along the Yanga Lake. With a gentle sandy approach to the waters' edge, it's perfect for kids and great for swimming and boating. Sit back in the calm surrounds as you enjoy the picnic facilities overlooking this vast expanse of water.

### Yanga Woolshed

A wonderful place to wander through in the afternoon, Yanga was a working woolshed up until 2005. With an abundance of stunning scenery and subject matter, even the most novice photographer will have no problem capturing beautiful images; be it the twinkling morning dew or the setting sun

beams filtering through the Woolshed. There are lots of interesting interpretive boards and the shed comes to life with audiovisual displays showcasing Yanga's last shearing.

### Woolshed picnic area

On the banks of the picturesque Murrumbidgee, the Woolshed Picnic Area is an ideal spot to cast a line and see if the fish are biting. Surrounded by serenity and lush scenery, it provides great facilities for a relaxing picnic with family or friends, including a large covered area with several picnic tables and gas barbecues.

### Mamanga campground

Set up your campsite surrounded by the serene native bushland and tranquil seclusion on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. Just past the woolshed, the campground offers sites for caravans, camper trailers and tents, and features wood barbecues, picnic tables and non-flush toilets (but don't forget to take your own drinking water). Enjoy a paddle or a fish in the river. Try mountain biking to one of the park's great picnic spots, or stroll along the floodplain to get a closer look at the River Red Gums and their bark scarring.

### Willows picnic area and campground

For a more secluded spot why not visit the Willows? Located 25km east of Balranald and only 2km south of the Sturt Highway, spend the day picnicking or perhaps settle in for a few nights in the campground. This open woodland, teeming with dryland bird species, serves to show what diverse landscapes are on offer at Yanga.

### 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 [nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/yanga-national-park](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/yanga-national-park).

