

Pink Lakes

Murray-Sunset National Park

The Pink Lakes, Lake Crosbie and Lake Hardy, in the Murray-Sunset National Park, are picturesque at most times of the year, changing in colour from a deep pink to a glistening white. Located in the far northwest corner of Victoria, the lakes are a popular attraction for photographers, with their unusual colouring changing throughout the day.



The Murray-Sunset National Park

The Murray-Sunset National Park is the largest national park in Victoria, stretching from the Murray River at Lindsay Island in the north to the Pink Lakes near Underbool in the south. The park is one of the few remaining semi-arid regions in the world where the environment is relatively untouched. With its wide open landscapes, breathtaking sunsets and starry nights, its vastness and isolation, the Pink Lakes will take more than a day to explore.

Why are the lakes pink?

The Pink Lakes are so named because of their colour during late summer. The lakes' waters are actually crystal clear and the beds of the four lakes are made up of solid salt. A red pigment called carotene is secreted from the algae (*Dunaliella salina*) that grows in the water which gives the lakes their pink hue. The colour is best seen early or late in the day or when it is cloudy. The lakes evaporate over summer leaving concentrated salt crusts over black mud.

Getting there

Murray-Sunset National Park is in northwest Victoria, between Ouyen and Mildura and the South Australian

border. It is about 550km from Melbourne and 400km from Adelaide. Access to the park from Melbourne is via the Calder Highway, and from South Australia via the Sturt Highway.

The Pink Lakes are 60kms west of Ouyen along the Mallee Highway. Turn onto an all-weather gravel road for 13kms to the main camping areas at Lake Crosbie. Access further north into the park is for four wheel drive only. Access is also possible by two wheel drive vehicles along a gravel road from Linga.

For those with limited time, a drive around the Pioneer Drive (Pink Lakes) is recommended. Otherwise take a four wheel drive trip to the Mount Crozier Lookout or old Mopoke Hut outstation.

Things to see and do

This is a great park for four wheel drive touring, bushwalking and camping. There are excellent walking tracks in the Pink Lakes area, along with a campground. Keep an eye out for local kangaroos, wallabies, emus and echidnas as you wander. Bird watchers will love the opportunities on offer, with Red-Rumped Parrots, Mallee Ringnecks, Spotted Pardalotes and White-Fronted Chats, all calling the region home.

Parks Victoria

Phone 13 1963

www.parks.vic.gov.au



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Walking

There are short walking tracks in the Pink Lakes area, which are accessible throughout the year and are a fantastic way to experience the impressive displays of spring wildflowers.

Some suggested walks are the Kline Nature Walk (approx 2hrs), Lake Becking (approx 45mins) and Lake Hardy (approx 1hr).

Remote areas of the park offer good bushwalking for people who are experienced, well prepared and self-reliant (it is essential to contact a ranger before attempting an extended walk in these areas of the park).

Camping out

The main campground at Lake Crosbie is a great place for an overnight or longer stay. Camping facilities are also provided at Mt Crozier (4WD), Mopoke Hut (4WD) and Lake Becking (2WD).

For more information

please visit the Murray-Sunset National Park page on: www.parks.vic.gov.au

Be prepared and stay safe

- Bring sun protection and insect repellent as the area around the lakes can be hot and insects very active.
- Take enough water to last you trip as there is no water available in the park
- It can get extremely hot during the day during summer months
- Plan you trip and tell someone where you plan to go, how long you plan to be away and when you are planning to be home.
- Please take your rubbish with you
- Weather and travel conditions can change quickly, so it important to always check the local conditions on the Parks Victoria website before you visit.

Murray-Sunset National Park is in the Mallee Total Fire Ban District. Be aware of forecast Fire Danger Ratings for this fire district. No fires may be lit on days of Total Fire Ban.

On days of Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety. Closure signs will be erected and rangers will patrol when possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed. Check the latest conditions by calling **13 1963** or visiting www.parks.vic.gov.au