Mildura's Murray River Parklands

Visitor Guide

The Murray River Parklands are a series of reserves protecting natural and cultural attractions of the area. Linked by the majestic beauty of the Murray River, they feature towering River Red Gums, tranquil riverside settings with sandy beaches, wide exp. All they need is you.

Why not become a Friend?

If you would like to help look after the Murray Parklands you could join the Friends of Kings Billabong. Call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 for more details.

A rich human history

Aboriginal people have lived along the Murray for thousands of years. When exploring the area you may discover canoe trees and artefacts. Shell middens and oven mounds testify to an Aboriginal history spanning more than 10,000 years.

Late last century, the Chaffey brothers established the Mildura Irrigation Settlement, selecting Kings Billabong (now a Wildlife Reserve) as the central water supply.

By 1891, a 1000 horsepower pump engine had been installed at nearby Psyche Bend on the Murray to maintain the water level in the Billabong to supply water to the new settlement of Mildura. These pumps were still pumping 1.4 million gallons of water per hour in 1952.

The present pumping station was built in 1959 when electric pumps were installed. Today the old wood-fired, steam-driven pumps have been restored and can be seen operating on key holiday weekends, reminding us of the determination and skill of Australia’s agricultural pioneers.

A haven for plants and animals

The Murray River Parklands, with their majestic River Red Gum and Black Box communities, are an important habitat for a variety of plants and animals. The river, creeks, and billabongs are breeding grounds for native fish species, like the Murray Cod and Golden Perch.

To ensure these species’ survival please observe bag limits, or better still practise “catch and release” fishing.

Location and access

Mildura’s Murray River Parklands are in northwest Victoria about 550 km from Melbourne and 400 km from Adelaide.

The parklands feature many riverbends close to Mildura. The major access roads to these bends are shown on the map inside.

Things to see and do

Walking, birdwatching, fishing, boating and camping are popular along the river.

Thousands of people come to this area to enjoy the dispersed camping opportunities and the wonderful riverine environment.

To protect this unique area we ask all visitors to follow camping and fire regulations and be aware of safety principles.

Whistling Kite: ‘Summer would not be the Murray summer if there were not the whistling kites’ notes, repeating and then sliding down the scale…drifting without wing movement in a blue sky high above the river.’

-Elyne Mitchell, Australian author.

For more information call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit our website at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au
Risk awareness
- Avoid camping under large old River Red Gums. They can drop branches without warning.
- Swimmers beware: deep holes and strong currents are common in the Murray River.
- River cliffs are highly erodible; slumping may occur at any time.
- Rope swings are not recommended. Their use may cause injury.

Use Parkweb to plan your visit
Just a click away - www.parkweb.vic.gov.au
Access and download information about parks, rivers and bays – print parknotes, discover who the local tour guides are.

Riverwatch - Do you really care?
You can do something about those matters which cause concern. A group of concerned authorities: Police, Clubs, Boards and Councils working together to help river users ‘treat the river like a friend’. Reports of major concern will be acted upon. All matters will be strictly confidential. Remember it is important to give a good description of events, time, date, location and any other information which can help the authorities do their job more efficiently.

River roads
- River roads and tracks are open public roads, so all vehicles / bikes must be registered and all drivers / riders licensed.
- River flats become impassable after rain. Check road conditions before you leave.
- Avoid using roads in wet conditions as both roads and vehicles can be damaged.

Rivercare & boating
Murray River boating regulations and safety procedures are managed by the New South Wales Waterway Authority. Please observe these safety requirements. Contact the Authority direct for further information. Tel: (03) 5023 4610
Be sure to visit the Alfred Deakin Centre for Visitor Information in Mildura to find out more about:

- the historic Psyche Bend Pumps
- the self-guided nature walk at Kings Billabong Wildlife Reserve
- Parknotes on other attractions of the Mallee region
- tour and guide opportunities for the area

Catching that big fish

For fishing: a New South Wales Freshwater Fishing Licence is required to fish in the Murray River: a Victorian Recreational Fishery Licence is required in Victorian waters.

Certain exemptions are available. Contact fisheries officers from either state for details.

Contact Vic  (03) 5226 4667
Contact NSW  (03) 5023 5204
Help us care for your riverland
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Collect only dead fallen timber in the Parklands of the Murray

Barbecues, may be lit on days

Crossbows, are not permitted

Cycles, must not be driven off

Artefacts. They are protected by law

Do not disturb, remove or destroy any historic relics or artefacts. They are protected by law

Dogs and other pets are permitted but must be restrained at all times

Fires must be: less than 1 metre in size, clear for 3 metres of flammable material, never left unattended. No fires, including gas barbecues, may be lit on days of Total Fire Ban

The area of river covered by this map is in the North Western Total Fire Ban District

Collect only dead fallen timber for campfires

Firearms, including Crossbows, are not permitted in the Parklands of the Murray

Do not camp within 20 metres of waterways

Pit toilets must be at least 100 metres from waterways

Vehicles, including motor cycles, must not be driven off open formed roads

All vehicles must be registered and drivers licensed

Mobile Phones You may not be in network range in some areas of the park. To be connected to Police, Ambulance or CFA, key in 112 then press the YES key

For further information
Parks Victoria Information Centre
13 1963 or visit the Parks Victoria website www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Mildura Visitor Information (Alfred Deakin Centre) 180-190 Deakin Avenue Mildura Vic 3500 Tel: (03) 5021 4424 Freecall 1800 039 043 Email tourism@Mildura.vic.gov.au

Caring for the environment
Help us care for your riverland parks & reserves:

Keep your camp tidy at all times

Please take your rubbish home with you

All native plants, animals and other features are protected by law

Kings Billabong Wildlife Reserve
Bordered by a wide stretch of the Murray River and home to majestic River Red Gums and a fantastic variety of birdlife, Kings Billabong Wildlife Reserve is popular with locals and visitors alike.

The reserve features a large, sleepy billabong that was for many years the main water supply for nearby vineyards and orange groves.

Take the self-guided walk to the historic Psyche Bend Pumps and enjoy wonderful birdwatching along the way.

While you are here, please care for the environment and help protect the reserve for your own and future visitors’ enjoyment.

Red Cliffs Scenic Reserve
Excellent photo opportunities await you at the Redgum Gully carpark and boardwalk on the Murray. This reserve is 5 km east of Red Cliffs.

“…the area is on a high bank above the red cliffs from which the settlement got its name. From the bank is probably one of the best vistas of river scenery in the district, long reaches both upstream and downstream, as well as overlooking a huge area across the river in New South Wales” – Mr. Chappel 1956, Assistant Surveyor General.

Exploring the Mallee Region
Parks Victoria manages large and spectacular Mallee national parks that adjoin similar areas in South Australia and New South Wales.

Parknotes are available for many of these parks.

• The Victorian Mallee parks cover over one million hectares and are extremely important for nature conservation because of their relatively undisturbed state.

• Wide open spaces, magnificent sunsets, abundant spring wildflowers and an astonishing cultural history are features.

• Autumn, winter and spring are the best times to visit. The main picnic and camping areas are generally accessible to 2WD vehicles, and 4WD opportunities abound. Visit them to discover the colourful diversity and natural wonder of these special places.

Hattah-Kulkyne National Park
Murray-Kulkyne Regional Park
These parks protect rolling mallee dunes and a large area of Murray River flood plain. Tranquil lakes, a Visitor Centre, Nature Drive and self-guided walks, camping area, day visitor area and free gas barbecue.

Murray - Sunset National Park
Stretching from the Murray River down to the Pink Lakes, this park is one of the world’s few remaining semi-arid regions where the environment is relatively untouched. With a vast landscape offering breathtaking sunsets and starry nights, this is Victoria’s own outback. Lindsay Island offers peaceful spots for fishing and yabbying in billabongs and creeks of the Mullaro.

Other Mallee parks and reserves
• Wyperfeld National Park
• Lake Albacutya Regional Park
• Big Desert Wilderness Park
• Lake Hindmarsh Reserve
• Little Desert National Park

April 2002