The Murray River, with its majestic River Red Gums, sandy beaches and a large variety of wildlife, provides the ideal backdrop for camping and a range of water-based recreation. You can help protect the river environment, and enhance the enjoyment and safety of visitors by following a few simple guidelines.

Enjoying the River Parklands

Walking, cycling, bird watching, fishing, boating, scenic drives and camping are just some of the popular activities along the river.

Preparing the ideal holiday

Camping opportunities along the River range from formal campgrounds with facilities to basic bush camping.

Before you leave home, decide on the type of camping that you want to do and prepare accordingly.

Many of the sites listed have separate Parknotes providing more detailed information.

A haven for plants and animals

The Murray River Parklands, with their majestic River Red Gums and forests provide an important habitat for a variety of plants and animals. Kangaroos, emus and koalas are common.

Over 200 species of birds have been recorded and the river is one of the largest breeding grounds for waterbirds in Victoria. The river is also a breeding ground for native fish species such as the Murray Cod and Golden Perch.
Regulations and Guidelines
Following these simple guidelines will ensure those who visit after you will enjoy their stay.

**Campsites**
- All camps must be at least 20 metres from any waterway
- Camping is not permitted in designated “Day Visitor” areas or licensed water frontages adjacent to private property
- Permanent structures or camps and unauthorised works are not permitted
- Maintain your campsite in a clean and tidy manner at all times and ensure that all traces of litter are removed prior to leaving

**Toilets**
- Satisfactory toilet facilities must be provided
- Portable chemical toilets are recommended
- Earth pit toilets are permitted, but must be located at least 100 metres from the high bank of any waterway and must be backfilled prior to leaving

**Fires**
Campers are encouraged to use gas stoves wherever possible. Small fires are permitted for warmth and cooking, provided the following regulations are followed:
- No fires, including gas barbecues, stoves, fridges and lights, are to be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban.
- Fires must only be lit in a properly constructed fireplace or pit 30cm deep.
- Trenches must be backfilled before leaving the campsite.
- All flammable material, within a 3-metre area, must be cleared and the fire must be no larger than 1 metre in diameter.
- Fires must not be left unattended.
- Fires must be completely extinguished with water before leaving the campsite.
- Generators should have a 1.5 metre clearance of flammable material right around them.
- Avoid lighting fires on windy days.

**Rubbish - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**
Every year, over 6,000 cubic metres of rubbish is removed from the Parklands. That’s 25,000 wheelie bins. Most parks operate under a “Carry in, Carry out” policy, which means that anything you bring into the park must be taken home, to the local tip, or a designated rubbish collection point.
- Do not burn or bury rubbish as animals can dig it up after you leave
- Avoid glass containers – broken glass can cause serious injuries. Use cans where possible as they can be crushed and recycled
- Try to avoid plastic and polystyrene packaging that is not recyclable or biodegradable
- Always bring strong rubbish bags with you.
Vehicles

- All vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on formed open roads.
- Driving off-road is an offence and fines apply.
- Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy.
- Normal traffic laws apply.
- Remember that drivers, walkers, bike riders and horse riders can all share the same tracks in the park.

Dogs and other pets

Ensure that you and your pets enjoy your holiday.

- Check whether dogs and other pets are permitted in the area before leaving home.
- In some parks pets are permitted, but must be kept under control at all times.
- Pets can carry diseases that can harm native wildlife and may cause injury or disturbance to other park users.

Fishing and Shooting

- Fishing Licences can be obtained from your local tackle or sports shop.
- Firearms are prohibited in most Murray River Parklands.
- Call 13 1963 to check with the local Parks Victoria office.
- **Fishing along the Murray River**
  - A NSW Amateur Fishing Licence is required for fishing in the Murray River.
  - Visit the NSW Fisheries website www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 369 365.
  - **Fishing in Rivers and lakes in Victoria**
  - A Victorian Amateur Fishing Licence is required for fishing in waters south of the Murray River.
  - Visit the Department of Sustainability and Environment website www.dse.vic.gov.au or call 13 6168.

Be safe - take care

- Avoid camping or parking under trees, in particular Red Gums, as they may drop branches at any time without warning.
- Deep holes, cold water, snags and strong currents are common in the Murray River. Life jackets are recommended.
- Do not use swings attached to trees or any other structure.
- River cliffs are also erodable and slumping can occur at any time.
- If you see a snake, don’t panic. Stand still. Snakes nearly always move away when they feel footstep vibrations. Remember snakes are protected so don’t try to kill them.
- Discuss and agree on an evacuation plan in case of bushfires.

Firewood and Vegetation

- Cutting down any tree, alive or dead, is an offence and penalties apply. It can also be extremely dangerous.
- Native trees and other forest produce are protected by law and must not be removed.
- Bring your own firewood to use at your campsite as there is limited wood on the ground.
- Do not drag or snig logs with vehicles.
- A permit is required to remove wood from allocated areas for domestic use.
- Spray-painting directional arrows and names on trees is unsightly and in some cases permanently scar the trees.
- Please avoid using nails to pin up directions or hang rubbish bags. Nails can leave trees permanently scarred and in some cases cause them to die.

Nature and History

All plants, animals, historical and archaeological sites and geographic features are protected by law and must not be
- removed or disturbed.
Exploring the Murray River

*Separate Parknote available

Headwaters to Yarrawonga

Corryong - Jack Riley, known as "The Man From Snowy River", is buried in the cemetery at Corryong. There is an excellent collection of local memorabilia housed at the museum.

Lake Hume - Lake Hume, near Albury, is the main operating storage of the Murray River system and more than four times the size of Sydney Harbour.

Lake Moodemere, north of Rutherford, was reserved as a wildlife sanctuary in 1912.

Lake Mulwala is a haven for birds and native fish and is used all year for a variety of water sports. Work on the lake began in the 1930s with the damming of the Murray River at Yarrawonga Weir as part of the Murray-Darling Irrigation Scheme.

Yarrawonga to Barham

This stretch of the river boasts approximately 50 sandy beaches, some of the best on the Murray. Around Yarrawonga there’s Forges, Brucers and Bourkes Bends. Cobram has Thompson’s Beach day use area and the very accessible Dead River Beach and many more. There are boat ramps at Yarrawonga, Cobram and Tocumwal. Experience classic Murray River scenery and abundant wildlife along the many walking tracks.

Ulupna Island* lies at the eastern end of Barham State Park and has many sandy river beaches making it ideal for swimming, camping and picnics.

Barham Forest* - Listed as a Wetland of International Importance, Barham Forest comprises 290 square kilometres of River Red Gum and is home to abundant native birds and animal life. The Dharnya Centre has displays about the history and culture of the indigenous and European communities living in the district, as well as information about the forest, its inhabitants and the river.

Echuca to Robinvale

The Port of Echuca was once the biggest inland port in Australia. Enjoy sightseeing, strolling around the historic precinct, visiting local crafts or try travelling down the Murray on a paddle steamer.

Swan Hill - Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement is an authentically recreated nineteenth century Mallee town.

Gunbower Island, near Cohuna, lies on the floodplain between the Murray and Gunbower Creek and features a great variety of waterbirds. Until damming, the red gum and box forests were flooded every year and today still depend on the occasional inundation.

Tyntynder Homestead, north of Swan Hill, was the first brick veneer building in Australia. It is furnished in the style of the squatter period of the 1870s.

Vinifera River Murray Reserve - 24km from Swan Hill, is mainly River Red Gum forest with some Black Box woodland, scattered with billabongs that flow as creeks at times of high river.

Nyah State Forest - Almost entirely River Red Gum with a groundcover of native and introduced grasses, the Pamee Mallooo Creek flows when the river is high and remains as a series of billabongs at other times.

The Major Mitchell Trail passes North of Piangil. Major Mitchell Lagoons, where Major Mitchell camped, has a car park overlooking the lagoons. Passage Camp is another area where Major Mitchell camped.

Robinvale to Mildura

Robinvale - The land surrounding Robinvale was taken up under the soldier settlement scheme after World War 2 and used for vines, citrus fruits, almonds, olives and vegetables.

Hattah-Kulkyne National Park* and Murray-Kulkyne Park lie in typical mallee country with extensive low scrub and open native pine woodland. A number of freshwater lakes seasonally filled by creeks connected to the Murray provide food and shelter for waterbirds and fish.

The sandy Karadoc Beaches provide good access for canoeing, boating and swimming. Informal camping and horse riding are permitted and dogs are allowed in the area.

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

Kings Billabong Wildlife 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 Pumphouse (the oldest intact irrigation station in Australia) and enjoy wonderful bird watching along the way.

Mildura to South Australia

Wallpolia Island near Merbein is 9800ha of floodplain vegetation including River Red Gum, saltbush plains, seasonal lakes and grasslands. Activities include fishing, boating and camping.

Lake Cullulleraine is a natural lake, kept filled from Lock 9 on the Murray River to supply water to nearby properties. Black Box and reed beds fringe the lake. Activities include swimming, picnics and camping (powered sites available).

Lindsay Island* lies in the far northwest corner of Victoria where the river flows into South Australia. The island’s floodplains are a haven for wildlife.

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