Parks of the Riverland

Dominated by the River Murray, the Riverland region offers the perfect relaxing holiday destination. The river carves its way past steep sandstone cliffs, giant stands of River Red Gums, wetlands and vast tracts of mallee country.

Riverland parks represent some of the most visually spectacular and environmentally important areas in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin.

From the peaceful backwaters of the majestic River Murray to mallee wilderness, Riverland parks offer wonderful opportunities for camping, canoeing, fishing and bushwalking.

Experience parks of the Riverland

Go for a walk

There are excellent bushwalking opportunities available. Interpretive walking trails with information panels and accompanying brochures help you learn about plants and animals of the Riverland.

Enjoy a picnic

Ideal picnic spots include sandy banks along the river and creeks, and the shade of mallee trees. Some parks provide picnic tables and benches.

Set up camp

Select a camp site and stay overnight to experience the sights and sounds the Riverland has to offer. In the spirit of good camping, please camp in designated camp sites, and leave as little impact on the landscape as possible.

Discover the wildlife

The parks of the Riverland cover a diverse range of ecosystems, which is reflected in the diverse wildlife of the area.

Different species of birds that live on the flood plain and in the mallee are best seen at dawn and dusk. Sit quietly and watch the numerous waterbirds feed along the water’s edge.

A bird identification book and binoculars are useful items.
Planning your visit

When to visit
Climatically and scenically, autumn and spring are the best times to visit Riverland parks. However, the climate of the Riverland makes it suitable for visiting parks most of the year. The summer months, January and February can be very hot.

Roads along the flood plain are generally unsuitable for driving immediately after heavy rains and can force the temporary closure of some parks. To avoid disappointment, please contact the Berri District Office before setting out.

Strong currents and snags in the river and backwaters can make swimming very dangerous. Take care at all times.

Approximate distance and drive times from Adelaide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Drive Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brookfield CP</td>
<td>130 km</td>
<td>1 hr 40 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan CP</td>
<td>150 km</td>
<td>2 hr 10 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize Island Lagoon CP</td>
<td>160 km</td>
<td>2 hr 15 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pooginook CP</td>
<td>190 km</td>
<td>2 hr 40 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moorook GR</td>
<td>180 km</td>
<td>2 hr 30 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loch Luna GR</td>
<td>190 km</td>
<td>2 hr 40 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray River NP - Katarapko</td>
<td>220 km</td>
<td>2 hr 50 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lyrup Flats</td>
<td>250 km</td>
<td>3 hr 10 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bulyong Island*</td>
<td>300 km</td>
<td>3 hr 15 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooltong CP</td>
<td>245 km</td>
<td>3 hr 10 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chowilla GR &amp; RR</td>
<td>280 km</td>
<td>4 hr 15 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danggali CP</td>
<td>350 km</td>
<td>4 hr 40 min</td>
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</tbody>
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Murray River National Park

13 023 hectares

The Murray River National Park comprises three sections, Katarapko, Lyrup Flats and Bulyong Island. These three areas of similar habitat form an archipelago (group of islands) park and are important in conserving a number of flood plain environments.

Katarapko

Katarapko is made up of three sections: Katarapko Creek, Eckert Creek and Lock 4. The park is dominated by flood plain and contains permanent and semi-permanent wetlands. It is an important breeding area for many forms of wildlife including waterbirds. At Katarapko, you can enjoy canoeing, birdwatching and self-guided walking trails.

Lyrup Flats

Lyrup Flats encompasses an area along the flood plain on the northern side of the River Murray. Opposite the township of Lyrup, the park is easily reached by turning off the Sturt Highway just past Berri and continuing down to the River Murray. Lyrup Flats provides wonderful opportunities for birdwatching, fishing, camping, and bushwalking along the majestic River Murray.
Chowilla Game Reserve and Regional Reserve

17 582 hectares (game reserve)
75 036 hectares (regional reserve)

Chowilla Game Reserve comprises flood plain and wetland environments. Chowilla features great stands of majestic River Red Gum and hardy Black Box gums, as well as Lignum and River Cooba. Large numbers of waterbirds and other native fauna can also be seen.

South of the River Murray lies a section of Chowilla Game Reserve known as Border Cliffs. Accessed via Murtho Road, Paringa, this section offers excellent opportunities for canoeing and camping. Toilet facilities are also available.

The Border Cliffs Customs House Walking Trail is an excellent way to experience and learn about wetland environments.

The regional reserve comprises vast stands of mallee woodland and bluebush shrublands that stretch from the flood plain to Danggali Conservation Park in the north.

Cooltong Conservation Park

3681 hectares

Cooltong Conservation Park was dedicated to preserve quality mallee vegetation and habitat for the mallee bird species that frequent the area, in particular the Malleefowl. The park is dominated by mallee vegetation, with undulating dunes and shales and is popular among birdwatchers eager to catch a glimpse of elusive mallee birds.

The park is accessible to conventional vehicles, however, some sections of the park are only accessible by 4WD.

Maize Island Lagoon Conservation Park

215 hectares

Backed by magnificent cliffs, Maize Island Lagoon Conservation Park contains many backwater lagoons lined by tall, majestic River Red Gums. This habitat provides ideal conditions for a variety of waterbirds.

During flood periods the park supplies nesting habitat for numerous aquatic bird species. Hollows in red gums provide habitat for a range of brightly coloured birds.
Morgan Conservation Park

377 hectares
Situated on the River Murray, Morgan Conservation Park conserves a system of River Murray anabranches. River Red Gum woodlands and one large spectacular lagoon that is filled during periods of high water.
The park provides important habitat for numerous bird species. Keep your eyes open for Regent Parrots, pelicans and White-faced Herons. Common Brushtail Possums can be seen and if you are quiet you might be able to spot a Water-rat swimming along the edge of the reed beds.
The park provides excellent opportunities for canoeing and birdwatching. There are strong currents in this section of the river. Care must be taken when swimming.

Pooginook Conservation Park

2862 hectares
Gently rolling sand dunes covered by multi-stemmed mallee cover Pooginook Conservation Park. The dense mallee cover on the northern section of the park contrasts with the more open mallee in the southern section where the land is re-establishing from wheat farming.
The park’s habitat provides shelter for a range of wildlife including kangaroos, echidnas, Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats and the elusive Malleefowl.
Bird life includes Black-eared Miners, honeyeaters and many other colourful mallee birds. During spring the park blossoms, displaying a variety of colourful mallee plants.
The park’s camping ground is accessible to conventional vehicles, however, some sections of the boundary road are only accessible by 4WD.

Moorook Game Reserve

1249 hectares
Moorook Game Reserve is made up of flood plain and wetland environments including Wachtels Lagoon, narrow creeks and shallow swamps.
The reserve contains a number of areas that provide important habitat for many aquatic birds and mammals. Fishing and canoeing are popular activities.

Danggali Conservation Park and Wilderness Protection Area

252 079 hectares
Danggali is the largest of the Riverland parks. Known for its vastness and wilderness appeal, the park is dominated by mallee scrubland. In 1977, Danggali Conservation Park was classified as Australia’s first Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO’s ‘Man and the Biosphere Program’ to conserve its dense mallee woodland, Black Oak woodland and bluebush shrubland.
Red and Western Grey kangaroos are common and many semi-arid land bird species are present. The park provides opportunities to enjoy remote area camping, birdwatching and the chance to explore relics of pastoral history.
Due to the remoteness of the park, visitors are advised to take sufficient food, water and fuel with them. The camping areas are accessible to conventional vehicles, however, some sections of the park are only accessible by 4WD.
Brookfield Conservation Park
5534 hectares
This park was a gift to South Australia from the Chicago Zoological Society to conserve Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats. The gently undulating limestone country is also ideal habitat for Fat-tailed Dunnarts and Red Kangaroos that share the park with prolific bird life, including the rare Bush Stone-curlew, Ground Cuckoo-shrikes and Australian Owlet-nightjars.

Camping is not permitted but bushwalking and day visits are popular. A picnic table and benches are provided. The self-guided nature drive is an excellent way to explore the park.

Although access to the park can be gained by conventional vehicles, some areas are restricted due to research on the Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat.

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) now manage Brookfield Conservation Park. To access the Research Zone and Scientific Camp, contact Tricia Curtis, CVA on (08) 8212 0777.

Loch Luna Game Reserve
2070 hectares
Loch Luna Game Reserve comprises a range of water bodies including narrow creeks and shallow swamps. The area contains a variety of environments that provide important habitat for many aquatic birds and mammals. Loch Luna is ideal for canoeing and birdwatching.

The main entrance to the park is on Morgan Road (off the Sturt Highway), north of Nappers Bridge. This section of the park is great for camping, fishing, relaxing and canoeing.

For further information contact:
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Berri District Office
28 Vaughan Terrace
PO Box 231, BERRI SA 5343
Phone (08) 8595 2111
Fax (08) 8595 2110
Phone Information Line (08) 8204 1910
Email dehinformation@sa.gov.au
Website www.parks.sa.gov.au

The National Parks Code
Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

- Leave your pets at home.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Observe fire restrictions usually 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS hotline 1300 362 361.
- Conserve native habitat by bringing your own firewood and using liquid fuel or gas stoves.
- Use fireplaces where provided.
- Camp only in designated areas.
- Respect geological and heritage sites.
- Keep wildlife wild. Do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants.
- Keep to defined vehicle tracks and walking trails.
- Be considerate of other park users.

Thank you for leaving the bush in its natural state for the enjoyment of others.

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www.parks.sa.gov.au
Murray River National Park
Danggali Conservation Park and Wilderness Protection Area

13,023 hectares

The majestic River Murray Headings Cliff lookout

The Murray River National Park comprises three sections, Katarapko, Lyrup Flats and Bulyong Island. These three areas of similar habitat form an archipelago (group of islands) park and are important in conserving a number of flood plain environments.

Danggali is the largest of the Riverland parks. Known for its vastness and wilderness appeal, the park is dominated by mallee scrubland. In 1977, Danggali Conservation Park was declared a conservation park to conserve its dense mallee woodland, Black Oak woodland and bluebush shrubland.

Red and Western Grey kangaroos are common and many semi-arid land bird species are present. The park provides opportunities to enjoy remote area camping, birdwatching and the chance to observe wildlife.

Due to the remoteness of the park, visitors are advised to take sufficient food, water and fuel with them. The camping areas are accessible to conventional vehicles, however, some sections of the park are only accessible by 4WD.

Moorook Game Reserve

1,249 hectares

Moorook Game Reserve is made up of flood plain and wetland environments including Wachtels Lagoon, narrow creeks and shallow swamps.

The reserve contains a number of areas that provide important habitat for many aquatic birds and mammals. Fishing and canoeing are popular activities.

Bulyong Island

A favourite place for anglers, small boat users, houseboats and canoeists, Bulyong Island forms part of the River Murray and Regional Reserve. The island is backed by magnificent cliffs, Maize Island Lagoon Conservation Park contains many water bodies including narrow creeks and shallow swamps. The area contains a variety of environments that provide important habitat for numerous aquatic bird species.

During flood periods the park supplies nesting hollows in red gums that provide habitat for a range of birds. The park is dominated by mallee vegetation, with undulating dunes and shales and is popular among birdwatchers eager to catch a glimpse of elusive mallee birds.

Brookfield Conservation Park

5,534 hectares

Camping permits are required in Riverland parks. Brookfield Conservation Park was a gift to South Australia from the Chicago Zoological Society to conserve Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats. The gently undulating limestone country is also ideal habitat for Fat-tailed Dunnarts and Red Kangaroos that share the park selected visitor information centres, or self-registration stations at the park entrances. Permits are available from the Berri DEH office, selected visitor information centres, or self-registration stations at the park entrances. Camping is not permitted but bushwalking and day visits are popular. A picnic table and benches are provided. The self-guided nature drive is an excellent way to explore the park.

www.parks.sa.gov.au

Park Fees

Permits are available from the Berri DEH office. Fees collected are used for conservation and to maintain and improve park facilities for your ongoing enjoyment.

Murray Cod

Maccullochella peeli

Although access to the park can be gained by conventional vehicles, some areas are restricted due to research on the Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat. Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) now manage Brookfield Conservation Park. To access the park, visitors are required to maintain and improve park facilities for your ongoing enjoyment.