

Murray River National Park 13,000ha



Murray River National Park contains some of the most visually spectacular and environmentally important areas in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin.

The park comprises three separate areas of land: Katarapko, Lyrup Flats, and Bulyong Island. These areas conserve a number of flood plain environments, and are the breeding ground for most of southern Australia's waterfowl and other waterbirds.

Katarapko

The largest and most popular area of the park, Katarapko features floodplains and several permanent and semi-permanent wetlands. Katarapko itself is made up of three sections: Katarapko Creek, Eckert Creek and Lock 4. There are three interpretive walks in Katarapko area where you'll learn about local plants, animals, and the history of the area.

Katfish Reach is a community environmental rehabilitation project that encompasses the Katarapko and Eckert Creek area. The area has been identified as a priority floodplain for environmental flows, and for broad-scale rehabilitation works for native fish. Find out more at katfish.org.au.

Lyrup Flats

Lyrup Flats lies along the floodplain on the northern side of the River Murray between the towns of Renmark and Berri. The flats provide wonderful opportunities for bird watching and fishing. You can take your dog for a walk in the Lyrup Flats area of the park if it is on a lead.

Bulyong Island

A favourite place for anglers, small boat users, houseboats and canoeists. Bulyong Island forms part of the River Murray flood plain and includes several significant areas of waterfowl habitat. The island is separated from the mainland by Ral Ral Creek and is only accessible via watercraft. The Island is an anabranch of the River Murray, it offers some of the best canoeing experiences in the Riverland.

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 hot. Roads along the flood plain are generally unsuitable for driving on immediately after heavy rains. This, and other hazards such as bushfire, can force the temporary closure of some sections of the park.

To avoid disappointment, check parks.sa.gov.au or contact the Berri Natural Resources Centre on 8580 1800 before setting out.

Contact

Emergency: 000

Natural Resource Centre, Berri
(+61 8) 8580 1800

Berri Barmera Visitor Information Centre
(+61 8) 8582 511

Renmark Paringa Visitor Information Centre
(+61 8) 8586 6704

General park enquiries: (+61 8) 8204 1910
DEWNR.CustomerServiceCentre@sa.gov.au
parks.sa.gov.au | facebook.com/parkssa

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Traditional owners

The area was home to the Erwirung people, a relatively small Aboriginal group that lived on the fertile plains of the Murray. Cultural sites exist in the park in the form of graves, middens and canoe trees. Aboriginal people have strong affiliations to Country and these cultural values and sites must be respected and conserved.

Friends of Riverland Parks

The Friends of Riverland Parks is a community-based group who work to protect and develop the natural and cultural heritage in the park. Find out more about volunteering in parks at parks.sa.gov.au.

Getting there

Getting to the Murray River National Park, with approximate distance and drive times from Adelaide:

Katarapko	Access the Katarapko section via the Old Sturt Highway. Turn off between Glossop and Berri and follow the signs. Access the Lock 4 section via Berri, along Draper Road. Access the Eckert Creek section via Lower Winkie Road, off the Old Sturt Highway.	220 km	2 hours 50 min
Lyrup Flats	Lyrup Flats is situated between the Sturt Highway and the river, between the towns of Renmark and Berri.	250 km	3 hours 10 min
Bulyong Island	Bulyong Island is north of Renmark and can only be accessed by boat.	300 km	3 hours 15 min

Opening hours

Murray River National Park is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Fees

Fees apply to camp in Murray River National Park. Failure to display a valid permit on the designated vehicle may result in a fine. Camping permits can be purchased at the park self-registration stations or at the Natural Resources Centre in Berri. You will need the correct change for the self-registration bays in the park.

Check visitor and camping fees and buy park passes online at parks.sa.gov.au.

Things to see and do

The River Murray offers some of the most spectacular scenery South Australia has to offer – tall river red gums, mallee scrub and quiet waterways teeming with birdlife.

Park maps on your mobile

Download free maps of this park for your mobile device from [Avenza PDF Maps](#) while you have mobile phone coverage. Used within the app, the maps allow you to calculate distances and locate yourself within the park (GPS coverage required).

Rangers recommend:

- Fishing at Katarapko Creek for golden perch and yabbies.
- Sitting quietly with your binoculars, watching for birdlife such as the threatened regent parrot.
- Kayaking through the waterways, then stopping for a picnic lunch in a secluded spot.
- Taking a dip in the river on a hot day and – if you're feeling brave – standing still for long enough to let the yabbies nibble your toes.
- Learning about the history and ecology of the area on one of the Katarapko trails.
- Watching the sun set the water and the bush aglow as it goes down over your campsite.

No internet?
No worries.



Our maps are geo-enabled meaning you will always have your location dot no matter where you are*

*when used in conjunction with the FREE Avenza app and smart phone

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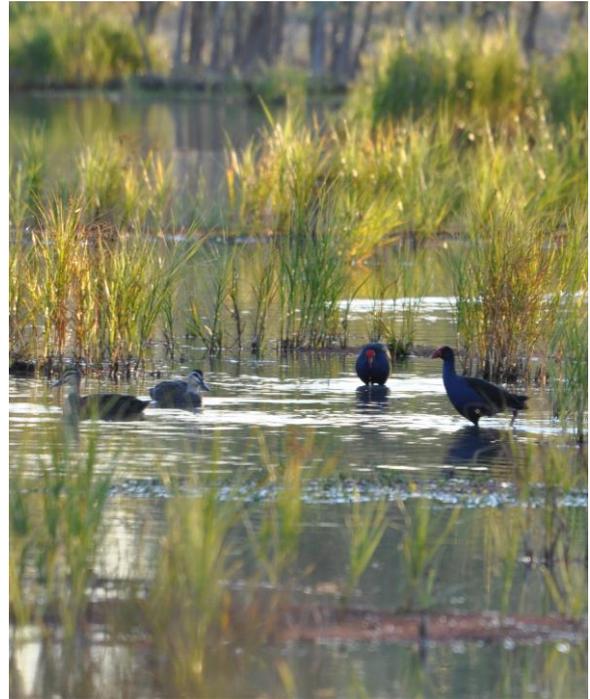
Camping

There are three main campgrounds on the banks of the river in Katarapko – Booky Cliffs, Lock 4 and Causeway. Suited to larger groups, these campgrounds can accommodate smaller caravans and camper trailers and are (usually) 2WD accessible. The campgrounds have pit toilets.

For a more secluded camping experience, there are also smaller tent sites dotted along the river and the Katarapko Creek. The sites are different shapes and sizes. They have differing river access and views. They are well sign-posted so easy to find, but the camping area is generally not visible from the road so you will have to drive (or walk) in to see if the site is empty and if it suits you. See the park map to find the nearest public toilet.

Lyrup Flats, the most accessible section of the park, also has three main river campgrounds – Colligans, Tea Tree and Blackbox. Easily accessed by 2WD, these sites are well suited to caravans and larger groups. One public toilet services Colligans and Tea Tree. There is no toilet at Blackbox.

There are also secluded campsites spaced along the river in Lyrup Flats. Again, you will generally have to drive (or walk) in to check that these sites suit you and are not already occupied. See the park map to find the nearest public toilet.



Campers be aware:

- You will be able to access some campsites by boat, but beware of submerged obstacles.
- Camping is only permitted in designated campgrounds, available on a first-in basis and fees apply. Bookings are not available.

Walking

Walk (easy)

A walk is accessible to people of all ages and fitness levels.

These are well defined trails, generally less than 3km in length, with even surfaces.

Kai Kai Natural Trail

Popular with school groups, this walk takes you on a journey of discovery, revealing native plants and animals along the way.

40 minutes 2km loop

Ngak Indau Wetland Trail

This walk begins on the banks of the River Murray and winds its way through the Ngak Indau wetlands. The trail includes a bird hide where you can check out the wetland bird life.

1.5 hours 4.8km loop

Cragg's Hut Walk

This interpretive trail takes walkers back to the time of European settlers. See the historic remains of the homes of the Craigies and the Blands, and visit the grave of Margaret Craigie, before resting at the lookout and gazing out over the land that sustained these families.

40 minutes 2km loop

Time is generously estimated for an average walking speed of 3km per hour. Allow extra time for resting and sightseeing.

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Fishing

Katarapko Creek is a popular fishing spot – species include golden perch and yabbies. The European carp – the scourge of the Murray – is the fish most commonly caught. If you catch one it is illegal to return it to the river alive. Some fish in the Murray are protected species, make sure you know which fish must be released if caught. See pir.sa.gov.au.

Canoeing and kayaking

This is a great way of exploring the park. Try the quiet backwaters of Katarapko or Eckert creeks. Canoes can be launched from some campsites. Pack a picnic lunch and don't forget your fishing rod.

Water safety

Strong currents and snags in the river and backwaters can make swimming dangerous.

Know before you go

Every national park is different. Each has its own challenging environment and it is important to understand how to stay safe, while enjoying all the park has to offer. Please:

- leave your pets at home if visiting Katarapko or Bulyong Island
- walk your dog on a lead, and only in designated areas, if visiting Lyrup Flats
- leave the park as you found it and take your rubbish with you
- observe fire restrictions
- camp only in designated areas
- drive only on designated tracks
- respect geological and heritage sites
- do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants
- do not hunt in the park
- generators, chainsaws and firearms are not permitted
- be considerate of other park users.
- BYO firewood, gathering firewood in the park is prohibited.

Mobile phone coverage

Mobile phone coverage can be patchy and unreliable in national parks, especially if you are in a low-lying area (such as a gorge or a gully).

To get a signal, you may have to drive to one of the higher areas in the park.

Fire safety

This park may be closed on days of extreme fire danger. Listen to your local radio station for broadcasts, or call the CFS Hotline on 1300 362 361.

- Wood fires and solid fuel fires are prohibited from mid-November to mid-April.
- On days of total fire ban all solid, liquid and gas appliances are prohibited.
- Gas fires and stoves are permitted except on days of total fire ban (fire ban information: cfs.sa.gov.au).
- Small cooking fires are permitted at designated campsites. More information: parks.sa.gov.au.