

SOUTH AUSTRALIA Riverland Nature Trails

Your guide to the Riverland – Naturally!

The animals and plants in this area occupy four distinct zones. The river itself forms one zone where aquatic plants and animals live. Beside the river is the floodplain that has its own unique plant species. Once the land begins to rise, the grouping changes again, and the area most distant from the river features the distinctive Mallee trees.

This zonation applies to some extent to the region's fauna though many live in more than one zone. We have attempted to give you an idea of the dominant groups and added a few interesting and rare ones to tempt you to look further into the Riverland's ecology.

Water Plants

There are many plants adapted to live in the water. Ribbon Weed (*Vallisneria americana*), characterised by its strap-like appearance, frequently grows submerged in the shallow water near the banks. It provides habitats and food resources for native fish and other life forms, particularly from the film of algae and bacteria that coat its leaves. The red and green Azolla (*Azolla filiculoides*) is often seen floating along the river. During spring or in shade the upper parts of the plant are green while in summer and autumn, when exposed to full sunlight, they usually become bright red.

Floodplain

As the name suggests, this zone is the area between the river and the upland rises. The main plant species are the Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*) and the River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). River Red Gums are found close to the water's edge, while the Black Box is able to live further away. Clearly distinguishable lines through Black Box woodlands show how seed is deposited at the wash line during a flood. Old specimens high above the current river level attest to significant floods in the past. An old tree at Overland Corner is known to have been there since around 1770.

Upland Rises

The upland rises vary in height and steepness. They are often a sandy environment and ideal habitat for the Native Pine (*Callitris preissii*). This tree was used heavily by early settlers for its timber which is resistant to white ant and rot, and hence ideal for fence and vineyard posts. The soft yellow timber is still commercially available from the Eastern States.

Mallee Dunes

Main plant species are a variety of Mallee trees (*really shrubs from the Eucalyptus family*) adapted to harsh low rainfall conditions. Their multi-stemmed habit is an adaptation to wate gathering. The tough Ligno-tuber or 'Mallee Root' is able to maintain life even if the tree completely loses its leaves during prolonged drought or fire. There are many types of

Mallee tree: their occurrence depends on soil and climatic conditions.

Animals in the River

The river contains several species of larger fish including the Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii peelii*), the largest and most sought after economic species. Before the era of locks and barrages these handsome fish often reached a large size with specimens up to 1.83m weighing 113kg reported. Sadly they are now less frequently seen in the lower reaches of the river. Surprisingly there are manysmall native fish about which little is known. The Australian Smelt (*Retropinna semoni*) is one such example. Growing to 100mm they are widely found in Australia river waters including the Murray-Darling system. They are bright silver with darker olive lower sides, and have large eyes, a rounded snout and transparent fins. Preferringto live in slow moving on still water, they can be found in schools near the surface. Their food sources include small larvae, crustaceans and insects. Another vulnerable local species is the Southern Bell Frog (*Litoria raniformis*). Its low growling call means it is also known as the Growling Grass Frog. This attractive creature is voraciously carnivorous, eating almost anything smaller than itself – including other frogs. It has been declared vulnerable as, like many frogs, the population has suffered from habitat reduction and water quality issues.

Animals of the Floodplain

Although many animals travel across the floodplain to reach the river, there are those that make this area their primary habitat. Perhaps one of the most spectacular of these is the Carpet Python (*Morelia spilota*) which lives in hollows in cliffs and in trees. The loss of floodplain habitat has endangered this species in the Riverland. The Common Brush-tail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) frequently shares trees with the python and often provides it with a food source. These gregarious small animals have adapted to living near humans but feral cats and foxes continue to reduce the population.

Animals of the Upland Rises

This zone is home to many birds and animals that can survive a little further from the river. Flocks of Major Mitchell Cockatoos (*Cacatua leadbeateri*) populate the trees. These noisy birds use their strong beaks to open the nuts of the Native Pine (*Callitris preissii*) to eat the seeds. Another interesting and rarely seen resident of the rises is Bolam's Mouse (*Pseudomys bolami*). This small native rodent burrows in the ground and lives by eating seeds, fruits, blossoms, grasses and insects. Nocturnal in habit, it is believed to breed in spring with a maximum litter size of six. Unlike most native mice in the Riverland it is not a marsupial.

Animals of the Mallee

A wide range of animals use the Mallee environment including the endangered Blackeared Miner (*Manorina melanotis*) that is the subject of a major conservation program across three states. These quiet, shy birds exist in small colonies in old growth Mallee. Much of this Mallee is contained in the Riverland Biosphere Reserve including Gluepot Station, Danggali WPA (Wilderness Protected Area), Taylorville Station and Calperum Station. Another animal rarely found is the beautiful Ningai Yvonneae. Pronounced 'nin-gow-ae', this small marsupial mouse feeds on insects and, despite its size, has an enormous appetite. It still exists in reasonable numbers in areas with extensive Porcupine Grass (*Triodia scariosa*) or Spinifex, in which it makes its home. They have been recorded climbing a single leaf of spinifex, wrapping their tails around as they go.

How to get to the Riverland

BY ROAD

From Adelaide you can travel 1 hour and 40 minutes to Blanchetown on the Sturt Highway (A20), where the Riverland officially begins or travel on the Sturt Highway (A20) from Victoria (Mildura).

BY COACH

Premier Stateliner Coaches operate a regular service to towns in the Riverland from Adelaide's Central Bus Station in Franklin Street. www.premierstateliner.com.au
Greyhound Australia Coaches operate from Adelaide to Sydney and vice-versa and travel through Berri and Renmark. For details visit www.greyhound.com.au

BY AIR

The Riverland has airstrips located in Berri, Loxton, Waikerie and Renmark for use of private and charter aircrafts. Mildura (approximately one hour's drive from the Riverland) is serviced by flights from Melbourne – visitors can then travel to the Riverland area by coach or hire car.

FERRY SERVICES

Free vehicle ferries cross the river at Cadell, Lyrup, Morgan and Waikerie. All ferries operate 24-hours, seven days per-week.

NATIONAL PARK INFORMATION

For further information about the 19 National Parks and Reserves in the Riverland contact:

Department of Environment & Heritage:
Information Line Ph: (08) 8204 1910
Riverland DEH District Office, Berri:
Ph (08) 8595 2111
www.parks.sa.gov.au

USEFUL WEBSITES

Riverland Tourism
www.riverland.info
South Australia Tourism
www.southaustralia.com
Canoe SA
www.canoesa.asn.au
Trails SA
www.southaustraliantrails.com
Murray Users Sustainable Recreation
www.murrayusers.sa.gov.au
Traveler's guide to Interstate Quarantine
www.quarantinedomestic.gov.au
SA Recreational Fishing
www.pir.sa.gov.au/fisheries
Murray Darling Basin Authority
www.mdba.gov.au



riverland.info
southaustralia.com





Welcome to the Riverland

Riverland Nature Experiences

Stretching three hundred kilometres along some of the Murray River's most dramatic and lovely scenery, the Riverland is a destination rapidly becoming known for its remarkable natural environment and heritage.

From the eastern border of South Australia, the river weaves its way past a cinematic backdrop of vertical limestone and sandstone cliffs, graceful red gums and burgeoning citrus orchards and vineyards and creates lagoons and wetlands, before turning south for its final run to the Great Southern Ocean.

In the Riverland, it's easy to get off the beaten track and explore the many hidden secrets of a relatively untouched river environment, especially in the 19 national parks and reserves that include long stretches of river, wetlands and the Mallee.

There are walking and bike trails along waterways, through wetlands and the Mallee, canoe routes through anabranches, lagoons and creeks, camping grounds in tranquil places and scenic drives throughout the region.

The river's heritage stretches back millennia and plays a significant role in the Dreaming of the Ngarrindjeri people. It became the lifeline for many early European settlers and its days as a paddle steamer highway shaped the towns spread along its banks today.

This guide highlights over 23 nature and heritage trails that interpret the heritage, ecology and culture of the region.

Many travel in parts of the Riverland's greatest natural asset, the Riverland Biosphere Reserve, one of 12 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in the world and internationally recognised for its river, wetland and mallee biodiversity, and the rare and endangered plants, birds and animals that these habitats sustain. Comprising national parks, game reserves, pastoral leases and National Trust properties, Bookmark includes one of the largest continuous stands of Mallee left in the world and great stretches of waterways.

NGURUNDERI

The traditional custodians of the Riverland are the Ngarrindjeri peoples. In the Dreaming of the Ngarrindjeri people, Ngurunderi is the shaper of land, laws and people, and part of this dreaming tells of the creation of the Murray River.

Ngurunderi was travelling in a bark canoe, looking for his wives after a quarrel. He saw and tried to spear Pondi, the giant Murray Cod. Pondi swam quickly away, his tail widening the creek into a river, creating the cliffs and waterways.

Please see map on reverse side for operator's location.

To discover the region, book a guided tour or stay with one of the following operators. The tours are offered by trail, boat, dinghy, canoe or on land. Please note that bookings are essential unless otherwise stated.

A BACKWATER DINGHY EXPEDITIONS

Exclusive backwater dinghy expedition's eco-tours through the RAMSAR-listed wetlands near Renmark.

Bookings: (08) 8595 1862
www.renmarkrivercruises.com.au



B BANROCK STATION WINE AND WETLAND CENTRE

Self-guided walking trails featuring a series of story centres, information huts and bird hides where you can get close to the spectacular wetlands and wildlife. Lunches and wine tastings available daily.

Bookings: (08) 8583 0299
www.banrockstation.com.au



C BENSON PARK TRAIL RIDES

Benson Park near Waikerie is a great place to experience the Australian bush while gaining an appreciation for horses. Horse trail rides can be taken for 1 hour up to a full day while enjoying breathtaking views of the majestic River Murray. Open every weekend and public holiday or weekdays by prior arrangement.

Enquires/bookings: (08) 8541 2283
or Ken 0431 207 828
www.bensonpark.net

D BIRDS AUSTRALIA GLUEPOT RESERVE

See up to 18 nationally threatened species of birds, 50 species of reptiles and 12 species of bats. A 50km self drive vehicle trail directs visitors to some of the diverse sites on the Reserve.

Information: (08) 8892 8600
www.riverland.net.au/gluepot/



E BORDER CLIFFS RIVER RETREAT – self-contained holiday accommodation

Border Cliffs River Retreat is located 35km north of Renmark near the Custom's House. The property borders the banks of the Murray River and is the perfect location to stay and experience the Border Cliffs Wetland Walking Trail or take a short paddle by canoe and explore the Chowilla creek system, well known for canoeing enthusiasts.

Enquiries/bookings: (08) 85958167
or 0427 533 928
www.bordercliffsriverretreat.com.au

F BREDL'S WONDERWORLD OF WILDLIFE

A wildlife experience with a difference where you can learn about the true nature of wildlife. Meet the Barefoot Bushman and see his wildlife demonstrations on weekends, public and school holidays at 11.30am. Open 10am-5pm daily.

Enquires/bookings: (08) 8595 1431
www.barefootbushman.com.au



G BURK SALTER WINE & WETLAND TOUR

Burk Salter Wines is located on the picturesque banks of the river at Blanchetown. The area is renowned for its rich history and spectacular wildlife. Burk Salter Wines now offer exclusive tours of the family vineyard and surrounding wetlands aboard an immaculately restored 1927 Chevrolet Truck. The tour concludes with a private wine tasting at the Cellar Door accompanied by a gourmet cheese platter.

Bookings: (08) 8540 5023
or 0438 405 023
www.burksalterwines.com.au

H CHOWILLA STATION TOURS

Experience the natural, historic and cultural aspects of Chowilla Station. See firsthand how the pastoral property now functions, learn how land is now being rehabilitated and view the land set aside for conservation. Hosted half day tours can be organised or use your own vehicle in a tag-along tour. Various packages are available which include lunch, afternoon tea, evening meals and accommodation. Houseboat, dingy and canoe hire also available.

Enquires/bookings: (08) 8595 8048
www.chowilla.com.au



I JOLLY GOODFELLOWS BIRDING

Enjoy 1-6 day Bird-watching safaris in the Riverland Biosphere or take an Outback Bird Safari to Gluepot, Lake Eyre, Innamincka and Coongie Lakes. See rare and endangered bird species in the mallee woodlands.

Bookings: (08) 8583 5530
or 0407 609 160
www.birding.com.au

J LIBA LIBA HOUSEBOATS

Discover unspoilt nature by travelling along the mighty Murray in ecologically sustainable houseboats.

Bookings: (08) 8586 6734
www.libaliba.com.au



K LOCH LUNA CRUISES

Cruise through the Nockburra and Chambers Creeks of the Loch Luna Game Reserve aboard the *M.V. Loch Luna*. The 3 hour guided cruise departs from the Kingston-on-Murray riverfront 9am and 1.30pm Sunday-Friday and includes refreshments.

Bookings: 0449 122 271 or
AH (08) 8583 0155
www.lochlunacruises.com.au

L MCCORMICK CENTRE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The centre is a public facility supporting environmental education and research, nature-based tourism, and serving the community as a unique resource. Visitors can learn about the region's natural environment through the interpretive model of the Murray-Darling Basin. Environmental information, including information about Calperum and Taylorville stations, is available.

Enquires: (08) 8586 4777
www.austlandscapetrust.org.au



M QUALITY HOUSEBOATS

Quality Houseboats are based at Blanchetown. Here you can experience superb scenery on an uncrowded, quiet section of the Murray River. Quality houseboats own the only fleet that has ensuite for each bedroom setting - a new standard of accommodation in the houseboat industry.

Bookings: (08) 8331 9248
or 0407 331 499
www.qualityhouseboats.com.au



N RENMARK RIVER CRUISES –THE BIG RIVER RAMBLER

Regular two-hour scenic cruises along the Murray River departing the Renmark Riverfront. Cruise includes Devonshire tea with an ecological and historical commentary.

Bookings: (08) 8595 1862
www.renmarkrivercruises.com.au



O RIVERLAND LEISURE CANOE TOURS

Guided tours through the creeks and backwaters of the Murray River. Canoe and kayak hire available.

Bookings: (08) 8595 5399
www.riverlandcanoes.com.au

KEY TO LOGOS



Accredited Tourism Businesses are recognised as professional, ethical and reliable operators, which deliver high quality tourism experiences.



EcoCertified Nature Tourism businesses that represent tourism experiences within a natural area that creates minimal impact on the environment.



EcoCertified Advanced Ecotourism businesses represent Australia's leading and most innovative ecotourism products.

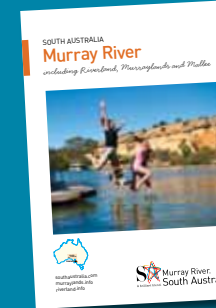


Climate Action Innovator businesses have undertaken a set of adoption and emission reduction actions and are auditing and measuring their carbon footprint.



Climate Action Leader businesses have incorporated strategic climate change responses across all relevant levels of business planning and operations.

For further information regarding the National Tourism Accreditation Framework visit **www.satic.com.au**



Want to know more?

The Murray River Visitor Guide contains the best information about the region. It covers attractions, activities, accommodation, touring and maps.

Call the Riverland Hotline on **1300 657 625** to request a copy or pick it up at accredited visitor information centres in the region, or log onto our website to find out more.

www.riverland.info

RIVERLAND HOTLINE
1300 657 625



Visitor Information Centres

At these accredited visitor information centres, you'll find trained staff and volunteers with extensive local knowledge, who can help you with information about the region.

Barmera Visitor Information Centre

Barwell Avenue, Barmera
Open: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm,
Sat, Sun & public holidays 10am-4pm
Ph: (08) 8588 2289 or 1300 768 468
www.barmeratourism.com.au

Berri Visitor Information Centre

Riverview Drive, Berri
Open: Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm,
Sat, Sun & public holidays 10am-4pm
Ph: (08) 8582 5511 or 1300 768 582
www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au

Loxton Visitor Information Centre

Bookpurnong Tce, Loxton
Open: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-4pm,
Sun & public holidays 10am-4pm
Ph: (08) 8584 8071 or 1300 869 990
www.loxtontourism.com.au

Renmark Paranga Visitor Information Centre

84 Murray Ave, Renmark
Open: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-4pm,
Sun & public holidays 10am-4pm
Ph: (08) 8586 6704 or 1300 661 704
www.visitrenmark.com

Waikerie Visitor Information Centre

Orange Tree Giftmania
Sturt Highway, Waikerie
Open: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm,
Sat, Sun & public holidays 10am-4pm
Ph: (08) 8541 2332
www.waikerietourism.com.au

INFORMATION OUTLETS

Blanchetown Information & Internet Centre

3 Shaw Street, Blanchetown
Open Mon-Fri 10am-2pm,
Thur nights to 6pm
Ph: (08) 8540 5453
www.blanchetown.moonfruit.com

Morgan Internet & Resource Centre

10 Fourth Street, Morgan
Open: Mon-Thur 10am-4pm,
Fri 10am-2pm, Sun 1pm-3pm
Ph: (08) 8540 2643
www.morgan.org.au



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Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure all details are correct; however Riverland Tourism Association cannot accept responsibility for errors, omissions or changes since the date of publication in July 2010.

Summer (Dec – Feb)	15°C – 32°C
In summer, maximum temperatures can pass 40°C: Always check the weather forecast before setting out on any trails.	
Winter (Jun – Aug)	5°C – 17°C

