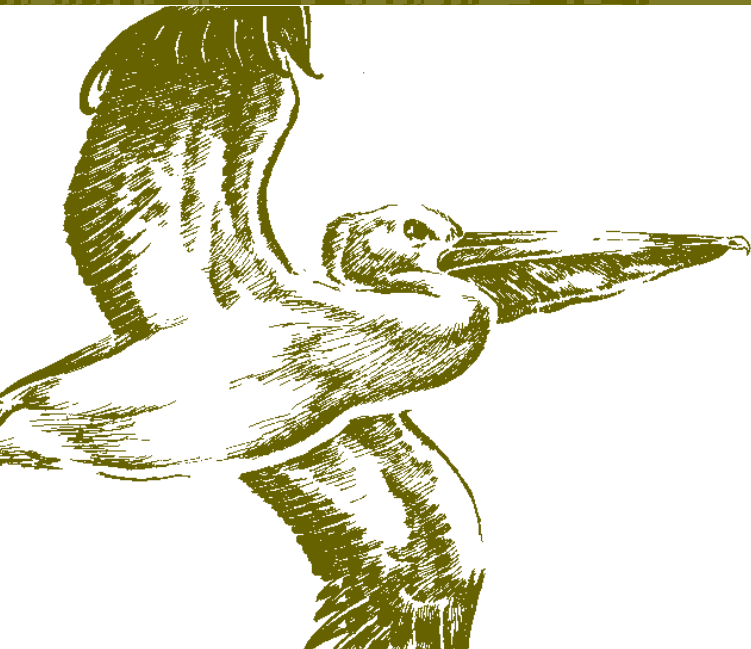


Murray River National Park



Healthy Parks
Healthy People



Murray River National Park

Murray River National Park covers approximately 13 000 hectares and is made up of three separate sections of land - Katarapko, Lyrup Flats and Bulyong Island. The park was proclaimed in 1991 to conserve the unique Murray wetlands and their flora and fauna, such as the threatened Regent Parrot, Golden Bell Frog, Murray Cod and Murray Darling Carpet Python.

The park provides great recreational opportunities for visitors. Escape and enjoy the tranquil setting of the park by bushwalking, canoeing, camping, houseboating, fishing or just relaxing on the banks of the river.

Natural and human impacts are causing serious problems for the River Murray. When water is available, flooded wetlands and flood plains kick start a boom of life with new plant growth, breeding cycles and increased food availability. With decreased flow down the river, the park is facing issues such as stressed vegetation and barriers for fish movement.

Indigenous culture

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.

European history

Katarapko once sustained a range of activities including sheep and cattle grazing, fishing, horse runs, timber felling and market gardens. The Cragg's Hut Walk takes you past ruins of Cragg's Hut, once home to the Craigie family who settled the area in the mid-1800s. A grave nearby is thought to be the final resting place of Margaret Craigie. Other remains include an old windmill, stockyards, irrigation equipment and fencing.

How to get to the park

Murray River National Park is in the Riverland, approximately 240 km from Adelaide. The main section of Katarapko can be accessed via the Old Sturt Highway. Turn off between the towns of Glossop and Berri and follow the signs. The Lock 4 section is accessed from Berri, along Draper Road, while the Eckert Creek section is entered via Lower Winkie Road, off the Old Sturt Highway.

Lyrup Flats is situated between the Sturt Highway and the river, between the towns of Renmark and Berri.

Bulyong Island is north of Renmark and can only be accessed by boat.

Facilities

Well-equipped for campers, Katarapko and Lyrup Flats have designated camp sites and toilets. Lyrup Flats also has three campgrounds (Colligans, Tea Tree and Blackbox), as does Katarapko (Booky Cliffs, Lock 4 and Causeway).

Katarapko is perfect for the sightseer with the main section home to the Cragg's Hut Walk, Kai Kai Nature Trail, and the Murray Pine Drive, while the Lock 4 section has the Ngak Indau Wetland Trail.

Lyrup Flats and the main section of Katarapko have boat access. It is possible to launch small craft from some camp sites.

Flora and fauna

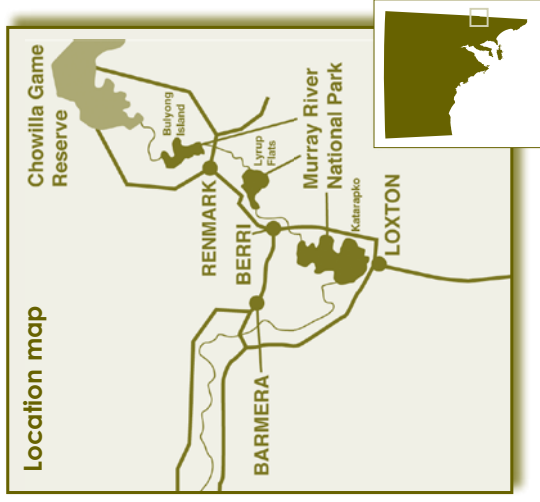
Murray River National Park is rich in native wildlife. Keep an eye out for kangaroos, echidnas, sand goannas and brushtail possums.

The park is also a birdwatcher's paradise – the area is a valuable breeding and refuge area for many birds such as Australian Reed-Warblers, Little Grassbirds, Superb Fairy-wrens and the threatened Regent Parrot.

The wetlands provide valuable habitats for fish, with 'The Splash' in Katarapko considered an important breeding ground.

The park's woodlands are dominated by mallee with an understorey of saltbush and bluebush, while the flood plain and swamp areas feature iconic River Red Gums with a tangled understorey of Lignum. During spring and summer emu bushes (*Eremophila* sp.) blossom with brightly coloured tubular flowers.

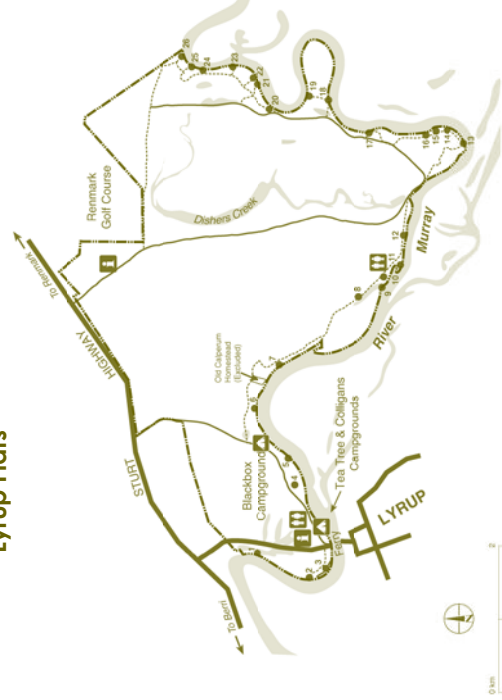
MURRAY RIVER NATIONAL PARK Katarapko



MURRAY RIVER NATIONAL PARK Bulyong Island



MURRAY RIVER NATIONAL PARK Lyrup Flats



Things to do

Birdwatching

The park is an important breeding ground for many water birds. Make sure you pack your binoculars and a bird book - over 140 bird species have been observed here. Part of the park is listed under the Riverland Ramsar site, a Wetland of International Importance.

Camping

Designated camp sites are located in Katarapko and Lyrup Flats. Stay the night and experience the sights and sounds of this beautiful river environment.

Please take care not to camp under River Red Gums as they can drop branches at any time without warning.

Boating

Launch your boat and explore the river and creeks. Don't forget your fishing rod.

Fishing

Katarapko Creek is a popular fishing spot - species caught include Callop, Redfin Perch, European Carp and Yabbies.

Canoeing

Canoeing is a great way of exploring the park. Try the quiet backwaters of Katarapko or Eckert creeks. Canoes can be launched from some camp sites.

Driving

The Murray Pine Drive offers contrasting views of the different landscapes in Katarapko. A self-guided brochure is available at visitor centres.



Superb Fairy-Wren
Malurus cyaneus

Bushwalking



Katarapko has three fantastic interpretive walks, with signs informing walkers about local plants and animals and revealing the history of the area.

Kai Kai Nature Trail

2 km loop ***40 min loop**

This walk takes visitors on a journey of discovery, revealing native plants and animals. Popular with school groups, the nature trail has an interpretive brochure that links the natural environment with the curriculum.

Ngak Indau Wetland Trail

4.8 km loop ***1.5 hrs loop**

This walk begins on the banks of the River Murray and winds its way through the Ngak Indau wetlands. Points of interest are marked along the way, informing you about the local plants and animals. Check out the bird hide where you can spy on the diverse wetland bird life.

Cragg's Hut Walk

2 km loop ***40 min loop**

This interpretive trail takes walkers back in time to an era when settlers had to overcome many obstacles to succeed. See the remnants 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.

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

Park fees



Camping permits are required in Murray River National Park. Permits are available from the Murraylands DEH office at 28 Vaughan Tce, Berri or self-registration stations at the park entrances. Fees collected are used for conservation and to maintain and improve park facilities for your ongoing enjoyment.

The National Parks Code

Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

- Leave your pets at home. (1080 poison, lethal to pets, is used in the park to control foxes). Dogs are permitted on a leash at Lyrup Flats.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Observe fire restrictions, usually 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS hotline 1300 362 361.
- Conserve native habitat by using liquid fuel or gas stoves.
- Camp only in designated areas.
- Respect geological, cultural and heritage sites.
- Keep our 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.

For further information contact:

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