

River Red Gum Drive

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Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures

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River Red Gum Drive

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Reconnect with family and friends on this relaxing and motivating journey through majestic Murray River floodplain landscapes.

This 4WD tour winds through the world's largest River Red Gum forests adjoining the Murray River. Backdrops of the Murray River, sandy beaches, lagoons, waterbirds, wildlife, aquatic plants, a wide range of camping and picnic grounds and an extensive network of forest tracks make this natural area a wonderful place to visit.

Enjoy the 354-kilometre drive through the Murray Riverina. Allow two-three days to fully appreciate the natural and cultural heritage, and enjoy the interwoven stories of the Aboriginal people, timber loggers and river men. Even in flood times you will be able to experience this River Red Gum Drive, but you may need to vary your route. Contact the relevant authority for details on closures and local conditions.

These forests are home to many threatened native plants and animals. The wetlands are important breeding sites for native fish and water birds. These forests and wetlands have been internationally recognised and protected under the Ramsar convention.

The drive is classified as Easy difficulty in dry conditions, under Victoria's 4WD Recreational Track Classification System—see Track Classification section for details. Due to the nature of the tracks, drivers may need to reconsider the trip if tracks are wet or inclement weather is forecast.

Torrumbarry Weir to Koondrook - Barham (60 kms)

The tour starts at the Torrumbarry Weir 40kms south of Cohuna via the Murray Valley Highway and Torrumbarry Weir Road. Visit the interpretive centre and learn more about the incredible irrigation of the area before heading north into Gunbower National Park via River Track.

On your way you will pass Masters Landing, which was the main port for Gunbower paddle-steamer trade in the 1860s. Discover the old township site at Cemetery Bend and pause at the grave sites for a while. There are plenty of opportunities for stops along the way in our small towns or enjoy a picnic in the forests. Check out the Koondrook Red Gum Forest Walk, or paddle on Safe's Lagoon.

Koondrook - Barham to Moama (91 kms)

From Koondrook the tour heads across the Murray River on the historic bridge built in the early 1900s. Entering Barham, drive east down Murray Street to Koondrook State Forest and continue along Murray River Road. You are now driving through timber production forests where timber is harvested throughout the year so please give way to trucks.

Keep an eye out for wildlife and spot the change in your environments. Stop now and then to photograph the amazing Murray River scenery.

You can continue through the Perricoota Forest along Murray River Road or turn down Belbins Road and meet up with the cultural, food and wine Backroads Trail on the Moama Barham Road. Either way, you will end up at Moama via Perricoota Road. Feeling energetic? Launch your boat or clip in your mountain bike at Moama Five Mile.

Moama to Murray Valley National and Regional Parks (91 kms)

Once you reach the Cobb Highway head north to Mathoura. Turn east onto Picnic Road and north onto Gulpa Creek Road. Drive through the towering River Red Gum forests in Murray Valley National and Regional Parks. Stop along the way to stretch your legs - try the Gulpa Creek walk or paddle your kayak. Turn east at Taylors Bridge Road and continue along the track back to Picnic Point Road. If you wish to stay the night, there is great free camping at Edward River Bridge Picnic area and campground.

Make a quick stop at Reed Beds Bird Hide - a birdwatchers paradise. Take time to turn over the bird panels as you stroll along the boardwalk. Go west along Picnic Point Road before turning south towards Narrows to follow the River Road along the Murray River. Camp at Swifts Creek, or turn east at Porters Creek heading back to the Cobb Highway.

Cobb Highway to Barmah National Park (112 kms)

Drive south to Barmah Road turn off and head towards Barmah, taking Moira Lakes Road to the Dharnya Centre. A number of interesting walks will give an insight into local indigenous culture.

Follow Sand Ridge Track through the forest to River Road. There are a number of significant Aboriginal cultural sites along the way. Go east on River Road to the Gulf Camping Area where you can camp and launch your boat or kayak. Drive south on Gulf Track, then east on Farm Track and back north to River Road or you can exit the Park at this point by continuing south on Gulf Track. If you wish to complete the drive continue following River Road to Mannions Track and head south on Mannions Track to exit the park.

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Important Information

FOUR WHEEL DRIVING IN PARKS AND FORESTS IN VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES

- Plan ahead and obtain a detailed map before you go—this map is a guide only
- Drive vehicles only on formed roads and vehicle tracks that are open to the public—do not drive off-track
- Obey all signage
- Stay off tracks that are too wet, flooded or have been recently graded
- Avoid wheel spin and churning up the track surface
- Remove fallen trees or limbs from roads; don't create new tracks by driving around them
- Cross rivers and streams only where river crossings are clearly marked. Check depths and drive slowly
- Use a tree protector if winching is required and use wheel chains as last resort
- Be aware that weather related closures may exist across VIC and NSW due to potential for increased environmental impacts and risks to public safety during or after rain events
- Be sure to check for road closures before you go – check with Parks Victoria (13 1963 or www.parks.vic.gov.au), the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (13 6186 or www.depi.vic.gov.au), NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service (1300 072 757 or www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au) or Forestry Corporation ((02) 6841 4288 or www.forestrycooperation.com.au).

OFF-ROAD DRIVING TECHNIQUES

Off-road driving demands different techniques to road driving and every surface has its own particular characteristics. All vehicles should be in first class mechanical condition and carry equipment appropriate to the trip.

It may be worth considering one of the training programs for touring off-roaders run by Four Wheel Drive Victoria to ensure you are properly prepared. Here are some brief pointers.

QUICK TIPS: DIRT ROADS

- Reduce speed to match tyre pressure
- Expect the unexpected
- Engage 4WD on part-time systems, and stability control for those cars that have it
- Use a slightly lower gear than normal
- Headlights on for visibility
- Don't swerve for animals; slow down
- Slow down for oncoming vehicles, especially those with dust clouds
- When following another vehicle keep well back to avoid dust
- Expect vehicles anywhere on the road
- Keep away from loose, gravelly parts of the road, follow defined wheel tracks.

TREAD LIGHTLY IN THE BUSH

Please help protect the natural environment by following these guidelines:

- Keep to tracks even when walking. Short cuts cause erosion and disturb native habitat

- If you carry it in—carry it out! Please take your rubbish with you for recycling and disposal
- Dogs, cats or other pets are prohibited in national parks in NSW and VIC. Dogs are permitted in regional parks in NSW and in state forests and the Murray River Reserve in VIC. Cats and dogs must be on a leash in NSW state forests. Where pets are permitted, they are to be under the owners control at all times
- Firewood is limited. Please use fuel stoves for cooking, and observe fire regulations and days of TOTAL FIRE BAN. In NSW a solid fuel fire ban applies between 1 October and 31 March each year. These dates may vary depending on local conditions
- As beautiful as they are, River Red Gums are also habitat trees and provide important tree hollows for a range of animals. Avoid resting, picnicking or camping under or close to River Red Gum trees. They may drop heavy branches at any time without warning.

MINIMAL IMPACT CAMPING

- Be self-sufficient with drinking water. Carry it in and/or know how to make untreated water safe for drinking
- Camp at least 20 metres from any waterway
- Dispose of any dirty water away from streams and waterways. Do not use soaps, detergents and toothpaste near water sources so fish and wildlife aren't harmed
- Use toilets where provided or bring your own portable toilet. If there are no toilets, walk at least 100 metres from water sources and campsites, dig a hole 15 centimetres and cover
- Light fires in designated fireplaces. Use a liquid fuel stove where possible as it's better for the bush.

FIRE SAFETY

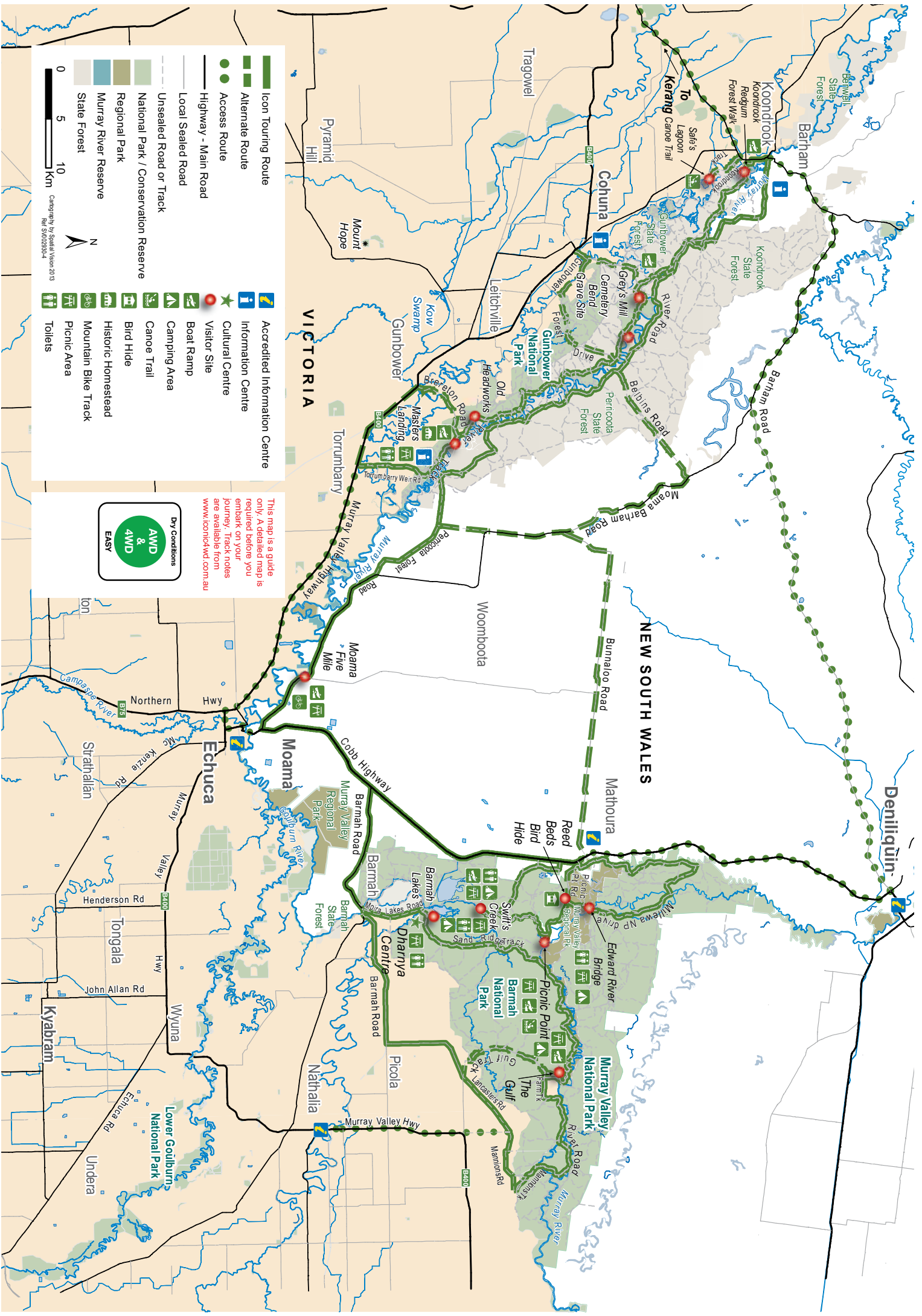
A bushfire survival plan is just as essential for drivers and campers as it is for those at home. Check the weather forecast before you go, stay aware of daily conditions and be ready to activate your bushfire survival plan.

Remember that official warnings of bushfires are not always available in remote locations, so extra effort is required to keep informed. If you are camping, take a portable radio and tune in to ABC or local outlets for weather and fire updates. Monitor conditions with updated bushfire information from the Victorian Bushfire Information Line: 1800 240 667 and the New South Wales Bushfire Information Line: 1800 679 737.

Extra care must be taken with any potential ignition sources like power tools and cigarette butts. Vehicles should not be driven over dry ground cover or parked on dry grassy areas.

TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Parks Victoria, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, NSW National Parks and Forestry Corporation acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and recognise their rich culture and intrinsic connection that stretches back over many tens of thousands of years, including the areas now managed as parks or forests.



	Icon Touring Route		Accredited Information Centre
	Alternate Route		Information Centre
	Access Route		Cultural Centre
	Highway - Main Road		Visitor Site
	Local Sealed Road		Boat Ramp
	Unsealed Road or Track		Camping Area
	National Park / Conservation Reserve		Canoe Trail
	Regional Park		Bird Hide
	Murray River Reserve		Historic Homestead
	State Forest		Mountain Bike Track
	Toilets		Picnic Area

This map is a guide only. A detailed map is required before you embark on your journey. Track notes are available from www.iconic4wd.com.au



Cartography by Spatial Vision 2013
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River Red Gum Drive

Easy

A standard four level colour coded system is used to indicate the degree of difficulty of 4WD tracks and routes. Standard symbols and signage are used to show easy to very difficult tracks.

The River Red Gum Drive is classified as Easy

- All Wheel Drive and High Range 4WD
- Mostly unsealed roads with no obstacles and minor gradients
- Can be low clearance with single range and road tyres
- Suitable for novice drivers
- May be more difficult in wet conditions.

The terrain and track conditions aim to provide a general description of the likely terrain and have limited subjective comments such as boggy or rutted as these can be interpreted differently by individuals.

The suitability of a vehicle relates to high/low range capacity, ground clearance and tyres.

The recovery equipment is advisory only and in line with Tourism Adventure Activity Standards and is not mandatory.

This is to guide the inexperienced driver that it may be in their best interest to have driver training or further experience before attempting more difficult terrain.

Note: Drivers need to be aware of changing conditions and how this may affect tracks they are using or planning to use. The tracks have been classified in dry conditions. Given a clay surface, these tracks may become very slippery and should be driven with caution in wet weather.

One of the most enjoyable ways to experience Victoria's diverse and unforgettable memorable landscapes is on a four-wheel drive tour to enjoy the peace and solitude of the bush.

Now you can experience the best four wheel drive experiences Victoria has to offer, on a range of tours from full day to several days. Licensed Tour Operators will help you get the most out of your park visit.

Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures are just waiting to be discovered, with a new series of touring guides to steer your journey of exploration.

**Grampians Drive • River Red Gum Drive • Otways Drive • Mallee Drive
Wonnangatta Drive • Snowy River Drive • Davies Plain Drive**

Further information including current track information:

Parks Victoria: call 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

Department of Environment and Primary Industries: call 13 6186 or visit www.depi.vic.gov.au

NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service: call 1300 072 757 or visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

Forestry Corporation: Call (02) 6841 4288 or visit www.forestrycorporation.com.au

Four Wheel Drive Victoria: call (03) 9857 5209 or visit www.fwdvictoria.org.au

Look out for the distinctive blue and yellow  sign, which identifies Accredited Visitor Information Centres, as you travel around Victoria. Unaccredited visitor information centres have a blue and white  sign.

The map contained within is a guide only. Ensure you obtain a detailed map before you embark on your journey.

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