

The arid landscape of Sturt National Park gives a sense of endless space.



Photography: LEFT: Courtesy Tourism NSW, RIGHT: A. Buzzzone / Courtesy Tourism NSW

## Outback

Blue skies change to a blazing sunset above an endless plain as millions of stars begin to sparkle in the darkening sky. People have stood in this place throughout human history, witnessing this magnificent display. Our Outback parks protect a landscape of open desert, sparkling lakes and ancient stone sculpted by wind and time.

Aboriginal rock art lines the caves and overhangs of Mt Grenfell and Mutawintji. Mungo National Park, situated within the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area, protects the dramatic Walls of China sand and clay formations.

River red gums shade the creek beds, big red kangaroos roam the plains, birds flock to the precious wetlands. The NSW Outback is a place like no other and one you won't soon forget.



Baby Emu roam  
Kinchega National Park

## HIGHLIGHTS

### UNIQUE ACCOMMODATION

Discover the rich history of Kinchega National Park with an overnight stay at the Kinchega Woolshed. Another wonderful experience is authentic bush camping at Coach and Horses Campground in Paroo-Darling National Park, beside the Darling River that once enticed early settlers and brought the river boats.



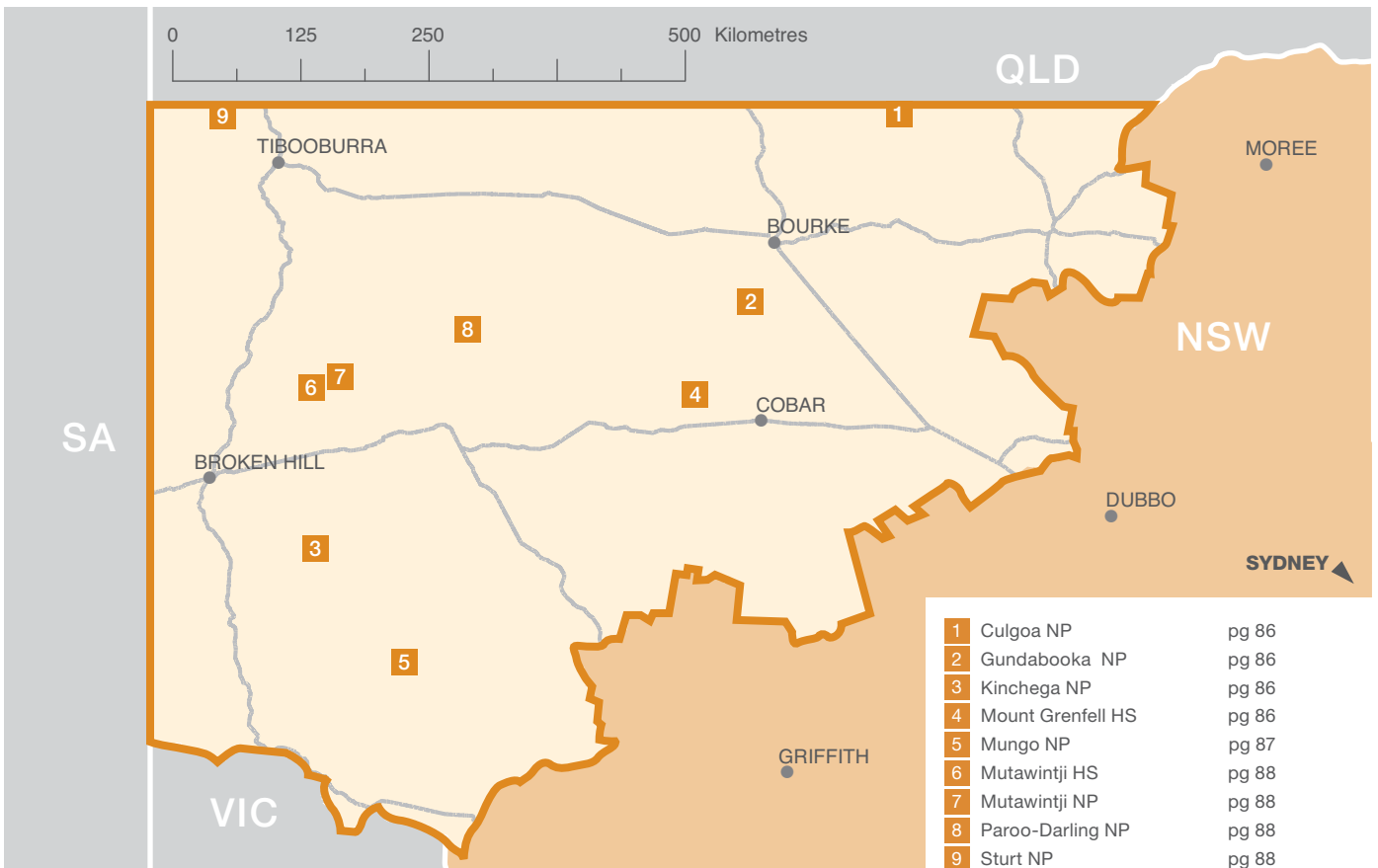
### EXPERIENCE THE BYNGUANO RANGE WALK

The Bynguano Range walk in Mutawintji National Park follows a breathtaking scenic route. It's well marked out, but best for enthusiastic and experienced walkers. Branching from the Homestead Gorge Trail, the walk takes in spectacular views of the maze of tranquil valleys and rugged gorges that dissect the Bynguano Range.

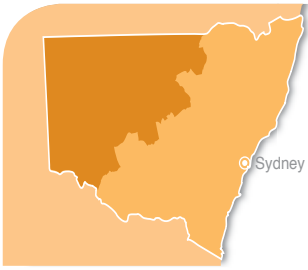


### ABORIGINAL ART

See remarkable Aboriginal paintings on the rock overhangs of Mt Grenfell. Around a semi-permanent waterhole, it is an area of shelter and ceremony that shows magnificent examples of painting depicting men and women and significant animals. Take some time to absorb the spirituality of this area before heading out along the Ngiyampaa walk for spectacular views.



Sand dunes of Mungo National Park



## 1 CULGOA

NATIONAL PARK 36,370 HA



Camping fee level 1

Watch the amazing birdlife from under the shade of a coolabah tree; walk along the riverbank to see wildflowers in spring.

Bourke office: 7872 2744

## 2 GUNDABOOKA

NATIONAL PARK 89,403 HA



Camping fee level 2

**Highlights** Mt Gundabooka rises to 500 m among the rust-coloured cliffs, gorges and hills of the Gundabooka Range. The region is of great significance to the local Ngiyampaa people and the range has a history of ceremonial gatherings and rock art.

**Activities** Dry Tank has a small camping and picnic area that's accessible by car and is large enough for a campervan. A 5 km walking track leads from the site through mulga woodlands to nearby Little Mountain, where you can look out over the northern escarpment of the Gundabooka Range. There's accommodation available for small groups in the six room Belah shearers' quarters complex, or the Governess's Cottage. A day use area is open at Bennetts Gorge with barbecues, toilets and picnic tables. An easy 1 km return Valley of the Eagle (Ngana Malyan) walking track leads to the base of Mt Gundabooka.

**Access** 50 km south of Bourke off the Kidman Way (dry weather only). Use of generators is not permitted.

Bourke office: 7872 2744

## 3 KINCHEGA

NATIONAL PARK 44,260 HA



Camping fee level 2

**Highlights** Meander amongst the massive river red gums that silhouette the Darling River or witness history unfold as you wander along the lake's dry shores and over the red sand dunes, all of which have withstood the test of time, enduring droughts and floods. Sit back and relax and enjoy watching the birds flit past, the kangaroos and emus, and where the red sand reaches up and touches the clear blue sky.

**Activities** Explore the Aboriginal sites and European structures, such as the Kinchega Woolshed. Car-based and caravan camping are available at the rest area near Lake Cawndilla, beside Emu Lake or along the river. You can also stay in the old shearers' quarters (bookings required).

**Access** 111 km south-east of Broken Hill along the road to Menindee. Unsealed roads, closed when wet. Vehicle entry fee is \$7 per day.

Broken Hill office: 08 8080 3200

## 4 MOUNT GRENFELL

HISTORIC SITE 1,357 HA



**Highlights** Hundreds of Aboriginal paintings in reds, yellows and ochres colour the rock overhang of Mt Grenfell. In 2004 this historic site was handed back to the Ngiyampaa people, who now lease it to the NSW Government.

**Activities** The three main art sites are within easy walking distance of the carpark, or you can take the 5 km Ngiyampaa walk, which reveals the breathtaking scenery of the area.

**Access** 40 km west of Cobar along the Barrier Highway, then 32 km of unsealed road north (impassable after rain).

Cobar office: 6836 2692

*Deep, glowing, red dunes give way to tranquil rivers, glittering like jewels under the wide open sky.*



Darling River Bend, Paroo National Park



## 5 MUNGO NATIONAL PARK

NATIONAL PARK 120,000 HA



Camping fee level 2

**Highlights** This remarkable national park is located in the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area. It's where you'll find the Walls of China, 33km of orange and white earth surrounded by sand dunes, where erosion has sculptured the sand and clay into fragile yet dramatic formations. These look amazing and offer stunning photo opportunities in the changing light.

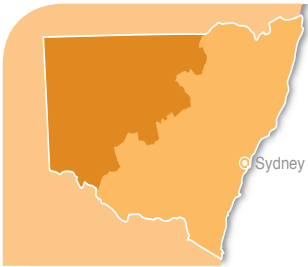
Willandra Lakes maintains a continuous record of human occupation stretching back well over 40,000 years. Rain and wind have uncovered ancient fireplaces and hearths, as well as calcified plant matter, stone tools and animal bones.

Mungo National Park is jointly managed by National Parks and representatives from the Aboriginal Traditional Owner groups. The visitor centre is open every day.

**Activities** A self-guided 70 km driving tour provides an opportunity to explore a large area of the park. Stay at the shearers' quarters (bookings required), Main Camp (car-based and caravan) or Belah Camp (car-based). A boardwalk giving access to views of the Walls of China is wheelchair-accessible. Short walking tracks have signs that highlight a variety of features within the park.

**Access** Mungo National Park is 110 km north-east of Mildura via Buronga along the Arumpo Road, or 147 km north-west of Balranald. All roads are unsealed and are impassable after rain. A detailed information package is available from the Buronga office. Vehicle entry fee is \$7 per day.

**Buronga office: 03 5021 8900**



## 6 MUTAWINTJI

HISTORIC SITE 486 HA



This site, which in 1998 was the first to be returned to its traditional Aboriginal owners, contains one of the best collections of Aboriginal rock art in NSW.

**Broken Hill office: 08 8080 3200**

## 7 MUTAWINTJI

NATIONAL PARK 68,912 HA



Camping fee level 2

**Highlights** The rugged, mulga-clad Bynguano Range is dissected by colourful gorges, rockpools and creek beds lined with red gums. Scattered among the caves and overhangs are galleries of Aboriginal rock art and engravings. The park was returned to its traditional owners in 1998 and is held on their behalf by the Mutawintji Local Aboriginal Land Council.

**Activities** Car-based and caravan camping are available at Homestead Creek (no bookings – first in, first served; no fuel or firewood available). Backpack camping is permitted within the Mutawintji Wilderness Area, with self-registration required (forms available from the Broken Hill National Parks office).

**Access** 130 km north-east of Broken Hill; turn east off the road to Tibooburra. In wet weather the road is closed, so check conditions before travelling.

**Broken Hill office: 08 8080 3200**



Wide blue sky and ancient rocks in Mutawintji National Park

## 8 PAROO-DARLING

NATIONAL PARK 178,053 HA



Camping fee level 2

**Highlights** After your visit to the Paroo–Darling National Park Visitor Centre to learn about the area and its people, travel out to the national park. Walk to the beat of the timeless pulse of Peery Lake, as it cycles through intermittent flood and prolonged dry periods. Once filled, the lake can hold water for up to three years, and the result is a spectacular inland playground for a myriad of water birds. When dry, Peery Lake is the only location in NSW where artesian mound springs are found in a lakebed. Take the time to stop and enjoy the surroundings.

**Activities** The Coach and Horse Campground on the Darling River at Wilga offers day use and camping. Bring your own drinking water and food. Facilities include gas BBQs and pit toilets. You can also drive through the park, stopping to observe the abundant wildlife, or walk along one of the many tree-lined creeks. You can also phone 08 8083 7900 to book an Aboriginal Discovery tour.

**Access** The park is in a number of separate sections and can be accessed from several points: 80 km north of Wilcannia along the Wanaaring Road, 60 km east of Wilcannia on the East Road to Bourke, and 20 km east of White Cliffs along the Mandalay Road. Roads may be closed when wet.

**White Cliffs office: 08 8083 7900**



The Sturt's Desert Pea often flowers in Sturt National Park after rain

## 9 STURT

NATIONAL PARK 325,329 HA



Camping fee level 2

**Highlights** An enormous arid landscape with its own beauty, a place of space and solitude. The rolling red-sand dunes of the Strzelecki Desert ripple through the western section, graduating past surprising wetlands surrounded by white sands. Flat-topped 'mesas' and fantastic views characterise the central jump-up country. Remnant gidgee woodland, the catchment system of the ephemeral Twelve-Mile Creek, and gibber and grass-covered plains dominate the east, while 450-million-year-old granite tors surrounding Tibooburra form part of the southern boundary of the park.

**Activities** Enjoy the self-guided loop drives accessible by 2WD or go 4WD trekking along the Middle Road, passing through uniquely diverse landscapes with lookouts along the way providing magnificent views. Explore the walks at Fort Grey, Olive Downs, Dead Horse Gully and to the summit of Mt Wood - most are easy to moderate and allow for a short loop walk of 1-3 hours. The four 2WD-accessible campsites are equipped with free gas barbecues and toilets and are suitable for caravans, but bring your own water and please respect the 'no wood-fire' policy. Mt Wood Historic Homestead and shearers' quarters provide accommodation; both have excellent facilities (call for details). The best time to visit the park is between April and October. The temperature sizzles to well above 40°C in summer, but winter nights can drop to below zero.

**Access** 335 km north of Broken Hill along the partly sealed Silver City Highway and 430 km west of Bourke (unsealed). Check the conditions after rain as roads may be closed. Vehicle entry fee is \$7 per day.

**Tibooburra Visitor Centre: 08 8091 3308**

# A timeless land, a place of splendour

## STAYING SAFE IN THE OUTBACK

In outback regions you need to be particularly aware of safety. Some tips are:

- Tell someone your travel plans before setting out.
- Be prepared for unsealed roads that may be impassable after rain. Check with local park offices, the Roads and Traffic Authority, the NRMA and tourism offices to plan your drive.
- Keep your vehicle in top condition and carry extra fuel, two spare tyres and wheel-changing equipment.
- Take extra food and extra water.
- Remain with a broken down or stranded vehicle to make rescue easier.
- Avoid midsummer heat.

For further information visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety)



## GREAT PLACES TO STAY

### GUNDABOOKA NATIONAL PARK

Heritage accommodation is available at Gundabooka National Park. There's the Belah Shearers' Quarters which sleep up to 12 and is suitable for small groups. The Belah Governess's Cottage is fully furnished with a double bed, reverse cycle air-conditioning and hot shower. It sleeps two.

The Redbank Homestead is a fully renovated cottage with Darling River frontage, sleeping up to 12. It's part of Yanda Station, which is now part of the Gundabooka State Conservation Area. Experience authentic outback rustic living, including red dirt and unusual wildlife. BYO linen, blankets and firewood.

**Bourke office: 6872 2744**



### SHEARERS QUARTERS MUNGO NATIONAL PARK

You can soak up Mungo's pastoral heritage by staying in the park's historic shearers' quarters, which have been recently upgraded yet still provide guests with the rustic charm of a bygone era. They are located beside the Visitors Centre, a short distance from Mungo Woolshed, so you can explore the park at your leisure and return to comfortable accommodation at the end of the day. There is a communal kitchen/dining room that has all utensils and crockery, fridges and stove. Barbecues are also available. There are showers, a toilet block, and hot water is available.

**Buronga office: 5021 8900**



Take a break in Kinchega National Park

## THE DARLING RIVER RUN

The Darling River is Australia's longest; it runs more than 2,700 km through outback NSW. The Darling River system is fed primarily from the summer rains of southern Queensland and makes its journey south-west across the state to Wentworth where it joins the mighty Murray River.

The Darling River Run is truly one of Australia's great outback adventures; it offers many options for exploring unique towns such as Bourke, Louth, Lightning Ridge, White Cliffs, Silvertown and Broken

Hill; to stay on remote sheep and cattle station and to experience the most vivid sunrises and sunset you'll see anywhere.

It's been described as the spine of Outback NSW, enabling travellers to experience the best of this region via the many side trips to surrounding areas and attractions of the Darling River, including the vivid red Perry Sandhills, the living culture and spirituality of Mutawintji National Park and the World Heritage attractions of Mungo National Park.

For more information visit [www.visitoutbacknsw.com](http://www.visitoutbacknsw.com)