



# Northwest Victoria

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## Best Places to Eat

- Jim McDougall in Stefano's Cellar (p609)
- Spoons Riverside Café (p611)
- Shebani's (p615)
- Fish in a Flash (p615)

## Best Places to Stay

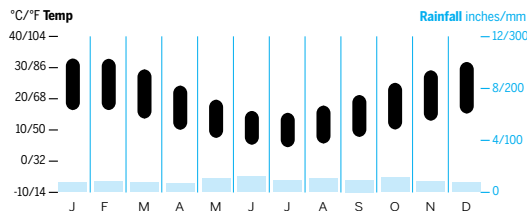
- Houseboat in Echuca (p615)
- Quality Hotel Mildura Grand (p608)
- Adelphi Boutique Apartments (p615)
- Indulge Apartments (p608)

## Why Go?

The mighty Murray River is Australia's longest and most important inland waterway, and arrayed along its banks are some of Victoria's most captivating towns. It's a stirring place of wineries and orchards, bush camping, balmy weather and river red gum forests. The Murray changes character constantly along its 2400km route. Here, history looms large in towns such as Echuca, food and wine dominate proceedings around Mildura, and national parks enclose soulful desert expanses in the far northwest. It's a world of picturesque river beaches, of paddle steamers that were once the lifeblood of Victoria's inland settlements, and of unending horizons that serve as a precursor to the true outback not far away. It's an intriguing, if relatively far-flung mix, one that enables you to follow in the footsteps of some of Australia's earliest explorers who travelled along the river.

## When to Go

### Mildura



**Anytime** The Murray region, especially Mildura, enjoys year-round sunshine.

**Sep–Nov** Spring sees some of the best local festivals, without the heat.

**Feb–Mar** A good time for camping by the river after the holiday crowds have left.



## Northwest Victoria Highlights

- 1 Relaxing on a houseboat and dining out on 'Feast Street' in sunny **Mildura** (p606).
- 2 Riding a paddle steamer down the Murray for lunch at a winery in **Echuca** (p611).

- 3 Exploring Echuca's past in the new **discovery centre** (p612), old wharf area and historic Murray Esplanade in the Port of Echuca.

- 4 Spotting the many species of waterbirds at beautiful **Hattah-Kulkyne National Park** (p610).