



The Murray

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Best Places to Eat

- » Stefano's Restaurant (p286)
- » Oscar W's Wharfside (p294)
- » Java Spice (p289)
- » Pickled Sisters Café (p298)
- » Rinaldo's Casa Cucina (p305)

Best Places to Stay

- » Houseboat in Mildura (p286) or Echuca (p294)
- » Quality Hotel Mildura Grand (p285)
- » Camping, Gunbower Island (p290)
- » Steam Packet Inn (p293)
- » Tuileries, Rutherglen (p297)

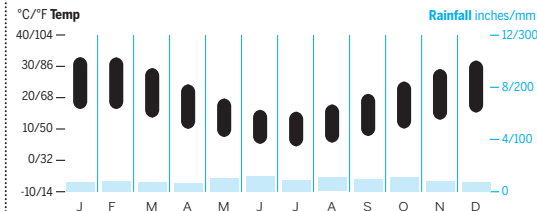
Why Go?

State border, irrigation lifeline and recreational magnet for waterskiers, canoeists, campers and golfers, the mighty Murray is Australia's longest and most important inland waterway. It's a stirring place of paddle steamers and houseboat holidays, wineries and orchards, bush camping, balmy weather and red-gum forests.

Most people think of the Murray as a wide, brown, slow-moving strip, but it changes character constantly as it flows from the mountains of the Great Dividing Range in north-eastern Victoria to Encounter Bay in South Australia – almost 2400km. Along the way it supplies vital irrigation for orchards, vineyards and farms. Some of Australia's earliest explorers travelled along the river, and long before roads and railways crossed the land, the Murray's paddle steamers carried supplies to and from remote sheep stations.

When to Go

Mildura



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

Sep–Nov Spring-time sees some of the best local festivals, without the heat

Feb–Mar A good time for camping on the river after the holiday crowds have left



The Murray Highlights

1 Relax on a houseboat and dine out on 'Feast Street' in sunny **Mildura** (p280)

2 Ride an original paddle steamer from the historic **Port of Echuca** (p290)

3 Time your visit to **Rutherglen** (p296) for one of the great winery festivals

4 Spot the many species of waterbirds at beautiful **Hattah Lakes** (p300)

5 Set up a bush camp and a fishing rod on the banks of the Murray at **Gunbower National Park** (p289)