



OUTBACK NSW

The Australian Outback sets our country apart from every other corner of the planet. This week Gorgi's in the world heritage mungo national park in NSW, where carbon dating has revealed humans lived here up to 40,000 years ago.



The NSW Outback is a landscape of great beauty which will take your breath away with its grandeur and its drama. It will wrap you up and persuade you to return over and over again because there is nowhere else on earth quite like it. Art, culture, history and waterways are a few of the surprises that can be found in places like Broken Hill, Lightning Ridge (Black Opals), Bourke, Cobar, Wentworth and Corner Country.

The 'backbone' of this wonderful region is the magnificent Darling River which provides the lifeblood for the unique flora and fauna in the area and was once the great inland highway running from Brewarrina to Wentworth.

Mungo National Park

In theory it is nothing more than the remnants of an ancient lake (completely dry and with ancient sand dunes running 20+ km along one side) in the middle of the New South Wales outback.

In reality it is one of the most significant anthropological and archaeological sites in the world.

Lake Mungo, located in Mungo National Park, is one of 17 dry lakes which constitute the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area (1981).

The Lake last experienced permanent water over 10,000 years ago and has recorded continuous indigenous habitation for 40,000+ years - making it the site of the oldest known human occupation in Australia. From the lake, Aboriginal people gathered mussels, fished for Murray cod & golden perch, hunted wallabies & rat kangaroos and collected Emu eggs.

Over time, prevailing winds that blow across the dry lake bed collected sediment and deposited it on the western shore forming an elevated bank that extends almost 20km's along the side of the lake. The transposed lake bed layers of sedimentary sands and clays that form the ridge, known as 'The Walls of China', have in turn then been eroded by wind and rain to form the spectacular Lunette.





GUIDE TO THE **GOOD**LIFE

As the lunette erodes, it reveals the secrets of the past; ancient fireplaces, indigenous burial sites, fossilized remnants of extinct species like Thylacene and short-faced kangaroo as well as wonderful specimens of contemporary species.

Mungo National Park also affords the visitor a glimpse into the European past of the area as it was an operational sheep station prior to becoming a National Park and many buildings from the era remain. Lake Mungo (and Mungo National Park) is a jewel of Outback NSW and is located about 1 hours drive from Wentworth and Mildura.

Yanga National Park

Discover fascinating chapters of our natural, pastoral and Aboriginal heritage with a visit to Yanga National Park, one of the state's newest national parks. From Aboriginal families to explorers and pioneers, shearers and rabbit trappers, fisherman and campers - people have been visiting Yanga for thousands of years, now it's your turn!

Picnic with the family, or unwind for a week and enjoy a choice of settings, complemented by an array of new visitor facilities. Nestled along the 170 kilometres of Murrumbidgee River frontage are campgrounds, bushwalks and plenty of spots to wet your fishing line. Or if you prefer to keep your feet dry, there's also a campground further inland on the plains.

Yanga forms part of the Lower Murrumbidgee Floodplain, it includes extensive Murrumbidgee River frontage, wetlands, lakes and breeding grounds for waterbirds. It includes approximately 76,000 hectares of River Red Gum forest, Black Box – Nitre Goosefoot swamp, Belah-Rosewood woodlands, native grassland and saltbush plains.

Yanga was a working pastoral, cropping and irrigation property for over 160 years. It has important Aboriginal and historic heritage values such as scar trees, ovens, middens and other artefacts, and historic buildings. The NSW Department of Environment and Conservation purchased Yanga for its natural and cultural heritage values in November 2005.

Yanga Woolshed: The massive 130 metre long century old woolshed is a must see. Built to house 3 000 sheep and provide work for up to 40 shearers the woolshed now houses an interpretive display describing historical aspects of Yanga Station, river boat trade, pastoral life in the Western Riverina, and the evolution of the Lower Murrumbidgee Floodplain.

For more information about National Parks in Outback NSW, including Aboriginal history, tours, attractions & accommodation in the area, make sure you visit the following:

www.visitoutbacknsw.com.au/

