

# Places of interest

## Murray River

The Murray River is one of Australia's greatest tourism destinations, stretching over 2,500 kilometres in length. It provides irrigation water to many farming communities, as well as providing important environmental flows to forests and wetlands. Thousands of campers flock to the Murray River annually to camp and fish for the iconic Murray Cod. The Murray River can be accessed from our river towns, Koondrook and Murrabit, and via the Gunbower Forest near Cohuna and Leitchville.

## Gunbower Island

Bordered by the Murray River is Gunbower Island, a 26,400-hectare floodplain extending from Koondrook to the Torrumbarry Weir, formed by the Gunbower Creek branching off the Murray River then re-joining downstream. Gunbower Island consists of Gunbower National Park and Gunbower State Forest, and is considered the largest inland island in Australia. The ageless forests of Gunbower Island were home to the local indigenous people and their culture is evident in the various scar trees, cooking mounds and shell middens scattered throughout the forest. Gunbower Island is the ideal destination for nature lovers and campers year-round, popular for bird watching, canoeing, fishing and leisure driving.

## Kerang Lakes

The Kerang Lakes comprises of 23 named lakes, marshes and swamps on the lower reaches of the Avoca and Loddon rivers. The lakes are recognised as wetlands of international significance under the Ramsar Convention, and provide important feeding and breeding grounds for a large number of local and migratory waterbirds.

Lake Charm and Kangaroo Lake are key destinations with locals and visitors alike for powered watersports, swimming, fishing, kayaking, and birdwatching.



# Must Do's

- Book a unique glamping experience at **Koondrook Retreat** and enjoy unspoiled views of the creek and forest from your luxury safari tent.
- Wander across the red gum footbridge along the **Goanna Walking Track** in Koondrook; a 3.2km walking loop through the Gunbower Forest via historic Condidorio's Bridge.
- Follow the **Koondrook Barham Redgum Statue River Walk** along the Murray River and discover magnificent red gum sculptures, carved by chainsaw.
- Enjoy a scenic cruise on board the **Wetlander**.
- Hire a **kayak** or **stand-up paddleboard** and discover the tranquil wetlands and waterways of the Gannawarra.
- Enjoy a swim or build sandcastles along the sandy shores of **Cohuna Beach** at **Apex Park**. The park also features an all abilities adventure playground, impressive skate park and modern barbecue facilities.
- Experience **Kow Swamp**, a large natural wetland and water storage, located just 2.5km south of Leitchville. Kow Swamp is rich in indigenous history and is a great place for fishing, kayaking and picnicking.
- Explore **Kerang Regional Park** via the Loddon River Walk. The popular riverside walk offers natural wetlands and vibrant birdlife.
- Visit the **Ibis Rookery** at Middle Reedy Lake - the largest rookery in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Camp, swim, fish or simply relax on the white sandy shores of **Lake Meran**, a picturesque freshwater lake with red gum surrounds.
- Join the hundreds of eager shoppers on the first Saturday of each month at the **Murrabit Country Market**, one of Victoria's longest running markets. You can also visit **Kerang Community Market** (4th Saturday of each month) and **Cohuna Farmers Market** (4th Sunday of each month).
- Experience **Quambatook Silo Cinema**, a unique community run cinema screening great Aussie films on old grain silos.



# the Gannawarra Touring Map



For more things to do... pick up a copy of the Gannawarra Visitor Guide or visit [www.thegannawarra.com.au](http://www.thegannawarra.com.au)

the Gannawarra  
Victoria's *Nature Based* Tourism Destination

# Greetings

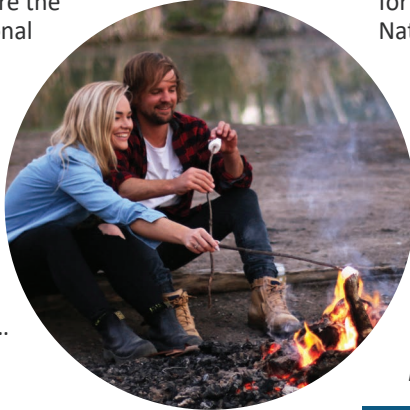
Welcome to the Gannawarra - Victoria's Nature Based Tourism Destination.

Just a three-hour drive from Melbourne, the Gannawarra is a region filled with unique experiences and is a must-do destination for nature lovers.

Camp beneath the stars on the banks of the Murray River, enjoy watersports on Kerang Lakes, explore the tracks and trails of Gunbower National Park or reconnect with nature at Koondrook Retreat.

Whether you want to unwind and relax, indulge or explore the great outdoors, the Gannawarra offers a diverse range of activities and experiences to suit.

We invite you to enjoy the change of pace and the opportunity to get... close to nature.



# Our Towns

The towns across the Gannawarra each offer their own unique character and spirit - from the smaller towns of Leitchville, Murrabit, Quambatook, Lalbert, Lake Charm and Mystic Park to the larger centres of Kerang, Cohuna and Koondrook.

We invite you to indulge in great food, coffee and international cuisines, browse our specialty stores and weekend markets, book an experience with a local tourism operator or pamper yourself at our beauty salons.

Whether you are staying for a night or a week, the Gannawarra offers a range of accommodation options to suit your needs. Relax and rejuvenate at our glamping retreat, waterfront caravan parks, free RV campsites or one of our many motels, hotels and Airbnb stays.

Drop into the Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre in Cohuna, call (03) 5456 2047 or visit [www.thegannawarra.com.au](http://www.thegannawarra.com.au) to plan your perfect getaway!



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# Driving Tours

## Cohuna Island Road Drive

**Start: Cohuna Town Bridge**  
**End: Burkes Bridge, Cohuna Island Road**

Start your drive by heading over the Cohuna Town Bridge onto Gunbower Island. Cohuna Island Road follows Gunbower Creek for most of the drive and offers access points to Gunbower National Park and State Forest, and the Murray River.

Along Cohuna Island Road Drive you will see many irrigated farms and may even spot a number of native birds and animals that call the Gunbower Island home. There are several vantage points along the drive to park and view Gunbower Creek, including Cohuna Ski Run, which offers picnic tables, jetties, and toilets.

At Burkes Bridge, return to Cohuna via Cohuna Island Road or follow Cleaves Road onto the Murray Valley Highway.

*Distance: 13km to Burkes Bridge.*

## Gunbower Forest Drive

**Start: Rifle Butt Road, off Cohuna Island Road**  
**End: Nursery Track onto Cohuna Island Road**

The Gunbower Forest Drive is a leisurely half-day drive linking a number of historical, cultural and ecological sites of interest including the Timbercutters steps, Shillinglaws regulator and boat ramp, Grey's Mill site and the experimental nursery of Mountain Ash and Monterey Pine trees. Graham's Hut, located off River Track, is one of two remaining huts on Victorian frontage (between Torrumbarry and Swan Hill) that can be seen on the drive.

Pick up a copy of the Gunbower Forest Drive Map at the Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre or Sir John Gorton Library in Kerang.

*Distance: 35km.*

*Recommended for dry weather.*



## Spences Bridge Forest Drive

**Start: Spences Bridge off Cohuna Koondrook Road**  
**End: Koondrook Weir, off Kerang Koondrook Road**

The Spences Bridge Forest Drive is a narrated tour that guides you through Gunbower State Forest on magnificent Gunbower Island. The history of the timber industry, Aboriginal heritage and wetlands of international significance are some of the sites featured on the drive.

The Spences Bridge Forest Drive narrated CD is available to purchase from Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre for just \$5. Alternatively you can listen free of charge on your smartphone via the QR code.



*Recommended for dry weather.*

## Koondrook-Cohuna-Kerang Drive

**Start: Main Street, Koondrook**  
**End: Scoresby Street, Kerang**

Grab a coffee at the Long Paddock and explore Koondrook's historic township, award-winning wharf and refurbished waterfront before travelling south to Cohuna. In Cohuna wander the waterfront, enjoy a creekside picnic or seek out Waffles, known for its great food and coffee.

Drive north-west to arrive in Kerang's CBD where you can browse specialty stores or relax in one of many outdoor beer gardens and eateries.

*Distance: 56km (79km returning to Koondrook).*

## Kerang-Kangaroo Lake Drive

**Start and end: Atkinson Park, Kerang**

Travel north-west along the Murray Valley Highway and turn at Mystic Park East Road to find Kangaroo Lake Foreshore. The foreshore offers a boat ramp, barbecue and toilet facilities and is a great place to stop and view the lake.

Drive along scenic Gorton Drive past one of Victoria's larger vineyards, owned by the renowned Brown Brothers. Local label, Countertop Wines, are also producing fine wines in the area.

Continue onto the gravel road which will take you back to the highway to Kerang. You may also like to stop in at the popular Lake Charm Foreshore, Middle Lake's Ibis Rookery or Apex Park at Reedy Lake on your return.

*Distance: 58km.*

Distances (km)	Kerang	Cohuna	Koondrook
Kangaroo Lake	23	55	47
Lake Charm	20	52	44
Murrabit	26	45	23
Quambatook	40	72	65
Swan Hill	60	92	84
Echuca	96	64	88
Bendigo	128	124	150
Ballarat	222	237	242
Melbourne	280	275	295
Adelaide	566	598	590
Sydney	822	821	798

Approximate distances based on most direct route.

## Caring for the environment

We ask that you respect all native plants and animals, geological, historical and cultural features, which are protected by law and must not be disturbed or removed. The region has a number of unsealed and 'dry weather only' roads. It is recommended to check road conditions with local visitor information centres before venturing "off-road". Please take all rubbish with you for disposal or recycling. During peak holiday periods large waste bins are strategically placed at entrance/exits to popular areas. At all times it is important to be fire aware and observe fire regulations.

[www.thegannawarra.com.au](http://www.thegannawarra.com.au)

