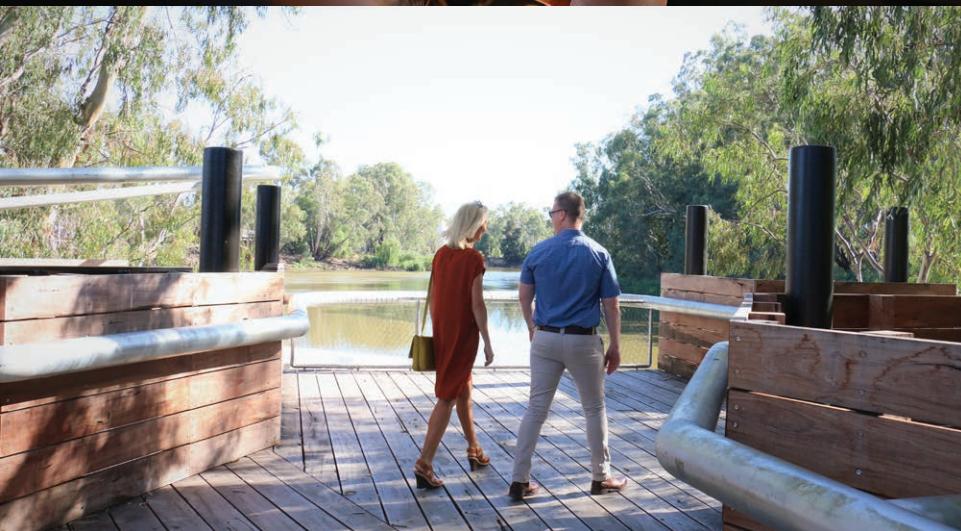




KOONDROOK

Victoria's *Nature Based* Tourism Destination



SELF-DRIVE ITINERARY

2 Days, 1 Night

Located within the Gannawarra region of Northern Victoria, between Echuca and Swan Hill, Koondrook is an historic Murray River village where paddle steamers and river transport were a hive of activity in late 1800's.

This two-day, one-night itinerary has been curated for those seeking to connect with local culture, heritage and authentic nature-based experiences.

Discover the natural wonders of Gunbower Island, explore ancient redgum forests and wetlands of international significance. Listen to the enchanting calls of waterbirds as you paddle the waterways, home to platypus and turtles. Follow the winding trails beneath the forest canopy to uncover historical, cultural and ecological sites of interest.

Visit the architectural award-winning wharf celebrating riverboat heritage and artworks depicting connections to Country.

From charming hospitality to luxury glamping - here you'll find your ticket to slow.

When travelling to Koondrook, ensure you plan your Pause Stop* to rest and recharge. Find TAC's stop locations at www.tac.vic.gov.au/road-safety/pausestop



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GET TO KNOW KOONDROOK

- The settlement was first a paddle steamer stop known as 'The Junction' before being officially named 'Koondrook' in 1878.
- The first paddle steamer to be built at Koondrook, PS Emily Jane, was constructed in 1881. A total of 14 vessels were constructed at Koondrook.
- The first wharf was completed in 1882 and was dismantled in the late 1950s due to the decline in the riverboat trade. Redgum pillars featured in front of the Goods Shed indicate its original position.
- Arbuthnot Sawmills started on Gunbower Creek in 1889 before moving to its current location in town on the Murray River in 1890.
- The Koondrook Goods Shed was built in 1890 and remained in its original condition until it was refurbished as a hospitality venue in 2021.
- The bridge connecting the border towns of Koondrook and Barham opened in 1904 and is one of the oldest working lift span bridges on the Murray River.
- PS Alexander Arbuthnot was the last traditional working paddle steamer to be built on the Murray-Darling system in 1923. For many years the steamer towed red gum logs from nearby forests to the Arbuthnot Sawmills. Today, PS Alexander Arbuthnot continues to work as a tourist boat at the Port of Echuca.
- The Koondrook Wharf you see today was officially opened in 2016 and has won an international architecture award for its unique design.
- Just past the wharf you will see the meeting of two iconic waterways, the Murray River and Gunbower Creek. These two waterways create the border of Gunbower Island, a 26,400-hectare floodplain, considered to be the largest inland island in Australia.

We acknowledge the Barapa Barapa peoples as the Traditional Owners of Koondrook. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge their rich culture and connection to Country.





DAY 1 ITINERARY

MORNING

On arrival, stretch your legs and stroll the **Koondrook Waterfront** along the Murray River. Discover Koondrook's history by visiting the international award-winning wharf, the meticulously restored Goods Shed and learn about Koondrook's redgum milling and paddle steamer heritage.

Follow the **Koondrook Barham Redgum Statue River Walk** to discover magnificent red gum sculptures, carved by chainsaw, depicting local identities and native wildlife. The walk passes through the yards of historic Arbuthnot Sawmills and crosses over the Murray River to the twin town of Barham.

Insider Tip - Look down. A standout feature is the old tram turntable leading to the Koondrook Wharf which has been resurfaced with bespoke artwork by artists, Glenn Romanis and Aunty Esther Kirby. The artwork marks the position of the original railway turntable and tells the story of Aboriginal inhabitants along the river.

LUNCH

Enjoy a gourmet lunch at **The Long Paddock Food Store**, featuring regional and seasonal produce with vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options. If you're feeling a little indulgent, The Long Paddock Food Store also offers a great selection of cakes and slices.

Insider Tip For Families - Located across the road from the wharf is the all-abilities playground featuring water and sand play areas, net climber, flying fox, in-ground trampolines and an accessible Liberty Swing.



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DAY 1 ITINERARY

AFTERNOON

Reconnect with nature on a guided eco experience with **Murray River Adventures** or hire a kayak from **Barham Adventure Hire** and discover the Gunbower Island Canoe Trail at Safe's Lagoon on an easy 5km paddle. The scenic wetland provides habitat for a myriad of birdlife, along with turtles and the elusive platypus.

Before checking into **Koondrook Glamping Retreat**, drop into **Koondrook General Store** to pick up breakfast supplies.

Insider Tip - If you are in need of a little pampering, book into **Skin Essence Spa** for an afternoon of rejuvenation and relaxation.

EVENING

Unwind in the outdoor beer garden or distinctive indoor bar and lounge at **Mate's Royal Hotel**. Enjoy country hospitality, along with modern and traditional pub fare.

After dinner, take the short stroll back to **Koondrook Glamping Retreat** via the waterfront before cosying up by the fire and gazing at the stars.

Insider Tip - To enjoy dinner on the veranda of your glamping tent, contact **Curry on the Murray** for fresh and pre-heated takeaway curries and stir fries.

STAY

Step into a world of comfort and tranquility at **Koondrook Glamping Retreat**. Nestled along the banks of Gunbower Creek, the self-contained safari tents offer more than just a place to stay - they provide an immersive nature experience.



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DAY 2 ITINERARY

MORNING

Enjoy a relaxing morning at the glamping retreat and wake up slow to the sounds of nature. Cook a BBQ breakfast on the veranda of your safari tent while soaking up the morning sun with the creek and forest background.

Cross the redgum footbridge located next to the retreat onto Gunbower Island and enjoy a leisurely 3.2km walk or cycle along Goanna Track. Cross back into town at historic Condidorio's Bridge or venture a little further and connect to the Turtle Loop (13.2km) or Eagle Loop (9.5km) linking historical, cultural and ecological sites of interest.

Insider Tip - For the health conscious visiting during the week, drop into **Form Athletic** for nutrient dense smoothies. You can also purchase a casual pass to the studio gym, join a fitness class or enjoy the infrared sauna.

AFTERNOON

For lunch, take the short drive over to the nearby scenic town of Cohuna to enjoy waffles, burgers and more at **Jens On George**.

Travel back to Koondrook past many indigenous, timber milling and early settler sites on the self-guided **Spences Bridge Forest Drive**. The CD for this drive is available to purchase from the Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre in Cohuna or you can download free via Soundcloud.



Insider Tip - Bring your camera. Wedge-tailed eagles, goannas, kangaroos and emus are common sights throughout the forest. In Spring, the forest comes alive with vibrant wildflowers.



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FURTHER INFORMATION

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Koondrook offers many accommodation options to suit your travel style and budget.

FOR HISTORIC CHARM

Old Koondrook Bakery

The Old Koondrook Bakery, originally built in 1911, has been fully renovated and given a new life, accommodating for up to 6 people. Located in the main street, Old Koondrook Bakery is a great base while exploring the local area of Koondrook.

FOR GLAMPING

Koondrook Glamping Retreat

Enjoy uninterrupted creek views right from the comfort of your luxurious accommodation. Each safari tent sleeps up to 4 people and is thoughtfully designed to offer you a front-row seat to the stunning surroundings.

FOR RIVER VIEWS

Murray Waters Motor Inn and Apartments

Situated along the Murray River, next to Koondrook Wharf, these modern apartments offer an outdoor swimming pool, free Wi-Fi and river views from most rooms.

FOR CARAVANS

Koondrook Caravan Park

An RV friendly caravan park and camping ground located in Koondrook's Nature Hub at the junction of the Murray River and Gunbower Creek.

For more information visit
www.thegannawarra.com.au
or call the Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre on 03 5456 2047.



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