

Target market: Ecotourists

Itinerary theme: 2 Day Explore and Unwind

### **Day 1**

Start your day at Picnic Point, a there's a fabulous little spot on a V-shaped bend, right where the Edward River branches off from the Murray. Here you can learn about the history of the Timber Cutters' Run, stroll riverside tracks or launch your kayak. If you've brought your rod and tackle, Picnic Point boasts excellent fishing.

Have lunch at The Timber Cutter Redgum Café Bar, a rustic restaurant overlooking the junction of the Murray and Edward Rivers. With a varied menu enjoy woodfired pizza's, fresh salads or picnic platter. Also sample a glass of local wine and a slice of homemade cake for dessert.

In the Mathoura township pick up a coffee and head back to the eastern edge of town to explore the beautiful, relaxing scenery on a walk along the Mathoura Heritage Trail, which highlights the history and ongoing importance of redgum logging in the area. The trail takes in the Mathoura Railway Station and railway sleepers, the main street, Pastoral Hotel, the old water tower, the Red Gum man and the Soldiers Memorial Gardens.

Stock up on supplies at the local cafe and head out to Moira Station's impressive "Starry Nights Luxury Accommodation Quarters" for a much needed rest. Set up a picnic dinner under the stars and enjoy the beauty of Australia's outdoors indoors in a unique and exciting way that no other accommodation provider in the region can offer. A delightful breakfast basket is included in the tariff, along with the option of three delicious grazing hampers filled with exquisite local quality produce.

### **Day 2**

After a scrumptious breakfast at Moira Station, take the Forest Drive and stop off at the Reed Beds Bird Hide which features a raised boardwalk, signage, and interactive information regarding the spectacular birds in this area. If you're quiet, you might be lucky to see pelicans, kingfishers, yellow rosellas, ibis, spoonbills, superb wrens, swans, cormorants, and ducks in the wetlands here.

While in town pick up a copy of the self-guided tour booklet available at the Mathoura Visitor Information Centre and absorb the region's old-time atmosphere and discover legendary stories of the pioneers who forged a life in an unforgiving land. Visit the historic Mathoura Pioneer Cemetery, which records the passing of some of the earliest settlers in the district.

Make a pit-stop and pick up some lunch at Mathoura Mandarins' farmgate – a quaint red-gum cottage – to enjoy some of the regions' sweetest produce. Jennifer and Ian Fisher are the passionate growers behind Mathoura: their 400 imperial mandarin trees, planted on six hectares, have which has produced about 20 tonnes of sweet citrus fruit annually for the past 20 years. The farmgate sells freshly picked mandarins as well as homegrown pumpkins, apples, local honey, relishes, jams and marmalades all made by Jennifer, as well as shortbread and cakes made by neighbours and friends. The orange cake is legendary.

End the day with a short 20km drive to neighbouring town Woomboota to the Old School Winery and Meadery. Not just a winery, also a meadery. Mead is honey wine – possibly the world's oldest fermented drink – and it's very special. Meadmaking is an ancient craft, now being revived worldwide, Old School Winery and Meadery is one of the pioneers of modern meadmaking in Australia. Beside the cellar door you'll also find a working pottery studio with a beautiful gift shop featuring the pottery made on site.