

Riverland

National parks visitation snapshot

The region

South Australia's Riverland region centres on the majestic Murray River and expands across the surrounding land where orchards, vineyards and sunny days abound.

Located three hours north-east of Adelaide and running through to the Victorian border, the region is known for its spectacular cliffs and red gum forests.

More than 100 years ago, paddle steamers used to venture up and down the length of the river, transporting agricultural produce to and from riverside townships.

These days, it's the perfect place to float along the river in a kayak, spend time birdwatching in a national park, or embark on an unforgettable camping trip.

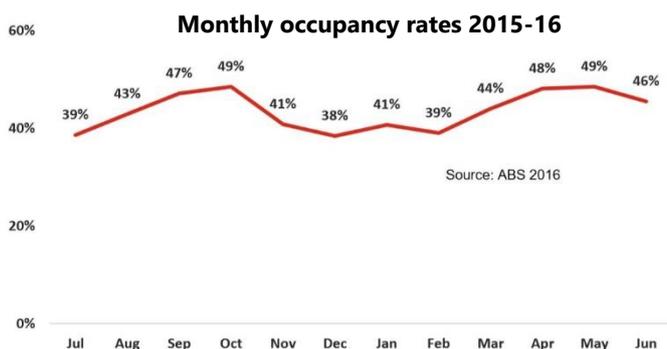
Tourism

In 2018, the Riverland region contributed \$176 million to SA's \$6.8 billion tourism expenditure. The region attracts approximately 392,000 overnight visitors per year (2016-18), with 51 per cent of these from Adelaide and 26 per cent from regional SA.

The Riverland has 14 visitor accommodation options*, totalling 502 available rooms. Over the course of a year, occupancy rates average at 44 per cent, peaking in April, May and October where occupancy rates are at 49 per cent. Lowest occupancy is in the winter months, dropping to 43 per cent.

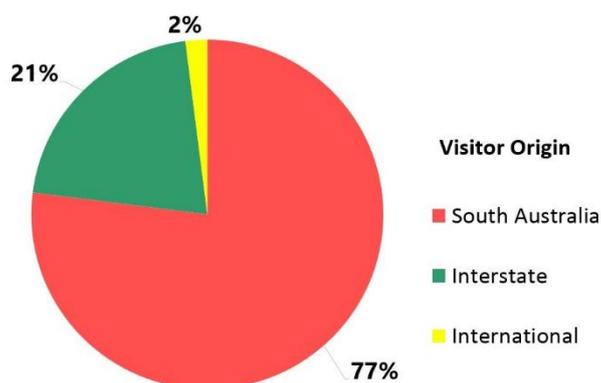
For more in-depth analysis, view the [SA Tourism Commission regional profiles](#).

*Hotels, motels and serviced apartments with 15+ rooms.

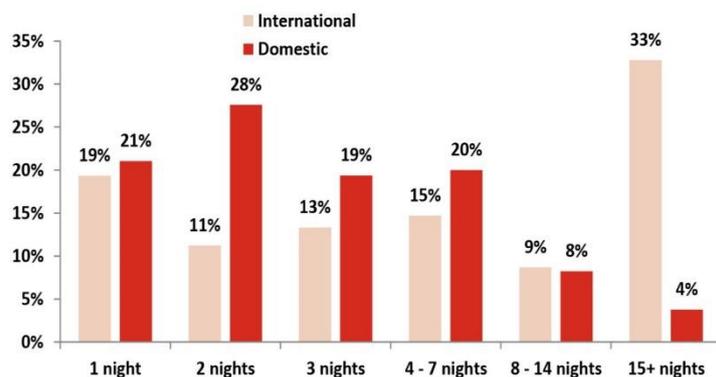


The opportunity

The Riverland's regional strategy is to grow events, create new visitor experiences, increase business collaboration and support operators with the aim to increase visitation and length of stay from Adelaide as well as key interstate markets.



Length of visit to the Riverland



National parks

The Riverland's national parks line the Murray River, allowing visitors to be immersed in its rich Aboriginal culture and amazing landscapes.

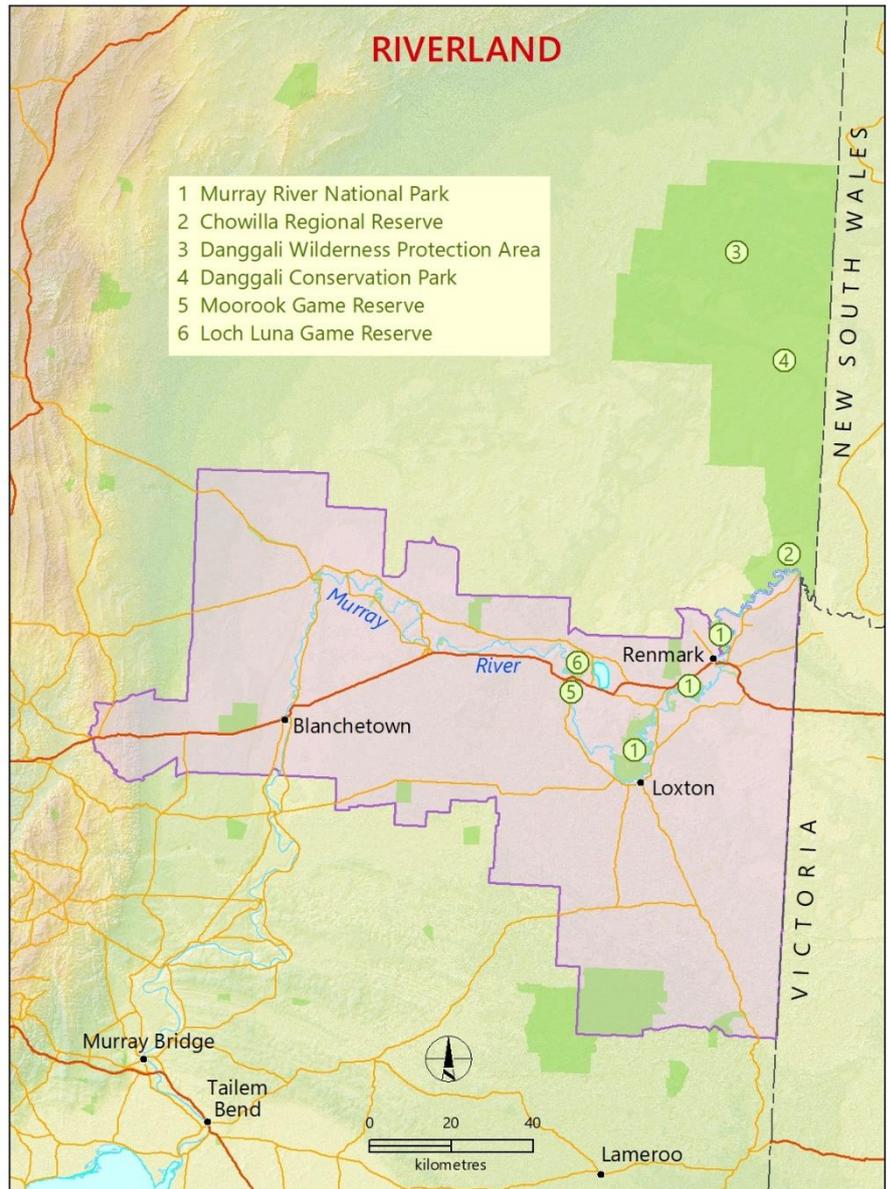
They can enjoy the waters and surrounding wilderness by paddling a canoe through the serene backwaters or exploring the many walking trails that wind through the parks. The abundant birdlife provides a perfect addition to the region's tranquil setting.

Murray River National Park, with its popular Katarapko Creek, is the most popular park in the Riverland region. Then there's the floodplains and wetlands of Loch Luna Game Reserve and the adjacent Moorook Game Reserve.

Other parks of interest are Chowilla Game Reserve, which is an integral part of the Riverland Biosphere Reserve, and Danggali Conservation Park and Wilderness Protection Area, which conserve stands of ancient mallee.

On average, 8 per cent of South Australians surveyed said they visited a park in the Riverland or Murray River, Lakes and Coorong regions. And of people living within the region, 85 per cent of those surveyed had visited at least one park in the 2018-19 financial year.

Note: Coorong National Park is featured in the Murray River, Lakes and Coorong regional snapshot.



Murray River National Park

About the park

[Murray River National Park](#), near the township of Loxton, provides opportunities for a wide variety of recreational activities, such as walking, canoeing, bird watching and bush camping.

This park includes a vast network of wetlands and floodplains that also provide unique natural experiences.

The park is divided into three separate areas: Katarapko (Winkie), Lyrup Flats (Lyrup) and Bulyong Island (Renmark).

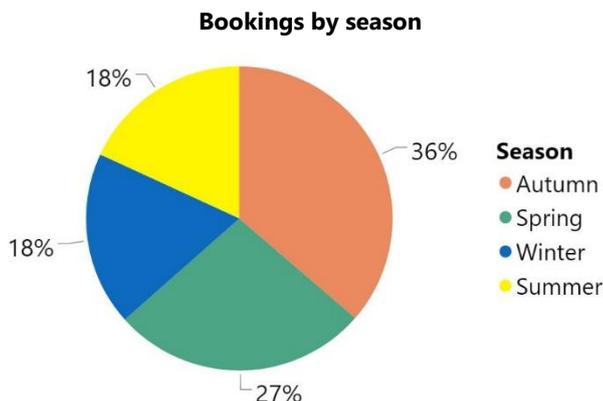
Visitation data

Online booking information shows that 5223 people visited the park in the 2018-19 financial year, with 84 per cent from SA. Of the remainder, 7 per cent were from Victoria, 3 per cent were from New South Wales and 2 per cent were from Queensland.

The average length of stay booked was 2.3 nights and the average number of people per booking was 3.8.

Peak and off-peak season

Peak season for visitation generally aligns with the school holiday periods in summer, autumn and spring. Highest occupancy rates at the park's campgrounds are in April and lowest are in February, July and August.



Accommodation usage

The park's most used campgrounds include:

- Katarapko Creek Campground: 2926 people per year (89 per cent of visitors are from SA)
- Lyrup Flats Campground: 952 (75 per cent)
- Lock 4 Campground: 950 (85 per cent)
- Eckerts Creek Campground: 395 (91 per cent).

Assets and services report

Co-management	—
Management plan	✓
'Friends of Parks' volunteer group	✓
Recent infrastructure investment	✓
Built accommodation	—
Access roads – bitumen	★★☆ Limited
Internet connectivity	★★☆ Limited
Camping opportunities	★★★ Good
Camping facilities (toilets, showers)	★☆☆ Basic
Power and water	★☆☆ Basic

Assets of interest and facilities:

Designated camping areas with toilets and parking facilities as well as walking trails, mountain biking trails and a self-guided drive trail are established over several areas in the park.

Loch Luna and Moorook Game Reserves

About the park

The floodplains and wetlands of [Loch Luna Game Reserve](#) and the adjacent [Moorook Game Reserve](#) boast numerous narrow creeks and shallow swamps that provide important habitats for many aquatic birds and mammals, including herons and the rare white bellied sea eagle.

These parks are popular recreation sites, particularly for river-based activities and camping, and waterfowl hunting is permitted in the reserves on declared open days.

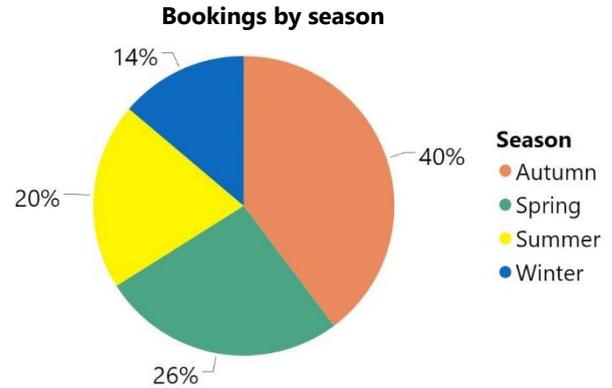
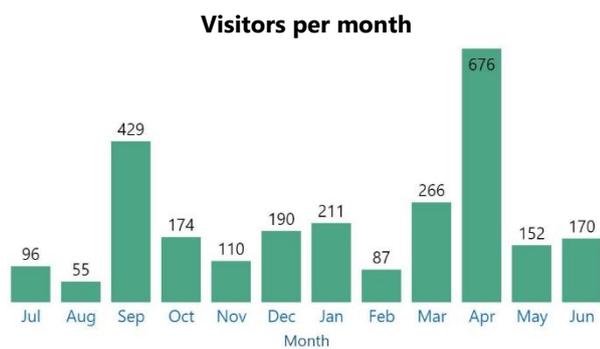
Visitation data

Online booking information shows that 2616 people visited the reserves in the 2018-19 financial year, with 92 per cent of visitors from SA. The remainder includes 3 per cent from VIC and 1 per cent from NSW.

The average length of stay booked was 2.4 nights and the average number of people per booking was 3.8.

Peak and off-peak season

Peak season for visitation generally aligns with the school holiday periods in autumn, summer and spring, with the highest occupancy at campgrounds in April. Occupancy is lowest in the cooler months from July to August.



Accommodation usage

The park's most used campgrounds include:

- Moorook Campground: 1093 people per year (94 per cent of visitors are from SA)
- Loch Luna Campground: 856 (93 per cent)
- Kaiser Strip Campground: 667 (93 per cent)

Assets and services report

Co-management	—
Management plan	✓
'Friends of parks' volunteer groups	✓
Recent infrastructure investment	—
Built accommodation	—
Access roads bitumen	★☆☆ Basic
Internet connectivity	★★☆ Limited
Camping opportunities	★☆☆ Basic
Camping facilities (toilets, showers)	★☆☆ Basic
Power and water	★☆☆ Basic

Assets of interest and facilities:

Three campgrounds, two canoe trails at Loch Luna

Chowilla Game Reserve

About the park

Chowilla Game Reserve is an integral part of the Riverland Biosphere Reserve, comprising 18,000 hectares of floodplains and wetlands.

It's an important refuge for waterbird populations, it's recognised as a Riverland Wetland of International Importance, declared under the Ramsar convention, and it's one of the six "The Living Murray" icon sites in the Murray-Darling Basin.

As well as its environmental significance, the reserve also provides great opportunities for recreation, particularly secluded bush camping.

Visitation data

Online booking information shows that 1297 people visited in the 2018-19 financial year, with 86 per cent from SA. The remainder included 8 per cent from VIC and 3 per cent from NSW.

The average length of stay booked was 2.3 nights and the average number of people per booking was 4.

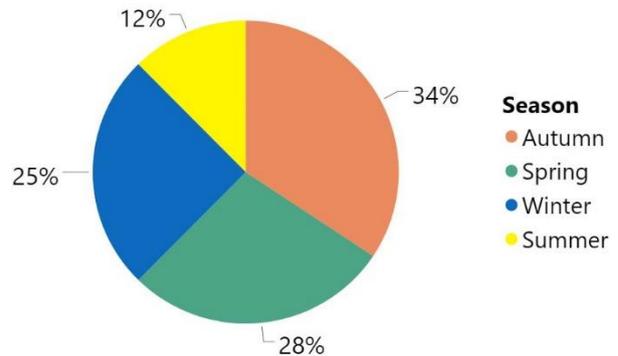
Peak and off-peak season

Peak season for visitation generally aligns with the school holiday periods in summer, autumn winter and spring. The highest occupancy at campgrounds is in March and April, and lowest in July, October and November.

Visitors per month



Bookings by season



Accommodation usage

The park's campgrounds include:

- Chowilla Creekside Campground: 1199 people per year (88 per cent of visitors are from SA)
- Border Cliffs Campground: 98 (76 per cent).

Assets and services report

Co-management	—
Management plan	✓
'Friends of parks' volunteer group	✓
Recent infrastructure investment	—
Built accommodation	—
Access roads – bitumen	4WD only
Internet connectivity	★☆☆ Basic
Camping opportunities	★★★ Limited
Camping facilities (toilets, showers)	★☆☆ Basic
Power and water	★☆☆ Basic

Assets of interest and facilities:

Picnic areas, caravan and camp sites are available in this park. Toilets are only located at the Border Cliffs campground.

Danggali Conservation Park and Wilderness Protection Area

About the park

[Danggali Conservation Park and Wilderness Protection Area](#) conserves stands of ancient mallee and is home to rare and endangered species.

The park provides habitat to many bird species, from Major Mitchell's cockatoos to the rare mallee fowl, which makes it a great park for interesting birdwatching opportunities.

Located 90km north of Renmark, Danggali offers a remote camping experience with spectacular star lit nights and 360-degree sunset and sunrise landscape views.

Visitation data

Online booking information shows that 98 people visited the park in the 2018-19 financial year, with 34 per cent of visitors from SA, 37 per cent from VIC, 20 per cent from NSW and 8 per cent from Tasmania.

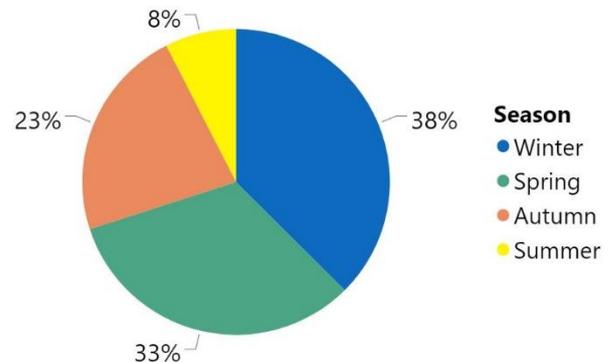
Peak and off-peak season

Peak season for visitation is in the cooler months from autumn to spring and lowest in summer from December to February.

Visitors per month



Bookings by season



Accommodation usage

The park's campgrounds include:

- Danggali Campground (4WD): 89 people per year (32 per cent of visitors are from SA)

Assets and services report

Co-management	—
Management plan	✓
'Friends of parks' volunteer groups	—
Recent infrastructure investment	—
Built accommodation	—
Access roads – bitumen	4WD only
Internet connectivity	☆☆☆☆ Nil
Camping opportunities	★☆☆☆ Basic
Camping facilities (toilets, showers)	★☆☆☆ Basic
Power and water	★☆☆☆ Basic

Assets of interest and facilities:

Five campsites, remote bush camping with no facilities.

Disclaimer

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