

# THE SUN COUNTRY

The Murray River is the thread that unites so much that is great about northern Victoria. You will find a lot to enjoy in the Sun Country on the Murray, from Bundalong to Barmah. This sunny part of the world is particularly known for its river beaches, fishing and highly rated golf courses, while for foodies it also has a great range of produce.

## FRIDAY

Enjoy your first taste of the region at Monichino Wines, which has become a popular destination in Katunga over the past 50 years. The pinot grigio, sangiovese and barbera wines are particularly good, and consider Cafe Tramontino for lunch.

RACV Cobram Resort, which especially caters to families, makes a handy base for the weekend. Start exploring with a bike ride along the Murray and reward yourself with a Devonshire tea at Tocumwal Antiques on the NSW side of the Murray. If you're keen for some competitive exercise, play a round at Cobram Barooga Golf Club's champion-standard 36-hole layout. For dinner, try the Italian-inspired menu at The Old Bank restaurant in Tocumwal, just 20 minutes

from Cobram. The deck is lovely in summer and kids will love the pizzas.

**Explore:** [monichino.com.au](http://monichino.com.au), [sporties.com.au](http://sporties.com.au) – click Golf

**Stay:** [racv.com.au/cobram](http://racv.com.au/cobram)

**Eat:** [theoldbank.com.au](http://theoldbank.com.au)



## SATURDAY

Start the day with a good breakfast and enjoy the pretty views at the Lake Cafe & Deck in Yarrawonga-Mulwala, just 30 minutes up-river from Cobram. If you want more golf, try the new Peter Thomson and Ross Perrett-designed Black Bull course at Silverwoods on the lakeside at Yarrawonga ([blackbullgc.com.au](http://blackbullgc.com.au)). Or sign up for a guided kayak adventure, exploring the waters east of Yarrawonga. Spot birdlife, turtles and, perhaps, a platypus. Other options on Lake Mulwala and Bundalong include waterskiing and fishing. A more leisurely time might be spent with a lunch-time cruise on the steam-driven paddle boat, PS Cumberoona on Lake Mulwala.

For a more food-intense day, there are around 20 farm gates in the area ([farmgatetrail.com.au](http://farmgatetrail.com.au) – call first to check they are open). Pack a basket or cooler so you can buy some of the local favourites to bring home. Olive oils, table olives and dukkahs are made at the 100-year-old Rich Glen Olive Estate homestead. Check out the beers and ciders at National Trust-classified Byramine Homestead. The homestead was built by explorer Hamilton Hume for his sister-in-law and her nine children in 1842 after her husband was killed by bushrangers. Look out for award-winning hand-made cheeses at Boosey Creek, plus other producers supplying almonds, bush tucker, cherries, garlic and strawberries.

But don't over-indulge at the farm gates if you

want to enjoy dinner. A good option is the Naked Tree restaurant in Yarrawonga, which sources local produce such as cherry tomatoes, olive oil, Murray River salt, plus seasonal and foraged ingredients.

**Explore:** [actionbikeski.com.au](http://actionbikeski.com.au), [mulwalawaterski.com.au](http://mulwalawaterski.com.au), [goneyonderfishing.com.au](http://goneyonderfishing.com.au), [cumberoona.com.au](http://cumberoona.com.au), [farmgatetrail.com.au](http://farmgatetrail.com.au)

**Eat:** [thenakedtree.com.au](http://thenakedtree.com.au)

## SUNDAY

You'll probably wake up ready for a big breakfast at Cafe 3641 in Strathmerton, 20km west of Cobram. Golfers should opt this time for a friendly game at Tocumwal Golf Club or you could explore the river walks around Cobram.

Locals like to lunch at The Beach Cafe, the award-winning cafe and restaurant sited on one of Australia's largest inland beaches, at Cobram. The beach, a hive of activity all year round, is one of the many inland river beaches on the Murray.

It's a 60km drive to the Barmah Forest Heritage and Educational Centre in Nathalia. Here you'll learn the stories of the area, from early indigenous times through to white settlement, which established thriving timber and cattle industries and launched the great era of the river boats. Barmah National Park is a must if only to see the large stands of river red gums, which include trees more than 500 years old. The area is an internationally significant wetlands.

Try the eco-certified Kingfisher Cruises. Gliding through the wetlands on a boat, it's both a history lesson and a nature experience as you try to spot some of the 236 species of birds, 50 mammals and 500 plants found in the park.

Mid-afternoon you might like a treat at the Big Strawberry in Koonoomoo – the desserts are to die for. Also on the Farm Gate Trail, the Aintree Organic Farm is perfect for almonds and honey. Also visit Katamatite Garlic. Then you'll be ready to head home with memories of a perfect Sun Country on the Murray getaway.

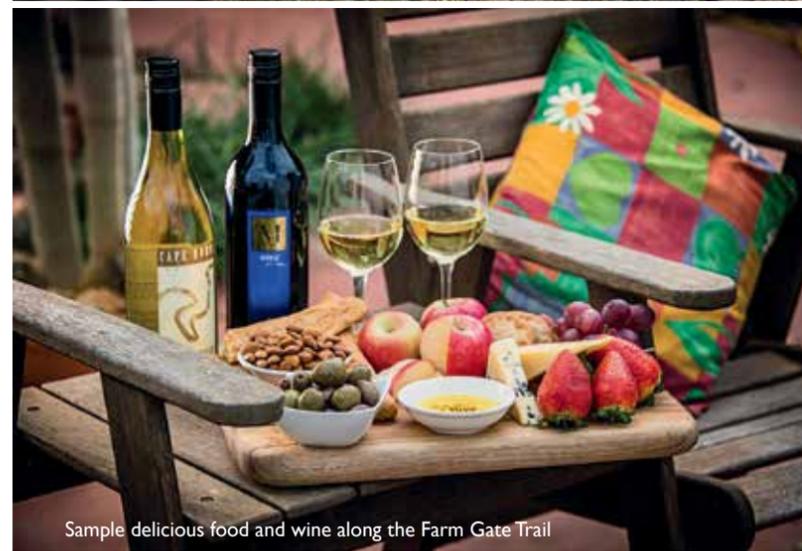
**Explore:** [nathaliabarmah.com.au](http://nathaliabarmah.com.au), [kingfishercruises.com.au](http://kingfishercruises.com.au), [tocumwalgolf.com.au](http://tocumwalgolf.com.au)

**Eat:** [thebeachcafecobram.com.au](http://thebeachcafecobram.com.au)

**For more information, go to [wandervictoria.com](http://wandervictoria.com)**



Take a bushland bike ride at Cobram



Sample delicious food and wine along the Farm Gate Trail



Enjoy golf on your visit to Sun Country on the Murray



The Farm Gate Trail has plenty of options for a sun-drenched picnic

## WIN

RACV members can win a \$500 RACV Cobram Resort voucher to stay and enjoy the Sun Country on the Murray. Enter at [racv.com.au/royalautocomps](http://racv.com.au/royalautocomps) or post your details, including name, RACV member number, postal address and phone number to Cobram Competition, 550 Princes Hwy, Noble Park North VIC 3174.

Terms and conditions apply. Total prize package: \$500. Competition closes 11.59pm, 20 September 2016. Draw will take place at 550 Princes Hwy, Noble Park North 3174 on 26 September 2016 at 11am. The winner will be published in RA November 2016 and online at [royalauto.com.au](http://royalauto.com.au) and will be notified by email and/or phone. Refer to [racv.com.au/competitions](http://racv.com.au/competitions) for full terms and conditions.