



MILPARINKA

SUGGESTED VISITOR ITINERARY

The Milparinka Caravan Park caters for the self-sufficient traveller with level powered and unpowered sites for vans and tents. For those who need a bed, then the Milparinka Hotel will be the place for you. So plan to stay 2 nights to appreciate all there is to see in Milparinka, alternatively here is a 2 day, 1-night option for those passing through.

DAY 1

First pop into the Visitors Centre in the Court House for an update on the most recently added attractions. Get your \$5 pass to visit all 10 buildings so you can be free to explore at your leisure.

Start with a walking tour in the cool mornings, especially in the warmer months (November – March). Follow the informative signposts to tour the town and discover what was planned to be a significant regional centre built around an impressive colonial sandstone Court House, Police Barracks and Post Office. See the ruins of a bank, numerous pubs, a school, a pharmacy and general stores.

A visit to the cemetery will be a moving reminder of the tough conditions experienced by the pastoral and mining pioneers. Enjoy the native gardens, the historic mural and the public artworks created by local artists.

Find a shady spot for a picnic or lunch in the iconic outback pub.

Spend the afternoon immersing yourself in the Heritage Precinct buildings. Each building has a particular focus giving you the opportunity to explore and experience the rich history of the region presented through artefacts, touch screens, audiovisual features and artworks.

In the Court House you will be introduced to the local Malyangapa people through original artworks depicting their moiety system and dreaming. Watch the interview with a local elder displayed on a monitor.

Heartbreaking and inspiring stories of the courage and fortitude of pioneering women and girls are presented with murals and artefacts in a room dedicated to the women of the west.

While you are in the courthouse enjoy its fine architectural heritage. A building designed and built for the outback environment using local stone and materials transported hundreds of kilometres in carts and drays.

The Police Barracks and the cells offer an insight into what was at Milparinka and introduce more fascinating local characters. The local ANZACS are honoured in a room that holds the service records of young men from the district. By visiting the cells at the rear of the building you will appreciate the discomfort lawbreakers faced while you learn about schooling and medicine in the outback.

Sturt's courageous and drought-plagued expedition is the focus of the newest building in the complex. It houses a five-metre long diorama of the expedition force, including all the people, the animals and the boat. Maps, images and artefacts assist in presenting the story of this epic journey.

Sir Sydney Kidman is the focus of the second room in this building. Relax and view the footage of a cattle muster and enjoy the Kidman story.

To explore the Albert Goldfields visit the Mining Museum. Try your hand at some mining equipment and view the AV presentation of a miner's life. Then gain some appreciation of pastoral machinery and pastoral history in the two spaces adjacent to the Mining Museum.

Finish off your day with a BBQ or campfire cook up in the caravan park or a meal at the pub before taking time to gaze about at the majestic starry southern sky.

DAY 2

Spend another day taking a leisurely driving tour. Head to Depot Glen on Preservation Creek, through the shimmering waterless desert landscape to fully appreciate the challenges Sturt and his men faced. The drive is well signposted for you to visit the area where Sturt spent 6 months waiting for rain in 1845. Climb the hill to enjoy the stunning view of the outback landscape and marvel at the cairn which Sturt had his men build in the height of summer to keep them busy and guard against boredom!

Take time to visit the grave of James Poole, Sturt's second in command and the only man to die during this extraordinary expedition. This excursion will bring to life for you the realities faced by Sturt and his men.

On your way back to the highway stop for a few minutes and enjoy the river red gums and the shady green of Evelyn Creek (named by Sturt for his brother). Squint and imagine this as the main water source for the miners during the brief but frantic gold rush.

No matter what your interest or age the tiny town of Milparinka will take a couple of days at least to explore. Its fascination will make it an adventure of your own.

Explore Milparinka. It's a must.

