

SELF GUIDED TOUR KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK

Your journey begins at the Tourist information Centre
Yartla Street

And finishes at the Historic Maidens Hotel -Yartla Street

1.

Zero your trip monitor in the car and start your trip facing SW-in *Yartla Street* towards the Maidens Historical Hotel.

This drive will take you approximately 3 hrs.

Make sure you have plenty of water, a hat, sunscreen and a camera.

There will be plenty of photo opportunities along the way.

Before you leave town, you have 2 chances to grab a coffee for the trip.

Immediately on your **left** on the corner of *Yartla and Perry Streets* you will see the Pizza shop. – coffee and takeaway available.

Turn Right into *Perry Street*.

Take the **first left** into *Menindee Street*

On the corner **Right Hand Side**, is the Red Sands Café which is your last chance for coffee/food/cold drink.

FYI should it be required on your **Left hand side** is the *Menindee Pharmacy*.

On your **Right Hand Side** is the “*Albemarle Hotel*” – Great cold beer/beer garden/sky channel. TAB.
Also Local indigenous Art display in the hall way.

Follow your nose and continue along *Menindee Street*.
You are approaching a school area.
Remember – **40kms** during school hours.

Once past the school you will see the sign to the **KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK**

Turn right on to *Little Menindee Creek Road* towards the Kincheega National Park.

As you approach the **1.7km** from your starting point,
The Menindee Cemetery is on your left hand side.

If you continue to look through the trees on your left,
at the **2.6km mark** , the remains of the old **Abattoirs**
are visible on top of the Riverbank.
It sits on a big bend in the river, defined by the
beautiful big river gum trees.

At the **4.5km point** – You are now at the outlet regulator for “Lake Menindee”.

The regulator allows water from Lake Menindee to flow back into the “Darling River”.

The Kinchega National Park Entrance will be directly in front of you.

On your left hand side you will see the information and pay station for park fees and camping fees for the 34 camping sites located along the river drive. You will find an honesty box inside.

Continue your drive straight ahead on the gravel road.

You will see on your right hand side, the southern side of Lake Menindee. You may just be able to make out the channel which is used to drain a fair part of the water from the lake out through the Little Menindee out let.

As you reach the divide in the road at the **5.3km** mark you will get a better view across Lake Menindee on your right hand side.

It is approx. 16kms across to the opposite bank.

Lake Menindee holds 650,000 mega litres and is joined with Lake Cawndilla. This is referred to as the 3rd storage area in the Menindee Lakes System.

At the **8.6km** mark, turn Left. (the sign will indicate towards the woolshed drive)

At the **12.6 km** mark, continue straight ahead (don't turn on to the River Drive).

At the **14.6 km** mark, the area out to your right is known as Emu Lake.

At the **15.3 km** mark you will reach the Kinchega Woolshed. Take your time here to explore the old Woolshed and surrounding grounds.

You will find a visitor information centre (unmanned) at the far end of the Shearers Quarters. (Look for the OFFICE sign) it is always open.

Inside the information centre you will gain an insight in to the history of the Kinchega station, the size of the area farmed and learn about the shearing methods that evolved and the numbers of sheep that were shorn here.

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You will leave the woolshed area the way you came in.

At the **18.3km** mark, turn right towards the Old Kinchega homestead ruins, old Kinchega cemetery, and Billabong walk. At the 19km mark you will turn left.
(Homestead Bend Drive)

Towards the old cemetery and the Kinchega homestead ruins.

At the **19.5 km** mark, pull up on your left hand side.

You will see on your right the old cemetery, with unmarked grave sites.

The victims of the ill-fated PS Providence were buried in the old cemetery.

You can take a short walk around the cemetery.

Continue along the Homestead bend drive.

In front of you, slightly off to your right you will see the remains of an old Palm Tree. This is in the grounds of the old Kinchega homestead.

On your right there is a small parking area and an information board. **(19.8km mark).**

An elevated steel walk way allows you to walk around the ruins without disturbing any of the remains. By walking in an **anti-clock wise direction**, you will find information plaques that give a descriptive picture of the harsh conditions, the gardens and the structures that were present when the homestead was occupied.

If you are inclined there is also a 2.3 km walk that takes you around the old homestead billabong. You will find descriptive plaques along the way, describing Kinchega's natural and pastoral history as well as Aboriginal and European.

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Continue driving along Homestead Bend Drive.

20.6 km mark, you will reach a T intersection.

Turn right on to River Drive indicting camp sites 32-35.

This takes towards the remains of the PS Providence, and also the regulator for the homestead billabong

At the **21.3 Km** mark you can clearly view the Darling River meandering its way towards Pooncarie.

This section of the river is below the town weir (weir32) influence. The next weir in the Darling River is at Pooncarie (over 100 river kms away).

This is the Darling River in its natural flow state.

The river levels are still dependant on flows released from the Menindee lake systems.

At the **23.3 km** mark you will notice a dead gum tree on the left hand side of the road. It marks 4 of the big flood events in the Darling River.

The 1976 flood was quite a big flood in the Darling, but not in the Murray. It came and went fairly quickly compared to the 1956 floods (not marked on the tree) which was one of the biggest floods experienced.

In 1956, the Murray was in flood at the same time as the Darling, causing the floods to last for several months.

As we make our way towards the wreck of the PS Providence, take note of some of the larger river gum trees in the park along the river.

A river gum tree with a 2 metre diameter is estimated to be around 500 yrs. old.

At the **25.5 km** mark on your left, you will see a small information board for the PS Providence.

Parts of the remains are embedded in the river bank behind the board. If you walk a short way along the bank (downstream) you will find more of what remains from the wreckage of the paddle steamer.

Continue your drive ahead.

At the **27.8 km** mark the outlet regulator for the old Kinchega Homestead billabong will be on your left.

Directly ahead you will see a car parking area on top of the rise (toilet facility).

You can connect into the billabong walk from here should you choose to do so.

Continue driving through through the parking area.

At the **28.5 km** mark the turn to the old homestead ruins again.

Turn right towards the homestead ruins.

(This is the easiest and quickest way to get back to the beautiful river drive).

At the **29.9 km** mark,

Turn Left at the T intersection and make your way along the River bend drive.

You will notice the Darling River on your Right hand side. Some of these camping spots are the best in the area.

Any that are vacant are well worth the stop to look and enjoy the river view and your surrounds.

At the **31.2 km** mark, the road takes a sharp left (camp site 27 veers off to your right).

Continue to your left to remain on the river drive track.

At the **32.2 km** mark, camp sites 26 and 27 appear to run into a back water or billabong on the Darling River.

That is somewhat true.

The locals call this spot the A bend and as you get to the 32.4 km mark you will see where the river cuts

through and isolates this section in high river flows.
The river still flows through here.

The property directly across the river from here is
Called APPIN.

This land is owned by the aboriginal land council.

At the **33km** mark you will be able to see Weir
32(Menindee town weir) on your right.

The weir was constructed in 1958, to conserve water
for the town water supply and the Broken Hill pumping
station.

There are camp sites above and below the weir. It is
very popular area for fishing in times of reasonable
river flows.

The amount of water that flows over weir 32, is totally
dependent on the amount of water released from the
lakes system

The fish ladder is on your opposite side of the weir (on
the Appin side). The ladder is designed to allow native
fish to make their way upstream, through the ladder.

It is sectioned off in areas of about 1m apart to slow
the water, allowing the fish to rest as they navigate
their way through the ladder.

It makes for excellent fishing in the weir pool of Menindee. This section from weir 32 back upstream to the Main weir is approx. 44 kms long.

Native perch (yellow belly) are caught most year round. (Coating fish fillets in Egg and breadcrumbs and shallow frying is an excellent way to enjoy your catch on the banks of the river).

Just upstream of weir 32 on the opposite side in “Appin”, you can see the NSW Water measuring station. It is marked as upstream weir 32. It records and reports the flow of water going over the weir per day.

Drive out of the weir 32 car park (heading up stream).

Turn right on the track.

As you leave the car park be very aware of the protruding parts of the weir structure, which run through the bank and have now been exposed.

At the **33.9km** mark continue straight ahead (don't take the turn to your left).

The Darling River will be on your right hand side.

There are many popular camping spots through this section of the river drive. The weirs maintain the water levels.

At the **34.9 km** mark, across the river on the opposite bank you will see the divide fence that separates APPIN from the town common.

You will then pass camp site 20

At the **36 .4 km** mark, the road will veer to your left.

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At the **38.4 km** mark you will drive through camp site 11.

This has a toilet facility and is great fishing spot.

At **42 kms**, camp site 3 will be on your right hand side.

If possible, stop, and you will see the junction of the Little Menindee creek and the Darling River.

This is the bottom end of the outlet from the Menindee Lake.

You will cross over the outlet again as you exit the national park.

At the **42.5km** mark, on your right hand there is a car park where you will get a clear view of the Little

Menindee outlet and the remains of the old bridge constructed for the Cobb and Co route across the little Menindee creek.

This area is also a popular fishing spot for day trippers and locals when water is being released.

Turn right out of the car park area.

The Kinchega park information booth will be on your left hand side. Turn right and cross over the Little Menindee outlet.

Take the road down on your right (veer slightly right).

This takes you back into the Menindee Township.

The town cemetery will be on your right as you reach the bitumen road.

GIVE WAY at the intersection.

The Darling River and bridge are on your right.

Proceed across the intersection.

The road will bend to your left.

In front of you on the sand dune is the Historic Maidens Hotel.

Stretch your legs and look inside the hotel hall ways. You will get to see photos of the construction of the Menindee Lakes System and also photos of past floods in the town.

This is Great family hotel with a beer garden and court yard.

Great pub meals (7 days), and cold beer.

