★ FREE SAMPLE ★

ROUTES

BIG WATER WAY - FOLLOWING THE MIGHTY MURRUMBIDGEE

1,070 km
7 - 12 days
NSW + ACT + VIC



At the head of the Murrumbidgee, near Cooinbil Hut Campground, Snowy Mountains, New South Wales

Free sample · Choose your Routes: campsaustraliawide.com/go/big-water-way



Willbriggie North, Darlington Point, New South Wales

Big Water Way - following the Mighty Murrumbidgee

Snowy Mountains, NSW → Boundary Bend, VIC ★ 1,070 km ★ 7–12 days
★ Spring or autumn for milder weather, easier high country roads & reliable river access
★ Unsealed sections

It's not the longest river in Australia, but we reckon it's one of the best for free camping. Following “Where the Murrumbidgee's Flowing”, the route starts as a tiny alpine trickle in the Snowy Mountains (we stepped over it!), then runs into the Australian Capital Territory, out across the Riverina and on to the wide red gum bends near Hay and Balranald, before finally meeting the Murray near Boundary Bend.

Flowing 1,485 km to the north-west, the Murrumbidgee ranks third in the country for length. Its name comes from the Wiradjuri language and is often translated as 'big water', a fitting one for a river that has been a lifeline through the ages, from ancient Aboriginal communities to the days of bushrangers, soldiers, river boats, irrigation pioneers and the river towns that grew along its banks.

Take in these suggested overnight stops, or dawdle along for weeks sampling river relaxing and country towns. If you love fishing, kayaking, boating or just the outdoors, you are going to love camping along the ‘Bidgee!

Highlights

- ✓ High country huts and brumbies
- ✓ Waterside free and donation camping - most right on the ‘Bidgee
- ✓ Riverside picnics and swims around Australia’s capital
- ✓ Country towns, pubs, museums and the largest inland city in NSW
- ✓ Fishing, birdwatching, swimming, boating, wetlands and river red gum forests

Tips

River levels can rise quickly; check before settling in at the lower-lying free camps. Fuel up and fill your water tanks before the more remote Riverina stretches, and mobile reception can be patchy, too.

Free sample · Choose your Routes: campsaustraliawide.com/go/big-water-way


Soapworks Bend, Hay, NSW



Tharwa, ACT


The Angle Crossing, Gigerline Nature Reserve, ACT

Your trip at a glance

Big Water Way - following the Mighty Murrumbidgee ★ 1,070 km ★ 7–12 days

		DISTANCE	SUGGESTED OVERNIGHT STOP
01	Cooinbil Hut, Snowy Mountains to Adaminaby, NSW	77 km In the full Route	Three Mile Dam, Kiandra or Yarrangobilly Village
02	Adaminaby to Bredbo, NSW	86 km In the full Route	Bredbo Inn Hotel
05	Jugiong to Gundagai to Wantabadgery, NSW	90 km In this sample	Sandy Beach Reserve, near Wantabadgery

9 more legs in the full Route



05 Jugiong to Gundagai to Wantabadgery, NSW

90 km

Here's classic river country and a memorable free camp.

Whenever you see "Gundagai" on a road sign, sing: "There's a track winding back..." It is mandatory for everyone to finish the famous tune: "To an old-fashioned track along the road to Gundagai, where the blue gums are growing, Murrumbidgee's flowing..." (you get it). Cool river fact: the reason singer Jack O'Hagan chose Gundagai was because of the Murrumbidgee, AND because the river is a four syllable word. The river put Gundagai on the map!

Stop north of Gundagai for the Dog on the Tucker Box monument, drive in for the heritage main street and the views across the Prince Alfred Bridge floodplain. I also loved the bushranger murals at the Criterion Hotel.

Push on to Sandy Beach Reserve, Wantabadgery - a top free camp right on the Murrumbidgee. Great name. It is pet friendly, has toilets and sits on one of the prettier stretches of the river, with grassy sites and easy water access. The couple we met there did not want to leave!

Must see and do

* Dog on the Tucker Box, north of Gundagai
* Gundagai bushranger mural and heritage walking trail, river walk, lookouts
* River views, fishing and birdlife near Wantabadgery

Where to camp

Sandy Beach Reserve, near Wantabadgery
free • pets • toilets
OUR PICK

Oura Beach Reserve
free • pets • toilets

Caravan parks at Gundagai
$ • pets

Read more on our blog

Search Dog on the Tucker Box

Image: Sandy Beach Reserve, Wantabadgery, New South Wales

There’s more where that came from

Big Water Way - following the Mighty Murrumbidgee ★ 1,070 km ★ 7–12 days

What’s in the full Route

01	Cooinbil Hut, Snowy Mountains to Adaminaby, NSW	77 km
02	Adaminaby to Bredbo, NSW	86 km
+9	9 more legs, each with camps, must-sees and blog links	

* 10 essential tips every traveller should know
* ROUTES 101: things to remember before you set out

1 Route	$12.99
Pick any 3 Most popular	$29
Pick any 5	$39

Choose your Routes

campsaustraliawide.com/go/big-water-way

© 2026 Camps Australia Wide Pty Ltd · ABN 17 624 459 212
Our guides are general information only and not advice. Conditions change, so check local road rules, signage and site information before you travel.

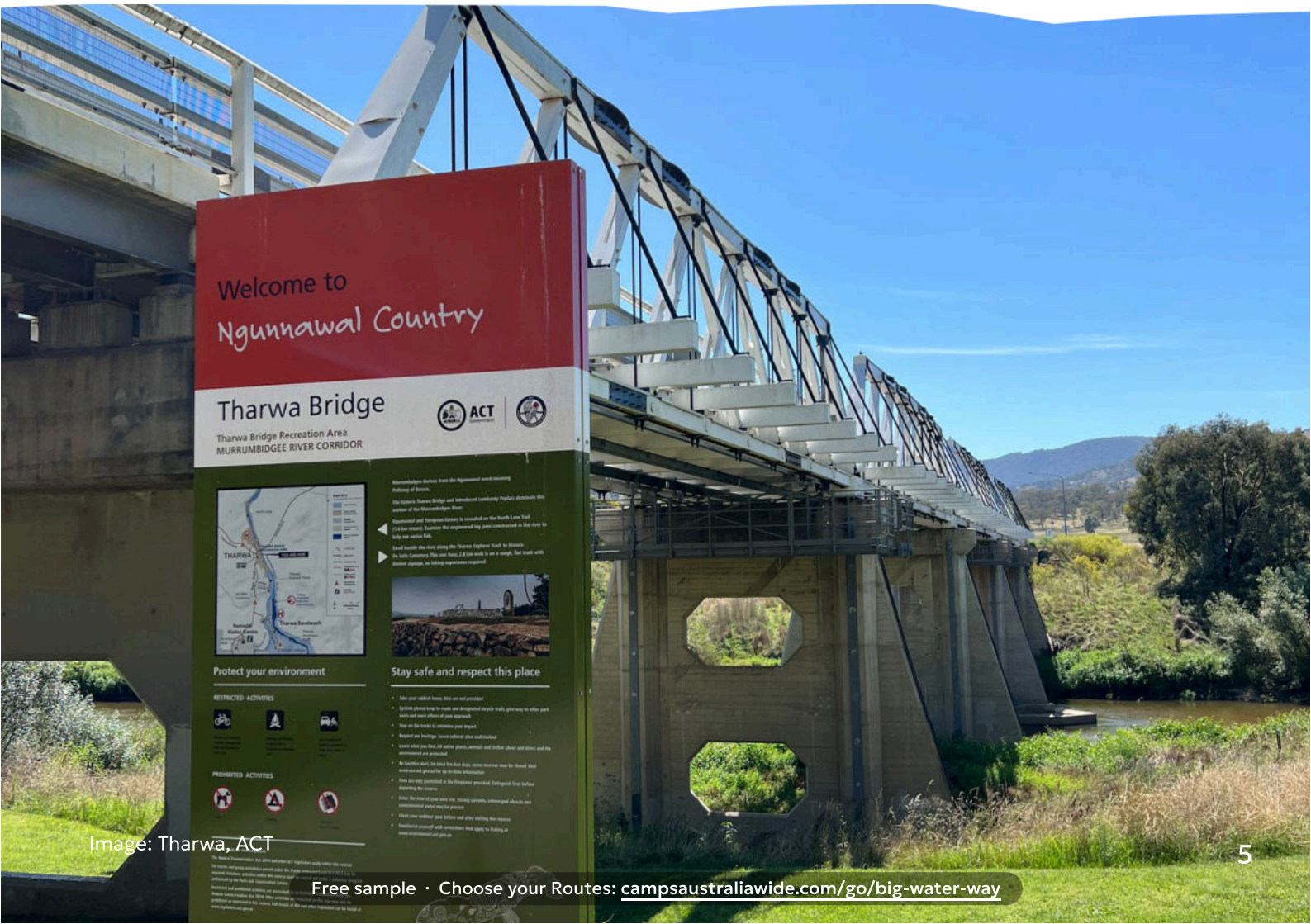

Image: Tharwa, ACT