

suggested itineraries



Mildura Rural City Council

# mildura history & heritage trail

Day 1 - Travel Distance – 195km Time required approx. 6 - 7 hours

Day 2 - Travel Distance – 32km Time required approx. 5 – 6 hours.

The Mildura History and Heritage Trail has been designed to give you a sample of the region's unique history and is split over two days, showcasing indigenous history, sights from the early irrigation settlement of the region, wartime history and post war soldier settlement. This itinerary, when downloaded to your smart device, is fully interactive, so you can choose to follow the itinerary as offered, or pick just those items that peak your interest, after all this is all about you!

Simply select the destination and hit 'Take Me There' and your smart device will bring up the destination on Google Maps. Just select start and Google Maps will direct you there – simple!

Have a fantastic day, it's time to step back in time and experience the journey that is truly Mildura. If you need any assistance along the way please give us a call on 1800 039 043.

## DAY ONE

### 1 Mildura Visitor Information & Booking Centre

Make the Mildura Visitor Information and Booking Centre the start of your journey of discovery of the Mildura region. Our team of expert staff can help you plan your time in Mildura and share the secrets only a local would know. The centre offers local knowledge and personal insights about Mildura and the wider region, guides, brochures and maps, and can help to make your visit one that you won't forget.

Take the time to explore the permanent interactive displays at the Mildura Visitor Information and Booking Centre and learn about the town and region, from its original inhabitants to contemporary life. The exhibition celebrates the Mildura region's Aboriginal history and includes a symbolic canoe tree, a genuine artefact rescued from floodplains.

The 40-seat theatrette screens two free presentations on the history and vitality of the Mildura region.

An attraction in itself, the centre boasts a myriad of interpretive displays and a gift shop selling local produce, gifts and souvenirs for family and friends.

Open 9am – 5.30pm Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm Weekends and public holidays.

180 – 190 Deakin Avenue, Mildura  
Telephone: [03 5018 8380](tel:0350188380)

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### 2 RAAF Memorial and Museum (9.6km from previous point)

During World War Two, Mildura Airport was home to the RAAF 2 Operational Training Unit (2OTU) and was responsible for providing operational fighter conversion and training to pilots before they were posted to their squadrons. Around 1247 pilots were successfully trained at 2OTU and sadly 52 Aircrew and 7 Ground Crew were involved in fatal accidents while training or serving at the unit.

The RAAF Air Museum welcomes visitors to take a walk back through time and explore the display of authentic memorabilia and photographs as you walk through what once was the official 2OTU Headquarters. This impressive collection provides a unique insight into the activities and experiences of the men and women of 2OTU, and of other wartime operations.

The RAAF Air Museum also offers free guided tours with one of their friendly and knowledgeable volunteers.

Open: 9.30am – 12.30pm Fri/Sun/Tues

31 Allan Mathews Drive, Mildura  
Phone: [03 5022 7691](tel:0350227691)

Website: [www.rslmuseummildura.com.au](http://www.rslmuseummildura.com.au)



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mildura  
experience better

[www.visitmildura.com.au](http://www.visitmildura.com.au)

### 3 Millewa Pioneer Park and Village (86km from previous point)

The Millewa Pioneer Park, situated 90km from Mildura on Millewa road at Meringur was established in 1986, to recognise the efforts of the early settlers creating homes and farms in challenging circumstances.

It is run by a volunteer committee, committed to creating a visual hands-on display of early Millewa District history and lifestyle. The emphasis of the displays is to preserve the heritage, environment and history of the wider Millewa community.

The park is open daily for you to browse around. Come and explore more than 50 sites of historical buildings on display and wander around the park to get a sense of how our pioneers lived. Guides and light catering are available by appointment. Come and learn about our history and share our enjoyment of this wonderful region.

Open: Daily

Millewa Road, Meringur

Phone: **0474 724 389**

Website: [www.millewapioneerpark.org.au/](http://www.millewapioneerpark.org.au/)

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### 4 Big Lizzie - Barclay Square (81.3km from previous point)

Big Lizzie is a 45 tonne 'Prime Mover' Tractor which was constructed in 1915 to replace camel trains which carried wool and other heavy loads on sandy terrain. Leaving Melbourne with its two trailers in 1916, bound for Broken Hill, and after a long and colourful journey it arrived in Mildura where floodwaters prevented it from completing its journey. Its owner Frank Bottrill sought work in the area, and in 1921 commenced clearing scrub to make way for the Red Cliffs irrigation area, a role it carried out until 1924.

The restored machine, with one of its trailers now sits in Barclay Square and is a popular tourist attraction. More detailed history and machine specifications are at the site to tell its story.

Barclay Square, Calder Highway, Red Cliffs



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### 5 Red Cliffs Courthouse Museum (400m from previous point)

Operated by the Red Cliffs Historical Society, the Courthouse Museum has a range of displays focusing on the early history of Red Cliffs. Each year the group picks a theme and focuses on that aspect of the past. A great community museum which will highlight the progress and sacrifices made since the establishment of the township.

Open: 11am-1pm first Sunday of the month

24-28 Jamieson Avenue, Red Cliffs

Phone: **03 5024 1229**

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### 6 Mildura and District Historical Society (17.7km from previous point)

The Mildura and District Historical Society is housed in the historic Carnegie Centre, a beautiful building erected in 1908 as a library.

The Society was formed in 1955 and since then has undertaken the enormous task of collecting, cataloguing and documenting all that is historically significant, to be preserved for future generations. It is run by volunteer staff who are dedicated to keeping Mildura's history alive. They have a number of displays within the centre and are able to handle any historical queries that you may have.

Open: 11am-4pm Mon, Wed and Fri.

74 Deakin Avenue, Mildura

Telephone: **03 5022 0172**

Email: [mildurahistorical@gmail.com](mailto:mildurahistorical@gmail.com)



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### 7 Mildura and District Genealogical Society

The Mildura and District Genealogical Society is a valuable resource for everyone who requires help with family history research. With an extensive library of reference material pertaining to the wider Sunraysia region, their knowledgeable Research Officers are on hand to assist you with your search.

Open: 11am-4pm Mon, Tues, Wed, Sat.

74 Deakin Avenue, Mildura

Telephone: **03 5022 0172**

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## DAY TWO

### 1 Mildura Station Homestead and Homestead Cemetery

Mildura Station Homestead precinct is a reconstruction of the property of the first Mildura Station established by the Jamieson brothers in 1847, and purchased later by the Chaffey family.

Alongside the homestead grounds is Mildura's earliest cemetery, which includes graves of some early pioneers and members of the Chaffey family.

Open Daily

278 Cureton Avenue, Mildura

Phone: **03 5018 8330**

Website: [www.thechaffeytrail.com.au](http://www.thechaffeytrail.com.au)

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### 2 Lock 11 and Mildura Weir (850m from previous point)

The Chaffey's shared vision and desire to have water permanently accessible for irrigation and river transport was fulfilled through a series of locks and weirs along the Murray. Lock 11 construction was commenced in 1923 and was completed in 1927. The Mildura Weir is the only one on the Murray River where the lock and weir are separated by an island. (Time your visit so you can see the PS Melbourne pass through the lock, which it does at approx. 10.55am, 12.45pm, 1.55pm and 3.45pm on normal schedules)

Walk across the walkways of the lock onto the island where tracks lead to the weir and weir maintenance yards. You will see sections of the weir which have been removed for maintenance work and are replaced during times of low river flows. The track continues around the island through natural bushland and has many spots suitable for picnics.

Open: Daily

Hugh King Drive, Mildura

Website: [www.thechaffeytrail.com.au/](http://www.thechaffeytrail.com.au/)



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### 3 Rio Vista Historic House (700m from previous point)

Built in 1890 by W.B. Chaffey, Rio Vista (which means River View) was designed as a large domestic home in Queen Anne style as the home for W.B. and his family. It stayed a family home until the 1950s, when it was purchased by Mildura City Council and converted as an Art Gallery to house the extensive collection of works bequeathed to it by Senator R.D. Elliot. Conversion into the Mildura Art Gallery saved the house from probable demolition and subdivision of the surrounding grounds.

In more recent times the focus has been on exploring the history of the Chaffey family and to the restoration of Rio Vista to the splendour of earlier years. Ongoing conservation and restoration works continue to preserve the facility for future generations, strengthening the story of its heritage and history within the cultural landscape. Rio Vista Historic House is undoubtedly Mildura's most important heritage building, visited by thousands of people each year, and is now open daily to the public.

Open 10am-5pm Daily

199 Cureton Avenue, Mildura

Phone: 03 5018 8330

Website: [www.milduraartscentre.com.au](http://www.milduraartscentre.com.au)

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### 4 Mildura Holden Motor Museum (3.4km from previous point)

A collection of 30+ Holden vehicles dating from the first 48-215 model, the FX, right through to modern day examples is the result of the late Ron Morello's passion and obsession with Holdens. It all began when he demolished a shed containing an FX Holden, which was in pristine condition, on the instructions of a client of his earthmoving business. Full of guilt, he acquired and restored an FX and the obsession with procuring and restoring Holden vehicles began. The museum is a legacy that is now available for car lovers to view and appreciate this fine collection.

Come, view and relax in the cafe with a coffee whilst browsing the Holden merchandise on display.

Open 9.30am-4pm Tuesday-Sunday

58 West Road, Buronga, NSW

Telephone: **0408 830 989**

Website: [www.milduraholdenmuseum.com.au](http://www.milduraholdenmuseum.com.au)



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### 5 Chateau Mildura Winery (10.3km from previous point)

In 1887 Canadian brothers George and William Chaffey established irrigation colonies at Mildura and Renmark to produce a wide range of horticultural crops, on their own property on Belar Avenue Irymple. They planted 150 acres of wine grapes and established Chateau Mildura, giving birth to an industry that in the Sunraysia and Riverland areas has grown to produce more than 50% of Australia's wine grapes.

In 2002 it was purchased by fourth generation local horticulturist Lance Milne who has re-established table wine production and

cellar door sales in the building. A museum takes up a large portion of the complex and is well worth a look.

Chateau Mildura's boutique range of wines are made on a small scale with varieties of grapes from the Mildura region. They employ a unique mix of both old and modern techniques and technology in the winemaking operation.

Open: 10am – 4pm Daily

191 Belar Avenue, Mildura

Phone: **03 5024 5901**

Website: [www.chateaumildura.com.au](http://www.chateaumildura.com.au)

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### 6 Psyche Pumps (4.4km from previous point)

Psyche Bend Pump Station was built in 1891 by the Chaffey brothers to meet the needs of the irrigation settlement and operated successfully until 1959.

The need to raise water from the Murray to land approximately 28 metres above river level challenged George Chaffey to design his 'billabong system'. George Chaffey's solution was to design a triple-expansion steam engine coupled to centrifugal pumps. Tangye's of Birmingham, who manufactured the equipment, at first refused to build the engine and then only manufactured it under duress on the proviso that the name plate 'Chaffey's improved Pumping Engine made by Tangye's for Mildura Irrigation Colony' was fixed to the engine. This was in case the engine failed and they were deemed liable for the failure.

Today, the pumps are maintained by a dedicated team of volunteers and are open for inspection to the public. The pumps are fired into action each New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Queens Birthday weekend (Sunday) and the middle Sunday of the Victorian July and September school holidays.

Open: 1pm – 4pm Tues/Thurs, 10.30am – 12.30pm Sun

Psyche Bend Road, Kings Billabong

Telephone: **03 5024 5637**

Website: [www.thechaffeytrail.com.au](http://www.thechaffeytrail.com.au)



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### 7 Langtree Hall Museum (12km from previous point)

The Langtree Hall Museum was Mildura's first public hall built in 1889 and is an important link in Mildura's Heritage. Come and see the great display of historical memorabilia, large collection of international dolls, christening gowns, toys, clothing, embroideries, and an old musical instrument collection.

Reminisce about past, or come and discover it! There's something for all ages at the Langtree Hall Museum.

Open: 2pm – 4pm Wed, Fri, Sat.

79 Walnut Ave, Mildura

Telephone: **03 5021 3090**

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