

Sample itinerary – Farming in the Riverina (three days)

Day 1						
9.30 am	Visit Yanco Agricultural Institute. View research facilities and visit rice history monument.	Established in 1908, Yanco Agricultural Institute has been instrumental in developing many of the plant varieties and farming techniques now used in the Riverina.	800 hectares of which 50% is irrigated alluvial flats and the remainder dry cropping or conservation areas. Used as a Prisoner of War Camp 1942 – 1947.	Talks by researchers or extension officers or administrators with knowledge of current research and related activities at the Institute.		
11.30	Drive to Leeton Visitors' Centre, via irrigation regulator on Regulator Road.	The Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area is fed from the channel we cross. 3,200 farms covering 173,400 hectares (within an area of 660,000 hectares) use water equivalent to 1263 Olympic Swim Pools in 2012 to grow food and fibre.	We will see the extent of the engineering works constituting the MIA when we visit Gogeldrie Weir tomorrow morning.	Talk by Tour Leader		
11.45	Arrive Leeton Visitors' Centre	View videos on MIA and its various food and fibre industries. Browse brochures and retail items		Short talk and Q&A by Tour Leader		
12.45	Lunch					
1.45	Visit Rice Growers' Association HQ	Talk and videos on Riverina Rice Industry by industry experts.		Rice Growers' Association represents 99% of Australia's commercial rice		

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				farmers.		
2.45	Travel to a commercial rice farm	Visit machinery shed and other activity centres, depending upon time of year of your visit.		We visit the homestead farm with visits to nearby operations as weather and time permit. Discuss all aspects of rice farm operations.		
4.00	Travel to cotton gin at Darlington Point or to cotton farm, depending upon seasonal activity and daylight saving.		Gin details: See www.southerncotton.com.au			
5.00	Visit irrigated vegetable farm	Talk by farm owner and/or manager. See operations at time of the year you visit.	Farm details: Specialising in potatoes under spray irrigation, with fat lambs. Typically 100 ha of potatoes plus 800 ha rotated with wheat, barley, oats and fat lambs.			
6.00	To Accommodation in Griffith, Leeton or Narrandera	Please enquire or arrange yourself. Musical entertainment available at cost.	Our recommendations rely on our previous experiences with visiting tour groups, and also our local knowledge about room availability at the time of your intended			

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 RIVERINA

			visit.			
Day 2						
9.00	Visit Gogeldrie Weir Reserve	Talk on history, extent and other details of Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area		Talk by Tour Leader		
10.00	Travel to Griffith					
10.30	Visit vineyard near Yenda	See vineyard operations at the particular time of year you visit.	Farm chosen according to availability of farmer. Typical farm will include winegrapes and another crop (e.g. apricots) or contract harvesting/drying services, and involve roughly 50 ha of vine plantings.	Discuss all aspects of vineyard operations including on-farm and off-farm aspects of the industry.		
11.30	Visit a large winery in the districe	Guided tour of one of the largest wineries in Australia				
12.30	Visit almond orchard	See orchard operations and hear presentation by senior staff	Once a vineyard, this farm switched to almonds almost a decade ago.	Talk covers on-farm and off-farm aspects of the almond industry in the Riverina		
1.30	Lunch Griffith	Range of possibilities depending upon day of week.				
2.30	Visit a prune orchard	Tour orchard and hear presentation.				
3.30	Visit Morella Grove Olive Grove and Oil extraction.					

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TOURS
 RIVERINA

5.00	Return to accommodation in Griffith, Leeton or Narrandera.	Dinner entertainment available at cost.				
Day 3						
9.00	Visit local citrus orchard					
10.00	Visit Pacific Fresh packing sheds	Pacific Fresh sells citrus in domestic and international markets.	See sorting and packing operations. Hear local experts discuss on-orchard and off-orchard aspects of the citrus industry.			
11.00	Visit irrigated large scale maize, soybean, wheat, lucerne or similar farm OR Visit commercial organic-certified farm					
12.30	Visit irrigation equipment retailer	Discussion of changing nature of on-farm irrigation systems.				
1.30	Lunch	Enquire for our recommendations.				
2.30	Visit produce transport company	Discussion of road-based logistics.				
3.15	Visit rural engineering company	Discussion of projects and products supplied.				
3.45	End tour					

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RIVERINA