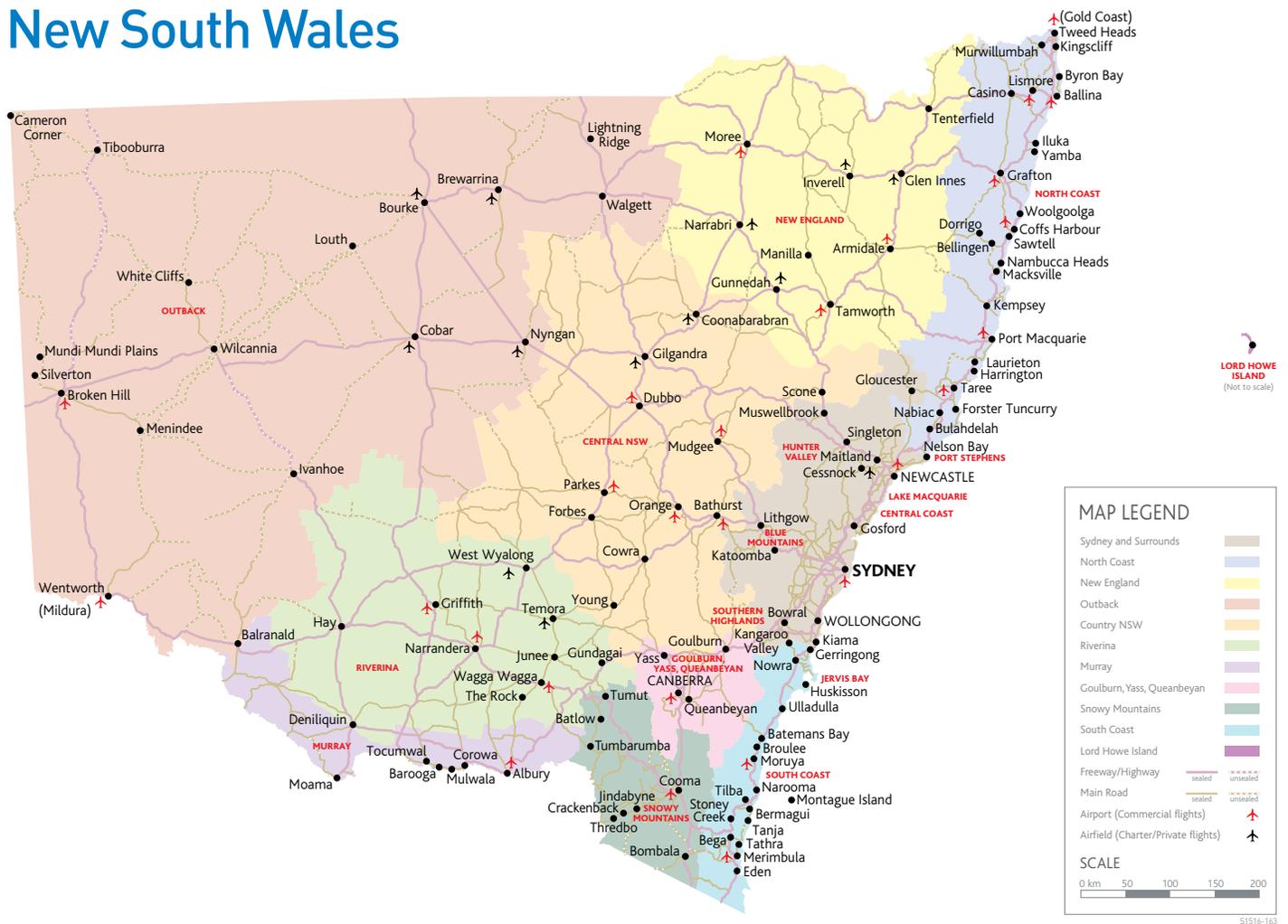




SYDNEY

Destination NSW

New South Wales





SYDNEY
Destination NSW



Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge

Destination NSW

About:

New South Wales is Australia's most diverse state, home to the country's largest and most cosmopolitan city, Sydney. Sydney is a nice compromise between its British heritage and the South Seas attractions because of climate and environment. It is Australia's leading global city and the gateway to Asia and is also one of the world's greenest global, connected cities. It is the destination of choice for international corporations, business leaders, tourists and students.

Sydney hosts the headquarters for almost 40% of the top 500 Australian corporations. It is recognised internationally for its outstanding environmental performance and major cultural events, and as a future-focused and innovative business centre which perhaps makes it the only city in Australia with a genuinely international atmosphere.



SYDNEY

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What to expect:

- Sydney Opera House
- Sydney Harbour Bridge
- Taronga Zoo
- Harley and Motorcycle tours
- Big Bus Sydney
- Oz Jet Boating

Arts and culture:

Sydney Opera House: enjoy a performance or a backstage tour.

Art Gallery of NSW : Discover the stories of Sydney's original Aboriginal inhabitants on a tour or visiting the art gallery for evocative art, attractions.

The International Cricket Hall of Fame: this hall in Bowral is another famous must watch site.

Vivid Sydney: the world's biggest annual festival of light, music and ideas, and includes performances by local and international musicians as well as many other cultural and technological events.

Sydney New Year's Eve: another multi-tiered event held every year to look forward to.



Transport:

A delightful alternative means of transport, the public ferry system, exists for those who live on the shores of the harbour. Special harbour cruises are available for tourists. Sydney also has a light-rail system. The main airport, for both international and domestic traffic, is on the northern shores of Botany Bay, to the south of the city.

- In Australia you must drive on the left side of the road, just like in India.
- When crossing the road, check for traffic on your right first.



SYDNEY

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- You may drive using a foreign (Indian) license, carrying a translation, if it is not in English.
- It is illegal to drive while using a handheld mobile phone. Fines apply.
- Seatbelt and child restraints (up to 7 years old) must be used at all times.
- Speed limits are strictly enforced, and are much lower on roads with schools, hospitals and houses.
- It is illegal to drive if your blood alcohol is 0.05% or higher.



Harley Davidson Tour, Illawarra

James Horan, Destination NSW

Food and Wine:

Hotel and motel accommodations and restaurants are found throughout the city, though they are especially numerous in central Sydney and the Kings Cross area, to the east of the central business district. It is possible to find different kinds of restaurants offering almost every kind of international cooking, though Sydney's famous oysters are among the most popular dishes. Categories like gourmet dining, casual dining, cafés and bars, fresh produce, pubs and breweries, waterside dining are a few to mention.

Climate:

A temperate climate makes NSW the perfect travel destination all year, but unusual weather conditions may occur at times. Always plan your trip carefully in advance and check weather conditions in the area you are travelling to. Seasons in Australia are opposite to those in the northern hemisphere. Summer is from December to February, with an average maximum temperature of 26C (79F). The coolest months are June to August, during which daytime temperatures rarely fall below 7C (45F).

National emergency services:

The national phone number for all emergency services in Australia, including ambulance, fire and police, is 000.

You can dial Triple Zero within Australia from any fixed line, mobile phone, pay phone and certain Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services. If you have a GSM digital mobile phone, you can also dial the international standard emergency number 112.



SYDNEY
Destination NSW

ITINERARY 1

GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS DRIVE



The Three Sisters, Blue Mountains

Destination NSW

About:

The breathtaking Katoomba area lies at the heart of the Blue Mountain's natural wonders. This area is also an ideal base for experiencing the region's adventure activities. Stop at Katoomba for Scenic World's railway, cable car, skyway and walkway for views of the famous Three Sisters rock formation. Scenic World's railway will plunge you into ancient rainforest.



Sydney-Katoomba-Lithgow-Capertee-Mudgee-Upper Hunter-Hawkesbury River-Southern Highlands-Mount Tomah-Sydney



SYDNEY

Destination NSW

From here you can tailor your adventure to include national parks, cool-climate gardens, historic buildings, activities such as rock climbing and bushwalking. Stop at cellar doors to sample local wines and buy fresh local produce at farm gates from the Upper Hunter, to Mudgee, Goulburn, the Southern Highlands and the Hawkesbury.



Fitzroy Falls, Wingecarribee Shire

Destination Southern Highlands

The Blue Mountains is a magical place at any time of the year. Glowing in autumn, cool in winter, colourful in spring and refreshing in summer, it has plenty to offer. The Greater Blue Mountains was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000 and was one of 15 World Heritage places included in the National Heritage List on May 21, 2007.

The route:

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage area includes some of the most significant national parks and conservation areas in Australia.

There are 18 beautiful trips that branch off the main route, which runs through scenic vistas towards Lithgow.

To look forward to:

- There are numerous exhilarating activities on offer in the mountains, from rock climbing. You can even participate in a challenging three-day hike that offers some exciting activities.
- A range of accommodation options are available if you plan to spend more than a day exploring the Blue Mountains. Shopping for arts and crafts at galleries in pretty mountain villages such as Leura is a popular pastime. There are excellent restaurants in the mountains such as Darley's Restaurant at Lilianfels and Tomah Gardens Restaurant in the Blue Mountains Botanic Gardens.

Must do's:

- Visit Echo Point Lookout
- Experience breathtaking Scenic World
- Visit the Waradah Australian Centre
- Devonshire tea at the Carrington Hotel
- Treat yourself at Blue Mountains Chocolate Co
- Glow Worm Tunnel, Newnes Plateau
- Riding at Centennial Glen Stables
- Birdwatching, Capertee Valley
- Visit Mudgee cellar doors on a tour
- Enjoy a beer at Mudgee Brewing Co.
- Celebrate at Mudgee Wine Festival
- Stargaze at Mudgee Observatory
- See the Max Watters art collection
- Browse Denman Farmers Market
- Visit the ancient Burning Mountain



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- Enjoy the Scone Horse Festival
- Go Fishing at splendid Lake Glenbawn
- Wander the Windsor Heritage Walk
- Explore the Old Great North Road
- Go Kayaking on the Hawkesbury River
- Treetops adventure with the kids
- Discover the Harvest Farm Gate Trail
- Enjoy the Tulip Time Festival
- Visit Mayfield Gardens
- Explore the Cricket Hall of Fame
- See the magnificent Fitzroy Falls

More Sights to see:

- Great Canyon track
- The three sisters
- Blue Mountains National Park
- Leura Cascades
- Eskbank House Museum
- Hassans Walls Lookout
- Capertee National Park
- Glen Davis Ruins
- Orange
- Roth's Wine bar
- Mudgee brewing co
- Wollemi National Park
- The Zin house
- Pukara Estate Belmore hotel

Climate:

- The climate of the Blue Mountains is somewhat more temperate than the lower Sydney region. There is generally a 2 °C drop in temperature every 300 metres increase in altitude. Therefore with Mount Victoria being over 1,000 metres above Sea Level, you would expect the temperature to be around 7 °C lower than Sydney.
- The Blue Mountains has a similar rainfall to Sydney.
- The Blue Mountains generally has a reputation for snow in winter, however, despite the cool temperatures there are only around 5 snow days per year in the upper mountains.



Mayfield Garden, Oberon

Destination NSW

- Visit Berrima's convict-built Pub
- Lovers walking track in Bundanoon

- James Estate Winery
- Two rivers wines
- Hunter belle cheese factory & cafe
- Hawkesbury kayaks
- Berowra waters marina
- Hawkesbury harvest farm gate trail
- Old great north road world heritage walk
- Surveyor general inn
- Fitzroy falls
- Bradman Museum & International Cricket Hall of Fame
- Tulip time festival
- Goulburn
- The potager



SYDNEY
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ITINERARY 2 NSW FOOD AND WINE TRAIL

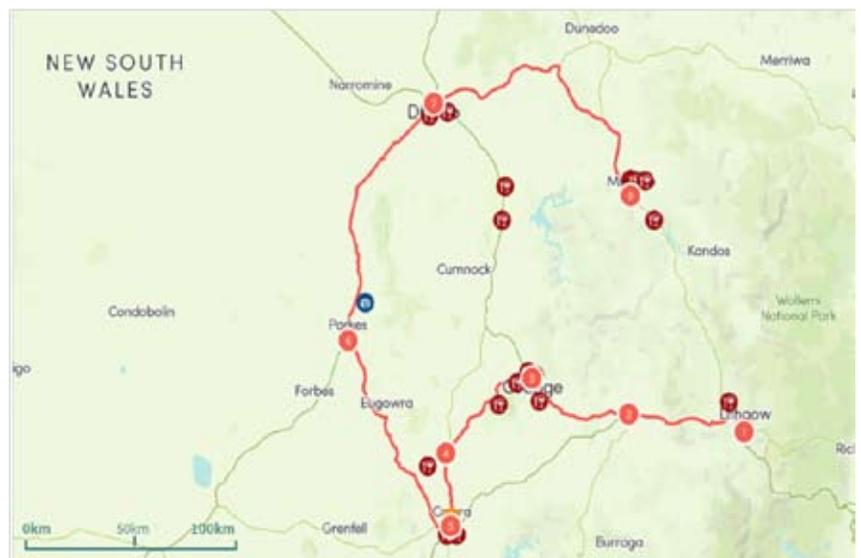


Lazy River Estate, Dubbo

Destination NSW

About:

NSW Food and Wine Trail is an itinerary that delivers gourmet creations, fresh local produce and beautiful natural attractions. Discover wonderful wineries, thriving orchards and delicious farm tours at your leisure, as you tour the heritage towns and villages on this wonderful route.



Sydney – Lithgow – Orange – Cowra – Dubbo – Mudgee - Sydney



SYDNEY
Destination NSW



Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo

Destination NSW



Cargo Road Wines Gallery & Cafe, Orange

Destination NSW

The route:

The drive from Orange to Mudgee takes you through wonderful countryside, rich with vineyards and World Heritage wilderness.

Winemaking in the region dates back to the 1850s. The temperate climate allows for the slow ripening of grapes, producing wines of intensity, depth and flavour.

To look forward to:

Mudgee is the quintessential Australian country town with a reputation for amazing vines and wines. The streets are wide, the pace relaxed and the people friendly. The solid red-brick civic buildings dating from the mid 1800s look as grand today as they did when they were built. And there are no traffic lights. Surely, this is the perfect recipe for slowing down. To get there, drive northwest of Sydney towards the magnificent Hawkesbury River and over the Blue Mountains through prime agricultural land that has a long and proud tradition of being Sydney's salad bowl.

In Orange and Mudgee you'll enjoy wine tasting at cellar doors of acclaimed wineries and dining at quality restaurants. Drive through gorgeous scenery, olive groves and orchards and vineyards. Stop in Canowindra where you can take a stroll on the heritage-listed main street on the banks of the beautiful Belubula River.



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Destination NSW

Must do's:

- Glow Worm Tunnel, Newnes Plateau
- Riding at Centennial Glen Stables
- Birdwatching, Capertee Valley
- Picnic at Lake Canobolas Reserve
- Visit the Orange Regional Gallery
- Explore the Orange Heritage Trail
- Browse Orange Farmers Market
- Get tourism tips when in Orange
- Explore the Age of Fishes Museum
- Browse in Canowindra Trading Post
- Enjoy the Balloon Festival Spectacle
- Join a colonial Bush-Ranger tour
- Sunrise with Balloon Joy Flights
- Relax in the Japanese Garden
- Wyangal Dam for fun water sports
- Explore the Cowra wine region
- All aboard at Lachlan Valley Railway
- Visit the Prisoner of War Camp Site
- Visit the CSIRO Parkes telescope
- Explore the Henry Parkes Centre
- Fun at the iconic Elvis Festival



Taronga Western Plains Zoo

Destination NSW



Mudgee Brewing Company

Evolving Images, Destination NSW

- Savour lunch at The Dish Cafe
- Drinks at heritage Trundle Hotel
- Visit Taronga Western Plains Zoo:
 - Lion Pride Lands
 - Night Safari (overnight accommodation is available)
- Tour the intriguing Old Dubbo Gaol
- The Western Plains Cultural Centre
- Show at the Dubbo Regional Theatre
- Browse gifts at the Riverside Markets
- Visit Mudgee Cellar Doors on a tour
- Enjoy a beer at Mudgee Brewing Co.
- Celebrate at Mudgee wine festival
- Stargaze at Mudgee Observatory



More Sights to see:

- Jannei Artisan Cheese Makers
- Secret Creek Cafe
- Orange Farmers Markets
- Huntley Berry Farm
- Lolli Redini
- Mandagery Creek Venison
- Racine
- Orange Wine Festival
- The Agrestic Grocer
- Orange F.O.O.D. Week
- Rosnay Organic Farm and Vineyard
- Royal Hotel Canowindra
- Cowra Wine Show Public Tasting
- Cowra Heritage Walk
- Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre
- The Quarry
- Japanese and Australian War Cemeteries
- Kalari Wines
- CSIRO Parkes Radio Telescope
- Red Earth Estate

Climate:

- The climate is warm and temperate in Mudgee. There is a great deal of rainfall in Mudgee, even in the driest month. The average annual temperature is 15.3 °C in Mudgee. The rainfall here averages 717 mm.
- The climate in Lithgow is warm and temperate. The rainfall in Lithgow is significant, with precipitation even during the driest month. The average annual temperature is 12.2 °C in Lithgow. The average annual rainfall is 908 mm.
- Dubbo's climate is classified as warm and temperate. There is a great deal of rainfall in Dubbo, even in the driest month. The average annual temperature is 17.2 °C in Dubbo. The average annual rainfall is 639 mm.
- The climate is warm and temperate in Cowra. Cowra is a city with a significant rainfall. Even in the driest month there is a lot of rain. The average temperature in Cowra is 15.5 °C. Precipitation here averages 635 mm.



Mudgee Food + Wine Festival 2018, Mudgee

Destination NSW

- Hermitage Hill
- Bell River Estate
- The Grange at Hermitage Hill
- Tombstone Estate Vineyard
- Logan Wines
- The Zin House
- Mudgee Brewing Company
- Robert Oatley Vineyards
- Mudgee Wine and Food Festival
- Lowe Wines
- Robert Stein Winery
- Mudgee Farm Walks



SYDNEY
Destination NSW

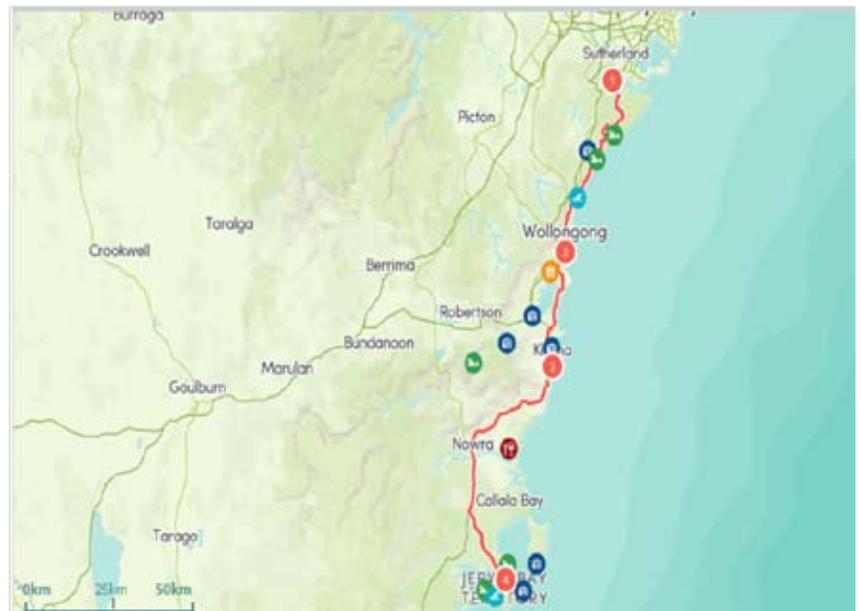
ITINERARY 3 THE GRAND PACIFIC DRIVE

About:

The Grand Pacific Drive is one of Australia's most spectacular driving routes. Starting from The Royal National Park in the south of Sydney, this route takes you through rainforests and seaside villages as you follow the exquisite coastline.

The route:

Take your vehicle on the Grand Pacific Drive to get to popular destinations in Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and to the edge of the Shoalhaven region. A good way to explore the South Coast is to rent a campervan and drive on well-maintained roads, staying overnight at caravan parks and campgrounds.



Sydney-Wollongong-Kiama-Bowral-Sydney



Coffs Harbour, North Coast



SYDNEY
Destination NSW



Honeymoon Bay, Jervis Bay



Dolphin Marine Magic, Coffs Harbour

To look forward to:

Traversing the iconic 665 meter Sea Cliff Bridge, The Grand Pacific Drive makes its way into the beautiful city of Wollongong, offering an abundance of adventure activities, great beaches and shopping, fantastic local restaurants and cafes, golf courses, art and culture and much more.

Discover the beautiful Kiama region and its famous blowhole, magnificent coastal walks, beautiful rainforest trails and pristine beaches. You'll find many more wonderful attractions, such as sliding on giant water rides, soaring on Australia's highest zip-line and playing golf at breathtaking locations.

From the majestic coastline to the green hinterland, the Shoalhaven region of NSW is a popular holiday destination with magnificent beaches, spectacular national parks and memorable animal encounters.

The rugged coastline offers adventures such as swimming with seals and deep-sea fishing, as well as coastal walks and surfing. The shoreline is blessed with powdery white beaches and the crystal-clear waters are ideal for scuba diving, snorkelling and swimming.

The Grand Pacific Drive winds through the Royal National Park, in Sydney's south, to where hang-gliders soar at Stanwell Park's Bald Hill. Follow the coast to drive over the dramatic Sea Cliff Bridge and on to Wollongong, NSW's third-largest city. In between Shell harbour and Kiama, you'll discover some of Australia's best surf beaches.

Seaside towns and fishing villages along the South Coast have a range of places to stay and restaurants specialise in serving local seafood, especially oysters. Fertile soils inland support rainforests, dairy farms



SYDNEY

Destination NSW

and vineyards. Whale watching and Aboriginal cultural tours are popular along the coast.

At beautiful Jervis Bay, relax on the fine white sands at Hyams Beach and go dolphin and whale watching with Jervis Bay Wild Cruises or Dolphin Watch Cruises Jervis Bay, both based at Huskisson. Further South, near Narooma, dive with seals and join a conservation tour in the Montague Island Nature Reserve and in Eden is the fascinating killer whale museum.

Discover the charms of Bowral from vivid tulips and splendid gardens to vineyards, wineries, delicious restaurants and cricket legends. Only 90 minutes' drive from Sydney, this delightful Southern Highlands town is the perfect country escape. You can also travel by train to Bowral.

You'll find a wonderful variety of things to do and see like the Bradman Museum and International Cricket Hall of Fame. Corbett Gardens is another great place to see and is also the centrepiece of the annual Tulip Time



International Cricket Hall of Fame, Bowral

Dee Kramer Photography



Beach Cove, Belmore Basin, Wollongong

Destination NSW

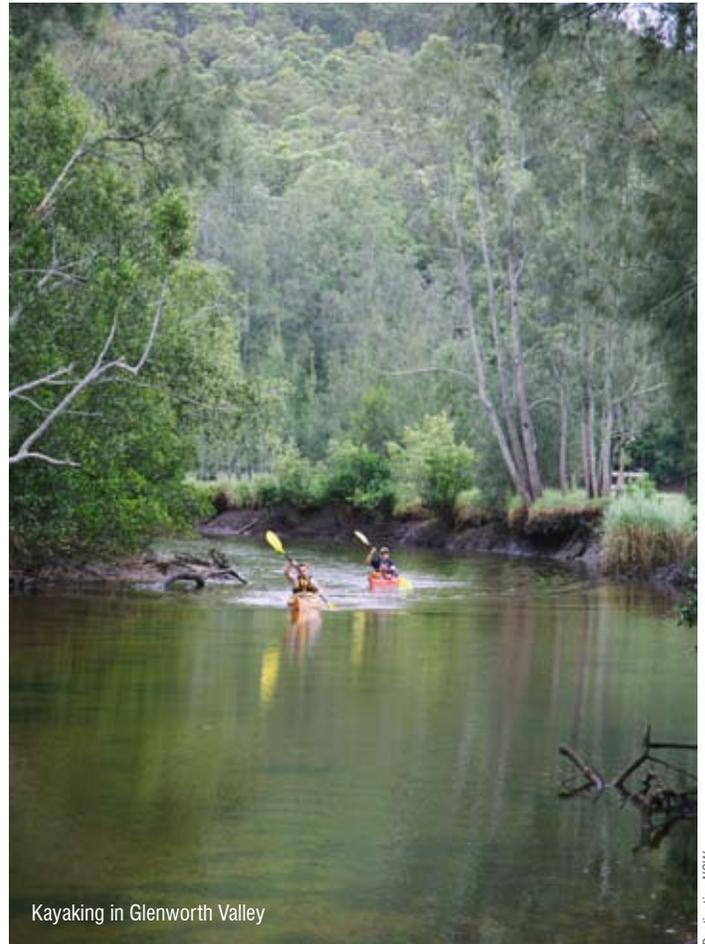
Festival in September. More than 100,000 brightly coloured tulips bloom here. This beautiful park is enchanting at any time of the year, with its seasonal colours. For more spectacular views of the town and beyond one must visit the Bowral Lookout.



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Must do's:

- Cruise with Jervis Bay Wild
- Dolphin Watch Cruises Jervis Bay
- Luxury Camping at Paperbark
- South Coast's best surf beaches
- Grand Pacific Drive road trip
- Beer tasting at Illawarra Brewery
- Skydiving over the gorgeous Coast
- South of Sydney you'll discover uncrowded Beaches, Marine and National Parks
- Soar on Australia's highest Zip-Line
- Stay at Surf Camp Australia
- Visit the South Coast's best surf
- Visit the Symbio Wildlife Park



Kayaking in Glenworth Valley

Destination NSW

More sights to see:

- Bald Hill Lookout
- Governor Game Lookout
- Austinmer Beach
- Belmore Basin
- Nan Tien Temple
- Coolangatta Estate
- HARS Aviation Museum
- Kiama Blowhole
- Kiama Golf Club
- Kangaroo River
- Illawarra Fly Treetop Adventures
- Point Perpendicular Lighthouse
- Cave Beach
- Jervis Bay Marine Park
- Cape St George Lighthouse
- Booderee National Park

Climate:

Summer is a lovely season for enjoying sunshine and partaking in water sports and other activities, but bear in mind that this is a popular season, too, and therefore quite busy with tourists. Many visitors to Jervis Bay prefer visiting in the winter months, when things are quieter. The mild temperatures make it a great time to be outdoors, and with a few layers, you'll feel great as you explore.



SYDNEY
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ITINERARY 4 HUNTER VALLEY DRIVE



Coast XP Tours, Newcastle

Scott Harrison, Daily Salt

About:

The Hunter Valley is one of Australia's main wine-producing areas, noted for its outstanding scenery and quaint villages. You'll find it north of Sydney and just west of Newcastle and Port Stephens in a region that is easy to reach and comes with distinct seasons and many national parks. Port Stephens is an idyllic destination north of Sydney. The area is famous for its resident bottlenose dolphins, crystal-clear waters and towering sand dunes. It has 26 sandy beaches, a vast blue bay and many beautiful inlets. A popular Central Coast attraction is pelican feeding time at Pelican Plaza, The Entrance. With



Sydney- Hunter Valley - Port Stephens – Central Coast - Sydney



SYDNEY

Destination NSW

wing spans up to 2.8 metres, Australia's largest water birds flock to the plaza at 3.30pm each afternoon. The Entrance, which is surrounded by lagoons, lakes and beaches, is less than two hours' drive from Sydney.

The route:

- The Hunter Valley (Cessnock) is about 160kms from Sydney. It takes about 2 hours to drive to The Hunter Valley (Cessnock) from Sydney.
- The most direct drive north from Sydney is two hours via the M1 motorway, following the Cessnock/ Hunter Valley Vineyards exit sign to Cessnock.
- For a scenic road trip, take the Calga exit on the M1 for Tourist Drive 33 to historic Wollombi in the Hunter Valley. You can stop at the Australia Walkabout Wildlife Park on the way and explore the colonial heritage of the convict-built Great North Road, which linked Sydney to the Hunter Valley.
- Wine tours will help you explore the delights in the region.
- Car rentals are available for the easy drive to the vineyards – Pokolbin is 50 minutes away. Golf and dining packages, are available too from Sydney to the valley.



Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo

Destination NSW

To look forward to:

- You can also visit the wineries directly and learn more about wine at the Hunter Valley Wine School or Wine Theatre. Rent a bicycle, or hop on a motorcycle with Wild Ride Australia, to visit the wineries. For bird's-eye views, float above the vineyards with Balloon Aloft.
- Golf in the vineyards is another popular activity. Tee off at the Greg Norman-designed championship course at The Vintage. The Hunter Valley Wine and Food Festival in May and June celebrates the region's delicious wines and fresh produce, including fruit, cheese, olive oil, chocolate and beef.
- Home to around 150 bottlenose dolphins, Ports Stephens has plenty of dolphin-watching cruises departing from Nelson Bay. You can also swim with the playful marine mammals on a Dolphin Swim Australia tour. Whale watching is popular during the annual migration between May and November. You can enjoy water sports such as diving and snorkelling, swimming and surfing, and sailing and kayaking.
- Other things to do include quad-biking with Sand Dune Adventures and Quad Bike King, sand-boarding on the Southern Hemisphere's largest moving coastal sand dunes, and horse riding on the beach.
- One of Australia's unique experiences is to be found at the Irakundji Shark and Ray Centre, where



SYDNEY

Destination NSW

you get up close and personal with domesticated sharks and stingrays and learn that they aren't really the terrifying sea creatures that they're usually made out to be. A truly enlightening experience.

- Near Gosford, the Central Coast's main business and shopping centre, is the Australian Walkabout Wildlife Park. You can stay overnight in a cabin among the native animals. Nearby is the Australian Reptile Park, where demonstrations of snake handling and milking funnel-web spiders of their venom, astonish visitors. Villages on the Central Coast, such as Pearl Beach, Ettalong Beach, Patonga, Avoca and Terrigal, offer a range of activities. Swimming, fishing and surfing are always popular. For a bird's-eye view, tour the area with Coast Helicopters.
- On walking trails, discover beautiful Somersby Falls and native birdlife in Brisbane Water National Park. Relax on the secluded beaches of Bouddi National Park. For horse riding, quad bike riding and kayaking, Glenworth Valley Outdoor Adventures is just an hour's drive from Sydney



Fingal Spit, Port Stephens

Destination NSW

Must do's:

- Valley panoramas with Balloon Aloft
- Visit Cellar Doors with a Winemaker
- Learn more about grapes and vines
- Visit the Audrey Wilkinson Vineyard
- Enjoy a day spa at Château Élan
- Swim with Bottlenose dolphins
- Parasail over sparkling blue waters
- Beer tasting at Murray's brewery
- Horse riding in Glenworth Valley
- Meet Elvis, the cranky crocodile
- Stay the night at a Wildlife Park
- Ride the world's longest zip-line
- Irakundji Shark & Ray Centre
- Quad biking in Port Stephens

Climate:

During summers, roughly from December to February, temperatures generally remain at a pleasant average of 21 °C while in winter, temperatures drop to approximately 18 °C. At its coldest, the Hunter Valley can drop to temperatures of just 4 degrees Celsius but rarely gets any cooler than this.

Autumn goes from March to May and is a few degrees cooler and also a fair bit drier. The springtime is similar both for rainfall and temperatures, while the June to August winter sees pleasant days of around 18 °C to 20 °C. Temperatures do drop quite a lot at night, though, sometimes as low as 5 °C, so be sure to pack a jacket. The autumn is one of the best times to be here, after the harvest. There are fewer people, meaning cheaper hotels, and it is not as hot as the previous months.



SYDNEY
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ITINERARY 5

LEGENDARY PACIFIC COAST

About:

This spectacular drive takes in the Central Coast, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Coffs Harbour, Byron Bay and the Tweed Area. This beautiful Northern Rivers region is also acclaimed for its natural beauty, as well as its creative communities and fresh produce. For those seeking respite in nature, meditative renewal or a surfing paradise, the region is a marvellous destination.



Sydney - Lake Macquarie Area – Newcastle- Port Stephens- Port Macquarie- South West Rocks- Coffs Harbour- Byron Bay-Tweed Heads - Sydney



Mount Warning

The Legendary Pacific Coast



SYDNEY

Destination NSW

The Central Coast and Port Stephens regions are known for wonderful beaches and beautiful sheltered bays, perfect for families and for activities like swimming, snorkelling and kayaking. The ocean beaches here are sublime and great for surfing and beach walks.

The route:

Discover the natural beauty, incredible wildlife and rich heritage of the North Coast of NSW, Australia. Relax on uncrowded beaches, go kayaking with dolphins and whales, explore the striking volcanic hinterland, walk in the UNESCO World Heritage rainforest, and savour freshly caught seafood.



Newcastle is NSW's second-largest city. Enjoy a vibrant cultural scene and Merewether Beach, one of several iconic National Surfing Reserves on the North Coast. The heritage is intriguing, too. Fort Scratchley is Australia's only coastal fortification to fire upon a World War II enemy naval vessel.

The Coffs Coast is another adventure paradise and home of the Big Banana, one of Australia's iconic 'big things'. Go snorkelling in the Solitary Islands Marine Park with its Jetty Dive Centre. Nearby is the World Heritage-listed Dorrigo National Park, where the Skywalk takes you above rainforest canopy.

Byron Bay is Australia's eastern-most point, and when you take in the spectacular, magical sunrise at dawn at the iconic Byron Bay lighthouse on Cape Byron, you'll be the first person in all Australia to see it.

Accommodation options suit various budgets, from camping and caravanning in beachside holiday parks and national parks to beach houses, hotels, luxury resorts and hinterland retreats. When planning your holiday, check out the eclectic events calendar for festivals, markets and shows. Getting to the North Coast is easy by road, rail or air. The Legendary Pacific Drive is a magnificent touring route between Sydney and Tweed Heads, winding past national parks and state forests as well as towns, villages and stunning beaches.

To look forward to:

You'll find wonderful things to do and see all along the coast, such as the sea caves at Caves Beach or Port Stephens' dolphins. In Greater Port Macquarie is the Koala Hospital and Timbertown, a heritage theme park. There are national parks to explore and pretty beachside reserves for family picnics.



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Whale watching is popular between May and November. Vantage points are dotted along the beautifully rugged coastline, or get up close on a boat cruise. The commonest encounters are humpbacks, the stars of the annual migration because they leap out of the water and roll in the air.



Jeffrey Drevitz, Destination NSW

There are many more outdoor adventures, from bushwalking to kayaking on wild rivers in the Clarence Valley, diving with grey nurse sharks off South West Rocks, surfing world-famous point breaks and skydiving. In Byron Bay enjoy the thrill of kayaking near whales, dolphins and turtles.

Must dos:

- Explore the Caves Beach sea caves
- Join in the celebrations at Lakefest
- Sculpture Park at the art gallery
- Discover Catherine Hill Bay heritage
- Wander on the Coastal walking track
- Explore the spectacular Bathurst Way
- Relax on famous Merewether Beach
- Enjoy the Newcastle Art Gallery
- Discover Fort Scratchley's tunnels
- Ocean adventure with CoastXP
- Dolphin, Whale and Sand Dunes tours
- Walk to the Tomaree Head summit
- Little Beach Boathouse dining deck
- Aboriginal-guided quad Bike Dunes tour
- Spot Koalas in the Tilligerry Habitat
- Whale watching in Port Macquarie
- Daily tour of the Koala Hospital
- Taste delicious food and wine
- See a show at the Glasshouse
- Enjoy waterskiing at Stoney Park
- Explore historic Trial Bay Gaol
- Visit the Smoky Cape Lighthouse
- Picnic at Horseshoe Bay Beach
- South West Rocks Dive Centre tour
- Fish Rock Dive Centre tour
- Forest Sky Pier at Sealy Lookout
- Visit the iconic Big Banana
- Picnic at gorgeous Jetty Beach
- Breakwater walk to Muttonbird Island
- Meet the Dolphins at Marine Magic
- Join Stellar Beach Bike Tours
- Swim at Byron's Main Beach
- Visit Cape Byron Headland and watch the sunrise at the Lighthouse
- Enjoy the annual Bluesfest
- Cool drinks at Beach Hotel
- Spot whales from Point Danger
- Rainforest cruise with Tweed Eco
- Trap mud crabs with Catch a Crab
- Explore the Walk on Water track
- Ride waves at pretty Duranbah Beach



SYDNEY
Destination NSW

More sights to see:

- Jetbuzz Watersports
- Lake Mac Kayak and Bike Hire
- Catherine Hill Bay Beach
- Blacksmiths Beach
- Caves Beach
- Merewether Beach
- Treetops Newcastle
- Great Lakes
- Nelson Bay
- Myall Lakes
- Shoal Bay
- Koala Hospital
- Billabong Zoo
- Smoky Cape Lighthouse
- Arakoon National Park
- Hat Head National Park
- Trial Bay Gaol
- Smoky Cape Walking Track
- Jetty Dive Centre
- Dorrigo National Park
- The Big Banana
- Solitary Islands Marine Park
- Muttonbird Island Nature Reserve
- Solitary Islands Aquarium

Climate:

The climate in Tweed Heads is warm and temperate. There is a great deal of rainfall in Tweed Heads, even in the driest month. The temperature here averages 19.8 °C. In a year, the average rainfall is 1662 mm.

- Coffs Harbour Butterfly House
- Byron Bay Whale Watching
- Cape Byron Marine Park
- Sundive Byron Bay
- Minyon Falls
- Blue Bay Divers
- Bundjalung National Park
- Boyds Bay Houseboat
- Tweed Eco Cruises
- Catch a Crab



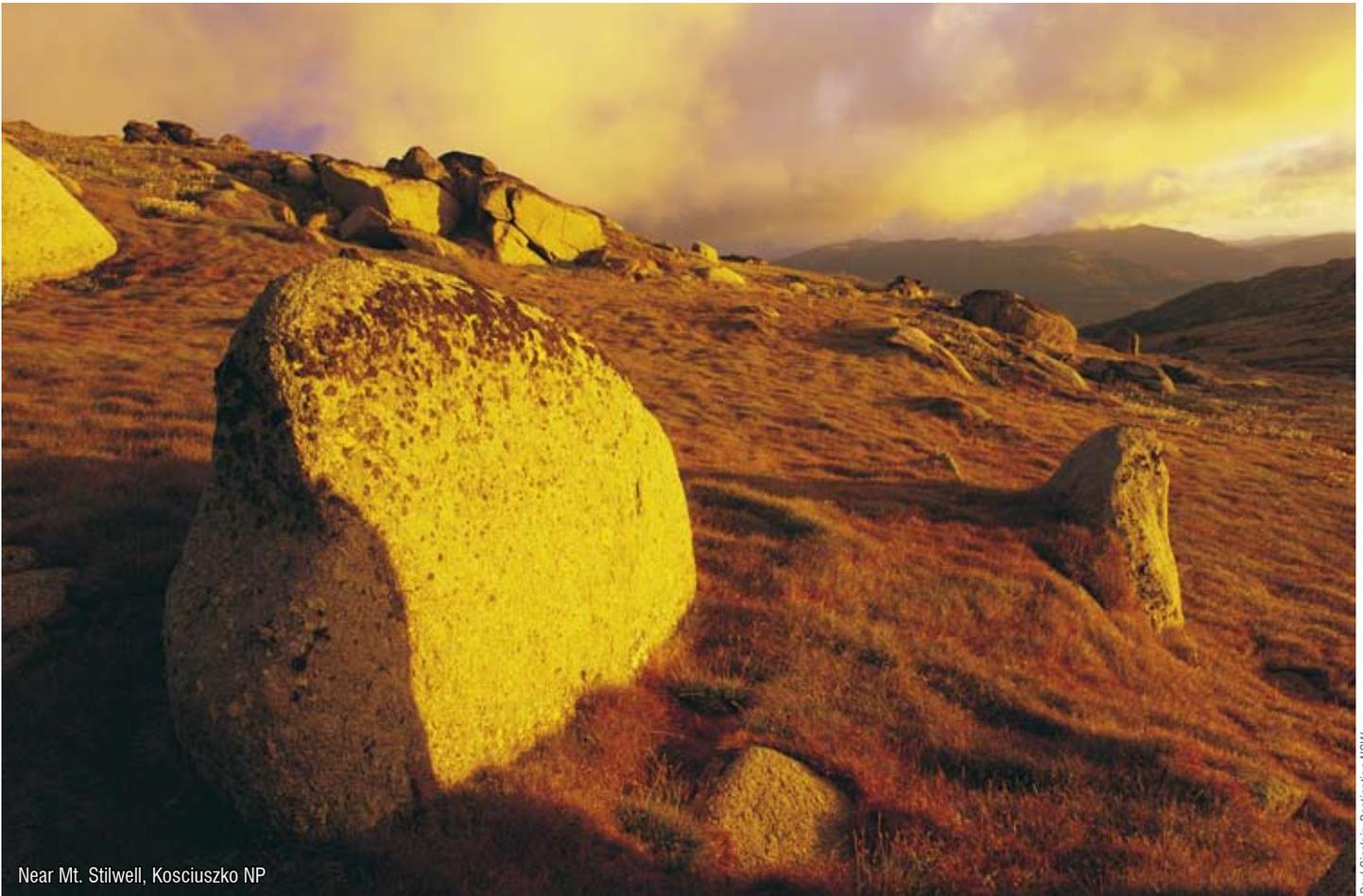
Smoky Cape Lighthouse, South West Rocks

Image Courtesy of Kempsey Shire Council



SYDNEY
Destination NSW

ITINERARY 6 THE SNOWIES



Near Mt. Stilwell, Kosciuszko NP

Paul Sinclair, Destination NSW

About:

Australia's highest peak Mount Kosciuszko is in the Snowy Mountains also called the Snowies, where there's thrilling downhill skiing and snowboarding during the snow season. Lively towns and resorts are also popular destinations in warmer months for hiking, horse riding, kayaking and fishing.



Sydney – Snowy Mountains- Sydney



SYDNEY
Destination NSW

The route:

The Snowy Valleys Way is a popular driving route in the region. Travel from Sydney by your vehicle to the Snowy Mountains. You can also fly from Sydney to Canberra, where you can rent a car.

To look forward to:

The Snowy Mountains are a great destination out of the ski season with trails to suit walkers of all abilities. There's trout fishing in beautiful mountain lakes and rivers, or you can go horse riding along mountains tracks with operators such as Snowy River Horseback Adventure.

Skiing trips depart Sydney in the snow season, which runs from June to October, with July and August the most popular. There's ski school for children and adult beginners, and exhilarating runs for advanced skiers and snowboarders. You can rent skis, snowboards, boots and all other equipment.

Must do's:

- Tours with K7 Adventures
- Horse riding in mountain ranges
- Enjoy Fishing and Horse riding
- Crack a whip at Boggy Creek Show

Climate:

The best time to visit the Snowy Mountains for the weather is July and August. They are the coldest months, during which snow is most likely to fall. The alpine climate is characterised by cool, crisp air. Temperatures average from minus 6 °C in July and 21 °C in January. The cool evenings experienced throughout most of the year, mean it's wise to rug up at night. From the June long weekend until the October long weekend:

- Many minor roads will be closed.
- Some major roads will be closed, for example the Cabramurra - Khancoban road, and the Kosciuszko Road from Perisher Valley to Charlotte Pass.
- Drivers must carry snow chains when travelling in Kosciuszko National Park in winter. This applies only to two-wheel-drive vehicles.



Thredbo, Snowy Mountains

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