

Sydney - Brisbane Rainforest, Beach & Wildlife

9 Days/8 Nights

The Rainforest, Beach and Wildlife self-drive has been created to highlight the very best of Australia in only 9 days. The drive takes you through the scenic backcountry of the New South Wales Central Coast, over high mountain ranges and along the stunning coastline.

This all-encompassing itinerary will have you sipping wine in Australia's oldest wine region, spotting Kangaroo's, Koala's and other native Australian wildlife in the National Parks and lazing on some of the most pristine golden beaches.





Sydney and Hunter Valley

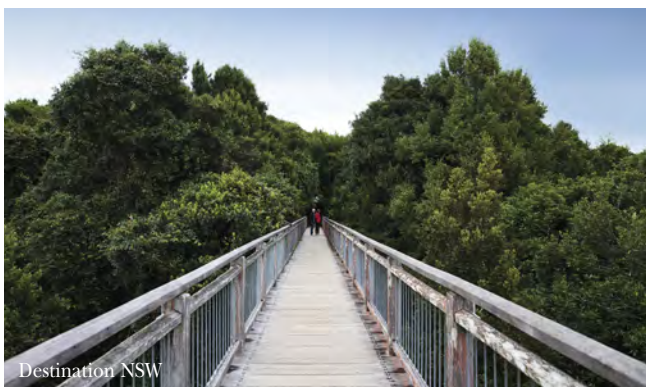
Set around the world's largest natural harbour, Sydney is the most well-known of Australia's cities featuring the iconic Opera House and Harbour Bridge. It is a city of contrasts - thriving urban metropolis with a vibrant art and culture scene, but also home to gorgeous beaches with a relaxed vibe.

Just a two hours' drive away, discover Australia's oldest wine region and taste some of the best wines at cellar doors of Pokolbin, Lovedale and Broke. The Hunter region not only encompasses rolling vineyards and olive groves. Enjoy delicious food, balloon rides, and explore historic towns.



New South Wales National Parks

Immerse yourself in beautiful World Heritage rainforest at Barrington Tops and Durrigo National Park. Walks of any length take you through ancient forests, to beautiful picnic spots and breathtaking lookouts that make you feel miles away from it all. The National Parks also provide protection for a vast number of flora and fauna, as well as a home to a wide variety of animals and birds.



Travel the Legendary Pacific Coast

Heading north from Sydney along the Pacific Ocean coastline, this scenic drive takes you through some of the most striking landscapes in NSW. An almost continuous line of surf beaches, national parks and a hinterland of rolling green hills and friendly villages make this a great drive and you will have time to explore Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour and Byron Bay along the way.



James Horan



Gold Coast and Green Hinterland

Venture into the Gold Coast's endless playground. Choose from 42 golden beaches, visit one of the theme parks, or cuddle a koala at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. Providing the green behind the Gold, Tamborine Mountain is a beautiful lush green mountain plateau; a secret hideaway for Australia's city dwellers and your home for one night.



THE REST AUSTRALIA PROMISE

- Comprehensive travel manual to guide you step by step through the country
- Daily tips from our experienced team
- Discover the real Australia that others don't get to see



**REST AU
TOURS**

Sydney - Brisbane Rainforest, Beach & Wildlife

9 Days/8 Nights

Day 1: Sydney

On arrival at Sydney airport transfer to your accommodation where you will receive your travel documents. We recommend you stretch your legs with a walk around Sydney's Botanical Gardens and along the harbour foreshore taking in the sights of the Opera House and the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Day 2: Sydney – Cessnock – Hunter Valley

Approximate driving time 3 hours, 186 km

Pick up your rental car from the city office and drive north towards Newcastle. Just shortly after setting off, one of today's highlights will be driving over the world famous Sydney Harbour Bridge. Take in the majestic view as you approach this iconic structure. Continue north through Sydney's suburbs before leaving the motorway and taking the scenic drive through the rolling hills and green pastures of NSW's rural and wine country.

Visit the Hunter Valley gardens nestled in the heart of the Hunter vineyards. With over 60 acres of spectacular international displays the gardens will amaze you. Spend the afternoon visiting the cellar doors and sampling the local wines, cheeses and chocolates - if you want on a self-guided cycling tour fun for all ages (optional). Late in the afternoon relax over a fine wine watch for playful Kangaroos amongst the vines.

Day 3: Hunter Valley – Barrington Tops National Park – Taree Region

Approximate driving time 5.5 hours, 318 km – (approx. 60 km of unsealed roads)

Start today with an enchanting hot air balloon ride over the vines followed by a champagne breakfast (optional). In the cool morning air, expect to see an abundance of

native wildlife.

Today's drive will take you through the breath-taking Barrington Tops National Park, regarded as one of the beautiful in all of Australia. Your journey will travel inland past Musswelbrook before turning eastwards and traversing through the National Park. Devils Hole, Thunderbolts Lookout Track and other short walks make the day truly unforgettable.

Finish the day in the beautiful country setting of the Eastern foothills of Barrington Tops National Park.

Day 4: Taree Region – Port Macquarie – South West Rocks – Bellingen

Approximate driving time 3.5 hours, 261 km

Leaving the foothills and continue following the coastal Pacific Highway northbound. Visit the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie en-route and learn more about our cuddly friends, their lifestyle and habitat. Continue onto the seaside town of South West Rocks with its stunning crescent shaped beach before ending today at the base of Dorrig National Park.

For the next 2 nights stay in the picturesque village of Bellingen. Set on the beautiful Bellinger River this charming town is perfect for a relaxing break and an excellent base for exploring Dorrig National Park.

Day 5: Dorrig National Park (Waterfall Way Scenic Drive)

Approximate driving time 1 hour, 57 km

Wonga Walk 2-3 hours, 6.6km - Grade 2 easy to moderate

Skywalk Lookout - 2 minutes, 100m

A short drive along the picturesque Waterfall Way brings you to the Dorrig Rainforest Centre. Dorrig National Park, part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area offers stunning scenery that has been millions of years in the making.

The park contains a range of forest types that protect an enormous variety of animals and birds, like red-necked pademelons, the vibrantly coloured wompoo fruit-dove and the spectacular regent bowerbird. Explore nearby Dorrig before returning to Bellingen for your overnight stay.

Day 6: Bellingen – Coffs Harbour – Byron Bay

Approximate driving time 3.5 hours, 280 km

Back on the motorway continue past the coastal city of Coffs Harbour. “Coff’s” as it is affectionately known is one of the largest regional cities in New South Wales and a great spot for morning tea.

Today though, set your sights on the relaxed and cosmopolitan beach side town of Byron Bay. Byron Bay is the most easterly point on mainland Australia’s and an early start tomorrow to see the sunrise is a must.

Day 7: Byron Bay

No driving today, instead spend the day relaxing and finding your inner peace. Whether it be shopping in the myriad of fashion boutiques and surf shops, a chilled out day on the stunning golden beaches, kayaking with the dolphins, walking through the National Park to Cape Byron Lighthouse...

Day 8: Byron Bay – Lions Road – Tambourine Mountains

Approximate driving time 3.5 hours, 219 km

Heading west away from the coast the scenery soon changes. The green rolling hills of the hinterland greet you as you travel towards the inland town of Lismore. Stop here and grab a supplies for a picnic lunch further along the drive.

Continue through the small picturesque town of Kyogle before turning right to Border Ranges National Park. Drive the historic Lions Road before stopping for a picnic lunch at the Border Lookout. After lunch, cross into Queensland, through Beaudesert and onto Tamborine Mountains.

Tamborine Mountains are an idyllic setting with boutique vineyards, arts and crafts, scenic view points and short bush walks to take in the fresh clean air.

Day 9: Tamborine Mountains – Gold Coast - Brisbane

Approximate driving time 2 hours, 123 km

Leaving the cooler climate travel down the mountains roads towards the world famous Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast. One of the most iconic beach landscapes in Australia and it is not hard to see why. Golden sandy beaches, warm turquoise water and a vibrant surf culture.

Spend the morning soaking up the atmosphere before

making the final drive to Brisbane to complete this epic road trip.