



## 8-DAY HAUNTED ROAD TRIP IN NSW: SYDNEY TO SPOOKY DESTINATIONS



### Highlights

- Visit the ghost at Picton's Redbank Range tunnel
- Wander Helensburgh's eerie glow worm tunnel
- Night-time tour of Monte Cristo Homestead, the most haunted house in Australia
- Explore the cells by torchlight at Old Dubbo Gaol with their **16+ monthly tour**
- Witness the marvels of the universe at the CSIRO Australia Telescope Compact Array
- Experience the dark secrets lurking in Newcastle
- Be terrified by Cockatoo Island's **18+ horror tour**
- Explore the ghostly atmosphere at Quarantine Station in Sydney

### Day 1: Sydney to Helensburgh Via Penrith

**Distance:** 143 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 58minutes

- **Morning:** Pick up your campervan from our GoCheap branch in Sydney and head for Picton - Australia's most haunted town. Pass by Picton's Redbank Range tunnel (aka Mushroom Tunnel) for Emily Bollard's ghost.
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in Helensburgh and spend the afternoon exploring the tunnels. You'll also meet the glow worms that call the darkness their home.
- **Evening:** Wind down with a meal at the Helensburgh Hotel - exactly what you need to shake off any lingering chilling vibes.
- **Where to stay:** Bulli Beach Tourist Park, 1 Farrell Rd, Bulli NSW 2516.

### Day 2: Helensburgh to Junee Via Minnamurra River

**Distance:** 428 Kms **Time:** 4 hours 53 minutes

- **Morning:** Leave early and stop between the Princes Highway and the South Coast railway line to explore the "Bloody Mile" located between the Minnamurra River and the railway station.
- **Afternoon:** Give yourself a couple of hours to rest with an extended lunch stop in Goulburn or Yass. At Goulburn you've got the iconic Big Merino, whereas Yass is well known for its caves, parks, and bushwalking. Arrive in Junee by mid-late afternoon.
- **Evening:** Visit the Monte Cristo Homestead (self-guided tour run from 10am to 3pm on Saturdays and Sundays). Otherwise, book yourself in for a ghost tour and dinner tour. You'll be guided through the halls by candlelight, hear stories of the past, and be treated to a home-cooked meal.
- **Where to stay:** Monte Cristo Homestead (booked out for 2024, must get in early) or camping at Junee Tourist Park, 2 Sunnyside Rd, Junee NSW 2663.

### Day 3: Junee to Dubbo via Newell Highway

**Distance:** 371 Kms **Time:** 4 hours 8 minutes

- **Morning:** Take a trip out to Junee Licorice & Chocolate Factory, then set off towards Dubbo via the infamous Newell Highway - we'll tell you why it's so spooky later.
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in Dubbo by early-mid afternoon. Plan a trip to Taronga Western Plains Zoo or visit the Old Dubbo Gaol to wander through the historic grounds freely and hear all about the inmates' failed (and successful) attempts to break out.
- **Sidenote:** Dubbo is a great place to restock your fridge, so make sure you stop by Coles or Woolworths while you're in the area.
- **Evening:** The Pastoral Hotel is your go-to for a casual dinner. Next, book yourself in for the Twilight Tour at the Old Dubbo Gaol for spine-tingling tales of death, punishment, and darkness. Their Beyond the Grave Experience is marketed as a 16+ experience.
- **Where to stay:** Dubbo Midstate Caravan Park, 21 Bourke St, Dubbo NSW 2830.

#### Day 4: Dubbo to Narrabri Via Coonabarabran

**Distance:** 337 Kms **Time:** 3 hours 48 minutes

- **Morning:** You'll be passing through Newell Highway's most haunted section between Coonabarabran and Narrabri - research the tale of the Pilliga Princess and her gruesome end!
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in Narrabri. Choose either a trip to the Old Narrabri Gaol or arrange a tour of the town (starting or ending with a visit to the museum) hosted by the Historical Society. Existentially scary, take a trip out to Wee Waa for the CSIRO Australia Telescope Compact Array. When you're done wondering why the universe is so big, visit Yarrie Lake. This three-kilometre saucer-shaped lake is thought to have been formed by a falling meteor.
- **Evening:** Yarrie Lake, 30 minutes out of Narrabri, has powered sites and unpowered sites available. The road is sealed from Narrabri up to one kilometre from the amenities block, so be careful on your way up. Treat yourself to a home-cooked meal.
- **Where to stay:** Yarrie Lake, Lake Circuit, Narrabri, New South Wales.

#### Day 5: Narrabri to Port Macquarie Via Tamworth

**Distance:** 445 Kms **Time:** 5 hours 35 minutes

- **Morning:** If you're on a tight schedule, you can head straight for Newcastle, bypassing Port Macquarie through Tamworth - check out King George Avenue on the way, one of New South Wales' most haunted roads. Otherwise arrive in Port Macquarie by early or late afternoon. The area is not particularly spooky, but it's a great place to relax.
- **Afternoon:** There's so much to do in Port Mac that you could easily spend a few days here if you need a break from all the long days of driving. For something on the historic trail, try the Port Macquarie Hastings Heritage walking tours, such as Uncovering Our Past Tour, or Grave Tales Tour.
- **Evening:** Drop by Stoney Park after dinner! Currently, Stoney Park is offering an Astronomy Nights attraction that'll bring you up close and personal with Saturn's rings and the Moon's craters. Stoney Park has the darkest skies on the Mid Coast, making it the best place for a slightly eerie stellar adventure.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Port Macquarie Breakwall, 1 Munster St, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

#### Day 6: Port Macquarie to Newcastle

**Distance:** 282 Kms **Time:** 3 hours 17 minutes

- **Morning:** Detour via the Lemon Tree Passage, known for the mysterious lights that are said to appear at night. This area is so haunted they even made a movie about it!
- **Afternoon:** If you search online you'll find tons of haunted locations in Newcastle. What could be more iconic than a place literally named the Bogey Hole? Google it; this place just screams, "Ancient spirits live here!". If you're keen to jump on a tour, the Newcastle Ghost Tours offers plenty of day tours - as well as night tours if you're hungry for that feeling of goosebumps creeping up your neck.
- **Evening:** Moving away from ghosts and mayhem for the evening, our top pick for your night tour would have to be the Newcastle: True Crime Guided Tour. You'll hear fascinating anecdotes about true crime stories, spend your evening wandering medieval castles, and find the secrets lurking in Quayside. Unmissable!
- **Where to stay:** Belmont Lakeside Holiday Park, 24 Paley Cres, Belmont South NSW 2280.

#### Day 7 & 8: Newcastle to Sydney

**Distance:** 177 Kms **Time:** 2 hours 32 minutes

##### **DAY ONE**

- **Morning:** Head back to Sydney via Wakehurst Parkway - Sydney's most haunted road. "Kelly" the ghost has been terrifying hundreds of motorists over the decades, sometimes even appearing in people's backseats. This stretch of road goes from Narrabeen down to Seaforth and is well worth driving through on your way to St James' Station, where you can hunt for the eerie underground ghost tunnels.
- **Afternoon:** We recommend finding something to calm the mind. You'll find tours around The Rocks, Sydney Opera House, and a gorgeous heritage walk around Old Great North Road.
- **Evening:** We still have one more ghost tour in mind for your evening! Head over to [Cockatoo Island](#) for an 18+ journey into the darkness from Sydney Harbour around Cockatoo Island's former convict prison and dockyard.
- **Where to stay:** Discovery Parks Lane Cove, 13 Plassey Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113.

## Day 7 & 8: Newcastle to Sydney

**Distance:** 177 Kms **Time:** 2 hours 32 minutes

### DAY TWO

- **Morning:** Wrap up your haunted NSW road trip with a final trip down to Q Station, which has a range of tours. If you're done with hauntings, you can enjoy the waters down at Quarantine Beach, swim, snorkel, kayak, or simply relax and choose from a range of activities like the Visitor Centre and Museum, wildlife explorer tour, or history tour. If you're hanging out for one more scary adventure, download the itinerary from their website and take yourself on a self-guided tour to learn about the haunting history of the Quarantine Station and the diseased bodies that reside deep within the burial grounds.
- **Afternoon:** You've reached the end of your adventures! Head on over to the GoCheap branch in Sydney to drop off your campervan.



Helensburgh Glow Worm Tunnel, Destination NSW



Monte Cristo Homestead, Destination NSW

## Packing Tips For A Spooky NSW Road Trip

This is a short trip tailored for maximum spooks and big adventures out on the open road. If you'd prefer to take your time to fully explore the destinations along your route, we recommend turning this into a 14-day trip instead!

### Some things you'll want to bring include:

- Flashlight
- Appropriate footwear (comfortable, closed shoes for walking tours)
- Hat, sunscreen and sunglasses
- Mixture of clothing for different weather/activities
- Insect repellent + band-aids
- Camera/phone + chargers
- Light backpack (to carry food + water bottle)

**Reminder:** NSW's regional towns and roads have plenty of nocturnal wildlife. We recommend that you don't drive at night unless it's to attend a ghost tour. This is for your own safety, to prevent injuring any wildlife, and to avoid any damage to your campervan rental.



Old Dubbo Gaol, Destination NSW



Q Station, Destination NSW