



14-DAY FESTIVE ROAD TRIP IN NSW



Highlights

- Head to Leura Village for the Christmas Pooch Parade.
- Discover the iconic Christmas Fair in the Central Coast.
- Walk through festive lights and decorations at the Hunter Valley Gardens Christmas Lights Spectacular event.
- Channel your inner artisan by attending a festive craft workshop in Wollombi.

Day 1: Sydney to Blue Mountains

Distance: 61 Kms **Time:** 52 Minutes

- **Morning:** Pick up your camper and set out off towards the Great Western Highway. Make a stop at Featherdale Wildlife Park – **Psst, you can save 10% on your tickets if you book online.**
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in Leura by late afternoon to check out Leura Village's Christmas in the Mall. After lunch, set your sights on Katoomba Falls, making your way to Echo Point for panoramic views of the famous Three Sisters rock formation.
- **Evening:** Looking to treat yourself to a warm dinner? Check out Leura's charming restaurants and see if there's anything festive on the menu.
- **Where to stay:** Katoomba Falls Tourist Park, 101A Cliff Dr, Katoomba NSW 2780.

Day 2: Blue Mountains to Gosford

Distance: 111 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 17 minutes

- **Morning:** Ease yourself into the day and start with a visit to the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden in Mount Tomah. Head off towards the Central Coast! Aim to be in Gosford by late morning in time for your first major Christmas Market (don't forget to check the dates). The town regularly hosts the highly anticipated Central Coast Christmas Fair, which is a day full of festive fun for the whole family.
- **Afternoon:** Spend your afternoon lounging down at Avoca Beach with the locals. There's a thriving café culture down this way, so why not stop by for lunch?
- **Evening:** Check out Gosford's annual Christmas tree whilst the lights are on (there may even be a lighting event) and then head back to your campsite for dinner and a night of rest.
- **Where to stay:** Toowoona Bay Holiday Park, 1 Koongara St, Toowoona Bay NSW 2261.

Day 3: Central Coast

AREA EXPLORATION

- **Morning:** Discover towns with boutique shops and potential Christmas gifts - most are within a 30-minute drive, so take your time to explore! Just don't forget to drop by The Entrance as you leave your campsite. Visiting the pelicans is a rite of passage.
- **Afternoon:** Relax with a beachfront picnic and savour the laid-back atmosphere. Whether a good time is had by a lake, a beach, a park, or an ice cream parlour, this is one seaside village that absolutely thrives in summer. **Did you know that the ocean baths here are Heritage-Listed?**
- **Evening:** Return to your campsite for the evening, rest, eat.
- **Where to stay:** Toowoona Bay Holiday Park, 1 Koongara St, Toowoona Bay NSW 2261.

Day 4: Gosford to Pokolbin via Wollombi

Distance: 121 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 48 minutes

- **Morning:** Hunter Valley is one of NSW's top family-friendly destinations and full of festive events! Travelling as a couple? Follow the Wollombi Wine Trail! You'll find some of the best of wine and cheese tastings at the local wineries along your route.
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in Wollombi by early afternoon or late morning. The streets of the town are lined with cafes and shops so you'll find plenty to do. You can channel your inner artisan by joining a festive craft workshop – simply check online to see what's on.
- **Evening:** The Hunter Valley Gardens in Pokolbin regularly host the Hunter Valley Gardens Christmas Lights Spectacular, where dazzling lights and decorations create a magical experience. This is going to be your best night to sip on mulled wine and try local holiday treats!
- **Where to stay:** Wine Country Tourist Park, 3 O'Connors Rd, Nulkaba NSW

Day 5 & 6: Pokolbin to Newcastle

Distance: 91 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 20 minutes

NEWCASTLE DAY ONE

- **Morning:** Follow the Pacific Highway and hug the coast as you make your way up to Newcastle. The city always has plenty of Christmas events going on, so check the Newcastle Live site!
- **Afternoon:** Newcastle really gets into the silly season, so take your time hunting down Christmas displays, shopping, and posing with Santa. To experience the area, you can spend the day down at the beach, visit the Bogey Hole, or try surfing the local waves. Blackbutt Reserve is a free adventure calling your name, so make sure you explore the nature trails around the area.
- **Evening:** Head to Honeysuckle Foreshore for waterfront entertainment to fill your evening! There are plenty of exhibitions all year round, so you might even come across something festive whilst you're hunting down some dinner.
- **Where to stay:** Belmont Lakeside Holiday Park, 24 Paley Cres, Belmont South NSW 2280.

NEWCASTLE DAY TWO

- **Morning:** Have an easy breakfast in your camper or indulge in a relaxed brunch at a local café, then head to the Newcastle Art Gallery or the Newcastle Museum to add a sprinkle of culture to your NSW road trip. The gallery is full of stunning collections from Australian and international artists.
- **Afternoon:** Take it slow at King Edward Park for a peaceful walk or picnic. If you're lucky, you might catch an outdoor holiday film screening for an extra touch of festive fun. Alternatively, you can set off on a trip out to Nobbys Lighthouse. There's no vehicle access along the Macquarie Pier, so expect a walk.
- **Evening:** Head to Honeysuckle Foreshore for waterfront entertainment to fill your evening! There are plenty of exhibitions all year round.
- **Where to stay:** Belmont Lakeside Holiday Park, 24 Paley Cres, Belmont South NSW 2280.

Day 7: Newcastle to Port Stephens

Distance: 154 Kms **Time:** 2 hours 24 minutes

- **Morning:** Detour out to Tomaree Head. The 45-minute hike is worth every step! It can be difficult to get up to the summit, so make sure you bring your hat, sunscreen, water, and some good hiking shoes. The paved areas can also become slippery when wet, so try to go on a nice summer day.
- **Afternoon:** The area around Shoal Bay, Anna Bay, and Fingal Bay is fantastic for an afternoon, with things like the Irukandji Shark & Ray Encounters just waiting. Only fifteen minutes away from Anna Bay are the Stockton Bight Sand Dunes in the Worimi Conservation Lands. We mightn't get snow in Australia at this time of the year, but who says you can't go tobogganing down the dunes instead? Find plenty of adventure and tours running in the area, including quad biking, camel rides, and 4WDing. Looking for something more laid back? Head to Nelson Bay and hop on a boat tour that will take you to dolphins, whales and scuba diving hotspots.
- **Evening:** Wrap up the day with a seafood feast at a marina restaurant, which will be decked out with a glow of holiday lights.
- **Where to stay:** Fingal Bay Holiday Park, 52 Marine Dr, Fingal Bay NSW 2315.

Day 8-9: Port Stephens to Port Macquarie

Distance: 254 Kms **Time:** 2 hours 55 minutes

PORT MACQUARIE DAY ONE

- **Morning:** Hit the road towards Port Macquarie, following the Pacific Highway with a mid-morning stop at Forster. You could spend the day in this area fishing, paddling, and surfing. There are also a few national parks nearby and plenty of coastal adventures. If you're going exploring for the day, head over to Booti Booti National Park for McBrides Beach, which is a 600m walk with stairs that descends through a littoral rainforest. It takes you down to the isolated McBrides Beach, nestled between rugged cliffs. The area around the car park is sealed, so you'll have no trouble reaching it!
- **Afternoon:** Don't forget to stop by the iconic Koala Hospital on the way. You'll arrive in Port Macquarie by late afternoon, where you can check into your accommodation for the next couple of days.
- **Evening:** Treat yourself at your campsite to a tasty homecooked meal.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Port Macquarie Breakwall, 1 Munster St, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

PORT MACQUARIE DAY TWO

- **Morning:** Holiday markets are scattered around the area, so you have another chance to find handcrafted presents and locally made products for some impressive gift-giving.
- **Afternoon:** Wrap up the morning with a trip to Billabong Zoo Koala & Wildlife Park! You don't need to break the budget whilst you're in Port Macquarie, but some things are absolutely worth the money. Otherwise, if you're keen to keep your funds in the bank, set off towards Lighthouse Beach for a swim and then spend the day exploring the endless hiking trails that'll give you a close and personal view of the region's popular lookouts.
- **Evening:** Enjoy a waterfront dinner! The local musicians set the stage for an evening of dining and entertainment.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Port Macquarie Breakwall, 1 Munster St, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

DAY 10 & 11: Port Macquarie to Coffs Harbour

Distance: 183 Kms **Time:** 2 hours 3 minutes

COFFS HARBOUR DAY ONE

- **Morning:** Detour over to Wauchope, about 20 minutes away from Port Macquarie. At Timbertown you'll find steam trains, nature walks, the mechanics institute, and general Western vibes.
- **Afternoon:** Leave Wauchope by late afternoon, checking into your accommodation in Coffs Harbour for the night. Relax by your camper with a cold bev, go for a swim, or head out and explore the city.
- **Evening:** If the adventures are ready to continue, you can head over to Muttonbird Island Nature Reserve. Simply follow the break wall path from Coffs Harbour – if the timing's right, why not tag along with the Mutton Birds by Moonlight Guided Tour, which runs monthly from 7:30-9pm (this requires a bit of pre-planning). Otherwise general tours run from 7am-7pm daily.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Park Beach, 1 Ocean Parade, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450.

COFFS HARBOUR DAY TWO

- **Morning & Afternoon:** Visit Dorrigo National Park and follow the Casuarina Falls Circuit and set off on a nature escape for the day. This stunning park features a towering boardwalk that takes you high above the treetops so that you can get a good view of the local birds that call the area home. There are tons of hiking trails scattered around Dorrigo National Park, so make sure you bring a sturdy pair of shoes, plenty of snacks, and a tasty lunch for the day.
- **Evening:** Head back to Coffs Harbour to relax, kick up your feet, and enjoy the authentic camping aesthetics with a meal.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Park Beach, 1 Ocean Parade, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450.

Day 12 & 13: Coffs Harbour to Byron Bay

Distance: 233 Kms **Time:** 2 hours 27 minutes

BYRON BAY DAY ONE

- **Morning:** Your first stop when you get to Byron Bay has to be the Cape Byron Lighthouse, with its ocean views and a solid 45-minute walk up to the top. Sometimes you can even spot dolphins, whales, and hang gliders off the coast! Next to the lighthouse is Australia's most easterly point, marked with a sign.
- **Afternoon:** Find Wategos Beach right by the lighthouse, or trek over to Clarkes Beach for a swim and lunch by the beach.
- **Evening:** Head into town for the lifestyle and hunt down a meal that fits the budget!
- **Where to stay:** Reflections Byron Bay, 1 Lighthouse Rd, Byron Bay NSW 2481.

BYRON BAY DAY TWO

- **Morning:** Every Sunday, Byron Bay features at least one market – that's right, sometimes there are multiple! Take your time here to soak up the festive vibes and search for any festive creations.
- **Afternoon:** There are only a few streets in Byron Bay so it's difficult to get lost. The town has a talented population of creative minds, so you'll find plenty of last-minute gifts along the way. You might even catch some live music on the streets to add a bit of extra ambience to your wandering.
- **Evening:** Watch the surfers down at the beach as the sun sets – or join them if you've got your own surfboard! When you're ready, either head back into town for some dinner or cosy up in your camper for the night.
- **Where to stay:** Reflections Byron Bay, 1 Lighthouse Rd, Byron Bay NSW 2481.

Packing Tips

New South Wales (NSW) is the best place to be in Australia if you're trying to get into the holiday spirit! All across the state, you'll find Christmas markets, festive events, and a laid-back attitude. From lush mountains to coastal towns oozing with festive spirit, this 14-day itinerary is stuffed full of goodies!

Some things you'll want to bring include:

- 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. This is for your own safety, to prevent injuring any wildlife, and to avoid any damage to your campervan rental.



Wategos Beach, Byron Bay - Destination NSW



Hunter Valley Gardens Pokolbin, Destination NSW

Day 14: Byron Bay to Brisbane

Distance: 164 Kms **Time:** 2 hours 25 minutes

- **Morning:** Make sure that you grab something to eat for lunch before you set off towards Brisbane. If you're keen to keep the trip going, now's your last chance to call our friendly reservations team and ask if you can extend your rental by a few days!
- **Afternoon:** Aim to be in Brisbane by 3:30 at the latest to return your camper to our GoCheap Campervans branch in Virginia.