

THE LEGENDARY PACIFIC COAST

THE CLASSIC AUSSIE HOLIDAY



MID NORTH COAST ITINERARY

The Mid North Coast of New South Wales is what the **CLASSIC AUSTRALIAN HOLIDAY** is all about.

Generations of holidaymakers share memories of escaping the city and driving the Pacific Highway to the seaside towns of Nelson Bay, Forster, Port Macquarie, Harrington, South West Rocks, Crescent Head, Nambucca and Coffs Harbour.

It's a well-worn holiday journey through the classic coastal country with clear blue skies above, the scent of frangipani in the air and the warmth of endless days by the waters edge.

Well it hasn't changed! Blessed with one of the best year-round holiday climates the country has to offer, it means you can feel comfortable visiting the Mid North Coast anytime of the year.

Vast improvements to the Pacific Highway give added pleasure to those discovering the region by car. Driving the Pacific Highway is like climbing a favourite tree with every branch leading to a different experience or memory.

Any turn east off the Pacific Highway brings you to a stretch of uncrowded sand and a soft breeze of salt air. Any turn west and you meander through rustic villages, rich in history nestled amongst valleys and rainforests with stunning backdrops of lofty waterfalls and the sounds of native birds echoing across the ridges. Apart from its iconic beach and hinterland landscapes the region boasts some 25 national parks and reserves, each home to a diverse range of native flora and fauna. There is just so much to see and do.

DAY 1 Sydney to Port Stephens

And it all begins just 2½ hours north of Sydney in Port Stephens often described as a blue-water paradise and Australia's 'dolphin capital'. Its sapphire waters are home to more than 160 bottlenose dolphins that thrive in the large, scenic bay. Tamboi Queen Cruises, the longest-running cruise operator in the port, knows every inch of the bay for fishing, whale and dolphin watching. For more adventure, quad bike or 4WD through the Stockton Beach sand dunes, snorkel or dive Fly Point Marine Park, or spot koalas at Tilgerry Creek. Stockton Beach is Port Stephen's own Sahara – a wilderness of sand dunes to be enjoyed on 4WD tours, hummers, quad bikes or horseback. Get close to koalas at Tillgerry Habitat, perch on a headland to watch whales pass or go to sea to

mingle with dolphins. Halifax, Soldiers Point, Fingal Bay and One Mile Beach Holiday Parks offer great family accommodation nestled in natural bushland near serene waters and surf beaches while One Mile Beach Holiday Park nestles on the beach at Anna Bay. For a night out enjoy the many dining and social options at the Wests Nelson Bay Diggers – one of the area's popular clubs. The landscaped gardens and recreational facilities at the multi-award-winning Samurai Beach Resort are close to One Mile Beach while the Shoal Bay Resort and Spa has emerged from the refurbishment of the legendary Country Club Hotel a popular Australian icon. It now offers four restaurants, five bars, the luxurious day spa and pools all set on the water overlooking Shoal Bay.

DAY 2 Great Lakes

The twin towns of Forster Tuncurry nestle where the Wallis Lake meets the ocean. This region's clear waterways, lakes fringed with paper bark trees, long beaches and shady camping areas are legendary favourites among generations of local and international travellers. Bennett's Beach at Hawks Nest is another grand sand boarding alternative while for the more faint-hearted, head to the northern end of One Mile Beach in Forster. To take in great views of the Booti Booti and Willingat National Parks trek to the lookout tower on Cape Hawke for 360° view and visit Myall Lakes National Park – home to The Grandis, a 76m high flooded gum – one of the tallest trees in the state. The Great Lakes takes great pride in the natural beauty of its beaches and intricate lake systems from which it takes its name. Stretching from the Myall Coast in the south is Tea Gardens, Hawks Nest, Seal Rocks and the Myall Lakes National Park; home to one of the largest coastal lake systems in Australia. Further north is Pacific Palms amidst Booti

Booti National Park and best known for its fabled Boomerang, Elizabeth and Blueys beaches. Here you will find Blueys Retreat with its spacious self-contained, two and three bedroom accommodation, and the award-winning Kingfisher restaurant.

DAY 3 Manning Valley

The commercial centre of the Manning Valley is Taree, an historic country town with wide main streets and sprawling parks. Wingham, a 20-minute drive from the town centre, is an increasingly popular tourist stopover with its historic verandahed shopfronts and the lure of great food and specialist shopping. Popular Blackhead Beach is a multi-award-winning beach under the Keep Australia Beautiful Program. It is protected and excellent for families with a surf life saving club at the beach and the famous Blackhead sea pool. Old Bar is the beach closest to Taree while Wallabi Point and Saltwater beaches are great for surfing and have walks developed by the local indigenous community, and the famous seaside village of Harrington is ideal for fishing.





Flying foxes star at Wingham Brush in the Manning Valley. 'The Brush' is one of the most significant maternity sites in NSW for the Grey Headed Flying Fox with as many as 10,000 of these fascinating creatures hanging from Moreton Bay Figs. Nearby Brimbin Nature Reserve on the banks of the Dawson River and Tommy Owens Creek is a tranquil waterside escape and home to endangered species of eucalypt, the narrow-leaved red gum. Ellenborough Falls, the second longest single drop waterfall in the southern hemisphere, is a scenic drive through timbered country linking Taree to Port Macquarie.

DAY 4 Greater Port Macquarie

Port Macquarie is well practised at delivering adrenalin-pumping adventure; either skydiving over the town, micro-flying from scenic lookouts, horsingiding at Bellrowan, scooting the river in powerboats, riding a wave in a canoe or windsurfing and sailing the surf and rivers. There's plenty of quiet time in nature too with a visit to the Koala Hospital, picnics among kangaroos at Kylie's Hut, strolling the Sea Acres Rainforest boardwalk or enjoying any number of bush, river and coastal walks throughout the region. Port, as it is affectionately known, is a thriving regional centre and holiday magnet midway between Sydney and Brisbane.

Its sister towns, Wauchope, Laurieton, Kew, Lake Cathie and Bonny Hills all within a half hour drive of Port's centre, add to its appeal with more great beaches, sightseeing and attractions and family accommodation at the Beachfront Holiday Park in the heart of North Haven. The Bonny Hills Holiday Park boasts expansive ocean views overlooking Rainbow Beach. In Port, on the river is the award-winning Rydges Port Macquarie; sharing the great water views is Macquarie Waters Boutique Apartment Hotel, further up the road the multi-award-winning The Observatory overlooking Town Beach and Quality Inn HW Boutique Hotel. Close to family friendly Flynn's Beach is Wyndham Vacation Resorts and Beachside Holiday Apartments while the Aston Hill Motor Lodge has a quiet residential location. For dining and entertainment Port Macquarie Panthers is a first choice for many while Timbertown Heritage Village at Wauchope serves up food, shopping and a great glimpse into a pioneering past.

DAY 5 The Macleay Valley Coast

The Macleay Valley Coast is another Mid North Coast gem – home to South West Rocks with Smoky Cape Lighthouse in Hat Head National Park and Trial Bay Gaol in the Arakoon State Conservation area. Leave the highway for a riverside drive to this delightful town. Smoky Cape Lighthouse overlooks one of the world's best dive spots and the Fish Rock Dive Centre will take you there. Watch eagles soar, whales romp and kookaburras chat at the Lighthouse. Camp in the Arakoon Recreation area close to historic Trial Bay Gaol and relax on river houseboats in the mighty Macleay Valley. Enjoy an eagle's view from the Yarrahappini Lookout and relax at the Yarrahappini Homestead below. Watch the Malibu surfboarders at Crescent Head (dedicated surfing reserve); travel the boyhood roads of legendary country singer, Slim Dusty, passing through the historic township and service centre of Kempsey, ending with a beer at historic Bellbrook Hotel.

Further explore the Macleay staying with Crescent Head Holiday Parks in four great beachside locations or South West Rocks Tourist Park snuggling the banks of a scenic tidal waterway.

DAY 6 Nambucca Valley

Nambucca Heads is your first stop on the Coffs Coast. It is a small but appealing community surrounded by azure blue seas and a meandering river renowned for great fishing. It is also home to one of the region's best indigenous chefs at Jaaning Tree restaurant on the river. A visit to Nambucca is not complete without taking to nature at the Valley of the Mists – a working bush tucker farm and expansive wetlands only accessible by guided canoe rides. Life on the river is easy and easily accessed from the Big 4 Nambucca Beach Holiday Park, Nambucca Headland Holiday Park and Nambucca River Tourism Park. Between Nambucca and Coffs is the Valla Beach Holiday Park, or choose the Urunga Heads Holiday Park nestled on the edge of Urunga Lagoon with its riverside parklands on the way to Coffs Harbour.

DAY 7 Coffs Coast

Coffs Harbour is a legend in its own right. Its world famous attractions include the Big Banana, The Pet Porpoise Pool and the Coffs Harbour Butterfly House, all of which enchant people of all ages. The city is enhanced by neighbouring towns and villages including Bellingen, the creative heart of the Coffs Coast with great food, arts and music. Choose Wyndham Vacation Resort or Dolphin Sands Holiday Villas as a great Coffs base from which to explore the region or travel just 30km outside of Coffs and stop over at the Corindi Holiday Park. The North Beach Holiday Park adjacent to Bongil Bongil National Park has direct beach access while Moonee Beach Holiday Park is adjacent to the calm, clear waters of Moonee Creek. Darlington Beach Holiday Park delivers award-winning hospitality from a 110 acre tropical oasis. Red Rock Holiday Park near Wooloolga rests at the mouth of the Corindi River, while the Lorikeet Tourist Park on the tourist drive between Coffs and Grafton combines the best of bush and beach. Enjoy easy grade bushwalks starting at the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre walking under waterfalls and through glades with wildlife. The North Coast Botanic Garden on a bend of Coffs Creek houses various rainforests and nature trails, a sensory garden, greenhouses, a mangrove boardwalk, display area and information kiosk. Bellingen, or "Bello", is riotously green and creative. Follow the lush Waterfall Way or visit Dorrigo nestled on an escarpment 1,000m above sea level. On the east side of the town the plateau drops into the World Heritage Rainforests of Dorrigo National Park where a stroll on the Skywalk above the canopy is a must!

