

GETTING AROUND THE LEGENDARY PACIFIC COAST AND TRAVEL TIPS

TRANSPORT

The Legendary Pacific Coast covers a distance of 930kms along the east coast of northern NSW from Sydney to Brisbane, filled with exciting and interesting destinations on and off the Pacific Highway. To see the best of the north coast of NSW, make sure you get off the Pacific Highway and explore the towns and villages that lie on either side of this main road. Remember part of the fun of backpacking is not just the sights you see but also the different people you meet along the way and there are some legendary characters in these towns.

There are numerous coastal and hinterland villages and there are many options for getting around Australia's top tourism drive. For most backpackers you don't have access to your own vehicle so here are some options for travelling the whole distance or for just travelling to certain destinations. Happy and safe travels!

Warning – hitch hiking in Australia is illegal and is not recommended

By road - Britz

Different campervan configurations are available from the compact hi top to the spacious Frontier or one of the many options in between. They have campers suitable for two, or with enough room to fit the whole gang.

<http://britz.com.au>
Phone 1800 331 454

By road - Hertz

With 25 locations along The Legendary Pacific Coast, pick up a Hertz Hire car and hit the open road today.

<http://www.hertz.com.au>
Phone 13 30 39

By train and coach - Countrylink

Countrylink have a daily service leaving Sydney and Brisbane, three times a day so you can stop off at any destination along the route. To save, find out about their Backtracker Pass http://www.countrylink.info/travel_passes/backtracker Buy your Backtracker Pass from **your nearest CountryLink agent** before you arrive in Australia and you'll save around 10%.

Travel from Sydney to Brisbane on their coast network and travel anywhere on their services for 14 days, one month, three months or six months! The Backtracker Pass provides international visitors with unlimited travel on the entire CountryLink Network.

www.countrylink.info
Phone 13 28 29



Image © YHA

By bus – Greyhound Australia

The Greyhound Kilometre Pass allows you flexibility at your leisure. There is a 500 Kilometre Pass while a 1,000 Kilometre Pass will take you from Sydney beyond Brisbane and all the places in between. These passes are valid for 90 days but if you want longer, have a look on the website and backtracking is allowed. The buses will drop you off close to the centre of the town and given that some towns are pretty small, this does mean you can probably see the pub from the bus-stop! The hostel or backpackers won't be too far away either.

Phone 1300 473 946
www.greyhound.com.au

Oz Experience

Oz Experience is Australia's only dedicated hop on, hop off flexible bus touring system for young International travellers. You can choose when you travel and for how long. Please note, from Sydney, this service only stops at Coffs Harbour and Byron Bay and then Brisbane on The Legendary Pacific Coast.

Phone 1300 300 028
www.ozexperience.com

The Magic Bus Company – Northern NSW

The Magic Bus Company has two beautiful double-decker buses to provide you with the ultimate experience in bus hire in Byron Bay, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Ballina & Lismore. They are available for private event hire, regional tours, airport shuttles and all transportation needs. Their famous 'Magic Bus' is a head turning double-decker coach colourfully painted psychedelic extravaganza with an amazing sound system. Our classy Lady of the fleet, donned 'Classis Red' is a vintage London double-decker and is a true mix of London and Byron Bay!

Phone (02) 6684 3078
www.magicbus.com.au

Byron Easy Bus – Northern NSW

For fast, frequent airport transfers Byron Easy Bus operates between the iconic coastal township of Byron Bay and Brisbane, Gold Coast and Ballina Byron Airports. Their fleet of new air-conditioned vehicles will have you at your destination relaxed and on time. Private and group transfers are available on request.

Phone (02) 6685 7447
www.byroneasybus.com.au



HOT TIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLERS

Accessible Travel

Australia is well-equipped for travellers with disabilities. Visit <http://scia.org.au/travel-transport-accommodation> for an excellent guide to disabled access information.

Beach Safety

Always swim between the red and yellow flags that mark the safest place to swim and the areas where lifesavers and lifeguards patrol. If you run into difficulty swimming in the ocean, float and raise one arm as a distress signal until help arrives. Beware of rips and talk to the Surf Lifesavers about water conditions.

Drop into a Visitor Information Centre to pick up information available in seven languages including traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Hindi, Malay and Arabic on beach safety. This information is supported on the beachsafe.org.au website so take a look to get information so your swim is safe.

Please ensure you protect yourself from the strong Australian sun by wearing sunscreen with a protection of 30+ and wear a hat. You may not feel it when you're in it but you will later!

Driving

In Australia, drivers drive on the left-hand side of the road, always giving way to the right. In many rural and regional areas along The Legendary Pacific Coast, watch out for animals feeding on the side of the road, from kangaroos and wallabies to wombats and large lizards, many native animals are most active at night and around sunset and sunrise.

Electricity

Voltage is 220-240V, the same as the United Kingdom, but the physical plugs are different from those in the UK and US. Australia uses a flat 3-pin plug so it's a good idea to buy a converter for any electrical device that you plan on bringing from home.

GST

The GST is a 10 per cent tax on goods and services. If you're a traveller, you can claim a refund when you leave Australia if your purchased were made in the last 30 days and total more than A\$300 in any one store. Remember to hold onto your valid tax invoice receipts and you can make your claim at the Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS) offices located at all capital city airports.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police and Emergency services 000

Directory Assistance 1234

Overseas operator 1225

When calling overseas dial 0011 followed by the country code and area code.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

New Years Day - 1 January Anzac Day - 25 April

Australia Day - 26 January Queen's Birthday - June

Good Friday - March - April Christmas Day - 25 December

Easter Monday - March - April Boxing Day - 26 December

AUSTRALIAN SEASONS

Summer - December to February

Winter - June to August

Autumn - March to May

Spring - September to November



THE LEGENDARY
PACIFIC COAST

SYDNEY TO BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA



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