



ITINERARY

Legendary Pacific Coast – 7 Days

The iconic East Coast 1,000 kilometres road trip from Sydney to Brisbane is officially known as the Legendary Pacific Coast and is one of Australia's top road trips stretching 1,000 kms along the Pacific Coast corridor. Along this spectacular 1000-kilometre (621 mile) drive from Sydney to Brisbane, you will find something for all the family; stunning beaches, green rolling hills, beach and riverside towns, wineries, historic sites, the hinterland and wildlife watching.

Day 1: Sydney to Newcastle

(2 h 15 min 162.9 km via M1)

Newcastle is Australia's second oldest city. With great beaches, ocean baths, inner city pubs and a thriving cafe scene, such as Derby street, Newcastle is a vibrant and happening place.

- Two convenient ways to travel between the historical attractions and the gorgeous beaches are the Newcastle Coastal Explorer and Newcastle's Famous Tram, a replica 1932 tram.
- Alternatively, bring your bicycle or hire one and pedal from the heart of the city to the beaches and along the coast.
- Refresh with a swim at Newcastle Merewether Ocean Baths. This city landmark opened in 1935 and is the largest ocean pool complex in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Newcastle Memorial Walk was built to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli in 1915 and the commencement of steel making in Newcastle; it acts as a magnificent memorial to the men and women of the Hunter who served their community and their country.

Day 2: Newcastle to Port Stephens

(60.5 km via Nelson Bay Rd/B63)

From sublime natural beauty to freshly caught seafood, Port Stephens is a wonderful beach escape on a sparkling blue bay. Relax on beautiful sandy beaches, meet the resident bottlenose dolphins, enjoy fun water sports, explore giant sand dunes and savour delicious waterfront places to eat.

- In the morning, explore the vast sand dunes of **the Worimi Conservation Lands** with a high-energy quad bike tour with **Sand Dune Adventures**. Take the 1.5-hour tour which includes an outstanding Indigenous tourism experience with exclusive access to Aboriginal land and a 'hands-on' interactive insight into the richness of the aboriginal culture and heritage.

CONTACT

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Destination
Port Stephens

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- If the thought of seeing dolphins in the water brings you a lot of happiness, then you've come to the right place. Cruise the beautiful waters of Port Stephens on **Moonshadow-TQC** and watch the friendly **dolphins play all year round** while the experienced staff make your cruise one to remember. **Whale watching** is popular between **May and November**, when thousands of humpback and other whales migrate through the marine park.
- For a memorable aquatic experience, visit **Irukandji Shark and Ray Encounters** and step into the water with sharks and stingrays at the amazing interactive aquarium.
- Adventurous travellers will thrive on the opportunity to scuba dive with grey nurse sharks.

Day 3: Port Stephens to Coffs Harbour

(via Port Macquarie - 4 ½ hours, approx. 410 km's via the Pacific Hwy)

Port Stephens to Port Macquarie

(2 ½ hours, approx. 250 km's via Pacific Hwy)

Port Macquarie is at the mouth of the Hastings River, on the mid NSW North Coast about four hours' drive north of Sydney and six hours drive south of Brisbane. Oyster farms dot the pristine estuary and curious bottlenose dolphins frolic in the sparkling waterway alongside the river tour boats.

- Explore the Port Macquarie Museum for a journey from convict history to the present day.
- Visit the Tacking Point Lighthouse is the thirteenth oldest lighthouse in Australia. The lighthouse sits atop a rocky headland which offers stunning panoramic views along Australia's Mid-North Coast.

Port Macquarie to Coffs Harbour

(2 hours, approx. 160 km's via Pacific Hwy)

Coffs Harbour is at the heart of the region, about halfway between Sydney and Brisbane on the NSW North Coast. The vibrant city is at the southern edge of the Solitary Islands Marine Park, a haven for turtles and tropical fish.

- The family-friendly activities continue at the Butterfly House, where visitors can walk around an indoor tropical habitat, home to 300 Australian butterflies.
- Visit the Bunker Cartoon Gallery, a unique heritage listed RAAF underground WWII bunker, which has been converted to Australia's only dedicated cartoon gallery. The gallery houses the largest private collection of original cartoons in the southern hemisphere (over 21,000) year-round.

Day 4: Coffs Harbour to Byron Bay

(2 ¾ hours, approx. 240 km's via Pacific Motorway & Pacific Hwy)

On your way north, head to the hinterland township of Bellingen, on the Waterfall Way scenic driving route, are heritage streetscapes and several festivals, including the Bellingen Fine Music Festival. A short drive away is Dorrigo and the Dorrigo National Park, which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Gondwana Rainforests.

- Visit Sea Acres National Park, one of the largest and diverse coastal rainforests in NSW, explore the 1.3 km's of boardwalk on your own or book a bush tucker tour with a local Aboriginal guide.
- Detour 40 minutes inland to the leafy hippie village of Bellingen for lunch. If it's Saturday, make a beeline for the Bellingen Growers Market and sample lots of organic local fare in one place.

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Day 5: Byron Bay

Byron Bay is a coastal town located on the far-north coast of NSW. Home to Australia's most easterly point and the iconic Cape Byron lighthouse, the region is known for unique shopping and dining experiences, world-class festivals, and vibrant community spirit.

- Start the day with one of the most stunning skydive experiences in Australia: a jump from 14,000 feet above the Byron Bay coastline. Then enjoy a post-skydive breakfast.
- The Farm Byron Bay is all things Byron: a 32 hectare (79 acre) sustainable farming property with a thriving restaurant, patisserie, flower shed and yoga studio.
- Spend the afternoon exploring the boutiques and eateries around nearby Bangalow in the Byron Hinterland, before returning to town for a sunset swim at popular Clarkes Beach.
- At the easternmost point of mainland Australia, hike the Cape Byron Walking Track (two hours) and see the first rays of light turn the Byron Bay Lighthouse pink.

Day 6: Byron Bay to Gold Coast

(1 h 17 min 93.5 km via M1)

The attractions of the Gold Coast bring smiles to people of all ages and stages. With exhilarating rides, exotic animals and endless waterslides to help you cool off on hot summer days, your Gold Coast holiday offers a full spectrum of interactive entertainment - from dazzling big budget Gold Coast theme parks to small, hilariously kitsch museums.

- Salty and sun kissed, hit the road again for the 90-minute drive north over the Queensland border and into the lush Gold Coast hinterland, a green wedge of bushwalks, lookouts and mountain retreats.
- Here you'll find the region's famous theme park quartet — Wet'n'Wild, Sea World, Movie World and Dreamworld. Take your pick and enjoy a day of thrills, spills, amusement rides and shows.

Day 7: Gold Coast to Brisbane

(1 h 2 min 79.3 km via M1)

Depart the glitz and glamour of the Gold Coast for Queensland's more relaxed yet sophisticated capital city, Brisbane.

- Climb the Story Bridge for jaw-dropping views. The Story Bridge is Brisbane's most iconic structure and the best way to see Brisbane is by climbing it! Experience a unique perspective of the city and its surrounds.
- See an outdoor performance at Riverstage an iconic, outdoor entertainment venue located on the Brisbane River in the City Botanic Gardens, Brisbane City.
- Make a detour out to Moreton Island. Take the big blue watery road across Moreton Bay and come explore the beaches, starry night skies, unique adventures and accommodation of Brisbane's little Island paradise.