# New South Wales

From pristine beaches to the awe-inspiring Australian outback, New South Wales (NSW) is one of the most unique places in the world. NSW Holidays are the ideal way to explore the State and enjoy stunning stretches of coastline, great bushwalks in beautiful national parks, and outstanding dining experiences in spectacular locations.

## The Blue Mountains

In the Blue Mountains, hiking and bushwalking are popular as well as sightseeing and admiring the spectacular blue-hazed beauty, dramatic cliffs and deep canyons of the region. Country NSW is a vast region where you can experience every type of scenery from national parks to rich agricultural land and beautiful, wide-open spaces. The Hunter region is famous for the premier wine-growing regions of the Hunter Valley and the spectacular Barrington Tops National Park. On the scenic coastline of NSW, you can learn to surf with local experts or go surfing solo at some of the best breaks in Australia.



Figure 1 - The Blue Mountains

## Lord Howe Island

The natural environment of some NSW regions provides the right backdrop for any number of action and adventure activities. On Lord Howe Island, crystal clear waters are perfect for swimming, snorkelling, diving, kayaking and surfing. Sydney offers plenty of fun things to do and see, from great walks, to beautiful beaches, to some of the best galleries, museums and restaurants in the country.



Figure 2 - Lord Howe Island

## Hunter Valley

Dotted with vineyards and farms, the picturesque Hunter Valley, about a 2-hour drive north of Sydney and an hour from Newcastle, is a popular weekend escape. Apart from the many vineyards, highlights of the region include the beautiful Hunter Valley Gardens, galleries, gourmet foods, cooking schools, and vast stretches of unspoiled bushland. At World Heritage-listed Barrington Tops National Park, visitors can hike through ancient rainforest and see picturesque waterfalls and a diversity of wildlife.



Figure 3 - The Hunter Valley

# Victoria

Victoria offers a host of spectacular coastal, cultural, and wildlife experiences within an easy drive of sophisticated Melbourne.

With the foodie, cultural and sports-loving city of Melbourne as its hub, experience Victoria’s diverse adventures all within just a few hours’ drive. Enjoy intimate encounters with Australian wildlife, one of the world’s great coastal drives, beautiful gardens and relaxing mineral springs, plus superb food, wine and coffee throughout the state.

## Great Ocean Drive

Starting an hour outside of Melbourne, the Great Ocean Road spans Victoria’s epic, wave-crashing coastline all the way to the spectacular rocky outcrops of the 12 Apostles, and beyond to the South Australian border. Enjoy expansive views of the Southern Ocean, plus golden beaches, jagged cliffs, and temperate rainforests. See animals and birds in the wild, watch pro surfers in action, relax in pretty coastal towns, savour gourmet treats, and discover indigenous cultural sites. The Great Ocean Road is as much about a spectacular journey as it is the destination.



Figure 4 - The Great Ocean Drive

## Port Phillip Bay

Undulating vineyards, farmland and ocean and bay beaches can all be found on the Mornington Peninsula, just an hour’s drive from Melbourne. Enjoy long lunches at winery restaurants, swim with dolphins and seals in Port Phillip Bay, peruse country markets, pick strawberries, visit a wildlife sanctuary, ride horses along beaches and across vineyards, visit cheesemakers and distillers, farm stands and olive groves, go bushwalking and take pictures of Victoria’s colourful bathing boxes.



Figure 5 - Port Phillip Bay

## Dandenong Ranges

Escape from the bustle of busy city life into a lush haven of hidden delights in the Dandenong Ranges' secret fern glades, towering forests and eclectic villages. The lush and much-loved mountains of Victoria’s Dandenong Ranges are an easily reached backyard haven for almost 1/4 of Australia’s population.

Victoria's Dandenong Ranges, less than an hour's drive from Melbourne, transport you into the seclusion of lush forest and the realm of Earth’s tallest flowering plants, Eucalyptus regnans, or mountain ash. To enter the company of these giants is uplifting, a little unnerving and often neck-straining.

Massive and column-like, mountain ash can soar more than 100m. With their canopies almost out of sight, the lower trunks fill the forest’s stage like temple pillars. Marbled in splotches of soft grey and silvery sage, they stand in contrast to a crowded understorey of tree ferns with lacy fronds spreading like feathery green parasols.



Figure 6 - The Dandenong Ranges

# Queensland

Explore ancient rainforests, snorkel with rainbow fish, sink your toes into some of the world's whitest sand and watch whales on their annual migration. Discover the living masterpiece that is the Great Barrier Reef, stay at one of the world's best hotels or shop up a beachside storm on the cosmopolitan Gold Coast. Head north to admire the world's largest sand island, explore the tropical city of Cairns, and experience a thriving cultural and arts scene in an emerging world city – the state of Queensland really does have something for everyone.

The Great Barrier Reef

The living masterpiece that is the Great Barrier Reef stretches for more than 2000 kilometres (1200 miles) along the Queensland coastline. There are hundreds of tours and experiences available along the Great Barrier Reef coastline – most notably from the towns of Cairns, Port Douglas, Townsville, Airlie Beach, Hamilton Island, Seventeen Seventy, Bundaberg, Gladstone and Mackay – but whether you snorkel, scuba dive, fly, motor or sail over it, you simply must experience the colours and textures of this natural wonder.



Figure 7 - The Great Barrier Reef

## The Whitsundays

Made up of 74 tropical islands, the Whitsundays archipelago lies just off the Queensland coast next to the Great Barrier Reef. Here, you’ll find some of the world’s best island resorts, including qualia, as well as Whitehaven Beach – regularly voted into top 10 round-ups of the world's most beautiful beaches for its powder fine sands and dazzling aqua water – and the incredibly shaped Heart Reef.



Figure 8 - Heart Reef, The Whitsundays

## Daintree Rainforest

Daintree Rainforest is unspoiled by artificial structures and other impediments that are typical of mainstream visitor-management. This triumph of natural wonder and awe-inspiring beauty reveals hidden riches and inspirational insights.

High quality guided interpreted walking tours showcase unique biological diversity and exceptional rainforest integrity. There is no better way to successfully engage with such elusive complexity and intricacy than through the expertise of long-term human inhabitant guides.

This vitally important extra dimension, which around 99.5% of visitors that cross the Daintree River ferry fail to engage, draws from the rainforest its human voice and the intellectual property of generations of attentive inhabitants.



Figure 9 - Daintree Rainforest

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