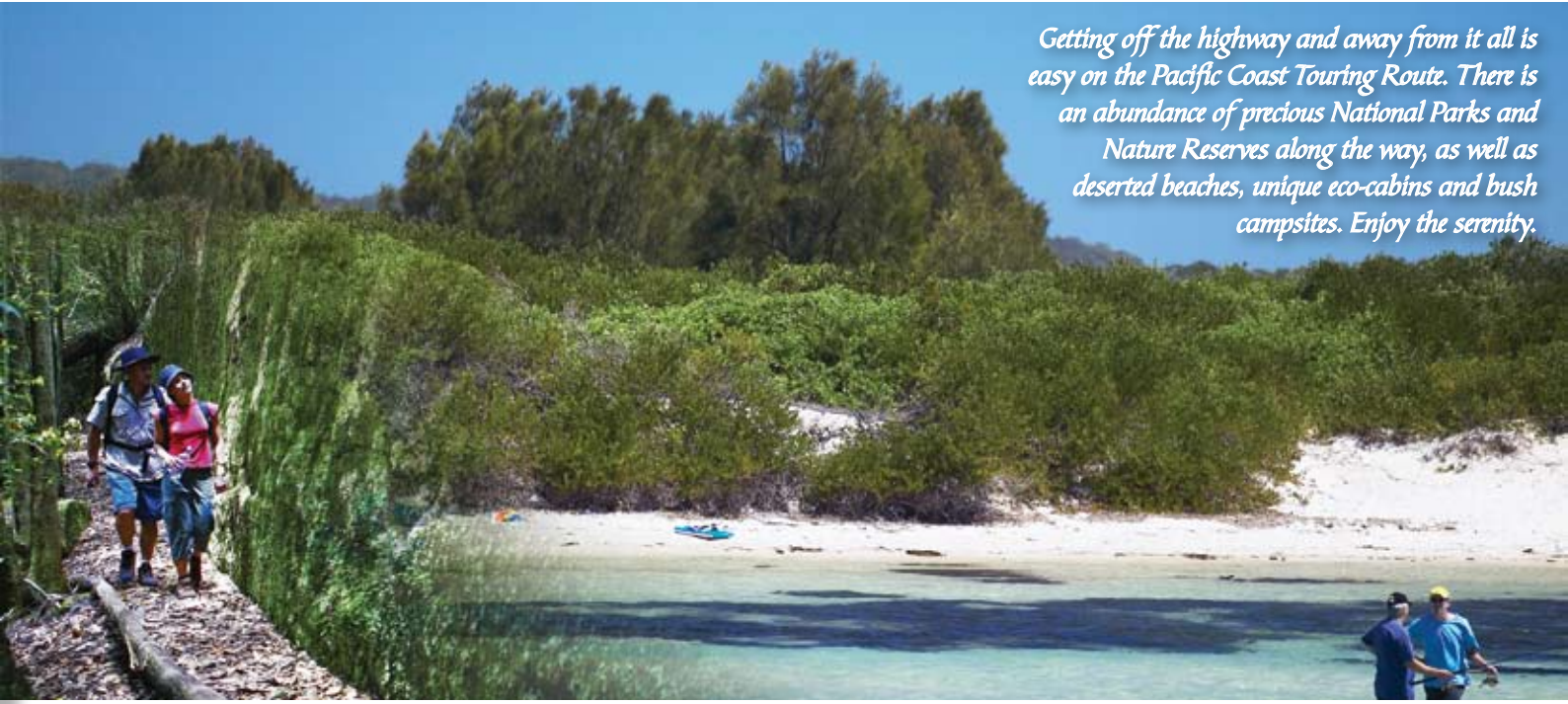


*Getting off the highway and away from it all is easy on the Pacific Coast Touring Route. There is an abundance of precious National Parks and Nature Reserves along the way, as well as deserted beaches, unique eco-cabins and bush campsites. Enjoy the serenity.*



**DAY 1** 39MLS 63KMS 1H  
**Sydney – Central Coast**

Escape the urban grind by heading an hour north of central Sydney to the peaceful, clean air of the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. Explore the Aboriginal rock carvings, drawings and burial sites before taking the vehicle ferry across the Hawkesbury River to Berowra Waters. Here, settle down at Somersby Falls with a picnic lunch before heading back to the coast. You'll find over 30 stunning surf beaches, as well as 13 national parks and nature reserves to explore in and around the Central Coast. Drive through the beautiful Yarramalong Valley and visit the southernmost macadamia nut farm, lavender farm and Treetop Adventure Park, then bunk down overnight at a waterfront cabin or campsite.

**DAY 2** 64MLS 104KMS 1H 20M  
**Lake Macquarie – Barrington Tops**

Take the short drive north to Lake Macquarie, where there's a wide variety of water sports and great fishing on offer. Enjoy an invigorating walk along the lake shore, or a leisurely sail on the calm waters before heading inland to the Hunter Valley. Travel through the vineyards to reach Dungog, then follow Bucketts Way to Barrington Tops National Park. This lush World Heritage-listed site features 2000-year-old Antarctic Beech and rainforest, and is blissfully peaceful. Take a hike along the Bucketts Scenic Walk or paddle a canoe down the Barnard or Manning Rivers. If you have time, visit the stunning waterfalls at Gloucester Tops. Camp out in the bush or treat yourself to wilderness lodge or cabin accommodation.

**DAY 3** 201MLS 321KMS 3H  
**Barrington Tops – Crescent Head**

Continue following the Bucketts Way to the quaint heritage town of Wingham, then head north to spectacular Ellenborough Falls, the longest single drop waterfall in the Southern Hemisphere. Make sure you follow the walkway alongside it, right down to the bottom. From here, head back to the coast, call into Port Macquarie to stock up on supplies, then take the vehicle ferry across the river. Check out the stunning beaches along the little used road on the way to Crescent Head, a sleepy little town boasting some of the best waves in Australia and a dedicated National Surfing Reserve. Here you can camp, stay in a cabin or

pitch your tent next to the beaches in the Goolawah Camping Reserve, just south of Crescent Head.

**DAY 4** 74MLS 120KMS 1H 20M  
**Crescent Head – Bellingen or Dorrigo**

Make an early start up the coast today, checking out the waves along the way at South West Rocks, Grassy Head and Scotts Head. If the surf doesn't tempt, head inland from the highway to Taylors Arm and the 'Pub with No Beer', then north to Nambucca Heads, where you can enjoy a picnic lunch by the river or the beach. From here, continue north on the Waterfall Way then inland through the lush rural landscape to Bellingen. Dorrigo National Park, one of Australia's most accessible World Heritage areas, isn't far from here and is well worth a visit. Venture out over the treetops on the Skywalk, visit the Rainforest Centre or take a Discovery Tour. Camp out in the bush or head back to Bellingen for the night.

**DAY 5** 101MLS 164KMS 1H 40M  
**Bellingen – Wooli**

Get back to nature with a 4WD eco-tour from Coffs Harbour – you'll explore remote forest reserves rarely seen by travellers. Or embark on your own tour through Bindarri National Park, which offers spectacular waterfalls, plus views over a deep rainforest basin, the Great Escarpment and the coast. From here, you'll turn off the highway and head back to the coast to Wooli, a tiny coastal village located on a peninsula between the ocean and river. There's the Wooli River on one side and the Solitary Islands Marine Park on the other, and the village is encircled by the Yuraygir National Park. This wildlife-packed environment is home to kangaroos, wallabies, wild emus and goannas – and you'll find a spectacular array of marine life in the clean, clear waters of the sea. If you have time in the afternoon, visit nearby Minnie Water for a dip in Minnie Lagoon. Camp overnight or treat yourself to a stay in a waterside cabin.

**DAY 6** 140MLS 226KMS 2H 15M  
**Wooli – Byron Hinterland**

Today, you'll continue north via the village of Tucabia. Take a break at Squatters Rest Private Museum, where you can learn about rural life in Australia, as well as sampling billy tea and damper. Turn off the highway to Yamba, famous for fresh prawns and fantastic surfing beaches. Or you may wish to take the ferry across the river to the fishing village of Iluka, where it's easy to explore the rainforest of the World Heritage listed Iluka Nature Reserve. Continue north to Woodburn, then turn off inland to Lismore, driving through the lush pastures and sub-tropical rainforest of the Byron hinterland. Stay overnight at a village B&B, farm stay or bush cabin.

**DAY 7** 130MLS 208KMS 2H 20M  
**Byron Hinterland – Brisbane**

This morning, follow the highway back through the quaint historic villages of Bexhill, Clunes and Bangalow – and if you're game, stop off for a swim at Tyagarah, a clothing-optional beach just north of Byron Bay. Enjoy a relaxing lunch break at the colourful, alternative town of Mullumbimby before continuing north to the spectacular Wollumbin-Mt Warning National Park, which is a central part of Australia's Green Cauldron, a National Landscape where you can hike through the lush subtropical rainforest surrounding the ancient volcano caldera. In the afternoon, you'll travel over the border via the farmlands of the Tweed Valley and continue north through the Gold Coast hinterland to Brisbane.