

Coast & Vines Road Trip



This route loops north from Sydney through three very different destinations: Terrigal, Port Stephens and the Hunter Valley. Follow it day by day, or use it as a starting point to build your own escape.

next escape
real places. real experiences.



5 DAYS,
4 NIGHTS



~467 KM
LOOP



STARTS & ENDS
SYDNEY



TERRIGAL
PORT STEPHENS
HUNTER VALLEY

DAY
1

SYDNEY → TERRIGAL

1 hour 30 minutes, 85 km

An easy first day drive lands you in Terrigal with time for lunch, a lazy beach afternoon, sunset cocktails and dinner with a view.

STAY OPTIONS: TERRIGAL

- Crowne Plaza Terrigal
- Star of the Sea
- Terrigal Sails Serviced Apartments



DO

- Beach swim
- Terrigal Lagoon for paddleboarding
- Walk to Wamberal Beach
- The Skillion walk
- Sunset cocktails

EAT

Amarilla
Spanish tapas with a view

Four Hands
Pizza and tapas

Terrigal Pavilion
Casual pizza and beers

DAY
2

TERRIGAL → PORT STEPHENS

1 hour 45 minutes, 102 km

Have breakfast by the beach before you head north to Port Stephens to spend the afternoon waterside.

STAY OPTIONS: PORT STEPHENS

- The Anchorage
- Bannisters Port Stephens



DO

- Stop at Holberts Oyster Farm.
- Gan Gan Lookout.
- Fingal Bay or Birubi Beach for a beach swim

EAT

The Galley Kitchen
Marina-side dining

Rick Stein at Bannisters
Famous seafood pie

Shoal Bay Country Club
Casual dining by the beach

DAY
3

PORT STEPHENS

Local drives only

Spend the day in and around Port Stephens. As you have a full day, you could check out a dolphin or whale watching cruise, or one of the Stockton Sand Dunes tours.



DO

- Tomaree Head Summit Walk
- Dolphin & whale watching cruises
- Fingal Bay & Anna Bay
- Stockton Sand Dunes

EAT

Inner Light Tea Rooms
Scones with a view

Little Beach Boathouse
Waterfront dining

Cheeky Dog
Casual pub-style

SEE FULL ITINERARY ON NEXT ESCAPE →

DAY
4

PORT STEPHENS → HUNTER VALLEY

1 hour 25 minutes, 105 km

Head to the Hunter for an afternoon of wine tasting and a country dinner.

STAY OPTIONS: HUNTER VALLEY

- The Convent
- Hermitage Lodge
- Rydges Hunter Valley



DO

- Wine tasting
- Bike through the vines
- Cheese tastings
- Hunter Valley Gardens
- Day spa

EAT

Circa 1876

Chef's set menu

Pescara

Neighbourhood Italian

Brokenwood Wines

Lunch at the cellar door

DAY
5

HUNTER VALLEY → SYDNEY

2 hours, 175 km

Have a relaxed breakfast in the vines before you head back to Sydney. Stop on the way to stock up on cheeses and any last-minute wine purchases.

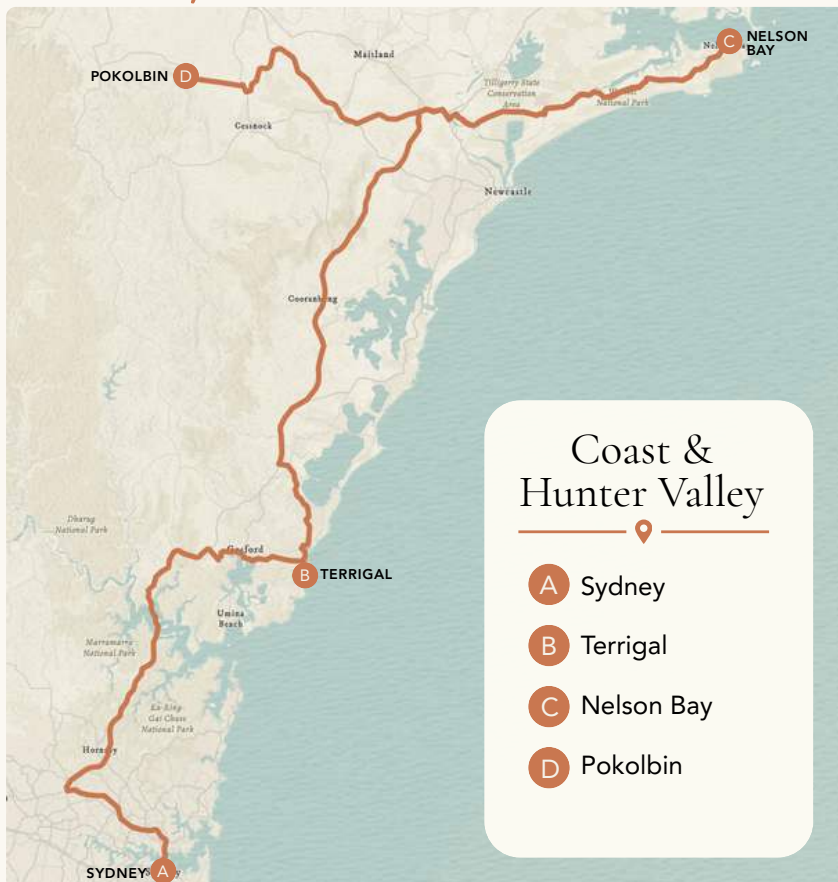


SUGGESTED STOPS

- The Deck Cafe
- Smelly Cheese Shop
- Binnorie Dairy



Route map



Planning

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book restaurants and accommodation in advance, especially on weekends.
- Book whale watching or dolphin cruises in advance.
- Book any cellar door tastings. Walk-ins are possible in most cellar doors but not guaranteed.

NEXT ESCAPE LINKS

TERRIGAL

[Travel guide](#) →

[Accommodation](#) →

[Holiday houses](#) →

PORT STEPHENS

[Travel guide](#) →

[Accommodation](#) →

[Holiday houses](#) →

HUNTER VALLEY

[Travel guide](#) →

[Accommodation](#) →

[Holiday houses](#) →



Next Escape is your guide to real places and real experiences, with practical, independent travel advice based on first-hand visits: the places we've explored, the restaurants we've eaten at and the walks we've done. This guide may contain affiliate links; if you book or buy through them, Next Escape may earn a small commission at no extra cost to you.

next escape
real places, real experiences

SEE FULL ITINERARY ON NEXT ESCAPE →