

Coastal Dining Road Trip



This 4-day NSW coastal dining road trip links Killcare, Terrigal and Port Stephens, with three restaurant dinners to plan the trip around. Follow it day by day, or use it as a starting point to build your own escape.

next escape
real places, real experiences



4 DAYS,
3 NIGHTS



~473 KM
LOOP



STARTS & ENDS
SYDNEY



KILLCARE
TERRIGAL
PORT STEPHENS

DAY
1

SYDNEY → KILLCARE

1 hour 30 minutes, 101 km

After an easy drive north to Killcare, check in and spend the afternoon at the beach or poolside before dinner.

STAY: KILLCARE

- Bells at Killcare



DO

- Killcare Beach & Putty Beach
- Bouddi Coastal Walk
- Hardys Bay waterfront

EAT

Wild Flower Bar & Dining
Fresh, seasonal produce

Anchor on Hardys Bay
Italian inspired with views

The Fat Goose
Morning pastries & coffee

DAY
2

KILLCARE → TERRIGAL

20 minutes, 16 km

A short drive today gives you plenty of time to explore Killcare in the morning, then an afternoon in Terrigal when you arrive.

STAY: TERRIGAL

- Crowne Plaza Terrigal



DO

- Walk the Skillion
- Terrigal Beach
- Paddleboard on the lagoon
- Whale watching
- Coast Walking Track
- Sunset cocktails

EAT

Amarilla
Spanish tapas

Coral
Fresh seafood platters

Bellyfish Cafe
Breakfast or brunch

DAY
3

TERRIGAL → PORT STEPHENS

2 hours, 141 km

Head to Port Stephens after breakfast. Stop for fresh oysters on the way, then spend the day on the beach, walking the headland or poolside.

STAY: PORT STEPHENS

- The Anchorage, or
- Bannisters Port Stephens



DO

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

EAT

Rick Stein at Bannisters
Famous seafood pie

The Galley Kitchen
Marina-side dining

Inner Light Tea Rooms
Scones with a view

SEE FULL ITINERARY ON NEXT ESCAPE →

DAY
4

PORT STEPHENS → SYDNEY

2.5 hours, 215 km (direct)

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast in Port Stephens before making your way back to Sydney, with plenty of options for stops along the way.



SUGGESTED STOPS

- Gan Gan Lookout
- B Farm Murray's
- Holberts Oyster Farm
- Ettalong Beach (The BOX on the Water for lunch)



Tailoring your itinerary

MAKE IT YOUR OWN

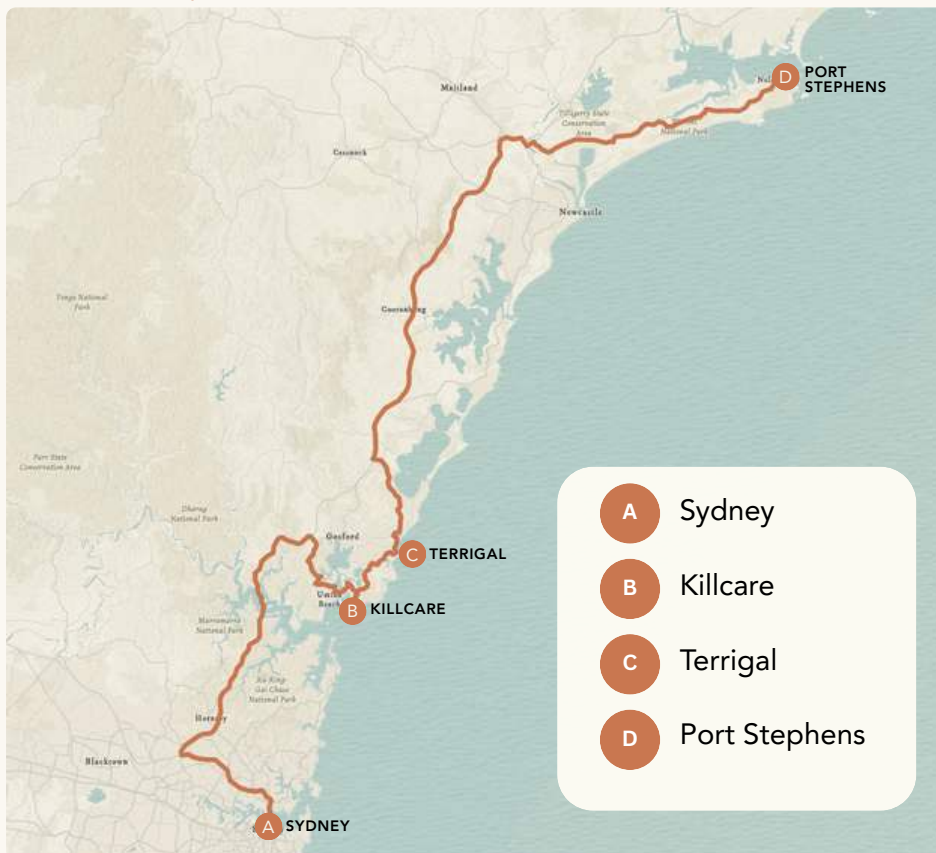
- Spend an extra night in Killcare, Terrigal or Port Stephens.
- Do in reverse if that works better for your accommodation and restaurant bookings.
- Continue on up to Forster or inland to the Hunter Valley.
- Take the ferry across to Tea Gardens.

Planning

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book restaurants and accommodation in advance, especially on weekends.
- Book any dolphin or whale watching cruises and Stockton Sand Dunes tours.
- Check National Parks alerts, road and weather conditions before visiting Bouddi National Park.

Route map



- A** Sydney
- B** Killcare
- C** Terrigal
- D** Port Stephens

NEXT ESCAPE LINKS

KILLCARE

- Travel guide →
- Accommodation →
- Holiday houses →

TERRIGAL

- Travel guide →
- Accommodation →
- Holiday houses →

PORT STEPHENS

- 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.



SEE FULL ITINERARY ON NEXT ESCAPE →