OnCourse
TOURS AND TRAVEL

NEWCASTLE COASTAL ESCAPE

4TH TO 7TH FEBRUARY 2025
4 DAY TOUR

Located within easy reach of Sydney, Newcastle is an excellent base to explore this diverse region. We will start our tour with a stop at the Wyong Milk Factory, established in 1906 it has been lovingly restored and salvaged. There is something here for everyone including Little Creek Cheese, Luka Chocolates, Daily Dough Co. and Grumpy Ginger.



Newcastle is one of Australia's oldest cities, established in 1804 as a penal settlement. Its historic architecture and landmarks, such as Fort Scratchley and Newcastle East Heritage Walk, reflect its colonial past. Known for its industrial history, particularly coal mining and steel production, it was once considered the "Steel City" of Australia due to its significant steelworks.

The city boasts some of Australia's most beautiful beaches, including Newcastle Beach, Nobbys Beach, and Merewether Beach, which is famous for its surf culture and hosting international surfing competitions. With a proud history, fabulous heritage buildings, beautiful beaches and parks and massive redevelopment, it's little wonder Newcastle has experienced such rapid expansion.

Port Stephens is truly a blue water wonderland. Its twin headlands Yaccaba and Tomaree stand guard over vast expanses of crystal clear water and white sands. We will include a visit to the Inner Lighthouse at Little Beach which is home to Marine Rescue, formerly the Royal Volunteer Coastal patrol.

ABN 24 670 147 789
11 Tepko Road, Terrey Hills NSW 2084
PO Box 188, Terrey Hills NSW 2084
PH: (02) 9986 2400

Morpeth, the once bustling Hunter River port which serviced much of the New England is a charming historic town known for its heritage buildings, scenic river views, and quaint atmosphere. The Morpeth Bridge, built in 1898, is an iconic landmark as one of the oldest surviving lift bridges in Australia and still operates manually to allow boats to pass through on the Hunter River. We will learn all about this fascinating town on a guided tour as well as allow some time for a little retail therapy.

Our journey home will see us stop and enjoy morning tea on the banks of Lake Macquarie before we board the "Lady Mac" for a two and a half hour buffet luncheon cruise on this delightful waterway. Be captivated by the beautiful scenery surrounding the foreshore of Lake Macquarie as we meander around the bays extending as far South as the pristine waters of Swansea.

Sitting amongst the waterfront of the iconic Honeysuckle promenade, The Rydges Newcastle will provide the perfect base for exploring this area.





Highlights of the tour include:-

- Wyong Milk Factory
- Newcastle City and Heritage Port Tour
- Newcastle Beaches
- Queens Street Wharf
- Fort Scratchley Guided Tour
- True Crime Tour of Newcastle
- Williamstown RAAF Base and Fighterworld
- Heritage Tour of Morpeth
- Winery Visit
- Lake Macquarie Lunch Cruise

Cost per person includes a group pick up, 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners, wine tasting, guided tours, admissions and accommodation at Rydges Newcastle (Ph: 4907 5000). Single Supplement is $390.00.

Based on a minimum of 25 passengers the twin share rate is $1400.00

*** *Due to unforeseen circumstances the itinerary may change* ***

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NEWCASTLE COASTAL DELIGHTS

4TH TO 7TH FEBRAURY 2025

DAY 1

Our morning commences with a drive north where we pause with a visit to the Wyong Milk Factory. Established in 1906 it has been lovingly restored, saved and salvaged. There is something here for everyone including Little Creek Cheese, Luka Chocolates, Daily Dough Co. and Grumpy Ginger.

We continue to Morpeth, a charming town rich in history and heritage. Initially established on land granted to Lieutenant Edward Charles Close in 1821, Morpeth evolved into a vital river port during the 1820s and 1830s. Its location on the Hunter River allowed it to become a hub for settlers, merchants, and industries, playing a crucial role in the development of the Hunter Valley region.

Today, Morpeth is celebrated as a National Trust-classified town with well-preserved historical buildings and sites. Our Guide will board the coach and take us on a Heritage Tour highlighting some of the key sites, including St. James's Church, Morpeth Bridge, and heritage-listed properties such as Closebourne House. Following our guided tour we will enjoy lunch at leisure (own cost) and free time to explore the boutique shops and the vibrant local culture.

After our time in Morpeth we depart for Newcastle where we will enjoy a Heritage Tour, taking in some of its fine heritage buildings (the settlement here dates back to 1804) and picturesque coastline. The harbour front has been substantially rejuvenated and this former steel city is now a desirable place to live. Our accommodation for 3 nights will be The Rydges Newcastle (02 4907 5000). Situated on the iconic Honeysuckle promenade, this will provide the perfect base for exploring this area. We will check in with time to freshen up before our dinner in-house.

DAY 2

This morning we will explore Newcastle's spectacular beaches, including Merewether, Dixon Park Beach, Bar Beach, City Beach and Nobby's Beach, allowing time to enjoy the Newcastle Memorial Walk on the way.

The headland known as Fort Scratchley has long been associated with the history of Newcastle. The hilltop was strategically significant as early as 1804, leading to the construction of an earthen battery in 1828. In 1876, fears of a Russian attack prompted the British Government to send Major General Sir William Jervois and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Scratchley to advise on naval defences, resulting in the fort's construction under Colonial Architect James Barnet.

We will enjoy a guided tour here and time our visit to witness the time honoured seafaring tradition of firing a gun at 1pm to coincide with the Customs House time ball drop. The time ball and gun firing at precisely 1pm was used in ports

around the world in the 19th century to allow sea captains to adjust their navigation instruments and Newcastle is one of the few Ports around the world that has the capacity for this.

We will then be dropped at the Queens Wharf area to enjoy lunch at leisure (and own cost) and the afternoon at leisure to explore Newcastle or just relax at the Hotel. The coach will provide a shuttle service back to the Rydges from Queens Wharf after lunch.

Dinner tonight will be in-house at 7pm.

DAY 3

This morning we will visit the Williamtown RAAF Base to see the amazing Hornet Jet Fighters and learn about the vital role they play in Australia's defence strategy. Following the base tour, which takes us through this impressive facility, we will have time to look through the museum which contains an incredible collection of fighter jets.

We continue to Shoal Bay at the tip of the Tomaree Peninsula, and visit the Inner Lighthouse at Little Beach which is home to Marine Rescue, formerly the Royal Volunteer Coastal patrol. We will learn about this vital operation from a dedicated group of volunteers and also spend time taking in the superb views of this blue water wonderland and learn about the history of Port Stephens from the displays in the old lighthouse.

Following lunch we will visit a local winery for a tasting before we head back to our Hotel to freshen up for our Crime Tour. The Dark Stories Crime Tour in Newcastle is a unique and engaging walking tour that explores the city's darker historical side. As we walk the streets, our guide will share chilling tales of infamous crimes and notorious figures from the city's past. It is a blend of true crime storytelling and immersive theatre, perfect for fans of history and mystery.

We will enjoy dinner in one of the great restaurants near the Hotel.

DAY 4

After a leisurely morning we say goodbye to Newcastle and head to Lake Macquarie, where we will pause for morning tea before boarding the "Lady Mac" for a two and a half hour buffet luncheon cruise on this delightful waterway. Be captivated by the beautiful scenery surrounding the foreshore of Lake Macquarie as you meander around the bays extending as far South as the pristine waters of Swansea.

Our return to Breakfast Point sees us travel down to Toronto and onto the Pacific Motorway and after a brief stop at the Hawkesbury River we continue home.

** *This itinerary is subject to change due to any unforeseen circumstances* **