New England High Country

Drop into the Armidale, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha Visitor Information Centres for more information on New England High Country.

**Armidale Visitor Information Centre**
82 Marsh Street
Armidale NSW 2350
(02) 6770 3888
tourism@armidale.nsw.gov.au
www.armidaletourism.com.au

**Urralla Visitor Information Centre**
104 Bridge Street
Urralla NSW 2358
(02) 6778 4496
visit@uralla.com
www.uralla.com

**Guyra Visitor Information Centre**
Rafter’s Restaurant
New England Highway
Guyra NSW 2365
(02) 6779 1876
tourism@guyra.nsw.gov.au
www.guyra.nsw.gov.au

**Walcha Visitor Information Centre**
51 W Fitzroy Street
Walcha NSW 2354
(02) 6774 2460
council@walcha.nsw.gov.au
www.walchansw.com.au

**Free app**

Experience the thrill of altitude and marvel at our spectacular waterfalls, gorges, World Heritage National Parks, cool-climate vineyards and a fascinating and diverse cultural heritage.

Search ‘experience the highs’
Available for iPad and iPhone
www.experiencethehighs.com.au

**MAP KEY**

- Destination
- Scenery / Attractions
- Cafés & Restaurants
- Public Toilets
- Information Centre
- Accommodation

For digital versions of these maps, please visit armidaletourism.com.au/guides
URALLA TO BENDEMEER

This scenic route commences from Uralla and may be explored in either direction - south on the New England Highway to Bendeemere, or by taking Thunderbolt's Way south to Walcha.

For convenience we will describe the route starting with the New England Highway, where a leisurely drive takes travellers down the New England plateau past wooded hillsides and open paddocks accommodating sheep and cattle.

Some 40km south of Uralla on the right is Banalasta, a property that grows its own grapes, eucalyptus and lavender. An excellent visitor centre provides an opportunity to stop over for a tea or coffee break and inspect the very large range of products made from their home grown list. These include wines, eucalyptus soaps, lavender sachets and a multitude of skin care products. They will even show you how to extract the various essential oils from eucalyptus leaves and lavender grasses. Open daily, during summer from 9.30am to 4.30pm, and 10.00am to 4.00pm in winter.

BENDEMEER TO WOOLBROOK

Leaving Bendeemere, take the Oxley Highway due east some 20km to the Woolbrook, turn off on your right. Woolbrook is a tiny hamlet nestled amongst shady trees. Here you can take time out to throw a line into the McDonald River to catch a mountain trout, or cool off at a swimming spot.

Woolbrook has some great old houses and sandstone block architecture, which fits aptly with the ambience of the town.

WOOLBROOK TO WALCHA ROAD

A further 11km on, a left hand turn leads to the Walcha Road Hotel (before the bridge in Walcha Road). This original and beautiful hotel dates back to 1860, but has recently been rebuilt following a fire in 2004.

During rebuilding, the owners displayed their inventiveness by squatting on their land and building a new hotel, the Walcha Road Hotel. The hotel is now used for a daily return service from Sydney to Armidale.

Bendemeer, or by taking Thunderbolt's Way south to Walcha.

This was an Irish settlement with market gardens and the Irish families that lived here helped on the many larger properties and famous Merino sheep studs which were settled here. Yalgoo, Miramoona, Merani, Petali and Terrible Vale, whose name possibly derives from a battle between aboriginal tribes prior to European settlement, where much blood was shed, leaving only a very few survivors.

Dangar's Lagoon, with its bird hide can be seen on your right about 10km further up the road. This nature pond has been dammed up, originally by the Chinese gold miners and again later when it was enlarged and used as a reservoir.

Today, it is a protected wetlands reserve for the local bird life. A bird hide located at the southern end of the lagoon houses a useful illustrated display of birds that can be spotted from time to time in the lagoon.

On arrival in Uralla, be sure to visit McCrossin's Mill Museum, home of Thunderbolt memorabilia and local history, or spend time enjoying the heritage streetscape, unique shops, galleries and cafes.

Today's Walcha produces a great and varied amount of primary products, including some of Australia’s finest wool, fat lambs, beef and cattle. Timber production still plays a vital role in the economy of the district.

Created by local, national and international artists, over 40 sculptures are spread around the town and along the Apsley River levee banks. Pick up a copy of the Open Air Gallery brochure and spend some time exploring the array of unique artworks.

Walcha has a great variety of accommodation, including farmstays, bed & breakfasts, caravan park, motel and hotels. Visit the Pioneer Cottage and Museum Complex and antique shop. Please contact the Walcha Visitor Information Centre for more opening hours.

Walcha Road is the gateway to the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, Apsley and Tia Falls and the World Heritage Listed Wernimkme National Park.

Call into the Walcha Visitor Information Centre for more information on the region’s national parks.

Walcha (pronounced Wokka) was the first town to be settled in the New England region by Europeans back in 1838, with the arrival of John Oxley. It became a major sheep and cattle producing area, along with the gold rush in the 1870s and the timber-getters with their bullock teams.

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