

# new england high country

experience  
the **highs**







Point Lookout, New England National Park



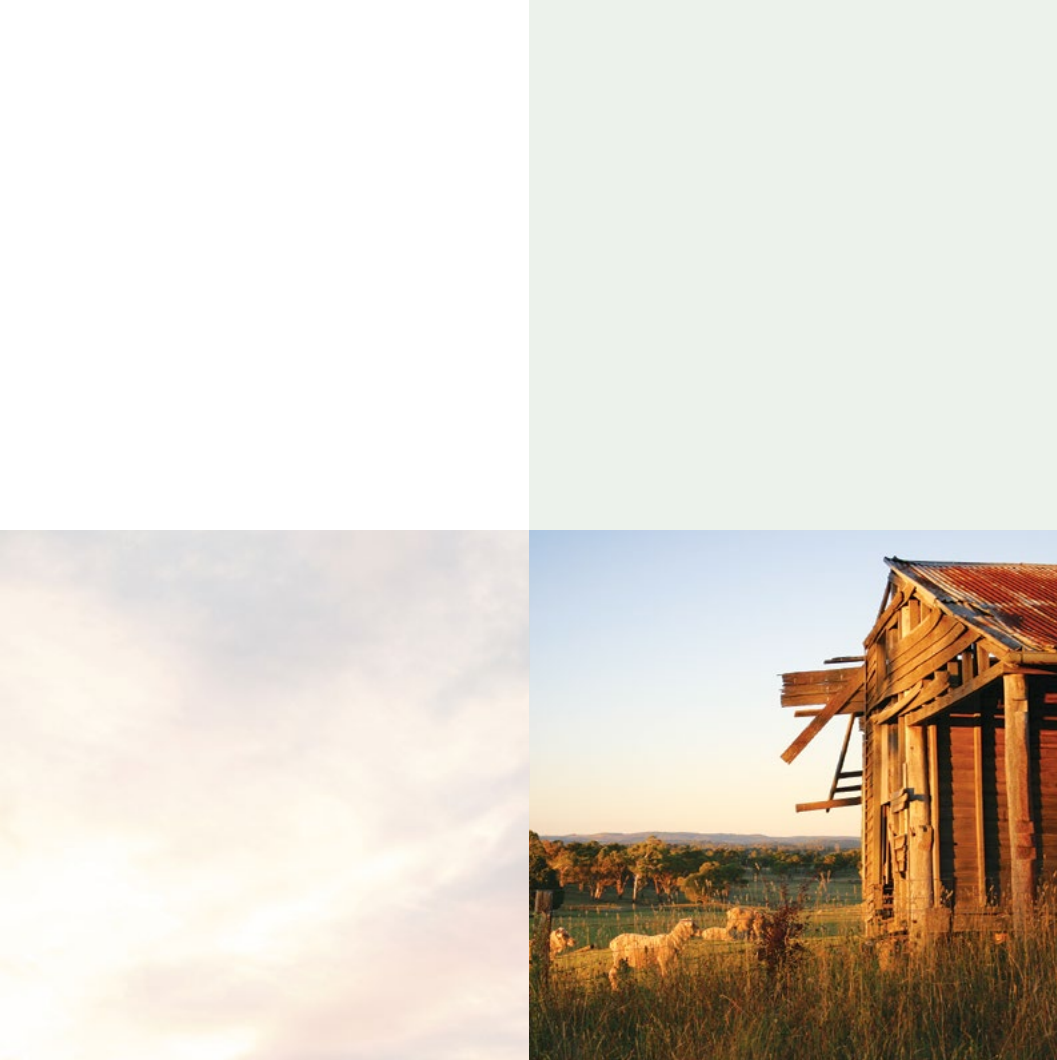
Lower Ebor Falls  
Cover photo: Hoppy's Lookout by Gerhard Koertner



# come up and play.

Spectacular waterfalls, gorges, world-heritage national parks, cool-climate vineyards and a fascinating and diverse cultural heritage. Canyoning, mountain biking, birdwatching, trout fishing and other outdoor adventures take on an exciting new dimension up high. You'll be delighted all over again when you come inside to discover our galleries, boutique shopping, museums, fine food, wine and craft beer.





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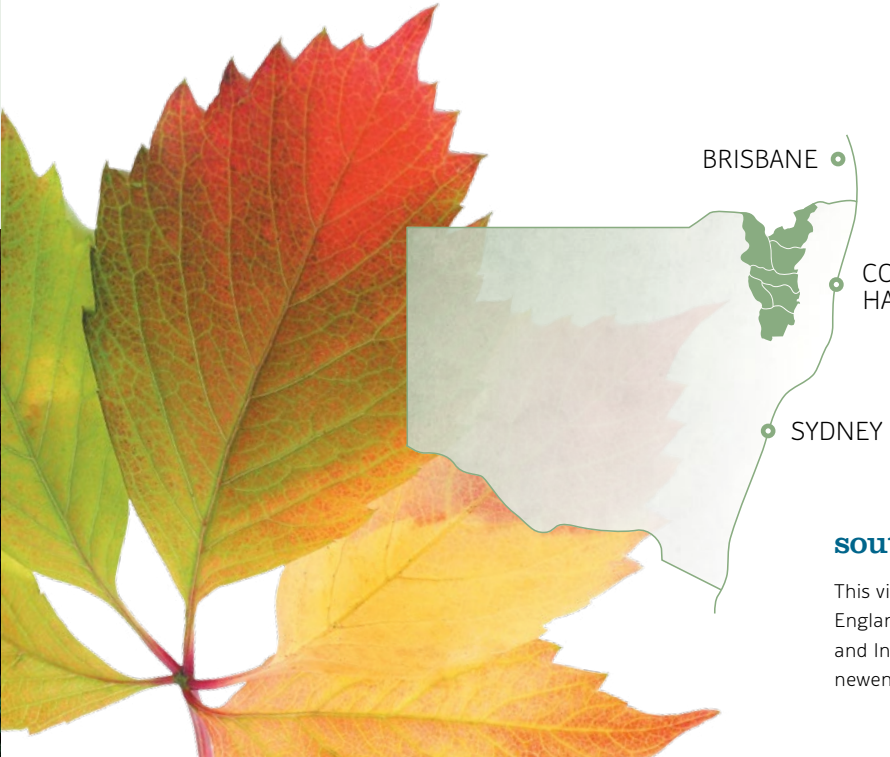
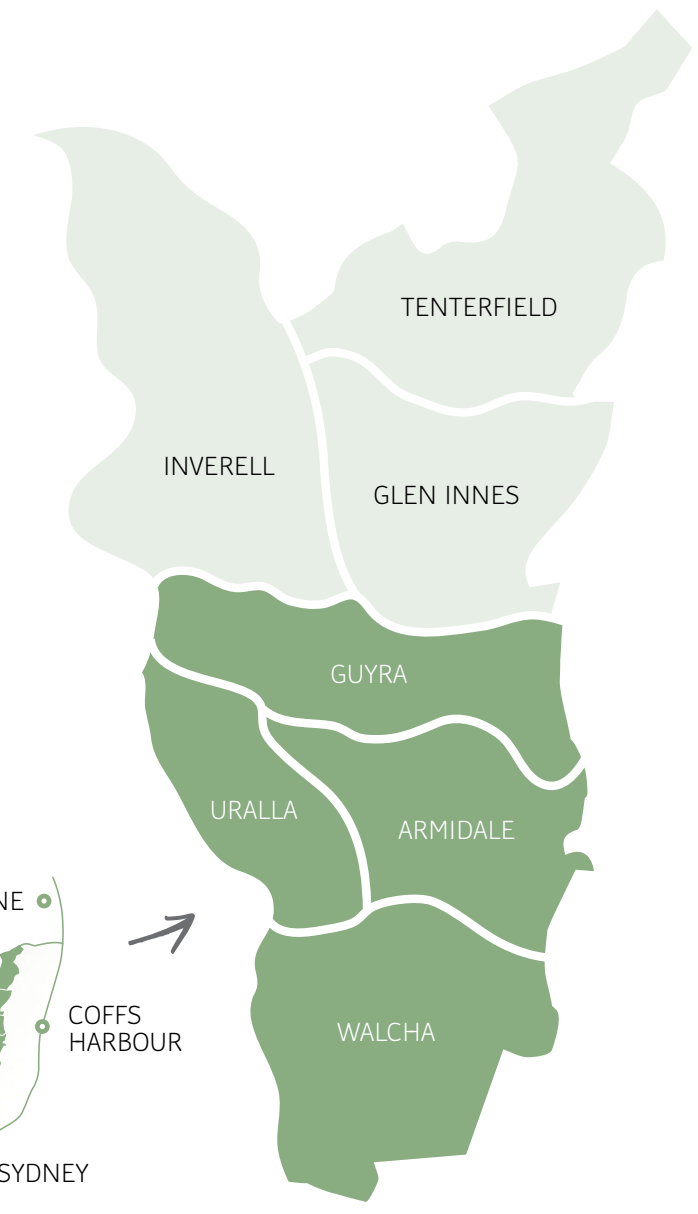


# new england high country

our region...


Starting around 1000 metres above sea level, New England High Country offers visitors a truly evocative and unique experience with four distinct seasons. The city of Armidale and the towns of Glen Innes, Guyra, Inverell, Tenterfield, Uralla and Walcha share a rich history and stunning natural environment.


Where else can you experience World Heritage wilderness in the morning and indulge in the sophistication of world-class galleries, boutique shops and vineyards in the afternoon?





### southern section guide

This visitor guide covers the southern section of New England High Country. Look for the Tenterfield, Glen Innes and Inverell guides at regional information centres or visit [newenglandhighcountry.com.au](http://newenglandhighcountry.com.au) for downloads.

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The Councils of Armidale, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha would like to thank NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service for their support and use of imagery.

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So many stunning national parks to explore; New England, Oxley Wild Rivers, Guy Fawkes River and Cathedral Rock. For more information visit: [nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

# natural wonders

New England High Country boasts an extensive gorge wilderness with over 500 kilometres of wild and scenic rivers. Discover a unique natural playground with magnificent waterfalls, rainforests and exotic flora and fauna.

Imagine a place where the geology and biodiversity is unique, where you can climb giant rock formations, stroll through rainforests, encounter rare wildlife, watch powerful waterfalls, camp in the wilderness, paddle wild rivers, and find endless breathtaking views. This is all part of the New England High Country experience – there are hundreds of thousands of hectares of national parks and state forests to explore.

From Point Lookout in the New England National Park, you can gaze out in all directions across unspoilt wilderness and the Bellinger Valley all the way to the Pacific Ocean. Rock wallabies and lyrebirds are among the rare sights you can expect to encounter along the walking tracks through the banksia and snow gum populated bush around the lookout.

Much of this park is World Heritage listed, protecting a significant expanse of Antarctic beech rainforest that has thrived on the edge of the Great Dividing Range here for eons. This is one of the very few places in the world where you can experience what the ancient supercontinent of Gondwana may have looked like.

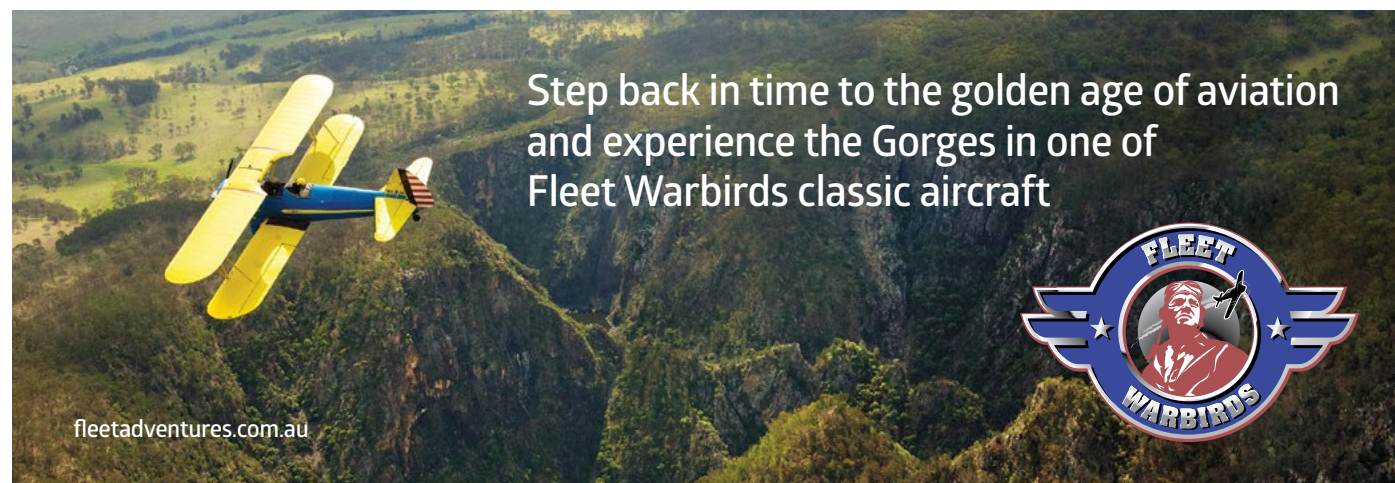
The landscape in the Cathedral Rock National Park offers a different spectacle – rock-hopping isn't just for the wallaroos here. Hike to the park's main boulder piles of Woolpack Rocks and Cathedral Rock and scramble to their summits for superb views across the wilderness landscape of dry eucalypt forest and granite outcrops. The park's rock formations are particularly photogenic in late-afternoon light or mist.

Hundreds of kilometres of waterways rage and meander through the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, where huge tracts of magnificent wilderness are also World Heritage listed. This is where camping, trout fishing, kayaking, swimming, canyoning and abseiling are major attractions.

The 7km walk from Budds Mare to Riverside descends 700m to the Apsley River with great bass fishing, swimming holes, camping and day use areas. Alternatively, Riverside has vehicular access (low range 4WD required), a key can be obtained from the NPWS offices. A more challenging hike is the award winning Green Gully Track – a unique four-day trek taking you deep into the Apsley-Macleay gorges with restored stockman's huts for accommodation along the way.


## wild rivers

Hundreds of kilometres of waterways rage and meander through the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, where huge tracts of magnificent wilderness are also World Heritage listed.



Step back in time to the golden age of aviation and experience the Gorges in one of Fleet Warbirds classic aircraft

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Cascade Falls, New England National Park

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Upper Gara Gorge, locally known as Blue Hole, is a popular swimming spot for day trips. Southwards from the lower picnic area the gorge devolves into a series of cascades. There are no designated tracks to enable downstream investigation. Visitors could explore the river-bed by rock-hopping and wading. Great care needs to be taken, especially when the river is high or after rain. You could also spend several days following the Bicentennial National Trail on foot, horseback or mountain bike through rugged country, camping in historic stockmen's huts along the way. Rivers meandering through the eastern fringe of the tablelands have created a unique landscape of deep gorges and dramatic waterfalls.

Apsley Falls, east of Walcha in the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park is one of several must-sees. Walk the Apsley Gorge's rim-top tracks for fabulous views in all directions, keeping an eye out for rare wallabies as you make your way through the bush. Another must-see is Wollomombi Falls, reached via Waterfall Way, east of Armidale. These are the highest waterfalls in New South Wales. If you're fit, you can tackle the track that descends the steep fern-clad gully there to swim in the crystal-clear waterholes downstream.

A particularly exhilarating way to experience the wonders of the gorge country is on board a Fleet Helicopters' scenic tour. As the chopper swoops down the precipitous canyons, the bird's eye view of dry rainforest, flowing rivers and cascading waterfalls is amazing. Adventurous types can be dropped in the heart of this wild rugged country where camping, hiking, rock climbing, mountain biking, kayaking and fishing are popular pursuits.

If being dropped by helicopter in a remote riverbed isn't your thing, all these pursuits can be enjoyed by following walking tracks of varying levels of difficulty in the national parks. You'll find easily accessible lookouts and pretty picnic and overnight camping spots near most of the major waterfalls.

## must see waterfalls

Apsley Falls	20km east of Walcha
Bakers Creek Falls	25km east of Armidale
Dangars Falls	20km south of Armidale
Ebor Falls	1km from Ebor Village
Mihi Falls	21km south of Armidale
Tia Falls	37km east of Walcha
Wollomombi Falls	40km east of Armidale

Wild rivers and gorgeous gorges snake through New England High Country. For more information, visit: [newenglandhighcountry.com.au/experiences/natural-wonders](http://newenglandhighcountry.com.au/experiences/natural-wonders)



Dangars Falls



Rock Wallaby, Oxley Wild Rivers National Park



# history & heritage

Explore the New England at a leisurely pace and discover inspiring stories of the earliest Aboriginal inhabitants, European explorers, Chinese gold diggers, bushrangers, eminent scholars and generations of pastoralists.

The Aboriginal language groups whose traditional lands lie in New England High Country include the Anaiwan (the area around Armidale) and the Kwaimbul in the north, while the Banbai inhabited areas around Ben Lomond and Mt Mitchell.

In 1818, English explorer John Oxley ascended the ranges on horseback and camped for a while near Apsley River. He noted the 'parkland' he found on the plateau in his diary, and the march of European pioneers that followed changed the region forever. With the release of vast pastoral leases in the 1830s, squatters arrived and townships sprouted. Hamilton Collins Sempill took up the 'Wolka' sheep run in 1832 and claimed fame as the first settler. His timber-slab hut dwelling – a similar slab structure to Walcha's rustic Pioneer Cottage museum building – was allegedly sited near where the gracious Edwardian mansion 'Langford' now stands outside Walcha. Remarkably, several of the pastoral holdings in the region remain in the hands of the original families, who continue their forebears' tradition of producing some of the finest wool, lamb and beef in Australia.

Back in the old days, bushrangers were notorious for disrupting the bucolic pastoral scene. The antics of Frederick Ward (alias Captain Thunderbolt), for instance, are legendary. Ward's stellar career in highway robbery came to an end when he was shot by police at Kentucky Creek in 1870. Or was he? Controversy about who was actually killed on that day has been hotly debated ever since. On display at McCrossin's



Rock art, Mt. Yarrowyck

Mill Museum in Uralla (a fine example of a late-19th century commercial building) is a fascinating collection of Thunderbolt memorabilia that reveals stories about the area's gold mining heyday and wool industry history.



## Saumarez Homestead

Come and explore 10 hectares including gardens that surround the historic Edwardian mansion and historic farm buildings and grounds. Cafe available weekends and public holidays. Ideal wedding & function venue. Group tours available year round by appointment.

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Historic 'Homeleigh', Irish Town, Walcha

Armidale was officially declared a town in 1846. A few years later, the arrival of the railway and discovery of gold at Rocky River and Hillgrove heralded a population and building boom. Gold was discovered at Rocky River just southwest of Armidale in 1851 and soon 3,400 miners were there searching for the precious ore. By 1855 this number had grown to 5,000 people. Another goldfield northeast of Glen Innes, with a population of 400 miners including many Chinese settlers, was active throughout the 1850s.

Valuable minerals and metals, including tin, were discovered at other sites around the region and hundreds of Chinese joined the workforce, adding another dimension to the cultural mix. It was a prosperous few decades and Armidale's heritage architecture, in particular, reflects the grand ambitions of those late 19th-century settlers. The Anglican and Catholic cathedrals were among the earliest buildings to grace the centre of town, along with the stately post office, State Bank and courthouse, all still in use today.

In the countryside just outside Armidale, Saumarez Homestead, a 30-room Edwardian mansion with most of its original furnishings intact, donated to the National Trust by the White family descendants in 1984, offers a remarkably authentic glimpse of 19th-century family life on the land. The homestead, situated on a 10-hectare grazing property, was first inhabited by British settlers in the 1830s led by Henry Dumaresq. Today, visitors can explore the property's extensive gardens, the fully furnished homestead, built between 1888 and 1906, and 15 farm and other buildings dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, complete with collections of early farm equipment.

## A history of fine wool



**New England High Country is renowned for growing some of the finest wool in the world. Since the 1830s, this lush pasture wonderland rolling over the undulating hills as far as the eye can see, has been home to sheep that produce some of the finest wool available.**

**Near Uralla you'll find Deeargee Woolshed which was built in 1872. Originally part of Gostwyck Station, Deeargee Station and its unique octagonal woolshed gained their name from the old Gostwyck wool brand, DRG, which stood for Dangar, Gostwyck. The industry still thrives today and throughout New England High Country some of the world's highest quality merino wool continues to be produced.**

Also of historic note is beautiful 'Booloominbah'; the 1880s White family homestead designed by noted architect John Horbury Hunt (who also designed the Anglican cathedral). The building is now the administrative heart of the University of New England, the first rural university in NSW (established as a college of Sydney University in 1938 and proclaimed an independent university in 1954). Visitors can enjoy Booloominbah over lunch or a coffee whilst taking in the historical ambience. The University campus and many charming heritage buildings across the region are home to museums and collections that reveal a myriad of colourful stories about the history of New England High Country.





# art culture events

From renowned collections of antiquities and Australian art to writers' workshops, cutting-edge theatre and stellar music programs, culture and the arts are ubiquitous in New England High Country.



Armidale Pipe Band performing at the Armidale Autumn Festival

In Armidale, both classical and contemporary music contribute enormously to the city's cultural vibrancy, which comes as no surprise given that the University's distinguished music department has a history of international significance. The Old Teachers College is home to the New England Conservatorium and the UNE Department of Music, which nurture the Armidale Symphony Orchestra, Armidale Youth Orchestra, Fiori Musicali and many choral and other musical groups.

The New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM) in Armidale is an enjoyable and inspiring place for visitors of all ages. The museum is the custodian of around 5000 works of art, including the Howard Hinton, Chandler Coventry and NERAM collections. Hinton (1867-1948) was a noted collector of Australian art who donated over 1000 paintings to the Armidale community; including the famous 'Mosman's Bay' by Tom Roberts along with other renowned works by Arthur Streeton, Norman Lindsay, Margaret Preston, Margaret Olley and Lloyd Rees. Elsewhere in the museum, you'll find exhibitions featuring works by local and regional artists and often important touring shows from metropolitan museums and galleries.

Beneath NERAM is the Museum of Printing which houses an historically significant collection of printing machinery and equipment which comprise the FT Wimble & Co. Collection. It includes printing presses, a Linotype machine, guillotines, bookbinding equipment, wooden and metal type and a history of printing in Australia from 1850 to the early 1900s.

Next door, at the Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place, Lloyd Hornsby's 'The Apology', commemorating Kevin Rudd's historic 2007 'The Apology' to Aborigines, is one of several artworks by local and noted Aboriginal artists on display. You can learn about the history and traditions of the region's first Australians here – the Bush Tucker Walk, in particular, is a huge hit with kids.

The Armidale Art Gallery, Gallery 126 and Walcha Gallery of Art also exhibit works by local artists. You'll notice that the region's picturesque landscape and nature's beauty influence much of the art. In each town centre, you'll find several shops selling art and antiques. The Barking Dog Gallery in Uralla sells ceramics, glass and wood artworks by local artists and early



New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM)

**NERAM is the custodian of over 5000 works of art, including the renowned Howard Hinton and Chandler Coventry collections.**

English poetry is the focus of the quirky Chaucer on Bridge Street museum and gallery.

At the award-winning McCrossin's Mill Museum – also occasionally a venue for intimate musical performances and events – you'll discover a compelling series of huge paintings illustrating the story of legendary bushranger Captain Thunderbolt's last hours. Don't miss the town's renowned antiquarian bookstore either, a favourite with bibliophiles and anyone in search of a good book.

The calendar is brimming with exciting and innovative events throughout the year in New England High Country. Those not to be missed include the Uralla Lantern Parade, Seasons of New England, Flix in the Stix, Guyra Lamb and Potato Festival, Armidale Autumn Festival and the Walcha Mountain Festival.



Flix in the Stix



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More than 5000 music fans from the New England surrounds have travelled each year to Petersons Winery to enjoy the **a day on the green** experience - good food, fine wine, and of course, great music.

Paul Kelly & Neil Finn, Hunters & Collectors and Noiseworks have headlined the hugely successful events so far, with the crowds relaxing in reserved seats or on deck chairs and rugs, enjoying their own picnics or the food available on site from the quality local providers and the fabulous Petersons wines.

Since commencing in 2001, **a day on the green** has presented more than 350 shows at beautiful wineries around Australia. Adding Armidale to the national concert schedule has created a boon weekend for local businesses. Promoter Michael Newton, of Roundhouse Entertainment said: "Armidale is a well-located beautiful environment, which has a burgeoning wine and food industry producing quality

product. As an Evocity, it is home to a thriving economy, many fine educational institutions and a sophisticated and cosmopolitan culture.

"The concerts have been really embraced by everyone in the region. We feel it is a perfect home for our event."

**Since launching in Armidale in March 2012, the national concert series a day on the green has fast become one of the most popular events in the region.**

# GOOD FOOD, FINE WINE AND GREAT MUSIC.



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## There's always something special going on up high

Follow the Country Art Trail through the region and enjoy some of the many renowned galleries, museums, festivals and performances. Events celebrate all seasons and reflect the vitality of New England High Country. To find out more about upcoming events or current exhibitions ask at the region's Visitor Information Centres or visit [newenglandhighcountry.com.au/events](http://newenglandhighcountry.com.au/events)



Photos (from top anti-clockwise):  
Armidale Youth Orchestra at NECOM;  
Uralla Lantern Parade; Celtic dancers  
at the Armidale Autumn Festival;  
Armidale '12 Hours in the Piney'  
mountain bike race; New England  
Regional Art Museum (NERAM);  
McCrossin's Mill Museum, Uralla.



Follow the picturesque country roads through the New England and enjoy a bounty of delicious locally-grown produce and award-winning cold climate wines, visit: [newenglandhighcountry.com.au/experiences/food-wine](http://newenglandhighcountry.com.au/experiences/food-wine)

# food & wine

New England High Country boasts some of the best cool climate wines, artisan beers & ciders, boutique spirits and delicious fresh food; all made or grown locally with passion.



The Welder's Dog, Armidale

**Lamb and beef raised here have long been sought after by chefs and specialist butchers across the state and further afield. Grazing on the region's lush pastures, it seems, produces exceptionally tender and succulent cuts of meat.**

Orchards flourish in our high altitude climate. In season, you can buy freshly-picked berries, apples, pears and stone fruits from farm stands and local markets, or head out of town to pick your own – a popular activity for families with children.

Guyra hosts an annual Lamb and Potato Festival, celebrating the specialties of nearby farmers. Elsewhere in the region, trout farmers, bakers, cheese makers, and even a chocolatier, are among a growing number of small businesses producing delectable artisanal foods.

At the monthly farmer's markets held in most of the towns, you'll find local honey, home-made jams and chutneys, olive oil, teas and free-range eggs, among the array of local food products. Fortunately, much of the food grown here finds its way from 'pasture to plate' and onto the tables of local eateries. Seasons of New England Market and Fair Day in Uralla is renowned for its quality stalls, food and wine tastings and family fun.

From casual family restaurants, cafés, clubs and pubs to fine dining rooms and cellar door establishments, there's a diverse choice of dining options, as well as cuisines in New England High Country.

Ask for advice and locals are likely to recommend starting the day with a robust espresso at their favourite café. Blackboard menus across the region feature local seasonal produce the likes of ricotta hotcakes piled with berries and honeycomb butter, curried lamb pies and honey and lavender brulée, to name a few inspired dishes.

In warmer months, tables and chairs spill outside under shady umbrellas and trees. On weekends year round, you can head out of town to one of the cellar door operations that serve food with a view of the vineyards.

In 2008, the New England was declared an official Australian wine region for its unique climatic and topographic conditions. It is a re-emerging wine region with grape growing dating back to the first settlers. These days, vineyards in the region are generating excitement for producing cool climate wines of a distinctive style. On the New England wine trail you can taste award-winning wines at a number of cellar doors including Why Worry Wines, Merilba Estate, and Thunder Ridge Wines. At Peterson's Winery, located on a landmark pastoral property just outside Armidale, you can savour award-winning Riesling, Semillon, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, Shiraz, Cabernet and Merlot, and, if you like, stay the night in the historic homestead.

Meat lovers rejoice in New England High Country with national award-winning beef and lamb producers. You'll also find trout on the menu with the region boasting some of Australia's best fishing rivers and the Dutton Trout Hatchery on Point Lookout Road.

New England High Country is leading the surge with award-winning breweries and distilleries. New England Cider Co., located at Merilba Estate Wines, is one of the newest on the map using fresh apples and ingredients from the region. Where The Old Wool Store once stood in Uralla is the home of New England Brewing Company. They boast a range of craft beers; from pale to darker ales and seasonal brews.

Eastview Estate in Kentucky is a unique sensory experience. As well as a winery, craft brewery and fine restaurant, it's home to Dobson's Distillery where different types of gin, whiskey, vodka and liqueurs are individually crafted. The Welder's Dog in Armidale showcases much of the region's brews, spirits and wines.



Enjoying a coffee in Uralla: the foodie capital of New England



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Take a few hours or a day  
to explore New England  
High Country by car,  
motorbike or bicycle.

# scenic drives

📍 Gostwyck Chapel is one of the features of Tourist Drive 19. The chapel was entirely constructed of bricks made and fired on Gostwyck Station. The stone wall surrounding the chapel was built to protect it from floodwaters from the nearby Salisbury Waters.

## Explore New England High Country via our stunning Tourist Drives.

Tourist Drive leaflets are available online at: [newenglandhighcountry.com.au/maps-guides](http://newenglandhighcountry.com.au/maps-guides) or printed copies from the region's Visitor Information Centres.



On Tourist Drive 19 from Uralla, the elm tree-lined approach to the photogenic vine-covered Gostwyck Chapel remarkably resembles the English countryside the region was named after. From there, the route passes over a narrow wooden bridge, transporting you straight back into the Australian bush, past historic Deeargee Station's huge 19th-century woolshed and eventually to the Dangars Gorge and Falls turnoff. Picnic and hike along the gorge rim for amazing views of the waterfalls.

Travel the pioneer trail on Tourist Drive 21 from Uralla, over the hills to the lovely Banalasta lavender and eucalyptus farm, old Bendemeer coach stop and the tiny hamlet of Woolbrook, where you can fish for trout in the crystal clear waters of the McDonald River. The route then winds through Walcha, the first town settled in the region (early 1800s), and along Thunderbolt's Way back to Uralla.

Another great drive is named the Best of New England for good reason. From Armidale, Tourist Drive 17 winds along the picturesque Waterfall Way and through World Heritage listed national parks to the most spectacular gorges, waterfalls, crystal clear streams and views in the region. Highlights of this expedition include Gara Gorge and Wollomombi Falls in the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, Point Lookout in the New England National Park, massive boulders in the Cathedral Rock National Park and Ebor Falls. You also pass through

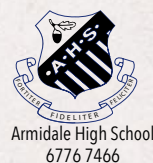
the once thriving mining towns of Hillgrove and Metz, visit a trout hatchery and stop by Malpas Dam, where you might catch a yacht race in action.

Leading into New England High Country are some of Australia's best touring routes. The famous Waterfall Way from Coffs Harbour, Thunderbolts Way from Gloucester through to Inverell, The Oxley Highway from Port Macquarie, Bruxner Highway between Casino and Tenterfield and the Gwydir Highway and Old Grafton Road from Grafton. They offer riders hundreds of kilometres of motorcycling bliss. Tight hairpins, long sweeping curves, stunning scenery, and bike-friendly towns that make our region a must-ride destination.

Driving from the coast is a multi-sensory experience. As you gain altitude, you'll experience the fascinating changes in vegetation all the way to sub-alpine forest, the sounds of unique bird species and the smell of the eucalypts. With four distinct seasons, you'll enjoy the changes in colour and texture each time you make the journey.

New England High Country is RV-friendly and many National Parks and State Forests in the region offer great camping. For further information, visit: [environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks](http://environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks)





## excellence in education

The University of New England is one of several educational institutions in the region with an enviable reputation for high-quality teaching and learning. Independent and public schools are also lauded for outstanding programs.

The University of New England was the first Australian university established outside a capital city. With a history extending back to the 1920s, UNE has a well-earned reputation as one of Australia's great teaching, training and research universities. It's also a great place to visit, with a range of fascinating museums, heritage buildings, beautiful grounds, cafés, restaurant, bar, and much more.

A generous heritage, completed in 1888, Booloominbah was designed as a grand country gentleman's house by Horbury Hunt for prominent colonial grazier Frederick White. During World War I, it served as a Red Cross convalescent home for wounded men.

In the late 1930s, a movement to create a university in Armidale was gathering momentum, and White relative T.R. Forster arranged to buy Booloominbah from the family estate and donate it as a spur to gain government support for the initiative. The University of New England began as a college of the University of Sydney in 1938. Booloominbah became

the centre of scholarly life and has been symbolically regarded as the heart of the University ever since.

Surrounded by magnificent grounds and fully restored in the late 1990s, the historic building has taken on many roles in the evolution of the University. It currently houses the University's senior executive and their administrative staff, as well as the Booloominbah Collection restaurant and bar. Booloominbah's colonial era architecture and spectacular stained-glass windows make it a popular stop off on the Armidale Heritage Tour, which includes a guided tour of the building and its surrounds.

With fascinating museums and parks, the University has remarkable collections of scientific, aesthetic and cultural material, housed in two permanent museums and a variety of temporary exhibition spaces. There is also a kangaroo and deer park, where visitors can get up close to nature. UNE's Museum of Antiquities is the only regional ancient history and archaeology museum in Australia.



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# Broaden your Horizons

With a rigorous academic focus, extensive co-curricular program and unparalleled leadership, service and adventure opportunities, TAS is a leader in education and has been for more than 120 years.

To find out how your child can explore, experience and excel at TAS visit

[www.as.edu.au](http://www.as.edu.au)



Abseiling, The Armidale School

Open to the public on weekdays its displays encompass antiquities from the ancient Mediterranean and Near East, complemented by objects and ethnographic material from Australia, South East Asia, New Guinea, the Pacific, Mesoamerica and Africa.

Armidale's two girls' private schools; New England Girls' School (NEGS) and Presbyterian Ladies' College (PLC) are both renowned with a long history in the region. Founded in 1895, NEGS has a mix of old and new heritage listed buildings with state of the art science laboratories and a national standard Equestrian Centre. Established in 1887, PLC offers excellence in academic pursuits, cultural and sporting activities while community service is encouraged and rewarded.

Established in 1894, The Armidale School (TAS) is an independent, Anglican day and boarding school of around 600 students, that will welcome girls into all year groups from the start of 2016. TAS is one of nine members of the Athletic Association of the Great Public Schools of New South Wales (AAGPS), the only one located outside the Sydney metropolitan area.

With over 200 boarders from Years 6 to 12, TAS specialises in offering quality, seven-days-a-week residential care, creating a boarding culture that is the envy of many of its peers. Specialist academic support gives boarding students at TAS a real advantage, as well as an active and rich social and recreational life.

There is a fundamental belief at TAS that every student can, and deserves to, experience the kind of success that promotes self-esteem, purpose in life and confidence to tackle new challenges. Whatever a student's interest, it is the business of the school to help find and support their involvement in worthwhile and personally important endeavours.

TAS is a vibrant and respected learning community where academic effort and performance are a priority. Students are expected to stretch themselves academically to reach their full potential and the school's strong academic culture attracts highly capable staff and students who perform strongly in external academic measures, most notably, consistently outstanding results in the NSW Higher School

Through its membership of the international Round Square Organisation, TAS has links to more than 140 schools across the globe, providing opportunities for student exchange, service projects, expeditions and conferences.

Certificate. The curriculum at TAS allows all students to be treated as individuals, by offering flexible learning pathways, whether it be for mainstream university entrance or vocational careers.

TAS believes that developing the heart and mind together contributes to self-confidence, responsibility, resilience, and character development. The school's outdoor education philosophy is key to this. In its Leadership, Service and



Museum of Antiquities, University of New England

Adventure programs, students at TAS are challenged to extend themselves and their expectations of what they can achieve – whether it be through cadets, abseiling, whitewater kayaking, surf life saving or Rural Fire Service.

Sited on a spacious 18 hectare campus on the New England tablelands of northern NSW, the school's facilities include an indoor 25m swimming pool and gymnasium, six sporting ovals, a 240-seat performing arts theatre and Trades Training Centre. Through its membership of the international Round Square organisation, TAS has links to more than 140 schools across the globe, providing opportunities for student exchange, service projects, expeditions and conferences.

TAS welcomes visits from prospective parents interested in what the school can offer their son and/or daughter. For information, contact the Registrar on 02 6776 5800.



**i** Armidale Visitor Information Centre  
82 Marsh Street, Armidale  
P. 02. 6770 3888 • armidaletourism.com.au

capital of new england

# armidale

What's so appealing about Armidale is that it's a cosmopolitan and sophisticated urban centre located in a picturesque rural setting on the doorstep of some of the most scenic national parks in Australia

One of Armidale's best kept secrets is that there are four national parks, each with extraordinary natural attractions, all within an hour's drive from the city centre. There's a monumental tumble of giant granite boulders to climb in the Cathedral Rock National Park. Along the aptly named Waterfall Way, Ebor Falls in the Guy Fawkes River National Park is one of several majestic waterfalls.

Much of the extensive wilderness in the New England and Oxley Wild Rivers National Parks is World Heritage listed. When you spy the views from Point Lookout in the New England National Park and walk along trails that wind through temperate rainforest there, or, hike through the spectacular gorges and encounter dramatic waterfalls and hundreds of kilometres of pristine waterways in the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, you'll see why.

The past has a place in modern-day Armidale. Gracious cathedrals and stately buildings dating from the 1860s reflect the lofty aspirations of the early settlers and remain a hive of activity today. But the best way to learn about the history of the city is to hop onboard the Armidale Heritage Tour bus for an entertaining 2½ hour guided sightseeing jaunt that takes in the most important sites.

A site not on the Armidale Heritage Tour bus route, but only a ten minute drive out of town, is Saumarez Homestead, a great place to experience 19th-century pastoral life. It's best to allow at least half a day to explore this gem of a National Trust property that remains virtually unchanged from the old days when a workforce of many families with all sorts of skills made the homestead almost self-sufficient.

## ARMIDALE Golf Club

18 hole championship golf course is set amongst beautiful native and exotic trees. The Club also provides a comfortable, friendly and relaxed atmosphere for members and guests to enjoy year round.

Armidale Golf Club  
Golf Links Road  
West Armidale 2350

Club House: (02) 6772 5837  
Pro Shop: (02) 6772 6592  
info@armidalegolf.com.au  
www.armidalegolf.com.au



With the University, TAFE, four prestigious private schools as well as public schools all achieving results, Armidale is also widely known as a centre of education excellence. The New England Conservatorium, New England Regional Art Museum, Hoskins Centre, Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place, the University and a talented crowd of local and visiting musicians, artists, actors and enthusiasts ensure that the calendar is chock full of inspiring events.

Stylish cafés buzz with activity and serve up great coffee and delicious regionally-inspired meals. Award-winning restaurants, clubs and pubs also offer a wide range of contemporary Australian and international cuisines.

Where to stay depends on how far into the wilderness you're prepared to go. You can, on one hand, descend into wilderness gorge country to camp and shower under waterfalls, or, on the other hand, head for the country and relax in a lovely cottage or historic guesthouse with plump feather pillows, antique furniture and home cooked meals. There are comfortable middle ground options too, such as motels, hotels, bed and breakfasts and self-catering apartments within walking distance to all the in-town action.

For those who like to stay connected whilst travelling, Armidale is the first mainland city in Australia to be fully NBN fibered so you can keep in touch with family and friends with the country's fastest consumer internet.



Rugby at The Armidale School

Australia's highest city at 980m above sea level.

In 1894, first commercial hydro electric scheme was commenced at Gara Gorge to power Hillgrove mine.

In 1866 Signor Vertelli crossed Dangars Gorge on a tightrope.

Armidalian, Major Cliff Richardson, was awarded the first Military Cross in the Gallipoli Campaign.

University of New England was the first Australian university established outside a capital city.

First mainland city to be fully NBN fibered.

fast facts



# guyra

top of the range



This delightful country town is located high (1330 metres above sea level) on the Northern Tablelands of the Great Dividing Range. There are places to stay, from pretty campsites, caravan parks and riverside cabins to comfy motels, bed and breakfasts and farmstays.

Bushwalking, rock climbing, kayaking, fishing, birdwatching, camping and horse riding in some of the most scenic national parks and forests in the nation are on your doorstep. You can, for instance, clamber up the giant boulders in the Cathedral Rock National Park for breathtaking 360-degree views, or, a little further east along Waterfall Way, watch the Ebor Falls cascade dramatically down the cliffs in the Guy Fawkes River National Park. Kayaking and adventuring in the Styx River and World Heritage listed New England National Parks are also an easy drive away.

Parks are not the only venues for water sports around here. Copeton Dam, west of Guyra is a favourite spot for water skiers, while Malpas Dam, to the south, is a popular gathering spot for sailors and rowers. Mother of Ducks Lagoon on the edge of town is a birdwatchers' (and picnickers') paradise. This tranquil body of water is home to black swans and a wide variety of aquatic birds. A round of golf on the neighbouring and idyllically situated Guyra Golf Course is well worth the walk. A short drive north is Little Llangothlin Lagoon, a wetlands area popular for spotting Blue-billed ducks and other birds on their migratory path.

History and heritage are an attraction too. With a population of around 2000, and most of the business confined to the original main street strip, the town has retained its heritage

## Cast a line into the beautiful streams and let your mind wander; Guyra is an ideal destination.

charm. Pastoralists arrived in the area in the 1830s and the town was established in 1880. The railway stopped running years ago but the cute station building is now the Guyra Antique Machinery Railway Museum, and the old Shire Council Chambers is home to the Historical Museum.

Meander along the main street, where you'll find cafés and shops, including one widely known in knitting circles for fabulous woollen hand knits and yarn. Guyra boasts one of the best children's playgrounds in regional NSW, and coupled with a vibrant town centre, makes for an excellent family outing or stop-over point on longer trips.

Visit the local hideout of bushranger Captain Thunderbolt (Frederick Wordsworth Ward 1835–1870), aptly known as Thunderbolts Cave, not far from the village of Black Mountain.

Farms around Guyra have long been known for their potato crops and for producing some of Australia's finest beef, lamb and wool. Guyra is also famous for tasty, vine-ripened glasshouse tomatoes. The Lamb and Potato Festival held in January each year celebrates the excellence of some of this local produce.



Mother of Ducks Lagoon on the edge of town is a birdwatchers' (and picnickers') paradise. This tranquil body of water is home to black swans and a wide variety of aquatic birds.

### fast facts

Average of 73 frosty mornings each year.

Home of Australia's largest and most advanced glasshouse facility, producing about 12 million kilos of tomatoes per year.

December 1999 – Unidentified object fell from the sky into Guyra's water reservoir and left a 15m x 6m crater. Thought to be space junk or a meteorite. Still unknown...

Home of the Guyra Ghost, an alleged poltergeist that terrorised a house in Guyra in April 1921.

The area was first settled in 1835 when Alexander Campbell took up a station called "Guyra Station". It was not proclaimed a village until 1885.

## Your link to New England High Country

With daily flights from Sydney to Armidale, QantasLink can connect you to the stunning and diverse New England region of New South Wales.

**QANTASLINK**



IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Schedule correct as at 05 May 2015 and is subject to change. QantasLink flights operated by Eastern Australia Airlines Pty Ltd ABN 77 001 599 024 and Sunstate Airlines (Qld) Pty Ltd ABN 82 009 734 703 as QantasLink. Licence No. 2TA000237, CMM17565QLK.



**Uralla Visitor Information Centre**  
104 Bridge Street, Uralla  
P: 02. 6778 6420 • [uralla.com](http://uralla.com)



Dangars Lagoon



Gostwyck Chapel

find yourself in...

# uralla

Wander along the main street and you'll find the original facades house an interesting collection of galleries and shops where antiques, books, artworks by local artists and pure Australian woollen yarn are among the temptations.

An idyllic rural setting and abundance of historic charm are stand out features that make Uralla such an appealing country town. It doesn't matter what time of year you visit either, the region's four distinct seasons means that picturesque scenery is always on show. Lush farmland rolls away in all directions along the roads approaching Uralla. It's only 20 minutes south of the bustling regional centre of Armidale, but in many ways seems worlds apart.

History and heritage are a big attraction here. Pastoralists took up sheep and cattle runs in the area in the 1830s and the town was established when gold was discovered nearby in the 1850s. You can learn a lot about the old days and who lived where by taking the self-guided Heritage Walk around the pretty streets and historical buildings, or by downloading the Uralla Soundtrail app for your mobile device (enquire at the Visitor Information Centre for more details). Bakeries serve quintessential Australian fare, including meat pies, sausage rolls and vanilla slices, while friendly cafés and iconic pubs dish up farm fresh food and are great places to catch up with local news. There's even a craft brewery in town where you can relax with a refreshing ale, or two.

You can head out to the Wooldridge Recreation and Fossicking Reserve and try your luck panning for gold. While you're there, hoping for the best, cast your mind back to the distant past when around 5000 hopeful gold diggers camped out in the area. This is legendary bushranger country too. In the 1860s, the region was a favoured haunt of Frederick

Ward, better known as Captain Thunderbolt, a notorious highway robber. He earned fame and the title of 'gentleman bushranger' for never actually shooting anyone and sometimes shouting drinks to those he had just robbed. His daredevil life came to an end in a shootout near Uralla and his grave can be found in the town's pioneer cemetery. You'll also find a fascinating collection of Thunderbolt memorabilia in the award-winning historic McCrossin's Mill Museum.

There's a lot to do and see in the surrounding area. Within easy driving distance from town, for instance, are three cool climate wineries, all with weekend tasting and dining experiences. Just south of Uralla is Dangars Lagoon, a pristine wetlands area and birdwatchers' haven. A 15 minute drive north-west is the Mt Yarrowyck Aboriginal rock art site, where fascinating paintings can be seen inside the rocky overhangs.

On the scenic drive to Dangars Gorge, you'll pass the historic vine-clad Gostwyck Chapel. The chapel was constructed entirely of bricks made and fired on Gostwyck Station. The magnificent tree lined avenue of two hundred elms was planted by a worker who was brought out from England specifically for the task.

A short stroll across the heritage listed bridge that spans Salisbury Waters, brings visitors to Deeargee Woolshed which was built in 1872. Originally part of Gostwyck Station, Deeargee Station and its unique octagonal woolshed gained their name from the old Gostwyck wool brand, DRG, which stood for Dangar, Gostwyck. There are a couple of pretty

historic villages to explore near Uralla. Bundarra, about a 50 minute drive north west along Thunderbolt's Way, is one of them. The Gwydir River runs through the village, making it a great destination for fishing and picnicking. Kentucky is closer, about 15 minutes away, and is where you can enjoy award-winning spirits produced in New England High Country's only distillery.

There's a range of quality accommodation to choose from in and around Uralla, including campsites, caravan parks, motels, historic pubs, bed and breakfasts and unique farmstays.

The name 'Uralla' is from the dialect of the local Anaiwan people, and means 'meeting place'.

Australia's first World Champion, sculler Edward 'Ned' Trickett, is buried in Uralla's General Cemetery.

Uralla's postcode, 2358, is the only Australian postcode that is part of the mathematical Fibonacci sequence.

In 1919, Uralla nurse, Hilda McMaugh, became the first Australian woman to qualify as a pilot.

Population: 2400 (Shire: 6000) • Altitude: 1000m

fast facts



Quiet parkland setting off highway  
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# walcha

where wild rivers run

Hoppy's Lookout

**Beautiful scenery, outdoor adventures, artisanal food, art, antiques and delightful accommodation are just some of the attractions that make historic Walcha such a lovely place to visit or stay.**

Almost two hundred years ago English explorer John Oxley forged through the bush and up into the highlands not far from where the township of Walcha stands today. Since the 1830s, this lush pasture wonderland rolling over the undulating hills as far as the eye can see has been home to sheep and cattle breeders that produce some of the finest wool, lamb and beef in the nation.

If you're curious about life on the land, several families welcome guests at their properties, where you can participate in the day-to-day farm activities, such as collecting eggs, mustering cattle and shearing sheep. Farmstay accommodation ranges from luxurious rooms with amazing views to comfortable cottages and pretty campsites. You can expect friendly hosts and delicious home-cooked meals featuring farm-fresh produce and local wines.

For an authentic country town experience, opt instead to stay overnight in one of the charming bed and breakfasts or guesthouses. Peaceful motels, hotels, a caravan park and campsites are also great options.

Around here, some of the farmers are notable artists too, which largely explains why there are numerous sculptures dotted around the town's streets and parks. The artistic community was the creative force behind Walcha's enchanting Open Air Gallery, which today features 49 works by local, national and international contemporary artists, making it a must see on the itinerary of any artist or art-lover from across the globe. Walcha locals have embraced their reputation as a very art-friendly town and with one public artwork per 75 citizens; "there can be no town in Australia that is so art friendly", according to John Macdonald, one of Australia's best known art critics.

Taking a self-guided walking (or driving) tour around the sculptures is a great way to explore the town. Along the tour you can stop for delicious refreshments at one of the charming cafés, pop into the renowned Walcha Gallery of Art to view works by regional artists, learn about days gone by in the cluster of colonial buildings that make up the Walcha

Pioneer Cottage & Museum and at the Amaroo Aboriginal Cultural Centre, and search for treasures in a sprawling antique shop.

Nature's beauty is also a major attraction. Aside from hundreds of kilometres of trout and bass streams to fish there are thousands of hectares of scenic national parks and state forests to explore. Pack a picnic and head off to the gorgeous gorges and waterfalls.

The spectacular Apsley Falls and Tia Falls are well worth a visit and both are a short drive away in the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, where bushwalking, camping and kayaking are also popular pursuits. When explorer John Oxley encountered the Apsley Falls, he wrote in his journal of being "lost in astonishment at the sight of this wonderful sublimity".

Nothing has changed today – the Falls in this area are truly amazing. You can also spiral down steep gravel roads into the remote World Heritage listed Werrikimbe National Park and walk along the trails in the temperate rainforest. Drive via Budds Mare, on the edge of the escarpment to Riverside in the remote wilderness of the Macleay Gorges (a four-wheel drive vehicle is essential) and swim in the Apsley River, among other excursions in the vicinity. If sightseeing perched on a mountain bike or motorbike is more your thing, then you'll find the winding country roads particularly satisfying.



Walcha Open Air Gallery

Walcha's Open Air Gallery boasts the most art per head of population in Australia with 49 sculptures and art works.

Nat Buchanan, buried at Walcha, was the first man to drive cattle across Australia's top end.

Local, Esther Stace holds the world record for the highest jump riding side-saddle (6'6").

Oxley Wild Rivers National Park has 1100+ recorded plant species - more than any other NSW NP.

Walcha is home to 2014's finest 'paddock grown' bale of wool in the world at 11.6 microns.



# Destination TAMWORTH



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destinationtamworth.com.au

i You can be sure you'll find warm country hospitality wherever you choose to stay in New England High Country. [newenglandhighcountry.com.au/accommodation](http://newenglandhighcountry.com.au/accommodation)

## country retreats

**Guesthouses, cottages and hotels with old world charm will appeal to those seeking a place to unwind.**

You can choose from accommodation in town within walking distance to the shops and sights, or retreats out in the countryside with tranquil views.

Friendly motels and stylish self-catering apartments also make ideal getaways and many offer room configurations that work particularly well for families. You'll find the bed and breakfast establishments are as good as it gets — with most serving up hearty meals to kick start a day out exploring the region's magnificent attractions.

For an authentically rural experience, try a farmstay. Several families welcome guests into the heart of their homesteads or offer well-appointed detached quarters. This is where you get to sample farm fresh food, hang out with the horses and help collecting eggs, shearing and mustering, or simply relax.

If braving the great outdoors and sleeping under canvas appeals, then you won't be disappointed with your options here. You can venture into the national parks, where you'll find campsites in picture-perfect spots. Historic mustering huts along the spectacular gorge country trails also provide rustic shelter, perfect for first-time adventurers nervous about wildlife lurking at close range during the night hours.



A warm winter moment at Poppy's Cottage

Travelling with your own accommodation in tow? Then, there are caravan parks with pretty landscaped grounds, cabins and modern amenities near all the towns where you can while away a day or more. Grassy campsites are great destinations for pitching tents within easy reach of the region's natural wonders. You can be sure you'll find warm country hospitality wherever you choose to stay in New England High Country.

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## CONTACT DETAILS:

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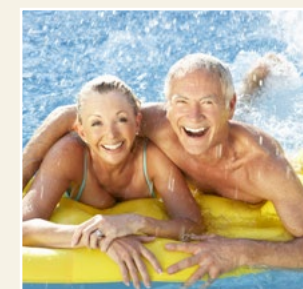


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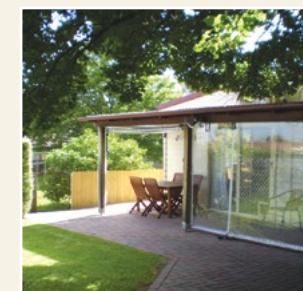
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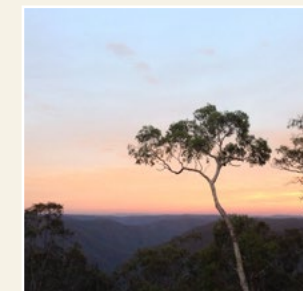


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## Markets, boutiques & bespoke shopping

Weekend markets are where you'll find local arts and crafts, as well as homemade jams, chutneys, nougats, olive oil, tea, goats' milk soaps and cheeses, among other locally produced products. Local producers sell their produce at regular Farmers Markets throughout the region. Walcha Handmade is a local, community co-operative that operates as a retail shop and a studio. Everything they sell in their shop has been handmade by Walcha and district locals who also run regular workshops and classes, and provide a permanent children's craft corner.

Wool shops in Uralla and Guyra specialise in handknits, yarns and accessories, all made from Australian wool of course. A couple of fashion stores in the region offer classic country clothing, including ranges from the likes of RM Williams. Turners in Armidale is always busy, which comes as no surprise given the wide selection of stylish and easy to wear clothing and accessories on offer for women of all shapes and sizes each season. And, treasure hunters won't be disappointed with the antique stores dotted around Armidale, Walcha and Uralla (where there's also an excellent antiquarian bookshop).







## East Kunderang Homestead

**A unique experience set in a magnificent wilderness landscape**

Nestled among the spectacular mountains and valleys of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park on the Macleay River in New England 'Gorge Country', this restored Australian red cedar homestead is a magnificent find, and more "old regret" than anything in the Snowy Mountains. It's accessed via a rough 4WD-only dirt track that traverses the National Park, making it isolated, serene and a great place for escaping to wilderness.

Inside the restored heritage listed homestead (built in the 1890s), an incredibly well stocked modern kitchen doubles as a massive communal dining room, while the fireplace is so cosy you cannot avoid dozing on the couch with a good book. Its five bedrooms sleep up to 14 very comfortably, and while most guests think they'll walk, fish, canoe or horse ride, most laze on the stunning verandah and meditate on the tame red neck wallabies, or on how such stunning surrounds could possibly come to be.

**Contact:** NSW National Parks and Wildlife Armidale on 02 6738 9100

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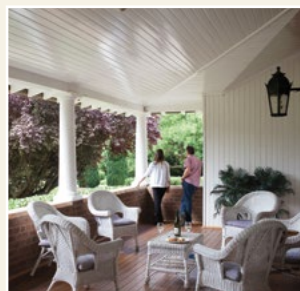
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[petersonsguesthouse.com.au](http://petersonsguesthouse.com.au)



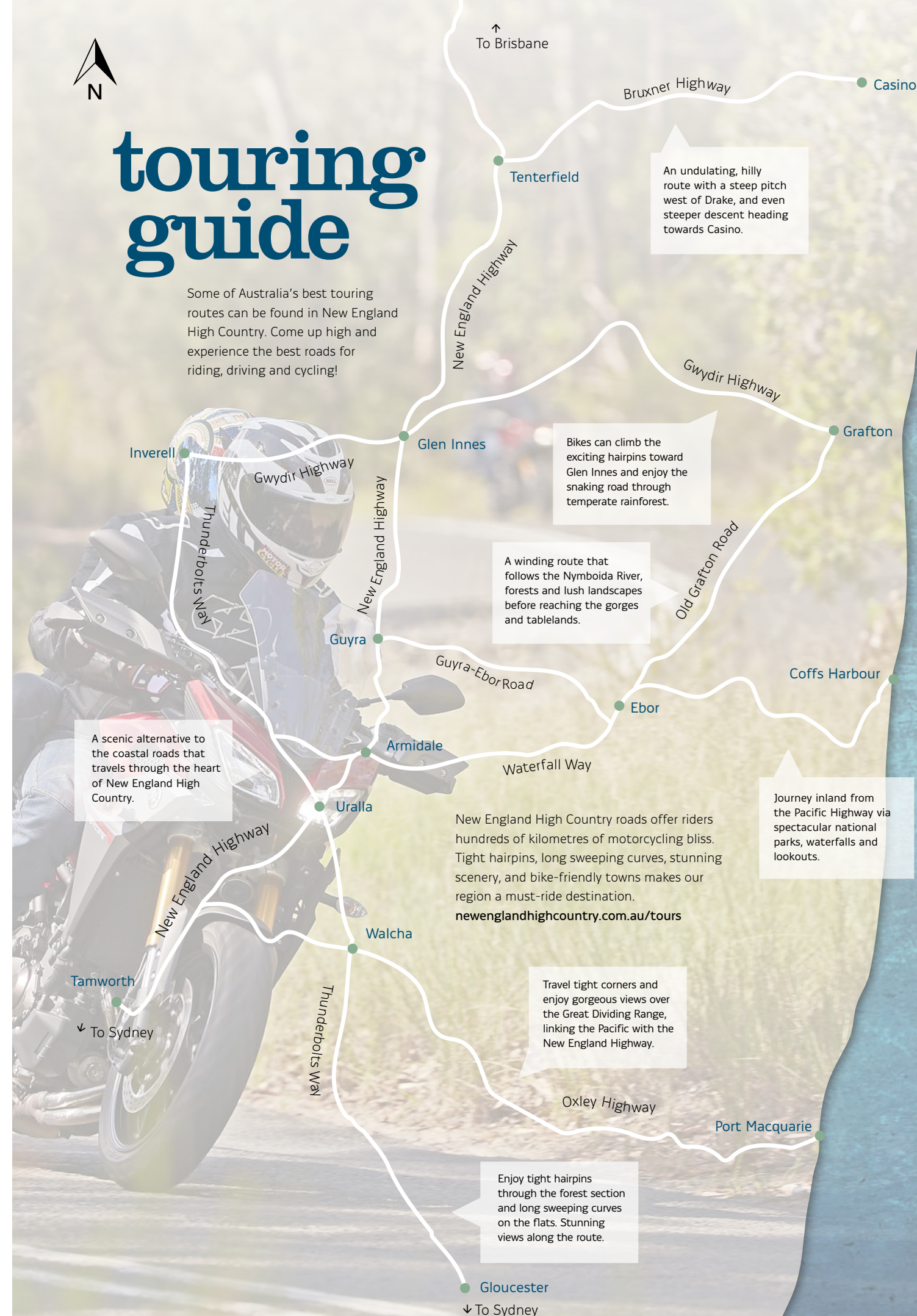
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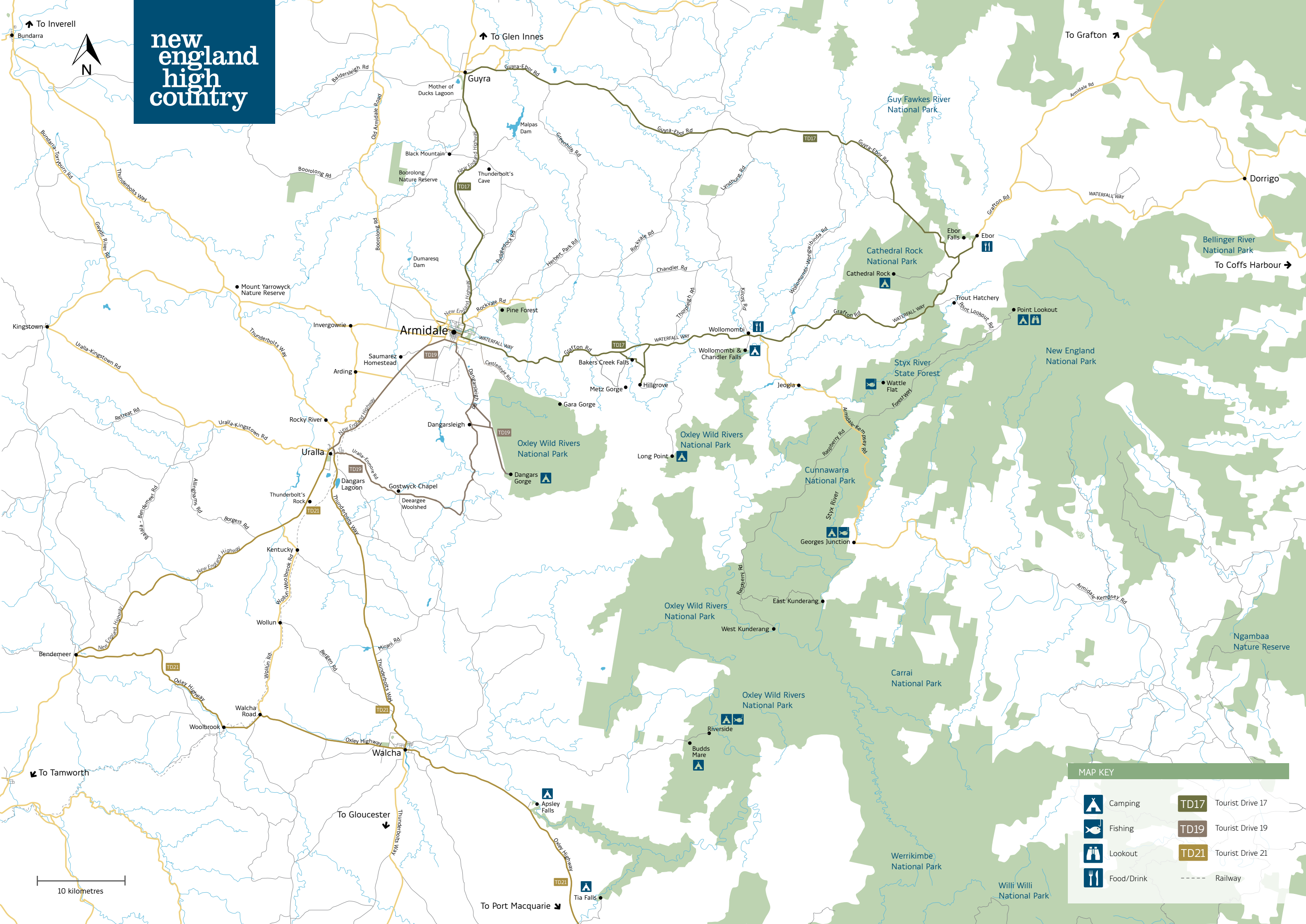
# touring guide

Some of Australia's best touring routes can be found in New England High Country. Come up high and experience the best roads for riding, driving and cycling!





new  
england  
high  
country



MAP KEY

- |  |            |  |                  |
|--|------------|--|------------------|
|  | Camping    |  | Tourist Drive 17 |
|  | Fishing    |  | Tourist Drive 19 |
|  | Lookout    |  | Tourist Drive 21 |
|  | Food/Drink |  | Railway          |



# Visit a University with a difference



## See for yourself what sets UNE apart.

Join us on a campus tour and see our historic grounds, vibrant residences, state-of-the-art sporting facilities, libraries, cafes, shops and museums.

At UNE there are a number of great places to eat and meet on campus, including the Booloominbah Collection where you can get a meal or light refreshment.

Campus Tours are run all year\* by appointment.  
Bookings are essential.

To book a tour call  
**1800 818 865**  
or visit  
**[une.edu.au/campustours](http://une.edu.au/campustours)**

\* Excluding public holidays and between Christmas and New Year.

