550 REASONS TO VISIT NEW SOUTH WALES



THE AMAZING STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES

has been a favourite holiday destination of New Zealanders for a long time - for good reason. And those reasons become more compelling all the time. Having spent nine years living there myself, I had the chance to visit wineries, swim at amazing white-sand beaches, enjoy the best local produce (such as sensational oysters - my favourite) at world-class restaurants and generally enjoy the outdoors (koalas in the wild!). I know the hardest thing is trying to fit everything on your list into one trip, so you'll undoubtedly want to come back for more. We hope this booklet helps your planning.



NEW SOUTH WALES is home to an abundance of delicious food and wine, spectacular scenary, stunning beaches and relaxing retreats. This world-class luxury destination is waiting for you.

Go to visitnsw.com and sydney.com to start your journey.

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Bar de Thé

LOVE THE CITY VIBE



.2. TO FEEL THE LOVE

Guillaume Brahimi is a key player in the Sydney food scene and his encore, after moving from the Sydney Opera House, puts his talents in the kitchen back in the spotlight. *The Sydney Morning Herald*'s chief reviewer Terry Durack recently rated Guillaume (guillaumes.com.au) a whopping 17/20 so best book ahead to enjoy a little bit of Parisian charm in Paddington.

FOR NOSE-TO-TAIL NOSH Many of Sydney's chefs are so ingredients driven they grow or make their own produce. A few restaurants that share the nose-to-tail spirit include Pinbone, Woollahra (pinbone.com.au), Bishop Sessa, Surry Hills (bishopsessa.com.au) and Ester in Chippendale (ester-restaurant.com.au). House-made cheese is also a hero at Vincent, Woollahra (vincentfrench.com.au) and Nomad (restaurantnomad.com.au) in Surry Hills.

.4. MIDTOWN FARMERS' MARKETS

While The Sydney Morning Herald Growers' Market is regarded as a trailblazer, the weekend Orange Grove, Eveleigh and Marrickville markets are also changing the way many Sydneysiders cook and eat (localmarket guide.com.au).

Eveleigh Farmers'

ALL HAIL THE CRAFT ALE Boutique-beer geeks can bend an elbow at Young Henrys, Newtown (younghenrys.com), 4 Pines Brewing in Manly (4pinesbeer.com.au), the Redoak Boutique Beer Cafe (redoak.com.au) in the CBD and Alexandria

taphouse The Brewery Bar (rocksbrewing.com).



JCAS BOYD

5 CAFE CULTURE Visit **Devon Cafe** in Surry Hills (devoncafe.com.au) to see why it won Best Food Cafe in the 2014 Good Cafe Guide. Cosy up at Marrickville's **Cornersmith (cornersmith. com.au)** for a sarnie with house-made pickles and cheese or get a roasting on board **The Mothership** by Single O (singleoriginroasters.com.au) in Botany.



THE SMALL BAR SCENE Sydney continues to surprise and delight with nooks such as The Barber Shop (thisisthebarbershop.com), The Lobo Plantation (thelobo.com.au) and the Ramblin' Rascal Tavern (60 Park St) bringing beards, booze, tatts and good times to the CBD. In Darlinghurst, The Owl House (theowlhouse.com.au) is a hoot for bespoke cocktails and Bar de Thé (bardethe.com.au) is also a must as the city's first dedicated martini bar.

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SOUTH COAST

.7. ENJOY A HARBOUR HIKE

A guided walk around the coves and beaches that hug Sydney Harbour takes in WWII forts, caves and indigenous rock art. The more intrepid should try the new three-day Zoo2Q (Zoo2Q.com.au) package, which includes a 15km walk from Taronga Zoo to Q Station (sydney coastwalks.com.au).

.8. BEST FISH AND CHIPS

Tuck into this seaside staple at The Fish Shop (merivale.com.au/thefishshop) in Potts Point, Bondi's Best (bondisbest.com.au), North Bondi Fish (northbondifish.com.au), Cod & Co (codandco.com.au) in Pitt St Mall and Cranky Fins (crankyfins.com) in Palm Beach.



6 50 REASONS TO VISIT NEW SOUTH WALES

SEE SYDNEY FROM THE SEA Be chauffeured about in an Italian wooden speedboat with La Dolce Vita Cruises (ladolcevitacruises.com.au), let the wind dictate your direction on an EastSail yacht charter (eastsail.com.au) or mingle with commuters aboard the Manly Ferry (transport.nsw.gov.au).



10 FOR FOOD WITH A VIEW Lay anchor at the new family-friendly Coogee Pavilion or watch the passing hip parade at Papi Chulo on Manly Wharf (merivale.com.au), or fall for the fab food and water views at Watsons Bay Boutique Hotel (watsonsbayhotel.com.au). The InterContinental Sydney Double Bay's new Rooftop Pool and Lounge – set to open in November – will also be a glam spot for gastronauts (intercontinental.com/doublebay).

COASTING

TASTE OF THE SOUTH

The experience of Bannisters by the Sea is as much about dining as it is the accommodation. This is destination dining at its best, measured in equal part by Rick Stein's seafood-centric Bannisters restaurant and the adjacent hotel, which includes luxury suites, a sunsoaked terrace and dramatic outlook over Mollymook (bannisters.com.au).



PULL INTO THE SLOW LANE Taste local produce at Nowra's Wharf Rd Restaurant & Bar. The restaurant, awarded a hat in the Good Food Guide 2015. is but a barnacle's breadth from the Nowra bridge pylons and a great spot to enjoy dishes such as grilled Jervis Bay squid stuffed with blood sausage (wharfrd.com.au).

A MUST **ON YOUR BUCKET LIST**

Paint your smile red at the Clyde River Berry Farm, Mogood, where you can pick berries and have them blended into yoghurt, lickety-split (clyderiver berryfarm.com.au).

BEST BAKERIES Enjoy breakfast or lunch in the centuryold Berry Sourdough Cafe (berrysourdoughcafe. com.au) or pick up cakes for a picnic from its sister cafe, the Milkwood Bakery on the main drag. The fabulous Flour Water Salt in Milton also keeps carb cravings at bay (flourwatersalt.com.au)



GLAMP IT UP

The Escape is a city dweller's dream. This glampsite at the Shallow Crossing comprises just two luxury tents and a studio and off the grid. Enjoy kayaking, bush the campfire, high in the hills that curl around the Clyde River (the-escape.com.au).



THE WORLD'S YOUR OYSTER The South Coast **Ovster Trail** enables visitors to experience the bivalve mollusc industry first-hand. Places on the trail include: The Pearly Oyster Bar, The Oyster Shed, Wapengo Rocks Wild Organic Öysters, Tathra Ovsters and Wheelers Seafood

Restaurant (oystercoast.com.au).

(cupitt.com.au).

.**6**. VINE DINING

Gerringong to Batemans Bay. Of note is the cellar door at **Cupitt's Winery**, in an old stone creamery near Ulladulla and home to **Cupitt's Kitchen**, one

Cupitt's Winerv

Q GO WILD FOR NATIVE INGREDIENTS Make time to meander around Booderee National Park, home to the only Aboriginal-owned botanic gardens in Australia. The gardens, near Jervis Bay, serve as a classroom for local guides. who teach visitors about bush medicine and native cuisine (parksaustralia.gov.au/booderee).

9. FARMERS' MARKETS

A market that wears its sustainability ethos on its dirt-stained sleeve is SAGE Farmers Market, Moruya, held every Tuesday arvo and featuring goods grown or made within a 160km radius (moruyafarmersmarket.org. au). The Foragers Market (foragersmarkets.com) is Bulli's new kid on the block; more growers' markets are in Bega, Kiama and Tilba.





MEET LOCAL **PRODUCERS** Join Foodscape Tours (foodscapetours.com.au) for a culinary trip around the South Coast countryside where options include lunch at a local cafe and greeting growers and specialty retailers. Sample fresh gelato made at The Pines, a working dairy farm in Kiama (thepineskiama.com.au).

ORANGE/ CENTRAL NSW

ZEST FOR, LIVING





HAVE A TIPPLE OR TWO Stone Pine Distillery

5 (stonepinedistillery.com.au) in Gormans Hill produces an award-winning dry gin as well as a range of sustainable spirits, including Wild Lime &

Brewing Co (beekeepersinn.com) in Vittoria is also producing a top beer under the 1859 label at the old

Cyder (smallacrescyder.com.au) and Goose Cider

(gilbertfamilywines.com.au) are also worth a gander.

Vodka, that incorporates native plants. Central Ranges

Cobb & Co Inn (built, you guessed it, in 1859). Mudgee Brewery (mudgeebrewing.com.au), Small Acres



.2. A TASTE OF ORANGE

Those who enjoy a bowl of muesli at **The Agrestic Grocer** in Orange may like to know that the oats have been rolled on-site using bicycle power. You might also like to check out Ferment (orangewinecentre.com.au), the

Union Bank Wine Bar (unionbank. com.au) or The Small Winemakers Centre (furlongwines.com.au).

FOR A TASTE OF HISTORY Australia's oldest inland settlement, Bathurst celebrates its bicentenary in 2015. Join in the fun at Cobblestone Lane, The Hub, Church Bar and Webb & Co - all great places to drink and dine (visitnsw.com/ destinations/country-nsw/bathurst-area).



CALENDAR FESTIVALS OF

Central NSW region at Orange Wine Festival (Oct 17-Nov 2, tasteorange. com.au), the Mudgee Food and Wine Festival (Sep 12-Oct 5; visitmudgeeregion. com.au), F.O.O.D Week (April 2015, orangefoodweek.com.au) and the Canowindra Balloon Challenge (April 2015, canowindrachallenge.org.au)

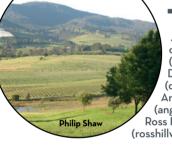
Taste Orange Wine Festival



BLUE MOUNTAINS

.**6**. HATS OFF TO...

Award-winning restaurants Tonic in Millthorpe and Lolli Redini, Orange, were again awarded hats in the 2015 Good Food Guide, which shows their ongoing commitment to serving next-level food and wine.



Tonic

TOP DROPS Try wine at Philip Shaw (philipshaw. com.au), Sassy Wines (sassywines.com.au), De Salis Wines, Nashdale (desaliswines.com.au), Angullong, Millthorpe (angullong.com.au) and Ross Hill Wines, Orange (rosshillwines.com.au).

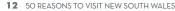
PUT YOUR GAME FACE ON Time your visit to Mandagery Creek Venison in Orange to coincide with the second Saturday of the month, when the farm kitchen hosts its regular lunch (mandagerycreek.com.au). You can also muck in during a hands-on guided farm walk at Mudgee Farmers' Market (mudgeefinefoods.com.au).



B GRAPE EXPECTATIONS Get to know the Cabonne Country region on the outskirts of Orange on a self-drive itinerary that will steer you from natural wonders such as Borenore Caves to antiques stores, boutique wineries, orchards, heritage B&Bs and woolsheds from Carcoar to Canowindra (visitcentralnsw.com.au).

.10. ESPRESSO LANE

Caffeine obsessives can crawl from Factory Espresso (billsbeans.com.au) and The Endsleigh cafe in Orange to cute hole-in-the-wall Crema on George, Bathurst (facebook.com/CremaOnGeorge) or the Butcher Shop Cafe housed in - surprise a former butcher's shop in Mudgee.





YOUR BLUE HEAVEN

Sangoma Retreat

EXPERIENCE WOLLEMI WILDERNESS Gather ingredients from the roadside stalls for dinner under the stars at Cabins' Treehouse (lovecabins.com.au/home) in Bilpin, the gateway to the Blue Mountains, or head to the nearby Apple Bar for pizza and apple sorbet. Sangoma Retreat at Bowen Mountain, in the foothills of the mountains, also offers set menus that read like a love letter to the land (sangomaretreat.com.au).

UNCOVER HIDDENGEMS

Follow your nose to Leura Garage (leuragarage.com.au), once a car mechanic's workshop. Restaurant Como (restaurantcomo.com.au) tucked away down an arcade in Blaxland. Lindsay's Café at the Norman Lindsay Gallery, Faulconbridge, the Secret Creek Cafe (secretcreekcafe.com) in Lithgow and Cabin & Co in Blackheath are also worth a look.



VISIT THE GRAND MOUNTAIN DAMES The historic Carrington Hotel, Palais Royale and Mountain Heritage Hotel all hark back to a sepia-toned era when Katoomba was in its heyday. As well as being iconic places to stay, all three grandes dames offer dining experiences that are thoroughly up to date (visitnsw.com/bluemountains).



.5. FOR SOME **COUNTRY COMFORT**

GO WALKABOUT Slice through rugged

countryside on a canyoning adventure

Canyon in Blackheath with the Blue Mountains

Adventure Company (bmac.com.au). Garden

lovers can embark on an open garden tour

(mtwilson.com.au).

Adventure Compan

Blue Mountains

or traipse through the bush to the Grand

Curl that pinky finger around a bone china cup during an elegant Devonshire tea served at Everglades Historic House (everglades.org.au) in Leura. Admire the landscape while fishing for trout or foraging for mushrooms on one of Simmo's off-road tours (simmosoffroadtours.com)

FOR GOOD FOOD WITH A VIEW It's worth averting your eyes from the view long enough to enjoy rustic dishes from Sean Moran's farm-tofork menu at Tomah Gardens Restaurant (mounttomahbotanicgarden.com.au). **Echoes Boutique Hotel and Restaurant** (echoeshotel.com.au) is also a great place to ponder that blue-smudged horizon, as is The Conservation Hut (conservationhut. com.au) and the wonderful Wolgan Valley Resort (wolganvalley.com). The hatted Darleys (darleysrestaurant.com.au) offers a lovely vista of the landscaped Lilianfels surrounds in Katoomba.

RUB ELBOWS WITH FARMERS Bring your eco bag to Blackheath Growers' Markets on the second Sunday of every month, Katoomba Farmers' Markets, fourth Sunday of every month, and the Rotary Farmers' and Gourmet Food Market in Glenbrook on the first Saturday of the month (visitnsw.com/bluemountains).

FOR COUNTRY PUB FARE Order a steak sanga at the Alexandra Hotel in Leura (alexandrahotel.com.au) or a Sunday roast at The Old City Bank Brasserie, upstairs at The Carrington Hotel in Katoomba, which is all set to open a new bar and micro brewery (thecarrington.com.au).







NEW AND NOTEWORTHY Savour simple. honest food at Vesta in Blackheath (vestablackheath. com.au) or indulge in sweet treats at The Gingerbread House (facebook. com/thegingerbread housekatoomba).

10 TO FEEL FESTIVE

Hotel Blue, Katoomba, in February; the Roaring 20s festival in February (roaring20s. com.au), the Blue Mountains Music Festival and Autumn Sustainable Food Festival in May; and Yulefest in June, July and August (visitnsw.com /bluemountains)

include: Mystery of the Munchers (visitnsw. com/events/mystery-of-the-munchers) until November 30; Murder Mystery High Tea at



Atlantic Byron Ba

BEACH AND BEYOND

.2. USE YOUR LOAF

Byron bread-heads give thanks to Heartbreads (heartbreadsbyronbay.com.au) for making treats with organic flours and grains. Harvest Cafe (harvestcafe.com.au) is also a hub for sourdough and pastries.



Italian at the Pacific Italian at the Pacif

S EAT AND DRINK Byron Bay has no shortage of great places to eat and drink: think the **Roadhouse** (byronbaycafebar.com.au) for coffee by day, food, wine and whisky by night; St Elmo (stelmodining.com) for the joy of the shared plate; the Italian-accented Cicchetti (cicchetti.com. au) and Italian at the Pacific (italianatthepacific.com.au) and Bangalow's Town Cafe & Restaurant (townbangalow.com.au).



ENJOY A TASTE OF THE SEA For fish 'n' chips made fancy, try Fishmonger's (mongers.com.au), Fishheads (fishheadsbyron. com.au) or the Byron Beach Cafe (byronbeachcafe.com.au) which comes with a soundtrack of crashing waves.



5 HIT THE BEACH Enjoy a surfing lesson with **Byron Bay Surf** School (byronbaysurfschool. com), walk on powder-soft sand under the stars with Vision Walks (visionwalks. com) or dive and snorkel with Byron Bay Dive Centre (byronbaydivecentre.com.au).

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LIVE LIKE A MILLIONAIRE

Book into a beach cottage at the Atlantic Byron Bay (atlanticbyronbay.com.au), a luxe suite at The Watermark at Wategos (byron-bay.com/watermarkwategos), or a romantic room at The Byron at Byron (thebyronatbyron.com.au).





SHOP UNTIL YOU DROP Invest in local art at Ahoy Trader (ahoytrader.com), learn how to accessorise at Hope & May (hopeandmay.com) and secure a kaftan at Phyllis & Mimosa (phyllisandmimosa.com). For a modern take on the general store head to Clunes Store in Federal, which features Byron's one and only winemaker, Jared Dixon of Jilly Wines (jillywines.com.au).

8 EMBRACE THE POP-UP CULTURE Keep your eyes peeled for pop-ups: Joe Chef and Jilly Wines in Clunes as well as Shoza Gyoza, Francisco's Table and Il Carretto pizza van, which pop up in and around Byron.



HIS PAGE: SHARYN CAIRNS: DESTINATION NSW BACK COVER: JUBILIST/DREAMSTIME.COM

Q LIVE LIKE A LOCAL Join the sand-crumbed hordes at The Top Shop, which is mobbed by famished surfers in search of amazing burgers or, if it's java you're after, head to Barefoot Brew Room or Moonshine Coffee Roasters (moonshinecoffee.com.au).

.10. MARKET MADNESS

Take a basket to pick up cheeses and other goodies at farmers' markets in **Bangalow, Byron Bay, New Brighton** and **Mullumbimby**. You can also head to the hinterland and follow the farmgate trail where, along the way, you can invest in local honesty boxes, which sell surplus fruit and vegetables grown in private patches (**byron-bay.com**).



GO TO **VISITNSW.COM** & **SYDNEY.COM** TO START YOUR JOURNEY

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