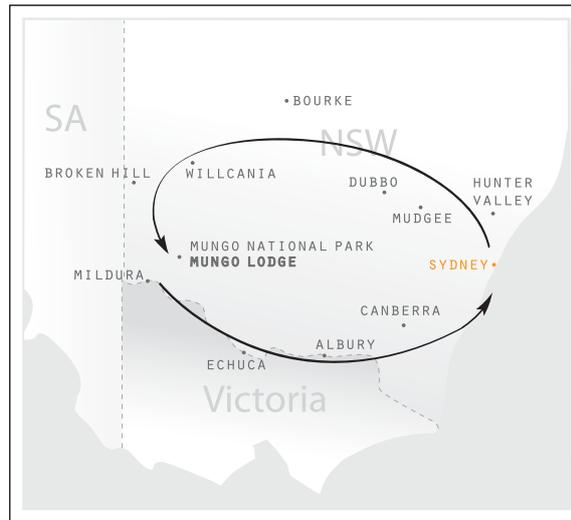


### Sydney to Sydney

Recommended - 14 to 18 Days

This itinerary offers tourists a taste of the best Australia has to offer: Coast and Mountains, Wine Country and Mineral Country, Native Animals, National Parks, a World Heritage Area, History, Mountains and Rivers, Cities and Towns over an ever changing landscape - Country and Outback Australia at its finest.



#### Hunter Valley

Heading north out of Sydney straight up the Central Coast, you encounter the spectacular scenery above the water coves between Sydney and Newcastle before arriving at the Hunter Valley. Famous for its Shiraz and Semillon, the Hunter Valley is Australia's oldest continuously planted wine district. With over 120 wineries and seven sub-regions, this area is a haven for wine tours and tastings, and sampling the local gourmet delicacies in attractive contemporary restaurants and cafes in relaxed vineyard settings. Stop off in Maitland, and visit the Australian Alpaca Barn and visit the Maitland Gaol. Relax at the Australian Regional Food Store and Café at Pokolbin or visit the historic town of Morpeth, an inland port with beautiful sandstone buildings now classified by the National Trust.

#### Mudgee

Enjoy the Mudgee area – famous for its food, wine and café culture. If you're interested in Australian 19th-century frontier life, the Pioneers Museum has a fascinating and comprehensive record. Nearby, visit some of the 130 National Trust-listed buildings in one street in the town of Gulgong. Trace Henry Lawson's childhood in Eurunderee along the Wallaby Track.

#### Dubbo

Dubbo is famous for Taronga Western Plains Zoo. This 300 hectare zoo looks after 1,500 animals including rare and endangered species. Why not get up early and attend a 'behind the scene' walking tour. The zoo pass entitles you to two days viewing.

#### Bourke

Visit the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre and learn about the works of famous Australian bush poet Henry Lawson, bushrangers and the grazing industry. Bourke is 375 km from Dubbo and on the banks of the Darling River.

#### Wilcannia

Enjoy spending time in a small town on the edge of the outback with its distinctive architecture made from the local sandstone. Outside Wilcannia, the Paroo–Darling National Park, supports an amazing wetland system. Some 55 species of birds have been recorded, along with many threatened fauna species.



From Wilcannia, travel west further into the New South Wales' outback stopping at **Broken Hill**. Also known as the Silver City, Broken Hill is a town famous for the world's largest silver, lead and zinc mine. Visit the School of the Air, renowned art galleries or ancient Aboriginal rock art at Mutawintji National Park. From Broken Hill continue south through Menindee and Pooncarie and onto Lake Mungo.

From here you can stay in one of Australia's World Heritage sites: **Mungo Lodge** at Mungo National Park and experience a Harry Nanya anthropological tour. Explore the Walls of China hills and fascinating lunar landscape within which the oldest known human burial site was recently discovered. Enjoy a tour of the Desert at Sunset with champagne and canapés.

Time to relax in **Mildura**, by dining at Stefano's in the Grand Hotel. This multi award winning restaurant is the passion of chef and author Stefano de Pieri and his degustation menu famously unites his Italian heritage with local produce and wines. Also worth visiting are the Rio Vista Museum and the Art Vault. Alternatively, visit Trentham Estate Wines just outside Mildura for a relaxing lunch or enjoy the views of the Murray River from above in a hot air balloon ride.

### **Echuca**

Join the Murray Valley Highway at Robinvale and head to the town of Echuca, one of Victoria's oldest river towns. Watch the majestic paddle steamers along the Murray River and take a drive through the ancient Barmah State Forest.

### **Albury**

Continue towards the twin cities of Albury/Wodonga. Originally a major paddle steamer port and gold town, Albury had more recently become a migrant centre following World War 1. Follow the stories of thousands of migrants at the heritage listed Benegilla Camp and interpretive centre or enjoy the many native and exotic plants in the Botanic Garden.

### **Canberra (via Snowy Mountains)**

For a truly spectacular finish, from Albury, head towards the Great Dividing Range at Tallangatta and then onto Tom Groggin. Continue past Mount Kosciusko (Australia's highest mountain) and Thredbo Village before crossing the Monaro Plains towards Canberra. Canberra, the nation's capital is an excellent example of a modern planned city by famous architect Walter Burley Griffin. Canberra offers a wide range of Art Galleries, Museums and activities— there is something to appeal to everyone in this surprising city.

From Canberra, it is a short easy trip back to **Sydney**.