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COASTAL ROAD TRIP · 7 DAYS ONE WAY

Sydney to Brisbane via the Pacific Coast

Explore one of the world's most beautiful coastlines in this 7 day track up the New South Wales coast to Queensland's Gold Coast and on to Brisbane.

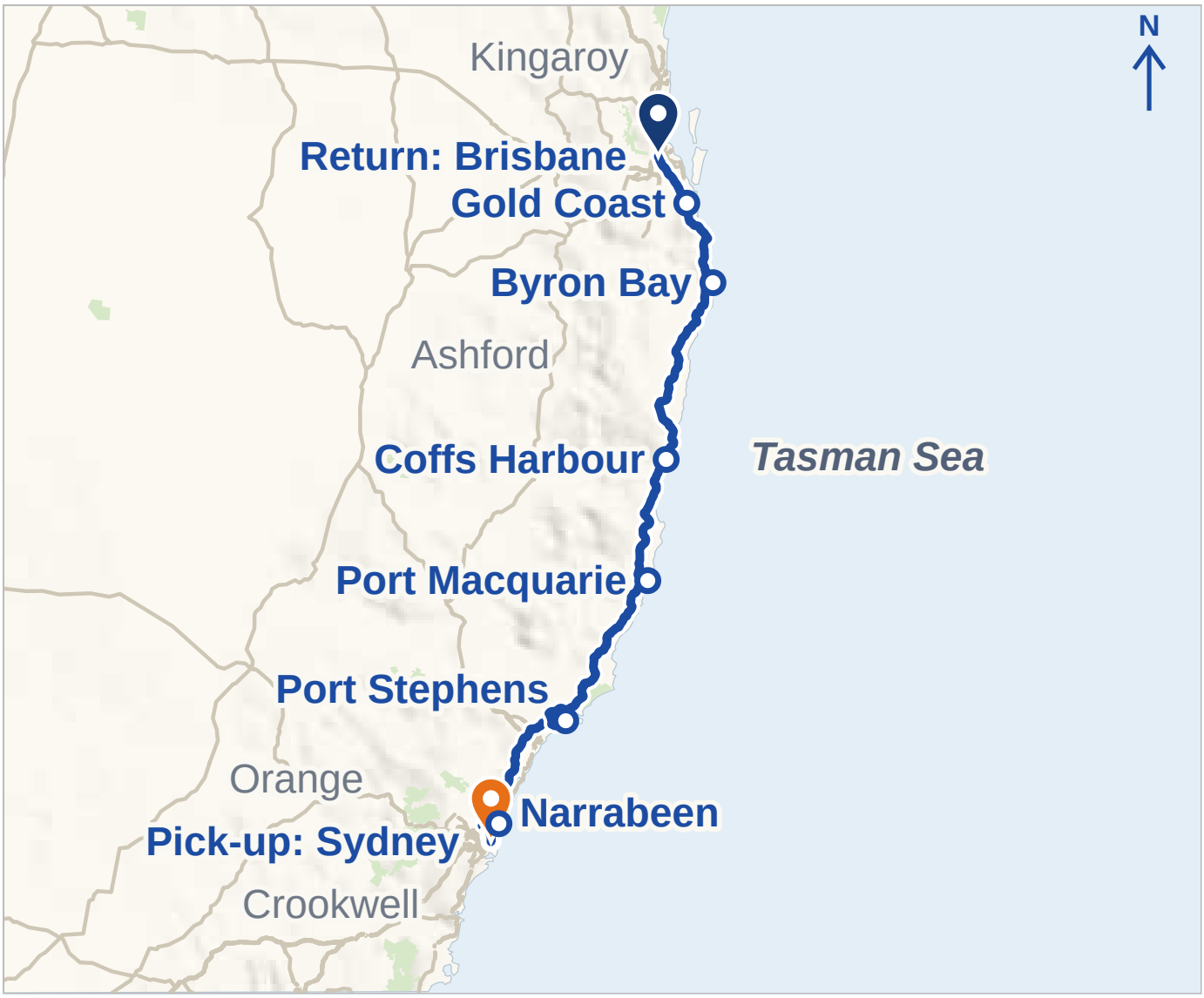
DISTANCE	DAYS	ROUTE	DRIVING TIME
About 1,015 km	7 days, 7 drives	One way, Sydney to Brisbane	About 16 h by campervan

LONGEST DRIVE	VEHICLE
235 km, Port Stephens to Port Macquarie	Campervan

This trip crosses the Country of the Gadigal, Worimi, Birpai, Gumbaynggirr, Bundjalung, Yugambeh, Jagera, Turrbal and other First Nations peoples. Traditional Custodians



Cape Byron, day 5 · Illustrative image



Planning overview, not navigation. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors · coastline Natural Earth · relief Terrain Tiles (Geoscience Australia, SRTM).

BEFORE YOU BOOK

Hiring a campervan for this trip

One way to Brisbane

Apollo, Britz, Maui and Mighty charge a one-way fee between Sydney and Brisbane: $200, or $205 for pick-ups from 1 April 2027. The fee is in the total we quote: compare totals, not daily rates. More on one-way fees.

Your route

All rental vendors in Australia have restrictions on where their vehicles can be taken, so discuss your planned route with the rental company when you pick up. Get the rental company's permission before taking the vehicle somewhere it restricts. If you take it there without permission, you may lose your excess reduction and be fully responsible for any damage. You may also have to pay for towing and recovery, and for damage to other people's property. See road restrictions and when you are fully responsible.

Picking up in Sydney

Allow about an hour for the check-in process, depending on the vehicle, and collect your vehicle at least an hour before the branch closes (collecting a campervan in Sydney).

Branches are usually open from about 9am to 3pm and busiest from 9am to 10am, so pick up in the morning to reach your first stop in daylight (choosing a pick-up time). Do the online check-in beforehand, bring the documents you need, and if you're flying in, see picking up after a flight. More on picking up your campervan. Branch addresses and hours: Sydney branches.

DAYS 1–3

Days 1–3: Sydney, Port Stephens & Port Macquarie

DRIVE

28 km from Sydney | **about 40 min** by campervan

Via **Wakehurst Parkway**

DAY 1

Sydney

PICK-UP

Morning

Sydney is one of Australia's most popular destinations, boasting many postcard pictures including the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House. The Sydney Harbour is the best place to see all the attractions, and once finished, jump on a ferry to Manly. There you will find some of Sydney's world-class beaches and beautiful cafes, to sip your latte right on the waterfront. See the city before you collect the van: there's little parking for campervans in the centre.

Afternoon

Pick up your rental car or campervan in Sydney. If you're collecting a camper, allow plenty of time at the branch so the rental company can show you how it works before you leave. Then take the short drive up to the Northern Beaches.

Evening

Stay — BIG4 Sydney Lakeside Holiday Park (formerly NRMA Sydney Lakeside Holiday Park), North Narrabeen.

DRIVE

195 km from Narrabeen | **about 3 h** by campervan | Via **Pacific Motorway**

DAY 2

Sydney to Port Stephens

Directions

Depart this morning and take the M1 and follow through to the M2. Exit at Epping Road and take the A3. Take the ramp to the Pacific Highway and turn right onto the F3. Merge onto the M1 and then take the A1. Exit onto the B63 and follow until Port Stephens.

Afternoon

Grab your snorkels and go swimming at Fly Point Park. The vibrant underwater sea life is like no other, where you can swim up and close with the fish. If you're up for more of a challenge, go swimming with dolphins at dawn. The once in a lifetime experience takes you close to the animals, guided by instructors who are full of marine life knowledge.

Book ahead:
The dolphin swim runs in season from October, for ages 7 and over. Book ahead.

Stay

Aspen Holidays Koala Shores Port Stephens (formerly BIG4 Koala Shores Port Stephens Holiday Park), Lemon Tree Passage.

DRIVE

235 km from Port Stephens | **about 3 h 30 min** by campervan | Via **Pacific Highway**

DAY 3

Port Stephens to Port Macquarie

Directions

Depart this morning and take the B63 to the A1 in Twelve Mile Creek. Follow the A1 and take the National Route 34 exit to get on the B56 in Sancrox. Follow the B56 until you reach Port Macquarie.

Afternoon

Take a tour of the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie. Walk around the grounds where sick Koalas are treated and recuperating from injuries, such as car accidents and dog attacks. Learn how local volunteers help to protect and save one of Australia's cutest animals. Check opening times and book a guided tour before you go.

See Port Macquarie by foot and walk along the Googik Heritage Walking Track. Try and spot kangaroos, deer and birdlife as you weave through the Lake Innes Nature Reserve.

Stay Flynns Beach Caravan Park.

DAYS 4–5

Days 4–5: Coffs Harbour & Byron Bay

DRIVE

155 km from Port Macquarie | **about 2 h 20 min** by campervan

Via **Pacific Motorway**

DAY 4

Port Macquarie to Coffs Harbour

Directions Depart this morning and follow the Pacific Highway to Coffs Harbour.

Afternoon

Take a photo in front of Coffs Harbour's most iconic attraction, The Big Banana. Built in 1964, the Big Banana became a must-visit as tourists drive through Coffs Harbour. The icon has expanded to include the Big Banana Fun Park, a day full of rides and attractions to keep the whole family entertained. Bring a picnic and spend the whole day exploring each aspect of the park.

The Coffs Harbour Butterfly House is an award-winning attraction, allowing visitors the unique experience of walking amongst the butterflies. The indoor sub-tropical setting is set perfectly to the butterflies' natural habitat, making it the perfect place to see these critters up close. Check its opening days before you go.

Stay BIG4 Park Beach Holiday Park.

DRIVE

230 km from Coffs Harbour | **about 3 h 30 min** by campervan

Via **Pacific Motorway**

DAY 5

Coffs Harbour to Byron Bay

Directions Depart this morning and follow the Pacific Highway to Ewingsdale. Follow Ewingsdale Road to Byron Bay.

Afternoon

Stone & Wood Brewing Company brew handcrafted beers, made and produced locally in Byron Bay. They often run tastings and tours of the brewery, offering an insight into the history and philosophy of the company, as well as the brewing process. Try their beer of the season or be more experimental and try from their pilot batch – new brews, which are being tried and tested.

> **Book ahead:**
> Brewery tours are for over-18s and sell out a few weeks ahead.

Take a picnic to the Cape Byron Lighthouse, Australia's most easterly point. From the Lighthouse, you can often see dolphins, turtles, and when in season, humpback whales. Explore the surrounding national park. The national park is full of picturesque waterfalls and fairy-like trees, the perfect escape for an afternoon.

> **Mt Warning**
> This itinerary used to suggest hiking up Mt Warning (Wollumbin) to see the giant volcano plug. The summit track is closed until at least 30 June 2027, so check with NSW National Parks before you plan a walk there.

Stay First Sun Holiday Park.

DAYS 6–7

Days 6–7: The Gold Coast & Brisbane

DRIVE

105 km from Byron Bay | **about 1 h 40 min** by campervan | Via **Pacific Motorway**

DAY 6

Byron Bay (NSW) to Gold Coast (QLD)

Directions Depart this morning and take the M1 north into Queensland and on to Elanora. Take exit 92 towards Palm Beach and follow the Gold Coast Highway to the Gold Coast.

Afternoon

Gold Coast is home to Australia's most popular theme parks. Warner Bros. Movie World is proclaimed as "Hollywood on the Gold Coast", boasting attractions from well-loved movies such as Scooby Doo and The Justice League. Wet'n'Wild is a waterpark, featuring multiple water slides and attractions, ranging from those who like the extreme, to those who enjoy a gentle paddle. Dreamworld is pitched to those with younger kids, offering rides themed from film and television shows; its Giggle and Hoot and Madagascar areas have since closed, so check what's running before you go.

The Tamborine Rainforest Skywalk allows you to walk among the treetops, with their cantilever bridge reaching the heights of 30 metres. Enjoy strolling through the forest floors as you slowly make your way

up to the upper canopy.

Stay BIG4 Gold Coast Holiday Park & Motel (formerly Gold Coast Holiday Park), Helensvale.

DRIVE

65 km from Gold Coast | **about 1 h** by campervan | Via **Pacific Motorway**

DAY 7

Gold Coast to Brisbane

RETURN

Directions Depart this morning and follow Rio Vista Boulevard until you reach State Route 90. Take the Pacific Motorway and follow to Brisbane.

Morning

Drive up the Pacific Motorway to Brisbane and return your campervan.

Afternoon

If you're staying on in Brisbane, the capital city of Queensland, there are loads of attractions to see! The Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) are two buildings, split by the river in Brisbane's South Bank. The galleries hold a collection of more than 20,000 works, from artists both in Australia and internationally. The exhibitions are constantly changing, and you will always find something fresh and new in the building.

Suncorp Stadium is one of Australia's premier sporting facilities, playing host to the Rugby League, Rugby Union Tests, State of Origin, Football Internationals and Concerts. Take a tour to learn the inner workings of such a big stadium, including the history behind developing a world-class stadium for rugby-mad Queenslanders. Tours run on non-event days, so check with the stadium before you go.

Stay Brisbane Holiday Village.

Returning in Brisbane

When you return your campervan, allow time for the return inspection. Return it by the time on your booking, as rental companies charge for late returns. Ampol Foodary Eagle Farm, 645–647 Kingsford Smith Drive, is open 24 hours and on the way to Brisbane Airport from the Eagle Farm branches. Brisbane's toll roads are cashless, so ask at pick-up how your rental company charges tolls before you pay them yourself.

Most branches take vans back until about 3pm to 3.30pm, so plan your last drive to arrive early (choosing a drop-off time). If you're running late, call the branch (late returns). More on returning your campervan. Branch addresses and hours: Brisbane branches.

Enjoy the drive up the coast.

Traditional Custodians

Sydney: Gadigal of the Eora Nation (City of Sydney (https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/guides/organising-welcome-to-country))

Port Stephens: Worimi people (Port Stephens Council (https://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/157360/AnnualReport_2024-25.pdf))

Port Macquarie: Birpai people (Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (https://www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/System-Pages/Site-Footer/Footer-Widgets/Acknowledgement-of-Country))

Coffs Harbour: Gumbaynggirr people (City of Coffs Harbour (https://haveyoursay.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/))

Byron Bay: Arakwal, Minjungbal and Widjabul peoples of the Bundjalung Nation (Byron Shire Council (https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/About-Byron-Shire/Aboriginal-Torres-Strait-Communities/Aboriginal-Cultural-Heritage))

The Gold Coast: Kombumerri families of the Yugambeh language region (Experience Gold Coast (https://experiencegoldcoast.com/plan/our-city))

Brisbane (Meanjin): Jagera and Turrbal peoples (Queensland Government, Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel (https://www.oqpc.qld.gov.au/acknowledgement-country))

Country boundaries are approximate, and some are shared or contested. These names follow local councils and park managers. The AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia (https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia) shows the wider picture.

Pay your respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land on which you are travelling, and to their Elders past, present and emerging. The Australian environment is fragile, so tread lightly: take only photos and leave only footprints.

DriveNow Disclaimer

DriveNow receives no money or commission for any holiday park, campground, hotel, restaurant, cafe, pub, tour or attraction named on this page. We include them because they suit a campervan trip, and we check them from time to time.

DriveNow's suggested itineraries help you plan your own trip. Distances and times are from mapped routes and are a guide only; campervan driving times are car times plus about 20%. Road conditions, closures, opening hours and prices change, so check them before you travel. Any reliance on this itinerary is at your own discretion.

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