

# 5 Days Hawkesbury Valley Christmas in July 2024



## DAY 1 (LD): PORT MACQUAIRE TO HAWKESBURY VALLEY

Monday 15 July 2024

Welcome to our 5-day tour celebrating Christmas in July. Once comfortable in our seats we begin our holiday. For lunch we stop at the **Ourimbah-Lisarow RSL Club**. Nestled at the foot of the Blue Mountains, Crowne Plaza Hawkesbury Valley offers 4.5-star deluxe accommodation with 8 hectares of landscaped gardens.

Lunch at Ourimbah-Lisarow RSL Club | Dinner in resort  
**Crowne Plaza Hawkesbury Valley | 4 nights**



## Day 2 (BLD): WILBERFORCE AND ST ALBANS

Tuesday 16 July 2024



We take a journey into Australia's colourful past and visit the Australiana Pioneer Village; a unique NSW Heritage listed site situated on the Hawkesbury River at Wilberforce. Here we step back in time and wander through the village grounds. See the blacksmith striking his forge as he turns out assorted ironware. Hear bush musicians singing tunes from our colonial past. Visit the Damper Camp where we can enjoy a mouth-watering serve

of damper with cocky's joy and billy tea or visit speciality shops where unusual Australian gifts and souvenirs can be purchased. Next, we venture to the tiny village of **St Albans** where our lunch has been arranged at the historic **Settlers Inn**, established in 1836, and built from convict-hewn sandstone. Of Georgian simplicity, the hotel became a stopover for Cobb and Co. stagecoaches travelling between Sydney and Newcastle in the nineteenth century. We look at the cemetery – a large group of early settlers are buried here, including William Douglas, a first fleeter. There are roughly 60 headstones still standing and it is very interesting to read some of the inscriptions. Leaving the area, we make our way to Ebenezer where we visit **Tizzana Winery**. There is a



fabulous history to be told about Tizzana Winery and that is what we will discover today. During our talk we learn that Dr Fiaschi built Tizzana Winery in 1887 to keep up with demand, we also enjoy a **tasting** before some free time in Ebenezer village. Tonight, we celebrate everything Christmas with our festive dinner in the resort with all the trimmings.

Breakfast and Christmas dinner in resort | lunch at Settlers Inn



### Day 3 (BLD): NEPEAN BELLE PADDLEWHEELER

Wednesday 17 July 2024

Today we head to Penrith where we board the **Nepean Belle Paddlewheeler** for a luncheon cruise on the Nepean River, with the opulent scenery of the **Blue Mountains National Park** around us. The Nepean Belle is a romantic old-world style Paddlewheeler. Reflecting the grace and charm of yester-year, the "Belle's" interiors are beautifully panelled with stained timbers featuring cedar and teak. After a fascinating day we retrace our steps, making our way back to the resort with time at leisure to enjoy the hotels facilities.

Breakfast and dinner in resort | luncheon cruise



### Day 4 (BD): LITHGOW & THE ZIG ZAG RAILWAY

Thursday 18 July 2024



Today's travels us takes us to the very popular **Zig Zag Railway**. The railway was constructed between 1866 and 1869 and was acclaimed as a major engineering feat of its time, becoming the first rail link to the western regions of NSW. Totally destroyed by recent bushfires, volunteers have worked tirelessly to bring this unique attraction back to life. The highlight of the Zig Zag Railway trip, apart from the magnificent scenery, is the sight, sound and smell of a hard-working steam locomotive which is sure to bring a touch of

nostalgia to those who can remember when the nation travelled behind steam. Following our train trip, we travel through the beautiful scenery of the Bells Line of Road to **Mount Tomah** where we have our picnic lunch and visit the **Blue Mountains Botanic Gardens**. Sitting on the summit of an extinct volcano at 1,000m above sea level, this 252-hectare garden is home to a world class collection of cool climate plants. The Garden has views stretching from the Hunter Valley, across the Blue Mountains back to Sydney. There are more than 48,000 plant specimens such as the Formal Garden, Explorers' Walk and Brunet Meadow. Following a wonderful day, we return to our resort with time to freshen up before dinner.

Breakfast and dinner in resort | lunch own arrangements and cost



### Day 05 (BL): HEADING HOME

Friday 19 July 2024



After an early breakfast this morning we're off to **Brooklyn Wharf** to join a fascinating cruise - **Australia's Last Riverboat Postman Cruise** with Hawkesbury Cruises. The Hawkesbury River is the longest river on Australia's East Coast and in 1790 it became the lifeline of trade between the farming communities and the struggling colony of Sydney. Since 1910 the Riverboat Postman has been providing an essential service to river communities – and today we will experience that service. We enjoy the magnificent scenery of the lower Hawkesbury River as

we deliver essentials to the river-access-only settlements upriver from Brooklyn. The cruise includes lunch. Back on dry land, we join the Brooklyn Ferry service who will transfer us across to Dangar Island. We have free time on the island to take in the serenity before our afternoon return ferry. We arrive home later today rested after 5 days away with friends in the spectacular Hawkesbury River.

Breakfast in resort | lunch on board Postman Cruise

## Tour Inclusions

- 4 night's hotel accommodation
- 4 cooked breakfasts
- 4 dinners including 1 Christmas in July dinner
- 4 included lunches – see below
- Lunch at Ourimbah-Lisarow RSL Club
- Entry and Damper Morning tea at The Australiana Pioneer Village, Wilberforce
- Lunch at the Settlers Arms Inn, St Albans
- Wine Tasting and Historical Talk at Tizzana Winery, Ebenezer
- Riverboat Postman Cruise including lunch with Hawkesbury Cruises
- Clarence to Bottom Points, return on Zig Zag Railway, Blue Mountains
- Walking tour at Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah
- Lunch Cruise on Nepean Belle Paddlewheeler

**All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions, e.g. churches, wineries etc. We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to closures, inclement weather etc**

**For more information or to book;**

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