



A U S T R A L I A N C E L T I C F E S T I V A L

Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th May 2024

The Australian Celtic Festival is renowned as the premier Celtic event of New South Wales. It is the only Celtic-themed festival in Australia to recognise different Celtic Nations each year and have the unique atmosphere of being located at the nationally acclaimed Australian Standing Stones.



Come and experience this unique festival in the spectacularly colourful autumn that is a highlight of the cool New England climate. Over the four days, there is close to 200 individual events. The township of Glen Innes comes alive with Celtic window displays and themed experiences. The

Thursday night '100,000 Welcomes Concert' gives a taster of the weekend's performances and non-stop entertainment. Alongside music and dance, the program includes official Celtic ceremonies, a street parade, re-enactment groups, Highlands games, Kirking of the Tartan, Friday night Ceilidh, massed pipe bands, Celtic Cultural Awards, dance championships, a children's Marquee with entertainment and activities!

Day 1 PORT MACQUARIE TO ARMIDALE

Thursday 02 May 2024 (LD)



Welcome to our **Colours of England with the Celtic Festival**. We get underway this morning travelling via the Oxley Highway through to **Walcha**, a significant primary producing area. It is also known as a producer of high-quality native hardwoods. We stop at the historical **Apsley Arms Hotel**

for a lunch break before continuing through to **Armidale**. This afternoon we enjoy a **sight-seeing tour** of town with her magnificent heritage buildings, cultural places, special gardens, and schools. Some of the places we will see include Hanna's Department Store, the Courthouse, Post Office, St Peter's Hall, St Paul's Church, Central Park, and the Racecourse. We visit a National Trust classified building, **Saumarez Homestead** - an imposing house with a proud place in New England and Australian heritage.



Lunch in Walcha | dinner in motel
Country Comfort Armidale | 3 nights

DAY 2 INVERELL

Friday 03 May 2024 (BD)



This morning we head to **Tingha**, a quint old mining town where we have arranged morning tea and a visit at the **Wing Hing Long Museum**. Originally established as a general store, it has been turned into a museum to showcase the contribution the Chinese made to rural communities in NSW. During the peak of the mining boom between 1880 and 1920, a large community of Chinese miners established themselves in the district. Next, we head to the rich grazing, grain growing and mining area of **Inverell** and arrive at **Inverell Pioneer Village**, a unique village as all the buildings featured have been collected from Inverell and the surrounding districts and represent the lifestyle and pioneering spirit of

bygone days, we have time to explore and lunch here. This afternoon we visit the **National Transport Museum** for a look through the collection. With over 120 vehicle exhibits, ranging from Vintage, Veteran, Classic and Motorcycles, the National Transport Museum has become a valuable tourist attraction for the New England area. Before we leave, we visit the **New England Woodturning and Sculpture store** for a demonstration and wander through the showroom.

Breakfast and dinner in hotel | lunch at Inverell Pioneer Village



DAY 3 AUSTRALIAN CELTIC FESTIVAL

Saturday 04 May 2024 (BLD)



Today we will be heading to Glen Innes for the **Australian Celtic Festival** to spend the morning. Depending on the program, there will be entertainment and more events to enjoy*. Glen Innes is known fondly as the 'Land of the Beardies'. Gazetted at the height of the goldrush in 1852, Glen Innes was settled by the Scots and regard themselves

as the Celtic Capital of New England. Our day will include the heritage main street including the parklands. In 1988 the Celtic Council of Australia developed the idea of erecting a national monument to honour all Celtic people who helped pioneer Australia. In 1992 the Australian Standing Stones were officially opened and are now well recognised as being the gathering point for Celtic descendants and clans.

**until the program is released the day's itinerary is subject to change.*

Breakfast and dinner in hotel | lunch own arrangements and cost

DAY 4 ARMIDALE TO HOME

Sunday 05 May 2024 (BL)

Following breakfast, we bid farewell to our hosts and travel east to view **Wollomombi Falls** then **Ebor Falls**. Viewing platforms at Ebor Falls provide us with dramatic views of the falls and the rugged country to the north. From here we travel onto **Dorrigo** where we enjoy lunch at the **Canopy Café**. We arrive home later this afternoon after a fantastic holiday with friends.

Breakfast in motel | lunch at Canopy Cafe



TOUR INCLUSIONS

- 3 night's motel accommodation
- 3 cooked motel breakfasts
- 2 motel dinners
- 3 included lunches – see below
- Lunch at the Apsley Arms Hotel, Walcha
- Guided house and garden tour at Saumarez Homestead, Armidale
- Day pass at the Celtic Festival
- Entry to the Wing Hing Long Heritage Museum
- Entry and lunch at the Pioneer Village, Inverell
- Entry and talk on arrival at the National Transport Museum, Inverell
- Visit the New England Woodturning
- Lunch at Canopy Café, Dorrigo

\$1,450 pp twin share | + \$1,755 pp single sup
\$250 pp deposit

For more information or to book;

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The itinerary may be subject to change without notice. Whilst every effort is made to adhere to the itinerary as provided, Port Bus reserves the right to alter the touring and attractions as dictated by circumstances and conditions outside the company's control. Alterations may be made to ensure the smooth running of the tour. Every attempt will be made to ensure alterations do not adversely affect the operation of the tour. Expanding Horizons will not be held responsible for weather-based cancellations, or those closures made at the venue's discretion.