

Southern Highlands - NSW

Looking for peace, quiet and a little pampering? NSW's Southern Highlands is the perfect destination. Situated an hour and a half south-west from Sydney, an hour and a half from Canberra and fifty minutes' scenic drive from Wollongong, the Southern Highlands has much to offer both day visitors and those who can spend a little more time.

It lies atop the Great Dividing Range, over 700 metres above sea level, from where the land falls away to the level plains of the inland. The climate is mild in summer, to cold in winter. Attractions such as the renowned Bradman Museum and Historic Berrima are old favourites, but there are many new features such as an abundance of wineries offering cellar door tastings.

The Highlands, part of the Wingecarribee Shire (population 40,000), consists of over 20 villages clustered around the major towns of Mittagong, Bowral, and Moss Vale. It was first settled by Europeans in the 1820s.

Visit nearby Kangaroo Valley where the rolling green hills, sparkling Kangaroo River and historic township make a quiet retreat.

Kangaroo Valley Just a short drive from Fitzroy Falls in the Southern Highlands is Kangaroo Valley, reputed to be one of only seven fully enclosed valleys in the world. The banks of the Kangaroo River are the perfect spot for a picnic or, for visitors looking for something more active, try canoeing and camping trips, a game of golf or trail rides on horseback through native forests.

The Southern Highlands is well-known for its historic country estates, beautiful rural scenery, national parks with spectacular waterfalls and easy bushwalks, and fine accommodation. The old-world charm of the area is another drawcard, particularly during Tulip Time (September to October) when a visit to Bowral's English-style gardens is most enjoyable. Sports fans will love the Bradman Museum, while those looking for some retail therapy will find fantastic shopping at the craft and antique shops, galleries and nurseries of Mittagong, Berrima, Bowral and Moss Vale. Enjoy the warm hospitality offered at local inns and restaurants that serve hearty country fare or follow the local wine trail to discover the region's delicious cool climate wines. Stock up on quality local produce at gourmet delis or fresh from the farm gate.



ATTRACTIONS

Beautiful gardens, antique stores, local markets and outdoor pursuits can all be found in the Southern Highlands, making it a perfect for a relaxing weekend break. Here's what to see and do in the area...

- **Fitzroy Falls**
Don't miss this natural wonder – enjoy the rainforest and spectacular falls via easy boardwalk access.

- **The Bradman Museum of Cricket, Bowral**
Located in the childhood home-town of the great Australian cricketer, Donald Bradman, the Museum is a must for lovers of both history and sport with five galleries filled with a wonderful collection of memorabilia.
- **Fly fishing**
Test your skills against the elusive freshwater trout! You can learn some basic 'streamcraft' and freshwater fishing techniques with an experienced guide at Briar's Inn.
- **Go bushwalking**
Peek at Mt Gibraltar, the highest point between the Illawarra Coast and the Great Dividing Range – or check out Bundanoon's famous Glow Worm Cave at night.
- **Take a drive**
One spectacular route in the area stretches from Mittagong to the limestone formations at Wombeyan Caves.
- **Explore Berrima**
This picturesque colonial town is alluring for its fine architecture, antiques stores, books and arts and crafts.
- **Bundanoon Brigadoon**
Thousands converge on the region for this annual Scottish festival complete with bagpipes and dancing.

