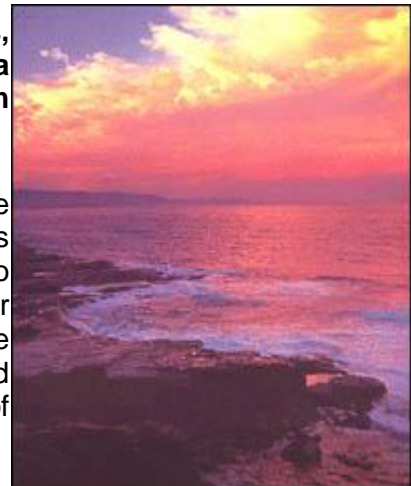


## South Coast - NSW

**Panoramic views, bushland and rainforests, seaside villages, and unspoilt beaches await you in NSW's Illawarra, a laidback coastal region just one hour's drive south from Sydney.**

As with many great escapes, the journey here is as good as the destination! Drive through the Royal National Park - Australia's oldest – to check out the hang-gliders at Stanwell Tops, or head to Bulli and explore the northern coastal villages. They're famous for pretty beaches, cosy cafes, galleries and antique shops. The lookouts at Sublime Point, Mount Keira Stanwell Tops and Bald Hill are also worth a photo pit-stop as all offer stunning views of the Illawarra region.



Wollongong has a great mix of adventure sports, affordable golf courses, bike trails and surfing beaches, shops and gourmet restaurants. Or you might like to continue driving south to the coastal delights of Shellharbour, or the picturesque quaintness of Kiama, famous for its naturally occurring 'Blowhole' and special seaside ambiance or further afield to the beautiful Seven Mile Beach.

Wollongong's coastline is famous worldwide and has been a major drawcard for tourists since the 1890's. And no wonder! The regions many lookouts provide breathtaking views both north and south. It's all here - rugged cliffs playing fortress to the sea, sheltered bays, azure blue waters and infinite stretches of golden sandy beaches.

### **Bald Hill and Hang Gliding**

Bald Hill is arguably Wollongong's most well known and most popular lookout. Not only are the views unsurpassed, the area is also internationally known as a major hang gliding centre. It was here that Lawrence Hargrave, an Australian pioneer of flight, experimented with box kites in the early part of the 20th century. The Lawrence Hargrave Memorial, located at the lookout, is testament to his innovative genius.

### **Traveling North**

Wollongong's northern-most boundary, the Royal National Park, offers pristine health, rainforest and coastal habitats to explore. Dotted along the way are tiny shack settlements, many only accessible on foot or by sea. Numerous vantage points afford sweeping views of the majestic coastline and its rocky cliffs. For those who enjoy even closer contact with nature, a selection of walking tracks along spectacularly scenic routes reveal secluded waterfalls, lush rainforest and an abundance of native flora and fauna. Two prime examples are the Wodi-Wodi and Forest Walks tracks.



Port Kembla Harbour is a bustling maritime complex which incorporates Bluescope Steel's ore handling and steel loading facilities, export coal berth, general cargo handling plus grain handling and fertiliser terminals.

### Outer Harbour

The outer harbour is accessed by driving south, past Bluescope Steel's research centre. Here you will find the outer harbour tug berths. Also nearby are the acid loading berth, small boat harbour and launch ramp, the historic steam crane and the Port Kembla Breakwater Battery War Museum located within an old observation tower. This area is also the base for customs agents and the water police.



A scenic drive links Mount Keira to Mount Kembla. Along the way pockets of lush rainforest abound with rich and exotic vegetation including fungi of all colours, ferns, such as the birds-nest fern, cling precariously to high tree branches and rock ledges, while giant vines and strangler figs ensnare rocks and tree trunks like massive pythons. Beautiful Illawarra flame trees got the rainforest during December, their brilliant scarlet bells carpeting the forest floor below.



Just 1 hour south of Sydney, Grand Pacific Drive encompasses some of NSW's most spectacular scenery and coastline.

Beginning at the Royal National Park (world's second oldest), this magnificent driving route takes you through beautiful coastal rainforests and spectacular driving scenery with close proximity to sheer cliffs and the South Pacific Ocean.

The route then leads you across the impressive 665 metre Sea Cliff Bridge and quaint coastal villages boasting some of the states most beautiful beaches and rock pools.

Grand Pacific Drive takes you into Wollongong; a bustling coastal city with a vast array of attractions and activities for any visitor.

From Wollongong you can head south to Shellharbour, Kiama and Shoalhaven, or head west and travel over the escarpment to the Southern Highlands and then south to Canberra.