

Title: NSW by Road – An Elegant Adventure

Location: Sydney and Country-Coastal NSW

We can't go to Washington, Moscow, or even Positano right now, but we can go to Wolgan Valley, Mudgee and Pretty Beach in NSW!! Is Pretty Beach even as lovely as it sounds?? Yes indeed!

With our borders gradually opening, now is the time to plan your next adventure to NSW and discover its picturesque beauty, pristine coastline, world-class dining, and famous wine regions. Why not fly into Sydney and spend a few days there before grabbing a car and setting off? It is hard to contemplate if there is a better base in town than the iconic The Four Seasons Sydney, perfectly set overlooking Sydney Harbour at Circular Quay and a short walk to the Opera House. My advice is to have us secure a Full Harbour View room or suite so you can drink in that famous vista. Our Virtuoso amenities include numerous benefits as well as a delicious buffet breakfast. There is so much to do in Sydney, but the top of my list is to enjoy one of Sydney's famous walks such as the clifftop amble from Bondi to Coogee. Taking in beautiful beaches, ocean vistas and fun cafes along the way, this 6km walk is suitable for most ages and fitness levels. And for something really memorable why not join a guided kayak tour where you get the chance to see sights only visible from the water. And to end your day Sydney has no shortage of world class dining options, but a Sydney visit is not complete in my opinion without a visit to Beppi's in East Sydney for their Saltimbocca di Vitello and a solid fix of old school Italian! Belissimo!

After a couple of nights in Sydney collect your rental car and take a 2.5-hour drive via Katoomba to the World Heritage-listed Greater Blue Mountains region. On arrival check into the ultra-luxe Emirates One & Only Wolgan Valley, set amongst 7,000-acres of protected wilderness and surrounded by two national parks. As you pass through the imposing gates you will be transferred by Land Rover 4WD to the plush lodge & 40 free standing villas where a cocoon of comfort, polished service and fine dining awaits. The resort immerses you in nature and re-invigorates the soul – it's a complete chance to escape. Choose from a selection of outdoor pursuits including hiking, 4WD adventures and conservation initiatives, or enjoy a relaxing spa treatment. But the adventure I most enjoyed during my stay was the opportunity to curl up in front of a roaring fire in the lodge with a glass of wine and a good book! You're sure to enjoy elegant inclusive dining with seasonal farm to table ingredients whilst being surrounded by the spectacular Blue Mountains. I think three nights here is ideal and your Bayview Travel advisor will have tagged your booking to make certain you are identified as a Virtuoso guest and to ensure a warm welcome.

From the Blue Mountains drive further inland, heading northwest to Mudgee. I love the very sound of the name Mudgee and no wonder as it is one of the country's great wine towns. Stroll along the elegant tree-lined streets and you'll find many well-preserved colonial buildings, including the Mudgee Post Office, which was built in 1862. Parts of the sandstone St Mary's Catholic Church date back to 1857 – it's just a gorgeous old town. But the star of Mudgee is its vibrant food & wine movement. You will find top restaurants and a casual café culture as well as top producing wineries. Be sure to call into "Logan" winery and enjoy the gorgeous views along with a tasting accompanied by local cheeses & antipasto. In Mudgee I would

suggest a stay at Evanslea House, a luxury boutique retreat set on the Cudegon River amongst four and a half acres of pristine gardens.

A two-night stay in Mudgee will be a perfect interlude before the next chapter of your adventure, the Hunter Valley! The drive to the world-famous Hunter Valley will take about 3 hours. Explore the villages of Rylstone or Kandos before heading toward Sandy Hollow and Denman and reaching your final destination of Pokolbin in the heart of the historic Hunter Valley. Known for varietals such as Semillon and Shiraz, it's home to numerous wineries, including world-renowned brands and family-run boutique operations. The recent \$30M transformation is a good start for Bayview Travel to recommend Spicer's Guesthouse as the perfect accommodation base for you to explore. Here you will find a sense of relaxed luxury and contemporary style as soon as you arrive, not to mention superb dining. Make sure your visit to the area includes a tasting at De Bortoli and Tyrrell's wineries, long considered as the First Families of Wine in Australia. I would allow 2 or 3 nights, especially if you like wine!!

After all this rural air, it's time to head for the NSW coast and Pretty Beach. Located on the spectacular Bouddi Peninsula and only about 90 minutes north of Sydney here you will find a nature lover's paradise. Check into Pretty Beach House, a rare find nestled in the escarpment above Pretty Beach with gorgeous water views. Long considered one of the most exclusive retreats in Australia and with only four 4 pavilion rooms to choose from, you could say that Pretty Beach House almost invented social distancing! Our favourite pavilion naturally has to be the "Bayview" Pavilion, but you might prefer the larger two-level "Retreat" with your own private plunge pool! Enjoy inclusive dining with superb food served with simplicity and style. Maybe choose to do one of the guided walks along coastal trails, boating, biking, or even a round of golf at a local course. But most of all enjoy the intimate and laidback style of this special place. After a two or three night stay, it's an easy drive to return to Sydney Airport. Or to end your journey on a high, take a panoramic seaplane flight back to Sydney!

New South Wales has so much to offer so let's avoid those 24-hour flights and expensive Business Class fares for the moment and jump onto the secrets we have in our own backyard! Contact your Bayview Travel advisor now to help you plan an Australian adventure that would be the envy of any international traveller!

Destination list:

Duration: 12 days

Highlights: Sydney, Blue Mountains, Mudgee, Hunter Valley, Bouddi Peninsula including luxury highlight stays

Select traveller type: Couples

Your Name: Michael Nolan