ATE 2017
NSW Familiarisation Program

THE LEGENDARY PACIFIC COAST
Byron Bay to Sydney

Pre Tour: 10–14 May 2017
Post Tour: 19–23 May 2017
ABOUT THE NORTH COAST

On this five-day tour you’ll pass through some of the most striking landscapes in New South Wales. The North Coast is an almost continuous line of surf beaches, national parks and a hinterland of rolling green hills and small country towns.

The Legendary Pacific Drive has a wide range of accommodation, excellent food and wine experiences, inspiring adventures and attractions along the way. Key destinations on this drive include Byron Bay, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie and Newcastle. Sydney is your final destination.
DAY 1 (PRE TOUR)

Arrive at the Gold Coast Airport and meet your guide for the Legendary Pacific Coast adventure.

First stop is Point Danger Lookout, a scenic park with sweeping views overlooking the ocean and popular Duranbah Beach. It’s a great introduction to the beautiful coastline that you’ll be exploring over the next few days.

We then proceed to the scenic Tweed River for a crab catching experience. Savour the sweet fresh crab straight from the pristine river, hand feed wild pelicans, pump for yabbies and try your hand at fishing.

This afternoon visit Tropical Fruit World for a plantation tour and lunch. Next stop is Byron Bay for a welcome cocktail and site inspection at Elements of Byron.

Arrive and check-in at the Byron at Byron Resort & Spa set amongst a stunning subtropical rainforest.

Welcome drinks and site inspection are followed by a hosted dinner at your hotel.

Overnight: The Byron at Byron Resort and Spa

DAY 1 (POST TOUR)

Depart Sydney and head north along the Legendary Pacific Coast. First stop is at Glenworth Valley Outdoor Adventures where you’ll saddle up for a morning ride. Enjoy a peaceful guided ride in the bush, keeping an eye out for colourful birdlife and other wildlife in this pristine wilderness.

Next stop is Newcastle, Australia’s second-oldest city, bound by a working harbour and a string of surf beaches. Discover the city’s heritage and history with a guided tour of Fort Scratchley Historic Site (time permitting). Fort Scratchley occupies a commanding position guarding the entrance to the Hunter River, arguably one of Newcastle’s most spectacular vantage points.

Lunch is at one of Newcastle’s most popular dining hotspots, Honeysuckle.

After lunch, head off on a quad bike adventure with Sand Dune Adventures for an action-packed afternoon.

Proceed to Port Stephens, known for its pristine waterways, marine life and adventure activities.

Stay overnight at the Oaks Lure Apartments.

Dinner tonight is at a local Port Stephens restaurant.

Overnight: Oaks Lure Apartments, Nelson Bay
DAY 2 (PRE TOUR)

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and a yoga lesson (time permitting and availability).
Check-out before taking the short but dramatic headland walk to Cape Byron Lighthouse overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Meet a National Park guide for a tour of the lighthouse. Join the crew at Cape Byron Kayaks for an exhilarating paddle with dolphins and turtles in Byron Bay Marine Reserve. Your adventure will include morning tea on a beautiful beach.

Lunch is at Balcony Bar & Oyster Co Restaurant located just metres from Byron Bay’s famous Main Beach. After lunch, wander the streets of Byron to check out local fashion boutiques, art, local produce and surfwear.

Depart for Coffs Harbour.

Arrive and check-in to Opal Cove Resort located on the beautiful beach of Korora Bay, just a few minutes’ drive from Coffs Harbour.

Dinner is at Saltwater Café and Restaurant at Emerald Beach.

Overnight: Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour

DAY 2 (POST TOUR)

Join a morning cruise with Moonshadow TQC Cruises, exploring the pristine waterways and meeting the playful resident dolphins.
Enjoy lunch and free time at D’Albora Marina.

Depart for your next stop and overnight accommodation at Mantra Quayside in Port Macquarie.

Dinner is hosted in Port Macquarie.

Overnight: Mantra Quayside, Port Macquarie
DAY 3 (PRE TOUR)

Transfer to Forest Sky Pier at Sealy Lookout for panoramic views from the mountains to the coast. Next stop is Dolphin Marine Magic for a fun and educational ‘hands-on’ experience.

At The Big Banana, one of Australia’s most famous ‘big things, join a cheese-making workshop.

Lunch is at the multi award-winning Flooded Gums restaurant located at Bonville Golf Resort, voted Australia’s most beautiful mainland golf course and listed in the top 10 golf courses in Australia.

Travel to Bellingen, a pretty riverside town nestled in the heart of the Bellinger Valley. Enjoy time to browse the tree-lined streets, cafes and art galleries. Pick your own plump, luscious strawberries at Ricardoes Tomatoes & Strawberries which boasts five varieties of hydroponic strawberries and eight varieties of tomatoes.

Visit Mantra Quayside apartments in the heart of Port Macquarie before arriving and checking into your overnight accommodation at Sails by Rydges, Port Macquarie. This stunning waterfront resort is located on the foreshore and is close to entertainment, dining and recreational activities.

Dinner is hosted at Sail’s.

Overnight: Sails by Rydges, Port Macquarie

DAY 3 (POST TOUR)

This morning enjoy a short guided walk through Sea Acres Rainforest Centre with a National Parks ranger. Sea Acres is the largest coastal rainforest reserve in NSW.

After the walk, visit the Koala Hospital, one of the world’s first hospitals dedicated solely to the care and preservation of koalas.

Enjoy a picnic lunch overlooking the Bago Maze and Vineyards. Explore the largest hedge maze in NSW before relaxing with a glass of wine at the vineyard cellar.

Head north again, towards Coffs Harbour for your overnight accommodation at Breakfree Aanuka Beach Resort.

Overnight: Breakfree Aanuka Beach Resort, Coffs Harbour
DAY 4 (PRE TOUR)

This morning enjoy a short guided walk through Sea Acres Rainforest Centre with a National Parks ranger. Sea Acres is the largest coastal rainforest reserve in NSW.

After the walk, visit the Koala Hospital, one of the world’s first hospitals dedicated solely to the care and preservation of koalas.

Enjoy a picnic lunch overlooking the Bago Maze and Vineyards. Explore the largest hedge maze in NSW before relaxing with a glass of wine at the vineyard cellar.

Drive the scenic coastal route taking in Lake Cathie, Bonny Hills and Camden Haven to North Brother Mountain in Dooragan National Park before making your way to Newcastle.

Newcastle is Australia’s second-oldest city, bound by a working harbour and a string of surf beaches. Forged from the coal and timber industries, it has now grown into a stylish, contemporary beach city with great bars, restaurants and coastal walks.

Enjoy dinner at one of Newcastle’s most popular dining hotspots, Honeysuckle.

Overnight accommodation is at Crowne Plaza Newcastle.

Overnight: Crowne Plaza, Newcastle

DAY 4 (POST TOUR)

After breakfast, enjoy the amazing panoramic views from the mountains to the coast from the Forest Sky Pier. The pier extends 21 metres out from the lookout and stands 15 metres above the forest floor.

C-Change Adventures will take you on a unique eco-tour through beautiful Gondwana Land National Parks. Highlights include catching yabbies and exploring the mangrove mazes with a qualified marine scientist as your guide.

Lunch is at the multiaward-winning Flooded Gums restaurant located at Bonville Golf Resort, voted Australia’s most beautiful mainland golf course and listed in the top 10 courses in Australia.

Travel to Bellingen, a riverside town nestled in the heart of the Bellinger Valley between the coast and the Dorrigo Plateau.

Travel to Byron Bay and check-in at Elements of Byron Resort & Spa. Opened in February 2016, Elements features 103 private beach villas set amidst 22 hectares of absolute beachfront paradise.

Dinner is at the resort.

Overnight: Elements of Byron Resort & Spa, Byron Bay
**DAY 5 (PRE TOUR)**

This morning, explore Newcastle, visiting Darby Street to eat and shop.

Transfer to the Australian Reptile Park on the Central Coast for a close encounter with some of Australia’s native animals.

Arrive in Sydney and check-in to your ATE accommodation.

Make your way to the International Convention Centre Sydney to register for ATE.

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**DAY 5 (POST TOUR)**

Take a guided tour of Cape Byron Lighthouse, learn more about the iconic structure and visit the nearby Maritime Museum. You’ll enjoy some of the best views of the ocean and hinterland on the entire coast, including regular sightings of turtles, dolphins and humpback whales.

Head to Main Beach where the Lets Go Surfing team will give you an authentic taste of surfing, safety information about waves and the beach.

Lunch is at The Byron at Byron Resort and Spa, set amongst a stunning subtropical rainforest, moments from Tallow Beach and only a short drive from iconic Byron Bay.

Visit Crystal Castle and Shambhala Gardens, a magical spot set in lush gardens, with panoramic hinterland views, amazing natural crystals and exquisite jewellery.

Depart Crystal Castle and transfer to the Gold Coast via the scenic Tweed Valley Way, and the picturesque villages of Stokers Siding, Murwillumbah and the Mt Warning National Park.

Arrive at the Gold Coast Airport for your return flight to your home country.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Some important information which will help with planning your trip to New South Wales:

**Australian smoking laws**
Federal law bans smoking in all Australian Commonwealth government buildings, public transport, airports and international and domestic flights. Further bans are in place but are governed by individual states.

Most Australian states and territories have banned smoking in enclosed public places, particularly workplaces and restaurants.

**Australian voltage**
Australia uses 220-240 voltage with a three flat pin. Battery chargers for digital cameras, laptops and other electrical equipment will display the input range and as long as this is within the 220-240v range it will work with just a socket converter. If not, you can purchase a transformer that will increase or decrease the Australian voltage as necessary.

**Dress code**
The dress code for the famil is casual during the day and smart casual for evening activities. We recommend bringing a warm jacket for evenings.

**Climate**
May marks the end of autumn and the month before winter begins in Australia. Autumn in New South Wales is mild with temperatures ranging from 12°C/53°F to 17°C/62°F.

**Itinerary inclusions**
Please refer to the Destination NSW participant release form which outlines the itinerary inclusions.

**What to pack**
Walking shoes/boots are recommended for outdoor activities and sightseeing. A warm jacket is suggested for evenings. Sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat is recommended. Don’t forget a waterproof jacket or umbrella in case of rain.

Please note itinerary is subject to change and all activities will be confirmed prior to your departure.
Climate

This itinerary includes: accommodation, tours, transfers and meals as specified. All other items and expenses of a personal nature, or noted “own arrangements” or “own expense” are to be met by the participant.

Please note your itinerary arrangements do not include:

- Items of a personal nature (e.g. Mini bar, videos, beauty salon)
- Laundry service
- Telephone, internet access or other communication costs
- Travel Insurance or Visas
- Tipping
- Drinks and alcohol - unless specified otherwise
- Meals - unless specified as hosted

Please note itinerary is subject to change and all activities will be confirmed prior to your departure.
You agree to take part in the Activities set out in the itinerary on the following terms:

1. In this Release, “Activities” includes without limitation: all international and domestic flights; transfers, transport; accommodation; touring; attractions and any other activity which is part of the familiarisation.

2. By accepting the offer of Destination NSW to visit Sydney/New South Wales, you agree to the terms set in this Release.

3. You agree to comply with the directions of the person operating the familiarisation and any other instructions Destination NSW gives you concerning the familiarisation or the Activities.

4. Destination NSW has taken reasonable care in arranging the familiarisation. However, Destination NSW has relied on information provided by facility or services operators and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of that information.

5. Destination NSW may cancel or suspend an Activity or the familiarisation or your involvement in it for any reason at any time.

6. To the extent the law allows, Destination NSW excludes all express and implied warranties, including as to the familiarisation and the content of the Activities or their suitability for any purpose.

7. As part of your participation in this program, you agree to take out and maintain all appropriate insurance including relevant personal travel and medical insurances.

8. You participate in the familiarisation and the Activities at your sole discretion and risk. Destination NSW is not liable for any expense, loss, damage, injury, sickness, death or accident you or any other person suffers or incurs directly or indirectly as a result of the familiarisation or the Activities (including consequential or indirect loss) or otherwise arising out of your participation in the familiarisation and Activities, whether that loss or damage is due to our negligence, default, another tort or for any common law or statutory action.

9. You acknowledge that, in addition to the usual dangers and inherent risks of any activity, this familiarisation has certain additional dangers and risks, which you accept by participating, some of which may include:
   a) physical exertion for which you may not be prepared;
   b) the increased possibility of accident, injury or death due to the nature of the Activities; and
   c) remoteness from normal medical services.

10. You understand that the Activities may be organised and provided by other parties other than Destination NSW and that Destination NSW is not liable for the acts of these other parties.

11. You also understand that there may be risks involved which are not known to you or to Destination NSW and may not be foreseen or reasonably foreseeable by any of us at this time or at the time of the carrying out of the Activities.

12. You assume all of the risks associated with my participation in the Activities and you warrant that you are voluntarily assuming all responsibility for your participation in the Activities, including any loss or damage suffered by you as a result of my participation in the Activities.

13. You warrant that you are physically fit to participate in the Activities, that you do not suffer from any medical condition which participation in the Activities is or is likely to put you at higher risk of injury. If you have a medical condition which may affect participation in the Activities or is likely to put you at higher risk of injury, we recommend you not participating. Please advise us of any medical conditions, special dietary requirements and/or allergies.

14. You hereby release and forever discharge and agree to save and hold harmless Destination NSW and their directors, officers, employees, agents, the lessors and lessees or licensors and licensees of any food, drink, property, facilities or equipment consumed and/or used in connection with the Activities and other participants (“the released parties”) from any and all injuries (including personal injury, disability, dismemberment and death) illness, losses, damage, claims,
liabilities or expenses, of any kind or nature (whether accruing to you, my heirs or my personal representatives) that are caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the action, negligence, failure to act or condition of the food, drink, property, facilities or equipment of any released party that arise out of or in connection with my participation in the Activities and you agree that Destination NSW may plead this agreement as a complete defence to any claim brought by you, your heirs or successors in contravention of the terms of this agreement.

15. You agree to abide and comply with all relevant laws whilst in Australia.

16. As part of the Activities you may travel by a mode of transport (i.e. car) which is operated by someone else. You agree that Destination NSW is not liable for the acts of the operator. Destination NSW does not warrant that the operator has a particular skill level of operating the mode of transport and you participate in this component of the Activities at your own risk acknowledging that there may be risks involved which are not known to you or to Destination NSW and may not be foreseen or reasonably foreseeable by any of us at this time or at the time of the carrying out of this component of the Activities.

17. The visit is outlined in your itinerary as provided. Please contact Destination NSW prior to departing for Australia if you have any concerns regarding the itinerary. Please note your itinerary will not include the following items in which such payment remains the liability of you: items of personal nature (such as room service, mini bar, movie channels, laundry service, beauty treatments, etc.), telephone, internet, wifi, fax or other communication costs unless specified in the itinerary, insurance, meals, drinks and alcohol – unless specified in the itinerary. It is compulsory to attend itinerary inclusions. Destination NSW reserves the right to change the itinerary at any time.

18. You must have a valid passport and necessary visa documentation for entry into Australia.

19. An evaluation and feedback from must be completed within the time-frame requested. This will be provided by Destination NSW after the conclusion of your visit.

20. It is mandatory for you to conduct yourself in a responsible and professional manner throughout your visit.

21. You authorise Destination NSW and its relevant third parties to use the photographs obtained / videotaping taken / audio recorded / quotes obtained of you during the Activities, for all publicity and marketing purposes including but not limited to publications, promotional flyers, news articles, websites, newsletters, e-newsletters, presentations, books and magazines; on a free-of-charge, royalty free and worldwide use basis in perpetuity. No future consent is required.

22. You release Destination NSW and its relevant third parties, their officers and employees, and each and all persons involved, from any liability connected with the taking, recording, reproduction, or publication of said photographs taken, video footage recorded, audio recorded or written quote provided.

23. You waive all rights you may have to any claims for payment or royalties in connection with any exhibition, televising, or other publication of these materials, regardless of the purpose or sponsoring of such exhibiting, broadcasting, or other publication irrespective of whether a fee for admission or film rental is charged.

24. You also waive any right to inspect or approve any photograph, video, audio or written quote taken by Destination NSW or the person or entity designated by it.

25. You release and discharge Destination NSW and/or its relevant third parties from any liability by virtue of any blurring, distortion, alteration, optical illusion, or use in composite form whether intentional or otherwise, that may occur or be produced, or in any processing toward the completion of the finished product.

26. You agree that all negatives and positives, whether photograph, prints, video, film, audio or sound recording are the property of Destination NSW or the person or entity designated by it, solely and completely.

27. Please advise Destination NSW if you would like to receive a copy of the photograph / videotape / audio / quote.
For all Destination NSW ATE 2017
NSW Familiarisation enquiries contact:
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