

THE ULTIMATE 6-DAY ROAD TRIP TO MUDGEES AND DUBBO

Escape the routine this school holidays with an unforgettable road trip filled with unique experiences.

This carefully curated itinerary will ensure you create lifelong family memories as you discover the charming towns of Mudgee and Dubbo. We understand that planning the perfect getaway can be time consuming, which is why we've done the work for you. This family-friendly itinerary makes it **easy** for you to simply pack your bags and embark on an incredible adventure.

In this ultimate road trip guide, we cover:

- How to make the drive from Sydney to Mudgee an enjoyable day trip
- 3 unforgettable days in Mudgee
- Explore Dubbo: release the wild adventure
- 5 reasons why a visit to Dubbo's Taronga Western Plains Zoo is an absolute must
- 3 stops to make the homeward journey memorable

See for yourself why we have fallen in love with NSW's beautiful mid-western region.



by Jodie and Angela Harber



MAKE THE DRIVE TO MUDGEES AN ENJOYABLE DAY TRIP



START YOUR JOURNEY AT BILPIN CIDER CO.

Less than 90 minutes from Sydney, Bilpin Cider Co. is the perfect first stop on your road trip to Mudgee. Set on 10 picturesque acres overlooking the stunning Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, this charming farm features an apple orchard, beautiful gardens, as well as friendly resident sheep and alpacas to delight the whole family.

You can also enjoy their ciders (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) at the outdoor bar.

Be sure to pre-book one of their delicious picnic hampers to enjoy on the farm, or check their website for any special holiday activities and events.



STRETCH YOUR LEGS IN RYLSTONE

Continuing on, your next stop is the charming town of Rylstone, just 2 hours from Bilpin. Known for its heritage buildings, art galleries, and boutique shops, Rylstone offers the perfect opportunity to stretch your legs and soak in the country charm.

Our top 3 picks for a stop in Rylstone:

1. Grab a takeaway coffee or hot chocolate from Rylstone Cafe (open until 4.30pm) to enjoy as your stroll.
2. Treat the kids to some old fashioned sweets from Rylstone Lolli Shop.
3. Visit our favourite homewares store, Folkologie and pick up some local delicacies for you to enjoy during the holiday.

You can also stop into the local bakery and Food Works to pick up some basics or groceries.



END YOUR DAY AT WANDARRA HOMESTEAD

Just 20 minutes down the road, your final destination is Wandarra Homestead, a fully private and tranquil 25-acre property designed to offer you a rejuvenating retreat. Spend the evening toasting marshmallows by the fire or exploring the starlit skies, creating memories that will last a lifetime. And there's no need to worry about dinner! We can pre-arrange for a delicious homemade lasagne to be left in the fridge, ready to heat and serve.





3 UNFORGETTABLE DAYS IN MUDGEE

DAY 1: EXPLORE THE RENOWNED WINERIES

Discover the exceptional local vintages that have made Mudgee a premier wine destination. Relax and immerse yourself in the warm, welcoming atmosphere of these family-owned wineries. Our top picks include:

- **Lowe Wines:** Start your day with a visit to this charming winery, where you can enjoy their award-winning Lulu Rose while exploring the picturesque grounds and meeting the friendly farm animals.
- **Rosby:** Indulge in a wine tasting while appreciating the impressive art gallery and serene gardens. Don't forget to try their delectable homemade cheesecake!
- **Our Chow:** End your day with a leisurely lunch crafted from fresh produce. With ample space for the kids to play, and neighbouring Burrundulla Wines, this is a perfect family-friendly stop.

After a day of wine tasting, take the scenic Lue Road via Rocky Waterhole Road back to Wandarra, where you can cozy up by the fire with your favourite bottle of the day.

DAY 2: ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Less than 50 minutes from Wandarra, the stunning Ganguddy-Dunns Swamp National Park offers a wealth of outdoor activities for the whole family. Choose from a variety of walking tracks, ranging from easy to moderate, try your hand at fishing or explore the waterway with the [Southern Cross Kayaking](#) team, who are on-site most weekends between the September school holidays and Easter.



Be sure to pack a delicious picnic lunch before heading out. Gunguddy, a fully-equipped campground, offers convenient picnic areas, well-maintained bathroom facilities, and easy parking - everything you need for a relaxing day in the great outdoors.

DAY 3: DISCOVER THE DELIGHTS OF MUDGE

There's plenty to see and do in this charming country town.

- Start your day with a visit to **Alby and Esthers**, where you can indulge in expertly brewed coffee and tasty treats in a cozy courtyard, setting the perfect tone for the day ahead.
- Stretch your legs and let the kids burn off some energy at **Lawson Park**, where you can admire the sculptures and feed the ducks.
- Explore the sweet world of bees and honey at **Mudgee Honey Haven**. Take a guided tour to learn about beekeeping, taste an array of honey products, and even spot bees in action through glass observation hives. For a bit of friendly competition, try your hand at a game of Putt-Putt for only \$5 per person.

EXPLORE DUBBO: UNLEASH THE ADVENTURE

After exploring the charming town of Mudgee, continue your road trip journey to the vibrant city of Dubbo, located just under 2 hours away from Wandarra Homestead. Plan to spend at least 2 nights in Dubbo to fully immerse yourself in the wild wonders that await at the renowned Taronga Western Plains Zoo.

DISCOVER MORE THAN THE ZOO

WHILE VISITING THE WESTERN PLAINS ZOO IS A MUST, DUBBO HAS MUCH MORE TO OFFER. EXPLORE THREE LOCAL GEMS THAT SHOWCASE THE HEART AND SOUL OF DUBBO'S CULTURE, HISTORY, AND COMMUNITY.

1. **Dubbo Observatory:** Step into the cosmos at the Dubbo Observatory, where the wonders of the night sky come to life. Whether you're a stargazing enthusiast or simply curious about the mysteries of the universe, a visit to the observatory promises an enlightening and unforgettable experience.
2. **Royal Flying Doctor Service Visitor Experience:** Embark on a hangar tour and delve into the heroic world of outback medical aid. Explore interactive exhibits, learn about the incredible history of the Flying Doctor service, and witness firsthand the vital role it plays in providing emergency healthcare to remote communities.
3. **Old Dubbo Gaol:** Step back in time and experience life behind bars at the Old Dubbo Gaol, a fascinating historic site that offers a glimpse into Dubbo's convict past. Explore the cells, gallows, and prisoner stories within this well-preserved jail, uncovering tales of punishment, escape attempts, and justice in colonial Australia.

SAVOR THE FLAVORS OF DUBBO

Dubbo offers a diverse culinary landscape, with a variety of dining options. Here are our top local picks:

1. **Two Doors:** This popular restaurant in the heart of Dubbo provides a welcoming atmosphere and delights diners with its modern Australian cuisine, from gourmet burgers to fresh salads and wood-fired pizzas.
2. **The Old Bank Restaurant & Bar:** Housed in a historic bank building, this establishment offers a unique dining experience featuring contemporary Australian dishes crafted from locally sourced ingredients, paired with an extensive selection of wines and craft beers. They also have a children's menu available.
3. **Devil's Hollow Brewery:** This family-friendly brewery creates a relaxed atmosphere where visitors can gather to enjoy handcrafted beers and pub-style fare while soaking in the laid-back vibes of this local favourite.



5 REASONS WHY A VISIT TARONGA'S WESTERN PLAINS ZOO IN DUBBO IS A MUST

Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo offers a truly unique and unforgettable experience for visitors. Here are 5 reasons why this expansive, open-range zoo should be at the top of your travel list:

1. Safari-style immersion: The zoo's open-range design allows you to immerse yourself in the natural habitats of a vast array of exotic animals. From the majestic giraffes gracefully roaming the savanna to the playful cheetahs darting across the grasslands, you'll feel like you're on a real-life safari.

2. Up-close encounters: The open layout of the zoo gives you the opportunity to witness these magnificent creatures up close, gaining a deeper appreciation for their beauty and the importance of conservation efforts.

3. Educational experience: The zoo serves as an educational hub, with informative displays, interactive exhibits, and engaging guided tours that teach visitors about the zoo's ongoing work to protect endangered species and the critical role they play in maintaining the delicate balance of our ecosystems.

4. Diverse wildlife: The Western Plains Zoo is home to an incredible diversity of wildlife, from the iconic African animals to unique Australian species. This allows visitors to explore and appreciate the incredible variety of the natural world.

5. Family-friendly fun: With its wide-open spaces, interactive exhibits, and opportunities for hands-on learning, the Western Plains Zoo is the perfect destination for families, offering an enriching and enlightening experience for visitors of all ages.





THE HOMEWARD JOURNEY: MAKE THE DRIVE MEMORABLE WITH THESE 3 STOPS

EXPLORE THE WONDERS OF WELLINGTON CAVES

Just 45 minutes from your destination, discover the captivating **Wellington Caves**. Embark on an underground adventure, marveling at the intricate limestone formations, ancient fossils, and impressive caverns dating back millions of years.

SAVOR THE FLAVORS OF ORANGE

Stop in the charming town of Orange, just over an hour from the caves, for a delightful lunch.

We highly recommend **Nimrod's Cafe**, located inside Jumbled, and **Anything Grows** - two local favourites.

INDULGE IN A BLUE MOUNTAINS DELIGHT

For the final stretch, treat yourself to a classic Devonshire tea at **Sorensen's Glasshouse in Leura**, nestled in the breathtaking Blue Mountains. Enjoy fresh scones baked daily and stroll through the beautiful gardens.

ABOUT WANDARRA HOMESTEAD

Tucked away in the Mudgee Countryside, Wandarra Homestead stands out as an antidote to the stress brought on by fast paced lifestyles through its proximity to nature and the sprawling views. The moment you step onto the property, you are swept away by its sheer beauty and untouched environment.

Wandarra's fresh air and picturesque landscape make it the ideal place to escape life's everyday distractions.

SPACE TO BREATHE

A fully private and tranquil property spanning 25-acres, every corner of Wandarra Homestead is designed to offer you a retreat from the hustle of everyday life. Wandarra's fresh air and picturesque landscape make it the ideal place to escape, with the added benefit of nearby attractions in Mudgee and Rylstone if your group wants to get out and explore.

DESIGNED FOR COMFORT

Our homestead comfortably accommodates up to nine guests across four beautifully appointed bedrooms and three designer bathrooms. Each space is crafted to be your home away from home. From two cosy living areas to a large open fireplace, outdoor dining areas, and a well-equipped kitchen, our facilities are perfect for sharing meals and stories.

CREATE LASTING MEMORIES

Engage in intimate conversations by the firepit or explore the starlit skies, perfect for making memories that last a lifetime. Enjoy the luxury of a late 5pm checkout on Sundays to extend your blissful escape.

(And, there's even a speakeasy for the adults once the kids are asleep!)

Wandarra
HOMESTEAD

