



Bathurst Discovery Tour

Detailed itinerary

Day 1 - Saturday 15th May West Ryde – Mayfield Garden - Bathurst

Depart Ryde-Eastwood Leagues at 8.45am and travel to Mayfield Garden, near Oberon. Firstly, lunch in the Mayfield Café at own expense, followed by a 2-hour tour of the magnificent 16 ha private garden, of which includes 40 minutes travel by private minibus. The tour includes a gallery stop, chapel tour and including views of Water garden, Norwegian chalet, Aviary, extensive garden commentary, sculptured gardens, views of Mayfield Temple and Mayfield House. The bus will drop Guests at Water Garden for comfort stop and some free time to walk this spectacular garden before returning to the bus. Later drive to the famous Mount Panorama and ride the 6.2km racing car circuit, followed by an orientation tour of Bathurst, then ending at the centrally located Bathurst Heritage Hotel. Included dinner is at the nearby RSL Club. (D)

Day 2 - Sunday 16th May Bathurst – Carcoar – Millthorpe – Orange Excursion

Depart at 9.00am on a scenic drive to Carcoar, an impressive and charming historic town now with a population of 200. Morning tea included and time to explore. Then onto to Millthorpe a pioneer village now classified by the National Trust. Explore the cobbled streets, grand buildings, heritage architecture and shops. Then onto Canowindra and visit the Ages of Fishes Museum, followed by an included lunch. Later visit Mount Canobolas an extinct volcano, on a spur of the Great Dividing Range, with an elevation of 1,390m. Our last stop is the Orange Visitor Centre Gallery exhibits and drive around beautiful streets of Orange and pretty outskirts and vineyards. Again, included dinner is at the nearby RSL Club. (B,L,D)

Day 3 - Monday 17th May Bathurst – Local Excursion – Abercrombie House

This morning we focus on Bathurst, Australia's oldest inland European settlement and learn about life for the early settlers and the traditional Wiradjuri owners. We wind our way through the streets and alleys of Bathurst, hear of the life of Ben Chifley, a Bathurst boy born in 1885. See Crago Mill, Milltown area, mills, police station, Courthouse, Ribbon Gang Lane and Carillon. Then some free time in the city and lunch at own expense. Early afternoon we visit the magnificent historic Abercrombie House, on a very private tour through this amazing 50 room Scottish-baronial mansion of the 1870's. See exhibitions, displays, collections, grounds and gardens, outbuildings and property walks around 18 hectare mansion with its 30 fireplaces. Later returning to the hotel and again, included dinner is at the nearby RSL Club. (B,D)

Day 4 - Tuesday 18th May Bathurst – Hill End & Sofala Excursion

Today's excursion takes us on a beautiful country drive to the famous goldmining town of Hill End where the famous Beyers-Holtermann gold nugget was discovered, over 1.5m long and 290kg was found. At Hill End, we visit History Hill Museum, and then explore the old town itself. Our experienced local guide will provide an informative commentary and include The Royal Hotel, Hill End Heritage Centre, The old town walk, Merlins Lookout, Cornish Roasting Pots, Wildlife, and historical facts around the town. Both morning tea and lunch are included. Then onto authentic old world charm tiny village of Sofala, Australia's oldest surviving gold town nestled into the Turon River Valley. Once a town with 10,000 frenetic miners, forty hotels, and now a tiny village of 200, and legitimately claim to be 'Australia's oldest surviving gold town' because the town still attracts prospectors and fossickers. We return to Bathurst with some time to explore the township before dinner, and again at the RSL. (B,L,D)

Day 5 - Wednesday 19th May Bathurst – Lithgow – Parramatta – West Ryde

This morning we depart at 9.00am and take a scenic drive to Lithgow via Tarana, Rydal, and Lake Lyell. Tarana is a small town on the former Oberon railway and was notable for its steep 1 in 30 gradients and sharp 100 metres curves. Lake Lyell is a popular camping site and has breathtaking views. Included morning tea at a local historic spot, and later visit the Small Arms Factory Museum. (included) A comprehensive display of machine guns, rifles, handguns, and related items from around the world, including rarities such as gold plated and hand-engraved presentation masterpieces. Non-military items and commercial products were also manufactured including sewing machines, sheep shearing handsets, hand cuffs, medical implants, and many other items. There is also an historic collection of photographs and memorabilia. Lunch will be at Lithgow Workman's Club and at own expense. At 1.00pm we are dropped off at Lithgow station for our train service to Parramatta, departing at 1.18pm. Passengers are required to pay for their own train ticket which will be \$2.50 on their seniors Opal card. Arrive at 3.26pm, where we have a private minibus transfer back to Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club.

Please note... light small luggage is essential to fit in a luggage trailer and ease to carry on the return train ride to Parramatta and onto the Club, again in a luggage trailer