

FESTIVE FAMILY ROAD TRIP: SYDNEY TO BRISBANE IN A MOTORHOME | 18 DAYS



Highlights

- Explore dazzling **Christmas light displays** in Brisbane
- Shop for **unique gifts** and holiday treats at Christmas markets
- Discover the stunning views from **Mount Coot-tha Lookout** in Brisbane.
- Visit breathtaking **coastal spots** like Port Stephens, Coffs Harbour, and Forster.
- Meet **Santa** and join Christmas-themed activities at Roma Street Parkland in Brisbane.
- Spot **dolphins** at Port Stephens and enjoy sandboarding adventures.

★ ★ Day 1: Sydney to Newcastle

Distance: 200 Kms **Time:** 2 hours 35 minutes

- **Morning:** Start with breakfast at **The Grounds of Alexandria**, a family favourite known for extravagant seasonal decorations.
- **Afternoon:** Pick up your motorhome late morning and head to Newcastle. Visit **Blackbutt Nature Reserve** for an afternoon of **wildlife encounters**. See koalas, kangaroos, and emus...
- **Evening:** Head to the waterfront for dinner at **Honeysuckle Hotel**, a family-friendly restaurant with scenic views of the harbour. You can easily jump on a **ferry** from Stockton Wharf, saving you driving back!
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Stockton Beach Holiday Park, 3 Pitt St, Stockton NSW 2295.

Day 2: Newcastle to Port Stephens



Distance: 53.9 Kms **Time:** 1 hour

- **Morning:** Start your morning with a trip to **Newcastle Beach** for a quick **surf lesson** or beach playtime. Making this a fun introduction to Australia's surf culture!
- **Afternoon:** Head to **Nelson Bay** for a dolphin-watching cruise, which is a must-do in this area. The calm waters of Port Stephens are home to many playful **bottlenose dolphins**.
- **Evening:** Prepare a delicious home-cooked dinner in the fully equipped kitchen of your Cruisin' Motorhome, then enjoy a quiet and relaxing night at your campsite.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Bays Holiday Park, 23 Port Stephens Dr, Anna Bay NSW 2316.

Day 3: Port Stephens to Forster

Distance: 162 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 53 minutes

- **Morning:** Kick off the morning with an adventure at the **Stockton Sand Dunes** near Anna Bay. They have family-friendly sandboarding sessions – the dunes are the **largest** in the Southern Hemisphere, and kids will love sliding down the sandy slopes!
- **Afternoon:** Drive to **Forster** along **The Lakes Way**, a scenic coastal drive with stunning views of lush forests and sparkling lakes.
- **Evening:** Settle in your campsite, then walk to **Beach Bums Café** for a nice dinner by the beach. Known for its casual dining and beachy atmosphere, it's a relaxed spot to watch the sunset.
- **Where to stay:** Reflections Forster Beach - Holiday Park, 1 Reserve Rd, Forster NSW 2428.

Day 4: Forster to Port Macquarie

Distance: 109 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 15 minutes

- **Morning:** Head to **Port Macquarie**, make a stop at the **Koala Hospital**, where you can see rescued koalas and learn about their rehabilitation.
- **Afternoon:** Spend the afternoon exploring **Town Beach**, a beautiful and family-friendly beach perfect for relaxing or building sandcastles.
- **Evening:** Cook a great meal in the comfort of your Cruisin' Motorhome, play some cards and unwind, getting ready for your next day of adventures!
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Port Macquarie Breakwall Holiday Park, 3 Munster St, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

Day 5: Port Macquarie

Distance: 0 Kms **Time:** 0 hours

- **Morning:** Kick off the day with a visit to **Lighthouse Beach** for an unforgettable **camel ride** along the sand. The gentle camels are great with kids, and it's a truly unique experience that will leave lasting memories for the whole family!
- **Afternoon:** Head to **Hydro Golf & Putt-Putt** for a few rounds of mini golf by the river. Alternatively, enjoy the Coastal Walk, with many scenic views, especially at sunset.
- **Evening:** Wander to the **Christmas Fair**, buy local gifts, grab dinner from the food trucks and settle on a blanket to enjoy Christmas carols and entertainment on stage!
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Port Macquarie Breakwall Holiday Park, 3 Munster St, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.



Image: Lighthouse Beach, Port Macquarie, Destination North Coast

Day 6: Port Macquarie to South West Rocks

Distance: 80.9 Kms **Time:** 1 hour

- **Morning:** Pack up and head toward South West Rocks. Stop by the scenic **Smoky Cape Lighthouse** – one of the **oldest** and **tallest** lighthouses in New South Wales.
- **Afternoon:** After lunch, walk the **Monument Hill Track**, featuring stunning coastal views, the easy Monument Hill walk takes in the historic monument built for **German gaol internees**.
- **Evening:** Settle in your campsite, freshen up and enjoy a 25-minute walk to **The Rocks Restaurant & Bar**. Appreciate a nice dinner, offering coastal views and a variety of delicious dishes.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA South West Rocks Holiday Park, 161 Phillip Dr, South West Rocks NSW 2431.

Day 7: South West Rocks to Coffs Harbour

Distance: 104 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 15 minutes

- **Morning:** Depart for **Coffs Harbour**. The first stop should be **The Big Banana**, an iconic roadside attraction that's home to a fun amusement park.
- **Afternoon:** Explore **The Big Banana Fun Park** more fully, including a fun tour to see how bananas are grown and harvested. Then head to the most festive event in Coffs Harbour, the **Coffs Central Christmas Festival** (starts December 7, 2024).
- **Evening:** Head to **Latitude 30**, a popular restaurant by the marina known for its seafood, views of the water, and sunset colours over the ocean.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Park Beach Holiday Park, 1 Ocean Parade, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450.

Day 8: Coffs Harbour to Yamba

Distance: 134 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 35 minutes

- **Morning:** Head north to **Yamba**, a coastal gem. Upon arrival, head to **Angourie Pools**, a natural wonder where you can explore rock pools and swim in clear, calm waters!
- **Afternoon:** Embark on a **kayaking escape** from life on land! Explore the middle wall, islands and bays of the **Clarence River**. Encounter **dolphins** and bird life as you paddle leisurely along!
- **Evening:** Head to your campsite and unwind for the day. Appreciate a **homemade dinner** in the luxurious kitchen of your Cruisin' Motorhome followed by a relaxing evening.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Blue Dolphin Yamba Holiday Resort, Yamba Rd, Yamba NSW 2464.

Day 9: Yamba to Byron Bay

Distance: 125 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 25 minutes

- **Morning:** Head towards Byron Bay, stopping en route at the **Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- **Afternoon:** Head up to the **Cape Byron Lighthouse**, where you can walk along the clifftop trail to Australia's **easternmost** point and spot **dolphins** or **whales**.
- **Evening:** Head to **The Beach Hotel** for a relaxed family dinner. With views of the ocean and a fun, casual vibe, it's a great place to unwind.
- **Where to stay:** First Sun Holiday Park, Lawson St, Byron Bay NSW 2481.

★ Day 10: Christmas Eve in Byron Bay

Distance: 0 Kms **Time:** 0 hours

- **Morning:** Book a family-friendly surf lesson for the morning. **Byron Bay** is famous for its surf culture, and local surf schools cater to all ages, making it a fun holiday activity for kids and parents alike.
- **Afternoon:** Explore **Byron Bay's artisan markets**, with festive stalls where you can find unique handmade **gifts** and **souvenirs**. Alternatively, spend the day at the beach, enjoying your holidays.
- **Evening:** For Christmas Eve dinner, head to **The Balcony Bar & Oyster Co.** This spot offers a great view of the town and serves delicious seafood. Or, buy ingredients at local stores and cook a **festive home made meal!**
- **Where to stay:** First Sun Holiday Park, Lawson St, Byron Bay NSW 2481.

Day 11: Christmas Day in Byron Bay

Distance: 0 Kms **Time:** 0 hours

- **Morning:** Start Christmas morning with breakfast in the motorhome, perhaps with a little **holiday twist** – **Christmas pancakes** with berries and whipped cream. Spend the morning at the beach, embracing the Aussie tradition of a **sun-soaked holiday**.
- **Afternoon:** Prepare a **Christmas BBQ** at the campsite, and enjoy a family meal with a view of the ocean. Many campsites will have a **festive atmosphere**, with families gathered together to celebrate.
- **Evening:** End the day with a **Christmas movie night** in the motorhome, or take an evening stroll on the beach to wind down.
- **Where to stay:** First Sun Holiday Park, Lawson St, Byron Bay NSW 2481.



Image: Clarkes Beach, Byron Bay, Destination NSW

Day 12: Byron Bay to the Gold Coast

Distance: 98.3 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 40 minutes

- **Morning:** Drive to the Gold Coast. Start with a visit to **Sea World Marine Park**, a family-friendly theme park offering incredible marine shows, rides, and opportunities to meet **Santa!**
- **Afternoon:** Spend more time exploring Sea World or head to Surfers Paradise Beach for a beach break. For a fun festive twist, check out **Surfers Paradise Christmas Markets**.
- **Evening:** Have a nice dinner in the comfort of your Cruisin' Motorhome. Afterward, enjoy the **Gold Coast Christmas Lights and Markets**.
- **Where to stay:** Broadwater Tourist Park, 169 Marine Parade, Southport QLD 4215.

Day 13: Gold Coast

Distance: 10.5 Kms **Time:** 19 minutes

- **Morning:** Head back to Surfers Paradise Beach for a relaxed **Christmassy picnic**. Pack a holiday-inspired picnic with festive snacks, or try **Café Catalina**, overlooking the magnificent Broadwater of the Gold Coast.
- **Afternoon:** Explore Pacific Fair Shopping Centre, which is decorated with beautiful [Christmas installations](#). Alternatively, enjoy a fun day at the **Gold Coast Aqua Park!**
- **Evening:** Plan a relaxing night in the comfort of your Cruisin' Motorhome, plan a **Secret Santa game** or watch your **favourite Christmas movie!**
- **Where to stay:** Broadwater Tourist Park, 169 Marine Parade, Southport QLD 4215.

Day 14: Gold Coast to Tamborine Mountains

Distance: 40.5 Kms **Time:** 50 minutes

- **Morning:** Head to Tamborine Mountains for a day of adventure! Start with the **Tamborine Rainforest Skywalk!**
- **Afternoon:** Book a Guided Glow Worm Tour at the **Glow Worm Caves**. It will feel like looking at the night sky full of stars!
- **Evening:** Unwind in your campsite, enjoy a delicious **home made dinner** or a BBQ from your campsite facilities. Enjoy the silence of being away from the main cities.
- **Where to stay:** Thunderbird Park, Corner Tamborine Mountain Rd &, Cedar Creek Falls Rd, Tamborine Mountain QLD 4272.

Day 15: Tamborine Mountain to Brisbane

Distance: 70.1 Kms **Time:** 1 hour

- **Morning:** Drive to **Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary**. This family-friendly sanctuary lets kids cuddle koalas, feed kangaroos, and learn about Australia's native wildlife.
- **Afternoon:** : Arrive in Brisbane and visit **South Bank Parklands**. Take a ride on the **Wheel of Brisbane** for incredible views of the city decked out in Christmas lights.
- **Evening:** Grab dinner at **Eat Street Northshore**, where you can enjoy the city's holiday light displays and a post-dinner walk through the parklands.
- **Where to stay:** Brisbane North Holiday Stays, 1432 Gympie Rd, Aspley QLD 4034.



Image: Eat Street Northshore, Tourism & Events Queensland

Day 16: Brisbane

Distance: 0 Kms **Time:** 0 hours

- **Morning:** Leave early to visit **Brisbane City Markets**, where you can find holiday treats, artisanal crafts, and unique Australian-made gifts for last-minute holiday shopping.
- **Afternoon:** Take the family on a **Brisbane River Cruise**. Hop aboard one of the **city's iconic ferries** or join a guided Christmas-themed cruise to see Brisbane from the water!
- **Evening:** Head to **Roma Street Parkland** for the Christmas in the Park event. The beautiful gardens are transformed into a [holiday wonderland](#).
- **Where to stay:** Brisbane North Holiday Stays, 1432 Gympie Rd, Aspley QLD 4034.

Have a great trip!



Day 17: Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast

Distance: 186 Kms **Time:** 2 hours 20 minutes

- **Morning:** Drive to the **Eumundi Markets**. These famous markets offer handcrafted gifts, festive decorations, and local delicacies, perfect for Christmas shopping.
- **Afternoon:** Visit the **Australia Zoo** for a fun family afternoon. You will love seeing animals up close, from kangaroos to crocodiles, with special holiday events like **festive animal encounters**!
- **Evening:** Enjoy the [Mooloolaba fireworks](#) and a safe, family-friendly event to say farewell to 2024 and welcome in the new year!
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Caloundra Holiday Park, 44 Maloja Ave, Caloundra QLD 4551.

Day 18: Sunshine Coast to Brisbane

Distance: 85.7 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 15 minutes

- **Morning:** Spend a relaxed morning at Bulcock Beach in Caloundra. Enjoy brunch at **Coffee Cat on Kings Beach**, known for fresh options and beach views.
- **Afternoon:** Drive back to Brisbane, stopping by the **Mount Coot-tha Lookout** to admire breathtaking views of Brisbane.

Return your Cruisin' Motorhome to our Brisbane branch before 3:30 pm, with the head full of **new and unforgettable memories!**

Packing Tips For Your Festive Road Trip

This 18-day festive motorhome road trip from Sydney to Brisbane covers essentials for a comfortable journey, beach days, Christmas activities, and keeping the holiday spirit alive on the road!

Some things you'll want to bring include:

- Travel Documents
- Comfortable **shoes** and **thongs**
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, swimwear, hats, beach towel
- Insect repellent + band-aids
- Camera/phone + **chargers**
- Light **backpack** (to carry food + water bottle)
- **Festive outfits:** Christmas-themed shirts, dresses, or accessories like Santa hats.
- **Christmas extras:** Holiday playlists, festive recipes, small gifts for the family, and battery-operated fairy lights.