

EAST COAST FAMILY ROAD TRIP: 14 DAYS FROM SYDNEY TO BRISBANE


Distance
1,360.80 Kms

Duration
14 Days

Best Time Of Year
Spring/Summer

Highlights

- Sydney Harbour & **Opera House**
- Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk
- Hunter Valley **Gardens**
- Rawson Falls & Bridal Veil Falls
- Port Macquarie **Koala Hospital**
- **Big Banana Fun Park**, Coffs Harbour
- Minyon Grass Trail Lookout
- **Warner Bros. Movie World**
- Gold Coast Hinterland Waterfalls

Day 1: Sydney

Distance: 39.6 Kms **Time:** 1 hour (no tolls)

- **Morning:** Pick up your motorhome and settle in before heading out to explore **Sydney's iconic harbour**. Take the kids for a stroll around Circular Quay and the **Sydney Opera House**. Pop into the *Royal Botanic Gardens* for some space to run around.
- **Afternoon:** Make your way to **Darling Harbour** – home to family favourites like *Sea Life Sydney Aquarium* and *Wild Life Sydney Zoo*. These attractions are **right next to each other**, so you can choose one or both depending on the kids' energy.
- **Evening:** Enjoy an early dinner along **Darling Harbour** (*there's everything from casual fish & chips to sit-down restaurants*). If everyone still has energy, take a **short evening cruise** to see the city lights from the water, or simply relax at the campsite.
- **Where to stay:** Discovery Parks - Lane Cove, 13 Plassey Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113.

Day 2: Sydney to Bondi Beach

Distance: 46.2 Kms **Time:** 1 hour (no tolls)

- **Morning:** Cook up a homemade breakfast in your motorhome, then kick off the day with Sydney's famous **Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk**. Along the way you'll find rock pools, playgrounds, and cafés for a snack break.
- **Afternoon:** Take the **ferry from Circular Quay to Taronga Zoo**. The kids will love arriving by boat, and the zoo's hilltop setting gives amazing views back over the harbour while you *meet koalas, kangaroos and giraffes*.
- **Evening:** Head to **Watsons Bay** for fish and chips by the water or a relaxed family dinner. Time it for sunset to watch the *city skyline glow* across the harbour. Return to your motorhome to rest up for the next leg of your journey.
- **Where to stay:** Discovery Parks - Lane Cove, 13 Plassey Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113.

Day 3: Sydney to Hunter Valley

Distance: 149 Kms **Time:** 1 Hour 44 minutes

- **Morning:** Pack up your motorhome and say goodbye to Sydney. Break up the trip with a quick stop at a playground or lookout on the way to let the kids stretch their legs.
- **Afternoon:** Arrive at the **Hunter Valley Gardens**. They're huge and *full of themed areas* that kids love, like the **Storybook Garden** with its giant nursery-rhyme characters. There's also a small train that runs through the gardens for tired little feet. Parents can enjoy a coffee or local treat at one of the cafés nearby.
- **Evening:** Have a relaxed dinner in the Hunter Valley. Many restaurants have *outdoor spaces* where the kids can roam while you enjoy a meal. Afterwards, head back to your motorhome for a **quiet evening under the stars**.
- **Where to stay:** : Ingenia Holidays Hunter Valley, 137 Mount View Rd, Cessnock NSW 2325.

Day 4: Hunter Valley to Port Macquarie

Distance: 309 Kms **Time:** 4 hours 26 minutes

- **Morning:** Depart the Hunter Valley and head north toward the **lush hinterland**. Stop at a country café or playground so the kids can stretch and snack.
- **Afternoon:** Explore some of the region's spectacular waterfalls. **Rawson Falls** (*Boorganna Nature Reserve*) and **Bridal Veil Falls** (*near Dorrigo*) both have short, family-friendly walks through rainforest where you might spot birds and lizards. Bring a **packed lunch** to enjoy near a lookout.
- **Evening:** Settle into your campsite and enjoy a relaxed evening. Let the kids play outside while you prepare dinner in your motorhome. If everyone still has energy, take a *short dusk walk to listen to the forest sounds*.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Port Macquarie Breakwall Holiday Park, 1 Munster St, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

Day 5: Port Macquarie

Distance: Local exploration **Time:** 0 hour

- **Morning:** Start with a visit to the **Port Macquarie Koala Hospital**. It's **free** to enter, and kids love seeing the rescued koalas up close and learning how they're cared for. Afterwards, take a short stroll along the nearby rainforest boardwalk at **Sea Acres Rainforest Centre**.
- **Afternoon:** Enjoy some beach time at **Town Beach** or **Lighthouse Beach**. Both have gentle waves and plenty of sand for building castles. Grab fish & chips or a picnic to eat under a shaded area.
- **Evening:** Walk the famous **Port Macquarie Breakwall** at sunset — it's covered in colourful painted rocks left by travellers. Return to your motorhome for a relaxed dinner and maybe an ice cream from a local shop.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Port Macquarie Breakwall Holiday Park, 1 Munster St, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.



Image: Koala Hospital, Port Macquarie

Day 6: Port Macquarie to Coffs Harbour

Distance: 159 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 49 minutes

- **Morning:** Have a nice breakfast in your motorhome and hit the road north along the scenic **Pacific Highway**. Stop at a lookout or rest area halfway to stretch your legs and let the kids run around.
- **Afternoon:** Once close to **Coffs Harbour**, head inland for a rainforest walk or explore the **Coffs Harbour Butterfly House** — a hit with younger kids. Alternatively, visit the **Coffs Harbour Regional Museum** for a quiet, educational stop if the weather isn't ideal.
- **Evening:** Relax at the campsite or take a stroll along **Coffs Harbour Beach** to watch the sunset. Grab dinner at a family-friendly café or cook in your motorhome for a quiet evening.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Park Beach Holiday Park, 1 Ocean Parade, Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450.



Image: Coffs Harbour Butterfly House, Bonville, Destination NSW

Day 7: Coffs Harbour

Distance: 8 Kms **Time:** 16 minutes

- **Morning:** Spend the morning at **Big Banana Fun Park**, starting with the plantation tour and taking in the giant banana photo ops. Kids can enjoy the playgrounds, toboggan rides, and mini-golf while parents relax or join in the fun.
- **Afternoon:** Continue exploring the park's attractions: ice skating, laser tag, water park, and the chocolate and candy factory. Stop for lunch at one of the **family-friendly cafés on site**.
- **Evening:** Head back to the campsite for a relaxed dinner, or grab takeaway in **Coffs Harbour**. Let the kids wind down with a quiet evening at the motorhome or a short walk along **Coffs Harbour Beach** to catch the sunset.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Park Beach Holiday Park, 1 Ocean Parade, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450.

Day 8: Coffs Harbour to Yamba

Distance: 129 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 25 minutes

- **Morning:** Continue your journey north along the scenic **Pacific Highway**. Stop at a rest area or playground halfway for a quick stretch and snack break.
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in **Yamba**, a charming coastal town with plenty for families. Visit **Yamba Lighthouse** for *panoramic views* and take a stroll along **Main Beach**. Kids can splash in the gentle waves or *build sandcastles* while parents relax nearby.
- **Evening:** Enjoy dinner at a family-friendly café by the river or beach. Take a short evening walk along the **Clarence River** to watch the sunset and unwind before returning to your motorhome.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Saltwater Yamba Holiday Park, 286 O'Keefes Ln, Palmers Island NSW 2463.

Day 9: Yamba to Lismore

Distance: 127 Kms **Time:** 2 hours

- **Morning:** Depart Yamba and drive inland toward the **Razorback Lookout**. Stop along the way for a short break or picnic so the kids can stretch their legs. Enjoy the **sweeping views over the valley** — a great spot for family photos.
- **Afternoon:** Continue to **Marom Falls** for a family-friendly hike. The trail is suitable for children, and the waterfall makes a perfect spot for a *picnic lunch* and a bit of *nature exploration*. Kids will love spotting birds and lizards along the way.
- **Evening:** Settle into your campsite in **Lismore**. Relax at the motorhome or take a short evening walk to enjoy the peaceful forest surroundings.
- **Where to stay:** Lismore Centra Tourist Park, 60 Dawson St, Lismore NSW 2480.

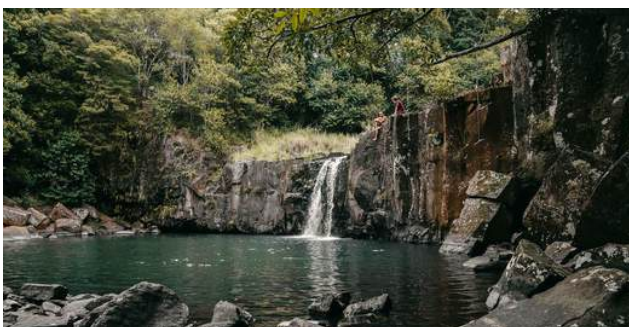


Image: Marom Falls, *Riparide*

Day 10: Lismore to Gold Coast

Distance: 158 Kms **Time:** 2 hour 36 minutes

- **Morning:** Start the day with a short family-friendly hike along the **Minyon Grass Trail Lookout**. The rainforest scenery is *breathhtaking*, and the walk is suitable for children with plenty of spots to stop and explore nature.
- **Afternoon:** Drive north to the **Gold Coast**, arriving at **Snapper Rocks**. Let the kids enjoy the beach while you take in the famous surf break. This is a great spot for photos and a *picnic lunch by the shore*.
- **Evening:** Head to your nearby campsite, relax, and *enjoy dinner in your motorhome*. If there's energy left, a sunset walk along the beach is **perfect** for winding down.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Gold Coast Holiday Park. 66-86 Siganto Dr, Helensvale QLD 4212.



Image: Exploring with Cruisin' made easy with the Sandpiper

Day 11: Gold Coast (Warner Bros. Movie World)

Distance: 0 Kms **Time:** 12 minutes

- **Morning:** Leave the motorhome at the Holiday Park, and jump on **tram/bus TX7** (*only a 7-minute ride!*) to go to the **Warner Bros. Movie World**, where the kids can meet their favourite characters, enjoy rides suitable for all ages, and watch fun live shows.
- **Afternoon:** Continue exploring the park. Grab lunch at one of the family-friendly eateries inside the park. Older kids and **thrill-seekers** can try the roller coasters, while younger children can enjoy the gentler rides and **themed play areas**.
- **Evening:** Return to your motorhome for a relaxed dinner, or dine at a nearby family-friendly restaurant. Let the kids wind down at the campsite pool or playground.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Gold Coast Holiday Park. 66-86 Siganto Dr, Helensvale QLD 4212.

Day 12: Gold Coast (Rainforest & Waterfalls)

Distance: 121 Kms **Time:** 2 hours 13 minutes

- **Morning:** Head inland to explore the **Gold Coast hinterland**. Take the family on a short rainforest walk at **Springbrook National Park** or **Tamborine Mountain**. Kids will love spotting *wildlife*, towering *trees*, and stepping over *mossy logs*.
- **Afternoon:** Visit some of the area's stunning *waterfalls*, like **Purling Brook Falls** (*about a 2-hour walk return*) or **Curtis Falls** (*15-minute walk only*). Pack a picnic to enjoy in a shaded spot, letting the kids explore the forest safely while you relax.
- **Evening:** Return to your campsite on the coast. Enjoy a BBQ or dinner at a local family-friendly restaurant. Wind down with a short evening stroll along the beach or a dip in the campsite pool.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Gold Coast Holiday Park. 66-86 Siganto Dr, Helensvale QLD 4212.



Image: Curtis Falls, Tourism and Events Queensland

Day 13: Gold Coast to Brisbane

Distance: 83.6 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 28 minutes

- **Morning:** Pack up your motorhome and drive north along the coast toward **Brisbane**. Stop at **Old Cleveland Lighthouse** for a scenic break. Kids can explore the area safely while parents enjoy coastal views and take photos.
- **Afternoon:** Continue the short drive into Brisbane. If there's time, visit a **nearby park or riverside area** for a *picnic lunch* and a little playtime before heading to the campsite.
- **Evening:** Settle into your final campsite at *Brisbane Holiday Village*. Enjoy a relaxed dinner in your motorhome or visit a nearby family-friendly restaurant. Let the kids enjoy the playground or pool as a **final treat of the trip**.
- **Where to stay:** Brisbane Holiday Village, 400/10 Holmead Rd, Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113.

Day 14: Brisbane

Distance: 31.4 Kms **Time:** 38 minutes

- **Morning:** After breakfast, head into Brisbane CBD for a *final day of family-friendly sightseeing*. Walk along the **South Bank Parklands**, explore the **City Botanic Gardens**, or enjoy the interactive playgrounds. Kids will love **Streets Beach**, a safe man-made lagoon right in the city.
- **Afternoon:** Have a casual lunch at a family-friendly café in the CBD. Make your way to the Cruisin' Motorhomes Brisbane branch to return your motorhome *by 3:30 PM*, completing your **14-day east coast adventure**.



Image: South Bank Parklands, Tourism and Events Queensland

Packing List For Your East Coast Road Trip

Embark on a **14-day family adventure from Sydney to Brisbane**, exploring iconic beaches, lush rainforests, breathtaking waterfalls, wildlife encounters, thrilling theme parks, and charming coastal towns along *Australia's stunning East Coast*.

- **Clothing:** comfortable clothes for driving time, layers for varying temperatures, lightweight jacket or raincoat
- **Shoes:** hiking shoes, walking shoes, tongs
- Hat, sunglasses, **sunscreen**
- Plenty of food, **snacks**, and water
- Maps, journals
- **Camera**, phone, charging cables, power banks
- Personal toiletries and hygiene items
- Picnic rug & thermos
- **Kids' games**, snacks, favourite toys

Have a great trip!

