

A WEEKEND IN

NEWCASTLE



Your mini
winter getaway
from Sydney.



GO FAR.
STAY NEAR.

This Winter



DAY 1 | FRIDAY

ESCAPE SYDNEY'S GRIND

Less than three hours north by train, Newcastle delivers beach days, great food, buzzing bars and a much slower pace. Swap the Sydney chaos for salty air, good coffee and a weekend that actually feels like a break.

AFTERNOON & EVENING

Finish work, grab your bag, and head to Sydney's Central station. NSW TrainLink services run direct to Newcastle taking less than three hours, costing less than \$10, and weaving along the iconic coastline. Once you've checked into **YHA Newcastle Beach**, warm up with a jacket and head to Newcastle Beach for the sunset, before making dinner plans.

Best bites: **Grain Store** offers an American-inspired menu including wings, ribs, burgers and fries. Treat yourself to a \$20 tasting paddle, with ales, pilsners and lagers, all brewed fresh on site at **Foghorn Brewery** on King Street. Or you can't miss **Scratchleys on the Wharf**, a Newcastle institution with waterfront dining.

Best nights: The suburb of Honeysuckle right on the harbour has great bars and pubs like the **rooftop at QT** (open until 10pm), the **Underground (under the Grand Hotel)**, and the **Lucky Hotel**, which has live music and DJs every weekend.

Can't miss: **Coal & Cedar** on Hunter Street is a hidden speakeasy with no signage on the door. You have to text the number on the wall, and wait for someone to let you in. Inside you'll find a cosy whisky and cocktail bar that's been named Best Regional Bar in Australia.





DAY 2 | SATURDAY

YOUR FULL RESET

The vibe: Clifftop walks, a 200-year-old ocean pool, slow bike rides and a tasting paddle at the end of it. Make this the Saturday that you came to Newcastle for.

MORNING & AFTERNOON

Sleep in, grab a takeaway coffee on Watt or Hunter Street, then follow the flat 4km Bathers Way Coastal Walk to Bar Beach, passing the heritage-listed Bogey Hole ocean pool. Brave the water with a winter dip in the turquoise waters, or simply enjoy the views – then head to Darby Street for breakfast. Even better, hire a free bike from **YHA Newcastle Beach** reception and explore on two wheels.

Best bites: Start your day at one of Newcastle's favourite cafés. Choose from creative brunch dishes at **Autumn Rooms**, hearty classics at **Three Monkeys Café**, or coffee and all-day dining at the iconic **Goldbergs Coffee House**. Whichever you pick, you won't regret it.

Best sites: Borrow a free bike from the YHA and ride south to **Merewether Beach** and the **Newcastle Ocean Baths**. Head to the famous grounds of **Fort Scratchley** (also free) with the option to book a tunnel tour (from \$15.80) if you want to dive deeper into the site's history.

Can't miss: Between May and November, around 20,000 humpback whales migrate north past Newcastle. If you're wanting a vantage point, **Nobbys Head** is one of the best land-based viewing spots on the NSW coast. Take binoculars, but clifftop sightings are common.



DAY 3 | SUNDAY

THE LAST HURRAH

The vibe: The best part of a weekend away is a slow and lazy Sunday morning. There's no rush to head home straightaway – wake up rested in Newcastle before you return to reality.

MORNING & AFTERNOON

After a big sleep in, check out and leave your bags at the property for no extra charge.

Best bites: **Estabar** on Shortland Esplanade is popular with locals, and has single-origin coffee and beachfront tables perfectly positioned for the morning sun. **East End Hub** on King Street is a two-minute walk from the YHA with freshly-baked muffins, homemade banana bread and toasted sourdough.

Best sites: Newcastle's cultural scene is packed with free experiences, from the **Newcastle Museum** and **Newcastle Art Gallery** to contemporary exhibitions at **The Lock-Up**.

Afterwards, explore the city's vibrant street art trail, where colourful murals by renowned artists like **Adnate** and **Fintan Magee** transform laneways and public spaces into an open-air gallery.

Can't miss: Collect your bags from the YHA and head to the Newcastle Interchange for the train ride back to Sydney, enjoying those views from the train window one last time as you farewell Newcastle.



REFLECTIONS

Sit back, slow down & reflect on the moments, memories and favourite spots from your trip.





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