



THE HINTERLAND

Affectionately known as the Hinterland, the villages surrounding Ballina provide the opportunity to meander peaceful country roads and fill your picnic basket with fresh local delights direct from the farm gate stalls.

WANT TO SEE MORE?
Take Tourist Drive 30 to discover one of the best coastlines in Australia



REMINISCENT OF THE TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE, ON THIS DRIVE YOU WILL FIND SOMETHING SPECIAL AROUND EVERY CORNER FROM A WORKING FARM, CHARMING HISTORIC VILLAGES, TO ARTIST STUDIOS, DIVINE CAFES AND QUAIN T B&B'S.

Ballina Visitor Information Centre

9am - 5pm, 7 days a week
Cnr of River St & Las Balsas Plaza Ballina NSW 2478
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PEACEFUL COUNTRY ROADS AS YOU DISCOVER HIDDEN GEMS

MULLUMBIMBY TO WARDELL
70KMS



discover **ballina**.com

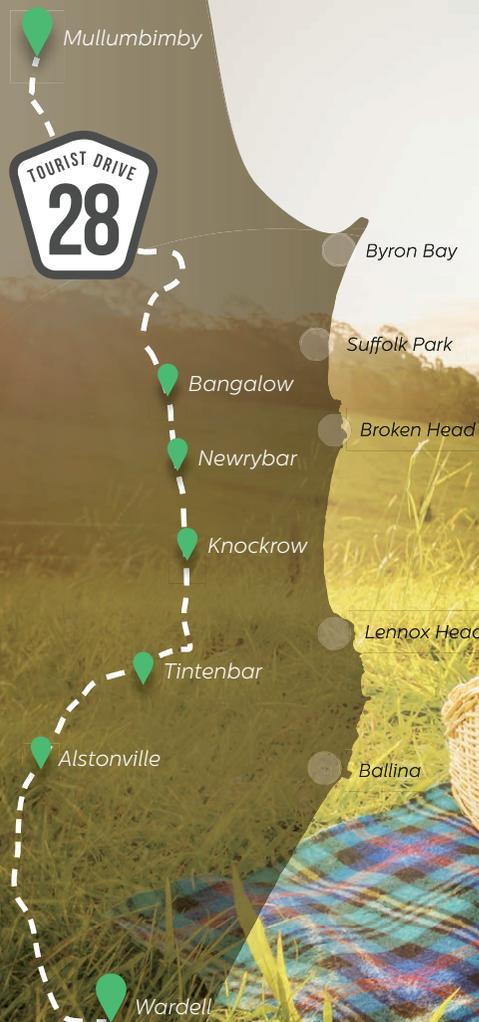
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TOURIST DRIVE 28 hinterland drive

Enjoy a change of pace and discover the charm of the Ballina & Byron hinterland. This stunning drive is reminiscent of the Tuscan countryside where you will find something special around every corner from a working farm, charming historic villages, artist studios, plenty of divine cafes and quaint B&B's.

Fill your basket with fresh local produce from one of the many roadside stalls along the way. If National Parks with rainforest and waterfalls also appeal to you, then this scenic drive offers so much to see and do.

Allow at least six hours to experience the array of attractions along this 70km tourist drive however a full day is suggested. The official attractions are indicated by the white on brown tourist drive signage, other attractions with the 📍 symbol are Visitor Centre recommendations.



FRESH PRODUCE



Ballina & Byron's hinterland enjoys rich, fertile farmlands and an idyllic climate, where the natural produce is second to none.

This abundance is showcased in many of the award-winning cafes and restaurants. Dotted throughout the hinterland you will also find great general stores and quirky antique shops to pop into and say hello to the friendly, welcoming locals.

10 THINGS you must SEE & DO



Look up and then look down at Minyon Falls, a 100m plunge waterfall in the Nightcap National Park



Independently owned speciality stores, antique & boutique shops offer unique gift ideas and quirky treats all with personalised customer service



Find your Zen at Crystal Castle and Shambhala Gardens to improve your wellbeing



Discover Australia's oldest bakery in Newrybar and indulge in a mouth-watering spread of pastries, fresh from the historic wood fired oven



Cuddle a wombat, feed a kangaroo, chill with a reptile, or enjoy a coffee and famous pancakes at The Macadamia Castle



Feed your soul & fill your basket with fresh seasonal produce from a farmers market or roadside stall



Visit Alstonville's federation style Main Street for curios and collectables



The Watts Cottage Museum at Summerland House Farm recognises the founder's battle to create equal opportunities for people with a disability



Kids love running through the waterpark, playing mini golf and touring on the tractor at Summerland House Farm



Ancient rainforest in Victoria Park Nature Reserve is home to parts of the last remaining remnants of the Big Scrub rainforest



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PEACEFUL COUNTRY ROADS AS YOU DISCOVER HIDDEN GEMS

MULLUMBIMBY

Take the Mullumbimby exit off the Pacific Highway at Gulgan Road, heading for the town centre of Australia's 'biggest little town'. The town lies at the foot of Mt Chincogan in the Brunswick Valley. Take in the street vibe and experience the music from one of the many buskers.

CRYSTAL CASTLE & SHAMBHALA GARDENS

To get to Crystal Castle & Shambhala Gardens (81 Monet Drive, Mullumbimby) follow the tourist drive signs for 8.3kms along Coolamon Scenic Drive. Walk amongst the gods in the stunning gardens and rainforest. Touch the World Peace Stupa, find yourself in an ancient labyrinth, and indulge in delicious food and local coffee while enjoying the magnificent views over the hinterland. The Crystal Castle is a must visit for those seeking a health and wellbeing experience.

MINYON FALLS

Minyon Falls (Minyon Falls Road, Nightcap National Park, Repentance Creek) (16kms via Goonenary) is a plunge waterfall descending more than 100 metres over the huge rhyolite cliffs which were once part of the Tweed Volcano. The large viewing platform, offering views down to the base of the falls, is easily accessible from the carpark. There are picnic tables to sit and enjoy the surroundings and a range of short to medium length tracks for the experienced walker so you can access the base of the waterfall. Please note this is a 27km detour from the official Tourist Drive but well worth the time.

SCARABELLOTTI'S LOOKOUT

Return to the Hinterland Way via Coolamon Scenic Drive (27kms), turn left and enjoy the breathtaking 360-degree view encapsulating the Byron Lighthouse, Mt Chincogan, Mt Warning and green pastures from Scarabellotti's Lookout (Coolamon Scenic Drive, McLeods Shoot).

BANGALOW

Continue along Hinterland Way for 6kms until you reach the Bangalow exit. A detour off the official Tourist Drive will take you to the township of Bangalow (Byron St, Bangalow). Here you can enjoy some retail therapy and sample the delicious local produce at one of the award winning eateries. Bangalow is one of those country gems. A picturesque, largely nineteenth-century streetscape of tall verandahed buildings, shady trees and quiet parks.

NEWRYBAR

Take the time to explore the popular historic village of Newrybar (Old Pacific Hwy, Newrybar), filled with old world charm, antiques and artisan shopping. It's a quaint hamlet village nestled in the hinterland above Lennox Head and home to Australia's oldest bakery that incorporates a well-known eatery and deli. Newrybar is 6kms south of Bangalow along the Hinterland Way.

THE MACADAMIA CASTLE

Get up close and personal with Australian wildlife and reptiles at The Macadamia Castle (419 Hinterland Way, Knockrow) and enjoy the live interactive shows and the opportunity to pat and hold the animals. Sample the range of fresh hot roasted macadamia nuts and be sure to order their famous pancakes topped with nuts and ice-cream. The Macadamia Castle is 3.5kms south of Newrybar along the Hinterland Way.

TINTENBAR AND TEVEN

Drive from The Macadamia Castle to Tintenbar (Tintenbar Road, Tintenbar) (6.8kms) and Teven a further 3.5kms, stopping at the roadside stalls to stock up on farm fresh produce. From Tintenbar, detouring off Tourist Drive 28 to the north along Friday Hut Road will allow you to explore Killen waterfalls, a ceramic studio, and picturesque plantations. The extra 18km loop will bring you through Brooklet and Fernleigh before returning to Tintenbar.

ALSTONVILLE

Alstonville (Main Street, Alstonville) is an Aladdin's cave for curio hunters and culture buffs, with its historic buildings, classic Australian federation architecture, antique shops, galleries and cafes. Throughout the surrounding plateau are subtropical parks and gardens with the iconic Tibouchina blossoms showing their brilliant display of violet purple flowers in late summer and autumn. The drive between Tintenbar through Teven to Alstonville is 9kms.

SUMMERLAND HOUSE FARM

Learn about our regional produce at Summerland House Farm (253 Wardell Rd, Alstonville), a working macadamia and avocado plantation set in the hills of the Alstonville Plateau. The farm has a Tractor Farm Tour, Mini Golf, Water Park and Children's Playground. 'The Grocer' a regional food showcase, Cafe, Nursery, Gift Shop and Museum. If you are visiting the area, Summerland House Farm is a 'must do' experience and a memorable, inspiring organisation. The licenced cafe is known for their High Teas! The property is a 3km journey from Alstonville's Main Street via Wardell Road.

VICTORIA PARK NATURE RESERVE

Escape to Victoria Park Nature Reserve (Victoria Park Road, Dalwood), one of the last remnants of the Big Scrub, the rainforest prominent to the natural landscape of the Northern Rivers region, and walk the short 300m boardwalk to see over 150 species of trees including White Booyongs, Red Beans, Morton Bay Figs and the extremely rare jointed Baloghia. It's a 7km journey from Summerland House Farm to Victoria Park via Dalwood.

The drive, 13kms from Victoria Park to Wardell, takes in spectacular rural vistas as it rises to the top of the Alstonville Plateau along Wardell Road.

WARDELL

Upstream on the Richmond River, the river village of Wardell (Richmond Street, Wardell) boasts historic timber buildings including Mayley House (1910) and other 20th century constructions. Grab a freshly baked bulging top pie from the local pie store, wander over to the jetty and admire the historic Wardell Lift Span Bridge.

Download a copy of the self-guided Wardell Walkabout Heritage Trail from discoverballina.com.

This is the end point of your hinterland discovery via the signposted Tourist Drive 28. However the drive to South Ballina over the Lift Span Bridge and along the Richmond River, before taking the Burns Point Vehicle Ferry back to Ballina is a highly recommended scenic journey.

