

HIDDEN GEMS OF THE HINTERLAND

THE BEST DRIVE BY A COUNTRY MILE

Fill up on art for the home, produce for the pantry, tasty gourmet treats and views for the soul. So you've arrived in 'Port' and it's easy to be dazzled by the coastline, rainforest and buzzing CBD. But beware! Stick to the coast and you'll miss out on some of the best parts of our region.



WAUCHOPE

An easy 15 minutes west of the freeway you'll find the friendly and bustling country town of Wauchope. Look out for the magnificent Bago Bluff in the distance! The Hastings Valley is known as the region's food bowl, and the Wauchope Farmers Market brings the growers, makers, bakers and creatives together every fourth Saturday morning at the Showgrounds. Don't miss the stretch of unique boutiques, lifestyle stores, galleries, creative collectives, bakeries and cafes on and around the High Street, attracting loyal fans from all over.

From Wauchope there are a few of great options to further explore the hinterland, and we've included three of them below.

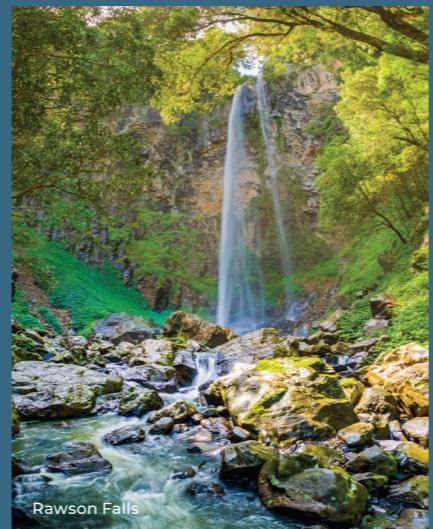
BYABARRA + COMBOYNE

Around 25 minutes south-west of Wauchope, pleasantly winding country roads will get you to the idyllic Byabarra Café & Bar, where you can settle in for an afternoon of an indulgence on the veranda with views over the valley.

Or, you can head further west for another 35 minutes or so to the tiny rural village of Comboyne. Once you break through from the heavily forested hill climb, the plateau opens up spectacularly

with rolling, verdant farmland. To complete the package, Comboyne is flanked by pristine Nature Reserves and waterfalls. Trust us when we tell you it's worth the drive!

Dairy farms are joined by plantings of avocados, macadamias, blueberries and more. If regenerative farming practices, meeting the animals and sampling fresh produce is of interest, book a tour of the family-run 'Grazed & Grown Farm' before you leave.



Visit The Larrikins Lock Up, the restored Historic Comboyne Gaol which includes a Retail/Garden Centre in beautiful gardens on the Thone River. The Old Wares shop in the old Cheese Factory is open most weekends, and 'Collected At Comboyne' located in the old Sheather's Machinery Shed showcases pottery and a print gallery, fresh local produce, collectibles and plants. Comboyne Community Centre & Craft is open 7 days, and is perfect for handmade treasures, and friendly local advice on things to do and places to stay. For sustenance, check out the newly reopened Udder Cow Café, or grab a tasty burger from the General Store and picnic at Boorganna Nature Reserve. If you can't bear to leave, there are a small number of guest houses and BnB's dotted around for a relaxing getaway.

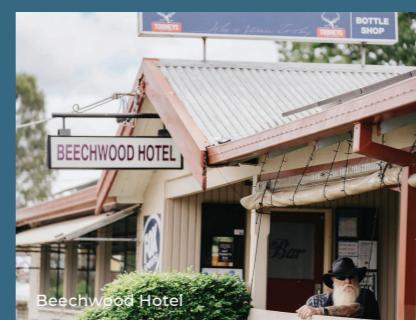


Visit www.portmacquarieinfo.com.au for trip ideas, 'Taste Trails', and of all the things you can eat, see and do in our region.

Nearby Boorganna Nature Reserve has a pretty picnic area and you can stroll down the 2.7 km walking track, which descends into the magnificent rainforest. About half way along this track Rawson Lookout overlooks the 40 metre drop of Mumfords Creek. Take on the Rawson Falls Walk and be rewarded with a beautiful swimming hole. Note that the walk back is uphill! Comboyne is also the gateway to Ellenborough Falls. Located 28kms from Comboyne, Ellenborough Falls at 200m is one of the longest single drop waterfalls in the Southern Hemisphere. Take the 641 timber steps to the bottom of the valley to look up at the amazing falls. Allow a couple of hours to walk down and back.

BEECHWOOD

Just a few kilometres north west of Wauchope you'll find Beechwood, home to Wotif's top rated Country Pub in Australia, the authentic Beechwood Hotel. If you'd prefer to arrive in style, contact Hastings River Horseriding to enquire about their pub rides, and hitch up right out the front. Near by, the Beechwood Café & Bar serves up hearty fare and is great for groups with a large covered deck.



A NOTE ON COMBOYNE

For the 200 residents and business owners of Comboyne, the flooding rains over the past couple of years have been devastating. The road from Wauchope to Comboyne has been closed periodically, sometimes for months at a stretch, due to landslips. The road has reopened, although roadworks continue in places. Now, more than ever, this tiny town needs your support!



LONG FLAT + GINGERS CREEK

From Wauchope, head west along the Oxley Highway for around 30 km's to get to the legendary Long Flat Pub. A long-time favourite with motorbike riders and travellers from New England, this place is full of friendly character, with a fabulous lawn out the back to enjoy a pub meal and a cold beer. There's even camping on site and regular live music.

Not ready to return to normal life? No judgement here! Another hour inland on the Oxley towards Armidale and you'll get to the landmark travellers rest of Ginger's Creek. Fuel up, and take a break for some sustenance or book a room for the night (bunk rooms also available for groups). Owner Gary fought off the flames in the 2019 fires, and has since had to rebuild the accommodation, only to have regular road closures impact his business. Note the Oxley Highway roadworks have recommenced, and access is closed/limited on this section of the road on Fridays for the next few months.



 port macquarie