

# Oberon Christmas in July

21 July 2010  
5 Days



## Day 1: Home—Oberon (LD)

Departing Thornton, and the rest of the Hunter, we commence our journey south, stopping at Katoomba, with time to view some of the highlights of the Blue Mountains on our way to **Oberon**, with a visit to the **Oberon Museum** in the railway station, the wood gallery and the Cobweb Gallery (in the Malachi Gilmour Hall, perhaps Australia's best example of art deco architecture). At 1,113 metres above sea level, Oberon is the highest town in the Blue Mountains region and forms a natural hub connecting many rural villages and towns that were established in the height of the NSW gold rushes.



With great variations in weather, Autumn is generally balmy, and a great time to discover the delights of the town. We will be staying at a **four star resort** in the centre of the town.

Big Trout Motor Inn 02 6336 2100 (4 nights)

## Day 2: Oberon Historic Townships: Burragar, Carcoar, Rockley, Perthville, Chifley Dam (BLD)

We will have a guided tour of Oberon, and then on to **Burraga**, once a thriving copper mining village, but now a radiata pine log treatment facility. We may have the opportunity to watch the high tech harvesting machinery at work in the forests as we go. We will then go via the historic National Trust town of **Rockley** where time appears to have stood still for a century, and Trunkey, an attractive old gold mining village on our way to Carcoar for lunch. Australia's first bank hold up was here, and it was a favourite haunt of Ben Hall, the bushranger. We will have a **town tour of the historic township of Carcoar** with its English Village feel as well as the town's Museum before returning to Oberon.

## Day 3: Sofala—Hill End; Christmas in July (BLD)

A full day of history with a visit to one of Australia's first gold fields. Morning tea will be provided enroute to **Hill End** where a local guide will relive the history of the gold fields with visits to local historic sites. After lunch, we visit the **History Hill complex with its own underground mine and perhaps the finest 'gold rush' museum in the country**. There will be a stop at Sofala, with time to browse through this historic town. Tonight we will enjoy a special **Christmas in July dinner**, with all the trimmings.



## Day 4: Abercrombie House & Mrs Trails House, National Motor Racing Museum, Ben Chifley's House (BLD)

This morning we take a short drive to Bathurst with a visit to historic **Abercrombie House**, and **Mrs Trails House**. Abercrombie House is one of the finest Tudor Gothic/Scottish Baronial mansions in Australia, built in the 1870s. We will tour Bathurst, including the world famous **Mount Panorama Racing Circuit**, and the **National Motor Racing Museum**, ending our day at the former Prime Minister, Ben Chifley's Home.

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## Day 5: Hartley Historic Village, Lithgow Small Arms Factory—Home (BL)

This morning we will leave Oberon to head to the **National Trust Township of Hartley for a tour** of this heritage town. We will then travel to Lithgow to visit the **Small Arms Factory Museum**. After lunch we will travel home via the Great Western Highway, dropping off at Strathfield, Hornsby, Tuggerah and the Hunter.

