

Autumn in the Blue Mountains

2 Days



Day 1: Blue Mountains, Three Sisters, Echo Point, Katoomba High Tea (H/T,D)

This morning we make our way up the **Great Dividing Range** of the Blue Mountains, stopping for our famous homemade morning tea. Following lunch we enter the **Mayfield private garden** in Oberon. This private garden is only open a few times a year and the autumn colours are unforgettable. These magnificent 36 acre gardens have stunning manicured lawns, sculpted garden beds and an eighty foot tumbling water feature as the central point. As the day draws to a close we return to the Redleaf Resort for a relaxing evening.

Redleaf Resort 02 4787 8108

Day 2: Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens, Kurrajong Heights, Windsor, Govetts Leap (BL)

After a hearty breakfast, we will make our way to **Evans Lookout** for views into the **Grose River Region**. For those who wish to stretch their legs there is 45 minute walk from here around to Govett's Leap.

From here we make our way to **Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens**, this is one of the finest cool climate botanical gardens in the world. You will have time to meander along the many paths and particularly to admire the annuals before lunch in the **Gardens Tea House**. Our journey home this afternoon is via the leafy **Heights of Bilpin & Kurrajong Heights**, eventually hitting the flats of Windsor. From here it is back on to the freeway our journey home.

Orange Gourmet Tour

4 Days



Day 1: Newcastle—Bathurst—Orange (LD)

We will depart Newcastle, Central Coast and Sydney, enjoying Robert's famous home made morning tea before we venture north to the mountains. Our gourmet experience starts with lunch in **Secret Valley** just on the edge of Lithgow, continuing on to Orange to **Highland Estate** for some wine tasting. Tonight we sample local wines with dinner.

Country Comfort Orange 02 6362 6033 (3 nights)

Day 2: Orange Providores (BLD)

This morning after breakfast we start our day overlooking the town and it's many vineyards from the heights of **Mount Canobolas**. Once we have our bearings, we will visit a **local grower** for a talk about his industry before a visit to **Hillside Orchard** to learn more about the local fruit tree industry. Max will take us for a walk among the apple, pear, plum, and cherry trees, a very informative morning and the opportunity to buy from their roadside stall. Over lunch at **Mountainside Winery** we will enjoy

some more wine tasting and platters of local produce. This afternoon we will visit **Borrodell Winery** for afternoon tea and wine tasting. This winery also has outstanding views of the valley, our last stop for the day will be a local **Fig and Hazelnut Farm**, with an informative talk from the farmer. On our return to the motel we will enjoy dinner, again with **local wines to sample**.

Day 3: Boree Cabonne Mansion, Manildra Theatre (BLD)

We start our day with some time to enjoy the local **Visitor's Centre**, art gallery and shopping centre. An old fashioned country morning tea will be served in the century-old **Boree Cabonne Mansion** and enjoy a **guided tour** by the great, great granddaughter of John Smith, who took up the lease in 1851. Continuing on from here, we will go to Manildra, a very important producer of quality flour. We will have lunch before a tour of the old silent picture theatre, with the old reels still very popular when they are occasionally screened. The Director of the Theatre will arouse our nostalgia for the gold old days before talkies!!

Day 4: Orange Produce— Home (BL)

We visit the Orange Showground where farm produce will be on display. There is the opportunity to purchase some of the freshest and tastiest fruits and vegetables, meats and breads. Remember we are on our way home today so a great opportunity to restock the pantry. Mid morning we reboard the coach for our journey back over the mountains, with lunch on the way arriving into Sydney mid afternoon and back to Thornton at around 6pm.