

A family of four is playing on a large, light-colored stone wall. A woman in a floral dress and hat stands on the left, a young girl in a red top and black shorts walks across the middle, and a man in a white shirt and shorts is on the right, holding a small child. The wall is made of large, rectangular stone blocks. In the background, there are green trees and a blue sky with clouds. A modern building with large windows is visible on the right. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Shellharbour

DHARAWAL COUNTRY

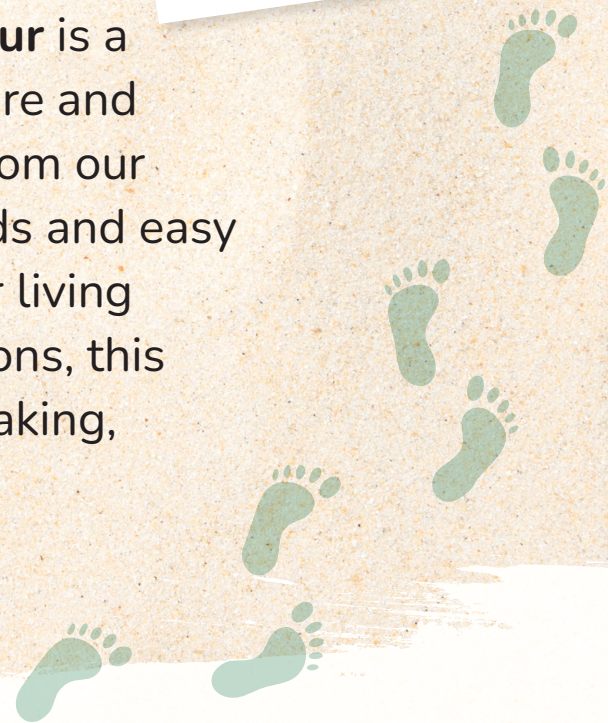
Little feet. Big Adventure.

Shellharbour

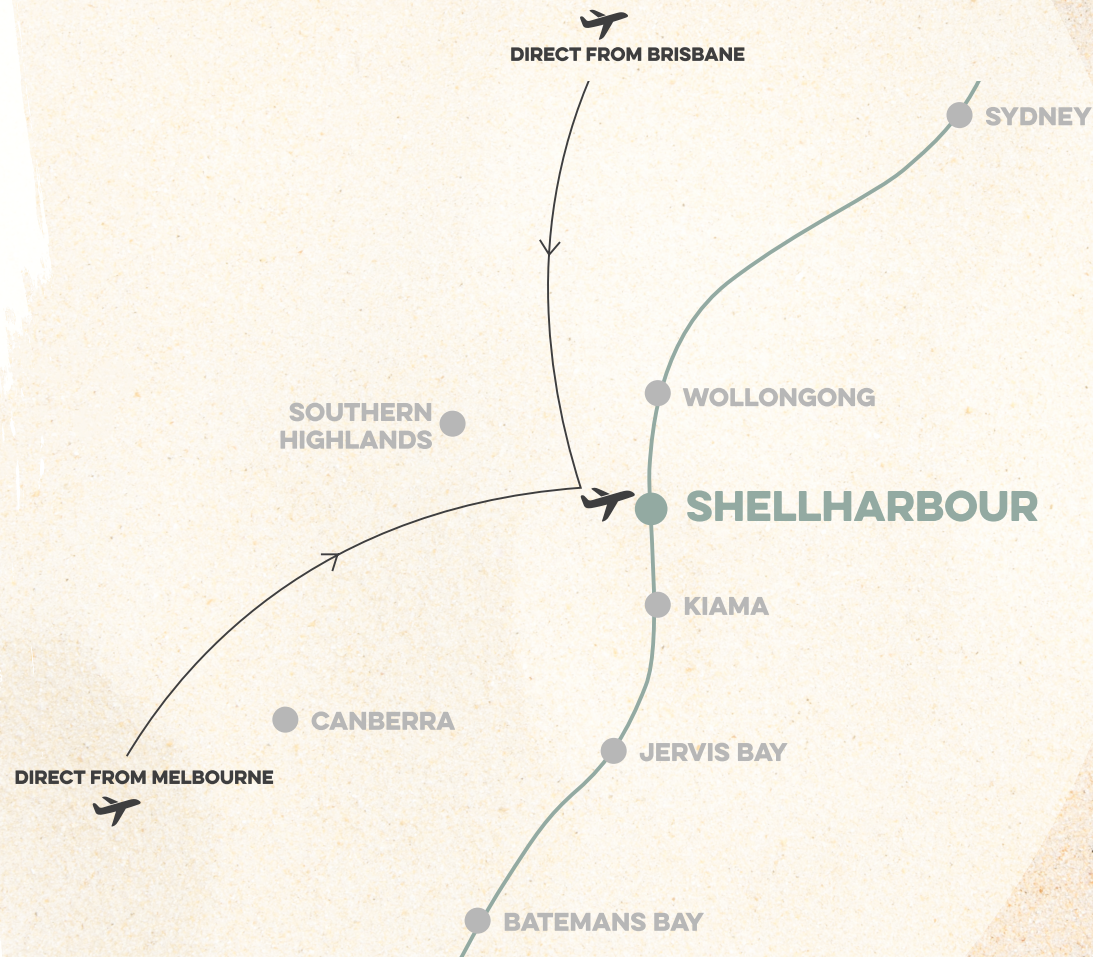
Self Drive Family Getaway: 4 days / 3 nights

Nagangbi (hello)... welcome to Shellharbour, home to the **Dharawal, Elouri** and **Wodi Wodi** people.

Nestled along the stunning South Coast, **Shellharbour** is a vibrant coastal city where families can enjoy adventure and relaxation. Enjoying our great outdoor experiences from our award-winning beaches, state-of-the-art playgrounds and easy rainforest bushwalks. Whether you are exploring our living museums, or tasting our diverse range of foodie options, this family-friendly itinerary is designed for a memory-making, self-drive experience.



Getting Here



Drive

along the **Grand Pacific Drive**, a scenic coastal route just 1.5 hours South of Sydney (M1 Princes Hwy) and 2.5 hours North of Canberra (M31 Hume Hwy).



Train

Catch a **Train** down the South Coast on one of the regular NSW Rail services connecting Sydney to **Shellharbour Junction Station**.



Fly

into **Shellharbour Airport** with flights from Brisbane and Melbourne via Link Airways.



Sail

into Shellharbour in style at the world-class **Shellharbour Marina**, offering a waterfront precinct for boaters to dock and explore the region. Shellharbour is 50 nautical miles from Sydney and 30 nautical miles from Jervis Bay.

TRAVEL DISTANCES

100kms
1.5hrs

SYDNEY

25kms
20mins

WOLLONGONG

13.5kms
12mins

KIAMA

265kms
3hrs

NEWCASTLE

170kms
2.5hrs

KATOOMBA

172kms
2hrs

BATEMANS BAY

217kms
2.75hrs

CANBERRA

Local Advice

Our team of friendly locals at the **Visitor Information Centre** are here every day of the week to give helpful advice to visitors. From booking accommodation, tours and tickets, to giving tips on the best local hotspots, dining options and picturesque vistas for the 'gram, our team are here to make your Shellharbour visit unforgettable.

Take a copy of our annual **Visitor Guide** to browse through during your stay.

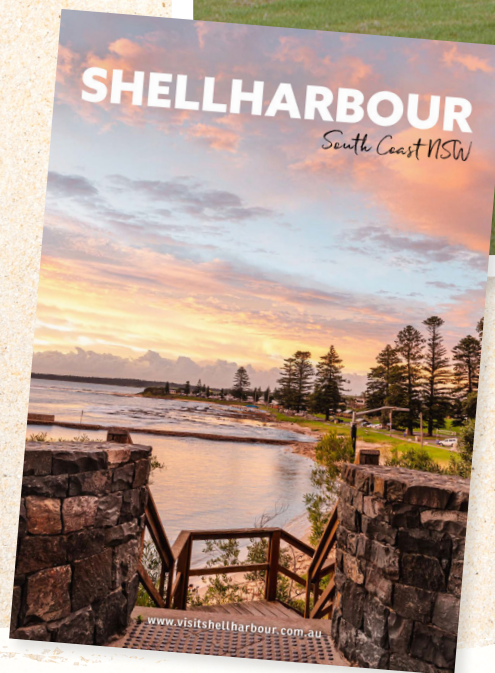
📍 Cnr Addison & Wentworth Streets, Shellharbour

☎ 1300 656 169

🌐 visitshellharbour.com.au

📷 @visitshellharbour

📘 /ShellharbourNSWAustralia



Killalea Regional Park

An aerial photograph of Lake Illawarra, showing a town on the northern shore connected by a bridge. The water is a deep blue-green, and the surrounding landscape includes green hills and a sandy beach. The image has a white border with a distressed, torn-paper effect. On the right side, there is a vertical trail of light blue footprints, starting from the top and ending near the bottom.

Little feet. Big Adventure.

4 DAY ITINERARY

Lake Illawarra

Beverley Whitfield Ocean Pool



Fun Fact

Beverley Whitfield Ocean Pool is named after the Shellharbour born Olympic swimmer who won gold at the 1972 Munich Games.

DAY ONE Happy Feet

Breakfast

Rise and shine as you set off on the breathtaking **Grand Pacific Drive**, where stunning coastal views follow you to down the South Coast your adventure in Shellharbour.

Arrive at **Shellharbour Beachside Holiday Park**, a coastal retreat perfect for families. Before diving into activities, fuel up with a delicious breakfast at one of Shellharbour Village's many cafés, savouring freshly brewed coffee and handmade healthy snacks.

Morning

After settling in and **charging your electric vehicle (EV)**, explore the pet-friendly holiday park meeting other guests at their caravans or RVs. You may be lucky enough to meet their furry travelers too. Let the children burn off some energy at **Little Park playground**. Then take a refreshing dip at **Beverley Whitfield Pool**, a 50m saltwater ocean pool. Little ones will love the adjacent wading pool, while parents can relax by the water under the sunshade.

Next, stop by the **Visitor Information Centre** to pick up local produce and a Shellharbour Visitor Guide. The kids will be delighted by *Our Shellharbour*, a beautifully illustrated picture book by local author Karen Hendriks.



Shellharbour Beachside Holiday Park

Lunch

Head to **The Sushi Shellharbour** for a fresh, made-to-order sushi experience that caters to all taste buds. Enjoy a leisurely lunch before strolling through Shellharbour Village, where **boutique shops** offer everything from stylish clothing to homewares. Be sure to visit the local **lolly shop**, a paradise of sweet treats sure to put smiles on little faces.

For a fun-filled afternoon, hire bikes and ride from Shellharbour all the way to **Warilla Beach** with amazing beachside views along the way. Have a rest at **Little Lake (Elliot Park)**, a calm lagoon perfect for a splash and play.

Evening

As the sun starts to set, challenge the family to a round of putt putt at **Shanx**, an 18-hole mini golf course designed to keep everyone entertained. Wrap up the day with a relaxed dinner at **The Links Tavern**, dining on the open-air balcony as you take in the serene golf course views. The children can explore the play area while parents unwind with a drink.



Shanx at Links Shell Cove

Local Tip

At Little Lake, bring a snorkel. The calm waters are home to small fish and crabs, making it a great spot for little marine explorers.

DAY
TWO

Planes, Trains & Automobiles

Breakfast

Start your day at **J's on the Deck**, where a lakeside setting complements a delicious breakfast. Enjoy a wholesome meal while soaking in the tranquil morning views.

Morning

Step into aeronautics history at the **HARS Aviation Museum**. Children and adults alike will marvel at the collection of vintage aircraft, including the legendary Qantas 747 Jumbo Jet. Climb into cockpits and learn about Australia's aviation legacy through interactive exhibits.

Lunch

Take a scenic drive to **Plough and Ale** in Calderwood for a relaxed pub-style lunch. Enjoy seasonal dishes while the children play in the outdoor area.



Fun Fact

Hollywood star John Travolta once flew into Shellharbour Airport. He visited the HARS Aviation Museum, where he has donated his personal Boeing 707.

Afternoon

All aboard at the **Illawarra Light Railway Museum**. Experience the charm of heritage steam trains as you hop on for a nostalgic ride. Young train enthusiasts will love exploring the miniature train displays and railway-themed playground.

For an adrenaline rush, head to **C1 Speed Indoor Karting**, where families can race around the track in junior-friendly karts. After working up an appetite, enjoy a lively dinner at **The Shellharbour Club**. The Hollywood-style kids' play space **The Precinct** offers fun distractions while parents relax over a well-earned meal. Don't forget to indulge in gelato before heading back for the night.



The Shellharbour Club



Illawarra Light Rail Museum

Local Tip

If visiting the Illawarra Light Railway Museum on a running day, grab your tickets early - train rides are popular and can sell out fast.

Did you know?

Whales are ancestral beings for the Dharawal and Wodi Wodi peoples, symbolising wisdom and connection to the land, sea, and cultural traditions.



DAY THREE

Animal Antics

Breakfast

Kickstart your morning at **Happy Fox Café** in Warilla, a quaint spot with a child-friendly menu and delicious coffee.

Morning

Take to the water with **Stand Up Paddle Boarding (SUP) Shellharbour** at Reddall Reserve. Whether you're a seasoned paddler or a beginner, the calm waters make for a perfect family adventure. Keep an eye out for the wildlife on **Lake Illawarra**, including our resident seal who frolics under **Windang Bridge**. You may even see a penguin or two.

Prefer to stay on land? Head to **Red Lamp Play Space**, where climbing frames, ninja courses, and inclusive play spaces keep little explorers entertained.

Lunch

Nothing says an Aussie summer like fish 'n' chips by the water. Grab a takeaway from **Pep's Take Away** and settle in for a scenic picnic along the lake foreshore at **Reddall Reserve** to spot these majestic giants of the sea.



After lunch, embark on the **Lake Illawarra Art Trail**, where stunning the Burri Burri Indigenous art sculpture will add a cultural touch to your stroll.

If you're visiting during whale season, set sail on a **Whale Watching Cruise** from Shellharbour Marina for a chance

Afternoon Treats

While at **Shellharbour Marina**, treat the family to fresh donuts and ice cream. Stroll along the **Waterfront Promenade**, where children can splash at the kids' beach.

Evening

Dine at **The Waterfront Tavern**, where a relaxed coastal vibe meets mouthwatering seafood and family-friendly options. Enjoy the last rays of sunshine over the marina before heading back to your accommodation for a restful night.



Local Tip

At Reddall Reserve, keep an eye out for local pelicans - especially at sunset when they gather near the boat ramps hoping for a fisherman's snack!

DAY FOUR

Spirited Away

Breakfast

Enjoy a final holiday breakfast at **The Farm Kiosk** Killalea, run by Indigenous chef Mark Olive. Savor farm-fresh ingredients while soaking in the coastal setting.

Morning

Spend the morning at **Killalea Beach 'The Farm'**, an unspoiled National Surfing Reserve and one of NSW's best beaches. If visiting on the last Sunday of the month, browse **Markets at the Marina** for unique handmade crafts, goodies and entertainment.

Lunch

Charge your EV at Shellharbour Civic Centre while the kids play at **Yirran Muru** – an Aboriginal Interpretive Play Space that showcases Dharawal language and culture with interactive exhibits.

Fun Fact

Bass Point is one of the most significant archaeological sites in Australia, with Aboriginal artifacts dating back 17,000 years - older than the pyramids.



Afternoon

For a refreshing pick-me-up, enjoy acai bowls and frozen yogurt at **The Avenue, Stockland Shellharbour**'s vibrant eatery precinct.

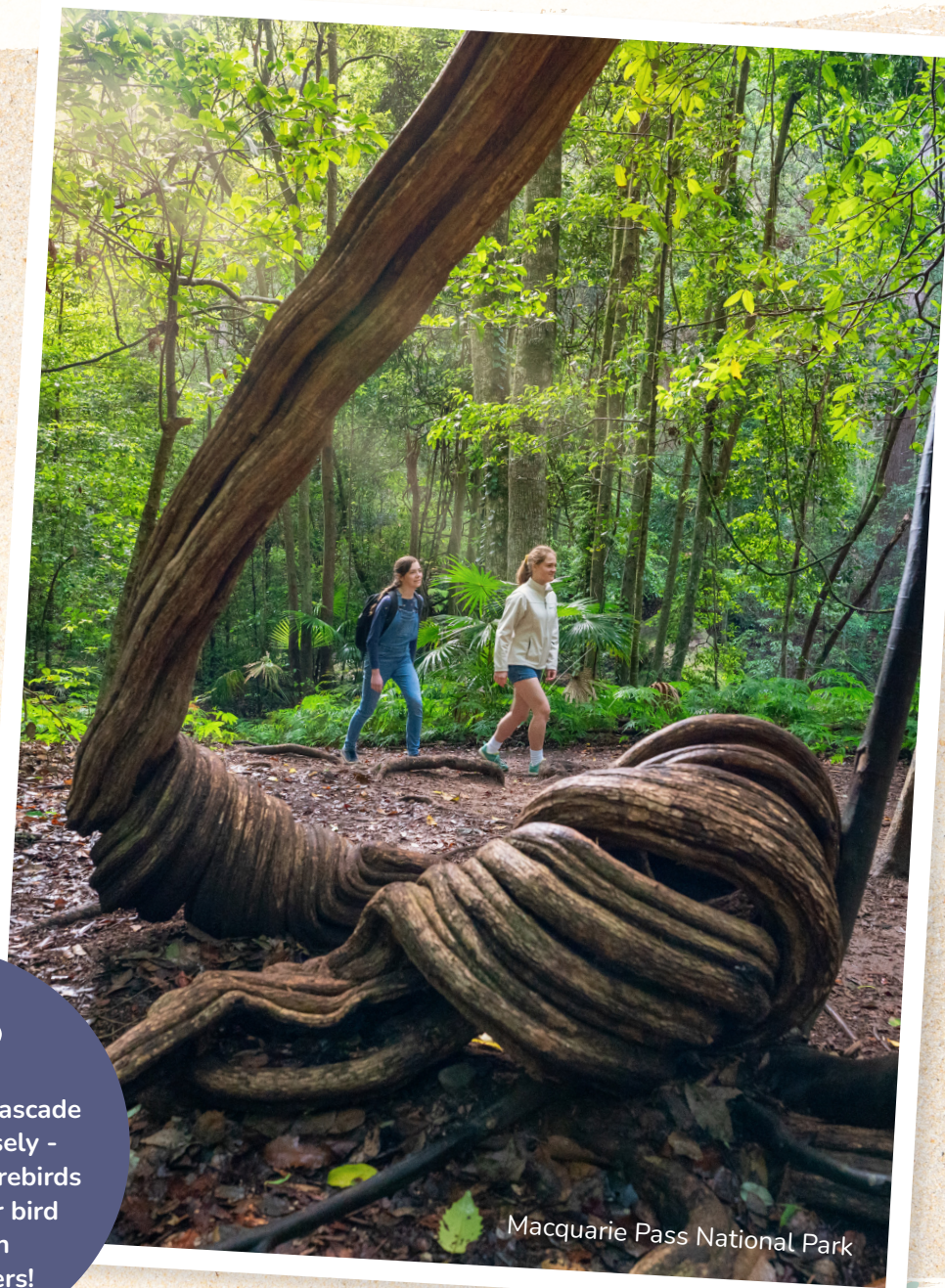
Final Adventure

Before heading home, take a detour to **Cascade Falls** in **Macquarie Pass National Park**. This short, easy hike leads to a picturesque waterfall, where lyrebirds play. In summer, magical fireflies make for a fairytale-like experience.

For a grand finale, stop at **Illawarra Fly** and walk among the treetops for breathtaking panoramic views over Shellharbour and beyond. It's the perfect way to reflect on a fun-filled family escape before making your journey home.

Local Tip

When hiking to Cascade Falls, listen closely - you might hear lyrebirds mimicking other bird calls or even camera shutters!



Macquarie Pass National Park



Little feet. Big Adventure.

visitshellharbour.com.au

#VISITSHELLHARBOUR

