



SHELLHARBOUR

EPIC VIEWS & EASY VIBES

3 Night / 4 Day Road Trip Itinerary, Shellharbour, South Coast NSW

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Self Drive Getaway: 4 days / 3 nights

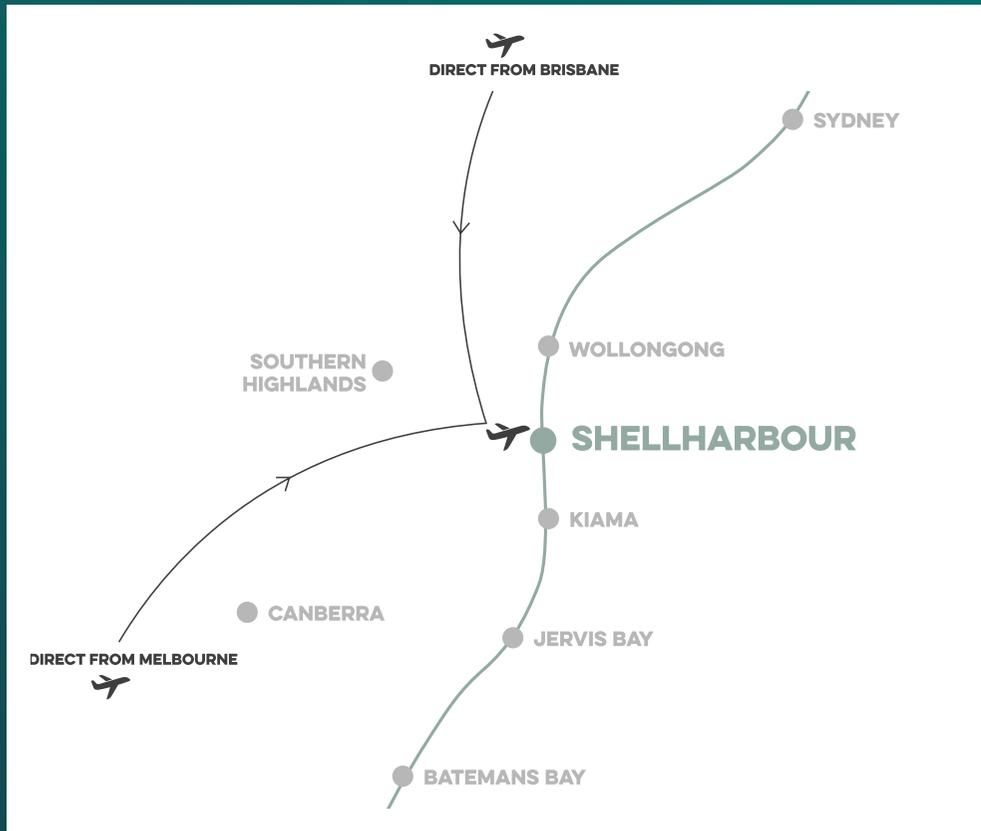
Nagangbi (hello)... welcome to Shellharbour, home to the **Dharawal, Elouri and Wodi Wodi people.**

Situated along the spectacular South Coast of NSW, Shellharbour is a vibrant coastal city where couples can discover the perfect blend of adventure and relaxation. From award winning beaches to tranquil rainforest bushwalks, the region offers outstanding outdoor experiences. Whether you're exploring our living museums or sampling the diverse range of local foodie offerings, this itinerary is crafted to deliver a memorable, self drive escape.

You're in your 20s–40s, travelling light, chasing good surf, epic views, and unforgettable moments. The van is packed with the surfboard board, playlists are loaded, and the open road awaits. Set the GPS.

Shellharbour, here we come!

GETTING HERE



DRIVE

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

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

SAIL

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



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



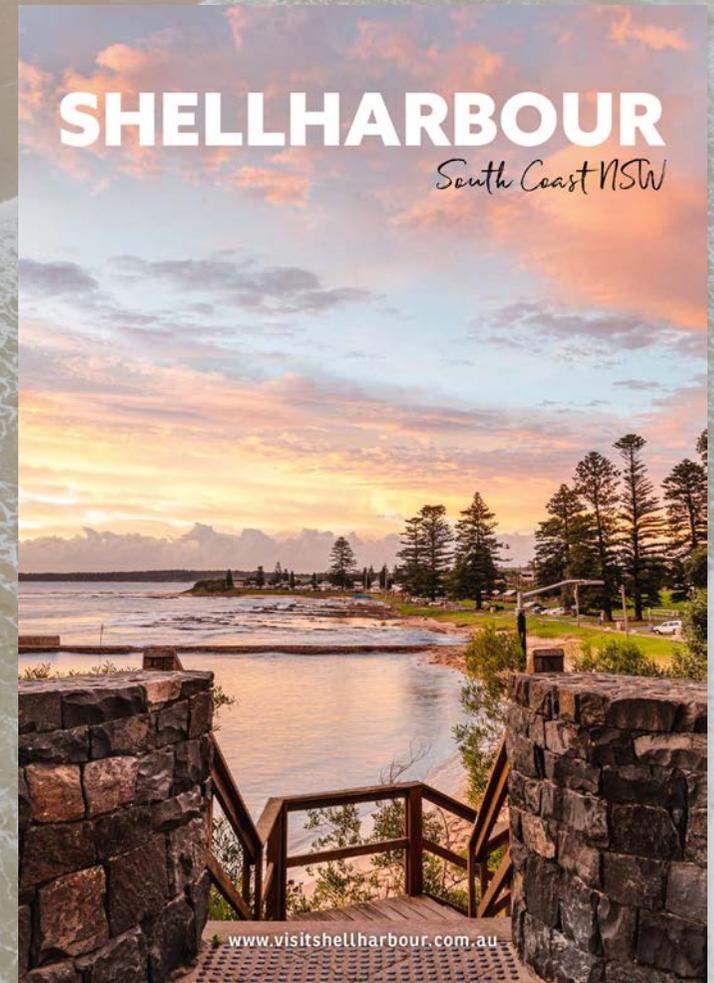
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SHELLHARBOUR

EPIC VIEWS & EASY VIBES

4 DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1

ROAD TRIP VIBES ACTIVATED

BREAKFAST

Rise and shine as you set off to cruise south along the iconic **Grand Pacific Drive**, stopping at **Bald Hill Lookout** for panoramic views of the escarpment and coastline your first Insta story moment of the trip. Continue over the famous **Sea Cliff Bridge**, winding through coastal villages until you reach the charming **Shellharbour Village**.

MORNING

Settle into your stay at **NRMA Shellharbour Beachside Holiday Park**. Park the van at your waterfront site, breathe in the fresh salt air, and ease into coastal life. When you're ready to hit the water, grab your board and paddle straight out to **The Bombe**, a beloved local surf break located right out the front of the park. It doesn't get much more beachfront than this.

LUNCH

After your first salty session, wander the village. Stroll past the **Beverley Whitfield Ocean Pool**, named in honour of our Olympic gold medallist and fitted with accessible ramp access, you'll definitely want to lock in a sunrise swim for tomorrow! Continue up **Addison Street** and browse the boutiques for a sneaky holiday memento before grabbing lunch on the new ocean view deck at the **Ocean Beach Hotel**. As you watch the pelicans in the harbour, you might even catch a glimpse of a whale cruising past (May to November).



NRMA Shellharbour Beachside Holiday Park



Ocean Beach Hotel



Scuba at Bushrangers Bay



Bushrangers Bay

AFTERNOON

Before exploring further, download the **Tread Shellharbour** app to immerse yourself in the rich cultural stories of the **Wodi Wodi people**, the First Nations custodians of the **Dharawal land** you are exploring.

Spend the afternoon at **Bass Point Reserve**, a 72 hectare protected coastal paradise. Wander along the coastal walking track and connect with the **self guided Indigenous trail**, where you'll discover remarkable insights into a site that has been culturally significant for more than **17,000 years**.

After your journey through history, make your way to **Bushrangers Bay**, a snorkeller's and scuba diver's dream. The calm, sheltered waters are renowned for encounters with **grey nurse sharks**, one of Australia's most gentle and most endangered marine species. Despite their intimidating appearance, they move slowly and peacefully along the bottom of the bay. Keep an eye out for the delicate **Weedy Sea Dragon**, another local favourite, that drifts gracefully among the kelp. If you need equipment or guidance, **Shellharbour Scuba** can kit you out with everything you need for an unforgettable underwater experience.

EVENING

Back at the holiday park, unwind with sunset nibbles overlooking **Shellharbour South Beach**, soaking in uninterrupted coastal views as the sky shifts through warm evening colours with a locally crafted brew from **Bass Point Brewing Co.**

Finish the night with dinner at the award-winning **Relish on Addison**, renowned for its exceptional service, fresh regional ingredients and inviting atmosphere.

*Explore the **Visit Shellharbour What's On Guide** to find the perfect way to spend your evening. From cocktail masterclasses and drag trivia to live music and special events, Shellharbour's vibrant nightlife scene is always evolving.*



DAY 2

SALT WATER THERAPY ALL DAY

MORNING

Rise early, grab your board, and charge into a sunrise surf at **Killalea Regional Park (Arrijong)**. As the first light breaks over the headland, you'll paddle out into one of the South Coast's most spectacular dawn moments at Killalea Beach as clean morning lines rolling in. Surfers know this iconic **National Surfing Reserve** well, once upon a time, the only way to access these epic waves was by slipping a few coins to the farmer at the gate, earning the break its much loved nickname, "**The Farm.**"

LUNCH

After an incredible surf, you'll have certainly worked up an appetite. Head to **The Links Shell Cove** and settle in for lunch at the Tavern, where **Il Lago** serves elevated Italian inspired dishes and delicious woodfired pizzas. With sweeping views over the picturesque **Links Golf Course**, it's the ideal spot to unwind, enjoy warm local hospitality, and watch golfers pass by as you plan the afternoon ahead.





Stand Up Paddle Boarding, Shellharbour



Warilla Beach



Harbour Thai



Art Trail - Long Distance by Carla Gottgens, at Bardsley Park, Shellharbour

AFTERNOON

For a slow and rejuvenating afternoon, head to the calm blue waters of **Lake Illawarra** for a stand up paddleboarding session with **Stand Up Paddleboarding Shellharbour**. Glide across the lake as you hear local stories, take in sweeping water views, and admire the incredible sculptures along the foreshore **Arts Trail**, creating a memorable blend of outdoor adventure and cultural discovery.

EVENING

Round out your day with dinner at the beloved **Harbour Thai**, known for its fresh, flavour packed Thai dishes, including signature curries, vibrant stir fries and authentic flavours that keep diners coming back time and time again.

DAY 3

BIG DAY OUT

BREAKFAST

Begin the day with a relaxed breakfast at **RawR Café Shellharbour**, one of the village's standout dining spots, known for its quality in house roasted coffee and delicious all day brunch options.

MORNING

Make your way to the **Waterfront Shell Cove** and jump aboard a **Shellharbour Wild whale watching tour** for one of the most breathtaking adventures of your trip. Departing directly from **Shellharbour Marina**, the journey launches you straight into the heart of the humpback highway, where **majestic whales** surge along their annual migration route, breaching, tail slapping and cruising past the bow in unforgettable style (May to November).

As you take it all in, your guides bring the coastline and its marine life to life with expert storytelling. Here, whales known as "**Gawura**" carry deep cultural significance as the **primary totem of the Dharawal people**, the Traditional Custodians of this land.

But the magic doesn't stop there you may also encounter **playful dolphins**, glide past a bustling **seal colony**, and gain powerful insights into the conservation efforts protecting these incredible species.

LUNCH

Once you've found your sea legs again, take a leisurely stroll from the wharf to **Waterview Japanese Restaurant** for a fresh and flavourful lunch. Here, beautifully presented sushi, sashimi, and Japanese inspired dishes are crafted with care, offering the perfect place to unwind as you look out over the boats gently bobbing in **Shellharbour Marina**.



Shellharbour Marina



Majestic Humpback Whale



Shellharbour Wild Whale Watching Tour Boat

AFTERNOON

Make your way to **Shellharbour Airport**, where the adventure ramps up the moment you step onto the tarmac. You're about to see the region like never before soaring **15,000 feet** above the coastline with **BigWave Skydive**. As the plane climbs, the landscape unfolds beneath you, the rugged **Illawarra Escarpment**, the shimmering blues of **Lake Illawarra**, the rolling greens of Killalea, the boats in **Shellharbour Marina**, and the sweeping shoreline curving all the way to **Bass Point**.

Then comes the moment, heart racing, breath held, the door opens and the world tilts into pure exhilaration. The tandem jump is a breathtaking rush of adrenaline and awe, a once in a lifetime experience high above one of the most beautiful stretches of coast in Australia. Touching down by the water at Bass Point, you'll be buzzing with the kind of thrill only skydiving can deliver.

If there's a better way to bond with your partner or best mates, we haven't found it. This is the kind of story you'll talk about and laugh about for years to come.

Note: No alcohol before a skydive.

EVENING

Once you're back on solid ground, make your way to **The Waterfront Shell Cove** and unwind from the day's excitement at the **Waterfront Tavern**. Settle in for a relaxed late afternoon and evening with stunning marina views and a menu that caters to every craving, whether you're sharing a delicious seafood platter, enjoying a hearty steak, or opting for a classic burger.

Elevate the moment with one of the Tavern's **signature cocktails**, the perfect way to toast an adventure filled day. With great food, handcrafted drinks, live music or the option to catch the game, it's the ideal place to settle in and end your day in true Shellharbour style.



Bigwave Skydive



Shellharbour Marina



Waterfront Tavern



Waterfront Tavern, Shell Cove

DAY 4

WELLNESS, NATURE & AVIATION THRILLS

BREAKFAST

Ease into your morning with breakfast at **J's on the Deck**, where calm coastal views and a welcoming atmosphere pair perfectly with their delicious, wholesome meals. It's an idyllic spot to ease into the day and savour Shellharbour's relaxed seaside charm.

MORNING

For the final day of your Shellharbour adventure, treat yourself to a truly unique wellness experience at **Those Floating Saunas** at Shellharbour Marina. This Nordic style floating sauna introduces a one of a kind relaxation ritual to the region, blending soothing heat sessions with refreshing cold plunge, all set against peaceful marina views from its beautifully crafted on water structure. It offers a calming, social and rejuvenating way to unwind by the water and connect with Shellharbour's coastal tranquility.

After some relaxation time, dive straight into aviation history at the **HARS Aviation Museum**. Begin with one of the most unique experiences on offer, the **Wing Walk**, where you'll step out onto the massive wing of the legendary **Qantas Boeing 747 400 "City of Canberra,"** the record breaking jumbo jet that now calls Shellharbour Airport home. It is an unforgettable moment that brings you closer to aviation greatness than you ever imagined.

From there, passionate volunteers guide you through an extraordinary line up of historic aircraft, sharing real aviation stories as you step aboard the majestic **Lockheed Super Constellation "Connie"** and feel the power of military legends such as the **F 111C** and **AP 3C Orion**. These remarkable aircraft are highlights of this impressive, interactive flying museum.





Cascade Falls, Macquarie Pass National Park



Cascade Trail, Macquarie Pass National Park



Cascade Trail, Macquarie Pass National Park



Cascade Falls, Macquarie Pass National Park

LUNCH

Enjoy a hearty lunch at **Plough & Ale** in Calderwood, a modern village style pub known for its top quality steaks and generous classic meals.

EVENING

Before heading home, take one last adventure into **Macquarie Pass National Park** and wander along the stunning **Cascade Falls trail**. Follow the lush rainforest path as it winds through cool gullies, towering eucalypts, and the sound of rushing water, leading you to a picture perfect waterfall. It's an inviting spot to pause or take a refreshing dip beneath the falls. Keep an eye out for **lyrebirds**, **goannas**, and if you're lucky, the elusive **platypus**, often spotted along this peaceful track. And in the height of summer, the forest comes alive with the soft glow of **fireflies**, creating a truly magical end to your Shellharbour getaway. (November/December)

It's the perfect, refreshing finale to your Shellharbour getaway. Until next time!!



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