

# attractions, activities & excursion ideas

## attractions

### **Australian Shark & Ray Centre**

Hand feed sharks, rays & huge fish for the thrill of a lifetime. You can choose to feed from the side with the fish leaping out of the water to take your food. Or you can snorkel or walk through the water in waterproof waders with the aquarium packed with nearly 100 different sharks and rays.

*Location:* 686 Marsh Road, Bob's Farm, Port Stephens *Ph:* 4982 2476 *Web:* [www.ozsharkandray.com.au](http://www.ozsharkandray.com.au)

### **Battlezone PlayLive - Laser Skirmish**

Laser Skirmish is a team oriented combat simulation game that can be played indoors, outdoors, in daylight or at night, at one of two set locations, or they come to you. Maitland Gaol floodlight night missions available! Bookings essential.

*Location:* Maitland Gaol, 18 John Street, East Maitland / Salt Ash Pony Club, Richardson Road, Salt Ash  
*Ph:* 1300 661 565 *Web:* [www.battlezoneplaylive.com.au](http://www.battlezoneplaylive.com.au)

### **Blackbutt Reserve**

Native flora and fauna in a central city location. Well-developed walking trails & picnic areas. Most are wheelchair accessible. A fantastic native animal enclosure including koalas, wombats kangaroos and birds. Guided tours and talks can be arranged.

*Open:* 7 days, 9am - 5pm. Koala Feeding between 2pm & 3pm

*Location:* Carnley Avenue, New Lambton *Ph:* 4904 3344

*Web:* [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/blackbutt\\_reserve](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/blackbutt_reserve)

### **Horse Racing - Newcastle Jockey Club**

Home of the Newcastle Jockey Club, the Broadmeadow Racecourse is the social hub of Newcastle. Racing 26 Saturdays a year, along with the Autumn and Spring Carnivals and our Sunday Westpac Rescue Helicopter Raceday in November. However, the biggest day is the famous Boxing Day Races. For race meets go to [www.njc.com.au](http://www.njc.com.au)

*Location:* Darling Street, Broadmeadow *Ph:* 4961 1573

### **Hunter Region Botanic Gardens**

The gardens are an ideal venue for educational excursions and tour groups. Volunteers provide guided tours, talks and educational materials.

*Open:* 7 days, 9am - 4pm *Location:* Pacific Highway, Heatherbrae, Port Stephens

*Ph:* 4987 1655 *Web:* [www.huntergardens.org.au](http://www.huntergardens.org.au)

### **Hunter Valley Gardens**

Twelve themed gardens - including Chinese, Rose, Indian, Sunken, Storytime, Border and Formal - developed within the 25 hectare site allow visitors to enjoy 'a trip around the world'. Wheelchair accessible tours can be arranged. HVG also hosts a myriad of events, expos and festivals.

*Open:* 7 days, 9am - 5pm *Location:* Broke Road, Pokolbin, Hunter Valley

*Ph:* 4998 7600 *Web:* [www.hvg.com.au](http://www.hvg.com.au)

### **Kayak Tours, Newcastle**

Join Newcastle Kayak Tours and enjoy a leisurely guided kayak tour of Newcastle's world renowned harbour. See the actual workings of the world's largest coal export port, also the many natural features on display during our 2.5 hour or 3.5 hour guided tours.

*Open:* 7 days, 9am - 5pm *Location:* Broke Road, Pokolbin, Hunter Valley

*Ph:* 0468 9219 152 *Web:* [www.newcastlekayaktours.com.au](http://www.newcastlekayaktours.com.au)

### **King Edward Park**

Beautiful historic park set cliff side overlooking the ocean. Features gardens, play equipment, gas BBQs, rotunda and the historic **Bogey Hole**, a swimming hole carved into the rocks by convicts in which you can still swim today. A variety of events are held at Newcastle's favourite park.

*Location:* Reserve Road, Newcastle *Ph:* 4974 2807

*Web:* [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/parks\\_and\\_playgrounds](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/parks_and_playgrounds)

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## **Kooragang Wetlands & City Farm**

Walk, cycle, fish and birdwatch around this great piece of nature. Also visit the city farm which follows a holistic approach to farm management

*Open:* 7 days *Location:* Pacific Highway, Hexham *Ph:* 4964 9308

*Web:* [www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au/kooragang](http://www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au/kooragang)

## **Newcastle Harbour Foreshore**

Walk or ride along the Foreshore promenade, exploring the harbour foreshore from Carrington to Nobbys is the quintessential Newcastle experience. Foreshore Park provides an excellent vantage point to view one of Australia's busiest ports in action. Watch 300m bulk carriers navigating the harbour and busy tugs plying the waters.

## **Oakvale Farm & Fauna World**

A fabulous day out where families and children can discover the way of farm life. Feed the baby animals, pat a koala even milk a cow all just 30 minutes from Newcastle.

*Open:* 7 days, 10am - 5pm *Location:* Nelson Bay Road, Salt Ash, Port Stephens

*Ph:* 4982 6222 *Web:* [www.oakvalefarm.com.au](http://www.oakvalefarm.com.au)

## **Surf Lessons - Surfest Surf School**

Learn to surf with the experienced and professional coaching staff from the same crew who bring you Australia's largest surfing festival, 'Surfest'.

*Ph:* 0410 840 155 *Web:* [www.surfestsurfschool.com](http://www.surfestsurfschool.com)

## **Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia**

A Haven for wildlife and people. This 45 hectare rejuvenated site is home to more than 200 species of wildlife including birds, reptiles and other native animals. Enjoy a range of walking trails, kids activities, talks and an extensive canoe trail (canoes available for hire).

*Open:* 7 days, 9am - 5pm *Location:* Sandgate Road, Shortland

*Ph:* 4951 6466 *Web:* [www.wetlands.org.au](http://www.wetlands.org.au)

## walks and tours

### **Bathers Way**

A scenic 5km coastal walk. Look for the yellow information signs that are the storytellers, helping you navigate the Bathers Way. The map can be found at

[www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/walks\\_and\\_cycling/walking\\_tracks](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/walks_and_cycling/walking_tracks)

### **Best Tour**

*Tours include:* Wineries, Hunter Valley Gardens, Newcastle, Newcastle & surrounds

*Ph:* 0437 149 612 *Web:* [www.besttour.com.au](http://www.besttour.com.au)

### **Fernleigh Track**

A natural asset popular with walkers and cyclists, the former railway corridor extends 15 kms connecting the cities of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie. Find the map in the 'Walking Trails' guide at

[www.visitlakemac.com.au/pages/maps-guides](http://www.visitlakemac.com.au/pages/maps-guides)

### **Hunter Vineyard Tours**

Exactly what the name suggests...

*Ph:* 0418 497 451 *Web:* [www.huntervineyardtours.com.au](http://www.huntervineyardtours.com.au)

### **Newcastle East Heritage Walk**

The Newcastle East Heritage Walk will take you on Newcastle's 200 year journey.

Download the map at [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/walks\\_and\\_cycling/heritage\\_walks](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/walks_and_cycling/heritage_walks)

### **Newcastle by Design: Architectural Icons Walk**

Take a walk through the Hunter Street Mall and discover some of Newcastle's architectural gems

Download the map at [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/walks\\_and\\_cycling/heritage\\_walks](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/walks_and_cycling/heritage_walks)

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## Mayfield Discovery Walks

These walks will help you to understand the changes that have occurred in Mayfield over the past century or so. Discover aspects of Mayfield's past with help from your imagination and by observing traces in the landscape. Download maps at <http://mayfield.asn.au/mayfield/rich-heritage>

## Shipwreck Walk

A pleasant 2km walk along the Stockton breakwater (north side of Newcastle Harbour). Download the map at [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/walks\\_and\\_cycling/heritage\\_walks](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/walks_and_cycling/heritage_walks)

## Wallsend Town Centre Heritage Walk

Walk through historic Wallsend and enjoy highlights including the Grapes Inn (c1869), the Railway Goods Shed (1877) and The Rotunda (1888) built by Robert Snowden and George Froome cast iron fluted columns.

Download the map at [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/walks\\_and\\_cycling/heritage\\_walks](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/walks_and_cycling/heritage_walks)

## Carole Frazer's Local History Tours & Walks

Wide range of customized tours around Newcastle. Guides available for walks or coach tours with great knowledge of local history and landmarks. *Cost:* Call for packages *Ph:* 4952 1537

## Gone Walkabout Safaris

*Tours include:* Wine Safari, Bush 'n' Beach Eco Safaris, 1 & 2 Day Wildlife Whales & Wine Safaris. *Ph:* 4961 1338 *Web:* [www.gonewalkaboutsafaris.com.au](http://www.gonewalkaboutsafaris.com.au)

## Dawsons Scenic Tours

Beach and Dune adventures

*Ph:* 4982 0602 *Web:* [www.portstephensadventure.com.au](http://www.portstephensadventure.com.au)

## Hunter Valley Horseriding & Adventures

Horse riding available in the Vineyards overlooking Pokolbin & Lovedale wine growing area. Twilight tours with wine, cheese & riding with the Kangaroos as they come to feed.

*Location:* 288 Talga Road, Rothbury *Ph:* 4930 7111 *Web:* [www.huntervalleyhorseriding.com.au](http://www.huntervalleyhorseriding.com.au)

## Newcastle's Famous Tram

*Tours include:* Newcastle City, Vineyards, Christmas lights tours

*Times:* City tour - weekdays at 11am and 1pm (or by arrangement). Departs Newcastle Train Station and Crowne Plaza Newcastle *Ph:* 0418 307 166 *Web:* [www.famous-tram.com.au](http://www.famous-tram.com.au)

## Ride Newcastle

Ride through the city streets, cruise past beaches, along the harbour and parks and by cafes and restaurants. Download cycle maps at [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/walks\\_and\\_cycling](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation/walks_and_cycling) RTA Cyclepaths Maps are available from the Motor Registry on Parry Street, Newcastle West.

*\*Civic Bikes Bike Hire*

*Location:* 820 Hunter Street, Newcastle West *Ph:* 4927 6277 *Web:* [www.civicbikes.com.au](http://www.civicbikes.com.au)

## Jet Buzz

For the fastest buzz on Lake Macquarie get jet-buzzed. The "Cheeky Bee" is a thirteen seat jet boat operating from Pelican Marina.

*Ph:* 4972 1777 *Web:* [www.jetbuzz.com.au](http://www.jetbuzz.com.au)

## Moonshadow Cruises

Newcastle Harbour Cruises (November & December) including Dinner, Lunch and Harbour Cruises. Dolphin (year round) and Whale Watch (May - October) Cruises based at Nelson Bay, Port Stephens.

*Ph:* 4984 9388 *Web:* [www.moonshadow.com.au](http://www.moonshadow.com.au)

## Nova Cruises

*Cruises include:* Newcastle Harbour, Historic Morpeth, Hunter River Discovery, Whale Watch, Charter and Special Events. Minimum 25 people, Maximum 57 people.

*Ph:* 0400 381 787 *Web:* [www.novacruises.com.au](http://www.novacruises.com.au)

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## **Port Stephens 4WD Tours**

*Tours include:* 1 hour 4WD Sand Boarding Shuttle, 2 hour Beach & Dune Tours  
*Ph:* 4984 4760 *Web:* [www.portstephens4wd.com.au](http://www.portstephens4wd.com.au)

## **Quad Biking on Stockton Sand Dunes**

**Quadbike King** *Ph:* 4919 0088 / 0427 846 475 *Web:* <http://www.quadbikeking.com.au>

*Location:* James Patterson Street (Birubi Beach bottom carpark), Anna Bay

**Sand Dune Adventures** *Ph:* 4965 1733 *Web:* [www.sandduneadventures.com.au](http://www.sandduneadventures.com.au)

*Location:* Murook Cultural Centre & Café, Nelson Bay Road, Williamtown

## **Rambling Sands Horse Treks**

Enjoy a wide array of flora and fauna. Treks include Bush Trek, Surf n Turf and The Sunset Tour.

*Ph:* 4982 6391 or 0412 403 342 *Web:* [www.ramblingsands.com.au](http://www.ramblingsands.com.au)

## **Sahara Trails Horse Riding**

Scenic trail rides to suit all ages and abilities. Trails include Aussie Bush Trail, Bush Lagoon Ride, Coastal Dune & Beach Ride. *Ph:* 4981 9077 *Web:* [www.saharatrails.com](http://www.saharatrails.com)

## **Tex Tours**

*Tours include:* Hunter Valley Wineries, Port Stephens *Ph:* 0410 462 540 *Web:* [www.textours.com.au](http://www.textours.com.au)

## **Treetop Adventure Park**

Monkey around, moving from tree to tree through a network of rope bridges, flying foxes, trapezes and Tarzan jumps, stretching through the tree canopy.

*Location:* Blue Gum Hills Regional Park, Minmi Road, Minmi *Ph:* 4026 7617

*Web:* [www.treetopadventurepark.com.au](http://www.treetopadventurepark.com.au)

## galleries, museums and historic attractions

### **The Maritime Centre**

The centre features many areas of maritime history, both past and present. The aim is not to just showcase the Maritime Museum collection, but to educate the community in the vital importance of the harbour to Newcastle and surrounding region. Interactive exhibits are a feature.

*Open:* Tuesday - Sunday (closed Monday) 10am - 4pm *Ph:* 4929 2588

*Location:* Lee Wharf, 3 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle *Web:* [www.maritimecentrenewcastle.org.au](http://www.maritimecentrenewcastle.org.au)

### **Christ Church Cathedral**

Take a tour of Christ Church Cathedral and discover its rich history. A survivor of the Japanese submarine attack of WWII and the 1989 Newcastle Earthquake, Christ Church Cathedral is now a fully restored masterpiece. Beautiful grounds and views. *Ph:* *Web:* [www.newcastlecathedral.org.au](http://www.newcastlecathedral.org.au)

### **Fighterworld**

Royal Australian Air Force Museum. Displays of historical planes and modern fighter jets.

*Open:* 7 days, 10am - 4pm

*Location:* RAAF Base, Medowie Road, Williamtown. *Ph:* (02) 4965 1810 *Web:* [www.fighterworld.com.au](http://www.fighterworld.com.au)

### **Fort Scratchley**

Perched high above Newcastle Harbour is Fort Scratchley, constructed during the Crimean War to protect the city from invasion. In 1942, at the height of World War II, the fort returned fire at a Japanese submarine shelling BHP, the only fort in Australia to have engaged the enemy in a maritime attack.

*Open:* Wednesday - Monday (Closed Tuesday) 10am - 4pm.

*Guided Tours:* conducted Saturday & Sunday 11am & 2pm, or by appointment.

*Location:* Nobbys Road, Newcastle East. *Ph:* 4929 3066 *Web:* [www.fortsscratchley.com.au](http://www.fortsscratchley.com.au)

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## **Newcastle Region Art Gallery**

Newcastle Region Art Gallery is the custodian of one of Australia's most substantial public art collections outside the major capital cities.

*Open:* Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 5pm *Location:* Laman Street, Newcastle

*Ph:* 4974 5100 *Web:* [www.nag.com.au](http://www.nag.com.au)

## **Convict Lumberyard**

The Convict Lumber Yard was one of Newcastle's first settlement sites, signifying the birth of the city and the coal industry.

*Open:* 7 days *Location:* Scott Street, Newcastle. (Behind Customs House Hotel)

## **The Lock-up**

Home to John Paynter Gallery, Police Station Museum, Hunter Writer's Centre and more.

Guided tours available by appointment

*Open:* Wednesday & Thursday 10am - 4pm, Friday - Sunday 10am - 5pm, Monday & Tuesday by appointment. *Location:* 90 Hunter Street, Newcastle *Ph:* 4925 2265 *Web:* [www.thelockup.info](http://www.thelockup.info)

## **Lovett Gallery**

Regular exhibitions and book launches.

*Open:* Monday-Wednesday 9.30am-8pm, Thursday & Friday 9.30am-5pm, Saturday 9.30am-2pm

*Location:* Cultural Centre (Newcastle Region Library), Laman Street, Newcastle.

*Ph:* 4974 5300 *Web:* [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/services/newcastle\\_library/exhibitions](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/services/newcastle_library/exhibitions)

## **Maitland Gaol**

Maitland Gaol has a vibrant history spanning more than 150 years. After housing some of Australia's most hardened and notorious criminals, Maitland Gaol closed as a Correctional Institution in 1998. The cell doors have now been swung open, with visitors invited to serve a small amount of time learning about the facility, past prisoners and daring escapes. The gaol also hosts exciting events, functions and laser skirmish.

*Tours include:* Self Guided Audio, Ex-Inmate/Ex-Warder/History, Psychic.

*Open:* 7 days, 9am - 5pm *Location:* John Street, East Maitland *Ph:* 4936 6482

*Web:* [www.maitlandgaol.com.au](http://www.maitlandgaol.com.au)

## **Outback Art**

Offers an incredible range of fine art with most well known artists represented among some 1000 pieces.

*Open:* Sat and Sun 12noon - 5pm *Location:* 64 Industrial Drive, Mayfield *Ph:* 4963 3229 *Web:*

[www.outbackart.net.au](http://www.outbackart.net.au)

## dining and entertainment

### **Beaumont Street**

The original and largest eat-street in Newcastle is located in the suburb of Hamilton, only minutes from the city centre. Beaumont Street is the multicultural centre of Newcastle where diners can sample flavours from every corner of the globe.

### **Darby Street**

Darby Street is the trendy eating hub of inner Newcastle, coloured by a range of unique galleries and boutiques. Choose from over 25 cafes, restaurants and takeaways located along Newcastle's most cosmopolitan dining strip. From Thai to Mediterranean, coffee to wine, brunch to supper - Darby Street caters for all.

### **Honeysuckle & Harbour Foreshore**

Newcastle Harbour is home to the Honeysuckle precinct and picturesque Harbour Foreshore. The Boardwalk at Honeysuckle links the Foreshore promenade with Queens Wharf and Foreshore Park, lining the waterfront with cafes and restaurants, all with glorious views of the active working harbour. There is a wide range of both casual and upmarket culinary experiences to tantalise the tastebuds.

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## **The Junction**

Just a few minutes south of the city centre lays The Junction - an upmarket eating and boutique shopping precinct close to the beach. The Junction caters for all tastes with Mexican, Asian, Italian, stylish cafes and more. Enjoy a laid back breakfast, or wine and dine at your leisure.

## **Beachfront**

Scattered along Newcastle's stunning 5km coastline, from Stockton to Merewether, there are surf club kiosks, cafes, restaurants, a bowling club and a pub. Everything from takeaway to five-star dining can be found wave-side along the city's beaches.

## **Clubs**

*Newcastle Panthers*, Cnr King & Union Streets, Newcastle *Ph:* 4926 2700

*Newcastle RSL Club*, 175 Scott Street, Newcastle *Ph:* 4952 3888

*West's New Lambton*, 88 Hobart Road, New Lambton *Ph:* 4935 1200

*West's Mayfield*, Industrial Drive, Mayfield *Ph:* 4967 4044

*Stockton RSL*, Cnr Clyde & Douglas Streets, Stockton *Ph:* 4928 2333

*Adamstown Club*, 282 Brunner Road, Adamstown *Ph:* 4929 3473

*Wallsend Diggers*, 5 Tyrell Street, Wallsend *Ph:* 4951 7000

*Souths Leagues Club*, 46 Llewellyn Street, Merewether *Ph:* 4963 1120

## **Eat Local**

For a comprehensive Newcastle dining resource, visit [www.eatlocal.com.au](http://www.eatlocal.com.au)

## **Dining Out & Entertainment Guide**

Pick up a copy from the Maritime Centre Newcastle or visit [www.diningout.com.au](http://www.diningout.com.au)

Please note: Details within this document are subject to change without notice. Opening hours and availability are subject to change during Holiday periods.