

STUART'S COACHES

Tuesday 18 June . Monday 24 June 2019

7 DAY BALLINA TOUR



Villages and small communities; each with its own distinctive style and character and at the mouth of the Richmond River is the town of Ballina where we base ourselves to explore the areas. The black and white picture is Ballina Manor in 1925.

Day 1 (LD) NOWRA TO FORSTER Tuesday 18 June 2019

Welcome to our **7 day Ballina Tour**. This morning we **depart Stuarts Depot at 7:00am**, to explore Ballina and the surrounding areas. Sit back, relax and meet your fellow travelers as we make our way via the outskirts of Sydney to the **Central Coast**. Here we'll make a stop for **lunch** at the **Sanctuary Café** set amidst tranquil bushland and landscaped gardens. The café is part of the **Ken Duncan Photographic Gallery** so we have time following lunch to take a wander around the gallery. This afternoon we bypass Newcastle and travel through Bulahdelah onto our destination of **Forster**. Upon arrival we check in and freshen up for dinner. *(Lunch at café, dinner in motel)*

Island Palms Motor Inn Forster - 02 6554 5555 – 1 night

Day 2 (BLD) FORSTER TO BALLINA Wednesday 19 June 2019

Back on the road again we continue north, arriving in Coffs Harbour we head to **Bruxner Park** driving up through banana plantations and avocado groves to the **Forest Sky Pier**. The Forest Sky Pier is located on an escarpment 310 metres above Coffs Harbour offering views out to the coast; on a clear day you can see quite a distance to the south. Lunch today is at the Australian Hotel in **Grafton** before the afternoon drive to **Ballina** where we check in to **Ballina Byron Islander Resort and Conference Centre** which is central to the major attractions of the town and a good base from which to do our local touring. *(Breakfast and dinner in hotel, lunch at Australian Hotel)*

Ballina Byron Islander Resort and Conference Centre 02 6686 8866 - 4 nights

Day 3 (BD) BANGALOW AND BYRON BAY Thursday 20 June 2019

This morning we are off to the pretty village of **Bangalow** nestled in a lush valley behind Byron Bay with its gentle village atmosphere and heritage buildings sympathetically restored. There are craft shops and cafes along the main street to enjoy. From here we continue to **Byron Bay**, located at Cape Byron which is Australia's most Easterly point. We park the coach and take a look at the lighthouse precinct and take a short walk towards the point. (*A lighthouse tour is NOT included due to the large number of steps involved*). Back in town we spend some free time in this popular seaside resort which boasts a variety of lifestyles and is now home to some of Australia's best known rich and famous. From Byron Bay we tour south along the coast – a scenic drive through Lennox Heads and back to Ballina. (*Breakfast at the motel/ Lunch own arrangements and cost/ Dinner included in resort*)

Day 4 (BLD) BALLINA Friday 21 June 2019

Today we enjoy a day's touring of the Ballina area. We start with a visit to the **Martime Museum**. Perhaps the most famous exhibit here is the 12-metre long and 6-metre wide Las Balsas which landed at Ballina on 21 November, 1973. The balsa wood raft floated across the Pacific from Ecuador, a journey of 3760 nautical miles which it achieved in 178 days. It was originally planning to land at Mooloolaba in Queensland but coastal currents swept it south to Ballina. By the early 1980s more than 15,000 people a year were stopping in Ballina to see the raft. Next, we take a look at the heritage listed **Ballina Manor**. Now operating as a boutique hotel, it's open for tours to show us a unique example of Ballina's history. Historically popular, the tour provides a wonderful insight into the life and transformations of the manor, its history and background. We have some free time to purchase lunch before our afternoon visit to the fascinating **Thursday Plantation**. This is where Tea Tree Oil and off-shoot products are produced on a large scale. One million trees shooting skywards are busting with vigour and good vibrations, calling you irresistibly to come and learn their secret. Tea Tree Oil is native only to Australia and has natural but powerful antiseptic, anti-fungal and germicidal qualities. From here we return to our resort with time to relax before dinner. (*Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included in resort*)

Day 5 (BL) LISMORE LANTERN PARADE Saturday 22 June 2019

This morning we head west to **Eltham Valley Pantry** - a working pecan and coffee plantation. We enjoy a **guided tour** of the farm and a viewing of the operation as well as a delicious **lunch**. This afternoon we head back to Ballina for a little free time. After we have freshened up we are all ready for the night's festivities and the **Lismore Lantern Parade***. In 1994 the first Lantern Parade was held in response to community concerns about antisocial behaviour and economic decline in Lismore's CBD, bringing people into the often deserted city centre in a safe and celebratory environment. There are arts & crafts, regional cuisine, street theatre and much more. The Lantern Parade is held early evening with spectacular lanterns and illuminated puppets followed by a fireworks display. Dinner is at our own arrangement tonight and at a designated time we reboard the coach and return to Ballina. (*Breakfast in motel, lunch included, dinner at own cost*)

***The Lantern Parade & day's program will be advised closer to the event.**

Day 6 (BLD) BALLINA TO PORT MACQUARIE Sunday 23 June 2019

What a wonderful night we had last night, we farewell our hosts this morning and depart Ballina. We travel south along the coast and deviate into the picturesque area of **Yamba** – a seaside town on the southern side of the Clarence River estuary. The Yamba Lighthouse is located on South Head and stands 41m above sea level offering us fine views of the coastline. It is also a popular whale watching site during whale season. Travelling through Coffs Harbour

we reach **Urunga** where we'll stop for lunch at the **Anchors Wharf Café**, situated right on the Kalang River. We arrive into our destination of **Port Macquarie** where we settle into our accommodation for the final night on tour. *(Breakfast and dinner in motel, lunch at Anchors Wharf Café)*

Water's Edge Port Macquarie - 02 6583 2955 – 1 night

Day 7 (B) PORT MACQUARIE TO HOME Monday 24 June 2019

Our final day on tour sees us travel for home. We make stops along the way and to purchase lunch. We arrive home late afternoon with many wonderful memories of our 7 day holiday with new found friends made along the way. *(Breakfast in motel)*

All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions, e.g. churches, wineries etc. We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to closures, inclement weather etc.

\$300 per person deposit at time of booking
Minimum No's needed for this to proceed

Balance by 22nd April 2019

Booking Terms & Conditions

Accommodation is on share room basis in Motels, Hotels etc. The accommodation named may be altered without notice.

The right is reserved to amend or modify the Itinerary at any time without notice for unpredictable weather or road conditions or for any other reason beyond our control.

Cancellation Fees: In the event of cancellation of a tour the following fees apply:

- 60 days or more prior to departure, loss of deposit.
- Between 7 and 59 days prior to departure, 50% of tour price.
- Less than 7 days prior to departure, 100% of tour price.

Refunds: No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour after departure.

Responsibilities: Stuarts Travel advises that the service it provides is for the booking and packaging of goods and services provided by other operators such as hotels, motels and transportation companies. Passengers are advised to familiarize themselves with the terms and conditions on which these services are supplied.

Accordingly, Stuarts Travel will not be responsible and will be excluded from any liability for any loss, damage, omission or acts being negligent or otherwise, committed by the operators of airlines, coach lines, rail travel, hotels/motels or attractions used in connection with the tour.

The operator of this tour is **Stuarts Travel Pty Ltd**

Payment to Stuarts Travel acknowledges that you have read, understand and accept these booking conditions.

It is recommended to take out Travel Insurance at the time of booking your tour.