

# Mudgee and the NSW Central West

Walks, wineries and  
colonial heritage

Departs 22nd May 2022

Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different





**\$2,850 pp**

Twin-share

Single supp \$900

## MUDGEE AND NSW CENTRAL WEST

Mudgee is one of the main towns in the NSW Central West region. It has a population of around 12,500 and is well known for its historical buildings, vineyards and food culture. While the town itself is a wonderful place to visit, the entire region has much to offer and using Mudgee as a base is an ideal hub for daily trips in different directions.

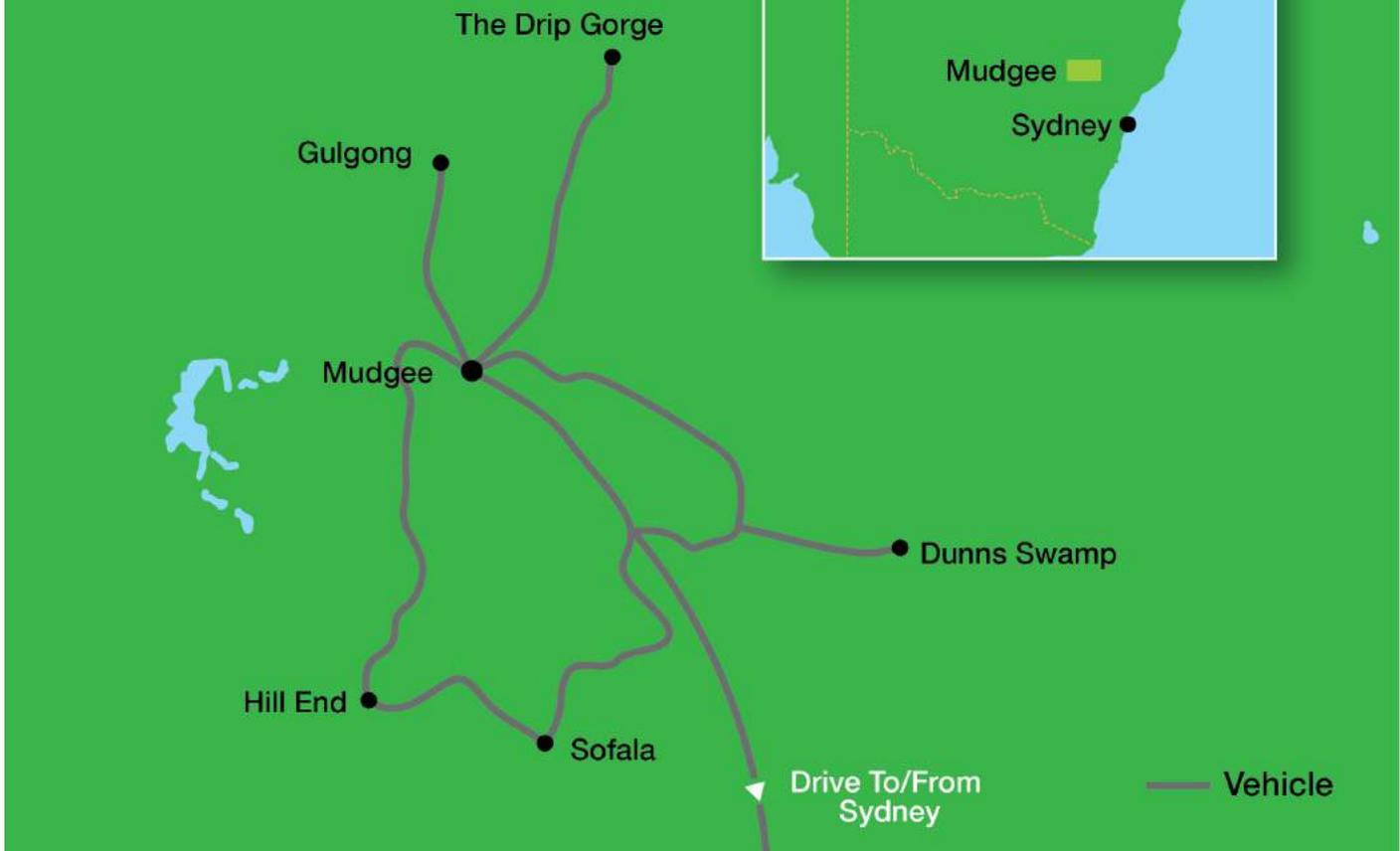
Your hosted tour will take in the best the area has to offer including outstanding accommodation (you won't want to leave), some food experiences that you will never forget, visits to some of the many family owned vineyards, and short trips to surrounding towns – many of them with great historical significance. You'll picnic beside an olive grove and learn about olive oil farming and the extraction process. There is an opportunity to explore Mudgee in depth, and also visit Rylstone, Gulgong, Hill End, Sofala and experience the stunning drive into Dunns Swamp.

Mudgee and its surrounds has around 60 wineries. 20 or 30 years ago, it was treated with disdain by the industry (especially those in the Hunter who were worried about the competition). Their red wines were even referred to as "Mudgee Mud". That's all changed now and the Central West produces outstanding wines with the hero varieties being Cabernet Sauvignon and Riesling. It does however produce many other grape varieties.

We have developed a six day luxury stay with food, sight-seeing, Australian goldfields history and activities planned each day. We guarantee you'll want to come back.

Your tour price includes 5 nights accommodation at Mudgee Homestead & Guesthouse, 5 cooked breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners, daily afternoon teas at the guesthouse, two wine tastings, the Gulgong museum visit, and our local guide at Hill End. Price excludes all alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks plus transfer to and from Mudgee. Note: the order of activities may change.

# NEW SOUTH WALES



## Day 1, Sunday 22nd May ARRIVAL

Today you'll make your own way to the Mudgee Homestead Guesthouse set in the foothills

with stunning views. Here, you'll stay for the entire 5 nights of your trip. The drive will take about 3.5 - 4 hours from Sydney (you can also fly into Mudgee, although the schedule seems to change regularly). Check-in is anytime from 3.30pm onwards. (No one is there to assist prior to this). Your hosts, Karen and Sean, are delightful people and look forward to welcoming you. Dinner tonight is at the Oriental Hotel ("the Orrie" as the locals refer to it) in the middle of town. *D*



## Day 2, Monday 23rd May DUNNS SWAMP — RYLSTONE

After a hearty breakfast, we'll head to Dunns Swamp or "Ganguddy" by its indigenous name. We will go for a light trek around the area. In summer, this is a popular camping and swimming destination. The drive into Dunns Swamp is

quintessential Australia. Rolling hills, gums, creeks and stony out crops. The area enjoys an outstanding biodiversity of plant and animal communities.



Over 100 birds species have been spotted. After this visit of around 2-3 hours, we'll head to Rylstone to sample their famous dumplings. Rylstone is a small town of around 600 residents. The main strip has a few antique and mixed business shops where you will find many nostalgic items from the 50's and 60's. We're planning some lovely platters in the fabulous bar room back at the Guesthouse for dinner. *B/L/D*

## Day 3, Tuesday 24th May MUDGE VINEYARDS

Today we're going to visit two of the many vineyards in



Mudgee for a wine tasting. If you find something you like, buy it at the cellar door and take it home with you. Lunch (at your own cost) could be at one of the vineyards or back in town – we can decide along the way. For those interested, we can take the short drive to the Putta Bucca wetlands for a short stroll to see the birdlife. Dinner tonight is at Elton's restaurant and bar in town. **B/D**



**Day 4,  
Wednesday  
25th May  
BUSH WALK TO  
"THE DRIP"  
AND LUNCH AT  
GUNNEMOROO  
OLIVE FARM**

After breakfast we'll head north to the "Drip" walking track in Ulan, about 30 minutes-drive. This walk is about 3 km return, so we'll allow about 1 hour 30 minutes to enjoy the location. It is a fairly easy walk for most but on an uneven track. The Drip is so called, due of the constant dripping of water from the incredible sandstone rock formation. It is a lovely stroll along the Goulburn River in the national park and well worth the effort (good walking shoes needed). Then we'll head to Guneemooroo Olive grove and vineyard – about 50 minute's drive - to learn about the region's olives, have a wine tasting and lunch. Dinner tonight is likely to be a casual BBQ back at the Guesthouse in the bar room. **B/L/D**



**Day 5,  
Thursday 26th  
May  
GULGONG  
AND SPECIAL  
DINNER**

Gulgong is a small, 19th century gold rush town of around 2,500 people. Walking down the main street takes you back in time. You may think you are in the middle of a movie set from a western. We'll spend an hour or so in town, stroll through the main street and some of backstreets and visit the Pioneers Museum. Lunch is included and will be in town at one of the pubs or, the local Thai which gets the thumbs up from the locals. Then we'll head back to the lodge for a few hours down time before heading off to Pipeclay at the Robert Stein Vineyard for dinner – a 15 minute drive away. This is regarded as one of the region's best restaurants. [www.pipeclaypumphouse.com.au](http://www.pipeclaypumphouse.com.au) It serves a degustation menu and all of the produce comes

from the local area. This will be a meal experience you won't forget. **B/L/D**

**Day 6, Friday  
27th May  
HILL END —  
HOME OR  
NEXT  
DESTINATION**

Today we'll check out of the Guesthouse after breakfast, say goodbye to Mudgee and head to Hill End where we'll take a guided tour. The drive will take a little over an hour. This was serious gold-mining territory in the 1800s. Hill End peaked in the 1850s with a population of around 8,000 people (and 28 pubs)!. By the mid 1900s the gold was running and out today, there are just 60 or so folks living there. Hill End is famous for the world's largest gold nugget at 290 kg. Local businessman Bernhardt Holtermann became super rich, super fast! At today's value the 93 kilos of solid gold within the nugget is worth about 7 million dollars. After the tour, we'll head to the local bakery or pub for lunch before heading home or to your next destination. **B/L**



Icon indicates a day where there is **moderate physical exertion**. A basic level of fitness is required: eg. A trek over 'mostly flat' terrain or climbing several flights of steps without the support of handrails or elevators.



Icon indicates a day where there is a **particularly active section**. A good level of fitness is required: eg. A longer trek over non-groomed, uneven terrain, or ascending to reach a panorama. May also include exposure to higher altitude. **An alternate activity may be offered if you choose to sit out an active section.** Please call - we are happy to discuss each tour in more detail.