

Sydney Sightseeing – Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains are the most popular day-out destination from Sydney, and as you would expect for the 'land down under' you arrive at the top of the mountains and if you go for a walk it will be down to the valley and then a steep climb back again!

There is Australian native wildlife and lots of man-made attractions to keep you busy, and best of all spectacular views - easily accessible by public transport.



There are three ways to experience this World Heritage area

1. Tourist Coach
2. Public transport (Explorer ticket for train/loop bus)
3. By car

A car is not necessarily the best option, as it is a long drive. The train/bus option gets you to all of the main places of interest and is cheaper than a tourist coach, but of course you need to research and plan your own itinerary.

Inter-urban trains run every hour and take two hours from Central to Katoomba.

Whichever option you chose start early as it is full day out and if you can, avoid public holidays and when bad weather is expected. It can be surprisingly cold in the mountains at any time of year relative to the conditions in Sydney.

On the way there some tours visit the Penrith Olympic White Water Centre (Right) or press on to the foothills of the Blue Mountains and visit Euroka Clearing, again, not all tours visit this part of the Blue Mountains National Park.





Turn off the Great Western Highway at Glenbrook, pay park entry fee, collect visitor guide and drive carefully along the dirt roads to the Clearing, Portal lookouts and the Red Hand Cave.

Most people then head for Katoomba the largest town in the mountains. Visiting the Edge Cinema, just across the road from the railway station is highly recommended. The movie 'The

Edge' runs every 45 minutes during the day and gives visitors a valuable and comprehensive introduction to the region.

The town, like nearby Leura, is full of old world charm, from the recently restored Carrington Hotel, old style second hand bookshops, tea rooms and cafes.

Catch the 'step-on step-off' loop bus service to Echo Point Lookout to see the Jamison Valley and Three Sisters. The visitor centre there can provide guides, maps and arrange short term accommodation if staying overnight. One of the best walks is from the Lookout to the Three Sisters and then down to the valley below via an iron staircase, then follow the path to the foot of the cliffs below the Scenic World tourist attraction (about 1.5 Hours). Take a well earned ride on either the Scenic Ascender or Railway (claimed to be the steepest railway in the world) back to the top of the escarpment. Pay fee at top and catch loop bus back to town or any of the other attractions.

A word of warning:
Bushwalking can be great fun but is potential dangerous. Always walk as a group and leave word of where you are going. Never walk without a guide or map. Take food and plenty of water, extra clothing as it gets very cold when the sun goes down. Mobile coverage is patchy, but might be a lifesaver so make sure it is fully charged. And finally stick to the path.



Where you see a walking path listed as a 'pass' it may be something like the Wentworth Pass above - look closely to see the people!

If staying overnight a trip to the Jenolan Caves is possible. Railway enthusiasts may like to visit the Zig-Zag Railway a turn of the century engineering marvel which is now restored and runs steam services at weekends.

Enjoy your trip to the Blue Mountains