

SCENIC AND HISTORIC DRIVES

ROUTE 5 RIVER TO RIVER

DRIVE DESCRIPTION

Boasting stunning views of the Southern Tablelands rolling hills, this journey spans the Sydney Water Catchment from Crookwell to Wollondilly River Country.

POINTS OF INTEREST

• Crookwell

At close to a thousand metres above sea level, Crookwell has a cool climate and high rainfall, creating lush green landscapes and beautiful gardens. The town boasts a range of specialty shops and it's a great place to look for gifts or collectibles. Be sure to call in to the Crookwell Visitor Information Centre for an update on things to see and do while you are in the area, before heading out of town to Laggan.

• Laggan

The drive from Crookwell to Laggan will take around 10 to 15 minutes, through pretty, picturesque rural countryside. Laggan is home to the famous Laggan Markets, which run on the third Saturday of each month. If you book ahead, Laggan Pantry offers superb meals and you can try some of the amazing beers produced in their craft brewery. Laggan Hotel offers great pub meals and a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.

• Crystal Brook Gardens & Lavender Farm

From Laggan take the Taralga road and you'll soon be driving through spectacular hill country, with stunning views to the far horizon. Around 10 km out of Laggan, turn left at Tyrl Tyrl road and head down to Crystal Brook Gardens & Lavender Farm. Peak lavender season is December and January, but the property features a range of gardens and has something interesting to see at any time of year.

• Taralga

After visiting the lavender farm, head back to the Taralga Road, turn left and drive through more stunning countryside. It will take around 20 minutes to reach Taralga, which features many wonderful historic stone buildings, the Taralga Historical Museum, specialty shops, cafés and two excellent pubs.

• Taralga Wildlife Park

From Taralga you will need to find Bunnaby Street and then head out of town on the Bannaby Road, taking you past the spectacular, State Heritage listed Christ the King Catholic Church and the Taralga Showground. The Taralga Wildlife Park is 2 km past the Showground and is open from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., Thursday to Monday (every day during school holidays). You'll be able to see an amazing collection of unusual fauna and the petting zoo is always a big hit with the kids!

• Bannaby

From the Wildlife Park, keep heading out along the Bannaby Road to experience some truly awesome countryside. As you head to Bannaby through rolling hills and Eucalypt forests, the stunning views over the surrounding landscape just keep getting better and you can really appreciate the concept of "wide open spaces"! When you get to Bannaby, be sure to have a look at historic St Matthews Anglican Church, which was built in 1898.

DISTANCE

55 km

Driving Time

Approximately 1 hour (remember to take it easy on country roads!)



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