

# Whats New in New South Wales

## Number One SYD Tour

Blue Diamond Tours proudly sits at number one in the 131 Sydney tours listed on TripAdvisor, and owners Roberto and Alena Michail have recently welcomed their 100th five-star review. The tour company provides luxury personalised Blue Mountains tours in a 14-seat Mercedes Benz vehicles. Highlights include a visit to the Featherdale Wildlife Park, river cruise to Circular Quay and a free photo with a koala. See [bluediamondtours.net](http://bluediamondtours.net)

## Kiwis Like Apartments

With more room to move and the ability to keep costs down, Kiwi travellers definitely see the value in staying in an apartment, says George Berg of Tweed Ultima holiday apartments. They get great trade from New Zealand, he says, with Kiwis often booking their 130 apartments found on the border of Queensland and NSW in the twin towns of Tweed and Coolangatta. Much of their business is from returnees. Meanwhile Apartments Inn has just launched in the Kiwi market, and managing director Cameron Arnold says their location is ideal for those on self-drive holidays heading from the Gold Coast down to Sydney. The 43 apartments are a two-minute walk to the main beach of Byron. See [tweedultima.com.au](http://tweedultima.com.au) or [apartmentsinnbyron.com.au](http://apartmentsinnbyron.com.au)



## Self-Drive Sydney To Melbourne

Sydney Melbourne Touring's Anthony Jiang says they have had a fantastic response from the trade to its video guide, which allows visitors to see short video clips of where they can stop while planning a self-drive. It's a great selling tool for agents, says Jiang, and all videos are available to the trade. The company offers four tours between Sydney and Melbourne. Popular with Kiwis is the Sydney-Melbourne Coastal Drive along the east coast. See [sydnymelbournetouring.com.au](http://sydnymelbournetouring.com.au)

## Tour The Shire

Anyone with a NSW-bound cricket-mad client might consider sending them on a Canons Shuttles & Sydney Day Tours Cricket Legends Tour, which spends up to two hours in the Sir Donald Bradman Museum and the International Cricket Hall of Fame, as well as visiting the Symbio Zoo, Sea Cliff Bridge and Grand Pacific Drive. Canons has a fleet of 13-seat vehicles and access to 24-seat buses, and offers a range of tours in the Sutherland Shire as well as shuttle services. See [canonsshuttles.com.au](http://canonsshuttles.com.au)

## NSW Foodie Heaven

Clients looking for something different on their next trip to Sydney other than the usual tourist sites could opt for a boutique Ultimately Sydney gourmet food tour. A South Sydney tour with a Mediterranean/Asian theme begins with Lebanese sweets and coffee, and visits a Greek butchery and bakery, while an Inner West tour samples a blend of Australian and European culinary delights.

Clients on the tours can shop to their heart's content, with a fridge on-board to keep their purchases fresh. Ultimately Sydney also offers a charter service.

See [ultimatelysydney.com.au](http://ultimatelysydney.com.au)



## Surf Like The Aussies

NSW operators have noticed that visitors are increasingly keen to do what the locals do, and on Bondi Beach, what the locals do is surf. Let's Go Surfing offers a range of surfing lessons catering to individuals, families, groups and incentives, adventure travellers and premium travellers. Especially popular is their private family lesson, a tailored lesson for mum, dad and the kids allowing everyone to spend some quality time together. See [letsgosurfing.com.au](http://letsgosurfing.com.au)

## Success For Mirvac

Bookings across the group are growing for the Mirvac Hotels & Resorts portfolio, says regional director of sales and marketing Stephen Ricardo. The group's properties include the unique Q Station in Manly, located in the Sydney Harbour National Park. Rich in history, it is the site of Australia's first and longest-running quarantine station. Ricardo says they are keen to see more FIT and small group travellers. See [mirvachotels.com](http://mirvachotels.com)

## Conference Growth

Ballina Beach Resort has seen significant growth in the conference market of 50-60% following repositioning, says director Alan Chamberlain, proving its appeal to the MICE market. Located near Byron Bay, it claims to be ideal for an event with a difference—with private gardens, elegant meeting facilities and flexible accommodation options. The resort has 46 rooms ranging from deluxe suites to family rooms. See [ballinabeachresort.com.au](http://ballinabeachresort.com.au)

## Sailing Sydney's Success

Explore NZ launched a Sydney version of its popular Auckland-based Sail NZ operation on America's Cup yachts in Jan, and Explore's Sarah Farrelly says they have been hectic since opening in the Darling Harbour. During the sailing experiences on grand prix racing yachts AUS21 and AUS40, passengers can get hands-on and help the crew or sit back and relax. There are also weekly match races, and charters for up to 350 people are available. See [sailingsydney.net](http://sailingsydney.net)

## Kiwis Risky Snappers

When it comes to taking a photo, the typical Kiwi laid-back 'I don't care' attitude comes in handy, says Photography Tours director Alfonso Calero. "Kiwis are a lot freer, they have a very free-thinking, risk-taking approach," he says. Calero hosts three-hour photography tours through The Rocks in Sydney, where participants can pick up handy technical and creative skills to take home with them. See [therocksphotographytour.com](http://therocksphotographytour.com)



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