

# Tourist Drive 26

'Spectacular coastal views and national parks nestled aside the rich countryside'.

Tourist Drive 26 takes you through an area that is still one of the Northern Rivers best kept secrets.

You'll be surprised when you discover some of the best ocean vistas, headlands and lookouts on the North Coast. The untouched national parks that surround are alive with native wildlife and birdlife, and steeped with an amazing wealth of rich Aboriginal history.

The impressive Evans River system provides a safe swimming experience, and the oceans surrounding Evans Head are known for their highly recommended and uncrowded surf breaks.

Woodburn's quirky shopfronts, full of handmade pieces and retro wares, are sure to entertain, and the delightful cafes that line the street are guaranteed to satisfy the fussiest customer. Enjoy the views of the mighty Richmond River as you embark on your tourist drive.

With so much to see and do, all within just 32 kilometres, you could take much longer than half a day to discover it all. We hope you'll be back to enjoy this spectacular part of the Richmond Valley.



SMALL TOWNS  
*Big  
Adventures*



## COASTAL SELF-DRIVE TOUR TOURIST DRIVE 26



- Woodburn - Evans Head - Broadwater -  
32 kilometres - Half Day Tour



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## WOODBURN 1

Beginning at the Woodburn Riverside Park, located in the heart of town, take a moment to admire the mighty Richmond River system. The park is perfect for a relaxing stop to enjoy a locally brewed coffee before heading off on your adventures. The business area adjacent to the park offers an eclectic mix of handmade wares and zesty cafe-style eateries.

**1 River Emporium** - Travel north 500 metres along River Street (the Pacific Highway) and stop into the River Emporium for a retro shopping experience. Selling vintage furniture, clothing and antiques, the Emporium will ignite emotions of nostalgia and excite collectors of all things antique and vintage. Open 7 days a week.

## BLUEPOOL 2

Continue 100 metres north and turn right off of the Pacific Highway, onto Alfred Street, which then turns into Woodburn Evans Head Road, and follow the directional signage toward Evans Head. Travel along Woodburn Evans Head Road for approximately 7.5 kilometres and turn right onto Blue Pool Road following signage to arrive at the Blue Pool.

**2 Evans Head Blue Pool** - Here you will find yourself in a world away from it all yet right on the doorstep of a coastal village. This is a special spot to sit quietly and enjoy peaceful, serene surrounds. The waterhole is a result of a former gray shale quarry site which has filled with rain and spring water. An adjacent shale area contains 200 million year old plant fossils. Keep your eye out for local wildlife including koalas.

## EVANS HEAD 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Retrace your tracks and head back to the intersection of Blue Pool Road and Woodburn Evans Head Road. Turn right and continue onto the entrance of the Evans Head township where you will pass the Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome on your left. Turn left at the roundabout and follow Currajong Street for 200 metres. Turn left onto Memorial Airport Drive and follow the road until you reach the entrance to the aerodrome.

**3 Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome Heritage Aviation Museum** - Open every Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm, the museum is home to full-sized retired aircraft such as an F1-11 fighter jet, a Caribou and many other displays and simulators as well as showcasing the histories and importance of the aerodrome site throughout WWII. During WWII, this aerodrome was the largest RAAF training base in the Southern Hemisphere with over 5000 personnel living and working on site, many with their families living onsite in make-shift tents.

Return to Currajong Street and continue east until you reach the roundabout in Beech Street. Turn right and travel along Beech Street until you reach the t-intersection and entrance to Evans Head Main Beach precinct. Turn right and travel past the Evans Head Bowling Club. Turn left onto Park Street until you reach the retail precinct of the village. Travel through Oak Street and turn left onto Woodburn Street where you can park and visit the Evans Head Living Museum located at the old school site. (19-25 Woodburn St).

**4 Evans Head Living Museum** - Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the Evans Head Living Museum is home to a large collection of memorabilia and photographs relating to seven themes: WWII history of the aerodrome and service personnel; the natural environment; agriculture; fishing; sport; mining; and Aboriginal history.

Leaving the museum, continue east along Woodburn Street and take the third exit of the roundabout onto Elm Street, cross the Evans River bridge and turn right into Bundjalung Street until you reach the entrance to Bundjalung National Park.

**5 Bundjalung National Park** - Home to vast heathland plains, mangrove mudflats, sandy beaches and rocky coastal headlands, Bundjalung National Park is an important wetland area for many shorebirds which roost and nest along the creek beds. The area holds spiritual significance to the local Bundjalung people and was used as a camping site during the winter months. Picnic tables are located on the riverside tracks perfect for a peaceful rest alongside the river bank.

Drive out of the National Park and continue east along Ocean Drive, following the riverbanks until you reach Razorback Lookout.

**6 Razorback Lookout** - Featuring stunning panoramic views of the Northern Rivers coastline and hinterland, Razorback Lookout is a popular location for whale watching, picnicking, and relaxing. Evans Head Marine Rescue headquarters are located on site with ideal views of the Evans River mouth and surrounding headland. Interpretive signage in the picnic area identifies snippets of Evans Head history, and importance of the area to the Bundjalung people of the Bundjalung Nation. To the east you will see Goanna Headland and Dirawong Reserve.

Leaving the lookout, turn left and travel along Ocean Drive until you reach the entrance to Goanna Headland and Dirawong Reserve.

**7 Dirawong Reserve** - Spanning approximately 300 hectares, the Dirawong Reserve is home to coastal heaths, wetlands, and rocky headlands. The reserve holds great spiritual significance to the traditional custodians, the Bundjalung People. Six designated walking tracks are open to the public and throughout each trail you will experience stunning coastal views, breath taking headlands, and glorious native flora and fauna.

Follow Ocean Drive into Wirraway Avenue until you reach Evans Road. Turn left and follow the road until you reach the Chinamans Beach carpark.

**8 Chinamans Beach** - Bound by the native bushland of Bundjalung National, Chinamans Beach is a secluded beach with a colourful history. Interpretive signage at the viewing deck gives an insight into the activities that occurred in times past. A bush trail approximately 100m long leads you to the beachfront where you will be delighted by the pristine sands and turquoise waters. Snapper Headland to the south is a grassy headland perfect for a secluded picnic or relaxing rest.

Retrace your tracks heading back toward the township of Evans Head.

**9 Evans River** - The Evans River rises from Tuckombil Canal near Woodburn, and flows in a meandering course generally east, south, and then northeast before reaching its mouth at Evans Head. Sandy river flats provide excellent swimming, boating, and fishing opportunities.

## BROADWATER 10 11 12

Head along Woodburn Street until you reach Liberty Service Centre on your right. Turn right onto Booyong Street and follow the road until you round the bend into Beech Street. Continue along Beech Street where you will leave Evans Head onto Broadwater Evans Head Road. Follow Broadwater Evans Head Road for 5km until you reach Broadwater Beach Road on your right.

**10 Broadwater Beach** - Situated alongside the Broadwater National Park, Broadwater Beach is a quiet and secluded beach with rolling dunes, colourful sands, and coffee rock scattered across the shorelines. The coastal heath of the National Park is home to many species of birdlife and presents the ideal conditions for birdwatching. The beach is 4WD accessible, however the vehicular access point is located 5 kilometres north of Broadwater on Boundary Creek Road, or via Airforce Beach in Evans Head.

Continue along Broadwater Road until you reach the Pacific Highway. Turn left and head south approximately two kilometres where you will find the Broadwater Koala Sanctuary on your right.

**11 Broadwater Koala Sanctuary** - Take the chance to view koalas nesting in their natural habitats at the Broadwater Koala Sanctuary. Follow the designated walking tracks on a peaceful stroll keeping your eyes peeled for these precious native Australian mammals. Signage throughout the reserve gives you further insight into the habits and behaviours of the koalas.

Retrace your steps and head north along the Pacific Highway approximately three kilometres until you reach your final destination, Our Daily Bread Cafe.

**12 Our Daily Bread Cafe** - Set on the edge of Broadwater in the recently refurbished Catholic Church, Our Daily Bread Cafe is a delightful and unique location to enjoy a relaxing coffee and bite to eat. Located within the cafe is a pottery gallery comprising of mainly 50s, 60s, and 70s pottery and ceramics. The cafe is open 7 days a week.



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