

Welcome

Discover the rich cultural heritage of the Richmond Valley on this scenic self-drive tour.

The Richmond Valley Cultural Heritage Self Drive Tour celebrates our culture and heritage while making the most of the Valley's scenic villages and communities.

Experience the historical museums, marvel at the natural beauty of significant cultural sites, and immerse yourself in the heritage of the early days now gone by.

If you have a little extra time, slow down the pace and explore this self-drive tour over a couple of days. The Valley is home to a number of caravan parks and accommodation premises, available to suit all tastes and budgets.

From the countryside service centre of Casino, to the coastal gem of Evans Head and our beautiful riverside towns in between, the Richmond Valley is a unique and picturesque part of the New South Wales North Coast just waiting to be discovered.

Rainbow Snake

The Rainbow Snake is a creature from Aboriginal mythology. The movement of his huge multicoloured body across the land formed the mountains and the rivers that flow to the ocean. By lifting his tail he makes rainbows.

A LOCAL RAINBOW SNAKE STORY

As told by Douglas Cook.

Rainbow Snake had been very bad. What he did is a secret, and cannot be told here, but it was so bad that a local clever man called on Goanna to chase Rainbow Snake away. Only Goanna was powerful enough to deal with Rainbow Snake. Goanna chased Rainbow Snake down towards the coast and as they went they formed parts of the Richmond River. At Woodburn they left the Richmond River and kept on going. Half-way down the Evans River, Goanna caught Rainbow Snake. Snake turned around and bit him. Goanna then stopped to eat some herbs to heal himself. When he felt better he resumed his chase. Meanwhile, Snake had reached Evans Head. He looked around. Goanna was nowhere to be seen, so he decided to go back. As he turned his body made a small island in the river, now known as Pelican Island. When he spotted Goanna heading towards him, he quickly turned, and this time he kept going until he reached the ocean, and made himself into an island so Goanna wouldn't recognise him. Goanna reached the coast. He lay down facing the sea, waiting for Rainbow Snake to come back. And you can still hear Rainbow Snake and see Goanna today at Evans Head.



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RICHMOND VALLEY CULTURAL HERITAGE SELF-DRIVE TOUR

- Casino - Coraki - New Italy - Woodburn -
- Rileys Hill - Broadwater - Evans Head -
Approx 150 Kilometres - Full Day Tour

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CASINO ①

Begin your journey at the Casino Drill Hall, located on the corner of Centre Street and Stapleton Avenue in South Casino.

① Casino Drill Hall - The Casino Drill Hall was originally built by the Light Horse Brigade in 1908 on land near the post office in Barker Street, Casino before being relocated in the mid-1930s to its current location. The hall was formerly used by 3 Platoon, a company of the 41st Battalion Royal New South Wales regiment. Richmond Valley Council purchased the site in 2015 and the community proposed to turn the hall into the Northern Rivers Military Museum to recognise the region's contributions to the Australian Defence Forces. The museum is open Tuesday and Thursday, 9am - 3pm.

CORAKI ② ③

Exit the Drill Hall by turning right onto Centre Street towards the roundabout. Take the first exit onto Casino Coraki Road. Follow Casino Coraki Road for 30 kilometres and turn left onto Yabsley Street and into Richmond Terrace.

② Coraki Riverbank Healing Stones and Pathways - Centrally located in the heart of Coraki alongside the banks of the Richmond River, the Coraki Riverbank Healing Stones and Pathways were created by artists and volunteers as a tribute to reconciliation between cultures and environment. The healing stones were installed over a two month period using local clay by Goonengerry artist Survia McDonald. The large tiles were fired in the new wood-fired kiln at Southern Cross University. Another sculpture was erected in the vicinity by local artist Dennis Monks and a 'river beach' landscaped into the riverbank a little further downstream.

Continue along Richmond Terrace, passing the local shopping precinct and turn right into Adams Street. Continue 300 metres along Adam Street where you will find the former Woodburn Shire Council Building on your right.

③ Mid Richmond Historical Society - The shire building was erected in 1912 and used by the Woodburn Council until its amalgamation with Tomki Shire Council in 1976 to then become the Richmond River Shire Council. The building and historical society contain the Shire Boards, early photographs of the Mid Richmond villages and WW I and II Honour Boards from around the district. Other rooms in the museum house wartime memorabilia, kitchen and laundry items, family photos and many other items of historical interest. The machinery shed contains a collection of horse and drawn implements and other equipment from earlier times. The museum is open Wed, 10am - 3pm and Sat, 1pm - 3pm.

NEW ITALY ④ ⑤

From the museum, follow Adams Street toward Queen Elizabeth Drive. Turn left onto Queen Elizabeth Drive and make your way toward Woodburn, approximately 19 kilometres. Turn right at the Pacific Highway and head south 20 kilometres where you will reach the New Italy Museum Complex on your right.

④ New Italy Museum Complex - Conveniently located on the Pacific Highway, the mud brick museum, Italian Pavilion, Casa Vecchia Gift Shop and Cafe were built during the 1980s and 1990s by dedicated volunteers who wished to preserve the memory of pioneering Italian families. The museum displays extensive memorabilia of the original families who came to farm here from 1882. Settlement was established when Italian immigrants from the region of Vento in Northern Italy took up a conditional purchase farm of 40 acres. By the mid-1880s, about 50 holdings of more than 3000 acres were under occupation. In the late 1950s, the regional significance of the settlement began to be recognised and the Bicentennial Museum was opened in 1989. The museum and cafe are open 7 days a week.

From the museum, head north along the Pacific Highway approximately 7 kilometres and turn right onto Gap Road. Follow Gap Road for 20 kilometres where you will arrive at Jerusalem Creek in Bundjalung National Park.

⑤ Bundjalung National Park - Extending from the Iluka Nature Reserve in the south, to the coastal township of Evans Head in the north, Bundjalung National Park is home to vast heathland plains, mangrove mudflats, sandy beaches and coastal rocky headlands. Within the park is the **Jerusalem Creek Peninsula Walk**, a two and a half hour return easy grade walking trail that traces Jerusalem Creek, a tea tree-stained freshwater creek. This is an important wetland area for many shorebirds which roost and nest along the creek banks. Watch out for the pied oystercatcher and beach stone-curlew.

WOODBURN ⑥

Drive out of the National Park and onto the township of Woodburn to the Riverside Park.

⑥ Woodburn Riverside Park - Pull up for a rest or a tea and coffee break at the Woodburn Riverside Park, situated alongside the mighty Richmond River. In 1886, the village of Woodburn was established on the northern side of the river and names for the district ranged from Rocky Mouth to Burning Timbers. The name Woodburn was chosen when the official post office opened in 1906 on the southern side of the river, which is the centre of town today. At this time, the hill on which the school is now built was used as a camp by Bundjalung people. The Richmond River was named by Captain Henry John Rous after the fifth Duke of Richmond, Charles Gordon-Lennox. The river was a major port from the 1840s until well into the 20th century, and played an important role in the transportation of Australian red cedar logged in the Richmond Valley region.

RILEYS HILL ⑦

Head north along the Pacific Highway approximately 5 mins and turn left onto Rileys Hill Road. Follow the road for 5 minutes and turn left into Rileys Hill Dock Road.

⑦ Rileys Hill Dry Dock - The Rileys Hill Dry Dock opened in 1900 and is one of three historic dry docks in the Northern Rivers region.

It will take you back to the days where steamships and riverboats commanded the waterways. During this period, the Rileys Hill Dry Dock was the 'service station' of the Richmond River. It provided a facility for the maintenance and repair of the hulls of ships, ferries and boats that worked the river much of the twentieth century. One of the last ships to be serviced before the dock closed in 1991 was the Ballina-based SS South Steyne, now moored at Darling Harbour in Sydney. Six interpretive signs are stationed along the walk to the dry dock.

BROADWATER ⑧

Leaving Rileys Hill, head north until you reach the Pacific Highway at Broadwater. Follow the highway and turn left for Evans Head and Broadwater Beach. On Broadwater Evans Head Road, turn left onto Broadwater Beach Road until you reach the carpark and picnic area.

⑧ 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.

EVANS HEAD ⑨ ⑩

Continue along Broadwater Road until you reach Evans Head. Turn left at the roundabout onto Currajong Street. Follow Currajong Street until you reach Memorial Airport Drive and the Evans Head Aerodrome.

⑨ Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome Heritage Aviation Museum - Located at the Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome in what is known as the Bellman Hangar, the EHMAHAM is home to a plethora of aviation history including full-sized retired aircrafts such as an F1-11 fighter jet, and Caribou aircraft. The museum captures some of the most significant points in Evans Heads' history, and preserves the memory via documents and photographs open to public display. Open weekends, 10am - 4pm.

Leaving the museum, head towards the township of Evans Head along Woodburn Street, past Oak Street and take the third exit at the roundabout onto Ocean Drive. Follow Ocean Drive along the river until you reach your final destination, Dirawong Reserve.

⑩ Dirawong Reserve and Goanna Headland - Located at south Evans Head, the Dirawong Reserve spans approximately 300 hectares comprising of coastal heaths, wetlands, and rocky headlands. The Reserve holds great spiritual significance to the traditional custodians, the Bundjalung people. Six designated walkways are open for public use. Throughout each trail, you will experience stunning coastal views, breath taking headlands, and glorious coastal flora and fauna. You might even spot some native wildlife. Be sure to stop by Razorback Lookout and marvel at the panoramic views of the Northern Rivers coastline and rolling hinterland.

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