



# Central & Outback NSW

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Palace Hotel (p253)
- ➔ Agrestic Grocer (p241)
- ➔ Lowe Wines (p245)
- ➔ Poetry on a Plate (p256)
- ➔ Goldfish Bowl (p236)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Perry Street Hotel (p246)
- ➔ De Russie Suites (p241)
- ➔ Opal Caravan Park (p238)
- ➔ Warrawong on the Darling (p255)
- ➔ Red Earth Motel (p252)

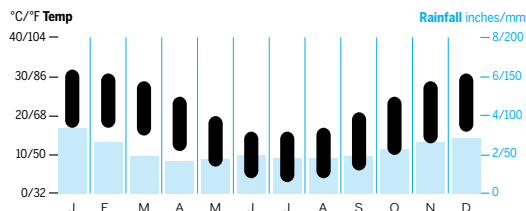
## Why Go?

Trust us, there is life beyond Sydney and the New South Wales coast – and it's worthy of attention. Epicurean retreats like Mudgee and Orange send a siren call to city slickers, Broken Hill's mining heritage is rich and nation-defining, and national parks offer sand dunes, ancient rock art, wildlife-filled forests and glorious walking trails.

From the rolling green hills of New England to the red-dirt glow of the outback, there are some beautifully Australian moments to savour: stargazing into pristine skies, sharing a yarn with eccentrics in mining communities, marvelling over art in the most unlikely places (on pub walls, down opal mines, in a remote paddock). Festivals mark the regions' calendars with excuses to party – from the quirky (Elvis, country music) to the brawny (motor sport), to celebrations of season (harvests, autumn foliage, spring cherry blossoms). Who needs the beach, anyway?

## When to Go

### Tamworth



**Jan School** holidays see locals head for national parks. Big music festivals in Parkes and Tamworth.

**Easter-Oct** High season in the outback, with cooler temperatures (and cold nights).

**Sep-Oct** Food and wine celebrations in Mudgee and Orange; Cherry Blossom Festival in Cowra.



## Central & Outback NSW Highlights

- ① Visiting underground opal mines then taking a hot soak at **Lightning Ridge** (p237).
- ② Wining and dining exceedingly well in **Mudgee** (p245) and **Orange** (p240).
- ③ Cycling from rhinos to meerkats in Dubbo's **Western Plains Zoo** (p244).
- ④ Exploring unexpected art in unlikely places in and around **Broken Hill** (p249).
- ⑤ Taking a sunset tour of the Walls of China in **Mungo National Park** (p247).
- ⑥ Finding peace and tranquility in Cowra's **Japanese Garden** (p242).