

explore with self drive tours

- ✓ Barrington Tops National Park & World Heritage Wilderness Area
- ✓ Magnificent forests
- ✓ Wildlife
- ✓ Spectacular sweeping vistas
- ✓ Picturesque rivers
- ✓ Historic homesteads
- ✓ Delightful picnic areas
- ✓ Diverse walks
- ✓ Pastoral views
- ✓ Horse studs
- ✓ Tiny hamlets

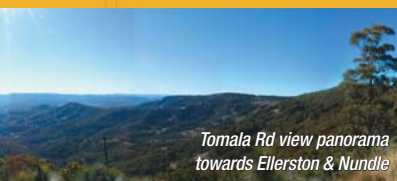
1 Scone or Aberdeen to Barrington Tops

210 km • 3.5hrs driving time

Scone (or Aberdeen) – Gundy – Belltrees – Moonan Flat – Barrington Tops Circuit – Moonan Flat - Belltrees – Scone (or Aberdeen)



Devil's Hole Lookout



Tomalla Rd view panorama towards Ellerston & Nundle



Belltrees shearing shed



Dilgry River hidden Banksia Picnic area

Tree fern walk at Honeysuckle Picnic Area



Henry's Bridge picnic area

km **Scone** Turn off the New England Highway at the southern end of town onto Gundy Road.

5 **24 km circular DETOUR** via Glenbawn Rd/Allan Bridge Rd/ Segenboe Rd will take you past Glenbawn Dam, a number of famous horse studs and over the historic Allan Suspension Bridge.

20 **Gundy** A tiny rural village with toilet facilities, Gundy General Store and the Linga Longa Inn (p17).

24 **Waverley Road DETOUR** via Ellerston. This road follows the Isis river past the Belltrees Polo ground, and Waverley Station to the Timor area where you leave the Nundle Road turning

- right over Sergeant's Gap and rejoin Hunter Road at Ellerston.
- It is another 3 kms to the Tomalla Road turnoff on your left – see below

35 **Belltrees** Excellent view of the Belltrees 44 stand shearing shed designed by J. Horbury Hunt.

Glimpses of the beautiful historic Belltrees homestead can also be seen.

Just after crossing the Hunter at Belltrees is the side road to Stewarts Brook – an old gold mining area of the 19th century.

Hunter Rd follows the Hunter River through predominantly beef cattle properties to

52 **Moonan Flat** Tiny rural village, a general store and the Victoria Hotel (p17). Walk across the suspension foot bridge over the Hunter River. There are picnic areas on the river bank. Prior to the advent of motor vehicles as the normal form of transport, Moonan Flat was an important service centre for the top end of the Hunter Valley.

Follow the Hunter River along Hunter Road and turn right onto

65 **Tomalla Rd** which climbs from the Hunter River to the Barrington Tops Plateau. There are spectacular views across Ellerston Station to the Great Dividing Range from Nundle area to Walcha.

After passing Hunter Springs (The tiny creek you cross is the beginning of the Hunter River on its >400km long journey to the Pacific Ocean at Newcastle.)

Turn right onto

81 **Pheasant Creek Rd** Through the Barrington Tops State Conservation Area and Barrington Tops State Forest. Continue left at the

86 **Pheasant Creek Rd / Tubrabucca Rd** intersection.

Continue left on the Pheasant Creek Rd through the forest to

89 **Henry's Bridge** over the Manning River. A spacious picnic area beside the river.

94 **Pheasant Creek Rd / Dilgry Circle** intersection Turn LEFT onto the Dilgry Circle.

• 104 km gravel road, suitable for all vehicles

• In winter, some roads within Barrington Tops National Park maybe closed temporarily by snow. Check with Scone VIC, NPWS or police if in doubt.

Continue through the forest to

101 **Banksia Picnic Area** To discover a secluded picnic area – a great place to have lunch - follow the dirt track upstream for 100 m.

Continue, turning RIGHT at the

105 **Dilgry Circle / Barrington Tops Forest Rd** intersection onto Barrington Tops Forest Rd.

Continue west to

108 **Honey Suckle Picnic Area** [and Pheasant Creek Rd intersection]. Take a 25 minute 1km walking loop through a temperate rainforest of Antarctic Beech and tree ferns.

Continue west to

122 **Devil's Hole Lookout and Picnic Area**

Follow the short paved path, suitable for wheel chairs, to the lookout platform. A magnificent vista over the Wilderness Area to the Gloucester Tops section of the National Park and beyond.

Continue west to

129 **Polblue Swamp Picnic**

and Camping Area Polblue Creek winds through the sphagnum swamp. Enjoy a 3 km walk around these highland wetlands.

Continue west to

138 **The Firs Picnic Area** A short, 5 minute loop walk through the pine forest with a good chance of seeing lyre birds along the way.

Continue west to

140 **Dingo Gate Picnic Area** The Moonan Lookout provides spectacular views to the South towards Wollemi N.P.

From the Dingo Gate there is a long winding decent to Moonan Brook. There are breathtaking views at almost every turn.

Continue down to the

152 **Moonan Brook Road** T-intersection.

Turn RIGHT. (DETOUR The road to the left follows Moonan Brook to the village – an old gold mining area.)

157 **Moonan Brook Road / Hunter Rd**

intersection. Turn LEFT to return to Moonan Flat and Gundy. The Victoria Hotel (p17) or the Linga Longa Inn (p19) could be just the place for dinner on the way back to

210 **Scone / Aberdeen**

Drive photos by courtesy of Alice Jones, Gaye Hoskings Muswellbrook VIC, NPWS & Singleton Tourism.