



196 KM  
DRIVE TIME  
4hr 53m

## River Revelation

GRAFTON > JACKADGERY > CANGAI > COPMANHURST > GRAFTON

This is where little rivers join bigger rivers and the Clarence is reborn and replenished every day. Gentle whitewater rapids, low-slung bridges, rolling hills, winding tracks. Give yourself a day, bring your swimmers and any manner of floating craft, and prepare to fall a little bit in love with your big backyard.

Set out from Grafton heading west on the Gwydir Highway (B76). This winding country highway takes you through the small village of Jackadgery where it rests on the edge of the Mann River. The bridge is an epic vantage point to take in views of the river and hills.

Keep heading west as the road starts its gradual winding up into the Gibraltar Range. At a couple of points there are small roadside bays where you can pull over and get photos looking over and along the snaking watercourse that is the Mann River.

Turn off the Gwydir at the signs for Cangai. Here you're on dirt road, but it's easily traversable by two-wheel drive. Cross the Mann River at Cangai Bridge and if it's a hot day, this spot is great for a cooling dip.

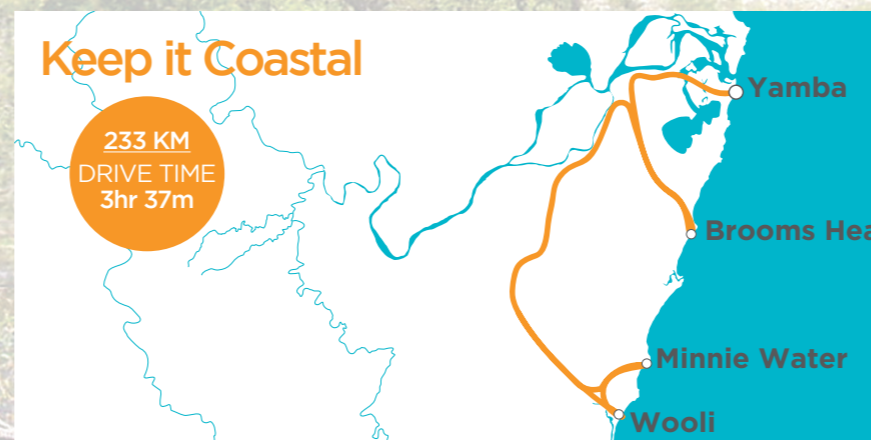
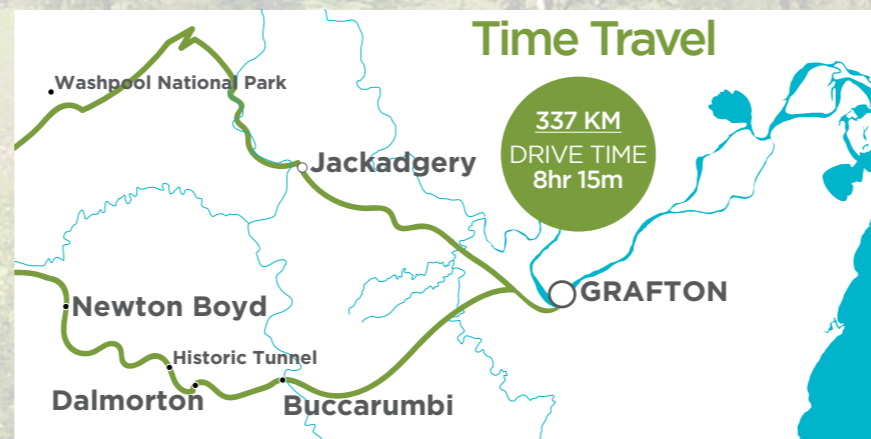
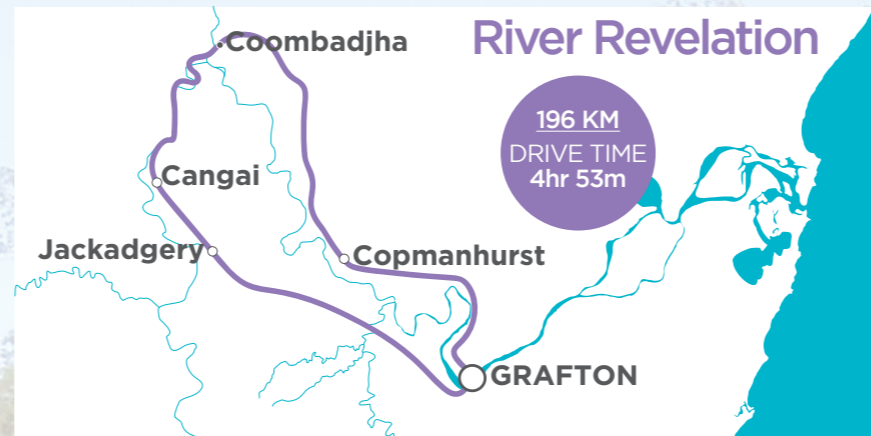
Heading north, following the Mann along the Hanging Rock Road, you eventually come to the imposing Hanging Rock on your right. Just on from this is Broadwater Bridge where you cross wider waters. If you're feeling peckish at this time, take a break at the Broadwater riverside reserve for a picnic.

Heading north along Coombadjha Road you slowly wind your way through some truly glorious hinterland vistas. Rolling green hills stretch as far as the eye can see, dotted with the occasional homestead. It's here you witness the country way of life that the Clarence hinterland embodies. Keep an eye out as you pass any roadside dams or creeks for the gorgeous blue-purple native lilies that bloom during Spring and Summer.

Following Carnham Road, you soon cross the Clarence River and another opportunity to stop and rest beside a tranquil waterway. Dip your toes into these gentler waters knowing that they will flow south to eventually create the wide and mighty Clarence River.

Follow Carnham Road until it meets with the Clarence Way at Fineflower. Turn south and travel past a number of quaint rural views. Take a brief stop at Newbold Lookout and appreciate the views of the Clarence River from this elevated vantage spot.

Before getting back to Grafton you might like to enjoy some good honest country pub grub or just wet your whistle at the Rest Point Hotel in Copmanhurst.



# 4 Summer CLARENCE VALLEY Drives



337 KM  
DRIVE TIME  
8hr 15m

## Time Travel

GRAFTON > BUCCARUMBI > DALMORTON > JACKADGERY > GRAFTON

You'll want to pack provisions and a tent for this excursion deep into the Clarence Valley's heartland. A winding route forged, in part, by the gold rush of the 1840s. This is a fishing, swimming, kayaking, wilderness-camping wonderland, and you'll want to take your time.

Leaving from South Grafton, drive west towards Glen Innes, along the Gwydir Highway. About 8kms out along the road, take a left onto the Old Glen Innes Road. The road is sealed for about 40km, at which point you'll reach the small locality of Buccarumbi.

Buccarumbi marks the junction of the Nymboida and Boyd Rivers, making for a very striking outlook. Cross the narrow bridge and you'll see the remains of its flood-damaged predecessor. The other side is a great spot for a quick picnic and to take in the scene.

From here on, the Old Glen Innes Road narrows and remains unsealed. Not far out of Buccarumbi, continuing down the road past tall forests of gums you'll come to the graveyard remains. A little further, and you've now made it to the old township of Dalmorton – once a booming gold mining area and housing several thousand residents.

Another few minutes down the road will see you to the Historic Tunnel. (You'll know it when you see it). Cut into solid rock by hand back in 1868, the tunnel is a reminder of the fortitude of another era.

Continue to the west, following the road as it winds alongside the Boyd River, past farmland, and through Dalmorton State Forest through to the Guy Fawkes River National Park. At which point you will make it to Newton Boyd.

There are several spots long this route that make for an ideal overnight camp, Buccarumbi, Dalmorton, and Mann River Campground all offer brilliant riverside and bush camping options if you want to make a weekend of it.

You are now at the base of the Great Dividing Range and can now work your way to the top. This section of the road is sealed. Follow the road to the stop, and head east back towards Grafton once you reach the Gwydir Highway.

From here, continue following the road towards Washpool and Gibraltar Range National Parks. Both of these offer some fantastic walking tracks, and even some waterfalls! With more time there are trails, look outs and campsites to explore off this main road, including Raspberry and Heffron lookouts. Continue east following the Mann River as it winds around Jackadgerly. A half hour from here will see you back to Grafton.



233 KM  
DRIVE TIME  
3hr 37m

## Keep it Coastal

YAMBA > BROOMS HEAD > MINNIE WATER > WOOLI > YAMBA

This day trip connects the string of pearls that lie along the Clarence Valley's coastal fringe. It's all about Pacific views, whites on blues, coastal curves, the Yuraygir National Park, swims, sandy feet, the smell of sunscreen, ice creams and hot chips at quaint beachside kiosks.

Our start point – Yamba – is a gem that needs little introduction. Head out to the Pacific Highway and, once southbound, take a right at the Information Centre at Ferry Park, then take the right hand turned signposted Jubilee Street, which is also also signposted Brooms Head.

Brooms Head is just over 20 clicks from Maclean, and with its absolute beachfront Holiday Park, is the archetypal summer holiday spot. The Lagoon is a perfect spot for a swim with the little ones, and the waves in the bay are usually very gentle. Cakora Point sits just above the Brooms township and offers a commanding view over the blue Pacific.

Backtracking out of Brooms Head towards Maclean, head south on the Pacific Highway once again.

Turn left onto Coldstream Road in Tyndale, then onto Tucabia-Tyndale Road.

When you reach Tucabia, take the first left that you come to. Continue along the little street until you come to the T-intersection at the end of the road and take another left, which is the Woolli Road. Follow this road right through. Go easy on your speed, and keep an eye out for the odd Coastal Emus doing a roadrunner impersonation.

Arriving at Woolli, it's hard not to be utterly charmed by this beloved small town, and struck by the sense of pure, unspoilt nature all around.

After leaving Woolli, head back along the road about 10km and take a right turn onto Minnie Water Road. Another 10km from the turnoff will lead you to another small town along the way, Minnie Water. A beautiful, quaint, small town, the area has one of the largest main beaches in the area, along with a fully decked out Surf Club, General Store, National Park campsite at Illaroo and Holiday Park, all within a 500 metre radius. You could spend a lot of time here, exploring the sand hills behind Back Beach, traipsing through the campgrounds, driving along the beach to Sandon to the north or just relaxing on the beach, watching the waves roll in.

Leaving Minnie Water back along the road that you came in on, take a right turn again and follow Woolli Road back through Tucabia and back onto the Tucabia-Tyndale road, which will lead you back just south of Tyndale. From here, head north towards Maclean and homebound to Yamba. What a day!



102 KM  
DRIVE TIME  
1hr 52m

## Cattle & Cane

MACLEAN > LAWRENCE > GRAFTON > ULMARRA > MACLEAN

It's hard to imagine cramming more delightful Australian into a short few hours. We're talking canefield atmospherics, Osprey nests, Moreton Bay Figs, curious cattle, egrets in shallows, free car-ferry crossings over the Clarence, riverside village antiques, bookshops, and no shortage of indulgent treats.

This trip sets out from Maclean, The Scottish Town of Australia, where too much Scottish is never enough. Check out the tartan painted power poles, the Scottish Cairn, the Pinnacle Rocks and the panoramic views from the lookout at the top of Maclean Hill before heading south across historic McFarlane Bridge onto Woodford Island.

Woodford Island covers 37 square kilometres and is the largest inland island in the southern hemisphere, (and the largest inland island in the world with its own mountain range). There are water views along the way, especially across to Ashby on the other side of the river.

Leaving Woodford Island you'll use the vehicle ferry to cross the Clarence. And the trip is free! Disembarking the ferry brings you to Lawrence. Simply follow the signs to Grafton. On your right hand side after a couple of kilometres is a large tower that has a big Osprey nest at it's top. The owners may be in so keep a look out as you pass.

Coming off of the ferry and following the road around, the open wetland along Rutland Street is a great opportunity for birdwatchers to view the Egret rookery. Continuing through the little township, you can stop for a delicious meal at the Lawrence Tavern and enjoy some of that real good old honest country pub vibe. If you have an interest in history then a visit to the Lawrence Museum and the Ross McLeod Bell Collection is a definite should do.

When leaving Lawrence, just after you cross Sportman's Creek Bridge, turn left onto Riverbank Road where you will start to pass stretches of cane fields and join back up to the Southgate-Lawrence Road. The cane industry is still a vibrant industry for the Clarence Valley so depending on the time of year you could see them as the first green breaks through the tilled soil, to when the plants stand taller than you, to when the farmers are harvesting their crop for the season. Turn left and continue heading for Grafton which will take you past the Alumny Creek School Museum on your right.

Tourist Drive 22 ends at Grafton but from here you can easily wind your way back to Maclean via the Pacific Highway, making sure to stop in at the delightful village of Ulmarra and bask in the historic charm of the 19th century river port village. Antiques, collectibles, art & craft shops abound.