



SECRETS OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

HERITAGE – Delve Into The Past

DID YOU KNOW? That the first trial by jury in Australia was conducted at the Historic Berrima Courthouse or that Australia's first ironworks site, The Fitz Roy Ironworks is located in a car park underneath the Highlands Marketplace Shopping Centre in Mittagong.

It's never been a better time to take a winter short break and discover the many hidden secrets of the Southern Highlands. The Southern Highlands of NSW is a unique area, in fact it is hard to find a region similar anywhere else in Australia. Indeed to most visitors it is as if they are entering "another world" and yet it is only a short distance from Sydney. The beautiful region has many draw cards such as its magnificent gardens, speciality shopping, natural attractions, award winning cool climate wines, local produce, numerous cafés and restaurants and a depth of history and heritage.

If heritage is your fancy, and you wish to 'delve into the past' then winter is a great time to discover the many historic walks the Southern Highlands has to offer dotted throughout its picturesque towns and villages of Berrima, Mittagong, Bowral & Moss Vale. Better still why not take a drive along the Heritage Trail and visit historic sites like Throsby Park in Moss Vale where the regions first pioneers settled or visit Bowral the home of Australia's favourite son and the worlds greatest cricket Sir Donald Bradman. The Heritage Trail throughout the Southern Highlands offers visitors a great opportunity to see fine examples of Australian heritage and its rich architecture.

Australia's best colonial architecture and sandstone buildings dating from the 1800's are scattered throughout many of the towns and villages and particularly Mittagong and Berrima. Restored Railway Stations and Refreshment Rooms can be found at Mittagong, Bowral, Moss Vale and Robertson, and there are smaller stations at Burradoo, Exeter and Bundanoon. Fabulous stone churches can be found throughout the region, many in postcard village settings.

The historic village of Berrima is one of the finest examples of living history (over 175 years of it!) and is Australia's best preserved Georgian town. Here you will find the impressive stone courthouse, now a museum where you can be spooked on one of its regular Ghost tours, see the tall stone prison walls of the operating jail, along with many historic inns, houses, churches and even have a drink at Australia's oldest licensed hotel, the Surveyor General Inn. Many of the Highlands cemeteries are also alive with history of the past where many notable figures and stories can be found.

So escape to another world that's so close and discover the secrets of the Southern Highlands.

For more information call **Destination Southern Highlands 1300 657 559** or
email tourism@wsc.nsw.gov.au