

# The Novocastrian

## 'Gourmet Traveller'

Includes all meals

# Wed 3rd April to Sun 7th April 2024 5 Days & 4 Nights







\$2,650 per person twin share

\$410.00 single supplement

## DAY 1: (L, D) Our Food Journey Begins

## Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024

Our Gourmet traveller tours are designed for those of you that love to immerse yourself in the world of fantastic food, wine and regional produce. It is about spoiling yourself, expanding your culinary knowledge and experiencing new taste sensations right from paddock to plate or glass! This 5 day tour will see us venturing in the Hunter Region enjoying the areas of Port Stephens, with it's beautiful waterways, the Hunter Valley, known for its grape varietals and award winning restaurants and Newcastle, a city that's rich in history and culture, and its food scene is no exception. In recent years, the Steel City has grown from its industrial roots and lively pub past to become one of Australia's most exciting new food destinations.

This morning we will depart Nabiac and make our way to The Hunter Valley.

Our first stop this morning will be to **the Hunter Belle Cheese Room in Pokolbin**. Here we will enjoy a well-deserved coffee before settling in for a **guided Cheese tasting with a glass of Wine or Beer.** (The option is yours).

Hunter Belle is a Cheese Deli, Bar, Gourmet Produce & Gift Store all in one - a social space for people to enjoy quality wine and craft beer matched with artisan cheese and fine food (not to mention the decadent fudge and gelato). Our next stop and final destination for the day is to **Leogate Estate Pokolbin**. Today we will be participating in a **7 Canape and wine matching experience, featuring their stunning Brokenback wine range**. This will make the perfect light lunch because this evening, we will experience a **5 Course Degustation** meal with matching wines at Leogates very own **Gates Restaurant**. Our luxury villas are only steps away as we retire for the evening after a very decadent day in the Hunter Valley. **Leogate's luxury villas all come with an irresistible view overlooking the Brokenback Vineyard** making it ideal to sit back and take in the beautiful views of the sweeping vineyard and Brokenback Mountain with a glass of wine in hand. Each room will also be supplied with a **breakfast hamper** for you to enjoy in the morning.

Accommodation: Leogate Luxury Villas / 5 course degustation with wine/ Canape Lunch and Cheese tasting.





## DAY 2: (B, L, D) Cooking, Sipping, Eating Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024

After a relaxing breakfast on your private verandah, we will make our way to the Lovedale Region to embark on **our very own private cooking class with Majors Lane Cooking School.** 

Lovedale's Smokehouse's Owner/Chef/Pitmaster Ben, a level 4 qualified Chef has hosted cooking classes since they commenced in 2007. Ben is extremely passionate about food and loves inspiring participants with his in-depth knowledge, skills and travel and food experiences. Our cooking class experience will include a **two hour hands-on lesson, souvenir apron, recipes and a complimentary drink.** We will then all sit and enjoy our home made lunch together on the covered verandah.

Our next stop is to a little hidden gem run by two ladies at **Kawal Rock Distillery.** They have been affectionately titled, "The Girls On The Hill" by locals, and this has inspired the name on their delicious Gin range, which is lovingly hand-crafted, distilled, bottled and labelled by the owners themselves. Their vineyard is located at the base of the Rock which holds significance to the local Wonnarua people.

Legend has it that the twin wedge-tailed eagles that live on the Rock and can often be seen circling the vineyard are ancient protectors of this land. Our **tasting experience** here will include their Signature, Itchy Wombat & Pink Diamond gins, a glass of their Twin Eagles Moscato and your choice of tonic or soda to top. After a full day of tasting & sipping, we will make our way to Newcastle where we will spend the next 3 nights.

Accommodation: Executive Inn Newcastle / Gift card for dinner / Cooking class & lunch







## DAY 3: (B,L,D) Newcastle CBD Foodie tour Friday 5th April 2024

This morning we board the coach and make our way to visit the outskirts of Newcastle. Our first stop is to Hamilton where we will do a **morning tea stop at Cake Boi**. Cake maker and Masterchef contestant Reece Hignell. will be serving those classic cakes, really old school desserts, just like what your nan used to bake. But this is where it all begins!!!

After morning tea, we will spend the next 3 hrs immersing ourselves in some of the best food and drink outlets in the Newcastle CBD. This will be a **walking tour with our experienced tour guide from Newcastle afoot.** The locals pride themselves on knowing the best spots and they are going to share their hidden secrets with us on our very own private tour. Bring your stretchy pants for this one because we will be eating and drinking our way around Newcastle and learning a little history along the way! This afternoon, you have the option to join include a **Gin blending masterclass with a Flight tasting Paddle at Earp Distillery (own expense)** or retire back at the accommodation for the afternoon. **Accommodation: Executive Inn Newcastle / Gift card for dinner/ walking food and drink tour** 







### DAY 4: (B,L,D) More hidden Gems & Twilight dinner cruise Sat 6th April 2024

Today we begin our day by following coal ships and heading towards Williamtown. This morning we will visit Murrook Cultural Heritage Centre where we will participate in a guided cultural workshop surrounding Australian bush tucker. Making our way back in to Newcastle, we join for lunch at a place built in 1909 on the land previously known as the Stonemasons Yard. It is called 'Locks Paddock'. Their menu is about sharing delicious meals with your loved ones. The core of Lock's Paddock menu is focused around charcuterie and pork and almost everything is made inhouse, from rolling the gnocchi, pickling all the pickles, and even cheese smoking; Lock's is dedicated to doing it all and doing it all well.

After all that deliciousness, we will head back to our accommodation to relax and unwind before we join again for a **Twilight dinner Cruise on Newcastle Harbour.** 

Accommodation: Executive Inn Newcastle / twilight dinner cruise/ sharing lunch experience









## DAY 5: (B,L) Homeward Bound

## Sunday 7th April 2024

What better way to wrap up a foodie trip than to visit the **Farmers Markets** at the Newcastle Showgrounds and see where all this amazing produce comes from. Free time will be spent browsing the stalls and purchasing products to bring home. Our final stop today will be to the luxurious **Bannisters Resort in Salamander Bay.** This is a unique and spectacular location overlooking the bay. It will make for a great place to reminisce about the last few days we have spent together, while enjoying a **beautiful lunch at The Cheeky Dog** restaurant on the resorts premises.

#### **Tour price Includes:**

Four (4) Nights Luxury Accommodation
Five (5) Lunches
Four (4) Breakfasts
Four (4) Dinners
Entry fees to attractions & sightseeing as per itinerary

#### **Tour Highlights:**

\*Small group experience \*Luxury Accommodation \*Cheese & beer/wine experience \*7 canape and matching wine

experience \*5 Course degustation dinner with wine \*Cooking Class \*Distillery experience,

\* Walking foodie Tour Newcastle \* Cake boi \* Bushtucker experience \* Shared lunch experience Locks Paddock

Departures: All pick up times to be advised closer to the date

Club Forster departing - Appox 7:00am Polynesian Village -

**Golden Ponds Forster Keys Evermore** 

Tuncurry Coach stop - Nabiac -

#### Luggage:

Is limited to one bag not more than 20KG

#### **Tour Participation:**

A medium level of fitness is required to participate in some of the tours for this trip. During the walking tour, you will need to walk for up to 10 min at a time without stopping.

You will also need to manage your own luggage. Whilst every effort is taken to reserve rooms with walk in showers and lower level floors.

This cannot be guaranteed. If you require a disability room please advise at the time of booking. These rooms are limited.

#### **Dietary Requirements:**

It is the responsibility of passengers to address any dietary requirements with us at the time of booking.

#### Tour payment:

Non Refundable Deposit \$300.00 per person at time of booking

Balance due 2 months prior to departure 3rd of Feb 2024

#### **Cancellation Charges:**

60 days or more \$300 per person

30-59 days 50% of fare

0-29 days 100% of fare

Note: Cancellation of this trip less than 30 days out there is no refund

Please read full Terms and Conditions before booking.

**Travel Insurance is highly recommended** by Dept. of Foreign Affairs & Trade, we advise passengers to take out travel insurance to cover any unforeseen circumstances which may arise.

All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions, e.g. churches, wineries etc. We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to pandemics, closures, inclement weather or other unpredictable events

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