



TOURIST DRIVES

Explore the Granite Belt and its country lanes via our tourist drives. You will definitely need more than a weekend to see it all! Tip - use this information sheet in combination with our Region Map.

GRANITE BELT DRIVE

Tourist Route 3 — 12 kilometres

The route, also known as 'The Fruit Run', runs parallel with the New England Highway and access is gained at Dalveen in the north. It takes in some of the Granite Belt's fruit orchards through the villages and hamlets of Cottonvale, Thulimbah and The Summit. Thulimbah and The Summit are a Mecca for those tempted by palate pleasers. Buy seasonal produce road side from a ruby red apple to a 'straight from the ground' crispy lettuce. The railway line was the premise for the establishment of our many northern villages and hamlets. In 1881, the construction of the Southern Border Railway Line employed 900 people.

Must Dos

- When you arrive at Dalveen, park your car at the Jim Mitchell Park before walking to the historic Dalveen Post Office and browse around the village craft shop and pick up a bargain at the clothing factory right next door. Groups interested in seeing Dalveen's clothing factory can contact Action Graphics for a tour of the premises.
- In Thulimbah, stop at Bella Rosa's Tea Rooms, Garden Centre & Cottage for some genuine old world charm and hospitality. It's time for high-tea darling!
- Celebrating our apple heritage, Thulimbah is also home to one of Australia's Big Things - the Big Apple. The Royal Gala is a steel and fibreglass sculpture standing 4m tall and the apple is 4.5m in diameter. It was crafted by local artisan Johnny Ross.
- Pop over the railway crossing and highway to visit Suttons Juice Factory and Cidery with a shed cafe serving its famous apple pie made from 22 apples and sensational ciders and juice. In season pick your own apples from their orchard.
- Returning to the Granite Belt Drive you will pass some of our famous food producers including Symara Organic Farm (sorry not open to the public) or Wheel-In Orchard (you can buy from the farm gate in season).
- It's time for a wine - visit 5 star James Halliday rated winery, Summit Estate, famous for producing stunning European style wines.
- For fabulous fresh produce, when you enter The Summit make sure you stop at local legend - Sam's Fruit and Vege Shop. The Summit is also famous as one of the coldest places in Queensland and home to the highest railway station in Australia.
- Just off the Granite Belt Drive you'll find two great attractions. Be amazed at the Granite Belt Maze - this labyrinth is popular with all visitors, but especially families. You can also play a game of large chess or mini golf. South-west of The Summit is Law Dogs Australia. A unique attraction and possibly the only place in Australia where you can see law dogs being trained.

ARMISTICE WAY

Tourist Route 5 — 34km

The Granite Belt was part of the soldier settlement scheme for returning heroes of World War I as it was considered the perfect place for small farms capable of supporting one man and his family, and the high country was considered good for health problems. The veterans named their farms, and the roads linking them, after battles in which they had fought. Armistice Way, one of Stanthorpe's principal tourist routes, takes drivers along Amiens Road through the tiny hamlets and old railway sidings of Amiens, Messines, Bapaume, Passchendaele, Bullecourt, Pozieres and Fleurbaix. Amiens Road will also take you past some of our largest fruit and vegetable producers.

Must Dos

- Start with an apple juice tasting and apple picking (summer and autumn) at Suttons Juice Factory and Cidery in Thulimbah. Make sure you try a piece of their famous home-made apple pie made from 22 apples.
- Crossing the New England Highway you will pass The Big Apple. The Royal Gala is a steel and fibreglass sculpture standing 4m tall and the apple is 4.5m in diameter. It was crafted by local artisan Johnny Ross.
- Not far away is Bella Rosa's - stop for high-tea.
- Enjoy cheese tasting at Granite Belt Dairy. If you get up early enough you can help milk the cows (bookings essential)!
- At Castle Glen Australia be mesmerized by the enormous array of preservative free liquers, beers and wines available for tasting.
- Just off Amiens Road discover our famous granite boulders and be elevated without hours of climbing at Donnelly's Castle. It's only a 200 metre walk to the top providing breathtaking views over the valley. Surrounded by caves, legend tells us this was a hide-out of the famous bushranger Thunderbolt!
- Not far away is Boireann Winery - this 5 red star James Halliday rated boutique winery sells out within months so be quick to secure a delectable Strange Bird red.
- After more outdoor adventure - explore the Passchendaele State Forest Lookout and fossickers should head to Swipers Gully.
- Nest Gallery is a contemporary art space that showcases the works of both local and other Australian artists, in a not-so-traditional setting... a well-loved packing shed! It also offers weekend classes to discover your creative prowess.
- Next stop is Robert Channon Wines - home of Verdelho. It is the perfect place to stop for lunch - their Singing Lake Cafe has superb views.
- Just off Amiens Road is Ravens Croft Wines - a taste of their Chardonnay will not disappoint.

HIGHLAND DRIVE

Tourist Route 6 — 31 kilometres

Take the scenic route from Stanthorpe to Ballandean, via Storm King Dam and the area of Eukey. Turn left into Eukey Road, just past the Stanthorpe Visitor Information Centre on the southern side of town. This drive is perfect for nature lovers and finishes with some great wineries.

Must Dos

- Storm King Dam is a short drive south-east from the centre of Stanthorpe town. The dam is well-stocked with Murray Cod, Yellow Belly, Silver Perch, Spangled Perch and Eel-tailed catfish with fishing permits available locally from sporting stores and service stations. It is also a popular spot for water skiing, canoeing, kayaking, and rowing. Canoes are available for hire from Sommerville Valley Tourist Park.
- From Eukey you can enter the northern part of the renowned Girraween National Park. Girraween truly is a paradise for bushwalkers and explorers, and ideal for scenic walks, wildlife viewing, camping and picnics. During spring it blooms with flowers and shrubs attracting birds, wombats, lizards and wallabies.
- Now we start entering winery country. First stop is Symphony Hill. Music to the palate, their Reserve Shiraz took top Gold at the 2011 Royal Melbourne Wine Show.
- A little further along is Hidden Creek Winery + Cafe with its delightful setting over a small lake. One of its owners is famous Master of Wine Andrew Corrigan.
- Next door is Twisted Gum. This winery (not open to the public) focuses on the creation of premium-quality, single-vineyard wines using sustainable agricultural practices.
- Our final winery stop is Just Red, that as the name suggests, specialises in red wine.
- In the village of Ballandean you will find two of the Granite Belt's best restaurants, Shiraz and Vineyard Cafe.
- This is the end of the drive, but you can continue on with an array of award winning wineries near-by.

SHEARER'S WAY

Tourist Route 8 — 90 kilometres

Head west via Texas Road, Glenlyon Dam Road and Mingoola Road to the Bruxner Highway and watch the country's startling transformation.

Must Dos

- Your first stop, 10 minutes from Stanthorpe, should be Casley Mt Hutton Winery, offering wine tasting and complimentary winery tours.
- Heading towards Texas you will come across Mallow Organic Lamb (not open to the public) – a Delicious Magazine nominee. The property also offers Mallow Wellbeing workshops – perfect for a weekend escape.
- Further afield, 90kms from Stanthorpe, is Glenlyon Dam, Glenlyon. It is ideal for wildlife viewing and many water sports such as skiing, sailing and fishing. Fish species in the dam include Golden Perch, Murray Cod, Silver Perch, Jew and Spangled Perch. Boat hire is available at the Glenlyon Dam Tourist Park located at the water's edge.
- On the other side of Shearer's Way is the great untamed Sundown National Park which offers excellent 4wd driving from sedate tracks to those that will test even the most experienced driver. You can explore the impressive Red Rock Falls, Mt Lofty, Red Rock Gorge and the steep gorges of Carpenter Gully. The Severn River and its tributaries, and remains of pastoral and mining heritage can be discovered and more than 150 bird species have been recorded, making it the perfect location for bird-watching enthusiasts.

ORACLES WAY

Tourist Route 7 — 64 kilometres

Take the Mt Lindesay Road to Tenterfield, and discover the some beautiful country in between. Via Amosfield Road, Stanthorpe, then on to Liston and Tenterfield.

Must Dos

- Discover lavender's many uses just out of Stanthorpe stop at Crystal Ridge Lavenders. You can also have a farm experience – Crystal Ridge is a prime lamb raising property with an animal display including alpacas, donkeys, miniature horses, goats, ducks and chickens
- Continue on to Liston, a small village located just over the state border and technically sits in Tenterfield Shire, though we consider them Granite Belt locals! The origin of the name Liston is unknown but we do know it has substantial links to the tin mining era. In the early years this was rough country – famous for bushrangers. Nearby be mesmerised by water at Undercliffe Falls, located on the Bookookoorara Creek 2.7kms east of Stanthorpe via Liston. The falls descend 150m, over a 30m wide rock face into a deep pool ideal for swimming in summer.
- Divert off Oracles Way, north of Liston to continue your lavender experience. Alooomba Lavender Farm is the perfect place to pick up a beautiful gift and learn about the value of lavender. It is also a 4000 acre cattle farm.
- Return south to Oracles Way, heading towards Tenterfield. Seen Uluru and Mt Augustus, now discover the largest exposed granite rock formation in the southern hemisphere, and the fourth largest monolith in Australia. Bald Rock, located in Bald Rock National Park (NSW) and adjoining Girraween National Park, rises to 1277m above sea level and towers about 200m above of the surrounding bushland. The awesome granite dome, 750m long and 500m wide, is water streaked, creating a striking view on any day. From the top you are rewarded sweeping views of the region.
- Only 8km east of Bald Rock, Boonoo Boonoo National Park protects one of the region's few remaining natural river landscapes and is home to the inspiring Boonoo Boonoo Falls, the highest in the region at 210m.
- Further along Mt Lindesay Road is another hideout of the notorious bush-ranger Captain Thunderbolt. There is a path to the hideout, about 300m from the parking area. Large granite boulders form two caves. This area is also home to a significant part of World War II history. A cement wall and upright posts are remnants of the Brisbane Line fortifications established as Australia's second line of defence in case of an invasion from the north. They look simple but were effective tank traps. In the course of the war there were up to 10 000 troops stationed in the area.