

Leura, Australia A Gem Near Sydney



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

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Table of Contents

[Cover](#)

[Tour Summary](#)

[The Village of Leura](#)

[Tips](#)

[Chapter 1 - Bush Trails, Parks & Their
Features](#)

[Chapter 2 - Art, Shopping & Dining](#)

[Chapter 3 - Accommodations](#)

[Chapter 4 - Attractions, Festivals &
Surrounds](#)

[Maps](#)

[Author Biography](#)

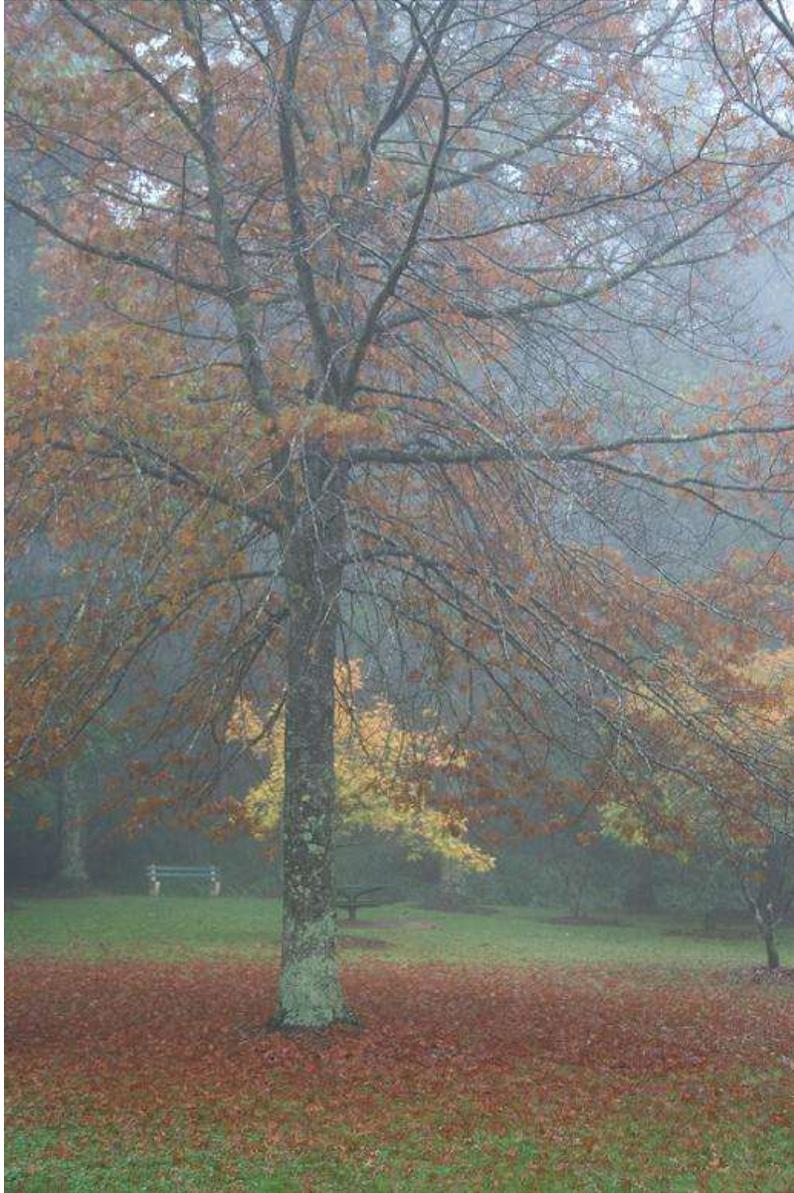
[Publisher](#)

Tour Summary

The village of Leura in New South Wales rejuvenates your mind and body with leisurely pursuits or spirit-filled adventure. It is a horticultural paradise, best displayed each October during the Leura Village Fair. At least seven homes are open for display to the public and the Everglades Botanical Gardens is in full splendor. The surrounding Blue Mountains National Park is a magnificent backdrop to nature's spectacle. Sandstone landscaping, waterfalls, and maintained bush trails provide a fresh air retreat from the every day. Lookout points on the paths give panoramic views of eucalypt forests: the oil gives a blue hue to the atmosphere.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

The Village of Leura





Leura in New South Wales, Australia, is a retreat paradise in the Blue Mountains. Its very existence began for tourism as Sydney's socialites and health seekers began coming here as an escape from the city's overcrowded conditions. The misty mornings were thought to be great for the skin, eucalypt air good for the body and the relaxation of the views soothing for the soul.



The residences have preserved their heritage as many of the original buildings erected between 1900-1921 still inhabit The Mall strip. The interiors are largely intact for an ambiance of the earlier decade. The median lined with cherry trees is a favourite picnic spot for locals and tourist to watch the world go by.



The Railway platform was built in 1868 to begin a run on the area's land. By the turn of the 20th century tourists were making their way to Leura as a getaway for all seasons. It is a place of leisurely recreation in nature, with spas and upscale shopping.



During this rush for country retreats there were only two inns in operation along the hard road for travellers to rest, one in Wentworth Falls, the other in Katoomba. The first objective for the village of Leura was accommodation. In 1892 the Coffee Palace was opened and became the heart of the village. It was converted into a nursing home in the 1970s.



In 1915 Paul Sorenson stepped off the train in Katoomba for a job at the Carrington Hotel. He changed the face of Leura when he opened a nursery to landscape the homes. He was trained in Denmark

and apprenticed in Germany and Switzerland. He had a beautiful skill with landscaping.



Many of his designs are still in place along the Railway Parade. He had a natural ability to see project completion before the soil was even broken. His life is reflected in Leura; he is why it is called the Garden Village. Many prestigious homes here could afford his services.



Along Grose Street the cottages are smaller than on Railway Parade, but were also built during the same periods of the 1890s to the 1920s. These were mostly for the overseers and their families. Smaller mimicked gardens are in place to signify the importance of ornamentation to the village inhabitants.



In October each year at least seven homes open to the public for display during the Leura Garden Festival. The Mall is filled with sidewalk sales, artists and flower enthusiasts who flock to capture the beauty. Everglades Gardens is in full splendour and the hallmark of Sorenson's brilliance.



For most any pleasure you fancy in your getaway the village will cater to your whims. Excellent food, unique shopping, nature adventure, and personal pampering make a holiday you will want to relive every year. Each season has something different to enjoy: spring gardens, autumn colours, summer escape and winter log fires.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)