



MAP KEY

Destination	Public Toilets
Scenery / Attractions	Accommodation
Cafés & Restaurants	Information Centre

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Lockheed Martin Satellite Tracking Station

New England High Country

Drop into the Armidale, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha Visitor Information Centres for more information on New England High Country.

Armidale Visitor Information Centre

82 Marsh Street
Armidale NSW 2350
(02) 6770 3888
tourism@armidale.nsw.gov.au
www.armidaletourism.com.au

Uralla Visitor Information Centre

104 Bridge Street
Uralla NSW 2358
(02) 6778 6420
visit@uralla.com
www.uralla.com

Guyra Visitor Information Centre

Rafter's Restaurant
New England Highway
Guyra NSW 2365
(02) 6779 1876
tourism@guyra.nsw.gov.au
www.guyra.nsw.gov.au

Walcha Visitor Information Centre

51W Fitzroy Street
Walcha NSW 2354
(02) 6774 2460
council@walcha.nsw.gov.au
www.walchansw.com.au

Tourist Drive

Aboriginal Culture and Heritage

Half/Full Day Tour 99km
(7.5km unsealed)

Mount Yarrowyck Nature Reserve,
Rocky River, Thunderbolt's Rock,
Uralla & Saumarez Homestead

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**New England
High Country**



Thunderbolt's Rock

📍 ARMIDALE TO MOUNT YARROWYCK

Commencing at the Armidale Visitor Information Centre, turn right into Dumaresq Street travelling west to Niagara Street (1.8km). Turn left into Niagara Street and continue south. Just opposite the Drummond School crossing turn right into McLennan Street and first left into Miller Street. Continue to head south and turn right into Bundarra Road.

Head west along Bundarra Road for 9.7km, crossing part of the Great Dividing Range. This range runs parallel to the East Coast of Australia, dividing eastern and western streams and rivers.

Travel 13km and cross **Boorolong Creek ❶** which is a popular picnic and fishing spot and a great location for catching freshwater crayfish. Travel another 5.4km to Thunderbolt's Way. Turn right and continue 1km to the **Mount Yarrowyck Nature Reserve ❷** on the right.

📍 MOUNT YARROWYCK NATURE RESERVE

Mount Yarrowyck is located within the traditional territory (Tauri) of the main Aboriginal tribe of the New England Tablelands – the Anaiwan.

A 3km return walk along a marked trail leads to an **Aboriginal Rock Art Site ❸**. Paintings are located under the overhang created by

a group of massive granite boulders. Typical of the rock art found throughout the New England ranges, they reveal a combination of circles and bird tracks painted in red ochre. It is with the generous co-operation of the local Aboriginal Land Council that this important landmark of the Anaiwan people's cultural heritage has been preserved and opened for public visits.

The picnic site near the car park has barbecues, picnic tables and toilet facilities. After exploring the Mount Yarrowyck Nature Reserve and Rock Art Site, turn left onto Thunderbolt's Way.

📍 MOUNT YARROWYCK TO ROCKY RIVER

Heading south for a further 3km, the road crosses the Gwydir River. To gain access to the **Yarrowyck Crossing picnic area ❹**, cross the Gwydir Bridge and take the first turn to the right (300m).

A short drive leads to the Old Gwydir Bridge, which is an ideal family picnic location, with swimming in the river in the summer.

Return to Thunderbolt's Way and continue a further 13km south to **Rocky River ❺**. In 1863, 'The Rocky' was one of the richest alluvial goldfields in NSW. At first a tent town, Rocky River soon flourished, becoming home to 5000 miners and their families. Many Chinese miners, often discouraged on the Victorian Goldfields, made the long trek here, some on foot, to seek their fortunes. Most of the buildings are now gone with only the Public

School remaining as a reminder of a once thriving town. Several artefacts from the goldfields, including the original Chinese Joss House, are on display at **McCrossin's Mill Museum ❻** in Uralla.

📍 ROCKY RIVER TO URALLA

Continue along Thunderbolt's Way to the historic township of Uralla. With a heritage streetscape, unique shops, galleries and museums, Uralla has become a favoured destination for visitors who appreciate its rare blend of past and present.

For those with an eye for artistic and architectural style and a reverence for history, a self-guided heritage walk leads to unexpected treasures. One of the many highlights is McCrossin's Mill, a lovingly restored three-storey flour mill built in 1870, which now houses a multi-award winning museum, gallery and function centre. Many locals once believed the 'Old Mill' to be haunted. Now it is recognised for its haunting beauty.

Uralla is probably best known as the location for many of the exploits of the gentleman bushranger, Captain Thunderbolt. His career began as a horse thief, which led to a ten-year prison sentence in the notorious Cockatoo Island Prison in Sydney Harbour. After escaping, he turned to bushranging in the Hunter and New England Districts, bailing up some 25 coaches, and raiding many farms, hotels and stores.

The last of the NSW bushrangers, Thunderbolt met an untimely death when shot and killed by Constable Alexander Walker on 25th May, 1870 at Kentucky Creek near Uralla. His remains were laid to rest in a quiet ceremony at the Uralla Pioneer Cemetery in John Street, where his headstone can still be viewed today. A life-sized statue of Thunderbolt seated astride his favourite horse has been erected in the main street.

6km south of Uralla on the New England Highway is Thunderbolt's Rock, a time-worn cluster of granite boulders used by Thunderbolt as a vantage point for monitoring the approach of unwary coaches and mailmen in the hope of relieving them of gold discovered in the nearby goldfields.

Gold is still waiting to be found in Uralla and visitors are welcome to try their luck panning for it at the Wooldridge Recreation & Fossicking Reserve, 6km west of town. Panning equipment is available for hire from the Uralla Visitor Information Centre.

📍 URALLA TO SAUMAREZ HOMESTEAD

Follow the New England Highway north towards Armidale. Visible on a ridge to the right is the **Lockheed Martin Satellite Tracking Station ❷**. Opened in 1999, the station's main function is to track newly launched satellites into orbit.

Continue north towards Armidale, turn left into the Armidale Airport, and follow the National Trust signs for approximately 3km to **Saumarez Homestead ❸**. Taken up by Henry Dumaresq in 1835, Saumarez was one of the first properties settled in the region. Francis White acquired the property in 1874. The family lived in the old single-storey brick house (still standing) until 1888, when the first section of the present two-storey building was built.

Francis White's grandchildren presented the homestead, which still contains the White family's furniture and memorabilia, to the National Trust in the early 1980s. Open weekends and public holidays (closed Good Friday and Christmas Day), guided tours of the interior of the homestead are held at 10.30am; 2.00pm and 3.30pm. Saumarez is closed from June 15 to August 31. Return to Armidale to complete the drive.

Saumarez Homestead

