

I went with... My husband Brian, 30, our son Samuel, six months, and a group of friends. We travelled from... Dee Why, NSW, to Mudgee by car. Where we stayed... Old Bara Guesthouse. It cost... \$130 for petrol, \$350 per couple for three nights' accommodation and \$250 spending money.

We're off to...

Ally Proudlock, 30, Dee Why, NSW

MUDGEE



Samuel, Brian and me - we all had a blast!

How was the drive?

My husband Brian and I needed a break after our son Samuel was born. Holidaying with three couples who'd also just had bubs, we chose Mudgee as our destination. It's a four-hour drive from Sydney. Getting there was a breeze, with Samuel asleep most of the way, but we hit traffic on the way home, and that added two extra hours to the travel time! Luckily, we kept Samuel busy with his toys and enjoyed the country scenery.

Describe the town.

Mudgee is so beautiful, with its gentle rolling hills and peaceful surroundings. There's something for everyone - historic buildings, attractions and boutique shops. Lawson Park, by the water, holds special events and regular local market stalls on the weekend.

What is there to do?

We had a delicious lunch at Mudgee Brewing Company and those who enjoy beer sampled the local brews. The town is also famous for its honey products, so we visited Mudgee Honey Haven and tasted strawberry, cinnamon, lavender and cream honey. Delicious! You can even see a live working bee hive through the glass viewing case and they sell homemade chutneys, mustards and gifts, which make great souvenirs. We later toured several

wineries, including the Robert Stein winery, where we picked up some bottles to enjoy that night. Another day we held a picnic at Lawson Park, where the bubs got to play freely outside on a rug. It was a great way to unwind.

Highlight of the trip?

I really enjoyed driving to the different wineries and seeing the stunning scenery along the way. The best part was being able to relax at the guesthouse, which is part of a working cattle property. Hidden in the bush, it was peaceful and secluded. In the afternoons, we girls took a stroll around and later the boys played a game of cricket. It was a simple but perfect getaway!

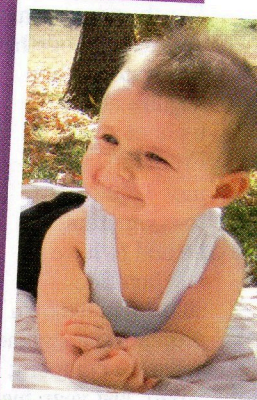
As told to Smita Mistry

Facts about Mudgee

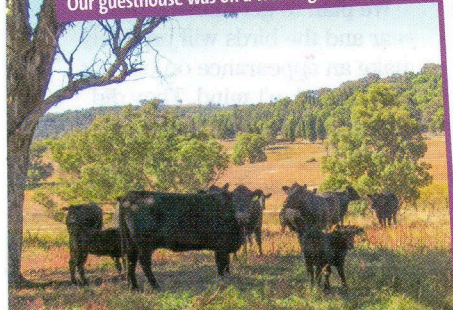
- » The name Mudgee is derived from the Wiradjuri term Moothi meaning 'nest in the hills'.
- » During the 19th century, the town was a major gold mining area.
- » There are 40 wineries operating in the Mudgee district.

Any tips for parents?

Research before you head off and plan the best possible route, so you don't get stuck in traffic with the kids. Be sure to make enough stops along the way for feeding, changing and a chance to stretch your legs. Travelling with friends who also have young children was fantastic because we all really understood each other and worked around our babies' routines.



Our guesthouse was on a working cattle property



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