



## SUNDAY DRIVE

photos by me

# Berry



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This is the longest Sunday Drive I have ever published. The drive down the South Coast is mostly very pleasant though and the destination is well worth it.

Once you leave Macarthur country and slip into the Illawarra via Mount Ousley, the scenery changes from our rolling green hills to a gorgeous ocean vista and then to the ugliness of Bluescope and surrounds. The Nan Tien Temple on your left is the signal to reopen your windows and enjoy the semi-rural atmosphere of Kembla Grange and Albion Park.

On past the spectacular seaside township and country side of Kiama. The land between Kiama and Berry is some of the most beautiful on the eastern seaboard. Take it easy and enjoy the drive. A number of speed cameras reinforces the 'take it easy' suggestion.

Arriving in Berry is a nostalgic experience. Despite significant retail development, Berry has retained its old world, country town charm. Here is your first tip. Parking in the main street is stressful. Turn right at the first cross street, Alexandra, and then right again into Albert. There is heaps of free parking in a retail development behind the main street.

Most men seem to find wandering around shops about as attractive an all day under 10's dance competition. I like it. Berry offers plenty of 'wandering' opportunity, much more than I ever realised, although plenty has changed in the town since I last visited. There is stacks of homewares (including quite a bit of duplication), a few art galleries, lots of cafes and delis, a couple of excellent pubs and a number of cool speciality shops.

Our highlights were: Precinct Galleries in Alexandra Street, easily the most interesting art gallery in town. Berry Sourdough Bakery in Prince Alfred Street offers outstanding breads and baking. 'sew and tell' at the entrance to town is well worth a visit if you have any interest in sewing. It is one of the most complete shops of its kind I have ever seen.

There are heaps of homewares shops and there is no other way to assess each one except to stick your head in. As you would imagine they cover a lot of ground. Some need only a quick lap while others engage you for some time.

Magneto needed to go to the toilet (too much info?) so we crossed Alexandra Street to the Great Southern Hotel. I got two Blondes and headed for the verandah seating while the other blonde did her stuff. We sat chatting over our beers for half an hour or so before getting back to our wandering. We spent quite a bit of time in Berry that Sunday and I am fairly certain that we didn't find all of the shops on offer. It is much bigger than I thought.

We had lunch at 'Just Delicious' in Albert Street after a tip off from another retailer. My chicken and corn rice cakes and Magneto's vege Frittata were both served with a lovely side salad and both were, well, delicious (as advertised). There are a number of quality cafes though so finding something to eat is the least of your troubles.

Definitely worth the trip, Berry offers something for just about everyone. If, like me, you are quite happy just wandering around shops, Berry may be your perfect Sunday Drive. If not, 7 Mile Beach is about 10 minutes away.