

## The luxury guide to Leura

SHARE THIS TOPIC WITH FRIENDS:

[ShareThis](#) 128
 [Share](#)
[Pin It](#)
[Tweet](#) 3



Varena bedroom



Everglades



Three Sisters and Scenic Cablecar

The great outdoors of the Blue Mountains is fascinating to explore, and the staggering Three Sisters look superb on a tea towel, but what if you're content with creating memories through Instagram, and ditching the hiking boots for fluffy slippers? We take you on a girly retreat to Leura, filled with luxury, vintage glamour and delicious treats - proving the legendary sisterhood of the mountains is still very much alive.

### Sounds like a whisper

Stay: Mountain Whispers, 4.5 star self-contained accommodation

If you want to be transported away into another era (circa 1906, to be precise) and also have a free ticket to a state of nirvana, stay at one of the four Mountain Whispers properties. The outstanding hospitality offered by owner Lorraine means you're pampered as soon as you step foot into the historic mountain homes. Each house takes on a slightly different theme, but they are all immaculate with furniture, artwork and designs from the turn of the nineteenth century. The attention to detail is phenomenal, you actually feel like you've stepped back in time.

REGISTER TO BECOME AN ESCAPE LOUNGE MEMBER:

Register

### Related Topics

- Weekend escapes from Sydney
- Top 5 spas in New South Wales
- Wolgan Valley Resort's Bushfire Appeal
- Qualia, Great Barrier Reef
- Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney

REGISTER TO BECOME AN ESCAPE LOUNGE MEMBER:

Register

### Related Topics

- Weekend escapes from Sydney
- Top 5 spas in New South Wales
- Wolgan Valley Resort's Bushfire Appeal
- Qualia, Great Barrier Reef
- Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney

REGISTER TO BECOME AN ESCAPE LOUNGE MEMBER:

Register

### Related Topics

- Weekend escapes from Sydney
- Top 5 spas in New South Wales
- Wolgan Valley Resort's Bushfire Appeal
- Qualia, Great Barrier Reef
- Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney





The bygone era may continue throughout the house but the in-house dining (complete with butler) has you treated with modern cuisine and five-star service. There's no boiled cabbage on this menu. Who says your tastebuds need to time travel too?  
**See the website.**



### *Treat yourself*

#### **Treatments: La Bella Rouge**

There are many ways you can pamper yourself in Leura and at Mountain Whispers you don't even have to leave the house. The Varena property has its own boudoir at the rear called La Bella Rouge room, where you can order your own masseuse (couples massage available too) and can unwind by the roaring fire. Lorraine can even organise a make-up artist to give you a lesson on beauty where you'll learn about different products, or be made over to look like a Gatsby-era belle. This is a great bonding experience for the girls, made especially fun if you don't know your powder from your primer.

**See the website.**





## *Elbow grease*

### **Eat: Leura Garage**

There's been a bit of a renaissance in Sydney, with old garages transforming themselves into restaurants and bars. Well, the Blue Mountains did it first with Leura Garage, an old auto-repair shop which was converted into a restaurant in 2011. Food and wine are a microcosmic hit list of the area, sourced locally and from the nearby Central Ranges. So you can drink pinot from Orange with beef from Cowra and vegetables roasted with honey from Blackheath. They even make their own pomegranate balsamic and grow herbs in the back garden. Décor is rustic, with cheeky use of the garage theme - tyres stacked on shelves, wrenches embedded into the concrete floors and playful staff in mechanic uniforms (only this time you're not being ripped off). Share plates are encouraged, meaning you can have a fulfilling group dining experience without the inflated bill. Owner James Howarth wants to make you feel like you're at home with a group of friends, and that's exactly the vibe. Now, if only my friends could cook like that...

84 Railway Parade, Leura, NSW, See the [website](#).



## *Sweet disposition*

### **Josophan's Chocolates**

Chocolate lovers descend upon the cute Leura village for Josophan's Chocolates because it's the cream of the crop when it comes to the sweet stuff. We go 'backstage' into the factory where chasms of silky chocolate await. Everywhere you look there is something to tempt the senses, buckets of ganache, shelves of crisp honeycomb, barrels of hazelnuts, trays of resting caramel, oh my! You'll feel like a kid in a candystore as you learn about these handcrafted sweets. Josophan's have been around since 2005 and continue to win accolades for their unique flavor combinations, including their gold medal winning lime and basil chocolate. It sounds bizarre, but trust us, it works. We tried several times. Just to be certain.

132 Leura Mall, Leura. See the [website](#).



## Catch the Gingerbread Man

### The Gingerbread House

Run, run, fast as you can to the Gingerbread House in Katoomba! This delightful spot is by the same owners of Josophan's and here the air is just as sweet. In an old converted church, which kind of looks like a gingerbread house itself, you can relive your childhood with creaming soda spiders, ginger beer floats and malted milkshakes. And, of course crisp, tangy delicious gingerbread.

56 Lurline Street, Katoomba. See the [website](#).



## Secret Garden

### Visit: Everglades Historic House and Gardens

Remember when you were young and you dreamt of a secret garden with cascading waterfalls, trickling creeks, hedges for hiding in and posies for picking? Well this place exists at Everglades in Leura. The historic house and garden was built in the 1930s as a weekend retreat for Sydneysiders and, in many ways, it still is. The beautiful gardens are perfect for picnicking and the wonderful volunteers at Everglades will pack you a basket and send you off to explore the grounds. As you wander through the property, you'll discover wrought iron fences, sandstone arches, Japanese cherry trees, bronze statues and stone fountains. And if the weather isn't the quaintest, the art-deco Everglades House makes a perfect back-up plan for lunch. It's no surprise that Sport for Jove host their annual Shakespeare Festival in these very grounds, because what is a grown-up childhood fantasy if it's not *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

37 Everglades Ave, Leura. See the [website](#).

Images: Alex Harmon, Leura Garage, Visit Blue Mountains

If the article that you've just read has inspired you, click on the tags below for similar **Escape** inspirations

