



Byron Bay & Northern NSW

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Town Restaurant & Cafe (p170)
- ➔ Beachwood Cafe (p178)
- ➔ Stunned Mullet (p195)
- ➔ The Roadhouse (p163)
- ➔ Hearthfire Bakery (p187)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Byron Bay Cottages (p163)
- ➔ Atlantic (p163)
- ➔ Sugarloaf Point Lighthouse (p198)
- ➔ Lily Pily (p187)
- ➔ Nimbin Rox YHA (p173)

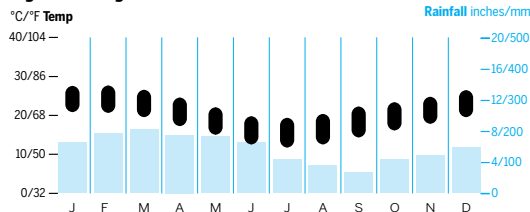
Why Go?

Beach towns and national parks leapfrog each other all the way up this stupendous stretch of coast. Inland, lush farmland and ancient tracts of World Heritage-listed rainforest do the same.

Providing a buffer between New South Wales' big cities to the south and Queensland's built-up Gold Coast to the north, the North Coast offers an altogether quieter and simpler way of life. In cute little towns throughout the region dyed-in-the-wool country types rub shoulders with big-city escapees and posthippie alternative lifestylers – if you're looking for fresh local produce, a top-notch meal or a psychic reading, you shouldn't be disappointed. And if you're searching for a surf break, rest assured that there will be an awesome one around the next corner.

When to Go

Byron Bay



Jun & Jul Winter brings migrating whales to the coast, lanterns to Lismore and rockers to Byron Bay.

Sep–Nov Returning whales, blooming jacarandas and Byron Bay's Surf Fest.

Dec–Apr Life's a beach; there are 'Tropical Fruits' in Lismore and Byron gets the blues.

Byron Bay & Northern NSW Highlights

- 1 Laying claim to your own stretch of empty beach in coastal wilderness such as **Myall Lakes National Park** (p197).
- 2 Delving into the ancient World Heritage-listed Gondwana rainforest of **Dorrigo National Park** (p186).
- 3 Getting closely acquainted with whales and dolphins in a cruise from **Port Stephens** (p198).
- 4 Enjoying the charm of pretty hinterland villages such as **Bellingen** (p186).
- 5 Learning to surf amid spouting whales in **Byron Bay** (p159).
- 6 Cruising the bucolic back roads along the Macleay River in **Kempsey Shire** (p189).
- 7 Witnessing the weird blend of farmers, hippies and foodies at local markets such as the one held in **Bangalow** (p170).

