



# Byron Bay & Northern New South Wales

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ No 2 Oak St (p140)
- ➔ Beachwood Cafe (p151)
- ➔ Stunned Mullet (p133)
- ➔ Jaaning Tree (p138)
- ➔ Sugar Beat (p170)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Elindale House (p165)
- ➔ Aabi's at Byron (p159)
- ➔ Crystal Creek Rainforest Retreat (p170)
- ➔ Lily Pily (p140)
- ➔ Grey Gum Lodge (p167)

## Why Go?

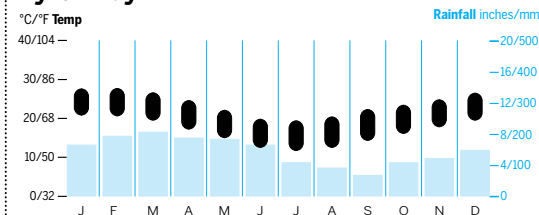
Beach towns and national parks leapfrog each other all the way up this stupendous stretch of coast. Inland, lush farmland and ancient tracts of World Heritage-listed rainforest do the same.

Providing a buffer between New South Wales' big cities to the south and Queensland's built-up Gold Coast, 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 post-hippie 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 very next corner.

Nowhere on the East Coast conjures up the beach-nature-good times vibe quite like Byron Bay. Those who visit seldom go home complaining – if they go home at all.

## When to Go

### Byron Bay



#### Jun & Jul

Winter brings migrating whales, lanterns to Lismore and rockers to Byron Bay.

#### Sep–Nov

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

#### Dec–Feb

Life's a beach, Tropical Fruits in Lismore and Byron gets the blues.

## Byron Bay & Northern New South Wales Highlights

- 1 Laying claim to your own stretch of empty beach in coastal wilderness such as **Myall Lakes National Park** (p126).
- 2 Delving into the ancient World Heritage-listed Gondwana rainforest in **Dorrigo National Park** (p141).
- 3 Getting more closely acquainted with whales and dolphins in a cruise from **Port Stephens** (p123).
- 4 Marvelling at the pre-European landscape stretching endlessly from **Crowdy Head** (p128).
- 5 Enjoying the charm of pretty hinterland villages such as **Bellingen** (p139).
- 6 Watching the whales spout and the dolphins surf from atop beautiful Cape Byron in bustling **Byron Bay** (p155).
- 7 Cruising the bucolic back roads following the Macleay River in **Kempsey Shire** (p134).
- 8 Witnessing the weird blend of farmers, hippies and foodies at market days like the one held in **Bangalow** (p164).

