

PORT STEPHENS



FOR THE
LOVE OF
Nature!
HOLIDAY GUIDE

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OH THE THINGS WE WILL SEE

If you'd prefer bottlenose dolphins over bottle-neck traffic and climbing a real mountain instead of a mountain of paperwork - then you're going to love Port Stephens!

Located 2 1/2 hours north of Sydney on a glorious patch of the planet we like to call "the awesome coast" - Port Stephens has been blessed with some of Mother Nature's best work. With 26 beaches (all with the 'OMG!' factor), a bay twice the size of Sydney Harbour (and twice as beautiful), the largest sand dunes in the southern hemisphere (just sandsational!) a 98,000 hectare Marine Park and a National Park encompassing the 42,000 hectare Worimi Conservation Lands - it's little wonder nature lovers are drawn here from around the globe like bees to the nectar.

Take a hike to the summit of Mount Tomaree at dawn and be rewarded with a view that may render you speechless. Swim beside a pod of dolphins and experience pure joy in this meeting of the mammals. If you prefer your mammals a little larger - then there's a good chance you'll sight one of the 25,000 humpback whales on their long migration along the coast - now that's something to spout about. Camp out on Broughton Island where penguins and turtles play, visit Cabbage Tree Island, home of the endangered Gould's Petrel, visit the Botanic Gardens, the glorious Myall Lakes or snorkel at the famous Fly Point. See koalas in their natural habitat, kangaroos on the 10th hole and even a croc on a rock.

This guide highlights just some of the thousands of opportunities to experience the very best of Mother Nature in Port Stephens.

Our lands truly do abound in nature's gifts of beauty rich and rare... and you're invited to share in these gifts. As guardians of these treasures, all we ask is that you tread lightly to help preserve the biodiversity and respect those who came before as well as those who will follow.

Cycle of life

With over 50kms of cycleways you can pedal the Tomaree peninsula from Salamander to Fingal Bay, or try the 11km Raymond Terrace to Medowie ride. If you prefer, you can get off the beaten track and into the bush on a mountain bike and see the natural beauty along the tracks and firetrails of Tomaree National Park (see more on page 6).



Naturefest

Each June and July, Naturefest celebrates all the best of Mother Nature in Port Stephens from koalas and whales to bush walking trails. Snap your best "nature" image and enter the Shutterfest photography competition to win great prizes.



Animal attraction

Pat an alpaca, cuddle a kid and drool over ducklings while you enjoy a family friendly farm experience. There's koalas, kangaroos and crocodiles too. Or get in the pool to feed the hand-raised reef sharks and rays at Irukandji.



Hunter Region Botanic Gardens

Organise a guided tour through the tranquil gardens or follow the easy walking trail and explore natural bushland, native flora and exotics. Take a picnic, have a BBQ or have lunch at the café. (9am-4pm. Entry Free. Parking \$4)



BEST OF NATURE

The Port Stephens 'must do' list for the great outdoors.



Take a hike

Take a pre-dawn hike to the summit of Mount Tomaree to witness the best sunrise ever and take in the stunning views along the rugged coastline and over the bay. Check out the WWII gun emplacement on your way back down.



Get Wrecked

The Wreck Beach walk is not to be missed. This wilderness walking trail winds along the stunning coastline through wildflowers and tall red gums before opening out to a secluded cove.



Diving with dolphins

There is only one place in the state where you are permitted to swim with the dolphins - right here in Port Stephens! The Dolphin Swim Australia experience puts you in the water next to the dolphins as you both race through the clear water.



Something Fishy

Catch a fish feeding frenzy at 10:30am at D'ALBORA Marina wharf and watch for our resident dolphins.



Sandsational dunes!

Take a guided tour through the Worimi Conservation Lands encompassing the largest sand dunes in the Southern Hemisphere and Tin City an historic Mad Max-like location on this amazing lunar landscape. These monumental dunes will take your breath away.



There's a bear in there!

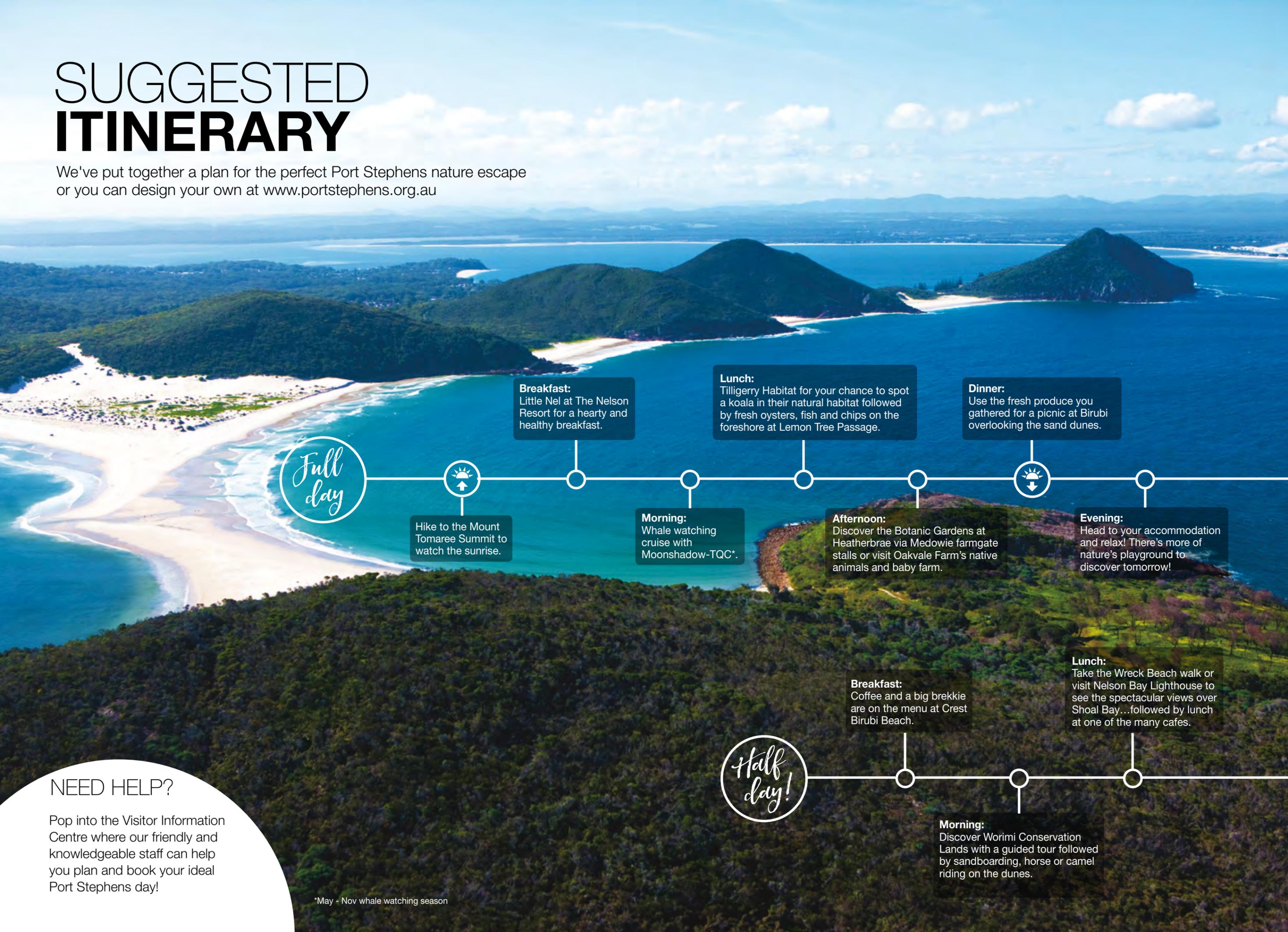
Learn about koalas in their natural environment - you might be lucky enough to see one! Take an eco tour of Tilligerry Habitat Reserve and try some bush tucker.

Magnificent mammals

See the the migrating humpback whales and local bottlenose dolphins up close and personal on a whale watching or dolphin discovery cruise.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

We've put together a plan for the perfect Port Stephens nature escape or you can design your own at www.portstephens.org.au



Full day



Hike to the Mount Tomaree Summit to watch the sunrise.

Breakfast:
Little Nel at The Nelson Resort for a hearty and healthy breakfast.

Morning:
Whale watching cruise with Moonshadow-TQC*.

Lunch:
Tilligerry Habitat for your chance to spot a koala in their natural habitat followed by fresh oysters, fish and chips on the foreshore at Lemon Tree Passage.

Afternoon:
Discover the Botanic Gardens at Heatherbrae via Medowie farmgate stalls or visit Oakvale Farm's native animals and baby farm.

Dinner:
Use the fresh produce you gathered for a picnic at Birubi overlooking the sand dunes.



Evening:
Head to your accommodation and relax! There's more of nature's playground to discover tomorrow!

Half day!

Breakfast:
Coffee and a big brekkie are on the menu at Crest Birubi Beach.

Lunch:
Take the Wreck Beach walk or visit Nelson Bay Lighthouse to see the spectacular views over Shoal Bay...followed by lunch at one of the many cafes.

Morning:
Discover Worimi Conservation Lands with a guided tour followed by sandboarding, horse or camel riding on the dunes.

NEED HELP?

Pop into the Visitor Information Centre where our friendly and knowledgeable staff can help you plan and book your ideal Port Stephens day!

*May - Nov whale watching season

PORT STEPHENS NATURE TRAIL

Climb a mountain, jump off a dune, take a scenic cycle or say hi to a humpback... enjoy the very best of nature's playground here in Port Stephens!

Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park

There's plenty of ways to explore the 98,000ha marine park including parasailing, kayaking, whale and dolphin watching cruises. Take a day trip to nearby Karuah, Myall Lakes and the quaint village of Tea Gardens or try and eco tour of Fingal Island and Lighthouse.

Tilligerry Nature Reserve

A 9ha nature reserve along the sandy foreshore of Tanilba Bay rich in flora and fauna. Guided walks and eco-tours are available or alternatively, visitors can follow the boardwalks through wetlands, mahogany paperbark forests and swamps. Here, visitors are likely to spot birds, kangaroos, koalas, and even echidnas.

Worimi Conservation Lands

(Stockton Bight Sand Dunes) reach heights of 40 metres and stretch for 32km, making them the longest moving sand dunes in the southern hemisphere. The sandscape can be explored by 4WD (permit required unless on tour), quad bike, camel, horseback, or sand board.

Bike & Hike Trails in Tomaree National Park

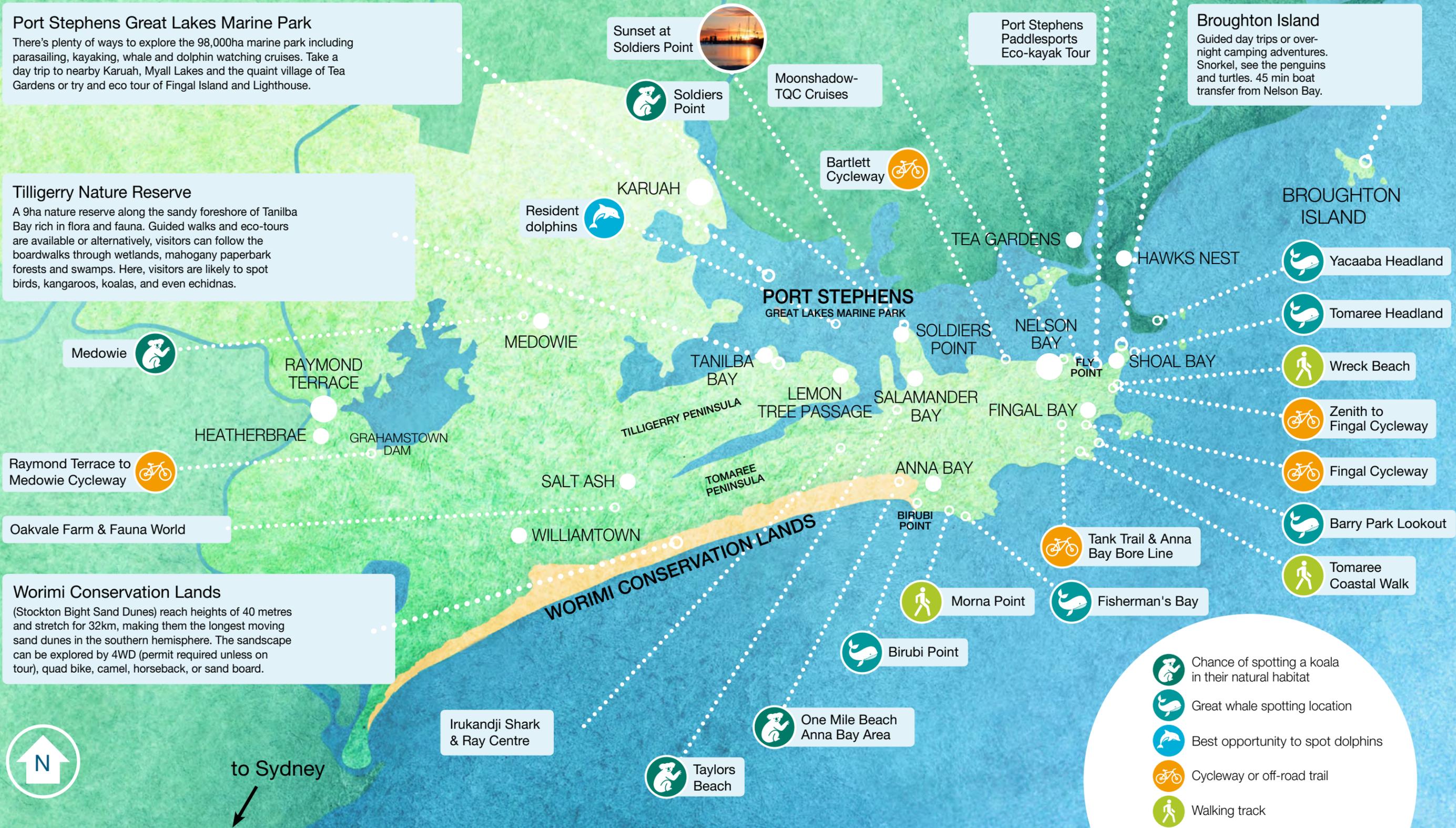
Take a hike to the summit of Mount Tomaree or take one of the many off-road cycle tracks through the National Park.

Diving and Snorkeling at Fly Point

Fly Point is a mecca for divers and snorkellers... with crystal clear water providing the perfect conditions to spot coral, fish, turtles, jellyfish, sea dragons, grofers, sponges, nudibranchs, remnants of shipwrecks and wondrous natural chasms.

Broughton Island

Guided day trips or overnight camping adventures. Snorkel, see the penguins and turtles. 45 min boat transfer from Nelson Bay.



-  Chance of spotting a koala in their natural habitat
-  Great whale spotting location
-  Best opportunity to spot dolphins
-  Cycleway or off-road trail
-  Walking track



to Sydney



RIDE OR STRIDE

CYCLING TRAILS

BARTLETT CYCLEWAY

Distance: 5km (one way)
Time: 30-45 mins
Difficulty: Easy

From Bagnalls Beach, to Little Beach / Inner Light Cafe via Dutchies, Nelson Bay Marina, Fly Point and Little Beach.

FINGAL CYCLEWAY

Distance: 3km (one way)
Time: 20-30 mins at leisurely speed
Difficulty: Easy

From Fingal End of Tomaree Road to Barry Park via Fingal Surf Club, Fingal Beach and Barry Park Whale Watching Platform.

ZENITH TO FINGAL CYCLEWAY

Distance: 2.5km (one way)
Time: 20-30 mins at leisurely speed
Difficulty: Medium (some areas require caution)

From Zenith Beach to Fingal Cycleway via Wreck Beach and Box Beach.

MAIN TRAILS IN TOMAREE NATIONAL PARK

TANK TRAIL & ANNA BAY BORE LINE

Distance: 5km (one way)
Time: 30-45 mins
Difficulty: Easy

From Fingal Bay Sports Club to the Polyclinic.

OTHER TRAILS PERMITTED FOR CYCLING WITHIN TOMAREE NATIONAL PARK

- Sewer Line Trail
- Moorland Trail
- South Gan Gan Trail
- Big Rocky Road
- Fenceline Trail
- Kunara Trail
- Skid Pan Trail
- Met Station Trail
- Glovers Hill Trail
- North South Trail
- Met Station Link Trail

WALKING TRAILS

TOMAREE HEAD SUMMIT

Distance: 2km (one way)
Time: 45 minutes each way
Difficulty: Medium

Take the invigorating short walk to the summit of Tomaree Head, 161m above the Port Stephens entrance. Enjoy unparalleled views from the top.

FORT TOMAREE

Distance: 2km (one way)
Time: 30 minutes each way
Difficulty: Medium

This easy walk on a paved track around the lower slopes of Tomaree Head brings you face-to-face with local military heritage – World War II Gun emplacements, built in 1941.

BIG ROCKY

Distance: 1.4km (one way)
Time: 30 minutes each way
Difficulty: Medium

A sandy track leading to a rocky headland ideal at low tide.

WRECK BEACH

Distance: 1km (one way)
Time: 20 minutes each way
Difficulty: Medium

This easy walk to Wreck Beach, through a lush coastal Angophora forest, leads onto a small cove with beautiful sand and open views of the ocean.

MORNA POINT

Distance: 5.5km (loop)
Time: 2 hours 30 minutes
Difficulty: Medium

A relaxing, wildflower laden, walk to the coast with some detour tracks.

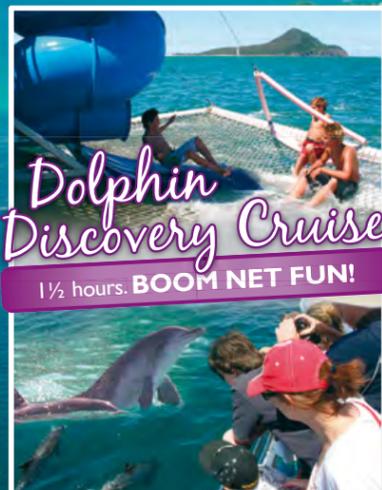




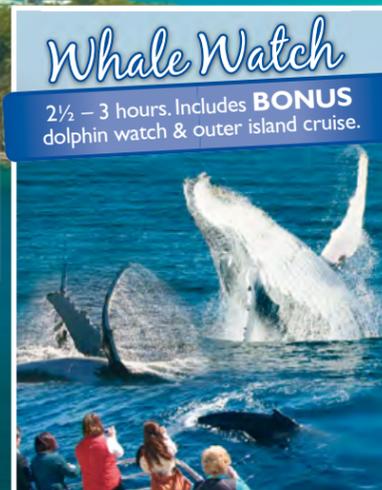
MOONSHADOW-TQC
CRUISES

Discover Port Stephens

Experience is the difference... Moonshadow-TQC's extensive fleet offers the region's most luxurious and largest vessels, with a cruise experience never to be forgotten.

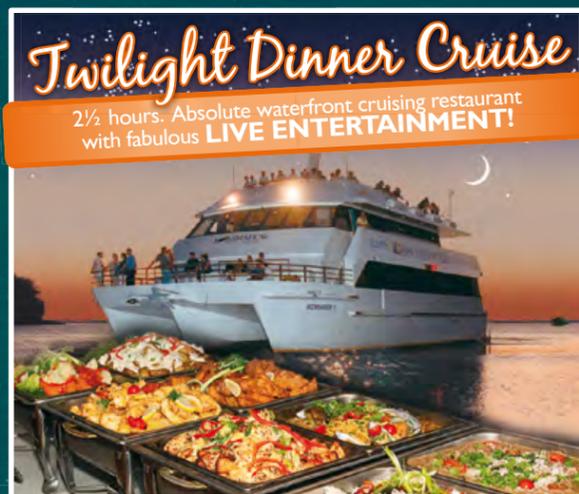
Dolphin Discovery Cruise
1½ hours. BOOM NET FUN!



Whale Watch
2½ – 3 hours. Includes **BONUS** dolphin watch & outer island cruise.



Splash & Slide Dolphin Watch
2 hours. With huge, fun **BOOM NET, WATERSLIDE & SPA!**



Twilight Dinner Cruise
2½ hours. Absolute waterfront cruising restaurant with fabulous **LIVE ENTERTAINMENT!**



Broughton Island National Park
ACTION or RELAXATION!
6½ – 7 hours. Includes bonus dolphin watch & outer island cruise.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PRIVATE CHARTER AND COMBO DEALS!



www.moonshadow-tqc.com.au

*Free return cruise if no dolphins sighted (standby basis). Terms and conditions apply.

(02) 4984 9388

Shop 3, 35 Stockton Street Nelson Bay
info@moonshadow-tqc.com.au

Port Stephens Paddlesports

Port Stephens is a paddling paradise. We're here to help you get out there and experience the wonder and wildlife.

- **Tours:** **Discovery Kayak Tour (2-2.5 hrs):** Designed as an ultimate eco adventure where we go beyond the boundaries and paddle all horizons, looking out for dolphins and other wildlife along the way.
- **Stand Up Paddle Tour (1.5 hrs):** Our new SUP Tours provides the perfect start to a bright and healthy day and offers a calm and serene experience, combined with enough exercise to uplift and energise.
- **Sunset Kayak Tour (1.5 hr):** Paddling with the colour and reflections of Port Stephens... Stop for a break and kick back with sparkling wine.
- **Kayak Hire (Single or Double):** Paddle and splash about at your own pace within safe, protected waters; or embark on your own discovery.
- **Stand Up Paddle Board (SUP) Hire:** A fun paddling activity that provides a great way to look around, and its EASY... even for the uncoordinated.

All tours and hire are subject to weather and availability.



■ 0405 033 518 ■ paddle@paddleportstephens.com.au ■ www.paddleportstephens.com.au
■ Nelson Bay Foreshore, Shoal Bay Beach and Shop at Shoal Bay (next door to Country Club Hotel)



Sand Dune Adventures

Sand Dune Adventures offers clients an exclusive "Cultural Quad Bike Riding" experience like no other, traversing the majestic and traditional landscape of the Worimi Sand Dunes / Port Stephens NSW Australia, recorded as the largest coastal moving sand mass in the southern hemisphere.

Customers ride safely from bush to beach on a 400cc quad bike and take in the glorious views of the sweeping coastline (NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY) with our experienced Aboriginal guides.

SDA tours cater from beginners to the experienced and offer the thrill of riding sand dunes that climb as high as 100 feet. So if it is adrenalin or just cruising, SDA offers the greatest adventure on one of Australia's greatest kept secrets, the Worimi Sand Dunes!

- Award winning quad bike company
- Hummer safari tours on the dunes
- Aboriginal culture tours



■ 02 4033 8808 ■ 2163 Nelson Bay Road Williamtown ■ sda@worimi.org.au
www.sandduneadventures.com.au ■ www.facebook.com/SandDuneAdventures





Sand Dune Safaris

Come on the ultimate adventure! Join us in one of our purpose built offroad vehicles and experience the magnificent Stockton Sand Dunes - the largest moving sand mass in the Southern Hemisphere, right here in beautiful Port Stephens!

- Sand boarding and
- Sand Surfing (Stand Up)
- Tin City tours
- Exclusive charters

We operate every day of the year.

Suitable for all ages.



- 0425 213 096
- sanddunesafaris@live.com.au
- www.sanddunesafaris.com.au



4WD Tours R Us

Experience the awesome thrill of Sandboarding down the largest dunes on Stockton beach! Conquering the dunes which can reach a whopping 50 metres in height is a must do activity for the everyone from the adventurous at heart to those wanting a challenge!

Our custom built off road vehicles will transport you up into the largest moving sand mass in the southern hemisphere.

Tin City Tours available.

Come visit us today!



- 02 4981 9352
- Lower Carpark, James Paterson Street Anna Bay
- 4wdtoursrus@gmail.com ■ www.facebook.com/4wdtoursrus

Port Stephens 4WD Tours

#1 4WD Tour Operator in Port Stephens.

We offer the ultimate beach and sand dune tours on amazing Stockton beach. Sandboard down the largest moving coastal sand mass in the Southern Hemisphere, experience the history behind "Tin City", or hire out a private charter to do what you wish.

- Sandboarding Adventures
- Beach & Dune tours to "Tin City"
- Private Charters
- Save with a combo deal. Enjoy a Port Stephens 4WD Adventure combined with a Dolphin or Whale Watch.

Experience the Stockton Sand Dunes today!

Tours depart daily in our range of air-conditioned, modern, comfortable, off-road 4WD vehicles.

- Sandboard for as long as you like
 - Tours depart daily
 - Experienced tour guides and instructors on hand to assist
- Depart from the lower car park at the end of James Paterson Street, Anna Bay 2316. Look for the red bus and red trailer.



- 02 4984 4760 ■ Shop 3, 35 Stockton St Nelson Bay ■ info@portstephens4wd.com.au
- www.portstephens4wd.com.au ■ www.facebook.com/portstephens4WDtours



The Anchorage

Relax and indulge at The Anchorage, where every minute of your experience is heaven. This luxury resort has water views from every aspect – suites, restaurants, conference rooms and even the sophisticated whisky bar.

The Wild Herring restaurant serves only the freshest local seafood, The Galley menu features a variety of divine meals and Hemingway's Bar is a step back in time to rich mahogany, soft leather and the finest whiskies from around the world.

Spa Lucca is a tranquil, seaside haven for your mind and body, restoring balance and wellness through the healing power of touch. The finest, personalised spa treatments bring relief and harmony while your mind and body are nourished and refreshed.

The Hamptons-style resort has been completely refurbished and offers the perfect waterfront escape.

Taking our inspiration from nature, The Anchorage strives to nurture mind, body and soul during your visit with us.



- 02 4984 2555 ■ Corlette Point Road, Corlette
- info@anchorageportstephens.com.au ■ www.anchorageportstephens.com.au
- www.facebook.com/AnchoragePortStephens ■ Instagram: @anchorageportstephens



Port Stephens Accommodation

We've got the place!

Port Stephens Accommodation have 100's of self contained holiday rentals in Port Stephens best locations.

- Studio apartments through to five bedroom houses
- Waterfront, waterviews and close to the water
- Resort apartments and villas - including Horizons Golf Club and Pacific Blue Resort
- Properties to suit your needs and budget - pet friendly, boat parking, air conditioning, pools, tennis courts, lift access, Foxtel, Wi-Fi.
- Group accommodation packages. 'Play and Stay,' golf packages.
- Short and long stays welcome.

Browse and book online or ring us and we will help you organise the ideal Port Stephens short break or long relaxing holiday.



- 02 4981 1577 ■ 7/35 Stockton Street Nelson Bay ■ holidays@accomnelsonbay.com
- www.portstephensaccommodation.com ■ www.facebook.com/portstephensaccommodation

PRDnationwide

Enjoy Port Stephens in all its glory!

PRD Port Stephens specialises in luxury and affordable accommodation. Whether you are having an adventurous group holiday, planning a romantic getaway or a fun-filled family break, we have the property to suit your needs, regardless of the season!

With over 180 holiday properties to choose from, we offer a wide variety of accommodation option with everything from luxury homes overlooking the magnificent coastline to 1 and 2 bedroom apartments right in the centre of town.

Book online now or call our experienced holiday team to help you find your perfect place in paradise!



- 02 4984 2000 ■ 63 Shoal Bay Road Shoal Bay
- holidays@prdportstephens.com.au ■ www.holidaysportstephens.com.au



The Nelson

The Nelson has recently undergone a major facelift, and now offers Nelson Bay's premier accommodation. Being located 100 meters from D'ALBORA Marinas, you can walk to everything that makes the Bay great – beaches, shops, cafés and parks. All rooms feature private balconies, most with views through the park to the Marina and Port Stephens.

The Nelson is also home to The Little Nel, one of the region's best cafes.

The Little Nel is a favourite of the local residents of Nelson Bay, serving barista made Suspension espresso, plus a breakfast menu that is creative and unique. Try the Sambal Chilli Pave, the now famous Pea and Zucchini Fritters or just perfectly cooked eggs with crisp streaky bacon.'

Winner Best Deluxe Hotel at North Coast Tourism Awards

- Located in the heart of Nelson Bay
- Fully heated pool – solar and electric heating year round
- FREE Wi-Fi on the NBN
- Gym, steamroom and outdoor activity area.



- 02 4916 4600 ■ 3-7 Government Road Nelson Bay
- reception@nelsonresort.com.au ■ www.nelsonresort.com.au

Mantra Aqua

Luxury ★★★★★ self contained apartments in the heart of Nelson Bay

Walking distance to shops, golf club and marina.

2 and 3 bedroom apartments and 3 bedroom penthouses, perfect for families and groups.

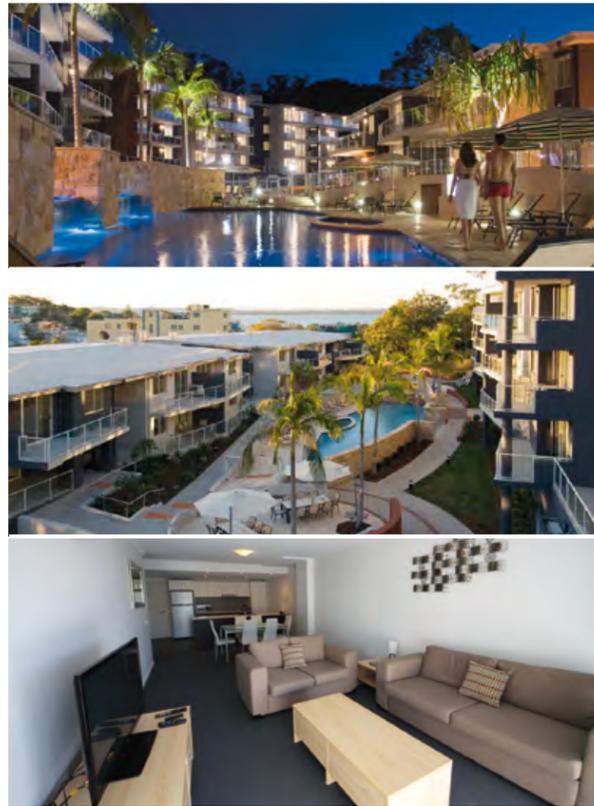
All apartments feature:

- Separate bedrooms
- Open plan living
- Fully self contained kitchens
- Air-conditioning
- Private balconies/courtyards
- Laundry facilities

Resort features:

- 25m solar heated lagoon pool
- Gas heated spa
- Children's water fountain play area
- Electric BBQs
- Tour desk
- Lift access to all floor levels
- Secure undercover parking

AAA ★★★★★



■ 02 4916 4777 ■ 1A Tomaree Street Nelson Bay ■ enquiries@aquaresort.com.au
 ■ www.mantraaqua.com.au ■ www.facebook.com/mantraaquanelsonbay



The Retreat Port Stephens

Your bush hideaway beside the sand dunes

The Retreat Port Stephens offers accommodation options to couples, families, groups and schools. Situated on 4 acres of natural bushland and backing onto the largest living sand dunes in the southern hemisphere, The Retreat is a holiday venue like no other.

Self contained buildings, games room, swimming pool, covered BBQ areas, camp fires, kids playground and just minutes to the local beach.

- Lodge (sleeps 24 guests)
- Ranch (sleeps 8 guests)
- 2 x Duplexes (each sleep 16 guests)
- 3 x Bungalows (each sleep 6 guests)
- 4 x Cabins (each sleep 5 guests)



■ 02 4982 1244 ■ 4302 Nelson Bay Road Anna Bay
 ■ www.theretreatportstephens.com.au
 ■ admin@theretreatportstephens.com.au
 ■ www.facebook.com/theretreatportstephens

Share a love of **adventure?**



Download our handy adventure guide at
www.portstephens.org.au

Marty's @ Little Beach

... a little slice of heaven

From the moment you arrive at Marty's you'll notice... it's the little things that count. A friendlier welcome, some helpful advice and just a little extra care. Quietly nestled between two of Port Stephens' most idyllic beaches, Marty's offers stylish motel-style rooms and self-contained apartments in a picture perfect location.

When you arrive, leave the car (and your stress) in the car park - you won't be needing them - and take a two minute walk west to stunning Little Beach. Soft white sand, perfect swimming for the kids, boat ramp and one of the best scuba diving spots on the east coast.

Need a change? Walk five minutes east and find a protected spot on the uncrowded Shoal Bay Beach - postcard perfect! Take a big breath in... exhale... now relax a little... you've just discovered a little slice of heaven... without costing the earth!



marty's
 @ LITTLE BEACH

■ 02 4984 9100 ■ Corner Gowrie Avenue and Intrepid Close Nelson Bay
 ■ enquiries@martys.net.au ■ www.martys.net.au ■ www.facebook.com/MartysNelsonBay

Take it easy.



Who has 2500 beds, 15 Holiday Parks, 26 beaches and bays, 35 SUP boards, a 46 foot yacht, 140 Dolphins, 10 camels, 32km of dunes and all in the one place?

www.portstephens.org.au

...get all the very best of Port Stephens in one click!

#loveportstephens

Snap and upload a pic of what you love about Port Stephens.



Destination
Port Stephens
P.S. I love you xx

For Accommodation and Tour Bookings
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