



travel feature

THE MANY FACES OF THE TWEED

The development of Salt Village and Casuarina Beach along the ocean foreshores just south of Kingscliff has launched a revitalization of the entire Tweed region in northern NSW.

But it's not just the new upmarket resorts that people are flocking to see.

From the cosy country [B&Bs](#) and luxury [rainforest retreats](#) of the valley to the beachfront [caravan parks](#) and sleepy fishing villages strung out along the coastline, travelers to this diverse and picturesque region are rediscovering the Tweed's hidden gems, traditional treasures and old family favourites.

Nudging up against Queensland's glitzy Gold Coast and barely five minutes drive from Coolangatta Airport, the Tweed coast stretches along 35kms of uncrowded and unspoilt beaches punctuated by legendary surfing pointbreaks and tidal inlets leading into a network of tranquil creeks and rivers.

Forming a dramatic backdrop to this seaside serenity is Mt Warning – the highest mountain along this stretch of the east coast and the central plug of what once was the largest shield volcano in the southern hemisphere.

Circling out from its base, the rich soils of the ancient caldera nurture lush farmland and grazing country undulating in gentle hills up to the cliffs of a jagged escarpment draped with subtropical rainforests and no less than five World Heritage listed National Parks.

As the northern gateway to the region, the bustling border town of Tweed Heads has secured its place as the entertainment hub. Sprawling complexes like [Twin Towns Services Club](#), [Tweed Heads Bowls Club](#) and [Club Banora](#) have been built on the popularity of the pokies, complemented by live music, international headline acts and top class affordable restaurants.

Barely a hop, skip and jump down the road, however, you'll find a very different side to life at the [Tweed Marina](#).

Get down to River Terrace at sunrise to watch the trawlers chug past and then line up to buy the day's catch straight from the back of the boat. If you'd prefer the DIY approach, hop aboard one of the [deep sea fishing charters](#) and go out in search of your own wahoo, billfish, tuna or snapper.

Of course, you may be after something even more substantial – in which case, you'll want to be here for the prime whale watching season from June to November. For a truly up-close-and-

personal encounter, [Tweed Snorkelling and Whale Watching Adventures](#) operate their off-shore expeditions in a ten-man zodiac, [Fingal Dive Charters](#) head out in their dive boat and [Aquatic Blue Charters](#) has a larger boat catering for up to 45 passengers. In the non-whale watching season, you'll be just as awe-struck by taking a trip out to Cook Island where you can dive in and snorkel with the turtles that make their home around the coral reef here.

Getting back to that seafood banquet we were putting together, you might need a few fresh crustaceans to go with those prawns, game fish and Tweed River oysters packed in the picnic esky. Heading out from the Marina or driving around to Birds Bay, you can take a [crab catching cruise](#) where passengers throw out the pots for a haul of Queensland muddies and stop along the banks to pump for yabbies as you commune with the birds and marine life of the wetland estuaries.

If even this sounds a little too strenuous, you can let Captain Alf of [Tweed Endeavour Cruises](#) do all the hard work as he takes the slow scenic route along the Tweed River, through the rainforests of Stotts Island to the quaint rivertown of Tumbulgum, where you can tuck into a traditional pub lunch at the historic hotel on the banks.

Following the flash new Pacific Motorway across the Tweed River, take any turn-off you like to discover the untouched magic of beachside villages like Fingal, Hastings Point, Cabarita and Pottsville, or join the café society at one of the excellent outdoor eateries along Kingscliff's beachfront 'Eat Street' or [Salt Village](#).

Complementing the luxury getaways like [Peppers Salt Spa and Resort](#), [Mantra on the Beach at Salt](#), [Domain Casuarina Beach Resort](#) and [Santai Resort](#) south of Kingscliff is a coterie of five star gourmet [dining venues](#) where award-winning chefs are using the region's unique local produce to create their own brand of 'Tweed cuisine'.

Many of the farmers and growers who supply these restaurants are equally happy to share their bounty with us amateurs by welcoming visitors to the farm gates. By mapping out your own food trail, you can add to the picnic supplies with native fingerlimes, Buddha's hands and other exotic fruits at [Banana Cabana](#) (Chillingham), Rodina's smoked trout and other gourmet goodies at the [Guinea Farm](#) or [Fernvale](#) roadside stalls (near Murwillumbah), tasty rabbit sausages and pates from [Border Range Fresh Farmed Rabbits](#) (Kyogle), lemon myrtle tea from Twyford's (Limpinwood), [Madura Tea](#) (Clothiers Creek), [Zeta's Coffee](#) (Carool) and a bottle or two of local wine [from Ilnam Wine Estate](#) (Carool).

The Tweed's growing reputation as a foodie destination is further highlighted by a family theme park focused on tropical and exotic fruits. Less than ten minutes' drive from the beach, [Tropical Fruit World](#) is one of the Tweed's most popular attractions where you can easily spend most of the day taking the tractor tour around the various plantations, sampling treats like jak fruit, chocolate pudding fruit, babaco and dragon fruit along the way; or playing with the native animals as you set out a picnic lunch; or dining in the gracious old Plantation House Restaurant; or creating your own exotic fruit ice-cream at the ice-creamery.

The Tweed region is also justifiably famous for its arts and crafts, and the Valley villages are home to an active community of talented local artists.

Following the [Tweed Art Trail](#) to the various galleries, craft shops and studios where you can view and buy their creations is the ideal way to explore the magnificent rural scenery and quaint country villages like Tumbulgum, Chillingham, Tyalgum, Uki, Stokers Siding, Burringbar and Mooball, as well as the Tweed's outstanding regional art gallery at Murwillumbah.

A similarly mapped-out trail will expose you to Mother Nature's creative talents as you journey deeper into the valley towards the edge of the escarpment. [The Rainforest Way](#) is a relatively new touring route that links the World Heritage Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia through northern NSW and south-east Queensland.

Whilst the entire circuit can be stretched out over two to three days, the Tweed's Mt Warning View Circuit is the perfect day drive, giving you access to the bushwalks and scenic picnic spots of Mt Warning National Park, Mebbin National Park, Wollumbin National Park and Springbrook National Park.

Another highlight of the Rainforest Way is the Tweed Range Scenic Drive along the top of the escarpment through the Border Ranges National Park to breathtaking views across the Tweed Valley from The Pinnacle Lookout and Blackbutts Picnic Area.

If you plan to head out towards the rainforests, the World Heritage Rainforest Centre at Murwillumbah should be your first stop. In addition to the wealth of visitor information available here, you'll learn all about the geographical history of Mt Warning and the rainforests from their comprehensive displays.

Tweed Tourism can provide details on what's available and make all your reservations, as well as sending you a free copy of their Tweed Coolangatta Visitor Guide. Phone tollfree on 1800 674 414 or go to www.tweedtourism.com.au.

Tweed Links

Tweed Tourism

www.tweedtourism.com.au

1800 674 414

New Tweed Coast Resorts

Salt Village – www.saltvillage.com.au

Peppers Salt Resort & Spa – www.peppers.com.au/salt

Mantra on the Beach at Salt – www.mantra.com.au

Domain Santai Resort – www.domainresorts.com

Domain Casuarina Beach Resort – www.domainresorts.com

Drift Apartments & Villas – www.domainresorts.com

Mainwaring Apartments – www.domainresorts.com

B&Bs

Castle On the Hill B&B – www.castleonhill.com

Cougal View Homestead B&B – www.cougalview.com.au

Hillcrest Mountain View Retreat – www.hillcrestbb.com

Kallora Country Retreat – www.kalloraretreat.com.au

Ripples on Tweed – www.ripples.net.au

Shambala at Uki B&B – www.stayz.com.au

Top Spot – 02-6679 5395

Rainforest Retreats

Crabbes Creek Cottages – www.crabbescreekcottages.com

Torokina Cottage – www.torokina.com.au

Amazing Wollumbin Palms Retreat – www.wollumbinpalms.com.au

Attunga Park Country Retreat – www.attungapark.com.au
Crystal Creek Rainforest Retreat – www.crystalcreekrainforestretreat.com.au
EcOasis – www.ecoasis.com.au
Limpinwood Lodge – www.limpinwoodlodge.com.au
Penny Ridge Resort – www.pennyridgeresort.com
Tropical Coast Retreat – www.tropicalcoast.com.au
Tyalgum Ridge Retreat – 02-6679 3222
Whitehall Lodge – 07-5536 3233

Caravan Parks

Chinderah Village Park – 02-6674 1536
Colonial Tweed Caravan Park – 07-5524 2999
Greenhills Caravan Park – 02 6672 2035
Homestead Holiday Park – www.homesteadcp.com.au
Mount Warning Holiday Park – www.mtwarningholidaypark.com
North Star Holiday Resort – www.northstar.com.au
Pyramid Caravan Park – www.pyramidpark.com.au
River Retreat Caravan Park – 07-5524 2700
Tweed Billabong Holiday Park – www.tweedbillabong.com.au
Tweed Coast Holiday Parks – www.tchp.com.au

- Boyds Bay Holiday Park
- Fingal Holiday Park
- Kingscliff Beach Holiday Park
- Kingscliff North Holiday Park
- Hastings Point Holiday Park
- Pottsville North Holiday Park
- Pottsville South Holiday Park

Services Clubs & Hotels

Club Banora – www.twintowns.com.au
Coolangatta Tweed Heads Golf Club – www.cooltweedgolf.com.au
Cudgen Leagues Club Ltd – 02-6674 1816
Murwillumbah Golf Club – 02-6672 1799
The New Seagulls Club – www.seagullclub.com.au
Tweed Heads Bowls Club – www.thbc.com.au
Twin Towns Services Club – www.twintowns.com.au
Tumbulgum Hotel – 02-6676 6202
Tyalgum Hotel – 02-6679 3229

Cruises, Charters & Houseboats

Aquatic Blue Charters – www.aquaticbluecharters.com.au
Cushy Fishing Charters – www.cushyfishingcharters.com.au
Deep Sea Fishing Down Under – www.fishingdownunder.com.au
Fingal Dive Charters – 0418 711 659
Neptunes Pleasure Pontoons – www.neptunespleasurepontoons.com.au
Reel Fishn – www.reelfishn.com.au
Seamaster Fishing Charters – www.seamasterfishingcharters.com
Catch-a-Crab – www.catchacrab.com.au
Tweed Endeavour Cruises – www.goldcoastcruising.com
Tweed Snorkelling & Whale Adventures – www.tweedoceanadventures.com.au
Berger Houseboats – www.bergerhouseboats.com.au
Boyds Bay Houseboats – www.boydsbayhouseboats.com.au

Fine Dining

Signatures Restaurant, OutriggerTwin Towns Resort – www.twintowns.com.au
Roughies Restaurant and Bar, Peppers Salt Resort and Spa – www.peppers.com.au
Sandbar + Grill, Domain Casuarina Beach Resort – www.casuarinabeach.com.au
Ivory Hotel – www.ivoryhotel.com.au
Mahsuri Restaurant Bar – www.mahsuri.com.au
Bamboo – www.domainresorts.com.au

Farmgate Attractions

Banana Cabana & Bush Tucker Garden – 02-6679 1022
Guinea Farm Stall – 02-6679 5409
Fernvale Bird Sanctuary & Fruit Barn – 02-6677 9323
Border Range Fresh Farmed Rabbits – www.borderrangerabbit.com.au
Twyfords Lemon Myrtle Tea
Madura Tea – www.maduratea.com.au
Zeta's Coffee – www.zetascoffee.com.au
Ilnam Wine Estate – www.ilnam.com.au
Tropical Fruit World – www.tropicalfruitworld.com.au

Touring Routes

Tweed Art Trail – www.tweed.nsw.gov.au
Rainforest Way – www.rainforestway.com.au

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Released by Verve Consulting on behalf of Tweed Tourism

MORE INFORMATION:

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