PORT STEPHENS

From sparkling blue waters (with resident bottlenose dolphins) and sandy beaches, to stunning waterfront restaurants and boutique accommodation – Port Stephens is a veritable paradise waiting to be explored.

Making the most of unimpeded water views on the beachfront of Soldiers Point in Port Stephens, Bannisters has opened the doors of its third luxury boutique hotel with the creative team of architect Tony Freeman, interior designer Romy Alwill and landscape designer Will Dangar. While the lofty, double-height lobby opens onto a stunning infinity pool and bar, the interiors feature tones and textures of the earth and sea, with plenty of crisp whites, brass, rich timber and punches of blue. Choose between the celebrated Rick Stein at Bannisters restaurant and the casual dining of Terrace Bar.

stay
BANNISTERS

bannisters.com.au/port-stephens
@bannistershotels
**The Anchorage**

Breezy waterfront style at its finest, The Anchorage offers effortlessly luxurious accommodation – from spacious rooms to mezzanine-style loft suites and a decadent villa – along with world-class Spa Lucca and decadent dining options.

The Anchorage showcases the region’s growing culinary reputation, with delicious seafood at The Wild Herring (head chef Michael Jenkin’s menu is particularly inspired) and relaxed dining at The Galley Kitchen, while sophisticated and inviting Hemingway’s Bar is the perfect spot for a drop (or two).

Overlooking what is arguably one of the world’s most beautiful ports, this idyllic, Hamptons-style resort is a haven of five-star excellence.

stay anchorageportstephens.com.au
@theanchorageportstephens

**Little Beach Boathouse**

Looking for upscale nosh and magical ocean views? Look no further than Little Beach Boathouse. Opened in 2013 and overlooking the spectacular vista of Little Beach, the restaurant’s modern Australian menu boasts local produce and fresh seafood.

But it’s not all about the fine food. Little Beach Boathouse is passionate about sharing all that Port Stephens and the Hunter Valley have to offer, and that includes local wines, plus craft beers from the local Murray’s Brewery. Cheers to that.

littlebeachboathouse.com.au
@littlebeachboathouse

**Tomaree National Park**

The ideal weekend getaway destination, Tomaree National Park offers everything from whale watching at historical Fort Tomaree, to exploring the Point Stephens Lighthouse on Fingal Island and snorkeling or crystaline waters at the secluded Fishermans Bay foreshore.

Not to be missed is the hike to the summit of Tomaree Head, where you’ll enjoy impressive views of idyllic Port Stephens and its coastline. Don’t forget the picnic basket!
TRAVEL DESTINATION

GATHER

SHOAL BAY COUNTRY CLUB

This is the place to gather in Shoal Bay for sun-soaked dining overlooking the water. The relaxed beachfront setting is the work of award-winning Sydney interior design firm Luchetti Krelle, who took inspiration from original photos of the historic hotel for the $6 million renovation last year.

The atmosphere is enhanced by live entertainment, and you can expect a bistro menu featuring the region’s finest produce sourced from both land and sea, paired with a beautifully curated wine list. Don’t miss the delicious breakfast menu at Mermaids Café.

shoalbaycountryclub.com.au
@shoalbaycountryclub

EAT

THE LITTLE NEL

Located below Hotel Nelson and boasting a sunny resort-style deck, The Little Nel is a must when in Port Stephens, if for no other reason than their delicious bombolini (warmed Nutella-filled Italian doughnut). For something slightly less decadent, we recommend the fresh fig and crumbled haloumi salad with pomegranate, watermelon and salsa verde. From humble beginnings, The Little Nel has grown into a favourite haunt for locals and visitors alike – Little by name but big on taste!

littlenel.com.au
@thelittlenel

ZENITH BEACH

Port Stephens is famous for its golden sandy beaches and scenic waterways, and Zenith Beach – framed between two conical headlands – is a great surfing spot during a north-east swell. Follow a timber-slatted walkway lined by dune grasses and you’ll find a beautiful spot to swim while admire the towering peak of Tomaree Head.

Also of note is Shoal Bay’s main beach, the sweeping crescent beach directly inside the bay of Port Stephens perfect for watching the sunrise over the headlands and glamping the resident bottlenose dolphins.

zenithbeach.com.au
@zenithbeach

More to Port Stephens

ADVENTURE: OAKVALE WILDLIFE PARK
Get up close and personal with a range of creatures – from kangaroos to lambs to oh-so-cuddly koalas. A must for families and animal lovers.
oakvalewildlife.com.au

STAY: SALT AT SHOAL BAY
A modern Australian beach house divided into two self contained levels and a free-standing cottage.
saltatshoalbay.com.au

SHOP: THE HOME INTERIOR
Get a retail fix of coastal-inspired homewares in this beautifully curated store. Pop next door to In House Kitchen for a tasty meal.
thehomeinterior.com.au
@thehomeinterior

PHOTOGRAPHY

ANSON SMART

VISIT

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zenithbeach.com.au
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MORE TO

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PHOTOGRAPHY

MICHELLE CLARK
Influenced by the aristocratic and bohemian jet-set crowd that descended on the island of Mustique in the 1960s and ’70s, Paddo To Palmy have designed a classic collection of garments that are equally wearable on an island as they are in the city. The ‘Mustique’ collection features vintage-inspired paisleys, stripes, batik and flower-based prints.

**WHAT TO PACK**

**SUMMER HOLIDAY**