



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.

WORDS JACQUI GREIG

stay BANNISTERS

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.

bannisters.com.au/port-stephens
@ bannistershotels





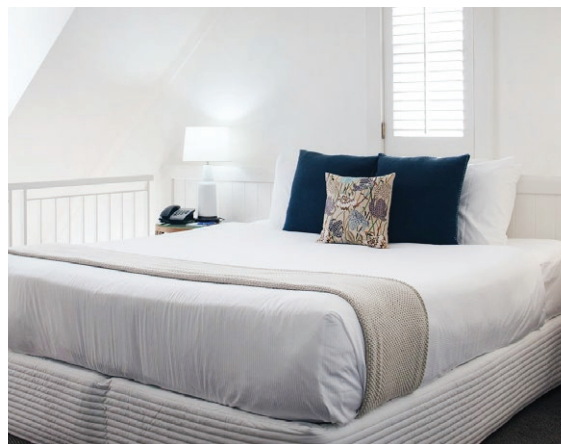
stay THE ANCHORAGE

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 Jenkins'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.



 anchorageportstephens.com.au
 [@theanchorageportstephens](https://www.instagram.com/theanchorageportstephens)



eat 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](https://www.instagram.com/littlebeachboathouse)

explore 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 in crystalline 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!



VISTA



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](https://www.instagram.com/shoalbaycountryclub)



PHOTOGRAPHY ANSON SMART



surf
**ZENITH
BEACH**

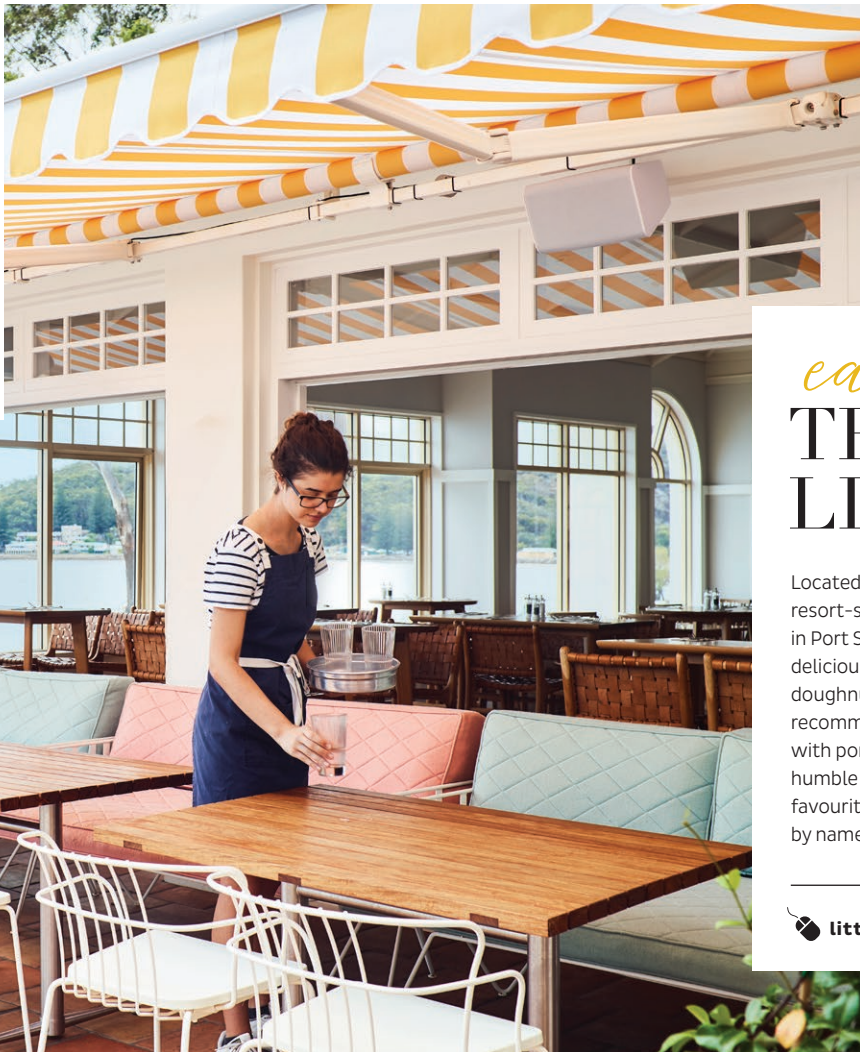
Port Stephens is famous for its golden sandy beaches and scenic waterways, and Zenith Beach – framed between two conical headlands – is a great surfing spot during a north-east swell. Follow a timber-slatted walkway lined by dune grasses and you'll find a beautiful spot to swim while admiring the towering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



PHOTOGRAPHY MICHELLE CLARK

VISTA



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 crumbed haloumi salad with pomegranate, watermelon and salsa verde. From humble beginnings, The Little Nel has grown into a favourite haunt for Bay locals and visitors alike – Little by name but big on taste!

littlenel.com.au [@thelittlenel](https://www.instagram.com/thelittlenel)



*MORE TO
PORT STEPHENS*

**ADVENTURE: OAKVALE
WILDLIFE PARK**

Get up close and personal with a range of creatures – from kangaroos to lamas 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 third freestanding 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



SUMMER HOLIDAY

WHAT TO PACK

VINTAGE MUSTIQUE VIBES

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 as wearable on an island as they are in the city. The 'Mustique' collection features vintage-inspired paisleys, stripes, batik and flower-based prints.

paddotopalmy.com.au

BAG Kollab 'Sloth' shopper tote \$24.95 kollab.com.au / **PLANNER** Emma Kate Co. 2019 weekly planner \$59 adoremagazine.com/shop / **CLUTCH** Country Road 'Stripe' woven clutch \$79.95 countryroad.com.au / **LOTION** Bali Body 'Luxe' moisturising lotion \$26.95 balibodyco.com.au / **TOWEL** Grace Garrett 'Sandy Palms' beach towel \$99 gracegarrett.com / **SHOES** Bared 'Pheasant' heels \$249 bared.com.au / **DRESS** Paddo To Palmy 'Olivier' shirt dress in vintage flower white \$289 paddotopalmy.com.au / **SUNGLASSES** Quay Australia 'Drama By Day' \$60 quayastralia.com.au / **UMBRELLA** Sunday Supply Co. 'Sun Ray' beach umbrella \$249 sundaysupply.co / **EARRINGS** Lumiere Art & Co. 'Dakota' earrings \$24 lumiereartandco.com.au / **POOL TOY** Sunnyslife pool ring in rose gold \$29.95 sunnyslife.com.au / **SUITCASE** Wanderers Travel Co. 'The Wanderer' cabin suitcase cabin bag \$649 wandererstravelco.com / **SWIMSUIT** Lonely 'Nancy' swimsuit in rust shimmer \$299 lonelylabel.com

*collect.
karry.
colour.
kompartmentalise.
compact.
keep.*



kollab

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www.kollab.com.au