

# DISCOVER THE TWEED

FROM FIRST CLASS SURF BEACHES TO WORLD HERITAGE  
LISTED RAINFORESTS THE TWEED HAS IT ALL

The Tweed region in northern NSW offers a unique combination of World Heritage rainforests, dramatic mountain ranges, fertile green fields, uncrowded beaches and world-famous surf breaks, alongside stunning, winding roads, that are perfect for a day trip, weekend away or extended driving holiday – all nestled in the eroded caldera of the largest shield volcano in the Southern Hemisphere.

Mt Warning (Wollumbin) in the heart of the Tweed Valley is the backdrop for rambling bushwalks and country drives. Visitors will find cosy B&Bs and retreats nestled amidst tea plantations and market gardens. The Tweed Valley boasts the highest number of artists per capita than any other shire in Australia. Local galleries showcase the work of artists inspired by the landscape, wildlife, history, community and spirituality of the region.

The Tweed Coast offers a choice of quiet seaside towns and sophisticated resorts. Safe, patrolled swimming beaches are lined with first class resort hotels and accommodation is available to suit all tastes and budgets. Vibrant seaside esplanades offer boutique shopping, sun-drenched cafés and award winning restaurants that serve produce grown in the rich fertile soils our region is famous for.



### GETTING HERE:

#### By Car

The Tweed is only a one hour drive south from Brisbane, or a 30min drive north from Byron Bay.

#### By Air

Fly directly to Gold Coast Airport, we're only a one hour flight from Sydney.

#### By Coach

Regular bus services stop throughout the region providing transport from Sydney, Byron Bay, the Gold Coast and Brisbane.

## INTERSETING TWEED FACTS



**1** The Tweed is one of the richest and diverse regions for flora and fauna in Australia thanks to the mild climate, topography, rainfall and altitude.

**2** The Tweed Valley contains 14 National Parks and Reserves including 3 World Heritage Listed areas that incorporate hundreds of kilometres of bushwalking trails, from short strolls (less than 500m) to 3 day hikes.

**3** The Tweed is home to first class surf breaks and world surfing champions Steph Gilmore and Mick Fanning.

**4** The Tweed boasts the highest number of artists per capita than any other shire in Australia. Local galleries showcase the work of artists inspired by the landscape, wildlife, history, community and spirituality of our beautiful region.

**5** The region is famous for the stunning natural environment and boasts 35km of uncrowded, unspoilt coastline. When strolling along the Tweed Coast beaches you see hinterland and green space, not high rises and sky scrapers.

**6** Cook Island nature reserve - a short 600m from the Tweed Shore - offers some of the best scuba diving and snorkeling along the south-east QLD/northern NSW coastline. It is home to green turtles, spotted Eagle rays, cuttlefish, wobblygongs and (completely harmless) leopard sharks. Snorkeling trips and dive charters are available so you can swim with the turtles.

**7** At Fingal Head you can see Australia's very own Giant's Causeway. An amazing spectacle of vertical columns and hexagonal cross sections of rock which were formed by the cooling of basalt lava flows from the ancient volcano.

**8** The Tweed region is one of the largest refuges of ancient Antarctic Beech Trees which covered most of Australia and Antarctica when they were part of the Gondwana super-continent.

**9** In the heart of the Tweed region you will find the best example of a preserved erosion caldera in the world and the largest in the southern hemisphere!

**10** The Tweed is home to Mt Warning (Wollumbin), the remnant of an ancient shield volcano. It is a towering 1.156km mountain in the centre of the Tweed Valley that is the first place on mainland Australia that the sun's rays touch each morning.

Mt Warning (Wollumbin) is the last remnant of the extinct volcanos central core. Named Wollumbin, meaning Cloud Catcher by the Bundjalung people who lived in the area before European settlement, it stands tall and proud in the centre of the Tweed Shire. The peak of the mountain can be seen from almost everywhere in the shire.



## WEEKEND WANDERER – 3 DAYS

### Day 1

Make your way to Kingscliff for your overnight accommodation. Enjoy dinner at one of the great restaurants that Kingscliff and Salt have to offer. Many of the hotels offer undercover secure parking for guests so your car/bike will be protected overnight.

### Day 2

After a hearty breakfast, set off for a day of fantastic scenery and winding roads! Head north along the M1 to Robina, where you take the Mudgeeraba turn off (exit 80). The Springbook Plateau is 24km of stunning driving roads. Wind your way over the plateau before heading along Pine Creek Road to the end, turn left onto Nerang – Murwillumbah Road and follow the signs to Natural Bridge. Stop for a break here and take a walk through to the stunning waterfalls and see how many glow worms you can see in the Natural Bridge. The roads are steep and narrow – perfect for a morning drive! Continue on through Murwillumbah to Tumbulgum and enjoy lunch at the historical Tumbulgum Tavern on the banks of the Tweed River, before making your way back to Kingscliff for your overnight accommodation.

### Day 3

Head deeper into the Tweed Valley today, back through Murwillumbah, making sure to stop at Stokers Siding to see the amazing pottery displays. Head into Mt Warning National Park and take the short walk into the World Heritage listed rainforest, before stopping at Mavis' Kitchen for lunch. This afternoon, head south from Uki to Nimbin and stop for afternoon tea. Tucked away in the hills west of Byron Bay, Nimbin was once a sleepy little dairying village in a lush setting of farmland and forest. Today Nimbin is known the world over as Australia's most famous hippie destination and alternative lifestyle capital. Nimbin is the perfect place to spend the afternoon and rest, relax and rejuvenate before heading into Byron Bay for the night.

## MEANDERING THE TWEED – 5 DAYS

### Day 1

After a hearty breakfast, set off for a day of fantastic scenery and windy roads! Head north along the M1 to Robina, where you take the Mudgeeraba turn off (exit 80). The Springbook Plateau is 24km of stunning driving roads. Wind your way over the plateau before heading along Pine Creek Road to the end, turn left onto Nerang – Murwillumbah Road and follow the signs to Natural Bridge. Stop for a break here and take a walk through to the stunning waterfalls and see how many glow worms you can see in the Natural Bridge. The roads are steep and narrow – perfect for a morning drive! Continue on through Murwillumbah to Tumbulgum and enjoy lunch at the historical Tumbulgum Tavern on the banks of the Tweed River, before making your way back to Kingscliff for your overnight accommodation. Tumbulgum was one of the first villages established in northern NSW around 1840.

### Day 2

Your day begins with a short drive to Tweed Heads – the twin town with Coolangatta, located on the border of Queensland and New South Wales. Board your river cruise for a journey along the Tweed River and try your hand at catching mud crabs and yabbies. Where else in the world can you join a cruise that lets you catch your lunch and then help you cook it? Then head inland to Duranbah, 15 minutes drive from Tweed Heads, with majestic views over the Tweed Valley and Mount Warning (Wollumbin). Spend the afternoon at Tropical Fruit World. The farm grows over 500 different varieties of tropical and rare fruits. Join the Miracle Fruit Show, where you will have a chance to sample the seasonal fruits of the day before joining the Plantation Safari Tour, Orchard Discovery Walk, join a jungle cruise and relax on Treasure Island. This day tour highlights all that the Tweed Region is famous for and will give you a taste of the real Australian country experience.

### Day 3

The Tweed Valley offers the best of best of all worlds, with lush World Heritage Rainforests and dramatic mountain ranges, take a drive through the fertile green fields and sugarcane. Soak in the spectacular scenery as you weave your way through the picturesque Tweed Valley. Your first stop today is the stunning town of Tyalgum. Once a remote timber town, Tyalgum is now a popular tourist stop, thanks to the quaint old buildings that have been lovingly restored. Enjoy morning tea at Flutterbies Cottage Café and wander through the boutique shops and look for a bargain! Then head to Chillingham, where you are in for a real treat. Chillingham is home to the Tweed's very own Bush Tucker Man – Buck Buchanan. Tending the orchards behind his rustic roadside stall, Buck grows a fascinating variety of local and exotic citrus fruits and is happy to take you on a tour through his Bush Tucker Garden. Try the finger limes, laugh at the Buddha's Hand and try the Japanese yuzu, bergamots, kaffir limes and Davidson Plums (just to name a few of his fruits). Enjoy time to visit the Soap Factory and pottery gallery as well as stopping for lunch. Head back to Murwillumbah and a visit to the Tweed River Art Gallery. As well as the stunning artwork, enjoy the spectacular view back over the caldera

### Day 4

Head out of Murwillumbah along Rainforest Way to Uki, a peaceful village located in the foothills of Mt Warning (Wollumbin). Situated on the banks of the Tweed River, Uki has stunning views of Mt Warning (Wollumbin) from anywhere in town. The village is a heritage conservation area with historic buildings including the Mt Warning Hotel, the bank building and an old butter factory. This is a great stop to stretch your legs and enjoy morning tea before continuing your drive. As you continue towards Kyogle, look out for Clarrie Hall Dam, claimed to be one of the most picturesque places in the Tweed Valley with its lily-covered lake mirroring a stunning

view of Mt Warning, The dam is a popular spot for fly-fishing and is stocked with Bass fingerlings annually. From here continue onto Mt Burrell and Border Ranges National Park, where there is nowhere else in the world where you can stand on the rim of an ancient volcanic caldera surrounded by World Heritage-listed rainforests. It's a steep climb to the top of the range and the roads are a bit rough but the views and bushwalks make it more than worth the effort.

A late lunch today as you head into Kyogle – full of shops, cafés and galleries, this quintessential country town is a perfect stop. Make sure you take the time to take the unique Art Deco Walk through town. This afternoon, relax and enjoy the drive back through the stunning scenery to Murwillumbah for your nights' accommodation.

### Day 5

Mount Warning (Wollumbin) is the heart of the Tweed Valley, as it majestically rises up over Murwillumbah. Drive around the base of the mountain to Stokers Siding, home of the famous Stokers Siding Pottery, this tiny village was put on the map by potter Bob Connery, whose unique smoked lustre-ware pieces can still be found among the collection of local arts and crafts at Vintage Soul. The historic 1921 store also houses Moo Moo Stitches, offering a wonderful range of fabrics, haberdashery and other sewing and craft supplies. Continue on your circular route around Mt Warning (Wollumbin), through the township of Uki to the entrance to Mt Warning National Park. Follow the road to the end, where you can park your car and take a short (or long) walk through the National Park, before returning about 2km down the road to Mavis' Kitchen for your lunch stop. Wander through the grounds of this stunning restaurant, browse the collection of homewares and hand crafts, and enjoy the amazing home cooked meals as you sit under the shade of the verandah and look back over Mt Warning (Wollumbin).



### Day 1 – Gold Coast

After a hearty breakfast, set off for a day of fantastic scenery and windy roads! Head north along the M1 to Robina, where you take the Mudgeeraba turn off (exit 80). The Springbook Plateau is 24km of stunning driving roads. Wind your way over the plateau before heading along Pine Creek Road to the end, turn left onto Nerang – Murwillumbah Road and follow the signs to Natural Bridge. Stop for a break here and take a walk through to the stunning waterfalls and see how many glow worms you can see in the Natural Bridge. The roads are steep and narrow – perfect for a morning drive! Continue on through Murwillumbah to Tumbulgum and enjoy lunch at the historic Tumbulgum Tavern on the banks of the Tweed River, before making your way back to Kingscliff for your overnight accommodation. Tumbulgum was one of the first villages established in northern NSW around 1840. Take a short drive into Kingscliff for your overnight accommodation

### Day 2

Your day begins with a short drive to Tweed Heads – the twin town with Coolangatta, located on the border of Queensland and New South Wales. Board your river cruise for a journey along the Tweed River and try your hand at catching mud crabs and yabbies. Where else in the world can you join a cruise that lets you catch your lunch and then help you cook it? Then head inland to Duranbah, 15 minutes drive from Tweed Heads, with

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### Day 3

It's time to get active today! Hire a bike from Watersports Guru, collect a picnic lunch from one of the many cafés Kingscliff has to offer and set out for a bike ride along the stunning bike path that stretches the whole length of the Tweed Coast. Firstly, head north to Fingal Head, where you can see the spectacular headland – Australia's answer to Ireland's Giant's Causeway. The basalt rock octagonal stepping stones were formed by the lava flow of the extinct Tweed Volcano. It makes for a great spot to enjoy your picnic lunch, a swim or snorkel. Fingal Head is a great vantage point for spotting whales as they make their annual migration up and down the east coast. During the months of June–November you're almost guaranteed a sighting, or two. Take your time riding back along the bike paths to Kingscliff, or keep heading south to Cabarita, Hastings Point or Pottsville for the afternoon.

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### Day 7

Bid the Tweed Valley goodbye today as you head back past Mt Warning (Wollumbin), through Uki, to Nimbin. Along the way, make a stop at the Sphinx Rock Café at Mt Burrell. Good wholesome food is served here. If you happen to arrive on a Sunday afternoon, then expect something musically innovative to be taking place! Drive along Blue Knob Rd towards Nimbin and look out for the Blue Knob Hall Gallery and Café which is the perfect place to stop for lunch, a snack or a peek at some truly gifted local artists work. Nestled below the sacred landmark of Lillian Rock, this quaint co-operative gallery and café offers a changing exhibition program and a beautiful outlook over Blue Knob Mountain and Nightcap National Park.

Nimbin was once a sleepy little dairying village. Today Nimbin is known and famous for being a hippy destination and alternative lifestyle capital. Nimbin shot to fame when it hosted the 1973 Aquarius Festival, attracting students, hippies and visionaries from all over Australia. Many of them stayed on to live the dreams and ideology of Aquarius and to sow the seeds for today's vibrant community.

Nimbin is intriguing and quirky with its unique mural streetscape of indigenous, rainforest and psychedelic facades and colourful local characters. Cullen Street has an amazing array of cafés, craft shops, galleries and retail outlets. Make sure to take some time to explore the Nimbin Candle Factory and the Djanbung Gardens Permaculture Centre.

# TOP TEN TWEED EXPERIENCES

## 1. Watersports-A-Plenty

Discover the tranquil waterways of the Tweed – the fun way!! Learn to surf, kayak, canoe, dive, snorkel and stand-up paddleboard. Spend an hour or join a kayak tour of one of the many waterways the Tweed has to offer.

## 2. Take a Cruise

Experience the spectacular natural beauty of the Tweed River on a Rainforest or Crab Catching Cruise. Try your hand at bird feeding, yabbie pumping, mud crab catching and fishing.

## 3. Explore Ancient Landscapes

In the centre of the Tweed Valley, you will find 14 National Parks and Reserves which collectively form the World Heritage-listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia. They incorporate hundreds of kilometres of bushwalking trails, from short strolls (less than 500m) to 3 day hikes.

## 4. Hang-Ten with World Champions

Surfing – it's one of Australia's favourite past-times and there's no better place to learn or polish up your skills than on the Tweed Coast. After all, this is the home of world champions Steph Gilmore and Mick Fanning. Surf schools cater for beginner, intermediate and advanced surfers.

## 5. See It First

Be the first to see the sunrise on the mainland of Australia from the summit of Mt Warning (Wollumbin). The summit is a 4.4km hike through lush rainforest. Due to its proximity to Cape Byron, the Australian's easternmost point, it is the first place on the mainland to receive the sun's rays each day.

## 6. Find Nemo

Snorkel with green turtles, clown fish and (harmless) leopard sharks at Cook Island – a protected nature reserve and underwater playground, only 600m from the shore.

## 7. Fill Your Belly

Follow a divine food and dining trail through the Tweed Valley. From local cheeses, to hearty home cooked meals at Mavis' Kitchen, through to a 7 course degustation menu from the acclaimed, multi chef-hatted, Fins Restaurant. Try the award winning cupcakes at Flutterbies Cottage Café in Tyalgum, they are simply divine and no other cupcake will ever measure up against these handmade delights.

## 8. Arts, Craft & Culture

The Tweed Valley boasts the highest number of artists per capita than any other shire in Australia. Meet world-class artists in quaint village galleries and art studios. Local galleries showcase the work of artists inspired by the landscape, wildlife, history, community and spirituality of the region.

## 9. Spot a Whale

Get up close and personal with visiting humpbacks on a whale-watching cruise (June–November) as they migrate along the east coast of Australia to the warmer waters of the Whitsundays to give birth. They can be seen breaching and frolicking from the beach but there is nothing quite as special or breathtaking as getting up close to these amazing giants of the sea.

## 10. Visit Tropical Fruit World

The Tweed is home to Australia's largest plantation orchard and research park. Sample seasonal fruits of the day and experience a Plantation Safari Tour and Orchard Discovery Walk.