

This guide was prepared for you by...

Bondi Beach Backpackers

0412 509 279 - 35a Hall Street, Bondi Beach NSW 2026



SYDNEY TO CAIRNS ROAD TRIP

The **SURF COAST** from **SYDNEY** to **NOOSA** has fabulous beaches, cliffs, lighthouses & bays.

Be aware of sharks at sun up and sun down, read the signs and be sensible.

The **SHARK COAST** from **HERVEY BAY** to the start of the **GREAT BARRIER REEF**.

In this region you should not swim in the sea because there are many animals that find you yummy!

The **REEF COAST** from the start to the finish of the **GREAT BARRIER REEF**.

This coastline has lots of islands. Lots of things in the water that hurt or kill you! You are yummy to most of them!

I very much hope this guide is useful to you.

Have a great trip, drive safe and if this was useful to you please write to us at info@bondibeachbackpackers.com.au

We would love to hear from you, hear about your awesome trip, inform us of any changes and/or updates that need to be made so we can help others too!

Thank you. Richard & the *Bondi Beach Backpackers* Team



Surf Coast



Shark Coast



Reef Coast

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BONDI BEACH TO NEWCASTLE

You need to go over the SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE.

Don't use the tunnel, its boring! The Bridge is spectacular!!

Follow signs to MANLY BEACH. Drive through Manly Beach past the ferry terminal heading for NORTH HEAD. Follow this road until you see the lookout. The views of SYDNEY HARBOUR with SYDNEY in the distance are unbeatable.

Drive back through MANLY heading north. You will go through DEE WHY on to CURL CURL then COLLAROY then NARRABEEN then on to NEWPORT, BILGOLA, AVALON and finally PALM BEACH

At PALM BEACH you will find an awesome beach. The Australian TV show "Home and Away" is shot here. If you know the TV show you will see plenty of things you will recognize including Beach, Surf Club, you may even see filming.

You will also notice the BARRENJOEY LIGHTHOUSE on the hill. You must walk up to the lighthouse. It takes just 30 minutes but is well worth it as the views are amazing.

To get back to the PACIFIC HIGHWAY drive south to MONA VALE and follow the signs to the PACIFIC HIGHWAY.

Follow the PACIFIC HIGHWAY north. Go over the MOONEY MOONEY bridge,

Take tourist drive to GOSFORD and then follow signs to TERRIGAL. Follow signs to AVOCA BEACH and COPACABANA BEACH, they are amazing beaches.

Then going North again follow signs to WAMBEREL and BATEAU BAY.

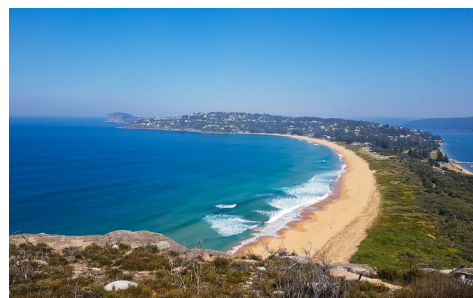
You can re-join the Pacific highway at TUGGERAH or keep going along the coast road towards NORAH HEAD where there is a spectacular Light House.

Keep on Coast road through SWANSEA towards NEWCASTLE.

You will notice on your map you can re-join the faster but boring PACIFIC HIGHWAY at several points on the coast road.



View from North Head of Sydney Harbour



Palm Beach view from Lighthouse



Avoca Beach on the Central Coast



Copacabana Beach on the Central Coast



Terrigal Beach on the Central Coast



Central Coast Beaches



Bateau Bay on the Central Coast



Norah Head Lighthouse on Central Coast

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NEWCASTLE TO COFFS HARBOUR

NEWCASTLE has some impressive surf beaches and several backpacker hostels too.

Follow signs to PACIFIC HIGHWAY and head north.

Above NEWCASTLE you will see signs for PORT STEPHENS which is an amazing place about 40 minutes off the highway but has some amazing beach and bays and is well worth staying the night if you have time. There is lots of exploring to be done here at ANNA BAY and SALAMANDER BAY. Look out for dolphins, there are plenty.

Drive back to the PACIFIC HIGHWAY heading north the same way you came. Turn to the north.

Another amazing tourist drive will come at BULEHDELAH. Turn off here heading for SEAL ROCKS where you will find SUGARLOAF POINT LIGHTHOUSE. This one is simply the best of all. The views are awesome. A short walk will reveal some impressive caves, beaches and the light house. Fabulous views. Don't miss it!!

Follow road north through BLUEYS BEACH, BOOMARANG BEACH and ELIZABETH BEACH and on to TIONA and re-joining the PACIFIC HIGHWAY after FORSTER-TUNCURRY.

Next town is PORT MACQUARIE which is a good place to stop and eat, check out the impressive beaches and stay in one of the many backpackers hostels here.

The PACIFIC HIGHWAY heads north past CRESENT HEAD which is popular with surfing. Continues through KEMPSEY and on to NUMBUCCA HEADS where the highway is quite close to the beach. Good place for a break if you have time.

Next up is a choice. You can drive direct to COFFS HARBOUR or take the WATERFALL WAY at RALEIGH and drive in a U shape, west, then north, then east ending up in COFFS HARBOUR driving through amazing locations such as BELINGEN, THORA, DORRIGO MOUNTAIN, DORRIGO and on to ULONG before coming out in COFFS HARBOUR. Its Well worth the extra drive.

COFFS HARBOUR has lots to do. You can stay here in one of many backpackers hostels. You can dive, surf, visit wildlife parks and of course the BIG BANANA (Google it)



Newcastle surf beaches



Port Stephens



Dolphins at Port Stephens



Sugarloaf Point Lighthouse at Seal Rocks



Beach at Port Macquarie



Waterfall Way—Dangar Falls



Waterfall Way



Coffs Harbour

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COFFS HARBOUR TO THE GOLD COAST/SURFERS PARADISE

After COFFS HARBOUR heading north you come to some good surf beaches at ARRAWARRA. Good place to stop for a break or stay and surf.

The PACIFIC HIGHWAY now gets boring going inland to the town of GRAFTON (nothing here, keep going!) and back to the coast to YAMBA which is a good place to stop as it has good surf beaches.

Next major town is BALLINA where you take the exit to LENNOX HEAD where there are famous surf beaches and a good short drive to BYRON BAY.

BYRON BAY is the next town just 30km away. BYRON BAY is the most easterly part of Australia. The beaches are awesome, the lighthouse is very impressive and the views from it are spectacular. Look out for dolphins below the lighthouse.

Lots to do in BYRON BAY such as surfing, surf lessons, kayaking, diving and skydiving. It has a great vibe so stay a few days and enjoy it. There are many backpackers hostels to choose from.

An absolute must is MOUNT WARNING located slightly north & inland about 40 minutes from BYRON BAY. Plan to get there in the morning & climb the mountain to the top in about 3 hours. (Please note my 5 & 7 year old did this no worries so you can too!!) The scramble over the rocks at the top is unlike anything you will do in Australia and we cannot recommend it enough. Don't miss it!!

Follow the road to CURUMBIN to re-join the PACIFIC HIGHWAY which will now start to take you to the GOLD COAST and on to SURFERS PARADISE.

GOLD COAST offers great beaches, good surfing, fun nights out, lots of theme parks such as WET & WILD and MOVIE WORLD etc. Stay in one of many great backpackers hostels on the GOLD COAST.

If you can go to the top of the Q1 building for stunning views. Its well worth the price.



Surfing Arrawarra



Yamba



Byron Bay Main Beach



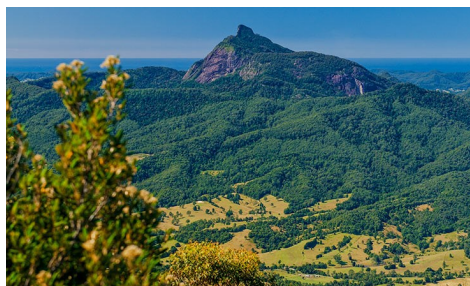
Byron Bay Lighthouse



Kayak with dolphins at Byron Bay



Surf/Surf lessons Byron Bay



Mount Warning



Gold Coast

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GOLD COAST/SURFERS PARADISE TO FRASER ISLAND

Welcome to QUEENSLAND.

After the GOLD COAST comes BRISBANE. If you like City life then stop but cities make cars & vans pay lots of money so keep on going if you don't want to pay for parking.

The SUNSHINE COAST is next. Pull off the highway at the south end of the coast at CALOUNDRA and follow the coast road north to MOOLOOLABAH, COOLOM, SUNSHINE and finally NOOSA.

NOOSA is an awesome place and you should stay a few days. Lots to do here. The KOALA WALK goes around the southern headland and takes you through to SUNSHINE BEACH which has amazing beaches and beautiful scenery. Catch the bus back to NOOSA.

NOOSA also offers great backpackers hostels where you can also organise surfing, surf lessons, walking and FRASER ISLAND tours.

FRASER ISLAND is a absolute must because its so different from anything else on the east coast. You can do FRASER ISLAND from 3 places. NOOSA, RAINBOW BEACH and HERVEY BAY.

Our advice is to visit all 3 places as they are all unique and each is well worth the visit and offers you something different from the last place.

RAINBOW BEACH is a cool spot and unique where you can ride horses on the beach.

HERVEY BAY is the town closest to FRASER ISLAND and lots of 1, 2 and 3 day tours go from here. Lots of backpacker hostels and whale watching here is very popular.

If you can do a 3 day 2 night 4WD tour as a group, it's the best way. You get to drive on the beach, swim in LAKE MACKENZIE, see kangaroos and dingos in the wild and camp out under the stars. Its an amazing few days you will never forget.

Heading north again you are faced with a long boring drive and here the coastline now changes from SURF COAST to SHARK COAST. The beaches are not so good and there are plenty of animals that will eat you/sting you Sharks, jellyfish and crocodiles.



Brisbane



Sunshine Coast



Noosa Beach



Sunshine Beach



Ride Horses on the beach at Rainbow Beach



Whale Watching at Hervey Bay



4WD on Fraser Island



Lake Mackenzie on Fraser Island

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FRASER ISLAND TO MISSION BEACH

After HERVEY BAY comes a long boring drive but it can be broken up with a visit to the islands off the coast at YEPPOON called GREAT KEPPELL ISLAND. Very nice if you want to visit.

The long boring drive continues to MACKAY and on to AIRLIE BEACH the home of the WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS.

You simply must not drive past this town as its worth several days stay. The primary reason is to sail, snorkel and/or dive the amazing WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS.

There are day trips to the WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS, don't do this!

Instead there are 3 day/2 night and 3 days 3 night sailing only and sail/dive trips. Do one of these. They are amazing and the experience is awesome and spectacular.

Heading north again the next town of merit is TOWNSVILLE which has little to offer itself, however the island of TOWNSVILLE is MAGNETIC ISLAND which is awesome. You catch a ferry to the island. Here there are several cool bays with great beaches and dive courses too. Stay a few days and explore.

Next place as you drive North is MISSION BEACH. Great beach, chilled out place where skydiving and white water rafting are the main attractions and well worth doing. Great backpackers hostels here too



Great Keppell Island



Airlie Beach



Sailing the Whitsunday Islands



Dive and/or Snorkel Whitsundays



Magnetic Island off Townsville



Mission Beach



Skydive Mission Beach



White Water Rafting at Mission Beach

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MISSION BEACH TO COOKTOWN

Next place as you drive north is INNISFAIL and BABINDA where you can check out JOSEPHINE FALLS. Really great place for a swim and chill out before you get to hyper busy CAIRNS.

Next place as you drive north is the city of CAIRNS. Tons of backpacker hostels, tons of party party!!

CAIRNS has a big airport, big tourism, lots of diving, dive courses, live aboard dive trips and so it's a great base to do the northern towns of PORT DOUGLAS, CAPE TRIBULATION & COOKTOWN

CAIRNS has 2 islands of its costs called FITZROY ISLAND and GREEN ISLAND, both are worth a visit.

Above to the north of CAIRNS is the sleepy but awesome town of PORT DOUGLAS. Great place with good backpacker hostels, chilled out atmosphere after the hustle bustle of CAIRNS. Here you can dive the reef. Has nice beaches but watch out for crocs!

Heading north the next spot is CAPE TRIBULATION which is a very chilled out beach destination with DAINTREE NATIONAL PARK right there. Very much "Crocodile Dundee" territory.

Most people turn back at this point but the road is now sealed up to COOKTOWN. A place where Captain Cook had to make urgent repairs to his ship and beached his ship and spent 6 weeks fixing it, hence the name COOKTOWN. Be adventurous and go the extra bit. Well worth it!

I very much hope this guide is useful to you.

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Josephine Falls at Babinda



Cairns Party Bus



Fitzroy Island



Port Douglas



Cape Tribulation



Daintree National Park Crocs!



Daintree National Park



Cooktown

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DRIVING THE EAST COAST

Signs

Read the signs, they may save your life. Especially those about NOT to go in the water!!

Rivers

Most coastal rivers in NSW are fast, wide and kill quick plus mean things live in them like sharks. All Queensland rivers have sharks and crocs, wade in at your peril!

Take Breaks

Aussie roads are long, boring & you need to take breaks!

Kangaroos

Will smash your car to pieces and the crash that follows smashes you and your mates to pieces so at sun up and sun down be very aware!

Parking

You have to park the direction traffic faces. If you see a parking spot available turn around & park in the same direction as others. Don't be the wrong way round or face a fine that will make you dry.

Many towns make you park with back of car to the kerb whilst other towns want you to park with the front of your car to the kerb. Read the signs or get a ticket. Byron Bay especially!!



Read signs that save



I'm drowning



Take a Break!!



Kangaroo v Car. Kangaroo will win!!



Park Same Direction as Others