



LUXURY LOCATION: BYRON BAY

STAR ESCAPES

Surrounded by ancient rainforests and stunning waterfalls, this laid-back beach resort on Australia's east coast is a surfer's dream



Margot
Robbie
married Tom
Ackerley in
Byron



STAY

A wonderfully easy-going stay just a barefoot skip from Wategos Beach, Raes is a magnet for the surf set. Here, sunlight dances off the whitewashed walls and the palm-fronded pool is the perfect spot for late afternoon chilling. Suites, all light and bright and overlooking the tropical gardens (above), have a serene feel. Most romantic are the two penthouses with their enormous, cloud-like beds, attractive marble floors and ocean-facing terraces. There are yoga mats for those that way inclined and you'll return after dinner to find a pot of candle-warmed tea waiting on your bedside. This place is seriously soulful.

EXPLORE

Canter through the crystal-clear shallows as the sun comes up, on one of Zephyr Horses' sunrise rides (above), or stop off at The Farm to coo over the heritage piglets and pick up artisan goods. At Little Wategos Beach, you can scramble over the boulders to watch the surfers catching the morning breaks or cool off in one of the rock pools dotting the shoreline.



TASTE

Wander straight off the sand for just-caught oysters (above) washed down with Perrier-Jouët at Raes Cellar Bar, and for a slap-up supper, Beach – perched high on the dunes overlooking the Pacific – is a must (think squid ink spaghetti with cuttlefish, cherry tomatoes and fish roe). Then stroll along to Bella Rosa for a late night scoop of rum and raisin gelato.



INDULGE

Tucked away in the industrial district, the Centennial Circuit is home to scores of independent businesses worth seeking out. You'll find beautifully made linen dresses and basket bags at Yöli & Otis (above); Little Company is the go-to for meditation sessions; and if you need kitting out for a morning on the waves, McTavish ticks all the boxes. Back at Raes, a stellar bill of pampering treatments is on offer in its tranquil spa.

WHAT TO WEAR

Aggy one-piece
swimsuit, £128,
Spell & The
Gypsy Collective,
from freepeople.com



Dr Roebuck's Tama
Healing mask, £25,
from spacenk.com



Corfu woven slides, £205,
ST. AGNI, from net-a-porter.com

TRIP DETAILS: Rooms at Raes start from Au\$650 (£360) per night B&B, including transfers from and to Ballina airport; visit raes.com.au. Cathay Pacific flies from London to Sydney via Hong Kong from £977 return; visit cathaypacific.com. Virgin Australia flies from Sydney to Gold Coast from £64; visit virginaustralia.com.