

# From the beach to the hinterland, find the perfect **SPRING STAY** on the Central Coast

WORDS TARA WELLS

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## RELAX ON A BUDGET Avoca Beach Hotel

The secret to making a holiday budget stretch is to stay just a bit back from the beach. The payoff at the Avoca Beach Hotel (only 2 km to the ocean) is a birdsong-filled six hectares of native landscaped gardens. Despite being a short drive from the area's national parks, it's tempting to stay in the hotel's bushy surrounds with two pools, a tennis court and barbecue areas.

Sleeping from two to four people, there are garden and balcony rooms, as well as 30 two-bedroom villas. Ten of the balcony rooms have been recently refurbished, and another 20 of the garden villas have undergone a refresh. The convenience of laundry and kitchen facilities make the villas an ideal choice for longer stays.

If you need a holiday from cooking, try the onsite Saltwater Bar & Bistro, or be tempted by the breezy Shady Palms Cafe, 600 metres up the road.

326-360 Avoca Drive, Avoca Beach | 02 4382 2322 | [avocabeachhotel.com.au](http://avocabeachhotel.com.au)

## FAMILY FUN DAYS Toowoon Bay Holiday Park

When international borders were closed, Australians doubled-down on a long love affair with caravan holidays. At Toowoon Bay Holiday Park, it's easy to see the appeal. Situated close to Long Jetty's cool cafes and the attractions of The Entrance, this park holds a trump-card in also being on a lifesaver-patrolled beach.

Like the three other council-owned caravan parks (Budgewoi, Canton Beach and Norah Head), families will love being able to bring the dog to 'van and tent sites (plans are afoot for pet-friendly cabins too). It is doggie heaven with direct access to the dog-friendly, off-leash North Shelly Beach.

The paint is still drying from sparkling renovations in 14 of the park's 32 cabins, including all nine of the top-tier Beachcomber cabins that sleep up to five people. In total, there are more than 450 sites, and if the lure of the ocean is not enough, everyone can enjoy the resort-style pool.

1 Koongara Street, Toowoon Bay | 02 4332 2834 | [toowoonbayhp.com.au](http://toowoonbayhp.com.au)



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## CENTRAL AND CONVENIENT Terrigal Pacific Coastal Retreat

Bursting with cafes, restaurants, art galleries and boutiques, the beachside village of Terrigal has long drawn weekenders. Enjoy the best of beach life and a year-round holiday atmosphere, all within a 10-minute walk of this self-contained retreat.

Eating out at restaurants or eating in at your home-away-from-home becomes the toughest holiday choice in the self-contained accommodation. The studio and loft apartments offer kitchenettes, while the two-bedroom apartments have full kitchen facilities.

What's even better, everybody gets a balcony. Overlooking the heated pool and Balinese-roofed lounge area, it's a shortcut to relaxation. So sit back with a sundowner and do just that, relax.

224 Terrigal Drive, Terrigal | 02 4385 1555 | terrigalpacific.net.au



## ENDURING CLASSIC Kims Beachside Retreat

Imagine a tropical hideaway but right here on the Coast. Like, literally... beachfront. Kims has been luring visitors seeking rejuvenation for the last 137 years. It has evolved from a handful of basic beachside shacks to 34 light-filled bungalows and villas, many with private outside spas, all set within 2.5 hectares of sub-tropical rainforest.

Over its long history, this family-owned retreat has enjoyed many celebrity guests revelling in its offer of privacy. In the 1950s, photographer Max Dupain (known for his 'Sunbaker' image) stayed. His prints of Kims and surrounds still grace the on-site restaurant's walls. In the 1970s and '80s, music stars such as Keith Richards from The Rolling Stones and Michael Jackson stayed. There are nods to this storied past in decorating touches throughout the resort.

But the testament to Kims' staying power is the number of guests who are repeat visitors. From honeymooners returning year after year to people who come for significant milestones, Kims welcomes everyone.

16 Charlton Street, Toowoomb Bay | 02 4332 1566 | kims.com.au



## A TOUCH OF ROMANCE Deck and Spa Tiny House

Taste the tiny house lifestyle on three acres of hinterland at Matcham. Host Judy Samson customised this 23-square-metre home during the first Covid lockdown in 2020 and it has been booked every weekend since.

With a westerly outlook, the deck and its built-in spa is made for enjoying magical sunsets. Sit around the fire pit or try lawn games, like croquet, that are available for couples to enjoy. Inside, there are board games, luxury robes and large picture window views from the loft queen-sized bed.

The only visitors to crash this couple's escape are wallabies, brush turkeys and ducks. This intimate connection to nature is kind of like camping, if only camping came with reverse-cycle air-conditioning, a functional kitchen and proper plumbing.

'Couples don't have to rough it all. I didn't leave anything out comfort-wise,' says Samson.

Matcham Road, Matcham | 0414 780 600 | tinyhousesw.com.au

