



The Sapphire Coast of NSW

Walks, wildlife and
majestic coastlines

Departs 24th October 2022

Blue Dot Travel

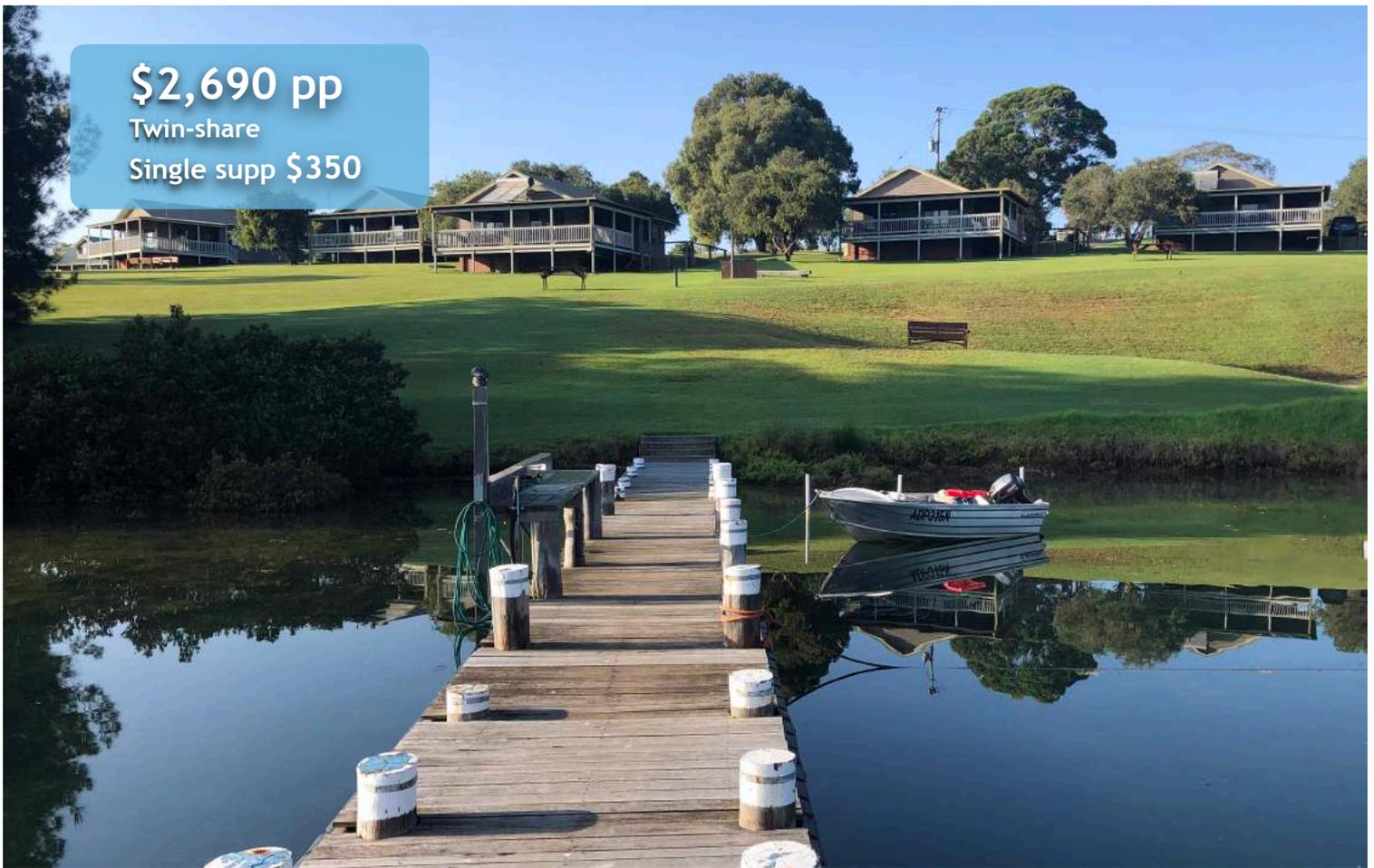
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THE SAPPHIRE COAST

The unspoilt Sapphire Coast, lying on the NSW far south coast, is arguably the most scenic coastline and hinterland in the entire state (and maybe even the country)! It sparkles with stunning beaches, spectacular wilderness, great fishing, exhilarating bush walks, wonderful food, and charming towns. The Sapphire Coast stretches from Bermagui to Eden, and offers a picturesque coastal drive from Sydney or Melbourne. It is famous for its crystal-clear beaches, lakes and river inlets, and is one of Australia's best destinations for whale-watching.

The Sapphire Coast remains a relatively undiscovered treasure. It has heritage listed towns, national parks, and intriguing museums, deserted pristine white beaches, panoramic landscapes, and fabulous local cuisine, especially the award-winning local seafood.

During the *Miocene* era, the Sapphire Coast was home to carnivorous kangaroos, clever headed crocodiles, marsupial lions, thunderbirds and horned turtles. The area was once highly tropical, receiving 1.5 metres of rain a year, even though the landmass was closer to Antarctica than it is today. You will still see the remnants of these ancient rainforests in many of the beautiful national parks. The Sapphire Coast is also one of the few places in the world where you can see whales feed during their migration. The number of whales have been increasing each year and the best time of year to see them is September to late November, when they heading south to Antarctica with their young.

On this 7-day tour, you'll be taken to many of the highlights the region has to offer — Bermagui, Tilba, Merimbula, Eden, Tathra and Pambula, to name a few. There are dozens of stunning towns and villages dotted throughout the countryside. The tour includes some sensational meals, comfortable accommodation, and entrance fees to the listed sights including whale watching. You'll be transferred around in comfort.

Grab your camera and join us. There are minimal places available so don't delay.



**Day 1, Monday 24th October
SYDNEY —
GERRINGONG —
NAROOMA**

Today the group will be collected in the morning from a central location in

Sydney (to be advised) and transferred to our first destination, Narooma where you'll stay for three nights. On the way we will make a few stops to see some of the magical sights on the south coast including the delightful Gerringong and Berry townships. The South Coast of NSW has arguably the most picturesque scenery in the state with stunning wide open spaces, rolling hinterland vistas, dairy farms, kangaroos hopping through paddocks, and lakes and beaches dotting the landscape. Tonight, it's a short drive to where we have dinner planned at the Million Dollar View Hotel where, the view is, well, worth a million bucks! *D*



**Day 2, Tuesday 25th October
TUROSS HEADS — MONTAGUE ISLAND**

After breakfast the group will take the delightful walks to both the Narooma North and South head

breakwaters where the ocean meets the Wagonga Inlet. Check out the colony of Australian Fur Seals who've made their home along the breakwater. Grab a photo in front of "Australia Rock" on the way! (The van will be available to transfer anyone who prefers to drive). We'll also drive around Dalmeny and Kianga before heading back to Narooma for a boat tour to Montague Island. (Grab some lunch from a local café or bakery before boarding). The boat trip to Montague Island 10kms off the coast will take a little more than 20 minutes. The island is a haven for bird and marine life including seals and penguins. We'll take a walk around the island and visit the lighthouse for a guided tour. (Note the tour is subject to weather conditions. It is also necessary to be able to climb up a small ladder while the boat is moving to get on to the island). We'll be home in time for a trip to Tuross Heads (a 30 minute drive north) where we'll take a look at the local sights including beaches, the lake and the lookout before heading back to Narooma for dinner. *B/D*





**Day 3, Wednesday
26th October
BERMAGUI —
CENTRAL TILBA**

Today we will head South (about 25 minute drive) to the delightful township of

Bermagui, the official start of the NSW Sapphire Coast. We'll have breakfast in town, take a stroll around the shops and walk around the headlands including the Blue Pool for those wanting a swim. It's a delightful town where not a lot has changed over the years. We'll also take a look at Wallaga Lake, Horses Head Rock and Camel Rock. The walk to Horses Head is about 1km each way along a rocky track that follows the coast. Then we'll drive via Cobargo to Tilba for lunch. The name of the township of Tilba comes from the local Tharwa tribe and means "many waters". It's famous for its cheese shop, amazing savoury and fruit pies plus leather, art and antique shops. Take a stroll, buy some lunch (the bakeries pies are fabulous) and enjoy the beauty of this village before heading back mid-afternoon. Time permitting, a beer at the local Big Niles micro-brewery at Kianga makes for a good afternoon stop. Our last meal in Narooma is at the Quarterdeck. **B/D**



**DAY 4, Thursday
27th October
NAROOMA —
EDEN**

Today, we'll grab breakfast in Narooma before heading to our next destination Eden,

where we'll stay for three nights. It lies on a bay called Twofold bay, known as "the humpback Highway". The drive is around 2 hours, but we plan to stop in Bega to visit the Pioneer Museum before arriving (we may also stop at the Bega Heritage Cheese Centre if it reopens post Covid). Today we will also enjoy a tour to Pambula Oyster Co where the mussels and oysters are as fresh as they can be. This involves a two-hour boat trip on a covered river punt up the Pambula River. On it, you'll learn all of the "ins and outs" of the oyster farming industry and see how manual the process is. We'll grab a take-away lunch along the way. After the river tour, drive back to Eden for a look around town before having dinner at local restaurant, Wheelers. **B/D**

**Day 5, Friday 28th October
EDEN**

Today is action packed and adventure filled. First stop is breakfast at the best local café in town.

Then, there are a few activities planned, including a 2 hour boat tour of the stunning Twofold Bay departing at 9:50 hrs, a visit to the quirky Killer Whale Museum (requires about 45 minutes to an hour), a drive to the lookout to see Twofold Bay from above, a fish & chip lunch down at the port (own cost) and a walk along the lovely Beach and Lake Curalo. At the museum you'll learn about the history of the logging and whaling industries during the mid 1800's and the infamous Ben Boyd who fled the country back to his homeland Scotland owing a fortune. Stop on the way home at Boyd Town where the Pambula River meets the ocean and a visit to the township. Tonight, we'll head to for dinner at the lovely Aquarium Wharf restaurant. **B/D**



**Day 6, Saturday
29th October
TATHRA**

After breakfast we're going to head out of town to the Potoroo Sanctuary, where threatened local wildlife is

looked after and rehabilitated by volunteers and a few staff members. Then, we'll drive on to Tathra to visit the very interesting Tathra Wharf Museum and the historical wharf itself before heading to the pub for lunch (own cost). At the museum, you'll hear about the original settlers of the area who played an important role in developing the region plus also, the WWII history which is not widely known. Newly renovated, the Tathra hotel is a lovely place overlooking the ocean. After lunch we'll be back in Merimbula for a walk around parts of the lake on the purpose-built boardwalk before heading back to Eden. Tonight, we have a farewell dinner planned in town. **B/D**



**Day 7, Sunday 30th October
DEPART FOR SYDNEY**

Today is an early start for the drive home with a 7.00am departure, plus breakfast and lunch along the way. Lunch at Kiama (own cost) and opportunity to see the blow hole. While the actual drive time is about 6.5 hours, you'll arrive back in Sydney late in the afternoon depending on the number of stops we have. **B**



Icon indicates a day where there is **moderate physical exertion**. A basic level of fitness is required: eg. A trek over mostly flat terrain or climbing several flights of steps without the support of handrails or elevators.



Icon indicates a day where there is a **particularly active section**. A good level of fitness is required: eg. A longer trek over non-groomed, uneven terrain, or ascending to reach a panorama. May also include exposure to higher altitude. **An alternate activity may be offered if you choose to sit out an active section.** Please call - we are happy to discuss each tour in more detail.