



## THE BEST OF PORT MACQUARIE – WHAT TO SEE AND DO

Located on the New South Wales holiday coast at the mouth of the Hastings River, Port Macquarie features some of the most pristine waterways and magnificent beaches in Australia. It offers an interesting history, an abundance of activities and beautiful nature reserves to enjoy throughout the year. The numerous restaurants, cafes and excellent shopping also make Port Macquarie idyllic for holiday makers, retirees and locals.

The climate is noted for being one of the best in Australia with average temperatures ranging from 20°C – 32°C in Summer, and from 8°C – 21°C in Winter.

We have come up with a list of some activities and places to see for active retirees and their family who have a curious and adventurous spirit. Some are passive, others more active, there is something for everyone. We have only touched the surface in this brochure and have provided some links where you can find out more information.

### Coastal Walk



The Coastal Walk is a mostly easy grade walk that hugs the coastline and features boardwalks, beaches, headlands, historic sites, rainforests and spectacular views. There are steps for easier access to the headlands, viewing platforms and picnic shelters. It is well signposted along the way. You might be lucky to see a dolphin, plus there is a variety of birdlife and the annual whale migration from May to November.

The walk starts from Town Beach at the CBD and travels south for 9 kilometres and ends at Tacking Point Lighthouse. If you don't feel like walking back to the CBD, local buses are available.

Have a look at this spectacular video <https://portmacquarieinfo.com.au/trip-ideas/port-macquarie-coastal-walk>

### Koala Hospital

Established in 1973, this is the world's first hospital dedicated solely to the care and preservation of koalas. Staffed by an army of approximately 140 volunteers, the hospital cares for up to 250 sick and injured koalas annually. The hospital consists of a treatment room, indoor and outdoor intensive care units and rehabilitation yards and has a research affiliation with the University of Sydney. It's opened daily with free entry. The best time to go is 3pm where you can join a walk and talk tour, watch the koalas being fed and find out about the patients and how they got there.



### Billabong Zoo Koala & Wildlife Park



Billabong Zoo has over 200 animals in a tranquil 10 acre setting. It offers free daily keeper talks with up close and personal animal encounters with koalas, cheetahs, red pandas, snakes, meerkats, and leopards. It's one of only two zoos in Australasia you can see snow leopards. Especially popular with children is the kangaroo and wallaby walk through hand feeding enclosure. The zoo is home to an ever-growing range of endangered wildlife species and a world-renowned koala breeding program.

The zoo is open every day 9am – 5pm rain or shine.

### Tacking Point Lighthouse

The lighthouse is Australia's 13th oldest lighthouse and was built in 1879 in response to more than 20 shipwrecks that occurred within this stretch of coastline. It sits atop a rocky headland offering stunning panoramic views from a viewing platform to Lighthouse Beach and further along and coast and it's a popular vantage point for bird and whale watching. You can drive directly there with an easy walk to the lighthouse from the carpark.



### Sea Acres Rainforest Centre



This NSW National Parks Information Centre offers visitors inspiring nature based and cultural experiences along a 1.3 km elevated wheelchair and stroller friendly loop boardwalk. There are other extensive paths available to meander at your own pace whilst taking in the sounds and beauty of the surrounding rainforest. Immerse yourself in the local aboriginal Birpai story in the Spirit of the Land Exhibit. There is a gift store and relax on the deck of the Rainforest Café. 5km south of the CBD, or a short diversion from the coastal walk, the centre is open 9am to 4.30pm 7 days.

### Ricardoes Tomato and Strawberry Farm

A unique award winning attraction with free entry, for all ages and lovers of fresh farm food. Strawberry picking and free guided tours are available in the shelter of the greenhouses, still with an outdoorsy atmosphere thanks to soaring circular roofs. There is a cafe and produce/gift shop, and a tastings table. Free farm tours are available weekdays with walks and talks via towering tomato vines and lush tall walls of strawberries. Open 364 days.



### Bago Vineyards and Maze



A sanctuary nestled amongst expansive forest, moments from the Pacific Highway but light years from the hustle and bustle. Enjoy a guided wine tasting of Bago's locally produced wines at the cellar door. After the wine tasting enjoy a local cheese platter on the pergola and relax taking in the view. The kids will love getting lost in the Bago Maze – the largest hedge maze in NSW, with 2,000 metres of pathways and hedges over 2m tall

### The Breakwall

This wall of rocks runs along the Hastings River side of Port Macquarie from Town Beach to Town Green. What began as an art competition back in 1995, has since grown into an amazing rock gallery commemorating life, love, and adventures on the road. Every rock is unique, hand painted by locals and visitors alike. Some paintings were elaborate meaningful tributes to family, friends, or loved ones, others were simple scribbles on the rocks, marks of casual passers-by.



### Whale watching cruises



After a summer of feeding in Antarctica, approximately 16,000 humpback whales migrate north where they mate and give birth and then return south. The Port Macquarie region is the ideal spot to enjoy whale watching. Vantage points are dotted along the coast as whales make their annual migration.

A great way to experience these magnificent creatures is on a whale watching cruise between May and November. A number of companies offer these cruises which guarantee you an upfront and personal experience in a safe and comfortable environment.

### Lighthouse Beach Camel rides

If you want to feel like a rugged adventurer, hop on board the back of a camel with Port Macquarie Camel Safaris and take a ride along some of the beautiful coastline at Lighthouse Beach. Experienced guides will tell you all kinds of stories and facts about these magnificent creatures.



## Boat Cruises



There are various boat companies that offer a variety of cruises that would suit everyone of all ages and interests. From a tranquil and relaxing pace on the Hastings River to the need for speed doing over 100kph and out on the ocean. Small boats or large boats you will be spoilt for choice. Take your pick from an historic river cruise, breakfast, lunch or dinner cruise, morning or afternoon tea cruise, boom net cruise, winery tour, sunset cruise, dolphin watching, themed tours such as comedy cruises and private charters.

## Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail

This trail is a fun and entertaining day out for the whole family. There are over 56 one metre high fibreglass brightly coloured koala sculptures, located all around Port Macquarie and neighbouring towns. The hand painted and mosaic sculptures have been created by selected local artists.

The trail is designed to generate a sense of fun and surprise for everyone who comes across one of the decorated koalas found in all sorts of places – from beaches to street corners, in parks, gardens, restaurants and shops.



## Roto House



Roto House is an historic eleven-room country house built of red mahogany in 1890 for surveyor John Flynn. It is located off Lord Street to the south of the Port Macquarie central business district. Continuously occupied by Flynn's family until 1979 it has been restored, supplied with period furnishings and beautifully maintained by National Parks and Wildlife Service. It is open daily from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm,

## Port Macquarie Observatory

The observatory is located in Rotary Park above Town Beach and run by very keen volunteers. There is a planetarium and telescope. Open on Wednesday and Sunday evenings and other days when there are significant astronomical occurrences. There is an hour long presentation taking a tour of the night sky and, if the weather is good, there is an opportunity to see an astronomical object through the observatory's telescope.



## Port Macquarie Museum



The convict-built store was erected c.1836 and extensions in the 1880s and in 1968 when it became a museum. It contains numerous historical documents and artefacts in exhibitions spread across fourteen rooms. The exhibits include Port Macquarie's hidden treasures; a record of the maritime history of the area; World War I at home; a history of the use of local water; an exhibition on the Birpai people and the convict settlement; an exhibition on the town's role in Australian Federation. It is open Monday to Saturday from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.

## Beach Yoga

During the warmer months beach yoga classes are held in one of the most beautiful settings in Port Macquarie - in the reserve adjoining Town Beach. Start your day with a one hour class which includes gentle stretches, breathing exercises and relaxation. Beach yoga is suitable for all ages and all levels of experience. Bring your own mat, hat and sunscreen. Check the website for class times. <https://www.theyogashala.com.au/classes/beach-yoga>



## Port Macquarie Driving Range and Mini Golf



The Driving Range and Mini Golf offers something for the whole family. It's a great place to refine your golf skills or just have lots of fun. The 18 hole Mini Golf & Putt Putt is set in natural acreage with it's local wildlife. For the more serious golfer there is a driving range, pitching area and putting green as well as a golf shop and PGA accredited golf instructors available.

## Hydro Golf and Putt Putt

Hydro Golf and 27 hole Putt Putt is set on groomed lush lawns, with palm trees and shaded picnic areas creating a safe and relaxing surrounding for the whole family. A beautiful water setting with various floating targets that invite the golfer to win daily cash jackpots and prizes such as river cruises, dinner vouchers and much more. Water traps, sand bunkers and creative holes make a challenging and fun game for all. Open 7 days a week



## The Glasshouse



Located in the heart of Port Macquarie, the Glasshouse is home to a theatre, regional gallery, studio, Visitor Information Centre, gift shop, conference and meeting facilities and heritage displays. The centre provides high quality exhibition, conference and performing arts facilities and the most modern technical and production infrastructure and highest level of patron comfort. Check out what's on at: [www.glasshouse.org.au](http://www.glasshouse.org.au)

## Vineyards and Breweries

Port Macquarie's winery trail is full of surprises starting just 10 minutes from the beach. Several offer extras such as art galleries, alfresco restaurants, rose gardens and history. Some of the local wineries and breweries are:

- ✚ Bago Vineyards and Maze
- ✚ Cassegrain Wines
- ✚ Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery
- ✚ Douglas Vale Historic Homestead and Vineyard
- ✚ Rose's Vineyard
- ✚ Innes Lake Vineyard
- ✚ Little Fish Restaurant and Vineyard
- ✚ Black Duck Brewery
- ✚ Moorebeer Brewing

## Sports and Adventures

If you are an adrenaline junkie or sport and adventure enthusiast here are some of the adventures and activities on offer in the Port Macquarie region.

- ✚ Indoor Rock Climbing and Dark Zone Laser Centre is a place for all ages. There are over 70 climbs to choose from, ranging from super easy to super hard! over 200 metres of caving, high ropes, a leap of faith, and Laser Tag. Everything to keep your family entertained for hours on end!!
- ✚ Jolly Nose Mountain Bike Park boasts approximately 60 kilometres of single track mountain bike trails for both gravity and cross country mountain bike riding catering for all levels of difficulty.
- ✚ Take to the sky with Port Macquarie Helicopter where their flights will let you experience majestic views of the famous Mid-North Coast beaches
- ✚ Drive Karting Centre is a purpose built and licenced competition karting facility with 650 metres of track. You will experience the closest thing to real competition karting.
- ✚ Hook a big one deep sea fishing with Port Macquarie Fishing Charters

- ✚ Take a surf lesson with the award winning Port Macquarie Surf school. Private and group lessons for beginners to high performers.
- ✚ There is a range of water sports on offer in Port Macquarie, including parasailing, jet skiing, canoeing and kayaking.
- ✚ Para-gliding, hang-gliding, skydiving and seaplane scenic flights are just some of the exhilarating air activities available in the area. Jump out of a plane 14000 feet in the air and experience 35 seconds of exhilarating 200km free-fall. You'll get a great view of the Port Macquarie coastline.
- ✚ Boomerang Bike Hire is a 24-hour automatic bike hire service in Port Macquarie that will have you cycling around seeing the sights at your own pace.

Here are some useful websites for further information:

- ✚ <https://portmacquarieinfo.com.au/>
- ✚ <http://www.port-macquarie.net/>
- ✚ <https://www.discoverportmacquarie.com.au/>
- ✚ <https://www.visitnsw.com/destinations/north-coast/port-macquarie-area/port-macquarie>
- ✚ [https://www.tripadvisor.com.au/Tourism-g255329-Port\\_Macquarie\\_New\\_South\\_Wales-Vacations.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com.au/Tourism-g255329-Port_Macquarie_New_South_Wales-Vacations.html)
- ✚ <https://www.nrmaparksandresorts.com.au/port-macquarie/park-info/things-to-do/>
- ✚ <https://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/port-macquarie-nsw>

