



# FAQs on Port Stephens

**PORT STEPHENS**  
*~Incredible by Nature~*

## Why should I visit Port Stephens?

- Its only 2.5 hours drive from Sydney.
- Beautiful beaches, stunning sand dunes & pristine coastal walks.
- Great range of accommodation, tours & activities to suit everyone's needs.

## How can I get to Port Stephens from Sydney?

- Hire a car as it is an easy 2.5 hour drive from Sydney.
- Port Stephens Coaches run a return service to/from Sydney.
- During school holidays: 7 days a week (excluding Christmas Day).
- Out of School Holidays: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.  
<https://www.pascoaches.com.au>
- Catch a train from Sydney to Newcastle Interchange and then a local Port Stephens Coach (Routes 130 or 131) to Port Stephens.
- Catch the Shoal Bay Shuttle <https://shoalbayshuttleservice.com.au/>
- Fly from Sydney airport to Newcastle airport.  
<https://www.newcastleairport.com.au>

## How can I get from the Airport to Port Stephens?

- Port Stephens Coaches \* 02 4982 2940
- Hunter Valley Buses \*\* 02 4935 7200
- Diggers Taxi Nelson Bay 02 4032 7999
- Shoal Bay Shuttle 0439 155 845
- Lucky Dog Tours 0438 966 097
- 13 Cabs (Taxis) 133 300 (or via 13 Cabs App)

- Hire car from airport

<https://www.newcastleairport.com.au/parking-transport/car-rentals>

(\* Port Stephens Coaches service Newcastle Interchange and Nelson Bay area.

\*\* Hunter Valley Buses service Maitland, Raymond Terrace and Stockton.)

## Where can I hire a car from?

- From the Newcastle airport at Williamtown (Avis, Budget, Europcar, Hertz/Thrifty, Redspot/Enterprise and Sixt)  
<https://www.newcastleairport.com.au/parking-transport/car-rentals>
- Bay Scoot & Wheels 0410 334 501  
<https://www.bayscootandwheels.com.au/>

## Where can I find free parking?

- Port Stephens has mostly free parking excluding Nelson Bay CBD and d'Albora Marinas foreshore at designated times.
- Port Stephens uses Smart Parking.
- Visitors need to download Park'nPay app. Parking can be paid by card or coin.

- Download the Park'nPay app to help you find a park or set your parking time without going to the meter.
- A park free permit is for locals and business owners.
- Free parking near Nelson Bay Bowling Club.

#### **Where can I park my bus?**

- Cultural Close, Nelson Bay near Port Stephens Community & Art Centre
- 15 minute parking for buses behind Visitor Information Centre
- Car Park next to Nelson Bay Bowling Club

#### **Where are the main shopping centres in Port Stephens?**

- Woolworths, Corner of Stockton & Donald St, Nelson Bay
- Salamander Bay Shopping Centre, Salamander Bay (10min drive from Nelson Bay)
- Coles, The Centre, 67 Beatty Blvd, Tanilba Bay
- IGA X-Press, Bay Village, Shoal Bay Rd, Shoal Bay
- Friendly Grocer, 261 Soldiers Point Rd, Salamander Bay
- Nelson Bay Health Foods, 7 Stockton St, Nelson Bay
- OPAAT Health, Shop 17-19 Cinema Mall, 23 Stockton St, Nelson Bay
- Tin Tin Asian Grocery, 6 Stockton St, Nelson Bay
- Raymond Terrace Marketplace

#### **Where is the free camping in Port Stephens?**

- There is no free camping in Port Stephens.
- The northern part of Samurai Beach campground has no camping fees but requires a \$6.00 booking fee. A 4WD vehicle is required to access the track and all campers need to be self-sufficient. (Clothing optional beach)
- Bookings are required. Book online by going on national parks website, watch the video and then see the availability. [https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/camping-and-accommodation/campgrounds/samurai-beach-campground?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=organic&utm\\_campaign=Google+My+Business+Page](https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/camping-and-accommodation/campgrounds/samurai-beach-campground?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=Google+My+Business+Page) or call the National Parks Contact Centre on 1300 072 757.
- There is also camping at Tattersalls campground at Karuah National Park but requires a \$6.00 booking fee. You can book online by going on the National Parks website <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/camping-and-accommodation/campgrounds/tattersalls-campground> or call the National Parks Contact Centre on 1300 072 757.

#### **Where are the sand dunes located?**

- The end of the Stockton Sand Dunes are located at James Paterson Street, Anna Bay which is a 15 minute drive from Nelson Bay CBD.

#### **I want to drive on the sand dunes, how do I do this?**

- All vehicles entering the Worimi Conservation Lands (WCL) must be registered and display a valid beach permit. There are two types of permits available 1) Beach Vehicle Permits, and 2) Recreational Vehicle Area (RVA) Permits including quads & motorbikes.
- You need to purchase a Beach Permit and have a 4WD vehicle to drive on the Stockton Dunes. Dune driving only allowed in recreational vehicle area (RVA).
- Motor bikes and quad bikes require an Annual RVA permit and must be a conditionally registered vehicle (CRV) through Service NSW. Entry is for the RVA area only and access is via Lavis Lane entry ONLY.

- The two vehicle entry points are at Gan Gan Road, Anna Bay or via Lavis Lane, Williamtown.
- There are 3 types of beach permits available, these include- 3 day, Annual and Pensioner permits. Permits can be purchased from the following places:
  - BP Service Station (Anna Bay) – 135 Gan Gan Road, Anna Bay
  - Tackle Power (Mayfield West) – Shop 2/15 Murray Dwyer Circuit, Mayfield West
  - BP Service Station (Salt Ash) – Corner Richardson and Nelson Bay Road, Salt Ash
  - Port Stephens Visitor Centre (Nelson Bay) – 60 Victoria Parade, Nelson Bay
  - Metro Service Station (Williamtown) – Corner Nelson Bay Road and Lavis Lane, Williamtown
  - National Parks and Wildlife Office (Nelson Bay) – 12B Teramby Road, Nelson Bay

### **How do I camp on Stockton Beach?**

- You need to visit the Worimi website - <https://worimiconservationlands.com/camping/> - and watch the video and then you can see availability and book online or alternatively call the National Parks Contact Centre on 1300 072 757.

### **How do I get to Broughton Island?**

- Moonshadow-TQC Cruises (<https://moonshadow-tqc.com.au/cruises/broughton-island/>) do, every now and then throughout the year, conduct a Broughton Island Cruise.
- For all year around access, if you don't have access to your own boat, the only way to get out to Broughton Island is to charter a boat from:
  - Lets Go Adventures 02 4981 4331

### **How do I get to Dock C?**

- Dock C is located at d'Albora Marinas in Nelson Bay behind the Port Stephens Visitor Information Centre in Teramby Road.

### **Where does the ferry leave from?**

- Port Stephens (Tea Gardens) Ferry leaves from the Public Wharf.
- Y Knot Ferry leaves from Dock C, d'Albora Marinas.
- Koala Ferries can be booked for transportation by calling 0401 424 738.
- Wangi Queen leaves from Lemon Tea Passage.

### **Where can I find the best lookouts?**

- Tomaree Headland Summit, Shoal Bay Rd, Shoal Bay
- Gan Gan Lookout, Lily Hill Rd, Nelson Bay
- The Inner Lighthouse, 5a Lighthouse Rd, Nelson Bay (near Little Beach)
- Barry Park, Marina Dr, Fingal Bay
- Biribu Beach Surf Life Saving Club platform, 73 James Patterson St, Anna Bay
- At various points along the Tomaree Coastal Walk – Iris Moore, Slot Canyon, Big Rocky, Fingal Ridge and Tomaree Headland.

### **Where can I see the best sunsets from?**

Any west facing locations will offer a spectacular sunset. These include:

- Gan Gan Lookout
- Tomaree Headland Summit

- Stockton Beach
- Soldiers Point Marina
- Roy Wood Reserve, Corlette
- Little Beach, Nelson Bay
- Taylors Beach

#### **Where are the best walks?**

- Tomaree Coastal Walk
- Tomaree Head Summit walk
- Fort Tomaree walk to the gun emplacements
- Along the waterfront from d'Albora Marinas to Dutchies & Bagnalls Beach (Bridle Path)
- Marinas Walk Heritage Trail (around Wanda Wanda Head, Salamander Bay)
- Zenith, Wreck and Box Beaches from Shoal Bay (Verona Road, Shoal Bay)
- One Mile Beach
- Fingal Bay along the cycle path
- Barry Park, Fingal Bay
- Boat Harbour Headland
- Walk from Port Stephens Visitor Information Centre to the Inner Lighthouse

#### **Where are the best fishing spots from the land?**

- Fingal Beach
- Nelson Bay Breakwall
- Any of the jetties throughout the Port
- The entire foreshore from Wanda Beach to Shoal Bay.

#### **Where are the best cycle tracks?**

- Fingal Bay Bike Track
- Nelson Bay to Shoal Bay using shared cycleways
- Bagnall's Beach to Dutchies Beach to Nelson Bay using Bartlett cycleway
- More information can be found on the Port Stephens's council website:  
<https://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/community/walks-and-cycleways/cycleways>

#### **Where are Port Stephens best snorkeling spots?**

Access for snorkeling is best at high tide:

- Fly Point Park
- Fingal Beach (kiddies corner)
- Pipeline, end of Teramby Rd, Nelson Bay

#### **What Golf Courses do you have in Port Stephens?**

- Nelson Bay Golf Club
- Horizons at Salamander Bay
- Pacific Dunes at Medowie
- Tanilba Bay Golf Club
- Muree Golf Club at Raymond Terrace
- David Graham's nine hole par 3 golf course at Anna Bay

#### **Where can I see dolphins and whales from the shore?**

Dolphins can be seen at lots of places. Some of these include:

- The d'Albora Marinas
- Dutchies Beach

- Little Beach
- Shoal Bay
- Wanda Beach
- Boat Harbour

Whales in Port Stephens can be seen during whale season which generally runs from May through to end of October. Great whale spotting places from the shore include:

- Boat Harbour Headlands
- Barry Park
- Fisherman Bay Headland
- Birubi Beach/Stockton Beach

#### **Where can I spot a koala?**

- Tilligerry Habitat, Tanilba Bay (in the natural environment) (Free entry)
- Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary, One Mile (Admission cost)
- Oakvale Wildlife Park, Salt Ash (Admission cost)

#### **Do you have any Markets**

- Please refer to 'What's On' guide for all markets throughout Port Stephens.
- All markets are also listed on the Destination website via the events tab (<https://www.portstephens.org.au/events/whats-happening/markets/>).

#### **What activities can I do with my young children?**

- Dolphin and Whale Watching
- Irukandji Shark and Ray Encounters
- Shark & Ray Rescue Centre & Butterfly House
- Nelson Bay Cinema
- Salamander Super Strike
- Spirited Play
- Oakfield Ranch 20 minute camel ride (2 years and up)
- Oakvale Wildlife Park
- Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary
- Toboggan Hill Park
- Sandboarding (4 years and up)
- David Graham's Putt Putt Golf
- Fighterworld
- Parks, playgrounds, any beach
- A swim at Dutchies or Little Beach
- Fishing or riding a bike

#### **What Activities can I do with my teens?**

- Quad Biking Tour
- Sandboarding
- Swim with the Dolphins
- Marine Discovery tour with Imagine Cruises
- Go Karts Go at Anna Bay
- Bike Riding
- Surf Lessons
- Camel or Horse Riding
- Towed Hydro-foiling
- Kite Surfing or wakeboarding

- Paddle Boarding or Kayaking
- Rock climbing & abseiling

**What Adrenaline Activities can be experienced in Port Stephens?**

- Quad Biking
- Rock climbing and abseiling with Escape Trekking Adventures
- Kite Surfing, Wakeboard, Wing Foil or Hydro-foil with Escape Eco Adventures
- Swim with the Dolphins
- Surfing Lessons
- Deep sea Fishing
- Helicopter Ride (Aerologistics)
- Hot Air Ballooning at Hunter Valley

**We are only here for 2 hours, what can we do?**

- A dolphin watch cruise or a 20 minute camel ride
- Drive to the sand dunes or the lookouts (Gan Gan, Barry Park or Inner Light Tea Room)
- Walk Tomaree Mountain
- Do a portion of the Tomaree Coastal Walk
- Go for a bike ride
- Walk along the marina and promenade
- Browse the local boutiques and shops in the Nelson Bay CBD
- Have breakfast or lunch at one of the cafes or restaurants.

**What Day trips can I do from Port Stephens?**

- Hunter Valley (visit some wineries, Hunter Valley Gardens)
- Newcastle (Newcastle Memorial Walk, Blackbutt Reserve, Fort Scratchley, Nobbys Beach, Merewether Beach, Newcastle Art Gallery)
- Morpeth (visit boutique shops, eateries, Morpeth Bridge)
- Maitland Gaol
- Dungog (historic town with old buildings), Apex Lookout
- Barrington Tops