

# Byron Bay Fact Sheet

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Byron Bay is one of Australia's most iconic destinations, attracting over 1.5 million visitors each year. It offers natural beauty, alternative culture & a buzz of its own. People from all over the world, from all walks of life are attracted to Byron Bay.

## Location

Byron Bay is the most Easterly point on Australia's mainland. Situated in Northern New South Wales, 166km South of Brisbane & 772km North of Sydney. Byron Bay is in Byron Shire which covers an area of 566.7 sq kms.

## Population (2006 census)

Byron Bay (inc. Ewingsdale & Suffolk Park) has a population of 8,952. Byron Shire has a total population of 28,766. 16% of the Shire's population was born overseas with the United Kingdom (5.7%), New Zealand (2.1%) & Germany (1.1%) being the most popular.

## History

The original inhabitants are the Arakwal people, part of the Bundjalung group. They called the area Cavvanbah, meaning meeting place. Here's a time line of European history;

1770 : Captain Cook named Cape Byron as he was sailing past.

1828 : William Johns on the HMAS Rainbow mapped the Bay.

1884/5 : The village of Cavvanbah was surveyed. 200 lots of land was sold.

1894 : Opening of the railway. Cavvanbah was renamed Byron Bay.

Early 1900's : Dairy and Pig industry dominated.

1930's : Sand mining was established between Ballina and Brunswick Heads

1954-62 : The whaleing industry took as many as 150 humpback whales per year.

1960's : Surfers discovered the many beaches around Byron Bay.

1973 : Nimbin's Aquarius Festival establish Byron Bay as hippy / alternative town.

1980's : Byron Bay discovered by backpackers as a must visit destination.

1990's - present : Tourism is the largest industry in Byron Bay.

## Weather

The following information was collected over 30 years at the Cape Byron Lighthouse.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
<b>Avg Temp Range °C</b>	20.8 / 27.5	20.6 / 27.6	19.5 / 26.5	17.2 / 24.5	15.0 / 22.0	12.5 / 19.7
<b>Days of Rain 10mm+</b>	4.0	4.7	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.6

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Avg Temp Range °C</b>	11.7 / 19.3	12.5 / 20.3	14.3 / 22.2	16.1 / 23.3	17.8 / 24.7	19.5 / 26.4
<b>Days of Rain 10mm+</b>	2.8	2.5	1.8	2.7	3.5	4.0

## Beaches

There are over 30 kms of beach in Byron Shire with water temperature ranging from 18°C to 26°C. Beaches near town patrolled by lifeguards in summer (for dates see <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/beaches>). There are open beaches, protected beaches, isolated coves, dog friendly beaches & clothing optional beaches in Byron Shire.

## Festivals & Events

Byron Shire is home to many festivals and events throughout the year, here's a list of the major events;

March : The Big Joke Comedy Festival  
Easter : East Coast Blues & Roots Festival  
Apr/May : Byron Bay Underwater Festival  
May : Byron Bay Triathlon  
May : FEHVA Visual Arts Festival  
Jul/Aug : Byron Bay Writers Festival  
Jul/Aug : Splendour in the Grass  
Sep : Fatherhood Festival

Please confirm event dates and details with the organisers as things change each year.

## Markets

There are weekly craft & farmers market throughout Byron Shire.

Day	Market	Location
First Saturday of the Month	Brunswick Heads Market	Memorial Park
First Sunday of the Month	Byron Bay Community Market	Butler Street Reserve
Second Sunday of the Month	The Channon Market	Coronation Park
Third Saturday of the Month	Mullumbimby Market	Cnr Stuart & Myocum Streets
Fourth Sunday of the Month	Bangalow Market	Bangalow Showgrounds
Every Tuesday	New Brighton Farmers Market	New Brighton Oval
Every Thursday	Byron Bay Farmers Market	Butler Street Reserve
Every Saturday	Bangalow Farmers Market	Bangalow Hotel Carpark

## Transportation to Byron Bay

By Car : Byron Bay is just off the Pacific Highway 166km South of Brisbane / 772km North of Sydney.

By Bus : There is a bus stop (station) on Jonson St.

By Train : The train from Sydney goes to Casino, then a bus to Byron Bay.

By Plane : Ballina Byron Gateway Airport is 37km South of Byron Bay, Gold Coast Airport is 68km North of Byron Bay.

## Accommodation in Byron Bay

There is a wide variety of accommodation choices in Byron Bay with price based on style, season & location. Summer & Festivals are peak rates, winter is off-peak. As a guide;

Beach Houses : \$3,000 - \$7,500 per week.

Holiday Houses : from \$1,500 per week.

Apartments : \$1,000 - \$3,000 per week

Resorts : \$1,000 - \$3,000 per week.

Hotel / Motel : from \$150 per night.

B&B / Guesthouse : \$140 - \$475 per double per night.

Visit : [Byron Bay Accommodation](#) PTY LTD for further information.