

A STYLIST'S GUIDE to BYRON BAY

UBER COOL AND ENDLESSLY DESIRABLE,
BYRON BAY DELIVERS THE GOODS.
WHETHER IT'S A CHI-CHI SHOP OR
FABULOUS STAY, AND SIBELLA COURT
KEEPS COMING BACK FOR MORE.

THESOCIETYINC.COM.AU INSTAGRAM @SIBELLACOURT

by Sibella Court

Shop

NEWRYBAR MERCHANTS

Housed in an 1890s Queenslander in the hilltop town of Newrybar, 15 minutes' drive from Byron Bay, this is a collective of local artisans, with each room dedicated to one of the talented creatives, including a florist, leather worker, artist, book dealer, rug trader, bedding, and my own hardware range under The Society Inc., as well as a delicious Food Story caravan out front serving up wholesome and delicious meals. newrybarmerchants.com

BISQUE TRADERS

If you have fallen hard for the gypset lifestyle of Byron, you can create your own interiors based on this vibe and keep your travels alive by shipping a few Bisque pieces home. This beautiful interior and furniture store conjures up the romance of peace, love and the free-spirited 60s vibe that lives on here. Lots of floaty whites and neutrals, super comfy sofas, weathered woods, linen and soft renders to transport you back to holiday mode, wherever you are. bisquetraders.com.au

McTAVISH

If surfing is your thing or you want to give it a go, head straight to McTavish to rent a board or better yet, custom design your own. These really are the best looking and performing boards in the business, for all levels of surfer. The recently converted factory now offers coffee, clothing and food in an uber-cool setting with the essence of founder, Bob McTavish alive and kicking. mctavish.com.au

WORN

A perfectly curated selection of objects, furniture and clothing are on offer in this beautiful shop in the hub off Station Street, Bangalow. Their philosophy encapsulates timeless key items that will never date, 'a whisper of good taste, of careful decision making, earnestly acquired'. wornstore.com.au



This page, clockwise from above Coastal style at Ahoy Trader. Halcyon House offers a beachy chic vibe. Opposite page Everything from cool clothes to furniture is available at Island Luxe.

AHOY TRADER

Owner, Jai Vasicek is an artist creating large paintings and plaster-embellished crosses and portholes as well as furniture and lighting. His works are inspired by his years travelling the seas aboard the family boat *Malachi* and living the coastal life. ahoytrader.com

FOSSIL VINTAGE

As close as an Australian store can get to a European brocante, this sells large wooden tables for your hinterland farm, metal oyster buckets, slubby linen, wire baskets, zinc tubs, industrial lighting and loads of other things you can't live without. fossilvintage.com.au

JATANA INTERIORS

These hills are alive with all kinds of workshops. In the town of Federal is Jatana Interiors whose owner Sonya specialises in importing vintage salvaged tiles from around the globe as well as her own encaustic tile designs. Her influence can be seen throughout Byron Bay and beyond in cafes, restaurants and houses. Make an appointment to view her sample shed in the garden of her home. Warning: this is the kind of place that can spark a renovation. jatanainteriors.com.au

PAMPA

These handmade rugs are sourced and made by artisans in Argentina, community and reviving lost arts being at the core of Pampa's ethos. These rich, tactile pieces are beautifully styled among settings of Pop & Scott's range of homewares and furniture. pampa.com.au; popandscott.com

YOLI & OTIS

This is a must-stop for the cutest kids' stuff in plant-dyed neutrals, muslins, linen and all those good things. A large airy shop that makes you want to always be on holidays. yoliandotis.com

ISLAND LUXE

Two locations encourage you to empty your pockets on the coolest of cool clothes from around the globe. Here it's about the whole lifestyle, from how you look to the furniture you live with. info@islandluxe.com.au

COVEN SHOPPE

Exquisitely curated crystals, incense, vintage pieces, cult body products and essential oils such as Ayu are found here. They host workshops on ancient 'women's work' and support products made ethnically. Stop in next door at Punch & Daisy for a bite to eat. covenshoppe.com



TO PACK
'Gabbi' romper by Valiante (6)
'Warrego' akubra in Sand (4)
Endota Lilly Pilly & Lime

gradual tanner Lepaar 24K luxurious body oil (2)
Indigo amulet (3)
Sunday Supply Co. umbrella (1)

SCENT
Ayu 'Ode' (5)
TIPS
BOOK | accommodation in advance. Try luxico.com.au.

WALK | there's more to Byron Bay than just the beaches, make sure to head to the hinterland, both north and south.
RENT | a car.

LOOK | Byron Bay sparkles. Legend has it that the magnetic energy from the old Mount Warning volcano spreads some very special love around.



Sleep

THE ATLANTIC BYRON BAY For town accommodation, there is only one in my mind, The Atlantic, an oasis that oozes cool style. The owners' understated elegance shines throughout the weatherboard houses, set in lush gardens with meandering boardwalks. If you're more the glamping type, there is an Airstream available that has pride of place in the garden. atlanticbyronbay.com.au

AIRBNB BEACH SHACK My favourite place in the world to recharge is Wategos. This original 1960s beach hut meets tree house meets chalet is the perfect nostalgic folly to take you back to when Byron Bay was all about country soul and surfing. A couple of minutes' wander from the beach, this is the ultimate retreat! airbnb.com.au/rooms/3952910

RAE'S ON WATEGOS The architecture of Rae's harks back to old-school Hollywood glamour with its rounded and shuttered facade. The rooms have recently had a refurb by Sydney designer Tamsin Johnson, and boast a sophisticated slant on a beachside abode where shoes are always optional. It's the perfect spot to while away an afternoon or night, drinking rosé and watching the longboarders surf 'til the sun goes down. raes.com.au

ONE FABULOUS ROOM AT FABULOUS MRS FOX Will & Jo White built their Brunswick Heads shop, Fabulous Mrs Fox, out of salvaged building materials, and live upstairs. Their place feels like the coolest apartment in Buenos Aires, where they sourced many of the materials, with beautifully proportioned rooms, panelled dados and shutters. The shop sells lighting made by Will, plus flea market finds, books, and all sorts



This page, clockwise from top left Rae's on Wategos harks back to old-style glamour. Doma serves delicious Japanese food. A walk up to Cape Byron Lighthouse is a heart-starter. Fresh, seasonal produce is on offer at Harvest.

of objects they have created or sourced. One Fabulous Room is at the rear of their store, 20 minutes' north of Byron Bay. fabulousmrsfox.com/accommodation

HALYCON HOUSE Although not technically in Byron Bay, it is worth the half-hour drive to stay in the rooms artfully designed by Anna Spiro in this glamorously converted motel. Make a day of it and book into Paper Daisy for lunch by the pool, then spend the afternoon on Cabarita Beach. halyconhouse.com.au

Eat/drink

THE FARM A cluster of buildings with a bakery, providore, florist, restaurant and bar surrounded by produce fields, this has a warm Australiana, woolshed kind of vibe that entices you to stay put under the festoon lights on a balmy evening. Three Blue Ducks run the bustling restaurant serving local fare, or grab a takeaway from the slow-cooked BBQ and have a tour of the working farm. The ethos here is about where your food is from and with the extensive workshop programme and guided tours you can educate yourself and family. thefarmbyronbay.com.au

SPARROW If coffee or chai is your ritual then hole-in-the-wall Sparrow is the place the locals go. It is at its busiest on opening at 6am, and the flaky croissants made by mother business, Harvest, can sell out in minutes! sparrowcoffee.com

HARVEST A great first stop is Newrybar and Harvest. Visit on Saturday or Sunday morning from 8am for pastries and coffee but never fear if you are paddle boarding or catching one more wave, lunch and dinner are also memorable here

on the breezy wrap-around Queenslander verandah. You can also rent the bakery for the finest of sit-down dinners. The restaurant prides itself on local, seasonal produce. Bookings are essential. [harvestnewrybar](http://harvestnewrybar.com)

RED GINGER With Bangalow and Byron Bay locations, there's no excuse not to pop in for the all-day dumplings enjoyed at low tables that are scattered around the stores. Make the most of the emporium, whether to shop for that all-important recipe book, large range of fresh, hard-to-find and specialty Asian ingredients or the wide selection of teas from China, Japan, Taiwan and India. redginger.com.au

THE ROADHOUSE Affectionately known as The Roadie, as the name suggests, it's located on the edge of town but the food is seasonal wholesome fare (not a fried anything in sight) that can be washed down with a masterfully concocted juice or cocktail. Not open in the evenings at present. roadhousebyronbay.com

WOODS The sister cafe to Byron's Folk, Woods Bangalow is a lovely spot to sit among the artists' studios and garden spilling with flowers and veges on the old hardware store site. For any Bangalow adventures, start here with a fresh bite and coffee, then head off to Worn, Bisque Traders and Island Luxe. folkbyronbay.com

DOMA One of the most scenic of drives in the area is to Federal, and you can enjoy views back over Byron. Federal is a single-street town with an unexpected Japanese cafe, Doma, with the most delicious authentic food. Sit under the palm trees and soak up this bustling outpost. Stop for coffee beans or a shot next door at Moonshine Roasters that specialise in Australian grown coffee. federal_doma_cafe.com; moonshinecoffee.com.au

IN THE PINK What's a summer vacay without ice-cream! This is the pick of the crop for me, with traditionally made gelato and ice-cream that caps off a day in the sun perfectly. [inthepinkbyronbay](http://inthepinkbyronbay.com)

100 MILE TABLE Nestled in the industrial estate, next to the panelbeaters and open during the week for breakfast and lunch, serving delicious everything. 100miletatable.com

BAYLEAF COFFEE Dive right into the holistic vibe of Byron and start your day with a green bowl or something equally healthy and delicious at Bayleaf. If you are staying at The Atlantic it's an easy stroll across the road. facebook.com/bayleafcoffee



Explore

WATEGOS BEACH For me, it's all about Wategos, reached through a dense rainforest dripping with staghorn ferns, palm trees and lushness. One of the best longboard breaks in the world – smooth, long and gentle.

THE PASS It's hard to choose between Wategos and The Pass, a classic point break with an everlasting ride, dolphins and turtles. Magical in the late afternoon as the sun goes down.

CAPE BYRON LIGHTHOUSE Standing proud is the lighthouse built in 1912 on the most easterly point of Australia. An early morning lighthouse walk sets the tone for the day. Open from 10am for tours. Stop at The Beach Cafe for breakfast with the best view.

ZEPHYR HORSES The ultimate holiday activity – horse riding on the beach! Take in all Byron has to offer from the back of a trusty steed. zephyrhorses.com

WHITES BEACH Shhhh, it's a secret – the locals' favourite with unpopulated waves and hidden caves, reached via a sandy track off the road to Broken Head Beach. Worth the trek.

MONTHLY MARKETS If it's the weekend, visit the markets or listen to the bush wireless for info on the annual Billycart Derby. Expect food trucks, local produce, clothing, and plants. byron-bay.com/byronbay/market.html

HARPER'S FARM STALL Stock up on kitchen ingredients and seasonal produce at roadside stalls, fitted with honesty boxes, along Broken Head Road and Piccadilly Hill Road.

CAPE BYRON DISTILLERY Brookie's Byron Dry Gin was recently launched at the new distillery. The indigenous sub-tropical botanicals used in the distilling process give the gin a unique flavour. capebyrondistillery.com

BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE The retro 1950s theatre has been reimaged recently showcasing films, live music and theatre. Try Fleet for dinner before or after a show. brunswickpicturehouse.com; fleet-restaurant.com.au



This page, from top Bisque Traders is an emporium of global pieces. The wares of local artisans are on display at Newrybar Merchants. Cape Byron Distillery has opened with the launch of Brookie's Byron Dry Gin. Understated elegance pervades The Atlantic.

PHOTOGRAPHY: SEAN TENNESSEY (RAE'S), LINDEN FOSSI (BISQUE TRADERS, AHJOY TRADER, HARVEST)