

At the northern end of the beach, the wave and current movements have created an exposed long reef – the reef system is shallow and more protected. Common marine life includes Port Jackson sharks, crayfish, groper, stingrays and lots of schooling fish. Access to the beach is from George Bass Drive, approximately 1km south of Malua Bay Beach.

McKENZIES BEACH is a beautiful, undeveloped beach suited to experienced snorkellers. Two headlands enclose the beach with rocks that ease down to greet the ocean, forming natural reefs. Conditions must be perfect if you're entering the water snorkelling. The beach is known for its rugged surf and is open to the swell, which can impact visibility. For experienced fit snorkelling enthusiasts, the amphitheatre is an amazing underwater world with spectacular rock formations and marine life. From the southern end of the beach, enter the water around the headland facing Jimmy's Island – water depth is from five to eight metres deep.

3. MCKENZIES BEACH

Sunshine Cove is ideal for families keen to try some snorkelling in calmer waters. A picturesque location, protected from southerly swells and enclosed by two prominent headlands. The beach consists of pebbles and sand and is a real getaway close to town. There is a mixture of rocky reef, sandy bottom and seaweed beds. Novices and experienced snorkellers are likely to see fish such as red mowmung, luderick, bream and groper, as well as lobsters and abalone. Sunshine Cove is accessible from Beach Road, Sunshine Bay.

2. SUNSHINE COVE

Snorkel from the calm and shallow beach to the left toward the rocks. Not far from shore, you will find incredible rocky formations with plenty of nooks and crannies where sea creatures hide. Take the time to explore and admire abundant fish life in small groups and larger schools, rays, starfish and shellfish. Keep your eyes peeled for abalone and crayfish – hard to spot but great to eat. Note that a fishing licence is required and bag limits and size restrictions apply. Access the eastern end of the beach from Hibiscus Place, via Maloney's Drive.

1. CHAIN BAY TO ACHERON LEDGE - MALONEY'S BEACH

The waters of the Batemans Marine Park are home to a variety of fish, glowing jellyfish, large cruising rays, waving sponge beds and lush green kelp forests. More than 20 islands dot Eurobodalla's coastline, with Barunguba Montague Island recognised as one of the top dive sites in NSW. Swimming or snorkelling with the seals of Barunguba Montague Island is a "must do" experience.

Snorkelling in Eurobodalla

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4. GUERILLA BAY

The water at secluded Guerilla Bay is clear and inviting, providing different experiences for various levels of snorkelling. On the northern side of the small rocky island is the pot, which can be difficult to access due to jagged rocks but for more experienced snorkellers, in the right conditions, it is worth the effort. The pot is a deep hole with ridges of rock rising from the bottom. The ocean sides of the ridges are covered in variously coloured encrusting sponges. On the far side of the pot is a small cave which is home to numerous small crabs. The sheltered bay on the southern side of the spit is a great location for beginners. The bottom is rocky with a flat reef and walls extending at roughly a 35-degree angle and sheer walls that stretch up to ten metres. The seaweed-covered rocks and the crevices between them offer shelter to a wide variety of fish species such as mado, sweep, rock cale, blue groper, crimson banded wrasse, senator wrasse and luderick. There is usually an abundance of stingray, nudibranch, eels and more. The bay is accessible from Guerilla Bay Beach, Beach Parade, Guerilla Bay.

5. TOMAKIN COVE

Tomakin Cove is a protected, sandy cove with shallow lagoon-like qualities making it popular with novice snorkellers, groups and families with young children. Rocky outcrops and reefs almost entirely surround the cove. It is common to see stingray species such as stingarees and eagle rays buried in the seabed floor, as well as schools of small whiting, mullet and barrish feeding over the sand. On the seaward side of the cove, the dense cover of kelp shelters many small fish, and garfish are common in the deeper gutters near Melville Point. Access from the Barlings Beach carpark (below Melville Point) on Red Hill Parade, Tomakin, Cross the road and use the track going down to the cove.

8. POTATO POINT

At Potato Point, snorkellers can find themselves suddenly enveloped in a school of kingfish or salmon. It's not an area for novices, and even experienced snorkellers need to take care. On the northern side of the point facing Potato Beach is a concrete boat ramp, which is a good entry and exit point from the water. Be aware there is a slight rip near the boat ramp that needs to be considered. This area provides possible encounters with a variety of marine life including wobegongs, Port Jackson sharks and stingrays. The rocky reefs and sandy gutters also contain fingers of habitat such as sea squirts and urchins. Access to Potato Point Beach Reserve and boat ramp from Long Point Street, Potato Point.

7. BROULEE ISLAND

Broolee Island is one of the best snorkelling spots along the Eurobodalla coastline, and suitable for all levels of snorkelling. Snorkellers seek out two areas on the island – one is at the bay near Pink Rocks at the north-eastern point of the island. The bay is about two to four metres deep and protected from and banjo sharks amongst the grass. You may discover old, discarded ballast rocks from the vessels that entered the island harbour. The southern side of the island consists of a variety of reef system habitats such as flat sands, big reef walls and shallow reefs, all combining to make it a superb spot for snorkelling. More adventurous snorkellers will discover a drop-off of about 30 metres further offshore. As you're exploring Broolee Island, watch out for the endangered weedy sea dragon and eastern blue devil fish. Access the island walking track from Harbour Drive carpark, Broolee.

6. CANDLAGAN CREEK

Candlagan Creek is a favourite spot for children and families. Candlagan Creek, Mossy Point is a favoured spot for children from the northern end of Broolee Beach to approximately 5km inland. It plays an integral part in the marine ecosystem, with juvenile fish hidden amongst the seagrass beds and mangroves. Novice snorkellers will enjoy this site. At its mouth, Candlagan Creek is relatively shallow and sheltered from advance ocean conditions by a broad and prominent sandbar, with fish breeding grounds starting just beyond the bridge. Juvenile mullet, bream, black fish, flathead, whiting and stingarees are common. The tidal nature of the creek means along in the water. Be aware that the current can be strong on an outgoing tide and sharp oysters can be attached to rocks. On its northern edge, there is a grassy bank with shady trees and picnic tables. Candlagan Creek picnic area is on Beach Road off Annetts Parade, Mossy Point.

9. BAR BEACH SOUTH

Narooma's Bar Beach South is an excellent beach for children to learn to snorkel. Its protected position near the mouth of the Wagonga Inlet is further enhanced by the breakwall at its northern end. The marine habitat includes juvenile fish, squid and jellyfish. It's also possible to occasionally see small seahorses which will be sure to give young naturalists a fun and rewarding introduction to the marine world. The beach is enclosed by netting, and its sheltered position makes it popular not only with novice snorkellers, but with divers as well. Close by is Apex Park with a playground, picnic tables, barbecues and plenty of parking. Bar Beach South can be accessed via Apex Park, Centenary Drive, North Narooma.

10. MYSTERY BAY

Mystery Bay boasts an array of stunning beaches and rock formations, ideal for snorkellers seeking to build skills and confidence. A little north of Mystery Bay Beach is a huge, sheltered rock pool. Access it by heading north through the campground, take the track to the right which descends quite steeply as it approaches the rock pool. The southern area is protected from large ocean waves and is perfect for beginners to swim around the rock bars. For the adventurous, there are deep channels around Mystery Bay with fantastic areas to explore.

11. BARUNGUBA MONTAGUE ISLAND

One of the most extraordinary snorkelling adventures in Eurobodalla is Barunguba Montague Island. New Zealand and Australian fur seals inhabit the iconic granite rocks that distinguish this unique wildlife sanctuary. Here you have the opportunity to snorkel with the playful and curious island seals. The island is a destination for eco-tourists, whale watchers, lighthouse history buffs and divers looking for the endangered grey nurse shark. Much of the water around the island is deep, so experience and confidence is a must, as is good weather. The close encounters with nature and the views of the underwater kelp forest make this a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Charter boats offer tours to Barunguba Montague Island and dive and snorkelling experiences.

For more information visit eurobodalla.com.au



Eurobodalla, Kayaking heaven

Eurobodalla is heaven for kayakers and snorkellers with 4 major river systems, 20 lakes, 83 beaches and many islands along 130kms of Batemans Marine Park coastline.

Book a guided tour, bring your own equipment or hire when you get here. For details on guided tours, hire, routes and maps visit eurobodalla.com.au

1. DURRAS LAKE AT SOUTH DURRAS

Flatwater, up to 15Km circumnavigation.

Surrounded by Murramarang National Park, Durras Lake is primed for exploration with many tributaries, small exposed areas and shallow bays. As you paddle up the lake, you leave the villages behind and become immersed in the wilderness of the spotted gum forest. Launch at the end of Lakeside Drive, South Durras, or at the end of North Durras Road, North Durras. A circumnavigation could be up to 15km. There are no toilet facilities at either end.

2. SOUTH DURRAS TO BATEMANS BAY, BATEMANS MARINE PARK

Sea, 17Km of coastline.

Enjoy a scenic 17km sea paddle along a quiet coastline of small beaches and rugged headlands in Murramarang National Park. As you propel past Wasp Island, you will encounter open sea conditions. The impressive geology of the coastline showcases the south end of the Sydney Sandstone Basin dating back some 200 to 300 million years. The much older Wagonga formation emerges as you pass Dark Beach. As you round the headland north of Richmond Beach, take a minute to appreciate the magnificent upward arching fold in the cliff face. Most beaches face south-east and have powerful dumping surfs if a southerly swell is up. Richmond Beach is the easiest beach for landing along the way. Calmer landings can be found once you enter Batemans Bay. Launch at the boat ramp at Cookies Beach off Banyandah Street, South Durras and finish at Maloney's Beach or Surfside Beach carpark. BBQ/picnic area and toilets are at Cookies Beach and Maloney's Beach.

3. CULLENDULLA CREEK AND SNAPPER ISLAND, BATEMANS BAY

Flatwater and sea, up to 14Km return.

Launch from the beach at Surfside and paddle around the point to Cullendulla Creek. Exploration of this creek is recommended on higher or between tides. Land and take a short walk on the Cullendulla Nature Reserve boardwalk with interpretive signage about its Aboriginal history. The remains of the historic timber railway near the upper end of the creek are worth seeing. Paddle to Square Head and around Snapper Island (landings are not permitted). Return trip approximately 14kms. Parking at Surfside Beach.

9. COILA LAKE AT TUROSS HEAD

Flatwater, up to 18.5Km circumnavigation.

Paddle up to 18.5km to circumnavigate the lake and under the highway bridge into Coila Creek at the northern end. Stay near the sheltered shores on windy days as it can get quite choppy. Find an easy, shallow launch, opposite Kyla Hall in the Tuross Sport and Recreation Complex off Hector McWilliam Drive, Tuross Head. Offers parking and a BBQ/picnic area with playground and toilets.

10. TUROSS LAKE AT TUROSS HEAD

Flatwater, up to 25Km circumnavigation.

Plenty of paddling options, especially for novice paddlers, on this generous lake with its protected places scattered with estuaries and islands. Take a map with you for longer routes or exploring. Launch into shallow water near the Lavender Point boat ramp off Nelson Parade—or hire kayaks and canoes from the Tuross Boatshed on Nelson Parade and launch from there. An 18km round trip could take you north from the boat ramp, around Horse Island, then west up the estuary to and around Borang Lake, returning on the southern side of Horse Island. Or, from the same launch spot up the river to Comerang is approximately 25km. A two-hour paddle takes you around the south side of Horse Island then the east and west side of Cambathin Island, across to Deuaumba Island past the old bridge, returning to the launch point via the main channel. Cafés and restaurants with landing spots are near the Tuross Boatshed, along with picnic tables, playground and toilets.

11. LOWER TUROSS RIVER AND BORANG LAKE AT BODALLA

Flatwater, up to 17Km circumnavigation.

Launch into shallow water at Snake Flat Reserve on Bumbo Road west of the Princes Highway. A "No Camping" sign identifies the entrance to the reserve on the left. Paddle down to Borang Lake for a return trip of up to 17km if you circumnavigate the lake. Taking a map is recommended. There are no facilities.

12. UPPER TUROSS RIVER AND BUMBO LAKE AT BODALLA

Flatwater, 11Km to 22.8Km circumnavigation.

For an 11.4km one-way trip, launch at Snake Flat Reserve on Bumbo Road approximately 3kms north of Bodalla. Paddle up river to Silo Farm Bridge, Comerang Road, landing on the western side of the bridge. Check conditions, water levels and use a map past Comerang Road as the river continues for many kilometres and may be accessible with some rapids. An 11km return paddle commences at Snake Flat Reserve exploring Bumbo Creek estuary and circumnavigating Bumbo Lake. There are no facilities at Snake Flat Reserve.

4. UPPER CLYDE RIVER AND SHALLOW CROSSING

Flatwater, 25-40Km.

From Nelligen the Clyde River snakes 25km to the tidal limit at Shallow Crossing. Explore the tributaries and be prepared to cross shallow water spots and pebble races. Launch from Nelligen Wharf, slide up 'V' ramp or boat ramp and land at the causeway at Shallow Crossing. Paddle another 10 to 15km up this lush, freshwater section depending on the water level, flows and accessibility. Expect to experience shallow water, small rapids and trees across the river. If water levels are high, drive up River Road to Brooman and launch from there for a worthwhile one-way trip down the river to Shallow Crossing.

5. BATEHAVEN TO MOSSY POINT

Sea, Up to 20Km of coastline.

A 20km sea paddle with the option for shorter trips—launch at Corrigans Beach, Batehaven and follow the coastline south-east keeping a safe distance from the rocky cliffs. Pass headlands and sheltered bays to Mosquito Bay with a landing option at the boat ramp. Experienced groups should only attempt the next stages in calm weather. The paddling becomes more spectacular as you round Pretty Point and Jimmies Island and there is a sheltered landing point at Guerilla Bay. The next stage is challenging and should only be attempted with the right conditions, group and craft. Burrewarra Point, protected by a lighthouse and high cliffs, has secluded beaches, reefs and islets. Rounding the point is a highlight. As you head west, the mountains and beaches offer protection from northerly weather patterns. Explore Barlings Island then head to the entrance of the Tomaga River, and onto Mossy Point. The river bar is only navigable in small swells. Boat ramps, parking and toilets are at Corrigans Beach, Mosquito Bay and Mossy Point. Guerilla Bay has parking and launch point only.



13. WAGONGA INLET AT NAROOMA

Flatwater, various lengths.

The clear waters of Wagonga Inlet, with its shifting foreshore landscapes, are a delight to paddle. Open kayaks and canoes should hug the shoreline as the vast expanse of water can be choppy on windy days. Forsters Bay provides more sheltered paddling with scenic moored boats. Paddling to the top end of the inlet lets you visit the historic cemetery and see the extensive oyster lease structures. Landing is next to the pontoon. Launch from the boat ramp south-west of Narooma Bridge or a little further south near the cafés, restaurants and foreshore park along Riverside Drive. Parking, BBQ/picnic area, toilets and playground are on Riverside Drive.

14. CORUNNA LAKE, TILBA REGION

Flatwater, 6Km one-way, up to 12Km return.

Take an enjoyable paddle on a picturesque lake with an easy, sandy launch near the boat ramp at the northern end of the lake. Spend a few hours exploring the little bays and under the highway bridge down to the ocean entrance of the lake. Paddle across to Tilba Valley Winery for a meal and live music at the south end of the lake—up to 12km return trip. You can see the Tilba Winery from the water. Land in shallow water and walk along a dirt road, 600m up the hill to the winery. BBQ/picnic area and toilets are at Corunna Lake. Turn west onto Corunna Lake Road, off the Princes Highway, 7km south of Narooma.

15. MYSTERY BAY TO NAROOMA

Sea, various lengths of coastline.

This is an exciting sea paddle for experienced ocean kayakers, with an easy launch and surf beach landing. The trip is exposed to prevailing onshore breezes. Launch from Mystery Bay at the end of Mystery Bay Road and head north past a series of small headlands and beaches to the mouth of Corunna Lake, then past Loaders and Fullers Beaches, which face south-east. These are both long beaches with large surf breaks. Head around rocky outcrops at Bogola Head, then up to Burunga Point and Handkerchief Beach. As you round Glasshouse Rocks, you see Narooma Beach and the main Narooma headland. Once around the headland stay a reasonable distance offshore as you pass the bar of Wagonga Inlet. The landing is north of the breakwater at Bar Beach, immediately north of Narooma bar. The bar is hazardous and should only be attempted with previous knowledge during low seas with an incoming tide. Toilets and BBQ/picnic area at Mystery Bay. BBQ/picnic area, toilets and playground near Bar Beach at Apex Park, North Narooma.

6. TOMAGA RIVER FROM MOSSY POINT

Flatwater, up to 11Km one-way, 22Km return.

A river route with options for short paddles or a 22km return trip from Mossy Point to the end of Mogo Creek. Take the eastern tributary at the junction of Jeremadra and Mogo Creeks for this route. The junction is 7km from Mossy Point. Parts of the river are shallow above oyster leases, and there is a strong tide near the mouth, so stay in the shallows when paddling against the tide. Launch into shallow water near the boat ramp at Annetts Parade but note this is directly into the river's tidal current. Novices could use the boat ramp at Kingston Place, Tomakin to avoid strong tides near the river mouth. Toilets are near the boat ramps at both Mossy Point and Tomakin.

7. MORUYA RIVER EAST OF MORUYA

Flatwater, up to 7Km one-way, 14Km return.

The region's rural heritage and unique granite is evident along the banks of this river, which winds past the historic town of Moruya. For a 14km return trip launch into shallow water at North Head Drive, Moruya (near the airport), or at the Moruya town boat ramp in Riverside Park, south-east of Moruya Bridge. A short side trip at high tide up Ryan's Creek, on the southern side of the river 2kms east of Moruya Bridge, is worthwhile to see mangroves and granite boulders in the water. Take the left fork at the junction. Toilets are at North Head campground (North Head Drive), and both picnic tables and toilets are near the Moruya town boat ramp.

8. MORUYA RIVER WEST OF MORUYA & THE DEUA RIVER

Flatwater, 12Km or up to 24Km return.

Paddle 12kms west of Moruya up to the bridge on Araluen Road by launching from the Moruya town boat ramp on the south-east side of Moruya Bridge. The river winds through farmland and forest and may become shallow above Araluen Road. A short side trip up Womban Creek at high tide is enjoyable. Further up, the river name changes to the Deua River and winds through the Deua River Valley. Access to the upper reaches of the river depends on water levels, and there may be obstructions, so checking maps and conditions is recommended. Picnic tables and toilets are near the Moruya town boat ramp.

16. WALLAGA LAKE, SOUTH OF TILBA REGION

Flatwater, up to 20Km circumnavigation.

Paddle across Wallaga Lake, home to the Yuin people and protected by Gulaga, the Mother mountain. Sense the indigenous heritage of the area and paddle where the ancestors fished from bark canoes. The landscape is spectacular with the mountain backdrop and forested foothills of Gulaga National Park cascading to the lake and dairy farms. Waterbirds, black swans, sea eagles and forest birds are commonly seen.

Circumnavigation of the lake could be a 20km route. Merriman Island is a site of significance and declared an Aboriginal Place under the 1974 National Parks and Wildlife Act. It was named to honour Umbarra, known as 'King Merriman', one of the last Yuin tribal leaders. Landing on the island is prohibited. From Central Tilba drive 6kms south on the Princes Highway and turn left into Bermagui Road. Continue for 4kms to Wallaga Lake Bridge. Park and launch from the small reserve on the west side of the bridge. Toilets at Paynes Island at the southern end of the bridge.



Kayak-Snorkelling Safety Tips

- ☑ Wear bright coloured clothing
- ☑ Keep out of busy boating routes and mooring areas
- ☑ Take a paddling/snorkelling partner
- ☑ Log your boating or kayaking trip with Marine Rescue by radio or install the Marine Rescue App
- ☑ Be aware of water safety rules and always wear a life jacket or personal floatation device
- ☑ Before departing always check local weather conditions including wind, tides and surf

Visit marinerescuensw.com.au for more information on staying safe on our waterways.

