



LIMOSA RISE
WILSONS PROMONTORY, VIC

40 DALGLEISH ROAD, YANAKIE
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1-4 3 HRS

THE LOCATION A journey through south Gippsland offers abundant pleasures: for beach-lovers and surfers, miles of sand and a roaring ocean; for bird-watchers and fishing enthusiasts, lakes and rivers edged by green pastures; for gourmets, excellent local produce in towns such as Foster and Koonwarra. Yanakie, at the entrance to Wilsons Promontory, the southernmost point of the mainland, is an ideal base for exploring the region.

THE PLACE Limosa Rise offers three striking hexagonal cottages – a studio and one or two bedrooms – that make the most of the views over Corner Inlet and the Prom. All come with fully equipped kitchens, and there's a barbie



on the sunny verandah. Bedrooms, each with stylish bathrooms, open off a large living space featuring high ceilings, a wall of windows, wood heater and reverse-cycle airconditioning. Should you tire of the view, there are games, a TV and a DVD micro-system for music and movies (BYO films).

THE EXPERIENCE This is a place to relax. Pour a drink, put on some music and lounge on one of the very comfortable sofas (or on the deck in fine weather),

then simply admire the view across Corner Inlet or, at dusk, watch kangaroos emerge from the scrub to feed. Once refreshed, venture further; it's just a few minutes to the water's edge, and a left turn at the boat ramp leads to Duck Point – perfect for bird-watching and admiring Wilsons Promontory in the distance.

DON'T MISS The Prom boasts pristine beaches, forests and mountains. Near the entrance, you'll find the Big Drift track – a three-kilometre walk dominated by magnificent sand dunes and fringed by forest.

ROSLYN GUY

NEED TO KNOW

COST: from \$255 a night (low season) for the studio to \$410 a night (high season) for the two-bedroom cottage.
DISTANCE: 190km south-east of Melbourne.
CHILDREN: yes, by prior arrangement.
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS: limited.



DJS NO 8 ON THE BEACH
ILLAWARRA, NSW

8 BEACH DRIVE, WOONONA BEACH
PHONE: (02) 4285 9018
MOBILE: 0410 480 192
EMAIL: DJSONTHEBEACH@BIGPOND.COM
WEB: STAYZ.COM.AU/22333#FEATURELIST

1-9 1.5 HRS

LOCATION It might not be as trendy as its northern Wollongong beach suburb cousins such as Thirroul or Austinmer, but what Woonona lacks in Beemer

four-wheel-drives it makes up for in peace, quiet and a great stretch of pristine beach. On a warm spring morning, the only occupant of the beach (apart from this walker) was a lone fisherman down on his luck. Ten minutes south, and you're in Wollongong's bustling CBD; 10 minutes north, and you're swanning about with ex-pat eastern-suburbs types sipping lattes and reading *Domain*.

THE PLACE The views of that pristine beach don't get much better than from the balcony of DJs No 8 on the Beach, a million-dollar mansion perched on Beach Drive, the suburb's beachfront thoroughfare. If the '80s beach decor (a whole lot of white and a whole lot of blue) doesn't offend too much, the house is an absolutely brilliant family-plus-friends holiday spot. A vast kitchen, five bedrooms that sleep up to nine, two bathrooms, a sparkling backyard pool, an empty downstairs room that would be ideal for boys and their (computer) toys ... it's got "summer hangout holiday" written all over its stuccoed walls.

THE EXPERIENCE You can do as much or as little as you like. Get out the

bicycles and follow the gorgeous beachside bike track up to Thirroul or down to Wollongong. Crack out the boogie boards and surf at the patrolled beach. Take a dip in the glorious retro ocean pool, perched at the beach's northern tip. Have breakfast at the cute outdoor cafe just around the corner. Take the little kids to nearby Nicholson Park. Or just grab a seat on the balcony and don't move.

DON'T MISS If you're not up to navigating the kitchen, try Taco Tuesday at Amigos Mexican Restaurant (amigosmexican.com.au) in Wollongong. The tacos are \$3 a pop, as are the tequila shots. If you're not there on a Tuesday, there are plenty of other reasonably priced, deeply tasty options. But be warned: servings are monstrous.

DEBORAH COOKE

NEED TO KNOW

COST: \$1100 for a weekend (linen not included).
DISTANCE: 75km south of Sydney.
CHILDREN: yes.
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS: downstairs only.

QUAY WEST RESORT
MAGENTA SHORES
CENTRAL COAST, NSW

1 MAGENTA DRIVE, MAGENTA
PHONE: (02) 4352 8100
EMAIL: RESERVATIONS@QWRMS.MIRVAC.COM
WEB: MIRVACHOTELS.COM/QUAY-WEST-RESORT-MAGENTA-SHORES

1-7 2 HRS

THE LOCATION Quay West Resort Magenta Shores rests between ocean and lake waters, offering a plethora of water activities – either on the still waters of Tuggerah Lake or the tumbling surf of the Pacific Ocean. A short drive into The Entrance brings the convenience of restaurants, cafes and shops.

THE PLACE Tucked behind its very own Ross Watson-designed 18-hole golf course (the only private golf course on the Central Coast), this modern, sharp-edged property is comprised of studio guest rooms and one-, two- and three-bedroom open-plan villas. All are self-contained with fully equipped, Caesarstone-surfaced kitchens and internal laundries. Separate dining and living rooms allow for guests to stop by for an impromptu nightcap. And when the evening ends, pull back the crisp white linen and crawl into your king-size bed.

THE EXPERIENCE Waking to the calls of native birdlife from your private balcony or courtyard terrace will allow your mind and body to ease into the day ahead. The villas, set within lush, palmy, landscaped grounds, are surrounded by tennis courts, a lagoon pool, picnic areas, walking tracks and cycle ways, and with a gym and golf pro-shop and the on-site Barrett's Restaurant, this village is masterfully equipped for adventurous fun in the sun. If you prefer to just relax and unwind, however, you may decide to treat yourself to one of the many treatments available at the on-site Mii day spa.

DON'T MISS The Entrance Farmers Markets (theentrancefarmersmarket.com.au) is six kilometres from Magenta Shores. Taking place on the first and third Saturday of every month, the markets offer more than 120 stalls of fresh produce and handmade crafts, allowing you to buy direct from farmers and artisans. Boat hire is available close by at The Entrance Boathouse (theentranceboatshed.com.au). Take a short afternoon stroll along the coast and allow yourself to be enchanted by breaching whales during migration season.

KATHY WENHOLZ

NEED TO KNOW

COST: from the low \$200s for a couple a night; bed and breakfast from about \$250 a couple a night.
DISTANCE: 115km north of Sydney.
CHILDREN: yes (free breakfast for children under five).
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS: limited.