



# Enjoy the quiet side of Noosa

SKIP THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF HASTINGS ST FOR A NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL QUEENSLAND BREAK

**TIANA TEMPLEMAN**

**O**n a patch of rocks less than 100m from our accommodation, a large flock of pelicans jostle for prime position, not unlike the tourists who vie for front-row seats at Aromas during peak season. It feels as if we are a million miles from the heart of Noosa. However, we could be there in less than 10 minutes if we swapped our kayak for a car.

Noosa's main tourist town is deservedly popular but there is a different side to this popular holiday destination. This time we have skipped the hustle and bustle of Hastings St for a stay at Eumarella Shores Noosa Lake Retreat on the shores of Lake Weyba.

The retreat's eight cottages and lake houses are surrounded by 20 hectares of native bushland and accessed via a quiet suburban street ending at the edge of the lake. However, despite the retreat's bush location, guests certainly don't come here to rough it.

Our modern designer lake house has two huge dining tables, a gourmet kitchen and three bedrooms, the largest of which has a spa bath with floor-to-ceiling windows that make the bush look close enough to touch. The only thing missing is a fireplace although you will find these in the smaller, traditional cottages which are ideal for a cosy winter getaway.

In the evening we slip on fluffy bathrobes and sit side by side on our private jetty with a glass of champagne and watch

the light change. Each cottage is so secluded there is little chance of being spotted by anyone except the wallabies.

Wind rustles the native trees, filling the air with the scent of gumtree blossom, jumping fish splash into the lake and a flock of pelicans fly in low over the water as the sun goes down.

Kookaburras encourage us to rise early. Wallabies hop through the bush as we attempt to finish the berries, croissants, muesli and organic milk and yoghurt in our breakfast basket. We don't come close, despite being hungry after our morning bush walk.

The clearly signed trail, which starts near reception, rings with the sound of bird-song and has signs describing how the land was once used by the Gubbi Gubbi people. Ancient Aboriginal "scar trees"

still bear the indentations where bark was removed to make shields and canoes.

We visit the nearby Eumundi Markets to pick up fresh, local produce for lunch and explore the many stalls filled with local handicrafts. The afternoon is spent curled up on the couch with a good book, pausing every now and then to look outside and enjoy the view.

Surrounded by Noosa's natural beauty, it feels as if this magical spot is ours alone.

## OUT AND ABOUT

WHILE one of the great joys of staying at Eumarella Shores is simply relaxing and enjoying the serene atmosphere and

stunning scenery, the surrounding area offers a number of other ways to experience Noosa's natural beauty.

### Kayak the Noosa River

CHILDREN as young as six can join an Eco Explore kayak tour which travels around the waters at the mouth of the Noosa River. Here you will discover secluded mangrove corridors which can be explored via kayak at high tide and, if you are lucky, an army of soldier crabs patrolling the sand. Experienced kayakers can skip the tour and hire a sea kayak, sit-on-top or racing ski and explore the Noosa River at their own pace. Fishing kayaks are available for hire for those who would like to catch a fish to cook on the barbecue back at Gooloowaa.

[kayaknoosa.com](http://kayaknoosa.com)

### Ride a horse through Lake Weyba

JUST up the road from Eumarella Shores you will find Noosa Horse Riding, the only riding school where anyone aged eight and above can saddle up and ride around (and through) Lake Weyba.

[noosahorseriding.com.au](http://noosahorseriding.com.au)

### Take a walk on the wild side

WALK the Noosa National Park Coastal Track, keeping an eye out for whales and dolphins in the distance. Bring your swimmers as there are several secluded beaches along the way.

### Watch the sunset from Mt Tinbeerwah

IT is a one-kilometre hike to



the top of Mt Tinbeerwah, which is just 20 minutes from Eumarella Shores in Tewantin National Park. Beyond the first lookout the track climbs to the fire tower lookout which offers

spectacular panoramic views over Noosa and the Pacific Ocean. Time your visit for sunset for the best viewing experience and don't forget your camera (and a bottle of water).

### Discover the Noosa Biosphere Reserve

MANY visitors have walked through the national park at the end of Hastings St but the lesser-known Noosa Biosphere Reserve, a series of freshwater tidal parklands covering 150,000ha, offers nature lovers a more unique experience. When you are gliding through the dark tannin-stained waters of the area known as the Everglades, marvelling at the mighty wingspan of square-tailed kites overhead, it is hard to believe the hustle and bustle of Hastings St is only a short boat ride away.

[thediscoverygroup.com.au](http://thediscoverygroup.com.au)

The writer was a guest of Eumarella Shores Noosa Lake Retreat and Tourism Noosa.

## G02 NOOSA

### GETTING THERE

Noosa is a two-hour drive north of Brisbane along the Bruce Highway.

### STAYING THERE

Eumarella Shores Noosa Lake Retreat is located on the shores of Lake Weyba, 10 minutes' drive from Hastings St.

Accommodation is self-contained and caters equally well to families and couples.

Complimentary activities include kayaking, fishing, bushwalking, kangaroo spotting and paddling in the lake. Midweek stays offer excellent value.

[eumarellashores.com.au](http://eumarellashores.com.au)

### MORE

For more information and details, go to

[visitnoosa.com.au](http://visitnoosa.com.au)



Enjoy a private jetty at Eumarella Shores Noosa Lake Resort and (below) riding horses through Lake Weyba.

