

Travel

Get ready **TO EXPLORE** *Australia and the world*

If you love Byron Bay ... Try Narooma

Byron Bay and its surrounding towns are perennial favourites – especially for Sydneysiders embarking on their exoduses for the holidays. We also love the cool allure of the NSW South Coast, particularly Narooma, a gorgeous spot on the shores of the Wagonga Inlet. The aquamarine waters of its estuary were made for aerial drone photography. Nine kilometres out to sea Barunguba Montague Island has fur seals, a little penguin colony and a picturesque lighthouse. For scenic drives head to Bar Rock lookout or to the foothills of Gulaga (Mount Dromedary) and quaint villages in the historic Tilba region. See eurobodalla.com.au

Double the pleasure

For every great Aussie destination or experience, there's another lesser-explored twin that's equally enjoyable. Here are our favourites.

Byron Bay is always a popular choice. Right: Narooma boasts many of the same drawcards.

For more holiday inspiration from *The Weekly's* experts, head to our website at

WomensWeekly.com.au

If you love Cairns ... Try the Southern Great Barrier Reef & Bundaberg

Cairns is in the national psyche as the starting point for visits to pontoons on the Great Barrier Reef and Fitzroy Island, but Bundaberg – some 1300km south – can get you to great places too. Experience the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef on a day trip to Lady Musgrave Island or stay overnight on Lady Elliot Island. On the mainland you can watch turtles hatch and take their first steps at Mon Repos Conservation Park, or visit the Mon Repos Turtle Centre, the famous rum distillery and cruise the Burnett River. Bargara, 13km from the city centre, is fast becoming the city's hip coastal suburb. More at bundabergregion.org

Elliott Heads, Bundaberg. Insets: Vivid Sydney; Illuminate Adelaide.

If you love Vivid Sydney ... Try Illuminate Adelaide

The Weekly loves a good lights festival and when we were treated to a preview of what Illuminate Adelaide 2024 has to offer over July 4-21 we wanted to book flights at once! Fire Gardens at the Adelaide Botanic Garden features thousands of handcrafted firepots and candlelit archways by famed French kinetic sculptors Compagnie Carabosse. At Adelaide Zoo you'll think you're in a psychedelic *Jurassic Park* as Universal Kingdom: Prehistoric Nights showcases the evolution of the first creatures to roam the planet, including luminescent giant carnivores. Around town City Lights will transform the many cultural institutions and heritage buildings into works of art. See illuminateadelaide.com

WORDS BY BERNARD O'SHEA. GETTY IMAGES. ALAMY. DESTINATION NSW. GRAHAM FOTHERBY. MEL CAMPBELL CREATIVE.

South Australia's Barossa. Right: The Granite Belt in Queensland.

If you love the Barossa and Hunter Valley ... Try the Granite Belt

It sounds like a haven for stonemasons but don't be fooled, the Granite Belt near Stanthorpe in Queensland's Southern Downs is the new magnet for wine aficionados. It's around 1000m above sea level which makes it one of Australia's highest wine regions, suited to producing the crisp, light styles that many prefer these days. The Granite Belt also boasts plenty of apple orchards and cideries too – Applethorpe and the obligatory big thing to photograph, The Big Apple, are just up the road. There are some stunning national parks and waterfalls in the vicinity too. Look for the Granite Belt Wine Trail on queensland.com

Sydney SWAP

Jewel of the West Coast

Perth featured in Expedia Group's 10 best "destination dupes" worldwide for 2024. "Our dupes are places that are a little unexpected, sometimes more affordable and every bit as delightful as the tried-and-true destinations travellers love," Expedia Group's Sarah King says. "Perth is a great dupe for Sydney as it offers many of the experiences that visitors are seeking: A vibrant cultural scene, world-class dining and beautiful beaches." The Art Gallery of Western Australia doubles nicely for the Art Gallery of NSW and a day trip to the Pinnacles in Nambung National Park is a mini-dupe for Sydney's Blue Mountains. See visitperth.com.au **AWW**