



# AUSTRALIA

*With legendary hospitality, spectacular scenery, vibrant nightlife, and nicknames that hint at both the sexual (Who doesn't want to go Down Under?) and the magical ('You're in Oz, mate!'), Australia beckons as the perfect gay travel destination.*

Matt Mathrani

## SYDNEY

In this land of didgeridoo, boomerang, koala bear, and kangaroo, Sydney is to Australia what New York is to the U.S. – a vibrant city with a charge that's electric, and a tingle that lingers long after. Infamous for its frolic, it's what locals call the *blow in* place, given the amount of folks that simply waft into town! Celebrated beaches, breathtaking views, and a spell-binding nightlife contribute to its allure.

Since 1978, Sydneysiders are inured to the world swooping down upon them for their annual Mardi Gras Festival. Soon to celebrate its 30th birthday, the next Mardi Gras is scheduled to commence February 9, 2008, and culminate with a parade on March 1.

With a feel similar to Southern Decadence in New Orleans, Sleaze Ball – originally a fundraiser for the Mardi Gras Festival – is an event in its own right. With

spectacularly-clad revelers crackling with a sexual charge, it's hosted annually, usually in the first week of October.

For detailed info on both Mardi Gras and Sleaze visit [Mardigras.org.au](http://Mardigras.org.au).

### Accommodations

Down by Crown Street in Surry Hills, **Governors on Fitzroy** (64 Fitzroy Street; +61-2-9331-4652), an updated Victorian bed-and-breakfast, offers six guest rooms. Governors serve a full breakfast and has a friendly atmosphere, with common rooms and a spa. Bedrooms are smoke-free, but there is an outdoor patio for those who just must light up.

**Manor House** (86 Flinders Street; +61-2-9380-6633), a Victorian grand mansion, offers 18 rooms in an elegant, gay friendly setting. A hospitable staff excels here. A full breakfast is part of the pampering.

**Oasis on Flinders** (+61-2-9331-8791), a naturists' retreat, offers in-the-buff lodgings for gay males. No address is provided for discretion's sake, but the lodgings are on Flinders Street. Don't be surprised if

they greet you at the door wearing nothing but a smile!

**Comfort Inn Cambridge** (212 Riley Street; +61-2-9212-1111) is a centrally located, three-and-half star hotel that offers plenty of room! Just a short stroll from the Oxford Street party zone, it is a good base to experience all things Sydney has to offer.

In what is called Paddington, **Sullivans** (21 Oxford Street; +61-2-9361-0211) is a charming value-for-money hotel located two blocks away from the Darlinghurst action. Other budget choices include **Wattle Hotel** (108 Oxford Street; +61-2-9332-4118), **City Crown Motel** (289 Crown Street) and **Y on the Park** (5-11 Wentworth Avenue).

The "hip, ambient, and intimate" **L'Otél** (114 Darlinghurst Road; +61-2-9360-6868) is a 16-room boutique hotel, whereas the 92-room **Hyde Park Inn** (271 Elizabeth Street; +61-2-9264-6001), overlooking Hyde Park, offers four-star comforts. Nearby, **Travelodge Wentworth** (27-33 Wentworth Avenue; +61-2-8267-1700) and **Hotel Stellar** (4 Wentworth Avenue; +61-2-9264-9754) are other convenient choices.

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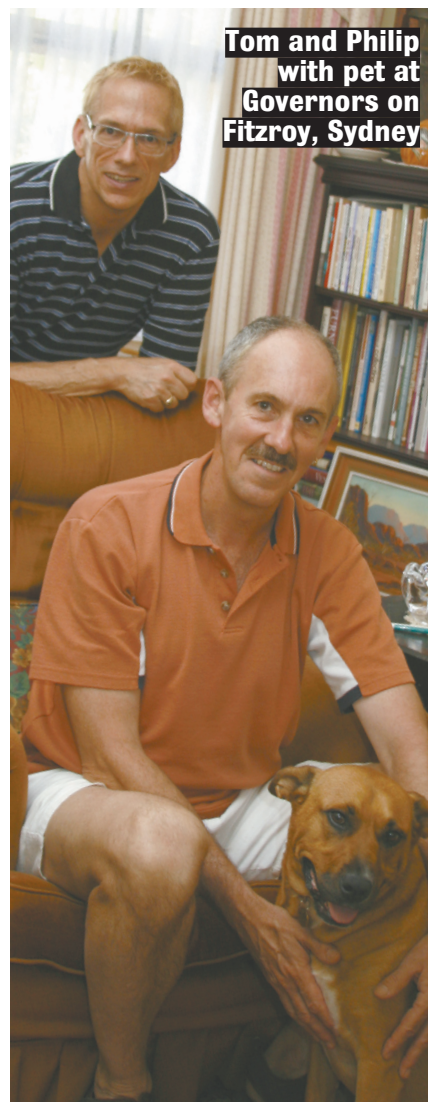
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David & Glenn  
of Stonewall,  
Sydney

**Medina Exec on Crown** (359 Crown Street; +61-2-8248-2361) suits those who desire self-contained apartments. A swimming pool, spa, gym, and barbecue area is also on site.

## Nightlife

Nowhere is the partying more rampant than along rowdy Oxford Street in Darlinghurst.

**ARQ** (16 Flinders Street at Taylor Square) continues to rage in Darlinghurst. The nightclub comprises two-and-a-half levels that show off a major investment in lights, sound, and sight. It is popular with both the straight and gay partygoers.

**The Colombian** (117 Oxford Street) is a slick, modern gay pub and lounge bar that is decidedly straight-friendly! Spread out over two levels, it offers the largest range of DJs in Sydney.

**Stonewall** (173-175 Oxford Street), a three-story entertainment complex, opens daily at noon. Sydney's top DJs and entertainers draw in hordes to this hot spot. Their underwear contests are jam-packed, and their recent expansion

includes a pokies room (gambling machines), which has only rendered Stonewall even more popular.

**Midnight Shift** (85 Oxford Street) has been a gay must-do for over 25 years. The downstairs bar has pool tables as well as myriad slot machines; the upstairs offers dancing on weekends.

**Oxford Hotel** (134 Oxford Street) comprises three distinct bars. At street level is the Oxford Bar, a saloon-style bar with pokies (slot machines). A very earthy-looking crowd frequents this long-standing haunt.

**Palms on Oxford** (124 Oxford Street) is a basement-level nightclub offering piano and drag entertainment.

**Phoenix** (34 Oxford Street) is a party bar and dance place that offers succor on weekends after 10 p.m.

**Sly Fox** (199 Enmore Road), also owned by the ARQ folks, is popular with women on Wednesdays.

**Slide** (41 Oxford Street; Slide.com.au) is a nightclub, a supper club, and a restaurant all in one. Open for dinner nightly Tuesday through Sunday, Slide is slick with events. Among the highlights are shows

hosted by Clair De Lune and El Circo – which is a combination of dining, wining, and cutting-edge circus-inspired entertainment, bringing in capacity crowds.

In the Newtown area, **Imperial Hotel** (35 Erskineville Road), run by ARQ nightclub, has been famous for the Priscilla Show (yes this is where the bar scenes were filmed) for what seems like donkeys of years. Currently undergoing thorough remodeling, this legendary venue is slated to reopen by the time Mardi Gras rolls along.

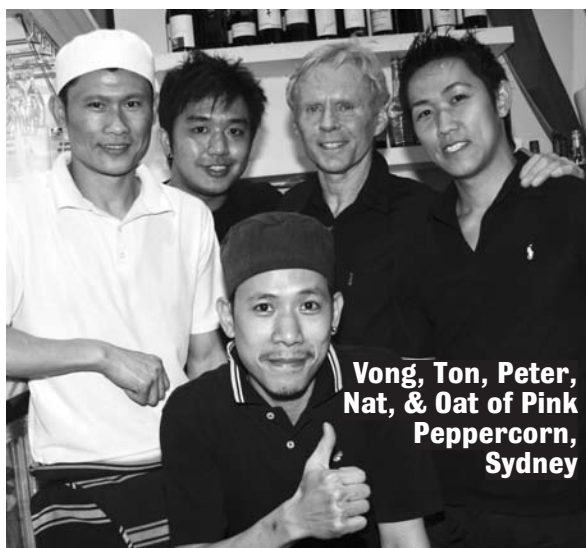
## Restaurants

In addition to **Slide** (mentioned above), a slew of restaurants, take-out eateries, and cafes dot the golden mile of gay Oxford Street. The service is laid-back and an easygoing attitude prevails.

Whilst a slew of Chinese/Thai restaurants abound in Sydney, you'll be hard pressed to find sumptuous cuisine that hails from Laos. This is where gay-owned **Pink Peppercorn** (122 Oxford Street) steps in. Beguiling taste buds are dishes such as *gaeng phed phak*, salmon soufflé, perfectly presented mains of chicken, lamb,



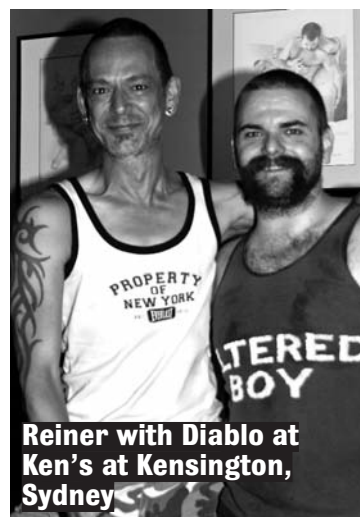
**Cheyne, Tazio, & Ayman of Kingsteam, Sydney**



**Vong, Ton, Peter, Nat, & Oat of Pink Peppercorn, Sydney**



**A glimpse of The Beauty Room, Sydney**



**Reiner with Diablo at Ken's at Kensington, Sydney**



**Stephen and Roy at Headquarters on Crown, Sydney**



beef, and seafood flavored with lime, dill, lemongrass, chili, and garlic. Prices are good value, with quality main courses under AU\$20.

The lentil soup at **Betty's Soup Kitchen** (84 Oxford Street) hits the spot, and there's more home-style fare to choose from. Just about everything is priced under AU\$10 dollars.

## Looking good

**Beauty Room** (220 Goulburn Street) proffers the pampering of professionally-trained therapists (both male and female) at this skincare center for men and women. You may choose from a large selection of relaxing treatments, ranging from facial peels to micro dermabrasion treatments, or maybe a massage to relax you after a busy day touring around Sydney. Take time to retreat from the street and visit this internationally-known salon.

**City Gym** (107 Crown Street) thrives as the oldest shrine to gay narcissism in Sydney, now sporting a \$3 million makeover. **Gold's Gym** (23 Pelican Street) is a link in the global chain of Gold's gyms

and another gay trammled choice. **Fitness First** (63 Oxford Street), with over 70 clubs across Australia and many more abroad, is also gay-mobbed.

## Sex-on-premises venues

**Kingsteam** (38-42 Oxford Street), located next to the Exchange Hotel, is a clean, comfortable place for release that's been around since 1974. It's the only sauna on queenly Oxford Street. Kingsteam gets a diverse crowd and features a small gym, sauna, spa, and steam room. Their "\$10 Tight Arse Tuesdays," contributes to much business. A new sling room (coming soon) will compound the physical allure.

**Bodyline** (10 Taylor Street) offers a large Romanesque jacuzzi, a cedar-wood dry sauna, a maze, and myriad large cabins – some with their own slings. A rooftop deck adds to outdoor pleasures.

Tucked discreetly the Kensington 'burb, **Ken's at Kensington** (83 Anzac Parade) is a legendary sauna spread out over two spacious levels. Facilities include steamroom, sauna, spa, weights area and

indoor pool. A DVD/TV/coffee/smoking lounge and chill out area complements the relaxation.

**Sydney City Steam** (357 Sussex), perched in Chinatown, draws office-goers during lunch break. A faithful Asian clientele is the hallmark of this clean, crisp place.

At **Adult World** (124-A Oxford Street) you'll find state-of-the-art video booths with 15 movies to pick at any time. The backroom has booths, a sling room, a bondage room, a very engaging mirror room, as well as porn lounges.

**Pleasure Chest** (161 Oxford Street, 56 Darlinghurst Road, 705 George Street, and 382 Pitt Street) are adult stores that also aim to please.

When it comes to size, with its four floors to explore, **Headquarters** (273 Crown Street; Headquarters.com.au) is the biggest sex club around, open 24 hours. This fantasy play-world features a mine-shaft, jail, SUK-station, a unique watersports space, sling rooms, glory holes and cruise areas, douche rooms, plus private rooms in addition to a video lounge and a coffee bar. Speedo parties, piss parties,



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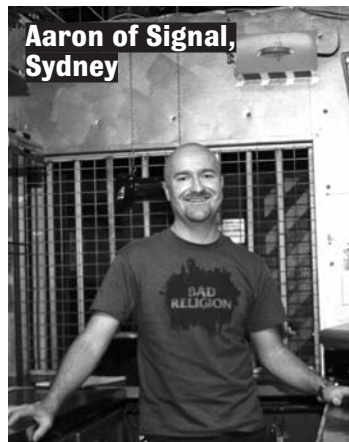
Jason and Lee at Bodyline, Sydney



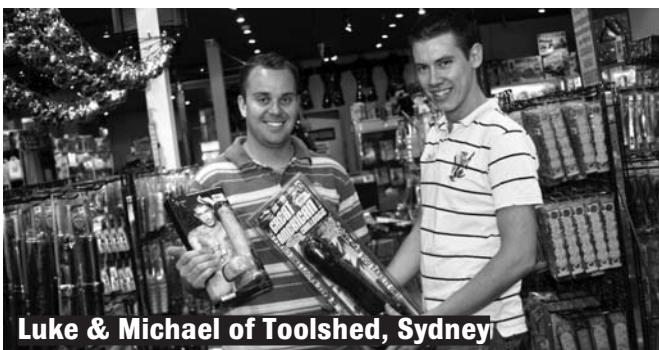
Stephen & Khalid of Manor House, Sydney



Aaron of Signal, Sydney



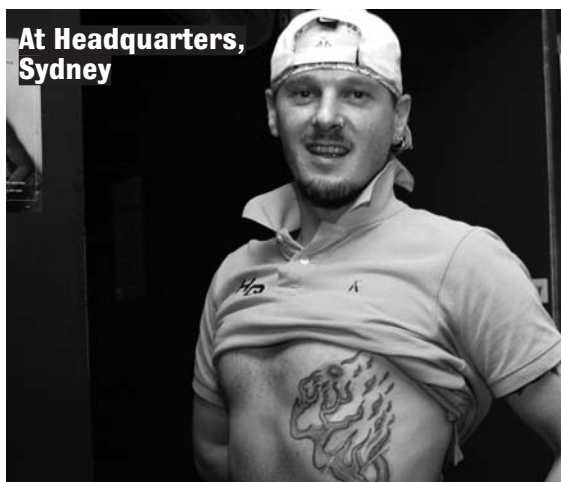
Luke & Michael of Toolshed, Sydney



David of Headquarters on Crown, Sydney



At Headquarters, Sydney



At Ken's at Kensington, Sydney



At Stonewall, Sydney





naked sex parties are the some of their monthly events.

**Signal** (81 Oxford Street) offers more than just lube 'n' condoms within all its over 25 rooms. Their catch phrase – “There are places Down Under that are big on blowing their own horn; at Signal, we’ll leave the blowing up to you” – just hints at the pleasant surprises in store.

**Urge** (97 Oxford Street) strikes hard on the ejaculation scene. Erotic goodies are vended here as well.

In the Newtown area, **Newtown Basement** (304 King Street, or 6 Wilson Street, should you want to enter from the rear) is an adult store that’s in a delightful time warp.

While not technically “sex on premises” venues, **Knightcall** (+61-2-9368-0511) and **Delivery Boys Escorts** (+61-2-9699-6377) offer boys by the hour – anytime, anywhere.

## Shopping

**The Bookshop** (207 Oxford Street) is the specialist in gay and lesbian books. You’ll also find a wide range of contemporary magazines here.

When it comes to leatherwear and

accessories, the community-oriented **Sax Fetish** (110-A Oxford Street) shines. It is highly regarded as manufacturer of leather, metal, fetish, and BDSM products produced locally from the finest of Australian leathers, with many unique designs. The store itself is bursting with leather garments of every genre, toys and gear for the widest range of taste and perversion, as well as some distinctly Australian souvenirs of your trip Down Under.

If you go by size, **The Toolshed** (three locations: 81 Oxford Street, 191 Oxford Street at Taylor Square, and 198 King Street) is a giant among gay-and-lesbian adult stores in Sydney. They sell adult products, clothing, cards, and unique pride items.

**Kaos** (197-199 Oxford Street) offers an adult store catering to men on its second floor level. The range of items at hand includes oodles of DVDs, toys, accessories, and some clothing. Internet kiosks are also on premises.

**Aussie Boys** (102 Oxford Street) sells gay clothing and accessories, footwear, leather goods, toiletries, CDs, hand-made

cards, and more.

**Bang** (4 Flinders Street) vends gay clothing labels from around the world. Specializing in a wide range of men’s swimwear, gymwear, underwear, clubwear, and accessories, Bang also has a sister store in Melbourne, Victoria.

## BRISBANE

Set along the meandering river which shares its name, Brisbane offers a striking combination of Victorian and modern architecture. Located a little over an hour’s flight north of Sydney, “Bris Vegas,” as it is also locally dubbed, is a subtropical city – a gateway to the Gold Coast area and the getaway township of Noosa.

Local gay papers include *QNews*, which offers a detailed, updated roster of what’s what and where.

## Bars and cafes

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*Continued on page 29*

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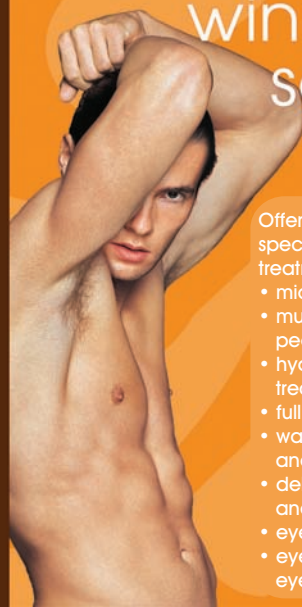


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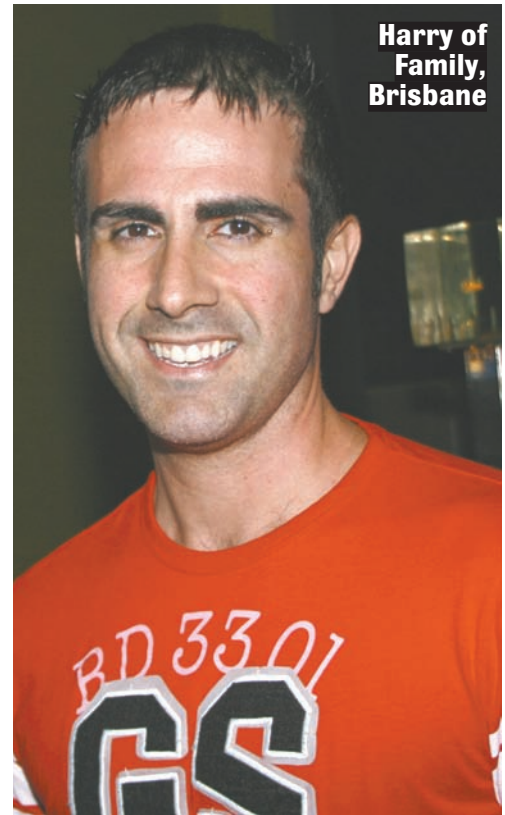
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**Big Gay Day, Brisbane**



**The scene at Big Gay Day, Brisbane**



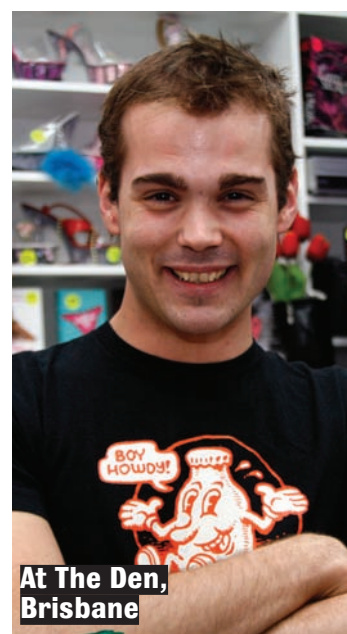
**Blond Toby (right) with colleague at Klub Kruise, Brisbane**



**Sabrina & Matt at Hotel Wickham, Brisbane**



**Matty of The Den, Brisbane**



**At The Den, Brisbane**



**Lex at Hotel Wickham, Brisbane**



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*Continued from page 24*

drinks, **Hotel Wickham** (308 Wickham Street), in Fortitude Valley, is Brisbane's leading gay venue. With its classic Queenslander style outdoor areas, live shows, gaming room, dance bar, member benefits, and special events Hotel Wickham guarantees a friendly welcome to its visitors. There are DJs Tuesday through Sunday night and drag shows Tuesday through Friday. Saturday night is the most exciting night of the week with special DJs and a dance floor that'll compel you to get moving and get sweaty.

Nearby, at **Family** (8 McLachlan Street) a devilishly bisexual crowd is catered to on several levels, which include a dance floor. Sundays are the "gayer" nights.

In the immediate neighborhood, many make their way to **The Beat** (Anne Street at Brunswick), a mixed venue open for partying once the other gay nightspots have called it a night.

**Sportsmen Hotel** (130 Leichhardt Street) is a quiet, casual watering hole that serves food and draws a local crowd big on cheap lunch specials

## Lodgings

**Central Brunswick Apartments** (455 Brunswick Street; +61-73-852-1411) offers choice four-star accommodations in the thick of it all. All hotel conveniences – including daily maid service – are part of the deal. An army of restaurants, cafes, shops, and a 24-hour supermarket surround the property. Adding to the luxury are a sauna, spa, mini-gym, and barbecue on the roof level with marvelous views of the skyline.

## Sex-on-premises venues

**Wet** (22 Jeays Street, Bowen Hills) continues to give Brisbane a splash. Though Sundays are the biggest hurrah, on any day of the week this place is well-trodden thanks to the 138 lockers, private cubicles, indoor and outdoor pool and jacuzzi, a cafe, and a friendly staff. The supremely clean air-conditioned facility is open from 11 a.m. daily.

**Klub Kruise** (29 McLachlan Street), the gay-owned-and-operated cruising venue, offers hot action over three levels. Conveniently located in ever-so-gay Fortitude

Valley, Klub Kruise is safe, clean, and discreet. Free high-speed internet, solarium, plus a coffee lounge with friendly staff are at hand. Upstairs you can enjoy theme rooms, cubicles, and videos on seven screens with glory holes standing by.

At **The Den** (187 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley) private booths, a sling room, showers, and a common video lounge contribute to the pleasure. From sex toys to books and magazines, the adult bookstore on-premises carries many things to perturb the prudish.

**Bodyline** (45 Peel Street, Westend), a free membership sauna in town, continues to hold its own. In cooperation with the city's authorities, a needle-exchange program jabs well with their clientele.

## Big Gay Day

Brisbane's big on **Big Gay Day** (Biggayday.com.au), their summer street party hosted annually since 2000. This charity fundraiser of an event – earmarked for Sunday, March 11, 2008 – is slated to draw thousands of people together for a single cause: to raise funds for youth suicide prevention. Now nationally renowned, this "Top Gay Event" has lined up entertainment replete with performances and DJs from noon to midnight on Alden Street (right behind Hotel Wickham) in Fortitude Valley. Performing on stage at the Wickham will be Vandalism, Paulini, Metaphor, Diana Anaid, Sneaky Sound System, Leo Sayer, among others. Of course there is no Big Gay Day without a big drag show. So rehearsals have begun for a lot of proud and fabulous drag queens on stage for what is best described as Mega Drag.

# CAIRNS

Cairns, in far north Queensland, is a tropical city blending the best of Australia with a steady stream of international visitors, many of them gay. They come to enjoy and explore the World Heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest, visit the Great Barrier Reef (the world's largest living thing), the Atherton Tablelands, Cape Tribulation, or simply to chill out. Among the many activities available are ballooning, white-water rafting, snorkeling, and visits to the rainforest town of Kuranda by cable car or on the cutest little train.

Each year, after the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, Cairns enjoys an influx of international and domestic travelers heading north to this tropical heaven for "Mardi Gras recovery" and a tad more revelry.

## The scene

Cairns is great for souvenir shopping, aboriginal artifacts, opals, and tropical clothing. Cairns Central, the night markets, and the downtown area are good hunting grounds.

On the fringe of the city center, **Skinny Dips Resort and Spa** (18 James Street; +61-7-4051-4644; [Skinnydips.com.au](http://Skinnydips.com.au)) is Cairns's only resort catering exclusively to gay and lesbian travelers. Think Melrose Place: twenty-one well-equipped air-conditioned rooms overlooking the sparkling pool, jacuzzi, and poolside cafe. They offer a fitness room, sauna and a guest courtesy lounge with complimentary internet access. The licensed outdoor-indoor restaurant is open daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, with the bar and restaurant open to outside patrons from 11 a.m. Sanctuary Spa Centre, located within Skinny Dips Resort, offers a range of massage and pamper treatments, administered by male attendants, and designed with men in mind.

**Boyz On The Beach** (1 Coogee Close, situated close to Kewarra Beach; +61-7-4055-6462), a gay-owned-and-operated three-room bed and breakfast, is yet another all gay option, 20 minutes from Cairns city.

Discreetly tucked behind what appears to be the doorway to a car park, **Head Office** (2nd floor, 52-A Abbott Street) is a men's cruise club attracting gay and bisexual locals and tourists alike. It's a facility for physical release comprised of a lounge, a spa, a maze, and a video area.

There are countless restaurants, cafes, bars and clubs, with **New Trix** (53 Spence Street) being the gay nightclub, while **Sapphire Tapas Bar** (39-49 Lake Street), which is gay-owned-and-operated, attracts an eclectic mix of gays and gay-friendlies.

## Planning your trip

Good websites for Cairns info include **Destinationqueensland.com**, a fab resource on all of Queensland (including Brisbane), **Gaycairns.com**, and **Affordablecairns.com** focusing on the gateway to the barrier reef.



## some aussie speak

aggro = aggressive

any tick of the tock = anytime now

bangs like a dunny door = great in the sack

beat = cruisy area

bonk (or root or shag) = fuck

bottle shop = liquor store

blow in = a newcomer who just arrived

budgie smugglers = speedos

chin wag = to have a chat or conversation

crack a fat = get an erection

crack the shits = get angry

dipstick = an idiot or loser

dry as a dead dingo's donger = very thirsty

drongo = dickhead

franger = condom

full as a fairy's phone book = drunk

legless = very drunk

mancans = bitch tits

on the nose = smelly, corrupt

pash = passionate kiss

poofteer = male homo

potato queen = asian into white guys

random = a casual, stray lay

spunky = good-looking or sexy

sticking out like dog's balls = very obvious

turkey slap = slap in the face with testicles

up ya bum = cheers (when toasting)

wank = masturbate

wombat = one who eats, fucks, and leaves

A room with a view at Skinny Dips, Cairns



Wayne gives a massage at Skinny Dips, Cairns



Sarah of Skydive, Marianne of Rae's on Wategos, Michael of Pink Guide, Jan from Byron Shire Echo, and blond friend, Byron Bay

# BYRON BAY

Located on the eastern most point of the Australian mainland, the idyllic subtropical shire of Byron Bay draws its name from circumnavigator John Byron, grandpa to poet Lord Byron. Famous for the Cape Byron Lighthouse and stunning beaches with surfers galore, Byron Bay has decided on a resort town status for itself, quite a cry from its past as a whaling station and abattoir! Many escapees from the world over continue to throng to this coastal bohemia, and many never leave. It is said that between Byron Bay, and nearby Lismore and Nimbin, pockets the largest concentration of gays and lesbians Down Under.

While Byron Bay is chocker with beaches (such as The Wreck, Clarks Beach, The Pass, Wategos, and Tallow Beach), one is extra-special: 279 steps down a well-traipsed rainforest track (at the Broken Head Nature Reserve) lies Kings Beach, the official gay nudist white-sand beach, and quite the place to kindle new friendships or cement time-tried ones.

Ballina airport is the closest domestic connection to Byron Bay, whereas international flights land at Brisbane airport two-hours north. Cyber resources for more info on the area include [Byronpinkguide.com](http://Byronpinkguide.com), [Byrongay.com](http://Byrongay.com), and [Byronbaynow.com](http://Byronbaynow.com).

## Where to perch and such

Byron Bay offers it all from humble backpacker tents to super-luxurious digs.

**Amber Gardens** (66 Plantation Drive, Ewingsdale; +61-2-6684-8215) is the gay-owned, straight-friendly B&B set in an acre of secluded gardens with chic creature comforts. Sumptuous breakfasts on the wide verandahs overlooking manicured lawns are some highlights.

**BreakFree Eco Beach** (35-37 Shirley Street; +61-2-6639-5700) is a relatively new resort complex offering studio and one-bedroom apartments close to the town center and the beaches.

Set within a stunning 45-acre lush rainforest by Tallow Beach, find **Byron at Byron Resort and Spa** (77-97 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park +61-2-6639-2000). The resort's facilities include a tennis court, pool, gym, restaurant, bar, spa, and yoga studio.

You can't get closer to the beach than at the well-appointed **Fridays on the Beach** (45 Lawson Street; +61-2-6685-5513), a luxury boutique property which prides itself on a personal touch.

**Gaia Retreat & Spa** (933 Fernleigh Road, Brooklet; +61-2-6687-1216), co-owned by Olivia Newton-John, is nestled amongst green valleys and undulating hills near the town of Bangalow. Elegant accommodations, nourishing cuisine, day-spa pampering, tennis courts, a sparkling pool, and breathtaking views are all offered here.

Positioned on the edge of Arakwal National Park, with Tallow Beach just a stroll away, you'll find a self-contained resort apartments and contemporary style tree top holiday houses at **Oasis Resort** (24 Scott Street; +61-2-6685-7390). A heated pool, outdoor spa/sauna, tennis courts, gym, and in-house beauty treatments are some of the delights awaiting you here.

**Rae's on Wategos** (8 Marine Parade, Wategos Beach; +61-2-66-855-366) has been heralded as one of Australia's most exquisite experiences. At this seven-room boutique retreat, you may avail of opulent private space that is popular with both discreet lovers and celebrities. An intimate, high-caliber spa on premises, and a 60-seat *al fresco* dining room overlooking the ocean and fusing Aussie and Thai flavors are all part of the bliss.

At **Tallow Beach Motel** (108 Alcorn Street; +61-2-6685-3369), tucked a few meters from the beach itself, the offerings include seven self-contained rooms (some with sun room) with kitchenette and basic amenities.

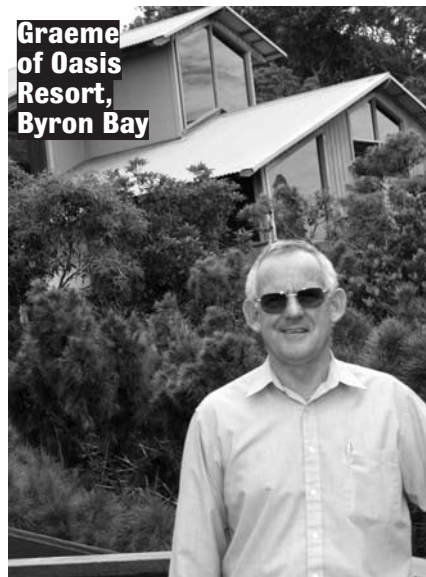
**Villas of Byron Bay** (19-23 Gordon Street; +61-2-6685-5390) is truly a soul sanctuary, offering the finest in luxury high-walled villas, each with its own heated pool and spa set in tropical Zen gardens. Private outdoor showers, myriad creature comforts, and hand-crafted Balinese furniture are some of the highlights. Day spa facilities are also at hand here.

## Activities

Kayaking, surfing, scuba diving, snorkeling, and whale watching are all avail-

*Continued on page 34*

**Graeme of Oasis Resort, Byron Bay**



**At 14,000 feet with Skydive, Byron Bay**

**Feel the peacefulness! – Byron Bay**





## AUSTRALIA

**Andy & Stuart  
of Amber Gardens,  
Byron Bay**




**Vinnie Rae  
of Rae's on  
Wategos,  
Byron Bay**



**A glimpse of Fridays  
on the Beach, Byron Bay**



**Inside The Villas of Byron Bay**

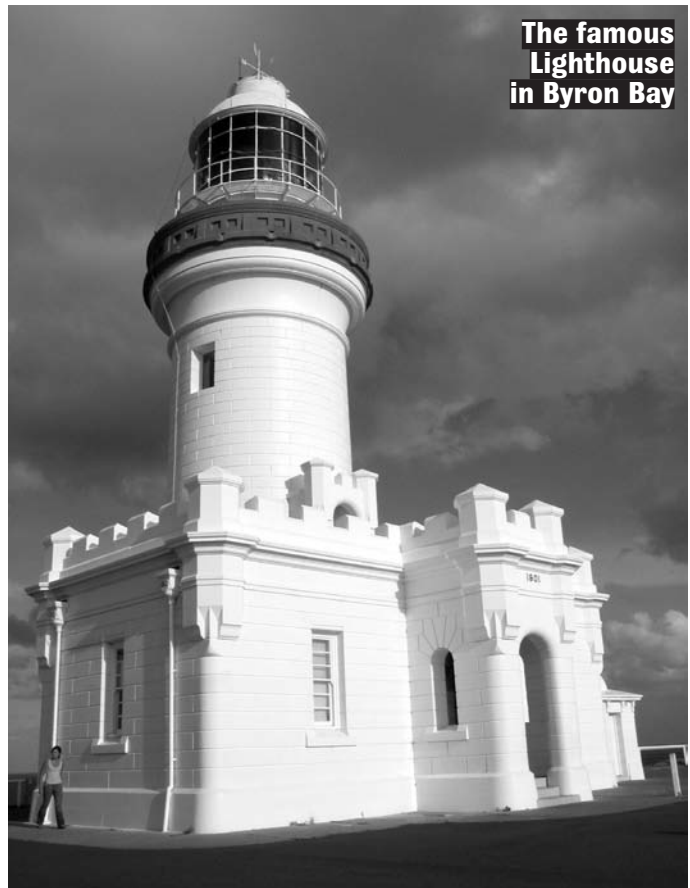



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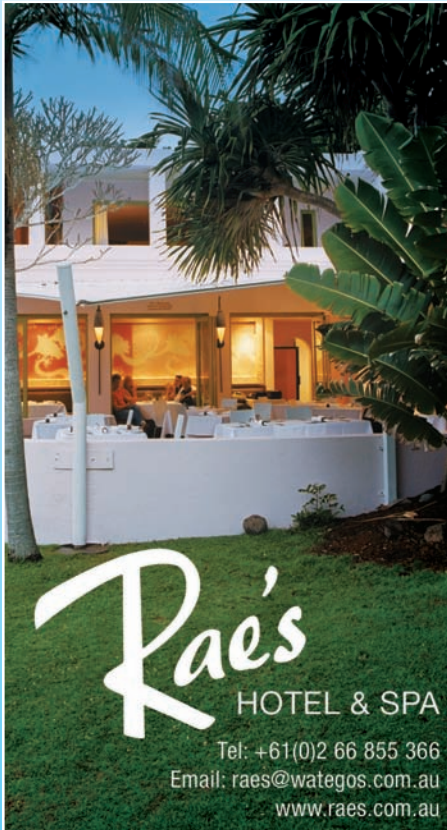
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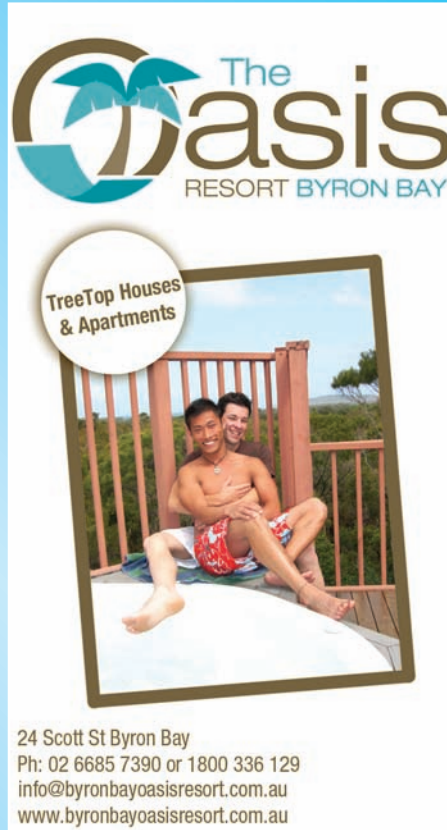


# welcome to Byron Bay




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[www.raes.com.au](http://www.raes.com.au)



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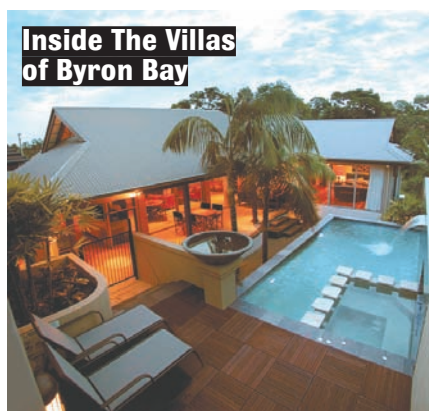
**Rae's on Wategos,  
Byron Bay**



**Si on Kings  
Beach, Byron Bay**



**At Fridays on the Beach,  
Byron Bay**



**Inside The Villas  
of Byron Bay**



**Taking in the sun,  
and each other,  
at Kings**

*Continued from page 31*

able in the Byron Bay area. Apropos, **Byron Bay Adventure Centre** (2/9 Marvel Street Byron Bay; +61-2 -6680-7906), the one-stop-shop located in the heart of the town, provides you with everything you need: electric choppers, bikes, surf-board and beach gear, and more! Byron Bay Adventure can also arrange for you to sky dive and get a spread eagle view of Byron Bay from 14,000 feet via **Skydive Byron Bay** (Tyagarah Airport; +61-2-6684-1323). Full time professional and highly qualified staff – members of Australian Parachute Federation – cater to needs of dare devils and those that need a little nudging. Take in the breathtaking views of Mount Warning out to the west, see stunning Cape Byron and beaches as far as the eye can see, even whale watch from the sky!

Many a queer party is hosted in the town of Lismore under the moniker of **Tropical Fruits** (Tropicalfruits.org). Boys from Brisbane in the North and Sydney in the south wend their way here for lots of rollicking experiences usually hosted for New Years, Easter, Queen's Birthday, and special gay benefits.

## Other resources

For gay-specific information within Australia, **Gay Australia Guide** is a good bet. For helpful general information browse **Gay.australia.com** and explore the panoramic images. Gay-oriented details of accommodations and more can be had at **Galta.com.au**. ▼



**Gaia Retreat & Spa's  
Olivia Newton-John**