



CHECKING IN

Halcyon House, Cabarita Beach

We take the guesswork out of local travel with our tips on where to stay, eat, drink and play. This month, *GT* hits the Tweed Coast.



Where

21 Cypress Cres,
Cabarita Beach

Facilities

Prices from \$990
per night, including
breakfast and dinner

Pool Yes

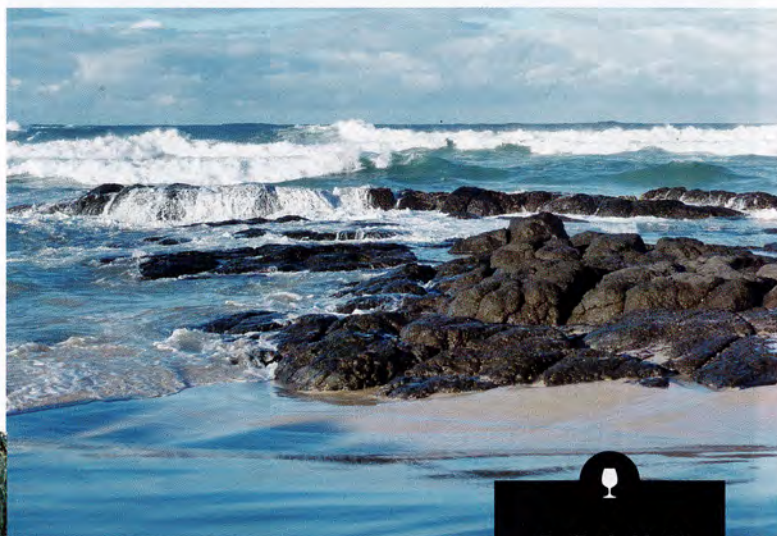
Hotel bar Yes

Restaurant Yes

Room service Yes

STAY

If an ocean escape is on your mind, there are few spots better than NSW's Tweed Coast. Talcum powder-soft sand stretches for miles, as rolling blue waves crash hypnotically onto the shore. And there is no place better to soak in that serenity than Halcyon House in Cabarita Beach. Once a '60s surf motel, the seaside property plays on its retro past with bold patterns and a classic blue-and-white palette throughout. Each of the hotel's 21 rooms is unique, housing an assortment of mismatched curios, handpicked by designer Anna Spiro. Daybeds and sun loungers surround a sparkling pool, offering guests a classic resort experience, or you can dial up the relaxation with an afternoon at Halcyon Spa. Originally opened in 2015, the property underwent a refresh during the Covid shutdown, and radiates a crisp new energy as it welcomes guests to relax and recharge. halcyonhouse.com.au



Clockwise from top left: Halcyon spa and gift shop; complimentary bicycles; smoked mullet with crisp skin, potato and dill at Fleet; Cabarita Beach; the pool. Opposite: Halcyon House.



MUST-DO

To fully appreciate just how far the white sands of the Tweed Coast stretch, grab yourself one of Halcyon's complimentary bikes and follow the coast north, along a dedicated path that takes you from Cabarita Beach, up to Bogangar Beach, Casuarina Beach and South Kingscliff Beach. Reward your efforts when you arrive in Salt Village, where you will find a particularly good French patisserie, serving freshly baked flakiness and perfectly glazed fruit tarts. If you have any energy left after the 18km ride, you can end the day with a short hike up nearby Norrie's Head to watch the sun set. But that would be showing off.

EXPERIENCE

If you're lucky enough to be in the area on a Friday morning, you can't miss the Mullumbimby Farmers' Markets, which many foodies consider the best in the country. Open from 7am to 11am every Friday, they offer a cornucopia of fresh produce from the surrounding region, as well as the chance to meet the people who grow it. Forget fridge magnets or tea towels, you'll find plenty of edible souvenirs to take home and share with friends. Plus, there are all manner of delicious morsels to enjoy on the day. mullumfarmersmarket.org.au

DRINK

Halcyon House prides itself on supporting small, local distillers and is home to a comprehensive gin library, on display in reception. Hotel guests are welcomed with a signature cocktail featuring Ink Gin from nearby Husk Distillers. huskdistillers.com

EAT

Breakfast

After winning Best Breakfast at the GT Hotel Awards in 2018, Halcyon House continues to offer one of the best brekkie line ups in the land. Served poolside at **Paper Daisy**, the menu includes a range of wholesome yet delicious options, along with freshly pressed juice. The team also serves poolside snacks throughout the day, including a wickedly tasty retro prawn sanga.

Lunch

To secure a spot at the small-but-perfectly formed **Fleet** in Brunswick Heads, you'll need to book well ahead. What awaits is a front row seat as you watch one of Australia's best chefs, Josh Lewis, as he transforms the freshest of produce into works of culinary art. At the start of your meal, you'll be presented with a list of ingredients to come but nothing will prepare you for how they take shape. Surprise and delight accompany each exquisite dish. Book now to avoid bitter disappointment. fleet-restaurant.com.au

Dinner

If you can't get yourself into Fleet, you can still experience the hospitality flare of Josh Lewis and Astrid McCormack down the road at **La Casita**, a fun, road-side tacoria, serving small plates of punchy, Mexican flavours. Start with stuffed jalapenos and work your way through the taco menu, with a side of corn and plenty of margaritas. lacasita.com.au ●