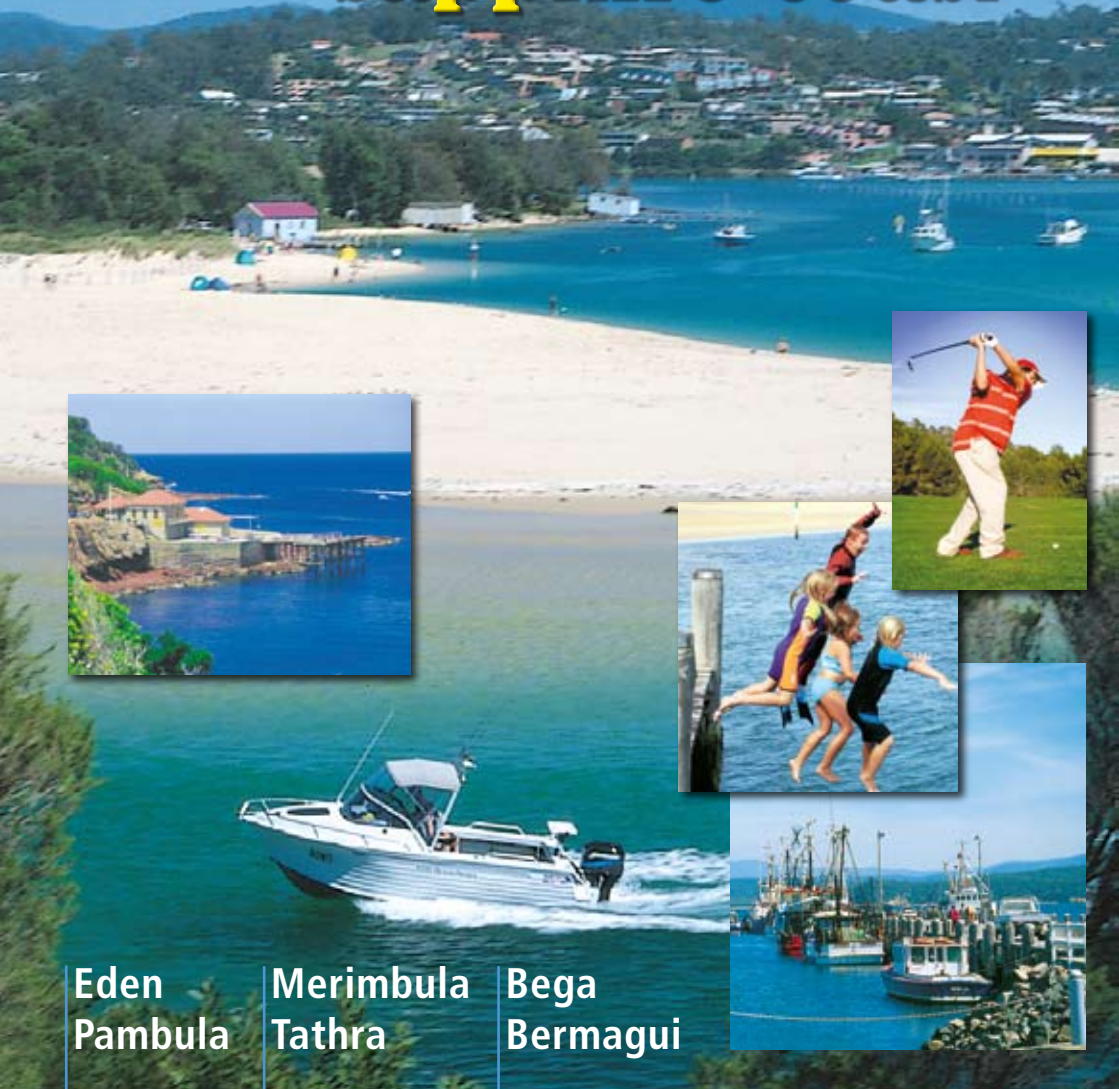


# Merimbula & the Sapphire Coast



Eden  
Pambula

Merimbula  
Tathra

Bega  
Bermagui



## Visitors' Guide 2009/10

Merimbula and Sapphire Coast Promotions Inc.  
[www.merimbulatourism.com.au](http://www.merimbulatourism.com.au)



**Bega**



# Merimbula and

**Eden**



**Pambula**





Merimbula



# the Sapphire Coast



Tathra

Bermagui





### **Did you know...**

*Starfish, also known as 'Sea Star,' have no brains and no blood. Their nervous system is spread through their arms and their "blood" is actually filtered sea water.*



# Welcome

## **So close...**

The Sapphire Coast is located on the eastern seaboard of Australia in south eastern NSW. It is 3 hours from Canberra and 2 hours from the alpine region. If you live near Sydney or Melbourne you are just 1 hour away by air, or 6 to 7 hours by car. In fact, Merimbula and the Sapphire Coast are within a day's driving for 60% of Australians.

While most accommodation is to be found in Merimbula, excellent accommodation and exciting attractions can be found throughout the entire Sapphire Coast.

## **...and so much on offer!**

The Sapphire Coast offers diversity of action and pleasure to suit everyone's taste, from Bermagui in the north to Eden in the south, with magical Merimbula at its heart.

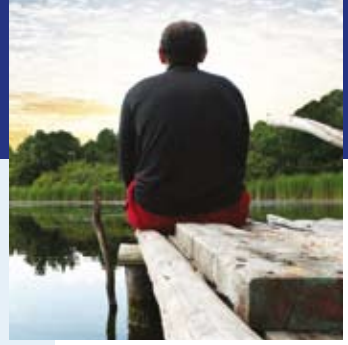
There are pristine beaches and waterways, swimming, boating, diving, lake, reef or deep sea fishing, whale watching, excellent golf courses, great nature walks in our national parks, and great family fun venues.

If you love to hunt a bargain, visit our markets and colourful craft villages. If food and wine are your pleasure, experience the delights of dining out on the coast's wonderful produce and visit the local wineries.

We hope you enjoy your holiday experience with us!

*The Team at  
Merimbula & Sapphire Coast  
Promotions Inc.*

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## Activities

*Lots of fun pursuits, including swimming, fishing, boating and walks, can be enjoyed on the Sapphire Coast.*

**See page 10**

## Attractions

*Discover some of the great attractions.*

**See page 18**

## National Parks

*Walks for all levels through magnificent natural setting.*

**See page 16**



# Beaches and Bushland

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## **Did you know...**

*Sand is shell and rock that have been worn down by nature into tiny grains (that love to stick to your toes)! The typical sandwich eaten on the beach contains over 7,000 grains of sand!*

Golden sand as far as the eye can see, sparkling blue waters and golden sunshine – perfect.

There are many beaches to be enjoyed around Merimbula. Mitchies Jetty and Spencer Park are calm and ideal for families with small children as they form part of the lake foreshore.

Short Point, Main Beach and the Bar are for those who prefer the waves and want to surf the holiday away.

The Pambula River mouth is also a very special place.

No matter where the wind is coming from or what the conditions are, you can find a spot out of the wind with stunning coastal views.

Merimbula is surrounded by bushland, forest and National Parks, each one unique, easily

accessible and offering a truly special wilderness experience and some offering outstanding old-growth forest.

The National Parks of the Sapphire Coast are very special areas of great beauty. See sheer cliffs, rock orchids and wildlife. Explore the many varied parks from Mimosa Rocks National Park just north of Tathra to Ben Boyd and Mount Imlay south of Eden.

There are lagoons ideal for swimming and canoeing, bird watching, picnicking, hiking, historic sites, beautiful hidden beaches and rugged coastline.





The National Parks and Wildlife Service's office on Merimbula Drive is also worth a visit, with maps and information available.

As well, you can arrange to join their seasonal Discovery Tours or visit some of the historic sites.



**Did you know...**

*One (a single) tree produces up to 260 pounds of oxygen a year. That is more than enough to supply oxygen to a family of four people. Make that a few thousand trees, and you've got an oxygen supply for a whole town!*

Walking opportunities are endless ranging from short walks around town, the boardwalk which offers a chance to see plentiful birdlife plus the beautiful scenery of the lake and the hills, to walks through the coastal bushland from beach to beach.

Wander the marked trails at Bournda National Park and be amazed at the abundance of native flora and wildlife.



# Fishing and Boating

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Merimbula is famous for its beautiful coastal waterways where boating and fishing are favourite pastimes with tourists and locals alike.

Boat hire, ramps and other facilities are all close by.

Hire a tinny or motor boat and take the family fishing in the lake. Book a fishing charter to explore the stunning coastline and enjoy a great experience reef, deep sea or game fishing, with the fishing licence, bait and tackle taken care of by the charter company. You may even see a whale, dolphins or penguins.

If fishing off the beach is more your style, cast a line, soak up the sunshine and admire the scenery. Then head home for a seafood barbecue.

The Sapphire Coast coastline, from Bermagui in the north to Eden in the south, is blessed with beautiful beaches, rugged headlands and close proximity to the continental shelf.

The numerous estuaries include the Bega River, Wallagoot, Merimbula and Pambula Lakes, Kiah Inlet and Wonboyn Lake. They contain an abundance of fish including bream, whiting, flathead, trevally, tailor, estuary perch and mulloway.

Wharves at Tathra, Eden and Merimbula provide great family fishing fun.

Between November and April, enjoy prawning in Merimbula Lake as the prawns make their way out to the ocean. The lake takes on the appearance of a fairyland, with torches and lanterns reflecting across the water.



# Whale Watching



There's nowhere better to see the magnificent humpback whales than on the Sapphire Coast.

The whales can first be seen around June, July and August each year on their annual migration north to the waters of Queensland for the birth of their young.

However the main season to observe these great mammals is from September to November, when mothers and calves return under close guard by the males to the feeding grounds of the Antarctic.

Prior to crossing Bass Strait, the whales gather close to the shoreline of the Sapphire Coast in numbers large enough to make this part of the Australian coast the premier whale watching location.

Humpback whales are frequently seen tail flapping, fin waving, breaching and spy-hopping, and for those who venture out on a whale watching cruise there's the added thrill of being close-up to one of nature's most intriguing animals.

While humpbacks are the main species observed, there's also the chance to see southern rights, minke, the rare blue whale and mitaloo, as well as fairy penguins, seals, dolphins and pelagic birds.

For the experience of a lifetime be sure to take advantage of a whale watching cruise during your stay on the Sapphire Coast.

## **Did you know...**

*Humpback whales grow to be about 52 feet (16m) long, weighing 30-50 tons (27-45 tonnes).*

*The females are slightly larger than males, as with all baleen whales.*

*The four-chambered heart of the average humpback whale weighs about 430 pounds (195 kg) – about as much as three average adult human beings.*



• Photo courtesy Merimbula Marina

# Activities

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Merimbula Lake offers swimming, fishing, boating, wind-surfing and relaxing walks. Panoramic views and lakeside strolls are all part of the holiday experience. Hire a canoe or a kayak or try snorkelling or scuba diving.

For the children there is Magic Mountain, Potoroo Palace – a native animal sanctuary, Top Fun, horse riding, kite flying, and our wonderful aquarium to visit. The aquarium has 27 tanks with some very interesting inhabitants and a large ocean tank where you can watch a variety of fish. Hire a bike, a boogie board or surfboard or try surfing lessons.

There is a wealth of history to be discovered in the villages and towns. In the Old School Museum in Merimbula you will discover information about days gone by that will amaze.

The Eden Killer Whale Museum offers insights into the area's whaling past and the Bega Heritage Centre and cheese factory is also a must to see.

Taste the famous Bega cheese and learn about the art and history of cheesemaking in the Bega Valley, a beautiful natural area of rolling hills with mountain backdrops.

Bega Pioneers Museum is definitely also worth a visit with an endless supply of interesting items, local history and stories for the interested.

Visit an art gallery or a winery for a variety of unique talent and a wide range of choices of original artwork on offer. Or wander around an award winning nursery or garden display and listen to their resident frogs.



Browse around the shops, boutiques, galleries and gift stores or enjoy the many markets in the area.

Catch up with the latest movies at the cinema, relax at a café watching the world go by, or enjoy entertainment, raffles, bingo or a meal at one of the clubs.



Experience a scenic flight either in a plane or a helicopter.

Pack a picnic and head off to the many scenic spots available or buy fresh seafood and wander down to the lake to watch the pelicans and the large variety of birds that visit Merimbula at different times of the year.

If you want an action packed holiday or you just want to relax and wind down, Merimbula and the Sapphire Coast are the ideal location for your holiday.



**Did you know...**

*The Eden Killer Whale Museum has been in operation for over 75 years and is recognised as one of the most progressive and innovative museums in regional NSW.*



# Golf and Bowls

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## **Did you know...**

*Peter Thomson designed the Club Sapphire Tura golf course.*

Golfers and bowlers are very well taken care of in the region. Whether it's a social nine holes, a full corporate golf day or a relaxing game of bowls, Merimbula and the Sapphire Coast offers golfers and bowlers championship courses and greens that are the envy of many.

There is a total of eight quite different golf courses in the area, all an easy drive from Merimbula.

Pambula Merimbula Golf Club boasts the only 27 hole course on the Sapphire Coast. The beautiful succession of fairways and subtle greens are surrounded by bushland with views to the Merimbula Lake.

Resident kangaroos are in abundance keeping a watchful eye on the shots being played.

Club Sapphire Tura has million dollar views over the Peter



Thomson designed course out to the Pacific Ocean. Meander around the course enjoying the natural beauty and scenic waterways.

The golf clubs host many tournaments and carnivals.

Club Sapphire Merimbula is situated right in the heart of Merimbula. After a morning of wandering the shops, stroll up to the Bowling Club for a bite to eat and a game of bowls on one of the four first class greens.

# Food, Wine and Art



## **Did you know...**

*Merimbula grows approximately 3% of NSW Sydney rock oysters and a small amount of native flat oysters *Ostrea angasi*. The quality of local oysters was highlighted in the recent Sydney Fine Food Fare, with all 12 medal winners coming from South of Sydney, NSW, and six of the twelve from Sapphire Coast.*

While visiting Merimbula and the Sapphire Coast you should take the opportunity to visit some of the many venues who provide a great variety of cuisine, including the ever popular fish and chips in the paper wrap from the Eden wharf to the Fishermans Co-op at Bermagui and many shops in between.

Numerous clubs, cafés, restaurants and coffee shops across the whole of the Sapphire Coast offer a great range and style of meals to suit all ages. Styles include Aussie steak, Chinese, Thai, Italian, among others, with seafood always the specialty of the area and the local oysters being among the best available.

There is always a good local wine available to tempt the taste buds.

After a nice relaxing lunch, why not take in the talents of the local artists at the many local galleries or there may even be an exhibition at Twyford Hall or elsewhere when you are in the area.

Check out the galleries and exhibitions on the website [www.merimbulatourism.com.au](http://www.merimbulatourism.com.au)

We wish you a happy stay.



# Markets and Events

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## MARKETS:

These are held each month in the following locations:

**Eden Market** – 1st Saturday  
8am-12noon, Calle Calle St.

**Candelo Market** – 1st  
Sunday. The largest market  
on the Sapphire Coast.  
8.30am-12.30pm, sports  
ground and hall.

**Old Bega Hospital Market**  
2nd Saturday 8.30am-2pm  
Princes Highway.

**Pambula & Robin Hood  
Craft Market** – 2nd Sunday  
8am-1pm, Rec Ground.

**Pambula Lodge Centre  
Market** – 2nd Sunday  
8am-1pm, Corner Toalla  
and Monaro Streets.

**Bega Farmers Market** –  
3rd Friday 9am-2pm,  
Littleton Gardens.

**Pambula Town Hall Market:**  
3rd Saturday 8am-1pm,  
Town Hall.

**Merimbula Seaside Market**  
3rd Sunday 8am-1pm, Ford  
Oval, Fishpen.

**Cobargo Market** – 4th  
Saturday 8.30am-12.30pm,  
RSL Hall, Main Street.

**Wyndham Village Market**  
4th Sunday 8.30am-  
12.30pm, Wyndham  
township.

**Bermagui Market** – Last  
Sunday of the month  
8.30am-12.30pm.

## EVENTS:

### July:

- *Fri 3rd to Sun 5th:*  
Hot Rod and Australian  
Rock'n'Roll Festival

### August:

- *Fri 14th:*  
Merimbula Orchid Show
- *Fri 28th and Sat 29th:*  
Careers Expo Roadshow  
at the Discovery Holiday  
Park Pambula Beach

### September:

- Sapphire Coast Marine  
Discovery Excursion
- *Thu 17th and Fri 18th:*  
Spring Orchid Show at  
the Bega Town Hall

### October:

- *Sat 17th to Sun 25th:*  
Sapphire Coast  
Week of Golf
- *Sat 31st to Sun 1st Nov:*  
14th Annual Eden  
Whale Festival



## EVENTS: *(continued)*

### November:

- *Sat 31st Oct-Sun 1st Nov:* Country and Western Weekend
- *Fri 6th and Sat 7th:* Australian Native Orchid Show
- Bega Ute Muster
- Mambo Classic

### Kite Surfing December:

- *Thu 3rd:* Sapphire Coast Turf Club Twilight TAB Meeting

### January:

- *Sat 16th and Sun 17th:* Tathra Wharf to Waves
- *Sun 17th:* Candelo Show
- Pambula Ag Show
- NPWS Discovery Program January School Holidays
- Australia Day Celebrations
- Sapphire Rock Concert
- Bega Show Jumping Cup

### February:

- *Fri 12th and Sat 13th:* Cobargo Show
- *Fri 12th and Sat 13th:* Bermagui Blue Water Classic Game Fishing Tour.
- *Fri 19th to Sun 21st:* Bega Show
- Cobargo Folk Festival
- Bega Valley Dog Show at Bermagui
- Sapphire Coast Dog Show at Wolumla

### March:

- Eden Amateur Fishing Competition
- Bermagui Seaside Fair
- Bombala Show
- Sculpture on the Edge

### April:

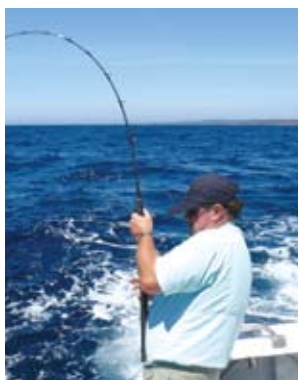
- Eden Game Fishing Tournament
- Art and Craft By the Sea
- NPWS Discovery Program April School Holidays
- Four Winds Festival at Bermagui

### May:

- Malibu Competition at Merimbula

### June:

- *Fri 11th and Sun 14th:* Merimbula Jazz Festival
- Bega Valley Car Rally
- *Sun 20th to Fri 25th:* Ace of Clubs Golf Week
- Winter Bowls Carnival



## SAPPHIRE COAST TURF CLUB DATES:

- *Tue, November 2nd:* Melbourne Cup (non-TAB)
- *Thu, December 3rd:* Twilight Meeting (TAB)
- *Sat, December 26th:* Boxing Day (Non-TAB)
- *Fri, January 1st:* New Year's Day (Non-TAB)
- *Sat, January 9th:* Merimbula Cup (TAB)
- *Sun, February 7th:* Bega Cup (TAB)
- *Sun, May 2nd:* TAB Meeting
- *Sun, June 13th:* TAB Meeting

## ART EXHIBITIONS:

Presented by Merimbula and District Arts Group

- *Fri Sep 25 to Oct 02, 2009:* Twyford Hall, Merimbula
- *Fri Dec 18th to 19th, 2009:* Twyford Hall, Merimbula
- *Thu, Jan 7th-17th, 2010:* Merimbula Golf Club
- *Fri Apr 2nd-9th, 2010:* Twyford Hall, Merimbula



*Please go to [www.merimbulatourism.com.au](http://www.merimbulatourism.com.au) for dates that may not be listed here*

# National Parks

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Come to where adventure is second nature. From the peace of the hinterland to the majestic mountain ranges, the ferns, secret gullies and gushing streams to the rugged coastline in all its splendour, national parks of the NSW Far South Coast are amongst the finest in the world.

Exploring the national parks of the Far South Coast can range from a fun-filled Discovery activity to an ambitious hiking trip through the wilderness. In a single day you can enjoy a walk through the cool wet rainforest, share a picnic on the escarpment with 180° views, and then spend the afternoon relaxing on a secluded beach.



## Must see and do:

- Venture along the Light to Light Walk between Green Cape and Boyd's Tower and experience the spectacular rocky coastline
- Relax and enjoy remote beaches at Bournda, Ben Boyd and Mimosa National Parks
- Join the NPWS Discovery Program during the summer and Easter holiday periods
- Visit historic Davidson Whaling Station and Green Cape Lightstation to discover a former way of life
- Tour Montague Island Nature Reserve and stay overnight in the restored lighthouse keeper's quarters
- Explore Pipers Lookout in the South East Forests National Park, surrounded by tall trees and lofty views of the valleys below.



**For more information...**  
Contact the National Parks and Wildlife Office, corner Sapphire Coast and Merimbula Drive, Merimbula, phone **02 6495 5000** or visit **[www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)**



# Coastal Towns



*Bermagui*



*Bega Heritage Centre*



*Cobargo*



*Eden Harbour*



*Merimbula Wharf*



*Tathra Main Beach*



*Pambula River Mouth*

The Sapphire Coast reflects a diverse and rich holiday experience which encompasses National Parks, State Forests, pristine beaches and glorious rolling countryside.

Quaint villages such as Wyndham, Bemboka, Candelo and Wolumla with their cafes, craft shops, typical country pubs and Sunday markets are an absolute delight. Then there are the more holiday orientated townships catering for that well earned break.

**Cobargo:** The gateway to the north of the Sapphire Coast, on the Princes Highway, lies in a picturesque valley and is renowned for its Folk Festival in February. Cafes, art, craft and gift shops are a welcome destination for many.

**Bermagui:** This coastal holiday village was made famous way back by Zane Grey who established this as an international game fishing destination. Bermagui now plays host to numerous fishing competitions and has a healthy tourism industry.

**Tathra:** The historic wharf lies at the heart of the township's appeal complete with a small museum. A beautiful stretch of beach reaches several kilometres to Mogareeka Inlet – entrance to the Bega River.

**Bega:** The Rural capital of the Sapphire Coast is home to the famous Bega Cheese. Visit the Heritage Centre (an authentic replica of the original Butter Factory) for cheese tasting and purchases, snacks and meals, gallery and historic displays.

**Merimbula:** What more can be said – beaches and lake combine with a host of tourist facilities covered elsewhere in this magazine.

**Pambula:** Only a couple of kilometres from Merimbula and home to craft shops, galleries, cafes and the recently opened Oaklands Centre. Just down the road is the popular Pambula Beach and nearby Pambula River Mouth.

**Eden:** Stunning! Set on the shores of panoramic Twofold Bay and features Eden Wharf and nearby Quarantine Bay. Home to the Eden Killer Whale Museum and fascinating historic sites such as Boyd's Tower, Seahorse Inn Boydtown and Davidson Whaling Station.