

Breathe in, feel new

# Merimbula

## **A family friendly, 2 night 3 day Itinerary**

Nestled in the heart of the Sapphire Coast of New South Wales, Merimbula offers families everything they need to create cherished, lifelong memories. With pristine beaches and sparkling waters, Merimbula calls for reconnection to the land and each other. Spend your days whale watching, relaxing in or by the water, hiking through National Parks that meet the Pacific Ocean or treating yourself to a local oyster or two at one of our many restaurants and cafes.

Every day is the perfect day to visit The Sapphire Coast, however, if you're after warm beach days then we would recommend coming between October - April. The area shines just as bright during the cooler months too, our moderate, dry winters make May - September the perfect time to explore the national parks and hiking trails. If the whale highway is calling you then plan your trip between August and November to take advantage of the southern humpback migration.

### **Accommodation Options**

#### **Beach Cabins Merimbula**

47-65 Short Point rd,  
Merimbula

Fully self contained cabins  
ranging in size from Studio  
to 3 bedroom.

#### **NRMA Merimbula Beach Holiday Resort**

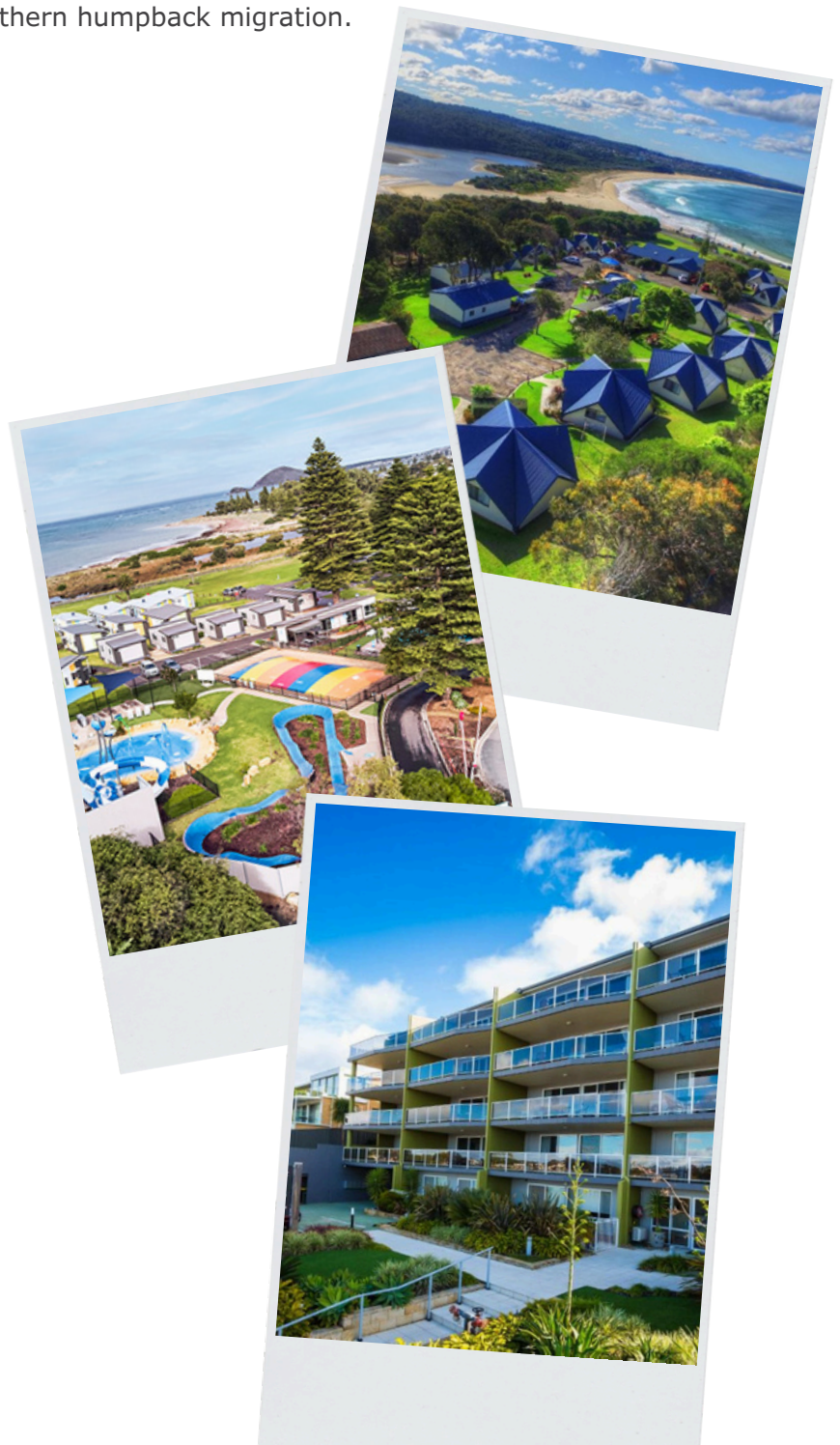
2 Short Point rd, Merimbula

Fully self contained cabins,  
Caravan, Camping and  
Glamping options.

#### **Albacore Apartments**

Market Street, Merimbula

Fully self contained 1-3  
Bedroom Apartments



# Wild Adventures

Day One

The weekend has arrived, and it's time to hit pause on the hustle and bustle of city life and work. You decide to escape to the breathtaking coastal town of Merimbula for the ultimate family getaway blending adventure, relaxation and sunshine.

Just a scenic 3-hour drive from Canberra to Merimbula, you get up early and make the drive down the Brown Mountain.

The kids are hungry as you pull up, so you head in for brunch at **The Waterfront Café** where you watch Pelicans playing on the water. You finish your coffee in peace while the kids play at the park before walking over to the Merimbula Marina (200mts walk) ready for your 2-hour Whale watching cruise with **Sapphire Coastal Adventures**, these operate from August to November with Wildlife Discovery Tours running for the remainder of the year. The Captain, Simon, has told you that it will be a calm day with two whales and their calves already spotted playing just offshore.

Everyone has had a blast on the cruise and have worked up an appetite. You head to **Little Alice** (450mts walk) for a burger and fries for lunch before jumping in the car and driving the 5 minutes (2.5km) to the famous **Magic Mountain!** This iconic venue is a staple for families who have been riding it is slides and rides for over 30 years! Fun for adults and kids alike, you spend the afternoon riding the taboggan through the native bushland, get a view of the township (albeit brief) from the top of the roller coaster and cool off on the water slides.

It has been a big day, so you head to your accommodation for the afternoon to enjoy some downtime by the pool. Your key Is waiting for you at the **Beach Cabins Merimbula** (10-minute drive from Magic Mountain 4.6kms) which is designed for families in mind.

Once the sun starts to kiss the horizon you pop on your favourite outfit ready for some delicious seafood at **The Lakeview Hotel**. Here there is something for everyone and you can even dine on oysters grown on the Merimbula Lake and a savour cheeky cocktail.

It is dark by the time you head back to your accommodation, and everyone is ready for bed. You fall asleep listening to the soothing sound of the waves gently crashing on the shore.



# Wild Water

The kids are still asleep, so you decide to go for a walk along the **Merimbula Boardwalk** alone to soak up the serenity and the silence while watching the wildlife wake up ready for the day ahead. It is a short 4km drive away, the boardwalk itself is 3.8kms return and takes you one hour to complete.

You come home to the family full of excitement and energy ready for the day ahead but first to breakfast as you have a great day of adventure in front of you. You decide to dine at **MorMors Café** (4 minute, 2.3km drive). This cute café is tucked away off Beach Street, with large leafy trees that pattern the outdoor dining area providing the perfect place to enjoy your eggs done anyway with sourdough and of course, amazing coffee!

You finish breakfast with just enough time to make the short 15 minute, 10km drive to the stunning Pambula River mouth. Here you meet your local guide Jessica from **Navigate Expeditions** who is going to take your family on the trip of a lifetime, kayaking down the Pambula River. With kids perched on the front of each double kayak, you make your coffee work as you paddle for two. It is a calm day with the tide helping you along. As you meander down the river you pass schools of fish, a few local anglers and a stand up paddleboarder who greets you with a friendly hello. The kids are mesmerised as they take in the wilderness around, above and below them. The tour takes 3 hours to complete but your guide has packed a morning tea to refuel at the halfway point.

As you beach your kayaks at the end of the tour the kids sing out their favourite phrase "Mum, we're hungry!" Lucky for you **Aqua** Pambula Beach is only 1.3kms or a 3-minute drive away. The freshly caught fish and chips go down a treat!

As the afternoon sun moves overhead you drive to **Bournda National Park** (30-minute drive) for a swim in the lagoon for some welcomed respite. There you spot a wallaby in the brush, a beautiful goanna climbing a bloodwood and even an echidna ambling along the path. You sit on the banks of the lagoon while the kids try to catch the small fish in the shallows. A couple of hours to just be.

As the sun slides below the horizon and the temperature begins to drop you decide to head back to your home away from home to freshen up before dinner. The drive back is only 20 minutes which gives you a bit of time to relax on your deck before heading out to dinner.

After a packed day you all need some carbohydrates and what better way to carb (re)load than with some flavoursome Italian! **Monti Italian** is a family run, Italian restaurant located in the heart of Merimbula (2.3kms 4-minute drive) The modern, Italian menu offers something for the whole family and being run by a local family is a welcoming space for children.

Time to get back to your cabin and settle down for the evening. What a day!



# Wild Life

You can already feel the warmth in the air when you wake up, so you head to **Bar Beach** for an early morning swim. Thankfully **Bar beach kiosk** (3-minute drive 1.4kms) already has their coffee machine on. You have bought snorkeling equipment from home and the whole family enjoys following the fish around the shallows. If you've forgotten the snorkels and flippers no problem, **Boss Outdoor** can help you with everything you need to enjoy a day out, in and under the water as well as on land. Bar Beach Kiosk also offers a small menu of typical items with a local twist think, **Bega Valley Eggs**, **Goodalls Merimbula bacon** on a **Wild Rye** Pambula bread roll with homemade tomato relish!

After brunch you decide it's time to see Merimbula from a different perspective. You drive out to the Merimbula airport (4.9kms 10-minute drive) where you meet your pilot from **Merimbula Air Services**, who takes the family on an incredible scenic flight up and down the Sapphire Coast.

From the air you can see the colours of the bright, iron filled red rock as it dissolves into the sapphire sea. Whales are playing up and down the coast as they make their way back down South with their calves. The kids cannot believe their eyes! The flight takes 45 minutes, and every second is filled with wonder.

You're ready for a light lunch so head to **The Nori Hub** (3km 5-minute drive) to grab some take away which you enjoy by the lake on Beach Street. You watch the Pelicans glide overhead and spot a seal playing in the shallows. There are not many places where the wildlife is at your feet.

With full bellies you make your way back into town. After a leisurely stroll perusing the local shops, all of which are locally owned and operated businesses with an eclectic mix of art, fashion, and homewares, you see a colourful building at the top of the hill beckoning. The kids have already noticed it, looks like the afternoon will be spent at **Top Fun!** Making precious memories together playing mini golf, bowling, and laser tag.

The afternoon is coming to an end, so you start to prepare for the journey back to Canberra, on the way you purchase some fresh oysters to take home with you from **Merimbula Seafoods** just another way to make the holiday last that little bit longer!

What a great break it's been and with so much left to explore you're already planning your next trip back, but for now...time to jump on the Snowy Mountains Highway and head home.

