



The Range Byron Bay
Image: Caitlin Mills

WINTER GETAWAYS IN THE NORTHERN RIVERS

WRITTEN BY DONNA RISHTON / ZANNA TAENI

As our region continues its journey toward healing, the infinite starry skies and brisk air of winter in the Northern Rivers beckon. Whether opting for the sand between your toes, the ions of the rainforest in your lungs or the rolling acres of hinterland to immerse in, this area has a slice of wintery magic for everyone.



99 Acres Retreat



99 ACRES RETREAT

Positioned upon one of the highest ridges in Bangalow is 99 Acres, a soothing and stylish escape from everyday living and a base from where you can explore the Byron Hinterland and discover all that the region has to offer. The property, which has been in the same family for two decades, has now been opened as an opulent retreat with the choice of five luxurious rooms in the main guesthouse - all with additional sitting area, private ensuite and access to communal relaxation areas, and the full-kitchen and dining - or four individual self-contained Villas, with private decks and sweeping 360-degree views overlooking Bangalow, Newrybar and as far as the eye can see.

Spend time exploring the historic Bangalow village (just an 8-minute walk away) known for its vibrant main street, enjoy the services of the onsite massage and beauty therapist, or simply relax with a hand-delivered hamper, cheese platter or charcuterie board and a selection on fine wines or bubbles whilst you take in the breathtaking landscape as it changes in colour from sunrise to sunset.

Bangalow | 99acresbangalow.com

ECOASIS MAMI WATA WELLNESS SANCTUARY

This well-established haven situated on 112 acres near the quaint country town of Uki has recently undergone a transformation. Re-imagined by owners Sandro and Iya as a wellness sanctuary to provide holistic restoration to the body, mind and soul, this magical space boasts six private chalets and allows its guests to be completely immersed in the healing power of nature.

Take in the soft hues of the misty mountain ranges at dawn, feel the earth beneath your feet on a nature walk through regenerated bushland, watch the sun set over Mt Warning from your own private deck, or soak up the sensation of a luxurious clawfoot spa bath at dusk.

Also on offer are a diverse range of services and activities for guests and the local community to enjoy, including tea ceremonies and a showcase of locally designed artwork, pottery, sculptures, textiles and candles in the chalets and surrounding gardens, with art workshops and community events coming soon. With its name re-branded to honour the "pantheon of creation spirits" of the area - Ecoasis Mami Wata is all about reconnection and discovering 'your dreaming'.

Smiths Creek | ecoasis.com.au



LA ROCHER ECO RETREAT

A romantic winter stay in this unsurpassed hideaway might be exactly what the doctor ordered. Step into unrivalled luxury when choosing between one of the four architecturally designed villas located amidst flourishing vegetation in the gentle foothills between Uki and Stokers Siding. Each with a unique aspect of Mt Warning, and one with wheelchair access and drive-to-the-door accessibility.

Enjoy a healthy, custom-made breakfast hamper out on the large, covered deck whilst absorbing the morning sun and inhaling the crisp mountain air or take a free coffee-roasting tour in the historic village of Uki on Thursday mornings. Let the days be spent floating in the infinity pool (complete with hot tub), hiking through one of the many surrounding national parks or bird watching in the indigenous forest. Spend chilly winter evenings savouring a relaxing magnesium salt bath by candlelight, and unhindered vistas of Mt Warning / Wollumbin and the outlying Border Ranges, or cosy up beside the double-sided fireplace, with a glass of wine or mug of hot chocolate in hand.

Smiths Creek, larocher.com



La Rocher Eco Retreat

