



Craig Parry's

Coastal Treasures

Written by Anoop Bhuller

Multi award-winning photographer Craig Parry tells us his favourite coastal spots in Australia.

Craig Parry is an internationally acclaimed oceanic and nature photographer. He grew up in Byron Bay, along the coastline of northern New South Wales, Australia. His passion for photography started early at the age of five when his parents bought him a disposable waterproof camera. This led to Craig saving up so that at the age of thirteen he could buy a 35mm SLR camera. Amazingly, Craig is entirely self-taught and has won several awards. Craig's photograph The Ghost won first place in the Golden Turtle International Photography Competition in 2017 – a true testament to his talent.

All of Craig's favourite coastal spots

happen to be located in or near Byron Bay. The area has an array of beaches, from surfing-renowned shores to secluded paradise islands.

The Pass

The Pass is a famous surf Beach, located between Clarkes Beach and Wategos. Here you can catch glimpses of dolphins or whales at certain times of the year. This alone makes it a popular place for people to visit and relax. The beach is also the perfect location for a family day out with its vast picnic and BBQ facilities available for all to use. For those wanting to be active, nearby, lies the Cape Byron Walking Track. A 3.7km scenic loop

that goes through a rainforest and over a cliff top – an extremely breathtaking route. Craig says there are some great reefs not too far offshore. "These are inhabited by plenty of green sea turtles amongst other friendly sea



The Pass



Surfers at Watergoss



All photos provided by Craig Parry

creatures - very photo worthy."

Watergoss

Watergoss is a small sheltered beach located 2km east of Byron Bay's town centre. Its picnic tables and cooking facilities make it an ideal location for families to gather together to eat.

History surrounds the area, the arc of the beach was named after the Watergoss family who lived there in the 1930s. Now, they still remain central to the culture of the town. The Watergoss Beach Holiday houses are named after the family and provide luxury and secluded accommodation for visitors to stay in.

Craig says Watergoss is, "the perfect place to spend a lazy afternoon or have a refreshing dip midway along the popular Lighthouse walk." The bay even has its own historic lighthouse tours, that consist of a 1km walking tour around Cape Byron. Allowing locals and visitors to become immersed in the rich culture.

Whites Beach and Brays Beach

Whites beach is considered to be a hidden gem as its "waves and few people give it the feel of seclusion." Located at the southern end of Broken Head, access to the beach is only possible through a dirt road, followed by a 15-minute walk through the rainforest.

"Its sub-tropical green surrounds, white sand and clear waves makes it feel like an island paradise."

Brays Beach is smaller, its golden sands stretch 250m long. Fishing is a frequent activity here, with drummer and rock blackfish being some common catches.

The Wreck and Belongil Beach

The Wreck is a well-known surfing spot situated north of the seawall.

Remains of the Wollongbar ship are lodged offshore, which brings many intrigued visitors to the beach. This ship was stranded in 1921 and was the most significant shipwreck to occur in Byron Bay. It's worth exploring for those wanting to explore the history of The Wreck.

Craig says, "The location also sees epic sunsets against the backdrop of the iconic

Mount Warning."

Belongil's quiet feel makes it an ideal location for a relaxing walk. Finishing off with a bite of the local fish and chips. Its dog friendly status makes it the best spot for picturesque dog walks.

Nearby attractions include Byron Bay's popular outdoor swimming pool, offering swimming lessons for kids.

Lennox Head

Lennox Head is one of Craig's all-time favourite beaches. It's located within the mists of a well-known surfing town and provides, "a fantastic headland walk with an unbeatable lookout at the top." Home to one of Australia's national surfing reserves, it offers a range of surfing lessons and classes for all abilities. Lennox Head also hosts several major events every year including the Lennox Masters Surf Classic and All Girls Surf Showdown. At the northern end of Lennox Head, Lake Ainsworth is a beautiful spot for kayaking and canoeing. Not too far away from here you will find an array of restaurants and beautiful waterside bars.

Beyond the idyllic beaches, Byron Bay stands out because of its extensive amount of art and culture. Many beaches are named



Brays Beach



Lennox Head



Lennox Head