



# marrying in byron

Known as the home of alternative lifestylers, Byron Bay on the New South Wales north coast is a hotspot for brides and grooms who travel from around Australia and overseas to marry in paradise

## WHY GO?

Wedding planner Clare Robinson-Gale estimates only three per cent of her clientele actually live in Byron Bay, with newlyweds choosing the popular seaside town as the ideal locale to take family and friends to share their big day.

"While some couples do elope in Byron, I generally find most couples will bring between 60 and 80 guests with them," she says. "Some might not have been in their hometown for years, rather living and working overseas, so they see Byron as the perfect, romantic spot to bring everyone together for their wedding."

Byron Bay boasts an eclectic mix of backpackers, holidaymakers and locals – a place that brings visitors down to earth and back to nature. "Weddings here seem to be less about the placecards and fluffy things and more about what it actually means to get married – sharing the day together – and with family and friends," Clare says.

Anytime is a good time to marry in Byron Bay, whether it be on the beach or up at the lighthouse, with the average temperature rarely dropping below 22°C. Local

photographer, Greg Mace, who has been shooting weddings in the town for more than 20 years, says couples travel from overseas, in particular, Europe, America and across Australia to tie the knot in Byron.

"There are so many reasons why – Byron has a magic from the beautiful environment, spectacular ocean front and sub-tropical rainforest locations to the relaxed, laidback nature of its people and service," he says. "It's a chance for brides and grooms to break away from the more structured city-based wedding styles and create a wedding the way they want to do it."

## HOTSPOTS

**Rae's on Watagos** This boutique beachfront retreat, with only seven rooms, is a haven for those who expect the best (including racing car driver Mark Skaffe and Toni Strachan, who wed there last year). Owned by former Brisbane chef Vincent Rae, Rae's was once a private home and is now a much sought-after wedding venue. See [raes.com.au](http://raes.com.au) or call (02) 66 855 366 for details.

**Byron at Byron Resort, Spa and Conference Centre** Voted one of the hottest resorts by *Condé Nast Traveler*,

Byron at Byron was designed to blend effortlessly with the majestic rainforest surrounding it. Marry on the lawn by the infinity pool then spend your first night here. See [thebyronatbyron.com.au](http://thebyronatbyron.com.au) or call 1300 554 362.

**Coorabella** "This place is fantastic. I have held many wonderful groovy weddings out here," says Clare, who planned actress Jacinda Barrett and Gabriel Macht's union at the 100-year old Queenslander, with its valley views. See [byron-bay.com/coorabella](http://byron-bay.com/coorabella) or call (02) 6684 6610.

**Watego's Beach House** Because Watego's only accommodates a select number of wedding ceremonies each year, you know when they do, it's got to be big. Celebrities, such as Hugh Jackman, who held his birthday here last year, love it. See [byronbaybeachhouse.com.au](http://byronbaybeachhouse.com.au) or call 0417 118 173.

**Victoria's at Ewingsdale** This stately award-winning manor rests on landscaped gardens with a panoramic view of the ocean. It's easy to get swept up in the romance here, whether you're the one getting married or not! See [ewingsdale.com](http://ewingsdale.com) or call (02) 6684 7047.



## PHOTOGRAPHERS

**Greg Mace Photography** Greg has a reputation for being one of the best in Byron. While he can't disclose names, B2B hears Greg has been the preferred snapper for many celebs who have wed there. See [gregmace.com](http://gregmace.com) or call (02) 6683 4697.

**Lighthouse Bay Photography** There's a personality behind the pictures produced by Lighthouse Bay Photography that makes you feel like you're living the image. Photographer Brian Pamphilon also uses the latest technology to turn your pics into gorgeous art pieces. For details see [Lighthousebayphotography.com](http://Lighthousebayphotography.com)

## FLOWERS

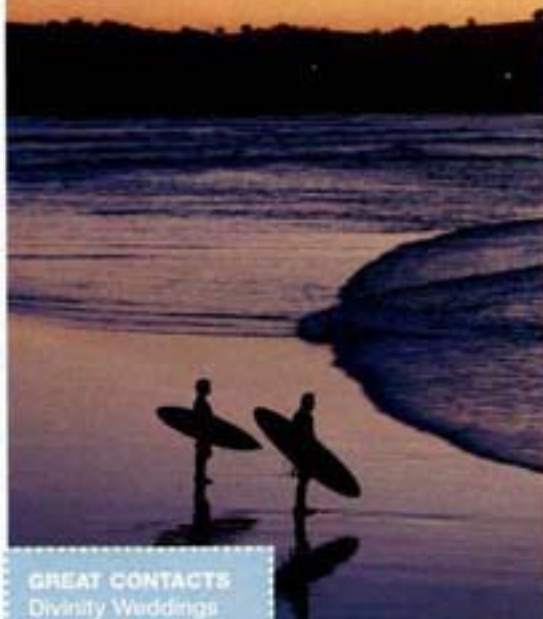
**Bay Blooms** Bay Blooms doesn't operate as a retail shop, so you know any flowers you order for your big day will be fresh and just for you. You name it they can design it, from a simple posy to extravagant tablecentres. See [bayblooms.com.au](http://bayblooms.com.au) or call (02) 6687 2210.

**Sandflowers** This floral-design studio arranges flowers according to where you plan to marry (by the sea or near the mountains). They also guarantee the flowers you want will be exactly the blooms you get. See [sandflowers.com](http://sandflowers.com) or call (02) 6680 1415.

## CATERERS

**Luscious Foods** Luscious Foods prides itself on using locally sourced ingredients while emphasising global flavours. Menus here suit every budget and taste. They can also help with every aspect of your banquet planning. Call (02) 6680 8228.

**The Larder** One of Byron Bay's leading caterers, The Larder boasts 'uncomplicated and contemporary catering'. Log on to their website to see the menu selection and a swag of testimonials. Visit [thelarder.com.au](http://thelarder.com.au) or call (02) 6680 8644.



## GREAT CONTACTS

**Divinity Weddings**  
[divinitybyronbay.com.au](http://divinitybyronbay.com.au)  
Byron Bay  
[byron-bay.com](http://byron-bay.com)  
**Byron Brides**  
[byronbrides.com](http://byronbrides.com)  
Jodi Stiles, make-up  
0438 787 054

CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE LEFT Blue skies and beautiful scenery make for a perfect backdrop for your ceremony. Outdoor nuptials are a favourite here, and Coorabella is a fabulous option in the hinterlands. Strut in from the beach along the boardwalk and spend your most romantic night with the Byron at Byron. A pre-wedding party

