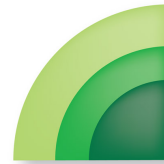




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Finding a new paradise



TRAVEL

Kathy Sundstrom
escapes to luxury
at 1770 and takes
over the whole
manor.

Where do you go on holiday when you live in paradise?

It's a dilemma we face every time we plan to get away for a few days as the temptation to stay on the beautiful Sunshine Coast is just so strong.

But at last we've found a place that rivals our beaches and beautiful waterways and is perfected by a much quieter ambience – it's Agnes Waters and the Town of 1770.

Some marketers promote the area as "the next Noosa".

With its spectacular river estuary, a headland, national parks and the white sands and perfect waves of Agnes Waters, it's an understandable comparison. But there is so very much to this coastal community five hours north of the Sunshine Coast than merely the "next" anything.

For a start, 1770 is the gateway to one of Australia's premier diving spots – the southern Great Barrier Reef island of Lady Musgrave.

We visited Musgrave on our first trip up north to 1770 three years ago and our group of experienced divers was impressed at the huge array of corals and fish under-the-sea.

But you need a full day to enjoy a Musgrave experience, with the boat trip there alone taking a good hour.

When we returned this year we decided to skip Musgrave and enjoy our surrounds.

Thank goodness we did as our accommodation at Escape 1770 was so luxurious, so welcoming and so relaxing it was tempting to stay inside all weekend.

With its magnificent ocean views from each room, tasteful décor, spa bath, swimming pool and all the mod-cons of home, Escape 1770 is the perfect venue for a relaxing family weekend.

But the massive house has been kitted out to offer an escape not just for families, but

for large group gatherings like weddings, family reunions or conferences.

You can choose from a private suite or take over the whole manor – as we did.

The property includes 11 bedrooms, seven bathrooms and four studio suites with living rooms. The main suite alone includes three bedrooms, a huge living room and a modern kitchen.

The poolside and entertainment pavilion is perfectly suited to a wedding venue with all catering requirements at your fingertips in the large outdoor gourmet kitchen area.

It was hard to persuade my children that we couldn't spend the whole weekend jumping from room to room, playing in the swimming pool and then warming up in the spa bath or relaxing on the deck and enjoying the views – we had to explore the area too.

The main beach at Agnes Waters is an easy five-minute stroll from the house, as was the shopping area with its delightful restaurants and choice of gift shops.

Despite the relative isolation of the town – it is more than an hour's drive from Bundaberg – the shops were well-stocked and reasonably priced.

Where Agnes Waters is bustling with tourists, coffee shops and surfers, the Town of 1770 was remarkably quiet and accommodation at Sunset Villa provides a perfect get-away from it all.

This two-level beach cottage is right on the 1770 foreshore – a stone's throw away from the water's edge.

Where Escape 1770 is modern, spacious and opulent, Sunset Villa is intimate, cosy and comfortable and is suited to smaller groups.

The river estuary at 1770 is perfect for children with its warm, calm shallow waters and



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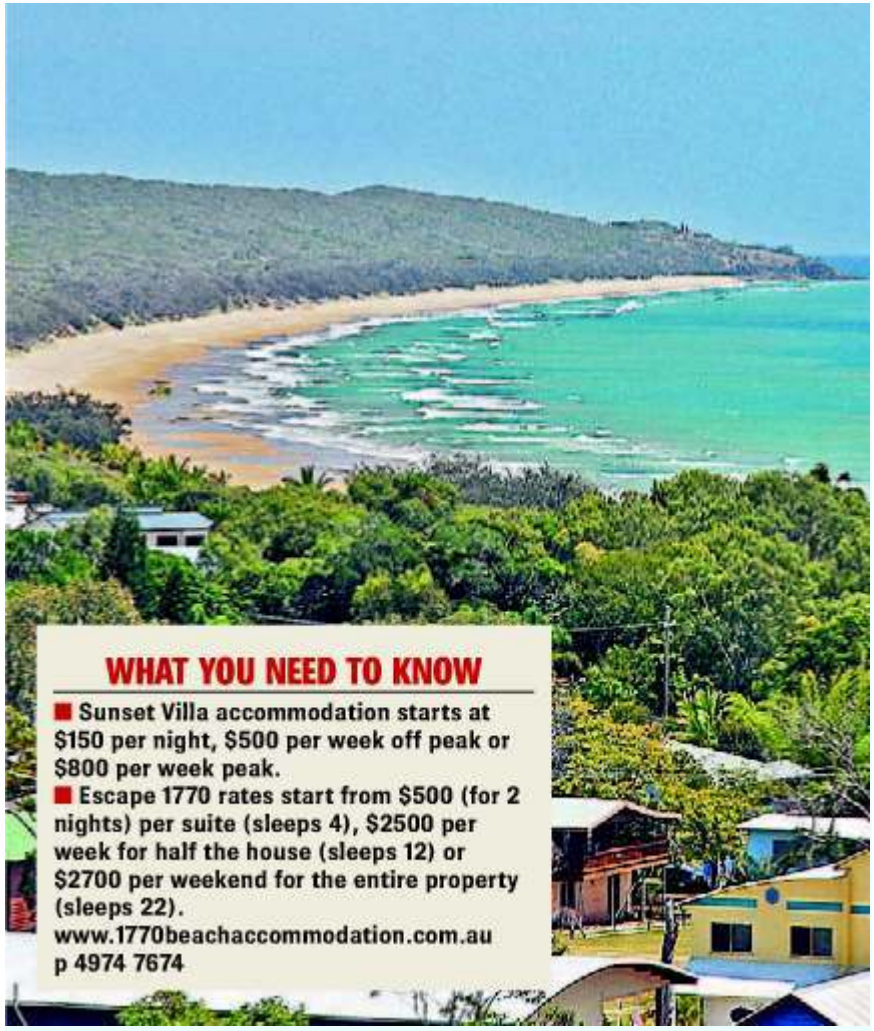


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there is a lovely playground near the camp site.

With so much to explore in and around the town and with so much to enjoy in our luxurious home, our three nights' stay was nowhere near long enough.

You need at least a week to enjoy this little piece of paradise.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Sunset Villa accommodation starts at \$150 per night, \$500 per week off peak or \$800 per week peak.
 - Escape 1770 rates start from \$500 (for 2 nights) per suite (sleeps 4), \$2500 per week for half the house (sleeps 12) or \$2700 per weekend for the entire property (sleeps 22).
- www.1770beachaccommodation.com.au
 p 4974 7674

- ABOVE: The town of 1770 has plenty to explore during your time away.
- RIGHT: Escape 1770 offers luxurious accommodation.

