



[ABOUT US](#)

[TRAINING PROGRAMS](#)

[TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES](#)

[TRAINING REGIONS](#)

[PUBLICATIONS & NEWS](#)

[EXPLORE GP](#)

[PARTNER WITH US](#)

You are here: [Home](#) / [Town Profiles](#) / Nelson Bay-Shoal Bay

Nelson Bay-Shoal Bay

Nelson Bay is a major holiday playground and the main resort area of Port Stephens.



Quick facts

Training region

North Eastern NSW

Subregion

Hunter, Manning and Central Coast

GP Synergy grouping	B
RA/MMM classification	RA2/MMM4
Population	<p>The population of Nelson Bay is more than 5,000 people, the median age of residents is 37 years. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 6% of the population.</p> <p>Nelson Bay is located within the Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network, this Health Planning Compass provides an overview of community health for the region.</p>
Location	<p>Nelson Bay and the surrounding suburbs of Anna Bay, Shoal Bay and Salamander Bay are in the Port Stephens local government area. It is located on the southern shore of Port Stephens about 60 km by road north-east of Newcastle and 207 km north of Sydney.</p> <p>Nelson Bay abounds with bushwalks and National Parks and is the permanent home of bottlenose dolphins, and port-in-passing for migrating humpback whales.</p>
Transport links	<p>The closest airport to Nelson Bay is Newcastle Airport which is a 50 minute drive. Regional Express Airlines (REX) offers daily return flights to Sydney. Virgin Australia and Jetstar offers return flights to Brisbane and Melbourne and Air Pelican offers flights to Ballina and Canberra.</p> <p>Alternatively Nelson Bay is approximately a two and half hour to Sydney along the M1 Motorway.</p>
Industry	<p>The major sources of employment in Nelson Bay are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Accommodation and Food ServicesHealth Care and Social AssistanceRetail TradePublic Administration and SafetyConstructionProfessional, Scientific and Technical Services

Healthcare facilities

Nelson Bay – Tomaree Community Hospital is a small regional public hospital with an emergency department and provides quality care for the people of Nelson Bay and surrounding areas

The closest major hospital is [John Hunter Hospital](#) which is a 55 minute drive from Nelson Bay and is the major tertiary referral, teaching hospital and referral centre for the Hunter New England Local Health District. Services provided at John Hunter Hospital, include primary and tertiary trauma services, a retrieval service for critically ill, maternity and gynaecology services, medical and interventional services, surgical services, and critical care. Allied Health services provided include social work, physiotherapy, nutrition and dietetics, occupational therapy, speech pathology and pharmacy.

[Calvary Mater Hospital](#) is 48 minute drive from Nelson Bay and is a large metropolitan hospital with an emergency department. The hospital has a wide range of district hospital activities including general medical and surgical care, cancer services, general and internal medicine, surgery, palliative care, melanoma unit, breast screening, support workers, pastoral care

Nelson Bay is supported by NSW ambulance service.

Accredited GP training practices in town

Nelson Bay Medical Centre
Nelson Plaza Clinic
Providence Medical Shoal Bay

Doctor accommodation

A two bedroom fully furnished unit may be available for registrars, please contact your Rural Support Officer for details.

Education

Within the Nelson Bay area there are four public and two private primary schools, one public and one private secondary school and one tertiary education college.

[Anna Bay public primary school](#)
[Shoal Bay public primary school](#)
[Soldiers Point public primary school](#)
[Tomaree public primary school](#)
[St Michael's primary school](#)
[St Phillip's Christian School \(Preschool – year 12\)](#)
[Tomaree High School](#)

[Hunter TAFE, Tomaree Campus](#)

Childcare

For young families the Nelson Bay region offers a wide range of options suitable for children from 6 weeks to school age, for occasional care, long day care, family day care and pre-school. For more information on childcare options, [click here](#)

Shopping

Salamander Bay Shopping Centre is a nine minute drive from Nelson Bay and has more than 60 specialist retail stores with most of the well-known national chains including Coles, Aldi and Woolworths supermarkets, Kmart, Lowes and Target. There are also fashion stores, surf wear, jewellers, communications and electronics, homewares and gifts, footwear, optical, pharmacies, and cafes, eateries and restaurants.

Nelson Bay also boasts a wide variety of unique retail outlets where you will find everything from stylish boutiques, homeware and gift shops. There are weekend markets within the Nelson Bay area where you will find homemade food and gifts, fresh food and produce, art and crafts and unusual gifts.

Places of worship

There are many places of worship within the Nelson Bay area, including Anglican, Baptist, Baylife Church, Beachside Christian Fellowship, Catholic, Christian Outreach Centres, Christian Reformed Churches of Australia, and Uniting churches. In Newcastle, which is a 55 minute drive from Nelson Bay, there is a [Hare Krishna Centre](#).

Things to do

Cultural Activities
[Worimi National Park](#)
[Nelson Bay Community Arts Centre](#)

Social Media Groups

[Meetups in Nelson Bay](#)

Annual Events

[Port to Port Mountain Race \(May\)](#)

[Port Stephens Triathlon Festival \(May\)](#)

[Blue Water Country and Blues Music Festival \(June\)](#)

[Love Seafood Festival, Nelson Bay \(August\)](#)

[Clans on the Coast Festival \(September\)](#)

[Whale Watching \(May - September\)](#)

[Osborne's Christmas Family Carnival \(December\)](#)

Points of Interest

[Tomaree National Park](#)

[Toboggan Hill Park](#)

[Nelson Bay Community Arts Centre](#)

[Halifax Park Aquatic Reserve](#)

[Port Stephens Shell Museum](#)

With an extensive bay, golden unspoilt beaches and picturesque inlets, the Nelson Bay area is home to over 150 bottlenose dolphins making it the dolphin watching capital of Australia.

For the water sport enthusiast, Nelson Bay has much to offer. As well as swimming, snorkelling and surfing, try parasailing, or jet-skiing in or go scuba diving and explore the sea caves, sponge gardens and shipwrecks at Fly Point Marine Park. You can also try kayaking, sailing and jet skiing, or cast a line for some on-shore or deep sea fishing.

Take in panoramic views stretching from Port Stephens to Hawks Nest and Norah Head at the Gan Gan Hill Lookout or spend time exploring the rocky outcrops of Tomaree National Park along, or the short Tomaree Head Summit walk takes around 45 minutes to complete and offers incredible views of Port Stephens and the north coast.

Located only 10 minutes from the centre of Nelson Bay is the

located only 10 minutes from the centre of Nelson Bay is the Worimi Conservation Lands, which forms the largest sand dune system in Australia, covering an area of 4,200 hectares and there are plenty of ways to enjoy the sand dunes. Get your heart racing with a thrilling ride on the back of a quad bike as part of a guided quad biking tour or explore the dunes at your own pace by purchasing a beach vehicle permit and steering your way through the desert in a 4WD. Sandboarding across the dunes is also a fantastic way to get acquainted with the unique terrain.

Within the Nelson Bay area there are a multitude of classic pub fares to the flavours of Asia and beyond, serving up a diverse variety of dining experiences to suit all tastes.

For more information

[Nelson Bay Wikipedia page](#)
[Visit Nelson Bay](#)
[Nelson Bay Tourism](#)
[Port Stephens Council Directory](#)

Image gallery



Beach cafe



Windsurfing



Moonshadow cruise



Seafood dining



Couple walking on beach

TRAINING REGIONS

Western NSW

North Eastern NSW

Lower Eastern NSW

RURAL TOWNS IN HUNTER MANNING & CENTRAL COAST REGION

Cessnock

Dungog

Forster-Tuncurry

Gloucester

Muswellbrook

Nelson Bay-Shoal Bay

Scone

Singleton

Tanilba Bay

Taree

Wingham

ABOUT US

Who are we?

Why train with us?

Our board

Our staff

GP Synergy awards

Corporate information

Employment opportunities

Facilities hire

PARTNER WITH US

Become a training practice

How to become a corporate member

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Australian General Practice Training (AGPT)

Procedural/rural generalist training

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

Academic research

Special interest training

Teaching and education

TRAINING REGIONS

Western NSW

PUBLICATIONS & NEWS

Transition updates

Latest news

Media releases

Annual reports

Educational resources

Papers and research

Brochures

Policies and forms

Member notices

CONNECT WITH US



EXPLORE GP

GP Synergy Medical Student
Scholarship

My GP story

GP blogs

GP rotations

North Eastern NSW

Lower Eastern NSW



Copyright © 2018 GP Synergy. All rights reserved.

[Privacy](#) | [Sitemap](#) [Website By The DMA](#)

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.



While the Australian Government Department of Health has contributed to the funding of this website, the information on this website does not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government and is not advice that is provided, or information that is endorsed by the Australian Government. The Australian Government is not responsible in negligence or otherwise for any injury, loss or damage however arising from the use of or reliance on the information provided on this website.