

[ HOT PROPERTY ]

# SEASIDE STYLE

Australia is well-known for its beach culture, so it's no surprise that it also has extraordinary beach houses. From desert island havens to city beach pads, here are some of the country's best.

BY LAUREN QUAINANCE



Avalon Coastal Retreat



The Pole House



Rockridge



Bedarra Island Villa



Gaelforce

## AVALON COASTAL RETREAT

If you're looking for total seclusion then you'll want to head to Tasmania's rugged east coast, where it's possible to have a pristine stretch of beach all to yourself. And the best beach house in Australia's island state is Avalon Coastal Retreat, perched on a headland above Great Oyster Bay near Swansea – just a 1.5-hour drive from the Tasmanian capital. The award-winning contemporary glass and steel house has Tasmanian-made oak beds and a unique square-shaped pine bathtub that is the perfect spot from which to gaze out towards the Freycinet Peninsula. [avalonretreats.com.au](http://avalonretreats.com.au)

## THE POLE HOUSE

The Pole House has been described as one of the most photographed houses in Australia, and it's easy to see why. Suspended on a single pole, the sleek bungalow appears to hover above Fairhaven Beach, outside of Melbourne. Constructed in 1978 the iconic one-bedroom house was completely rebuilt in 2013 and now has floor-to-ceiling retractable glass walls on the ocean side, to make the most of the uninterrupted views of the Southern Ocean. Better yet, it is perfectly positioned to explore the extraordinary 243-kilometre stretch of coast known as The Great Ocean Road. [greatoceanroadholidays.com.au](http://greatoceanroadholidays.com.au)

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## ROCKRIDGE

Just 40 minutes from Sydney's CBD, Palm Beach is the city's northernmost point (and its most expensive stretch of sand). Set high above the beach, one of the hamlet's original villas, Rockridge is reminiscent of a different era. Originally owned by a raconteur journalist who lost the building in a poker game, the interiors of the 1940s timber and sandstone house could be described as Art Deco-meets-Bohemian. There is a pool and a spa pool but it is the expansive views of the Pacific Ocean – and the chance to spot passing whales – that are what really warrant a visit. [contemporaryhotels.com.au](http://contemporaryhotels.com.au)

IMAGES: AVALON COASTAL RETREAT – TASMANIA / JONATHAN WHERRETT, CONTEMPORARY HOTELS & GREAT OCEAN ROAD HOLIDAYS

## BEDARRA ISLAND VILLA

There are no roads on Bedarra Island, just off the northern Queensland coast, and only a handful of private houses. The best of these is the eponymous Bedarra Island Villa set on its own palm-tree-fringed beach with a view of the Coral Sea. Perched on a granite boulder, the three-bedroom villa has been featured in *Wallpaper\** magazine, and the property is completely private except for the occasional sea turtle that is blown into the bay. Once home to the hermetic landscape artist Noel Wood, there is a beachside studio perfect for socialising, with a stone fireplace, six-seat bar and an eclectic feature wall Wood made using empty gin and cognac bottles. [contemporaryhotels.com.au](http://contemporaryhotels.com.au)

## FLY WITH ETIHAD

Etihad Airways offers direct flights from Abu Dhabi to Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. For more information, please visit [etihad.com](http://etihad.com)

## GAELFORCE

Restored by the owners of the one-time Michelin-starred Petersham Nurseries in London, Gaelforce spills down a hillside overlooking an expanse of blue water at Palm Beach, north of Sydney. The interior of the 1940s Spanish Mission-inspired holiday home hints at the owners' globe-trotting lifestyle with century-old antiques sourced from France and handmade linen from India alongside artwork from local Australian artists. You might choose to spend your time here watching boats bobbing in the bay from a freestanding tub in the 'tree-house' (which has an angophora tree growing right through the deck) or lounging on the bed in a perfectly preserved boat house. [contemporaryhotels.com.au](http://contemporaryhotels.com.au) ♦

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