

# Paws for a Splash!

## TOP DOG BEACHES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

By Kerry Martin



*Sand between your toes, the sun on your face.*

*Yep, dogs love the feel-good factor of summer and heading to the beach just as much as we do.*

*To help make the most of your visit together, I'm going to share some tips, a few safety considerations and some of our favourite beaches in New South Wales.*

### Visiting the Beach with your Dog

Not all beaches are created equally when it comes to visiting with our dogs. So before jumping in the car to head to your closest beach, it's wise to hope online and find the beaches that are doggo friendly. Check the rules of beach use, such as whether dogs must be kept on the leash, or can be let off and the hours that they are permitted, so you know exactly what to expect there.

### Dog Safety at the Beach

Before we chase the waves, there's a few safety precautions to note.

Be vigilant for hazard warning signs about strong currents or rip tides. Just as you would never go swimming yourself where warnings are sign-posted, make sure your dog stays out of the water.

Currents aside, another hazard is the saltwater. As your dog swims there is a risk of them ingesting saltwater. Too much can lead to salt toxicity, of which the signs are vomiting, diarrhoea, excessive trembling, and can possibly develop into seizures. This can be avoided by ensuring he has plenty of clean drinking water available, having limits to their swim time and rinsing them off with fresh water after the swim.

From time to time natural hazards arise, such as beached jellyfish or washed up puffer-fish. Do not allow your dog to investigate and keep them well away, just in case they snack first and are unwell second. There may be a very real risk of toxicity leading to an inability to breath and, if you suspect your dog has eaten something toxic, contact a vet immediately.

To fully enjoy your day, don't let your dog overheat. Dogs can't sweat and that fur coat is great in the cold weather, but how would you fancy wearing winter thermals on a hot day? While the water at the beach may be cooling, not all dogs will swim - some are happy to race about in the sand only. Signs of early heat-related issues include heavy panting, distressed breathing, a bright red tongue, staggering as if drunk and collapse. If you notice any of these signs in your dog, get them into the shade, offer them water to drink, wet their coat, and soak their paws in cool water. If these measures don't prove effective, or your dog is at the point of collapse, then take your dog to the nearest vet.

## Top Dog Beaches in New South Wales

And now that we've covered that.... the best dog beaches to head to in New South Wales....

### Callala Bay Beach, Jervis Bay ~ *pictured opposite page*

Location: Best spot to park and enter is at Wowly Creek. Enjoy the Beach from there up to Red Point.  
Dog Guidelines: Off-leash between 4pm and 8am, on-leash outside these times.

Jervis Bay is one of our favourite areas in all of Australia - it's just such a beautiful area. Our favourite of the many great beaches there is Callala Bay Beach. It's nestled on the northern shores of Jervis Bay and sheltered, so calm waters and plenty of space to enjoy here. And the water so incredibly crystal clear.

The other beach in the Jervis Bay region definitely worth a visit is Hyams Beach, considered one of (if not THE) whitest sand beaches in Australia. It's on-lead, but you and you pup can enjoy a long walk along this beach, or a swim together. It's a super popular beach, so if you can visit outside summer holidays that will give you more freedom to enjoy the spot.

### Camel Rock / Haywards Beach, Bermagui ~ *pictured below*

Location: Off-lead area on this dog beach is from south of Camel Rock entrance for 1km and ending near the Wallaga Lake Road.  
Dog Guidelines: 24 hour off-leash beach.

There's a number of beautiful and quiet dog-friendly beaches along the NSW South Coast, but playing on the beach with an iconic landmark in the background makes Camel Rock Beach one of our top picks.

After your pups are worn out from their beach play here, head to the nearby Camel Rock Brewery - your four-legged pal is also welcome here, for a bite to eat or a beverage.



### Sirius Cove Mosman, Sydney

Location: Find parking and access to the beach at the end of Sirius Cove Road.  
Dog Guidelines: 24 hour off-leash during the weekdays, 4pm - 9am over the weekend.

This beach is a quiet hideaway in Sydney and has stunning harbour views, although I'm not sure whether your dog will stop to take them in! The water here is calm and quiet shallow, but it gets deep enough for the dogs who'd like to swim to do so.

You can also take in a scenic (on-lead) walk from Sirius Cove. Head in one direction towards Tarongo Zoo and in the other to Cremorne Point.

### Curl Curl Lagoon, North Curl Curl, Sydney

Location: Easiest access is to park in the Flora and Ritchie Roberts Reserve Car park and walk to the Lagoon from there.  
Dog Guidelines: 24-7 Off-Leash

Does your dog love the beach, but not so much the big waves? If so then Curl Curl Lagoon might be the perfect spot for them. They can play in the flat water on sandy foreshore, where Curl Curl Lagoon enters Curl Curl beach. There's also off-leash park area adjacent in the Flora and Ritchie Roberts Reserve. We also recommend the pleasant on-lead ocean-side walk from Curl Curl Beach to Freshwater Beach.



## FEATURE

### MacMasters Beach, Central Coast

Location: Head down Marine Parade to find parking and access to the beach.

Dog Guidelines: On-Leash between the flags, when lifesavers are patrolling, off-leash (past the flags if out) for about half a kilometre to just past the lagoon.

At the end of a long stretch of sand on the Central Coast you'll find MacMasters Beach. Your dog can play between here and the south end of Copacabana Beach. This gives them the flat water area of Cochrane Lagoon to play in as well along the ocean.

At the entry, you'll also find the Surf Life Saving Club, a cafe, toilets and water refill station. There's also a small grassy area that's perfect for a picnic or enjoying an ice cream after your beach romp.

### Moonee Beach, Coffs Harbour ~ *Emerald Beach pictured below*

Location: 13km North of Coffs Harbour. Enter the beach area via the Moonee Creek Carpark.

Dog Guidelines: Dogs permitted on-lead.

While being an on-lead beach, we loved this area - we were able to paddleboard on the creek that ran to the beach, splash in the shallows and walk along the beach. There is also a walk out to the headland via the boardwalk bridge that's particularly scenic.

If you're looking for somewhere your dog can run off-lead in this area, we recommend Emerald Beach (north of Fiddamans Creek) or Boambee Beach. And if your dog is looking for a delicious pupsicle after their beach play at Moonee Beach, then you want to head to Maggie's Dog Cafe in the Moonee Beach Market Place.



## Tips for a Pawsome Beach Day

- Pack plenty of water, as racing along the beach is thirsty work and being hydrated will help avoid your dog drinking the saltwater.
- Consider your dog when the sand is too hot for you to walk on – their paws feel the heat as well.
- Leave no trace - failure to do so gives all dog visitors a bad rep. And remember, litter bags may not be available, so be sure to take a few with you.
- Don't forget doggy sunscreen for dogs with pink or thin-furred ears and noses.
- Make sure your pooch is wearing their collar and identification tag. And be sure to keep an eye on your dog at all times when it is off-leash.
- If your dog's not a great swimmer, take along a dog life-vest to assist and encourage their doggie paddle.

## About the Author

Dogs, photography and travel are what matters most to Kerry Martin, award-winning dog photographer and editor of Puppy Tales. Puppy Tales website is aimed at helping pet owners make the most of life with their fur family.

A long-time passionate explorer, Kerry and husband Sam made their Dog Tales of Australia Tour dream with their fur-kids, Keiko and Summer, a reality! The 56,400km road trip took in every state and territory and involved curling up in caravan parks, free camping, luxury accommodation (just a couple!), station stays, cabins and staying with friends. Over this time, Kerry captured 82,051 photographs and 41.5 hours of drone flight images. Memories to last a lifetime!

*Puppy Tales Website - <https://puppytales.com.au/>*

*Dog Tales of Australia FB Page - <https://www.facebook.com/dogtalesofaustralia/>*

*Beyond the Backyard FB Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/beyondthebackyard/>*

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