

Tathra

Tathra Wharf



The pretty little coastal town of Tathra is probably most famous for its steamer wharf – and its oysters: officially the best in Australia if the expert tasters at Sydney Royal Easter Show are to be believed.

Grown in the pristine waters of Nelsons Lake they've won more than 130 top awards – so if you're an oyster lover, don't miss out! Mind you, oysters can be bought anywhere along this stretch of the coast and each town swears by their own. Hardly surprising, given they're all so good!

The old steamer wharf is officially classified by the National Trust. It was first built in the early 1860s and stayed in use until 1954 but it gradually disintegrated until it was recommended in 1973 that it be demolished. Locals and the National Trust decided otherwise and united to save it. The wharf was reopened in 1988 to the joy of locals and fishing fans of all ages.

The wharf is also regularly visited by little penguins, seals, whales and stingrays – and, perhaps not surprisingly, scuba divers, who rate it as one of the best diving sites on the Sapphire Coast.

There's a good boat launching ramp at Kianinny Bay, which is home to the Tathra Amateur Fishing Club and the start/finish of the Kangarutha Walking Trail. Kianinny was the official port for the Bega area before the Tathra Wharf was built.

The Bega River meets the sea at the north of Tathra Beach. Mogareeka Inlet is a great spot for a picnic, a sheltered swim or the starting point for a kayak trip up the river. The old punt ramps used before the bridge was built are also great for launching boats.

There's a great drive from Tathra to Bermagui through the artists' hamlet of Tanja. Take time to stop at two excellent galleries – Narek at Tanja or Ivy Hill at Wapengo – or pause for a meal and taste-test the produce at Mimosas Wines, but be wary as you go. While the road is sealed and two lanes wide, the lovely old wooden bridges are all heritage listed – and single lane only.

Bithry Inlet, at the mouth of Wapengo, is another picturesque spot for a picnic, or to indulge in whatever type of water activity takes your fancy.