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OF CREATING SUITS FOR STARS  
AND LIFE ON THE SURF COAST

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# A LUXE WEEKEND IN QUEENSLIFF

THIS SEASIDE VILLAGE STEEPED IN MARITIME HISTORY IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO ENJOY A BEACHFRONT BREAK, WRITES SARAH BIESKE



*Sagres in Queenscliff offers luxury beachfront accommodation with views you'll never forget.*

Sometimes the best holidays are the ones exploring your own backyard. Especially when that backyard includes coastal havens like the Bellarine Peninsula and the Surf Coast.

Anyone in the Geelong region knows we are spoiled for choice when it comes to day tripping just down the road. We have some of Victoria's top tourist destinations right on our doorstep.

But how often do you actually make a weekend of it and really see what holiday-makers see?

So, with an offer to spend a weekend at the newly renovated Sagres in Queenscliff, I jumped at the chance to be a tourist for a couple of days. I've been going to Queenscliff since I was a kid, but most times it was for an afternoon at the beach, a dinner, or brunch, or to jump on the ferry to head over to Sorrento.

The chance to explore a little deeper was certainly appealing.

## SAGRÉS

If you're going to spoil yourself with a weekend away, you might as well do it with a bit of luxury. But when my little family of five drove through the gates of this beachfront beachhouse just minutes from the main street of Queenscliff, we couldn't quite believe how much luxury we were about to enjoy.

Sagres (named after a small coastal town in Portugal) was built in 1991, its contemporary design standing the test of time. But two years ago it was treated to a top-to-bottom, Mediterranean-inspired renovation.

The owners left no stone unturned and have thought of every little detail to ensure guests don't have a care in the world, from high-quality bath and beach towels and bamboo linen on the heavenly beds to balcony-friendly dinnerware.

Not to mention an in-house, pay as you go larder. We found ourselves sitting on the balcony, looking across The Rip, eating choc tops at 11pm on our first night (the second night we were treated to the perfect view of the aurora australis).

If you're lucky enough to stay in the main bedroom (there are five bedrooms all up) on the third level, you get to wake up to the same incredible outlook across to Point Nepean and the Point Lonsdale lighthouse.

Below, there's a sandy path leading from the backyard to Nuns beach. Eager to make the most of the location and our first full day here, we started with an early morning ocean dip, followed by a race to the heated in-ground mineral pool in the front yard of Sagres to warm up. Not sure there's a better way to start the day.

It certainly worked up our appetites, so we headed down the street on foot to find somewhere to enjoy breakfast.





(From left) A visit to the iconic General Store cafe, the Bellarine Railway and the Maritime Museum make for a great weekend away in Queenscliff. Photos: Bellarine Tourism

**GENERAL STORE**

The historic General Store cafe was our first port of call. It was a hive of activity, with most tables taken and others lining up for takeaway coffees.

We were lucky enough to get the last free table to fit the five of us. The menu is exactly what you want when you're heading out for breakfast as a family. Plenty of delicious options for the adults and equally tasty options for the kids. The wait wasn't long and the food - and smoothies - were spot on.

**BELLARINE RAILWAY**

Initially we'd booked a "swim with the dolphins and seals" tour which we were all looking forward to. Unfortunately the weather didn't agree and it was cancelled due to high winds.

While initially disappointed, it meant we had the chance to check out a few places we hadn't been to

before. As we walked down Hesse St we decided to head to the Bellarine Railway, which is operated by volunteers and offers steam and diesel train rides between Queenscliff and Drysdale.

We had heard the trains "toot" from Sagres, so it was great to see them up close and enjoy a ride, with picturesque Swan Bay as the backdrop.

**WE FOUND OURSELVES SITTING ON THE BALCONY, LOOKING ACROSS THE RIP, EATING CHOC TOPS AT 11PM ON OUR FIRST NIGHT.**

**MARITIME MUSEUM**

Afterwards, we slowly made our way to the harbour, stopping in at the Maritime Museum on Wharf St to find out about the history of this coastal

town and its rich maritime heritage. There was plenty to keep the kids engaged, with the lifeboat *Queenscliffe* a central focus, highlighting its 50 years rescuing ships - and people - largely from the infamous Rip. It was manned by lightkeepers and was the last of the lifeboat service which had operated for 120 years.

**QUEENSLIFF HARBOUR**

We continued our stroll along to the harbour, where we enjoyed a spot of shopping before sitting down for lunch at QCafe and Bar, enjoying a couple

of pizzas and taking some time to sit and enjoy the view. You could just about dedicate a whole afternoon to the harbour, with the new ferry terminal worth a look and plenty of homewares and clothing shops to keep you busy.

But we were keen to make our way back to Sagres to put our feet up and maybe enjoy another swim. We stopped off at the Scandinavian Ice Cream Company on the way back - I don't think any trip to Queenscliff is complete with out a scoop of your favourite flavour from the Hesse St store.

While we could easily have holed up at Sagres for two days, we're so glad we got to see why this seaside village and its surrounds is such a drawcard.

*The writer was a guest of Sagres Queenscliff. Follow on Instagram @sagres.queenscliff*



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Please note: all information within this ad is correct at time of print.



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