

# Tide & Times in Shoal Bay

by Colin C.

The ultimate determinant of whether you enjoyed your holiday - is how much you want to go back to the same place again.

For my family, it's a no-brainer. **Tidemark** is at the top of the list. It remains at the top even after three holidays there.

So, what makes it so appealing? Is it tucking into two poached eggs with crispy bacon, tomato relish, avocado loaded on a couple of slices of Two Bobs toasted sourdough, at **In House Kitchen cafe**, with the best flat white in town? Perhaps it is, as my wife always finds something to buy from the adjoining Home Interiors shop, every time.

Then again, could it be the fun we have with our boys, riding bikes along the tracks to Fingal Bay where the coffee shop must have a magnet in it, as the bikes miraculously stop there, well before we get to the blow-hole and whale watching platform. My wife is a world expert in banana bread, and apparently this café serves the Everest Summit of banana bread. Our outings include stopping for a swim at Box Beach or Wreck Beach on the return trip. If you are not into bikes - just walk to these beaches. Believe me it's worth it for the views.

Could it be swimming, snorkelling and falling off SUPs (Stand Up Paddle boards - for those that are not acquainted with the lingo!), in the amazingly clear blue waters of Shoal Bay? Or walking around to Zenith Beach for a spot of body surfing or fishing?



Perhaps it's sitting on the balcony at **Tidemark**, watching the Terns diving into the water at impossible speeds, to catch fish. Or is it seeing the dolphins so close to the shore? They always look so happy, don't they? It must be so much fun to be a dolphin! Personally, I always get a thrill from seeing the White-bellied Sea-eagles majestically circling around. They must get sick of those pesky little birds annoying them while they are minding their own business looking for lunch!

Speaking of lunch - how does fresh king prawns, oysters and a bottle of something delicious, streaming with condensation, sound? Combined that with 180-degree bay views, and it's a guarantee for at least one lunch. It's better than being at a restaurant, as the fridge is still stocked and the kids can run over to the beach while we keep an eye on them from our balcony. I say 'our balcony' because we think of it as just that. It's ours for a week anyway (hopefully more next year).



“ Beware - you will not want to leave! ”

Is it seeing a Koala sitting about 4-metres away at the top of Mt Tomaree? Wow, that will be a lasting memory. Walking up the mountain just after breakfast, the views were spectacular. One of the boys is convinced he saw a whale spout, which does happen, but on this occasion none of the others saw it. But turning around and seeing a Koala in the wild so close up was gob-smackingly good.

Book your stay at Tidemark online at [www.apilifestyle.com.au](http://www.apilifestyle.com.au) or call 1300 653 322.



Maybe it is **Tidemark** itself? Enough room for us and the boys, and my wife's parents - when they want to come too (so far that has been every time!) Most of the time you will find us on the balcony. You just cannot go past the Bay views and people watching is so much fun - especially when they look at us wondering how we get to be there. If we need anything, it is just 3-minutes' walk to shops, cafés and restaurants. Pops usually treats us to a lunch at the **Country Club** on one of the days. The views from the **Country Club** are remarkably similar to those at **Tidemark**, but there is no washing up.

I have a sneaking suspicion it may be a combination of everything. And each time we go there the list of things we like about holidaying in Shoal Bay gets longer. **API**

