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SPECIAL ISSUE

## 52 Romantic getaways around Australia



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## Southern Ocean Lodge

📍 Kangaroo Island, SA  
 🌐 [southernoceanlodge.com.au](http://southernoceanlodge.com.au)

If your idea of romance involves absolute luxury in the most stunning of settings, congratulations – you’ve found your personal nirvana. Southern Ocean Lodge may just be Australia’s best getaway, thanks to everything from the modern minimalist interiors in the beautifully appointed suites to the personal but never intrusive service. It doesn’t hurt that this architectural masterpiece is plonked on the south-western edge of untamed Kangaroo Island, which offers unique animal encounters (sea lions lazing on the beach just metres away) and mind-blowing scenery (the vivid orange of the Remarkable Rocks against the bluer-than-blue sea). Refined food, mostly local wines and guided excursions are included in your tariff. As you might expect, a stay here is wildly expensive. But what price love?

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**Romance factor** ♥♥♥♥♥

**Dining** Have a drink in your room or in the lounge, aptly called the Great Room because of its spectacular views of the Southern Ocean. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in the adjoining restaurant, where executive chef Alastair Waddell sends out exquisite plates featuring as much Kangaroo Island produce as he can source.

**You’ll love this...** Splash out on the Remarkable Suite or the Osprey Pavilion (below) and you’ll be able to watch the sun set from your private spa bath on the terrace.

KIRSTEN GALLIOTT



## The Atlantic

📍 Byron Bay, NSW  
 🌐 [atlanticbyronbay.com.au](http://atlanticbyronbay.com.au)

Beach shacks, backpacker hostels and large resorts have long been on offer in Byron Bay but the North Coast town had been yearning for a property much like The Atlantic, a boutique hotel that opened in the heart of town in 2010. With a tropical-chic-meets-Hamptons aesthetic, The Atlantic has four guesthouses with ample space for storing your surfboard, basking in the sunshine or curling up with a book, as well as an almost-too-comfortable bed with views of the surrounding rainforest reserve. If the beach seems too far to reach on foot (it’s a mere 13-minute walk away), take a dip in the lap pool before rinsing off in the outdoor shower.

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**Romance factor** ♥♥♥♥♥

**Dining** It’s self-catering and the kitchen and dining spaces are shared. If eating out is on the agenda, there are plenty of options within striking distance. Breakfast at Bayleaf Cafe (1 Marvell Street) is a standout, as is St Elmo Dining Room & Bar ([stelmodining.com](http://stelmodining.com)) for dinner. Featuring low lighting and modern Spanish tapas, it’s the brainchild of two Sydney creatives.

**You’ll love this...** Borrow a bike from The Atlantic and cruise around town, stopping at The Roadhouse ([roadhousebyronbay.com](http://roadhousebyronbay.com)) for coffee – or a margarita, if you’d like something stronger. **TONY RICE**

