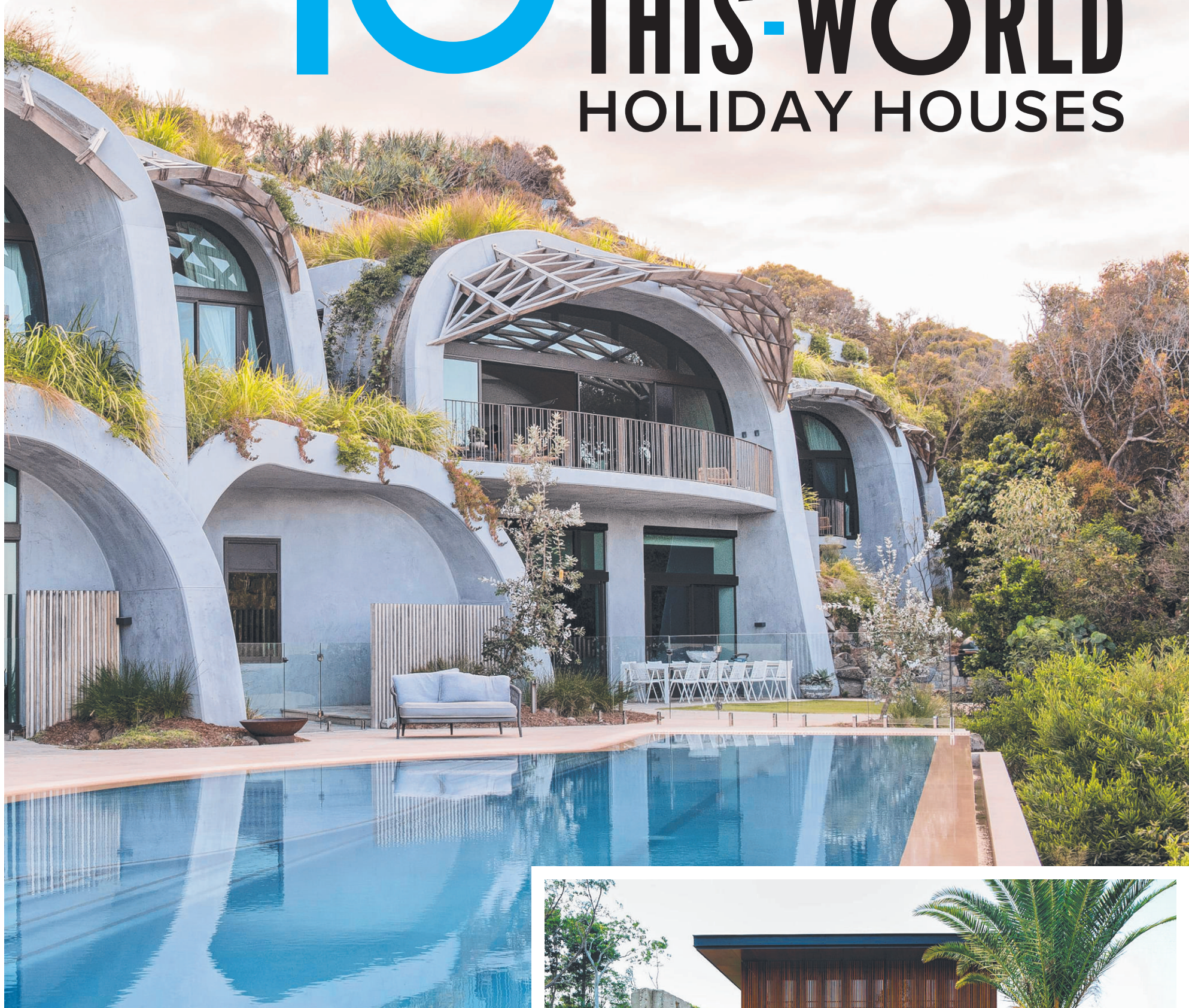


Domic, Queensland

10 OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD HOLIDAY HOUSES



They could fit in on another planet, but these holiday homes are all right here in Australia, writes Melinda Browning

Gone are the days when a holiday house meant a simple seaside shack. These days, the term covers some of the grandest homes Australia's ever seen.

They've won awards, they've been on TV, in shows from *Grand Designs* to Hollywood productions, and they're anything but ordinary.

And with the opening up of borders bringing on a holiday rental bookings boom, a few newcomers have joined the ranks of Australia's most head-turning holiday homes.

1 SOMA, BYRON BAY, NSW

A starring role alongside Nicole Kidman in *Nine Perfect Strangers* has elevated this stunning home to international recognition. When it's not

being used for meditation retreats – or as a film set – the 10-bedroom home is available to rent. Set on 9ha of rainforest 15 minutes from Byron Bay, it has a freshwater heated infinity lap pool, fire pit and bamboo forest to explore. When it's time for a spot of morning yoga or late-night stargazing, head to the 100sq m translucent dome with underfloor heating. Luxury touches include gold tapware in the home's 10 ensuites. Budget big, but prices are calculated per request. luxico.com.au

2 DOMIC NOOSA, QLD

Dubbed the most expensive "joint" on the Sunshine Coast, this remarkable shell-like dome house was built using hemp in its construction. The numbers are mind-boggling – six bedrooms, nine



Soma, NSW

bathrooms, and a \$24m price tag. Then there's the 113 solar panels and an entire room filled with lithium batteries that allow the property to run off-grid and carbon neutral. As for features, let's just say this is the kind of home where you'd happily endure another lockdown. There's a commercial standard cinema, sauna, ice bath plunge pool and 25m outdoor pool, dance room, along with direct access to Sunshine Beach and Noosa National Park. Rates start from \$7143 a night, so get saving. nicheholidaysnoosa.com

3 THE HEADLAND BY DOVECOTE, GERRINGONG, NSW

If it looks eerily familiar, perhaps it's because it made an appearance alongside Hollywood superstar Elisabeth Moss in the 2020 horror movie *The Invisible Man*. Or perhaps it's because it was named Australian House of the Year in 2019. Set on 60ha of oceanfront farmland two hours south of Sydney, the dramatic four-bedroom home has become a local landmark. Inside,

From top: Domic, Noosa; Soma, Byron Bay. **Opposite, clockwise from top left:** The Keep, NE Tas; Yondah, SA; the Pole House, Vic; The Edge, Port Douglas; The Headland, Gerringong, NSW.



The Keep, Tasmania

highlights include two scenic bathtubs, a wood fireplace, and spectacular views, while outside, there's a private courtyard with pool and fire pit, plus private access to beautiful Werri Beach and the Kiama Coastal Trail. Stays are priced from \$2750 a night. [dovecote.com.au](https://www.dovecote.com.au)

4 THE POLE HOUSE, FAIRHAVEN, VIC

Even if you're not staying there, just a glimpse of this iconic house is enough to send you straight into holiday mode – it's been a notable landmark on the Great Ocean Road for more than 40 years. Suspended 40m above Fairhaven Beach, the Pole House was originally built by architect Frank Dixon in 1978, but was completely rebuilt in 2014 to emphasise the stunning water views. The one-bedroom home now features hi-tech luxuries including taps that light up the water as it flows, floor-to-ceiling windows with blinds that rise at the press of a button, and button-press reclining couches. Stays are priced around \$1100 a night. [stayz.com.au](https://www.stayz.com.au)

5 THE EDGE, PORT DOUGLAS, QLD

In a holiday town packed with glamorous retreats and luxury resorts, The Edge is in a class of its own. Perched above Port Douglas's Four Mile Beach, its striking, spaceship-esque design saw it awarded Australian Home of the Year in 2015. It's built entirely of concrete and was inspired by Melbourne's Myer Music Bowl – although here the audience is replaced with stunning views of the Coral Sea. In case the views alone didn't have you sold, there's a 10m infinity pool, granite features including built-in daybed and table, two king-sized bedrooms and three bathrooms. It's priced at \$1825 a night. [airbnb.com.au](https://www.airbnb.com.au)

6 YONDAH BEACH HOUSE, FOUL BAY, SA

Don't be fooled by the place name – there's nothing foul about this clifftop retreat set amid 60ha of private coastal wilderness on the Yorke Peninsula. In fact, it's been recognised as the nation's top deluxe accommodation in the Australian Tourism Awards – twice. The three-bedroom, three-bathroom, architect-designed home is about three hours from Adelaide. It boasts views to Kangaroo Island, whale and seal spotting, and direct beach access. It's pet friendly, and a wood fire, outdoor hot water shower and campfire make it ideal for off-

season visits. Stays are priced from \$480 a night. [yondah.com.au](https://www.yondah.com.au)

7 ALKIRA, CAPE TRIBULATION, QLD

It's been described as "like something out of Star Wars", but this futuristic house in the Daintree Rainforest was actually largely inspired by the original owner's stamp collection. The custom-shaped pool at the heart of the house is modelled on the "One Pound Jimmy" Australian postage stamp of the 1950s. Six bedrooms – each with ensuite, and the master with its own outdoor spa – jut out around the central courtyard, with the house floating above its own moat. You can reach it by car, but for the ultimate arrival, charter a helicopter direct to the property's helipad to soak up the views over the Great Barrier Reef along the way. Budget \$2200 a night. [alkiraresorthouse.com.au](https://www.alkiraresorthouse.com.au)

8 THE KEEP, GOULDS COUNTRY, TAS

Tasmania's loaded with stunning natural attractions but the otherworldly, rocky landscape that surrounds The Keep was one of its best-kept secrets – until mid-2020 when this unique mini-castle burst on to the tourist



The Pole House, Vic



The Edge, Queensland



The Headland, NSW

accommodation scene. Built for two, but spread over three storeys, this one-bedroom home is utterly remote – 20km from any other building. Standout features include an outdoor granite bath, secluded among giant boulders, and a handmade granite fireplace. Besides 360-degree wilderness views, local attractions include Tasmania's largest myrtle tree, a 10-minute walk away. Rates circa \$960 a night. [thekeepstasmania.com.au](https://www.thekeepstasmania.com.au)

9 QII HOUSE, LORNE, VIC

Outside, it's all about the serenity – but inside, this quirky home is loud and proud. Originally built in the 1970s, it's been updated to incorporate retro flair and vibrant furnishings along with modern facilities. Twenty minutes inland from Lorne's surf beach, this four-bedroom home overlooking the Great Otway National Park features fish-eye windows for treetop views and a Feng Shui based design. The property boasts an accredited forest therapy trail and easy

access to local waterfalls, although with facilities including a sunset deck, bar area, fire pit, outdoor pizza oven and Zen garden, it's tempting to just sit and relax. Rates start from \$600 a night. [qiihouselorne.com.au](https://www.qiihouselorne.com.au)

10 THE LOOKOUT, YALLINGUP, WA

The Margaret River region is a hotspot for stunning homes, but unsurprisingly, the one labelled "The Lookout" stands out. Living up to its name, it offers 180-degree ocean views across the Indian Ocean and awe-inspiring coastline between Cape Naturaliste and Canal Rocks. The three-level, four-bedroom home is designed around the sensational sunsets, with open-plan layout and expansive outdoor living areas. Inside, there's a wood fire, exposed beams and polished concrete floors. When the Yallingup surf beckons, it's a five-minute walk to the beach. Rates start from \$1265 a night. [privateproperties.com.au](https://www.privateproperties.com.au)



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