


19 of the most luxurious hotel pools in Australia

Kick back on a plush sun lounge with a cocktail in hand at these lavish hotel lagoons, plunge pools and swimming spots.

By GLADYS LAI AND RIA PANDEY



The Langham, Gold Coast.

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Australia is a nation of beachgoers, but there's nothing quite like kicking back on a plush sun lounge and spending a day by a lavish hotel pool. After all, it's not just about cooling off, but the entire poolside experience — sipping an expertly-prepared cocktail; having snacks delivered to your cabana; finally reading the novel you bought months ago; indulging in a massage.

So, escape to the hotel pool on a pocket-sized holiday. We've rounded up 19 of the best in the nation, proving that we do waterside relaxation like no other.

Jackalope Hotel, Mornington Peninsula

Wine lovers should head to the gorgeous Jackalope Hotel, where the spectacular 30m heated black-tiled pool looks out over a picture-perfect Ilha vineyard. Select your perch on the timber deck, stretch out and order a glass of the region's finest chardonnay or pinot noir. In addition to the swimming spot and a pavilion for spa treatments, there's also all-day poolside dining and unlimited Wi-Fi.

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The pool at Jackalope Hotel, Mornington Peninsula.

Capella Lodge, Lord Howe Island

Sitting in the pool at Capella Lodge is a pinch-me moment that looks like it belongs on a postcard or computer wallpaper. The acclaimed lodging on Lord Howe Island, NSW, boasts a wet edge pool with views of Lover's Bay and Mounts Gower. Select rooms also include private swimming holes. Opt for the Makambo Loft or Lidgbird Pavilion for your own plunge pool or reserve the Catalina Suite or Lagoon Loft for a hot tub with loungers.



Woman relaxing by the pool at Capella Lodge, Lord Howe Island. Picture: tom-archer.com

Crown Towers, Sydney

Situated on the fifth level of the mammoth Crown Towers development in Sydney, the venue's expansive heated pool boasts panoramic views of the CBD skyline, private cabanas and poolside dining. Other stand-out amenities include a waterfront tennis court, a private fitness studio overlooking the city skyline and science-led wellness experiences.



The pool at the Crown Towers.

Elements of Byron, Byron Bay

Byron Bay has plenty of photogenic accommodation options, but the expansive lagoon pool at Elements of Byron should put it high on any list. It is open only to resort guests and comes with private cabanas and hanging day beds. The water temperature is meticulously controlled and there's a heated spa.



Infinity lagoon pool, Elements of Byron. Picture: Supplied

Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley

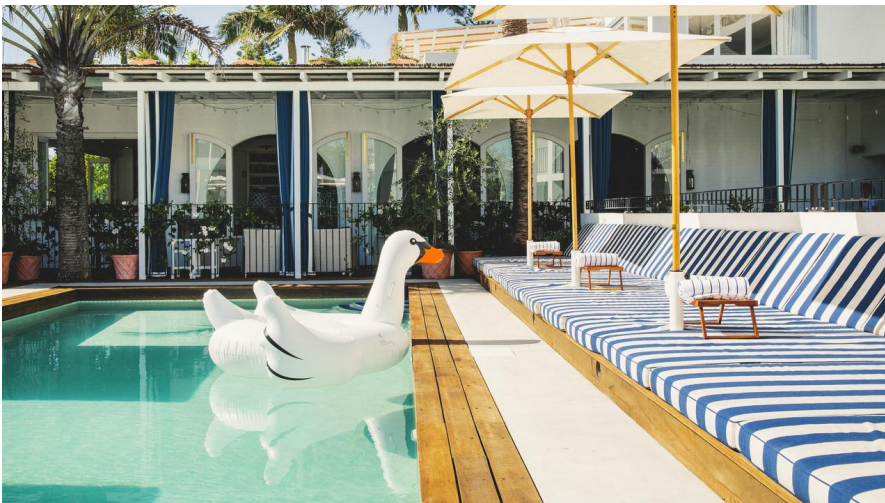
Each of the villas at this bush property has a heated private pool that can be opened to the elements via bi-fold glass doors. Alternatively, guests can head to the resort's generous outdoor pool, which delivers escarpment views. It's adjacent to the award-winning spa, where a range of soothing treatments using the Sodashi skincare line is available. Hungry? There's no need to get up. The nearby Country Kitchen serves refined casual fare and poolside drinks throughout the summer.



Emirates One & Only Resort Wolgan Valley, NSW.

Halcyon House, Cabarita Beach

There's a refined yet retro vibe to the pool at this boutique property in northern NSW. Blue and white-striped deck chairs enhance the maritime theme, while palm trees lend a tropical touch. Many of the guestrooms, with their distinctive Anna Spiro decor, offer pool views, but our top pick is the Halcyon Suite, which has a private balcony overlooking the turquoise water and gardens.



Halcyon House, Cabarita Beach. Picture: Destination NSW

The Langham, Sydney

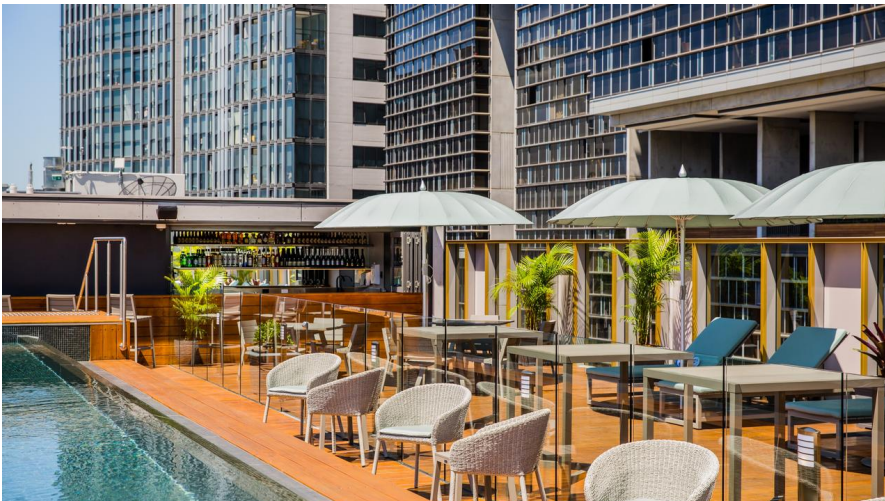
Fancy swimming under the stars? You can at The Langham — even during the day. The ceiling of the hotel's indoor pool resembles the night sky, enveloping you in a celestial blanket. Float on your back with the heavens above, then give sore muscles some love in the heated Jacuzzi.



Underground Swimming Pool, The Langham, Sydney. Picture: Langham Hotels

The Old Clare, Sydney

Charming is the word that springs to mind on seeing the pool at Sydney's Old Clare hotel. The property is slick, but there's something intimate about this compact inner-city lap pool, surrounded by timber decking and sun lounges. Enjoy your vantage of the city skyline with an expertly prepared margarita.



Rooftop pool and bar at The Old Clare Hotel. Photo: Supplied

Beach Club Hotel, Hamilton Island

This oceanfront wonder in Hamilton Island's Beach Club Hotel comes with hammocks, deck chairs and sunset cocktails, as well as the visual feast of Catseye Beach. Being a child-free oasis, the boutique property is well suited to honeymooners, couples seeking quality time together and parents taking a break from their duties.



The pool at The Beach Club.

Crystalbrook Vincent, Brisbane

Competition is steep for Brisbane's best rooftop pool but Crystalbrook Vincent on the Howard Smith Wharves is a serious contender. The outdoor rooftop pool has unrivaled views of the city skyline. Since space is limited, guests are afforded privacy as they soak in the area's tranquillity. The hotel's proximity to some of Brisbane's best restaurants, as well as its commitment to providing sustainable luxury, make it an ideal choice for both visitors and locals looking to book a staycation.



The pool at Crystalbrook Vincent

JW Marriott Gold Coast Resort & Spa, Gold Coast

The ocean comes to guests at the revamped JW Marriott Gold Coast Resort & Spa. Its saltwater lagoon is home to tropical fish, which snorkellers can watch being fed daily; other attractions include waterfalls, a grotto and a waterslide. Deck chairs are arranged in the sand but for guests who prefer to keep their toes clean, there are plenty of other seating options around the pool, which winds sinuously through the resort.



The resort pool at the JW Marriott Gold Coast.

Orpheus Island Resort, Great Barrier Reef

Exclusive is the name of the game at Orpheus Island Resort. Guests arrive by helicopter from Townsville or Cairns, and the resort accommodates only 28 people at a time. With its own ribbon of beach, it's hard to compete with a setting that includes ocean panoramas towards Hinchinbrook Island. However, the place gives Mother Nature a run for her money at the black-tiled infinity pool, framed on either side by palm trees slung with hammocks.



The pool at Orpheus Island Resort.

The Calile Hotel, Brisbane

Muted blush and eucalyptus tones create the sense of a year-round summer playground, allowing you to drift off into a dreamy escape, no matter the season or weather. After doing a few languid laps of the jewel-tone pool, recharge yourself with a nap in the shaded cabanas or jump into a sensory medspa experience.



The pool at The Calile Hotel. Photo: Narelle Bouveng

Palazzo Versace, Gold Coast

The Gold Coast may be famous for its beaches but the opulent Palazzo Versace hotel has a lagoon pool to rival them all, with its own sandy shore lined with lounges and umbrellas. Private cabanas, sheathed in diaphanous drapes, are available for hire and include concierge service offering the likes of champagne and oysters. This is next-level poolside indulgence.



The pool at Palazzo Versace.

The Langham, Gold Coast

Featuring views of the Pacific Ocean, The Langham's outdoor lagoon is a great way to immerse yourself in the natural serenity of an oceanic landscape. If you're fiending for a refreshment while taking a dip, the ground-level pool features a fully serviced swim-up pool bar; why not sip on a negroni sbagliato while you soak in the view?



One of the two pools at The Langham Gold Coast.

The Ville, Townsville

For a pool experience that transports you to Bali, Santorini or the Amalfi Coast, try Townsville's The Ville. Flanked by palm trees and brilliant bougainvillea, and with views out to Magnetic Island, this is the spot for tropical glamour. Cabanas for eight are available for hire and non-guests are welcome to buy pool passes for a day by the water. Swim up to the Splash Bar for a snack and a drink.



Overlooking the pool at The Ville.

Lake Argyle Resort, Lake Argyle

Touted as the most spectacular pool in the Kimberley, this 35m beauty with an adjacent Jacuzzi delivers views of the vast freshwater lake formed by the damming of the Ord River. Like a mirror to the sky, the water changes colours with the light, transforming from the vibrant turquoise of midday to violet-tinged orange at sunset. The pool is open to visitors as well as guests of the caravan park and resort.



The pool at the Lake Argyle Resort.

The Ritz-Carlton, Perth

The Ritz-Carlton's heated outdoor infinity pool overlooks the Swan River and Matagarup Bridge. Perched on the fifth floor, the pool is the ideal spot for taking in the city skyline with a sundowner in hand. The space is minimalist in design with Scandi-style sun lounges.



The pool at The Ritz Carlton, Perth.

Longitude 131, Uluru

This glamorous lodge has 16 pavilion tents dotted among the desert oaks of the Red Centre. A communal pool brings welcome relief to guests during summer's 40C days. However, those in the know opt for the two-bedroom Dune Pavilion, which boasts a private plunge pool complete with views of the World Heritage-listed Uluru and Kata Tjuta. Privacy is assured on the deck, which also has a daybed and fireplace.



The pool at Longitude 131 Dune Pavilion.

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Sophie 2 HOURS AGO

Been to several of these resort swimming pools. Nothing beats a natural calm bay, all to yourself. Bora Bora without masses of people. Magnetic island.

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LRnAU 3 HOURS AGO

The Langham pool on the Gold Coast is in the shade most of the afternoon. That's what happens when you build giant towers around it.

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Dinosaur 4 HOURS AGO

Hmmm. Not sure about the Calile. Been there tried that.

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Mark 19 HOURS AGO

Check the dates of the early replies - over a year ago - rehashed story and photos.

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PYTHAGORAS the 2nd. 19 HOURS AGO

We loved Bel Air at Broadbeach.

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Liz 20 HOURS AGO

Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas was a glaring omission!!!

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MsJ 21 HOURS AGO

Gladys & Ria - you need to get out of the office a bit more.

Pretty average list when you exclude Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas and Hayman Island pools - iconic and totally unique.

You need to do some more research next time please....

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Probably should update your photos, these are all old pool pics. There are so many more spectacular new resort and hotel pools.

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Re Ritz-Carlton, Perth: That is not the Matagarup bridge. The Matagarup Bridge is about 3.5 KMs away, extending over the Swan to Optus Stadium.

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And a regards the pool, it is in a very windy spot, which consistently gets hammered by the ever present south westerly winds. The pool was built on the wrong side of the building.

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