

Hinterland hideaway

Villas with in-house dining, rural views and a nearby bathhouse are just the ticket in the Noosa hinterland

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Nestled away in the hills between Noosa and Gympie is Kin Kin, a town with 840-odd residents set amid lush, rural surroundings. It is a secluded place to chase the quieter life – and is now home to two new family-owned magical escapes.

Mayan Farm Villas, tucked less than 4km northwest of the small town on the road out, is the latest venture by the owners of the popular Mayan Farm luxury homestead, which opened during the final throes of the covid lockdowns.

The four newly built private villas – Karinya, Mia Mia, K'gari, and Coolinda, all named for Indigenous heritage – are rammed-earth constructions which, on arrival, give a hint of the unique getaway awaiting guests.

Arriving feels like stepping into a private world cocooned in hidden hinterland surrounds.

Each villa is split in half by a breezeway with a crushed gravel and timber path

“*Looping trails offer a several kilometre-long walking or cycling trek through the lush forestry*

leading to dual doors built from railway sleepers, and out to a back area with expansive views over the wider farmland.

Opening these doors will lead you on to a cavernous living space and kitchen decorated with bespoke finishes and filled with modern conveniences including a coffee machine and a flat-screen television.

The other door opens to an equally spacious bedroom.

This leads on to a bathroom area with a large, in-built shower space with a wall-to-

wall window and sliding door which opens on to an outdoor stone bathtub, letting you soak under the sun or stars.

The farm offers free Wi-Fi, which is helpful for staying connected as mobile phone reception is spotty at best (Telstra kept a few bars but Optus fell off the map, although this is a perfect excuse to stay off the radar and relax).

Two of the villas also offer spas, and the chance to luxuriate overlooking a view of the farmland teeming with native birds, running down to Kin Kin Creek, and then on to the tree-shrouded hills beyond.

It's also the perfect place to relax with a meal, which is in itself yet another of the gems to be unearthed and enjoyed at the farm. Owners Jodie Williams and Brett Gowley are the former operators of the Black Ant cafe and gourmet restaurant at Kin Kin, and Jodie's culinary skills are on offer to guests by way of breakfasts, ready-made meals, or homemade pizzas.

If you're looking for a quiet, private escape then the meals can simply be



slipped into the oven for 40 minutes and enjoyed in the privacy of your villa.

The pizzas can be baked in the villas' central barbecue space, which has been outfitted with a woodfire pizza oven, meat smoker, and barbecue grill.

Venturing out of the farm – and you'll be surprised how easy it is to just stay at the villas – you are able to access the Noosa Trail network only a few hundred metres behind the block.

These looping tracks offer a several kilometre-long walking or cycling trek through the lush forestry, farms and bushland bordering the farm and Kin Kin, with the town itself the site of the second magical family-built getaway.

Only a few hundred metres from town – and yet still more concealed – sit the Kin Kin Spring Bathhouses.

These twin bathhouses are the passion of Lisa McDonough, who runs them with the help of daughter Charley, and are the perfect place for time to stand still.

The trip to the baths is a teasing adventure in itself.

Parking at the town's nearby sports oval, guests are met by host, Lisa, waiting with an all-terrain vehicle.

Guests are then whisked away along a private track, first traversing a creek before climbing the tree-covered side of the hill to the houses themselves.

Near the top of the hill the journey reveals its end goal, an extraordinary view back across the forest, hills and mountains immediately behind the township.

A short path leads between the two iron and timber sheds, each housing two handcrafted stone tubs and surrounded by a manicured garden.

Your hosts run the natural spring water and offer an array of essential oils which can be added as desired.

The next two hours can be spent relaxing in privacy under the sun (or shade) while soaking in both the spring water and sensational view, indulging in whatever food or drink (no glass allowed) brought along for the day.

Even a brief shower of rain, not uncommon in the hinterland, fails to

dampen the beauty of the bathhouse experience.

The sound of a bell signals the end of the stretch, with a brief period to dry off, gather your belongings, and then begin the return trip – although you will be forgiven for not wanting to leave.

The writer was a guest of Visit Noosa

BOOK IT NOW

Mayan Farm Villas
Two-night stay: From \$780
Breakfasts for two people: From \$35
Pizzas: \$18 each, meals: \$30 each
mayanfarm.com.au

Kin Kin Spring Bathhouses
For one to four people
\$129 a bathhouse - two-hour booking
\$15 for essential oil bath selection
kinkinspringbathhouses.com.au
visitnoosa.com.au



Mayan Farm Villas luxury accommodation at Kin Kin, in the Noosa hinterland, opposite, left and below; Kin Kin Depot, above; and Kin Kin Spring Bathhouses, opposite page. Pictures: Visit Noosa and Tourism and Events Queensland

