

# Come! Sit! Stay!



## The Fibro Majestic, Blue Mountains

While back we scheduled a review for a 'pet friendly' location in the Blue Mountains. Despite having rave reviews (not independently written) the property was just not suitable for our readers, so we skipped it. This time, we did our homework and came up with a fabulous place to stay in Katoomba. It has style, comfort, fenced-in location away from busy roads and a beautiful amenity—but don't worry, it'll probably be easy to book because the worst part of it is that the real estate agent that handles the Fibro Majestic ([www.fibromajestic.com](http://www.fibromajestic.com)) seems to hardly bother returning calls or answering questions. So if you can actually get a booking confirmed and get information as to how to find it and other vital clues, you'll be laughing!



The Lounge room of the Fibro Majestic

We won't bore you with the dramas involved in making sure that we actually had the property for a weekend after Anzac Day, but only a couple of hours before we had to make the hour and a half trek with the critters, were we able to reach the agent by mobile and got directions and instructions. It was only an hour before sunset when we got the key and alarm instructions. And after picking up with a couple of bottles of wine from Blaxland Liquors on the way, we entered a side door to The Twilight Zone!

The Fibro Majestic is a 1930s style bungalow tucked away behind a blue picket fence and hidden from the street by trees. Many treasures are contained within and only a moment after entering the three-bedroom cottage, the chorus of WOWs began. It was like stepping back into another era. And any stress was left at the door with the shoes.

Just inside, an immaculately restored, working gramophone with brass bell greeted us. The dark red lounge room had art deco furniture, a snazzy bar area and a trove of old photos and art among the kitch furnishings. The Persian carpet was a perfect contrast to the fireplace, already loaded with logs and kindling, ready to roar! Dropping the bags in the back bedroom with its gorgeous curtains and inviting old style double bed, more treasures popped into view. An ancient bakelite radio nestled next to an equally aged 30s Candlestick phone with detachable earpiece and dial on the bottom of the mouthpiece—and it worked!!



Blue Mountains Sunset

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Wandering through the comfy house with a third mini-bedroom and trundle bed attached to the main bedroom, discoveries abounded as antiques laden with collectables and knick-knacks fill each room.

The bathroom is equally archaic in appearance but everything works just fine. Mono vinyl floor, brass flush tank with button, clawfoot tub with rose shower and old style sink with a shaving cup and stand for razor. Most unique of all is the 1940s instant gas fired water boiler in perfect condition and there was plenty of hot water for showers with parrots who screamed with delight and strutted along the shower rail, admiring themselves in the long mirror just above it at beak height.

It's only a five minute walk to the edge of the Jamieson Valley and maybe 15 minutes at most from Echo Point and the Three Sisters. We were lucky enough to catch the spectacle of sunset and the rusty pastels of cliffs contrasted by clear blue skies with whispers of clouds and jade green valleys rolling off into the horizon. Heaven on earth.

But it's also enough to get the appetite stoked so rather than cooking in on the perfectly appropriate white enamelled wood fired stove, we elected to head only three blocks down to the Swiss Cottage. This restaurant is a Swiss family affair run by Roland and Monique Kummer for over a decade. It's a warm and cheery interior with cow bells suspended from the ceiling and a half dozen cuckoo clocks-all set to different times so one goes off every ten minutes or so. The specialty is roesti which is a potato pancake of various flavours and they also serve the standard fondue and raclette, a melted cheese dish with potatoes and cornichons. But their speciality is veal and sausages which are prime dishes and require a good walk to work off. It's also BYO or licensed but despite having an attractive outdoor dining area, is not pet friendly.

During daylight hours we made use of the Fibro Majestic's splendid deck that overlooks the leafy, private garden. This is the perfect spot for lounging around with the morning papers and a cuppa while dogs enjoy the fresh smells. The deck houses a BBQ, tables and chairs and the convenience of a wind out awning and market umbrella for shade.



Swiss Cottage



The Gallery Restaurant

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We're not aware of many restaurants that are pet friendly but one that is close to the property is the Gallery. Here you can sit in a designated outdoor area and enjoy the limited and mostly carnivorous menu. Entrees start at \$17.00, mains are \$29.00 and desserts are around \$14.00. It's a nice retreat to sit back while you take in some of the elegant glass and artwork on display and for sale.

For a more Mod-Oz experience we suggest Philip Searle's café built around the old Blackheath Bakery's wood oven. Vulcan's at 33 Govetts Leap Road a block off the Great Western Highway in Blackheath has no sign but sits next to the Commonwealth Bank. Slow cooked food is the specialty and it's also BYO with a small menu of fantastic creations. It's a Blue Mountains mecca for foodies and is a tight space with patchy service and vital to book. Entrees start at \$20.00, mains are \$32 and desserts start at \$13.00. Signature dishes include beef pot roast and pork with an Asian twist. Their dessert speciality is a homemade chequerboard ice cream.

A large and safe off-leash dog park is the old racetrack in Catalina Park where it's legal to race your hound. Care must be taken in the National Park areas and council reserves as these prohibit dogs. If you've forgotten to pack anything pet related, we recommend a friendly pet store called the Pet Shack.

**The Fibro Majestic**  
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 web: [www.fibromajestic.com](http://www.fibromajestic.com)

**Blue Mountains Tourist Information, web: [www.bluemts.com.au/tourist/](http://www.bluemts.com.au/tourist/)**

**The Swiss Cottage Restaurant**  
 132 Lurline Street  
 Katoomba ph: 4782 2281  
 Lunch Wed-Sun 11:00 everyday  
 Dinner Thu-Sat from 6:00pm

**The Gallery Restaurant**  
 98 Lurline Street  
 Katoomba ph: 4782 1220  
 Lunch Fri-Sun  
 Dinner Thu-Sun  
 Gallery open 10-5:00pm daily

**Vulcans**  
 33 Govetts Leap Road  
 Blackheath ph: 4787 6899  
 Lunch Fri-Sun noon-2:30pm  
 Dinner Fri-Sun 6-9:30pm

**The Pet Shack**  
 Shop2, Katoomba Plaza  
 43 Waratah Street  
 Katoomba  
 ph: 4782 7322

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