

Coffs Harbour

Eguide



Coffs Harbour is located in New South Wales Australia between Sydney and Brisbane. Coffs Harbour tourism is well developed with many activities including surfing, whale watching and visits to icons such as the Big Banana. Inland from Coffs Harbour is a rich agricultural area and the World Heritage listed Dorrigo National Park.

Offshore are the solitary islands for hiking and diving. Coffs Harbour has a very pleasant climate all year and normally maintains a least 19 degrees all year.

First named in 1847 as Korff's Harbour. It is shaped in a triangle. At one point of the triangle lie the Railway Station and the Marina, at another is the old town centre, and at the third is the Park Beach Plaza. Banana plantations line the backdrop to Coffs Harbour.

There are many National Parks, State Forest and nature reserves. And for adventure try sky-diving, scuba diving, white water rafting, horse riding, game fishing, surf rafting or surf board riding. The coastal area has many great beaches and some of the best beaches in Australia.

Coffs Harbour was originally the home of the Gumbaynggirr tribe. The name was changed by Captain John Korff who was seeking safety from the storm that prevented him from entering the river at Urunga in 1847 and called the place "Korffs Harbour". A spelling mistake when it was gazetted led to the name Coffs Harbour being recorded.

During the 1870's and 1880's Europeans settled the area to log cedar. The first school opened in 1885. The timber industry thrived as a result of the completion of the Coffs Harbour Jetty in 1892 and the building of many timber mills. The railway arrived in 1915 and that led to decline in shops using the jetty. The oldest buildings are to be found on the "Jetty Strip" along Harbour Drive.

The northern breakwater that linked Coffs Harbour and Muttonbird Island was started in 1915 and completed in 1935. In the 1970's Coffs Harbour was the home of an active fishing fleet which still continues today.

Bananas were found to grow well in the region and led to the arrival of many Indian migrants who formed a Sikh community and built the Sikh Temple at Woolgoolga.

During World War 2 Coffs Harbour was used as military operations base to defend Australia from an invasion.

Beaches

Coffs Harbour has a large number of beaches that extend out from the city centre. Boambee Beach to the south of the Jetty Beach is an open beach. Jetty Beach is close to the Marina and Coffs Harbour Jetty extends from this beach. Protected by the breakwater makes for calm swimming conditions. Park Beach is the main beach on Ocean Parade and is patrolled.



Botanic Gardens

The Botanic Gardens are spread over 19 hectares close to the centre of Coffs. In the botanic gardens you will find a miniature botanic garden, mangrove boardwalk, creek walk, greenhouses and a sensory garden with it's roses and herbs.

A small rainforest has been created. The botanic gardens have a number of endangered rare plants and seed is produced to enable their survival.

Big Banana

The Big Banana is a famous symbol for Coffs Harbour. Opened in 1964 and started a trend across Australian of BIG things. Behind the Big Banana is a theme park.

You can toboggan, ice skate, and try the "World of Bananas" with a Banana Plantation Walk, and theatre that explains how the banana industry works. *Pacific Highway about 4km north of Coffs Harbour.*

Bunker Cartoon Gallery

An art gallery dedicated to black and white art and cartoons. Housed in an underground World War 2 bunker. *(02 6651 7343).*

Coffs Harbour Butterfly House

Butterflies in a natural indoor setting. For the kids there is maze at the end of the visit. *5 Strouds Road (02 6653 4766).*

Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery

Coffs Harbour City Gallery presents a diverse programme of historical and contemporary exhibitions. *Rigby House Coff Street (02 6648 4861).*

Coffs Harbour Historical Museum

History of the area with many old photographs and a model of a banana plantation. *191 High Street.*

Lake Russell Gallery

A contemporary art gallery beside a small lake. *Pacific Highway (02 6656 1092).*

Legends Surf Museum

A display of classic boards. *Gauldrons Road.*

Pet Porpoise Pool

Touch and interact with dolphins and seals. Dolphin shows are presented. *Orlando Street. (02 6652 2164).*



Whale Watching

Whales can be seen from June to October from Scotts Head, Woolgoolga Headland Hungry Head and other high points along the coast. Cruises are popular so book in advance.

Woolgoolga

Woolgoolga to the north of Woolgoolga is influenced by the Sikh Community with the temple and Indian architecture. When you see the stunning white domes of a Sikh Temple you're in Woolgoolga, 25 kms north of Woolgoolga. The Woolgoolga Headland has good views.



Wild Areas

Dorrigo National Park
Dorrigo National Park is a World heritage listed national park. A good place to start is at the Rainforest Centre which is just west of Dorrigo. From here there is skywalk that goes through the canopy. Alternatively take the ground level walk which has a number of loops of differing durations.

In other parts of Dorrigo are hiking trails and waterfalls including the impressive Dangar Falls. Dorrigo National Park is about 60 km west of Coffs Harbour and easy to visit by car.



Muttonbird Island

Just beyond Coffs Harbour Marina is Muttonbird Island Nature Reserve. Good for whale watching between June and October and for shearwaters from November to April. There are no trees on Muttonbird Island but is a nesting site for wedge-tailed shearwaters. The eastern side of Muttonbird Island has views out to sea.



Coffs Harbour Zoo

A number of animal shows are held during the day. 1530 Pacific Highway about 10km north of Coffs Harbour. (02 6656 1330).

Solitary Islands

The Solitary Islands are north east of Coffs Harbour. The Solitary Islands are the southern tip of the Great Barrier Reef.

The whole area is a reserve and made up of Muttonbird Island, South Solitary, Split Solitary, West Solitary, North West Rocks and North Solitary.



The Solitary Islands are good for diving and viewing dolphins, turtles and whale watching between may and June and again in October and November as the whales move south.

The Solitary islands cover 100,000 hectares of protected beaches and islands and combined with the mix of warm tropical waters and the cool temperate waters of the south creates a diversity of marine life.



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