

Gold Coast

Eguide



The Gold Coast, Queensland is the most developed resort area in Australia. A coastline that extends 30 km from the New South Wales border to a long sandy spit that protects the mouth of the Nerang River. From south to north we have the towns of Coolangatta, Currumbin, Palm Beach, Burleigh Heads, Broadbeach, Surfers Paradise and Southport.

For those wanting a quiet sleepy resort the Gold Coast is not the place. High rise Gold Coast apartments dominate the skyline. Gold Coast theme parks provide a backdrop and active nightlife make for bustle and excitement. The Gold Coast hinterland provides relaxation with Tamborine Mountain a world away from the surf and sun of the Gold Coast beaches, "the green behind the gold".

Places

Coolangatta

The twin towns of Coolangata and Tweed Heads mark the southern end of the Gold Coast. Coolangata is more family orientated and relaxed than other parts of the Gold Coast.

North facing beaches Rainbow Bay and Greenmount are popular with families and you can walk between the two of them. Coolangatta is home to the airport that serves the Gold Coast.

Currumbin

Popular with young families with its gentle surf and rock pools. Currumbin Creek is good for fishing.

Burleigh Heads

Burleigh Heads is in the middle of the Gold Coast and the whole Gold Coast is visible from Burleigh Headland.

Beaches, national park, wild life park and beachfront markets are all at Burleigh Heads.

North Stradbroke Island

North Stradbroke Island is a sand island with some good beaches and possible to visit by boat from the Gold Coast.

South Stradbroke Island

South Stradbroke Island is one of Australia's sand islands and has a large flora and fauna collection.



Surfers Paradise

Surfers Paradise symbolizes the energy of the Gold Coast. This is the active area full of people, resorts, shops restaurants and night life.

Surfers Paradise operates 24 hours a day with beach fun in the day and busy clubs and restaurants in the evening.



Southport

Southport was originally established as the southern port for Queensland. Now an area of restaurants, cafes, shopping malls and the home to Southport Yacht Club and the Marina Mirage with its boutiques and nightlife.

Southport is very close to Seaworld and the beaches at the northern end of the Gold Coast. Southport includes the Broadwater a huge area of calm water, walkways and parkland.

Boating and fishing is easy and safe on the Broadwater. Southport has a popular swimming enclosure ideal for visiting families. To the north of Southport is Sanctuary Cove with its marina and shopping complex.

Tamborine

Tamborine Mountain is a plateau 8 kilometres long and 4 kilometres wide and located behind the beaches of the Gold Coast.

Tweed Heads

Tweed Heads is in New South Wales and is twin town for Coolangatta.

Tweed Heads has the Gold Coast beaches to the north and other beaches to the south such as Kingscliff.

Animal Attractions

Australian Outback Spectacular

Australian Outback Spectacular is an exciting evening dinner show that provides all the excitement of the Australian Outback. The show features wild horses, stampeding cattle and lots of horsemanship with plenty of audience participation. Pacific Motorway between Movie World and Wet'n'Wild (13 33 86).

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary contains one of the world's largest collection of Australian native wildlife and many rare and endangered plant and animal species. Gold Coast Highway, Currumbin.



David Fleay Wildlife Park

Rare and threatened species amongst a backdrop of rainforest with a programme of shows run each day. West Burleigh Road, Burleigh Heads (07 5576 2411).

Olson's Bird Gardens

The maze will appeal to the kids and the lush sub tropical gardens house a collection of birds of the world in landscaped aviaries. 746 Currumbin Road (07 5533 0208).

Superbee Honeyworld

A live bee show where you will be surrounded by over one million live bees. 35 Tomewin Street, Currumbin (07 5598 4548).

Fun Attractions

Adrenalin Park

A collection of adrenalin driven rides including a bungy trampoline, sling shot, fly coaster and more! Gold Coast Highway (southbound), Ferny Avenue (northbound) 07 5539 0474.



Sea World

Sea World is one of the major Gold Coast theme parks. A combination of rides, marine animals and extravagant shows makes for a fun day out for all the family. Sea World Drive (07 5588 2205).

Dreamworld

Dreamworld is one of the four main Gold Coast Theme Parks. Full of adrenaline charged rides and Australian wildlife experience. The big five attractions are some of the tallest, fastest thrill rides in the world: the Thunderbolt rollercoaster; Tower of Terror, Giant drop, Cyclone and Wipeout.

There are 13 "worlds" including World of wildlife: World of Wiggly Fun; World of Nick Fun; World of Leisure and World of Waves. Pacific Highway.

Movie World

Movie World is one of the main Gold Coast theme parks. Movie World has rides and exhibits all based around famous films. Pacific Highway (07 5573 8485).

Wet 'n' Wild

Wet 'n' Wild has attractions all based around water. They range from white-water adventures to hot springs. The surf is always present at the Giant Wave Pool that contains 3 million litres of water. (07 5573 2255).

QI Observation Deck

Travel to the top of the World's tallest residential tower in the World's fastest elevator.

At the top there is a cafe and bar. *Surfers Paradise Boulevard, Gold Coast (07 5630 4700).*

Whitewater World

The latest of the Gold Coast Theme Parks. Try some of the extreme water slides or chill out at the family friendly attractions. The Cave of Waves where you hear Surf God Huey responding to the call for the perfect wave. The Rip goes down Australia's biggest gurgler. Wiggle Bay is where you can make your own wiggly music. Whitewater World is linked to Dreamworld and tickets for both parks are available as one deal. *Dreamworld Parkway, Coomera. (07 5588 1111).*



Draculas

A cabaret restaurant with entertainment and thrills. 1 Hooker Boulevard, Broadbeach (07 5575 1000).

Infinity Attraction

A 30 minute walk through journey into futuristic maze including worlds of wonder overflowing with special effects, spectacular illusions, innovative light shows and sound effects. *Chevron Renaissance, Surfers Paradise (07 5538 2988).*

Ripley's

Tour through twelve individually themed galleries featuring hundreds of unbelievable exhibits and amazing stories. *Ratis Plaza, Cavill Mall, Surfers Paradise. (07 5592 0040).*

The Train Place

A world in miniature, popular with model railway enthusiasts. 3 Orchid Avenue, Surfers Paradise (07 5592 4848).

Space Walker

Space Walker is a 90 minute inter-galactic journey for all those aged 12 and over. Be transported 40,000 light years to Star City Zeta and experience the thrill of zero gravity. Space walk through the planets and across the Milky Way to the edge of the Universe. *Piazza on the Boulevard, Elkhorn Avenue, Surfers Paradise. (07 5585 8100).*

Time Zone

Over 300 games for the whole family. *Level One, Cavill Mall, Surfers Paradise (07 5539 9500).*

Wax Museum

The largest wax museum in the Southern Hemisphere with Chamber of Horrors and models of famous people. *Corner of Elkhorn and Ferney Avenue in Surfers Paradise (07 5538 3975).*

Wild Areas

Burleigh Head National Park

Burleigh Head National Park provides a peaceful haven for wildlife and walkers. Remnants of past volcanic activity, littoral rainforest and reminders of the living culture of the Kombumerri people are protected in this park. The Kombumerri call the headland "Jellurgal".

In spite of its small size, the park is quite diverse, with fringing mangroves along the creek, and windswept tussock grassland, open forest, rainforest and coastal vegetation around the headland. Goodwin Terrace, Burleigh Heads.



Lamington National Park

Rugged mountain scenery, tumbling waterfalls, rainforest, wildflower heaths, tall open forests, picturesque creeks, varied wildlife and some of the best bushwalking in Queensland.

The park's beautiful rainforests include the largest subtropical rainforest remnant in the world and one of the most extensive Antarctic beech cool temperate rainforests in Australia.

Lamington National Park is home to an incredible variety of wildlife including rare and threatened plants and animals such as the Coxen's fig-parrot. An hour from the Gold Coast via either Canungra or Nerang.



Tamborine National Park

Tamborine National Park contains precious remnants of subtropical rainforest and open forest on and around the slopes of the scenic Tamborine Mountain Plateau.

Much of the subtropical rainforest is dominated by the distinctive piccabeen palm.

The unusual cycads *Lepidozamia peroffskyana* growing on the mountain are relics of plants which flourished 150 million years ago.

Tamborine 30 minutes North West of the Gold Coast via the Pacific Highway and Tamborine-Oxenford Road.

Springbrook National Park

Springbrook Plateau is almost 3000ha of rainforest, open forest and montane heath.

More than 100 bird species live in the park and rare and threatened animals like the Richmond birdwing rely on Springbrook's forests for their survival. *Springbrook is 45 minutes from the Gold Coast via Nerang or Mudgeraba.*

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