



THE GOLD COAST: EVERYTHING TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Prepared by:

Noah Schumacher

Abstract

This guide provides a comprehensive introduction to Australia's iconic Gold Coast, offering insights into its captivating beaches, vibrant culture, and diverse attractions. Readers gain valuable knowledge about the region's climate, topography, and key points of interest, ensuring a well-prepared and unforgettable travel experience.



Getting Started

I. City Snapshot

Gold Coast City is Queensland's most southern and is Australia's sixth largest city. The city stretches along the southern coast of Queensland and features 70 kilometres of coastline from South Stradbroke Island in the north, to beautiful Rainbow Bay in the south.

The Gold Coast spans 1,402 square kilometres (approx. 541 square miles) on the Queensland and New South Wales border. Located 100kms south of Brisbane and 900kms north of Sydney, the Gold Coast is the perfect spot to enjoy a romantic getaway or an action packed family holiday with so many exciting things to do.

Gold Coast fast facts

- ✓ Population: 638,090 (ABS 2017)
- ✓ Area: 1,334km²
- ✓ Time Zone: AEST (UTC+10)
- ✓ GRP: \$33.9 billion (Gross Regional Product)

- ✓ Coordinates: 28°01'0"S 153°24'0"E
- ✓ Mean max temp: 25.1 °C
- ✓ Mean min temp: 17.2 °C
- ✓ Annual rainfall: 1,218.2 mm
- ✓ NRL Team: Gold Coast Titans
- ✓ AFL Team: Gold Coast Suns

- **Climate**

The Gold Coast has a sub-tropical climate with plenty of sunshine year round (in fact an average of 300 days a year). Average summer temperatures range from 19 to 29 degrees Celsius (66 to 83 degrees Fahrenheit). Average winter temperatures range from an average of 9 to 21 degrees Celsius (48 to 69 degrees Fahrenheit) - it's no wonder the Gold Coast is Australia's favourite playground. More about Weather on the Gold Coast

- **Environment**

The Gold Coast is the most biologically-diverse city in Australia. Its vegetation ranges from mountain rainforest to coastal wetlands and is home to more than 34 species of amphibians, 323 birds, 72 mammals, 71 reptiles and 25 species of fish.

- **Currency**

Australian currency comes in 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, \$1 and \$2 coin denominations as well as \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 notes which are made from colour coded waterproof plastic. ATMs offer 24 hour access to cash and can generally be found outside bank branches and in major retail areas. You should check with your bank before you arrive to ensure you can access cash this way.

- **Car Rental**

Gold Coast car hire is available with major companies including Avis, Budget, Europcar, Hertz and Thrifty. Most rentals can be picked up at the airport and are generally no older than 8 months, with air conditioning and automatic transmission. You must be at least 21 years of age and have a current driver's license in order to hire a care however an international license is not necessary. Hire A Car now.

- **Surf Clubs**

Surf Clubs are an integral part of the Gold Coast lifestyle as they not only protect and service the beaches, but also offer a great place to hang out, catch up for a drink, enjoy a meal and catch some entertainment while enjoying views of the beach. Some of the biggest and most popular Gold Coast surf clubs can be found at Surfers Paradise, Southport and North Burleigh.

II. Why Go

With over 70 kilometres of glistening coastline, the largest concentration of theme parks in the southern hemisphere, and a thriving arts and culture scene, there's plenty to discover about the Gold Coast.

Whether you want to hit the theme parks in the northern Gold Coast, embrace the slower pace of the southern Gold Coast, catch a wave at Currumbin or Burleigh Heads or escape into nature in the lush Hinterland – the Gold Coast suits every type of traveller.



AWESOME REASONS TO LIVE ON THE GOLD COAST



Here are 8 reasons why we think the Gold Coast is the best place to live in the world.

With glorious beaches, perfect weather and a thriving entertainment and nightlife scene, who wouldn't want to be living on the Gold Coast? While the city is famous for its relaxed beachside lifestyle, there are also numerous world-class educational institutions and promising career opportunities.

01. The beaches + waterways

The thing I love most about the Gold Coast is getting to live by the water. We live on the Broadwater, and I tell myself every day how grateful I am to wake up to that view – the calming water glistening in the early morning sunshine or the sound of the ocean as it gently breaks onto the shore.

No matter where you are up or down the coast, you are practically 15 minutes or less from the deep blue waters and the smell of the sea. That salty air and the cool sea breeze on the back of your neck on a hot summer's day is so deeply ingrained in me.

02. The rolling hinterland

Waterways aside, I think the other main reason I love the Gold Coast is that it's wedged beneath some of our country's most beautiful National Parks. Lush rolling fields and sub-tropical rainforest spill down the mountainside, begging you to come and explore.

As a child, some of my fondest memories are of the adventures we took out to Springbrook or Binna Burra on the weekends. We'd swim in the pure (freezing cold) mountain streams and play in the creek beds for hours.

Today, getting back to nature regularly with my own family – hiking, exploring, lighting a fire and making toasties in the jaffle iron, and settling in for a picnic, brings me so much joy. Honestly, if you haven't taken the time to explore the wonders on our doorstep, you're missing out.

03. The weather

Sizzling summer days come to an end with tropical thunderstorms that roll out before the sun has even had a chance to set, leaving you to enjoy the clear, balmy night that follows.

The weather on the Gold Coast lends itself to the great outdoors all year round, but my favourite season would have to be Spring. Sunny days, still a pleasant 24°C, and cooler nights to snuggle under the covers with loved ones. Ah. There is something about the freshness of the air at this time of year that brings renewed energy.

The winter climate here is glorious too, perfect boating weather if you ask me. The air is dry, the water is like glass, and the average temperature sits at around 20°C. Honestly.

Officially they say the average water temperature at this time of year is 20°C, but personally, I'd still be dragging out the full wetsuit before hitting the surf.

04. The locals

Perhaps what makes the Gold Coast so special is just how open and friendly the people are. How many major cities can boast of having such a down-to-earth culture and genuinely nice population?

Generally speaking, the more urban you get, the more jaded you get, but that sure isn't the case on the Gold Coast. No matter where I go, I'm always greeted with a friendly smile and a welcome hello, out to shopping centres, doing the school drop-off, picking up the mail, it seems the gold coast residents are always up for a chat.

Residents on the Gold Coast are well-educated, cultured, fit, and outdoorsy people that care about city life. It's as if the locals know their home is something special, and so everyone does their bit to keep it that way.

05. Family life

When a city can offer both a work/life balance and a high-paying job, it becomes a very attractive place to bring up a family.

I know Australia has a lot to offer in terms of family-friendly cities, but when you look at the whole package, the Gold Coast is punching well above its weight across a number of areas.

The first of which would have to be affordability. Regardless of what you earn, being able to live comfortably and within your means will set your family on the right path to enjoying the Gold Coast lifestyle. Imagine living in a waterfront home in a great location for under a million dollars – it's the stuff dreams are made of.

All parents share a common ground in that we want the best education we can afford for our children. The Gold Coast has a selection of high-performing private schools, Catholic schools, and state schools to choose from as well as three Universities.

For the younger ones, there's no shortage of great kindergarten or daycare centres if you're looking to secure a place too.

Living in the Gold Coast city is safe. Crime rates are low (contrary to what you might hear in the media). We have modern medical facilities, a new tertiary public hospital and a new private hospital right next door to it.

Public transport is well planned, the roads are safe, and the commute is easy. We have a proactive Gold Coast city council working hard to maintain and develop our beautiful city and the facilities it affords – libraries, parks, playgrounds, and community activities.

The city is culturally diverse. You can enjoy a show or exhibition at the arts centre. Explore the many markets and street food precincts popping up all over the place.

We have a nurturing and competitive sporting community operating out of world-class training facilities (thank you, Commonwealth Games), and of course, the Gold Coast also serves up a huge selection of fun outdoor activities for everyone. Enjoy the world-class theme parks all year round. Join a surf club and get the kids into nippers.

Spend your days at the beach. Go paddle-boarding at Currumbin Creek. Drop a line in off your jetty or take the tinny out crabbing in the Broadwater. Explore the southern waterways or anchor up at Tipplers or Jumping Pin for the day.

06. Laid-back coffee and dining scene

Don't feel like dressing up to go out for brunch? Who says you have to? Throw on a kaftan and thongs, grab your bag and go (and pack a towel and togs in case you have time for a quick swim while you're out!).

The Gold Coast living environment is so laid back that anything goes, and there are so many great coffee nooks to choose from up and down the coast.

That said, when you do want to dress up and hit the town, you can. You'll find many classy bars, hip eateries, and fine dining restaurants at Burleigh, Nobby's, Mermaid, and Broadbeach.

If you're on the northern end of the coast, there are a few worth dropping into at Marina Mirage, Surfers Paradise Point, Hope Island, and Sanctuary Cove too.

07. Startup culture

The city's highly desirable location, lower average wages, and affordable property market make the Gold Coast a great place to base a business.

Look to the skies, and you'll quickly see how fast the Gold Coast is growing. The cranes may be back in a big way, but it's the sheer number of businesses and the depth of the economy that makes the city such an attractive place to invest or set up shop.

While the Gold Coast is not yet established as a business location like other major cities, it does have significant potential for growth. An increase in population will bring an increase in the demand for services making the Gold Coast fertile ground for new entrepreneurs and small to medium enterprises to capitalise on.

The Gold Coast is also becoming a centre of excellence for skilled labour, thanks to an influential university sector that is building a knowledge base in the region that will boost the business sector going forward.

There is so much opportunity for entrepreneurs and dynamic small businesses to excel within the Gold Coast's growing business community. If you have something valuable to offer the city – we need you. And we want you. It's time to step up to a better life.

08. Big city perks

Brisbane City is less than an hour away. That means big-city perks without the rush hour. Catch a headlining show at the theatre, see your favourite rock band live in concert, or, depending on the season, get your live sporting

fix at the footie, cricket or tennis.

Can't find the perfect outfit, homeware, or piece of furniture? No worries head into the city for a day of shopping; it's that easy!

If you're looking into buying a Gold Coast property, talk to us, and we'll walk you through the process and what's possible given the current market conditions.

III. When To Go

The Gold Coast is blessed with 300 days of sunshine a year.

During summer the average temperature is a pleasant 21 – 28.4°C (69.8 – 83.1°F), while in winter the Gold Coast is generally sunny and dry with average temperatures between 12.5 – 21.5°C (54.5 – 70.7°F). The lush surroundings of the Gold Coast Hinterland dip slightly cooler with maximum winter temperatures around 16°C (60.8°F) with clear skies and dry air average cool nights.

If you want to see the Goldie turn it on, time your visit when the Gold Coast plays backdrop to a large variety of sport, endurance and entertainment events, including the Corona Open Gold Coast and iconic Magic Millions Carnival.

IV. What To Do There



Discover the world-famous coastal region of Queensland with our guide to the best things to do on the Gold Coast

Whether you're in the mood for relaxation, exploration or partying, the top things to do on the Gold Coast have you covered. With its golden sands and laid-back holiday vibe, the Gold Coast has always been a favourite destination for those seeking a relaxed seaside escape. However, this famous

Queensland holiday spot offers more than a day at the beach. With its rich Indigenous heritage, vibrant markets, heart-pumping adrenaline activities and thriving live music scene, there is plenty to keep you entertained along the coastal strip. For a change of pace, head to the naturally beautiful Gold Coast hinterland where you'll find an oasis of calm and stunning scenery. Bring your swimsuit and your sense of adventure. It's time to discover a different side of the Gold Coast.

1. Twilight climb at Q1

What is it? Australia's highest external building walk.

Why go? Swap the beach for the clouds atop the Gold Coast skyscraper Q1 and watch the sunset on a twilight climb. After a safety briefing you'll put on a sturdy harness and head outside to climb the stairs to the top of Q1 and marvel at jaw-dropping ocean views as the sun sets.

2. Jet Boat Extreme

What is it? Hold onto your hats – this is a thrilling jetboating trip which leaves from Surfers Paradise.

Why go? Get your heart racing with an adrenaline-packed hour spent zipping around sandbars and zooming past pelicans. Hang on tight as the driver cuts across the wake from larger boats, teasing the wheel so the jetboat dances across the waves.

3. Jellurgal Aboriginal Cultural Centre

What is it? The opportunity to explore Burleigh Head National Park with an Indigenous guide.

Why go? To connect with the Gold Coast's rich Indigenous culture. You'll walk the tracks of the cool rainforest with a guide, and hear one of the Gold Coast's oldest Dreamtime stories as you learn more about the traditional sites used by the Yugambeh people.

4. Whale watching cruise

What is it? A chance to see the gentle marine mammals from a boat, available from June to November.

Why go? The Gold Coast has one of Australia's longest whale watching seasons and offers the chance to see humpback whales and even the occasional orca whale if you're lucky. Dolphins, flying fish, turtles and sharks are also spotted regularly during this scenic boat tour.

5. O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat

What is it? A historic guesthouse located in the heart of Lamington National Park.

Why go? Lamington National Park is a natural wonderland filled with walking trails and jewel-bright native Australian birds. Don't miss the free treetop canopy walk which has a 30-metre-high observation deck.

6. Surf lesson

What is it? An award-winning surf school on the Gold Coast.

Why go? The Gold Coast is famous for surfing so you would be crazy not to try it at least once. It's a fun atmosphere as everyone practices their surf moves on the beach before the instructors charge into the water with the class to help everyone learn how to hang ten. Wetsuit, on.

7. Brewery tour with Burleigh Brewery Co.

What is it? A fascinating (and tasty) tour of one of the Gold Coast's most famous craft breweries.

Why go? Explore the boutique Burleigh Brewery Co. with a brew master to learn the tricks of the trade, and drink beers with the guy who created them. You'll sample four of their most popular beers.

8. Mount Tamborine

What is it? A day trip to the picturesque Gold Coast hinterland.

Why? Mt Tamborine is an easy 40-minute drive from the Gold Coast but feels like a world away. Galleries and cafés line the cute main street, and Queensland's oldest national park, (Tamborine Mountain National Park) offers impressive views of the distant Pacific Ocean.

9. Yoga class by the beach

What is it? Free yoga classes available throughout the Gold Coast.

Why go? Kick off your morning with some downward-facing dog by the water, with ocean waves providing a soothing natural soundtrack. These free classes are part of the Gold Coast City Council's 'Active and Healthy' programme.

10. Surf World Gold Coast

What is it? A museum that's home to Australia's largest surfboard collection and loads of other surfing-based objects of interest.

Why go? Surf World Gold Coast celebrates the history of surfing and its impact on popular culture with an impressive array of boards, trophies, photographs, clothing and other memorabilia. Exhibitions and events frequently change so you'll never get bored. Plus, the terrific gift shop is ideal for those seeking a souvenir that's a little different.

V. Things to know when Relocating to Australia's Gold Coast

The Australian Gold Coast offers an excellent quality of life with a wide variety of flora and fauna, an abundance of restaurants and public amenities, and plenty of outdoor spaces. Expats moving to the Gold Coast will find its young, vibrant atmosphere and international culture to be invigorating in its diversity.



Located in Queensland, approximately 66 kilometres (41 mi) south of the state capital Brisbane, the Gold Coast is Australia's sixth-largest city. The Gold Coast region only gained its name in the 1940s as it was once popularly known as the Australian South Coast – a popular vacation spot for returning World War II soldiers at the time.

The Gold Coast covers around 414 square km (160.0 sq mi) with a 70 kilometre (43 mi) coastline that stretches from Rainbow Bay to South Stradbroke Island, and with 35% of its residents being immigrants, it is also Australia's most culturally diverse city.

The Climate

The Gold Coast, Australia has earned glowing recommendations because of its almost perfect climate. Moving to the Gold coast means having more than enough sunshine for pleasant outdoor activities and a first-class view of the most beautiful thunderstorm displays you'll ever see. Although things can get scorching during the December to January summer cycle, the temperature rarely reaches uncomfortable levels, and rainfall is regular.

The Education

The Gold Coast offers wide-ranging options for schooling, ranging from prestigious private schools to public ones. While public schools are free and open to everyone, public schools charge annual fees and are often more exclusive and prestigious.

The Job Market

The most popular job opportunities available for people relocating to the Gold coast are hospitality, sales, and retail jobs. This is because of the massive tourism and hospitality industry there. Another popular option is working in building and construction, especially with the new housing trend of building estates that are appearing all over the region to cater to baby boomers.

The Suburbs

Within the regions of southeast Queensland, the Gold Coast comprises of several towns, suburbs, and rural districts.

Here's a quick summary of Gold Coast suburbs from North to South:

- ✓ Paradise Point, Labrador, and Runaway Bay are famous residential Northern suburbs.
- ✓ Southport contains an array of reputable industries, businesses, hospitals, shops, and offices that make it an incredible commercial hub.
- ✓ Main Beach is one for the elite and classy, with several resorts and high-rise buildings.
- ✓ Surfers Paradise is rightly one of the most popular commercial centres on the Gold Coast, with many accommodations and sights.

- ✓ Broadbeach is a popular tourist suburb with a casino, two shopping complexes, and several restaurants and high-rise buildings.
- ✓ Mermaid Beach and Miami have a few low-rises local restaurants and motels beside the highway.
- ✓ Palm Beach is primarily a residential suburb.
- ✓ Bilinga, Currumbin, and Tugun are relatively close to the airport and motorway.
- ✓ Coolangatta, Kirra, and Tweed Heads can be considered an important part of the southern end with a numerous high-rise apartment, a small entertainment area, and a shopping area.
- ✓ Burleigh Heads has beaches in this suburb that are relatively popular among local families and surfers.

Get to Know Burleigh Heads

A popular suburb of Gold Coast, Burleigh Heads 4220 is densely populated and well-known for surfing and natural beauty. The region's lush greenery can be soaked up by exploring the Burleigh Heads National Park, which welcomes travellers and locals with the canopy of mangroves and rainforest. Beach lovers can catch the sunset at the coastline or go to Tallebudgera Creek for fun times with family. The suburb has many surf schools for adventure lovers who want to ride the waves on their boards. You can even catch a glimpse of migrating whales while touring Burleigh Heads and enjoy watching a wide range of flora and fauna, including Koalas, flying foxes and gliders.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN RELOCATING TO THE GOLD COAST

- ✓ Affordability: For Australia the cost of living is average.
- ✓ Safety: The crime rate is not significantly higher than the Australian average, so it is a safe place to live.
- ✓ Healthcare: Health care is usually provided by public and private organizations or insurance providers.
- ✓ Traffic: It has light traffic and only gets busy at peak periods (7 am to 9 am, 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm) and on Friday afternoons.

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