

Travel Guide to Exploring the Gold Coast



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Abstract

Exploring the Gold Coast is a journey filled with enchantment and adventure. This vibrant city in Queensland, Australia, beckons travelers with its irresistible charm, offering a plethora of experiences to indulge in. The Gold Coast's crown jewels are its golden beaches, stretching as far as the eye can see, inviting sun-seekers and surf enthusiasts to bask in the warmth of the sun and ride the waves. Beyond the shores lie captivating adventure islands, waiting to be explored for their hidden treasures and thrilling escapades. For history enthusiasts, the city's heritage buildings stand tall, narrating tales of a bygone era.



1. Introduction

Gold Coast is a beautiful destination for the tourists who are planning to explore the Queensland region of Australia. The culinary scene is an explosion of flavors, with world-class restaurants and local eateries serving delectable delights from around the globe. Embracing the natural beauty, the Gold Coast boasts lush rainforests, cascading waterfalls, and majestic mountains, offering solace and tranquility to those seeking respite from the hustle and bustle. Whether you're an adrenaline junkie, a nature lover, or a leisure seeker, the Gold Coast presents a dazzling array of attractions and experiences, leaving visitors mesmerized and eager for more. Here in this guide, you will learn about the best things that you can enjoy in Gold Coast.

2. Reasons to visit Australia's Gold Coast

No longer is the Gold Coast just geared to theme park-loving families and overseas sunseekers. Hip cutting-edge cuisine, breweries and cool markets are now synonymous with

GC, as well as new luxury hotel. If you planning a visit here's 5 ways to ensure you have a cool weekend away.



1. HANG OUT AND DINE WITH THE A-LIST

Want to spot a star? Just visit one of the renowned restaurants on the GC. It's truly a foodie mecca. Book in for the five-course tasting menu at Little Truffle at Mermaid Beach—it's said Hugh Jackman enjoys dining here. Meanwhile, over in Broadbeach grab some brekkie and a coffee at Elk Espresso, which recently moved from its original premises to the Oasis Shopping Centre—we know Orlando Bloom was a regular when he was on the GC. During a stay on the Gold Coast Blake Lively had the best coffee of her life at No Name Lane, also in Broadbeach. "I have to say it on record, the cappuccinos were amazing but the cold brew— Oh, my gosh," the star revealed on a radio show.

2. SHOP MARVELLOUS MARKETS

There's good reason why Miami Marketta is so lauded. It's here that you can sample exceptional street food, including Mexican, Japanese, Greek and vegetarian, and then shop for fashion, have a drink and watch live entertainment.

Want more market action? Time your GC stay for the 1st or 3rd Sunday of the month to check out some of Australia's best emerging designers at the Village Markets. Held in Burleigh Heads, there's also vintage clothing to rummage through, pop-ups and handcrafted furniture.

3. HAVE A SIX-STAR STAY

Want to be treated like royalty with butler service, pampering, and rooftop restaurant and bar offering vistas across the coast? Book into one of the 57 brand-new luxury suites at The Darling, part of the new look Star Gold Coast. The highlight? The infinity pool perched 67

metres above ground and five metres beyond the side of the tower. The refurbished Star Grand is also on site. star.com.au/goldcoast

4. EXPERIENCE ARTS AND CRAFT BREWERIES

Currumbin is known for its (impressive) wildlife sanctuary. But now it's so much more. What used to be an industrial estate in Currumbin has been transformed into a haven for hipsters. First stop needs to be a brew tasting at Balter Brewing Company. The brainchild of recently retired pro-surfer Mick Fanning and his mates, here the vibe is laid-back and the beer delicious. Afterwards head to view galleries and listen to live music at Dust Temple, a creative space where you can also grab a coffee.

5. SLOW DOWN AND GET BACK TO NATURE

What's a trip to the Gold Coast without a walk along that famous stretch of sand? There is in fact 57 kilometres of beach to discover with some of the best surf breaks, including Kelly Slater's fave, Kirra, and Greenmount Point. And just beyond the highrises, restaurants and cafes is world heritage-listed rainforest, so finish your day with a stroll through the hinterland of Lamington National Park or Springbrook National Park to view tumbling waterfalls and colourful birdlife.

3. Top 10 Attractions To Visit In Gold Coast



Gold Coast is one of the most thriving cities to explore. From golden beaches to adventure islands, heritage buildings and unbeatable culinary delights, this mesmerising city of Queensland offer everything for everyone.

There is no denying that the Gold Coast is a tourism hub of Australia. People worldwide visit this place to explore 10 key attractions, including beaches, wildlife sanctuary, waterfall and mountains, theme parks and much more.

Furthermore, families across the country are moving to this vibrant city with the help of the best Removalists Gold Coast. It is an ideal place to live, work and raise a family because of the affordable cost of living. According to stats, the monthly costs for a family of four are estimated at \$ 3,396 without rent.

If you are relocating home or planning to visit Gold Coast, read this guide and discover the city's 10 most promising attractions or tourism spots.

Gold Coast: Australia's Most Famous Vacation Destination



With more than 4.2 million visitors a year, the city has become one of Australia's most popular vacation spots. The region offers long-stretched surfing beaches, world-renowned buildings, a hinterland, natural wonders, and so on.

Whether you love adventurous water sports activities or want to explore the biodiversity of wildlife, this place is perfect for youngsters, couples, working professionals and children. It is one of the most happening cities, and that's why everyone loves it.

10 Best Attractions To Visit In Gold Coast

1. Surfers Paradise Beach: A Perfect Place for Surfers & Swimmers

This three-kilometre-stretched golden beach is one of Australia's most popular tourist destinations. It receives millions of local and international tourists every year- thanks to a perfect blend of vibrant elements and peaceful shores.

Located in the most developed suburbs of Gold Coast, Surfers Paradise beach makes an ideal destination for surfers, swimmers and other water sports lovers.

You can bring your kids; they can splash in the water or play on the stretched golden sand. It also has beautiful cafes, restaurants and local shops to attract tourists.

Have a look at key amenities and activities that you can enjoy while visiting Surfers Paradise Beach:

- Experience Kayaking and Canoeing
- Fishing
- Surfing and Swimming
- Enjoy Barbeque
- Access to Public toilets
- Nearby shops and restaurants
- Easy to find accommodations

If you want to ride a wave, you must visit this beautiful beach which is located in Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast Area, Queensland 4217.

2. Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary: A Fun Place for Families

Delve your kids or the entire family into the natural beauty and wonder of 27 hectares of Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. It is Gold Coast's most alluring place where you can feed kangaroos, cuddle koalas, walk into the wooden pathways, explore lush-green ambience and much more.

This place lets you experience different species of animals, lorikeet feeding, aboriginal performances and free-flight bird shows. There is also a spacious themed playground, Wild Island and various other entertainment options for kids. They can also take a tour of the sanctuary on a miniature train. You can also know other interesting facts about the Gold Coast when moving house.

Key Highlights

It is a Not-for-profit organisation that preserves the wildlife of Gold Coast

Visit the exotic prescient, called Lost Valley, featuring five hectares of beautiful rainforest

Explore flora and wildlife, such as Red pandas, Capybaras, exotic reptiles, Kolas, etc

- Enjoy Koala Cuddles
- Cafes
- Hiking, Walks and bird watching activities

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is located on the Gold Coast Highway, Currumbin, Gold Coast, QLD 4223.

3. Dreamworld: Australia's Biggest Theme Park



Nestled on the Gold Coast, Dreamworld is country's biggest theme park that has more than 40 rides and other key attractions. It is a fun and adventurous spot for families with kids, teenagers and youngsters.

From The Claw and Pandamonium to Sky Voyager and Dreamworld Express, this place offers a complete package that you can experience to relieve stress and anxiety.

You can take your kids to this theme park after relocating to this beautiful city with the assistance of reliable Removalists Gold Coast.

Key Attractions:

- Five Massive Roller Coasters
- ABC Kids World and Corroboree to explore about Indigenous Australian Culture
- Water-themed Sea World
- Come Closer to Wildlife
- Special Shows for Kids
- Food and Drinks
- Family rides

Location: Coomera, Gold Coast, QLD 429, Australia

4. SkyPoint: Country's Tallest Residential Tower



Gold Coast is best known for its tallest residential tower, SkyPoint. It offers breathtaking views of the entire city. The SkyPoint Observation Deck on level 77 lets you view 360-degree panoramas of the Gold Coast, the beautiful hinterland and the sea.

If you want to take an adventure to the next level, go for the SkyPoint Climb. It is where you can clamber upon a 270-meter-high platform nestled about the city. You have a cup of coffee at the observation deck, experience high climbs and explore mesmerising city's view.

Location: Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast, QLD 4217, Australia

5. Coolangatta Beach: The End Point of Gold Coast

Located close to the NSW state border, Coolangatta Beach is a peaceful tourist spot in Queensland. You can spend an entire day on the sun-soaked sands and enjoy a glass of wine with your loved ones.

It is one of the best things to do in this city for free. You can also explore the beauty of the Coolangatta suburb and visit local markets, cafes, and restaurants.

Bring your kids to play and splash along the shores under the lifeguard's supervision. You can also enjoy swimming, surfing and other activities. This is a popular destination to stroll in during the winter season, as you can discover dolphins and whales.

If you are moving to this beautiful city, find the best time to start your move so that you can stay organised throughout the process.

Location: It is in the Southern part of Queensland, Australia

6. Tamborine Mountain: Discover Beautiful Landscapes

This mesmerising and breathtaking tourist site has a rich history. It is home to the most fertile land in QLD. It has beautiful national parks, rainforests, wine and food experiences, and much more. It sits in the Gold Coast Hinterland in QLD's Scenic Rim Region.

The panoramic views from the top of a lofty plateau allow you to see waterfalls, lush-green areas, etc. It also has art galleries, gourmet restaurants, B&Bs, walking tracks, Glow Worm caves, wineries and country markets.

Location: South East of Queensland

7. Sea World: A Largest Marine Park in Australia

It is a must-visit tourism destination for young and older people worldwide. From Jet-Ski stunts to dolphins and sea lions, Sea World has everything to keep you entertained. Some of the other highlights are:

- Penguin Feeding
- Polar Bears
- Explore marine life, such as ray, shark and fish exhibitions
- Sea-themed rides
- Great overview of the park on a monorail

Location: Main Beach, QLD 4217, Australia

8. Springbrook National Park : UNESCO- Listed Site



Beyond theme parks, surf and entertainment hubs, Gold Coast also offers a spacious hinterland that provides lush rainforests. Springbrook National Park is Unesco-listed World Heritage site that offers a dense forest.

You can also explore a rich diversity of bird life, exotic animals, and the Natural Bridge Cave and waterfall.

Location: Old School Road, Springbrook QLD 4213, Australia

9. Lamington National Park: Come Closer to the Nature

This is also a World Heritage-listed national park which is known for its lush rainforests, beautiful views, old trees, walking tracks and biodiversity of wildlife.

You can explore waterfalls, eye-catching green views, exotic birds and animals, and more. There is also a guesthouse and spa where you can enjoy your meal as well. It is a perfect retreat if you love Nature.

10. Warner Bros Movie World: Known for Thrilling Rides

It is a perfect place for kids and teens. You can plan a day at this theme park and meet your favourite superheroes, see stunt shows, explore fantasylands, ride roller coasters and much more.

If you love adventure, this is a must-visit place as it has some scary rides. For kids, there is a Fun Zone.

You can plan your visit after relocating your home to Gold Coast. Good removalists Gold Coast can help you unpack your house and save you time and energy. You can calculate the average house removals cost for an affordable experience.

4. Free things to do on the Gold Coast



There have been about 53 public holidays of late, meaning more time for activities and more money going out of your wallet. Meanwhile, the sun is shining (most of the time) and it's almost summer, so there are still plenty of good times to be had.

Thankfully we have the answer, FREE THINGS TO DO on the Gold Coast. They do say the best things in life are free!

Bike crawl to Burleigh

There are many sweet spots to cruise along on the Gold Coast. Start at Kurrawa Park in Broadbeach and head south to the hill at Burleigh Heads. You'll mostly be on the Esplanades but there are bike lanes on the roads for max safety. Wear your helmet.

Sunset at Burleigh Hill

Everybody's favourite picnic spot. Roll out a blanket and kick up your heels for one of the best sunset views on the Gold Coast. People watching is at an all-time high here too if that's your thing. Take some sport-related things to throw/kick and join in with the rest of the revelers.

Cruise through the markets



The Coast is home to lots of epic markets including beachside ones at Surfers Paradise, Coolangatta and Broadbeach, the ever-popular Village Markets at Burleigh Heads State School every second Sunday and the HOTA markets every Sunday. So many goodies.

Stroll through the national park

We are lucky enough to boast some of the most beautiful natural landscapes in the world (if we do say so ourselves). Take a stroll over Burleigh Hill through the national park and around to Tallebudgera Creek and then return on the Oceanview path. Make sure to keep an eye out for breaching whales.

Paddle in Tallebudgera Creek

The water in Talle Creek is all of the absolutely stunning shades of blue and green and it's truly a sight to behold. Swim out into the middle, float around on your back and think about how lucky you are to experience it.

Check out The Spit

Main Beach is home to a spot called The Spit which is home to a dog beach and a sweet pier-style situation so you can both make lots of hairy new friends and take some sweet snaps to remember it all.

Feed the birds



Okay, so this one is almost free but well worth the gold coin donation. Head to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and feed the hundreds of lorikeets who gather there twice a day (8am and 4pm). They're beautiful and loud and it's an amazing experience.

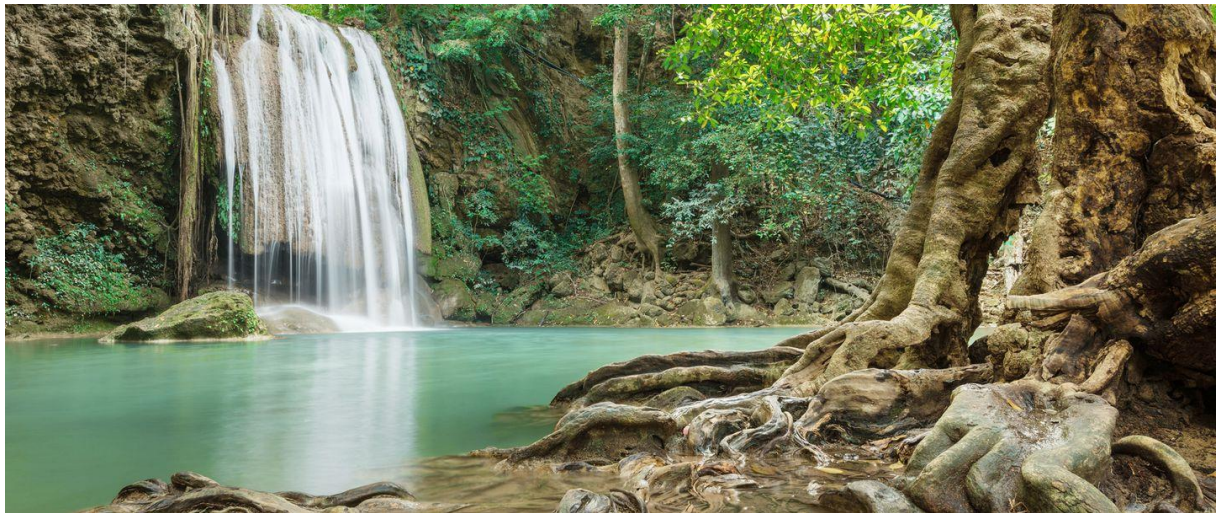
Splash at Currumbin Rock Pools

Just a short drive from Currumbin are the Currumbin Rock Pools, complete with a jumping rock and little waterfalls to splash around in. It can get busy but it's a relaxing spot to spend an afternoon.

Take a hike

Actually. There are TONS of hikes you can take around the Gold Coast from short little easy ones (yes please) to more challenging, mountainous ones and all with absolutely stunning views and lots of natural goodness to soak up.

Swim in a waterfall



Also just a short drive from Currumbin are Cougal Cascades, a collection of beautiful waterfalls you can swim under and take pretty pics of. You can also laze about in the rock pools and slide down the rocks themselves. It's a delight. There are plenty more around too.

Slide into a playground

The Gold Coast is home to many epic playgrounds for kids. Most of them have tables and BBQ facilities, so pack an esky and make a day of it. The perennially popular Pirate Park in Palm Beach has just had an upgrade and it's now bigger than ever. Other unmissable parks include Bim'bimba Park, Pimpama, named the 2020 Best New Park in Queensland and the new Broadwater Parklands North with a 5 storey slide!

Find the frog

Down south a little further, there's a stunning walk around the ocean from Coolangatta to Snapper Rocks. Go in search of the big green frog on your way, he's overlooking a secluded little beach called Froggies (for obvious reasons).

Gaze at local art

The Gold Coast is home to several art galleries showcasing our talented local artists plus, of course, some from further afield. Find 19 Karen in Mermaid Beach, Dust Temple in Currumbin and the impressive contemporary HOTA Gallery in Bundall. Grab your Nikes, a LIME bike, skateboard, scooter, or your choice of wheels and hit the trail of the Gold Coast's best street art with Art Roll. Their easy-to-navigate maps will have you rolling to the best street art by suburb.

Frolic on the beach

We're lucky enough to be home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. From Surfers Paradise to Snapper Rocks, the options are endless and each one more beautiful than the last. Don't forget water and sunscreen of course, that Gold Coast sun is unrelenting.

Make your way up the mountain

Mt Tamborine is only a 40 minute drive from the Coast and the views from up there are next-level. Not only that, there are more beautiful walks than you can poke a stick at, waterfalls and the main street is a sight to behold in itself. Plenty of shops to scope out if you've got some spare change too.

5. Best Gold Coast Accommodation To Book



The Gold Coast punches well above its weight when it comes to dishing up top-tier accommodation, but don't just take our word for it—it's time you spent a weekend in our pocket of paradise. Whether you're here for a vacay or just a relaxing staycay you'll need a place to rest your head.

We've done the hard work and slept around, so we guarantee the best Gold Coast accommodation will have you whipping out your credit card ASAP and stocking up on the essentials. And by essentials, we mean wine, lots of wine. Here's just a snapshot of 12 of the Gold Coast's best accommodation in 2023—check out the full accommodation lists below.

Best Hotels & Motels On The Gold Coast

qtQT Cabins

Surfers Paradise

The Gold Coast's newest accommodation experience has just been unveiled and to say it's unique is an understatement. qtQT is a one-of-a-kind stay experience; an open-air, rooftop urban oasis hidden in the heart of Surfers Paradise with six luxury cabins which will make you feel like you've been whisked away to a tropical sanctuary. Sounds mysterious? It is.

The intimate qtQT cabins each feature a private balcony, ultra-luxe amenities and can accommodate two guests, all set within a lush green oasis. qtQT sets itself leagues apart from other Gold Coast accommodation with its curated experiences—you're not just staying in a hotel, you're designing your dream stay. Your personal 'Curator of Sunshine' will help you design your perfect retreat, with bespoke activities including the likes of rooftop yoga, sushi making and whisky tasting at Yamagen, and an exclusive SpaQ package.

Blue Water Motel

Kingscliff



Just steps from Kingscliff Beach, Blue Water Motel is a stunning new-look boutique motel which we've already fallen in love with. Inspired by the laid-back, relaxed vibe of Kingscliff and with just a touch of retro cool, this 60's style boutique motel is a like luxury stay, without the premium price tag.

Home to 17 uniquely designed rooms, Blue Water Motel also boasts a saltwater swimming pool, bike hire and it's dog friendly, so no one has to miss out. This re-imagined nostalgic motel is casual, cool, and is the exactly where you want to be for your next family getaway, romantic trip, or honestly, any holiday. Once you venture inside, you'll feel the relaxing vibes wash over you, and you might just never want to leave.

The Pink Hotel

Coolangatta

If the 'gram-worthy factor rates highly on your list of pros when looking for Gold Coast accomodation, then we've found the ultimate digs for you. Located on uber-cool Cooly beach, you can't miss this candy-pink hue hotel. The Pink Hotel boasts 17 stunning rooms, six of which are luxury suites each with its own identity. They're a mix of rockstar and retro-chic with a subtle touch of Scandi. Expect bright pops of colour mixed with dusty jewel tones.

There's fur throws, velvet rugs, custom neon-lit poetry by Coco Loberg and Smeg fridges stocked with Young Henry's beers. When you're ready to catch some rays, head on upstairs to the rooftop where cabana beds await you, oh and some of the most incredible views of the coastline. Thirsty? Their rooftop bar Santeria will keep you refreshed with cocktails aplenty. Our top pick for the Gold Coast's most Instagrammable hotel.

JW Marriott Resort

Surfers Paradise

JW Marriott in Surfers Paradise undertook massive renovations in 2020—\$35 million dollars' worth to be exact. So what does a \$35 million-dollars refurbishment look like? Well, we're talking a total refresh of the 223 rooms and suites, as well as the Marriott's two original restaurants, the lobby lounge and bar and pool bar.

JW Marriott's signature teppanyaki restaurant, Misono, showcases Japanese-inspired dining experiences, including an intimate izakaya, tearoom, sushi bar and a Japanese whisky bar with a stunning new outdoor terrace—we'll happily confirm that sipping Japanese whiskey while staring out into a Surfers Paradise sunset never gets old. Citrique, the Marriott's main restaurant, now features a new interactive show kitchen, placing locally sourced produce and seafood at the heart of its sublime daily menu. Stop the search for one of the Gold Coast's top hotels, 'cause you've found it.

Q1 Resort & Spa

Surfers Paradise



If you're going to holiday in Surfers, you might as well go big, and it doesn't get much bigger than the iconic—and 230 metre high—Q1 Resort & Spa. Australia's tallest residential tower boasts state-of-the-art, self-contained apartments, capturing breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean, the sparkling lights of the city and the lush green of the hinterland.

Level up the luxury and unwind at one of their three swimming pools, or indulge at the award-winning day spa. Hungry? They've got you covered there too with Osaka Kaiten for high-end Japanese cuisine or the Seventy7 Cafe for memorable sky-high dining. If you're feeling adventurous, conquer the Skypoint Observation Deck Climb, which is Australia's highest external building climb and boasts 360-degree panoramic views from a staggering 270 metres above sea level.

Best Luxury Hotels On The Gold Coast

The Langham Gold Coast

Surfers Paradise

The Langham towers high like a shining spire as the tallest of the three eye-catching Jewel Towers in Surfers Paradise. Boasting 17 different types of elegant rooms and suites, direct beachfront access, panoramic ocean views and stunning Hinterland views, The Langham, Gold Coast offers an unprecedented level of five-star accommodation on the Gold Coast.

The grand 339-room luxury destination is also the first hotel with direct beachfront access to be built on the Gold Coast in more than 30 years. The Langham is home to grandeur facilities

including a lagoon-style beachfront pool with a swim-up pool bar and spa, a holistic Chinese medicine-inspired wellness spa, a state-of-the-art health club and six dining and bar venues.

Dorsett Gold Coast

Broadbeach

Dorsett Gold Coast is Australia's first Dorsett hotel, so when it opened its doors in December 2021, it's safe to say it made a splash. Located within The Star, the stylish Dorsett boasts 313 chic hotel rooms all decked out with top-of-the-range appliances, sweeping coastline, ocean and Hinterland views and king beds in every room. If you don't get excited about a king bed, you need to rethink your priorities.

While the rooms are certainly impressive, it's Dorsett's hotel features and location that secures it as one of the Gold Coast's best hotels. You'll have exclusive access to Isoletto Pool Club, a heated 12-metre rooftop infinity pool, direct connection to The Star and all its venues and the hotel's Level 19 Executive VIP Lounge. We love that all of the hotel's impressive artworks are designed by Gold Coast locals. Book in at one of the Gold Coast's best luxury hotels and we promise you'll be back again...and again.

The Darling

Broadbeach



A pretty special place worth saving your pennies for and treating a darling in your life, this hotel is luxury at its finest, boasting six fanciful stars. The Darling is located at the front of The Star Gold Coast, 17 stories high in the sky, right in the heart of Broadbeach. Get this—

the deluxe suites have the choice of billiard rooms, a karaoke room or a private gym plus a butler.

As if you wouldn't already be feeling pretty lucky to be staying here, there is a bridge adjoining the hotel to the casino. The infinity pool is also worth a special mention because it juts out 5 metres from the side of the building and is 67 metres above the ground with spectacular views of the coastline. You won't have to leave your perch in the sky with Nineteen at The Star proving a delight to your senses, and most importantly, those taste buds. A stay here should be added to your wish list. Dreams are free right?

Best Airbnbs On The Gold Coast

Stargazer

Beechmont

If you want to fall asleep under the stars but in the comfort and warmth of a bed, Stargazer house has you covered. The house's glass ceilings make stargazing possible from rooms all over the house and glass walls make watching the sunset possible from the bathtub.

Apart from the stunning glass ceilings and walls, there's an outdoor fireplace, entertainment deck and a pizza oven. Yes, a pizza oven, you read that correctly. Enjoy the views of rolling hills and ridges and the starry night sky with a woodfired slice of pizza in hand—it's the only right way to do it.

The Mermaid Quarters

Mermaid Beach



Spoiler alert: The Mermaid Quarters has a private heated pool and is situated a stone's throw from the ocean's shore. Decked out in stunning aqua and turquoise tones, this idyllic space is hands down one of the best beach houses on the Gold Coast for a Mermaid Beach escape.

Think—seaside home with a massive cubby house. The 1960s-styled abode features bunks for the kids while the adults drink and dine on the patio. A mere stroll to Bam Bam bakehouse, The Mermaid Quarters is nothing short of a beachside paradise.

Avalon Abode

Currumbin

From the creators of Trader Trove homewares store in Miami, this luxury holiday rental is dream home goals. The stylish space is newly renovated with high ceilings, double-glazed windows, a soothing colour palette and strolling distance to one of the Gold Coast's best beaches.

At Avalon Abode you will feel at home, away from home, on your holiday with all the special touches making it a stress-free stay, from complimentary tea, Nespresso coffee machine, beer, wine, toiletries and Netflix. You won't need to fight over who gets the big bedroom either, as there are two master bedrooms in this indulgent abode. After a stay here, you might get a little inspired and head to Trader Trove to pick up some rattan and rustic furniture to take home with you.

Best Glamping Spots On The Gold Coast

Nightfall

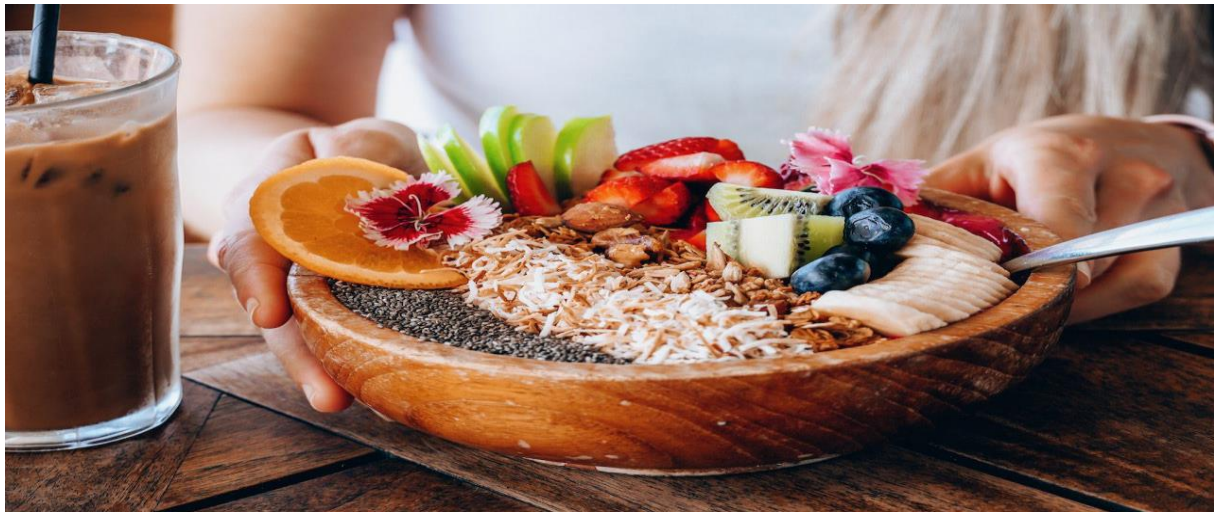
Lamington National Park

If you're looking for a truly luxurious glamping experience close to home, Nightfall Glamping has nailed glamping with the perfect combination of secluded wilderness and wholesome luxuries. In summer, you can open your canvas walls (don't worry, there's still mesh for the bugs) to relish in the surrounding rainforests.

While in winter you can keep it intimately closed, spending your eves relaxing in the free-standing bath or curling up around the fireplace. Next, there are the finer details of each tent—elements like hand-carved stone basins, smooth wire-brushed timber floors, and lush organic bedding elevate luxury to new and lofty heights. If you want to go next-level luxury glamping, you can opt for organic catering which basically means more time to enjoy the private natural spa pools, lazy hammocks, explorations into the tangled forest, or—wait for it—an outdoor massage by the creek.

Of course, now you've found somewhere to rest your head, you need somewhere to fill your belly. We've got all your wining and dining needs covered with the best new venue openings on the Gold Coast.

6. The Gold Coast's Best Places Eat And Drink



The Gold Coast's food scene used to revolve around its surf clubs. Now a throng of southern chefs – along with talented locals – have turned the region into a genuine foodie hot-spot. From fine dining to innovative fusion-style eateries, there's a lot more to the Gold Coast than parmigiana by the beach.

Restaurant Labart

Parisian style bistro reinventing the Coast

If there's one restaurant on the Gold Coast strip which epitomises how much dining in the region has changed these past five years, it's Restaurant Labart. Owner Alex Munoz brought expertise from his time as head chef of some of Sydney's best restaurants (Monopole, Cirrus Dining) to create a modern Australian menu set in an intimate 60-seater Paris-inspired bistro to teach locals they don't need a view with their meal - just exceptional food, with tables set around an open-plan kitchen. Dishes are remarkably simple – think: king prawns and quail cooked on Japanese-style BBQs – but they're perfect.

Clay Cantina

Queensland's most authentic Mexican-style kitchen

Here's the Gold Coast's best culinary secret – one of the best Mexican cantinas you'll find Australia-wide tucked away down a tiny lane off the main street of often overlooked

Coolangatta. Owner Kristal Smith spent 14 years travelling through Mexico and uses her knowledge to transport diners to the family-run style kitchens of central and southern Mexico. The vibe's open and friendly and the food's as far from your standard Tex-Mex offerings in Australia as it comes. Try the prawn ceviche or crowd-pleaser, enchiladas verde, washed down with the best Margaritas on the Gold Coast strip.

Rick Shores

Award-winning Pan-Asian restaurant beside the sea

What could scream Gold Coast more than a restaurant so close to the waves that come any decent swell mixed with a king tide, guests are advised to wear thongs should they book a table beside the bi-fold glass doors (the restaurant's designed to sustain ocean creepage). Though position is just one part of what's made Rick Shores one of Queensland's highest-awarded restaurant for seven years. Its Pan-Asian menu favours seafood - Fried Bug Rolls are the region's most revered snacks. The floor's tiered so you'll always have a view of the ocean, though consider a seat at its tropical-themed bar beneath the rattan fans, watching the people show.

Las Palmas Bar & Restaurant

Latin American share plates in dreamy setting



Las Palmas Bar & Restaurant – oddly – has remained a nice secret locals share, despite the fact it's the culmination of visions from the team that created Byron Bay's trendiest restaurant, The Mez Club. But this place has it all. Walk through its funky pink door, and you'll be confronted by an open-style restaurant with exposed ceiling beams and low-hanging rattan lights, where good looking patrons sit by a bar or on a wrap-around deck

looking out over the ocean. The meals are mostly share-style Latin American bites, with simple seafood dishes like tuna tartare being your best bet.

Kin

Traditional Japanese that invokes Tokyo

Enter via its hard-to-find back door and you'll step right into Japan, all one block from the beach. It's dark and moody in here – there's a Japanese whiskey bar and further inside, there's four Japanese chefs cooking food over white-hot Binchotan charcoals. With a Japanese whiskey menu that's among the most elaborate of its kind anywhere in Queensland. Kin is the kind of Japanese restaurant that pleases even the fussiest diner who went to Japan. It has a designated raw bar and its own gyoza menu, but you won't want to go past signature dish, Black Cod Miso, marinated for three days in caramelised miso.

The North Room

A gourmet degustation in an intimate setting

You'll find some of the best Queensland dishes outside Brisbane served up in a room barely bigger than your lounge room, right on the Gold Coast Highway. But it's what inside that counts: while the setting's minimalist with brushed concrete tiles, the service is flawless and friendly and the dishes combine the best local ingredients with European-influenced menu philosophies. The North Room take a maximum of 20 guests per sitting – and is only open Thursday to Saturday. There's no à la carte menu, you'll be served a rotating tasting menu based on what's in season, featuring everything from local octopus to veal tongue, created by young talent, Tim Stewart.

Bar Evelyn

Hip pizza and wine bar

Coolangatta had a reputation for fast food joints and \$2 shops, but like the rest of the 'Goldie', it's changing fast. Bar Evelyn is proof of that. Here's a touch of Melbourne transplanted to the Queensland beachfront: so you get hip style and flavour, but with beach views Melbourne-ites can only dream of. One of Australia's most lauded young chefs opened this intimate wine-centric pizza bar last September and it's been busy since. Sit at a leather booth or better yet, see the surf from a bar stool at an L-shaped bar, and try wood-fired pizza or snacks like pickled mussels with cucumber and paprika oil.

Social Eating House + Bar

Modern Australian fare delivered perfectly

The fact Social Eating House + Bar is still the Gold Coast's favourite restaurant 11 years after it opened should tell you everything. There's no views here – though the fit-out was overhauled last year, and now it looks as slick as a New York Italian restaurant, but it's all about the food and service. This is relaxed fine dining at its most relaxed, and at its finest. The waiters on hand at Social Eating House + Bar are as impressive as the multi-award winning executive chef. You'll step out with a smile on your face, guaranteed.

T'Ang Court

One of Asia's best Cantonese restaurants comes to the Gold Coast



Its sister restaurant in Hong Kong has earned three Michelin stars for seven consecutive years (to 2023) and the Gold Coast version treats Cantonese fine dining with the same amount of diligence. Located in the Gold Coast's newest luxury five-star hotel, The Langham Gold Coast, the décor is authentic Chinese and the menu celebrates the best Cantonese dishes. Choose between à la carte or three set menus, but don't skip T'Ang Court's signature offering: a three-part tribute to traditional Cantonese duck, choosing between duck pancakes, duck buns or sliced duck breast. Open since September 2022, T'Ang Court is already the fine dining restaurant of choice for the Gold Coast.

Tommy's Italian

Uber-cool pizza and pasta joint that couldn't be closer to the waves

Locals were screaming out for Tommy's Italian. Currumbin might be the Gold Coast's prettiest beach 'burbs, but it lacked somewhere to eat and soak up the magic. All their birthdays came at once when one of the best beach restaurant/ bars on the Gold Coast strip opened in 2021. Sit upstairs and stare out at the waves and the whales as you eat wood-fired pizza or fancier fare, like an 850 gram rib eye or king prawns grilled with salsa verde. Or sit downstairs at a communal bar and make new friends. Tommy's Italian is the place to be seen ... in thongs.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Gold Coast stands as a true gem in the crown of Queensland, captivating all who set foot on its golden shores. From the allure of pristine beaches to the excitement of thrilling theme parks, this tourism hub of Australia presents a dynamic and diverse landscape to explore. The city's rich history, showcased through its heritage buildings, offers a glimpse into its past while embracing a vibrant present. Embarking on an adventure to the Gold Coast means immersing oneself in a culinary wonderland, where flavors from around the world converge to delight the senses.

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