

CAIRNS & BEYOND



Cairns is celebrated as the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef, Cape York and the Wet Tropics rainforest.

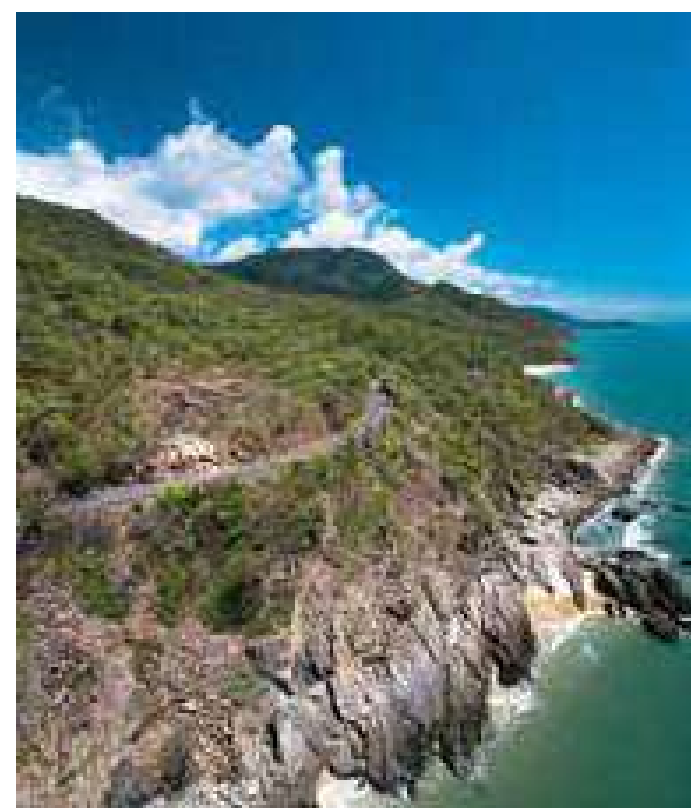
Its Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park tells the stories of indigenous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with music and dance. Cairns Esplanade, lined with bars and restaurants, has a swimming lagoon. Northwest of the city, Daintree National Park spans mountainous rainforest, gorges and beaches.

Cairns was founded in 1876 and named after William Wellington Cairns, Governor of Queensland from 1875 to 1877. It was formed to serve miners heading for the Hodgkinson River goldfield, but declined when an easier route was discovered from [Port Douglas](#). It later developed into a railhead and major port for exporting sugar cane, gold and other metals, minerals and agricultural products from surrounding coastal areas and the [Atherton Tableland](#) region.

Originally the primary source of income for the region was fishing but once gold was discovered in the north at Palmer River and Hodgkinson River, the population of Cairns grew and the European and Chinese settlers introduced agriculture to the region.

10 great things to do in and around Cairns

1. Take a walk through one man's dream at Paronella Park. Spanish migrant José Paronella's vision was to build a castle and, after many years of toil, the former cane cutter opened it to the public in 1935. More than 80 years later you can visit the heritage-listed property, with its crumbling castle, bridges, tunnel and 7500 tropical plants and trees set on 5ha beside a waterfall.
2. Taste the tropics at Nu Nu beachfront restaurant on Palm Cove esplanade, where the day starts with a serve of coconut and banana hotcakes, topped with coconut sugar caramel. Head to Cape Trib Farm for a tasting tour of exotic fruits and make time to do one of the Atherton Tablelands' renowned food trails.
3. Encounter wildlife at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures, the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary, home to 2000 tropical butterflies, and Birdworld Kuranda and its 500 free-flying birds. At the new Cairns Aquarium, encounter marine creatures of all sizes, from sea cucumbers to sharks.
4. Wake up to a reef sunrise by booking a luxurious liveaboard dive trip. While you're out there, be sure to visit Lizard Island's famous Cod Hole to get a photo with one of the giant resident potato cod. Take a fast catamaran to Green Island, a glorious coral cay where you can swim in the warm waters, snorkel, dive or just relax on the white sandy beaches. An overnight glamping stay at Moore Reef Pontoon – about 50km from Cairns – with Sunlover Reef Cruises is a fascinating way to discover more of the reef's beauty.



5. Dine under chandeliers in the middle of the rainforest while two Aboriginal brothers share stories of their culture. The unique setting of Flames of the Forest ensures a magical, mystical experience.

6. Get your pulse racing at Flyboard Cairns, where a water-jet powered device propels you under water and into the air while strapped onto a kind of wakeboard. If white-water rafting is more your speed, there's nothing quite like tackling rapids under a rainforest canopy. Or soar above the rainforest on a jungle surfing adventure: a series of ziplines between six tree canopy platforms. And if you want a view of the reef from above, a tandem skydive could be just the answer.

7. Take a ride on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway above tropical rainforest from Cairns to Kuranda. The 7.5km trip in six-person gondolas sweeps you above the forest canopy, with views to the reef. Or take a ride of a different kind – on a horse – along the beaches at Cape Tribulation, where the reef and rainforest meet.

8. Explore the lush beauty of Mossman Gorge, in the southern part of the Daintree Rainforest about 20 minutes from Port Douglas. Take a Dreamtime Walk with the local Kuku Yalanji people to be immersed in Indigenous culture, including a smoking ceremony.
9. Unleash your inner geologist at Undara, home to one of the best-preserved lava tube systems in the world, picnic beside a volcanic pipe at Mount Hypipamee National Park, swim in the Atherton Tablelands' volcanic crater lakes or navigate the caves at Chillagoe-Mungana Caves National Park.
10. Take a road trip on the Great Barrier Reef Drive from Cairns to Cape Tribulation, through the Daintree Rainforest. It's a great way to discover what lies north of Cairns, including its Northern Beaches – Palm Cove is a highlight – and the resort town of Port Douglas.



Popular Cairns Tours

KURANDA TOUR

Experience Tropical North Queensland - nature at its finest! Rail, gondolas, and amphibious Army Ducks all come together to enable you to appreciate the compelling enchantment of the rainforest. This tour



includes the rainforest village of Kuranda, Aboriginal dancing, a Dreamtime experience, and native animals. Witness the Pamagirri Aboriginal dancers perform in the rainforest amphitheatre. See native wildlife close-up - kangaroos, wombats, koalas and crocodiles. Ride the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway over pristine rainforest just metres above the forest canopy. Visit Rainforestation Nature Park set in a lush tropical environment. Visit the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary.

Army Duck Rainforest Tour

Experience the tropical rainforest from a totally unique perspective aboard an amphibious World War II Army Duck or DUKW (colloquially known as Duck). Rainforestation has twelve of these historical vehicles which hold up to 30 passengers and uses a 6-wheel drive, propeller and rudder. During this 45-minute rainforest tour, your knowledgeable Duck Captain will identify and explain fascinating plants and wildlife as you pass by before splashing into the lake for a cruise with more wildlife to be seen. During your tour, you'll visit the tropical fruit orchard which features over 60 different species of exotic tropical fruit trees and you'll learn about fruits of the region and the world. One of the most originally conceived vehicles in military history, the Army DUKW was produced as a



solution to a problem encountered in the early days of the Pacific conflict – time and again American supply vessels found themselves standing off shore from beleaguered forces with no way of landing vital supplies.



Skyrail Rainforest Cableway

Skyrail Rainforest Cableway journeys through the world's oldest continually surviving rainforest on earth, older than the Amazon Rainforest. Skyrail Rainforest Cableway is a 7.5 km scenic cableway running above the Barron Gorge National Park, in the Wet Tropics of Queensland's World Heritage Area. North of Cairns, it has won more than 25 awards. The cableway, which travels over the McAlister Range between [Smithfield](#) and [Kuranda](#), includes six-person gondola cabins that travel metres above the treetops. A one-way trip takes

about 1.5 hours, and a return trip is about 2.5 hours. Two rainforest stations, Red Peak Station and [Barron Falls](#) Station, allow exploration of the forest floor on boardwalks, interaction with the environment and education of the World Heritage area.

Kuranda Scenic Railway

The Kuranda Scenic Railway is the name for the railway line that runs from [Cairns, Queensland, Australia](#), to the nearby town of [Kuranda](#). The [tourist railway](#) snakes its way up the Macalister Range and is no longer used for regular commuter services, but instead operates as a travel and tourist service, operating every day of the year, except Christmas Day. It passes through the suburbs of Stratford, Freshwater (stopping at Freshwater Station) and Redlynch before reaching Kuranda. The line is used for some freight services and other passenger services, such as [The Savannah Lander](#). The [tropical gardens](#) Kuranda rail station are a well-known attraction in the area.



Downhill the line cuts through the [Barron Gorge National Park](#). The tourist train stops at a lookout, with a sweeping view of [Barron Falls](#). A number of smaller waterfalls are passed, including [Stoney Creek Falls](#), just metres from the train. The station is a short walk into town where there is a zoo, markets, art galleries and ethnic Aboriginal crafts.

GREAT BARRIER REEF

The Great Barrier Reef, off the coast of Queensland in north-eastern Australia, is the largest living thing on Earth, and even visible from outer space. The 2,300km-long ecosystem comprises thousands of reefs and hundreds of islands made of over 600 types of hard and soft coral. It's home to countless species of colourful fish, molluscs and starfish, plus turtles, dolphins and sharks.

Green Island Reef Tour

Tropical and enchanting [Green Island](#) is a unique part of the Great Barrier Reef, from its boardwalks that lead you through the lush island rainforest of the National Park to the sophistication of Green Island Resort where visitors can browse the shops or make use of the facilities including fresh water showers, change rooms, restrooms and lockers.



Visitors can explore the island at their leisure or just relax on the beautiful white sandy beaches. Visit a tropical island paradise and experience the Great Barrier Reef. Our [Semi-Submarine](#) lets you explore the underwater world in air-conditioned comfort with a lively fish feeding display and commentary. [Glass Bottom Boat](#) coral viewing tours with fish feeding and commentary. A favourite for reef tour enthusiasts. [Snorkel and swim](#) in the clear cool island waters, either at your leisure from the sheltered, sandy beach or on our [snorkel experience](#) to help build up your confidence. Helpful snorkelling tips and instructions.



Semi Submarine

Explore [Green Island's underwater world](#), part of the Great Barrier Reef in air-conditioned comfort on our exclusive Semi-Submarine... without even getting wet! Seated below water level, passengers are treated to a divers view of the coral reef and marine life with informative commentary by the crew and see the lively fish feeding. This vessel seats 27 passengers and cruises for approx. 30 minutes. Don't miss this exciting tour during your time at Green Island. Big Cat Green Island Reef Cruises operate the only Semi Submarine at Green Island.



Glass Bottom Boat or Snorkelling

Glass Bottom Boat – Green Island Coral Viewing. Experience Green Island's underwater world, part of the Great Barrier Reef on a 30 minute Glass Bottom Boat tour. View the diversity of the reefs coral gardens and their wonderful array of sea life with the added fun of lively fish feeding. commentary by your driver enables you to learn about the [Great Barrier Reef](#) and the different types of corals and fish that can be found surrounding beautiful Green Island. No need to pay extra, our passengers can choose this tour as part of their free inclusion or have the option of snorkelling equipment instead.



Scuba Diving

Green Island Scuba Diving. A Green Island day dive tour allows you to combine scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef, with time on a tropical island. Only one operator provides diving day tours to Green Island. They moor on the patch reefs surrounding the island, with tender transfers to and from the island.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Hot Air Balloon

Hot Air Balloon Cairns operates balloon flights every day, with visitors from all over Australia and over 40 different countries flying with us annually. As Australia's largest and most respected Balloon operator, balloon tours depart daily from Cairns, Palm Cove, [Port Douglas](#), Yungaburra, Trinity Beach, Cairns Beaches and the Atherton Tablelands with door to door transfers included in your hot air ballooning ticket. Hot Air Ballooning Cairns has been featured on TV, magazines and newspapers worldwide with visitors ranking a [Hot Air Balloon ride](#) in their Top Three Things to Do in Cairns, alongside the [Great Barrier Reef](#) and Kuranda. If ballooning is something you've always wanted to do, then don't hesitate, Cairns has one of the best suited climates for ballooning and hot air balloon prices here are the best value in the southern hemisphere. See our spectacular balloon inflation display and some morning's there are so many colourful balloons; it's just like a balloon fiesta!



Great Barrier Reef, The World Heritage Rainforest and Trinity Inlet. Surrounded by breathtaking rainforests and the largest coral reef system in the world, paradise is waiting for you! Jump from up to 15,000ft over Cairns, reaching speeds of up to 220km/hr for up to 60 seconds for a heart-stopping, life-changing freefall! Skydive in Cairns with the best: best views, best locations, best customer service and the best instructors. You're in safe skies with the Skydive Australia crew, so step outside your comfort zone and push personal boundaries with a skydive experience you'll remember forever.

Skydive

Skydive in tropical paradise, with a tandem skydive over Cairns, guaranteed to be an unforgettable lifetime experience! Our Cairns drop zone offers a warm tropical climate, spectacular views of the

Great Barrier Reef, The World Heritage Rainforest and Trinity Inlet. Surrounded by breathtaking rainforests and the largest coral reef system in the world, paradise is waiting for you! Jump from up to 15,000ft over Cairns, reaching speeds of up to 220km/hr for up to 60 seconds for a heart-stopping, life-changing freefall! Skydive in Cairns with the best: best views, best locations, best customer service and



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Bungee Jumping – A J Hackett

With a world first Jump Menu offering 16 different jump styles, there's a Jump for everyone. Whether you're a first time jumper or a seasoned thrill seeker, we guarantee we've got a jump to take you out of your comfort zone and a bit further! There's nothing

like a little adrenalin hit to remind you you're still alive! Our site is designed for ultimate spectating with tailor made viewing platforms, decks, licensed bar, music, free transport, live bands on Sundays and sun chairs. From the top of the 50-metre tower you can see out over the Northern Beaches and out to the incredible Great Barrier Reef. So, when you're on the edge, ready to jump, suck in the views as it all looks quite different on the rebound!

Cairns ZOOM and Wildlife Dome

The Cairns ZOOM is the world's first Challenge Ropes Course in a wildlife park, situated in the centre of Cairns on the rooftop of The Reef Hotel Casino. Experience adventure at varying heights and levels of difficulty on the Mid-ZOOM and Hi-ZOOM courses with 65 elements of crossings and



ziplines - including one which takes you directly over a 4 metre saltwater crocodile! The PowerJump is a free-fall adventure with a 13m drop, whilst the Dome-Climb offers spectacular views of the city, the Coral Sea and surrounding landscapes. Make sure you spend some time interacting with all our wildlife, with Shows and Presentations throughout the day. Keep an eye out for Snowy the rare white kookaburra, as well as turtles, pythons, freshwater crocodiles, lizards, gliders and hand-feed our pademelons.

CAIRNS ATTRACTIONS

Cairns Aquarium

The Cairns Aquarium has been developed to provide a world class venue for seeing and interacting with the incredible plants, animals, and habitats found only in Australia's Wet Tropics, a region which borders two World Heritage listed environments: The Daintree Rainforest and The Great Barrier Reef. As the only aquarium in the world dedicated exclusively to the habitats and species of tropical North Queensland, the Cairns Aquarium connects visitors with the natural wonders of The Great Barrier Reef, The Wet



Tropics, The Gulf Savannah and Cape York regions. With over 15,000 animals and unique opportunities to move up close to some of the world's most fascinating, elusive or deadly creatures, every visit is unforgettable. Find everything you need to plan your visit to the Aquarium here, including general facility and accessibility information, operating hours and how to find us.



Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park

Located in Cairns, Tropical North Queensland, Tjapukai has been sharing the authentic culture and traditions of the local Djabugay people for the past 28 years, providing employment opportunities for their people and giving the performers immense pride in demonstrating their culture. From its inception, Tjapukai's mission has been about giving Australians and international visitors the opportunity to

experience authentic Aboriginal culture and interact with Traditional Owners. That mission now includes authentic Torres Strait Islander culture. Tjapukai was founded in Kuranda in 1987 by international theatre artists Don and Judy Freeman, David Hudson, a Ewamian man who was brought up among the Djabugay people, and his wife Cindy. They combined their performance expertise with the cultural knowledge of six Djabugay men – Willie Brim, Alby Baird, Wayne Nicols, Irwin Riley, Neville Hobbler and Dion Riley – to create a one-hour play incorporating the dance-rich culture of the Djabugay people who had lived in the rainforest around Kuranda for tens of thousands of years. In 1996 Tjapukai moved to a 25 acre site next to Skyrail Rainforest Cableway at Caravonica and expanded to include interactive cultural demonstrations and performances, a cultural village, restaurant and retail gallery. Tjapukai performers were in demand at world events as an authentic example of Australia's Indigenous culture. These included the Welcome Ceremony for the Sydney Olympic Torch and the bid for the Gold Coast to host the Commonwealth Games in 2018. In 2002 Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip's Australian visit included Tjapukai.

Daintree Wilderness

The Daintree National Park is an adventure playground for nature lovers. Book a guided tour to get the most out of the rain forest. Most tours set out from Cairns or Port Douglas and take in highlights such as the Mossman Gorge, Cape Tribulation, or Marrdja Boardwalk. The Daintree Rainforest and Cape Tribulation Rainforest are World Heritage listed due to the very unique biodiversity they hold and the rare and endangered animals, trees, and rainforest plants sustained here. The other unique connection of the Daintree Rainforest is to the



survival of the Great Barrier Reef and the continuance of drawing the rain to our region to ensure we have water all year round in Tropical North Queensland. When you take a guided Daintree Rainforest tour you can learn about the value of trees and plants to our health and the natural medicines they offer. Sit back relax and take home the knowledge of this land's natural biodiversity.

Cairns Lagoon

Entry to the Lagoon is free. Toilet and shower facilities are located in the amenities block alongside the Lagoon. Lifeguards are on duty while the Lagoon is open. Wheelchair access to the Lagoon is available. For assistance please ask the Lifeguards. The Lagoon is a 4800sq m salt water swimming facility that offers an all-year round, safe, swimming location without stingers and crocodiles. The Lagoon is filled with salt water from the Trinity Inlet which is filtered through a state-of-the-art filtration system.



Sample Itinerary for Cairns

Sample 1

Day 1

The best way to start any Cairns holiday is to arrive at the Airport which is just a 10 minute drive to the centre of Cairns City - gateway to the Great Barrier Reef.

Day 2

The first full day of your Cairns holiday will take you to the world heritage Great Barrier Reef - Reef Magic's Marine World is a purpose-built two storey platform featuring spacious lower deck with ample undercover seating, upper sundeck with sun lounges, underwater observatory, children's safety swimming enclosure, easy access to the water for snorkelers, moon pool for ease of access for divers and fresh water showers. Return to your Cairns accommodation late afternoon.

Day 3

Holidays in North Queensland would not be complete without a visit to famous Port Douglas located just one hour north of Cairns along the scenic Captain Cook Highway, a winding road with spectacular views of the Coral Sea. Spend the day enjoying the many shops and galleries in Port Douglas, you will find indigenous artwork and crafts alongside designer labels, whatever you are looking for you are sure to find just the thing!

Day 4

Take a day trip to magnificent Cape Tribulation and the [Daintree](#) Rainforest for day four of your Cairns holiday. A pocket of ancient tropical rainforest locked in a biological time capsule on the driest continent on earth. The skilled guides are experts on the unique flora and wildlife of the Daintree wet tropic coastal lowlands and the mysteries of its evolution and survival over millions of years. Have a refreshing swim in the crystal waters of a secluded natural rainforest waterhole before returning to your Cairns accommodation.

Day 5

Cairns holidays are for relaxing and enjoying the local atmosphere, take the morning to relax by the pool, have a massage at a day spa or enjoy a walk along the foreshore.

In the afternoon enjoy the spectacular views from The [Skyrail Rainforest Cableway](#) - 7.5kms over Australia's pristine tropical rainforests. You'll glide just metres above the rainforest canopy before descending through the canopy layers and deep into the heart of the forest at Skyrail's two rainforest mid-stations for the ultimate tropical rainforest experience. A Skyrail Experience will take approximately 1 and a half hours one way, or 2-2 and a half hours return.

Day 6

Time to head home; as you depart the beautiful tropical north you can look forward to planning future Cairns holidays or to perhaps the [Whitsundays](#) or one of the Queensland Islands such as Daydream or Hamilton Islands.

GOLD COAST & BEYOND



The Gold Coast is a coastal city in the Australian state of [Queensland](#), It is the sixth-largest city in Australia, making it the largest non-capital city, and Queensland's second-largest city.

The Gold Coast is the most popular tourist destination in Queensland. It is Australia's 5th most visited destination by international tourists. Today, the Gold Coast is a major tourist destination with its sunny subtropical climate and has become widely known for its surfing beaches, high-rise dominated skyline, theme parks, nightlife, and rainforest hinterland. The city is part of the nation's entertainment industry with television productions and a major film industry

A global city with the heart of a coastal village, the Gold Coast has plenty of all-star experiences stowed up its sleeve. From kicking off the day with a beachside yoga sesh, to getting salty with a morning surf followed by a caffeine-fix, heading for the hills to cool off in crystal-like cascades, and perusing new menus in alfresco-style eateries, it's safe to say there's quite a bit going on in this coastal city. From hitting the hills with a picnic packed and Google maps set to 'waterfall', to salty days spent running barefoot in the sand, indulging with a spot of shopping, or feasting alfresco-style in truly superb settings, the Gold Coast's unique beach-meets-bush backyard will ensure your itinerary is overflowing with one-of-a-kind adventures. **Here are 10 of the best.**

1. Get Salty With sand the colour of sugar, water temps that rarely dip under 20 degrees and a soundtrack set on 'endless ocean', it's safe to say the Gold Coast is a blissful, beachside nirvana. Head to tranquil inlets like the Broadwater or Tallebudgera Creek for a family-friendly beach day. From ripping barrels at Snapper Rocks to right-hander wonders at Currumbin Alley and point break pearls at Burleigh, surfers are spoilt for choice when hitting the waves here. The Gold Coast's surf schools boast qualified instructors, surf lifesavers and soft foam longboards to ensure you're up and riding waves by the end of your first lesson.



2. Experience ancient rainforests Ribbon-like roads reel you through a canvas of verdant hills that lead to spectacular waterfalls. Indulge in quaint local fudge shops and discerning distilleries, and pick up sweet local produce at fruit stalls along the way. Stand hundreds of metres above sea level and drink in the infinite views that stretch across an ancient realm. Wander through World-Heritage listed rainforests, follow walking tracks that weave through a subtropical dreamland, and cool off with a well-deserved dip beneath a magnificent cascade. The Springbrook and Lamington National Parks tucked away in the Gold Coast hinterland seem like a different world compared with the beachside city, which is still just a stone's throw away.

3. Foodies rejoice The Coast is a place where night bites, hatted restaurants, street-eats and breweries are all served with a side of alfresco. Join the surfers as they swap their boards for a latte at sun-up and the little ones as they break from frolicking for an epic spread of fish and chips beachside. Dust the sand from your feet for five-star feasting on fresh seafood at The Fish House or enjoy pan-Asian flavours with an ocean view at Rick

Shores in Burleigh. Fuel up from five different kitchens under one sun-soaked rooftop bar at The Collective in Palm Beach. Come sunset, gather friends for decadent share plates and expert cocktails throughout Broadbeach at the likes of Social Eating House, Cherry at The Star Gold Coast and newcomers Old Tom and Roosevelt. There's a wave of new culinary experiences coming to life throughout the Gold Coast. From tap-houses owned by surfing heroes to reinvented, artistic venues - you're in for a treat when it comes to dining and relaxing on the Gold Coast.

4. Make a splash Chase the waves at first light, take the family out for an afternoon stand up paddle board session or take a sunset spin in the tinny on the Broadwater. Dip your toes in the Northern Gold Coast's beautiful Broadwater, or better yet, hire a



boat and sail into the sunset with a glass of bubbles in hand. Grab a stand up paddleboard or kayak and explore the serene shoreline and calm canals that weave their way through the city (it's seriously fun AND good for the abs). Adrenaline junkies - you'll find your fix here too, with jet skiing, jet packing and flyboarding all on the cards at Main Beach.

5. On your bike Get on your bike for a two-wheeled exploration of a city made for cyclists. More than 1000km of bikeways link the Gold Coast's neighbourhoods, foreshores and parks. Hire a cruiser bike and cover some serious ground on the beach road



stretching from Main Beach to Burleigh Heads. Mountain-bikers are well catered for too, at Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area at the city's northern end, which features more than 1200ha of wetland, eucalypt forest, salt marsh and mangrove habitat. For the more adventurous, head to Nerang for some serious trailblazing in the hills.

6. **Calling all culture vultures** There's a new kind of wave in town, one splashed in colour and creativity, sewn with strings of a different sound, bubbling with vision, passion and a sprinkle of tradition. The Coast's cultural current is carving out more street cred than ever before; teeming with talent, creative minds and entrepreneurial souls, the city's spirit beats to the sound of its own drum. Buzzing festivals and performing arts, live music jams and contemporary art can be seen any day of the week. Beneath the new lies an ancient heartbeat; the Coast's indigenous roots run deep. Learn about the Kombumberri and Yugambah culture at Jellurgal Cultural Centre with tours, Dreamtime stories and colourful Corroborees all dotted with magic and meaning.
7. **Spoil your tastebuds** Local wares from the soil and the soul. The Gold Coast is a community of passionate foodies and creators - from the farmer trading his home-grown harvest at the village market, to the salt-seasoned hands of a trawler hauling in this morning's catch. Streets, parks and markets double as foodie playgrounds where fresh is celebrated, quality local wares are traded barefoot and live acoustic tunes hang in the air. Peruse locally hand-made artisan wares and jewels at weekend market stalls; or wander charming beachside villages brimming with boutiques that carry the latest threads from our bevy of talented local designers.

8. **Strap yourself in for some theme park thrills.** Theme parks rise from the sand and sea with cute, cuddly and roaring wildlife encounters; rides built for those who want to fly, and cafés and snack bars serving up sticky treats alongside gourmet eats. Shake hands with your favourite superhero, cuddle a loveable cartoon character, or take a behind-the-scenes peak at all that Warner Bros. Movie World magic. Snap a selfie with an adorable Aussie animal at Dreamworld's Corroboree, or meet one of Sea World's resident pelicans at the Seabird Rehabilitation Aviary. Snack on fairy floss the size of your head, then try your darndest to keep



- it down with a back-to-back rollercoaster ride (it is a theme park rite of passage after all). Slip, slide and splash about at Wet'N'Wild or White Water World, where tan lines and wrinkly fingers are all part of the fun.
9. **Take to the air** Get up early and watch the sun rise over the sea from a hot-air balloon. Cruising above the hinterland at 600m, you can see all the way from Tamborine Mountain in the north to Lamington National Park in the south, and beyond. Prefer something with wings? Board a scenic flight for a birds-eye view over the beaches. Or perhaps a helicopter tour that allows you to dip even closer to the buildings and waves? And if, after all that, you fancy the idea of flying unaided, you can try your hand at indoor skydiving in the centre of Surfers Paradise. Or try your skills at the country's highest, tallest and fastest Treetop Challenge at Tamborine Mountain in the Gold Coast Hinterland.
10. **Meet the locals** Meet the locals and we don't just mean the human kind. Start out at Paradise Country, to experience farm life first hand (there is an option to stay here, too). Watch sheep shearers at work, admire how stockmen and their dogs round up their flocks and enjoy a whip-cracking display. At Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, feed a massive saltwater crocodile or, if that's not to your liking, wild rainbow lorikeets. Walk a wombat, get a selfie with a koala, echidna or

dingo, and get a close-up look at the sanctuary's Tasmanian devils. And for a chance to see what lives beneath the Pacific Ocean waves, dive or snorkel with sea turtles, eagle rays, (harmless) sharks and even the occasional clownfish, aka Nemo on tours run by Watersports Guru, just a 15-minute boat trip off the coast. You might spot a dolphin without getting wet from Point Danger at Coolangatta or on the Burleigh National Park Rainforest Walk. Learn more about the work of David Fleay, Australia's Father of Conservation, at the David Fleay Wildlife Park in West Burleigh.

Must visit sights in Gold Coast

1. Tamborine Rainforest Skywalk
2. Dreamworld / Warner Bros. Movie World / Australia's Sea World
3. Australian Outback Spectacular
4. Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary
5. Mt. Tamborine Glow Worm tour
6. SkyPoint Observation Deck
7. Tropical Fruit World
8. Indoor Skydiving
9. Jet Boating (55 min adventure ride)
10. Skydive at Byron Bay
11. Hot Air Balloon ride
12. Whale watching cruise

Popular Gold Coast attractions



TAMBORINE RAINFOREST SKYWALK

South-east Queensland's longest rainforest canopy walk provides the perfect vantage point to discover the thrills of this incredible eco-adventure. Journey through verdant foliage beside a tumbling creek and breath-taking rock pools as you explore the Tamborine Rainforest Skywalk pathway.

This enchanting experience covers over 300 meters of stable steel structured bridge through rainforest canopy, descending gradually to follow rockpools and waterfalls, a butterfly lookout, local history

enclosure and sheltered rest areas. The Skywalk then soars to a 40 meter long Skywalk Cantilever, 30 meters over the valley, with spectacular views of the creek and the rainforest canopies below.



DREAMWORLD

As Australia's largest theme park, Dreamworld has it all. Adrenaline junkies can take on the world's tallest free-falling ride, Families can take a scenic ride aboard the Dreamworld Express, make a splash on the Log Ride or drive back in time in Dreamworld's iconic Vintage Cars. Kids can meet loved television characters Hoot and Hootabelle, and Dorothy the Dinosaur at ABC KIDS WORLD, while animated movies Madagascar, Shrek and Kung-Fu Panda come to life in the DreamWorks Experience.



CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Explore this iconic Gold Coast Wildlife Sanctuary. Immerse yourself into the wonder and natural beauty of 27 hectares of Currumbin rainforest, wandering through open animal enclosures, feeding kangaroos and cuddling koalas along the way. There is plenty of entertainment for kids to enjoy as they tour the sanctuary on a miniature train. Explore a forgotten world and get up close and personal with some of the world's most unique and distinctive flora and wildlife including friendly Lemurs, Cotton-top tamarins, Red pandas, Capybaras along with free-flying birds and exotic reptiles.

MT. TAMBORINE GLOW WORM TOUR

Tamborine Mountain Glow Worm Tours are located at Cedar Creek Estate. Come underground on a journey through the spectacular purpose-built Glow Worm cave! Once inside you will watch a short audio/visual display to acclimatise your eyes to the dark. This will ensure you see as many glow worms as possible while inside Glow Worm Alley. The magical "glow-worm alley" is filled with thousands of glowing glow-worms guaranteed.



AUSTRALIA'S SEA WORLD

Join them for an educational adventure in the amazing new dolphin presentation, Their World of the Dolphin or chill out in the shade while the kids cool down in Sea World's newest splash pad attraction, Make friends with the magnificent marine life, from dolphins to seals, Polar bears, penguins and more If you prefer a thrill, jump on the Jet Rescue ride and speed around the track your very own jet ski or take on the awesome Storm Coaster.



millions of evil alien spores

WARNER BROS. MOVIE WORLD

Become lost in a world of fantasy and fun as you meet your favourite stars and super-heroes and experience the exhilaration of world-class adventure rides and movie attractions at Warner Bros. Movie World. Prepare for the most thrilling battle of your life on Justice League 3D – The Ride, an epic 3D interactive ride experience like nothing you've ever seen before. Grab your laser blaster and join Superman, Batman and an army of Super Heroes in a 3D battle against

SKYPOINT OBSERVATION DECK

SkyPoint Observation Deck is a must-see for all Gold Coast visitors. With unrivalled 360 degree views from the coast to the hinterland, mini-theatrette and informative feature zones and displays that provide all the information you need to plan your holiday hit list. By night, SkyPoint Observation Deck transforms into a chic, high altitude lounge bar.



AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK SPECTACULAR

A legend is born as entertainment soars to fresh new heights with the introduction of a stunning new show presented by Ringers Western, Saddle up and join us on a captivating journey to the snow peaked mountains of the high country where enchanted whispers and legendary yarns come alive with the most inspiring stories of the Australian characters never told. Be dazzled like never before with death defying stunts, aerial performances and the biggest display of special effects ever seen as you experience Australia's greatest stories.



TROPICAL FRUIT WORLD

See, taste and learn about fruit from around the World that's all grown in one unique place. Visit the plantation to discover more than 500 varieties of the world's weird and wonderful exotic fruits. Climb aboard a tractor train for a guided tour of the plantation. You'll discover rare exotic treats such as the Chocolate Pudding Fruit, Dragonfruit, Chewing Gum Tree and Lemonade Fruit. The Miracle Fruit Show is the perfect opportunity to sample all of the delicious fruits, too. Enjoy a wildlife boat cruise to their fauna park where you'll meet kangaroos, emus and farm animals.

INDOOR SKYDIVING

Indoor Skydiving makes the dream of flight a reality whether you're three or 103. Indoor Skydiving is safe for kids, challenging for adults, exciting for teens and realistic for skydivers. At a fraction of the cost of an outdoor skydive, and their all-round glass flight chamber, Indoor Skydiving is the perfect activity for the whole family! Simply lean forward inside their glass tunnel into a column of air and float effortlessly into flight guided by their fully qualified instructors.



SKYDIVE AT BYRON BAY

Boasting an excellent safety record, state of the art equipment and a pristine beach-side location. They have a great team full of fun and professional tandem masters who will take passengers through all the necessary training and go out of their way to make sure it's a truly amazing experience that you will never forget!



HOT AIR BALLOON

Equally thrilling and relaxing, a hot air balloon adventure is a pure and unforgettable experience – especially over the unique landscape surrounding Surfers Paradise. Depending on the wind direction, your flight will take you over unparalleled views of the spectacular Gold Coast hinterland. The still morning air makes flying conditions perfect during what is known in the hot-air ballooning industry as the "weather window", a gloriously peaceful time over the canals and waterways of the Gold Coast. The hot air balloon ride begins with a briefing by the pilot before you head to the launch site and, if you like, help prepare the hot-air balloon for flight. Thirty minutes later you'll be drifting gracefully over the countryside

JET BOAT RIDE

Experience Surfers Paradise at high speed with a jet boat ride, Travelling at speeds of up to 80 km/h you will feel the wind in your hair and have loads of fun. As the jet boat roars out of Surfers Paradise, the vessel turns north and thunders, As the engines blast into high powered action the jet boat flies across the water as speeds of up to 80 kilometres per hour. Experience fish tails, wave surfing, beach blasting, massive sideward slides and incredible 360-degree spins, on the Gold Coast's most powerful jet boat. Weaving around Wavebreak Island and across the Gold Coast Seaway, the jet boat executes a quick spin and a slide before blasting along the fringe of pristine white beaches as it heads down the Western Channel



WHALE WATCHING CRUISE

Get on board for whale watching on a sensational, state of the art catamaran on the Gold Coast with a 100% record of humpback whale sightings. As well as seeing the majestic humpbacks you may also be treated to sightings of other species of whales, turtles, dolphins and a variety of seabirds

Sample Gold Coast Itineraries

Sample 1

Day 1 - Airport to Hotel transfer on SIC/PVT basis

Day 2 – Admission to largest theme park of Australia “Dreamworld” with return transfers on SIC basis

Day 3 – Admission to Movie world with return transfers on SIC/PVT basis to meet your favourite stars and super-heroes and experience the exhilaration of world-class adventure rides and movie attractions

Day 4 – Hotel to Airport transfer on SIC/PVT basis

Sample 2

Day 1 - Airport to Hotel transfer on SIC/PVT basis

Day 2 – Explore the hinterland. The Gold Coast’s hinterland offers an impressive array of rolling hills, lush mountains and spectacular views all located within easy reach of Surfers Paradise and other main accommodation areas.

Day 3 – Start the morning with Hot Air Ballooning followed by a trip up the Q1 for Skypoint Observation Deck

Day 4 - Day trip to Byron Bay; known as the alternative lifestyle capital of Australia, Byron is a charming town situated amongst some of the most scenic landscape in northern New South Wales, with its famous lighthouse being perhaps its most well-known icon.

Day 5 – Hotel to Airport transfer on SIC/PVT basis