

Sunshine Coast



If your idea of the perfect summer holiday involves lazy days in the sun, sand between your toes, and fish and chips on the beach then pack a smile, ditch the bling and you may never want to leave the sunny Sunshine Coast. Unlike the glittering Gold Coast, the laid-back beach-chic culture and seaside charms of the 'Sunny Coast' are refreshingly natural and unaffected.

From the tip of Bribie Island, the Sunshine Coast stretches north for one hundred golden kilometres to the Cooloola Coast, just beyond the exclusive, leafy resort town of Noosa. Along the coastline, the southern sleepy town of Caloundra gives way to the laconic suburban swell of Mooloolaba with its popular beach, outdoor eateries and cafés. During school holidays the population here mushrooms when Australian families converge en masse, but a little further north are the uncrowded and unspoilt beaches of Coolool and Peregian.

Forming a stunning backdrop to this spectacular coastline are the ethereal Glass House Mountains and, a little further north, the Sunshine Coast hinterland, home to the forested folds and ridges, gorges and waterfalls, lush green pastures and quaint villages of the Blackall Range.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Getting natured and nurtured in Noosa: follow a bushwalk through **Noosa National Park** (p192) with a culinary treat at one of Noosa's swish **restaurants and cafés** (p197)
- Savouring the alternative vibe at the **Eumundi markets** (p201) and the funky hinterland town of **Maleny** (p202)
- Lapping up the Sunshine Coast's sun, surf, sand and beach-café scene in **Mooloolaba** (p186)
- Finding your inner crocodile (and other wild critters) at the wonderful wildlife sanctuary of **Australia Zoo** (p182)
- Hiking to the summit of Mount Beerwah in the ethereal **Glass House Mountains** (p182)
- Camping along the unspoilt and uncrowded beaches of the Cooloola Coast in the **Great Sandy National Park** (p200)



■ TELEPHONE CODE: 07

■ www.sunshinecoast.org

■ www.sunzine.net/suncoast



Getting There & Away

AIR

The Sunshine Coast's airport (Maroochydore Airport) is at Mudjimba, 10km north of Maroochydore and 26km south of Noosa. **Jetstar** (☎ 13 15 38; www.jetstar.com.au) and **Virgin Blue** (☎ 13 67 89; www.virginblue.com.au) have daily flights from Sydney and Melbourne. **Tiger Airways** (☎ 03 9335 3033; www.tigerairways.com) has less frequent flights from Melbourne.

BUS

Greyhound Australia (☎ 1300 473 946; www.greyhound.com.au) has several daily services from Brisbane to Caloundra (\$26, two hours), Maroochydore (\$26, two hours) and Noosa (\$27, three hours). **Premier Motor Service** (☎ 13 34 10; www.premiers.com.au) also services Maroochydore (one way \$20) and Noosa (one way \$20) from Brisbane.

Getting Around

Several companies offer transfers from Maroochydore Airport and Brisbane to points along the coast. Fares from Brisbane cost \$30 to \$40 for adults and \$15 to \$25 for children. From Maroochydore Airport fares are around \$10 to \$20 per adult and \$5 to \$10 per child. The following are recommended:

Col's Airport Shuttle (☎ 5450 5933; www.airshuttle.com.au)

Henry's (☎ 5474 0199)

Noosa Transfers & Charters (☎ 5450 5933; www.noosatransfers.com.au)

Sun-Air Bus Service (☎ 1800 804 340, 5477 0888; www.sunair.com.au)

The blue minibuses run by **Sunbus** (☎ 13 12 30) buzz frequently between Caloundra and Noosa. Sunbus also has regular buses from Noosa across to the train station at Nambour (\$5, one hour) via Eumundi.

BRIBIE ISLAND

☎ 07 / pop 15,920

This slender island at the northern end of Moreton Bay is popular with young families, retirees and those with a cool million or three to spend on a waterfront property. It's far more developed than Stradbroke or Moreton Islands but the **Bribie Island National Park** on the northwestern coast has some beautifully remote **Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) camping areas** (4WD access only, per person/family \$4.50/18).