



Noosa & the Sunshine Coast

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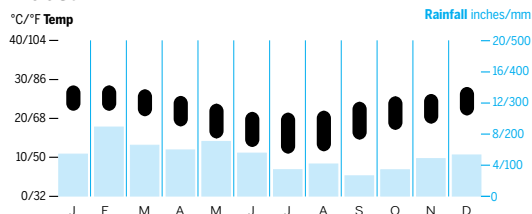
Why Go?

The Sunshine Coast – the 100 golden kilometres stretching from the tip of Bribie Island to the Cooloola Coast – is aglow with perfect beaches, coveted surf and a laid-back, sun-kissed populace who will quickly tell you how lucky they are. Resort towns dot the coast, each with its own appeal and vibe, from upmarket, cosmopolitan Noosa to newly hip, evolving Caloundra.

Further inland is the lush, cool hinterland. It's here that you'll find the ethereal Glass House Mountains, looming over the land- and seascapes, and the iconic Australia Zoo. Further north, the Blackall Range offers a change of scenery with thick forests, lush pastures and quaint villages dotted with artisan food shops, cafes and crafty boutiques.

When to Go

Noosa



May Gourmands and gluttons nosh and slosh at the four-day Noosa Food & Wine.

Aug Postholiday lull means fewer crowds, solitary beach walks and warm, unsticky weather.

Sep Up-and-coming Caloundra draws music fans with its rocking surfside Caloundra Festival.



Noosa & the Sunshine Coast Highlights

1 Noosa National Park (p126)

Hiking and wildlife spotting in Noosa's beautiful, easily accessible slice of Eden.

2 Noosa's food scene (p130)

Feasting on local produce and culinary ingenuity at a string of foodie-approved restaurants.

3 Great Sandy National Park (p143)

Cruising up one of Australia's most spectacular natural highways, the Great Beach Drive.

4 Caloundra

(p134) Riding waves, slurping local beers and checking out the street art in the Sunshine Coast's new hub of cool.

5 Glass House Mountains (p133)

Soaking up the grandiose vistas of (and from) the hinterland's most geologically surreal landmarks.