



The Gold Coast

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Main Beach & The Spit	327
Broadbeach, Mermaid & Nobby Beach	329
Burleigh Heads	330
Currumbin & Palm Beach	333
Coolangatta	334
Tamborine Mountain	336
Lamington National Park	337

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Rick Shores (p332)
- ➔ Bstow (p333)
- ➔ Harry's Steak Bistro (p332)
- ➔ Glenelg Public House (p330)
- ➔ BSKT Cafe (p330)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ La Costa Motel (p335)
- ➔ Burleigh Break (p331)
- ➔ Island (p325)
- ➔ Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort (p327)
- ➔ QT (p325)

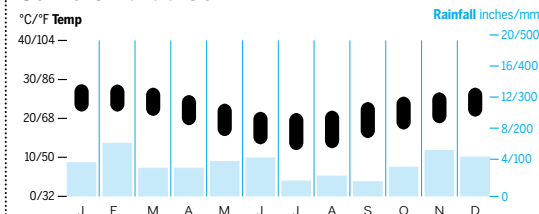
Why Go?

Built for pleasure and remaining a place utterly dedicated to sun, surf and the body beautiful, this strip of coast is possibly Australia's most iconic holiday destination. Its shimmering high-rises can, when glimpsed from afar, appear like a make-believe city, and its reputation for tackiness is occasionally deserved. But this is far outstripped by a booming, youthful spirit and startling physical beauty: some 52km of pristine sand and countless epic surf breaks, heartbreaking-hazy sunsets, blissful water temperatures and 300 sunny days a year.

While Surfers Paradise's malls and mega-clubs let the party-hard kids have their fun, the other neighbourhoods have a distinct charm of their own. Main Beach and Broadbeach corner coastal chic; Burleigh Heads, Mermaid and Palm Beach have a retro charm and booming culinary scene; while Coolangatta pleases with its pro-surfer vibe. Not to be overlooked is the lush, misty subtropical rainforest of the hinterland.

When to Go

Surfers Paradise



Dec–Feb Sunshine, high temperatures and busy beaches.

Jun–Aug Winter brings tourists from cooler climes, chasing the sun and still-swimmable water.

Oct & Nov Perfect weather, lower prices; time your visit to miss Schoolies week.



The Gold Coast Highlights

1 Point Danger (p334)

Braving a dawn surf at this legendary break.

2 Burleigh Heads (p330)

Eating your way around the young, fun and creative culinary scene.

3 Lamington National

Park (p337) Bushwalking through craggy gorges and densely canopied rainforests.

4 Balter (p334) Talking beer and breaks with surfing legends at Curumbin's fabulous brewery.

5 South Stradbroke Island (p332) Retreating from the crowds to a long stretch of sand.

6 Springbrook National Park (p337) Taking in the view at the aptly named Best of All Lookouts.

7 Burleigh Social (p332)

Grabbing a 6am macadamia-milk latte before a soft-sand beach run to Miami.

8 Theme parks (p329)

Testing your nerve (and your digestive system) on the Gold Coast's roller coasters.

9 Surfers Paradise (p323)

Drinking, dancing and watching the sun come up at the beach.