

DESTINATION  
**GOLDCOAST.**<sup>TM</sup>

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**TOP  
25**

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**EXPERIENCES**



# 01



## BEACHES

With 57km of unmatched stretches of pristine coastline, you'll be spoilt for choice with the many award-winning white sandy swimming beaches, secluded coves and surfing hot spots.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Look out for local lifeguards at popular beaches for advice on daily swimming conditions and for safety, always swim between the red and yellow flags.
- Accessibility beach mats for wheelchairs are available at a number of popular beach locations - just ask the local surf lifesaving club.



# 02



## CAFÉS

From dusk until dawn, choose from a wide range of cafés, bakehouses and bistros to experience some of the best coffee in Australia, paired with meals to make your mouth water.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Grab brunch to-go and visit one of the many seaside vantage points to catch a glimpse of the beautiful morning sunrise.
- Check out local coffee haunts including James Street in Burleigh, the Oracle Broadbeach or the Nobby Beach precinct.



# 03



## THEME PARKS

Suitable for both the young and the young at heart, create lasting memories at Australia's biggest and best collection of adventure-filled theme parks.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Explore Dreamworld, Movie World, WhiteWater World, Wet'n'Wild, Sea World and the US newcomer, Topgolf, where rides, animal encounters and experiences are plentiful and the fun is endless.
- Pre-book your own cabana at the water parks - the perfect place to relax or base yourself for a day amongst the water slides.



# 04



## CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Immerse yourself in the oldest culture in the world with the Gold Coast's resident Indigenous custodians, the Yugambah people.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Take a guided walk in a nature reserve, visit a local cultural centre or watch an inspiring traditional performance.
- Daily cultural tours are available from the Jellurgal Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Burleigh Heads.



# 05



## SURFING

Surf the iconic coastal beach breaks from Snapper Rocks and Duranbah in the South, all the way up to Main Beach and Stradbroke Island in the North.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Rise with the sun for an early morning paddle amongst seasoned local surfers, and even whale and dolphin marine life in the summer.
- Learn to surf with year-round lessons available for all ages and abilities.



# 06



## BREWERIES & WINERIES

The Gold Coast and its Hinterland are home to some of the finest and most celebrated wineries, distilleries and modern breweries.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Spend a leisurely afternoon or evening on a tour or at your own pace.
- Join a backstage tour at one of the iconic breweries or make your own gin with a head distiller at one of the Gold Coast's craft distilleries.

07



## MARKETS

Browse community art and craft and farmers markets for locally made art, home décor, food items and fresh produce.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Stroll along the Surfer's Paradise foreshore for the weekly open-air, beachfront night markets.
- Rise early and explore the popular Village Markets at Burleigh or Arts and Craft Markets at Broadbeach, Burleigh and Coolangatta.



08



## HINTERLAND

Just a short drive from the beach, get in touch with nature in the remarkable World Heritage listed Gondwana Rainforest.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Visit awe-inspiring waterfalls, Purling Brook Falls, Curtis Falls and Cougal Cascades for an unforgettable adventure.
- Pack a picnic and hike trails to the Natural Bridge or Best of All Lookout.



09



## STAND-UP PADDLEBOARD

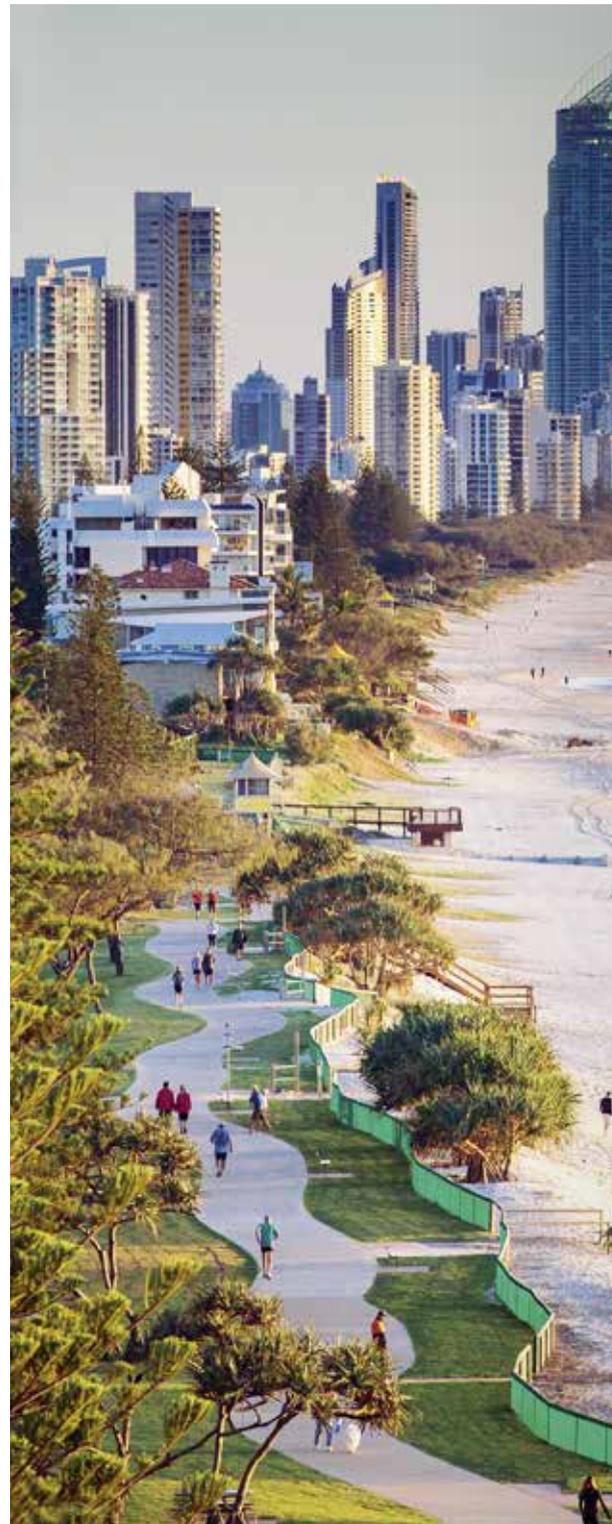
Live like a local and experience the great outdoors and salty sea breezes on a stand-up paddleboard (SUP).

### LOCAL TIPS

- Board hire is available at popular creeks and beaches such as Currumbin Creek and Budds Beach.
- For something a little different, have a go at SUP Yoga with one of the local experts at Tallebudgera Creek.



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## GOLD COAST OCEANWAY

Walk, run or cycle the beautiful Gold Coast Oceanway - a 36km network of manmade pathways, connecting Point Danger in the South to The Spit in the city's North.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Take in the view and cruise the Oceanway on a hire bike for an afternoon of fun and adventure.
- Keep an eye out for free yoga and Tai Chi classes on the foreshore.

# 11



## SHOPPING

Shop the myriad of eclectic boutiques, high-end designer forums, expansive shopping and outlet centres and lively local markets - there's something for everyone.

### LOCAL TIPS

- World-class shopping precincts Pacific Fair and Harbour Town Outlet Shopping Centre offer free shuttle services for convenient pick up and drop off, which can be booked online.
- Visitor lounges are available which include refreshments and discount vouchers.



# 12



## SHOWS & ENTERTAINMENT

As Australia's premier leisure and events destination, enjoy a variety of entertainment options from resident stage shows and theatre acts to live music, exhibitions and more.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Check out performances at HOTA, The Star Gold Coast, Australian Outback Spectacular, Dracula's Cabaret or The Pink Flamingo Spiegelclub.
- To keep up to-date on all things 'what's on' visit [events.destinationgoldcoast.com](http://events.destinationgoldcoast.com)



# TRANSPORT

Seamless accessibility is all yours with a city that gives you metropolitan infrastructure with boutique city benefits. With smooth connectivity from two international airports, train and light rail services backed up by an abundance of transfer options, you'll find getting just about anywhere is a breeze.

## TWO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

### **Gold Coast International Airport:**

30 minute drive to Surfers Paradise

### **Brisbane International Airport:**

60 minute drive to Surfers Paradise

## TRAIN AND LIGHT RAIL SERVICES

Connecting train journey from Brisbane Airport into Gold Coast city centre.

Find out more at [airtrain.com.au](http://airtrain.com.au)

### **Gold Coast light rail (G:Link)**

19 major stops around the Gold Coast with frequent services running 7 days per week. The go explore card is designed for use on Translink bus, train and tram services with multiple day passes available.

Find out more at [translink.com.au](http://translink.com.au)

## TRANSFERS AND CAR HIRE

You'll find every mode of transport you'll need on the Gold Coast with coaches, buses, luxury transfers, taxis and Uber options easily arranged. With hotels and venues in close proximity to restaurants, activities and the beach, it's a compact city that invites you to live like a local and readily explore what's on offer.



  
**Brisbane  
 Airport**

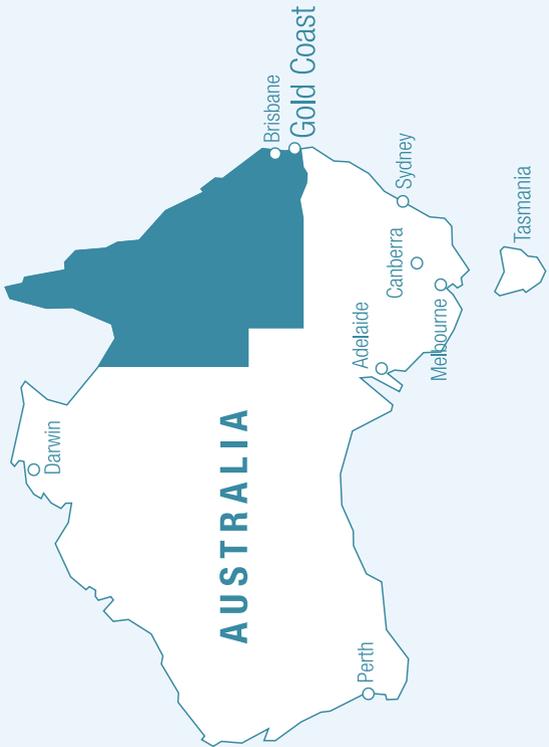
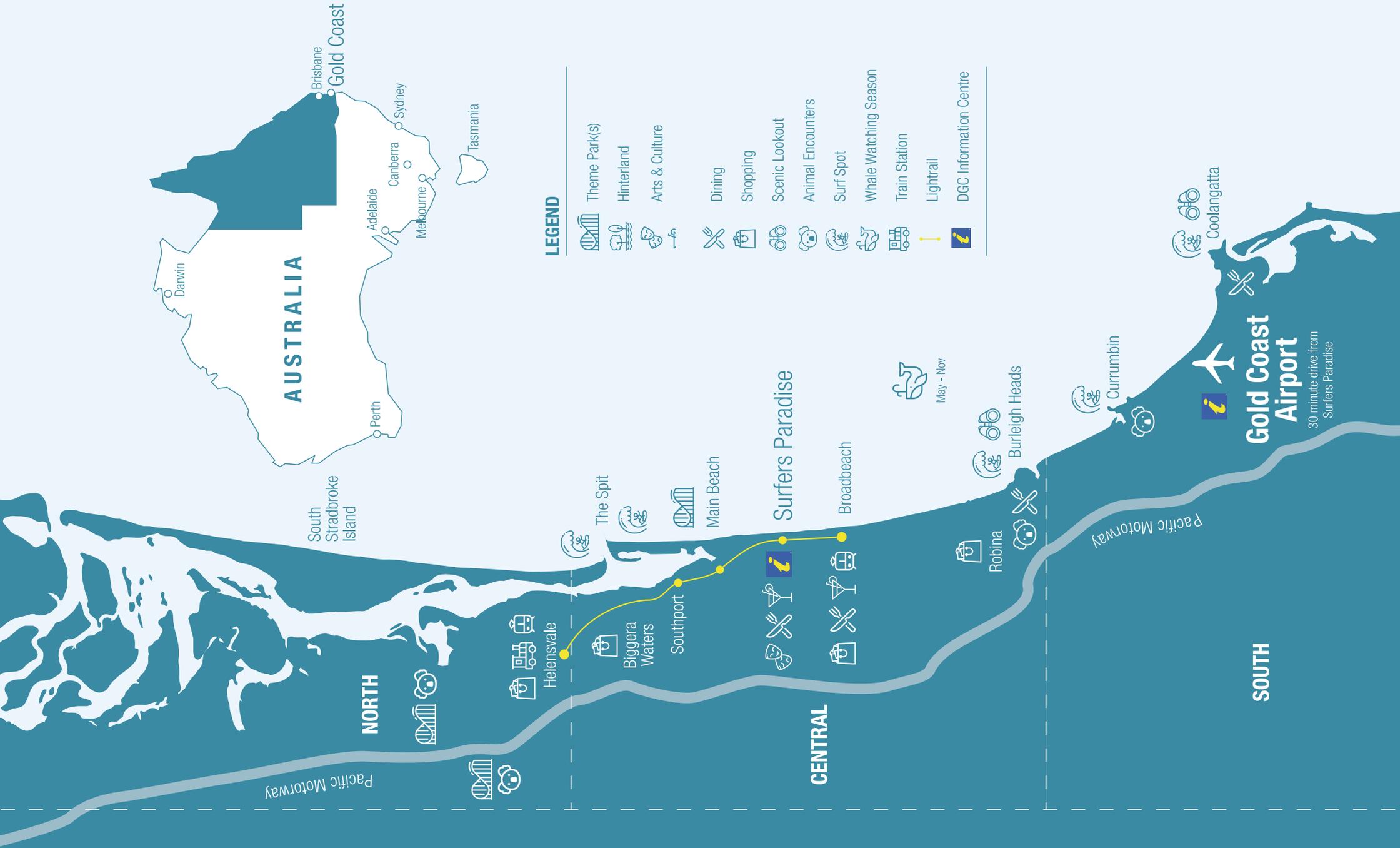
1 hour drive from  
 Surfers Paradise

  
 Tamborine  
 Mountain

  
**HINTERLAND**  
 40 minute drive from  
 Surfers Paradise

  
 Lamington  
 National Park

  
 Springbrook  
 National Park



**LEGEND**

-  Theme Park(s)
-  Hinterland
-  Arts & Culture
-  Dining
-  Shopping
-  Scenic Lookout
-  Animal Encounters
-  Surf Spot
-  Whale Watching Season
-  Train Station
-  Lightrail
-  DGC Information Centre

 May - Nov

30 minute drive from  
 Surfers Paradise

# 13



## ADVENTURE

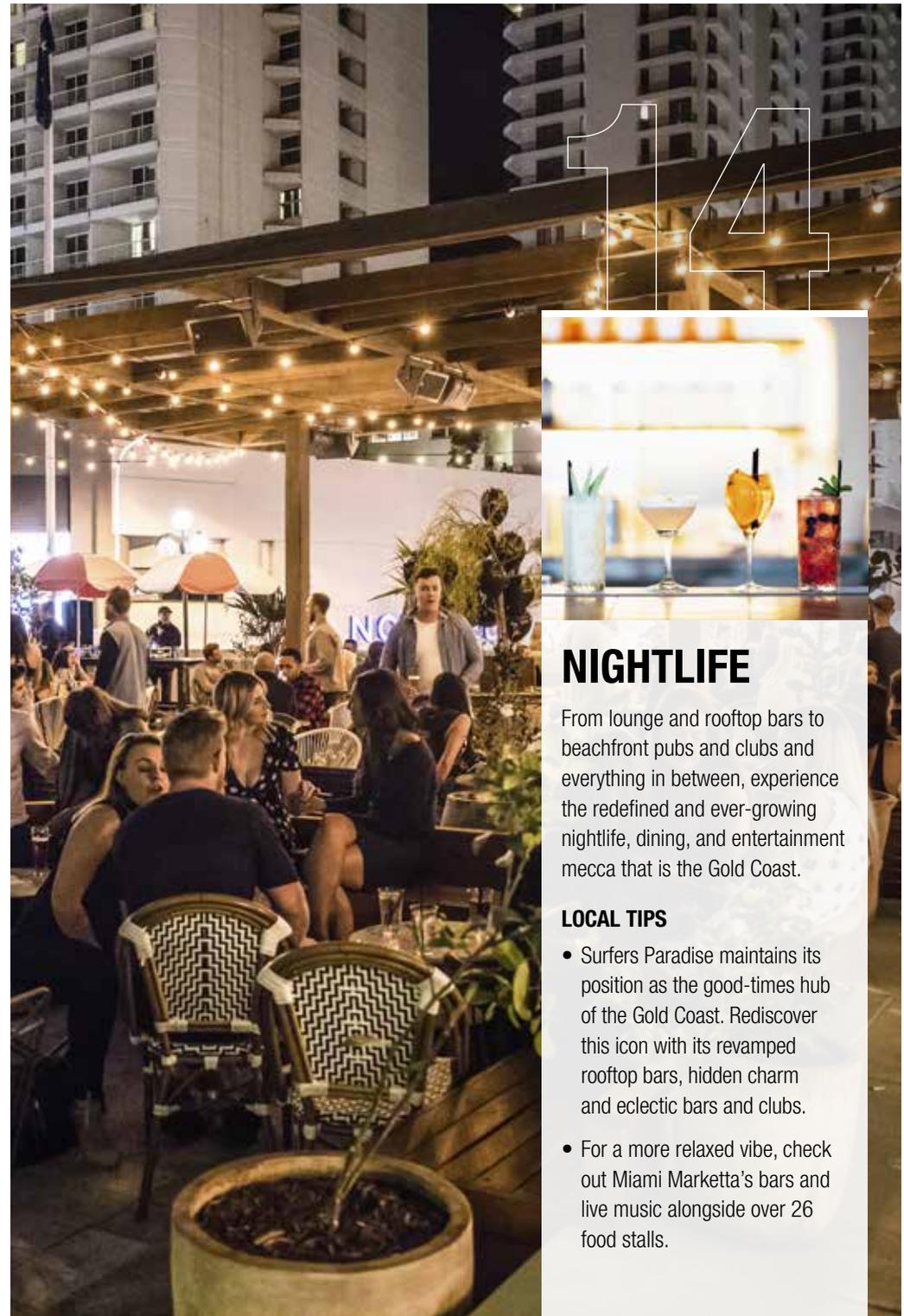
With a plethora of activities on offer to suit all vacation types and thrill levels, immerse yourself amongst some of the city's best to get the heart racing and the blood pumping.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Experience the thrill of a roller coaster at the iconic theme parks, strap in for a swinging time in the Hinterland on a zipline, cruise across the waterways in a high-speed jet boat or take to the skies for a skydive jump of a lifetime.
- Take on Australia's highest external building climb at SkyPoint Observation Deck.



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## NIGHTLIFE

From lounge and rooftop bars to beachfront pubs and clubs and everything in between, experience the redefined and ever-growing nightlife, dining, and entertainment mecca that is the Gold Coast.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Surfers Paradise maintains its position as the good-times hub of the Gold Coast. Rediscover this icon with its revamped rooftop bars, hidden charm and eclectic bars and clubs.
- For a more relaxed vibe, check out Miami Marketta's bars and live music alongside over 26 food stalls.

# 15



## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

The Gold Coast is famous for hosting world-renowned events that cater to all interests and ages throughout the year.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Each week the city plays host to an exciting new festival, performance or sporting carnival, and many of which are free.
- For updated information on what's on each weekend, visit [events.destinationgoldcoast.com](http://events.destinationgoldcoast.com)



# 16



## SEASIDE DINING

It's not often you can literally dine on the beach! From fine dining restaurants to casual beachfront bistros all with stunning waterfront or sunset vistas.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Enjoy stunning views of the rolling surf and sand at the many service and surf clubs dotted along the Gold Coast coastline.
- Check to see if your accommodation provider is located within the free pick-up and drop off shuttle service zones.



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## ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

Get up close and personal with many cute and cuddly native friends like the koala, kangaroo and even migrating whales via the Seaway.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Popular animal encounter hot spots include Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Sea World, Paradise Country, David Fleay Wildlife Park, The Broadwater and Dreamworld's Tiger Island.
- Whale watching season runs from May – November. Daily tours are available with whale sightings only 30 minutes from the coastline.



# 18

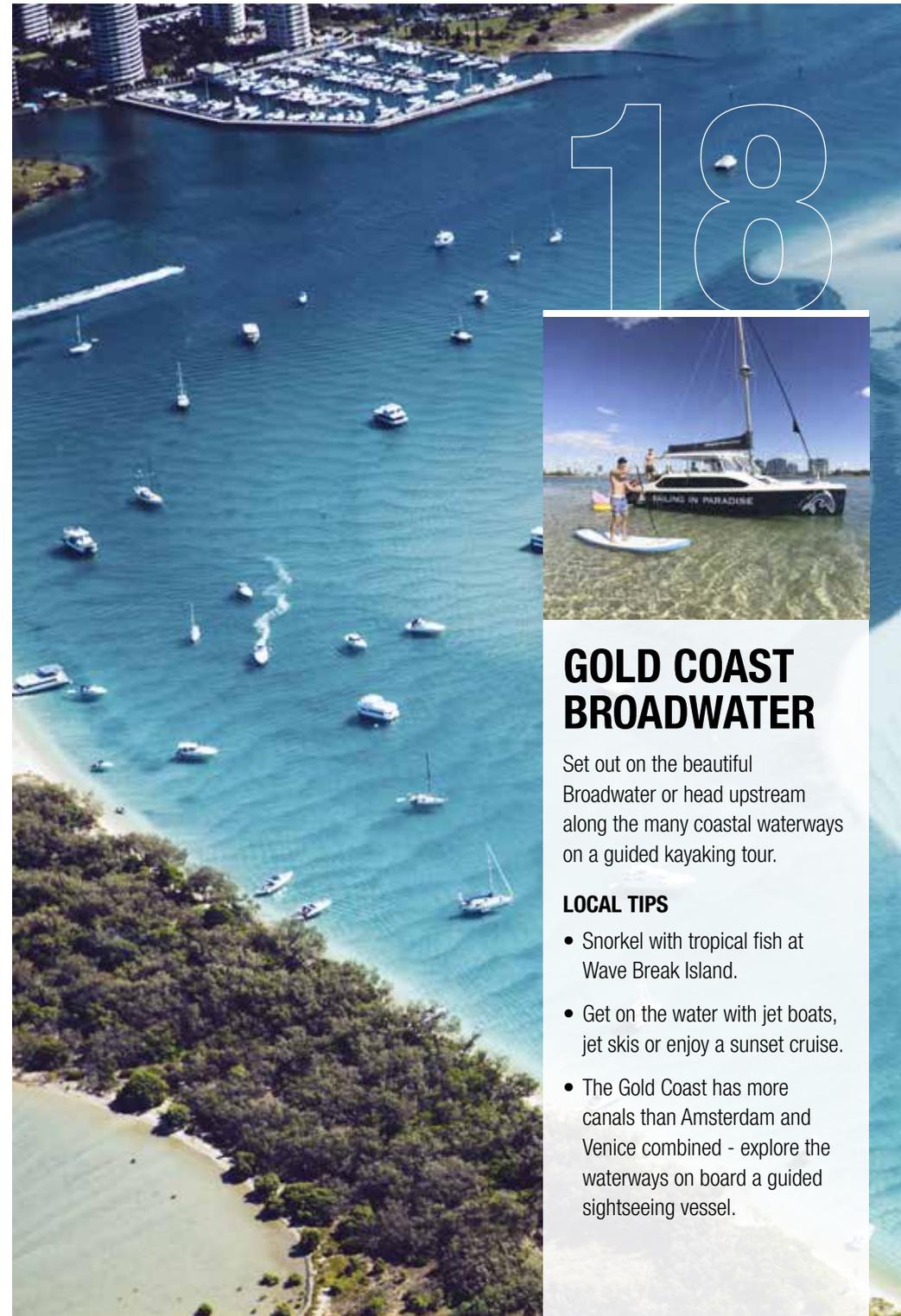


## GOLD COAST BROADWATER

Set out on the beautiful Broadwater or head upstream along the many coastal waterways on a guided kayaking tour.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Snorkel with tropical fish at Wave Break Island.
- Get on the water with jet boats, jet skis or enjoy a sunset cruise.
- The Gold Coast has more canals than Amsterdam and Venice combined - explore the waterways on board a guided sightseeing vessel.



# 19



## DAY SPAS & RETREATS

Experience relaxation and rejuvenation courtesy of the many luxurious day spas and tranquil eco retreats in and around the Gold Coast.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Escape to the Hinterland for a truly unique wellness experience. (For something different, try the Vinotherapy Body Infusion).
- Restore your mind, body and soul at one of our award-winning wellness retreats in Tallebudgera and Currumbin Valley.



# 20



## ALFRESCO

Take in the scenery with a packed picnic or classic takeaway fish and chips and dine alfresco by the beach or at the park.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Free outdoor BBQs are available at most parks and beaches.
- Join the locals on Burleigh Hill on a Sunday evening for sunset with the best views in town.

# 21



## TROPICAL FRUIT WORLD

For a farm experience with a difference, head to Tropical Fruit World – a family run plantation where you can see, taste and learn about fruits from around the globe.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Jump on board a fully guided Plantation Safari Tour to explore both flora and fauna areas of the park.
- For all chocolate lovers - the Black Sapote is a must try. You can even try it at the cafe blended as an ice cream.



# 22

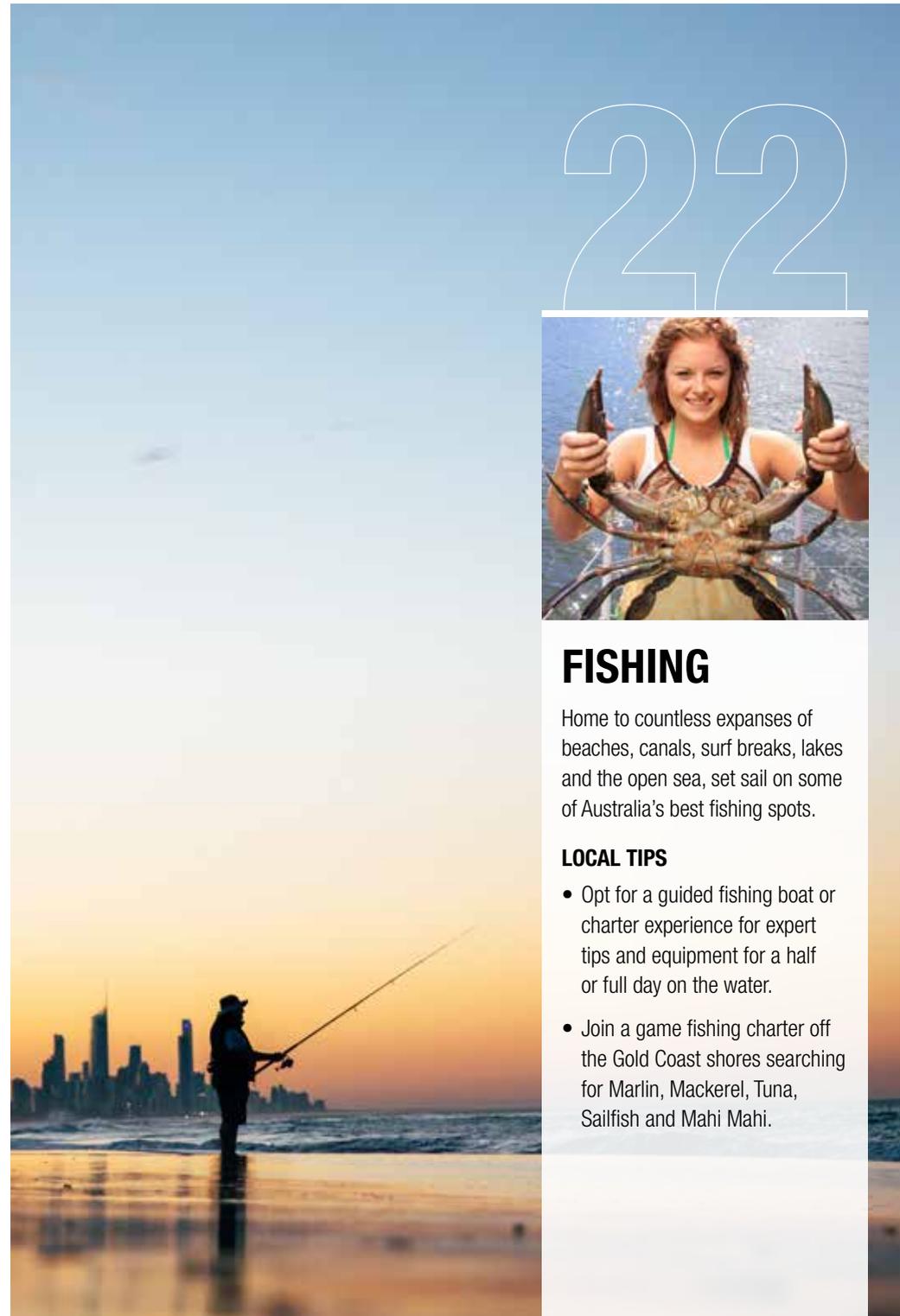


## FISHING

Home to countless expanses of beaches, canals, surf breaks, lakes and the open sea, set sail on some of Australia's best fishing spots.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Opt for a guided fishing boat or charter experience for expert tips and equipment for a half or full day on the water.
- Join a game fishing charter off the Gold Coast shores searching for Marlin, Mackerel, Tuna, Sailfish and Mahi Mahi.



# 23



## GLOW WORMS

Set in the Natural Bridge of World Heritage listed Springbrook National Park, experience Australia's largest colony of natural glow worms.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Flash photography is not permitted within the cave and comfortable walking shoes are required.
- Night tours available most days - book online to depart from the Gold Coast.



# 24



## FOODIE EXPERIENCES

From breakfast hotspots and long lunches to decadent high tea's and tours with local experts, enjoy the best culinary delights on offer at the Gold Coast.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Dine at Harvest, The Star Grand or QT Bazaar for the ultimate buffet experience, before a long lunch at Hyde Paradiso the place to see and be seen, by the sea.
- Discover secret local spots and personalised experiences with Gold Coast Food & Wine Tours.



# 25



## CRUISE THE WATERWAYS

Take in the stunning City view whilst voyaging kilometres of navigable waterways, by self-guided hire boats or organised tours.

### LOCAL TIPS

- Sunset Cruise with Crystal Blue Yacht charters; whale watch aboard Sea World Cruises or experience unique land and river cruising with Aquaduck and Quack'r'Duck.
- BYO food and drinks on board a self-drive eco friendly electric boat from Duffy Down Under. Or, hire a skipper with Waterline Charters or Cruise Gold Coast.



“  
**COME AND  
PLAY IN  
AUSTRALIA’S  
FAVOURITE  
PLAYGROUND**

”



## **DESTINATION GOLDCOAST.™**

[destinationgoldcoast.com](http://destinationgoldcoast.com)