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**A WORD FROM RACHEL HANCOCK
OUR INTERIM CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**



MAJOR EVENTS COMING UP

Pacific Airshow Gold Coast
18-20 August 2023

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SWELL Sculpture Festival
8-17 September 2023

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Groundwater Country Music Festival

20-22 October 2023

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Boost Mobile Gold Coast 500

27-29 October 2023

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WHAT'S NEW

SPA BY JW

Adding to the recent \$35 million hotel transformation, the Spa by JW at JW Marriot Resort & Spa has opened. Offering guests a luxurious day spa experience in the heart of Surfers Paradise. Combining elements of indulgence and sophistication whilst remaining true to the Gold Coast's laidback luxury origins, consisting of six thoughtfully designed treatment rooms including a signature couples room with its own private lounge, ensuite stone bath and twin showers. Wellness saunas, relaxation pods, steam experience showers and an outdoor relaxation area are all part of the experience. The culinary offering is provided with Executive Chef Paul Smart at the helm of the crafted food menu with a locally inspired tea service and a cheeky wine menu.



DIG IT

A unique attraction has opened in the Gold Coast hinterland, introducing Australia's first mini excavator park designed exclusively for kids. Located at Cedar Creek Lodges, ThunderBird Park, this park allows children and their parents to unleash their inner tradie by operating one of nine CAT mini-excavators. With a blend of adventure, fun, and hands-on engagement, children can explore the world of digging and moving dirt in a safe environment while sporting the iconic yellow tradie hat. The park features four distinct excavation zones, including the Dig Zone for training on a 1.7 tonne excavator, the Croc Zone for hunting toy crocodiles, the Demolition Zone for controlled chaos with a wrecking ball, and the RC Zone for operating remote control machines, offering a taste of a real working site.

HORIZON SKY DINING

Immerse in breathtaking vistas of the Gold Coast while savoring a delectable meal at the recently refurbished Horizon Sky Dining. Undoubtedly, a magnificent view enhances the pleasure of every dining experience. Revolving every 45mins you'll be treated to a view of the ocean, hinterland, & cityscape, Horizon Sky Dining is a must-visit destination. Formerly known as the Four Winds 360 Revolving Restaurant, this establishment has undergone an impressive multimillion-dollar renovation. Prepare to be captivated by the modern beach-chic atmosphere, featuring natural accents, light hues, and subtle nautical elements. Executive Chef Jean-Marc Heussner has expertly crafted a seafood buffet brimming with locally sourced delicacies.



ELOPEMENTS AT SEA WITH SUN SAILING

For all the water lovers, a perfect way to celebrate marriage with a fun intimate ceremony featuring the best backdrop there is, the beautiful broadwaters of the Gold Coast aboard a stunning 38ft yacht named Epsilon. An Event planner works on all the details with the couple to customize a package, be it just for the two of them or up to 6 guests. Professional celebrants conduct a legal marriage ceremony that incorporates the couple's favorite songs and concludes with a champagne toast. Various upgrades are available, a Photographer, Social Content Coordinator, Wedding Cake, Water activities, and much more.



AVIATION UPDATE

(click on each title for more information)

BRISBANE TO GOLD COAST

Traveling from Brisbane Airport to the Gold Coast has never been easier! After landing at Brisbane Airport its only 80km south to reach the Gold Coast. Transport options include Shuttle Bus, AirTrain & Car Hire.

JETSTAR TO BOOST INTERNATIONAL CAPACITY

Jetstar announced a groundbreaking partnership with Brisbane Airport, leading to the launch of 500,000 discounted seats between Brisbane and international destinations. This move will attract numerous tourists to southeast Queensland annually. The deal allows Jetstar to operate direct flights from Brisbane to Tokyo (Narita), Osaka, and Seoul, aligning with their low-cost model. Additionally, Jetstar will increase the frequency of its Brisbane-Bali and Brisbane-Auckland services. The introduction of the Airbus A321neo LR aircraft enables this expansion.

VIETJET INCREASES FREQUENCY

Responding to increased travel demand, Vietjet is enhancing its flight offerings to Brisbane, Australia. Starting from December 6, 2023, the frequency of flights between Ho Chi Minh City and Brisbane will be increased to three return flights per week. This improvement aims to provide more accessibility and convenience for travellers between the two cities.

MARKET ACTIVITY



VIRTUOSO WORKSHOP

In collaboration with Tourism & Events Queensland and Tourism Australia, Gold Coast hosted the G'Day Virtuoso Workshop, attracting 18 Virtuoso travel advisors from across USA & Canada. Participants were treated to personalised pre-familis throughout Australia, culminating in a comprehensive program on the Gold Coast. On the Gold Coast they indulged in exclusive boutique experiences spanning from the coast to the hinterland including 3-night stay at The Langham.

JAPAN & SOUTH KOREA

Destination Gold Coast together with Study Gold Coast, hosted tourism, aviation, and education VIP events across Seoul and Tokyo to reacquaint Japan and South Korea with our city. With additional tourism seminars across Seoul, Osaka and Tokyo we engaged with key distribution and airline partners showcasing 9 key DGC member products.



HOT OFF THE PRESS

(click on each for the article)

[NZ Herald - 4 great places to eat and drink on the Gold Coast](#)

[Stuff NZ - Six of the best stays in Queensland's favourite playground](#)

[Stuff NZ - 'Water and snot everywhere': The thrilling Gold Coast activity unlike any other](#)

[New Straits Times - Australia....like a boomerang, one is bound to return for more](#)

QUICK SNIPPETS

- [Whale Season](#) has started with an estimated 35,000 whales to migrate through the Gold Coast!
- Congratulations to The Langham Gold Coast and QT Gold Coast for both winning multiple categories at the [2023 Queensland Hotels Association Awards for Excellence](#).
- Football Australia has announced the [National Futsal Championships](#) will be heading to the Gold Coast in January 2024.

As a current subscriber to Destination Gold Coast's Travel Trade Newsletter, we'd like to stay friends, however if you wish to part ways you can unsubscribe on the link below or email international@destinationgoldcoast.com.

We love being friends with Travel Trade – if you have colleagues who would like to receive this newsletter, they can sign up [here](#).

#playgoldcoast



Destination Gold Coast acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are situated, the Kombumerri families of the Yugambeh Language Region. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise their continuing connections to the lands, waters and their extended communities throughout Southeast Queensland.

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