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Winter Edition  
GOLD COAST



# White

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RayWhite

## WELCOME...

We're about wanderlust...  
The spirit of adventure...  
The thrill of the chase...  
The unbeaten path. We're about  
showcasing the best of the coast,  
the hotspots that locals know best.

When you talk about winter, it means vastly different things to different people. If you lived in Greenland, winter feels like -50C. Not to be outdone, winter on Mt Everest is a balmy -60C (but the hurricane-force winds can reach more than 285kmh). Or try Tromso in Norway where winter becomes one big long "Polar night" where the sun just doesn't rise at all. It's dark 24-7. For months. And months.

Winter might be our least-fave season of the year but, on a scale of zero to Polar Night, we are pretty lucky here on the Gold Coast. Winter to a Gold Coast local just means throwing a tres chic jacket over your cut-off denim shorts outfit, or swapping short sleeves for long sleeves (but rolling up said sleeves by 11am). Southerners joke that we here on the Gold Coast in winter just throw on a pair of socks before we slide into our rubber thongs #truth #theirjustjealous

Here on the Gold Coast in winter, we still hit our beaches, we still get wet, and we still love to explore our city's limits. We love to eat and drink and play with equal gusto in June as we do in January. And we still slip, slop slap. Which is why if you're planning a trip to our sun-kissed strip of sand, you should not fear you'll miss out on anything in the wintertime. Which brings us to this winter edition of scout magazine - your local guide to our local area, written by locals in the know. It's packed full of wintery ideas and options for eating, playing, adventuring and more.

We hope you love reading about winter on the Gold Coast as much as we have loved bringing these stories to you. And if you're coming up to the GC for a winter getaway, just remember to pack your thongs. And your socks.

*Keeley O'Connor*  
— FOUNDER

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EAT



WELLBEING



SHOP



WHAT'S  
ON



ELSEWHERE



“TRAVELLING.  
It leaves you  
SPEECHLESS,  
then turns you into a  
STORYTELLER.”

scout



## THE WORD...



*Are you ready to Flamingo?*

Coming in July, The Pink Flamingo will house a sophisticated and sexy stage show featuring international superstars in an intoxicating blend of cabaret, burlesque and cirque right in the heart of the GC. This brand new world-class venue will deliver a lavish yet intimate production which will include acrobatic stunts, the spellbinding local Aerial Angels, hilarious comedy and more. They'll combine humour and elegance and that element of 'look-but-don't-touch'. Created for adults aged 18-108, it's a show for everyone! The Pink Flamingo can be found at Shop 8/88 Surf Parade. Broadbeach, with entry via Main Place Lane. As the owners say, "Pink is not a colour, it's an attitude!".

[WWW.PINKFLAMINGOGOLDCOAST.COM](http://WWW.PINKFLAMINGOGOLDCOAST.COM)



## MEET THE MAKERS AT THE TROPIC

For the foodies and wine buffs among us, each month The Tropic (at Burleigh Pavillion, 43 Goodwin Terrace, Burleigh Heads) presents their Meet the Makers dinner series showcasing a range of winemakers, distillers, brewers and producers. On the calendar for the next few months are these topics:

**July 24 – Italian wines and meats from a local butcher**

**August 15 – Local and imported cheeses**

**September 4 – Rosés of the world and crustaceans**

**October 16 – Champagne and seafood**

**November 21 – All things vegan**

Keen? Bookings are essential on 07 5661 9050.

[WWW.BURLEIGHPAVILION.COM/THE-TROPIC](http://WWW.BURLEIGHPAVILION.COM/THE-TROPIC)

## HERE COMES THE MISS

Miss Moneypenny's is well known and loved across Noosa and now the Sunshine Coast brand is hitting the Gold Coast with a new venue at Broadie. Miss Moneypenny's is the creation of Ben Walsh who has been in the business for 20 years and has achieved many industry awards, including coming third place in the World Mixology Masters in Amsterdam. Miss Moneypenny's will be located in a brand new multi-venue dining precinct at the five-star Avani apartment tower. But the good news doesn't stop there. Miss Moneypenny's will sit alongside two other new eateries – an American-style sports bar called Fat Freddy's Beach Bar & Diner as well as high-end The Rimini Room in a \$7 million development. We can't wait!



## CHEERS TO A GC NEWBIE

The super stylish Husk Farm Distillery – with its cellar door, cocktail bar and café – has just opened to the public and is well worth the trip to Tumbulgum. Husk is the creative brainchild of the Messenger family including head distiller Paul along with his wife Mandy (CFO/ chief designer) and their three daughters Harriet (marketing), Edwina (logistics) and Claudia (graphic design).

Production of their first paddock-to-bottle agricole rum began in 2012, made with the family farm's homegrown sugar cane to capture the unique flavours of the region – the provenance. Ink Gin hit the market with a bang, with people at home and abroad embracing the smooth Australian taste and quirky colour change of the butterfly pea (from blue to purple) when you add tonic! With each year's successes, they quickly grew out of the original farm shed and began planning for Husk Distillery 2.0.

"As we're in the Green Caldera's natural food bowl, the cocktail and café menus will showcase local produce, along with Blackboard coffee, gin- and rum-infused chocolates, local cheese/charcuterie boards and tasting paddles made from old barrel staves," they say.

[WWW.HUSKDISTILLERS.COM](http://WWW.HUSKDISTILLERS.COM)



## Oasis goes next Level

The Oasis is known as a food and fashion Mecca but now, with the opening of gaming centre Level Up Arcade, it is also proving a magnet for the kids (and those 'big' kids among us!). The hotly anticipated 1980s-inspired arcade has taken over a 400sqm space on Level 1. It offers the Gold Coast's first embedded tap-and-play card system, the city's first 2019 Pong 3D game and limited-edition pinball machines. Players can enjoy the latest video games and classics like DayTona, Pac-Man, Donkey Kong, Jurassic Park and Buck Hunter. Broadbeach has never been so FUN!

[WWW.LEVELUPARCADE.COM.AU](http://WWW.LEVELUPARCADE.COM.AU)



## Go Greek!

Elia Greek Taverna is a large 250-seater restaurant directly on the Marina Mirage waterfront, with a focus on fresh Greek cuisine and generous-sized portions, as Greek food should be! Just open at Marina Mirage, Elia's tasty new menu features all of the favourites, from delish whole cooked fish to dolmades and galatoboureko (a traditional custard pie), including a slew of vegetarian and vegan options for all. It's a new culinary experience for Gold Coasters who should expect a Grecian feast when they stop by!

## Say what?

### WONDERING WHAT THE WORDS IN YOUR GOLD COAST TOURISM GUIDE ACTUALLY MEAN AND HOW TO PRONOUNCE THEM? LET THE LOCALS TELL YOU...

Any Gold Coaster will tell you that Surfers Paradise isn't a surfer's paradise at all – it was actually named after the Surfers Paradise Hotel, founded by Jim Cavill (sound familiar?) in 1925.

**Coolangatta** is named after a ship that wrecked off its coastline, which was in turn named after a nearby mountain, which was in turn named after the Tharawal Aboriginal word for "splendid view".

The name **Tugun** (pronounced more like CHEW-gun) is believed to have been derived from a local Aboriginal language meaning "breaking waves".

**Burleigh Heads** was originally dubbed 'Burly Head' because of its massive appearance, but the spelling was changed when the town was declared in 1871. To the native Komberri clan, it's Jellurgal.

Whether the word **Currumbin** means "high up", "place where high trees grow", "quicksand" or comes from the word "kurrohmin" (meaning kangaroo), no one seems to know?!

**Miami** was likely named after the city in Florida, which drew its name from the Mayaimi, a Native American tribe. Both Miami and Palm Beach can also be found on Florida's 'Gold Coast'.

**Mermaid Beach** was named by explorer John Oxley, who discovered the Tweed and Brisbane rivers aboard the *HMS Mermaid* in 1823.

**Gaven** (pronounced GAY-ven) is named after the Gaven family, who have lived in the area since 1880. Eric Gaven was a local shire councillor responsible for allowing alcohol to be served in Surfers Paradise restaurants.

**Coombabah** (Coom-buh-bar) is an Aboriginal word that means "home of the turtles", although you're more likely to spot kangaroos and even koalas there these days.

There are a few different theories about how **Mudgeeraba** (Mud-JEER-a-bar) got its name, and none all that appealing! Take your pick from "place of infant's excrement", "place where someone told lies" or "place of sticky soil".

**Biggera Waters** (pronounce with emphasis on the 'big') gets its name from an Aboriginal word referring to the red ironbark tree.

**Kurrawa** (KUH-ruh-wuh) means "deep blue sea" in the local Aboriginal dialect – fitting, seeing as it's now the name of the well-known Broadbeach surf club.





Play

The Gold Coast is Australia's theme park capital and all of them can be found in the same general vicinity. Driving south, into the Gold Coast, the hard-to-miss Giant Drop at **Dreamworld** is enough to get any child – or child-at-heart – excited, and by the time they spot the enormous DC Rivals Hypercoaster at **Warner Bros. Movie World** just a few kilometres further down the motorway, they'll be begging you to pull over. Adventure calls Coomera and Oxenford home, and you could easily spend a few days exploring the big four theme parks here – **Dreamworld**, **White Water World**, **Movie World** and **Wet'n'Wild** – without ever getting to down to the Gold Coast's city centre. That's because all four theme parks promise more than just a thrill (although they certainly offer plenty of those, too), with roaming movie and TV characters, wild animal experiences, delicious food, exhibitions and live entertainment that will have you lingering until they close their enormous doors. Stay after dark for special events on select dates – like Dreamworld's Winterfest on July 6 and Movie World's 'Fright Nights' in October – to keep the fun going all day, and night, long.



# SUBURB SPOTLIGHT...

Suburbs like Burleigh and Surfers Paradise steal most of our city's spotlight but the northern end of the Gold Coast's city limits offer plenty to see and do, too.



NORTHERN SUBURBS

If you're looking for an authentic V8 supercar experience, you'll find it a little further north-east at Norwell. **V8 Supercars Gold Coast** is owned by long-time race car driver Paul Morris and is the only experience of its kind that's officially endorsed by the sport – essentially, it's the closest rookies will get to actually racing. Burn laps around the track, either as a passenger or behind the wheel yourself, learning how to master the art of braking, turning and steering 360+ horsepower from the pros.

But, if tearing around a racetrack isn't exactly your speed, take it a little slower at one of the many **golf courses** in the Gold Coast's northern suburbs. Making the most of the expansive surrounds and pristine ocean inlets, Hope Island and nearby Sanctuary Cove have become two of the most coveted golfing greens on the Gold Coast, and both ranked amongst Australia's 100 best golf courses in 2018. Further north, Pimpama's Gainsborough Greens Clubhouse course is well worth a visit – if not for the greens themselves, then certainly for the Sunday sessions at the on-site restaurant.



scout



Eat

You'd be hard-pressed finding a food icon in these parts bigger than **Yatala Pies**. Yatala Pies has been a landmark in Yatala for more than 130 years. From humble beginnings as a small pie shop on the Pacific Highway, the company has relocated to large, modern, landscaped premises nearby (exit 38 Yatala North off the M1) and employs 70 staff. From modest sales of about 200 pies a day a little over a decade ago, the company now sells more than 3500 pies a day, as well as hundreds of sweet pastries. Our hot tip for Yatala Pie newbies? Go beyond your plain steak or steak-and-mushie tradition and opt for a Lamb Coconut Curry pie. With a side of the best hot chips on the M1. Delish.

Shop

Westfield shopping centres are more than just shopping hubs – they are lifestyle destinations. The new **Westfield Coomera**, and its sister centre **Westfield Helensvale**, are both exactly that. At Westfield Coomera, think 140 specialty stores, a Fresh Food Marketplace, outdoor dining precinct and an entertainment precinct that includes **Event Cinemas**, the first **iPlay** Adventure Family Entertainment Centre in Australia as well as **The Park Coomera** which is "a tenpin bowling and mini golf meets beergarden" space. You can easily lose a day there – in the best possible way!



For those who love to squeeze every cent out of a dollar, when is outlet shopping ever a bad idea? You can indulge your outlet shopping requirement at **Harbour Town** (at Biggera Waters). With more than 240 stores including brand-direct outlets and clearance stores, as well as a host of specialty retailers and delicious alfresco dining options, this is another way to spend a blissful day shopping on the Goldie. Just like their tagline, Harbour Town is a 'friend with benefits'. Credit cards at the ready, people!

scout





EAT...

# WINTER WARMERS

WHEN IT COMES TO COSY COMFORT FOOD THIS WINTER, YOU CAN'T GO PAST A RICH HOT CHOCOLATE OR FRESHLY BAKED SCONES WITH STEAMING TEA. WE'VE NARROWED DOWN THE GOLD COAST'S MORNING TEA 'HALL OF FAMERS' TO REALLY WARM UP YOUR MORNINGS THIS WINTER.

## Bam Bam Bakehouse

Known for their pastry creations and next-level breakfast offerings, it's little surprise that Bam Bam Bakehouse dominates the hot chocolate scene, too. Don't believe us? Four words: Nutella. Oreo. Hot. Chocolate. And that's just the start. Bam Bam Bakehouse also do a killer 'Mermaid latte' – which admittedly isn't a hot chocolate, but when you're sipping on that sea mineral-y, blue superfood-y goodness, you won't even care – and a pretty pink 'Barbie hot chocolate,' the delicious combination of rose and white chocolate that makes life in plastic oh so fantastic. Order any one of Bam Bam's hot drinks with a cruffin, croissant or chocolate bomb and consider yourself warmed all winter long.

## Elk Espresso

Elk Espresso's seasonal menus are a sight to behold, with more must-try dishes than you could realistically taste before the menu changes again (#challengeaccepted). Their beverage options are no different. This winter, favourites like Elk's Lindt mocha and hot chocolate, and their white and chilli hot chocolates, are sharing the spotlight with something new – ruby chocolate spheres. Chocolate spheres aren't a new addition to Elk's menus, but it's the ruby factor that tongues wagging. Pour steaming milk over the little pink sphere – which is made from natural 'ruby cocoa beans' that offer a sweet, sour taste, nothing like the chocolate you know and love – and watch it melt into an oozing pool of goodness. It turns out pink is the warmest colour of them all!



## Oh My Waffle

As one might expect from their name, Oh My, Waffle absolutely nail the breakfast favourite. With vegan and non-vegan waffles to choose from, and combinations like salted caramel and banana, fruit and mini meringues and Kinder Bueno with melted milk chocolate, there's something for everyone. That's especially true of their gourmet hot chocolate selection. Sharing the spotlight with other Oh My, Waffles drink options – like cereal shakes freakshakes – these babies certainly hold their own. Choose from red velvet cake batter, Nutella Oreo or s'more, or opt for one of their special winter hot chocolates – the White Walker, with its coconut and white chocolate hot chocolate topped with whipped cream and toasted coconut, is our personal favourite. Oh my, indeed.



## Fixx Lounge & Cafe

In the corner of Fixx Café, which is within the QT Gold Coast, an unassuming round table is sure to catch your eye. It's piled high with double chocolate brownies, meringues, rocky road, red velvet cupcakes and heartwarming scones with jam and cream. Almost like a grown-up candy store! Put in your order for some heart-starting caffeine and then hit the scones like here's no tomorrow – yummo! You can even enjoy a daily high tea any time you like (between the hours of 10am and 3pm) here at Fixx. The menu features an assortment of sweet and savoury treats, perfect for sharing. From the brightly coloured beach-themed 'sex on the beach' balls, cakes and slices to the house-made quiche and chocolate popsicle sticks, it combines all of your high tea favourites with a sprinkle of QT quirk! Trust us, you'll be Instagramming this one for sure!



## Birchgrove Nursery

OK, OK, we know we are directing you to a nursery up a mountain right now but, trust us, it'll be worth the drive for morning tea this winter. Birchgrove Nursery is a quaint little spot at 38 Alpine Tce, Mount Tamborine. Once you've dragged yourself away from the fragrant roses and other floral wonders that you have to walk through to find the café, there can be a giant scone and a steaming pot of tea awaiting you right beside a wood-burning fireplace. Doesn't that already sound like bliss? Café Alpine also offers loads of bric-a-brac and antiques to buy so there's even more reason to stop by and nab some of the mountain's best morning tea.

## Notable mentions



**Third Base Coffee:**

We are ordering the vegan coconut hot choc.



**Cowch:**

Deluxe hot chocolate – and we mean "deluxe".



**Paddock Bakery:**

Two of our faves sitting side by side – hot salted caramel with soft marshmallow.



# WELLBEING...

## RUN THE GC

IT MAY BE HELD IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER, BUT THE GOLD COAST MARATHON NEVER FAILS TO HEAT THINGS UP WHEN IT ROLLS AROUND ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF JULY. IN CELEBRATION OF AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER ROAD RACE, WE'VE NARROWED DOWN THE BEST WAYS YOU CAN RUN THE GC ALL YEAR 'ROUND.

### RUNNING TRACKS

**Mermaid Beach to Burleigh Heads:** "I love running around the headland early in the morning when the sun is just rising, before it gets too crowded," says Gold Coast Marathon ambassador Danielle Byrnes. Don't miss out on Hedges Avenue in Mermaid, either – you'll quickly see why this beachfront street has been dubbed 'Millionaires' Row'.

**Coombabah wetlands:** With the towering eucalyptus trees and ever-present hum of nature, you're unlikely to find a more peaceful running spot than the Coombabah Lake conservation area. Home to 274 different animal species – including koalas, owls and flying foxes – there's always a chance you'll bump into one of the Gold Coast's cutest residents on this run, too.

**Start at the Spit:** Southport's famous beach is the perfect starting point for runners of all skill levels – and it's so easy to adjust your running track/distance to suit you. "I've had to increase my distance while marathon training," says Dani. "Running along the Esplanade at Surfers Paradise and past many other runners is so inspiring!"



**Nerang State Forest:** The venue of choice for a number of local running events, Nerang State Forest is a favourite for its versatility – runners of all skill levels can find the perfect track for them. The beautiful rainforest scenery makes every step a little easier, too.

**Morans Falls track:** Situated in the Green Mountains section of Lamington National Park, this scenic track is great for runners and bushwalkers alike. It may only be a little over 4km there and back – a drop in the ocean compared to the 42km marathon – but with steep and sloping sections, you'll certainly earn a rest overlooking the cascading waterfall.



### RUNNING CLUBS

**parkrun:** Less of a running club, parkrun is more of a worldwide sensation. The first parkrun started in London in 2004 and nowadays, it attracts more than one million runners across 21 countries. The Gold Coast was the first Aussie city to adopt the phenomenon and both parkrun (5km) and Junior parkrun (2km) have become some of the most popular running events in town.

[www.parkrun.com.au](http://www.parkrun.com.au)

**Adsy's Athletes:** Run by local running champion Adam Gordon, the Adsy's Athletes are one of the coast's only groups that cater to all running levels. "I've been going for almost six years now," says Dani. "We train a couple of times a week, and everyone is welcome – we have a lot of fun, get fitter, faster and travel to some incredible running events together."

[www.adsygordon.com](http://www.adsygordon.com)

**Gold Coast Runners Club:** Meeting every Sunday morning at Burleigh's Justin's Park, the Gold Coast Runners Club appeals to locals and visitors, experienced and beginner runners, and runners fast and slow. It's all about showing up and showing yourself what you can do, in one of the most beautiful running destinations in the world.

[www.goldcoastrunnersclub.com.au](http://www.goldcoastrunnersclub.com.au)

**RK Pod:** Whether you're 18 or 80, RK Pod is right for you. Whether you're keen to make new running friends, achieve a half-marathon or marathon distance or just have fun, regular RK Pod sessions will have you smashing your goals in no time. There are group runs as well as options for training and speed and agility improvement.

[www.rkpod.com.au](http://www.rkpod.com.au)

**Gold Coast Run Co.:** A true running community, Gold Coast Run Co. consists of four running groups – the primary school Whippets, the 12-18yo Junior Squad, the Main Beach/Burleigh run clubs and the High Performance squad. They also run (pun intended) training camps and overseas tours, with a core aim to help people lead happier, healthier lives.

[www.goldcoastrunco.com](http://www.goldcoastrunco.com)

## REST AND RECOVERY

WHETHER YOU'RE COMPETING IN THE GOLD COAST MARATHON ON JULY 6-7 OR SIMPLY WANT TO TRY OUT SOME OF THE WORLD-CLASS SPORT RECOVERY CENTRES THE GOLD COAST HAS TO OFFER, PAY THESE PLACES A VISIT.

### RIGS RECOVERY

'Repair, rejuvenate and recover' is the RIGS mantra. Knowing that recovery is just as important as physical training, RIGS offer services and solutions to address everything from oxygen therapy and injury rehab to anti-aging, as well as the hugely popular cryotherapy – technology that uses subzero air exposure to kick start your body into survival mode, releasing endorphins and promoting rapid circulation. Other RIGS recovery options include the Dreampod (a float therapy sensory deprivation tank that uses warm Epsom salt solution to help you achieve deep relaxation for mental and physical calmness) and a Hyperbaric chamber (an atmospherically controlled chamber that allows you to breathe 100 per cent oxygen), just to name a few.

[www.rigsrecovery.com.au](http://www.rigsrecovery.com.au)

### P3 SPORTS AND RECOVERY

You're sure to spot a bevy of local sports stars and athletes when you stop by P3 Sports and Recovery, which is true testament to the effectiveness of their treatment options. "I have been to P3 many times and I think everyone should have a recovery session there when they are training very hard," says Gold Coast Marathon ambassador Danielle Byrnes. "If you've never been, you're in for a real treat!" Even the PainPod – which sounds a lot worse than it is – is a favourite for athletes, gym enthusiasts and anyone with an active lifestyle, using BioPads to target knots and trigger points for a deep post-workout massage. There are also dry and wet therapy options, include a magnesium hydrotherapy pool and a cold plunge pool, as well as hot and cold spas. "Wet therapy has a bevy of benefits including increased circulation, reduced swelling and relieving aching muscles – ultimately speeding up recovery so you can get back to training," says Dani.

[www.p3sportsgoldcoast.com.au](http://www.p3sportsgoldcoast.com.au)

### POST-RUN TIPS FROM A PRO

A model and Gold Coast personality, Dani (pictured right) isn't just Gold Coast Marathon ambassador for the third year in a row – she's participated in the event a number of times, too! Her tips for cooling down after a run? "I usually cool down with a 10-minute jog or walk before I jump in the shower – if I don't, I cramp up, find recovery slower and get very sore the next day!" says Dani. "I also make sure I refuel after a run. Normally I have breakfast within 30 minutes after my morning run, but if I don't have time, I at least have a banana smoothie with protein. Replenished muscles mean you can get back to running quicker!"

Dani adds that she waits a few hours after her run before using a foam roller on her calves, quads and IT band (outer thigh), and she also uses a tennis ball to sooth her glute muscles. Painful, but necessary!





## SHOP...

*Fifty shades of grey*

THE COLD WEATHER HAS SET IN, AND WE'VE DUG OUT THE HOT CHOCOLATE POWDER – IT'S OFFICIALLY 'GREY MARLE' SEASON, AND WE COULDN'T BE MORE EXCITED. DECK YOURSELF OUT FROM HEAD TO TOE IN WINTER'S COSIEST COLOUR.



1. Seed Heritage Billie sneakers in grey (also available in beige, black, navy and white), \$6995, [www.seedheritage.com](http://www.seedheritage.com)
2. Iris & Ink Bree pleated check midi skirt, \$155, [www.theoutnet.com](http://www.theoutnet.com) 3. MUUBAA Columba leather jacket, \$275, [www.theoutnet.com](http://www.theoutnet.com)
4. Trent Nathan basic fringe winter scarf, \$5995, [www.myer.com.au](http://www.myer.com.au) 5. Zara long belted jumpsuit, \$99, [www.zara.com/au](http://www.zara.com/au)
6. Camilla and Marc Huntington tee in grey (available in various colours), \$120, [www.theiconic.com.au](http://www.theiconic.com.au) 7. Sportsgirl grey jacquard animal scarf, \$3995, [www.sportsgirl.com.au](http://www.sportsgirl.com.au) 8. Sass & Bide Star Friends knit in grey (also available in black), \$350, [www.sassandbide.com](http://www.sassandbide.com)
9. Country Road zip front mini skirt, \$179, [www.countryroad.com.au](http://www.countryroad.com.au) 10. Seed Heritage knit cap, \$39, [www.seedheritage.com](http://www.seedheritage.com)
11. Tony Bianco Brazen boots in natural snake (also available in black), \$21995, [www.theiconic.com.au](http://www.theiconic.com.au)

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## SHOP...

*Leather*

...or a denim jacket is pretty much the most winter-y item you'll need in your suitcase when you visit us at this time of year. The nights certainly get cool (by our standards, at least) and either a denim or leather jacket will pair perfectly with jeans and sneakers, whether you're hitting the town, catching a game or chowing down on fish and chips on the beach.

## HOW THE GC DOES WINTER FASHION

WE MAY NOT FEEL THE FULL FORCE OF ALL FOUR SEASONS HERE ON THE GOLDY, BUT WE CERTAINLY DO HAVE OUR OWN DISTINCT WEATHER PATTERNS THAT REQUIRE EQUALLY DISTINCT FASHION CHOICES. VISITING FROM OUT OF TOWN? HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO KNOW.

Trans-seasonal dressing takes on a new meaning in South-East Queensland. While people further south have plenty of reasons to whip out their woollen coats and scarves, and those up north can wear denim shorts and t-shirts pretty much all year 'round, on the Gold Coast, we're in limbo. If you've travelled to our sunny shores during the cooler months, you'll need a few essentials to get you through – but they may surprise you.

*Thongs*

Because when don't Queenslanders find an excuse to throw on a pair? Summer or winter, you'll need to invest in a pair of these babies if you're visiting the Gold Coast – it's practically law.



*Denim shorts*

...are probably something you pack away during winter time, but they're part of the Gold Coast uniform all year 'round. This season, wear them with a jumper and boots or a t-shirt and a jacket and you'll still be considered 'dressed up' enough no matter where you go.



*Sun hat*

It probably isn't a cold weather essential where you're from, but on the Gold Coast, winter is one of our sunniest times of the year. Yep, the summer storms are gone and clear blue skies are just about guaranteed, so you're definitely going to need sun protection if you're roaming around our city between June and September. On that note, make sure you invest in some sunscreen, too – even when the weather is mild you'll still hit the beach when you're in town.

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# WHAT'S ON...

## REGIONAL FLAVOURS RETURNS

QUEENSLAND'S PREMIER FREE FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL IS BACK, BRINGING PLENTY OF FOOD-FOCUSED FUN TO BRISBANE'S SOUTH BANK PARKLANDS ON JULY 20-21.



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Since launching 11 years ago, Regional Flavours has become quite the Queensland icon. One of the largest free food and wine festivals in Australia, it's a celebration of our vibrant food culture and regional producers, artisans, graziers and chefs. Brimming with cooking demonstrations led by celebrity chefs and industry experts, pop-up food stalls, live music and free kids' activities, Regional Flavours 2019 makes for the perfect day trip up from the Gold Coast.

Innovation is a core focus at this year's event, providing great opportunities for guests to try some different or even a plant-based alternative to your favourite foods. For example, 'camel culture' will be in the spotlight with stallholders Summer Land Camels and QCamels treating attendees to nourishing camel-based milk, cheese and yoghurts – said to provide support with some health issues like diabetes and Crohn's Disease. And, on the Main Stage, plant-based nutritionist Ellie Bullen will deliver wholesome cooking demonstrations that will get you excited about healthy eating.

With delicious produce from 17 different regions to sample, across 80 stallholders, you are certainly spoilt for choice here. You can expect top quality, ready-to-eat food stalls offering treats at various price points, served up by the very people behind what's on your plate. Chat to them about this year's other major theme, 'sustainability,' to learn how we can all do our bit to reduce waste – including bringing our own water bottles to Regional Flavours, as single-use plastic bottles will not be available for sale.

You'll get to hear from the likes of Network 10's MasterChef Australia judges Matt Preston, George Calombaris, Gary Mehigan and crowd favourites Poh Ling Yeow, Justine Scholfield and Brisbane's own Georgia Barnes when they present across the two-day event. Among the live cooking displays and entertainment will be a world of gourmet delights to discover, including regional wines and fresh produce, truffles, preserves, chocolate, pastry and much more. Visit the website for the full program, to plan your day trip.

[WWW.REGIONALFLAVOURS.COM.AU](http://WWW.REGIONALFLAVOURS.COM.AU)

# WHAT'S ON...

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FOOTY FAN

WHETHER YOU'RE VISITING FROM OUT OF TOWN OR YOU'RE A LOCAL WHO HASN'T QUITE CAUGHT FOOTY FEVER YET, CONSIDER THIS YOUR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE. FOLLOW IT CLOSELY AND YOU'LL BE DRESSED HEAD-TO-TOE IN YELLOW AND RED, SCREAMING ON THE GOLD COAST SUNS IN NO TIME.

### PRE-GAME

Start your day with a walk and an early morning coffee, best enjoyed with a side of salty air and sea views – Elk Espresso and ESPL Coffee Brewers in Surfers Paradise are two of our favourites. Once you're sufficiently caffeinated, hit the water – yep, a morning swim is a Gold Coast ritual, even in winter #challengeaccepted. You'll want to grab lunch a little early to get to Metricon by kick-off for afternoon games. We recommend making your way to Pacific Fair to catch the bus to the stadium, stopping in to get yourself some red and yellow attire to wear to the game (you can buy merch at the stadium, too) and a bite to eat. Pac Fair – as it's known to the locals – is bursting with great dining options, including Betty's Burgers & Concrete Co., Mad Mex and Grill'd, as well as Cowch for the most drool-worthy desserts. Before evening games, take your time visiting some other local dining destinations, like the Oasis in Broadbeach or bustling Cavill Avenue. Or, head just down the road to Easy Street Burger in Mermaid

Beach – a *scout magazine* team favourite. When it's time to go to the stadium, don't forget that customers in possession of a valid event ticket can catch any regular Surfside bus or Glink tram service to Broadbeach South Station for free, and then board a free event shuttle bus to Metricon Stadium. It couldn't be easier!

### WHILE THEY PLAY

When you're not screaming your head off in support of our SUNS, be sure to check out some of the cool amenities they've got on offer at Metricon. The stadium is surrounded by delicious food trucks, and no matter how much you ate before arriving you'll find yourself lining up for your game-day faves. Wash your hot chips down at the Fifth Quarter bar or, if you're a SUNS season member, make use of the exclusive Light Tower bar. There are also corporate areas – including the Pirate Life Deck and the Lounge – which are perfect for functions or just to spice up your game day experience. For the kids, game day always has heaps of



free kids' activities – think giant inflatables, colouring in, face painting, hair braiding, player signings and lots more. But don't forget about Sunday Fundays where kids go free! Before you leave Metricon, don't forget to browse the SUNS Shop for gear to wear to your next game.

### POST-GAME

When the game is all over, it's time to seek out a destination for your post-match celebration. If you're dressed to the nines – perhaps you were lucky enough to enjoy the game from the Pirate Life Deck corporate area? – head to Nineteen at The Star for champers and an unparalleled view of the coast. Or, if you're looking to keep things a little more low-key, the Broadbeach Tavern ('The Broadbeach' to locals) is a great place to wind down with a bevy. Want to keep the footy fanaticism going? Try the Star Casino sports bar to mix with mad fans and watch other games that may be on. And, if it's a late, post-game dinner you're after, we recommend Hideaway Kitchen & Bar at Broadbeach or Lucky Bao at Mermaid Waters for their modern twist on Asian cuisine and next-level cocktails.

[WWW.GOLDCOASTFC.COM.AU](http://WWW.GOLDCOASTFC.COM.AU)



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# WHAT'S ON...

JUL 6-7



## GOLD COAST MARATHON

The Gold Coast Marathon returns for its 41st year, bringing 28,000 participants of all ages and abilities to our golden shores. Runners from more than 50 countries will compete in the world-class marathon across eight races, including the Gold Coast Marathon, the Wheelchair Marathon, the ASICS Half Marathon, both the 2km and 4km Garmin Junior Dashes, and more. The main marathon event isn't just the pinnacle of Australian road running events – it's one of the most prestigious marathons in the world. The flat, fast and scenic course has attracted competitors for more than 40 years. For more, see Pages 10-11.

[WWW.GOLDCOASTMARATHON.COM.AU](http://WWW.GOLDCOASTMARATHON.COM.AU)

JUN 29-JUL 7



## EAT LOCAL WEEK

With more than 90 events from Beaudesert to Boonah, Scenic Rim Eat Local Week is your backstage pass to the farms, wineries and food stories of the region. Meet the people who grow the produce in the rich volcanic soil and ancient mountains, tasting the very best Scenic Rim has to offer in a celebration that features festivals, farm-gate events and culinary experiences for foodies of all ages. With must-taste offerings like degustations, carrot picking, camel cheese tasting, beer and wine lunches, Eat Local Week is one of the most authentic food festivals in the world. And, it's all just a short drive west from the Gold Coast.

[WWW.EATLOCALWEEK.COM.AU](http://WWW.EATLOCALWEEK.COM.AU)

JUL 12-21



## VIVA SURFERS PARADISE

Dust off your sparkly jacket and blue suede shoes for 10 days of free live entertainment and toe-tapping shows performed by some of the world's best tribute artists. VIVA Surfers Paradise is the celebrated annual event that attracts more than 30,000 music fans from all over the world, delivering a packed program that honours some of the greatest artists of all time, like Elvis Presley, Queen, The Beatles, Elton John, the Blues Brothers and more. The streets will transform with dancers, musicians, stilt walkers, marching bands, classic cars, and character mascots, before the festival culminates in the main event – the Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Performance – on July 20 and 21.

[WWW.SURFERSPARADISE.COM](http://WWW.SURFERSPARADISE.COM)

JUL 20-21



## REGIONAL FLAVOURS

Australia's largest free food event, Regional Flavours highlights Queensland's vibrant food culture and showcases over 80 stallholders from 17 different regions. Producers, artisans, graziers and chefs are celebrated with a weekend-long program overflowing with cooking demonstrations, pop-up food stalls, cocktails and tantalising tastes by the river, food innovation talks and live music. Hear from Matt Preston, George Calombaris and Gary Mehigan, Reynold Poernomo, Dan Churchill, Poh Ling Yeow, Justine Scholfield and Brisbane's own Georgia Barnes, and taste gourmet delights, regional wines, fresh produce, truffles, preserves, chocolate, pastry and much more. For more, see Page 14.

[WWW.REGIONALFLAVOURS.COM.AU](http://WWW.REGIONALFLAVOURS.COM.AU)

JUL 26-28



## GROUNDWATER COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Groundwater Country Music Festival is returning for its seventh year, and it's boasting a bumper line-up to celebrate. See performances by the reigning King and Queen of Australian Country Music, Lee Kernaghan and Becky Cole, the winners at the 2019 Golden Guitars, The Wolfe Brothers, as well as the best and brightest artists in Australia's country music scene. Groundwater is Australia's fastest growing music festival, with last year's event attracting 63,000 – considering country is now recognised as the world's most popular music genre, attendance at this year's free event is expected to skyrocket. Will you be there?

[WWW.GROUNDWATERCMF.COM](http://WWW.GROUNDWATERCMF.COM)

## GLOW

Inspired by all that shimmers and moves in the dark, the HOTA parklands will be transformed into a glowing nighttime adventure with epic installations, interactive projection, performances, live music and children's art spaces. Across three mid-winter nights, keep your eyes peeled as creatures emerge from the dark, marvel as colours shape-shift into the Arora tones of the northern lights, witness a mystical troupe of inflatable horses on a fantastic ride through the imagination, see aerial acrobatics with cutting edge interactive technology and so much more. Explore the bubble garden and get up close and personal with installations, then enjoy food and drinks on-site, including in the licenced bar.

[WWW.HOTA.COM.AU](http://WWW.HOTA.COM.AU)

AUG 1-3



AUG 30-SEPT 1



## GOLD COAST SHOW

113 years of memories under their belt, the Gold Coast Show is back and better than ever for another year – and it's still completely free for the public to attend. 135,000 people attended the historic event last year, and an exciting enhancement to this year's footprint will mean there's even more to see and do. The Broadwater Parklands will come alive from the north through to the Sundale Bridge, will including a spectacular sideshow alley, woodchopping, baby animal farms, arts and crafts, camel rides on the beach, live music, traditional show food, roving entertainment, unicorn rides, mermaid appearances, fireworks and the gigantic Showbag Pavilion.

[WWW.GOLDCOASTSHOW.COM.AU](http://WWW.GOLDCOASTSHOW.COM.AU)

SEPT 7-8



JUL 27-28

## SUNSETS BY SANCTUARY COVE

Sanctuary Cove is rolling out the red carpet for lovers of quality food, wine, beer and music with an all-new festival. Sunsets will showcasing an exceptional range of food and beverages, chefs, wine and beer connoisseurs and gourmet food trucks – along with The Marine Village's world-class restaurants. With a live entertainment line-up of solo artists and big bands adding to the festival buzz, foodies will be in heaven as they indulge in fine seasonal eats in the picturesque precinct. For more, turn over for our full story on Page 18.

[WWW.SUNSETSBYSANCTUARYCOVE.COM](http://WWW.SUNSETSBYSANCTUARYCOVE.COM)

## GOLD COAST SUNS

The AFL Season is only halfway through and the Gold Coast SUNS still have plenty planned for the remainder of the 2019 season at Metricon Stadium! Make a night of it and book your next event in one of Metricon's corporate areas – their new Pirate Life Deck is the place to be – or don your yellow and red and join the crowd in the General Admission area, making the most of the on-site food and beverage options. Matchdays provide the perfect family friendly atmosphere with a dedicated Kids Zone, Kids Dance parties, hair braiding, face painting and Sunday Fundays where Kids go FREE. Don't miss all the action of live footy at Metricon Stadium in 2019. For more tips on making the most of game day, see our story on Page 15.

## MAIN BEACH SPRING FLOWER FESTIVAL

Immerse yourself in the beauty of flowers when Tedder Avenue comes alive for the Main Beach Spring Flower Festival. View spectacular floral installations and take part in interactive botanical workshops, listen to well-loved gardening specialists and enjoy a weekend of dining events, floral fashion plus free entertainment at a magical rooftop venue. Popular musicians will perform on the rooftop entertainment venue, and pop up stalls will blossom as they showcase the beauty of spring floral and fashion.

[WWW.MAINBEACHFLOWERFESTIVAL.COM.AU](http://WWW.MAINBEACHFLOWERFESTIVAL.COM.AU)



## WHAT'S ON...

### CHEERS TO THAT!

SANCTUARY COVE IS ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET FOR LOVERS OF QUALITY FOOD, WINE, BEER AND MUSIC WITH AN ALL-NEW FESTIVAL THAT TAPS INTO THE PUBLIC'S GROWING APPETITE FOR PREMIUM TREATS.

Sunsets by Sanctuary Cove, to be held from July 27–28, will showcase an exceptional range of local, national and international food, wine, beer and cider at the Gold Coast's ultimate lifestyle destination. Chefs, leading winemakers, renowned craft beer brewers and gourmet food trucks will combine with The Marine Village's world-class restaurants to serve up a mouth-watering experience for those visitors who appreciate the finer tastes in life.

Wine connoisseurs will be able to wander the streets of the picturesque precinct tasting the best drops from 40 renowned wineries, while their beer- and cider-loving friends can sample the goods of 15 of Australia's top breweries and cideries. A stellar live entertainment line-up of solo artists and big bands will add to the festival buzz, while foodies will be in heaven as they indulge in fine seasonal eats served up by The Marine Village's own restaurants and gourmet food trucks.

Mulpha Events GM Johan Hasser says Sanctuary Cove is expecting a crowd of 6000-plus visitors.

"People have never been more interested in quality food and drinks, with the enormous growth of the craft beer and cider industries in South-East Queensland evidence of their thirst for the wide array of premium products we will have on offer," Johan says.



"Sunsets by Sanctuary Cove will allow visitors to taste wines from brands, regions and winemakers they may not normally be exposed to and get to do so amid the magnificent setting that is The Marine Village."

Johan says Sunsets by Sanctuary Cove would deliver a taste and sensory overload for visitors, including feature demonstrations and dishes from celebrity chefs.

"From the tastes on offer to the sights and sounds that will accompany them, this will be a unique experience for our ticketholders," he says.

Tickets for Sunsets by Sanctuary Cove are now on sale, visit the website for more information.

**SUNSETS**  
BY SANCTUARY COVE

WWW.SUNSETSBYSANCTUARYCOVE.COM.AU

*Don't miss....*

The popular Winemaker's Dinner will also return to the five-star InterContinental Sanctuary Cove Resort on Friday, July 26, with the masters behind some of Australia's most celebrated wine regions to present their finest offerings at a six-course degustation matched to six wines.



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## WHAT'S ON...

### ALL THE BLOODY Q'S

DRACULA'S NINE PINTS IS IN ITS FINAL MONTHS - HAVE YOU SEEN THE SHOW THAT'S DRAWING ATTENTION RIGHT ACROSS THE COAST?

Nine Pints is the latest instalment from the crazy creatives at Dracula's. Have you seen it yet? Nine Pints will finish up in the coming months to make way for a new show in spring so now's your last chance to catch it before it's gone for good. Scout recently sat down with the people behind the Drax show, to find out all you need to know about Nine Pints...

**Q** CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE NINE PINTS SHOW AT DRACULA'S IN A FEW WORDS?

**A** Nine Pints launches Dracula's shift from sassy vaudeville to a far more scintillating and subversive 'Vegas After Dark'-style and sees the blood flowing as freely as the booze and sinful laughter.

**Q** WHAT CAN AUDIENCES EXPECT FROM A NINE PINTS SHOW?

**A** The show explodes mid theatre with aerial trance acts, live rock, dark mime, burlesque and insane comedy. You will experience loud live music, partial nudity, unrestrained comedy, wild staff and supernatural themes.

**Q** WHAT'S THE SHOW RATED?

**A** Dracula's is rated MA15+.

**Q** I GET DINNER WITH MY TICKET PRICE, THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT?

**A** Yes! With your Cabaret ticket you'll get an entrée, your choice of four mains and our sinfully famous silky chocolate mousse coffin dessert, complete with bleeding raspberry coulis. But you can also grab a show-only ticket that is literally that – show only, no food included.



**Q** WHEN CAN I CATCH A SHOW?

**A** Performances are held five days a week. Make sure you book in advance as the shows often sell out.

**Q** AND WHAT ABOUT PARKING?

**A** There's free on-site parking, but we suggest you catch a cab or Uber.

**Q** WHY IS THAT?

**A** So you can wrap your lips around our thirst-quenching cocktails! We have a wide array of delectable drinks at bar prices. But don't just expect the same old gin and tonic, after all, you're at Dracula's! Vampire-themed, fluorescent, glowing, smoke filled and eyeball-suckingly delicious drinks await you!

**Q** HOW MUCH DOES IT ALL COST?

**A** Cabaret tickets start at \$95pp and include the show and a three-course meal. Show-only tickets are \$59. You can get an even more Dracula's-kinda experience via our VIP A Reserve tickets which start at \$115.

**Q** HOW DO I BOOK?

**A** Visit [www.draculas.com.au](http://www.draculas.com.au) and hit the "Book Now" button. Easy.



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# DAY TRIPPIN...

## WHALE OF A TIME!

PERHAPS THE BEST REASON TO VISIT THE GOLD COAST IN WINTER IS TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF SOME OTHER VISITING TOURISTS – OF THE SEA-BORN, HUMPBAC VARIETY. HERE ARE OUR FAVOURITE WAYS TO SEE THE WHALES AS THEY PASS OUR GOLDEN COAST IN SEARCH OF WARMER WATERS.



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### SPIRIT OF GOLD COAST

On a mission to promote awareness about humpback whales and give passengers a memorable experience out at sea, Spirit is one of the best ways to see these majestic animals in their natural habitat. Your day aboard a Spirit cruise includes a guaranteed whale sighting – if you don't spot any, a complementary return cruise will be offered to all passengers – and the possibility that a curious whale will emerge right next to the boat. If not, you will still be able to see them from at least 100-metres away, which any whale watching cruise passenger will tell you is a surreal, breath-taking experience. Not to mention, Spirit even have a fully licensed bar on-board, meaning you can purchase drinks and snacks during the cruise. You are also totally welcome to pack a picnic and bring it aboard, if you prefer. Whatever you do, be sure to keep an eye out – not just for whales – but for myriad other sea life including dolphins, flying fish, turtles, sharks and birds. And, on rare occasions, there are also orcas who travel north, too! To experience the Gold Coast's whale watching season up close, board a Spirit of Gold Coast cruise from Mariners Cove Marina, Main Beach.

[WWW.SPIRITWHALEWATCHING.COM.AU](http://WWW.SPIRITWHALEWATCHING.COM.AU)

### SEA WORLD WHALE WATCHING

The marine experts at Sea World Cruises also offer a life-changing whale watching experience, right here on the Gold Coast. Setting sail from the pristine waters of the Gold Coast, the Spirit of Migaloo II is Australia's newest and most advanced whale watching vessel. On the Migaloo II, you'll be able to spot passing whales from six external viewing platforms with tiered stadium seating, from the sea level to the sundeck, or via an exclusive experience in the VIP Captain's Lounge. You'll also be cruising the seas with Marine Naturalist, who will provide plenty of information and entertaining commentary on these majestic sea creatures. The 2.5-hour cruise departs from Sea World four times a day and runs from June to November, giving intimate groups of locals and travellers the chance to admire the whales as they take the Humpback Highway north. You can also cruise knowing that your experience is doing a world of good for plenty of other sea animals, as Sea World Cruises supports and sponsors Sea World Marine Research and Rescue, whose team works around the clock to keep aquatic animals safe. Like Spirit, Sea World Cruises also offer a 100% Whale Sighting Guarantee that offers a free return cruise if no whales are spotted.

[WWW.SEAWORLD.COM.AU](http://WWW.SEAWORLD.COM.AU)

### A little further afield...

As much as we love spotting whales on the Gold Coast, the awe-inspiring, soul-stirring, up-close whale watching encounters that you will find in Hervey Bay are more than enough reason to venture north. Between July and November, thousands of humpback whales travel the 'Humpback Highway' and arrive in the calm, protected waters of Hervey Bay. Unlike any other place along the Humpback Highway, the whales will stop and spend up to 10 days, resting, socialising and playing before continuing their trip back to the Antarctic for the summer months.

This unique relationship gives reason to celebrate each year with the Hervey Bay Ocean Festival. It's an eclectic event that recognises the importance of the ocean to Hervey Bay and promotes the conservation of the marine environment and animals that are unique and important to our region. The festival kicks off on July 27 and runs to August 4, with a calendar of colourful events that features the Fraser Coast Kite Carnival, Hervey Bay Seafood Festival, Whale Parade, Paddle Out for Whales, and loads more.

[WWW.HERVEYBAYOCEANFESTIVAL.COM.AU](http://WWW.HERVEYBAYOCEANFESTIVAL.COM.AU)

scout

# White hot



WHEN YOU'RE OUT WHALE WATCHING THIS SEASON, MAKE SURE TO KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR THE 'UNICORN' OF HUMPBAC WHALES – MIGALOO. YOU'VE DEFINITELY HIT THE WHALE-WATCHING JACKPOT IF YOU SPOT THIS BRILLIANT BRIGHT WHITE SPECIMEN OUT IN THE WILD!

Here's everything you need to know about Migaloo, the white whale:

- \* Migaloo is an adult white male humpback whale, estimated to have been born in 1986 (making him roughly 33 years old).
- \* 'Migaloo' means "white fella" in some Aboriginal languages.
- \* He was first spotted in 1991, passing through Byron Bay.
- \* When Migaloo was first sighted, he was the only known white whale in the world but nowadays there are 3-4 other white whales that traverse the Humpback Highway along the east coast of Australia. Their names are Bahlloo, Willow and Migaloo Jnr.
- \* Migaloo's song was first recorded in 1998. It was this song that first had researchers thinking Migaloo was a male (due to his knack for melody!).
- \* Migaloo's sex was confirmed by researchers from the Southern Cross University in 2004 when they were able to obtain skin samples.
- \* Migaloo is referred to as 'hyper-pigmented' rather than 'albino'. It's possible he is 'leucistic', which refers to partial loss of pigmentation.
- \* In 2015, scientists explained that it's likely we'll see less and less of Migaloo as he matures and swims further offshore, which is why it's such a thrill to spot him.



# DAY TRIPPIN...

## POSTCARDS FROM PARADISE

IT'S THE CENTRE OF OUR BELOVED CITY - THE JEWEL IN THE GOLD COAST'S CROWN. BUT BEYOND STANDING UNDER THAT FAMOUS SIGN FOR AN INSTAGRAM PIC, SURFERS PARADISE OFFERS MANY NEW FAB EXPERIENCES. CHECK OUT THESE IDEAS FOR YOUR NEXT VISIT...

**Vapiano** offers impeccable service, a friendly vibe and is so accommodating for the little ones. Just look at how they serve up the kids' pizzas - cute!

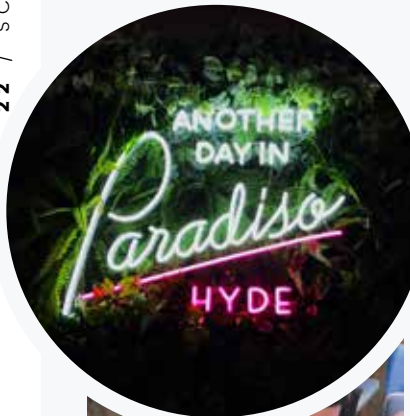
A buffet breakfast is pure gold for holidaymakers and **Novotel's** is up there with the best. Hot tip: You'll love how close to everything this hotel is.



**Padlock'd Escape Rooms** will be a highlight on your Surfers Paradise activities list. Highly recommended.



You can't beat sunset cocktails and when they're at Happy Hour prices, that's even better. Hit up **Hyde Paradiso** and follow up with their tapas option for dinner. This is definitely the spot to be for a girls' night out or date night. The decor is LA-inspired and oh so chic.



**Holey Moley** is another great bullet point on your SP to-do list. Again, fun and colourful. It's in with Strike Bowling and there are escape rooms there too. Lots of activities in the one little underground hub here!

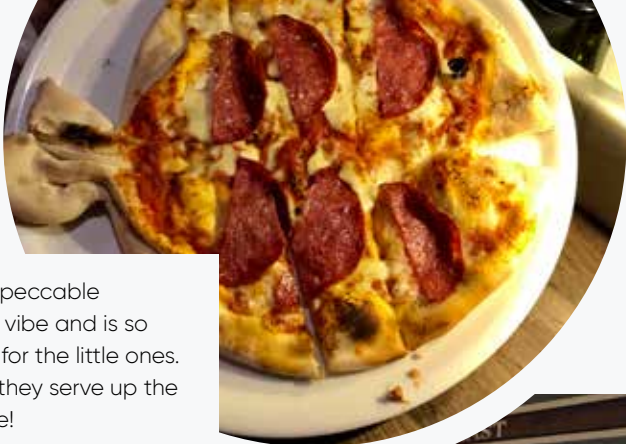


Looking for a super groovy lunch spot? Look right at the **White Rhino**. Decor is on point and so fun! For families, the kids can play at the park there at Circle on Cavill.

Surfers Paradise is perfect for tourists and should also be on your staycation list if you are lucky enough to call the Goldie home (and if so, you should try to explore beyond your usual go-to activities). This gem of a suburb definitely has more to it than Schoolies Week! The attractions are iconic and fun, and the bars are so Instagrammable. Surfers is really having a moment and we love that!

@visitsurfersparadise  
#visitsurfersparadise

scout



# ADVENTURE...

## WINTER WINERIES

THERE'S A CHILL IN THE AIR, YES, BUT THAT'S NO EXCUSE NOT TO ADVENTURE OUTDOORS THIS SEASON. WARM YOURSELF UP FROM THE INSIDE OUT, WITH THESE IDEAS FOR WINTER WINERY DAY TRIPS.

### The South Burnett

Home to Queensland's biggest vineyard, Clovelly Estate, the South Burnett wine region is certainly one to add to your 'must taste' list. One of the country's 'newer' wine regions - grapes were first planted here over one hundred years ago, but wine production only began in 1993 - what the South Burnett lacks in experience it more than makes up for in variety. Expect top-quality Chardonnay, Verdelho, Sangiovese, Shiraz and Merlot as you traipse the wine trail, and be sure to pair your tastings with a sample of the region's cheese, olives and capers. In the north, try Moffatdale Ridge, Dusty Hill and, of course, Clovelly Estate, and then venture south to Crane Wines - the South Burnett's first winery - and many more.



### The Granite Belt

With a cool 'year-round climate - at least, cooler than the coastline - and a high altitude, Queensland's Granite Belt is ideal grape-growing country, and you can certainly taste the difference. Home to a wide array of 'Strange Birds' - alternative variety wines that represent no more than 1 per cent of Australia's total bearing vines - the Granite Belt offers ample opportunity to taste something new. The region's best vineyards include Ballandean Estate Wines, which is also the oldest winery in the area, Savina Lane Wines and Pyramids Road Wine in Stanthorpe - the buckle of the Granite Belt.



### Tamborine Mountain

Beautiful Tamborine Mountain isn't just home to some of the Gold Coast's best hiking spots and adventure activities - it's also a hidden gem for wine lovers hoping to taste a few local drops. Perched on the picturesque mountain range right in the Gold Coast's backyard, the Mount Tamborine Vineyard & Winery offers an impressive Cellar Door jam-packed full of delicious white, red and fortified wines. Or, why not try the stunning Cedar Creek Estate Vineyard and Winery? With its tree-lined driveway, sprawling collection of wines and superb food, this is one place you'll never want to leave. Not too far away, the Witches Falls Winery serves up the most delicious range of wines - from chardonnay to Cabernet - with a side of exceptional service, courtesy of the knowledgeable cellar door staff who will guide you through your wine tasting.

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# ADVENTURE...

## Climb a mountain

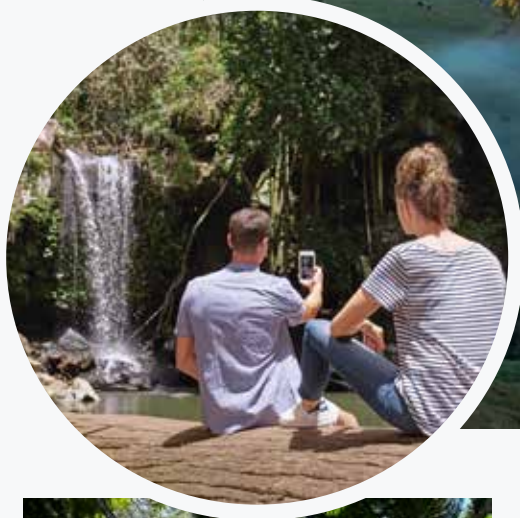
WE LOVE HEADING INLAND WHEN WINTER COMES AROUND – THERE'S SOMETHING THERAPEUTIC ABOUT RUGGING UP AND BREATHING IN THE COOL MOUNTAIN AIR. SOAK IN THE BEAUTIFUL GOLD COAST HINTERLAND ON THESE TREKS.

### MT WARNING

South of the border, nestled in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales – home to the world's oldest subtropical rainforests and mountains forged by volcanoes – Mt Warning towers at 1156m above sea level. With the promise of a 360-degree view of the Great Dividing Range when you reach the summit, the 755m climbing distance is totally worth it. Trek through subtropical and temperate rainforests and shrubland, only having to scramble up rock (with the help of well-positioned chains) for the final tenth of your journey. Suitable for families and beginner mountain climbers, but still challenging for experienced hikers, Mt Warning is one mountain you'll find yourself coming back to time and time again.

### TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN

Okay, so this one isn't technically a 'hike-able' mountain. Tamborine Mountain is actually a region in the Gold Coast hinterland, and doesn't have peaks at all – it's a plateau, formed by an eruption from Mt Warning some 22 million years ago. Drive up the mountain – stopping to admire the mysterious 'piano rock' on your way – for horse riding, bird watching, glow worm tours, thunder-egg fossicking, fishing, walks, some window shopping along Gallery Walk and so much more. Then, when you're in need of a refuel, find Café Alpine in the Birchgrove Nursery, or opt for one of the many wineries, breweries and distilleries in the area. Finish the day with a bit of fudge, and you won't care that you didn't find a mountain to climb after all.



### MT COUGAL

Perched on the Queensland-New South Wales border, Mt Cougal is not for the faint of heart. But, considering you get two views for the price of one at Mt Cougal, we'd say it's totally worth it. Getting to the twin summits involves a hard climb – lots of scrambling up rock faces, navigating rainforest pathways and even a narrow cave to squeeze through – but once you reach the first peak, it's all worth it. Your trek is rewarded by panoramic views of the Tweed Valley not once, but twice, from the east and west peaks. Even on your way up, there are sights to see. Make sure you stop and admire the large tree in the large rainforest clearing that was marked by the surveyor Francis Roberts in the 1860s, and check out the Cougal Cascades in Currumbin Valley below for a refreshing post-hike dip.

# ADVENTURE...

## FLOATIN' FUN

FORGET TRAVELLING TO THE CANALS OF VENICE, GOLD COAST GONDOLAS HAS GOT YOUR ROMANTIC COUPLE'S NIGHT (AMONG OTHER SPECIAL OCCASIONS) SORTED AND YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO GET ON A PLANE TO EUROPE!

Did you know, there's a quiet little tourism operation floating around the canals of the Gold Coast, bringing the same kind of iconic Italian romance (and fun!) to local couples.

Gold Coast Gondolas has enjoyed almost two decades as one of the city's most unique attractions. John and Val van Rensburg started Gold Coast Gondolas 18 years ago, just after they'd immigrated from South Africa. They'd spotted similar gondolas during a weekend getaway at Mooloolaba and they saw a huge potential for a similar business on the waterways of the Gold Coast. Unlike Venetian gondolas, these gondolas



are constructed of fibreglass with a fixed weatherproof cabin and a rigid soundproof panel separating the gondolier from guests, thus affording absolute privacy.

Nowadays, the operation is overseen by their daughter, Taryn Sims, and her husband, Mike. While a gondola generally evokes the emotion of love and romance, Taryn says Gold Coast Gondolas are a fun option for a wide variety of experiences.

### GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

Carrying a maximum of six passengers, with a menu available for meals and BYO drinks with NO corkage, you've got the definition of a great girls' night out right there! Rally your five best mates and float around the Gold Coast while taking in the lights and sights from quite a unique perspective.

### FLOATING MEETING

Corporates, we've just found the ideal location for your next work meeting – floating around the coast's canals. If you've got a team of six (maximum), why not get inspired by the sights and the seabreeze – your next brainstorming session awaits!

### ...AND OF COURSE, DATE NIGHT

"I get surprised by how many romantic guys there are on the Gold Coast!" Taryn laughs. "Most of the time, they book it as a surprise for their anniversary, their partner's birthday or literally 'just because'. We also get tonnes of proposals on board every month, so that's always really exciting."

"There aren't many places where you can dine with your partner in style and privacy whilst also enjoying stunning views by day, or shimmering lights at night. Nothing screams romance like a gondola cruise – it's private, peaceful, luxurious and exclusive."

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# ELSEWHERE...

## MALAYSIA: EAST VS WEST

Words: Belinda Glindemann

**MALAYSIA OFFERS AUSSIE TRAVELLERS A CHEAP AND CHEERFUL BREAK, FILLED WITH GOOD TIMES AND GREAT FOOD. THE BIGGEST PROBLEM YOU’LL HAVE WITH PLANNING YOUR MALAYSIAN GETAWAY IS DECIDING TO GO EAST OR WEST. LET US HELP YOU DECIDE...**

### The west coast

OK, I’m going to be totally honest from the get-go. I am totally biased when it comes to all things Malaysia. You see, it’s the (literal) Motherland for me – my mum actually comes from this land of tropical beaches, food comas and blissed-out relaxation. So anytime we head north-west across Australia, we know we are heading in the direction of some kind of Asian holiday heaven #becausegenecode.

Having stayed in Malaysia’s capital before (and shopped ‘til we dropped, like every other Aussie who passes through Kuala Lumpur), this trip, we targeted Penang. It’s a connecting flight through Singapore or KL but the little bit of extra effort pays big dividends.

Just to get the geography out of the way first, the biggest chunk of Penang is an island off the west coast of mainland Malaysia but there are also mainland suburbs of Penang, connected to their island sister by two mega bridges or a ferry ride. Georgetown is island Penang’s

historic major city but we instead headed for the laid back white sand beaches of Batu Ferringhi. While we’d heard all about the amazing nosh on offer and had been salivating over the thought of cheap and tasty Asian street food for months leading up to the trip, we were probably not prepared for the actual food overload that was to come, nor had we considered Batu Ferringhi to be the ultimate adventure destination that it played out to be.

Getting around Penang is super easy and cheap if you have Asia’s equivalent to the Uber app, ‘Grab’, downloaded on your phone. Based in Batu Ferringhi, it cost us the equivalent of an Aussie takeaway coffee to be driven to all the major local tourist locations – two coffees if you wanted to go far. And there’s little-to-no wait for a driver – this place is crawling with Grabs. What I love about any international holiday is talking to the locals and then eating where those locals eat and playing where they play. And, better than any tourism website, you’ll get this valuable local intel from your Grab drivers – so be prepared to chat your way through your drives.

While we didn’t want to base ourselves in the city, Georgetown was definitely high on our to-do list for its history and culture. The city offers modern businesses, cool bars, funky boutiques, shopping precincts and awesome street art, but it also retains its colonial traditions through well-preserved heritage buildings and, as such, has been listed as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. Walk the streets of Georgetown to get your up-close-and-personal history lesson or a tour of the most internationally famous street art installations – or jump in a rickshaw for a super-cool perspective from the streets. There are also free government-funded ‘CAT’ buses that do laps of the city



if you want the cheap tour – be warned that it can be quite the cattle call though. Once you’ve looked around the streets, another world awaits by the water at the Clan Jetties. These six separate jetties are each named after the ‘clan’ that lived there, dating back more than 100 years. This community is home to rows of houses on stilts, built over the water and joined together by interlinked rustic boardwalks. The homes’ inhabitants encourage you to walk through their over-water neighbourhood, buying trinkets from the market stalls that are situated by their front doors. Look past the stalls and into their homes, and you’ll get a glimpse of this very unique community’s way of life.

Georgetown is also your gateway to Kek Lok Si (Malaysia’s largest Buddhist temple) and Penang Hill – a cool, rainforest zone some 800-vertical-metres above the city that’s accessible via one of the world’s oldest (and very fun) funicular systems. The funicular crawls up the 2km track in a few minutes and at the very top awaits some crazy-good views as well as some touristy fun. This is also the last patch of tropical rainforest in Penang, so the flora and fauna here have been protected since 1960.

Back at the Batu Ferringhi end of town, there were a few tourist destinations that we researched for our to-do list that turned out way better than we expected – don’t you love when that happens while on holidays?!

Entopia Butterfly Farm was one such place. It sounded interesting enough on the websites, and you’d expect insect prettiness, but this place kept us fascinated for hours and hours. You walk through an amazing display of various animals before entering the butterfly sanctuary. Hundreds (even thousands?) of butterflies buzz around your head and, many times land on you to explore the strangers in their home. It’s an Instagrammer’s dream! There are many interactive displays along the way, and then you get to hang out with two ladies whose sole job it is to individually glue hundreds of shiny butterfly cocoons to sticks, for storage by the Entopia breeders while they await the butterflies’ hatching. You’ll never look at a butterfly the same way after you’ve been through Entopia.

The other surprise package for us was Escape. Marketed as “Malaysia’s No. 1 theme park”, we got mixed responses from the locals on this one, before we decided to bite the bullet and go. One Grab driver told us to stay away – it was “too dangerous” for tourists, he said. Another said it was too expensive and not worth the money. But with a free day up our sleeves and our intuitions telling us to have a crack, we went. Besides that, we were in love with the



marketing that encouraged visitors to enjoy the “play and values of yesteryear” and “inject reality into a world over-dependent on an isolation-inducing electronic lifestyle”. Labelled “Low Tech, High Fun”, Escape is actually two separate parks, on either side of the main road. One side is a waterpark and the other is filled with adventure. Literally. High ropes courses weave their way through the park, with rock climbing, bungee slingshot and trapeze lessons also on the menu. And there’s an epic downhill trike course – the start line is only accessible by vehicular troop carrier up the side of a mountain. While many of the activities would leave any Aussie Workplace Health and Safety officer with heart palpitations, it was the best fun day. The. Best. Fun. And there was definitely something at Escape for every member of the family and their ability level.

Beyond the cool touristy things, or just relaxing by the water’s edge, about the only other thing you must do while in Penang is eat. Lots. The food is SO cheap and it’s SO good. Seek out hawker food centres. Gorge yourself on satays (we were paying about \$9AUD for 30 sticks), binge on Malaysia’s national dish nasi lemak and wash it all down with a Tiger beer, or six. Whatever your taste, if you aren’t sitting on the plane home to Australia admiring your food baby, you haven’t holidayed hard enough.

**WWW.ENTOPIA.COM**  
**WWW.ESCAPE.MY**

Head east →



# ELSEWHERE...

## Continued

Words: Anastasia White

### The east coast

My boyfriend and I had three main criteria when making our Easter travel plans: we wanted a cheap, island paradise with plenty to do. That wasn't Bali. Or Fiji. Or anywhere else that had been hyped up and, as such, could potentially let us down. Was that really too much to ask?

As it turned out, it wasn't. Our trip to Malaysia's popular eastern holiday spots – Redang Island and the Perhentian Islands – blew our minds, without blowing our two-grand(ish) budget. We flew in and out of Kuala Lumpur, making sure we allocated two days there for shopping time, but spent the remaining 11 days on the east coast. Put simply, it rocked.

#### REDANG ISLAND

The closest island to the mainland city of Kuala Terengganu, Redang is home to a number of snorkelling sports, resorts and beachside restaurants. Most resorts offer complimentary bus and boat transport from the airport, which is a huge bonus – especially when your chauffeur can explain why a stern man in uniform is demanding an additional 30 Ringgit before you can board the boat (it's a Marine Park pass). Redang and its surrounding waters are a protected marine area and, once we arrived, we understood why. The water is as blue as it looks in the travel brochures – if not bluer – and is home to turtles, rays, sharks and colourful fish we'd only seen in Finding Nemo. When we hiked through the rainforest across the island, from our resort on Pasir Panjang to stunning Teluk Dalam Besar beach, we saw chevrotains – 'mouse deer' is the best description I can offer – brightly-coloured lizards and teeny tiny birds.

Our resort, Sari Pacifica, was palatial, with a towering lobby and open restaurant that looked out over the pool and cerulean water beyond. When we first arrived, we



went all out enjoying cheap, delicious food and drinking less cheap but equally delicious drinks, floating in the pool and wandering around the resort, all the while joking a cameraman was about to jump out of the bushes and tell us we'd been punked. When we dove into the ocean for the first time, we expected it to be freezing cold – still searching for some kind of downside in what was otherwise tropical paradise – but nope. It was the perfect temperature, warm yet refreshing. Halfway through our first day, we knew we'd chosen the perfect destination.

#### PERHENTIAN ISLANDS

Two main islands (Besar and Kecil) and three smaller, unpopulated islands, make up the Perhentians – a magnet for backpackers and families alike. Besar, the larger island, is sprinkled with "expensive" resorts (by Malaysian standards – we're talking about \$100/night) on its western and southern coasts, and rugged rainforest and coral reefs just about everywhere else. Our resort – the creatively-named Perhentian Island Resort – was relatively isolated in comparison to our southern neighbours, meaning we had the sea on our doorstep (and plenty of turtles, all swimming in the shallows to avoid the busy snorkelling spot 'Turtle Point') all to ourselves. Restaurants are few and far between on Perhentian Besar, save for a couple of restaurants at neighbouring resorts, but that wasn't a drama. Just across the bay, easily accessible by "water taxi" (a dingy), Perhentian Kecil more than makes up for it.

Backpackers drive Kecil's economy, and the food and bar scenes thrive as a result. Fire twirlers perform most nights at 10pm, and you can happily bar hop along the beach



while you wait for the show to start. During the day, Kecil – like Besar – offers cheap snorkelling tours (usually around \$30 for a full day) and is also home to the famous 'windmill' hike. I say 'famous', because it featured in just about every Malaysian travel vlog we watched on YouTube when trying to decide where to go. It takes about 20 minutes to trek up to the windmills, and it's all downhill to the undisturbed Blue Lagoon on the other side from there. Don't get me wrong: this hike is not for the faint of heart. While there is a staircase leading down to the lagoon, most of the wooden planks are missing, meaning you have to go "off road" or cling onto rusted railings most of the way. With that being said, it's a fun challenge and a great photo opp (but not super achievable if you're getting over four days of suspected food poisoning – believe me).

Redang and the Perhentian Islands have distinctly different vibes, but are the same in all of the best ways. The locals are friendly, which means the tourists are too – there's really nothing to get angry about there. Almost everywhere is quiet and peaceful, and even the "busy" places aren't all that busy. There's an unspoken agreement to protect the wildlife – locals comb the beach every morning cleaning up washed up litter, and there are clear instructions posted around the resorts explaining what to do when you come across a nesting turtle. They know how special this part of the world is, and they intend to keep it that way.

To say that Malaysia ticked all of our boxes would be an understatement – we were planning our next trip before we'd even boarded the boat back to the mainland.

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# LOCAL LOVES...

SCOUT ASKED SOME LOCAL PERSONALITIES JUST WHY THEY LOVE THE GOLD COAST SO, AND TO REVEAL THEIR FAVE HANGS. HERE'S WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY...



JARROD WITTS  
Gold Coast Suns co-captain

Which suburb do you call home?

I live in Miami with my fiancé Renee and teammate Pearce Hanley.

What makes it the best on the GC?

I think it's just a great central location to everything on the coast. It's close to the beach and has a laid-back atmosphere.

Fave place to stop, relax for 20 mins and enjoy a morning cuppa? And what treat is on the plate beside your hot bevvie?

This is an easy one because I try to do this exact thing a couple of times a week. It has to be heading down by the beach, a cappuccino and avocado on toast – nothing beats it.

Fave Gold Coast casual dining location? What on the menu?

Justin Lane – seafood pizza.

You're planning a fun, local night out with your mates, which three locations top your list and why?

Justin Lane for their great pizza, Night Jar for the great live music or Burleigh Hill in the late afternoon – it's got good atmosphere and an awesome view.

Best local spot for family hangs and why?

Any of the Gold Coast beaches! They're spacious and relaxing.

Fave Gold Coast shopping destination?

I don't go shopping very often, but it would have to be Pacific Fair.

Complete this sentence: Only a Gold Coast local knows...

Where the good coffee is. Shout out to my regular coffee shop Quade and Co in Miami, as well as Nude Sisters Whole Food Kitchen in Mermaid Waters.



LUCY AND NIKKI  
@wethe\_wildones

Which suburb do you call home?

Burleigh Heads

What makes it the best on the GC?

We get to walk the beautiful national park in the morning and we have Rick Shores right at our door step!

Fave place to stop, relax for 20 mins and enjoy a morning cuppa? And what treat is on the plate beside your hot bevvie?

We love getting an early coffee and maybe a cheeky bliss ball from Nook in Burleigh and then just go and sit by the water for a relax.

Fave Gold Coast casual dining location? What's on the menu?

We go to Muso Ramen every Sunday for our weekly Ramen fix. It's so yummy and super casual.

You're planning a fun, local night out with your mates? Which three locations top your list and why?

We always start at Rick Shores for a long lunch, head up to the Pav (Burleigh Pavilions) for a sunset drink and then onto JL for a boogie!

Best local spot for family hangs and why?

Burleigh Hill or Talle Creek. They're so close you could do both – haha!

Fave Gold Coast shopping destination?

Pacific Fair. And we love James Street in Burleigh too – Miss Browns Vintage is one of our favourite places to shop.

Complete this sentence: Only a Gold Coast local knows...

That Wahoo's has the cheapest tacos on the Gold Coast – haha!



DANI BYRNES  
Gold Coast Marathon ambassador

Which suburb do you call home?

Mermaid Beach

What makes it the best on the GC?

It's hustling and bustling with all the good stuff, that's why! I don't have to go more than 5 minutes to grab a great coffee or breaky and it's one of the quieter beaches on the Gold Coast so it's never overcrowded. Shhhh don't tell anyone!

Fave place to stop, relax for 20 mins and enjoy a morning cuppa?

We walk our dog Max at Pizzey Park most days, so for my partner, Tim, and I, that is our time to catch up on our day and take in the fresh air. When we are at the dog park, we are also probably at a cafe with Max – with a stronggggg latte and sweet treat to share. We are totally into all of the Bam Bam bakes at the moment.

Fave Gold Coast casual dining location? What's on the menu?

I could literally eat Mexican food on the daily! We don't have a particular go-to, but when my belly is begging for tacos we head to Bonita Bonita (see, keeping it in Mermaid!).

You're planning a fun, local night out with your mates? Which three locations top your list and why?

Keeping it local, I can't go past a refreshing Margarita from Mexicali at sundown. Next, we would likely go Nobbys Surf Club for a parmi, chips and a vino! And hey, if I've got my dancing shoes on I'd likely head to Star Casino and catch up with friends at Garden Bar.

Fave Gold Coast shopping destination?

Pacific Fair! I am there most days either shopping, meeting friends for coffee, or working from a cafe. My favourite massage lady is there, too! Pac Fair is my second home!

Complete this sentence: Only a Gold Coast local knows...

How good we've got it and that everyday feels like a holiday.... Shhhh, don't tell the other states!



JAN McCORMICK  
CEO of Broadbeach Alliance

Which suburb do you call home?

Tallai

What makes it the best on the GC?

We live on three acres and it is so peaceful. Kookaburras wake you in the morning and the sunrises over Burleigh are spectacular.

Fave place to stop, relax for 20 mins and enjoy a morning cuppa?

I love sitting at the cafes at the Mudgeeraba, there are so many great places to while away time over a coffee and just watch the happy relaxed crowd go about their business. I'm a smashed avo kinda person, nothing better on good sourdough.

Fave Gold Coast casual dining location? What's on the menu?

I love Gemelli's in Broadbeach and the carbonara is sensational. All their ingredients are local and fresh you can't beat it. If you are lucky enough to have the meatballs on as a daily special, you must try them

You're planning a fun, local night out with your mates? Which three locations top your list?

The Wine Barrel – Mudgeeraba. Great wine, tapas, live music and an open fire in winter. Then it would be home cooking for friends.!

Best local spot for family hangs?

Emerald Lakes, a nice place to relax by the Lake and plenty of space for ball games, bike riding and water activities.

Fave GC shopping destination?

Robina – 10 minutes from home and it has a great array of interesting shops.

Complete this sentence: Only a Gold Coast local knows...

This is the best place on earth to live, we have it all.



TUSHNA MEHTA  
@thefoodhedonist

Which suburb do you call home?

Broadbeach

Fave place to stop, relax for 20 mins and enjoy a morning cuppa?

I'm a bit indulgent with my morning cuppa. A Lindt Mocha from Elk Espresso is my go-to. And when the weather's great, I love sipping on it by the beach. Beside it would probably be the Aged Cheddar & Corn Beef Croquettes or the Pork Belly Waffles from their current winter menu.

Fave Gold Coast casual dining location? What's on the menu?

Lucky Bao has always been an all-time fave. I love their spicy tuna crackers, wok fried xo mushrooms and lamb ribs. I'm also an avid Taco Tuesday-er, and the newly opened La Diosa Mexicana in Surfers serves up a mouthwatering fiesta!

You're planning a fun, local night out with your mates. Which three locations top your list and why?

Miami Marketta: There's plenty of food options from pizzas to baos to paella, so it's great for even the pickiest eater. Plus, with an extensive bar selection and a live band performing, its good vibes all around! 2. Island Rooftop Bar: It's centrally located, boasts amazing cocktails and great views. Perfect for if you want to hit the clubs after! 3. Mr. PPS Deli & Rooftop Bar: This hidden gem is often overlooked because it's located in the city's commercial district, but I think that's what I love about it. Their menu is predominantly Italian (the best Margherita Pizza I've ever had!), and their drinks aren't bad either.

Best local spot for family hangs and why?

Nothing beats a good old picnic on Burleigh Hill. The kids can enjoy the playground while the adults have a drink and watch the sun go down on the Gold Coast skyline. It doesn't get much better than that!

Complete this sentence: Only a Gold Coast local knows... How lucky we are to live here.



COCO LOBERG  
Tattoo artist, writer

Which suburb do you call home?

Salt Beach at Kingscliff, or Coolangatta. I always seem to gravitate towards those areas after being away travelling.

What makes those suburbs the best?

Coolangatta is my favourite, a portal into an earlier era or something of a similar sort. I'm a sucker for the '60s diner there and the '70s surfing feel to the entire town.

Fave place to stop, relax for 20 mins and enjoy a morning cuppa?

The best coffee spot is Rockleigh, it's situated on my favourite 10 metres of Coolangatta, snug up next to an evening corridor bar and an old secondhand book store. They have a table on the footpath that gets its shade from a nearby tree and every now and then I'll read a book under it with a sneaky cigarette. There's a cool Italian feel to that 10-metre stretch of Coolangatta.

Fave Gold Coast casual dining location? What's on the menu?

Francies Pizzeria. Another cool Italian feel, with street side dining and pre-, mid- and after-dinner drinks, cheeses and olives.

You're planning a fun, local night out with your mates. Which location tops your list and why?

Eddie's Grub House. There's a family-like bond with everyone in there and you can't help but spend an extra three hours more there than you planned. Great burgers, too.

Fave Gold Coast shopping destination?

I like doing my shopping online now, but Pacific Fair is nice. I think the half-indoor, half-outdoor building plan often helps you forget how bad your self-discipline with money is. How bad can a day in the sunshine be?



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