

SUNSHINE COAST



Sunshine Coast starts just north of Brisbane and continues north along the Queensland coast until the magnificent Cooloola National Park. There are some great places to visit along this section of coastline, and some splendid National Parks which you can enjoy.

A couple of popular attractions include Australia Zoo, which is home of the famous Terri and Steve Irwin as well as plenty of animals, and Underwater World, which hosts a wide range of underwater creatures.



Heading north from Brisbane you will reach Caboolture, which is a small dairy town. Caboolture features several pretty lakes and parks, including the Centenary Lakes.

There are a couple of interesting and historic places to visit near here. The Abbey Museum offers various historical artifacts, while the Caboolture Historical Village hosts a number of historic buildings set within a beautiful bushland setting.



Continuing north along the Bruce Highway, you will drive through the spectacular Glass House Mountains. The Glass House Mountains features spectacular landscape scenery, as well as offering a number of fantastic walking trails.

Once you are past the Glass House Mountains, you can turn off of the highway and drive along the pretty coastal road, starting at Caloundra. Caloundra is a pleasant holiday destination, offering a couple of interesting museums, as well as some great beaches. There are some really good fishing spots around here, and if you enjoy windsurfing a good place to go is Bulcock Beach and Pumicestone Passage for various water activities.

North of Noosa are 50km of glorious beaches, called the Cooloola Coast. The beaches are backed by the Cooloola National Park (also called the Great Sandy National Park), and there is a small track running all the way through the park from Tewantin to Rainbow Beach. Along the route you will pass Lake Cooroibah and Boreen Point along the way, both offering a small selection of accommodation in perfect, relaxing settings.

You should also travel inland from the coast, visiting the beautiful Sunshine Coast Hinterland. There are some fabulous National Parks which you can visit, and some spectacular waterfalls and mountainous landscape.

MAROOCHY

The Maroochy region is made up of the small triple towns of Alexandra Headland, Maroochydore and Mooloolaba, with its main attraction being its fabulous beaches.

Alexandra Headland offers a great beach which offers good surf. Maroochydore has the pretty Maroochy River on one side and a great beach on the other. There is plenty of birdlife around the river and several beautiful islands. Mooloolaba is the liveliest of the three towns, hosting a number of shoreline bars, cafes, and restaurants. You can also visit the popular Underwater World.

There are several places to stay from campsites and hostels, to apartments, hotels, motels and holiday units. There are also a number of places to eat out. Transport to and from the area, is available at the Suncoast Pacific Bus Terminal, where all the main bus services stop.

Some of the local attractions:

Sunshine Plaza

Sunshine Plaza is built over Cornmeal Creek and is unique in bringing the waterside experience into a shopping environment. The Centre has a strong leisure focus enhanced by the Riverwalk area and an ambience that makes a visit to Sunshine Plaza a truly memorable shopping experience. First class licensed cafés and restaurants line the Riverwalk with a Westminster Chime Clocktower, a water fountain, a centre stage area with regular free entertainment, state of the art 6 screen cinema complex offers the latest in movie entertainment and a children's playground all close by.

UnderWater World

Fishing is always a popular activity, but if you would rather watch the fish then visit Queensland's largest Oceanarium and Aquarium, UnderWater World. Be surrounded by more than 25,000 weird and wonderful sea creatures. Get interactive by diving with the sharks or perhaps choose a friendlier water buddy and swim with the seals – they're so friendly, they have a tendency to kiss!

*UnderWater World is located adjacent to Mooloolaba Beach on the Wharf complex, Parkyn Parade, Mooloolaba, Queensland.
Tel: (07) 5444 8488*

The Endeavour

The 2/3 size replica of Cook's barque, the Endeavour, is located in a little lagoon which branches off Eudlo Creek near its confluence with the Maroochy River, adjacent David Low Way, at the Maroochy River Resort. This excellent reproduction is of a scale which allows visitors to experience what it must have been like to sail, live and work on the ship, how it was controlled, including such details as what was eaten and how it was prepared. Information panels provide insight into the purpose of each section.

*The Endeavour is open daily from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children and \$2.50 for each member of a group.
Tel: (07) 5476 8391*

Skyhigh Freefall Skydive

At the Sunshine Coast Airport, Pacific Paradise (off David Low Way), Skyhigh Freefall Skydive operate daily. Bookings are essential.

Tel: (07) 5443 5523

Noosa and Maroochy Flying Service offer a charter service of scenic flights and overnight tours around the region.

Tel: (07) 5450 0516

Cable Ski Park

Suncoast Cable Watersports will provide you with the Ultimate Watersports Experience. No prior experience is needed as we provide you with quality instruction well before you even get in the water. This is an activity that the entire family can enjoy."

Be sure to book in the next time you are on the beautiful Sunshine Coast. Click on our Accomodation link to see what accomodation is available close to Suncoast Cable Watersports.

367 David Low Wy, Bli Bli, QLD, 4560

Phone:phone (07) 5448 7555

www.skinskurf.com

Maroochy Beaches

Maroochy's biggest playground is also the biggest playground in the world – the Pacific Ocean. Where better to take your first surfing lesson, body-surf the waves and check out all the action while lazing on the beach. Families can feel safe as the beach is patrolled by the Alexandra Headland Surf Club. If you need a break from the fresh salty air, Maroochy is also the home of the best skate park on the coast, located right alongside the beach.



MAROOCHYDORE

If Queensland's Sunshine Coast region has a heart, it would be Maroochydore. Technically and literally, the resort town can be considered a regional heart because it is at the geographic center of the area. Because of that, Maroochydore is functioning as the central business district and trading capital in all of Sunshine Coast.

Maroochydore got its name from an old Yuggera word 'Muru-kutchi' which means 'red bill', a black swan that is endemic to the area. At the center of Sunshine Coast, Maroochydore is bordered in the south by the town of Caloundra and to the north by Noosa.

As a commercial district, Maroochydore has several shopping malls, including the famous Sunshine Plaza. The town has its own airport, the Sunshine Coast Airport where tourists going to Maroochydore and to other towns in the region. To complete Maroochydore's function as a transport hub in the region, it has the major bus interchange for all of Sunshine Coast through its TransLink services.

Summers in Maroochydore, just like all other towns in the region come between December to February, when daily temperatures average about 21°C to 28°C. The sub-tropical climate is tempered by the nearby ocean. Thus, summers are not blazing hot and winters, which come on June to August, are not freezing. In

Maroochydore, strolling and doing leisure outdoor activities can be enjoyed all year long.

One of the main attractions of Maroochydore is the Cotton Tree, a suburban holiday site along the equally popular Maroochy River. The Cotton Tree is well serviced and adorned by numerous caravan parks and holiday accommodations. If you are aiming to take a break or a well-planned vacation in this Australian holiday destination, the Cotton Tree will surely be the specific Maroochydore site where you should be headed for accommodations.

Surfing is the main leisure and fun activity advocated in Maroochydore. That is because there is a good blend of surf beaches in the area. The waters can also get calm at some portions, facilitating for boating activities. There is a main surfing beach that is open to the public and is highly popular within and outside the country. There are regular surf lifesaving and surfing events held in the site. The surf beach area also cradles sheltered beach resorts that are most popular and sought-after by groups and families on vacation. In the area, the pretty parkland facilitates for strolling and picnic activities.

Business and tourism are harmoniously combined in Maroochydore. The refreshing seaside is just ideal for vacationers, while the centers of trade and commercial operations are favorable sites for business activities. With a current population of just about 17,500 people, there surely is a bright spot for the future of Maroochydore.

Regions of interest near/in Maroochydore: Kuluin, Maroochy, Sunshine Coast, Buderim, Cotton Tree, Maroochydore South, Diddillibah, Bli Bli, Pacific Paradise, Twin Waters, Alexandra Headland.

Maroochydore is the sixth town mentioned in the original (Australian) version of the song "I've Been Everywhere".

<http://www.etourismholidays.com.au/>

MOOLOOLABA



Mooloolaba is a pretty coastal town located at the Southern end of the popular Maroochy region on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. The Mooloolaba beach continues north through Alexandra Headland and onto Maroochydoore, which are also part of the Maroochy region.

Mooloolaba offers both a beachfront and riverfront location along the Mooloolah River. The main beach in Mooloolaba is the Mooloolaba Spit, which is ideal for families and is backed by pretty parkland offering wonderful picnic areas. Due to its fabulous location, Mooloolaba is the perfect place to enjoy surfing and fishing. From Mooloolaba you can also head out to sea to enjoy a day of deep sea or game fishing.



The Esplanade is situated opposite the beach featuring a number of cafes and restaurants. There are also several shops and boutiques where you can purchase gifts, clothing and unique artwork. Another large shopping centre is the Sunshine Plaza, which is located a short distance north of Mooloolaba and offers a number of different shops and dining outlets.

Mooloolaba is also home to a large port, which accommodates the Auckland to Mooloolaba and the Sydney to Mooloolaba Yacht Races. Next to the port is a large shopping, dining and entertainment complex called The Wharf. Underwater World is located at The Wharf and is a great place to learn about and see a number of different sea creatures including sharks. Mooloolaba also features a number of other attractions that you can enjoy.



If you want some fantastic photographs of Mooloolaba then visit the famous 'Loo with a View'. The public conveniences have become a fantastic photo spot.

Mooloolaba offers a range of accommodation suitable for a range of different budgets and styles, including hostels, hotels and apartments.



EUMUNDI

Eumundi is located in the beautiful Sunshine Coast Hinterland, situated approximately 20 minutes from the popular coastal resort of Noosa.

History

The town name is thought to be derived from "Ngumundi" or "Huomundy". This is the name of a local Aboriginal warrior said to have adopted escaped convict Bracefield as his son in 1831.

From the early 1850s, most of the area around the Eumundi district was part of three cattle runs: Canando, Yandina and North Kenilworth. In 1867, after the discovery of gold at Gympie, the first road was marked and cleared. By 1879, George Gridley became the first selector to reside permanently in the Eumundi district. This started a wave of new selectors and by 1885, 47 selections were taken up. Some of the pioneers settlers included Fullager, Cowell, Burrel, Ball and Arrundell.

In 1882, Fullager selected Portion 110. This was forfeited and the Crown took over, surveying this portion for streets and the sale of blocks of land. Thus, emerged the town of Eumundi. At the turn of the century, shops started to line the newly formed streets and town businesses developed. By the end of the decade there were several general stores, butcher shops, bakery, saddler, blacksmith and auctioneers. After the railway opened from Yandina to Cooroy in 1891 along with the road to the north passing through the town, Eumundi developed as an important centre of the timber and dairying industry.

The surrounding country consisted of dense scrub full of pine, beech and cedar and long ridges covered with tallowood and blackbutt. George Etheridge, in 1895, moved his sawmill from Petrie's Creek (Nambour) to Main Camp and in 1900 moved it once again to Eumundi. It functioned here until 1938. In 1922, a second sawmill was brought in from Verrierdale. The two mills operated amicably as one specialised in hardwood and the other processed softwood timber.

As the land was cleared and grasses were planted, dairy farms began to build up over the area. By 1920, two butter factories had been built in the area.

There is definite joining of the old and the new in Eumundi with streets combining both historical buildings with modern art galleries and boutique wineries with history museums! It is a beautiful town with something for everyone!

The Eumundi Markets were established in 1979 and are situated in the heart of this historic town. Since then, the Eumundi Markets have become world-renowned and one of Australia's leading tourist attractions. The iconic and towering heritage-listed fig trees rise above the 500 plus stall market.

There is a blend of old and new within Eumundi. The streets are lined with historical buildings, modern art galleries, boutique wineries and local history museums. Eumundi, truly, has something for everyone.



Every Saturday and Wednesday, come rain, hail or shine, the population of Eumundi explodes from 500 residents to several thousand as visitors flock to the markets.





BUNYA MOUNTAINS

The Bunya Mountains are located within the magnificent Sunshine Coast Hinterland - the range forms an isolated section of the Great Dividing Range. The resident rainforest is home to eucalypt forests and the largest ancient Bunya pine forest in the World. This beautiful encounter with subtropical nature is just a short drive from [Brisbane](#) and the pretty coastal resorts on the [Sunshine Coast](#).

The Bunya Mountains reach up to over 1100 meters, the tallest points being Mounts Mowbullum and Kiangarow. Since 1908, 11,700 hectares of the Bunya Mountains has been reserved as National Park, making it Queensland's second oldest national park.

Apart from offering magnificent ancient forests there are roughly 120 species of birds and a plentiful array of mammals and other animal life that call the Bunya Mountains National Park home. Indeed, some rare animals live here including both the Sooty and the Powerful owl. More common are the King Parrot with their bright colours and both the swamp and red-necked wallabies.

Within the National Park there are some 35 km of walking tracks, some short, some up to 10 km long. The available tracks have been numbered and classified according to experience and fitness levels.

Camping is available within three main camping areas at Dandabah, Westcott and Burton's Well. A camping permit is a requirement and attracts a small fee (To book call 13 13 04).



BLACKALL RANGES

The Blackall Ranges are located within the magnificent Sunshine Coast Hinterland, just a short drive from Brisbane and the pretty coastal resorts on the Sunshine Coast.

MALENY

Maleny is situated within the magnificent Sunshine Coast Hinterland, Queensland. This gorgeous backdrop attracts tourists from all over the world. Approximately 100 kilometers north of Brisbane and thousands of kilometers from hassles. The Glasshouse Mountains, verdant green hills and sub-tropical climate help make this an area that attracts tourists from all over the world.

The area has amazing views and beautiful rainforests. The highest point within the region rises to almost 550 meters above sea level. Views of the Glass House Mountains, Bribie and Moreton Island can be viewed from this area within the Blackall Ranges.

Since settlement during the 1870's, the local population has grown to just a few thousand. Initially a timber region, Maleny has supported the surrounding areas with milk production for years.

Local attractions include Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve which is home to numerous species of wildlife and is popular with bushwalkers, birdwatchers and makes a relaxing location for a picnic. Lake Baroon offers a number of water sport activities including sailing, fishing and canoeing. The area around the lake has several areas for picnicking together with barbeque facilities, children's playground and toilets.

Maleny is becoming a tourist attraction in its own right with an abundance of activities and a diverse population. Crafts are huge part of Maleny, together with variety shops and local art, with the area having produced a number of renowned artists and galleries.



MONTVILLE

MONTVILLE ACTIVITIES AND TRAVEL : Montville Tourist Attractions :



Montville is a pretty town situated within the attractive Sunshine Coast Hinterland. First settled in 1887, Montville is known as the 'Creative Heart of the Sunshine Coast.'

This pleasant village is home to pottery studios, art galleries, antique stores, fashion houses and more. The sites of restored and historic buildings are signposted throughout the town and are worth seeking out.



The Kondalilla National Park is North of Montville. Kondalilla (aboriginal for 'rushing water') Park offers lovely scenic walks through the rainforest, spectacular waterfalls and is the perfect spot for a family picnic.



Montville has a range of award-winning restaurants and cafes where you can enjoy a diverse menu indoors or out. And every Christmas the entire length of the Main Street is lit up with beautiful lights for your enjoyment.

A unique 'Senses Trail' has been established at Razorback Lookout in Montville. This trail enables sight impaired visitors to have direct contact with nature.

Montville hosts a wide range of accommodation facilities. They have motel suites, bed & breakfasts, villas, lovely guest houses and more.



KENILWORTH

Kenilworth may be small in population (less than 300) but the local area proudly provides for its visitors with a 1920's atmosphere and great historical museum. Settled in the stunning upper Mary Valley Country (behind the Blackall Ranges) this charming town has a wide range of engaging activities to keep you entertained when visiting.



Kenilworth itself has a selection of nice shops, an art gallery plus a cheese, yoghurt and ice cream factory in the form of the Kenilworth Country Food and Cheese Factory. The locality provides well for the bushwalker with idyllic picnic spots and great opportunities for horse riding and fishing with bass, perch, mullet and cod being on the agenda for many anglers.

Gheerulla State Forest, known for rock formations, offers camping on the edge of Gheerulla Creek. Here trail biking is a popular pleasure together with swimming, camping bushwalking. The provision of barbecues, toilet facilities and picnic tables makes this an area to relax and spend some time.

Other nearby attractions include Australia's largest bamboo plantation with over 200 varieties, a number of vineyards, a deer park and a number of forest parks. The Kenilworth Town Park makes a nice place to relax.



Kenilworth Bluff, situated roughly 5km North of Kenilworth is an elevated area that has been a popular place for hiking and for photographers and artists alike. On the Southern side, the impressive cliffs ascend in the direction of Kenilworth. On the opposite side an unusual rock outcrop called Duwirri offers interest with Blookou also offering interest on the Eastern side.



The beautiful Kenilworth State Forest is a popular location for campers and walkers. Offering wonderful views with its selection of deep gorges, mountain streams and foresty, Kenilworth State Forest is a place to relax with nature. Horse riding and cycling are other popular activities with numerous picnic areas also provided.



Other hinterland locations within the Sunshine Coast providing additional interest include Eumundi which offers boutique wineries and art galleries and Montville which offers a number of award winning restaurants and a unique 'Senses Trail' for sight impaired visitors. The Mary River can be spotted at various locations as it flows North from Maleny via Conondale, Kenilworth, Gympie and Maryborough before finally reaching the sea close to Fraser Island.

The most direct route from Brisbane is taking the Bruce Highway to the Landsborough Turnnoff. Then you should carry on through Landsborough, Maleny and Conondale to Kenilworth. Buses go daily between Brisbane and Sunshine Coast and there are regular Queensland Rail services from Brisbane stopping in Landsborough or Nambour.

The exciting Kenilworth Show and Rodeo is held annually on the third weekend in September (in 2006 its will be the 16th). Kenilworth also offers an Arts Festival

called 'Kenilworth Celebrates' which is held in the heart of Mary Valley on the fourth weekend in September. There is also a Scarecrow and Limerick Festival on the last week in August to the second week of October. All of these festivals are fun for the whole family and have an abundance of activities involved.

There are some great places to stay in Kenilworth. There are Studio Units, Bed and Breakfasts, Hotel rooms, Cabins and Caravan Parks to choose from.



COOLOOLA NATIONAL PARK



Coolooloa National Park is also known as the Great Sandy National Park, made up of glorious beaches, sparkling lakes, beautiful wildflowers and the pretty Noosa River.

You can drive through the National Park along the Coolooloa Way from [Tewantin](#) to [Rainbow Beach](#). Another way to see the park is along the Coolooloa Wilderness Trail which leaves from Boreen Point, and continues for 46km. If you decide to drive to Rainbow Beach you will pass the beautiful Teewah Coloured Sands, as well as the wrecked Cherry Venture.

There are a number of boat tours throughout the park, many leaving from [Noosa](#). If you would prefer to explore the area on your own, then you can hire boats from Tewantin and take them through the National Park.

There are plenty of camping grounds within the National Park, including Fig Tree Point, Freshwater, Gagaju, and Harry's Hut. The Coolooloa National Park Ranger can be contacted on one of the following telephone numbers Ph: (07) 5485 3245 or Ph: (07) 5449 7792.

The park protects the largest intact sand dune system in the world, and also includes rainforest, open forest and heathlands. Significant features of the park are the coloured sandcliffs, extensive beaches, forests and peaceful lakes.

Visitors can enjoy bushwalking, scenic drives, beach fishing, lake and surf swimming. Many tracks within the park are 4WD only - day tours and safaris are available.

Coastal park in Noosa River headwaters. Wallum heath, rainforest, freshwater lakes, sand blows, coloured sand Cliffs, rich bird life. Wilderness trail. Self-guiding trail along mangrove boardwalk. Private campground at Elanda Point. Four-wheel-drive and boat access mainly.

Freshwater camping area, Harry's camping area Firewood supplied, Fig Tree Point camping area firewood supplied, Noosa River campsite 3 Limited campsites. Boil water. Boat, swim access only. Upper Noosa River, Limited campsites. Boil water. Boat access only. Cooloola Wilderness Trail Limited campsites. Boil water. Beach camping. Poverty Point camping area.

Walks

The park protects the largest intact sand dune system in the world. Cooloola National Park provides many day and extended walks opportunities. The Noosa river is also a great river to canoe up and many people do. Spring is the best time to walk, the wildflowers are spectacular.

The old foot bridge that was washed away over Kin Kin Creek has now been replaced further upstream and the track here upgraded.

Walks from Harrys Hut

Harrys Hut provides a good base to explore this area. Some walks may require the crossing of the Noosa River so it is good to either have a lilo or some other means to cross it.

Campsite 3

From the campground, cross the Noosa River and pick up the track on the east bank. This pad follows the Noosa River upstream to campsite 3, a large bush campsite with a toilet provided. Water may be picked up along the track just prior to the camp. It is nice to have a swim here after a long hot walk. It is about a 1.5 hour easy walk from Harrys.

The Sandpatch

It is a long day walk to walk to the Sandpatch and back in a day from Harrys. People mostly camp at campsite 3 and walk to it as a day walk. The track is well marked and starts by following an old forestry road that heads north towards Rainbow Beach. After 15 minutes a pad leads off to the right and heads to the top of the sand blow. It is an interesting walk down to the beach along the sand blow. Near the beach the pad enters a valley. Finding the start of the pad up to the Sandpatch from the beach is rather hard if you haven't done it previously.

Fig Tree Point

The point could also be done as an easy extended walk. It is best to follow the old forestry road, 1km back along the road from Harrys, to the Point. There is no water. The walk would be about a 18km walk return to Harrys hut.

Wandi Waterhole

An easy day walk of about 9kms to the campsite. This walk could be used as an introduction to extended walks. The track follows the Wilderness Trail and there is no navigational problems.

Information and booking

The park protects the largest intact sand dune system in the world, and also includes



AUSTRALIA ZOO

Australia Zoo is situated on 45 acres of lush rainforest, near Beerwah on the Sunshine Coast. An easy hour's drive north of Brisbane, Australia Zoo, features over 1000 native, exotic and rescued animals - offering visitors a full day of wildlife action, fun and adventure.

Australia Zoo, originally named Beerwah Reptile Park, was started by Bob and Lyn Irwin in 1970 on 4 acres of land. From the very beginning, the Zoo's main aim was to 'promote conservation through education.' Bob and Lyn fast became known for their knowledge of native wildlife and over the years the zoo expanded. When Bob and Lyn retired they left the management of the zoo to Steve and Terri Irwin - who renamed the park Australia Zoo.

Steve and Terri became involved in a number of different zoological associations, which led to breeding programs and conservation efforts. Together they established the Australia Zoo Endangered Species Unit and Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Unit.

There is so much to do and see at Australia Zoo, be sure to allow the whole day to explore this fascinating world! Check out the new Tiger Temple, home to Australia Zoo's five majestic tigers or have an encounter of the cuddlier kind at the Koala Enclosure.

Be sure to catch the action at the Animal Planet Crocoseum. The 5000 seat Crocoseum showcases birds, snakes and at 12 o'clock everyday the famous 'Croc show'. Watch in anticipation as massive crocodiles launch themselves at the Croc Team or for a tamer experience hand feed Australia Zoo's Asian Elephants.

There are over a dozen shows to be enjoyed throughout the day at Australia Zoo, plus an array of wildlife including otters, koalas, elephants and even camels! Or you can stroll around the park at your own pace checking out the native parrots, storks, cassowaries, lizards, tortoises, pythons, crocodiles, elephants, echidnas, cheetahs, wombats and more!

Australia Zoo has won an array of awards over the years including, more recently, Best Tourism Retailing Outlet, 2006 and Steve Irwin won the Special Award for Contribution to Australia Tourism: at the Australian Tourism Awards 2006.

Tragically, Steve Irwin passed away in September 2006 whilst filming a wildlife documentary. The extraordinary life Steve led is indicative of his love for all creatures and his endearing passion for wildlife and his family. Australia Zoo is a tribute to Steve's hard work, dedication and passion for protecting wildlife - and the Zoo will continue to grow in his honor.

Australia Zoo is open from 9am - 4:30pm, 7 days a week. Trains depart daily from Brisbane's Central Station to Beerwah Train Station, where Australia Zoo offers a free shuttle bus. There are also a number of day tours that operate from the Gold Coast and Brisbane. Interstate trains are linked with Queensland through Brisbane's Roma Street Station.