

# Queensland Coastal Wanderer

## Day 1 & 2: Gold Coast

Coolangatta and Tweed Heads are the border towns of Queensland and New South Wales. The Tweed Valley, hinterland and Mt Tamborine are natural wonderlands, home to three World Heritage Listed National Parks, lush rainforests and miles of unspoiled beaches. Drive via Mt Warning to the Gold Coast for some action and adventure or some relaxation. Lie on a beach, surf, bushwalk, dive, golf, fish, shop, dine out or visit the numerous theme parks including Sea World, Dreamworld and Wet'n'Wild. You won't be short of things to do on the Gold Coast!

### Stay

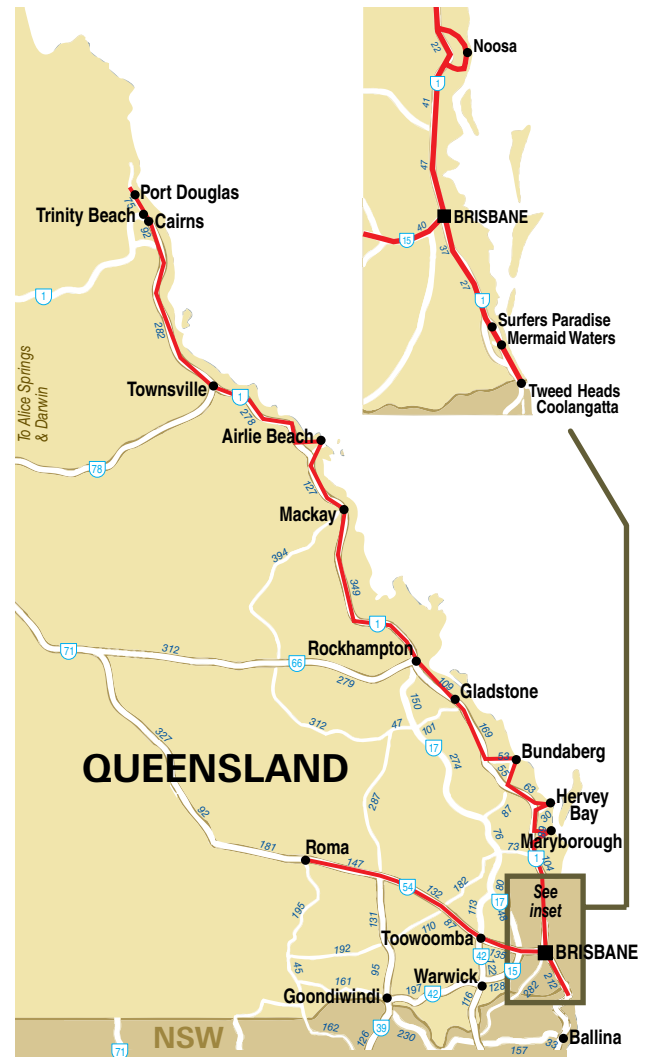
- Quality Hotel Mermaid Waters, Gold Coast (Mermaid Waters) ■■■
- Comfort Inn & Suites Mari Court, Gold Coast (Surfers Paradise) ■■■
- Comfort Inn Bayswater, Gold Coast (Tweed Heads/Coolangatta) ■■■

## Day 3 & 4: Gold Coast - Brisbane, 100km

As Queensland's capital, Brisbane has a savvy downtown precinct, which serves as a destination in its own right. Brisbane's relaxed way of life fits perfectly with the wide range of things to see and do in and around the city. From Mt Coot-tha, 8km from the city, you are afforded wonderful views over Brisbane and as far as Stradbroke Island and the Glass House Mountains. Take a City Cat ride along the Brisbane River or take a stroll around Southbank, one of the city's liveliest areas with a wildlife sanctuary, market stalls, restaurants and cafes, bike paths and a man-made sandy beach. The Gold Coast theme parks, Australia Zoo and Underwater World on the Sunshine Coast already are also within easy reach of Brisbane or you might consider sailing on beautiful Moreton Bay.

### Stay

- The Marque Hotel Brisbane - Clarion Collection, Brisbane (City Centre) ■■■
- Rendezvous Hotel Brisbane - Clarion Collection, Brisbane (City Centre) ■■■
- Quality Hotel The Inchcolm, Brisbane (City Centre) ■■■
- Econo Lodge City Star, Brisbane (Kangaroo Point) ■■■
- Quality Hotel Airport International, Brisbane (Hamilton) ■■■
- Quality Inn Airport Heritage, Brisbane (Hamilton) ■■■
- Comfort Inn Airport Admiralty, Brisbane (Hamilton) ■■■
- Comfort Inn & Suites Northgate Airport, Brisbane (Northgate) ■■■
- Comfort Inn & Suites Robertson Gardens, Brisbane (Robertson) ■■■



### Day 5: Brisbane - Noosa and Sunshine Coast, 150km

Leave Brisbane early and travel north to the Sunshine Coast. Travel via Montville and visit the magnificent Glass House Mountains, formed by giant cores of long-extinct volcanoes that present a gateway to this beautiful region. Take a leisurely morning drive through these unique mountains en route to tonight's accommodation. Browse the exquisite boutiques or open air markets in the region. Make sure you sample some local fare for lunch or dinner at the many excellent seafood restaurants and cafes. Noosa, the most northerly of the Sunshine Coast coastal enclaves, is noted for natural scenery and safe year-round swimming. Treat yourself to a gourmet lunch at one of the many cafes or restaurants or perhaps go shopping at one of Noosa's stylish boutiques. Wildlife abounds in the area from the nearby National Park. Alternatively, take one of the many fascinating Eco tours available on the Sunshine Coast from waterways to the magnificent Blackall Ranges.

#### Stay

Quality Suites Ivory Palms, Noosaville ■

### Day 6: Noosa - Hervey Bay, 200km

Make your way further along the Bruce Highway approximately 3 hours north via historic Maryborough to Hervey Bay, the whale watching capital of the world and gateway to the World Heritage listed Fraser Island. This beautiful part of the world has a relaxed lifestyle the envy of many.

#### Stay

Comfort Inn Fraser Gateway, Hervey Bay ■

Comfort Inn & Suites Arlia Sands, Hervey Bay ■

Comfort Inn Blue Shades, Maryborough ■

### Day 7: Hervey Bay - Bundaberg, 110km

Organise a day trip from Hervey Bay or go four wheel driving on unique Fraser Island, which is the world's largest sand island and the only place on the planet where rainforests grow on sand. It's a short ferry ride from Hervey Bay and well worth the experience of spending the morning on the 'bay', famous for viewing Humpback whales from August to mid October. Relax in the holiday atmosphere and experience pristine beaches, fishing, various water sports and horse riding. Alternatively, travel further north of Hervey Bay onto the city of Bundaberg, where the Great Barrier Reef begins. The Great Barrier Reef is the earth's biggest natural structure made by living creatures and the only living thing on the planet visible from outer space to the naked eye! Fifteen kilometres east of Bundaberg is Mon Repos beach. A visit to this unique stretch of coastline is not to be missed, as it is the only location to see Green Marine Turtles along eastern Australia. This location is one of the two largest turtle rookeries in the South Pacific Ocean, making it a prime spot to view these fascinating creatures. Whilst in Bundaberg visit the famous Bundaberg Rum distillery and take the tour and sample some quality rum products.

#### Stay

Comfort Inn Bert Hinkler, Bundaberg ■ ■

Econo Lodge Park Lane, Bundaberg ■ ■



**Day 8: Bundaberg - Gladstone, 186km**

Gladstone, famous for its seafood and the annual Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race, is a harbour city that enjoys a relaxed pace. Explore the Great Barrier Reef at coral cay Heron Island with its sugar-white sands. Located 72km from Gladstone, Heron Island is heralded as one of the best diving locations in the world.

**Stay**

Quality Inn Harbour City, Gladstone ■

**Day 9: Gladstone – Rockhampton, 109km**

Upon reaching the city of Rockhampton, the 'Beef Capital of Australia', you will discover the richness and diversity of this region. Situated on the banks of the Fitzroy River, 'Rocky', as the locals call it, has considerable charm. Spend the day, boating or trying your luck with the rod for fly-fishing. Visit Rockhampton's Heritage Village - an active township museum, where you can experience Rockhampton's rich and colourful history. You could also visit the Dreamtime Cultural Centre, set in some 30 acres of natural bushland on Ancient Tribal Sites and just 23km north of Rockhampton on Highway One is the magnificent Capricorn Caverns.

Take a short drive to the coastal resort town of Yeppoon, walk along the beach or take a day tour from the marina to Great Keppel Island, a great experience with clear, blue water and many fantastic beaches.

**Stay**

Quality Inn Centre Point, Rockhampton ■

Comfort Inn Rockhampton, Rockhampton ■ ■

Denison Boutique Hotel - Clarion Collection, Rockhampton ■

**Day 10: Rockhampton – Mackay/Blacks Beach, 340km**

Travelling north, visit the new Sarina Sugar Shed a new attraction for kids of all ages teaching all about the sugar industry and its rich history, or why not buy some fantastic lollies made onsite. The coastal city of Mackay is often called the sugar capital of Australia. Mackay is an historic township offering a change of pace and atmosphere. You can access Brampton Island from Mackay, as well as the Great Barrier Reef or perhaps, you would like to discover Mackay's history by taking the Heritage Walk. Visit Greenmount Homestead or discover the region's colourful heritage at the city's newest attraction, ARTSPACE Mackay. A visit to Eungella National Park is a must. These mist-shrouded and forest-clad mountains provide a home for a fascinating variety of unusual plants and animals, including the Eungella gastric brooding frog, Mackay tulip oak, Eungella spiny crayfish and Eungella honeyeater. Look for platypus, eels and turtles in Broken River.

**Stay**

Comfort Inn Marco Polo, Mackay ■

Comfort Inn The Rose, Mackay ■

Clarion Hotel Mackay Marina, Mackay ■

Comfort Resort Blue Pacific, Mackay (Blacks Beach) ■ ■

Alternatively, for a true 'Aussie Outback' experience, turn off the 'Coastal Wanderer' route and make your way inland to Mt Isa, home to Australia's (and the world's) most productive single mine in history!

Mt. Isa is the 'hub' of Queensland's north-western region, with it being the largest city in amongst the vast north west of the state. The city has earned the reputation as the 'Rodeo Capital of Australia' with a very popular Rodeo held annually.

Another popular attraction is the Hard Times Mine at 'Outback at Isa'.

Quality Inn Burke & Wills, Mt. Isa ■



**Day 11: Mackay - Airlie Beach, 160km**

On the way to Airlie Beach, stop into picturesque Cape Hillsborough famous for the beach loving wallabies that hop down onto the palm fringed beach every morning at sunrise. Welcome to the centre of the thriving Whitsunday Coast. A pure holiday town, Airlie Beach offers a large range of activities for visitors. Spend a day sailing the Whitsunday passage and soak up the glorious sunshine whilst floating above crystal clear ocean. Take a day tour to nearby Whitsunday Islands including Long Island, Daydream Island or Hamilton Island. The water must be seen to be believed! A visit to the famous Whitehaven Beach is essential in order to appreciate just how perfect a white sand beach can be. Explore underwater and view the fascinating world of marine life when you spend an afternoon diving or snorkelling.

**Stay**

Comfort Resort Club Crocodile Airlie Beach, Airlie Beach ■

**Day 12: Airlie Beach - Townsville, 290km**

Continuing north, you arrive in the relaxed coastal city of Townsville, renowned for its magnificent tropical climate. A perfect location to take reef day trips, dive cruises, experience the thrills of jet skiing and waterskiing or a sail around Magnetic Island. To slow the pace down a little, take a leisurely walk along the Townsville Strand beachfront. Catch a movie at the IMAX theatre before spending the evening at one of the many fine restaurants on offer.

**Stay**

Comfort Inn Robert Towns, Townsville ■

**Day 13 & 14: Townsville - Cairns, 350km and Port Douglas, 410km**

After checking into your hotel, take advantage of hot air ballooning or maybe a half day tour on a 'Hummer' to World Heritage listed rainforest. Sail through this northern aspect of the Great Barrier Reef to enjoy fishing and snorkelling. Take the opportunity to try canoeing, wind surfing and yachting. If you prefer a more restful time, amble through the Cairns museum or take a trip on the 100 year old Kuranda Scenic Railway through Barron Gorge to the picturesque township of Kuranda. Explore this rainforest village renowned for its open-air market, selling local craft and homemade produce and return via the amazing Skyrail sailing over the rainforest canopy. Basing yourself in Cairns allows you to travel approximately one hour further north to the Daintree Rainforest. Hidden by dense rainforest, discover an ancient species of fern that has been on earth for over 100 million years! Excellent rainforest walking trails abound or take a sea kayak tour for a different experience. Make a day trip of this and experience a place like no other. Alternatively stay in the exclusive resort town of Port Douglas just an hour north of Cairns and explore the natural wonders of the region.

**Stay**

Quality Hotel Sheridan Plaza, Cairns ■ ■

Comfort Inn & Suites City Terraces, Cairns ■ ■

Comfort Hotel Acacia Court, Cairns

Comfort Inn & Suites Trinity Beach Club, Cairns (Trinity Beach) ■ ■

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## Day 14 & 15: Cairns - Port Douglas, 70km

Experience the world-renowned resort village of Port Douglas, famous for its beautiful beaches, relaxed lifestyle and the rich and famous who make the regular pilgrimage to this coastal enclave. Located only an hour north of Cairns, Port Douglas is a place everyone should experience at least once in their life.

### Stay

#### Rendezvous Reef Resort Port Douglas - Clarion Collection, Port Douglas ■ ■

Cairns Airport has direct flights to Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne to enable you to connect with international or domestic flights home.



# Queensland Golden West Explorer

## Days 1 & 2: Brisbane

### Stay

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## Day 3: Brisbane - Toowoomba, 130km

Toowoomba stands as Australia's largest inland city, the hub of South East Queensland Country. Toowoomba really is Queensland's Garden City, with more than 150 public parks and gardens. Toowoomba offers beautiful lavender farms, wineries, various museums and the famous Empire Theatre.

### Stay

- Quality Hotel Platinum International, Toowoomba ■
- Comfort Inn Glenfield, Toowoomba ■
- Comfort Inn Grammar View, Toowoomba ■

## Day 4: Toowoomba - Roma, 360km

Travel to Roma to visit The Big Rig Oil & Gas Museum to learn about Roma's role in Australia's multi-billion dollar oil and gas industry. Stay in Roma and make a day trip to the Bunya Mountains with their many walking trails, native wildlife and picnic areas. Why not travel on a bit further and visit Carnarvon Gorge located a couple hours drive north of Roma. Carnarvon Gorge is hidden away in Queensland's central highlands and is a natural wonder of towering sandstone cliffs, amazing native flora and fauna and Aboriginal Rock Art - return journey to Roma via same route.

### Stay

- Quality Inn Overlander Homestead, Roma ■



## Day 5: Roma - Goondiwindi, 250km

Settled in the 1840's by pastoralists, Goondiwindi emerged in the latter half of the 19th century as an important administrative and commercial centre. Goondiwindi has one of the largest cotton gins in the world and tours are available. Goondiwindi is situated on the McIntyre River and on the Newell Highway - the gateway to the Western Downs. A wide range of activities are available including fishing, skiing, canoeing, bushwalking, local arts & crafts, shopping and of course, wining and dining.

### Stay

Comfort Inn Goondiwindi, Goondiwindi ■

## Day 6: Goondiwindi - Warwick, 200km

When visiting Warwick experience great natural wonders and rainforest terrain in the World Heritage listed Main Range National Park. Queen Mary Falls is also part of the Main Range National Park and is located approximately 50km south east of Warwick. A visit to one of the surrounding wineries is highly recommended with tours operating regularly.

### Stay

Comfort Inn Warwick, Warwick ■

Please note: Hotels and their details on this itinerary are subject to change. Correct as at time of printing.

