



Take Another Look at the Gold Coast

Indigenous experiences at Dreamworld, Outback Spectacular	p2
VIP treatment at Movie World, out to the hinterland	p3
NRL Broncos-Titans grudge match, cuddles at Currumbin	p4
Surf, Seafood and Symphony, hot to trot at the Turf Club	p5

Take Another Look at the Gold Coast

TABS ON
**TRAVEL
TODAY**

Thu 10 Apr 14 p2



Dreamworld Famil Fun

A visit to the ever-evolving Dreamworld was the starting point for the famil, and agents got right into the adrenalin-filled thrill rides to shake off the early-morning flight fatigue. The group experienced the Buzz Saw thrill ride, and checked out some of the park's newer attractions, including the Zombie Evilution laser-tag experience—the humans won in a face-off between some agents.

NZ's Miranda Collins is pictured above with Shrek, Fiona and Donkey.

GC Mega Famil: Tale Of Two Halves

Gold Coast Tourism is hosting 28 Kiwi agents this week in one of the RTO's largest famils from New Zealand in a number of years.

The consultants will experience the coast's best-loved attractions, such as the theme parks and hinterland area. They'll also get a taste for the GC's increasing number of events, from a grudge-match between the Gold Coast Titans and Brisbane Broncos in the NRL, to a VIP day at the races and the new Sun, Surf and Symphony festival at Surfers.

"As we are such a nature destination for Kiwi travellers we feel that we need to deliver new and varied reasons for Kiwis to travel to the Coast whilst not forgetting our core strengths," says GCT New Zealand marketing manag-



er Michael Thurston.

Kiwis stay longer, spend more and spread their dollar further on the Gold Coast than any other of its markets—and the agents on this famil will get an insight into how they can increase their earning power when selling this bread-and-butter destination.

Pictured: Amanda Edwards, Flight Centre Botany Downs; Bronwyn Hattigh, Flight Centre Hurstmere Rd and Jen Hughes, Flight Centre Eastridge.

Oz Outback Spectacular

From Phar Lap to the original horseback pioneers of Australia and the galloping bandits that robbed them, the Australian Outback Spectacular show 'Spirit of the Horse' showcases the Great Southern Land's equine history in an interactive dinner and show experience.

Said to be increasingly popular with Kiwi travellers, the show features trick riders balancing atop two horses cantering down the arena, or hanging by the stirrups, in a competition between rival stations—with the crowd split into two to egg them on. Tickets are from AUD\$9.99, kids under two are free and pensioner rates apply for New Zealand citizens.

Mantra Surfers Sun City

Just metres from Surfers Paradise beach, the Mantra Sun City offers apartment-style accommodations overlooking the famous strip of sand. The resort's pool area and public spaces recently underwent a major upgrade, refreshing the hotel's vibrant Aztec theme See mantra.com.au



Indigenous Focus

The Dreamworld Corroboree is one of the park's newest offerings for visitors—taking guests back tens of thousands of years to the Dreamtime, where birds, fish and land animals fought a great war and created the lands of the Gold Coast region as we know them today—or so the legend goes. Visitors gain insights into aboriginal culture through interacting with roaming Indigenous staff members, who're happy to impart their extensive knowledge to the curious—including just why playing the didgeridoo is dangerous to women. Of course the attraction is a registered zoo, and there are plenty of Aussie animals for clients to check out. Pictured: **1** Amy McDonald from Harvey World Travel Tokoroa with Jarred, one of Dreamworld's Corroboree team members. **2** GO Holidays' Jilly Videna and a hungry red kangaroo at the Dreamworld Corroboree.



Family Friendly Fun On The Gold Coast

Once popular during schoolies, Zagame's Paradise Resort is now dedicated to the family market. It features a number of in-door and out-door recreation areas for kids of all ages to enjoy, including pool areas, in-door laser tag and even an ice-skating rink (also open to the public). Room categories are diverse, with some featuring bunk beds and X-Box's, and 'superior' style rooms have recently been fully refurbished. Skating on thin ice yesterday were Claire Wallace, Flight Centre HLZ; Amy McDonald, HWT Tokoroa; Nikki Solomon, North Shore Travel, Laura Hill, HoT Product; and Kasey Stark from Orbit HLZ. See paradiseresort.com.au



**FAMOUS FOR
FUN** Gold Coast

**WATCH
THE TRAILER**

Take Another Look at the Gold Coast

TABS ON
**TRAVEL
TODAY**

Fri 11 Apr 14 p3

VIP Treatment At Movie World



Proving Movie World's fun for all ages are Jilly Videna from GO Holidays; Jen Kingham, Flight Centre Hunters Plaza; Susan Chand, HoT Takaniini and Holly Gray, Flight Centre Rotorua.

It was hard to tell who the stars were on Thursday at Warner Brother Movie World, as the Gold Coast Tourism kiwi mega famil group were treated to breakfast at the park hosted by Bugs Bunny, Batman, Wonder Woman, Marilyn Monroe and even Edward Scissorhands, who helped serve breakfast. The money-can't-buy experience was a highlight for many on the trip—as the early access to the park meant squeezing in a couple more rides in the short morning stop at the attraction.

Highlights of the park for the group was the super-fast Superman Escape

rollercoaster, which had riders' eyes streaming with tears from the sheer speed, and the crazy twisting and turning of the Arkham Asylum Train. Village Roadshow Theme Parks is giving kids a free VIP pass when one full-price VIP pass is purchased before 30 Jun. The pass, which is valid for park-goers aged three-13, gives kids unlimited entry to Warner Brothers Movie World, Sea World and Wet'n'Wild.

Night Of The Un-dead

A staple of the nighttime entertainment scene on the Gold Coast, Dracula's is constantly reinventing its unique style of un-dead burlesque and cabaret. A troupe of vampires was on hand to make sure the famil group had a VIP experience, complete with a naughty gift bag, grotesque skull cup and a little titillation—this place is not for the prudish among us.

The show Sin & Tonic was a combination of Berlin burlesque and decidedly un-PC comedy skits, interspersed with vampish renditions of pop hits and classics. Gold Coast Tourism's Ricky Dunn says Dracula's continues to be popular in the Kiwi market. "The feedback this show gets from New Zealand is phenomenal," he says.

Hinterland Adventure

The Gold Coast isn't just about its famous stretches of beach and surf—the hinterland area also offers a unique Queensland experience, and the famil group set off from Movie World yesterday with Southern Cross 4WD Tours to experience it first hand on a customized version of its full-day Window to the Wilderness tour.

Setting off in a 4WD mini-van the group lurched up Mt Tamborine on a dirt track, before tiki-touring along the mountain top, going for a bushwalk to a cooling waterfall, and tasting wine, port and Mt Tamborine 'moonshine' at a local winery on the Gallery Walk—the hinterland's quaint arts and crafts precinct.

The award-winning company also offers half-day as well as Nocturnal Rainforest and Glowworm tours—giving clients the chance to see some Aussie wildlife that only comes out at night, including possums and spiders—with a supper at one of the operator's private venues. See sc4wd.com.au



Enjoying Mt Tambourine National Park are Amy McDonald, HWT Tokoroa; Jilly Videna, GO Holidays and Nikki Collingwood from North Shore Business Travel.

Green Behind The Gold

Mt Tamborine offers a laid back hinterland experience away from busy Surfers Paradise. The region has a range of b&b-style accommodation, including The Polish Place (which also has a restaurant and bar), or Witches Falls Cottage. The hinterland is teeming with local producers of cheese and wine, including Witches Falls cheesery and O'Reilly's wine, and it's all easily accessible on the Gallery Walk.

Mantra Circle of Cavill

The famil group was right in the thick of it overnight—staying at the Mantra Circle on Cavill, just meters from shopping and, of course, Surfers Paradise beach.

The property is made up of two towers of the apartment-style accommodation so popular in the New Zealand market, from spacious one-bedroom offerings, including a large balcony, to luxurious three-bedroom apartments with views of both the beach and hinterland.



Pictured left: Amanda Edwards of Flight Centre Botany Downs cooling down the situation, while Nikki Solomon of North Shore Business Travel hops onboard.

Hot Transfer Option With GC Firemen

Things heated up on Thu night ahead of the evening at Dracula's, when the mega famil group were taken for a joy ride around Surfers Paradise in Fire4Hire's fire trucks. Manned by genuine firemen on their days off, Fire4Hire's trucks can cater for large groups such as the Gold Coast Tourism famil, as well as kid's groups, hen's and buck's parties—and they can even make airport transfers that little bit more interesting. Fire4Hire also offers tours of the Surfer's area. See fire4hire.com.au



**WATCH
THE TRAILER**

Take Another Look at the Gold Coast

A Game Of Two Halves On The Coast



After experiencing the Gold Coast's hallmark attractions, it was time for the Kiwi mega famil group to split up and experience some of the region's other highlights, from Currumbin's Wildlife Sanctuary, to a rugby league grudge match and Vegas-style show.

Famil goers who chose to head to the NRL Queensland Derby match between the Gold Coast Titans and the Brisbane Broncos were treated to a Chairman's Lounge experience, with corporate hosting and prime seats just below the coach's and commentary boxes. After a slow first half, the Titans won the match 14 to eight for the raucous home crowd.

Gold Coast Tourism's international director Michael Thurston says the league is popular with both visitors and Kiwis who call the coast home.

"New Zealand Warriors games are the third most popular matches here on the Coast," he says. "Flights over will be packed with Kiwis before the match."

... Show Time

Meanwhile the other half of the famil group headed to Jupiter's for a special preview showing of the casino's Las Vegas style show, which officially opened on the weekend.

It was a mixture of comedy skits, showgirl dancers and illusion-



ists in the traditional Vegas style. See jupitersgoldcoast.com.au

1 Back row from left Nikki Solomon, North Shore Business Travel; Michael Thurston, Gold Coast Tourism; John Jepson, Flighties Richmond; James Parker, Flighties Dunedin. Middle from left, Nicole Collingwood, Tandem; Amanda Edwards, Flighties Botany Downs; Holly Gray; Susan Chand, Flight Centre Takanini, Miranda Collins, NZ; Jo Wright, Flight Centre Howick; Emma Fryer, HRG Travel; Dorothy Bruce, HoT Whangarei. Front from left, Christine Sarney, Harvey World Travel Upper Hutt and Jen Kingham, Flight Centre Hunters Corner.

2 Dorothy Bruce, House of Travel Whangarei with Air New Zealand's Miranda Collins

3 Gold Coast Tourism's Michael Thurston with Nikki Solomon, North Shore Business Travel and Jen Kingham, Flight Centre Hunters Corner.



Brekky From On High

The most important meal of the day went to new heights on day three, as the group ascended 77 floors to the Q1 Sky-Point observation deck on a stunning morning, with time to walk around the deck before a buffet breakfast (available daily and free for clients staying at Q1). Flight Centre Dunedin's James Parker with John Jepson, Flight Centre Richmond. See skypoint.com.au

Currumbin Cuddles

Who could say no to a cuddle with a Koala? Bounty was on hand at the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary for the group to pose with on the tour through the park for that quintessential Aussie wildlife photo opportunity.

A bird show featuring a barking owl and a giant wedge tailed eagle, kept visitors enthralled and laughter ensued when a clumsy pelican made an appearance, contrasting with the agility of the predator birds.

The group visited the sanctuary's wildlife hospital, which is included in the admission price and gives visitors a look at where the money they spend on photos with animals goes. Every \$60 spent at the park on photo opportunities saves one animal in the hospital, whether it's an echidna or koala or kangaroo. See cws.org.au



Kasey Stark, Orbit Corporate Travel.



Stand Up At Palm Beach

After a scorching afternoon mingling with Aussie wildlife, a visit to Palm Beach for some paddleboarding was a welcome cool-off for half of the mega famil group. The calm inlet made for easy paddling in the sun, and Dune Cafe at the adjoining park served fresh juices, salads and sandwiches. Palm Cover is ideal for family groups keen to relax at a calm beach for a break from the surf, agreed the Kiwi boarders.

About to head onto the water is John Jepson, Flight Centre Richmond; Kasey Stark, Orbit; Nikki Solomon, North Shore Business Travel; Bronwyn Hatttingh, Flight Centre Hirstmere Road, Bec Cartwright, Flight Centre Queenstown and Jen Hughes, Flight Centre Eastridge.



FAMOUS FOR

FUN

Gold Coast

**WATCH
THE TRAILER**

Take Another Look at the Gold Coast

Famil Reinvents Gold Coast For Agents

Agents on the Gold Coast Mega Famil last week came away with a broader knowledge of the region and its diverse offering—from the well-known theme parks, to the Hinterland and some of its key sporting and cultural events.

My whole perception has changed, it is a lively fun place to visit, with all the bars, cafes, & shopping that you would expect, however there is so much more,” says Flight Centre

Hamilton's Claire Wallace.

“A trip up to Tambourine Mountain provides sweeping rural landscapes, and a little bit of 4WD adventure. With wineries to visit, and lots of little quaint shops & houses, it felt like stepping back in time,” she says. Kate Pritchard of Northwood Flight Centre says she'll be recommending Surfers Paradise to families as it has so much to offer—particularly the Mantra on Cavill for its location and spacious apartments.



Surf, Seafood And Symphony

Surfers Paradise is playing host to its namesake festival at the moment, and on Sat night some of the Kiwi trade group were VIP guests at the first ever Surf, Seafood and Symphony event, held right on the beach.

The Gold Coast Philharmonic Orchestra accompanied Greg Moore and Kimberly Hodgson in their wide ranging musical showcase, from the Beach Boys' California Dreaming to Miss Saigon, while festival-goers picked up a meal from one of the festival's many food stalls and found a pokie on the beach in front of the stage.

The group settled in for the evening at a VIP marquee with unobstructed views of the stage to enjoy the evening.

Across town, the other half of the famil group were getting behind the Gold Coast Suns at an AFL match, a first for many in the group.

1 Flight Centre's Jen Hughes, Amanda Edwards and Bronwyn Hattingh. 2 Courtney Rongonui, FC; Bec Cartwright, FC; Laura Hill, HoT Product and Emma Fryer, HRG.



Hot To Trot At The Gold Coast Turf Club

While half the group was jetting around the Gold Coast's flashy waterways, the others had dressed up to attend a race day at the Gold Coast Turf Club—with behind the scenes access to the parading area, director's lounge and even a trip for some to the commentary box to help with calling the races. The turf club holds race days every Sat, and Gold Coast Tourism recommends agents suggest their clients go along for a day off from beach life.

With Race Three winner Avalanches is the famil group, Jen Hughes, FC; Jen Kingham, FC; Ricky Dunn, Gold Coast Tourism; Laura Hill, HoT Product; Jess Harkins, Travel Today; Kasey Stark (green dress), Orbit; Christine Sarney, HWT; Holly Gray, FC. Kneeling, from left, Alina Negrea, HoT; Claire Wallace, FC and John Jepson, FC.

Jetboating Soaking

“You will get wet.” That was the warning for the group heading onto the waters around Gold Coast Broadwater and Moreton Bay Marine Park for a jet boating adventure, and that was no empty threat. “The jet boating was my favourite,” says GO Holidays' Jilly Vedana. “It was a mix of thrill, fun and educational as the jet boat driver showed us some of the most amazing waterfront properties at Sovereign Island,” she says.

Getting There

Air New Zealand and Virgin Australia fly non-stop to the Gold Coast from Auckland daily and from Christchurch two-three times a week. More options are available into Brisbane, a short 90 minute trip from the Gold Coast where flights operate non-stop from Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

Nightlife

The Gold Coast is well-known for its nightlife—and there are varied options for younger punters and those after a sophisticated evening. In Surfers Paradise, it's nightclubs for the young, willing and eager, while over on Broadbeach there's a slightly older and more relaxed crowd. Notable spots in Surfers are Stingrays at the QT Gold Coast hotel, and the newly opened cocktail bar Fix, at the Hilton Surfers Paradise.

Outrigger Surfers

The Outrigger Surfers Paradise offers 411 rooms with views of the Gold Coast skyline, with a pool, tennis court and gymnasium, and is located just minutes from the bustle of Surfers Paradise. The property has recently introduced a new range of healthy menu options to its in-room menu. The hotel advises that its pool will close intermittently for upgrades throughout May. See outrigger.com

