



QUEENSLAND BEACHES & BEYOND



Gold Coast

The [Gold Coast Hinterland](#) Great Walk means keen hikers can navigate large areas of the Gold Coast hinterland on foot. The trail traverses a dinosaur-age landscape of plateaux, valleys, rainforest and volcanoes. The complete 54km trail takes four days to hike, or you can choose shorter sections as day walks.

We all know the Gold Coast has incredible beaches that stretch for miles and offer something for every coastal lover, but venture away from the sea into the hinterland and the region blossoms like a tropical flower. One of the jewels

in the hinterland crown, known affectionately as the “green behind the gold”, is Tamborine Mountain National Park. One of the stars of the national park is Witches Falls, the area around which was designated Queensland’s first national

Sate your appetite

A great way to see more of what the Gold Coast has to offer beyond the beaches, without resorting to hiking rails and climbing hills is simply to meander the [Gold Coast hinterland food and wine trail](#). The region’s temperate climate, just 30 minutes inland from the beaches, around Mount Tamborine, Albert River and Canungra offers excellent grape growing conditions and is home to some fantastic wineries. Try [Cedar Creek Winery](#) for stunning wines and a great restaurant in a picturesque setting – and even an underground cave system. Or try [O’Reilly’s Canungra Valley Vineyards](#) to enjoy award-winning wine and food on verandah of an historic Queenslander homestead. But it’s not just for wine lovers. The region is also filled with boutique food producers and brewers.

Coastal views

At Currumbin Beach climb Currumbin Rock for epic views north to Surfer’s Paradise and south to Coolangatta. From the beach you can also make a short drive inland to Currumbin Rock Pools in Mt Coughal National Park.

Park life

Discover the spectacular [Natural Arch](#), a waterfall cascading through the roof of a cave that also holds Australia’s largest glow worm colony, - in Springbok National Park. Or picnic alongside ancient trees and native animals and birds in the ecological haven of Lamington National Park.

A touch of the wild

With more than 1400 different native Australian animals and birds on display in natural bushland and rainforest settings, [Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary](#) provides a rare opportunity to see and experience the country’s amazing native wildlife. Cuddle koalas or even snakes for photos; and watch crocodiles, pelicans and eels being fed, admire the magnificence of Australian native birds in flight. Mixing interactive displays with demonstrations and encounters Currumbin offers a world of discovery. Established almost 60 years ago Currumbin and continued to evolve and grow. There are now nightly wildlife adventure tours and new attractions such as the fun Segway Safaris, and the Adventure Parc High Ropes Course. The sanctuary is easily accessible from around the Gold Coast via car, shuttle or bus.



Relax and retreat

For a spectacular place to take time out and really relax head to [Peppers Ruffles Lodge and Spa](#) at Mt Tamborine. This 5-star retreat lies midway between the mountains and sea, offering luxury accommodation, fine dining and a spa all in child-free, beautiful and natural surroundings – perfect for a romantic getaway. The lodge is within 30 minutes’ drive of 16 golf courses and there’s even a practice area at the property, so your swing need never get rusty. Tamborine Mountain, Springbrook and Lamington national parks are all within an easy distance of the lodge as are the rainforest areas of Binna Burra and O’Reillys. And if you need a taste of the bright lights and beaches, Surfer’s Paradise and the Gold Coast are just a 25-minute drive.

park. But there are many other spectacular waterfalls – Cedar Creek Falls, Curtis Falls, and Cameron Falls for example, that are accessible by easy walking tracks. As Tamborine Mountain is part of an ancient volcanic rim, with an elevation of about 550m there are many fantastic lookout points around the walking tracks offering uninterrupted views across the hinterland to the coast. Or wander the Rainforest Skywalk through the treetops. All through and around the national park sits a thriving community of artists, galleries, markets, vineyards, breweries and distilleries – as well as boutique food producers and accommodation. It all combines to make Tamborine Mountain the perfect spot for a Gold Coast hinterland holiday.



Life’s a Beach

From the great breaks at [Main Beach and Surfers Paradise](#) to the sheltered swimming waters of Currumbin Beach, there will be a stretch of sand, a bay or a beach strip for your favourite coastal experience. Currumbin Beach proudly holds the title of Australia’s Cleanest Beach in 2013 and is favourite amongst locals and visitors alike. There are also cascading rock pools to cool off in, in the [Mt Coughal National Park](#), so explore and prepare to be surprised!

