

# ALL THAT'S NEW AND EXCITING ON THE GOLD COAST

## June Update

### THE GOLD COAST WARMS UP FOR WINTER

Rest and relaxation, wining and dining, hinterland escapes, active pursuits and an ever evolving events calendar confirm the Gold Coast as a fun-filled, year-long destination.

See below a list of new and exciting things to see and do during your next visit.

#### New Experiences

- Inaugural EB Games Expo Announced – Biggest Gaming Event Ever In Australia
- JPT Tour Group Part Of Gold Coast 'Eco-Efficiency Cluster'
- Shockwave at Dreamworld
- New Treatments At Peppers Ruffles Lodge & Spa
- Hilton's Beach Valets Pamper Guests in an Australian First

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- SeaWorld Penguin Encounter Gains International Recognition
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- Queensland Ballet Performs 'The Little Mermaid'
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- Aussie Gold International Cheer and Dance Championships

**Spotlight:** Gold Coast Whale Watching

### New Experiences

#### **Inaugural EB Games Expo Announced – Biggest Gaming Event Ever In Australia**

Australia's largest video game and entertainment software retailer has announced what will be the biggest gaming event in Australian history, the EB Games EXPO to be held 15-16 October at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. EB Games EXPO will showcase the hottest new release and upcoming titles playable for the first time in Australia plus exciting live presentations from international game developers spanning across 10,000 square metres. EB Games is excited to announce the participation of global console giants: Nintendo, Playstation and XBOX360, world class gaming brands: 2K, Activision, Bethesda, Bluemouth, Capcom, Codemasters, Disney Interactive Studios, Electronic Arts, Incomm, Konami, Logitech, Mindscape, Namco Bandai Partners, Parrot AR.Drone, Plantronics, Pop Cap, QVS, Razer, Sega, Square Enix, THQ, Turtle Beach and Ubisoft and supporting partners: GameSpot AU, Game Informer, TLS Red Carpet Gaming, World Cyber Games and Save Point.

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

#### **JPT Tour Group Part Of Gold Coast 'Eco-Efficiency Cluster'**

The JPT Tour Group is participating in a joint initiative between Gold Coast City Council and EC3 entitled the "Eco-Efficiency Cluster". Companies with a social conscience and eco-awareness principles are now seeking to work with hotels, tour companies and transfer

providers who have the same goals; ie, to protect our environment and minimise their carbon footprint. The JPT Tour Group is working with 24 other tourism companies toward identifying more eco-efficient practices in the office and operationally, to develop an Action Plan toward achieving best eco-practices, to provide training and capacity building within our team, to identify strategies for raising awareness among our clientele and staff in relation to the importance of sustainable tourism and to encourage 'whole-of-Gold-Coast' destination eco-friendly outcomes. For information about JPT Tour Groups' sustainability policy and how you can work with us, please contact Communications Manager Allison Forner [Allison@jpttours.com](mailto:Allison@jpttours.com) Visit [www.jpttours.com](http://www.jpttours.com)

### **Shockwave at Dreamworld**

Dreamworld's latest addition to more than 30 rides, attractions and shows, Shockwave is a daunting sight along the park's Ocean Parade. One hundred and fifty tonnes of steel, a massive turbine disc and the looming rises and dips of Shockwave's vivid green track are set to challenge the bravest of action seekers. As you make your way onto the huge 24-person ride disc, cast your eyes onto the terrified faces of the spectators below. Don't be fooled as the disc cranks to life, it only takes a few moments before the initial gentle sways to take a turn for the worse and become 360 degree spins of fury. At full speed you'll be propelled at over 50kph down a 63m long wave-like track that plunges and climbs, so one second you feel completely weightless and the next the full load of gravity takes hold, all while circling at 12 revolutions per minute at up to 2.5Gs. Shockwave is an electrifying and fun open air adventure that promises to leave you spinning. [www.dreamworld.com.au](http://www.dreamworld.com.au)

### **New Treatments At Peppers Ruffles Lodge & Spa**

Day Spa lovers will go ga-ga over two new treatments at the tranquil Peppers Ruffles Lodge & Spa. Firstly there is the Wongawallan Hot Stone Massage to warm the body and dissolve all tension, where you can surrender to the warm stone therapy and allow the ancient elemental powers of the earth to dissolve stress, fatigue and deep layers of tension. This 90 minute treatment is \$190. Then unique to Ruffles, there is the Holistic Elixir, a Deluxe Organic Facial which uses powerful crystals for healing by amplifying skin renewal, using the powerful combination of crystal healing and organic formulas to empower the skin and soul. This 75-minute treatment is \$165. To book call 07 5546 7411 or email [ruffleslodge@peppers.com.au](mailto:ruffleslodge@peppers.com.au)

### **Hilton's Beach Valets Pamper Guests in an Australian First**

Hilton Surfers Paradise has launched Australia's first ever Beach Valet, providing guests with the ultimate luxury beach experience. The Beach Valet service offers five-star service that extends from the hotel to one of Australia's most famous stretches of sand. With the concept of beach valets well entrenched at overseas destinations such as South Beach in Miami, Florida and Cannes in France, Hilton Surfers Paradise has introduced an Australian version of the concept exclusively for Hilton Surfers Paradise guests. Valets transport guests' beach gear and belongings to the sand on world-renowned Surfers Paradise Beach, as well as bring guests cold drinks, ice creams, Hilton-branded sunshade or beach umbrella, carry and assemble beach chairs, bring fresh towels and children's beach toys and provide guests with an esky filled with their choice of cold drinks, fresh fruit or snacks throughout the day.

## **Property News**

### **Peppers Broadbeach Rated Best By TripAdvisor**

The world's largest travel website, Trip Advisor, has given the new Peppers Broadbeach the top rating as Australia's best hotel, ahead of 4,350 other properties. The rating is derived from

feedback from guests who have stayed at the property and posted reviews. Some recent reviews about Peppers Broadbeach: "Best on the Gold Coast, Excellent in every way. A true 5 star resort, service staff made you feel wanted and important." Fantastic breath of fresh air ... "Loved it, outstanding rooms ... Best mini bar I have ever seen - at last , no Pringles! This hotel deserves to be supported for making an effort to be different." They've thought of everything. Absolutely beautiful rooms, faultless cleaning and top notch toiletries are provided. Overall a great location, beautifully appointed hotel, and top notch services and facilities. Highly recommended! [www.peppers.com.au/broadbeach](http://www.peppers.com.au/broadbeach)

### **SeaWorld Penguin Encounter Gains International Recognition**

Sea World's Penguin Encounter Exhibit has gained international recognition, claiming a coveted Zoo and Aquarium Association Award presented to the most innovative projects, outstanding conservation activities and exhibit designs, as well as the top education programs. The 'Penguin Encounter' complex took out the Exhibit Award in the Large Institution Category. Penguin Encounter is a building complex dedicated to the management and exhibition of King and Gentoo penguins in a climate-controlled environment meeting stringent Quarantine design and construction specifications. Penguin Encounter is a slice of Antarctica at Sea World, with up to 3 tonne of snow being created daily, plus icy rock formations and a crystal clear pool for the penguins to explore; it's truly a spectacular exhibit. [www.seaworld.myfun.com.au](http://www.seaworld.myfun.com.au)

### **Wyndham Corporate Centre Unveiled**

One of the Gold Coast's largest corporate employers, Wyndham Vacation Resorts Asia Pacific has undertaken the relocation of more than 500 staff members to the newly branded, Wyndham Corporate Centre in Bundall. The launch of the new Asia Pacific headquarters marks the beginning of a new decade on the Gold Coast for this global hospitality company. Wyndham Vacation Resorts Asia Pacific launched the Vacation Ownership club, WorldMark South Pacific Club by Wyndham, on the Gold Coast in 2001 with one resort at Coolangatta and a small band of employees. Today, the company employs around 1,200 people and the WorldMark South Pacific Club has a network of 21 resorts throughout the Asia Pacific region. [www.wyndhamworldwide.com](http://www.wyndhamworldwide.com)

## **Save The Date**

### **Sanctuary Cove Winter Markets: Featuring Ben O'Donoghue and Alex Perry**

Sanctuary Cove's Winter Festival will be coordinated 4-19 June, starting with an Art Weekend for two fabulously creative days. The Marine Village, Sanctuary Cove will be transformed into an art-lover's oasis with exhibitions, workshops, activities and entertainment to suit all ages. On Monday 13 June it is the food-lover's turn as celebrity chef, Ben O'Donoghue, makes a special appearance during an afternoon of events celebrating great food, wine and entertainment at the Village Green, Sanctuary Cove. Have your book signed, watch Ben perform an exciting BBQ Prawn cooking demonstration or simply enjoy a selection of wine and craft beers. King of Couture, Alex Perry, will turn up the heat on 17 June when he visits Sanctuary Cove and unveils his sultry collection "Cuban Princess" at an exquisite gala dinner for the charity AEIOU Foundation - for children with autism. To close the Sanctuary Cove Winter Festival, the children will take centre-stage. The extremely popular Mummy Tree Markets will be held on 18 and 19 June - a gorgeous designer market showcasing unique, boutique products and services for all the family. [www.sanctuarycove.hyatt.com](http://www.sanctuarycove.hyatt.com)

### **Queensland Ballet Performs 'The Little Mermaid'**

Queensland Ballet is busy adorning their pointe shoes and fish tails, as the Company prepares to perform François Klaus's The Little Mermaid at The Arts Centre Gold Coast on Saturday 18 June. Choreographed by the Company's Artistic Director, François Klaus, The Little Mermaid has enchanted audiences in Brisbane, Sydney, regional Queensland, Japan and most recently China in March and April this year. Now this timeless tale from Hans Christian Andersen is set to make waves on the Gold Coast, where the Company will present two performances only on 18 June. [www.artscentregc.com.au](http://www.artscentregc.com.au)

### **Serge Dansereau To Cook At Palazzo Versace**

On 25 - 26 June, Palazzo Versace's award-winning Vanitas restaurant will play host to celebrated chef Serge Dansereau. The noted French Canadian chef from the iconic Sydney restaurant The Bathers' Pavilion will be visiting Australia's first and only fashion branded hotel for two exclusive cooking events. At the beginning of each class Serge will lead guests on a visual and entertaining tour of his latest gastronomic journey through France. Guests will learn about the locations dear to his heart and the dishes that have helped to inspire his latest culinary creations. Menu items for the two cooking demonstrations have been personally selected from Serge's new book, French Kitchen. The newest book from his growing collection of titles sees Serge blend his French culinary techniques with tasty Australian produce to create fresh and flavoursome, easy to cook at home dishes.

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

### **Record Numbers Expected At Gold Coast Airport Marathon**

A record of more than 25,000 runners from all more than 30 countries are set to converge on the Gold Coast this July for the Gold Coast Airport Marathon. The 33rd annual Gold Coast Airport Marathon will be held on 2 - 3 July and feature races for all ages and abilities. There will be the ultimate 42.195km Gold Coast Airport Marathon, ASICS Half Marathon, Wheelchair Half Marathon, Southern Cross University 10km Run, Queensland Health 5km Challenge and Junior Dash 2km and 4km races. The Gold Coast Airport Marathon course is renowned for being flat and scenic, taking in the beautiful broadwater and surf beaches. The weather in July is traditionally good for running, with low humidity, no wind and mild temperatures, creating great conditions to achieve a personal best time. More than 2,000 runners will come from overseas with large groups from Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan and Korea. The Gold Coast Airport Marathon, organised by Events Queensland Gold Coast, has won the Queensland Tourism Awards Best Major Event/Festival for the past two years. Entries for the event are open until Friday 1 July at [www.goldcoastmarathon.com.au](http://www.goldcoastmarathon.com.au)

### **Aussie Gold International Cheer and Dance Championships**

Don't miss out on the Aussie Gold International Cheer and Dance Championships on Saturday 9 July at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. Hundreds of cheerleaders and dancers from all around the world will be on the Gold Coast for a weekend of fun-filled competition across competitive divisions. Cheerleading combines gymnastics, dance and acrobatics into a fast-paced, spectacular routine. At the Aussie Gold International Cheer and Dance Championships, the fun doesn't stop with the competition – there will also be golden giveaways, fun games and interactive activities at the 'spirit-zone'. For more information please visit [www.aussiegoldchamps.com.au](http://www.aussiegoldchamps.com.au)

## **Spotlight: Gold Coast Whale Watching**

Whale watching on the Gold Coast provides a fantastic opportunity for onlookers to get up close and personal with the largest living mammals on Earth. The waters along the Gold Coast are commonly referred to as the Hump Back Highway with approximately 25 000 viewing opportunities during the annual migration up and down the coasts of Queensland. Running from June through to November the Gold Coast boasts the longest whale watching season in the country. Departure points include Marina Mirage, Sea World, Sea World Resort, The Spit, Surfers Paradise and Coolangatta/Tweed Heads Golf Club. The whale watching season marks the migration of the Humpback Whale from Antarctica to warmer Queensland waters before they return with their newly born after covering a mammoth distance of 8,000kms during their amazing journey.

### **Gold Coast Whale Watching Operators:**

Tall Ships – ph: 1300 942 537 [www.tallship.com.au](http://www.tallship.com.au)

Whales in Paradise – ph: 07 5538 5219 [www.whalesinparadise.com.au](http://www.whalesinparadise.com.au)

Sea World Whale Watching – ph: 133 386 [www.seaworld.myfun.com.au](http://www.seaworld.myfun.com.au)

Coolangatta Whale Watch – 07 5599 4104 [www.coolangattawhalewatch.com.au](http://www.coolangattawhalewatch.com.au)

Rivers Whale Watching Tours - 07 5527 6361 [www.rivers.net.au](http://www.rivers.net.au)

### **Gold Coast Tourism is available for comment:**

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