

ALL THAT'S NEW AND EXCITING ON THE GOLD COAST

May Update

FUN-FILLED EVENTS CALENDAR ENHANCED ON THE GOLD COAST

Throughout the remainder of 2011, the Gold Coast will continue to hold great appeal for holiday-makers and weekend adventurers, as a host of world class events are staged at some of the best venues in the southern hemisphere.

The city continues to enhance its reputation as an events hotspot, recently acquiring the Australian round of the HSBC Rugby Sevens World Series and named one of the ports to be visited during the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race.

See below a comprehensive list of new and existing events still to be staged on the Gold Coast plus other exciting experiences recently introduced.

New Events

- Gold Coast New Host of HSBC Rugby Sevens World Series (25-26 November)
- Gold Coast Secures Clipper Round the World Yacht Race (January 2012)

Events Still To Come

- The 2011 Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show (19-22 May, 2011)
- Cooly Rocks On (3-13 June)
- Broadbeach Announces Jam Packed Winter Events Calendar (May to July)
- Surfers Paradise Festival (4 weeks from 18 June)
- Gold Coast Airport Marathon (2-3 July)
- Tastes of Gold Coast (3-18 September)
- Coolangatta Gold 2011 (25 September)
- Armor All Gold Coast 600 (21-23 October)
- Mitsubishi Motors World Masters Golf (23-29 October)

New Experiences

- New River Restaurant Dinner Cruise
- Skycoaster at Wet 'n' Wild

Spotlight

- Hinterland and Pacific Food and Wine Trails

New Events

Gold Coast New Host of HSBC Rugby Sevens World Series (25-26 November)

The Gold Coast will be the new home for the Australian leg of the HSBC Rugby Sevens World Series for the next four years. "Winning the bid for an event as prestigious as this is great news for the Gold Coast and great news for Queensland," said Queensland Premier Anna Bligh. "At a time when we are putting the finishing touches on another bid – for the Commonwealth Games in 2018 – this reinforces our message that the Gold Coast is a first-class sporting destination and event ready in every way. The event will position the Gold Coast and Queensland front and centre on the world stage. Gold Coast Tourism boss Martin Winter said it was a huge coup for the city beating Adelaide, which hosted the competition for the past four years, and "the other sharks that were circling". "The fact we beat Sydney was

an absolute credit to the team," he said. Mr Winter said the event would attract 8000 to 10,000 visitors to the Gold Coast.

Gold Coast Secures Clipper Round the World Yacht Race (January 2012)

The Gold Coast will "hoist its sails" on the world sailing stage with Gold Coast City Council committing to sponsoring a yacht in the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race. Part of the sponsorship agreement was to secure the Gold Coast as one of the ports for the round the world competition – a decision which will attract millions of dollars via sports tourism.

"Sponsoring a yacht in a race like this may not sound like the business of a council. But this is all about putting our city's name on the world stage and Council has negotiated an extremely attractive agreement with the race organisers," said Mayor Ron Clarke. The economic impact for the city should meet or exceed the expenditure average achieved by the Western Australian stopover during the 2007/ 2008 Clipper race of \$1,450,440 over 13 days.

Events Still To Come

The 2011 Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show (19-22 May, 2011)

One of Australasia's leading marine events, the Sanctuary Cove international Boat Show features more than 360 exhibitors from Australia, the United States, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, China and Taiwan. More than 130 boats are displayed on water at the marina, plus hundreds of additional boat and marine accessories in two large pavilions and in open-air displays through the waterfront Marine Village. The increasing role of women in the marine industry is acknowledged by the Show with the new series of activities – Women On Water which includes seminars, fashion parades, skipper training, lunches and High Tea on the High Seas. Channel Seven personalities and My Kitchen Rules contestants will also make appearances at the Show. Visit www.sanctuarycoveboatshow.com.au

Cooly Rocks On (3-13 June)

Cooly Rocks On is Australia's "hottest new" Rock`N Roll Nostalgia Festival coordinated in the Coolangatta-Tweed Heads Region. Rock`n Roll and Rockabilly bands and singers are featured, as are dancers, more than 1,000 Hot Rods and Classic Cars and Cruisers plus numerous street parades! Expected to attract between 50,000 and 80,000 people into the region for a week-long celebration of the "Happy Days" culture, this festival will feature everything that was cool about the 1950s and `60s and everything that's hot about 2011. The streets of Coolangatta and Tweed Heads will be transformed into a nostalgic flashback to the days when Rock`n Roll ruled. Visit www.CoolyRocksOn.com.au

Broadbeach Announces Jam Packed Winter Events Calendar

Jon Stevens, Katie Noonan, Vince Jones, Phil Emmanuel, Chain and Kevin Borich are all performing at one of the many Broadbeach events and festivals this year. The massive line-up of events begin on the last weekend of May with the tenth anniversary of the Blues on Broadbeach Music Festival. On Saturday the 25th of June 'Broadbeach Opera in the Park' welcomes internationally acclaimed performers Donald Cant and Danielle Everett for the event, both best known for their tours with Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Phantom of the Opera'. 'Broadbeach Restaurant Week,' will run from the 15-24 July while the winter events program will conclude with the Broadbeach Jazz Festival headlined by Vince Jones and Katie Noonan. www.broadbeachgc.com

Surfers Paradise Festival (4 weeks from 18 June)

In 2011, the Surfers Paradise Festival rolls into town for its second year, and yes, it is bigger and better. This year the Festival is condensed to four weeks, ensuring the fun is packed with quality events back-to-back. The precinct's buzzing with energy on the streets, in venues and in restaurants. Home-grown music, food, art and film events fill the Festival Program, alongside promotions to win VIP access to events and the opportunity to cash in on some great offers precinct-wide. It all kicks off June 18 so keep an eye out for the program in May and check out www.surfersparadisefestival.com

Gold Coast Airport Marathon (2-3 July)

A record 25,000-plus runners from all over the world are set to converge on the City for the Gold Coast Airport Marathon that 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 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. Visit www.goldcoastmarathon.com.au

Tastes of Gold Coast (3-18 September)

Tastes of Gold Coast organisers have been meeting with local producers and businesses to ensure this year's festival showcases not only the great produce but also the people behind it. Already confirmed for 2011: a degustation dinner at an iconic restaurant in Burleigh, celebrating the full moon over a picturesque view of the ocean; a Father's Day event with a difference at the Broadwater Parklands; plus the ever popular 3 Chefs Do Lunch, in conjunction with the Arts Centre Gold Coast. Tastes of Gold Coast is excited to partner with the Junior Secondary Schools Culinary Challenge, which launched on 17 March. The competition is an initiative of The Smith Family and has the support and sponsorship of The Australian Culinary Federation, Diabetes Australia (QLD), The Nutrition Australia (QLD), Gold Coast Show Society and the hospitality industry. Visit www.tastesofgoldcoast.com

Coolangatta Gold 2011 (25 September)

The Coolangatta Gold is one of the most iconic and challenging Ironman and Ironwoman races in Australia. A 46km swim, surf – ski, board and run, it's the longest race of its kind in the world. With individual and team events, and age categories ranging from under-19s to masters, the Coolangatta Gold has something for everyone. This year's event will be held on Sunday, 25 September along Queensland's iconic Gold Coast. Information on course details and how to register will be released shortly. Visit www.sls.com.au/coolangattagold

Armor All Gold Coast 600 (21-23 October)

The 2011 Armor All Gold Coast 600 will take place on the streets of the Gold Coast from Friday October 21 to Sunday October 23. Queensland's premier motorsport event will feature international stars alongside the home-grown V8 Supercar heroes, taking on the concrete jungle that is the specially designed street circuit, while the Gold Coast comes alive with all kinds of off-track entertainment. In excess of 170,000 spectators poured through the gates across the three days of Rock N Race action in 2010. Visit www.goldcoast600.com.au

Mitsubishi Motors World Masters Golf (23-29 October)

The Mitsubishi Motors World Masters Golf Championship is the biggest and richest tournament for amateur golfers in the southern hemisphere, attracting 1,200 golfers and

partners and offering \$120,000 in prizes, including a new car. Open to all golfers aged over 35, competition is offered in 18 age and handicap divisions, so golfers of a similar age and standard play together. The Gold Coast's premier resort courses, The Glades, Lakelands, The Colonial and RACV Royal Pines host the four rounds of competition. Hope Island and Robina Woods also host events in conjunction with the Masters. Entertainment events are hosted each night in the Broadbeach precinct. Visit www.gogolfing.net.au

New Experiences

New River Restaurant Dinner Cruise

The luxurious air conditioned "VOYAGER" vessel is the floating venue of the Gold Coast's new Rivers Restaurant Dinner Cruise. An ever-changing scenery is assured during a three and a half hour Broadwater cruise, plus dance floor and live entertainment are a perfect accompaniment. Rivers have introduced a sensational seafood and International buffet menu that is wowing guests. Tasty morsels include favourites such as cooked Queensland prawns with cocktail sauce, Moreton Bay blue swimmer crab, Thai spiced fish cakes, an extensive salad & roast vegetable selection, traditional carvery roasts and much more. Visit www.rivers.net.au

Skycoaster at Wet 'n' Wild

SkyCoaster is the newest heart pumping attraction to hit Wet'n'Wild, promising to challenge even the wildest thrill-seeker! Riders are strapped into a harness attached to a massive cable before being raised more than 53 metres off the ground. At the pulling of the ripcord, riders plummet face first towards the ground, catapulting towards the Giant Wave Pool on a suspended cable at up to 100km/h. www.MyFun.com.au

Spotlight

Hinterland and Pacific Food and Wine Trails

A short stroll through the many restaurant and café precincts of the Gold Coast reveals this city has a passion for wining and dining. Chair of Gold Coast City Council's Economic Development and Tourism Committee Cr Susie Douglas said the quality and diversity of cuisine on the Gold Coast would impress any discerning gastronome. "Council has been actively supporting the hospitality industry and helping to nurture and develop local food producers," said Cr Douglas. "One of Council's initiatives is the Hinterland and Pacific Food and Wine Trails, where visitors can explore for themselves the city's diverse range of food and beverage producers." Visit <http://businessgc.com.au/index.php?page=food-and-wine-trails>

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