



## GOLD COAST DESTINATION UPDATE - DECEMBER

Welcome to the Gold Coast Destination Update, the regular newsletter service delivering up to date destination and product information to our valued media contacts.

From pure, adrenalin-packed fun to natural indulgence, the contrasts of Australia's Gold Coast unite to deliver every holiday experience you could desire in one friendly place. More than 300 days of sunshine each year inspire a diverse landscape of natural beauty. Here you can explore 70 kilometers of unspoiled coastline and beaches as well as 100,000 hectares of World Heritage rainforest, all while discovering native animals in the wild.

Australia's sixth largest city invites you to dine in some of its 500 restaurants and cafes, enjoy the southern hemisphere's largest range of attractions and activities, and discover rich Australian landscapes just 20 minutes' drive from the city heart.

Gold Coast Tourism is always available to assist with more destination angles, copy, images, support for visiting journalists or other enquiries, please contact our Media Manager, John Kaarsberg on [john.kaarsberg@gctourism.com](mailto:john.kaarsberg@gctourism.com).

In this edition of the Gold Coast Destination Update you will find the latest information on new and exciting experiences to be enjoyed at Australia's favourite playground as the Gold Coast welcomes holiday makers in 2011.



### **New Developments**

- Gwinganna Lifestyle Retreat International Award
- Gold Coast Cycling Tours
- JM Surf – Stand up Paddle Boarding
- Queensland Wine Centre launched at Cedar Creek Estate
- Eco Safaris Queensland
- Explore Cook Island Marine Reserve with Cooly Dive
- O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat: New Dining Deck
- Shop In Style Escape – Gold Coast
- Tamborine Mountain Tours: Masterchef Cooking Tour
- JPT Tour Group

### **Theme Park Latest**

- Dreamworld - Tower of Terror II
- Wet'n'Wild Water World – Aqualoop
- Dreamworld - Croc Feeding Encounter
- Australian Outback Spectacular 2 - Top Rail
- Sea World's Penguin Encounter
- Paradise Country's 'The Aussie Farmyard'

### **Hidden Treasures**

- Witches Chase Cheese and MT Brewery
- Wings Hinterland Retreat
- The Escarpment
- Scenic Flights to Lady Elliot Island
- Top nature parks on the Gold Coast

### **Events**

- ANZ RACV Ladies Masters Golf (10-13 February, 2011)
- Cooly Rocks on Festival (3-13 June, 2011)

### **Property News**

- Five Star Peppers Broadbeach Welcomes First Guests
- Hotel Grand Chancellor Surfers Paradise



## New Developments

**Gwinganna Lifestyle Retreat** has won a major award at the sixth annual AsiaSpa Awards in Hong Kong recently. The award for Spa Retreat of the Year was won amongst a field of highly reputable retreats across the Asia Pacific region and judged by a panel of over 20 international industry leaders and media. Gwinganna was the only Australian winner. The award follows another win at last month's coveted Readers' Choice Crystal Award for Favourite Spa in Australia, for the third year running. Spa-goers cast a record number of votes in the eighth annual Awards, which are considered the most thorough and independent assessment of spas worldwide. [www.gwinganna.com](http://www.gwinganna.com)

A boutique bicycle touring company specialising in guided cycling tours along the Gold Coast coastline and into the sub tropical rainforest of the Hinterland has been established. **Gold Coast Cycling Tours** provides guests the opportunity to couple their passion for cycling, while enjoying a relaxing holiday on the beautiful Gold Coast. Designated rides along quiet roads, stunning scenery and in close proximity to great coffee shops and accommodation are the norm as cyclists enjoy the amazing weather offered all year round throughout the region. All rides return to your hotel in Broadbeach, so you can have more holiday, more riding and less packing. More: [www.goldcoastcyclingtours.com.au](http://www.goldcoastcyclingtours.com.au)

**JM Surf**, a stand-up paddle surf school coordinated by nine-time Molokai World Champion, Jamie Mitchell and his equally talented brother Justin, has a range of paddle boarding classes to suit all ages and experience levels. Making great use of the Palm Beach Parklands, JM Surf provides the ultimate in paddle boarding experiences. Tailoring lessons for individuals, groups or corporates, JM Surf also offers their unique 'Workout on Water' program that combines the core benefits of stand up paddle boarding with swimming, beach exercises and sand running. From beginner to seasoned athlete, everyone will reap the health and well-being benefits of this crossover training style. More: [www.jmsurf.com](http://www.jmsurf.com)

The all new **Queensland Wine Centre** has been established within the Gold Coast Hinterland's Cedar Creek Estate Vineyard and Winery. Situated on Tamborine Mountain the centre will initially promote 14 leading Queensland wineries, showcasing more than 80 of their most popular products. Optimise your Queensland Wine Centre experience by incorporating a tour of the famous glow worm caves, large sub-tropical man made lake, frog sanctuary, impressive wedding facilities, large café/restaurant and a busy cellar door within the Cedar Creek complex. More: [www.cedarcreekestate.com.au](http://www.cedarcreekestate.com.au)

**Eco Safaris Queensland** (ESQ) offer exclusive, personalised, 4WD day-tours to the Gold Coast Hinterland and further into the diverse Scenic Rim. ESQ is dedicated to conservation, luxury and providing a unique Australian experience. Explore hidden gems and popular sites within World Heritage listed rainforests and spectacular Aussie cattle country. From the comfort of a modern, all-terrain Land



Rover 4WD, learn about the Gold Coast's Aboriginal, European and geological history. Each tour offers boutique winery visits, opportunities to witness native wildlife, plus additional activity options including air-gliding, hot air-ballooning, horse-riding, Moogerah boat cruise, cattle mustering, champagne breakfasts, luxury day-spas and the wildlife sanctuaries of Currumbin and Lone Pine. Complete with gourmet food, safaris range from day-tours to a week-long adventure with luxury accommodation options. More: [www.ecosafarisqueensland.com](http://www.ecosafarisqueensland.com)

Dive into summer and explore Cook Island Marine Reserve (Tweed Heads/Coolangatta) and the local family of Green Sea Turtles with **Cooly Dive**. Swim among some of the most endangered turtles on earth, watch as they sweep past you going about their daily duties of fossicking around the fabulous rocky outcrops and sandy bottom for food. Turtles can be seen above, below and all around you – creating a magnificent and unforgettable sight. You'll also witness many species of tropical fish, gropers and friendly sharks (in season) like the wobbegong, grey nurse and the very beautiful leopard shark during your Cooly Dive experience. Experienced guides, refreshments and dive gear are included in your tour price with transfers also available. More: [www.coolydiver.com.au](http://www.coolydiver.com.au)

Iconic ecotourism property **O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat**, in the Gold Coast Hinterland, are taking the gourmet dining experience to new heights with the opening of their unique new dining deck at their Moonlight Crag lookout. The cliff-top deck is perched on a mountain ridge 2000ft high, overlooking the remote areas of Southern Lamington and the famous Lost World. The Moonlight Crag deck will offer unique dining experiences for conferences, weddings and special events, including degustation dinners and dinner under the stars, and is the only venue of its type in the region. More: [www.oreillys.com.au](http://www.oreillys.com.au)

**Shop In Style Escape – Gold Coast:** Shop in Style and escape with your very own personal stylist whilst holidaying on the Gold Coast! Whether you have a couple of hours or a whole day, on your own or with friends – spoil yourself and discover the latest seasons styles and how they suit you. Packages include: Escape In Style - 3 hour personally tailored tour (2 hours personal stylist tailor made itinerary, In Style Make up session, Shop In Style Designer discount card, Chocoholics morning or afternoon tea, Stylish goodies bag) and Indulge In Style -5 hour personally tailored tour (Private limousine chauffeur transfer, 3 hours personal stylist tailor made itinerary, In Style Make up session, Shop In Style Designer discount card, Chocoholics morning or afternoon tea, Champagne, Stylish goodies bag) More: email [akruse@successmatrix.com.au](mailto:akruse@successmatrix.com.au)

**Tamborine Mountain Tours** has launched their new **Masterchef cooking tour** which is designed for small groups to visit the mountain and experience an exceptional food and wine tour, with the focus on locally produced organic ingredients complemented by local award winning wines. This will showcase some of the finest produce on the mountain and includes a unique cooking class experience at the home of Terri Taylor, an established chef who has travelled the world with her culinary skills and has





now settled on Tamborine Mountain. Tamborine Cooking School is set in established gardens at the end of a sweeping driveway lined with hedges and agapanthus. The tour includes transfers from the Gold Coast, a visit to Tamborine Mountain distillery, Witches Falls winery and a 1 ½ hour cooking class at Terri's home. [www.tamborinemountaintours.com](http://www.tamborinemountaintours.com)

**JPT Tour Group**, which incorporates Australian Day Tours, presents over 120 organised and personalised tours departing the Gold Coast daily. Why not do something different like a half-day charter to charming Tamborine Mountain with its array of fresh produce, arts and crafts, breweries and delicious Devonshire teas. Your team could board the bus and get an educational and interesting taste of Brisbane's highlights while feeling relaxed and rewarded for their hard work throughout the year. Talk to us about our group discounts. With an incredible choice of adventure, nature, sightseeing, luxury and eco-tours, JPT's choices span the Queensland coast from Byron Bay to Cairns with some evergreen favourites like Australia Zoo on the Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Montville and Maleny, fantastic Fraser and Moreton Islands, O'Reilly's and Lamington National Park, Tropical Fruit World and the brand new Tamborine Mountain Rainforest Skywalk. [www.jpttours.com](http://www.jpttours.com)



## Theme Park Latest

**Dreamworld's** Tower of Terror, has re-launched with a terrifying twist. The all new **Tower of Terror II** has reopened: reloaded and .... reversed. Adrenalin junkies will be harnessed into the deepest depths of the Tower's lair, facing nothing but a dark void. An eerie silence lasts for just milliseconds before the car blasts backwards rocketing guests out of a 206m tunnel at rapid speed. Hitting up to 161 km/h in seven seconds flat, riders soar 100m into the atmosphere dangling for several seconds of weightlessness before plummeting back to earth...only this time it's face first. More:

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

**AquaLoop** has not one, not two... but four new full looping slides that have been unveiled at **Wet'n'Wild Water World**. AquaLoop begins when the trap door is released and the rider plummets, accelerating into a massive vertical, free fall drop and then up into a full looping slide! The gravity defying slide takes riders to speeds of up to 60 kilometres per hour! Product features include a highly accelerated start into the looping slide reaching speeds up to 60 kph, 0 to 2.5 g's in less than two seconds, it's the first attraction of its kind in the world to have four full looping slides. Gut wrenching, heart-pounding and gravity-defying. More: [www.MyFun.com.au](http://www.MyFun.com.au)

The stars of **Dreamworld's Croc Feeding Encounter**, the 1 tonne Goliath and his girlfriend Matilda, have come out of their six month hibernation and are hungry. Guests have the opportunity to stand on a glass-walled feeding ramp just a couple of metres above the water line and tempt the five metre salt water crocodile with a feed of fresh chicken. Goliath launches his huge body out of the water, opening his 70cm wide bite to accept the offering. Croc Feeding Experience is available to just five members of the public per session. The encounter includes a briefing session, croc feeding, croc photo and croc cuddles. More: [www.dreamworld.com.au](http://www.dreamworld.com.au)

A new premium experience '**Top Rail**' has arrived at the **Australian Outback Spectacular 2**. The all new and exclusive 'Top Rail Premium Experience' ensures you not only get the best seat in the house, but you receive the VIP treatment including meet and greet on arrival, pre show beverage of your choice\*, complimentary souvenir program and photograph, 3 course meal and first-class beverages during the show including beer, wine, champagne and soft drinks. Showing nightly from Tuesday to Sunday, Australian Outback Spectacular includes show, dinner, drinks during dinner and stockman's hat. More: [www.MyFun.com.au](http://www.MyFun.com.au)

Visit **Sea World** in 2011 and enter the amazing frozen world of **Penguin Encounter**. The stunning new exhibit will be home to the world's second largest penguin species, the King penguin which stands almost one meter tall. As well as the agile Gentoo penguin, with its distinctive bright red bill and long tail. The spectacular new exhibit will feature icy rock formations and a crystal clear pool. Witness the



agility and grace of these incredible penguins from spacious elevated and underwater viewing areas. The new Penguin Encounter exhibit will make Sea World the only place in Australia where you can see King, Gentoo and Fairy penguins in the one location. [www.MyFun.com.au](http://www.MyFun.com.au)

**Paradise Country's** newest addition '**The Aussie Farmyard**' allows kids to get up close and personal to baby animals of all shapes and sizes including lambs, chickens, calves and piglets. The Aussie Farmyard includes an interactive educational area where kids can draw pictures of the animals they have encountered, and add their drawings to the picture wall or take them home as a token of their special day. [www.MyFun.com.au](http://www.MyFun.com.au)



### Hidden Treasures

The combined Gold Coast Hinterland experience of **Witches Chase Cheese Co, Mt Tamborine Brewery and Liquid Amber Bistro and Grill** follows the trend of contemporary architecture in trying to bring the outside in. This stunning and spacious venue houses an artisan cheese factory, boutique brewery and gourmet bistro for the discerning diner. View in to the factory and watch experienced cheese makers as they create award-winning cheeses from goat's milk and local Jersey herd. Sample brewed beer with real flavour and minimal intervention, no artificial additives, using traditional brewing methods and proper maturation times. Tours, tastings and take away sales are available. Liquid Amber Bistro and Grill is also perfect for long lunches while soaking up the hospitable surrounds of Mt Tamborine. More: [www.witcheschasecheese.com.au](http://www.witcheschasecheese.com.au) and [www.mtbeer.com.au](http://www.mtbeer.com.au)

Relax in the unspoilt Hinterland at **Wings Hinterland Retreat**. Mingle with resident kangaroos and wallabies, kookaburras and the occasional koala! For a holiday with a difference... this amazing property has it all and is only a short drive from all the action of Surfers Paradise, Broadbeach, Burleigh and the World famous Gold Coast theme parks. Wings Hinterland Retreat offers more than 1500 square metres of living space yet maintains a homely and cosy feel. Amenities include a 14 person Cedar Sauna, two spas, massive pool, outdoor bar and kitchen, tennis court, gymnasium and even an indoor bowling alley! More: [www.wingshinterlandretreat.com](http://www.wingshinterlandretreat.com)

**The Escarpment** is set in four acres of lush botanical gardens on Tamborine Mountain, offering five star private villa accommodation. Features include a sunken lounge room, feather couches, cedar floors, a wood fireplace, vaulted timber ceilings, private balcony, four poster canopy king size beds, and a decadent deep spa bath. Have a gourmet picnic hamper provided for lunch, while exploring the local mountain attractions or stay indoors and indulge in a private massage in the Spa Pavilion. Evenings provide a warm, luxurious ambience with a big open fire in the lodge where you can relax and enjoy a glass of award winning local wine. Unique experiences during your stay can include: Hot air ballooning, gourmet food and wine tours, limousine transfers, exclusive use of private cinema. More: [www.escarpment.com.au](http://www.escarpment.com.au)

**Scenic flights to Lady Elliot Island** depart daily from Coolangatta giving Gold Coast visitors access to Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Lady Elliot is regarded as one of the best snorkelling and diving locations on the Great Barrier Reef and is famous for its unspoiled coral reef and amazing array of spectacular marine life. Guests can tour the reef in a glass bottom boat, snorkel to experience the wonders of the reef, learn to scuba dive, take a guided reef walk or simply relax on a deserted beach. Enjoy a day-trip or stay for a few days to explore this amazing marine ecosystem. A hot & cold buffet lunch is served in the local restaurant, while transfers to and from Gold Coast accommodation are available. [www.ladyelliott.com.au](http://www.ladyelliott.com.au)



**Top nature parks on the Gold Coast:** Get back to nature, and explore the many great parks and reserves the Gold Coast has to offer. Grab your walking shoes and enjoy the thrill of the outdoors. So what are you waiting for? Go and discover your own little piece of nature:

Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, Ashmore Road (opposite Benowa High School), Benowa - Explore the amazing 31 hectares of Gold Coast City's Regional Botanic Gardens. The boardwalk over the central lake offer amazing views...you can also check out the local species on display in the Mangroves to Mountains Walk. Open dawn to dusk every day.

Burleigh Ridge Park, Tabilban Street, Burleigh Heads - This park is part of the Burleigh Greenspace, a valuable network of reserves within the urban landscape of the Gold Coast. Burleigh Ridge Park is one of the largest of the Greenspace parks, providing a green backdrop to the city, views over the Tallebudgera Creek estuary, as well as habitat for plants and animals. Various birds and lizards are common sights and you may spot a koala too.

Coomababah Lakelands Conservation Area, Shelter Road (southern access) and Rain Tree Glen (western access), Coombabah - Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area protects more than 1200 hectares of wetland, Eucalypt forest, salt marsh and mangrove swamp habitat. Lake Coombabah and its estuarine system are important coastal wetlands and migratory water bird habitats. The area is ideal for short walks, bird watching, animal spotting and plant identification and gives you an opportunity to appreciate an ecologically significant area.

Hinterland Regional Park, off Hardy's Road, Mudgeeraba - A large recreational park of open space with patches of Eucalypt forest and several small watercourses that drain into Mudgeeraba Creek and Bonogin Creek. The connectivity from Hinterland Regional Park through Upper Mudgeeraba Conservation Area provides opportunities for low impact, nature-based recreation from urban areas into the hinterland.

Apple Tree Park, Springbrook Road, Springbrook - Apple Tree Park is on the Springbrook plateau within the Springbrook Conservation Area. This conservation area has spectacular views across the Numinbah Valley, dissected by Waterfall Creek and Nerang River further west. The site marks one of the entry points into the Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk, a project between Queensland Parks and Wildlife and Gold Coast City Council. It aims to provide the community with a connection between Springbrook National Park and Lamington National Park, with Numinbah and Springbrook Conservation Areas forming a link between these two World Heritage-listed parks.



Tugun Hill Conservation Area, via Murray Street, off Taperell Drive, and also from Mirren Drive, Tugun - Tugun Hill Conservation Area is a series of ridges and hills that are a prominent feature of the landscape of the southern Gold Coast. Despite its small area, the vegetation supports a diversity of fauna, particularly ground-dwelling mammals and birds.



## Events

The Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV) will join long standing Title Sponsor ANZ as the Co-Title Sponsor of the **The ANZ RACV Ladies Masters** golf tournament on 10-13 February. Played at the RACV Royal Pines Resort on Queensland's Gold Coast, the event is a world-class tournament that brings together the best female golfers from around the globe. Positioned between the Handa Women's Australian Open, 3-6 February and the Pegasus NZ Women's Open in Christchurch, 17-20 February, the ANZ RACV Ladies Masters is a must see for golfing enthusiasts. More: [www.ladiesmasters.com](http://www.ladiesmasters.com)

Organisers of next year's **Cooly Rocks On Festival** have re-affirmed that over 1000 Classic Cars and Hot Rods will attend next year's new look Rock 'N Roll Nostalgia Festival in the Gold Coast-Tweed Heads region, 3-13 June. The Cooly Rocks On Organising and Car Committees are working tirelessly to ensure that "Classic Cars" aspect of the festival is going to be bigger and better than ever. Midweek car events will include a Poker Run on the first weekend followed by the Tweed Rodders BBQ night at Tugun, the hinterland cruise, Customs of Australia BBQ night at their club rooms at Mudgeeraba and a cruise to the Ferry Road Diner at Southport. [www.coolyrockson.com](http://www.coolyrockson.com)



## Property News

The Gold Coast's first, five star accommodation to open in a decade has welcomed its first guests. **Peppers Broadbeach**, operated by the Gold Coast based Mantra Group, is the largest property within the Peppers portfolio and the brand's first foray into the metropolitan market. Peppers Broadbeach is one of the most cutting-edge properties in Australia, harnessing the latest in portable technology, and guest services. The architectural design of the property includes 505 one, two and three bedroom apartments in two towers and reflects a distinct fusion of city sophistication and coastal relaxation. Both towers feature extensive use of life spaces including Zen gardens, tai chi lawns, private cinemas, guest lounges, teppanyaki barbeques, steam rooms, saunas and lap, plunge and resort pools.

[www.peppers.com.au/broadbeach](http://www.peppers.com.au/broadbeach)

**Grand Hotels International (GHI)** has purchased the Courtyard by Marriott, which has opened as **Hotel Grand Chancellor Surfers Paradise**. Hotel Grand Chancellor Surfers Paradise is a 4 star hotel, located on the corner of Surfers Paradise Boulevard and Hanlan Street. It forms part of Centro Surfers Paradise, which is the largest shopping centre in Surfers Paradise and is only 200 metres from the beautiful Gold Coast beaches. The property is a 31-storey building comprising 404 bedrooms, a restaurant and bar, five conference and meeting rooms, gymnasium, outdoor pool and tennis court. More: [www.ghihotels.com](http://www.ghihotels.com)

