

Gold Coast Travel Guide and Activities



The Gold Coast is a metropolitan region south of Brisbane on Australia's east coast. It's famed for its long sandy beaches, surfing spots and elaborate system of inland canals and waterways. EC Gold Coast is perfectly positioned in the heart of Surfers Paradise with restaurants, bars and attractions on your doorstep and is right near the beach. The Gold Coast combines the best of city living with a completely laid back, relaxed Australian beach attitude. With some of the world's best beaches and a buzzing nightlife, there's always plenty for language students to get involved in.



CLIMATE

The Gold Coast experiences a humid subtropical climate with warm winters and hot, humid summers, with around 300 days of sunshine per year. The winter is pleasantly mild to warm with little rain. In fact, it is for this pleasant winter weather that both the city and the Sunshine Coast—the coastal region north of Brisbane—are internationally renowned. The city rarely experiences temperatures above 35 °C in summer or below 5 °C in winter. The average temperature of the sea at Surfers Paradise ranges from 21.5 °C in July and August, to 30 °C in February.

5 THINGS TO DO

- Whale watching
- Surfing on Surfers Paradise beach
- Gold Coast skydiving
- Gold Coast Sightseeing River Cruise
- Enjoying Mt Tamborine National Park 4WD Nocturnal Rainforest and Glow Worm Tour

5 THINGS TO SEE

- Skypoint observation deck
- Dreamworld
- Australia's Sea World
- Warner Bros. Movie World
- Springbrook National Park

TELEPHONE COUNTRY CODE

+61

COST OF LIVING

Coffee/cappuccino (Starbucks) \$4.00 - \$5.00
Soda (0.33 litre bottle) \$2.50 - \$4.50
Bottle of water (0.33 litre) \$2.00 - \$3.50
Fast food combo meal \$10.00- \$12.50
Meal, inexpensive restaurant \$12.00 - \$25.00
Cinema ticket \$13.00 - \$20.00
Fitness club (monthly, 1 adult) \$35.00 - \$80.00
Nightclub entrance \$10.00+
Public transport (local QR train) \$3.00 - \$6.00 per trip
Taxi \$2.90/flag fall; \$2.17 per km

DRIVING AGE

The driving age in Australia is 17 years. A learner can drive at the age of 16 under the supervision of a fully licensed driver. After obtaining a licence, a driver continues to be subject to restrictions during a 2-year probationary period.

VISA REGULATION

For Visa information please read: [Immigration and Visas](#)

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

- 1st January 2019
- 26 January 2019
- 28 January 2019
- 19 April 2018
- 20 April 2019
- 21 April 2019
- 22 April 2019
- 25 April 2019
- 6 May 2019
- 30 August 2019
- 7 October 2019
- 25 December 2019
- 26 December 2019

HEALTH & INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Australia has a special health insurance coverage for international students called Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC). OSHC is insurance designed to help international students cover the costs of medical and hospital care that they may need while in Australia. Because of these requirements, it is important that international students purchase their Australian international student health insurance prior to departing their home country. Belgians students do not need to purchase OSHC since they are covered under the Reciprocal Health Care Agreement. Swedish students do not need to purchase OSHC since they are covered under the National Board of Student Air or by Kammarkollegiet. If not covered by either, then Swedish international students will need to purchase OSHC. Norwegian students do not need to purchase OSHC since they are covered under the Norwegian National Insurance Scheme.

ALCOHOL AGE

It is illegal for any person under the age of 18 years to purchase, supply, or drink alcohol on licensed or regulated premises, even if they are with their parents or guardian.

SMOKING LAWS

Queensland law prohibits smoking in all pubs, clubs, restaurants and workplaces in Queensland, as well as in commercial outdoor eating and drinking areas and in outdoor public places (e.g., patrolled beaches, children's playground equipment, major sport stadiums, and within 4 metres of non-residential building entrances). Tobacco products cannot be sold or supplied to persons under 18 years of age.

ELECTRICITY

230 V / 50 Hz, 3-pin Australian plug

TAP WATER - DRINKABLE!

The Gold Coast tap water has been deemed as safe drinking water. Bottled water is also available from corner stores, petrol stations, supermarkets, and sometimes chemists (drug store) and news agencies.

SPECIFIC TRANSPORT INFO DEPENDING ON DESTINATION: BIKES / CAR HIRE ..

A large range of public transport is available. The options include scheduled bus, train and tram services, and community transport services.

USEFUL LINKS

- [Transport information](#)
- [Top Things to do on the Gold Coast](#)



CURRENCY

Currency - Australian Dollar (A\$)
All major credit cards are widely accepted.
The main banks are:

- Commonwealth Bank
- National Australian Bank (NAB)
- Westpac Bank

Banking hours:

Banks are usually open during business hours from:
9.30 am to 4 pm, Monday to Thursday
9.30 am to 5 pm on Fridays
Some banks and branches may stay open longer or open on weekends.

