

The Great Sunshine Way

Southern Queensland





LEGEND

- Train Route
- ✈ International Airport
- ✈ Domestic Airport

FRASER COAST
Where Australia Shines for natural encounters



SUNSHINE COAST
Where Australia Shines for laidback luxury



SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND COUNTRY
Where Australia Shines for local adventures



BRISBANE
Where Australia Shines for city life



GOLD COAST
Where Australia Shines for fun in the sun



The Great Sunshine Way

Southern Queensland

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Experience the very best of Australia in Southern Queensland through the Great Sunshine Way.

Discover our vibrant capital city Brisbane, World Heritage-listed national parks including Fraser Island, the stunning Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast and the beautiful Southern Queensland Country.

The Great Sunshine Way shines with warm and friendly people, beautiful weather, incredible natural wonders and exhilarating adventure. Cuddle a koala, get close to migrating humpback whales, visit hinterland rainforests and white sandy surf beaches. Whether you desire secluded luxury, exciting city life or a fun holiday, the Great Sunshine Way is a must do Australian experience for all.

Feel welcome, free and alive when you visit the Great Sunshine Way in sun filled Queensland, where Australia shines.



Brisbane

Modern and progressive, dynamic and diverse, Brisbane is Australia's most liveable city. Take a tip from the locals, get outdoors and make the most of the subtropical climate. Discover the city's hidden secrets on foot, cycle along the river's edge, scale the iconic Story Bridge and Kangaroo Point Cliffs. You can cuddle a koala or hand feed wild dolphins, dine alfresco, browse weekend arts, craft and gourmet food markets or explore the myriad of shopping arcades. Add in a vibrant entertainment scene, world-class contemporary art & culture, major sporting events and buzzing nightlife and you've got the complete Australian urban experience. On Brisbane's door step you'll also find golden beaches, lush mountain hideaways and a gentle winding river to the paradise of Moreton Bay.



Gold Coast

Venture into the Gold Coast's endless playground and you're in for some serious fun! Feel the excitement of unlimited things to see and do right on your doorstep. Whether it's an exhilarating swim at one of many golden surf beaches, an energising hike through the Hinterland, an action-packed day at some of the world's best theme parks or simply enjoying the shopping, nightlife and entertainment, the Gold Coast is Australia's fun capital.



Fraser Coast

The Fraser Coast is a unique destination, filled with natural wonders. It boasts easy access to two World Heritage-listed icons, Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island and Lady Elliot Island, on the Southern Great Barrier Reef. Drive in a 4x4 along the edge of the ocean on Seventy-Five Mile Beach and explore spectacular coloured sands, freshwater lakes and towering rainforests. Hervey Bay, Australia's whale watching capital, offers an unparalleled up close and personal whale watching experience between July & November. The region is nature at its awe-inspiring best, with hundreds of kilometres of unspoilt beaches fringing the tranquil waters of the Great Sandy Strait Marine Park.



Southern Queensland Country

Teeming with wineries, farmer's markets and a treasure trove of galleries and antique shops. Southern Queensland Country is a short drive from Brisbane and the coast. A visit here will help reacquaint you with the simple pleasures in life – home-cooked breakfast at quaint cottages, staying on a farm, leisurely strolls, tasting local wines at a cellar door and the warm welcome of country hospitality. Visit a majestic waterfall, walk through a rainforest or take a relaxing country drive through the Bunya Mountains. Set against a backdrop of rolling hills and vineyards the region also offers an exciting line-up of events filled with colour, characters and fresh country air. Visit this burgeoning wine region and enjoy the freshest and tastiest product right where it's grown, in tranquil country surroundings.



Sunshine Coast

The Sunshine Coast's golden beaches stretch for over 65 kilometres, and with beaches ranging from great surf breaks, to those with a vibrant atmosphere and lots of activities, to those in quite sheltered waters, there is something for everyone. In the green subtropical hills behind the coast are secluded coves, rainforests, waterfalls and quaint mountain villages. The Sunshine Coast is also well known for its alfresco dining, award winning golf courses, and above all, its relaxed way of life.

Lake McKenzie, Fraser Island



Must do experiences



Fraser Island

- Explore Brisbane – Australia’s most liveable city – on a guided walk, cruising the river on a CityCat ferry or kayak, or riding a bike along riverside pathways
- Climb the city’s iconic Story Bridge, one of only three bridge climbs in the world
- Enjoy a swim at South Bank, home to Australia’s only inner-city beach followed by an alfresco lunch in the Queensland sunshine
- Experience Australian and international art in exclusive exhibitions at the Queensland Art Gallery and the Gallery of Modern Art



Australia Zoo, Sunshine Coast

- Experience a contemporary interpretation of Queensland’s Indigenous dance cultures

- Try Queensland’s favourite ale at Queensland’s oldest brewery
- Soar high above picturesque Southern Queensland in a hot air balloon followed by relaxing a champagne breakfast



Noosa, Sunshine Coast

- Experience a terrific combo of adrenalin pumping thrills, heart-warming encounters and non-stop action at some of the world’s best theme parks on the Gold Coast
- Dive, kayak or sail Brisbane’s Moreton Bay Marine Park – sanctuary for the world’s largest dugong (Manatee) population

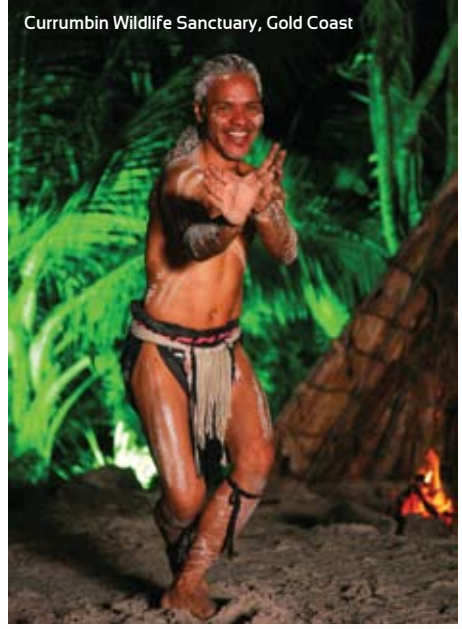


Story Bridge Climb, Brisbane



Southern Queensland Country

- Cuddle a koala and hand feed a kangaroo or wild dolphin
- Discover the world’s largest sand islands – Fraser, Moreton, North and South Stradbroke – all within easy reach of Brisbane



Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Gold Coast





Gold Coast Hinterland

- Learn to surf world-class breaks on the Gold or Sunshine Coast beaches
- Watch the humpback whales at play in the calm waters off Hervey Bay, Australia's whale watching capital (July to November)

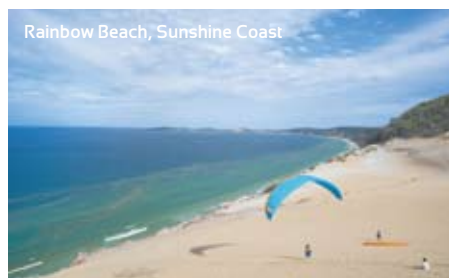


Canungra Valley Vineyard, Southern Queensland Country

- Take a four wheel drive adventure on the sand highway along the edge of the ocean of Fraser Island's spectacular Seventy-Five Mile Beach
- Marvel at the spectacular coloured sands of Rainbow Beach and volcanic National Heritage-listed Glass House Mountains
- Visit Australia Zoo, home of the late Steve Irwin, the "Crocodile Hunter"
- Tee off on a Greg Norman-designed golf course
- Discover the rare beauty of ancient Gondwana Rainforests on a guided tour of World Heritage-listed wilderness areas

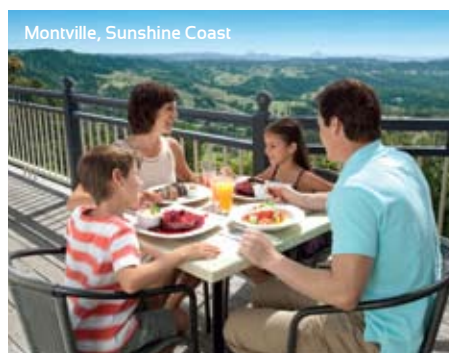


Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, Brisbane



Rainbow Beach, Sunshine Coast

- Follow the food and wine trails for fresh produce and cellar door wines
- Spend a morning browsing fresh produce, local artworks and delicious food at the Sunshine Coast's Eumundi Markets, the largest in Australia
- Enjoy fresh locally grown produce in some of the country's best restaurants, cafes and cooking schools
- Stroll stylish Hastings Street in Noosa, one of Australia's favourite beachfront boulevards



Montville, Sunshine Coast

- Catch the excitement and action of Australia's iconic surf lifesavers competing in a regular surf carnival
- Kayak the peaceful waters of the Noosa Everglades
- Unwind with a spa treatment at a world-class resort or rainforest retreat
- Watch the surfers in action as you breakfast at a beachfront café
- Meet the local characters at an historic country pub



Experience the very best of The Great Sunshine Way with the new **Great Sunshine Way Attraction Pass** by Smart Visit Solutions Australia

- 35 top attractions
- Save up to 40% on admission prices
- Enjoy great value for money and unbeatable convenience
- Available in 3 packages – 3 tickets, 5 tickets and 5 day unlimited pass
- Experiences include: sightseeing tours, attractions, cruises, water sports, wildlife experiences, island adventures, thrill rides and much more

For more information on the Great Sunshine Way Attraction Pass please contact:

Sarah Colgate
 E: scolgate@svs.com.au
 W: www.iventure.com.au



Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane

Suggested itineraries



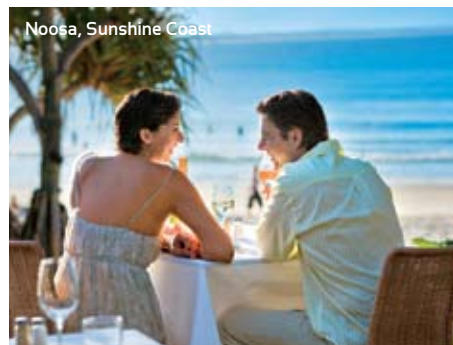
Surfing, Sunshine Coast

5 Day Southern Queensland Lifestyle

Southern Queensland Country/ Gold Coast/Brisbane/ Sunshine Coast

Day One:

Arrive in Brisbane and transfer to the Granite Belt, Queensland's food and wine region. Today you will experience some of the best food produce and wine in the Queensland region. The Granite Belt region prides itself on producing local cheeses, fruit and vegetables, jams as well as award winning wines. While in the region, visit cellar doors along the Strange Bird wine trail and sample award winning local wine. To complete your Granite Belt experience, self drive on the "Nude Food" trail experiencing fresh local produce.



Noosa, Sunshine Coast

Day Two:

Transfer from Granite Belt to the Gold Coast. Travel through Boonah, Beaudesert and Canungra, and then head up Mount Tamborine. Enjoy a leisurely stop for morning tea at one of the cellar doors you will pass in your travels.

For a decadent lunch, select from one of Mount Tamborine's restaurants, run by passionate locals who love to share their knowledge of local produce. Take a walk along Gallery Walk, enjoy the quaint shops and galleries, and treat yourself to some cheese, wine and chocolate tasting!

Next, head down the mountain to the iconic beaches of the Gold Coast. Check into your Gold Coast accommodation, and then head to the one of the Coast's dining precincts where you can choose from a range of award-winning restaurants.

Day Three:

On day three of your journey around the Great Sunshine Way you will arrive in Brisbane, Queensland's capital city boasting with culture and tantalising eating precincts. While in Brisbane, see a play at Queensland Performing Arts Centre or go to the Gallery of Modern Art or Queensland Art Gallery both located in South Brisbane where you can see local and international exhibitions.

Brisbane is also famous for its award winning restaurants and cafes. Prepare your self for a culinary experience whether you are looking for a light lunch option, a three course dinner, you can find what you are looking for at the Emporium Precinct, Eagle Street Pier or West End.

If you are looking for a place to grab a few quiet drinks or party until the early morning, Brisbane has what you are looking for. From the classic Queensland pubs to sophisticated cocktail bars you are sure to enjoy every minute in this fast moving city.

Day Four:

Soak up the quaint village atmosphere of Montville and Maleny in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland, just 75 mins north of Brisbane. On your way, admire the renowned Glasshouse Mountains and enjoy the astounding view over a coffee at Mary Cairncross Reserve. The charming, historic towns and villages in the Hinterland are dotted with galleries, fashion boutiques and shops selling crafts, pottery, antiques and gifts. The famous Eumundi markets, on Wednesdays and Saturdays feature stalls under the 'bake it, make it, sew it or grow it" motto.

Wind your way back down towards the coast where accommodation options are plentiful. Enjoy a sunset cocktail or some fresh Queensland seafood at one of the beachfront restaurants on Noosa's Hastings Street or the Esplanade at Mooloolaba.

Day Five:

Complete your stay by taking an early morning learn to surf or paddle surfing lesson, or join the locals with a stroll through Noosa National Park and try to spot a koala. If continuing north, consider stopping in the heritage towns of Gympie and Maryborough, or return to Brisbane via the comic book attraction, Ettamogah Pub.



Four wheel driving, Fraser Island

7 day Southern Queensland Adventure

Fraser Coast/Sunshine Coast/ Brisbane/Gold Coast

Day One:

Your Great Sunshine Way adventure starts in the Fraser Coast, home to World Heritage-listed Fraser Island and the bayside town of Hervey Bay, famous for thousands of migrating humpback whales from July to November. Enjoy a day exploring Fraser Island in your self hire four wheel drive or join a guided tour. Accommodation on Fraser Island ranges from tent-safaris to ECO Certified resorts.

Day Two:

If you didn't stay overnight on Fraser Island, jump on a jet ski and ride to the island, James Bond style, or view the island from above on a scenic flight before taking a tandem skydive. Dolphin cruises and sailing in the bay operate year round, as well as kayaking, parasailing and camel tours on the beach.

Day Three:

This morning, head south to the Sunshine Coast, where you can learn to surf or watch the professionals at Noosa Main beach, beside Noosa National Park. Stand up paddle surfing is the new craze, where you can try it in the calm river before tackling the surf. Quench your appetite at a beach side restaurant in Noosa or Mooloolaba before meeting the wild side of some Australian animals at Underwater World or Australia Zoo.

Day Four:

Today you will transfer to Brisbane, Queensland's capital which offers a range of activities for the adventure enthusiast. Real

adventure enthusiasts can abseil 20 metres down the 20 million year old Kangaroo Point cliffs in only 20 seconds or rock climb your way to the top with the Brisbane River at your back! If this isn't enough, you can kayak your way around every bend of the river and get a bird's eye view of how the river shapes our city when you do the Story Bridge Adventure Climb. Still want more? Transfer to Moreton Bay where you will continue your adventures.



Farmstay, Southern Queensland Country

Day Five:

Immerse yourself in the crystal waters on Moreton Bay which is 25 kms from Brisbane. You can enjoy a range of activities from sailing the Moreton Bay, to hand feeding the dolphins. If you are looking for more hands on activities, experience the thrill of sand tobogganing or quad bike riding. Following your fun-filled day on Moreton Island, catch a ferry back to the mainland and transfer to the Gold Coast.

Day Six:

Continue the fast pace of your Great Sunshine Way adventure holiday with a morning jet boating tour on the Broadwater – expect to get wet! Select from one of the Gold Coast's exciting theme parks to fill your afternoon. There really is a ride for thrill-seekers of all types!

Day Seven:

Complete your adventurous holiday with an early morning hot air balloon ride over the mountain, or the iconic coastline of the Gold Coast.

5 Day Southern Queensland Natural Encounter

Brisbane/Sunshine Coast/
Fraser Coast/Gold Coast

Day One:

Your journey today begins with a cuddle a koala experience at the Lone Pine Koala sanctuary. The sanctuary was the first and is the biggest of its kind in the world. Set in a natural setting along the Brisbane river, over 130 koalas live there along side dingoes, kangaroos, wombats as well as other native Australian animals. After you cuddle a koala, you can head back into the city and experience the botanical gardens right in the city of Brisbane!

As an alternative, you can head over to North Stradbroke Island and visit Blue Lake National Park. Walk through wallum woodlands with stunted eucalypt trees, wallum banksias and a flowering heath understorey to Blue Lake. Look for birds, sand goannas and swamp wallabies early morning and late afternoon.

Day Two:

Transfer to the Sunshine Coast, north of Brisbane and home to some of Queensland's unique ecosystems, including Noosa National Park and Biosphere reserve. Glide through the Noosa River Everglades on an ECO Certified boat cruise or paddle your own kayak. In the afternoon relax on one of the many beautiful Sunshine Coast beaches, or enjoy some of the 52km trail of the cool, green and waterfalls of the Sunshine Coast Great Walk. Stay overnight in a romantic Hinterland Bed and Breakfast or coastal view in Caloundra or Mooloolaba.

Day Three:

Continue north to World Heritage-listed Fraser Island, accessed via the towns of Rainbow Beach or Hervey Bay. Fraser Island is the largest sand island in the world, and you will marvel over the rainforest growing from the sand, the kilometres of pristine beaches and clear blue water of Lake McKenzie. Accommodation on Fraser Island ranges from safari-tent style or eco-friendly resort options.

Day Four:

Transfer from Hervey Bay to the Gold Coast Hinterland. From Brisbane, enjoy a winding drive through Canungra as you head up the mountain to O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat. Located adjacent to the spectacular Lamington National Park, O'Reilly's is the perfect place to immerse yourself in the natural beauty of the Gold Coast.

Enjoy a hearty dinner in the guesthouse restaurant, and then take a walk through the rainforest to see the amazing glow worms.

Day Five:

Bird watchers or early-risers – this one's for you! Wake early and meet at the Retreat reception to enjoy a bird walk around the guesthouse. Keep an eye out for the resident Regent Bowerbird. After breakfast, enjoy one for the walking trails around the retreat, and climb high into the trees on the Treetop Walk.

Following your morning of activities, transfer to Brisbane.

4 Day Southern Queensland Islands and Beaches

Gold Coast/Brisbane/
Sunshine Coast

Day One:

Arrive on the Gold Coast, and enjoy a walk along some of the 54km of pristine beaches the destination is famous for. Take a surf lesson at one of the fantastic breaks along the coast – from Currumbin to Kirra, Greenmount to the Spit – there are waves for surfers of all levels to enjoy.

Following your surf lesson, enjoy fish and chips on the beach, or lunch at one of the beachside cafes, and then head north to catch the ferry across to Couran Cove. Couran Cove Island Resort is a great place to relax or to explore! The resort has a range of water and adventure activities to keep you entertained for hours!



Sailing, Moreton Bay

Day Two:

Transfer to Moreton Bay, located only 25 kms from Brisbane. Moreton Bay offers visitors a beach and island experience. Stroll the water's edge at one of the quaint coastal villages or live the island life on the second and third largest sand Islands in the world; Moreton and Stradbroke Island, offering crystal clear water and picturesque sandy beaches that stretch as far as the eye can see, as well as fascinating marine life and freshwater lakes.

Relax and soak up the Queensland sun by sailing the pristine waters of Moreton bay. For the experienced sailor, you can hire a catamaran or if you prefer to sit back and let some one else do the work, you can book your place aboard a luxury yacht.

Day Three:

With views back to Moreton Island, Bribie Island and across Pumicestone Passage, Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast, north of Brisbane offers more coastal delights including kayaking, boating and fishing. Stay at the new 5 star resort on the Esplanade and enjoy an Australian favourite – fish and chips or fresh Queensland seafood. On a Saturday or Sunday in summer you can watch the local Surf Life Saving clubs train and compete on the multitude of surf beaches and hit the waves yourself.

Day Four:

Continue north to Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island. Either tour the island by four wheel drive or ditch the boat transfer for your personal jet ski! For a birds eye view take in the crystal clear lakes and kilometres of white beaches via plane, and you can even reach the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef – including snorkelling, diving and swimming – on nearby Lady Elliot Island.



Lamington National Park, Gold Coast



How to get there

Seventy Five Mile Beach, Fraser Island

Fly direct into Brisbane Airport (International and Domestic), Gold Coast International Airport, Sunshine Coast Domestic Airport or Hervey Bay Domestic Airport. Brisbane is located 90 minutes flying time north of Sydney.

Various types of transport are available to help you experience the Great Sunshine Way, whether you choose to explore it yourself or join an organised tour. It's easy to combine different options including hire car, rail, coach, scheduled and charter flights, packaged tours and extended touring options.

Sunshine Coast – Located one hour drive north of Brisbane. Queensland Rail train services operate from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast with connecting bus services to coastal centres.

Fraser Coast – Located one hour flying time north of Brisbane or three hours drive.

Gold Coast – Located one hour drive south of Brisbane. Queensland Rail City Train services run regularly to the Gold Coast.

The Airtrain links the Gold Coast and Brisbane with Brisbane Domestic and International Airports.

Southern Queensland Country – Located 40 minutes drive west of Brisbane.

Getting around

Air

Queensland's International airports are located at Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Cairns and serviced by airlines from all over the world. Queensland also has many regional and island airports serviced by Qantas, Virgin Blue, Jetstar, Tiger Airways Australia and smaller regional operators such as Qantaslink.

Qantas – www.qantas.com.au

Virgin Blue – www.virginblue.com.au

Jetstar – www.jetstar.com.au

Tiger Airways Australia – www.tigerairways.com.au

Rail

For a unique travel experience, Queensland Rail Traveltrain offers travel on the high speed Tilt Train between Brisbane and Hervey Bay. www.queenslandrail.com.au

Airtrain Brisbane, provides a fast and efficient rail link between Brisbane Airport, Brisbane City and the Gold Coast. www.airtrain.com.au

Coach

Relax in air-conditioned comfort while you travel through Southern Queensland terrain. Buses reach the furthest corners of the state so are perfect for reaching many destinations.

Self Drive

It's easy to get around and hire companies are plentiful. Whether it's a car, four wheel drive, motorhome or motorbike, make sure you slip off the main road for a memorable road trip. Check Australian road rules and driving safety tips before you go by visiting www.tmr.qld.gov.au.



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Travel Distances

Brisbane, Gold Coast and Gold Coast Hinterland Loop		
Brisbane - Surfers Paradise	1 hr	78 kms
Surfers Paradise - Springbrook National Park	1 hr	47 kms
Surfers Paradise - Lamington National Park	1 hr 20 mins	69 kms
Surfers Paradise - Tamborine Mountain	1 hr	46 kms
Tamborine Mountain - Beaudesert	30 mins	35 kms
Beaudesert - Rathdowney	20 mins	30 kms
Rathdowney - Boonah	40 mins	50 kms
Boonah - Brisbane	1 hr 20 mins	87 kms

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Fraser Coast and Sunshine Coast Hinterland Loop		
Brisbane - Caloundra	1 hr 20 mins	90 kms
Caloundra - Noosa	1 hr	53 kms
Noosa - Rainbow Beach	2 hrs 20 mins	140 kms
Rainbow Beach - Hervey Bay	2 hrs 15 mins	130 kms
Hervey Bay - Fraser Island (via ferry)	40 mins	
Hervey Bay - Gympie	1 hr 30 mins	124 kms
Gympie - Nambour	1 hr	67 kms
Nambour - Montville	20 mins	12 kms
Montville - Maleny	20 mins	15 kms
Maleny - Brisbane	1 hr 20 mins	94 kms

 **Queensland**[™]
Where Australia Shines

