



# SETTLING IN GOLD COAST: KEY INSIGHTS FOR NEWCOMERS

# ABSTRACT

Settling in the Gold Coast offers newcomers a unique blend of coastal living, vibrant culture, and diverse lifestyle opportunities. From choosing the right suburb to understanding local transport, work options, and community life, this guide explores essential insights that help individuals and families transition smoothly.

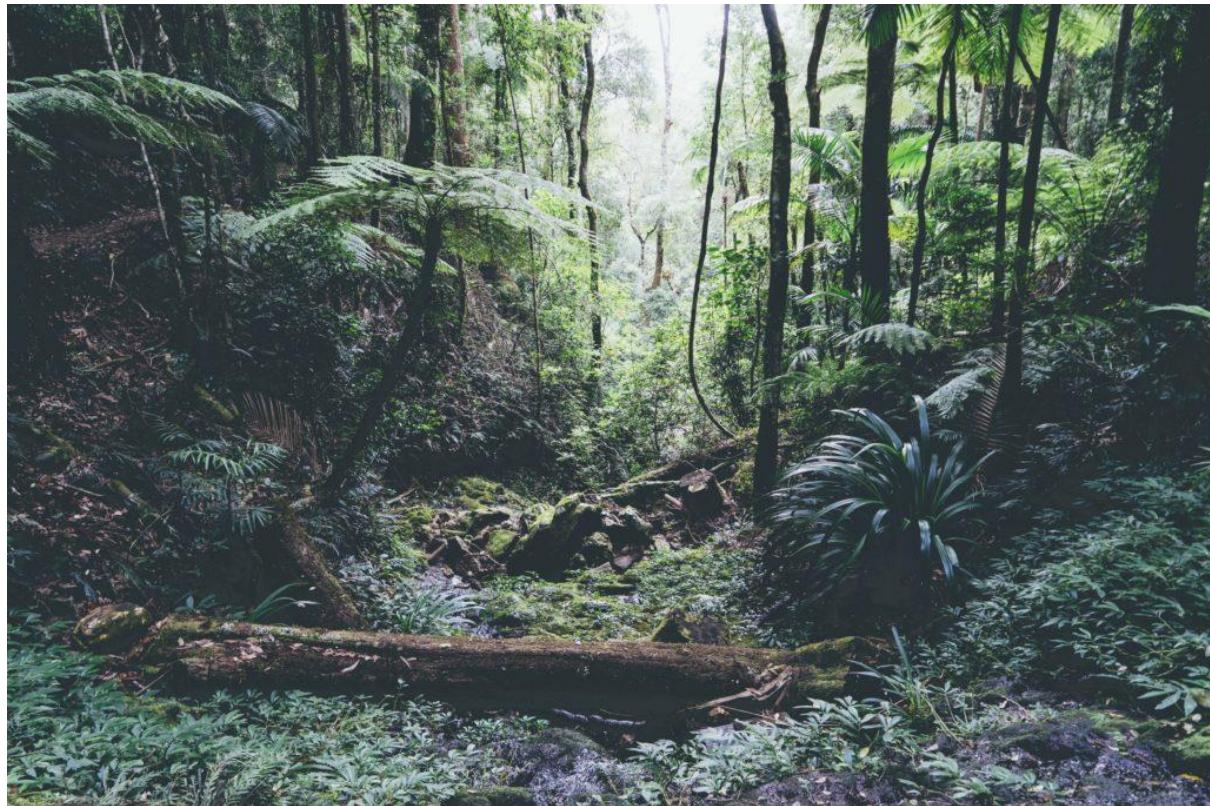
## INTRODUCTION

The Gold Coast is one of Australia's most desirable places to live, known for its golden beaches, thriving economy, and welcoming communities. For newcomers, settling here can be both exciting and overwhelming. This section introduces key aspects that will help you adapt quickly and enjoy everything this iconic region has to offer.

### I. 10 Awesome Reasons to Live on the Gold Coast

With glorious beaches, perfect weather and a thriving entertainment and nightlife scene, who wouldn't want to be living on the Gold Coast?

#### 1. The nature



It's impossible to talk about the Gold Coast without mentioning its most famous attractions—the beaches. From busy hotspots like Main Beach to local gems such as Echo Beach, there's something for everyone here.

The Gold Coast's white sandy beaches stretch along 70 km of coastline, which play host to sporting events and recreational activities. These include international surfing competitions and community triathlons, so there's always something fun to do.

What's more, the Gold Coast is home to lots of amazing national parks that are pretty much as beautiful as it gets.

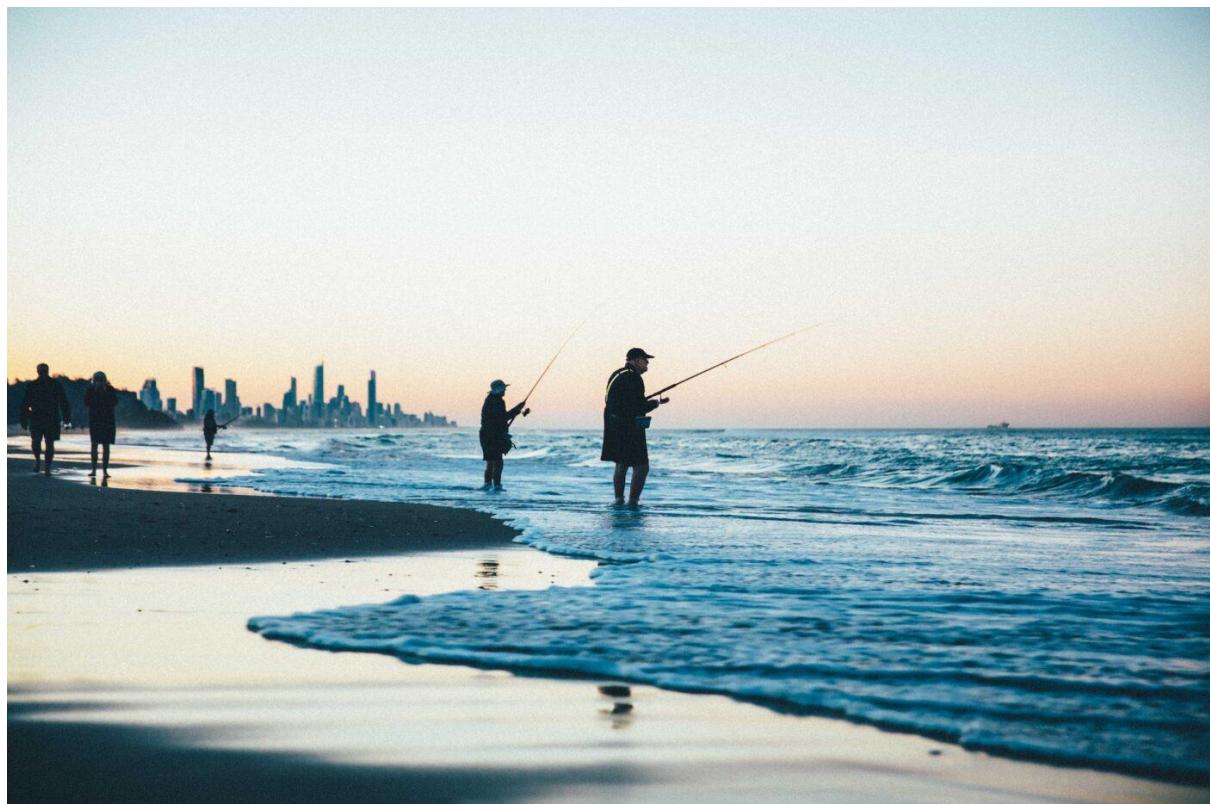
Burleigh National Park is a popular spot that offers stunning views of Surfers Paradise and the Pacific Ocean. Nearby, you can even explore the breathtaking Gondwana Rainforests, part of the largest subtropical rainforest system in the world.

## 2. The weather

While the sun might not shine every day on the Gold Coast, it does come pretty close. In fact, the city enjoys around 300 sunny days each year.

Summers here aren't too hot, with temperatures averaging between 21°C and 28°C. The winters are milder than in cities like Sydney and Melbourne, too, so it's warm enough to swim and surf all year.

## 3. The laidback vibe



Thanks to the sunny weather, palm trees, and glorious beaches, life on the Gold Coast feels like a never-ending holiday. You'll find that the pace of life here is slower than in other major cities, and the friendly locals love to stop and have a chat.

The people here enjoy a laid-back beach culture that balances hard work with plenty of sunshine and good times. When you're looking for a break from work or study, check out local favourites, such as the Burleigh Pavilion, your nearest surf life-saving or bowls club.

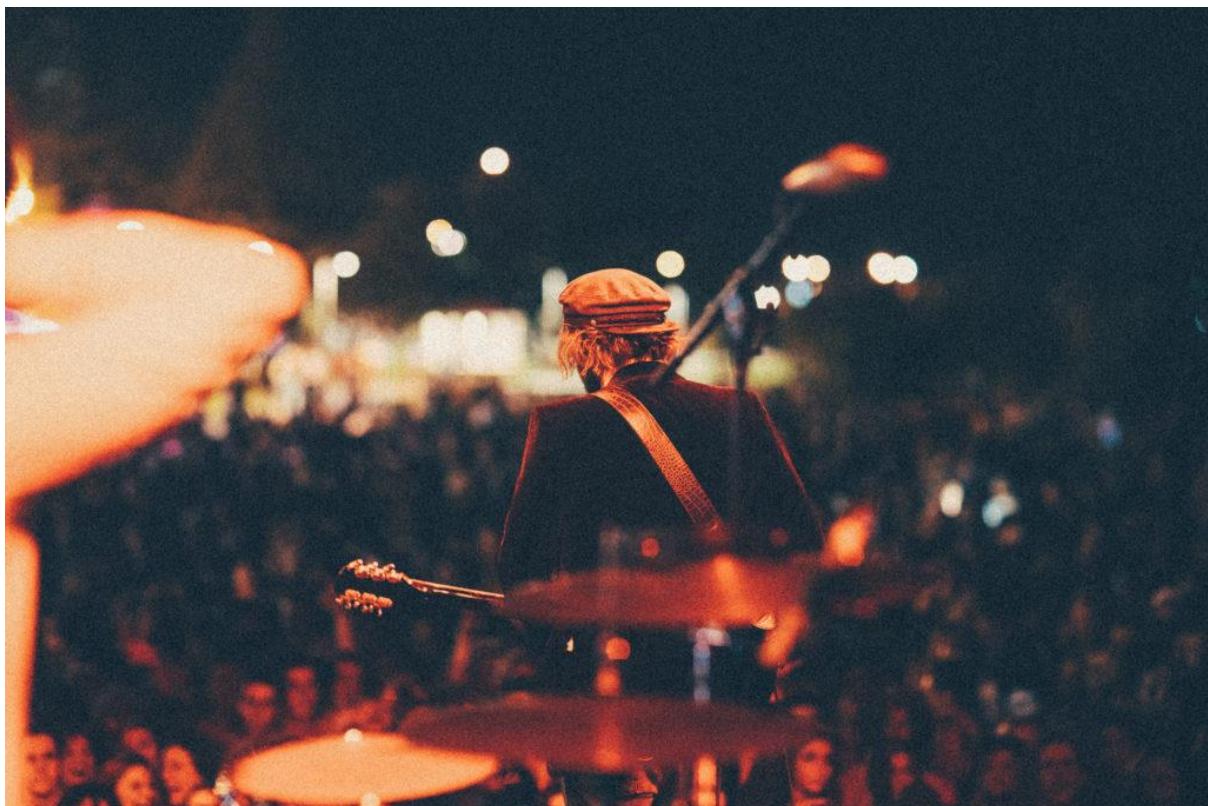
#### 4. The multiculturalism

The Gold Coast is a fun, diverse and multicultural place to live. In fact, along with the many tourists that visit the area, nearly one in three residents were born overseas.

You'll even find plenty of multicultural events and activities occurring each year, including the Multicultural Festival in September and Multicultural Month in August.

The popular Chinatown in Southport also hosts regular street markets and cultural festivals.

#### 5. The nightlife



The Gold Coast lifestyle boasts an unrivalled party reputation. The streets of Surfers Paradise are lined with pounding dance clubs, bars, restaurants, and live music venues, meaning there's an awesome spot to be found around every corner.

Outside of Surfers Paradise, the fun continues. Check out suburbs like Broadbeach and Burleigh Heads for trendy bars and restaurants, including Justin Lane and Maman Bar and Kitchen.

## **6. The world-class universities**

The Gold Coast doesn't just offer an unbeatable lifestyle! It's also home to several globally-ranked educational institutions.

Griffith University, located in Southport, offers a wide variety of degrees in business, arts, communication and more to its student base of over 21,000. It has steadily risen in the QS University rankings over the last five years to sit in the top 250 universities in the world.

Bond University, located in Robina, hosts international students from more than 90 countries. Bond has been rated #1 in Australia for student experience for the last 16 years.

Southern Cross University has more than 16,000 students over three campuses in Northern NSW and the Gold Coast. It offers degrees in business, tourism, environmental and health sciences, Indigenous studies, education, law and a broad range of the arts.

In addition to universities, you'll find several fantastic colleges and TAFE campuses on the Gold Coast offering courses in all kinds of areas, including cookery, hospitality, design, tourism and IT.

## **7. The employment opportunities**



While the Gold Coast may be smaller than capital cities like Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, there are still plenty of opportunities to secure a job and build your career.

While on a student visa in Australia, you can work up to 48 hours per fortnight during the semester and unlimited hours during holiday breaks. This allows you to gain valuable work experience, support yourself financially and build your professional network.

Popular part-time jobs for students in Australia include roles in hospitality, retail and tourism. You can even find paid internships and work experience opportunities through your university.

If you stay in Australia after graduation, you'll have the chance to launch your career in one of the country's fastest-growing cities. On the Gold Coast, industries such as tourism and construction are always strong, and the health and tech sectors are also seeing rapid growth.

## 8. Opportunities to live and work in Australia longer

After experiencing life on the Gold Coast, you're almost guaranteed to want to stay. Who wouldn't enjoy more time living by picture-perfect beaches in the sunshine?

International students who study on the Gold Coast may be eligible for up to four years of living, working and studying here after graduation with a Temporary Graduate visa. This compares favourably to other Australian cities, like Sydney or Melbourne, which can only offer three years. Plus, if you're a student studying in the

fields of health, technology, education and construction, you may also be eligible for a further extension of your post-study working rights!

## 9. The good public transport access

The city's fantastic public transport system makes getting around very easy. There's no shortage of buses, trains and trams to get you where you need to go, and the network usually runs on time.

Plus, you can even use public transport to take day or overnight trips to other destinations, such as Brisbane, Byron Bay and small coastal towns like Yamba.

As a student, you may qualify for a concession rate on your go card, meaning you can save up to 50 per cent on your travel costs.

## 10. The endless entertainment and events



There's always something happening on the Gold Coast.

The city offers the biggest collection of theme parks in the Southern Hemisphere, including Warner Bros. Movie World, Sea World, Dreamworld, Wet'n'Wild, and more.

You'll also find countless festivals celebrating food, film, music, culture, art, and everything in between. Some of the best events include the Gold Coast Film Festival and the Spilt Milk Music Festival.

Don't miss a trip to the Home of the Arts (HOTA), a cultural hub where you can check out the latest movies, live concerts, exhibitions, and more.

Plus, there are always events and activities taking place in parks, entertainment venues, beaches, and libraries across the city. Whatever you're into, you'll never be bored on the Gold Coast!

## II. The ultimate Gold Coast guide: everything you need to know before you go

The **Gold Coast** has set the scene for blockbuster movies and world-class surf events, so it's no surprise Queensland's most charismatic city needs a comprehensive guide to discover its best assets. However, there's more to this multi-faceted region than at first glance.

### Why go



With over 70 kilometres of glistening coastline, the largest concentration of **theme parks** in the southern hemisphere, and a thriving arts and culture scene, there's plenty to discover about the Gold Coast.

Whether you want to hit the theme parks in the **northern Gold Coast**, embrace the slower pace of the **southern Gold Coast**, catch a wave

at **Currumbin** or **Burleigh Heads** or escape into nature in the lush **Hinterland** – the Gold Coast suits every type of traveller.

## When to go

The **Gold Coast** is blessed with 300 days of sunshine a year.

During summer the average temperature is a pleasant 21 – 28.4°C (69.8 – 83.1°F), while in winter the Gold Coast is generally sunny and dry with average temperatures between 12.5 – 21.5°C (54.5 – 70.7°F). The lush surroundings of the **Gold Coast Hinterland** dip slightly cooler with maximum winter temperatures around 16°C (60.8°F) with clear skies and dry air average cool nights.

## What to do there



Whether you're an absolute beginner or just looking to brush up on your skills, the Gold Coast is a great place to **learn to surf**. Choose a **surf school**, practice your moves on the sand, and then hit the waves.

## Taste the coast

The Gold Coast **culinary scene** is one that's served alfresco across its fine-dining restaurants, casual seafood shacks, buzzing cafes, breweries and street-eats. The last few years has seen the GC's gastronomic offerings mature at a rapid rate, with menus to impress even the most discerning of foodies.

## Sparkling stretches of sand

Queensland's beaches are the best in the world and the Gold Coast is home to some serious stunners. Try **Broadbeach** for safe swimming with the kids, feel the bohemian vibe at **Burleigh** or discover the local favourite, Nobby Beach.

## Shop to it

When you're in need of a retail fix, we've put together the ultimate Gold Coast shopping tour – from Coolangatta to Biggera Waters – where shoppers can find everything from boardshorts to Balmain and bargain vintage finds.

## Where to eat and drink



No Gold Coast guide would be complete without food. With new eateries seemingly popping up by the day, whether you consider yourself an acai addict, a seafood sampler or a coffee connoisseur, expect a smorgasbord of flavours along the coastline.

Looking for a menu on where to find the best nosh while you're here? We've got you covered:

- **The Gold Coast's best breakfast hot spots**
- **18 of the best Gold Coast restaurants**
- **The best bars to let your hair down in**
- **Kid-friendly restaurants and cafes**
- Oh and for the vegans out there, **say hello to your new foodie haven**

## Where to stay



Every year, 13 million visitors make the pilgrimage to the coast. To say they're spoilt for accommodation choice is an understatement.

Do you want the razzle-dazzle of **Surfers Paradise** and **Broadbeach** at your fingertips? Perhaps it's the pumping surf breaks and boutique shopping at **Burleigh Heads** that tickles your fancy? Maybe you need to recharge the batteries with a Hinterland escape?

### Best day trips to take



While you could happily spend a week (or more) flopped by the pool, **there's so much more to do on the Gold Coast.**

Play eenie-meenie-miney-mo with which **beach** you want to visit. Try **Palm Beach, Main Beach, Kirra or Mermaid Beach** to start and if it gets too hard, check out this **handy beach guide**.

For a change of scenery, hike through ancient rainforest and discover the Green Mountains Section of **Lamington National Park** where you can conquer the waterfall circuit and find Elabana, Chalahn and Box Log Falls. Or, visit **Mount Tamborine** and explore Witches Falls, using our Gold Coast guide to see the **best of the Hinterland**.

### Things you need to know



The Gold Coast doesn't stop shining after dark.

From the bright lights of **Surfers Paradise** to the salty-chic of **Burleigh**, there's a certain energy that buzzes along the coastline that can only be experienced from dusk till dawn. Check out **these things to do** with friends at night.

## III. Gold Coast Accommodation

**The Gold Coast is the biggest tourist hot spot in Queensland, and for good reason. The long white sandy beaches, excellent shopping, dining and**

**attractions all contribute to making the Gold Coast the top place to go on holiday if you live in Australia or travelling from overseas.**

From family-friendly serviced apartments, and affordable accommodation to 5-star luxury resorts; there's a wide variety of accommodation that suit all budgets and tastes, with the majority situated close to the coast and beaches. You'll also find most of them have outdoor swimming pools, BBQ facilities and other great amenities to help make your stay even more comfortable. These beautiful stretches of gold have made beachside suburbs, including Surfers Paradise, Main Beach and Broadbeach the most popular places to stay on the Gold Coast.

## **Stay in Gold Coast Airport**

Imagine within 30 minutes of landing at Gold Coast Airport, you could be checked in and dipping your toes into the surf. Choose to stay close to the airport and enjoy the Coast's best beaches, with easy access to Northern NSW, including Byron Bay. There are several accommodation styles from family-friendly resorts, apartment hotels and motels located directly on the beach. Stay at Bilinga, Tugun, Coolangatta, Tweed Heads or Currumbin.

- View Airport Accommodation
- About the Gold Coast Airport
- Things to do in Coolangatta

## **Stay in Surfers Paradise**

Surfers Paradise is Australia's favourite playground for families, couples, groups and business travellers with its huge range of entertainment and dining options. Not to mention every accommodation type imaginable. Luxury 5 star towers, family-friendly resorts, budget backpackers and huge self-contained apartments with stunning views - you'll find the perfect place to stay and be within walking distance of the famous Surfers Paradise Beach plus dozens of awesome attractions.

- View Surfers Paradise Accommodation
- Surfers Paradise Photo Tour
- Things to do in Surfers Paradise

## **Stay in Broadbeach**

Broadbeach is not just great for families anymore with your pick of large, self-contained apartments, it has also now cemented itself as the restaurant capital of the Gold Coast. Drawcards like the majorly upgraded The Star Casino, Pacific Fair Shopping Centre, stunning beaches, and the busy Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre within walking distance make Broadbeach the easy option! Plus, you'll have easy access to public transport options like the G:link tram.



## Stay in Burleigh Heads

Officially home to the Gold Coast's best beach, Burleigh Heads is the perfect spot for a getaway. Where locals want to live and where tourists who want a relaxing holiday want to stay. Enjoy the laidback foreshore by day and the buzzing food and bar scene by night. Wake up to uninterrupted views of these protected waters from your 1, 2 or 3 bedroom self-contained holiday apartment.

## Stay in Gold Coast Hinterland

World Heritage-listed subtropical rainforests less than an hours drive from the beach. Marvel at ancient forests, magnificent views, waterfalls and wineries, and play in the clouds in what they call 'the green behind the gold'. With an array of country accommodation options, from bed and breakfasts and villas to tree houses and homes, you'll forget the busy city and ocean is only a short drive away.

## Stay in Main Beach

The boutique hub of Gold Coast glamour, Main Beach has 5-star accommodation galore, all within close proximity to the Marina Mirage shopping and dining precinct and family favourite theme park, Sea World. Stay at Imperial Hotel Gold Coast (formerly Palazzo Versace), Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort or choose from a stack of holiday accommodation options a bit further south close to Tedder Avenue and Macintosh Park.

## Stay in Coolangatta

Coolangatta is the most southern suburb on the Gold Coast and is known for its great surf and world-famous point-break, sandy beaches, excellent beachside dining

and shopping, not to mention the proximity to the Gold Coast airport. There is accommodation to suit all budgets in Cooly with plenty of apartment buildings located right on the beach. Known for its casual coastal charm, Coolangatta offers a true Gold Coast experience.



## Stay in Palm Beach

Palm Beach is the most idyllic spot for a beachside getaway and with the exploding restaurant and cafe scene it is fast becoming a favourite stop for visitors. Sleep in absolute beachfront apartments or holiday homes and wake up to the roaring surf. Grab a coffee at an uber-trendy cafe and hit Queensland's thrice-voted cleanest beach for the day. Plus, you'll be a stone's throw from Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

## Stay in Southport

Southport is the business, medical and commercial centre for the Gold Coast and it has a huge range of accommodation options like aparthotels, motels, backpackers and holiday homes. It's a great jumping-off point to explore the Gold Coast but there's lots to do right on your doorstep like visiting the Broadwater Parklands, Australia Fair Shopping Centre, Chinatown and Ferry Road Markets.



For more details about this place, explore the link given below :-

<https://www.bondcleaninggoldcoast.com.au/southport/>

### Stay in Backpackers & Hostels

Beach? Tick! Nightlife? Tick! Sunny skies? Tick! It's no wonder the Gold Coast is on top of every backpacker's bucket list! Quality, budget accommodation is no better than on the Gold Coast with many of the best backpacker hostels located in the best spots like Surfers Paradise, Coolangatta, Southport and there's even one in Main Beach beside The Imperial Hotel.

### Stay in Family Accommodation

The Gold Coast is one of Australia's favourite holiday destinations for families, with more family accommodation offerings and family-friendly resorts than any other city in the country. Choose to stay in large self-contained apartments, resorts with fantastic kids clubs and playgrounds, hotels close to theme parks, patrolled beaches and all that the Gold Coast has to offer.

### Stay in A Caravan Park

The Gold Coast has become world famous for its high-rise accommodation but if you know where to look you can find some fantastic camping grounds and caravan parks

scattered in incredibly picturesque places. There are dozens of great locations on the Gold Coast to park your caravan or camper, or pitch a tent. Stay close to the water, theme parks or in the beautiful hinterland.

## IV. 10 Best Gold Coast Suburbs for Families

As if choosing a suburb on the Gold Coast for yourself to live in wasn't difficult enough, a whole extra layer of complexity and decision-making comes into play once children come along. Kids have a range of extra requirements that adults lack – from schooling to safety to public transport to play spaces & more.

While different families may have slightly different needs, this general pattern of requirements is typically consistent. So what makes a Gold Coast suburb "best for families" in our book?

Factors we take into account include:

- **Affordability:** while it's unavoidable that some of the premium Gold Coast "family" suburbs will also command a premium pricetag, what's the point of recommending a suburb the average family can't afford in the first place?
- **Safety:** both the suburb's statistical crime rate, and the general safety of its public spaces
- **Education:** access to schools, both sheer quantity and their quality (private and public), as well as availability of childcare or kindys
- **Public spaces:** quantity/quality of playgrounds, parks, and other entertainment options suited to kids that are clean and safe

All that said, here's our picks for 10 of the best Gold Coast suburbs for families, updated as of 2025:

### 10. Helensvale

**Median House Price:** \$1,250,000.00

**Median Apartment Price:** \$655,000.00

As far as more northern Gold Coast suburbs go, while many may be tempted to opt for some of the newer, cheaper offerings that have sprung up in recent years, **Helensvale** still remains the 'suburb of choice' in this part of the city. By this point it's now long-established, yet still walks the line pretty well between being master-planned and now leafy enough to give it a bit more of a 'natural' feel.

It's long been a suburb with a strong educational infrastructure, with longstanding facilities like **Helensvale State High School** having been open for over 40 years now and one of the largest and best-regarded in the region while **Helensvale State**

**School** likewise scores highly for academic results for those with younger kids. Attendance requires being in their designated catchment areas, so there's a reason many families choose to base themselves here.

And while Helensvale doesn't have any of its own private schools, it's located closely enough to a couple of other prestigious options nearby to make attendance at those viable as well.

This is also a suburb that's abundant in parks, with plenty of choices for kids to play in. Helensvale's home to over 20 parks, and its 'sandwiched' physical layout between two major strips of greenery means you'll seldom have to walk more than five minutes to encounter at least one decent park of some kind.

The second, and more unique, is its proximity to several of the Gold Coast's theme parks just up the road & across the highway in Oxenford. Having these iconic attractions less than 10 minutes' drive away provides easy access to some pretty attractive entertainment offerings, and can make forking out for one of the park's annual passes worthwhile for residents.

## 9. Nerang



**Median House Price:** \$930,000.00

**Median Apartment Price:** \$676,000.00

A suburb that still suffers somewhat from an outdated past reputation as being somewhat 'dodgy', in reality present-day **Nerang** ranks as one of the better value all-

rounder suburbs on the Gold Coast for those wanting to get a detached house with a bit of room for a still-reasonable price.

While there are plenty of other suburbs that are more glamorous or high-profile, they also come with significant cost barriers to entry that put them out of reach of average families, particularly after continued recent Gold Coast price rises.

Nerang nowadays still clocks in amongst the bottom-quarter of cheaper suburbs in the city, which is a bit mystifying considering its crime rates are far lower than in the past (and pretty much heavily concentrated around its train station), and it still offers a highly central location and plenty of expansive greenery throughout.

Nerang has an immense amount of more open, less-manicured parks and parkland – almost half the suburb is taken up by national park – as well as more planned, man-made parks catered directly to kids.

## 8. Reedy Creek

**Median House Price:** \$1,400,000.00

**Median Apartment Price:** \$695,000.00

**Reedy Creek** is another of those Gold Coast suburbs that manages to feel both leafy/secluded and accessible at the same time. It's mostly an elevated suburb tucked alongside the west of the highway that's gradually been built up over time but still has huge pockets of bushland separating its residential streets, which are all otherwise very neat, safe and well-manicured.

This makes for an alternative to the likes of Robina that feels a lot less hectic and busy despite having all that same busy-ness and bustle available just a stone's throw away when you do happen to need it. This includes **Robina Town Centre** itself, all of Burleigh Heads' major shopping amenities, as well as Reedy Creek's own little slice of shopping amenities (including Woolies) alongside **Old Coash Road**.

Reedy Creek also doesn't receive too much through-traffic in its main residential areas, either, due to all the major amenities being concentrated towards its eastern side, which keeps things a little more peaceful.

## 7. Ashmore



**Median House Price:** \$1,050,000.00

**Median Apartment Price:** \$713,000.00

A suburb that's come a long way in terms of its overall environment and people's perception of the standard of living it offers, **Ashmore** was a suburb that remained underrated for many years, and probably still slightly is to this day.

Part of this was because it never had much of a 'premium' image due to its northern half mostly being a mix of warehouse-style businesses that most people just drove through to get to work of a morning, and part because not many people are aware of just how nice some of its residential pockets actually are.

While it's caught up somewhat in recent years, Ashmore still stands as one of the better-value suburbs families should consider on the Gold Coast. This is another spot that benefits from a central location; it's close enough to take the kids to the beach on a fairly regular basis without paying 'beach premium' house prices, while the **Nerang River** offers alternative watersports-centric leanings in the other direction as well.

## 6. Coombabah

**Median House Price:** \$920,000.00

**Median Apartment Price:** \$691,500.00

Tucked away and seldom talked about, **Coombabah** has something of a reputation as a ‘retirement home’ suburb due to its handful of over-55’s lifestyle communities that call it home. While that’s true in a sense, it doesn’t detract from the mix of both peaceful lifestyle & value for money that the suburb still offers – particularly given how pretty some of its immediate natural surroundings are, that both kids & adults alike can enjoy.

For more practical purposes, its inherent peace and quiet makes for both an easy night’s sleep and low crime rate, yet it’s still only just down the road from the more ‘premium’ and developed Runaway Bay, its amenities, and all its waterfront goodness.

This also includes the major Runaway Bay sporting complex, which is one of the biggest hubs for youth sports on the Gold Coast, as well as both **Harbour Town** shopping centre and **Runaway Bay Shopping Village** covering every major retail need on the south & east sides, respectively.

It’s also home internally to two schools – both **Coombabah State & High Schools** – with its primary school in particular boasting consistently high levels of parent satisfaction, and their only real major negatives being somewhat of a lack of parking due to the general lack of space along Oxley Drive.

## 5. Robina

**Median House Price:** \$1,320,000.00

**Median Apartment Price:** \$780,000.00

One of the biggest and most diverse suburbs on the Gold Coast at this point, there are few other spots that can boast the sheer amount of diversity that **Robina** offers – in terms of environments, house types, price range and amenities.

Its combination of central location (you basically can’t get more “central” on the Gold Coast than Robina) and sheer size means there’s simply a ton of options for different families of all forms to choose from here.

Multiple townhouse complexes, mid-rise modern unit blocks, villa and unit communities, and high-end multi-storey houses with pools combine with very good both public and private education amenities so that you should be able to find a set of living circumstances that fits your budget here.

There’s also an abundance of childcare centres here, with centres like GoodStart, Lullaby, Maureen’s and others all represented for those with little ones. Robina’s master-planned layout also means it’s another one of those suburbs with a strong array of parks, green spaces, biking/walking tracks and overall recreational facilities.

## 4. Merrimac



**Median House Price:** \$1,040,000.00

**Median Apartment Price:** \$721,500.00

A fairly small and non-descript Gold Coast suburb that tends to fly under the radar a bit, those with (or starting) a family shouldn't sleep on this spot as a place to live, as it comes with a host of benefits that make it appear slightly under-priced.

Part of this might be simply because **Merrimac** is physically quite small – much of it is taken up by large and empty reserves and wetlands areas, parts of which have been prone to flooding on occasion. Perhaps its this perception that turns some people off, as otherwise a suburb in such a handy central location that is also incredibly safe would seem to justify a little more attention from most.

Both **Merrimac State High** & **Merrimac State** are also well-regarded for their academic programs, with the latter having the added benefit of sitting within pretty bushland surrounds as well.

### 3. Mudgeeraba



**Median House Price:** \$1,229,000.00

**Median Apartment Price:** \$810,000.00

**Mudgeeraba** differs somewhat from most of the other suburbs on this list in that it provides quite an alternative environment and ‘feel’ versus some of the other more built-up options listed here. The suburb exchanges aspects like beach-side proximity or trendy modern amenities for more of a peaceful, green and slightly-less-tamed natural environment while still providing all the facilities your average family would need.

Efforts have been made to retain its charming “village” type atmosphere and friendly/welcoming environment for kids, with aspects like its old-timey community centre and strong array of childcare facilities providing a pretty decent amount of choice for parents to pick from.

It manages to provide this touch of vintage feel while still offering all the standard staples such as your Coles/Woolworths/Aldi trio for groceries, and has the large shopping option of **Robina Town Centre** just across the highway for bigger shops.

Ideally one for those with more outdoor-focused children, the entire point of picking Mudgeeraba over other suburbs is mainly to take advantage of its large green spaces, sporting fields and walking tracks that can be found further to the west.

## 2. Pacific Pines



**Median House Price:** \$1,021,000.00

**Median Apartment Price:** \$710,000.00

**'Pac Pines'** is a suburb that, perhaps more than any other on this list, feels like it was designed from the ground-up specifically with families in mind. It's "newer" than the rest of the suburbs listed here (despite being multiple decades old at this point), yet still scrapes in as from an era that lacks some of the 'generic/cookie-cutter' aspect of the newest suburbs on the Gold Coast suffer from.

It was master-planned without feeling too generic; in fact, quite the opposite, as its sheer physical location encircled by hills of its namesake pine trees give it more of an 'organic' feel to it than you'd expect.

There's a ton of greenery here despite it being more rigidly-planned, and pretty much every street is lined with a mix of both trees as well as flat, wide footpaths. These make for a safer method for kids to walk or ride than many other suburbs, and ample spots/tracks for doing a bit of both – either for fun/exercise, or simply for getting from A to B.

Its boringly-named-yet-excellent **Central Park** is also one of the best suburban parks on the Gold Coast, replete with a very large sandpit-surrounded playground with a bunch of different equipment for kids to burn off energy on. It's also home to two big

ovals for sports (including cricket), and a nice wetlands-esque lake where an array of waterbirds can always be seen swimming around.

Its own quality schools such as **Jubilee Primary** and **Pac Pines State & High Schools** offer good vocational education & combine with decent access to other schools in nearby suburbs (such as in Helensvale, or **AB Paterson College** in Arundel) to make for more choice as well.

## 1. Elanora



**Median House Price:** \$1,290,000.00

**Median Apartment Price:** \$822,500.00

If there's any single Gold Coast suburb that best exemplifies all-round family-friendliness, **Elanora** is hard to beat. It simply checks so many boxes for those with kids all in one, that even despite the increasing price of property here it still remains worth paying the price of admission for those who can afford it.

Elanora simply offers an incredibly balanced Gold Coast environment that kids can take advantage of for enjoyment purposes – easy access to river/waterfront for activities, peace and quiet in most suburban residential streets, quality amenities on both the smaller & larger scales, and more – that there's few families whose needs it won't be able to meet.

It doesn't charge the 'price premium' of absolute-beachfront Gold Coast suburbs due to its slightly-inland location, yet that environment is also just a few minutes away as well, enabling families to visit the beach at the likes of Currumbin or Palm Beach in short order. Likewise, its couple of lakes and proximity to Tallebudgera Creek offer the chance at waterfront living for those willing to fork out some extra dollars too.

It's also highly green and home to both a ton of smaller, well-maintained parks in its more built-up eastern portion, and then ample rolling greenery as you head further out west toward Tallebudgera where houses offering bigger blocks can be found.

## **CONCLUSION**

Adjusting to life on the Gold Coast is a rewarding journey filled with opportunities for growth, leisure, and community engagement. By understanding local systems and embracing the region's coastal spirit, newcomers can establish a comfortable and fulfilling lifestyle. With the right insights and preparation, settling into the Gold Coast becomes not just a move—but a new beginning.

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