

# GYMPIE REGION

visitors guide

[visitgympieregion.com.au](http://visitgympieregion.com.au)

Mary Valley | Goomeri | Kilkivan | Gympie City | Tin Can Bay | Rainbow Beach



*Naturally Welcoming*



Pictured: (clockwise from left) Swimming with horses at Rainbow Beach, Carlo Sandblow and Great Beach Drive, Yabba Creek Mary Valley  
Cover: Great Beach Drive, Rainbow Beach  
Image courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland

## Welcome to the Gympie Region

The Gympie region is conveniently located less than 2 hours north of Brisbane and only 30 minutes from Noosa; the region also acts as the southern gateway to World Heritage listed Fraser Island K'gari.

The Gympie region is an emerging tourism destination offering a number of nature based experiences that cater for the adventurous thrill seeker to the young family or couple looking for a great relaxed getaway. From rolling hills to open pastures, pioneering towns to coastal villages offering stunning coastlines, the Gympie region lets you minimize your travel time and maximize your experience.

So next time you are looking to get into the great outdoors and enjoy wonderful nature based experiences and sample locally grown produce, why don't you discover the Gympie region? To find out more about this region go to [visitgympieregion.com.au](http://visitgympieregion.com.au).

### Stay connected



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## Wunya Ngulum (Welcome)

The Kabi Kabi First Nation, also known as the Gubbi Gubbi, are the traditional land owners of most of the Gympie region. The tribe has been custodians of the land for approximately 60,000 years. Kabi Kabi country stretches from Pumicestone Passage near Caboolture in the south, to Burrum River north of Maryborough in the north and Kilkivan to the north-west. It is through their stories and culture that the region has derived many of the present names of towns. Gympie was named after the stinging nettle tree called Gimpi-Gimpi.

The Gympie region also comprises parcels of Butchulla country in the north-east around Rainbow Beach and borders Wakka Wakka country out west just past Kilkivan near Goomeri. Many Kabi Kabi descendants still reside in or visit the region, as did their ancestors, who found it to be a very compatible climate and landscape offering pristine streams, rivers and oceans and good land with sufficient varieties of food and shelter. We ask that you respect this land, its history and ancestors while you enjoy the natural beauty of the region.



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Destination  
**Gympie Region**



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Destination Gympie Region (DGR) is a branch of Gympie Regional Council and is responsible for the design, implementation and communication of strategy, marketing and promotion for the Gympie Region. DGR is the Local Tourism Organisation with Sunshine Coast Destination Limited being the Regional Tourism Organisation.

# TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

Find the easiest way to get here and to get around.

Pictured: (clockwise) Mary Valley, Vehicle Barge at Inskip Point to Fraser Island, Whale Kayak at Rainbow Beach

## Great Sandy Biosphere Reserve

In 2009, the Great Sandy region was awarded Biosphere Reserve status by UNESCO, the global organisation that also awards World Heritage listings.

The concept of the UNESCO's Man and Biospheres program is to protect natural resources while using them at the same time - recognised reserves have demonstrated a balance between conservation and sustainable development - people and nature living in harmony. A large area of the Gympie region sits within the Great Sandy Biosphere Reserve.

### TRAVELLING BY CAR

From Brisbane travel north along the Bruce Highway (M1, A1) for approximately 1 hour 50 minutes (165km) to Gympie. Gympie CBD is 45 minutes (65km) from Noosa.

### TRAVELLING BY BUS

The Gympie region is serviced by coaches travelling daily between Brisbane and Cairns.

- **Greyhound** - Three buses daily from Brisbane to Cairns with one bus travelling via Tin Can Bay and two services via Rainbow Beach daily
- **Premier Bus Services** - Daily bus from Brisbane to Cairns South and northbound only to Brisbane:
- **Active Tours and Transfers** - Five daily services to Brisbane, two daily services to Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach
- **Conxion** - Two daily services to Brisbane

Note: All the above services stop at Sunshine Coast Airport, Brisbane International and Domestic Airports. Active Tours and Transfers and Conxion also stop at the Brisbane Cruise Terminal.

Regional service only - **Polleys Coaches** operate a regional bus Monday to Friday between Gympie, Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach and all points in between departing Gympie at 13:20.

Coachline contacts:

- **Conxion** - 1300 266 946, con-x-ion.com
- **Greyhound** - 1300 473 946, greyhound.com.au
- **Active Tours & Transfers** - 5313 6631, activetransfers.com.au
- **Premier Bus Services** - 13 34 10, premierms.com.au
- **Pollys Coaches** - 5480 45000, polleys.com.au

Or visit [qconnect.qld.gov.au](http://qconnect.qld.gov.au) to plan your journey and access maps and timetables.

### TRAVELLING BY AIR

- Brisbane - International and Domestic Airports serviced daily by key international and domestic airlines.
- Sunshine Coast - Airport is located at Marcoola and offers both international and domestic air services.

Air New Zealand operates seasonal international return flights from July to October from New Zealand to Auckland. Qantas, Virgin Australia and Jetstar provide return flights daily from Sydney and Melbourne.

- **Fraser Coast** - Hervey Bay Airport provides domestic air services only. Both Virgin Australia and Qantas Link provide daily returns flights to Brisbane and Sydney.

Transfer options available from all airports to Gympie region:

- **Rental Car** - All major companies available at airports
- **Shuttle Bus** - Active Tours & Transfers and Conxion
- **Coach** - Daily service offered by Greyhound from Brisbane Airport via Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach

### TRAVELLING BY RAIL

Choose from the Tilt Train, a modern style of travel offering wide reclining seats and onboard entertainment, or the more traditional Sunlander or Spirit of the Outback, which have a range of options from economy seating to first class sleeping berths. For information go to [queenslandrailtravel.com.au](http://queenslandrailtravel.com.au) or call 1800 TRAINS (872 467).

Queensland Rail operates regular services from Brisbane, Rockhampton and Cairns to Gympie North Station, with coach connections to:

- **Gympie City** - Catch Queensland Rail Courtesy Coach to Monkland Street, Gympie City
- **Tin Can Bay & Rainbow Beach** - Catch Queensland Rail courtesy coach to Monkland Street to connect with Active Tours and Transfers departing Monday to Friday 13:00 and 16:15 from River Road
- **Rainbow Beach only** - Catch Queensland Rail courtesy coach to Monkland Street and proceed to River Road (500m) to connect with Premier Bus Services departing daily at 17:50
- **Hervey Bay** - Catch Queensland Rail courtesy coach to Monkland Street and proceed to River Road (500m) to connect with either:
  - Greyhound departing daily 11:35, 15:25, 19:15
  - Conxion 12:00 and 15:00
  - Premier Bus Services after 17:50 (northbound) and 8:40 (southbound)

# ACCESSIBLE TOURISM

The Gympie Region is dedicated to ensuring accessibility for everybody.

WORKING WITH ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - GYMPIE REGION, DESTINATION GYMPIE REGION HAS IDENTIFIED TOURISM BUSINESSES AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS THAT ARE STRIVING TO PROVIDE A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE FOR TRAVELERS WITH ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS.

## CLIMATE

The Gympie region enjoys a beautiful sub-tropical climate with over 300 days of sunshine a year.

Seasonal Averages	Low(°C)	High(°C)	Rain mm
Summer	21	29	164
Autumn	17	26	145
Winter	11	22	95
Spring	16	25	73


## WATER TEMPERATURE

The water off the coast of Rainbow Beach is the Coral Sea, part of the South Pacific Ocean and you can swim in the water year round.

Seasonal Averages	(°C)
Summer	26
Autumn	25
Winter	22
Spring	25

The Milky Way seen from Carlo Sandblow

## ACCESSIBLE ACCOMMODATION

For accommodation operators that provide wheelchair accessible facilities please refer to the Business Directory at the back of this Guide and look for the  symbol.

## NATIONAL PARKS

- Amamoor State Forest - Cedar Grove camping area
- Cooloola Recreation Area, Great Sandy National Park
- Imbil State Forest - Charlie Moreland camping and day use area
- Mudlo National Park

## RECREATIONAL PARKS


Lake Alford has a purpose built All Abilities Playground with wheelchair accessible public amenities. For other parks in the region with wheelchair accessible amenities visit [www.gympie.qld.gov.au/community-directory](http://www.gympie.qld.gov.au/community-directory) (select type - parks) and type in keywords (wheelchair access).

## ATTRACTIONS

The following visitor attractions/experiences provide disability access and or facilities:

- Lake Alford, Kilkivan and Goomeri Visitor Information Centres
- Gympie Gold Mining Museum
- Gympie Woodworks Museum
- Owen Gun Museum
- Mary Valley Rattler Gympie Station
- Gympie Aquatic Recreation Centre
- Gympie Regional Library
- Gympie Civic Centre
- Gympie Regional Gallery

## EXPERIENCES

For tourism experiences that cater for guests with accessibility needs, please refer to the Business Directory at the back of this Guide and look for the  symbol.

## PUBLIC TOILETS

Public amenities providing wheelchair accessible facilities throughout the region are located at the following:

- Amamoor State Forest - Amama day use and Cedar Grove Camping Area
- Gympie
  - Lake Alford
  - Adrian McClintock Park, Nelson Reserve, One Mile Ovals

- Memorial Lane
- Mary Street, city centre

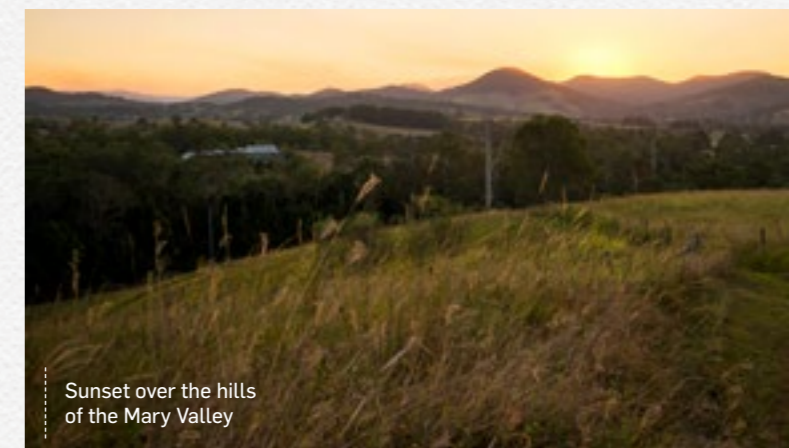
- Chatsworth - rest stop
- Curra Community Hall
- Goomeri
- Gunalda - rest stop
- Gunalda township
- Imbil State Forest
- Mary Valley - Kandanga and Imbil
- Kilkivan
- Tin Can Bay - Les Lee Park, Tom Steele Park, Wes Mitchell Park, Lions Park and Mallet Park
- Cooloola Cove - Federation Park
- Rainbow Beach - Foreshore and Lawrie Hanson Park

## EVENT VENUES

- Gympie Regional Gallery
- Gympie Civic Centre
- Gympie Pavilion Conference Centre

## PARKING

- Gympie
  - Mary Street - 6 locations
  - Smithfield Street - 5 parallel bays
  - Reef Street - 2 bays near Memorial Lane
  - Mellor Street - outside Gympie Library
- Tin Can Bay
- Rainbow Beach
- Gunalda
- Imbil
- Kandanga
- Kilkivan
- Goomeri



Sunset over the hills of the Mary Valley

# MARY VALLEY

Discover the beautiful rolling hills of the Mary Valley.



**Did you know?**  
The Mary Valley is home to the rare Mary River Turtle and the Queensland Lungfish

**THE MARY VALLEY IS DOTTED WITH VILLAGES THAT HAVE A GREAT COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND EXUDE COUNTRY HOSPITALITY - A PERFECT BACKDROP FOR A WELCOMING COUNTRY EXPERIENCE.**

With a history of agriculture, beef and dairy farming on rich fertile land, the Mary Valley and Gympie region has earned a reputation as a 'food bowl' of south east Queensland. On most weekends you can sample and purchase local produce at farmers markets (see pages 11 & 38 for more information).

The Mary River (Moocooboola) runs through the heart of the Valley, but it is the small villages that provide the heartbeat. Take some time to explore these villages and experience genuine country hospitality.

If it's adventure you're seeking, you can find it on water and land in the Valley with experiences including canoeing, kayaking, fishing, bush walking, bike riding, hiking, four wheel driving and horse riding. Make sure you keep an eye out for native wildlife with an abundance of kangaroos, koalas and the elusive platypus.

For the true Valley experience you need a long weekend. There are many great accommodation options for families and couples, including bed and breakfasts, cabins, farm stays and camping under the stars in the forest.

The Mary Valley is a perfect photographer's backdrop and a haven for nature activity enthusiasts. Whatever your budget, the Mary Valley is a fantastic destination to explore and enjoy being in the great outdoors.

Heritage-listed Imbil Railway Bridge at Yabba Creek, built circa 1915



### Top 10 things to do in the Mary Valley

1. Ride the historic Mary Valley Rattler
2. Canoe or kayak on the Mary River or Yabba Creek
3. Horse ride, mountain bike, 4WD or hike the tracks and trails
4. Visit the local markets to sample local produce
5. Take a scenic drive around the Valley
6. Visit historic country pubs at Imbil and Kenilworth
7. Spend a day at Lake Borumba fishing, boating or water skiing
8. Enjoy a chat with some locals over a fresh brew
9. Camp in one of the bush camping spots (permit required)
10. Stay in a B&B or cottage and relish in some country hospitality and local produce



Pictured: (clockwise from top left) The Blue & White Teapot - Amamoor, Fertile farmland of the Mary Valley, Imbil lookout, Fresh market produce



Mary River (Moocooboola), Mary Valley

### Local Markets

Visit one of the country markets for locally grown fresh produce, preserves and handcrafted treasurers.

**DAGUN GROWERS MARKET:**  
Dagun Railway Station, Saturdays from 3pm

**IMBIL COUNTRY MARKETS:**  
Central Park, Yabba Road, Sundays 8am to 1pm

## Villages of the Mary Valley

### Amamoor

Amamoor sits on the edge of the Amamoor State Forest - home of the Gympie Music Muster, which has camping areas and great bush walking tracks. Look out for the elusive platypus, waterfalls and great waterholes to cool off in on hot days. Amamoor is a small village that acts as the turn-around point for the Mary Valley Rattler heritage steam train experience.

### Dagun

Explore this pretty little village which is the centre of a very diverse agricultural industry producing dairy products and seasonal fruit and vegetables. Dagun still has a working sawmill that has been in operation since the 1900s and a wonderful local fresh produce market.

### Imbil

The largest village of the Mary Valley, Imbil has gained a reputation as the 'art house' of the Valley. Stay a while and shop for antiques and art. Stroll along the Timberman's Walk which is shaded by glorious Jacaranda trees before exploring Borumba Dam. You can camp on the banks of Yabba Creek just a short stroll from the town centre.

### Kandanga

Beautiful scenery and the centrally located river make Kandanga the perfect place for those looking for an idyllic break. Stop for a relaxing stroll through the village and visit the Save the Mary Museum and River Education Centre (call 0411 443 589 for opening hours and more information).

# KILKIVAN & GOOMERI

Discover wide open spaces.

WITH BLUE SKIES AND A RICH GRAZING HISTORY, THE FARMING COMMUNITIES OF KILKIVAN AND GOOMERI WELCOME HOLIDAY MAKERS LOOKING FOR A RELAXED GETAWAY.

## Kilkivan: Gold in the hills

Kilkivan is a small, relaxed country town with a unique 'frontier' feel. It was near Kilkivan in 1852 that gold was first discovered in Queensland leading to a gold rush. Many amateur prospectors still pan for gold in the surrounding countryside intersected by numerous small ranges and ravines. The town features pretty parks and delightful heritage buildings, some of which have been fully restored. Kilkivan is one of only a few towns situated on the Bicentennial National Trail - a 5,000km long trail stretching from Cooktown in Queensland, to Healesville in Victoria.

Kilkivan is home to the Great Kilkivan Horse Ride, a spectacular sight attracting over 500 horses, riders and horse drawn vehicles every April.

## Kilkivan to Kingaroy Rail Trail

The Kilkivan to Kingaroy Rail Trail (KKRT) winds its way through the western reaches of the Gympie region into the South Burnett. Stretching 88km, the ride takes you along the disused rail corridor past rural farming communities and scenic countryside on a variety of surfaces.

The rail trail between Kilkivan, Goomeri and Murgon is a natural formation (unsealed) and most suitable for mountain bikers, bushwalkers and horse riders looking for a more adventurous and true trail experience.

From Murgon heading south-west to Kingaroy, the rail trail is sealed and is suitable for road bikes and active transport users.



## Goomeri: Home to Australia's only pumpkin festival!

Goomeri is a former timber town that retains a relaxed old-world atmosphere. Many of Goomeri's buildings were constructed in the 1920s and retain all their original charm. The town is steeped in history and many of its earliest structures, such as the historic Boobyjan Homestead, are preserved as living museums. The 'Lest We Forget' town clock built in 1939 has become a landmark, earning Goomeri the name of 'Clocktown'.

This charming town is home to Australia's only Pumpkin Festival, which is held annually on the last weekend in May and features the exciting 'Great Australian Pumpkin Roll'. The Festival draws thousands of people from all over south-east Queensland.



Pictured: (clockwise from left) Kilkivan Station - start of the Kilkivan to Kingaroy Rail Trail, Goomeri Pumpkin Festival, Goomeri Bakery

# GYMPIE CITY

Discover a city alive with heritage.

WITH THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD IN 1867, THE TOWN OF GYMPIE SAVED A BANKRUPT QUEENSLAND ECONOMY AND WAS TRANSFORMED INTO THE RICHEST TOWN IN QUEENSLAND. HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE, PARKS AND MARKETS MAKE A VISIT TO THE REGION'S HUB A MUST.

Step back in time when you visit the heritage city of Gympie. Stroll through the main street and relax with a coffee at one of the cafés before embarking on a self-guided heritage tour. Visit the museums or art gallery, browse the weekend markets to sample fresh local produce or experience a range of fun activities. If you're looking for something more relaxing, you can simply spread out a rug and enjoy a picnic at one of the many magnificent parks.

### MEMORIAL PARK AND MINERS HILL

Take some time to absorb the beautiful heritage listed rotunda surrounded by century-old Jacaranda trees at Memorial Park in the heart of Gympie town centre. Enjoy the view from the platform among the manicured gardens on Miners Hill, opposite Smithfield Street.

### LAKE ALFORD RECREATION PARK

Children of all ages love the fantastic all-abilities playground at Lake Alford Recreation Park. There are large parking areas, fenced playgrounds, picnic tables and barbecues set amongst landscaped gardens. There is also an off-leash dog area and a lake with a variety of birdlife.

### HISTORIC MARY STREET

After gold was found at Nash's Gully in 1867, a double line of prospectors' tents sprung up along the sides of the digging bank. Over time this developed into Mary Street and has transformed into a picturesque shopping and café strip. The street has wide paths, shady trees and some wonderful heritage buildings.

### Did you know?

Andrew Fisher, one of Australia's first Prime Ministers, hailed from Gympie.

Lake Alford Recreation Park, Gympie City





Historic Gunabul Homestead

**HERITAGE CITY**

Restored buildings from the gold rush era add character and charm to Gympie. Take a heritage walk to view glorious examples of 19th century architecture. Gympie's Town Hall (built in 1890) is situated on the spot of the original gold strike by James Nash. The Land's Office building (1873) was the first to be erected on the gold fields, and is now the home of the Australian Institute of Country Music on Channon Street. The Gympie Regional Council Chambers are located in the old Bank of New South Wales building (1890). Other magnificent examples include the Stock Exchange, Court House, Smithfield Chambers buildings and the Mount Pleasant Hotel (1870) - Gympie's oldest pub.

**GYMPIE REGIONAL GALLERY**

An inspiring cultural attraction, Gympie's public art gallery is housed in the beautiful School of Arts Building, built in 1905. The gallery celebrates local artists and hosts high quality touring exhibitions. For opening hours and information phone 07 5481 0733, [gympie.qld.gov.au/gallery](http://gympie.qld.gov.au/gallery)

**GOLD MINING AND HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

The museum houses memorabilia from the early gold mining era, as well as displays showcasing rural, military, hospital, transport, communications and steam development in Australia. The museum is situated on the eastern side of Lake Alford with access from Brisbane Road. Phone 07 5482 3995, [gympiegoldmuseum.com.au](http://gympiegoldmuseum.com.au)

**WOODWORKS MUSEUM**

Prior to the gold rush, timber was a major industry for the region. By the 1860s the Gympie region was noted for its vast wealth of timber and the abundance and quality of red cedar. The museum provides a fascinating insight into the role of forestry in Queensland. A large collection of pioneering hand tools, equipment and transport is also on display. Phone 07 5483 6535, [woodworksmuseum.com.au](http://woodworksmuseum.com.au)

**FOSSICK FOR GOLD AT DEEP CREEK IN GYMPIE**

You can try your hand at gold panning in Gympie and relive the town's past. This is a great activity for all ages. Discover how James Nash turned Gympie into 'the town that saved Queensland' when he discovered gold in Gympie in 1867. Why not try your luck by panning for gold? Fossicking licenses are required and you can get a license and equipment from the Lake Alford Visitor Information Centre.

**GYMPIE REGION HERITAGE TRAIL**

Immerse yourself in history by following the Gympie Region Heritage Trail comprising historic architecture and structures such as the Dickabram Bridge, Double Island Point Lighthouse and Andrew Fisher's Cottage. The sites are individually numbered and signage is posted at each location with historical information. For travellers with a smartphone, QR codes on the signs link to the website which provides further information on each structure as you journey into the past. Visit [gympieheritagetrails.com.au](http://gympieheritagetrails.com.au)



Pictured: (clockwise from above) Gympie Court House, Scottish Gold Mine, Gympie Fiveways (1854)



The town that saved Queensland

**A SNAPSHOT OF GYMPIE CITY'S PIONEERING HISTORY**

The Gympie region is the traditional land of the Kabi-Kabi, Butchulla and Wakka-Wakka tribes

**1849-1859** Kilkivan, Widgee, Imbil, Traveston and Curra Cattle Stations established

**1859** Cobb & Co. Mail Track between Brisbane and Maryborough established

**1859** Queensland separates from New South Wales - most of Queensland is still unexplored by Europeans

**Jan 1867** A broke Queensland Government offers a reward for a discovery of Gold that results in a settlement

**Oct 1867** Announcement of discovery of Gold by James Nash creates a mini gold rush

**Dec 1867** Second gold discovery leads to a larger gold rush to region. Prospectors travel to Maryborough by ship then coach via the Mail Track to Gympie.

**Dec 1867** Settlement created by the gold rush becomes known as Nashville

**1868** The settlement changes its name from Nashville to Gympie

**Feb 1868** Discovery of large Curtis nugget (975 oz) swells the population to over 15,000

**Feb 1868** The first newsmen arrive carrying a printing press, Nashville Times, later the Gympie Times is established

**Nov 1868** Road between Gympie and Brisbane opened

**1875** Opening of the Gympie Courthouse

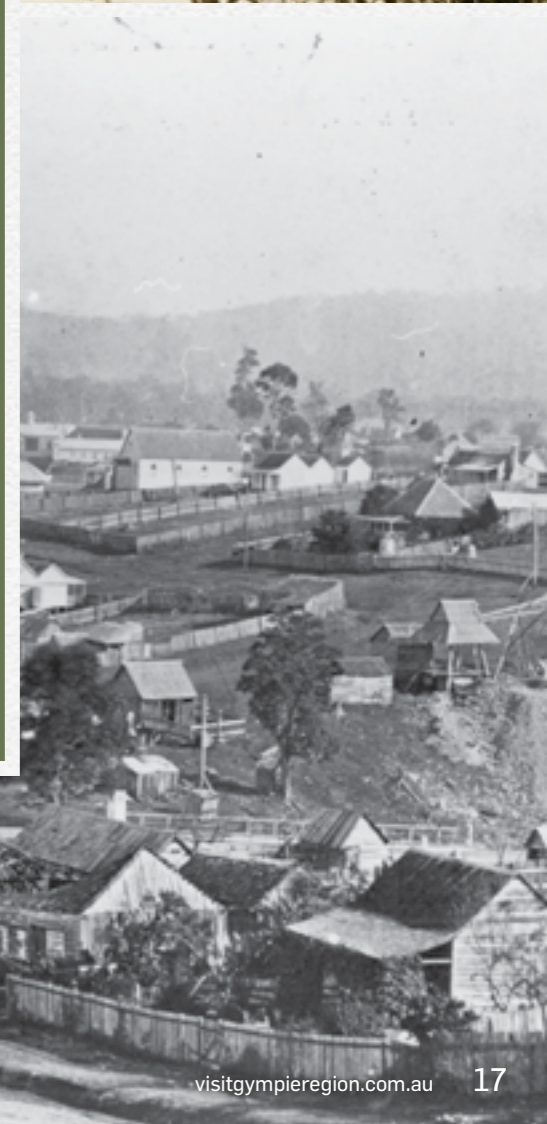
**1884** Gympie Stock Exchange opens

**1891** Railway line from Brisbane to Gympie opened

**1903** Gympie gazetted as a town

**1905** Gympie declared a city

**1913** James Nash dies





The Mary Valley Rattler

## The Mary Valley Rattler

The Mary Valley Rattler is an iconic heritage rail experience that will take you back to a time when rail travel was replacing horses as a means of transport. The history of rail travel between Gympie and the Mary Valley dates back the early 1900s when the Mary Valley established itself as an agriculture, dairy and timber region. A rail link was built to service the growing need for these goods in the goldfields around Gympie.

The heritage experience operates between the historical Gympie and Amamoor stations with the journey taking you through the upper reaches of the Mary Valley along the original line first established over 100 years ago. The train operates two runs on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Whether you start your journey in Gympie or Amamoor, you will experience the historic Gympie Station which was built in 1913. The station is still the largest timber railway building in Queensland. Make sure you leave enough time to enjoy a coffee and cake or a meal in the café.

To find out more visit [maryvalleyrattler.com.au](http://maryvalleyrattler.com.au).

## River to Rail Trail

The River to Rail Trail is located less than 1km from the Gympie Town Centre and is suitable for all fitness levels. The 1.8km gravel link stretches along the banks of the Mary River between Kidd Bridge and the Sands recreational area.

The Trail runs parallel to the natural landscape of the Mary River and is an idyllic recreation experience, however it does include varying inclines and staircases in some areas.

The Trail is well-positioned for nature enthusiasts to spot native species such as the Mary River Turtle, Giant Barred Frog, Mary River Cod, Australian Lungfish and a wide variety of native birdlife.

Recreational paddlers can easily access the water at either end of the track via a flat, gravel access to the river's edge at the Sands or a purpose-built canoe and kayak launch point at the Gympie Weir, near Kidd Bridge. Designated off-street parking areas are available at either end.

Future plans will include extending the walk to link with the Heritage Railway precinct at the old Gympie Station in Tozer Street.



# COOLOOLA COAST

Discover the aquatic playgrounds of Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach.

PART OF THE GREAT SANDY BIOSPHERE AND GREAT SANDY MARINE PARK, NESTLED BETWEEN NOOSA AND WORLD HERITAGE LISTED FRASER ISLAND K'GARI, THE BEAUTIFUL COOLOOLA COAST IS A MUST-SEE FOR ALL VISITORS.

## Top 10 things to do on the Cooloola Coast

1. Camp on the beach at Inskip Peninsula Recreation Area or the Cooloola Recreation Area (permits required)
2. Skydive, paraglide or take a helicopter ride over the Cooloola Coast and have the ultimate aerial view of this stunning coastline
3. Scuba dive with the Grey Nurse Shark at Wolf Rock off Double Island Point, one of Australia's best diving destinations
4. Kayak with dolphins, turtles and whales or horseride along Rainbow Beach
5. Hand feed dolphins in their natural environment at Tin Can Bay
6. Visit World Heritage listed Fraser Island K'gari
7. Bird watch at Tin Can Bay where there are over 140 different species to view
8. Visit Carlo Sandblow for sunrise or sunset
9. Try boating and fishing on the Great Sandy Strait
10. Drive the Great Beach Drive from Noosa to the top of Fraser Island - 4WD only

The Cooloola Coast offers breathtaking diversity from the renowned coloured sands and long stretches of golden coastline to lush green hills and kilometres of sheltered waterways. The Cooloola Coast is an adventure seekers playground. You will need to allow sufficient time to experience the full range of activities and adventures available, ranging from strolling on the beach, traipsing through bush and forest and four wheel driving along the shore to camping amongst wildflowers, getting close to wildlife on land and in the water, boating, kayaking and even jumping out of a plane.

Only a 2 hour drive north of Brisbane's International Airport, the Cooloola Coast is close enough for a weekend and exciting enough for a week or longer.

### DRIVING AND CAMPING ON THE COOLOOLA COAST

Permits for vehicle access and camping must be obtained before entering certain recreation areas (including beaches). Permits can be purchased online or at an over-the-counter permit booking office. This area is one of Queensland most popular spots for camping and the capacity of camping areas is limited, so book to avoid disappointment during peak periods. Camping areas are visited by rangers to check permits.

### FISHING ON THE COOLOOLA COAST

Situated within the Great Sandy Marine Park, some waterways and species of fish in this environmentally important region are protected. You should check on current restrictions and advice before you head out, as this can change from time to time.

To find out which areas require you to have a Vehicle Access Permit and/or Camping Permit and fishing/ waterways information visit [npsr.qld.gov.au](http://npsr.qld.gov.au).

Rainbow Beach Horserides,  
Rainbow Beach

### Did you know?

There are more fish species in the Great Sandy Strait than in the Great Barrier Reef.

# TIN CAN BAY

Discover a sleeping beauty.

TIN CAN BAY IS A TRANQUIL SEASIDE VILLAGE WITH PLENTY TO DO. LOCATED NEAR THE SOUTHERN END OF WORLD HERITAGE LISTED FRASER ISLAND K'GARI, THE TOWN ADJOINS THE GREAT SANDY STRAIT AND OFFERS A SHELTERED PARADISE FOR BIRDWATCHING, SAILING, CRUISING ON A HOUSEBOAT OR FISHING.

Tin Can Bay is a beautiful seaside village that is known for its abundant wildlife, easy atmosphere and magnificent wild-catch seafood harvested from the pristine waters of the Great Sandy Strait and Pacific Ocean. To judge for yourself, dine alfresco in one of the many cafés or traditional fish and chip shops, or like many savvy travellers, stock up your holiday fridge and enjoy fresh prawns, crabs and fish right on the water's edge.

Tin Can Bay has a number of activities for the adventurer or a young family - you can partake in sailing, fishing, bird watching, horse riding, a round of golf at the 18 hole golf course or a walk around town on the sealed foreshore path or wildflower walk.

However, with miles and miles of pristine waterways, the most rewarding activity in Tin Can Bay is being on the water. You can sail, cruise, kayak or hire a houseboat. The water has abundant marine life including turtles, dolphins and dugongs. For a peaceful kayaking experience consider exploring Snapper and Crab Creeks.

The Great Sandy Strait also has ideal sailing conditions, stunning scenery with many sheltered bays, sand flats, beaches and mangrove-lined creeks that are perfect for fishing and home to dugongs - check marine park zoning regulations before you visit at [npsr.qld.gov.au](http://npsr.qld.gov.au).

Birdwatchers can observe more than 140 species, including some rare shorebirds that have migrated from as far as Siberia to use the area as their summer resting ground after breeding. Some species fly up to 25,000km (round trip) to reach Tin Can Bay. Tin Can Bay is endeared to locals and tourists for the beautiful and unique opportunity to hand feed and interact with rare Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins. Under the supervision of Barnacles Dolphin Centre, you are able to stand in the water and get up close and personal with these gentle souls. The dolphins generally arrive around 7-7:30am and you can feed them from 8:00am. Unauthorised dolphin feeding is not permitted.

## Did you know?

The Waterways around Tin Can Bay are home to over 100 dugongs.

DISCOVER: Tin Can Bay



Pictured: (clockwise from left) Yachts moored at Tin Can Bay Marina, hand feed the rare Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, Canoe the calm waters of Tin Can Bay



# RAINBOW BEACH

Discover the colours of the coast.

ENCHANTING RAINBOW BEACH IS AN ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND WITH STRIKING NATURAL BEAUTY THAT ACTS AS THE SOUTHERN GATEWAY TO WORLD HERITAGE LISTED FRASER ISLAND K'GARI.

## Did you know?

Rainbow Beach got its name from the coloured sandcliffs next to the town.

You will be pleasantly surprised when you take the opportunity to explore this vibrant coastal town. Rainbow Beach offers an idyllic getaway for beach-goers, eco-tourists, fishermen, campers and those wishing to step back and truly relax. Inskip Point, 10 minutes north of 'Rainbow' is the closest access point to World Heritage listed Fraser Island K'gari when travelling north from Brisbane. The proximity to 'Fraser' makes Rainbow Beach the perfect base for exploring everything the region has to offer, and with plenty of activities and one of the best beaches in Australia at your door step there is no excuse not to visit Rainbow Beach.

### CARLO SANDBLOW

Situated at the southern end of Rainbow Beach and the entrance to the Cooloola Great Walk, Carlo Sandblow is accessible via an easy 1.2km (return) nature walk from Cooloola Drive. Sand driven by the wind has

blown along Australia's east coast and accumulated over thousands of years, creating a sea of sand covering more than 15 hectares. The sand blow overlooks the coastline from Double Island Point to Inskip Peninsula and the southern tip of Fraser Island. Locals and visitors flock to Carlo Sandblow in the afternoon to take in the sun setting over Tin Can Bay and the Great Sandy Strait.

### COLOURED SANDS

Walk along Rainbow Beach past rocks, caves and freshwater springs to the awesome coloured sands that tower 80 metres over the beach about two kilometres south of Rainbow Beach Surf Life Saving Club. The complex array of tones and hues of the sands exposed by erosion contain as many as 72 different colours. It is thought that the sands have been forming since the last ice age, as a result of iron

oxide and leached vegetable dyes. Low tide is an ideal time to visit. Beach driving is permitted in the area although Vehicle Access Permits are needed for some designated tracks and beaches, visit [npsr.qld.gov.au](http://npsr.qld.gov.au)

### DOUBLE ISLAND POINT

You could say that Double Island Point is one of the Australian coastline's best kept secrets. Named by Captain James Cook in 1770, 'DI' is accessible by 4WD drive only by driving along the Great Beach Drive from Rainbow Beach or Noosa (Vehicle Access Permit required - visit [npsr.qld.gov.au](http://npsr.qld.gov.au)). Situated within the Great Sandy Marine Park, the point is a magnet for marine life of every description from dolphins to turtles and even whales on migration. Whether you're looking for a quiet place to spend the day, or the ideal spot to catch some waves with your mates - Double Island Point will not disappoint.

# TASTE

Experience Gympie Gold Regional Produce.

FROM OCEAN TO EARTH, FARM GATE TO PLATE, THE GYMPIE REGION BOASTS A FOOD INDUSTRY AS SENSATIONAL AND DIVERSE AS ITS LANDSCAPE. ONCE FAMOUS FOR THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD, THIS VERITABLE FOOD BOWL IS NOW BETTER KNOWN FOR THE 'GOLD' IT YIELDS ABOVE GROUND.

The Gympie region's hinterland harvest includes a wide range of seasonal fruit and vegetables, including macadamia nuts, olives, avocados, citrus and small crops. You can also find a range of organic growers and food producers, pork, red claw and crayfish farmers and producers of export-quality beef. Meanwhile, on the coast, Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach trawlers source prized seafood from the pristine waters of the Great Sandy Strait and the southern Pacific Ocean.

With such quality fresh produce in abundance, it's little wonder that the Gympie region is also home to many high end, value-adding processors and distributors. They range from multi-national food companies to boutique enterprises, specialising in homemade chutneys, gourmet sauces and even organic skin care treatments. The quality continues in the kitchens of

local cafés and restaurants with many sourcing their produce from local growers and producers. With a range of farm gate, shop and online retailers, you too can get your hands on some Gympie Gold regional produce.

Gympie Gold Regional Produce is the premier website for all things food-related in the region. The site aims to promote the region's exceptional range of quality, fresh, gourmet and value-added produce. Local growers, producers, retailers, processors, cafés and restaurants all make up the rich tapestry that is Gympie 'gold' and you can find them at [gympieregionalproduce.com.au](http://gympieregionalproduce.com.au).



Strawberries fresh from the farm, Cooloola Berries



EXPERIENCE: Taste

Pictured: (clockwise from top left) Take a coffee break at Gympie, Gympie region farm produce, Gympie region farmland

"As a chef whose style is defined by a passion for using fresh, local ingredients, the Gympie region is my culinary paradise. The quality and diversity of produce that this region has to offer is outstanding. Also outstanding is the ever increasing number of dedicated individuals who are just as excited about growing and creating great produce as I am about cooking it."

**Matt Golinski**

Gympie  
Region Food  
Ambassador



# ADVENTURE

Experience adrenaline pumping fun in the Gympie Region.

**THE GYMPIE REGION IS DEVELOPING A REPUTATION AS AN OUTDOOR LOVER'S PARADISE AND THE BEST ADVENTURE DESTINATION WITHIN 2 HOURS DRIVE OF BRISBANE.**

The Gympie region has a diverse array of landscapes and adventure options. Stretching from the Mary Valley in the south to Goomeri in the west and across to the eastern coastal playgrounds of Rainbow Beach and Tin Can Bay, there is an adventure activity to suit all levels.

The Mary Valley has wonderful tracks and trails for you to explore. You can hike, mountain bike, horse ride and even motorbike and 4WD many tracks through the Valley. Lake Borumba, just past Imbil, is a great place to water ski, kayak or fish. The rivers and creeks in the valley are perfect kayaking and canoeing options and you might be lucky enough to spot a turtle or the elusive platypus.

Out west near Goomeri and Kilkivan you can hike, mountain bike or horseride the Kilkivan Rail Trail or hike and horseride some of the Bicentennial National Trail that runs almost the entire length of the east coast of Australia. You can walk to Kinbombi Falls or rock climb at Brooyar State Forest closer to Gympie.

Heading east to the coast you pass through Pine plantations with a number of tracks for hiking, mountain biking, horse riding and motorised adventure. The area is also home to a mob of brumbies (wild horses).

Tin Can Bay is a sailing and boating paradise with the sheltered waters of the Great Sandy Strait stretching up along the west coast of Fraser Island.

Tin Can Bay is a wonderful location for watching marine life and is recognised as a great destination for bird watching with over 140 different species. From both here and Rainbow Beach you can get a fishing charter and go after some big fish that inhabit the oceans off Fraser Island K'gari.

Rainbow Beach is where the adventure level can be taken up a notch. From here you can ride horses on one of Australia's best beaches, kayak with marine life including whales, learn to surf, or you can go underwater and dive at a Grey Nurse shark sanctuary at one of Australia's best dive sites - Wolf Rock. If you like taking to the air, Rainbow

Beach is internationally recognised as a world-class paragliding, hang gliding and sky diving destination. Or you can enjoy a doors-off helicopter flight. If after all of that you are still looking for more, why not drive along the Great Beach Drive that takes you on a journey from Noosa through the Gympie region up to the northern tip of Fraser Island.

Luckily there are a number of accommodation options in the region for a rest too! See pages 40 & 41 for more information.



## Did you know?

You can dive with sharks at Wolf Rock - Queensland's most important Grey Nurse Shark habitat



Pictured: (clockwise from above) Kayaking Double Island Point, Mountain biking in the Mary Valley, Dive with the sharks at Wolf Rock, The Great Beach Drive



# NATURE WALKS

Experience nature and wildlife up close.

THE GYMPIE REGION IS BLESSED WITH NATURE BASED EXPERIENCES. WITH AN EXTENSIVE TRACKS AND TRAILS NETWORK THERE IS NO EXCUSE NOT TO STRAP ON SOME COMFORTABLE SHOES AND GET WALKING.

The Cooloola Great Walk

## COOLOOLA COAST

**Foreshore Bird Walk:** Even the keenest birdwatcher will be amazed at the variety of bird life on the Cooloola Coast. Stroll along 4kms of Tin Can Bay's foreshore where over 140 species have been sighted.

**Wildflower Walk:** Tin Can Bay hosts a unique collection of spectacular native wildflowers, with year round and seasonal species; the walk can be accessed from the corner of Emperor Street and Oyster Parade.

**Carlo Sand Blow:** Accessible via an easy 1.2km (return) nature walk from Cooloola Drive, this sea of sand covers over fifteen hectares and overlooks the coastline from Double Island Point to Inskip Peninsula and the southern tip of Fraser Island. It is also a perfect spot to view a sunrise or sunset.

**Poona Lake Walk:** 4km south of Rainbow Beach take Freshwater Road to the Bymien day-use area. The 4.2km (return) walking track passes through lush rainforest to Poona Lake. The tea coloured freshwater lake is a unique feature of this region.

**Seary's Creek:** Discover refreshing swimming holes at Seary's Creek day-use area 8km south of Rainbow Beach. The 200m (return) wheelchair accessible boardwalk passes through heath and low woodland.

**The Cooloola Great Walk:** This 5 day, 102km walk links the Noosa North Shore to Rainbow Beach via the eastern high dunes. Walkers can camp in remote areas of Great Sandy National Park, pass through heathland and rainforest and take in the spectacular views. [npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/great-walks-cooloola/](http://npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/great-walks-cooloola/)

## MARY VALLEY

**Amamoor State Forest day-use area:** Features riverine rainforest and plantations of Hoop and Bunya Pines, and a platypus viewing platform on the banks of Amamoor Creek. A 1.5km walk through lush rainforest is accessed across the road.

**Amamoor State Forest - Cedar Grove camping area:** The Rainforest Walk will take you past swimming holes into a sub-tropical rainforest that features large red cedars and fig trees. A 1km return trip.

**Imbil State Forest - Fig Tree Walk:** Located approximately 4km south of Kenilworth along the Maleny-Kenilworth Road. The 780m circuit is sealed including some sections of boardwalk and is wheelchair friendly.

**Imbil State Forest - Charlie Moreland camping area:** Birdwatch on Little Yabba or Piccabeen Circuits or take the steady climb to 360° views on the 8.8km (return) Mt Allan shared trail which takes about 4 hours and offers views of Mary Valley Country atop a 9.6m fire tower.

## KILKIVAN AND GOOMERI

**Mudlo Gap:** Approximately 8.5km north of Kilkivan wander the 1km Scrubby Creek walking track, through dry rainforest, giant figs and lovely creeks.

**Kinbombi Falls:** Approximately 5km down Kinbombi Road. Natural gorge with lookout points and steps down to viewing platforms. Best after rain.

# FISHING

Experience an angler's paradise.

OUR REGION HAS MORE FISH SPECIES THAN THE GREAT BARRIER REEF WITH THE OPTION OF SALT AND FRESHWATER VARIETIES FROM DEEP SEA, BEACH, DAM, RIVER AND CREEK FISHING - YOU JUST NEED TO PACK YOUR ROD AND WE'LL SUPPLY THE FISH.

Tin Can Bay and Inskip Peninsula are within the UNESCO recognised Great Sandy Strait which is a perfect destination for fishing and boating. The Great Sandy Strait, situated within the Great Sandy Marine Park, rivals the Whitsundays with its ideal sailing conditions and stunning scenery. Sail the marine sanctuary and explore the locals' secrets right up the western side of Fraser Island.

The uniqueness and diversity of the Gympie region's waterways provide anglers with double the amount of fish species that can be found anywhere else in Australia. With warm northern and cool southern currents meeting at Fraser Island, the Straits provide a one-stop location for an incredible variety of top angling fish, all able to be caught in the one location.

Offering a maze of sandbanks, estuaries and reefs, the Great Sandy Strait creates the perfect home for an array of marine life. Species include coral trout, bream, whiting, flathead, mackerel, tailor, mangrove jack and barramundi along with sand and mud crabs.

Beach fishing is one of the great nature based activities you can do in the Gympie region. Inskip Peninsula,

Rainbow Beach and the Cooloola Coast offer almost 100kms of fantastic year round fishing. The variety of species includes dart, whiting, flathead, bream and tailor. If you venture to the rocks at Double Island Point you can catch mackerel and kingfish. Additionally you can charter a boat for a reef fishing excursion and catch red emperor, snapper, parrot and coral trout.

Some fishing restrictions apply within the Great Sandy Marine Park to encourage sustainable use. For up-to-date marine park zoning information visit [npsr.qld.gov.au](http://npsr.qld.gov.au).

## INLAND RIVER SYSTEMS

Getting away from the coast the Gympie region offers the angler the excitement of fishing in freshwater dams and rivers. Lake Borumba, near Imbil, is perfect for lure and fly fishing and you can catch golden and silver perch, Australian bass and saratoga. Lake Borumba is a fishing paradise with calm waters, misty mornings, sightings of native deer and structure to cast at above and below the water with rainforest growing right to the water's edge in places.

There is some fantastic wild bass fishing available in the upper freshwater reaches of the Mary River and her tributaries like the Yabba and Obi Obi Creeks. Experience the serenity of floating down Yabba Creek or the Mary River in your canoe. If the fish aren't biting you can simply take in the abundant wildlife from azure kingfishers to playful platypuses.

Beach fishing at Rainbow Beach



# NATIONAL PARKS

Experience the great outdoors.

FROM THE LONG STRETCHES OF SHORELINE TO THE UNDULATING HILLS AND VALLEYS, THE GYMPIE REGION OFFERS A DIVERSE LANDSCAPE. YOU CAN GET UP CLOSE TO NATURE IN ONE OF OUR EXPANSIVE NATIONAL PARKS AND GO DRIVING, WALKING AND CAMPING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

## GREAT SANDY NATIONAL PARK

The park encompasses the Cooloola sand mass and Fraser Island. Water features abound, including surf, fresh water lakes and the undisturbed upper Noosa River. Take the Cooloola Great Walk through the park. Choose from four designated camping areas. Four wheel drive access is available from Rainbow Beach and Noosa North Shore.

## BROOYAR STATE FOREST

Take a stroll through open forest and rainforest at Glastonbury Creek camping area 20 minutes north west of Gympie. In summer, feast your eyes on the forest colours; rich red and yellow flowers of black bean trees and vivid orange flower spikes of silky oaks. You can camp beside the creek and bring your dog here, as long as it is kept on a leash.

## AMAMOOOR STATE FOREST

Enjoy a scenic drive through a forested valley 30 kilometres south west of Gympie. Amama day-use area has barbecues and wheelchair accessible toilets and is a great place to enjoy a picnic and walk. For walk details see [npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/amamoor/about.html#things\\_to\\_do](http://npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/amamoor/about.html#things_to_do). Wheelchair accessible toilets and a public phone are provided at Cedar Grove camping area. There is also a choice of flat grassy sites at Amamoor Creek camping area.

## IMBIL STATE FOREST

Luxuriant rainforest, tall eucalypt forest, mosaics of plantation forest, waterfalls, boulder-strewn creeks and spectacular scenery make this area well worth a visit. The Fig Tree walk is a 780m circuit is sealed including some sections of boardwalk and is wheelchair friendly. For more details see [npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/imbil/about.html](http://npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/imbil/about.html)

## MUDLO NATIONAL PARK

From Kilkivan take an 8km drive north to Mudlo Gap for excellent views. This national park protects one of the area's few remaining stands of Hoop Pine rainforest. Enjoy a picnic and walk beside Scrubby Creek. The Mudlo Gap track is steep with many steps.

## WOONDUM FOREST

Walk through rainforest and rock-hop across Boulder Creek. Amenities and a small picnic area is provided beside cascading rockpools.

Camping Permits are required. For more information and Camping Permit bookings visit [npsr.qld.gov.au](http://npsr.qld.gov.au)

Amamoor State Forest Rainforest Walk

# CARAVANNING & CAMPING

Experience one of Queensland's premier caravanning and camping destinations.

WITH A NUMBER OF CAMPING, CARAVANNING AND RV SITES THROUGHOUT THE REGION, THE GYMPIE REGION IS A PERFECT PLACE TO GET OUT AND EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS.

Offering a choice between beach and bush and the opportunity to experience both with only a short drive in between, it is no wonder that camping is one of the most popular activities in the Gympie region. Inskip Peninsula Recreation Area and Great Sandy National Park, Cooloola and Fraser Island sections, are the top camping destinations in Queensland.

The Gympie region is a well-known destination for those who prefer to tow or drive their accommodation options too. Many of the camp sites have caravan and RV access and the region is dotted with caravan and RV sites offering

all amenities. Additionally, a number of caravan parks offer storage options too.

With several organised campsites plus the Amamoor State Forest, Cooloola Coast and Inskip Peninsula, your camping options are covered.

Nature is the hero when you camp in the Gympie region. Sleeping under the stars and waking up to the sound of wildlife or the ocean is a magical experience.

Camping Permits are required, visit [npsr.qld.gov.au](http://npsr.qld.gov.au)

# COOLOOLA COAST FRASER ISLAND TOURIST DRIVE

THE COOLOOLA COAST FRASER ISLAND TOURIST DRIVE WILL TAKE YOU ON A JOURNEY FROM ONE AQUATIC PLAYGROUND TO ANOTHER THROUGH THE UNESCO RECOGNISED GREAT SANDY BIOSPHERE AND A UNIQUE ECO COASTAL SYSTEM KNOWN AS THE GREAT SANDY STRAIT.



Sunset at Inskip Point

Meandering between Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach the Cooloola Coast Fraser Island Tourist Drive is a great nature based drive that links two iconic seaside destinations.

Start your drive at Nelson Point, which is home to the local Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphins that visit every morning around 7:30am. Take the rare chance to participate in a supervised dolphin feeding activity before breakfast. After breakfast take a walk around the waterfront and along the Tin Can Bay Wildflower Walk to the wetlands and view the many unique and rare bird species that live in this special eco system called the Great Sandy Strait.

Once you have looked around Tin Can Bay, drive along the Ghost Gumtree lined road for approximately 10km to the turn off to Rainbow Beach.

You have now entered the Great Sandy National Park, Cooloola section. Wild and beautiful, the park offers some of the best 4WD trails in Queensland. Staying on the road to Rainbow Beach you will pass a variety of bush systems and species as the road winds and rolls along towards the coastal playground of Rainbow Beach.

Stop and explore Searys Creek (8km before Rainbow Beach) and swim in the clear water. The flat boardwalk and accessible shallow water at Seary's Creek makes this site wheelchair friendly and a popular swimming spot for young families.

For those who want more adventure, a couple of kilometres before Rainbow Beach is Freshwater Road 4WD track. The track is gravel but 2WD accessible to Bymien day-use area before becoming a 4WD only track that will

take you through rainforest and coastal dunes to Teewah Beach south of Double Island Point.

Rainbow Beach is a true coastal gem that retains its character from the 1980s with a few more modern additions. Along the main street stop and enjoy a coffee and snack at one of the cafés, before strolling down to the beach for the view around to Double Island Point.

One of the must visits of Rainbow Beach are the towering cliffs of coloured sands. The coloured sands in the cliff face gave Rainbow Beach its name and they can be accessed by driving 4WD only (Vehicle Access Permit is required - visit [npsr.qld.gov.au](http://npsr.qld.gov.au))

Rainbow Beach is a great adventure destination, where you have your choice of skydiving, surfing, kayaking with dolphins and sometimes whales, scuba diving with Grey Nurse sharks or horse riding along the beach front.

To continue on the tourist drive follow the signs in Rainbow Beach to Inskip Peninsula.

Inskip Peninsula Recreation Area is a beach camping area that is just across from the famous World Heritage listed Fraser Island. Inskip Peninsula is a popular destination as it offers both open ocean surf and the sheltered estuary waters of Tin Can Bay and the Great Sandy Strait.

Just north of the recreation area the Cooloola Coast Fraser Island Tourist Drive ends. From here you can catch the Mantaray Barge across to Fraser Island K'gari for more fun and adventure.



Great Beach Drive, Rainbow Beach

## GREAT BEACH DRIVE

IMAGINE THE FREEDOM AND PURE EXHILARATION OF DRIVING ON ONE OF THE LONGEST BEACH DRIVES IN THE WORLD WITH THE SPARKLING PACIFIC OCEAN ON ONE SIDE AND COASTAL DUNES AND NATURAL AUSTRALIAN BUSHLAND ON THE OTHER. ESCAPE THE BORING BITUMEN AND TRY A UNIQUE ONCE IN A LIFE TIME DRIVING EXPERIENCE ON THE GREAT BEACH DRIVE!

The Great Beach Drive connects the Sunshine Coast and the Gympie region with Fraser Island K'gari. With wide stretches of beach as your road, you'll be driving in a rare natural environment where you will witness whales, dolphins, turtles and rare bird species. This tourist drive is steeped in Australian indigenous and pioneering history and encompasses two UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, a World Heritage Area, national parks and the largest sand island in the world.

Whether you prefer luxury accommodation, camping under the stars, or you're simply ready for an adventure, the Great Beach Drive has something for you. Hire a 4WD vehicle, or for those who want the experience of driving on sand but with the added reassurance of a trained guide close by, tag-along tours offer a great compromise. Fully guided touring itineraries are offered by a number of companies from budget to luxury.

Before departing visit [npsr.qld.gov.au](http://npsr.qld.gov.au) or check in with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service at the Great Sandy Information Centre (240 Moorindil Street, Tewantin) to purchase Vehicle and Camping Permits, check weather, sand conditions and tide times.

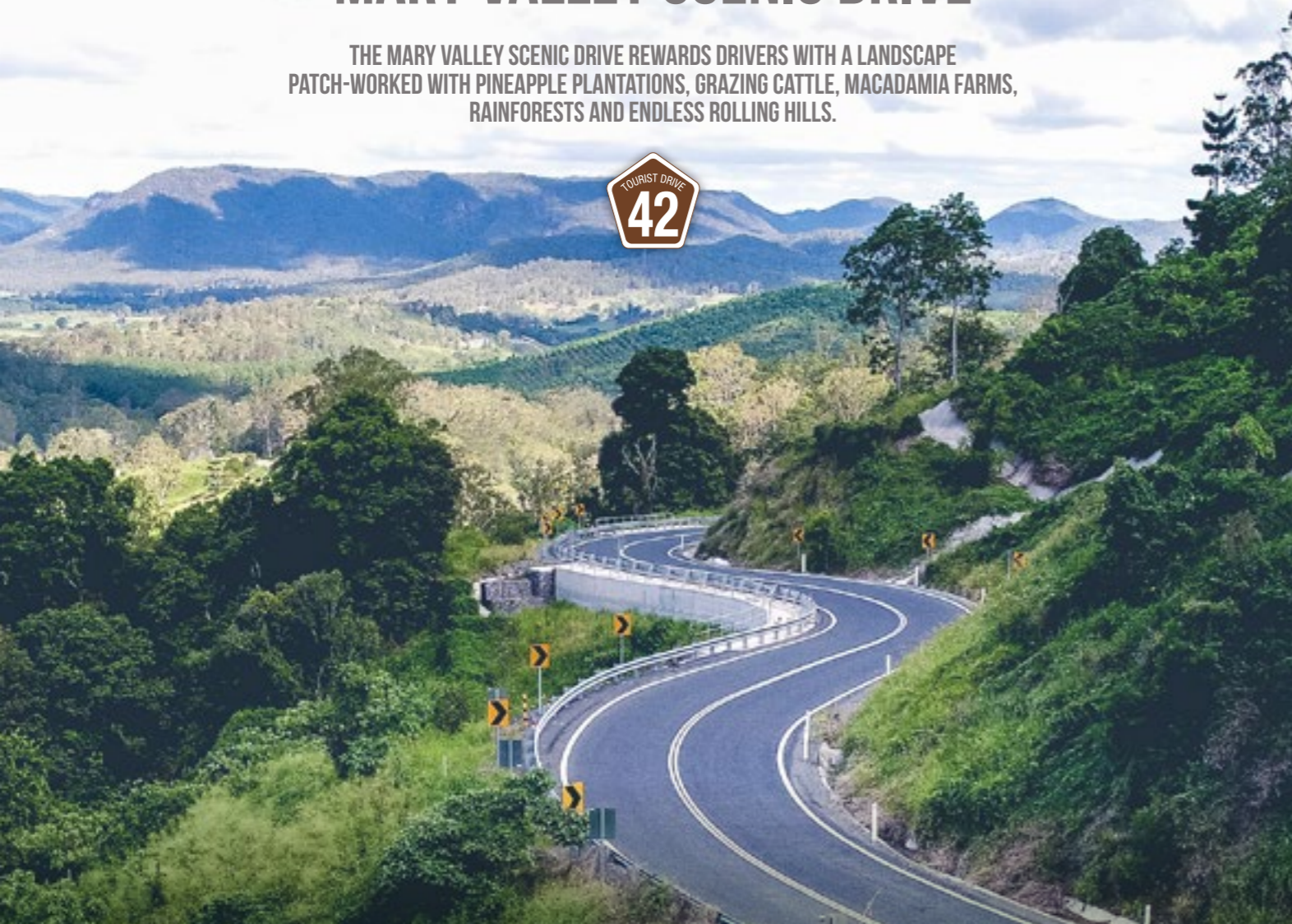
Begin your journey at the vehicle ferry from Noosa to Noosa North Shore, southern gateway to the Great Beach Drive and Cooloola Recreation Area. Take the third sand exit onto one of the most exhilarating drives in the world.

You have passed through the Noosa Biosphere and are now entering the Great Sandy Biosphere, stop for a picnic morning tea at the coloured sands at Teewah. Continue north to Double Island Point where you can climb the hill to the lighthouse for a magnificent view from Noosa to Fraser Island K'gari. Take the short Leisha Track and cross from the exposed Teewah coast to the sheltered bay of Rainbow Beach. Here you can surf one of the best waves in Australia, on some days the ride can be over 400m. You can also kayak with dolphin pods and migrating whales in these calm waters.

Continuing to the town of Rainbow Beach you will pass tall sand cliffs that have over 70 different colours. Rainbow Beach is a great place to stop and put your feet up after your exhilarating journey. The next day you can drive the short distance to Inskip Peninsula Recreation Area, which is the southern gateway to World Heritage listed Fraser Island K'gari, where you can continue your Beach Drive experience. For more information visit [australiasnaturecoast.com/ltineraries/Great-Beach-Drive](http://australiasnaturecoast.com/ltineraries/Great-Beach-Drive)

# MARY VALLEY SCENIC DRIVE

THE MARY VALLEY SCENIC DRIVE REWARDS DRIVERS WITH A LANDSCAPE PATCH-WORKED WITH PINEAPPLE PLANTATIONS, GRAZING CATTLE, MACADAMIA FARMS, RAINFORESTS AND ENDLESS ROLLING HILLS.



If you are heading north out of Brisbane take exit 244 off the Bruce Highway onto the Old Bruce Highway before turning left onto Kenilworth Skyring Creek Road. This road will rise to a lookout point before dropping to cross Chinaman's Creek Bridge. Turn right onto Tuchekoi Road and notice how the landscape has changed from light forest to grazing pastures. At the intersection of Mary Valley Road look out for the old barn which is popular with photographers. Turn left and make your way to the village of Imbil. Imbil is a quaint and modest village with a Sunday market and is situated on the banks of the Yabba Creek.

Imbil grew out of a strong timber industry and the region still boasts one of the few remaining Hoop Pine forests in Australia. Experience the history of the Imbil Museum or picnic on the village green where the historic Timberman's Walk weaves between old Jacaranda trees. In spring the colours are amazing.

You can also explore the local antiques and art culture, before picnicking on the shores of Borumba Dam. It is just 15 minutes drive inland from Imbil.

Winding road in the Mary Valley

Crossing Yabba Creek drive north along Imbil-Kandanga Road and note how the scenery switches from rolling wooded hills to rich pastures and herds of grazing cattle. Kandanga has a large rest stop area on the edge of town, perfect to pull over and have a cuppa. Take a few minutes to drive into the village which was the headquarters for the region's anti-dam protest.

Back on the road travel north for about a kilometre and you'll reach the turnoff to Amamoor. The Amamoor State Forest makes a picturesque home for the Gympie Music Muster, with people travelling from all over Australia to experience this unique 4 day music festival. Amamoor Creek provides excellent bird and platypus watching opportunities and walking tracks. Just down the road from Amamoor is the village of Dagun. Here you can inspect one of the few remaining working sawmills in the region. Leaving Dagun the scenic route leads you past Jones Hill into historic Gympie.

At the end of your journey, you may wish to relax with a glass of wine at one of the many country style B&Bs, or even at a rustic cabin retreat where a warm bath, country hospitality and a locally made dinner await you, or continue on to the Gympie City Tourist Drive.

# GYMPIE CITY TOURIST DRIVE

TURN OFF THE HIGHWAY AND BECOME ENRICHED WITH THE HERITAGE AND EXPERIENCES AWAITING YOU ALONG THE GYMPIE CITY TOURIST DRIVE - THE GOLDEN HERITAGE DRIVE. FOLLOW SIGN 40 THROUGH THE HISTORIC CITY OF GYMPIE.



Driving north from Brisbane the tourist drive starts at the intersection of the Bruce Highway and Brisbane Road. Brisbane Road is landmarked with signs to Rainbow Beach and Tin Can Bay. Turning on to Brisbane Road the first point of interest is less than one kilometre into the drive - The Gympie Gold Mining and Historic Museum. Here you can follow the story of Gympie's establishment as it evolved into a thriving gold mining town and gained the reputation as the town that saved Queensland.

Before continuing take a moment to stretch your legs with a walk around beautiful Lake Alford.

After approximately 2kms, Red Hill Road (now Caledonian Hill Road) will take you down a hill into the heart of Gympie. On the right is the Town Hall, which stands on the site of the discovery of gold by James Nash in 1867.

Turn left at the roundabout, then immediately right into Young Street. Travel to the end of Young Street and at the roundabout turn right onto River Road. On your right is Memorial Park. Memorial Park is peaceful oasis in the city and comes alive with colour in spring when the Jacaranda and Silky Oaks are in full bloom. Walk through Memorial

Lane to Mary Street. This is the 'town centre' where you will find a number of cafés and shops to browse.

Back in the car turn right onto Monkland Street, go straight through the first roundabout and at the traffic lights turn left and head away from the town centre up Mary Street.

In a few minutes you pass from business shops, to suburbs and then out to rural estates. As Duke Street merges with Corella Drive note the cemetery on your right. Spend some time exploring history and visit some of the pioneer headstones dating back to 1869.

Turning left off Corella Drive onto Fraser Drive you will soon come to the last stop on the Gympie City Tourist Drive - the Gympie Woodworks Museum and Interpretive Centre. Showcasing Gympie's past as a timber and grazing town, the museum has live demonstrations, science-based education and state-of-the-art interpretation.

The Gympie City Tourist Drive provides a great insight into the heritage of Gympie and the region and is a welcome break from the Bruce Highway.



Rotunda, Memorial Park Gympie

# MARKETS

YOU ARE GUARANTEED TO FIND A MARKET SOMEWHERE IN THE GYMPIE REGION. SPEND SOME TIME BROWSING THROUGH THE VARIOUS STALLS LADEN WITH LOCALLY GROWN AND ORGANIC PRODUCE FRESH FROM THE FARM GATE, FRESHLY BAKED GOODIES AND HAND-MADE CREATIONS.

## GYMPIE AND SURROUNDS

### Gympie Town Centre Growers Market

Gold City Stage, Mary Street, Gympie, every Wednesday 8am - 1pm. Local growers and producers sell their fresh-picked harvest direct to the public. There's fruit and vegetables, smallgoods, preserves, skincare, sweet treats and much more on display for you to taste, experience, create and enjoy.

### Gympie Southside Markets

Gympie South State School, Exhibition Road, every 2nd and 4th Sunday, 7am - 12 noon. This is one of the largest markets in the region.

### Gympie Museum Markets

Lake Alford Duck Ponds, every 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday, 7am - 12 noon. Enjoy live music whilst browsing through the extensive array of stalls.

## KILKIVAN

### Kilkivan Markets

Kilkivan Railway Station, every Sunday 7am - 12 noon.

## MARY VALLEY

### Dagun Growers Market

Every Saturday from 3pm. Local fresh seasonal fruit and veg, fresh baked bread, preserves, locally grown coffee, Moffatdale wines and liqueurs.

### Imbil Country Markets

Central Park, Yabba Road, every Sunday 8am - 1pm. Preserves, local produce and hand-made crafts.

## COOLOOLA COAST

### Tin Can Bay Markets

RSL Community Hall, Gympie Road, 3rd Saturday of every month 8am - 12 noon. Produce, plants, crafts and kids activities.

### Coolooloa Cove Markets

Veterans and Community Hall, Nautilus Drive, Coolooloa Cove, 1st Saturday of every month 7am - 11:30am.











### Rainbow Beach Markets

Rainbow Beach Sports Club, Turana St, 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month 9am - 12 noon.

# EVENTS ALWAYS ON











THE GYMPIE REGION HOSTS A VARIETY OF EVENTS AND FESTIVALS THAT CELEBRATE THE BEST OF OUR LIFESTYLE FROM YACHTING REGATTAS AND FISHING CLASSICS TO MUSIC, ART AND FOOD FESTIVALS AND MUCH MORE.

For more information on events below visit [gympie.qld.gov.au/events](http://gympie.qld.gov.au/events)

	<b>JANUARY</b>	Australia Day Celebrations	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Bull & Bronc Spectacular 
<b>MARCH</b>	Goomeri Show 	<b>APRIL</b>	Kilkivan Great Horse Ride 	Widgee Country Music Festival Easter on Mary
	<b>MAY</b>	Gympie GourMAY Bay to Bay Yacht Race		Gympie District Show Goomeri Pumpkin Festival
<b>JUNE</b>	Mary Valley Art Festival	<b>MUSTER</b> 	<b>AUGUST</b>	Mary Valley Country Show Gympie Music Muster
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Mitchell Creek Rock n Blues Festival Coolooloa Farm Trail	<b>OCTOBER</b>	Rush Festival 	Mary Valley Scarecrow Festival
	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Mary Valley Fishing Classic Mary River Festival	<b>DECEMBER</b>	Christmas on Mary Goomeri Rodeo 



Legend:

-  The Gympie region
-  Bruce Highway
-  Great Beach Drive
-  Mary Valley Scenic Drive
-  Cooloola Coast Fraser Island Tourist Drive
-  Beach Driving
-  Vehicle Ferry
-  Protected Areas - national parks, recreation areas, state forests
-  Patrolled Beach
-  Wine Region

Distances travelling to Gympie City by car:

Borumba Dam	52 kms	55 mins
Brisbane	169 kms	2 hours
Caloundra	95 kms	1 hr 10 mins
Goomeri	76 kms	55 mins
Hervey Bay	126 kms	1 hr 35 mins
Imbil	42 kms	35 mins
Kilkivan	50 kms	40 mins
Maryborough	88 kms	1 hour
Mooloolaba	86 kms	1 hour
Noosa	68 kms	45 mins
Rainbow Beach	73 kms	55 mins
Tin Can Bay	51 kms	40 mins

Rainbow Beach





As the Regional Tourism Organisation, Visit Sunshine Coast is responsible for a geographical area that encompasses the Glass House Mountains in the south, to Rainbow Beach in the north, the Hinterland and Mary Valley to the west and includes three council regions - Sunshine Coast, Noosa and Gympie.

### Discover the natural treasures of the Sunshine Coast

#### Sunshine Coast Airport to...

Caloundra.....	30 mins
Mooloolaba.....	15 mins
Maroochydore.....	15 mins
Maleny.....	45 mins
Montville.....	30 mins
Glass House Mountains.....	40 mins
Nambour.....	20 mins
Mapleton.....	30 mins
Coolool Beach.....	10 mins
Eumundi.....	20 mins
Noosa Heads.....	30 mins
Gympie.....	45 mins
Tin Can Bay.....	1 hr 20 mins
Rainbow Beach.....	1 hr 40 mins
Double Island Point (4WD only).....	1 hr 40 mins
Fraser Island (Inskip Point).....	1 hr 50 mins

#### Brisbane Airport to...

Glass House Mountains.....	50 mins
Caloundra.....	1 hr 10 mins
Mooloolaba.....	1 hr 15 mins
Maroochydore.....	1 hr 15 mins
Maleny.....	1 hr 10 mins
Montville.....	1 hr 15 mins
Nambour.....	1 hr 15 mins
Coolool Beach.....	1 hr 20 mins
Noosa Heads.....	1 hr 30 mins
Gympie.....	1 hr 45 mins
Rainbow Beach.....	2 hr 30 mins
Double Island Point (4WD only).....	3 hrs
Fraser Island (Inskip Point).....	2 hr 50 mins

\*Driving times are indicative only and may vary depending on traffic and road conditions.



Let us help you discover more about the Gympie region  
 Stop by our **Lake Alford** accredited Visitor Information Centre  
 24 Bruce Highway, Gympie

Open 9am-4pm Monday to Saturday & 10am-2pm Sundays and public holidays. Freecall 1800 444 222

