



## Accessibility Guide to the Sunshine Coast

The Sunshine Coast Stretches from the coastal city of Caloundra, near Brisbane, to the Great Sandy National Park in the north. The coast not only has over 100km of white sandy beaches but also has heritage-listed rainforests and national parks and is dotted with historic villages.

### Getting There

The Sunshine Coast airport is centrally located at Maroocha. It has direct flights from all major cities in Australia and is serviced by Jetstar, Virgin, Qantas and Alliance Airlines. The Sunshine Coast is 100km north of Brisbane along the M1. The Sunshine Motorway provides a connection between Mooloolaba and Noosaville.

### Coastal Towns

#### Noosaville



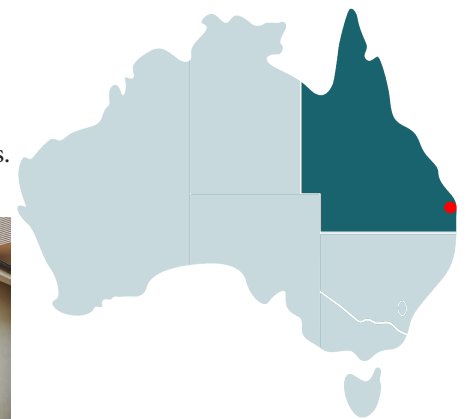
Situated on the banks of the Noosa River, Noosaville has a laid-back atmosphere of a marine holiday village. Gympie Street runs along the foreshore with parklands and jetties. There are numerous cafes along the

river's edge and on the opposite side of the road. There is designated disabled parking in the main car park. The paths through the parklands are all concrete and picnic facilities are located right along the foreshore. Pelican Boat Hire has wheelchair accessible pontoon boats for hire. The jetty kiosk and shop all have level entry from the park. The Noosa Boathouse offers a unique floating dining experience. It has an accessible toilet and offers both eat-in and takeaway fish and chips. The boathouse has ramped level access.

#### Noosa Heads



Noosa Heads is the epitome of elegant sophistication in a laid-back tropical beach environment. The iconic Hastings Street is





the heart and soul of Noosa. Lined with shops, bars, cafes and restaurants Noosa has something for all budgets. Hastings street is easy to navigate for people using mobility aids. Most shops have level entry or are ramped. The main street is at footpath level making crossing easy. All crossing points have tactile markings to assist people with low vision. A lift is provided for access to the Sebel upper level and reception. Seating is provided at regular intervals along Hastings Street.

### **Noosa Main Beach and Boardwalk**



The Noosa Main Beach is one of the few north-facing beaches along Australia's east coast. It stretches the full length of the Noosa Heads township and onto the mouth of the Noosa River. The Parade, a wooden boardwalk stretches the length of the village. Accessible parking is available at the lifesaving club and off Park Street at the eastern end of the town. Accessible toilets are available at the lifesaving club car park. Beach matting, from the boardwalk to the water's edge is installed at the lifesaving club and a beach wheelchair is available from the lifesaving station on the beach.

### **Coolum Beach**



20 kilometres south of Noosa is Coolum Beach, a pretty coastal village with an accessible patrolled beach. The beach is backed by a strip shopping precinct and outdoor food court. Along the clifftop is a coastal boardwalk. Disabled parking is available adjacent to the ramp leading down to the lifesaving club. Beach matting is provided and a beach wheelchair is available on request. The matting leads from the concrete forecourt to the hard sand at the water's edge. Accessible toilets are available at the club. There a wheelchair accessible drinking fountain. Road crossings have shallow curb cuts and tactile protection. The town has a wide pedestrian footpath with all shops and cafes having a wide level entry. An accessible toilet is available at the food court. The outdoor dining areas all have wide spacing and movable chairs.

### **Maroochydore**

Maroochydore is a major service centre for the Sunshine Coast. It boasts the Sunshine Plaza, which is the largest shopping centre in the region with over 200 shops. It is often referred to as the Venice of Queensland as the centre is split by an inlet of the Maroochy River. On the

banks of the river is Cotton Tree Park.

The park is a favourite destination for families. It contains the Cenotaph, War Memorial, two piers, picnic tables and accessible toilet facilities. All the paths through the park are concrete and level with level access to both piers. Access to the water is beside the jetty and while there is no beach matting the distance to the water is very short. At the western end of Cotton Tree Park is Black Swan Park which contains the Boat Shed Restaurant and Takeaway. The Maroochy Surf Club is located in Alexandra Parade. The surf club has accessible toilets and an accessible shower with a fixed fold-down shower bench. A short matting ramp leads to the top of the soft sand. A beach wheelchair is available from the club during patrol hours.

### **Mooloolaba**



Located just 97 kilometres north of Brisbane Mooloolaba's pure white beach has been voted the fourth best beach in Australia. It is an ideal location for people and families of all ages.

### **The Esplanade**

The Mooloolaba Esplanade is a great shopping destination and a place to go for a cup of coffee or a meal. There are



speciality shops selling jewellery and gifts for the perfect holiday memento. Disabled parking is available in the centre median with easy ramped access across to the coastal boardwalk or the shopping strip and parallel parking along the shopping strip. At the southern end of the Esplanade is Seashells Park and the Iconic Loo with a View lookout. There is ramped access to the lookout. Accessible picnic tables and BBQs are available in the park. The Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving club patrols the beach to the south of Seashells Park. A concrete ramp and beach matting are provided during patrol hours and a beach wheelchair is available from the club. The main shopping strip is serviced by a wide level footpath with level access into most of the shops and cafes. Outdoor dining is available along the length of the precinct all with movable seating to cater for wheelchair and mobility device users.

### *The Wharf*



One of Mooloolaba's key draw cards is the recently refurbished wharf precinct. It has retail, dining, entertainment, adventure and educational activities overlooking the Mooloolaba river and the marina. The centre is level throughout with wide passageways and level entry to all shops

and dining venues. Ramps provide access to the floating jetties. The Wharf is two stories with a large elevator providing access to the upper level. A newly upgraded accessible toilet is available on the lower level next to the elevator.

### *The Spit*

Accessed from either the Wharf or from Seashells Park is the level pathway that leads to the rock wall at the end of the spit and entrance to the Mooloolaba River. It is a leisurely stroll with plenty of shade trees. The surface of the path is concrete.

### *Caloundra*



Caloundra is located at the southern end of the Sunshine Coast and is a destination of choice for families and couples. In addition to its ocean beaches, Kings Beach in particular is a highly regarded surf beach, it has safe family-friendly beaches inside the Pumicestone Passage. Bulcock Beach is situated on the Esplanade, just inside the entrance to the Pumicestone Passage. It is a sheltered patrolled south-facing beach with a wheelchair access ramp next to the lifesaving club. Disabled parking is available next to the lifesaving club. There is a promenade right along the beach. The path is concrete and runs

right out to Happy Valley Beach Park on the point. The path continues on a boardwalk right around to Kings Beach. The Happy Valley Beach park has disabled parking and accessible toilets. There is also a concrete access ramp to the beach which makes it a good location for fishing. There are several dining options along the Esplanade, all with level entry from the footpath. Kings Beach has a reputation for being one of the best body surfing beaches in Australia. The beach is patrolled during the season. There is an access ramp to the beach and the lifesaving club has beach matting and a beach wheelchair. In front of the club is a sheltered platform giving a great view across the beach. Also located at Kings Beach is the heritage-listed Kings Beach Bathing Pavillion which was built in 1937. The Pavillion has accessible toilets and change rooms. The pool has ramped access to the deck and ramped access into the water. Next to the pool is a splash fountain and water play area.

### **Attractions**

#### *Eumundi Markets*



Eumundi is located 20 minutes inland from the coast. The town is lined with historic buildings.



Every Saturday and Wednesday the historic town of Eumundi explodes with the Eumundi markets. The markets were established in 1979 and have now become a world-renowned attraction with over 600 stalls. The market has a policy of “make it, bake it, design it, sew it or grow it” to ensure quality and locally produced goods.

Disabled parking is available at the Eumundi Square and in Memorial Drive. Ramped access to the market area is available through Longeran Ln and via ramps opposite Gridley Street. Accessible toilets are located in Memorial Dr next to the access ramp and in Cick Caplick Park next to the markets. The park also has accessible picnic tables and accessible BBQ facilities. The market is terraced but gentle ramps link all levels. Paths through the market are asphalt or paved with the exception of the Eumundi Square where the inner courtyard is fine crushed rock. The cafes all have ramped access or disabled entry from Memorial Drive.

### **The Ginger Factory**



The Ginger Factory is located in Yandina, about 20 minutes inland from the coast

and is one of the Sunshine Coasts’ most popular attractions. The factory is open daily and features a ginger store, cafe, factory tours, an undercover playground, a Gruffalo Trail and a ride on the 120 year old historic train Moreton around the grounds in open carriages. All areas of the Ginger Factory are paved concrete. The cafe is open with movable chairs at all tables. The entry to the factory tour is ramped and a ramp leads to the train platform. The final carriage of the train has a wide loading area suitable for most wheelchairs or mobility aids. Entry to the carriage is level. There is an accessible toilet and a quiet/parents’ room.

### **Sealife**



Situated right on the Wharf at Mooloolaba is the award-winning Sea Life Aquarium. Sea Life and a new immersive experience with a colony of Little Blue Penguins, an Australian Sea Lion display, touch tanks, and an 80 metre walk through tunnel. It is home to over 10,000 sea creatures. Disabled parking is available in the main car park at the wharf. Access to the aquarium is via a ramp and wide double entry doors. All tanks and exhibits have

glass fronts and are visible from a seated position. The touch tanks offer a tactile experience and can be reached by children or visitors using a wheelchair from a seated position. Access between levels is via a wide gentle ramp and the 80 metre tunnel has level access and wide walkway. The auditorium and seal display area has dedicated wheelchair seating positions. The aquarium has an accessible toilet facility which also contains a full adult change table.

### **The Banana Bender Pub**



Located next to Aussie World the Banana Bender Pub is Queensland’s quirkiest pub. Its decor is quintessentially Australian celebrating the essence of the Sunshine coast from surfing with a kangaroo, to its outback gas station bar and beach chair beer garden it offers a relaxed laid back atmosphere. Disabled parking is available in the Aussie World car park with wide ramped access to the entrance to the pub. Inside there is ample room in all spaces. All level changes in the beer garden are ramped. A lift is available to the second floor function and dining space. The pub has a full accessible toilet located on the



ground floor and a second accessible bathroom on the first floor next to the lift. The dining menus have vegetarian, vegan, gluten free and dairy free options. On both the ground floor and upper level there are some quiet private spaces.

### **Australia Zoo**



Australia Zoo was established in 1970 as the Beerwah Reptile Park, Australia Zoo now occupies over 700 acres, 110 of which is available to the public. Housing over 1200 animals the park is divided into a number of zones from Australiana, African Savanna, Southeast Asia, Tropical Wetlands, kids waterplay area and the famous Crocoseum with its crocodile show. Designated disabled parking is available in the first row of the car park with a level walkway to the main entrance. Wheelchairs and motorized scooters are available for hire. The park covers a large area. All pathways through the park are asphalt and all are gently sloping. Seats and shelter are provided at regular intervals. An accessible shuttle bus runs from "Africa" to the main entry building. Accessible toilets are located throughout the park and are clearly marked on

the park map. All exhibits have floor level glass fronts. The Crocoseum has designated wheelchair seating positions on the upper level with ramp and lift access between the ground and upper level. All animal encounters are wheelchair accessible. A Changing Places Adult Change Facility is located adjacent to the main building in the Australian Reptile section of the park.

### **Parks and Gardens**

#### **Noosa Botanic Gardens**



The Noosa Botanic Gardens is located a 25 minute drive inland from Noosa Heads on the banks of Lake MacDonal. The gardens are a great place for a walk or picnic. The gardens feature a rainforest, numerous ponds, a zen garden, a shade garden with a large collection of ferns, a bush chapel, open lawns and a spectacular amphitheatre. The pathways through the garden are all paved. The slopes throughout the gardens are gentle, especially along the signed green trail. The amphitheatre has wheelchair positions at the end of the entry paths on both sides. An accessible toilet is available near the car park.

#### **Noosa National Park**



The Noosa National Park is located on the headland beyond the Noosa Heads Main Beach. The park offers spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean and is surrounded by stands of eucalypt forest, woodland, melaleuca wetland and wallum heath. The trailhead is at the end of Park Rd where there is designated disabled parking adjacent to the park entrance. The path is concrete and smooth. It offers step free access through to Dolphin Point. Beyond Dolphin Point the trail contains steps. The slopes are mostly gentle with a couple of moderate sections around Boiling Pot. Accessible toilets are located at Tea Tree bay.

#### **Glass House Mountains**

In the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast lie the 11 peaks that make up the Glass House Mountains. The mountains are remnant volcanic plugs. The mountains were named by Lieutenant James Cook during his epic voyage along Australia's east coast.

#### **Glass House Mountains Information Centre**

The Glasshouse Mountains Visitor and Interpretive Centre is located in Settlers



Rotary Park on the corner of Bruce Parade and Steve Irwin Way in the Glasshouse Mountains. The centre is a good first stop. In addition to a wealth of information, the centre has an accessible toilet. Ramps lead from the car park into the centre.

### ***Glass House Mountains Lookout***



The Glass House Mountains Lookout is in the Beerburrum West State Forest and can be accessed from the Glass House-Woodford Road. The lookout provides panoramic views across the Glass House Mountains to Moreton Bay. Disabled parking is available at the top of the parking area. The main lookout is level with level access from the car park. The surface is concrete and the information signs can be read by people of all abilities. The display area around the fire lookout tower is reached by a gently sloping concrete path. The picnic shelter contains an accessible picnic table and BBQ on a concrete pad. An accessible toilet is available.

### ***Mount Tibrogargan Lookout***

Mount Tibrogargan is located between Beerburrum and Glass House Mountains townships, off Marshs and Barrs Roads.

The lookout car park is the trailhead for the Mount Tibrogargan Circuit, a 3.2 kilometre walk around the base of the mountain. The entire circuit is a class three trail which numerous steps. There is a short section that leads to the lookout which is 500 metres in length. There are some steps involved in this section at the start of the track and three steps on either side of the water course just before the lookout. It is not suitable for wheelchair users but can be managed by slow walkers. There is a rest stop and seats at the lookout which gives an excellent view of Mount Tibrogargan. There is a designated disabled parking space at the end of the car park. The visitors day area has an accessible toilet and accessible picnic tables.

### ***Ewen Maddock Ornamental Wetlands***



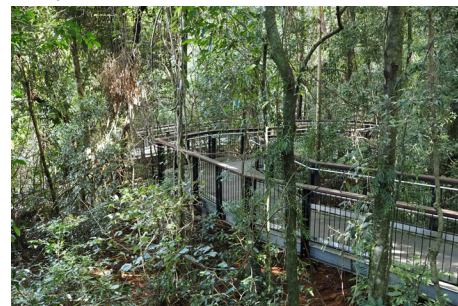
Located on the southern side of the dam off Steve Irwin Way is the Ewen Maddock Ornamental Wetlands. The site has a short concrete trail that to and through the wetlands. Over the wetlands, the trail features edge protection. The trail is flat and smooth throughout. Accessible picnic tables are located just beyond the wetland.

A gravel path leads to the banks of the lake. An accessible toilet is located in the car park.

### ***Ewen Maddock Dam***

On the northern side of the dam is Maddock Park, located next to the dam wall off Mooloolah Connection Road. This site has disabled parking, a playground, accessible toilets and access to the water by a concrete path right into the water at the designated swimming location. Accessible picnic tables are also provided at this location. A short overwater boardwalk gives great views over the dam and is also a place for easily accessible fishing.

### ***Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve***



The Mary Cairncross Reserve is located on the Blackall Range east of Maleny on Mountain View Road. The 100 acre site was gifted to the local council in 1941 with aim of preserving the rainforest in perpetuity. Disabled parking is provided in the main car park nearest the visitors centre. The centre has a cafe with wide entry doors and an accessible toilet. An observation deck on the upper level provides a stunning view over the hinterland to the coast. The deck can be



reached by either a lift or by following the wheelchair accessible Glider Gallery Walk. The discovery centre information gallery and the rainforest walks are accessed by a gold coin donation. The information centre is well laid out with displays in both written and pictorial form. The rainforest has three loops. The rainforest loop is the full loop and is 1.7 kilometres long. The Pademelon Loop is 1.3km long as is the Piccabeen Loop. Both of the latter loops share common sections with the Rainforest Loop. The Pademelon Loop is step free and is suitable for people of all abilities including wheelchair users. The slopes are gentle and the surface is smooth hard packed gravel. Seating is provided at regular intervals along the path. The full Rainforest Loop and the Piccabeen Loop contain steps in multi-step sets. Accessible picnic tables are available next to the discovery centre. For children, there is also a short butterfly discovery walk and observation deck that are step free.

### **Mapleton Falls Lookout**



Mapleton Falls is located in Mapleton National Park just 40 minutes drive inland from the coast.

Next to the car park, is a wheelchair accessible lookout that provides spectacular views over the Obi Obi valley and the rainforest canopy below. The falls are fed by the Pencil Creek and cascade down a 120 metre slate rock face. Located adjacent to the information board is an accessible toilet.

### **Charlie Moreland Imbil State Forest**



Located 11km west of Kenilworth and 40km north west of Malaney in the Imbil State Forest, this park owes its existence and name to the foresight of Senior Forest Ranger Charlie Moreland to leave buffers along the watercourses and areas of natural forest. The 40 hectare site was officially set aside in 1995. The is culturally significant to the Kabi Kabi First Nations People, the traditional owners of the region. The park has accessible toilets, accessible picnic tables and lower level BBQs. The path to the Little Yabba Creek is fine crushed rock leading to a sandy beach and safe swimming waterhole. In addition to the day use picnic area there is also a level grassed camping area.

### **Gardners Falls**

Located on the Obi Obi Creek, Gardners

Falls is an ideal location for a day out in the hinterland and a family picnic or a day of quiet contemplation. The park is located on Obi Lane South, a 5 minute drive from the township of Maleny. The car park gives direct access to the path along the river which is asphalt and smooth right until the first set of falls. The slope is gentle throughout. All along the path, there is a wide grassy bank leading to the river with shallow, safe swimming areas. From the upper falls, the path becomes rocky and steep to the second set of falls and is not suitable for people with disabilities. Accessible toilets are available at the car park.

### **Obi Obi Boardwalk**



The Obi Obi Boardwalk is located in the township of Maleny and begins immediately adjacent to the bridge over the river. Disabled parking is available at the Riverside Centre Shopping Mall next to the creek. The boardwalk is 900 metres in length and is a mixture of wooden boardwalk, concrete paths and a short gravel section to the platypus viewing platform. Along the path are the Peace in the Trees Sculptures made by



different artists inviting the visitor to stop and reflect. A wooden viewing platform is at the end of the boardwalk which is a perfect place to look for the local platypuses. Accessible toilets are available in Tesch Park at the start of the trail. There is an accessible underpass under the road.

### **Maleny Botanic Garden and Bird World**



Maleny Botanic Gardens and Bird World is perched high on the escarpment with breathtaking views over the hinterland. The gardens occupy 18 hectares of the 110 acre property and include waterfalls, ponds, colourful plantings and unique rock formations. The four walk through bird aviaries house over 700 native and exotic birds from around the world. The gardens are built on a steep site which may pose some challenges for people with limited mobility. Disabled parking is available next to the visitors' centre. Accessible toilets are available adjacent to the centre. Entry to the centre and cafe is level. The four bird aviaries are wheelchair accessible. Golf buggies are available for hire and are recommended to explore the gardens fully. Wheelchair users would need to be able to transfer into the buggy.

### **The Barrel at Clouds Vineyard**



Situated high on the escarpment, The Barrel is a unique venue for lunch. As the name suggests, it is shaped like a huge wine barrel and features a showcase of handcrafted boutique wines and craft beers. The menu has a focus on regional and locally sourced produce. Disabled parking is available next to the building with a level access path to the front of the building. Entry is through wide access doors and an accessible toilet is located next to the bar. Outdoor dining is also available on a hard surfaced artificial grass at tables with movable chairs. The menu contains dairy free, gluten free and vegetarian options.

### USEFUL LINKS

Visit the Sunshine Coast  
<https://www.visitsunshinecoast.com>  
 Visit Noosa  
<https://www.visitnoosa.com.au>  
 Coolum Beach  
<https://www.coolum.com.au>  
 Discover Mooloolaba  
<https://discovermooloolaba.com.au>  
 Mooloolaba Wharf  
<https://wharf-mooloolaba.com.au>  
 Eumundi Markets  
<https://eumundimarkets.com.au>  
 The Ginger Factory  
<https://www.gingerfactory.com.au>  
 The Banana Bender Pub  
<https://www.thebananabenderpub.com.au>  
 Sea Life Aquarium  
<https://www.visitsealife.com/sunshine-coast/Australia-Zoo>  
<https://www.australiazoo.com.au>  
 Noosa National Park  
<https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/noosa>  
 Glass House Mountains National Park  
 Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve  
<https://mary-cairncross.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au>  
 Maleny Botanic Gardens and Bird World  
<https://www.malenybotanicgardens.com.au>  
 The Barrel At Clouds Vineyard  
<https://cloudsretreats.com.au/the-barrel/>





## Suggested Itineraries

### *Wildlife Weekend*

#### *Day 1*

Spend the morning at Mooloolaba Sea Life with its 80-metre Ocean Tunnel and the colony of Little Blue Penguins. Spend the afternoon on the beach or exploring the coastal trail to the rock wall. Have an evening dinner on The Wharf.

#### *Day 2*

Take a drive along the Steve Irwin Way to Australia Zoo. Spend the day exploring the various “Animal Worlds” and the Croc show at the Crocoseum. Have a quirky dinner at the Banana Bender Pub on the way home.

### *Family Holiday (6 days 7 nights)*

#### *Day 1*

Take in the Eumundi Markets in the morning before heading to the Ginger Factory for a playful and fun afternoon.

#### *Day 2*

Take a drive along the Steve Irwin Way to Australia Zoo. Spend the day exploring the various “Animal Worlds” and the Croc show at the Crocoseum. Have a quirky dinner at the Banana Bender Pub on the way home.

#### *Day 3*

Spend the morning at Mooloolaba Sea Life with its 80 metre Ocean Tunnel and the colony of Little Blue Penguins. Spend the afternoon on the beach or exploring the coastal trail to the rock wall. Have an evening dinner on The Wharf.

#### *Day 4*

Take a drive to Noosaville and hire an accessible boat from Pelican Boat Hire and explore the Noosa River, even try a spot of fishing. Grab some fish and chips for lunch. Spend the afternoon on the Noosa Beach taking in the sunset.

#### *Day 5*

Visit the Glass House Mountains. In the morning take in the Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve and have a picnic lunch. After lunch visit the Maleny Botanic Gardens and Bird World.

#### *Day 6*

Spend a relaxing final day on the beach at Caloundra. Choose

from the sheltered Bulcock Beach and the calm waters of the Pumicestone Passage, the rockpool at the Pavilion or the surf of the world famous Kings Beach.