

YOUR GUIDE TO LIVING AND WORKING ON THE SUNSHINE COAST

*Award-winning
universities*

*Highly-educated
workforce*

*World-class
health services*

*Perfect
work-life
harmony*





Welcome

As one of Australia's top 10 significant urban areas and Queensland's third largest city, the Sunshine Coast is a leading regional city of the 21st century.

Sunshine Coast Council is playing its part in shaping a future that maintains and enhances our outstanding environmental assets, strengthens the social fabric of our communities and generates jobs and prosperity for current and future generations.

This is at the heart of our vision for the Sunshine Coast to be Australia's most sustainable region – healthy, smart, creative.

Australia's largest health precinct is here, with the \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital, a range of private hospitals and specialist solutions. The Sunshine Coast International Broadband Network will also open up a world of opportunities, generating more than 800 new jobs and placing the Sunshine Coast on the global business map.

These projects and others in the pipeline will provide thousands of jobs and establish many more career pathways.

You are invited to join us on this journey towards a future of prosperity and opportunity. We hope this guide will inspire you to consider the Sunshine Coast as a place to live, work and play.

Mayor Mark Jamieson

Sunshine Coast Council

Average season temperatures		Low	High
Summer	December – February	20°C	28°C
Autumn	March – May	16°C	25°C
Winter	June – August	10°C	21°C
Spring	September – November	15°C	25°C



One of Australia's most desirable regions to live and work

Why the Sunshine Coast?

- Queensland's **3rd largest city**
- Continued economic and **employment growth**
- **300 days** of sunshine per year
- **52km** of open coastline
- **13,000km** of water courses
- **39,835 hectares** of national parks, state forests and reserves
- **1,800** local events annually

Located in South East Queensland, about 100 kilometres north of Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast is known as one of Australia's most desirable places to live and work.

The Sunshine Coast is famous for its superb natural environment and healthy, smart communities. Home to more than 330,000 people and expected to grow to 518,000 by 2041, the Sunshine Coast enjoys an average of seven hours of sunshine a day and a sub-tropical climate that makes outdoor dining and leisure a year-round proposition.

The Sunshine Coast offers a supportive business environment and outstanding primary, secondary and tertiary education facilities. The region's growth is fuelled by significant investment in major infrastructure and community projects.

The Sunshine Coast has long been one of Australia's top tourist destinations with its world-acclaimed family-friendly beaches and an enchanting hinterland.

The region is home to a range of major events including the Caloundra Music Festival, Mooloolaba Triathlon, the Ironman 70.3 Championships, The Curated Plate, four national outrigger titles and a variety of other major sporting and cultural events.

Also based on the Sunshine Coast are a wide range of attractions such as Australia Zoo, SEA LIFE Sunshine Coast, Aussie World and Sunshine Coast icon The Big Pineapple which is currently undergoing a major revamp.

Region shaping infrastructure investments are underway including the development of Australia's only greenfield city centre for the 21st century, the 53 hectare new Maroochydore City Centre.

If you are establishing or relocating a business to the region, Sunshine Coast Council provides free business investment services.

Contact the Head of Trade and Investment on +61 407 753 645 or invest.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au



Our communities

The Sunshine Coast area covers approximately 2,291 square kilometres with 52.3 kilometres of open coastline.

The region contains a number of urban centres, each with a contiguous urban area and a central business district. They are Caloundra, Kawana, Maroochydore, Buderim, Coolum and Nambour.

Major new developments are also underway including the \$147 million mixed-use Bokarina Beach project, a 2,310 hectare master planned community south of Caloundra (Aura by Stockland) that will house around 50,000 people, and the \$3 billion master planned Palmview community which includes 7,000 new dwellings for up to 20,000 people by Avid.

Most houses on the Sunshine Coast are sold or rented by a real estate agents and can be found on sites such as www.domain.com.au and www.realestate.com.au

The Sunshine Coast has competitive house prices and a below average median house rental price compared to other major Australian cities.

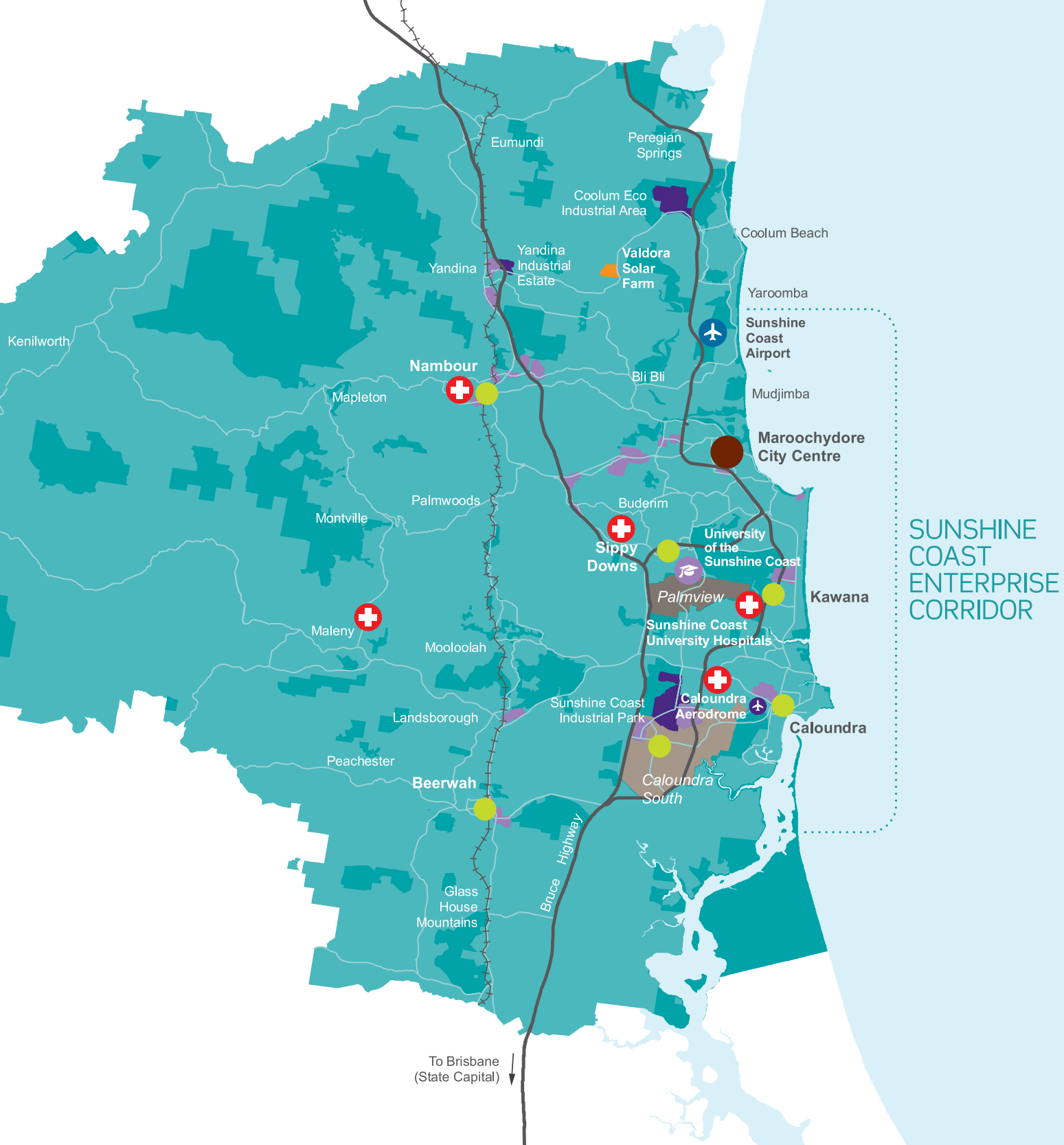


Utilities

WATER: Unitywater is the water distribution and retail business serving the Sunshine Coast. Unitywater manages and maintains water supply and sewerage infrastructure. For enquiries call 1300 086 489 or go to unitywater.com

GAS AND ELECTRICITY: Customers in Queensland purchase their gas and electricity from retailers licensed by the Queensland Government. Retailers buy energy in the wholesale market and sell it to individual customers. Your retailer will bill you directly for the energy you use. The Energy and Water Ombudsman has a list of suppliers available at ewoq.com.au

TELECOMMUNICATIONS: There are many phone and broadband providers operating on the Sunshine Coast including widespread National Broadband Network coverage.



Population 330,000
 Land Area 2,291km
 Location 1 to 1.5 hours by car to Brisbane
 Businesses 31,695
 GRP \$18.5 billion





Healthcare services

The Sunshine Coast is home to around 2,000 healthcare businesses including 286 private specialists and 112 primary care practices, employing more than 400 general practitioners.

The current centres of activity for the health and wellbeing industry are the major hospitals located in the region as well as numerous specialist care providers. Key hospital and specialist facilities are located at Caloundra, Kawana, Nambour, Buderim and Maroochydhore.

Sunshine Coast Hospitals

Caloundra Public Hospital

Caloundra Private Hospital

Nambour Hospital

Nambour Selangor Private Hospital

Buderim Private Hospital

(24hr private Emergency Centre)

Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital

Sunshine Coast University Hospital

(major public hospital in the region)

Kawana Private Hospital

Sunshine Coast Day Surgery

Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital

Sunshine Coast Health Precinct

A major health precinct is being developed to serve the Sunshine Coast region and represents Australia's single largest investment in health infrastructure.

The Health Precinct incorporates:

- the Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital, opened in 2013
- \$1.8 billion, 738-bed Sunshine Coast University Hospital opened in 2017, and
- the \$60.8 million Sunshine Coast Health Institute, a dedicated education, training and research facility.

Adjacent to the campus is the Health Hub, providing up to 32,000m² of dedicated health and medical space in addition to residential accommodation and mixed-use facilities.

EMERGENCY

The emergency number in Australia is 000. You will be directed to an operator who can call police, fire and ambulance services on your behalf.

Quality workforce and education sector

The Sunshine Coast has a full range of high quality education and training facilities including three universities, a multi-campus vocational education and training institute (TAFE Queensland), over 100 Registered Training Organisations and more than 80 private and public schools.

More than 83,500 students are currently studying at local schools, university or one of the training institutions. The region also hosts more than 4,500 international students.

Approximately 98% of year 12 school leavers graduate with a Queensland Certificate of Education, vocational education and training qualification, or International Baccalaureate Diploma - providing the skills and qualifications to follow a range of work, further education and training pathways.

The University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) is one of Australia's fastest growing universities and offers more than 120 undergraduate and postgraduate study programs to more than 17,800 students.

USC actively partners with local industries and businesses through various research programs to provide important links between students and the workforce. It also partners with local high schools to prepare students for university and provide clear pathways to tertiary study.

CQUniversity also has a campus in the region and Griffith University is involved with the medical school at Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

For information on the region's education offerings visit studysunshinecoast.com.au, education.qld.gov.au or qcaa.qld.edu.au





Big boost for Sunshine Coast schools

With the Sunshine Coast already boasting some of Queensland's best schools, an impressive \$300 million in education infrastructure investment currently underway is expected to provide a major boost to the region's educational offering.

The funding boost focuses on infrastructure projects including new schools, classrooms, technology, music and sporting facilities.

A \$115 million new secondary school being built at **Caloundra South** is expected to open in 2021, servicing the growing community at Aura.

Palmview is set to get two new schools with more than \$10 million in funding approved for early works on a new secondary school and more than \$62 million approved for a new special school.

Brightwater State School will receive almost \$3 million for a new building, with 10 general learning spaces and a flexible learning space.

Other projects include:

- Seven new classrooms and two specialist learning spaces at Maroochydore State High School.
- An enhanced special education block and additional refurbishments at Buderim Mountain State School.
- Six new general learning spaces for Nambour Special School.
- Finalising construction of the new Baringa State Primary School in Caloundra West.
- State of the art swimming facilities at St Andrew's Anglican College in Peregrin Springs and Sunshine Coast Grammar School at Forest Glen, among others.

Demand for educational services is expected to grow by more than 50% by 2033, with around 30,000 extra education and training places needed across all educational institutions.

Sunshine Coast's top OP results

Sunshine Coast Grammar School's Year 12 students achieved the highest results across the region in 2018, with an impressive 38 students receiving an OP1-5 ranking – that's 42.2 percent of eligible students!

OP results are used to rank students for entrance to courses at universities, TAFE institutes and other tertiary institutions in Queensland.

Top 10 Sunshine Coast schools for 2018 OP results

- Sunshine Coast Grammar School
- Matthew Flinders Anglican College
- St Andrew's Anglican College
- Pacific Lutheran College
- Burnside State High School
- Good Shepherd Lutheran College
- Sunshine Beach State High School
- Nambour Christian College
- Chancellor State College
- Nambour State College

With three universities and more than 100 Registered Training Organisations, the Sunshine Coast offers a range of pathways for students to undertake further education and training after they complete high school.

Study Sunshine Coast provides a central resource of information, showcasing the study opportunities available and the unique destination and lifestyle offerings on the Sunshine Coast.



Leaders in STEM and innovation

The Sunshine Coast is a tech-savvy region with a reputation for innovation and leadership in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

A continued investment in talent and skills is preparing our workforce with the knowledge and experience they need to compete in a global marketplace.

The USC is part of the Queensland STEM education network, a consortium of Queensland universities providing high quality programs and initiatives designed to build STEM capacity across the state.

Schools across the region are leading the way in STEM innovation with Baringa State Primary School opening in 2018 as Queensland's first STEM School of Excellence.

With an array of opportunities for young tech minds, the Sunshine Coast is becoming recognised as a place where emerging tech talent, young techpreneurs and STEM high achievers flourish.

- **Coding and Innovation Hub:** Established by Mountain Creek State High School in 2015, the hub provides professional development opportunities for teachers and classes in advanced coding for students.
- **DeLorean Project:** Year 10 students at Glasshouse Christian College can learn entrepreneurial approaches like lean startup, rapid prototyping and customer validation.



Queensland's first STEM School of Excellence: Baringa State Primary School

The Baringa State Primary School is leading the way in innovative education.

Opened in 2018, Baringa is a prototype school that offers students extensive opportunities to develop understandings in STEM.

Students will learn the skills they need to be citizens of the 21st century, with classes delivered in a digitally-rich learning environment, including a purpose built robotics engineering laboratory, recording studio and innovation hubs.





Future proofing our next generation

Exciting new opportunities are available for young tech minds in technology and innovation on the Sunshine Coast.

Along with leading STEM schools in the state, a range of programs and events run throughout the year for Year 9 to university levels, providing opportunities to learn new skills in innovation, coding, robotics and entrepreneurship. A wealth of information and opportunities are available to help connect and support these students on their journey.

“To be a healthy, smart, creative region it’s critical we provide a platform for young people to develop their ideas, entrepreneurial skills and networks.

“Many of the jobs and careers of the future haven’t even been created yet and they will be shaped by our bright young minds.”

Councillor Stephen Robinson on Generation Innovation

Some opportunities available to young tech minds are:

Generation Innovation

The first of its kind anywhere in the world, this annual challenge is for 15-25 year olds wanting to start their own business. Over the past four years, almost 150 youth participants have been mentored and educated on entrepreneurship, resulting in 14 youth-led businesses being launched and raising over \$39,000 in seed funding from the local community.

CoderDojo

A free coding club for students aged 7-17 years covering everything from basic web, app and game development.

RoboCoast

A hub of state and private schools started RoboCoast to promote the uptake of robotics and coding through staff and student training and fun robotics competitions.

Awards and prizes

The Sunshine Coast Telstra Innovation Awards and Generation Innovation connect and challenge high school students to develop entrepreneurial thinking, creativity, and to start their own business.

Discover the great outdoors with Adventure Sunshine Coast

Sunshine Coast Council has created Adventure Sunshine Coast to help residents and visitors discover new areas to explore in the region's great outdoors.

With a growing list of free, self-guided activities, the Adventure Sunshine Coast website is the ultimate guide to your next outdoor adventure. Search the map to choose from more than 150 walking, cycling, mountain biking, horse riding and canoeing activities, from the hinterland to the coast.

Whether you're looking for a short stroll with small kids in tow, or you're up for a multi-day challenge, you can also filter your activities by difficulty and duration to suit everyone involved. Interactive 3D trail maps show you what to expect, so you can be well-prepared for your journey ahead.

If you can't decide where to go next, let the photos and reviews inspire you! You can also log in to create and save your own Sunshine Coast adventure bucket list to tick off during the year.

#ChooseYourNextAdventure



- Online adventure guidebook provided by Sunshine Coast Council.
- Discover all the great trails across the Sunshine Coast.
- 150 + walking cycling, mountain biking, horse riding and canoeing activities.
- Relax, discover and be active in our beautiful and unique natural environment.
- See other people's impressions and photos before you head on your adventure.
- Find out if your dog can come along.

adventure.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Road, rail and air

The Sunshine Coast is accessible by road via the Bruce Highway, and by rail from Brisbane and the north. Locally, getting around is easy and traffic jams are rare. The Sunshine Motorway joins the southern and the northern ends of the region.

Sunshine Coast Airport is ideally situated in the heart of the Sunshine Coast and its expansion includes a new, longer runway by the end of 2020 which will deliver access to increasing numbers of domestic and international destinations.

The airport is actively adding new routes, with direct Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Auckland, New Zealand flights available across a range of carriers and connections to the world.

Sunshine Coast Airport carriers include Qantas, Air New Zealand, Jetstar and Virgin Australia. Major car rental companies are represented.

Local public transport includes bus and rail, with a mass transit solution planned for Caloundra to Maroochydore into the future. Local bus services operate door-to-door shuttles between Brisbane Airport and Sunshine Coast Airport seven days a week.

Travel information

RAIL: Local and regional services. Queensland Rail qr.com.au

BUS: Local public transport, school, coach and charter services. Sunbus sunbus.com.au Translink translink.com.au

AIR: Direct flights to Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide and seasonally to Auckland. Sunshine Coast Airport sunshinecoastairport.com.au

Food, fresh produce and eating out

The Sunshine Coast is famous for its restaurants and cafés which use fresh, local produce and offer a multicultural range of cuisines.

Eating out on the Sunshine Coast is a particular treat. Try the beachfront restaurant experience, family-friendly surf club, or that quintessentially Australian outdoor experience of crunchy fish and chips by the beach as the sun sets.

The Sunshine Coast is the largest wild caught tuna and swordfish port in Australia, with Mooloolaba known as the Australian hub for the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery.

There's also an abundance of locally grown tropical fruits and produce, and a range of gourmet food providers.

Not to be outdone by inner-city trends, there's a burgeoning craft beer movement on the Sunshine Coast, with boutique breweries peppered throughout the region.

Food manufacturers like the Ginger Factory and Nutworks are well-known to visitors and locals alike for their tasty offerings and theme-park style attractions.

Shopping for food is also great fun with a variety of farmers markets as well as large supermarket chains to choose from.

Use Visit Sunshine Coast's online food trail curator to navigate more than 400 foodie experiences.

Create your own gourmet tour
visitsunshinecoast.com/foodtrails





Shopping

From the relaxed main street of Caloundra and the Mooloolaba Esplanade to the European-style main street of Montville and the famous Eumundi Markets, each area offers its own unique shopping and dining experience.

The Sunshine Coast loves its retail and has a passion for fashion too. There is a wide range of well-known fashion brands and major shopping centres, including Sunshine Plaza, Kawana Shoppingworld and Nambour Plaza. For everything tech, home and DIY, try the Homemaker Centre and Sunshine Coast Home in Maroochydore or Home Central in Kawana.

A \$440 million redevelopment of the Sunshine Plaza in Maroochydore includes the region's first David Jones department store, a new Big W, a refurbished Myer and more than 100 new specialty stores. This recent expansion makes the Sunshine Plaza the first super-regional shopping centre north of Brisbane.

SURF SAFETY

Always follow basic surf and water safety on Sunshine Coast beaches and swim at patrolled beaches between the red and yellow flags which indicate lifeguards and lifesavers supervise the area.



Local beaches

Sunshine Coast beaches are some of the best in the world. Mostly patrolled by surf lifesavers, the beaches feature wide stretches of clean, white sand and sparkling warm water. With an abundance of surf or calm bays on offer, you are spoilt for choice.

Mooloolaba Beach sits at number four on TripAdvisor's list of top 25 Australian beaches while Kings Beach, Caloundra has been named best and safest by the Queensland surf life savers. There are many dog-friendly beaches too.

As well as beaches, modern aquatic centres are located in every major centre, most with onsite cafés, swimming squads and lessons.

For further information on swimming or surf safety on Sunshine Coast beaches, go to Surf Life Saving Queensland lifesaving.com.au or Sunshine Coast Council sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

The meaning of other flags are:

BLUE FLAGS: Shows the area allocated for board riding and surfing.

RED FLAGS: Indicate that the beach is closed and that you should not enter the water.

YELLOW FLAGS: Indicate there are potential hazards in the water.

RED AND WHITE QUARTERED FLAG: Emergency evacuation, leave the water immediately.



CASE STUDY PAVO WALKER

Fortunes of a fisherman

Growing up in an eclectic household in Sydney, the son of quirky, academic parents who visited exotic destinations and lived in London in the 1960s, it's no surprise that Pavo Walker would take the road less travelled.

Having always had an affinity with the ocean, as a young man Pavo worked as a boat skipper on Sydney Harbour before taking on a corporate role with Sydney Ports Corporation.

But it wasn't long before the call of the ocean saw him hang up his business suit and get back out on the water doing what he loved most - fishing.

After meeting and marrying his wife, Heidi, who had a background in sales and marketing, the courageous duo bought an old wooden boat, rounded up a crew and set sail in what would become Walker Seafoods' first vessel. Their first catch was epic and the business began.

"We export fresh whole fish, so things have to move quickly. Once the boats come in, the fish are graded and packed and in a refrigeration truck to Brisbane Airport, only an hour away.

"The Sunshine Coast is business minded. We are supported wherever we go and people get on and get the job done." **Heidi Walker, Walker Seafoods**

But it was their decision to move their fledgling business from Sydney to Mooloolaba in 2004 that proved to be a real game changer.

Managing the sales while Pavo was at sea, Heidi learned that buyers were only interested in tuna and swordfish that was sustainably caught. So, after a two-year process, Walker Seafoods became the only Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified tuna company in Australia. They now have five boats, 60 staff, and are the largest wild caught tuna and swordfish company in Australia.

Walker Seafoods now counts Tetsuya as a friend and Neil Perry's Rockpool is another famous client. Local stars include Wasabi, Locale, Season, Sails and Spice Bar.

Heidi and Pavo can't emphasise enough how locating their business on the Sunshine Coast has been pivotal to their success.

"The weather on the Sunshine Coast is ideal for our business and allows our boats to be out year-round," says Heidi.

Heidi also credits their success to the support of the local business community.

Start connecting with the business sector

Sunshine Coast Council welcomes and supports the growth of local businesses and the establishment of new ones in the region.

Talk to a specialist for site selection assistance and relocation advice.

Find out the options for financial assistance to help offset establishment costs.

Ask for connections with government bodies and access international market information.

Access the wide array of information available online, including local success stories, programs available to local business and the latest in local industry news.



Future-proofing with fast data

The Sunshine Coast International Broadband Network will provide the fastest and most affordable telecommunications connection to Asia from the east coast and the second fastest to the United States.

With future-proof capability, the new cable will increase data transmission speed, reduce risk and lead to a reduction in international communications costs for businesses and consumers.

The cable will be in service from 2020.

There are a range of Chambers of Commerce and industry associations to help you get connected quickly.

Chambers of Commerce

- Caloundra Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Coolum Business and Tourism
- Eumundi Chamber of Commerce
- Glasshouse Country Chamber of Commerce
- Kawana Chamber of Commerce
- Kenilworth and District Chamber of Commerce and Citizens
- Maleny and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Maroochydore Chamber of Commerce
- Montville Chamber of Commerce
- Mooloolaba Chamber of Commerce
- Nambour Alliance
- Yandina Chamber of Commerce
- 4556 Chamber (Buderim and surrounds)
- Sunshine Coast Chamber Alliance

Industry groups

- Australian Institute of Company Directors (Sunshine Coast)
- Australian Institute of Management (Sunshine Coast)
- Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand
- Cleantech Industries Sunshine Coast
- CPA Australia
- Food and Agribusiness Network
- Health Panel
- Housing Industry Association
- Industry Capability Network
- Master Builders Queensland
- Property Council of Australia
- Queensland Tourism Industry Council
- Regional Development Australia Sunshine Coast
- Study Sunshine Coast
- Sunshine Coast Business Council
- Sunshine Coast Business Women's Network
- Urban Development Institute of Australia, Queensland
- Visit Sunshine Coast

For more information:

VISIT invest.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

EMAIL invest@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

CALL the Head of Trade and Investment on +61 407 753 645



Download the Invest Sunshine Coast app for the latest news.

Available from the App Store and Google Play.