

Gold Coast Shines with their new Accessible Visitor Guide

By Michelle Massey*



Boundless sunshine, curling waves, golden beaches as far as you can see and as soon as you thought it couldn't get better, the volunteers and lifeguards roll out the blue carpet – otherwise known as beach access mats.

The glistening Gold Coast has always celebrated being Australia's favourite playground but now the city is acclaiming a new title – Australia's most 'Accessible and Inclusive Holiday Destination' with the embodiment of this acclaim sitting with the city's newly introduced Accessible Visitor Guide.

The guide highlights some of the 450+ accommodation venues stretching

the 57km coastline, the Southern Hemisphere's highest concentration of theme parks, over 100,000 HA of world-famous heritage listed rainforest, world famous surf breaks, more canals than Venice and Amsterdam combined, and did we mention the 22 hatted restaurants...you are spoilt for choice. But sometimes too much choice can be daunting. So, the City of Gold Coast, in partnership with Destination Gold Coast, engaged Inclusive Tourism Australia and The Access Agency to produce a guide that showcases just a selection of the accommodation, transportation and attractions offering support for all ages, abilities and budgets - no matter what type of experience you may wish to enjoy.

When planning to travel with a disability research is key and this guide is just the latest resource on offer in conjunction with the City of Gold Coast's Mobility Maps, Changing Places Toilet locations, Gold Coast Accessible Beaches Program, and more recently, the VaycayIt App, where you will hear a series of over 20 Accessible Audio Guides painting the picture for over 100 attractions, experiences and accommodation offerings across the Gold Coast. This vibrant city truly has stepped it up to make a difference for all and it wouldn't be possible without the support and funding of the Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) and the focus of QLD's Year of Accessible Tourism.



The excitement lies in your opportunity to review and imagine what a Gold Coast escape looks like to you. Do you head north to the BIG4 Holiday Park with your family for greater access to the Theme Parks, or do you slip away to the Intercontinental Sanctuary Cove for a romantic weekend relishing in their pristine lagoon pool, stunning restaurants and nearby village? Or are you more of a city adventure type opting for endless dining and shopping options all within easy access on the G:link. If the kids are in tow, Paradise Resort is a must stay venue known as a

'cruise ship on land'. Alternatively, with or without kids, the Accor and Mantra Group have many choices for everyone ranging from luxury hotel stays, to multi-room apartments.

Heading further south, you will hit more of the beach culture and surfing scene, as well as some of the most pristine nature reserves and wildlife parks such as Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. Keep it simple and budget friendly at Tallebudgera Creek Tourist Park or splash out at Gwinganna Lifestyle Retreat for a wellness package to



sooth your soul and inspire a healthy lifestyle. The choices are endless, and the guide serves as a testament to the Gold Coast's commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, offering an array of options for visitors of all backgrounds and abilities. The venues are ready for you.

So, what are you waiting for, scan the guide QR Code and start planning your next Gold Coast supported escape.

Michelle Massey, Amplify - Accessible Travel Specialists ●

A promotional graphic for the Gold Coast Accessible Visitor Guide. It features a laptop displaying the guide's cover, which includes the title 'Gold Coast Accessible Visitor Guide', icons for accessibility, and a collage of images showing a city skyline, a pool, and a person in a wheelchair. To the right of the laptop is a large QR code. Below the QR code, the text reads 'GOLD COAST ACCESSIBLE VISITOR GUIDE' and 'Featuring over 30 accommodation providers and over 25 attractions and experiences, the Gold Coast Accessible Visitor Guide is the perfect tool to help everyone plan their ultimate Gold Coast holiday.' At the bottom right, the 'GOLD COAST.' logo is displayed. The background is a light green color with a faint city skyline.