

## Queensland

### Wow!

The Australian coast is perfect for amateur and professional surfers. From the Pacific Ocean to the Indian and Southern Oceans, the great, surfing waves in Australia are world renowned. But do be careful, as surfing is a dangerous sport. Pay attention to reports of sharks, jellyfish and strong currents and do not surf alone.

The **Gold Coast**, along the south eastern shore of Australia, has kilometers and kilometers of beaches for all surfing levels. This region is ideal for surfers with the best waves and consequently is very popular. **Burleigh Heads** is well known, and between **Snapper Rocks** and **Kirra Point** you will find the "Superbank" with the longest (3 km), most regular waves in the world! At **Noosa** beginner and professional surfers are welcome. North of Brisbane the beaches are uniquely fringed with lush, tropical forest.

**Surfers Paradise** is more well known for its night life, despite its name. **Narrowneck** is a spot worth visiting for kitesurfing, and other lovely beaches include: **The Spit, Main, Palm** and **Mermaid Beaches**. The **Sunshine Coast** north of Brisbane has some good surfing spots and is less crowded than the southern beaches. **Agnes Water** is the most northern surfing beach.

The Queensland coastline certainly offers one of the world's most spectacular underwater experiences. The Great Barrier Reef runs along this coastline for about 2000 km and is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is so big it can even be seen from space! Explore the **Whitsunday Islands**, which offer some of the world's most sublime beaches. Swim among multicoloured fish and coral around **Heron Island** and **Lizard Island**. **Green, Fitzroy** and **Lady Elliot Islands** also offer splendid reef gardens. In the **Fitzroy** and **Lady Musgrave Island** lagoons you can spot crabs, turtles and starfish. This coral sea and its magnificent reefs is also accessible by seaplane and scuba diving. Diving in the **Heart, Holmes** and **Osprey Reefs** will offer a view of larger marine animals such as whales, sea snakes and different shark species. From **Townsville** and **Mackay** you can scuba dive to explore the ship wrecks of SS Yongala and Llewellyn inhabited by all sorts of sea life. At **Hervey Bay** do some whale watching or snorkel your time away!