



July 2008

## What's new in Queensland

*Queensland is home to Australia's most dynamic tourism industry and here's an update of the newest resorts, activities and attractions from around the State.*

### ***Brisbane***

**Welcome to two new hotels** – A boutique hotel and stylish apartments has recently opened in the heart of Brisbane. The 21-room boutique **Limes Hotel** in funky Fortitude Valley features a roof-top cinema and bar and includes daily continental breakfast. [www.limeshotel.com.au](http://www.limeshotel.com.au).

Meanwhile, the inner-city, four-and—half star **M on Mary** complex contains 200 one and three bedroom serviced apartments and is only five minutes' stroll from the Queen Street Mall. Visit [www.monmary.com.au](http://www.monmary.com.au)

### ***Gold Coast***

**Bollywood comes to Conrad Jupiters** - Movie madness has hit the stage at Conrad Jupiters in their latest production, *The Merchants of Bollywood*. The spectacular blends Bollywood with Broadway and special dinner and show packages are available. Visit [www.merchantsofbollywood.com.au](http://www.merchantsofbollywood.com.au) and [www.conrad.com.au](http://www.conrad.com.au)

**Soaring the heights** - Balloon Hot Air Gold Coast's daily flights over the glorious Gold Coast Hinterland are followed by a delicious champagne breakfast at O'Reilly's Grand Homestead and Vineyard. Visit [www.hotair.com.au](http://www.hotair.com.au)

**Another Mantra** - Mantra Sierra Grand, Broadbeach, offers luxury apartment accommodation with panoramic views and is within easy walking distance of beaches, and the local dining and shopping precincts. Visit [www.mantraresorts.com.au](http://www.mantraresorts.com.au)

**New Waterplay** - Sea World Resort's new \$1 million "Waterplay" aqua playground is for the exclusive use of resort guests. The 320 square metre colourful children's play centre includes an array of spray nozzles, jets, water guns and a giant water-filled tipping bucket. Visit <http://seaworld.myfun.com.au/>

**Animal Attractions** – Tiger cub triplets and a blue-eyed baby koala are the latest stars at **Dreamworld**. 'Frankie' the koala is believed to be the only blue eyed koala in captivity and the three female tigers cubs were born on June 9 on their mother's sixth birthday. Visit [www.dreamworld.com](http://www.dreamworld.com).

The new **Sea World Whale Watch Cruises** incorporate education and entertainment while getting up close and personal with the world's largest mammals. Tours will run twice daily through to November. Visit [www.seaworld.com.au](http://www.seaworld.com.au)

**New spa at Gwinganna** – The award-winning Gwinganna Lifestyle Retreat in the Gold Coast Hinterland opened a new 33 room spa this year. One of the largest spas in the southern hemisphere, it features a relaxation lounge, Crystal Steam Room and spacious couples' suites. Visit [www.gwinganna.com.au](http://www.gwinganna.com.au)



**Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk** - Spectacular views, ancient forests and thundering waterfalls are a few of the highlights of the new Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk. The 54km track links the Green Mountains section of Lamington National Park with Springbrook National Park via the Numinbah Valley. Walkers can choose from short one hour treks to full three day hikes. Visit [www.epa.qld.gov.au/parks\\_and\\_forests/great\\_walks/gold\\_coast\\_hinterland/](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/parks_and_forests/great_walks/gold_coast_hinterland/)

**Thrilling fun** - The curtains will open on a new stunt show at **Warner Bros Movie World** in October 2008. *Hollywood Stuntdriver* will be an action packed celebration of stunt men and women who risk it all for the cameras and the magic of making movies! Visit [www.movieworld.myfun.com.au](http://www.movieworld.myfun.com.au)

**Dracula's Cabaret Restaurant** has opened a new show, *Beasts of Burlesque* and is adding another level to the building which will open on Halloween 2008. Visit [www.draculas.com.au](http://www.draculas.com.au)

### ***Sunshine Coast***

**Hastings Street shines** - The famous Noosa strip is gleaming from a \$7 million makeover, the street's first comprehensive upgrade since the 1990s. Visitors enjoy a more pedestrian-friendly environment, public artworks, extra seating areas, an upgrade to the boardwalk and more direct links to the beach. Visit [www.tourismnoosa.com.au/hastingsstreet](http://www.tourismnoosa.com.au/hastingsstreet)

**Ultimate eco getaway** - Nestled between Rainbow Beach and the Great Sandy National Park, Rainbow Shores Eco Resort offers a living environment that works in harmony with the existing eco-system and beachscape. Guests choose from family-friendly units, surfside villas and beach houses. Visit [www.rainbowshores.com.au](http://www.rainbowshores.com.au)

**Rejuvenated spa** - Hyatt Regency Coolum's Spa will open its \$4 million renovation in August. The spa will offer over 19 treatment rooms, a new gymnasium with yoga and pilates studio, outdoor spa, manicure and pedicure station and hair salon. Visit [www.coolum.hyatt.com](http://www.coolum.hyatt.com)

### ***Central Queensland***

**Luxury Sansara style** – The \$300 million Sansara Resort and Spa has opened on the pristine shores of Agnes Water. It features 89 opulent resort style apartments, restaurant, conference centre, cinema and childcare centre. Visit [www.sansara.com.au](http://www.sansara.com.au)

### ***Whitsundays***

**Cruising news** - Luxurious **MV Fantasea Ammari** has added another four night cruise to its schedule. The cruise departs Hamilton Island every Friday, returning on Tuesdays, and visits Whitehaven Beach, the Reef and other beautiful sandy coves and pristine swimming beaches in the region. Visit [www.fantaseaammari.com](http://www.fantaseaammari.com)



**Descarada** is now based at Abel Point Marina, Airlie Beach. The small luxury cruising ship caters for a maximum of eight guests and is available for private charters and regular tours to local beauty spots including Whitehaven Beach, the Aboriginal caves near Nara Inlet and South Molle Island. [www.descarada.com.au](http://www.descarada.com.au)

**qualia Resort** will open an additional 33 new Leeward pavilions in early August to complement the 27 Windward pavilions. Each are around four times the size of an average hotel room with a private plunge pool on the expansive deck. This luxury six-star boutique resort is perched on the secluded northern point of Hamilton Island. Visit [www.qualia.com.au](http://www.qualia.com.au)

**Blue Horizon at Airlie Beach** - With a mix of one, two and three bedroom Balinese-inspired apartments, *Blue Horizon Airlie Beach* also features stunning views over the Coral Sea. Guest facilities include a tour desk, swimming pool and spa, wading pool, outdoor dining area and fully-equipped gymnasium. Visit [www.bluehorizonairlie.com.au](http://www.bluehorizonairlie.com.au)

## **Townsville**

**Jupiters Townsville Hotel & Casino** is undergoing a \$6 million refurbishment of its 104 superior hotel rooms and eight suites. Superbly located between Magnetic Island, the Breakwater Marina and the Strand, Jupiters is an icon in the Townsville region and the only 4 and a half star hotel. Work will start in June and be completed in October 2008. [www.townsvillecasino.com.au](http://www.townsvillecasino.com.au)

**Carbon neutral eco lodge** - Hidden Valley Cabins, Australia's first fully carbon neutral resort offers accommodation in Solar Eco Cabins, is not on grid power and has decreased reliance on generator power without compromising guest comfort and facilities. The resort generates all of its own renewable energy, saves 78 tonnes of CO2 emissions per year and purchases carbon offsets for any carbon emissions. Visit [www.hiddenvalleycabins.com.au](http://www.hiddenvalleycabins.com.au)

**Hinchinbrook getaways** – Half way between Townsville and Cairns, is **Port Hinchinbrook**, the gateway to Hinchinbrook Island and everything the region has to offer. Features include the region's best marina, 4 star luxury cabins, restaurant and Hinchinbrook Island Day Cruise. Visit [www.porthinchinbrook.com.au](http://www.porthinchinbrook.com.au) & [www.hinchinbrookferries.com.au](http://www.hinchinbrookferries.com.au)

Visit the world's largest National Park Island and stay in splendid isolation at the ECO Accredited **Hinchinbrook Island Wilderness Lodge**. The 8 Beach Cabins and 15 Treetop Bungalows have just undergone a major renovation and the island was also recently used as the backdrop to the Hollywood movie, *Nim's Island* starring Jodie Foster. Head over Visit [www.hinchinbrooklodge.com.au](http://www.hinchinbrooklodge.com.au)

## **Tropical North Queensland**

**Brewing blue skies** - The Blue Sky Brewery in the heart of the Cairns CBD is an on-site microbrewery complete with bar, restaurant, function rooms and a comprehensive wine cellar. Using only the purest ingredients with the purest water from the crystal cascades, 6 Premium handcrafted beers will be brewed onsite giving you a full flavoured, preservative free, naturally brewed 100% Cairns beer. Guests can take a tour of the brewery and sample the ales. Visit [www.blueskybrewery.com.au](http://www.blueskybrewery.com.au)



**Cairns cooks up The Australian Experience** - A new dinner show featuring Australian food, folk music, dancing, didgeridoo performances and Aboriginal entertainment has opened in the heart of Cairns. The Australian Experience includes a three course menu of Aussie favourites like damper and allows guests to cook their own main course on hot volcanic stones. Visitors receive their own souvenir boomerang and experience a live didgeridoo performance complete with traditional costume and body paint and are also invited to play the instruments themselves. Visit [www.theaustralianexperiencecairns.com](http://www.theaustralianexperiencecairns.com) and [www.thehotelcairns.com](http://www.thehotelcairns.com)

**Australia's first Aiga day spa** – Just opened at Hilton Cairns, Aiga specialises in Keiraku, a Japanese massage technique focussing on a person's energy meridians and the 'shimpi' facial. [www.hiltonworldwide.com.au](http://www.hiltonworldwide.com.au)

**Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat** – Advanced Eco Accredited and now the largest boutique wilderness retreat in the Cairns Highlands, Rose Gums offers nine timber pole tree houses in rainforest adjoining the World Heritage Wooroonooran National Park. Rose Gums has also opened their restaurant "Mr Lee's Kitchen" to seven nights a week and introduced a carbon credits program in conjunction with their ongoing reforestation program. [www.rosegums.com.au](http://www.rosegums.com.au)

An indigenous word for butterfly, **Mali Mali** is the newest Tropical North Queensland addition to the exclusive Executive Retreats portfolio. The Balinese-themed property is situated near Port Douglas and features 360 degree views over the World Heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest and sparkling blue of the Pacific Ocean. Visit [www.executiveretreats.com.au](http://www.executiveretreats.com.au)

**Unique U-Fly Heli-flight** - Put on your pilot's cap and fly your own helicopter! A 30-minute training flight gives you the opportunity to take over the controls yourself under the supervision of an Instructor Pilot from the Cairns Helicopter School. [www.downunderheli.com](http://www.downunderheli.com)

**Reef escapes – Reef Experience** is a beautifully refurbished \$1.5 million vessel and one of the fastest catamarans travelling to the outer reef from Cairns, allowing guests more time on the reef. Guests can also upgrade to the Top Deck Club to be pampered from the minute they step on board by a personal valet and dive/snorkel guide. Visit [www.reeftrip.com](http://www.reeftrip.com).

**Undersea Explorer** has two new 3-day dive trips out of Cairns available from January to May. The Cod Hole Temptation and Ribbon Reef Discovery tours are ideal for people with limited time. They run over three days and include 11 dives at some of Australia's best dive sites including Cod Hole, Challenger Bay, Pixie's Pinnacle and Steve's Bommie. [www.undersea.com.au](http://www.undersea.com.au).

Extra Action Watersports' high speed **Reef Sprinter** takes only 15 minutes from its departure point at Port Douglas to reach Low Isles Reef anchoring for up to 90 minutes for excellent snorkeling. Three trips depart daily. Visit [www.reefsprinter.com.au](http://www.reefsprinter.com.au).

**Ocean Safari's** new eco-friendly reef tour takes just 30 minutes to reach the Great Barrier Reef from Cape Tribulation north of Cairns. The high speed 12 metre rigid inflatable boat carries a maximum of 25 passengers to the reef for an unforgettable half day of snorkelling. Visit [www.cape-tribulation-resort.com.au](http://www.cape-tribulation-resort.com.au).



**Calypso Reef Cruises** in Port Douglas launched a dedicated dive vessel this year. 'Pure Dive' is designed for serious divers and travels with a maximum of 25 guests to exclusive and pristine dive sites. Visit [www.calypsocharters.com.au](http://www.calypsocharters.com.au)

**Wildlife updates** - An exciting new development at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures, **Gondwana Gateway** teaches visitors about the fascinating evolution of some of Australia's most intriguing and amazing wildlife species as they take a self-guided journey of discovery through natural forest and grasslands. At night the area becomes The 'Enchanted Forest'. Visit [www.crocodileadventures.com](http://www.crocodileadventures.com).

**Phantom Charters** – The Ultimate Private Charter Vessel, in conjunction with John Rumney, 'Eye to Eye Marine Encounters', offers custom trips to snorkel with dwarf minke whales and explore the world famous Ribbon reefs. With one of only 9 permits worldwide these tours offer a more intimate wildlife experience for smaller, personalized groups available each June and July. Visit [www.phantomcharters.com.au](http://www.phantomcharters.com.au)

**Walking high** – Stride the elevated Ma:Mu Canopy Walkway through the trees of World Heritage rainforest 90 minutes south of Cairns. Opening in August 2008, Ma:Mu will feature an observation tower and 400 metre elevated walkway which boasts sweeping views over a pristine landscape, homeland of the Ma:Mu Aboriginal people. Visit [www.epa.qld.gov.au/mamu](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/mamu)

**Elandra Mission Beach** - The Elandra (translates as an aboriginal name for home by the sea) was previously known as 'The Horizon' and is located where the rainforest meets the sea overlooking Dunk and Bedarra Island. This 4 ½ star boutique resort exudes trend, luxury and chic design with a stylish atmosphere. Its 52 rooms were uniquely decorated with a 'Safari by the Sea' influence and all nestled amongst the tropical lush rainforest. Visit [www.elandraresorts.com](http://www.elandraresorts.com)

## ***Outback Queensland***

**Beyond the Black Stump** - Nothing beats **Queensland's Outback** with its tales and trappings of yesteryear, awe-inspiring landscapes and fair dinkum friendly locals, it's a 'big country' waiting to be explored. For 101 things to experience in Queensland's Outback, download your free guide. Check out the Outback Pubs Tour Guide as well. Visit [www.outbackholidays.info](http://www.outbackholidays.info) / More Information / Brochure Rack

**Genuine tours - Outback Aussie Tours'** new 30 seat luxury 4-wheel-drive adventure wagon will take tourists off road on the desert runs around Birdsville and up to Lawn Hill National Park. Owner Alan Smith, known as "Smithie", offers real outback adventures and experiences including visits to Longreach, home of Qantas Founders Museum, Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, R.M. Williams Heritage Gardens, School of the Air; and Winton where you learn of the legend behind the song "Waltzing Matilda" and see Lark Quarry's dinosaur stampede. Visit [www.oat.net.au](http://www.oat.net.au).

The **Greyhound** Kilometre Pass has expanded options now where customers can exchange their kilometres in return for additional experiences including visits to the Outback, skydiving in Cairns, Cape Tribulation Tour, Great Barrier Reef Cruise, Whitsunday sailing and so on. Visit [www.greyhound.com.au](http://www.greyhound.com.au)



## Coming soon

### Brisbane:

- **The Portal Hotel.** Opening in February 2009, the four star Portal Hotel will feature 84 rooms and will be situated in the heart of the city. [www.portalhotel.com.au](http://www.portalhotel.com.au)
- **The Westin Brisbane Empire Hotel.** With 306 guest rooms, an all-day dining restaurant, lap pool, day spa and health club, Brisbane's first Westin hotel is sure to be a hit when it opens in July 2011. [www.starwoodhotels.com/westin](http://www.starwoodhotels.com/westin)

### Gold Coast:

- **Hilton Surfers Paradise.** Opening late 2009, this new hotel will be spread across two towers with views to the ocean, hinterland and city. [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)

### Sunshine Coast:

- **Quay West Resort.** This five star resort will consist of 108 one, two and three bedroom apartments and villas and will open in September 2009 in Noosa. [www.mirvachotels.com](http://www.mirvachotels.com)
- **Outrigger Viridian Resort & Spa.** Opening in late 2009, the five star Outrigger Resort will feature 192 rooms. [www.outrigger.com](http://www.outrigger.com)
- **Village Roadshow** has purchased Aussie World and has plans to develop the site into a major water park similar to its Wet 'n' Wild Waterpark on the Gold Coast. The development is estimated to be worth around \$70 million with the park read for visitors late 2009.

### Townsville:

- **Outrigger Hotel & Resort.** Located in the city's Palmer Street precinct, this \$80 million multi-level serviced apartment and residential building will open late 2009. [www.outrigger.com](http://www.outrigger.com)
- **Oaks Gateway on Palmer** – opening late 2008. [www.theoaksgroup.com.au](http://www.theoaksgroup.com.au)

### Tropical North Queensland:

- **Paradise Palms Resort & Country Club,** Palm Cove. This four and a half star resort will feature 96 rooms and a golf course when it opens in December 2008. [www.paradisepalms.com.au/resort.htm](http://www.paradisepalms.com.au/resort.htm)
- **Fitzroy Island,** 4 kilometres from Cairns. Forty-eight luxury beachfront apartments, a restaurant, day spa, entertainment complex, poolside bar and conference facilities will all feature at the new resort on Fitzroy Island which is scheduled to open in October 2008. [www.fitzroyisland.com.au](http://www.fitzroyisland.com.au)