

Family Boating Holidays On The Gold Coast!!

Getting The Most For Your Family From This Fantastic Boating Paradise!

In this, the conclusion to last month's Part One of Family Boating Holidays on the Gold Coast, we steer you through the more sedate but attractive middle region, from the Gold Coast Seaway through to Couran Cove Island Resort, and the 'must see' wilderness that is the northern region, from Couran Cove Island Resort to the Slipping Sands. We will explore the best anchorages, attractions, fishing spots and a round up of all the campsites in the areas.

Central Region – Gold Coast Seaway to Couran Cove Island Resort

The central or middle region of the Gold Coast waterways, encompassing waters between the Gold Coast Seaway to Couran Cove Island Resort, has many excellent attractions. The area is still reasonably sheltered, and can offer good boating in windy weather, with many places to hide in even the nastiest of weather.

Encompassing the northern populated regions of the Gold Coast, including Runaway Bay, Paradise Point, Hope Island, Sanctuary Cove and Coomera, the area includes some of the most exclusive real estate, such

as The Sovereign Islands, along with the fastest growing regions such as Paradise Point and Hope Island.

With access available from some excellent council and private boat ramps/marinas, the area is well serviced for the trailer boating holidaymaker. The most sheltered public boat ramp would have to be at Biggera Creek. The public boat ramp, located inside the creek mouth itself, is very protected and always calm. The ramp offers very easy access to the Seaway, and has a sandy beach for soft landings. The downside to this ramp however, is that it is very popular and therefore busy. The ramp is only a single lane, and lacks serious car/trailer parks for the numbers utilising it.

Runaway Bay Marina offers an excellent three-lane boat ramp, with calm water launching and a public wharf for access. The ramp is considered steep by some standards, so a 4x4 tow vehicle is advisable.

A ramp fee is payable, however the marina offers security for its patrons cars, and lock up parking can be provided for a cost. The marina also has the usual marina facilities, including repairs, on water fuels, and overnight berthing if required. The harbourmaster can be contacted on

(07) 5577 1400.

The Paradise Point boat ramp, located in the boat harbour is another excellent public facility. A calm water three-lane ramp, with ample parking, sandy beach, toilet facilities and convenience store, this ramp is probably the best option for launching in the area. Other public ramps are located at Howard Street Runaway Bay, Jabiru Island, Hope Island (Boykambil), and at the various marinas such as Hope Island and Gold Coast City Marina, which also have fuel facilities.

Attractions In The Central Region

Attractions to see in this region include the various South Stradbroke Island campsites, such as Currigea, and Browns Inlet.

Other attractions include Sovereign Island, to see "how the other half live" yet again! The area is abundant with multi-million dollar homes, and is an architect's paradise.

Upstream of the Coomera River, is also where you will find the Hope Harbour Marina, Hope Island Marina, Sanctuary Cove Resort, and the Gold Coast City Marina.

Hope Harbour Marina, boasts a take-away and on water fuel station, as well



Without a doubt, one of the Gold Coast's best features is . . . the weather. Fishing and boating holidays are practical here all year round, and fierce argument is waged as to which season - winter or summer - is actually best for the holidays. Some like it hot - others prefer winter's warm sunny days followed by the cooler, easy-sleep winter nights. Another feature is the surfeit of excellent anchorages. **Below:** This is one of the Coast's most popular anchorages, on the northern side of man-made Wavebreak Island, virtually at the entrance to the Seaway itself.



Over two issues of F&B, we are producing a very special holiday guide designed to provide interstate readers with a heads-up on what this fantastic family boating destination has to offer . . . Darren Shiel, one of our resident boating writers (and a widely respected VMR skipper) his new bride Cathleen, and fishing specialist Mark Ward, will provide a detailed account of a Gold Coast fishing and boating holiday designed to show families how to organise the boating holiday of a lifetime.