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# Acknowledgement to Country

Visit Gympie Region acknowledges the Kabi Kabi, Wakka Wakka and Butchulla peoples as the Traditional Owners of the land within the Gympie Region. We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the region. This Country is a place of social, cultural and spiritual significance and we ask that you respect this land, its history and ancestors while you enjoy your stay in the region.





# Welcome to the Gympie Region

From historic Gympie City to the rolling hills of the Mary Valley in the south, the trail of country towns in The West and the pristine waters of the Cooloola Coast in the northeast – we welcome you. Located two hours north of Brisbane and only 30 minutes from Noosa, the region acts as the southern gateway to the World Heritage-listed K'gari. Whether you're here for a short or long stay, you're in for a good time, and an abundance of experiences from fishing, camping, nature, food and events. No matter if you're an adventure seeker, family or simply looking for a relaxing getaway, the Gympie Region encourages you to make the most out of every moment.

To find out more about the region go to **visitgympieregion.com.au** or **Freecall 1800 444 222**.



Connect with us on social media. Share your holiday photos and tag **#VisitGympieRegion**.

#### Climate

The Gympie Region enjoys a beautiful sub-tropical climate with over 300 days of sunshine a year.

Seasonal Averages	Low (°C)	High (°C)	Rain (mm)
SUMMER	21	29	164
AUTUMN	17	26	145
WINTER	11	22	95
SPRING	16	25	73

## Water temperature

The water off the coast of Rainbow Beach is temperate for swimming year-round.

Seasonal Averages	(°C)
SUMMER	26
AUTUMN	25
WINTER	22
SPRING	25

# Getting in and Around



# TRAVELLING BY ROAD

## From Brisbane

The most direct route will take approximately 2 hours (169km) via the Bruce Highway. Alternatively, take the roads less travelled and enjoy the rolling hills and farmland by journeying along Mary Valley Road.

#### From Toowoomba

If making the 3 hours, 20 minute drive (274km) from Toowoomba, travel along the Wide Bay Highway for a scenic route.

#### From Gold Coast

Just over 3 hours (269km) from the Gold Coast Airport, travel through Brisbane or take the scenic route and travel through the hinterland.

## In Gympie

Local taxi services and car hire options are available.

## **Booked Services**

Shuttle and transfer services – see Karrabee Charter. Bus services – see Polleys Coaches and Premier Bus Services.

Taxi and booked services – see Gold City Cabs, Brett's Transport and Showfa Passenger Services. Car hire is also available.



# TRAVELLING BY PLANE

Brisbane Airport Coolangatta Airport (Gold Coast) Sunshine Coast Airport Hervey Bay Airport (Domestic)



# TRAVELLING BY RAIL

Queensland Rail (1800 872 467) and Travel Train connect Gympie City with Brisbane, Hervey Bay, Rockhampton, and further north.



# Calendar of Events

# Head to visitgympieregion.com to check out our full events calendar.

Events, dates and venues are subject to change without notice.

# **JANUARY**



**Australia Day Celebrations** 

Imbil Bull Bronc & Barrels - Round 1

Mary Valley Arts Festival Mary River Festival Gympie Quilt & Craft Spectacular (bi-annual)

Winter Trees on Mary Gympie Turf Club – AJT Legal Race Day



**Gympie Region Studio Trails** 

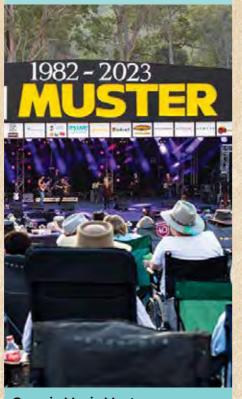
JULY

# **FEBRUARY**



Gympie Turf Club – Nolan's Muster Cup Mary Valley Show Off-Grid Lifestyle Expo

Little Kids Day Out



**Gympie Music Muster** 

**AUGUST** 

# **MARCH**



**Goomeri Show** 

Far A Way Endurance Gympie Turf Club – First Race Day of the Year

Mitchell Creek Rock N Blues Festival Angel Flight Charity Ride Gympie Swap Meet & Car Show Mary Valley Scarecrow Festival Cooloola Farm Trail Gympie Turf Club – Ladies Day Imbil Bull Bronc & Barrels Round 3



**Heart of Gold Film Festival** 

**SEPTEMBER** 

# **APRIL**



Easter on Mary

Kilkivan Great Horse Ride Rainbow Beach Skydiving Championships Gympie Turf Club – 100 Club Cup Imbil Bull Bronc & Barrels - Round 2

Emergency Expo Professional Bull Riders Kilkivan Matty Hillcoat's Truckies Day Out (bi-annual) Gympie Turf Club – BMW



Widgee Balladeers & Country Music

**OCTOBER** 

# MAY



**Gympie Show** 

Mary Valley GourMAY Bay to Bay Yacht Race Goomeri Pumpkin Festival (bi-annual) Rainbow Beach South Queensland Outriggers Zone Big Rosella Field Day Pranafest

Gympie Turf Club – Last Race Day of the Year



**Mary Valley Fishing Classic** 

**NOVEMBER** 

# JUNE



#### **Rally Gympie Region**

Mary Valley Art Festival Rainbow Beach Fishing Classic Gympie Turf Club – RSL Club Cup Cowgirls Gathering

Mary Christmas New Years Celebration Goomeri Rodeo



Christmas in the Park

**DECEMBER** 

# **Gympie and Surrounds**

Gympie City is the perfect place to begin your adventure in the Gympie Region.

The city boasts rich heritage which you can explore after a walk along the River to Rail Trail or a swim in the Mothar Mountain Rock Pools. Our café culture is strong – with a coffee in hand, hit the vintage and op shops around town.



# **Gympie Memorial Park**

You're hard pressed to find a more idyllic picnic spot than the peaceful Gympie Memorial Park. Found on River Road, the three-acre parklands feature manicured gardens, a playground, jacaranda trees and a century-old rotunda.

## **Mothar Mountain Rock Pools**

Located in the Woondum National Park about 20 minutes from the Gympie CBD, the Mothar Mountain Rock Pools is a relaxing place to cool off on a warm day. Set amongst tall eucalypts and rainforest, relax and unwind to the sound of water gently flowing over ancient granite outcrops. Pack a picnic to enjoy waterside or at the barbeque facilities.

# **Mary Valley Rattler**

The Mary Valley Rattler offers seats for all (including furry friends aboard the pet friendly carriage) to journey to Amamoor Heritage Station.

The locomotive follows its way through the scenic Mary Valley and provides an authentic experience true to the train's operating days of the late 1800s.

#### **Lake Alford Recreational Park**

Lake Alford Recreational Park offers ample space for a picnic or to make use of the complimentary barbeque facilities.

The park also includes an all abilities playground, accessible public amenities, and an off-leash dog park.







# Mary Valley

Set in the rolling hills, the Mary Valley is dotted with villages that exude community spirit and offer authentic country hospitality. With a history of agriculture, including beef and dairy farming on rich fertile land, you will discover shops and cafes that showcase local growers and producers.

The natural beauty of the Valley lends itself to many adventure activities such as canoeing, kayaking, fishing, bush walking, bike riding, four-wheel driving, and horse riding.

For the true Valley experience, set aside a long weekend. There are numerous accommodation options for families and couples, including bed and breakfasts, farm stays, cabins and camping under the stars in the forest.



# **Mary Valley Arts and Culture**

During July, Gympie Region Studio Trails invites visitors to explore the studios and creative spaces of local artists. For year round arts, visit *Art on Yabba Fine Art Gallery* or some of the world's largest puzzles at *Puzzles on Yabba*.

### **Borumba Deer Park**

Located 10 minutes from Imbil, hand-feed deer and various other farm animals.

The park welcomes both overnight and day visitors.

## **Enjoy the View**

Immerse yourself in nature and enjoy panoramic views at Imbil Lookout, Arrawatta Lookout and Amamoor Lookout in the Amamoor State Forest.

# The West

With wide open spaces and the ever expanding blue skies of The West, discover a rich grazing history and friendly farming communities across Kilkivan, Goomeri and the Woolooga area.

The West sets the stage for a relaxed getaway, filled with country charm, endless hospitality, and plenty of opportunities to live like a local in the Gympie Region.

# **Antiques and museums**

For lovers of quirky collections, fine antiques, collectibles and vintage goods across The West, visit Goomeri Antiques, Kilkivan Antiques Fine Art & Collectibles, Wimberley & Co Bookstore, Goomeri Emporium and The Country Way Museum.



# Woolooga and Theebine

Take a drive out to the heritage-listed Dickabram Bridge.

Built in 1886, it's the oldest road-rail bridge in Queensland and the second oldest in Australia.

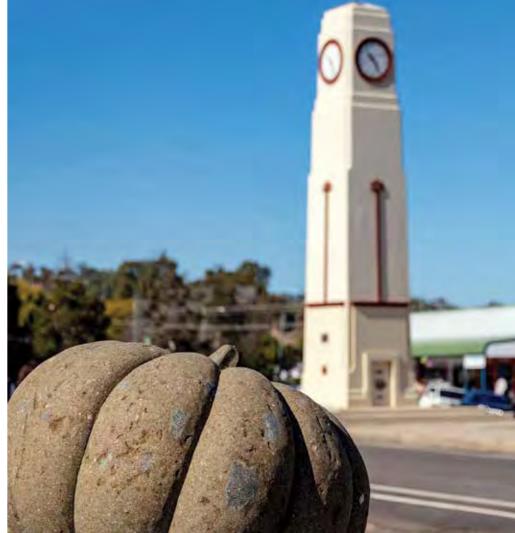
Have a barbeque lunch at the bridge, or stop in at the Historic Theebine Hotel for a good country feed.

## Goomeri

As you head towards Goomeri, look out for the signs to Kinbombi Falls. The falls cascade down the steep basalt rock face into the gorge below and feature a scenic lookout.

Treat yourself to some country retail therapy in Goomeri's main street. Don't forget to stop by the local bakery while you stroll along the Goomeri Heritage Trail.





## Kilkivan

Take to the outdoors and explore the bushland following the Kilkivan to Kingaroy Rail Trail. This 88km trail can be enjoyed by foot, bike, horseback, or accompanied by your pooch. Step your way through the heritage village and its comprehensive displays at the Kilkivan Shire Museum.

Visit the Mt Clara Smelter, a once-active copper mine in the 1870s; the heritage-listed chimney is the only remaining artifact. Park your caravan at *Kilkivan Bush Camping & Caravan Park* or stay at *Kilkivan Country B&B*.







# Cooloola Coast

Discover the coloured coast. Nestled in a World Heritage-listed area and neighbouring biospheres, Rainbow Beach is as rich in culture as it is in breathtaking landscapes. The area can trace its history back to the ancient creation time stories of protective rainbows and evil boomerangs colliding over the now famous sands.

Experience life on the water. Immerse yourself in the coastal lifestyle of Tin Can Bay where seafood is enjoyed fresh and the wildlife is abundant.

#### Hire a Houseboat

Wake up with a different view every morning aboard a houseboat. With no boat licence required, explore the sights and sounds of the magnificent Great Sandy Strait at your own leisure with the easy-to-manoeuvre boats. Book at *Tin Can Bay Houseboats* or *Luxury Afloat Tin Can Bay Houseboats*.

# Walk Along the Water's Edge

From Norman Point to Crab Creek, the foreshore is an internationally recognised RAMSAR wetland, home to over 150 different bird species including the rare black breasted button quail and southern emu wren.

The flat walkways provide an enjoyable experience for the whole family.

#### **Feast on Fresh Seafood**

Renowned for fresh seafood, caught and prepared the same day, savour the flavours of local prawns, crabs, bugs, scallops and a bounty of fish varieties straight from the water.

Book a local fishing charter or cast a line offshore and try your luck at catching your own.

# Fresh Water Swimming

Cool off in the creeks and waterholes throughout the Cooloola Coast. Set amongst paperbark woodlands at the end of a 200m boardwalk track, the tea coloured Seary's Creek offers tranquil waters to float in.

Lake Poona is found at the end of a 2.1km walk up a rainforest sand dune, but rewards trekkers with a tranquil paperbark-fringed lake.

## Feed Dolphins and Spot Dugongs

Tin Can Bay is one of only two places in Queensland where you can hand-feed wild dolphins through a guided experience. The waters of Tin Can Bay are home to the Australian humpback dolphin, estuarine dolphin and shy dugong.

#### Wildflower Walk

Throughout the year, watch as Tin Can Bay springs to life with a vibrant collection of wildflower species. Discover a variety of flora and fauna including an abundance of native species.

#### Looking to level-up your sand driving skills?

Join a 4WD tag along tour or try your skills at the famous Great Beach Drive which connects the Sunshine Coast and Gympie Region with K'gari. Pack the binoculars as breaching whales, dolphins, and rare seabirds are frequent sightings.

Before you visit, be sure to purchase vehicle and camping permits, check the weather, sand conditions, and tide times.



#### **Carlo Sand Blow and Coloured Sands**

With unobstructed 180-degree ocean views from Double Island Point to the southern tip of K'gari, no two visits to the Carlo Sand Blow ever look the same. Two kilometres south from Rainbow Beach is the iconic Coloured Sands; 200ft of sandy cliffs with 70+ colours best enjoyed up close or from the comfort of a 4WD or scenic flight.

## **Inskip Point**

Dubbed the gateway to the largest sand island in the world - K'gari - Inskip Point serves its own set of nature-based adventures. Set up camp in the designated areas to enjoy this ocean-side paradise for yourself.





# **Taste Gympie's Regional Produce**

The Gympie Region is home to many foodie must-dos - from local cafés, paddock-to-plate restaurants, quaint cocktail bars and waterfront seafood eateries, you'll be inspired by the delicious variety on offer across the region.

# **UNIQUE EATS**

#### The Deck @ Sea Salt.

The Deck @ Sea Salt in Rainbow Beach offers panoramic views of the ocean and a range of fresh seafood, classic pub meals and tapas to share. Plan ahead and catch some great live music while you dine.

#### Arcobaleno On The Beach

Savor in Italian-style cuisine at Arcobaleno on the Beach, one of Rainbow Beach's gems. Serving up handmade pasta, wood fired pizza and more, dine in or grab a takeaway to enjoy breathtaking views along the main beach

## **Sublime Farm & Brewery**

Sublime Farm and Brewery is a working lime farm, restaurant and campground located between Gympie and Tin Can Bay. The beer garden serves up food sourced from neighbouring farms and fisheries, and on weekends the venue features local live music. Make a weekend of it and camp onsite among the orchards.

# Rusty Rails Café

Experience Gympie's Historic Station, dating back to 1913, by dining at Rusty Rails Café. Delight in locally sourced produce in this family-friendly spot. Opt for indoor dining or for something memorable, dine on the Station Platform and sip coffee while you bid farewell to the nostalgic 'Rattler' train.

#### Fraser Grill

Set in the countryside halfway between Gympie and Tin Can Bay is a converted shipping container restaurant serving up coffee, churrasco Brazilian style meats, wings, burgers and steaks. The alfresco dining area overlooks a rolling paddock, home to the herd of cows that belong to the restaurant owners.

#### Sails Restaurant

Sails Restaurant, located at the Tin Can Bay Marina, is a licensed café with beautiful water views. Enjoy fresh seafood and cocktails while you relax on the deck. Stay for the spectacular sunsets in hues of orange and pink.

## Dingo Creek Vineyard

Dingo Creek Vineyard in Traveston is a boutique vineyard set on 26 acres. Visit the cellar door to sample 18 locally-grown wine varieties including cabernet sauvignon, merlot, sauvignon blanc and chardonnay. For lunch, choose from a grazing platter on the balcony or a picnic pack of local produce to enjoy on the grounds.

## The Dolly and Oats

Reminiscent of the 1950s, The Dolly and Oats lounge bar in Gympie will take you back in time with its vintage aesthetic, rich velvet curtains and Chesterfield leather lounges. The staff and atmosphere evoke an old-world charm with classic cocktails crafted by skilled mixologists, tapas and live music most weekends.

#### **Kingston House Impressions**

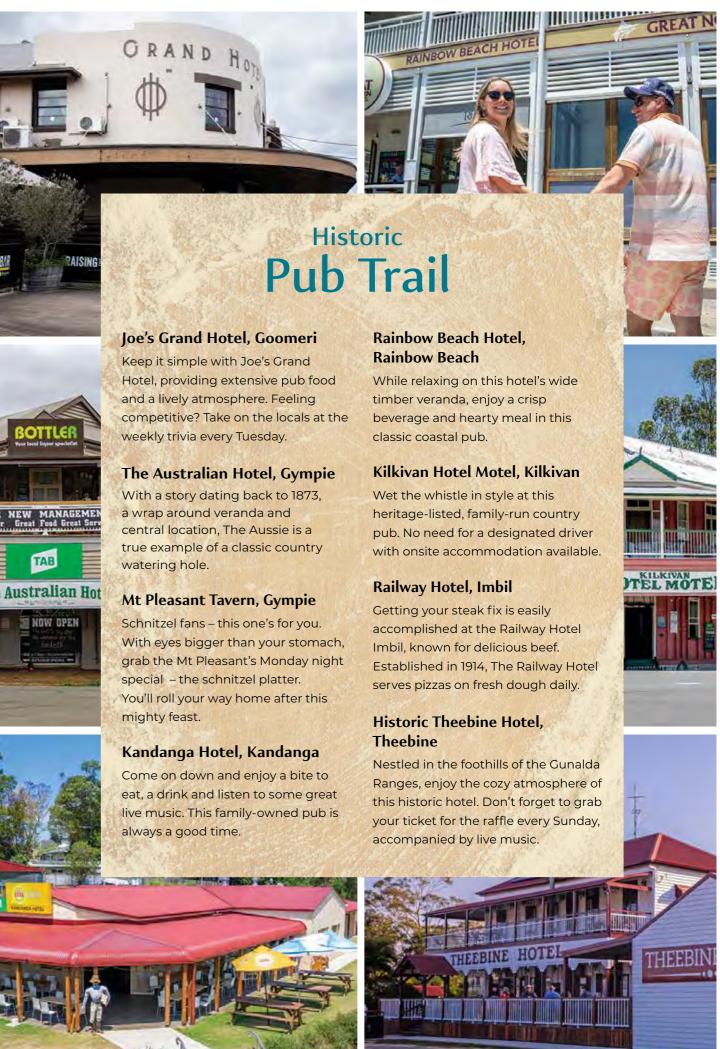
Kingston House is beautiful old Queenslander built in 1901. In it's time, it has been a doctor's surgery, maternity ward and family home. Today, Kingston House is an a la carte restaurant providing a superb culinary experience in the heart of Gympie.

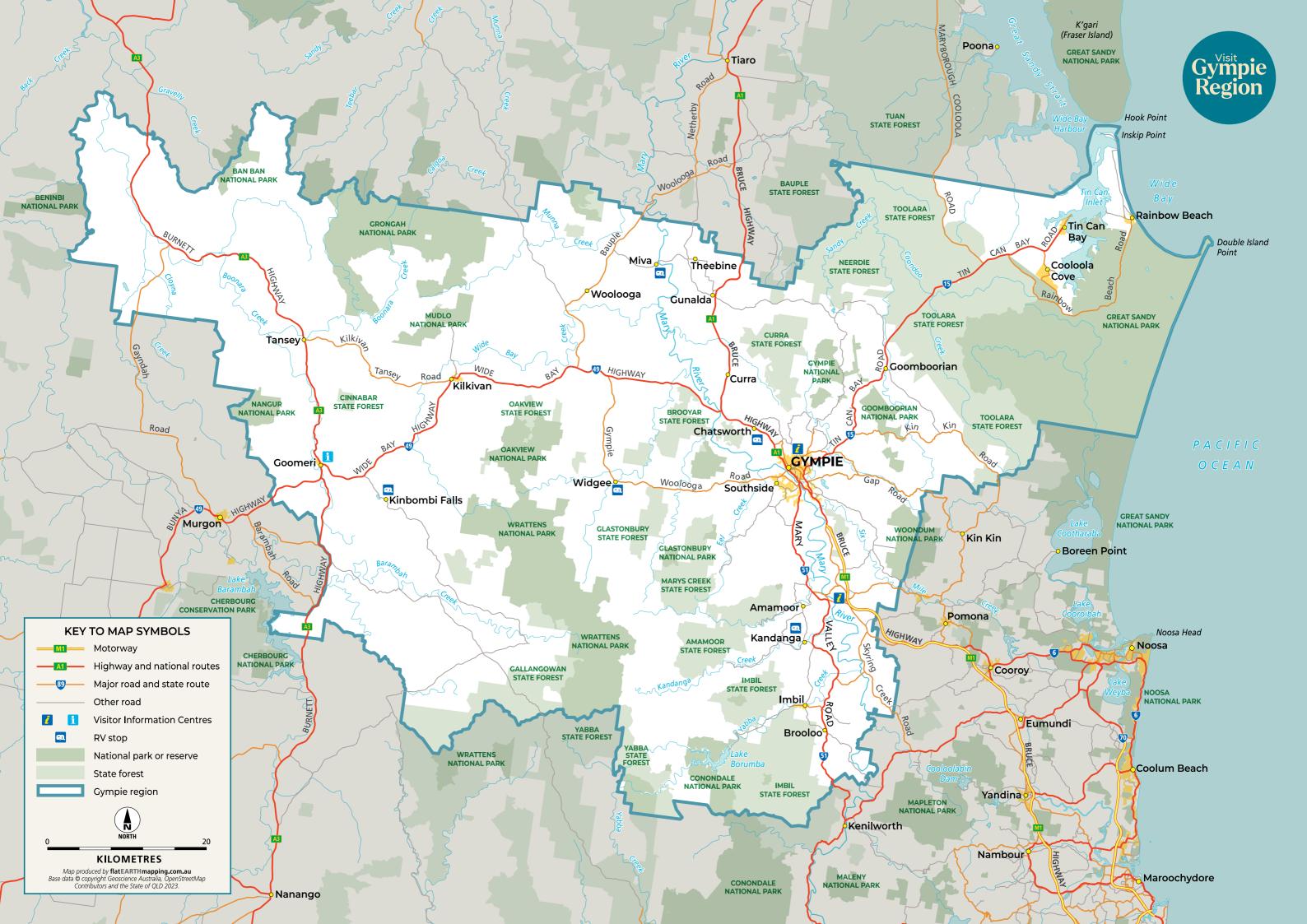
#### **Helltown Hotrods**

Helltown Hotrods, located in Kybong, caters for motor enthusiasts and American diner foodie fans. View the incredible range of vintage cars and memorabilia before tucking into one of their gigantic burgers and beers on tap. Plan ahead and catch live music on most weekends at this family-friendly venue.













# **CARAVAN PARKS**

tent or camper in one of our many camp sites. With a variety of camping, caravanning and RV sites available throughout the region, you'll easily be able to explore by day, then sit back and relax under the stars at night.

Amenities and facilities vary by park, with some offering storage options for those looking for a longer stay. Check out PK Park, Cobb & Co Nine Mile Camping Grounds, Standown Park, Borumba Deer Park, Lake Borumba Caravan & Camping Grounds, Goomeri Caravan and Bush Camp, Kilkivan Bush Camp, Rainbow Beach Holiday Park, BIG4 Breeze Holiday Park - Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay Tourist Park, Kingfisher Caravan Park

If you ask us, one of the best ways to explore the region is by pitching your

Head to visitgympieregion.com.au for more information.

and many more throughout the region.

# Caravanning and Camping in the Gympie Region

# **NATIONAL PARKS**

# **Great Sandy National Park**

The Great Sandy National Park beckons with its breathtaking Cooloola sand mass and the captivating allure of K'gari. Immerse yourself in the pristine beauty of this coastal wonderland as you enjoy the rainbow sands, swim in freshwater lakes, and explore the picturesque surrounds. With four designated camp areas and accessible 4WD routes, the park offers the perfect camping escape.

# **Brooyar State Forest**

For an idyllic camping getaway, look no further than Brooyar State Forest.

Set up your camp right beside the tranquil Glastonbury Creek and enjoy time unwinding and connecting with nature.

The best part? Your furry companion can join your camping adventure, as dogs on leashes are allowed.

#### **Amamoor State Forest**

Located just 30 kilometres southwest of Gympie City,
Amamoor State Forest provides a peaceful retreat for nature enthusiasts. Cedar Grove camping area invites both tent campers and those with motorhomes to set up for the night next to the creek among red cedars and bunya pines. If you're looking to bring your dog, head to the nearby Amamoor Creek camping area where dogs are permitted on-leash.



# Accommodation in the Gympie Region

# **HOTELS AND MOTELS**

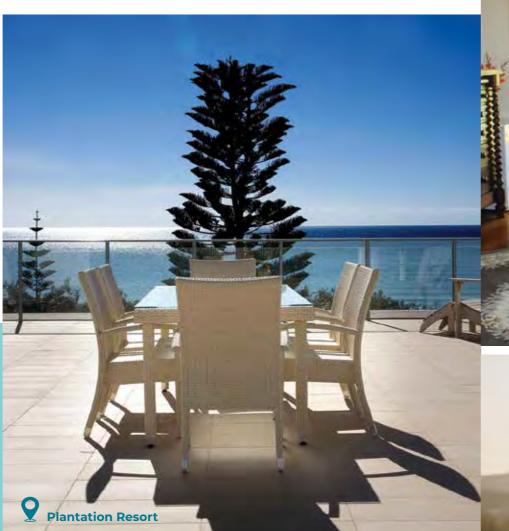
# **Gympie City and Surrounds**

Gympie City offers a range of hotels with modern facilities - perfect for working travellers, or those looking for a central stay. These hotels and motels make for the ideal base to head out on day trips and explore the region.

Check out Room Motels Gympie, Gympie Muster Inn, Mary River Motor Inn, Y Motels, Veranda Motel, The Victory Hotel, Shady Rest and Gunabul Homestead.

### On the Coast

If you're looking for accommodation close to the water, we've got you covered. Enjoy a relaxing night's rest before heading out to enjoy beach lifestyle with Tin Can Bay Motel, Sleepy Lagoon Motel, Plantation Resort at Rainbow Beach, Debbie's Place and Sandcastle Motel.



# **BED AND BREAKFASTS**

For homestyle comfort and the chance to enjoy the country lifestyle, escape to a cosy bed and breakfast. Your local hosts look forward to welcoming you at Amamoor Homestead and Country Cottages, Kilkivan Country B&B and Cedarbrae B&B.

# **Paw-fect Holidays**

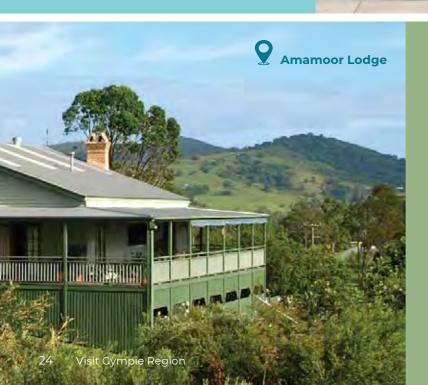
Looking to bring your furry friend along for the holiday? Many of our accommodation providers allow pets including Room Motels Gympie, BIG4 Breeze Holiday Park and Windsong Cabins.

# **LUXURY ESCAPES AND RETREATS**

Perfect for those seeking a luxury hinterland weekend away or a chance to recharge and rejuvenate, wake up to the birds and breathe in country air while enjoying all the comfort and conveniences of a luxurious stay.

You'll fall in love with Melawondi Spring Retreat, Valley Cabins by the Creek, The Wolvi House, Haruha Ridge Farm and Tivoli Retreat.





# **FARM STAYS AND BOUTIOUF ACCOMMODATION**

If you're wanting to step away from the hustle and bustle and get back to nature, a farm stay might be right for you. Our farm stays, cabins, and campsites provide the chance to connect with nature and enjoy country hospitality. Farm stays offer fun for the whole family, with the chance to get up close with animals, kayak on lakes and hike the

Try Borumba Deer Park, Imbil Bridge Farm and Homestead, Lake Barra Cottages, Amamoor Lodge and Mountain View Country Escape.





#### Bike Ride

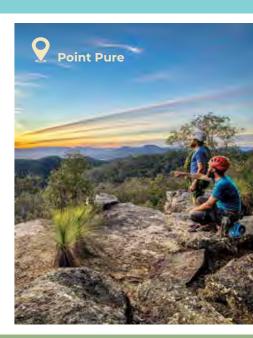
Pedal to your heart's content with Gympie's bike trails. Cycle through 60 hectares of eucalyptus forest at the Victory Heights Trail Network, ranging from kids circuits to single tracks with log, rock, drop and berm features. Connecting Imbil and Brooloo, join in on an adventurous ride through the Mary Valley Rail Trail with *Ride on Mary*.

# **Rock Climbing and Abseiling**

Challenge yourself on the cliff face at Point
Pure as you scale up the textured rock and
take in the view of the Brooyar State Forest
and the farming lands below, or lean back
over the edge and enjoy the thrilling descent.

# Motorbiking

Bring your bike and satisfy your need for speed with the *Gympie Motorcycle Club* who hold frequent practice days at locations on Cedar Pocket Road. Or call ahead to the well-maintained tracks at the *MX Farm* in Curra, which has seven tracks catering to all levels.



# **Horse Riding**

Giddy up with a horse riding adventure. Trot through farmland and Amamoor State Forest with *Mary Valley Adventure Trails*, offering half day rides for beginners and experienced riders.

# Activities in the Gympie Region

The Gympie Region is an adventure playground with many activities on offer.

# **Paragliding**

Take to the skies with *SEQ Paragliding*. Glide your way over the pristine beaches, lush forests, and sparkling waters with highly experienced instructors and tandem riders.

# Flying

Get a bird's eye view with *Rainbow Beach Helicopters*. Swoop over the majestic K'gari, Inskip
Point, Cooloola Coast and Double Island Point with a
range of itineraries to suit.









## Learn to surf

Always wanted to learn to surf? Rainbow Beach Surf School and Rainbow Beach Learn to Surf both specialise in small groups, families and kids.

Alternatively, pick up your own 4WD from Rainbow Beach 4x4 Hire or Rainbow Beach Adventure Centre and make your way to Double Island Point for some epic waves.

# Fishing

If you like to wet a line, there are a multitude of opportunities for fresh water fishing at Borumba Dam, the Mary River and connecting tributaries like the Yabba and Obi Obi Creeks in the Mary Valley. For something a little saltier, throw in a line at Rainbow Beach, Inskip Point or Tin Can Bay. For offshore fishing, spend a day on the water with Rainbow Beach Fishing Charters, Keely Rose Deep Sea Fishing Charters, Nightbeat Fish'n'Cruise Charters and Untapped Fishing Borumba Dam.





# **Tracks and Trails**

The Gympie Region hosts a wealth of outdoor adventures with its diverse landscape, from long stretches of shoreline to rolling hills and valleys.

# **NATIONAL PARKS**

Take a scenic drive, walk, or camp within one of these expansive national parks.

#### **Woondum National Park**

For the physically fit, Mt Boulder is a challenging 3.2km return hike through the subtropical rainforest.

Alternatively, the Turpentine Circuit is much more family friendly. After your trek, make sure to reward yourself with a refreshing dip at the picturesque rock pools.

#### **Brooyar State Forest**

Featuring sandstone cliffs, open forests and lush rainforests, the national park lookout gives views over the surrounding hinterlands.

For abseiling and rock-climbing enthusiasts, apply your skills on the bluffs at Point Pure and Eagles Nest abseiling sites.

### **Great Sandy National Park**

Perfect for walkers, camping and 4WD tours, the national park features towering dunes, wide ocean beaches, forests, paperbark swamps and freshwater lakes.

#### **Amamoor State Forest**

Take a scenic drive through the valley and explore one of the many walking trails. Enjoy a picnic in the Amama day-use area, or set up camp in the Cedar Grove or Amamoor Creek camping areas.

#### **Mudlo National Park**

Fondly known as Mudlo Gap, this national park is a protected area for one of the few remaining native hoop pine rainforests. Prepare yourself for a steep climb to the lookout, or take a scenic stroll along the Scrubby Creek Walk, perfect for a picnic.

# **WALK AND RIDE**

Lace up your hiking boots and tackle these trails: **GYMPIE AND SURROUNDS** 

The Victory Heights Trail Network: Outdoor adventurers, bushwalkers, and trail runners will find a combined 17km of trails among the spotted gum forest

combined 17km of trails among the spotted gum forest and creeks. Mountain biking enthusiasts can take to 25km of trails, suitable for all skill levels.

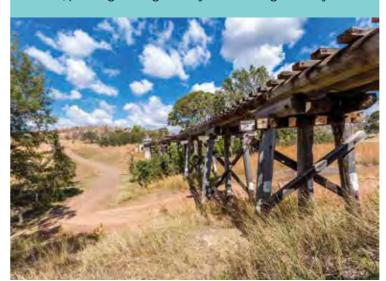
**River to Rail Trail:** Following the Mary River, the 7.8km trail reveals an ecological wonderland. Explore by foot or pedal power with plenty of places to stop along the way. Keep an eye out for wildlife like platypus and turtles in the river.



#### THE WEST

**Kinbombi Falls:** Cascading down the steep rocky cliff into the gorge below, there are three main walking trails to explore, each giving breathtaking views of the falls.

Kilkivan to Kingaroy Rail Trail: Ideal for bushwalkers and bike or horse riders, the trail is dog-friendly. It spans 88km following the old railway line between the two towns, passing through many more along the way.



#### MARY VALLEY

Mary Valley Rail Trail: The 4.5km coarse gravel trail is suitable for all levels of mountain bikers, walkers, and horse riders. Passing through state forest, it is an idyllic exercise experience.



#### **COOLOOLA COAST**

Foreshore Bird Walk: Making up part of the internationally significant RAMSAR wetlands, the Tin Can Bay foreshore stretches for 4km and is a bird watchers' paradise, home to more than 140 species.

**Wildflower Walk:** For lovers of native wildflowers, Tin Can Bay blooms all year around with varying and seasonal plant species.

**Seary's Creek:** Discover the wheelchair-accessible woodlands and swimming holes in the day-use area, home to an abundance of wildflowers and native animals.



**Poona Lake Walk:** Situated in the Cooloola Recreation Area, this walk is 4.2km return, passing through lush rainforests and towering pines. It's home to Poona Lake, a tea-coloured freshwater lake.

**Carlo Sand Blow:** Overlooking K'gari, the Carlo Sand Blow provides a scenic outlook over the coastline, with prime views from sunrise to sunset.

The Cooloola Great Walk: Nestled between the Noosa North Shore and Rainbow Beach, this walk is a 5 day (102km) trek through rainforest, everglades and dunes. Camp in remote areas of Great Sandy National Park along the way and connect with nature while taking in the views.

# Wildlife in the Gympie Region

Explore the waterways, dunes, forests, and pine plantations that are home to a diverse world of wildlife. Listen out for birdsong and keep an eye out for koalas, echidnas, goannas, and kangaroos who frequent the bushland while dolphins, dugongs, and whales grace the ocean.

## **Protected Wildlife**

as endangered and a critical

# Birds and Bird Watching

Few regions have as wide a diversity of bird breeding habitats as the Gympie Region, making it a mecca for birdwatching. Over 150 species of birds can be discovered. Some hot spots include Tin Can Bay foreshore, Mudlo National Park, Brooyar State Forest and Bymien day-use area.

# Dolphins

Tin Can Bay is one of only two places in Queensland where you can get up close and personal, hand-feeding wild dolphins at the Barnacles Cafe. Home to the Australian humpback dolphin, Tin Can Bay Inlet and the Great Sandy Strait are where you can meet the resident pod of dolphins in the shallows, or head to Double Island Point and paddle alongside dolphins in the deeper water.

# Dugongs

Fondly known as sea cows, these slow-moving, plant-eating mammals spend most of their days grazing on seagrass and can live up to 70 years. Spot dugongs at Rainbow Beach connecting to the Coral Sea or in the protected shallows among the mangroves of Tin Can Bay.

#### Platypus

Frequenting the gently moving waterways of Yabba and Amamoor Creeks are platypus. For your best chance at spotting these secretive creatures, embrace the quiet at dusk or dawn and keep an eye on the water's surface for bubbles.

# Mary River Turtle

Found in the waterways of the Mary River, the aptly named Mary River turtle is one of the largest species of freshwater turtle. Spot the cloacal ventilator turtles (breathing oxygen through their bottom) while kayaking or walking along the riverbanks.

# Top 5 Arts and Culture Experiences

in the Gympie Region

Celebrate Gympie's creative spirit and let these galleries, exhibitions, outdoor art trails and installations tell the stories of the region.

# 1 Gympie Regional Gallery

Showcasing professional, emerging, and amateur artists from across the region and around Australia, the community-oriented gallery has been open since 1998. Displaying a variety of exhibitions, there's always something new to discover. Get involved and participate in their regular workshops and activities or take home a memento from the gift shop.

# 2 Art on Yabba Fine Art

The gallery hosts a curated collection of solo and mixed exhibitions throughout the year, with a connected bakery and outdoor eating area to enjoy alongside the artwork.

# 3 Gympie Town Centre Heritage Trail

Restored buildings from the gold rush era add character and charm to Gympie. Take a walk to view glorious examples of 19th century architecture. Gympie's Town Hall (built in 1890) is situated on the spot of the original gold strike by James Nash. The Land's Office building (1873) was the first to be erected on the gold fields and is now home to the Australian Institute of Country Music on Channon Street. Gympie Regional Council Chambers are located in the old Bank of New South Wales building (1890). Other examples include the Stock Exchange, Court House, Smithfield Chambers buildings and the Mount Pleasant Hotel (1870) - Gympie's oldest pub.

# 4 Memorial Lane Mosaic Murals

Featuring a series of nine mosaic murals, the public art laneway honours and celebrates the brave men and women who contributed so much to Australia's war effort and highlights the local community's involvement during this time.

# 5 Studio Trails

Each year in July, the region's talented artists, artisans and creatives open their studios to the public. Learn about their creative practices and techniques while discovering more about their work and skills as they share the stories and inspiration behind their art. You can even participate in a workshop or watch a demonstration.





## Mitchell Creek Rock 'N' Blues Fest

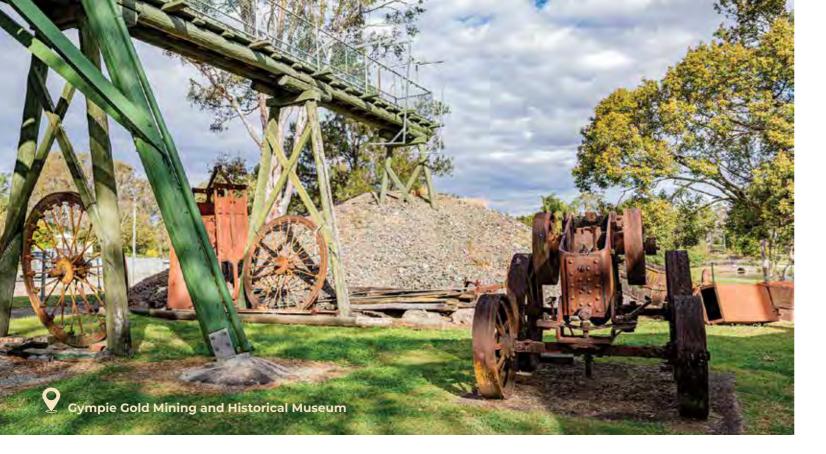
Held every September on a private 100-acre property in the Mary Valley, this three-day festival features local and international artists across two large stages. There's something for all music tastes including rock, blues, soul, indie, and up-and-coming artists. Camping is available onsite and facilities are provided.

**LOCAL TIP** There's often live music happening in the Valley at local venues and pubs.





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# **History and Museums**

Step back in time and take in the heritage city and the surrounding pioneer towns.

## Mary Valley Rattler

Take a historical journey across the countryside of the Gympie Region aboard the Mary Valley Rattler, one of Queensland's most iconic heritage rail experiences.

# The Woodworks Museum and Interpretive Centre

Discover the history of regional forestry and its significant role throughout Queensland with the Gympie Region recognised for its wealth of timber and abundance of quality red cedar prior to the gold rush. Preserving the artefacts of a bygone era, the museum displays pioneering hand tools, equipment, transport vehicles, and interpretive signage as well as hosting live demonstrations.

## The Gympie Bone Museum

In an Australian first, the Gympie Bone Museum is the country's only museum dedicated entirely to the art and science of modern bones and skeletons. The majority of the museum's display has been generously donated and includes a camel, racehorse, platypus, water buffalo and even a medical human skeleton from the 1950s.

# **Gympie Memorial Park and Miners Hill**

Paying tribute to World War I soldiers, the State Heritage Register-listed Gympie Memorial Park is in the heart of Gympie, surrounded by century-old Jacaranda trees. The Miners Hill monument commemorates the 149 miners who lost their lives in the Gympie and Kilkivan gold mines between 1868 and 1952.

#### **Gympie Gold Mining and Historical Museum**

Take a trip through Gympie's rich gold mining history at the Gympie Gold Mining and Historical Museum. The complex incorporates 15 historical buildings and an abundance of displays, including rural, military, hospital, transport, communications, and steam development in Australia.

### **Kilkivan Historical District Museum**

Step back in time to explore the local history as you wander through the museum's eight buildings depicting the lives of yesteryear with each housing local and cultural artefacts. Discover the museum's display of machinery, ore and mineral samples, photographs and documents relating to mining, forestry and dairying.

# The Town that Saved Queensland

Flashback to 1866, when Queensland was experiencing a recession, exacerbated by a prolonged drought.

Due to its dire state, the government offered a £3,000 reward for the discovery of gold. Enter James Nash, armed with a panning dish, a pick, the company of his dog and a very significant find. In a day and a half of prospecting, he found approximately 33g of gold (an ounce and three pennyweights), and six days later he'd discovered a total of 2.1kg (75 ounces).

Nash penned a letter to the Minster for Lands, confirming the extent of the gold in the area, collecting the reward and sparking a gold rush. It was this gold rush that transformed the luck of the state, hailing Gympie as Queensland's saviour.

# **Panning in Deep Creek**

Today you can walk in the footsteps of Gympie's gold pioneers and experience the excitement of the gold rush for yourself, prospecting for gold in Deep Creek. Pick up your licence from the Visitor Information Centre.



The town that saved Queensland: a snapshot of Gympie City's pioneering history.

The Gympie Region is the traditional land of the Kabi-Kabi, Butchulla and Wakka-Wakka tribes.

**1849-1859** Kilkivan, Widgee, Imbil, Traveston and Curra Cattle Stations established.

**1859** Cobb & Co. Mail Track between Brisbane and Maryborough established.

**1859** Queensland separates from New South Wales - most of Queensland is still unexplored by Europeans.

**January 1867** A broke Queensland Government offers a reward for the discovery of Gold that results in a settlement.

**October 1867** Announcement of discovery of gold by James Nash creates a mini gold rush and the settlement becomes known as Nashville.

**December 1867** A second gold discovery leads to a larger gold rush, thus establishing the One Mile settlement and township. Prospectors travel to Maryborough by ship, then coach via the Mail Track to Gympie.

**1868** The settlement changes its name from Nashville to Gympie.

**January 1868** Prospectors suffer their first experience of a minor flood, which cuts the track to Maryborough and disrupts alluvial diggings.

**February 1868** Discovery of the Curtis nugget (975 oz) swells the population to over 15,000.

**February 1868** The first newsmen arrive carrying a printing press: they establish the Nashville Times, which later becomes the Gympie Times.

**November 1868** Road between Gympie and Brisbane opens.

**1870** First major flood on the goldfields, peaking at 21.59 metres, devastates the settlement.

**1875** Opening of the Gympie Courthouse.

**1884** Gympie Stock Exchange opens.

**1881** Railway line from Gympie to Maryborough opens.

**1891** Railway line from Brisbane to Gympie opens.

**1893** Greatest flood since goldrush at a peak of 25.45 metres.

1903 Gympie is gazetted as a town.

**1905** Gympie is declared a city.

# **Emergency**

Police / Fire / Ambulance: 000

**Gympie Police Station:** 40 Channon Street, Gympie 07 5480 1111

**Imbil Police Station:** 97 Yabba Creek Road, Imbil 07 5480 1717

**Tin Can Bay Police Station:** 37 Gympie Road, Tin Can Bay 07 5486 2426

**Goomeri Police Station:** 40 Moore Street, Goomeri 07 5480 1711

**Kilkivan Police Station:** 2 Hall Street, Kilkivan, 07 5480 1722

Rainbow Beach Police Beat: 41 Carlo Road, Rainbow Beach 07 5480 1744

SES (State Emergency Services): 13 25 00

# Hospitals

**Gympie Hospital:** 12 Henry Street Gympie 07 5489 8444

# Medical

**Channon Street Medical Clinic:** Shop 12, 12 Reef Street, Gympie 07 5482 1555

**The Gympie Clinic:** 68 Channon Street, Gympie 07 5482 8422

**Excelsior Medical Centre:** 21 Exhibition Road, Gympie 07 5482 5899

Medical on Mary: 14 Mary Street, Gympie 07 5391 4067 Southside Medical Centre: Shop 101, 1-5 Woolgar Road, Southside 07 5315 4622

# **Transport**

**Queensland Government Traffic & Travel Information:** 13 19 40

**Translink:** 13 16 17 **Linkt:** 13 33 31

RACQ Roadside Assist: 13 11 11 Gold City Cabs: 07 5480 1900

# **Local Government**

**Gympie Regional Council:** Gympie Town Hall, 2-4 Caledonian Hill, Gympie 1300 307 800

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service: 13 74 68

# **RV Dump Points**

Laird Street, Goomeri

Six Mile Creek Rest Area: Bruce Highway Gympie
Archery Park: corner of Cross Street & Bruce Highway,

Gympie

Standown Park (private): 91 Radtke Road, Kia Ora Goomeri Showgrounds: Corner Burnett Highway &

**Clarkson Drive:** Rainbow Beach opposite Griffin Esplanade

Rainbow Beach Holiday Park (private): 308 Carlo Road, Rainbow Beach

Tin Can Bay Tourist Park (private): 54-74 Trevally Street, Tin Can Bay

Imbil Showgrounds: 16 Edward Street, Imbil

Imbil Camping Retreat (private): 5 Imbil Island Road, Imbil

Borumba Deer Park (private): 1133 Yabba Creek Road, Imbil

# **Water Filling Stations**

(FEES APPLY)

**Archery Park:** Corner of Cross Street & Bruce Highway Gympie

**Corella Road:** 24 Corella Road, Gympie near the cemetery

**Clarkson Drive:** Rainbow Beach opposite Griffin Esplanade

Imbil Bowls Club: 49-55 Yabba Road, Imbil

Madill Park: Madill Park Access Road off Groundwater Road. Southside

Imbil Showgrounds: 16 Edward Street, Imbil

# **Overnight Rest Areas**

(72-HOUR REST AREAS)

Kandanga RV Park: 49-51 Main Street, Kandanga

Chatsworth Park: Bruce Highway, Chatsworth (entry

via turn off to Vantage Road)

**Dickabram Park:** 1119 Miva Road, Miva (west side of Dickabram Bridge)

Marg McIntosh Park: Glastonbury Road, Widgee

Kinbombi Falls: Kinbombi Road, Kinbombi

# Other

Al Mobile Caravan Services: 0439 432 343

J & D Caravans - Caravan & Trailer Repairs: 07 5483 9362

Gympie Towing: 07 5483 5569 (24hr service)

# **Gas Refills**

**Camping & Outdoors:** 39 Hyne Street, Gympie 07 5482 3388 (beside Aldi)

BCF: 2-3 Edwin Campion Drive, Gympie

**Barbeques Galore:** 33 Excelsior Road, Gympie For others, contact the Visitor Information Centre

# Caravan/Boat Storage

Rainbow Sands Resort: 42-46 Rainbow Beach Road, Rainbow Beach, 07 5486 3400 (secure parking)

# Off-leash Dog Parks

**Archery Park:** Corner Cross Street & Bruce Highway Gympie

Lake Alford Dog Park: Bruce Highway, Monkland

# **Animal Services**

**Gympie Veterinary Services:** 109 River Road, Gympie

07 5482 2488 (opp. Pizza Hut)

**Mobile Vet Gympie:** 0488 511 119

Bec The Vet (mobile veterinary): 0488 511 119

Bent Street Vet: 9 Station Road, Gympie, 07 5482 6922

Gympie ANARRA (Australian Native Animal Rescue &

Release Association Inc.): 07 5484 9111

**RSPCA 24 Hour Hotline 1300 ANIMAL:** 1300 264 625

Wildlife Australia Inc. Emergency Hotline:

07 5527 2444

Koala Rescue Queensland: 0423 618 740 or

0431 300 729

Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital: 1300 369 652

# **Visitor Information Centres**

**Gympie Visitor Information Centre:** Lake Alford 24 Bruce Highway, Gympie 1800 444 222

**Goomeri Visitor Information Centre:** 

41 Moore Street, Goomeri 07 4168 4488

Traveston Visitor Information Centre (opening soon): 2028 Old Bruce Highway, Coles Creek 1800 444 222



Connect with us on social media. Share your holiday photos and tag #VisitGympieRegion.

To find out more about the region go to **visitgympieregion.com.au** or **Freecall 1800 444 222.** 

