

southern GOLD COAST DRIVES

Currumbin Wildlife
Sanctuary

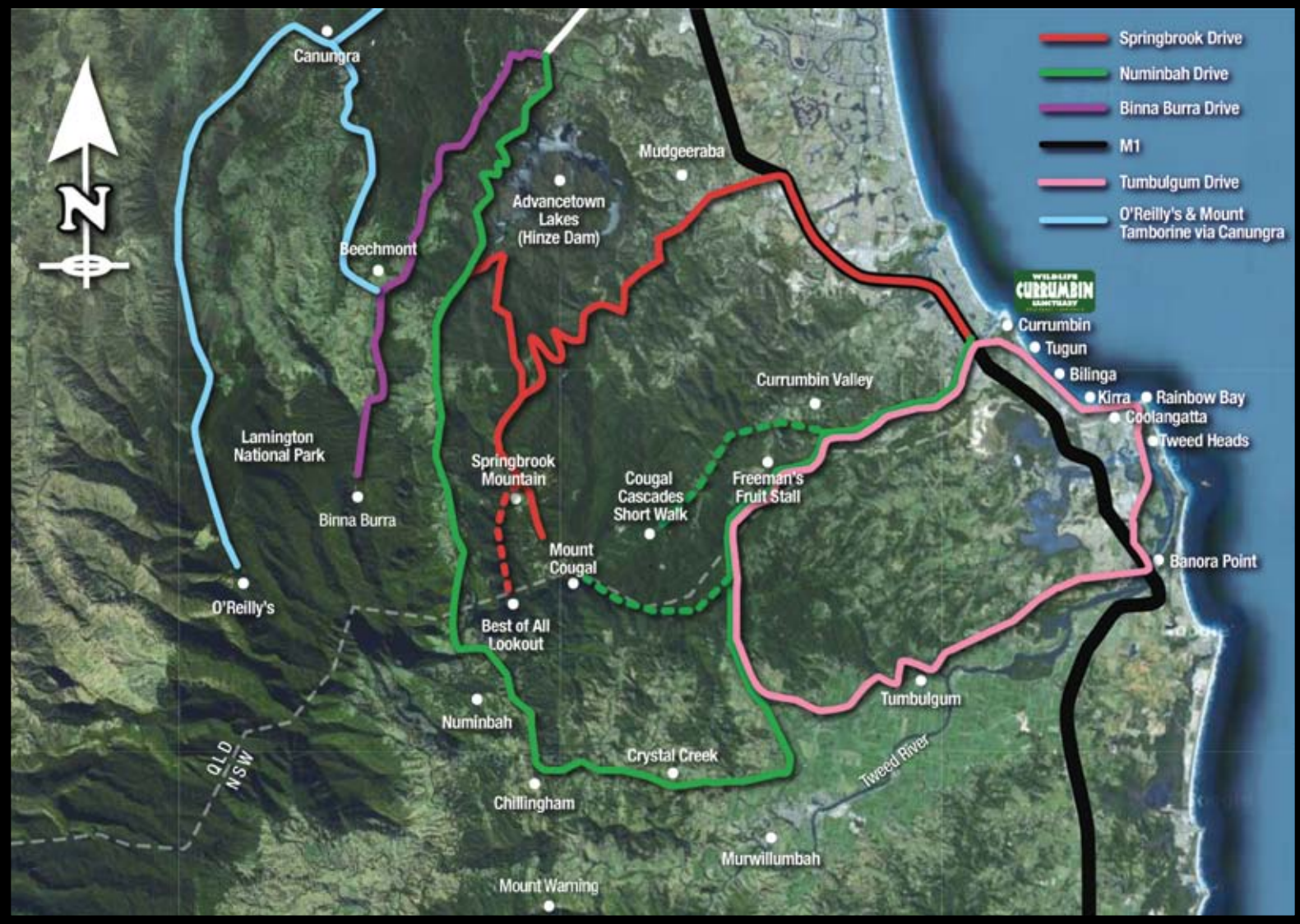
Tugun

Kirra

Coolangatta/
Point Danger



the only address you need
southerngoldcoast.com.au



Contents

Map	.....	1
Springbrook Drive	.....	2
Numinbah Drive	.....	3
Binna Burra Drive	.....	4
Tumbulgum Drive	.....	5
Currumbin Valley Drive	.....	6
Mount Coughal Walk	.....	8
Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary	.....	9
Australia's Green Cauldron	.....	10
Tips and Hints	.....	11



Springbrook Drive

Best of All | Purlingbrook Falls | Springbrook National Park

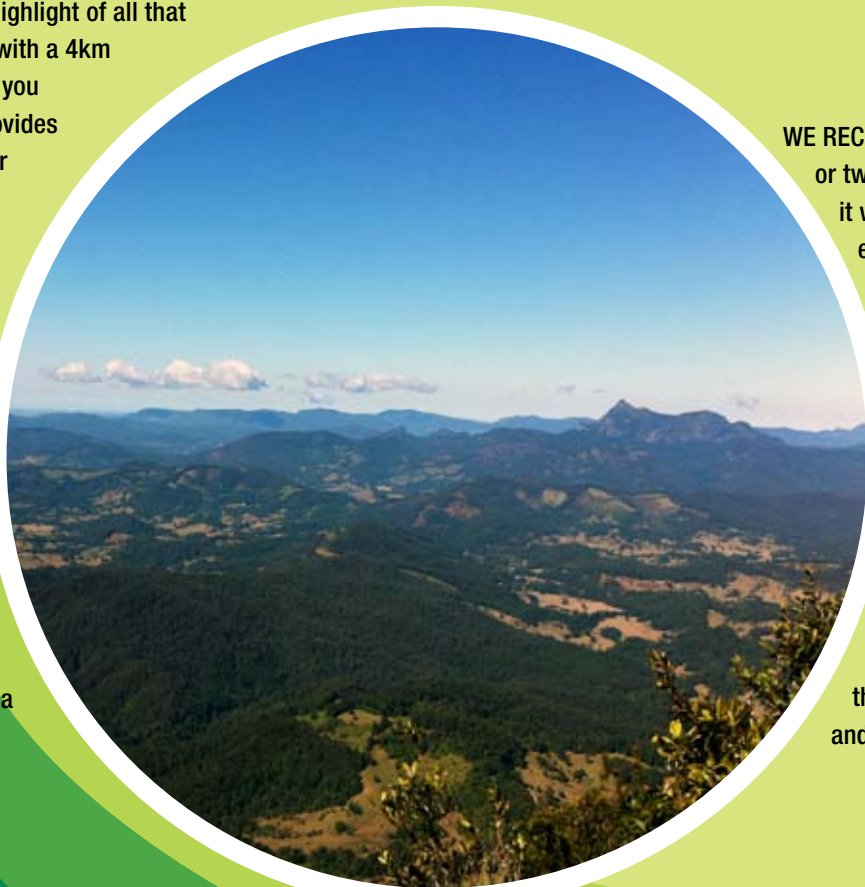
Leaving from Tugun on the Southern Gold Coast, travel north on the M1 and take the Link Way Exit #80. Stay to the left as you merge onto Franklin Dr which becomes Gold Coast Springbrook Rd and follow. Within 15-20mins you will have safely navigated the winding mountain road and be on top of one of the most iconic Gold Coast land masses, Springbrook Mountain. Once you reach **Wunburra Lookout**, there is a lovely little spot to stop for a bite to eat or coffee, but don't get too carried away just yet; a short drive up the road you will find more cafes and options for food.

Purlingbrook Falls is a highlight of all that Springbrook has to offer, with a 4km walking circuit that takes you behind the waterfall & provides spectacular viewing of our Gondwana rainforests. Careful when walking behind the falls though, the drop to the pool is steep and the track can get very slippery.

The Springbrook Observatory is a great place to visit, if you choose to stay overnight on the mountain. Take advantage of the darknight skies to see the stars from a whole new perspective.

Continuing on from Purlingbrook Falls, you will find a turn off to the left at Repeater Station Rd that will take you to the single most amazing lookout, **Best of All Lookout**. Here you will find a short paved track that takes you past ancient Antarctic Beech trees and to a lookout platform, providing a vista that will be sure to take your breath away! Make sure you have your camera ready.

Continuing on down Gold Coast Springbrook Rd you will find lovely accommodation and other delightful spots to stop for a light meal such as the English Country Gardens. There are more walking tracks and facilities at the end of the road for you to explore.



WE RECOMMEND: Stay a night or two on the mountain, it will give you time to enjoy the walks of **Purlingbrook Falls, Gwongorella, Best Of All Lookout** and see the **Observatory**, plus much more. Then, fully rested after a big day, you can continue on to **Lamington National Park** less than an hour's drive away, before continuing through **Numinbah Valley** and back to Tugun!



Binna Burra Drive

Binna Burra | Beechmont | Lamington National Park

There is a road that links Springbrook to Numinbah Valley which also provides a link to **Lamington National Park**. So when you have explored Springbrook to your hearts content, head back towards the highway (M1) and turn left when you reach Pine Ridge Rd (just past Apple Tree Park).

Continue to the end of the road and turn right onto Nerang-Murwillumbah Rd. About 5-10mins of driving north, turn left onto Beechmont Rd and continue until you see Binna Burra Rd on the left. As you continue on down Binna Burra Rd, you will find a parking area and information about the walks available in Lamington National Park. There are medium walks such as the **Gwongoorool Walk** and the **Caves Circuit** which range from 5-8kms, so you need to set aside at least 2-4hrs to explore this section of Lamington National Park.

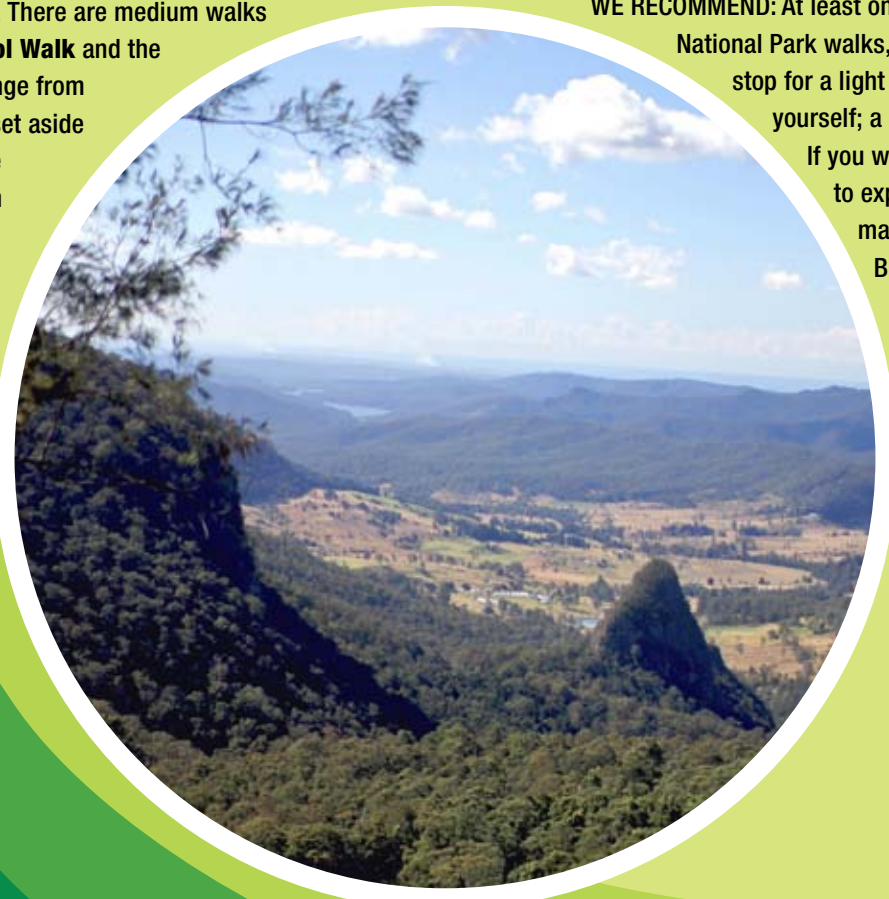
If you take the road to the very end, you will pass through Binna Burra Mountain Lodge and retreat and find the Binna Burra

Teahouse at the end of the road, along with fantastic views and more walking circuits, for those who still have lots of energy. Returning down the road, to your right you will see a peculiar shaped landmark which is referred to as **Egg Rock**. Take note of this view as you will see Egg Rock from an entirely different perspective when driving south through Numinbah Valley!

Returning the way you came and turning right onto Nerang-Murwillumbah Rd takes you on a stunning drive through the Numinbah Valley.

WE RECOMMEND: At least one of the Lamington National Park walks, along with some time to stop for a light meal and refresh yourself; a must while you are here!

If you would like more time to explore the forest, then maybe a night at Binna Burra would be a good idea, as the camping accommodation is a great way to extend your stay without breaking the bank.





Numinbah Drive

Natural Bridge | Tomewin Mountain | Currumbin Valley

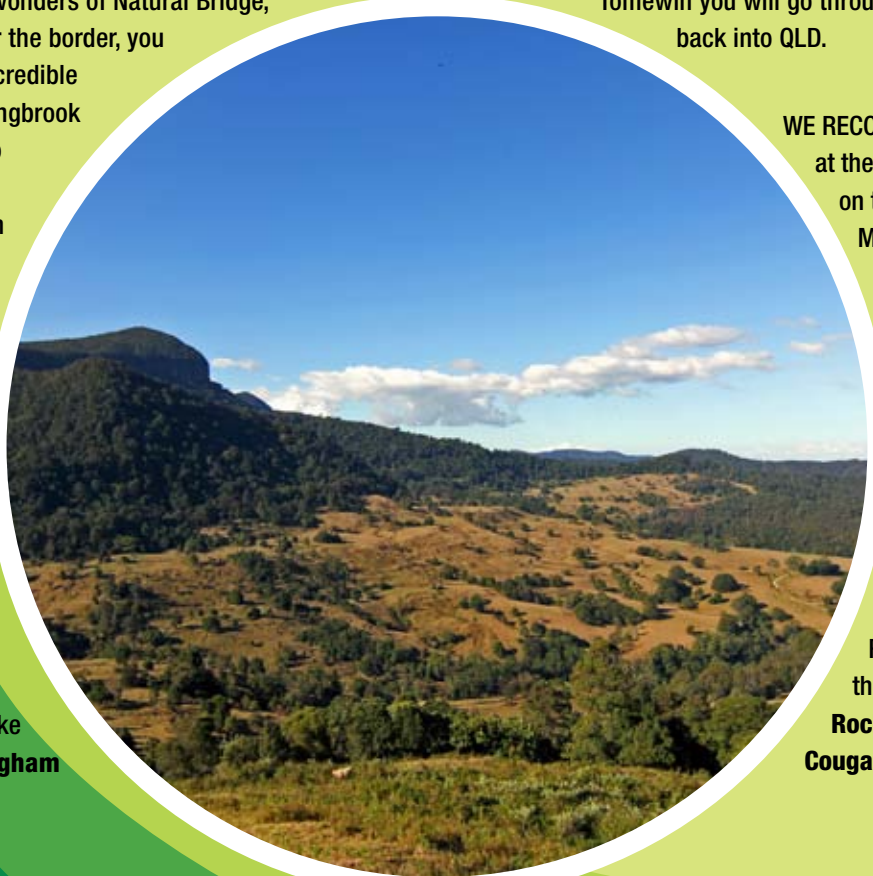
The Numinbah Drive will take you from the heart of the Gold Coast Hinterland, south over the border into Northern NSW and return you into QLD via Tomewin Mountain. This beautiful drive is highlighted by **Natural Bridge**, within Springbrook National Park, located about 4kms north of the border gates.

The walking circuit of Natural Bridge is a medium-rated walk and will take you through ancient rainforest and right into the dark cave of the naturally-formed bridge, created over millions of years by water tumbling through the roof of a basalt cave. By night, the cave comes alive with glow worms that inhabit the cave. After exploring the wonders of Natural Bridge, and continuing south over the border, you are confronted with an incredible view stretching from Springbrook on your left, all the way to **Mt Warning** and beyond overlooking the Numinbah Valley. If you choose to stop the car to take some photo's, make sure you pull over in the right place and ensure you are safely parked as this is two-way road is quite narrow, so please take care as you exit your car.

Continuing south again, this beautiful drive will take you down through **Chillingham**

where you will find Chillingham Bush Tucker. This is a great place to stop, refresh yourself and rest before continuing on.

After you pass through **Crystal Creek**, the road will terminate in a T-junction; turn left here to continue onto **Tomewin Mountain**. You will pass by the delightful Red Rattler Cafe & Art Gallery where they do a lovely devonshire tea. Near the top of Tomewin Mountain, you can turn left onto **Garden of Eden Rd** to find the track that allows you to walk along the ridgeline all the way to the Cougals. This is a tough walk so you may want to take note of the turn off and return for a half day bushwalk. Passing over the Tomewin you will go through the border gates and back into QLD.



WE RECOMMEND: Be sure to stop at the **Freemans Fruit Stall** on the way down Tomewin Mountain for fantastic local produce and the friendly service offered from Friday-Monday by the Freeman family themselves. By turning left onto Bains Rd, following it down the mountain to its end and turning left again onto Currumbin Creek Rd, you can also explore the **Currumbin Valley Rock Pools** and the **Mount Cougal Section of Springbrook**



Tumbulgum Drive

Tumbulgum | Currumbin Valley | Tomewin | Coolangatta | Kirra

This drive is a great half day adventure to enjoy with friends or family. A short mountain drive, that takes in the picturesque Currumbin Valley & Tomewin Mountain and the quaint countryside of Northern NSW Tweed Valley, then pops you straight into the hub of the Southern Gold Coast and Tweed Heads region.

You can time this drive for either in the morning, winding down the outing with lunch in Kirra and Coolangatta dining precincts, or go in the afternoon to catch amazing sunset viewing and top it off with a dinner/night on the town!

From the Gold Coast Highway at Tugun, head west towards the M1 and continue down Stewart Rd, turning left onto Currumbin Creek Rd. Follow this road out into the valley for approx 15km and turn left at Tomewin Mountain Rd sign.

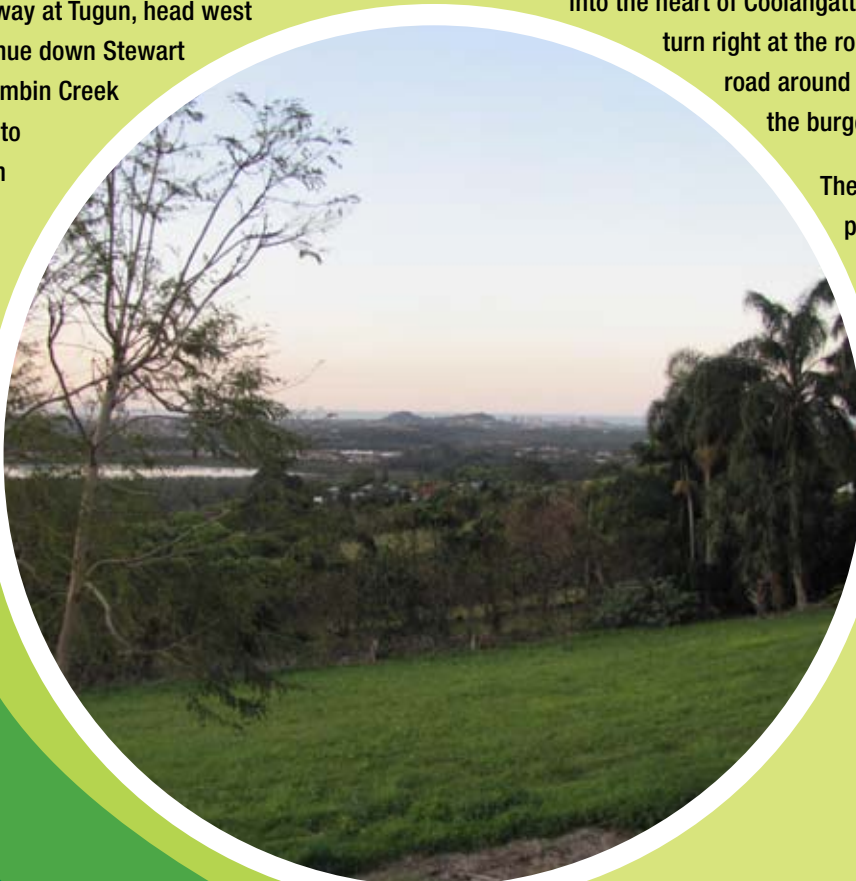
Follow the road over the mountain (remember to stop at Freeman's fruit stall for some yummy local produce), continue over the border and down the other side of Tomewin

Mountain. Keep driving until you see the Dulguigan Rd sign on your left and turn.

When you reach the T-junction a few kilometres down the road, turn right, this becomes Terranora Rd which will take you all the way back to the coast, just south of Tweed Heads South.

When you reach the T-junction at Banora Point, turn left to head back towards Tweed (make sure you get into the far right lane as soon as you can do so safely) via Minjungbal Drive. Follow this road, until you reach Twin Towns and turn left at the roundabout into the heart of Coolangatta. At the end of Griffith St, turn right at the roundabout and follow the road around the iconic Kirra Point, into the burgeoning village of Kirra.

There are plenty of great places to eat, and a lovely foreshore park for you to walk off your meal and take in the sights. From Kirra, you simply follow Musgrave St until it merges with the Gold Coast Highway, back to where you began.





Currumbin Valley Drive

Cougals Cascades | Currumbin Valley Rock Pools

This area can be explored as a part of the Numinbah drive, but it really does deserve to be enjoyed in its own right. You can take in all the Currumbin Valley has to offer in as little as 2 hrs though if the weather is warm and you are eager to cool off this lovely slice of paradise can consume you for the whole day.

From the Gold Coast Highway in Tugun, head west on the Tugun bypass towards the M1 and continue straight through the lights and turn left at the T-junction onto Currumbin Creek Rd. There are some shops on Bienvenue Dr to stock up on supplies, a picnic is a perfect addition to this drive. Continue on Currumbin Creek Rd, you will pass Red Dragon Bonsai Farm just before you get into the Valley proper. As you continue along Currumbin Creek Rd, you follow the Currumbin Creek along the valley floor and will shortly come to Nicholls Crossing, a lovely park

area, complete with ducks and geese to feed.

Further on, you will see the award winning Ecovillage on the left. There is a newly opened cafe if you wish to stop and see why the world has its eyes on this sustainable living development, you might even see a few kangaroo's lounging in the grass. Another few kilometres down the road, you can turn left onto Tomewin Mountain Rd and drive up to the border and turn around, returning down the mountain. The Freemans Fruit Stall is located near the top of the mountain and is a must for farm fresh avocados, bananas and lots more.



On the way back down the mountain you will see a sharp left turn at Bains Rd. Turn here and drive carefully down the steep road into the heart of Currumbin Valley. You will come to a one-lane wooden bridge,



Currumbin Valley Drive

continued...

Long Tan Park is on your left and is a great place to stop for a leg stretch and wander along the babbling fresh water creek, complete with swimming hole and picnic tables.

Go across the bridge and turn left, around the corner you will find the popular Currumbin Rock Pools. There are plenty of amenities here, toilets, covered picnic tables and BBQ's. In summer this spot is often crowded with families cooling off in the cool rushing waters and spread out on the grass enjoying the picturesque surroundings.

Continuing on to the end of Currumbin Creek Rd, you will come to Mount Cougal Section of Springbrook National Park. Here you can park the car and take a walk up to another great swimming hole and the Rockslide, a naturally formed slippery slide of rock, created by the fast moving head waters

of Currumbin Creek. At the end of the path, you can visit the historic Saw Mill which dates back to the 1940's.

On your way back east after exploring this beautiful area, you can stop at the Currumbin Valley Harvest, enjoy a coffee and learn about permaculture and wander around the hydroponically grown vegetable gardens.

There are many species of wildlife that call the Valley home. From the Land Mullet (the largest species of skink), to Eagles, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo's, King Parrots, Richmond Birdwing Butterfly and many many more.

The Currumbin Valley is such a wonderful place to enjoy, and is a jewel in the Southern Gold Coast crown, please make sure you take any rubbish with you when you leave and help to maintain this amazing environment for many years to come!





Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

With hundreds of native Australian animals on display in natural bushland and rainforest settings, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary provides a rare opportunity to see and experience our amazing native wildlife.

A place where you can enjoy exciting, interactive displays, presentations and dining experiences. Nestled within 27 hectares of lush eucalypt and rainforest, each day brings visitors face to face with extraordinary wildlife in shows and encounters. Every day at Currumbin is a new adventure. Cuddle a koala, get up

close to a crocodile, get amongst a mob of kangaroos or check out reptiles, birds and marsupials in amazing wildlife shows and displays.

Our latest attraction, The Green Challenge high ropes adventure course, is the newest nature-based adventure experience for the Gold Coast. With Sixty-five challenges including giant flying foxes and a tarzan swing, the Green Challenge takes visitors higher and further into the spectacular natural setting.

www.cws.org.au



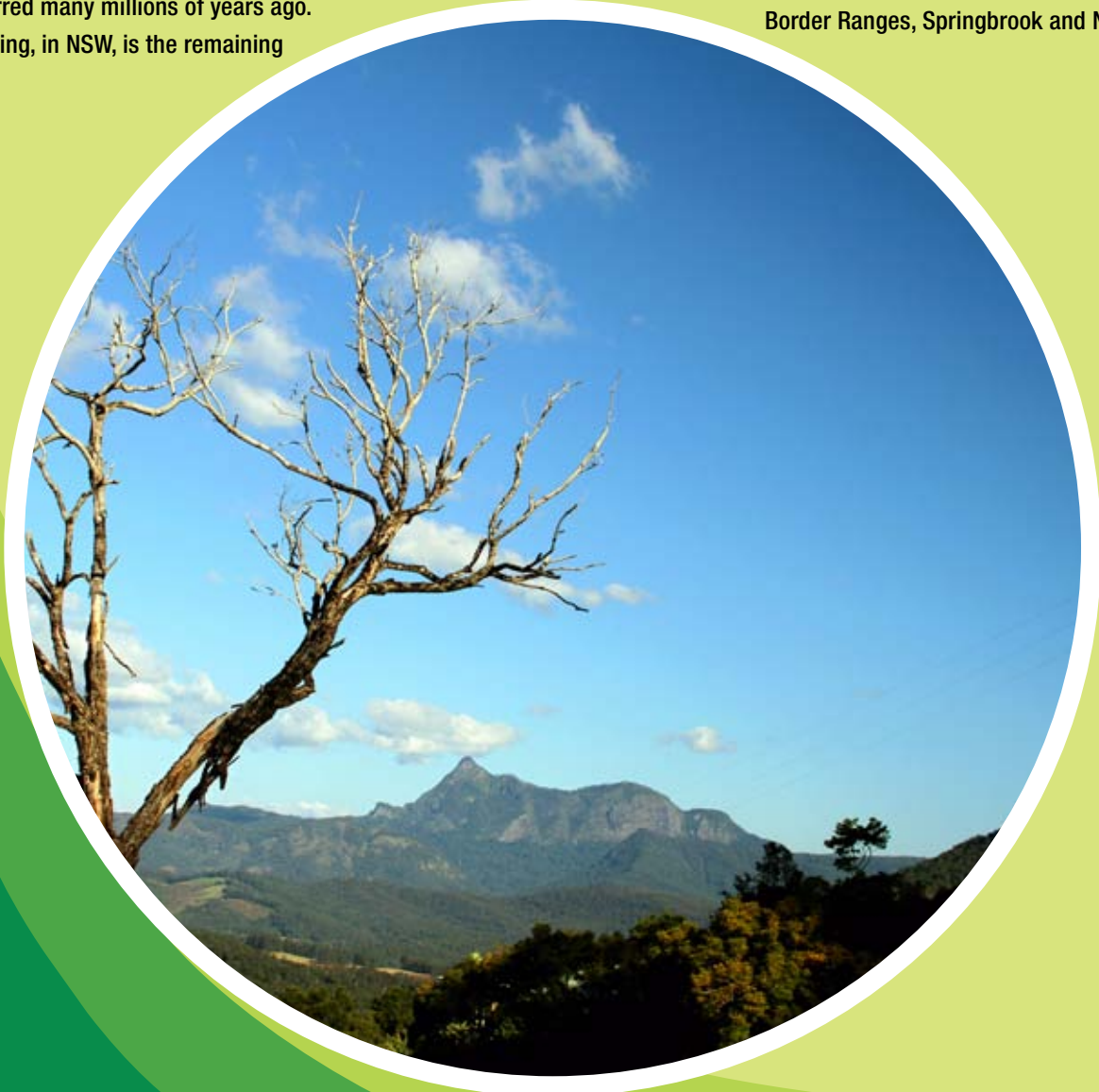


Australia's Green Cauldron

The hinterland region of the Gold Coast, depicted on the enclosed map, is a key part of Australia's Green Cauldron. This hinterland comprises of a series of breath-taking escarpments, mountains and valleys fanning out from the Southern Gold Coast, north and west over 150kms along the QLD/NSW state border. Sub-tropical rainforests and spectacular plateaux are abundant, and many of these areas are World Heritage listed. The Green Cauldron was created, primarily, by the Mount Warning volcanic eruption which occurred many millions of years ago. Mount Warning, in NSW, is the remaining

central, volcanic plug located in the caldera (volcanic crater) through which flows the beautiful Tweed River.

Walk around Wollumbin Mount Warning in Australia's Green Cauldron – the remnants of an ancient shield volcano that is now a living Gondwanan rainforest. This vast caldera stretches from Byron Bay to the Gold Coast and west towards the Great Dividing Range. Walk around the base of Wollumbin Mount Warning and through World Heritage-listed national parks such as Lamington, Border Ranges, Springbrook and Nightcap.





Tips and Hints

The map included in this brochure is for reference only, we recommend that you use this map in conjunction with a Street Directory. There are many websites that will provide additional information to assist you plan your drive, they include:

www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks

www.queenslandholidays.com.au

www.visitgoldcoast.com.au

Remember to always drive safely, wear your seatbelts at all times and be aware of other drivers that share these roads.

It is always wise to have some basic supplies with you when you are exploring the hinterland and using the National Park walking trails. Take plenty of water, snacks, a basic first aid kit and a fully charged mobile phone for emergencies.

Contact Us

Visit our website for more information about Southern Gold Coast, accommodation, events, festivals and local businesses.

www.southerngoldcoast.com.au
info@southerngoldcoast.com.au

Ph. 07 5534 3500

Fax. 07 3259 8510

1/451 Golden Four Dr Tugun Q 4224

© 2011 Connecting Southern Gold Coast Ltd

Images courtesy of Connecting Southern Gold Coast Ltd and Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. For more information, visit southerngoldcoast.com.au or cws.org.au

