

Why you should visit the Gold Coast, Queensland

by Raj Nath

My visit to the Gold Coast was part of running a work shop , after a successful conclusion I had a day spare.

Now one day is not enough to sample everything that the Gold Coast has to offer but I intended to make the most of it. After doing some research one of the recommended activities was to go whale watching. Getting close to these leviathans in their natural habitat was an attractive proposition. I was also lucky that it was the migration season for the humpback whales.



Did you know humpback whales that do their annual migration along the east coast of Australia to the great barrier reef are considered Australian Citizens

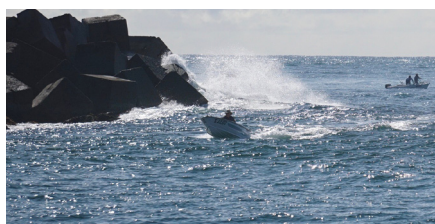
After identifying who i wanted to go with for the experience my boat captain instructed the best time to go was very early in the morning so bright eyed and bushy tailed we started at 06:30 and boy it was a beautiful day, 300 days of sunshine wasnt a myth

These storks didnt give us a second glance at all while we passed very close to them . We also saw a celebrity holiday home none other than Jackie Chan himself , do you know which movie he shot in Australia?

The house just behind the trees is Jackie Chan's condo



The speed boats were out in force so early in the morning as well , the captain said once the day progresses, jetskis, parasails, water ski, stand up paddle boarding would happen in force



After about 40 min sailing we reached the area where most of the sightings of the whales take place. The Captain said they are used to his boat and the particular engine note so that we should see them very soon . The weather continued to be marvelous and calm seas, one could understand why people want to live near the sea

We waited about another 30 min listening to the Aussie drawl of the captain while he told some sailor tales , he was a retired Australian marine. Out of the blue we got our first visitor

literally jumped out of the water saying hiya in a typical Australian style

Photos dont do any justice to the majesty of this wonderful leviathan , this was my second sighting of whales, my first was equally impressive but that was minke whales in Iceland , but that is a story for a different day , this was again a moving experience.

The majesty and grace of these gentle giants cannot be described by mere words, it has to be seen to be believed.

We know the stories of certain countries hunting these gentle animals for food , they are endangered , it is our moral duty to preserve them for our future generations so they also feel the same exultation and thrill of seeing one of these leviathans leaping out of the water

A few minutes later another one jumped out of the water on the port side

They make an almighty noise when they splash down, at nearly 1.5 tonnes in mass they sure are big . Soon it was time to go back and we left after having a final wave.

If you have a chance for seeing them, take it, you will forever be enriched by the experience and the best way for shooting them is not by an explosive harpoon moby dick style but with a camera. ■

Top reasons to visit the Gold Coast, Queensland

- 1) It's the adventure capital of Australia
- 2) 300 days of sunshine
- 3) Amazing golf courses, tennis & cricket
- 4) Laid back and excitement in tandem
- 5) All kind of watersports, after all the world famous Surfers Paradise beach is in the Gold Coast
- 6) Pandas
- 7) Whales