

SHOPPING & DINING on the Gold Coast

If you're going to take a break from the sun, sand and surf, **Lauren Rosewarne** suggests you take it in air-conditioned style in some of the Gold Coast's most chic shopping precincts.

Shopping bag one:

MARINA MIRAGE

Positioned on the waterfront opposite the five-star Sheraton Mirage Resort and Spa and flanking the Palazzo Versace Hotel, Marina Mirage is one incredibly stylish shopping spot. While Hermès and Calvin Klein represent the international scene, it is the Australian designers that take the forefront, with outlets for Carla Zampatti, Lisa Ho, George Gross and Harry Who. Address: 74 Seaworld Drive, Main Beach
Tel: +61 7 5555 6400
www.marinamirage.com.au

Shopping bag two:

SURFERS PARADISE

With some 14 shopping centres and arcades, seven-day and late night trading, it may never occur to you that Surfers is world-famous for its beaches! For glamorous, tree-lined boulevard shopping, look no further than Elkhorn Avenue, showcasing Prada, Gucci, Georg Jensen, Cartier, Hermès and Salvatore Ferragamo.

Shopping bag three:

MARKETS

For a one-of-a-kind souvenir, visitors are spoiled for choice at the Gold Coast markets. On Sundays, visit more than 150 stalls at the art and craft markets scattered along the beachfront. For fresh regional produce head to the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary's Farmers' Market on Saturdays. Or, on the first Sunday of every month, visit the Village Markets at Burleigh Heads – the Gold Coast's first fashion market.

Address: Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, 28 Tomewin Street, Currumbin
Tel: 1300 886 511
www.currumbin-sanctuary.org.au

Shopping bag four:

HARBOUR TOWN

To pick yourself up a fabulous discount, Harbour Town is your number one shopping destination. Boasting brands such as Orotan and RM Williams, as well as the David Jones warehouse, Harbour Town offers you all of your favourite brands at a fraction of the price. **w**

Address: Gold Coast Highway, Biggera Waters
Tel: +61 7 5529 1734
www.harbourtownshopping.com.au

Boutique shopping on Elkhorn Avenue, surfing at Coolangatta or a day on the sands at Greenmount, whichever way you work up your appetite, the Gold Coast will spoil you for choice, as **Lauren Rosewarne** discovers.

ABSYNTHE

Q1 Building, Hamilton Avenue Surfers Paradise

Tel: +61 7 5504 6466

Taking its name from French painter Toulouse-Lautrec's spirit of choice, multi-Michelin starred chef, Meyjitte Boughenout, is at the helm at Absynthe, a multi award-winning restaurant on the Gold Coast. With a seasonal à la carte menu and a degustation menu regarded as one of Australia's finest, this modern French restaurant will satisfy your every culinary whim – and then some.

BISTRO BLANC

3/72 Surf Parade Broadbeach

Tel: +61 7 5539 0085

In one of the newest additions to the fashionable Broadbeach dining precinct, restaurateur Thierry Hainault delivers a skillful touch to the Gold Coast with Bistro Blanc. Boasting a sumptuous art deco interior and a menu offering both traditional French delicacies like escargot, and more avant-garde cuisine showcasing local produce, Bistro Blanc offers diners a truly unique gastronomic indulgence.

MOO MOO THE WINE BAR AND GRILL

2685 Gold Coast Highway Broadbeach

Tel: +61 7 5539 9952

While the name gives the cuisine theme away, there are still many surprises to be had at this stylish, split-level steakhouse. A highlight is the spice rubbed Wagyu rump steak – Moo Moo's signature dish. While red meat is the restaurant's forte, those partial to paler fare are well-satisfied by the poultry and seafood menu options.

RISTORANTE FELLINI

Level 1, Marina Mirage Sea World Drive, Main Beach

Tel: +61 7 5531 0300

When you realise that you're feasting on some of the very best Neapolitan and Tuscan classic dishes, while gazing out at the magnificent Broadwater views, suddenly the name makes perfect sense – Ristorante Fellini, a homage to Italian cinema auteur Federico Fellini. Open for more than a decade, this Italian culinary Mecca offers sumptuous Italian cuisine complemented by a delightfully encyclopaedic wine list.

VANITAS

Palazzo Versace, 94 Sea World Drive Main Beach

Tel: +61 7 5509 8000

Nestled in the five-star Roman-style Palazzo Versace hotel, it will surprise no one to discover that dining at Vanitas is an opulent sensory extravaganza. Picture inlaid marble floors, illuminated fountains and crockery almost as sumptuous as the food. Vanitas presents a sublime dining experience well before your fork has even pierced any of the Italian-inspired delicacies. **w**



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