

Gold Coast



Burleigh Heads

INSIDER TIP

Tucked away from the main road south, **Currumbin Beach** is easy to overlook, but it's a wonderful surf beach that's far from the crowds and bustle of Surfers Paradise.

SHOP TALK

Bikinis are serious business on the Gold Coast and the shops dedicated to them can be intimidatingly large. **Bikini & Me** is a little more boutique, just large enough to stock a good range of beachwear, dresses and accessories, but small enough to offer personalised service. 1/53 James St, Burleigh Heads, tel: +61 (0)7 5576 4816

CHEAP EATS

It can be hard to escape the chain restaurants and coffee shops in Surfers Paradise, so **baritalia** is something of a novelty. It's worth seeking out near Cavill Avenue for its well-priced modern Italian bistro fare. 15/3240 Gold Coast Hwy, Surfers Paradise, tel: +61 (0)7 5592 4700

TOP TABLES

Newly opened in the famous Burleigh Beach Pavilion complex, **Meesh's** is set so close to the sand that patrons may feel nearer the breakers than the kitchen. And the food, touted as "Cuisine of the Sun", is as inviting as the views. 43 Goodwin Terrace, Burleigh Heads, tel: +61 (0)7 5520 7707 🍷🍷

AT YOUR LEISURE

If Sydney's Harbour Bridge climb – which takes adventure-seekers to a height of 134m above the water – is considered "spectacular", what does that make the new **Skypoint Climb** at Q1? Sign up for this adrenaline-booster and you'll ascend to a height of 270m above the beach, where the views are indescribable. Q1 Resort, Surfers Paradise Blvd, Surfers Paradise, tel: +61 (0)7 5680 7700, www.skypoint.com.au

LATE & LIVELY

If you're no fan of the loud music at many Gold Coast nightspots, the newly opened **Bavarian Bier Café** is for you. Tasty German beer, authentic-style pretzels and a great atmosphere await. 2 Oracle Blvd, Broadbeach, tel: +61 (0)7 5512 0555, www.bavarianbiercafe.com.au.

OVERNIGHT

One block north of Cavill Avenue and just opposite the beach, the **Chateau Beachside Resort** is right in the heart of Surfers. All units have ocean views and the complex has a pool, gym and just about everything else you'll need when not stretched out on the sand. Cnr The Esplanade & Elkhorn Ave, Surfers Paradise, tel: +61 (0)7 5538 1022, www.chateaubeachside.com.au 🍷

Melbourne



Siglo Bar on Spring Street

INSIDER TIP

Travellers in search of good company and a great meal should head to **www.eatwithme.net**, a Melbourne-founded site where getting together, experiencing new cuisines and dishes and having fun are the guiding principles.

SHOP TALK

A Melbourne store that's making waves on the fashion scene, **Skin and Threads** is all about natural fabrics draped in such a manner that they deliver both elegance and comfort. Shop G11A, G/F, Melbourne's GPO, 350 Bourke St, tel: +61 (0)3 9639 2881, www.skinandthreads.com

CHEAP EATS

There are no trolls at new café **Ponyfish Island**, despite the fact it's located under a bridge in the middle of the Yarra River. It's a no-frills type of place, but among other drawcards the impromptu barbecue parties here make it well worth a visit. Under the Yarra Pedestrian Bridge, Southbank, www.ponyfish.com.au

TOP TABLES

The **Melba Restaurant** at the Langham Hotel lays out a luxury buffet where guests can choose from a mouth-watering assortment of cuisines, with dishes prepared by expert chefs. Grab a table by the window overlooking the river to enjoy stunning views. 1 Southgate Ave, Southbank, tel: 1800 641107, www.melbarestaurant.com.au 🍷

AT YOUR LEISURE

Cackle, chuckle, snigger, snort... we all laugh in different ways at different things, which is a roundabout way of saying you're all but guaranteed to find something to like at the world-renowned **Melbourne Comedy Festival**. It's held at locations citywide in March and April. www.comedyfestival.com.au

LATE & LIVELY

Newly opened, **Temple Brewery & Brasserie** boasts plenty of stainless steel, incredible beer (try the Belgian-influenced saison) and dishes made to match the suds. 122 Weston St, Brunswick East, tel: +61 (0)3 9380 8999, www.templebrewing.com.au

OVERNIGHT

Two of Australia's best golf courses to the right, a spa retreat to the left, and a peninsula packed with vineyards and quality produce in every direction. That's **Peppers Moonah Links**, just an hour outside the city. 55 Peter Thomson Dr, Fingal, tel: +61 (0)7 5665 4426, www.peppers.com.au/moonah 🍷