

**FIVE THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE GOLD COAST -
HOME OF THE 17th WORLD TRANSPLANT GAMES
AUGUST 22-30, 2009**

The Gold Coast averages about 300 days of sunshine per year.

Temperatures in August range from 9 to 21 degrees Celsius (48 to 69 degrees Fahrenheit)

Clint Eastwood opened the Dirty Harry Bar in June 1991 at Warner Bros. Movie World (based on the saloon from his movie 'The Dead Pool').

At the Movie World theme park your favourite action movies are brought to life on thrilling rides including the Scooby Doo Spooky indoor rollercoaster (inspired by the feature film shot at Warner Roadshow Movie World Studios adjacent to the theme park).

Koalas sleep up to 18-20 hours a day to assist in digesting their gumleaf diet.

You can wake up a koala (a small bear-like, tree-dwelling, herbivorous marsupial) and give it a cuddle at Paradise Country – Aussie Farm Tour. You can also feed kangaroos and emus.

In 1965 The Surfers Paradise Meter Maids were introduced to help beat the bad image created by the installation of parking metres on the famous tourist strip.

The controversial promotion saw young women dressed in gold-coloured bikinis and tiaras, strolling the streets of the Gold Coast feeding coins into expired parking meters. You can still spot the Meter Maids today, with their tiaras replaced by Akubras.

Sea World is home to three species of dolphins – the Offshore Bottlenose, Inshore Bottlenose and the Indo-Pacific Humpback dolphin

Get up close and personal with tropical fish, sting-rays and the harmless Leopard and White-tip Reef sharks at Sea World's Tropical Reef Snorkel where the water is always heated. Follow an educational trail with underwater signage and look through to the Shark Lagoon to see the larger Sharks.