

Mrs Lardeedah

THE SUMMER LIST



YOUR GUIDE TO CHRISTMAS AND SUMMER
HOLIDAYS ON THE GOLD COAST

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Gold Coast Summer

Top places to swim

Top Indoor Play Spaces

Kid-friendly summer dining

Top shady playgrounds

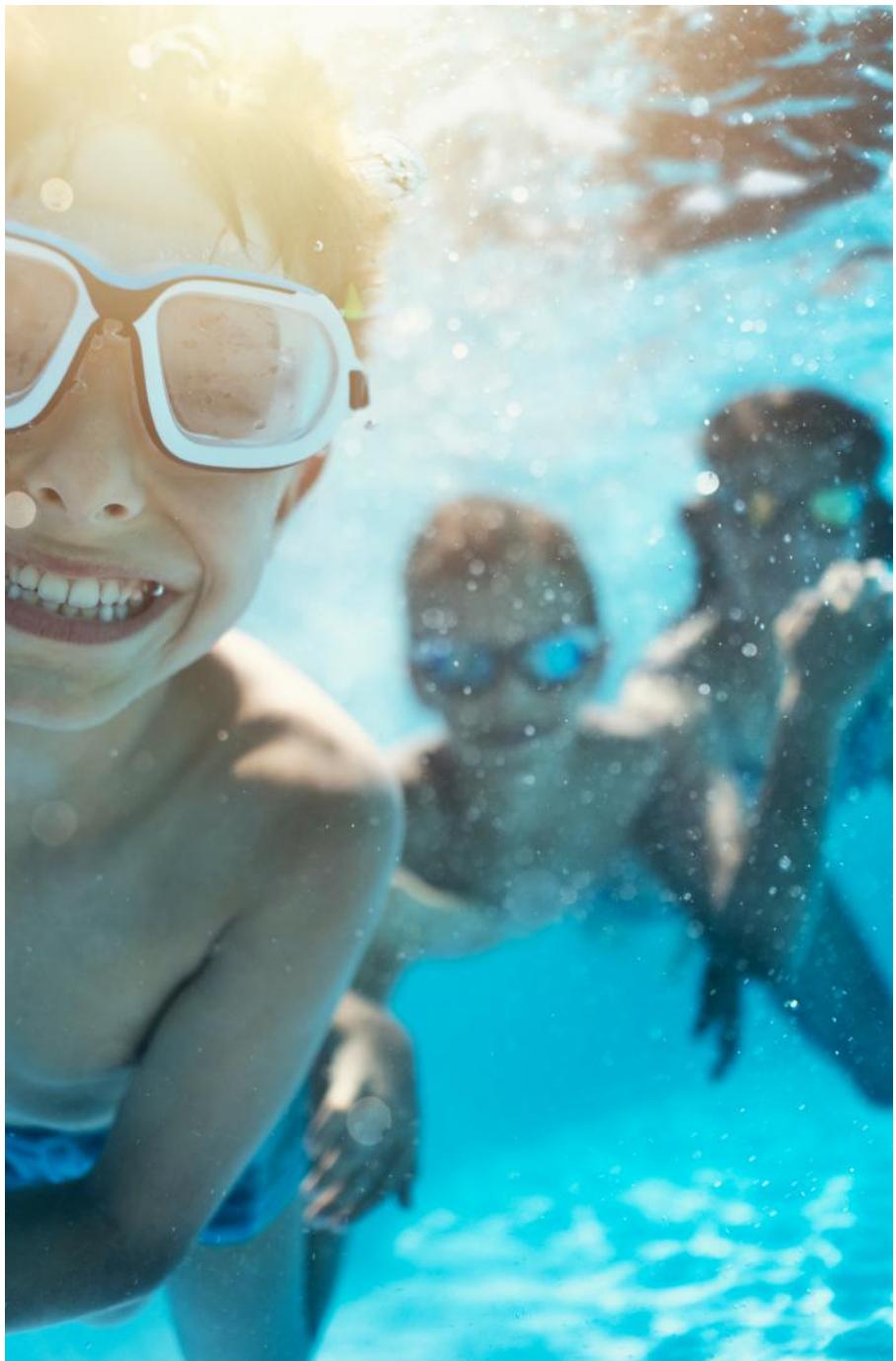
Summer Activities

Free Summer Movies

Don't miss attractions

Day Trip - Scenic Rim

Day trip - Northern Rivers

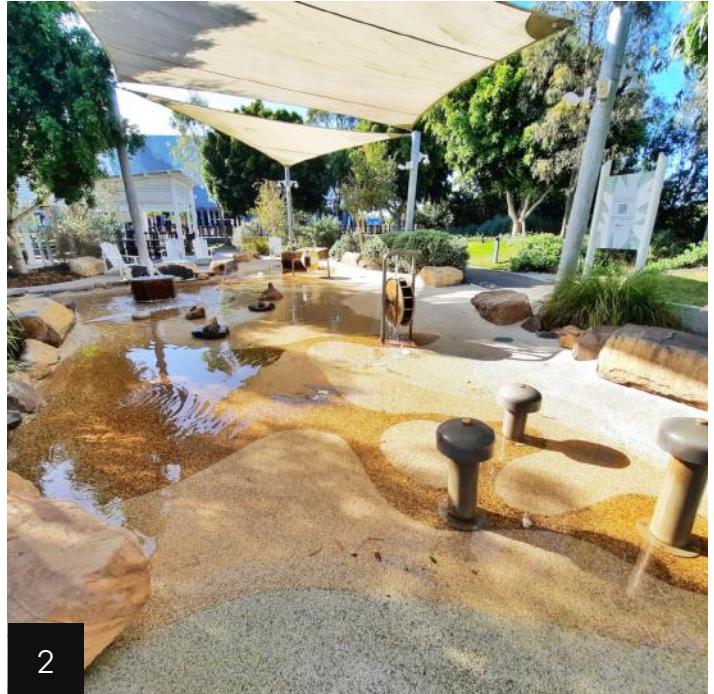


Top Places to Swim



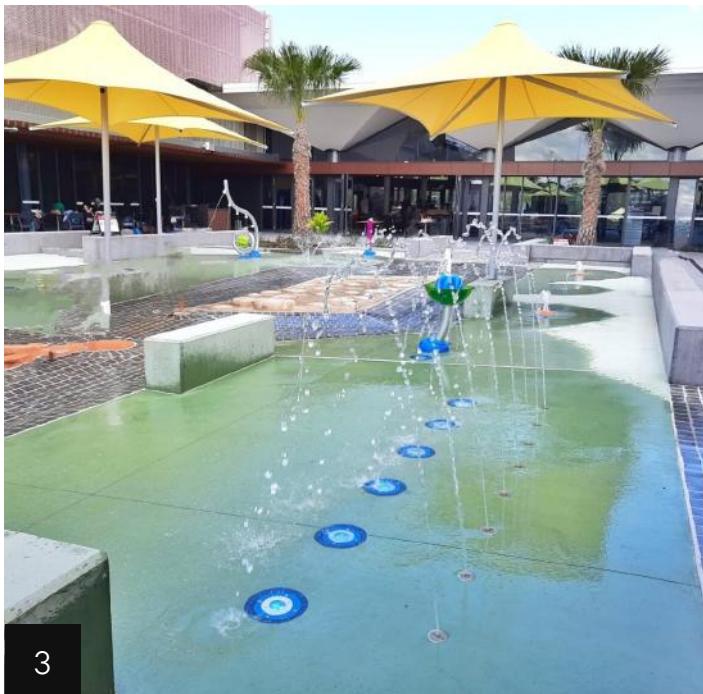
1

Broadwater Rockpools



2

The Backyard Westfield Coomera



3

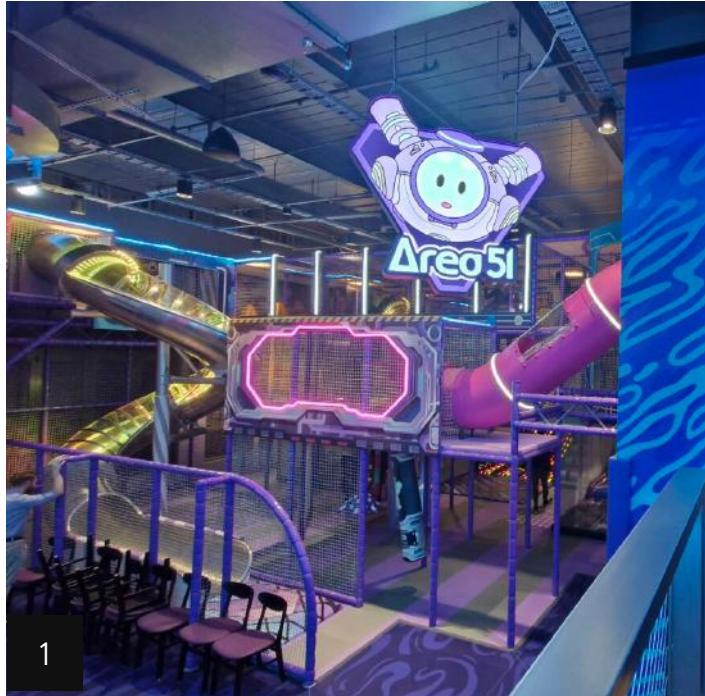
Pimpama Sports Hub



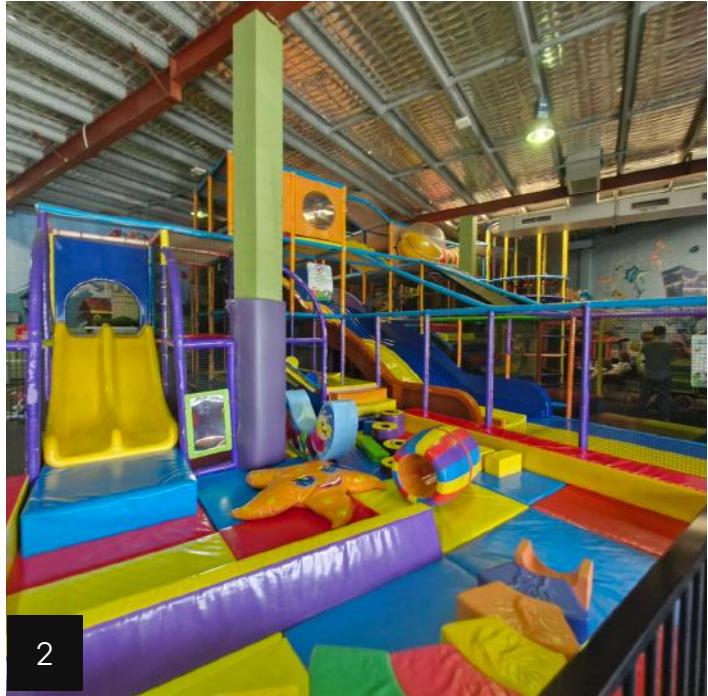
4

Palm Beach Aquatic Centre

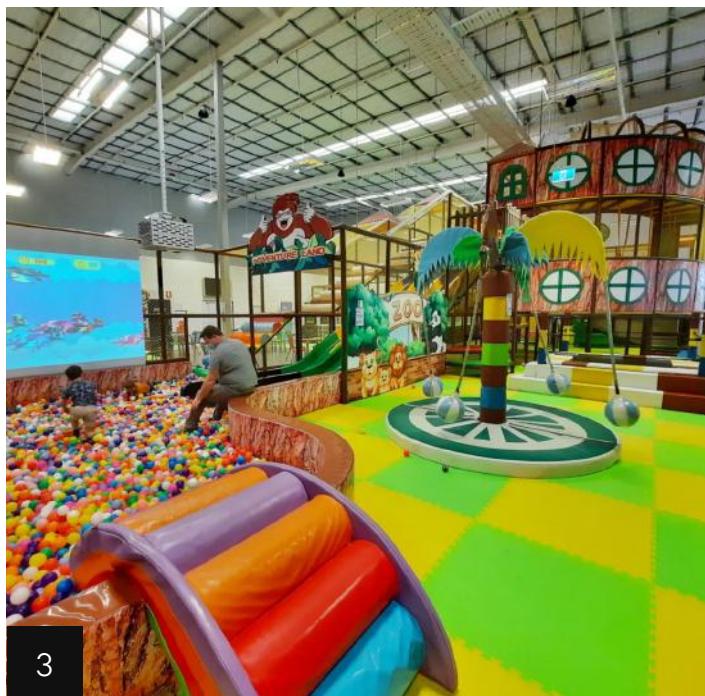
Top Indoor Playspaces



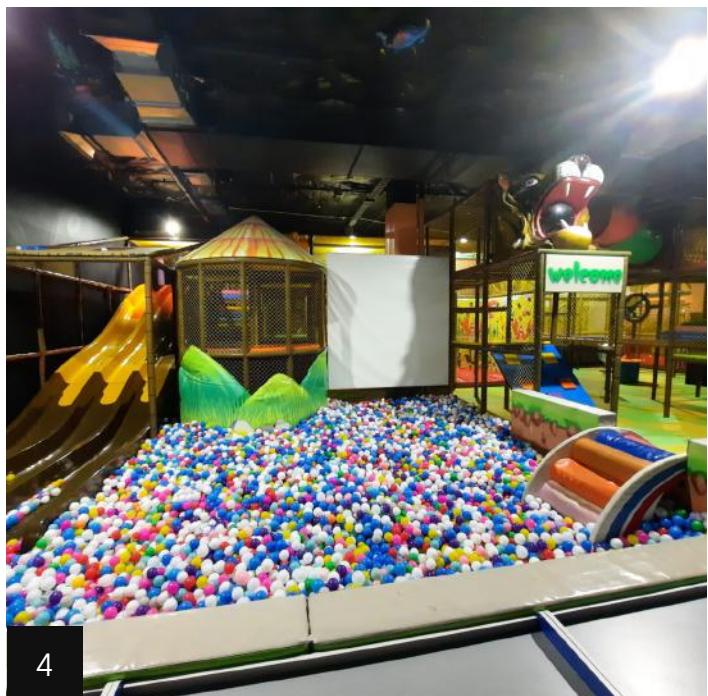
1
Area 51 Helensvale



2
Doodlebugs, Miami

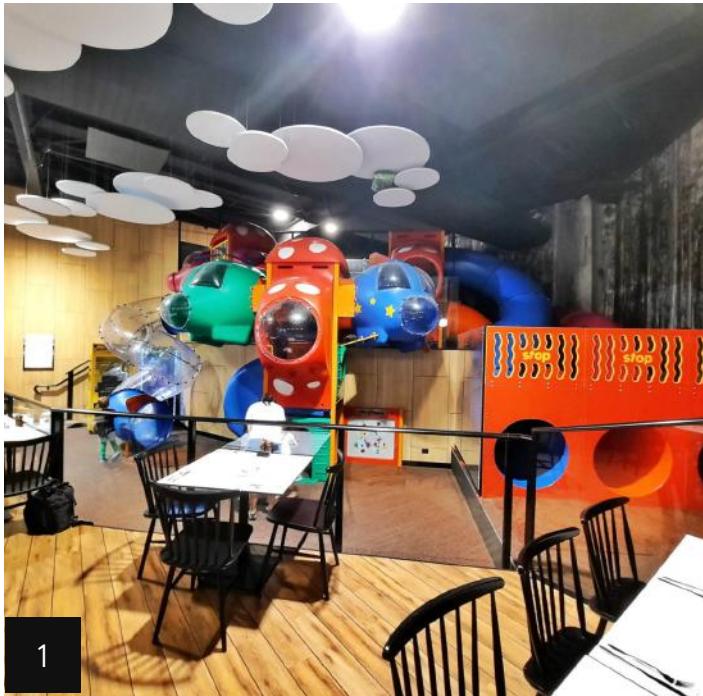


3
EMF Jnr, Nerang

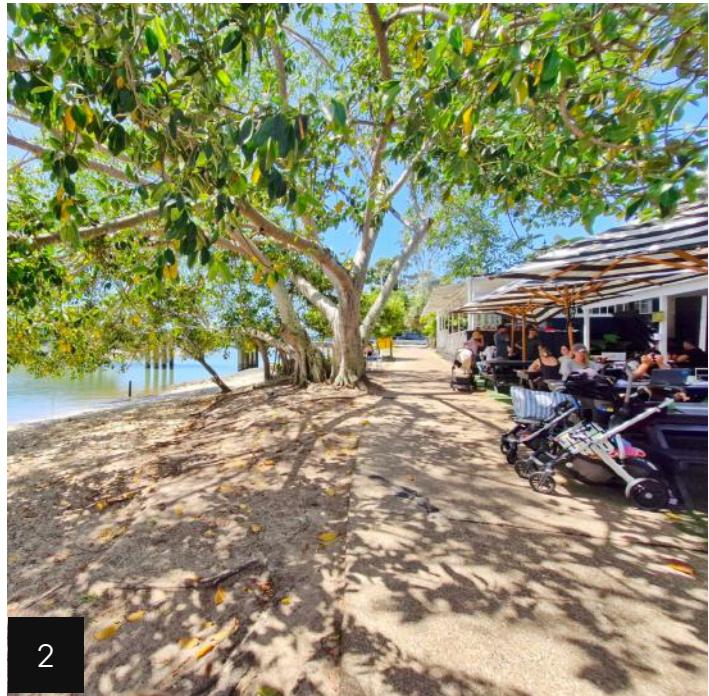


4
EMF Jnr, Pacific Fair

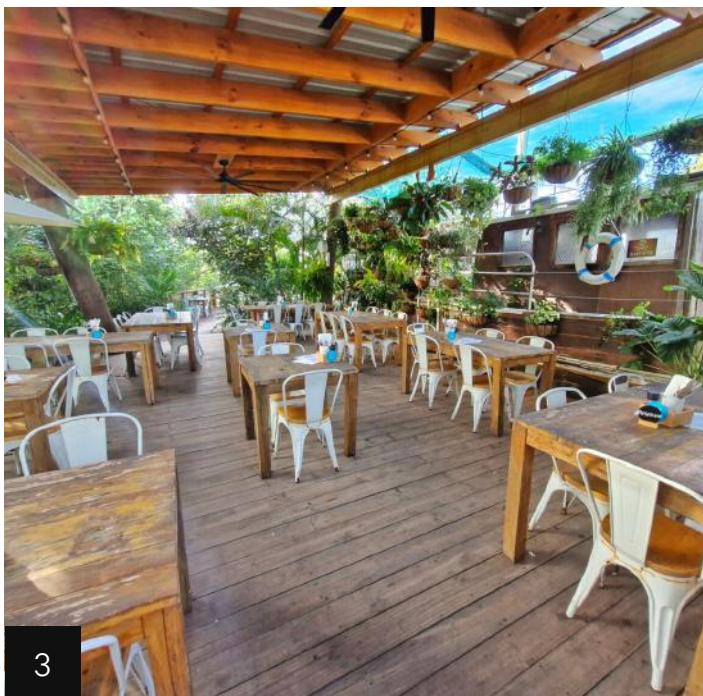
Kid-Friendly Summer Dining



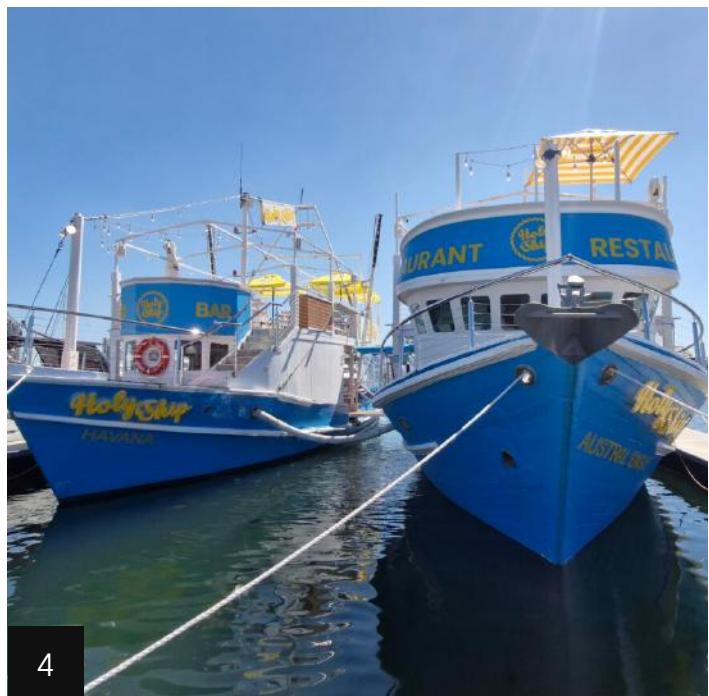
The Wattle Hotel, Upper Coomera



Tarte Beach House, Currumbin

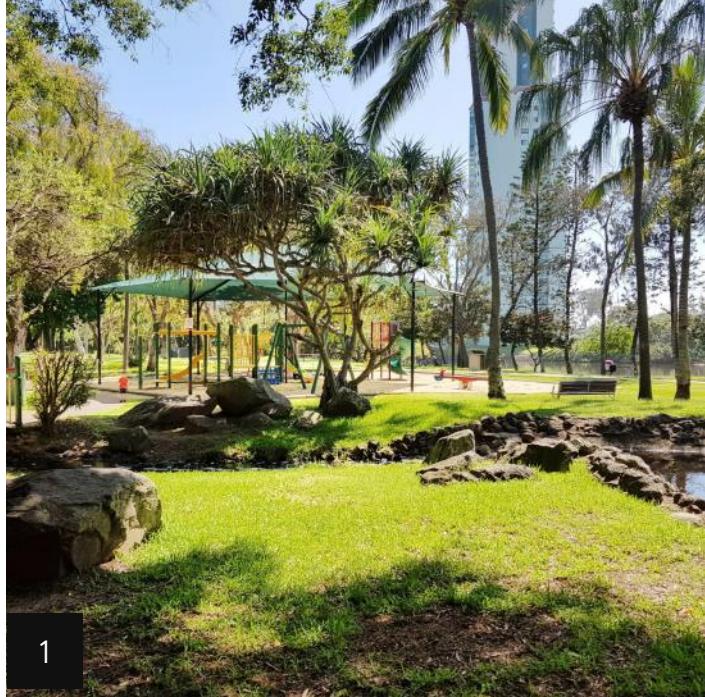


Kokomo, Coomera



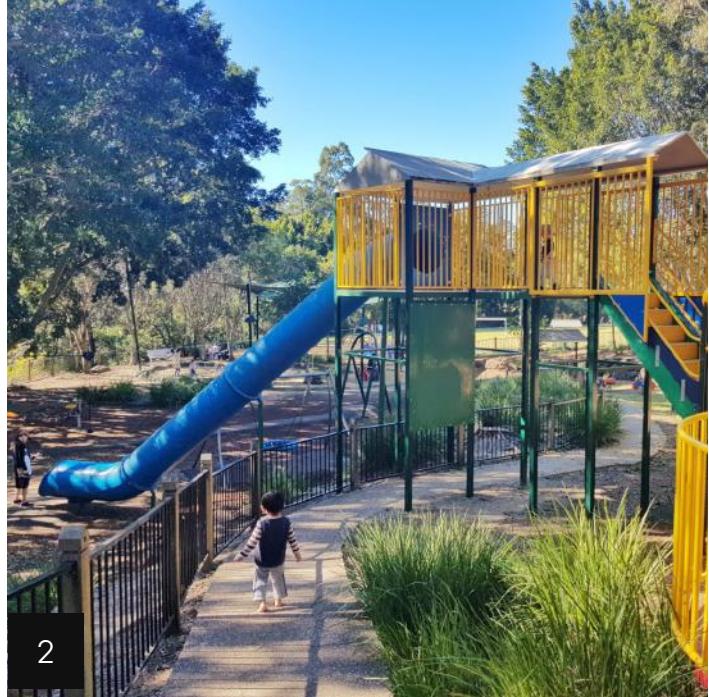
Holy Ship, Main Beach

Top Shady Playgrounds



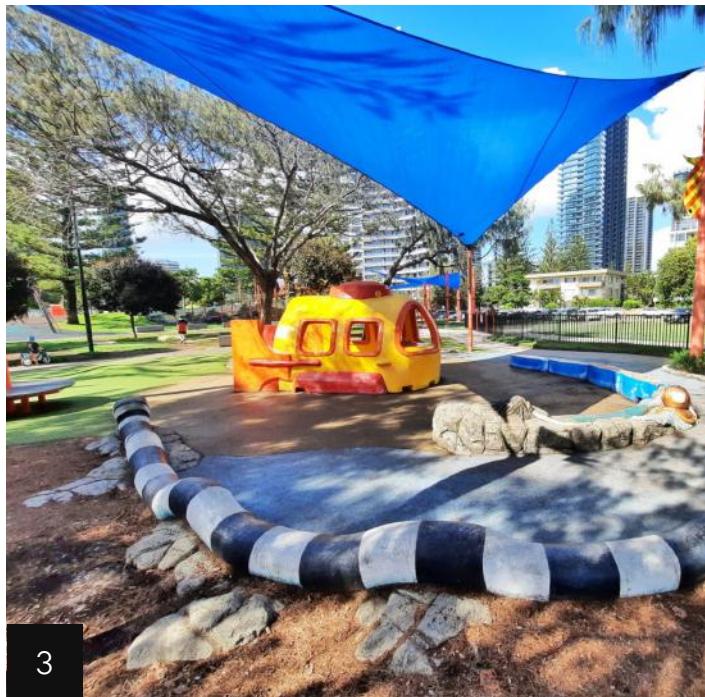
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Macintosh Island Park, Surfers Paradise



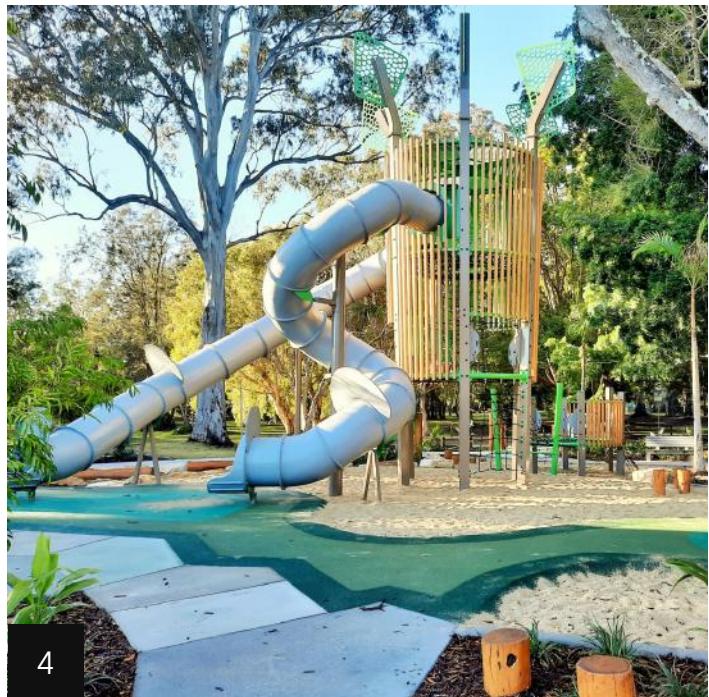
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Parklake Park, Maudsland



3

Kurrawa All Abilities Park, Broadbeach



4

Schuster Park, Tallebudgera

Summer Activities



Dreamworld & White Water World, Extended Summer Opening Hours

Until 11 January

Dreamworld & White Water World have extended hours for Summer! Until 30 December, Dreamworld open until 8pm and WhiteWater World open until 6.30pm. Between 2 - 11 January, opening hours will be 9.30am - 6pm.



Art making for Everyone, Tweed Regional Gallery

Until 25 January, Weds-Sun 10am - 4pm

Join us in the Gallery foyer this summer for free family-fun activities inspired by re/JOY: Vipoo Srivilasa, an Australian Design Centre (ADC On Tour) national touring exhibition. Suitable for families – all ages and abilities.

No bookings required.



Dive into Paradise, Paradise Centre, Surfers Paradise

Saturday 3 - Sunday 11 January

Dive into Paradise this summer! Paradise Centre is making a splash with photo-worthy moments, splash-worthy giveaways, and a vibe that's pure Gold Coast.

Beach Locker Challenge: Spend \$50 in one transaction from 3-11 January and unlock a beach locker to win epic prizes, including branded pool rings, iKandi sunglasses, Vans bags, Surf Dive N Ski cooler bags, gift vouchers and more. Open daily from 1pm–4pm near Newsextra.

Ping Pong Paradise: Grab a paddle and challenge your mates to a rally - free play daily from 9am–8pm in the beachfront precinct.

Pop-up Sunscreen Station: Stay sun-safe while you play in Paradise! Save yourself (and the kids) from the sun with our free sunscreen and zinc station in the beachfront precinct, open daily from 11am-2pm.

Summer Activities



Vapiano Kids Pizza Workshops, Coomera

5 - 16 January, 10-11am

Jump into our kitchen to make your own Italian creation as well as learn about key ingredients and herbs in our kitchen. Each mini chef will take home their very own Vapiano Pizza Kids apron! \$25pp. Parents/caregivers are entitled to 20% off their total bill when they dine straight after the class.



Bunnings School Holiday Workshops, Gold Coast

Throughout January, Arundel, Nerang, Oxenford, Pimpama, Robina, Southport

Looking for a fun activity over the school holidays and keep the kids entertained? Join us in store and get creative with our super fun craft workshops. We can't wait to see you!

For ages 4-12
Book now!

Kids Sushi making workshop

SUSHI HUB

Kids Sushi Making, Hope Island Marketplace

Thursday 8 January, 10am - 2.45pm

Get ready for some hands-on fun! Kids will learn the art of sushi making with Sushi Hub's expert chefs. Each participant will roll up their sleeves to create their own delicious sushi rolls using fresh ingredients and authentic tools. Sessions are \$5.50 and include sushi to enjoy at the conclusion of each 45 minute session. Bookings required.

For ages 4-12
Book now!

Kids Sushi making workshop

SUSHI HUB

Kids Sushi Making, Tweed City Shopping Centre

Friday 9 January, 10am - 3pm

Get ready for some hands-on fun! Kids will learn the art of sushi making with Sushi Hub's expert chefs. Each participant will roll up their sleeves to create their own delicious sushi rolls using fresh ingredients and authentic tools. Sessions are \$5.50 and include sushi to enjoy at the conclusion of each 45 minute session. Bookings required.

Summer Activities



Free reptile experiences, Beechmont Hotel

7, 14 & 21 January, 11.30am

We've teamed up with True Blue Reptiles to bring a free, hands on reptile experience to The Beechmont Hotel. Little (and big) kids can get up close with some incredible native reptiles, learn fun facts, and maybe even conquer a fear or two.



Free entry to Summerland Farm, Austinville

From 27 December

From Saturday 27 December, Summerland Farm is offering FREE entry to their water park and adventure park! While you're there, check out their animal encounters too.



Krispy Kreme Donut Decorating, Surfers Paradise

From 27 December

For \$9.50, children will receive 2 favourite Original Glazed® doughnuts and use a range of fun toppings and coloured icing to decorate their doughnuts however their heart desires. At the end of their session 20-minute doughnut decorating session, they not only get to enjoy their beautifully decorated doughnuts, but they will take home an iconic Krispy Kreme hat, balloon, and a certificate.



Astronaut Academy, Tweed City Shopping Centre

12 - 25 January, 10am - 1pm daily

Blast Off into Fun These School Holidays! Looking for fun and free activities near you these school holidays? Blast off into out-of-this-world fun at The Astronaut Academy where the kids can enjoy a stellar line-up of hands-on creative (and delicious) workshops!

Summer Activities



Alice in Wonderland, Qld Theatre of Puppetry

12 - 23 January, 9.30am and 11am daily (excluding weekends)

QTOPs next production is "ALICE IN WONDERLAND" in the last two weeks of the January 2026 School Holidays. It is truly an amazing Production for all ages, so don't miss out. \$6 per person card or cash, pay at the door



Charm'd Studio, Australia Fair Shopping Centre

Monday 12 - Friday 16 January, 10.30am - 1.30pm

Let the kids dive into a world of colour at our Charm'd Studio. Each day little creators can design their very own bracelet or keyring using a rainbow of beads and cute charms and yes, it's completely FREE! No bookings needed. Just pop in, pick your beads and let the magic happen. Suitable for ages 5+. While stocks last.



Back to School Craft Workshop, Benowa Village

Wednesday 14 - Saturday 17 January, 10am - 1pm

Wednesday: Design your pencil topper

Thursday: Design your own pencil case

Friday: Design your own library bag

Saturday: Design your own bookmark

Located outside Coles, no bookings required.

Summer Activities



The Bubble Spectacular, HOTA, Bundall

Thursday 15 January, 11am & 1.30pm

Expect to be amazed as the ultimate master of bubbles, Dr Hubble, creates little bubbles, BIG bubbles, volcano bubbles, tornado bubbles, square bubbles and with a bit of his bubbly-magic, you might even end up inside a bubble! This poppin' bubble party, filled with laughter, audience participation and even a little burst of fiery bubbles, kids and their grown-ups will be left awe-struck.



360 All Stars, Redlands Performing Arts Centre,

15-17 January

BMX, basketball, breaking, acrobatics, drumming and more, the international smash hit returns!

A phenomenal physical performance exploring all forms of rotation, 360 ALLSTARS connects the street with the elite to deliver a supercharged urban circus. Boasting a stellar cast of World Champion and World Record holding artists and athletes, 360 ALLSTARS is a spectacular fusion of the extraordinary artistry that emerges from street culture.

Shows

Thursday 15 January - 6pm

Friday 16 January - 10am, 1pm

Saturday 17 January - 1pm, 6pm



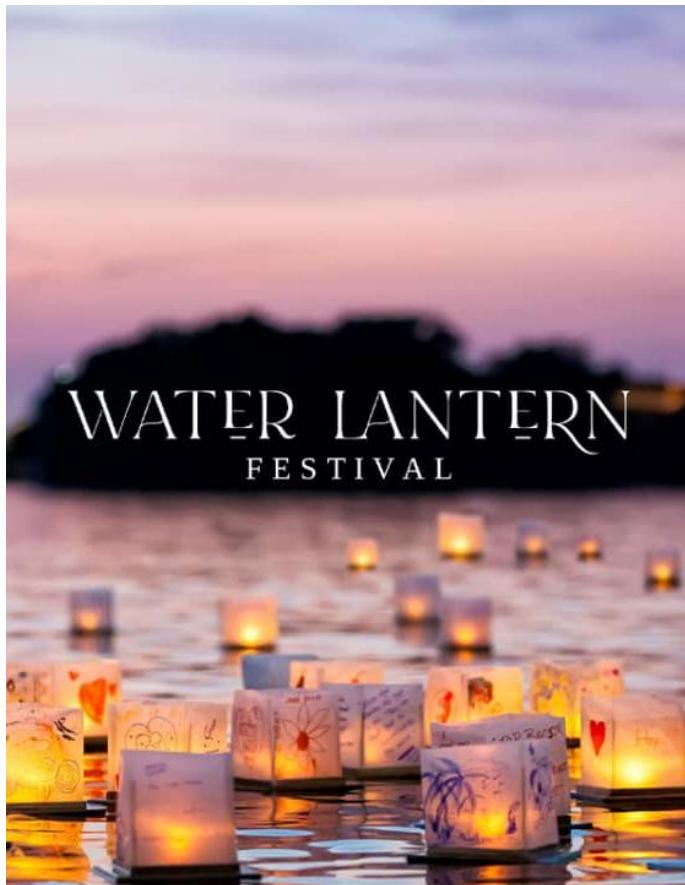
Summer Splash, Paradise Point Parklands

Saturday 17 January, 9am - 12pm

Break the school holiday boredom and treat the kids to this FREE event. Enjoy the giant water inflatables, bubble-play, DJ with kid's activities, face-painting and more.

Cool down with free snow cones or purchase a sausage and drink to help fundraise for local community group.

Summer Activities



Water Lantern Festival, Evandale Lake, Surfers Paradise

Saturday 17 January, 4pm

Water Lantern Festival is a community event that encourages people of all ages and backgrounds to come together for a night of love and laughter.

Gather with your loved ones, reflect on your life, and connect with new friends. As the sun sets, release your personalized lantern onto the water and watch it illuminate the night.

Enjoy food trucks, live music, vendors, a scavenger hunt, and the lantern launch.

Bookings essential



Cove Fun Days, Sanctuary Cove Marina

Monday 19 January to Friday 23 January, 10am - 2pm

Sanctuary Cove is delivering five days of high-energy entertainment and outdoor fun designed to keep kids active, engaged, and smiling. The Marine Village will transform into a playground of inflatable challenges, simply spend \$20 or more at any Sanctuary Cove retailer and present your receipt to enjoy a turn on the inflatables.

January 19, 21 and 23: Wipeout Challenge

January 20 and 22: Radical Run Race

Free Summer Movies



Free movies at Star Theatre, Star Gold Coast, Broadbeach

12, 19 & 26 January, 4pm

Enjoy new release movies these school holidays in The Star Theatre! There's always something to enjoy at The Star Gold Coast. Free for Star Gold Coast members (free to join), or just \$5 for non members.

- 12 January, 10.30am - Zootopia
- 19 January, 10.30am - Pets on a Train
- 26 January, 10.30am - The Sponge Bob Movie

Movies at The Junction

BURLEIGH HEADS

Free School Holiday Movies, The Junction GC, Burleigh Heads

6, 13 & 20 January

- Tuesday 6th Jan @ 10.30am - MOVIE 1
- Tuesday 13th Jan @ 10am - MOVIE 2
- Tuesday 20th Jan @ 10.30am - MOVIE 3

The Junction cafe will be open from 7am so you can get your coffee before the movie. BYO your fav movie snacks!

Free big screen movies, Beechmont Hotel

9, 16 & 23 January, 11.30am

The Beechmont Hotel will be showing Rio, Sing 2 and Trolls: Band Together across the January holidays, with free popcorn for the kids.

9, 16 & 23 January, from 11.30am

Free popcorn & free entry

Come for lunch, stay for the movie. No bookings needed.



Movies Under the Stars, Gold Coast

2 & 10 January

What better way to spend an evening than outdoors watching a movie under the stars! The City of Gold Coast Movies under the Stars program is free, family-friendly fun!

- Friday 2 Jan, 7pm - Trolls Band Together, Broadbeach
- Saturday 10 Jan, 5pm - Minecraft Movie, Ormeau



Don't miss attractions

Summer on the Gold Coast is the perfect time for families to get out and make the most of the holidays before school goes back. From sunny beaches and scenic walks to wildlife encounters and even some indoor adventures, there's no shortage of activities to keep kids entertained and parents relaxed. Every day can be filled with fun, learning, and memories that the whole family will treasure.

I've put together a range of family-friendly attractions and experiences to enjoy throughout January. Don't let the holidays slip by, Summer on the Gold Coast is calling!

Croc! at Queensland Museum



Croc! Lost Giants to Living Legends

Walk alongside one of the planet's most powerful and fascinating animals, on a journey stretching back over 130 million years. This interactive all-ages exhibition will bring you face-to-face with the mighty crocodile. From ancient 'supercrocs' that once roamed with dinosaurs to the unique crocodile species living across the world today, Croc! Lost Giants to Living Legends explores the science, culture and enduring connections between people and these remarkable creatures.

Crocodiles survived the dinosaurs, evolved and made their mark on culture, fascinating humans from early First Nations' stories to Hollywood blockbusters of today. Where does the legend and the myth meet reality?

Experts from Queensland Museum, the Australian National Maritime Museum and the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory have created this world premiere exhibition. With activities for all ages, you can expect:

- Close encounters with stunning croc models and interactive exhibits including Sarcosuchus, a 130-million-year-old crocodilian.
- Life-sized prehistoric giants and dramatic fossil displays.
- Engaging challenges that test your knowledge of life in croc country.
- Bold and beautiful artworks sharing First Nations connections to Sea Country.
- Global perspectives on crocodiles in culture, design, and tradition.
- Real-world tools used by crocodile researchers and conservationists.

Dream Factory GC



Bounce Into Fun at Dream Factory GC

Dream Factory GC is a bright and energetic indoor play space in Carrara, filled wall-to-wall with giant jumping castles, slides, and fun zones for kids up to 12 years old. With a dedicated area for under-5s and plenty of space for big energy, it's the perfect weather-proof option for families looking to let little ones run, bounce, and burn off excitement in a safe, colourful environment.

Sessions run for two hours and cost just \$16, making it an affordable and easy outing for parents. Kids get to climb, jump and explore while grown-ups can relax nearby — ideal for playdates, rainy-day plans, or a weekend treat. Dream Factory GC is one of those rare gems that blends simplicity, value, and big fun, all under one roof.

Circus Fun House



Pink Flamingo's outstanding family show

Due to popular demand, Circus Fun House is coming back to the GOLD COAST these JANUARY Holidays for kids and their families. With dazzling costumes, daring aerial stunts, breathtaking acrobatics, and side-splitting comedy, this show truly has it all! Plus, with state-of-the-art effects that'll set their imaginations soaring, it's the ultimate family day out you won't want to miss!

Tickets from \$39 — includes a kids' meal with every child's ticket. Adults enjoy tickets at kids' prices, but kids' meals are only provided for children. Book 4 or more tickets & receive 10% off (automatically applied at checkout)

Morning and afternoon shows available on the following dates

Wednesday 7th January

Thursday 8th January

Saturday 10th January

Wednesday 14th January

Thursday 15th January

Saturday 17th January

Jellurgal Cruise with Culture



Cruise with Culture: Discover the Aboriginal Heritage of the Gold Coast!

Get ready to set sail on a one-of-a-kind cultural journey through the stunning Gold Coast Broadwater. Step aboard the luxurious Kokomo Cruises vessel and immerse yourself in the ancient traditions, stories, and breathtaking landscapes that have shaped the lives of the local people for thousands of years.

This unforgettable cruise will take you through the pristine waterways of the Gold Coast, where you'll uncover the deep connection between land, sea, and culture. Along the way, your expert Aboriginal guide will share powerful Dreamtime stories, traditional knowledge, and the enduring heritage of Australia's First Nations people.

This isn't just a cruise—it's an invitation to see the Gold Coast through the eyes of its First Nations custodians. With breathtaking scenery, powerful storytelling, and a deeper connection to the land and sea, this experience will leave you with a newfound appreciation for Australia's Aboriginal heritage.

Adult \$69 | Child (3-15) \$59 | 2 Adults & 1 Child \$165 | 2 Adults & 2 Children \$220

<https://www.jellurgal.com.au/tours/cruise-with-culture>

Dig It Tamborine Mountain



Queensland's first mini excavator park!

Dig It Tamborine Mountain is Queensland's first mini excavator park for kids big and small! Here, you will sit in the drivers seat of real excavator machinery and participate in construction-inspired activities. It's fully instructed fun for kids and their parents too! You don't need any experience, just a willingness to give it a go,

Dig It is split into four zones, with each zone having 3 mini excavators (aside from the RC Zone). After listening to your safety briefing, you get to head out to the Dig Zone and work your way around the four zones during your 2 hour session. At each zone, 3 participants will be on machinery at a time, meaning it rotates through participants pretty quickly and you never have to wait too long for a turn. Once you've marked off all four zones on your Induction Card, you're welcome to revisit any of the zones if you still have some time left over. There are also 2 free play areas that you can use at any time: a large sandpit filled with trucks and mini excavators, and a gravel digging area with shovels, wheelbarrows, gravel and foam building blocks.

Children aged 5 years and over can participate on their own, while children under the age of 5 must participate on the lap of a parent. For the children operating solo, parents are welcome to stand on a special platform right beside the machinery, but you are not allowed to touch the machinery – your job is to talk to them and give verbal guidance if needed.

\$65 per participant. Children 4 years and under must participate in the lap of an adult, there is no charge for that adult.

www.digit.com.au

Welcome to Parad-Ice



Paradise Resort's Variety Ice Skating Show

Get ready to be dazzled by an unprecedented performance that fuses fierce skating, breathtaking acrobatics, mesmerizing spins, and whimsical clown antics into one unforgettable spectacle. This extraordinary extravaganza is set to captivate audiences of all ages, leaving you spellbound by the sheer brilliance of the talent on the ice. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind adventure that promises to thrill and enchant from start to finish!

- \$20 - Sideview Seating Ticket
- \$99 - VIP (B) - Seating Table for 4 Guests & 2 Popcorn Cups plus Bottle of Wine - Jade Estate Semillon (Lovedale Hunter Valley) or 2 cans of soft drink - First come first serve seating. NOTE: VIP B is behind VIP A seating or behind the left sideview seating. See photos for seating area map.
- \$115 - VIP (A) Front Seating Table for 4 Guests & 2 Popcorn Cups plus Bottle of Wine - Jade Estate Semillon (Lovedale Hunter Valley) or 2 cans of soft drink.
- VIP tables- We can add one extra seat on request - You must buy an extra sideview seating in this case and request the extra seat on your table on the additional notes.
- All seats and VIP tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The show has a 360-degree view.

Summerland Camels



Keep the kids entertained at Summer Land Camels!

FARM TOURS | CAFE OPEN EVERY DAY | CAMEL RIDES (only closed 1 Jan)

Summer Land Camel farm is free to visit - you can meet and feed the friendly camels, get something to eat at the cafe, try the famous camel milk gelato and browse the farm shop for locally made goods.

For an unforgettable experience, book online for a Camel Ride, or a Tour, Taste & Camel Encounter! [Use code HOLIDAYS during the school holidays for 50% off kids Tour, Taste & Camel Encounter tickets!](#)

Tour, Taste & Camel Encounter

Explore, Taste, and Connect with Camels on a guided Tour, Taste & Camel Encounter at Australia's Largest Camel Farm! Explore the inner workings of Australia's largest Camel Farm and Dairy, you'll also gain fascinating insights into our remarkable Dromedaries.

Day Trip - Scenic Rim

A day trip to the Scenic Rim is the perfect summer family escape, with rolling hills, waterfalls, and quaint country towns to explore. Kids can enjoy farm visits, nature walks, and lookout points with breathtaking views, while parents soak up the fresh air and relaxed pace. It's an easy drive from the coast that feels like stepping into a peaceful, picture-perfect countryside adventure.



Naughty Little Kids, Peak Crossing

A family-friendly goat farm where kids can meet, feed, and interact with friendly goats, plus enjoy farmyard fun in a safe, hands-on environment.

Tommerup's Dairy Farm, Kerry

Families can see cows up close, feed the animals (especially the Smashing Pumpkins Pig Feeding!) and enjoy fresh farm produce.

Summerland Camels, Harrisville

A unique experience where kids (and adults) can ride camels and learn about these gentle giants.

Towri Sheep Cheese Farm, Alenviwe

Visit the farm, see the sheep, and sample delicious cheeses straight from the source.

Ipswich Nature Centre

A free, hands-on wildlife spot where kids can meet native animals and learn about local fauna.

Day Trip - Northern Rivers

A family day trip to the Northern Rivers is the perfect summer escape — think lush hinterland drives, crystal-clear swimming spots, and charming towns filled with great food and easy holiday vibes. Whether you're exploring waterfalls, wandering markets, or relaxing by the river, it's a beautiful blend of nature and simple, slow-paced moments together. It's close enough for a stress-free day out, but feels like a world away.



The Farm, Byron Bay

A relaxed destination where kids can roam, animals wander, and everyone can enjoy wholesome food straight from the paddock.

Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

A hands-on animal haven where kids can meet native animals up close, wander through leafy enclosures, and enjoy a nature-filled day out.

Tropical Fruit World, Duranbah

A fun farm experience where you can explore exotic fruit orchards, hop on a tractor tour, and taste fresh tropical treats straight from the trees.

Farm & Co, Cudgen

A family-friendly spot where kids can meet farm animals and explore gardens and play areas while parents relax with a coffee or snack.

Summerland Farm, Alstonville

A working farm where kids can feed animals, explore gardens, and play in the splash pad.

Fingal Head Coastal Walk, Fingal Heads

A scenic, family-friendly trail offering stunning ocean views, rocky headlands, and a chance to spot dolphins or turtles along the way.

Marine Discovery Centre, Hastings Point

An interactive, educational hub where families can learn about local marine life, touch starfish and crabs, and discover the wonders of the Northern Rivers' coastal ecosystems.

Thanks for reading



Mrs Lardeedah

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