



Coffs Harbour

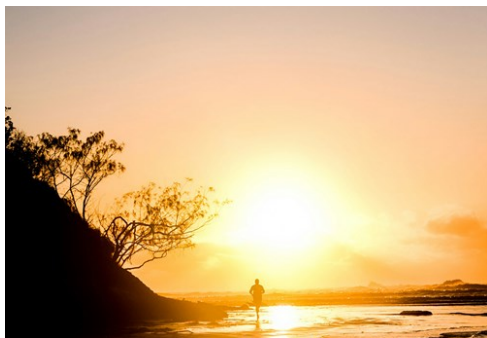
in collaboration with Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Photo: Jakub Maculewicz/shutterstock



Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Coffs Harbour is a paradise of attractions, offering everything from thrilling skydives and underwater adventures to dolphin shows and waterfront dining. Nearby, you can walk above a rainforest canopy in the World Heritage wilderness. Known for its bananas, fish and surf, this coastal city on the NSW North Coast lies at the southern edge of the Solitary Islands Marine Park, a haven for turtles and a fantastic spot for diving. Relax on beautiful beaches in Coffs, a much-loved destination halfway between Sydney and Brisbane, easily reachable by air, road or rail.



Agustin Gunawan/unsplash



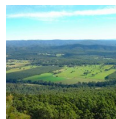
Jude de la Torre/unsplash

Featured



Nambucca Heads

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Sherwood Nature Reserve

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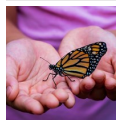
Jetty Dive Centre

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Raleigh International Raceway

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Coffs Harbour Butterfly House

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Top 5



The Big Banana Fun Park

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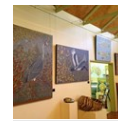
Whale Watching

The spectacular coastline around Coffs Harbour is one of the best locations ...



Solitary Islands Marine Park

The Solitary Islands Marine Park is the third largest marine protected area ...



Yarrowarra Aboriginal Cult...

Yarrowarra is located in the homelands of the Garby Elders and the Gumbayngg...



Diggers Beach

The ever-popular Diggers Beach is perfectly situated for tourists – right ac...

THE CITY



Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Coffs Harbour, located between the Great Dividing Range and the Pacific Ocean, is a charming coastal city on New South Wales' Mid North Coast. Originally named Korff's Harbour by naval architect John Korff, who sought shelter from a storm in 1847, the town's name was later changed to Coffs Harbour in 1861. The region was once a hub for timber and agriculture, particularly bananas, earning it the nickname "Bananacoast". Today, Coffs Harbour is a thriving tourist destination, known for its mild climate, beautiful beaches and rich cultural heritage.

The city's history is closely tied to its natural surroundings. The Gumbaynggirr people, the original inhabitants, have a deep connection to the land, which is reflected in the region's cultural sites and ongoing efforts to preserve their heritage. As the city developed, Coffs Harbour became a major coastal resort town, attracting visitors with its stunning natural landscapes, from the lush hinterlands to the sparkling waters of the Pacific.

One of the city's most famous landmarks is the Big Banana, one of Australia's oldest and most iconic "big things", symbolising the region's historical banana industry. The harbour itself became a key base for a large fishing fleet in the

1970s, which remains active today. Coffs Harbour's economy has diversified, with tourism playing a significant role, alongside fishing, timber and agriculture.

Modern Coffs Harbour offers a blend of laid-back coastal living and vibrant city amenities. Visitors can explore a range of attractions, from the bustling marina and nearby marine sanctuaries to the scenic coastal trails and serene beaches. The city's rich cultural scene, with its mix of art galleries, museums and cultural festivals, reflects its diverse community and deep historical roots.

Coffs Harbour continues to grow, with new developments and seaside estates emerging along the 30-kilometre stretch of coastline, making it a popular destination for both retirees and holidaymakers seeking the warmth and beauty of New South Wales' north. Despite its growth, Coffs Harbour retains a relaxed, subtropical charm that continues to draw visitors year after year.

TOP THINGS TO DO



Gethin Coles/Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

The Big Banana Fun Park



The Big Banana is an iconic Australian landmark, standing five metres high and stretching 11 metres long. But there's more to

this attraction than just bananas: visit the Big Banana Fun Park, packed with rides and activities for the whole family. Enjoy the toboggan ride, laser tag arena, ice-skating rink, inflatable water park, candy-making kitchen, nursery, and a gift shop filled with quirky souvenirs.

Photo: Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Address: 351 Pacific Highway, Coffs Harbour NSW

Opening hours: Daily 9am-4:30pm

Phone: +61 2 6652 4355

Internet: bigbanana.com

Whale Watching



The spectacular coastline around Coffs Harbour is one of the best locations on the East Coast of Australia for watching humpback whales on

their annual migration from May to November. Hop on a cruise to see these magnificent mammals up close, or head to one of the coastal headlands to watch them swim by. The Rotary Lookout and Captain Cook Lookout in Nambucca Heads have superb ocean views including over the mouth of the Nambucca River. In nearby Bongil Bongil National Park, Sawtell Headland is famous for frequent sightings.

Photo: Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Internet:

www.visitnsw.com/articles/coffs-coast-whale-watching

Solitary Islands Marine Park



The Solitary Islands Marine Park is the third largest marine protected area in New South Wales, covering a total area of 71,000 hectares and

stretching along 75 kilometres of coastline from Coffs Harbour north to the Sandon River mouth.

The park is home to an incredible diversity of marine life, including tropical, temperate, and sub-tropical species of fish, coral, and algae, making it a major attraction for divers. Signage throughout the park indicates where specific activities such as diving, fishing, and collecting are permitted.

Within its boundaries, the marine park includes tidal waters, estuaries, beaches, and headlands, all protected by a special zoning scheme designed to conserve fish habitats and preserve the area's natural beauty.

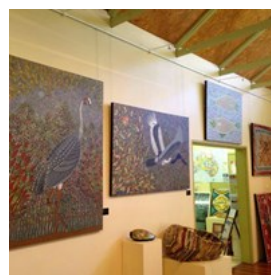
Photo: My Clarence Valley Tourism/Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Address: Marine Parks Office, 32 Marina Drive, Coffs Harbour NSW

Phone: +61 2 6691 0600

Internet: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/marine-protected-areas/marine-parks/solitary-islands-marine-park

Yarrawarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre



Yarrawarra is located in the homelands of the Garby Elders and the Gumbaynggirr people, surrounded by tranquil bushland, pristine

beaches, and abundant wildlife. The Yarrawarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre features a first-rate Bush Tucker Cafe, an exceptional Indigenous art

gallery, cultural programs, accommodation, an events centre, and a Cultural Heritage Research Unit. Special events include Aboriginal art classes, Gumbaynggirr language classes, storytelling sessions, dance performances and workshops, clay modelling, traditional basket weaving, and guided tours of Aboriginal sites.

The Wadjar Regional Indigenous Art Gallery showcases the works of regional Indigenous artists, artisans, and craftspeople. It is also home to the Annual Saltwater Freshwater Indigenous Art Award. The gallery features an extensive collection of traditional and contemporary arts and crafts, as well as books, clothing, CDs, and gifts, all produced locally.

Photo: Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Address: 69 Red Rock Road, Corindi Beach NSW

Phone: +61 2 9188 4370

Internet: www.yarrawarra.com.au

More Info: Yarrawarra is located at Corindi Beach, midway between Coffs Harbour and Grafton.

Diggers Beach



The ever-popular Diggers Beach is perfectly situated for tourists — right across the road from Coffs Harbour's Big Banana. Wide and sheltered, Diggers Beach is ideal for a peaceful, wind-free walk along the shore.

It's not just visitors who love this beach; locals also flock here for surfing, fishing, and swimming. If you prefer to stay dry, take a seat at the elevated pavilion to admire the stunning views and watch the birds, or stroll along the short pathway to Macauleys Headland.

When you're ready for a break from the surf,

head to the nearby Diggers Beach picnic area. With a children's playground and plenty of space to run around, it's the perfect spot for a family barbecue.

Photo: Rob Cleary/Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Address: Diggers Beach, Diggers Beach Road, Coffs Harbour NSW

Internet: www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/surfing-spots/diggers-beach

Curryfest



Curryfest celebrates the unique Punjabi heritage of Woolgoolga, which is immediately noticeable from the Sikh temple on the hill as you enter town.

For the past twelve years, thousands have flocked to this beachside town to enjoy Indian music and dance, and to sample curries from around the world.

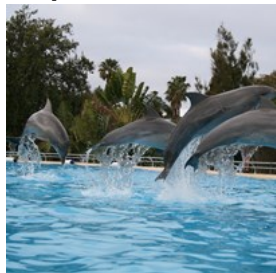
The main festival day features over 100 food and market stalls, a special kids' zone with rides and entertainment, a mindfulness and meditation zone for those seeking inner peace, and two stages of live entertainment. In addition to the main festival day, an increasing number of lead-up and follow-on events are encouraging visitors to extend their stay.

Photo: Robert Watkins/Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Address: Woolgoolga Beach Reserve, Beach Street, Woolgoolga NSW

Internet: www.curryfest.com.au

Dolphin Marine Conservation Park



Meet Bucky and other dolphins at Dolphin Marine Magic and enjoy their fun and exciting routines. You can even swim with a dolphin or a

seal at this beautiful zoological park, which is also home to little penguins, green sea turtles, freshwater turtles, and a variety of fish. There are two Marine Discovery Presentations each day. Arrive early to get your photo taken while receiving kisses from a dolphin and a seal. There's also a penguin feeding session, and for the brave, a reptile show.

Photo: Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour
Address: 65 Orlando Street, Coffs Harbour NSW
Phone: +61 2 6659 1900
Internet: coffscoastwildlifesanctuary.com.au

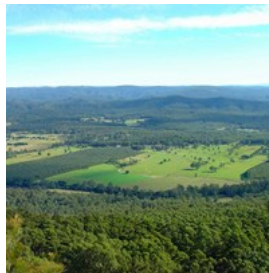
DO & SEE



Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Coffs Harbour is teeming with attractions. You'll be delighted with the shows at Dolphin Marine Magic and the colourful clownfish and lionfish at the aquarium. Popular activities include swimming, sailing, surfing, diving and fishing. Visit the Big Banana, explore a World Heritage rainforest and walk through a flight of butterflies.

Sherwood Nature Reserve



Sherwood Nature Reserve offers a peaceful setting for picnicking, birdwatching, car touring, and bushwalking. Discover the spectacular

biodiversity and natural beauty of Sherwood Nature Reserve. Located just a short drive from Coffs Harbour near Woolgoolga, the reserve features striking landscapes, from rugged sandstone escarpments and coastal ridges to dry open forests, heathlands, and vibrant subtropical rainforests.

The reserve is home to an abundance of wildlife, with old-growth forests and diverse habitats providing refuge for over 50 native animals, including the brush-tailed rock wallaby, long-nosed potoroo, powerful owl, giant barred frog, and leaf-tailed gecko. The incredible birdlife also makes Sherwood a bird watching paradise.

Explore the reserve by driving along Sherwood Forest Drive, where you can admire panoramic views of the coastline and Orara Valley. Enjoy peaceful bushwalking and exceptional birdwatching in the rainforest on the Falls Walking Track. Or simply relax at the Woolgoolga Creek picnic area and immerse yourself in the tranquility of nature.

Photo: B Webster/Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour
Address: Woolgoolga NSW
Phone: +61 2 6641 1500
Internet: www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/sherwood-nature-reserve

Jetty Dive Centre



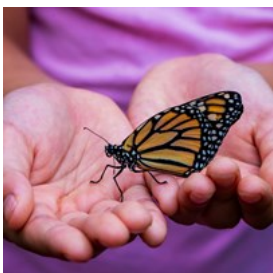
Coffs Harbour is the southern gateway to the Solitary Islands Marine Park, a very unique mix of tropical and temperate fish life; the waters of the Solitary Islands are just like the southern Great Barrier Reef with a mix of Fish from the south.

Jetty Dive Centre pride themselves in their high level of PADI training, from PADI open water Scuba courses all the way through to PADI Instructor.

Jetty Dive also has the first Whale Swims in NSW. After years of watching the Humpback Whales, they have developed a trip of a lifetime. Swim with Humpback Whales trips are an experience you will never forget.!

Photo: Mike Davey/Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour
Address: 398 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour NSW
Phone: +61 2 6651 1611
Internet: jettydive.com.au

Coffs Harbour Butterfly House



The Coffs Harbour Butterfly House is home to hundreds of Australian butterflies. Take a stroll through their walk-through enclosure and admire the brilliant colours as butterflies flutter around, sometimes even landing on you for a closer look. Learn about their fascinating life cycle from knowledgeable staff. Afterward, enjoy refreshments in the café, and pick up a memento of your visit in the gift shop.

Photo: David Clode/unsplash
Address: 5 Strouds Road, Bonville NSW
Phone: +61 2 6653 4766

Internet: www.butterflyhouse.com.au

Nambucca Heads



Nambucca Heads is one of Australia's most picturesque camping destinations. Named after an Aboriginal word meaning "entrance to the waters", Nambucca Heads is located on the Coffs Coast and is celebrated for its gorgeous weather and tranquil atmosphere. Caravan park guests can enjoy expansive water views and wake up to breathtaking sunrises. You can take a river cruise or visit the Rotary Lookout or Captain Cook Lookout for superb views of the river mouth and ocean, with the added bonus of seasonal whale watching.

Photo: Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour
Address: Nambucca Heads NSW
Internet: www.visitnsw.com/destinations/north-coast/coffs-harbour-area/nambucca-heads

Whitewater Rafting at Nymboi-Binderay National Park



Rafting is an exhilarating way to appreciate the stunning beauty of the river. Located within Nymboi-Binderay National Park, the scenic Nymboida River offers white-knuckle excitement with its challenging rapids. Dramatic granite gorges and rugged, rainforest-lined banks create a thrilling experience, making these rapids renowned among whitewater enthusiasts.

Photo: Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour
Address: Teak Tree Road, Wild Cattle Creek NSW
Internet: www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/nymbuibinderay-national-park

Raleigh International Raceway



Raleigh International Raceway is an exciting go-kart facility offering fun for the whole family, just 15 minutes south of Coffs Harbour. The

challenging 1.1-kilometre forest track features both single and double karts for thrilling laps. It's a perfect destination for hours of family fun.

Photo: Raleigh Raceway/Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Address: Valery Road, Raleigh NSW

Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm

Phone: +61 2 6655 4017

Internet: raleighraceway.com.au

CAFÉS, RESTAURANTS & BARS



Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Farmlands bursting with banana and blueberry plantations, a subtropical climate, and excellent fishing have made Coffs Harbour a haven for connoisseurs of fine food and fresh local produce. Enjoy quality dining at restaurants where award-winning chefs create tantalising dishes using the freshest local seafood, fruits, and vegetables. The café scene along the Coffs Coast is diverse, offering a range of charming locations to relax and enjoy. When the sun goes down, Coffs Harbour's pubs and clubs come alive, providing a vibrant nightlife experience.

Shearwater Restaurant



Perched above Coffs Creek, Shearwater Restaurant offers something truly special. Family-owned since 1998, it's the perfect setting to

enjoy breakfast, lunch, or dinner. The restaurant's gorgeous water views are beautifully framed by Australia's natural bushland. Fresh seafood is the specialty here, and the service is impeccable.

Photo: Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Address: 321 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour NSW

Phone: +61 2 6651 6053

Internet: shearwaterrestaurant.com.au

Federal Hotel



Located on the main street of Bellingen, this hotel is a favourite among locals and has won awards for its bistro, ensuring a great meal

every time. The hotel is open daily from 10am until late.

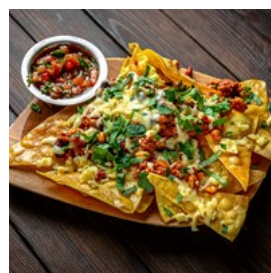
Photo: J Reynolds/shutterstock

Address: 77 Hyde Street, Bellingen NSW

Phone: +61 2 6655 1003

Internet: www.federalhotel.com.au

Plantation Hotel



The Plantation Hotel is a local favourite in the heart of Coffs Harbour. This lively venue doubles as a live music hub, featuring a fully equipped

stage where both national and international artists perform. The hotel includes a lounge bar that serves fine food and drinks, as well as a

sports bar with a big-screen TV and gaming facilities. Whether you're looking for a night out with friends or a relaxed pub lunch with the family, the Plantation Hotel is an excellent choice.

Photo: Katerininamd/shutterstock

Address: 88 Grafton Street, Coffs Harbour NSW

Phone: +61 2 6601 9160

Internet: www.plantationhotel.com.au

Nyanggan Gapi Cafe



Nyanggan Gapi Cafe, managed by Bularri Muurlay Nyanggan Aboriginal Corporation, offers more than just indigenous flavours

paired with breathtaking views—it serves as a pivotal hub for the Gumbaynggirr community.

The cafe provides a unique experience for locals and visitors alike by incorporating native ingredients, such as lemon myrtle, into its dishes. Additionally, the cafe proudly sources its coffee locally through a partnership with Artisti Coffee Roasters.

Located at Sealy Lookout within Orara East State Forest, the cafe is part of the stunning state Forests of the Coffs Coast.

Photo: Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Address: Sealy Lookout Drive, Korora NSW

Internet: nyanggangapi.com

Idle in Cafe



Idle in Cafe is a charming, rustic spot in the sleepy village of Nana Glen, nestled in the scenic Orara Valley, just 25 minutes from Coffs

Harbour. This little place is full of character.

"Idle in" for the best coffee and home-baked scones in town!

Relax inside in air-conditioned comfort, surrounded by timber beams, rustic furniture, and biker memorabilia, or unwind outside in the courtyard under the umbrellas and watch the world go by. The cafe is both biker and dog-friendly, but please keep both on a short leash.

Photo: Focus Magazine Photograph/Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Address: 30 Nana Street, Nana Glen NSW

Phone: +61 2 6654 3582

Internet: www.instagram.com/idleincafenanaglen

SHOPPING



Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Coffs Harbour offers a variety of shopping experiences, from boutiques to bustling markets. On Harbour Drive, you'll find Coffs Central, which features supermarkets and specialty stores, as well as the landscaped City Square, perfect for coffee and meals. Nearby, Park Beach

Plaza, located off the Pacific Highway, boasts the most diverse selection of specialty stores on the Coffs Coast and is open seven days a week.

Coffs Harbour is also renowned for its vibrant markets, including the Growers Markets, Harbourside Markets, Twilight Markets, Uptown Markets, and Made With Love Markets. On Thursdays, the Coffs Coast Growers Markets is a great place to stock up on fresh fruits and vegetables, smoked specialty meats, herbs, nuts, spring water, organic breads, and seasonings.

Markets are also held in the nearby towns of Glenreagh, Woolgoolga, Sawtell, Bellingen, and Dorrigo. The Dorrigo Country Markets, held on the first Saturday of the month, are known for arts, crafts, and fresh local produce. The Bellingen Community Markets, held on the third Saturday of the month, is one of the largest regional markets in Australia, featuring 250 stalls, children's activities, live music, and even camel rides.

Harbourside Market



Harbourside Market is an authentic outdoor market held every Sunday, offering a wide range of unique art and crafts, fresh local produce, and tasty gourmet food and beverages. Their philosophy of "locally made, locally grown" ensures a distinctive and memorable experience.

Photo: A1 Coffs Coast Tours/Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Address: Marina Drive, Jetty Foreshores, Coffs Harbour NSW

Opening hours: Sun 8am-2pm

Phone: +61 407 661 990

Internet: harboursidemarkets.com.au

Made with Love Markets



The Made with Love Markets are the first and only dedicated boutique handmade market in the Coffs Harbour region. Since their inception in

August 2011, they have become one of the largest dedicated markets on the North Coast. These markets aim to showcase handmade, local, boutique, and unique items, all crafted with love.

Photo: Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Address: 123 Pacific Highway, Coffs Harbour NSW

Internet: www.madewithlovemarkets.com

Bellingen Community Markets



For over 40 years Bellingen Community Markets is abuzz every third Saturday of the month in the beautiful heritage tree lined

Bellingen Park. The event showcases more than 260 diverse and colourful stalls, from local artisans, creators, producers, growers and recyclers, alternative therapies, massage and scrumptious food. Yes: food, food and more food. Tantalise your tastebuds with a smorgasbord of delicious multicultural hot and cold delights.

Live music plays all day with spontaneous performances and buskers throughout the park. Kids will love the jumping castle, pony rides, swings, face-painting and bargain hunting.

There's plenty of variety, loads of good energy and heaps of great buys for the whole family. It's certainly worth a visit to beautiful Bellingen and why not stay a while to enjoy, appreciate and

embrace our wonderful, welcoming town.

Photo: Kaz Selbie/Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour
Address: Church Street, Bellingen NSW 2454
Opening hours: Sat 8am-2:30pm
Phone: +61 400 261 693
Internet: www.bellingenmarkets.com.au

ACCOMMODATION



Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

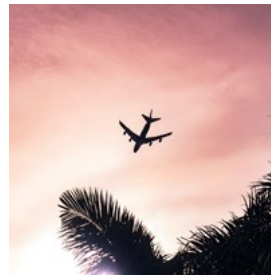
Blessed with abundant natural beauty, Coffs Harbour is one of Australia's most cherished holiday destinations. A range of accommodation is available to suit your budget, from youth hostels and motels to guesthouses and luxury resorts. Camping in the beautiful parklands is another popular option. With plenty of options, Coffs Harbour is the place for a truly relaxing and enjoyable escape.

TOURIST INFORMATION



Destination NSW for Coffs Harbour

Coffs Harbour Airport (CFS)



Coffs Harbour Airport (CFS) is one of the largest regional airports in New South Wales, located just 3 kilometres from the city centre, off Hogbin Drive.

A taxi rank is available at the airport for convenient transfers to the city centre. Forest Coach Lines also provides a regular bus service to and from the airport.

Photo: Eduardo Velazco Guart/unsplash
Address: Aviation Drive, Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450
Phone: +61 2 6650 4812
Internet: www.coffsharbourairport.com.au

Public Transport



Local bus operators — Busways, Ryans and Sawtell Coaches — run regular daily services throughout the region. Timetables and information are available from the Coffs Harbour Visitor Information Centre.

Photo: Annie Spratt/unsplash

Taxi



number of passengers.

It is advisable to check prices before jumping in a taxi, and don't forget to add the per kilometre fare depending on time of day, vehicle type and

You can call Australia's national taxi booking phone number — 131 008.

Photo: Art Markiv/unsplash

Phone: 131 008

Medical



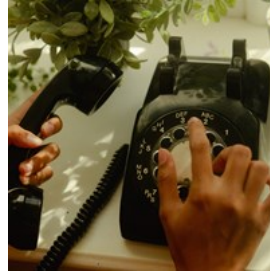
In Coffs Harbour, and Australia more broadly, there are several major pharmacy chains where you can pick up over-the-counter medications, prescription drugs, personal care items, and more. The major pharmacy chains are Priceline Pharmacy, Chemist Warehouse, TerryWhite Chemmart, Amcal and Blooms The Chemist. It's always worth checking the opening hours as these can vary, especially on weekends and public holidays.

A 24-hour medical service is available at Coffs Harbour Health Campus.

Photo: Diana Polekhina/unsplash

Internet: mnclhd.health.nsw.gov.au/hospital/coffs-harbour-health-campus

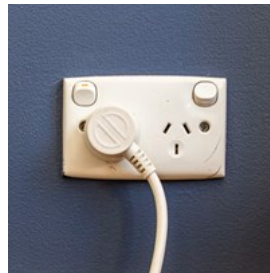
Telephone



Country code: +61 Area code: (0)2

Photo: Wesley Hilario/unsplash

Electricity



Australia operates on a 230/240V supply voltage and 50Hz frequency. The country uses Type I power plugs, which feature two flat pins forming a 'V' shape, along with a grounding pin. This standard is also commonly used in New Zealand, Argentina, China, and several Pacific island nations. Remember to pack a universal adapter if your devices use a different plug type to ensure hassle-free charging.

Photo: Mitchell Luo/unsplash

Population

78,759

Currency

Australian Dollar (AUD) \$1 = 100 cents

Opening hours

Most shops are open from Monday to Saturday 9am–5pm. Shops are open on Sundays at their own discretion.

Internet

www.coffscoast.com.au

www.visitnsw.com/destinations/north-coast/coffs-harbour-area/coffs-harbour

Newspapers

The Coffs Coast Advocate:

www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/coffs-harbour

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW): www.smh.com.au

Daily Telegraph (NSW): www.dailytelegraph.com.au

The Australian (National): www.theaustralian.com.au

Emergency numbers

Police, Fire & Ambulance: 000

Tourist information

Coffs Coast Visitor Information Centre

Coffs Central Shopping Centre, 35/61 Harbour Dr, Coffs
Harbour NSW
+61 2 5622 8900



