

Lakes Entrance. The Entrance to 90 Miles of Fun!

Lakes Entrance has been at the top of the holiday destination charts for decades, and with good reason. It is a lively, family-friendly town set at the eastern edge of Ninety Mile Beach, where the Gippsland Lakes, Australia's largest inland waterways, break through to the Southern Ocean.

The Gippsland Lakes are an unsurpassed water playground, perfect for just about any water-based activity imaginable: sailing, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, boating or swimming.

Lakes Entrance is set along Cunninghame Arm Inlet. Take a stroll along the newly developed lakeside Esplanade, where one side is brimming with waterfront eateries, ice cream shops, mini golf and accommodation, and on the other, hundreds of boats bob gently in the marina, including Australia's largest fishing fleet. A short walk over the Cunninghame Arm Footbridge and through the dunes gets you to the golden sands of Ninety Mile Beach.

There are so many ways you can explore the pristine Gippsland Lakes, whether it's an eco-cruise with expert commentary on the local wildlife, a sightseeing cruise, a water taxi to a remote beach or hiring a boat to set your own course (and catch fresh fish for dinner!). If you're seeking expert angling assistance, take a skippered boat charter for a day out on the lakes, or through the entrance and out into the vast ocean waters.

For slower water-based activities there are kayaks and paddle boards for hire, and when you're ready to explore the local landscape, swap the kayak for a bike or take an organised tour. For something unexpected, ride a camel along the Ninety Mile Beach, or view the spectacular Gippsland Lakes and surrounds from up high in a helicopter.

If the clouds mar your beach plans, fear not, for you can check out local Microbrewery, Red Bluff Brewers, who name their handcrafted ales for the places of interest around the town and have a retro-industrial space where you can sample them. Or perhaps take a cruise or short drive out to Wyanga Park Winery, where food, wine and art come together.

Talking of food, there's no going past the fresh local seafood, where a host of dine-in and take-away options suit all tastes and budgets, though please don't miss out on fresh fish and prawns off a local trawler.

And when your tummy is full you can enjoy a siesta, take a stroll along the Esplanade, perhaps a game of mini-golf, browse the collection at the sea-shell museum, or drop a line from a jetty and wait (not too long) for the bait to be devoured.

There's a boundless choice of accommodation options, whether it's a hotel that appeals to a leisure holiday or corporate stay, a water-view apartment or a holiday village for cabins or camping. Many are centrally located, just a short walk to cafes, shops, beaches, clubs, the Esplanade and the footbridge to Ninety Mile Beach.

For family fun or a romantic getaway, a relaxing beachside holiday or one full of activity and action, you can't beat Lakes Entrance.