



VISIT COOLUM

CREATURE
TRAIL



HEY KIDS!

Welcome to Coolum Beach, the Sunshine Coast's best place for animal adventures! The Coolum Creature Trail is designed for our littlest adventurers but is perfect to get the whole family outside exploring.

Discover Turtles, Water Dragons and hunt for the illusive Peregrine Falcons, rumoured to nest on Mount Coolum. Immerse yourself in our natural wonderland and learn some new animal facts along the way.

Use the map to find the best local spots in Coolum to find each creature. We've rounded up our favourites from Stumers Creek to Point Arkwright.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
GET OUTSIDE AND SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN FIND!

VISIT
COOLUM



Sunshine Coast
For real.



Prepared for Visit Coolum and Coolum Business and Tourism and proudly supported by Visit Sunshine Coast and Urbankind.

visitcoolum.com



VISIT COOLUM

CREATURE TRAIL

Don't forget to tag us
@visitcoolum and
#coolumcreatures with your
favourite creature
on the trail!

STUMERS CREEK

NINJAS BEACH

NORRIE JOB
LIONS PARK

HOLIDAY
PARK

COOLUM BEACH

SKATE
PARK

TICKLE
PARK

SURF CLUB

POINT
PERRY

FIRST
BAY

SECOND/THIRD
BAY

POINTLIGHT
ARKWRIGHT

COOLUM LOCAL SHOPS

DAVID LOW WAY

ELIZABETH ST

BOWLS
CLUB

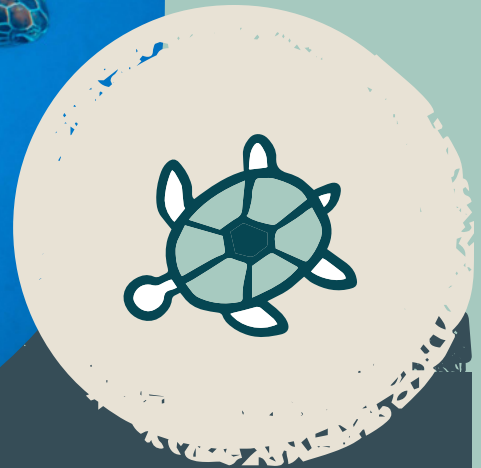
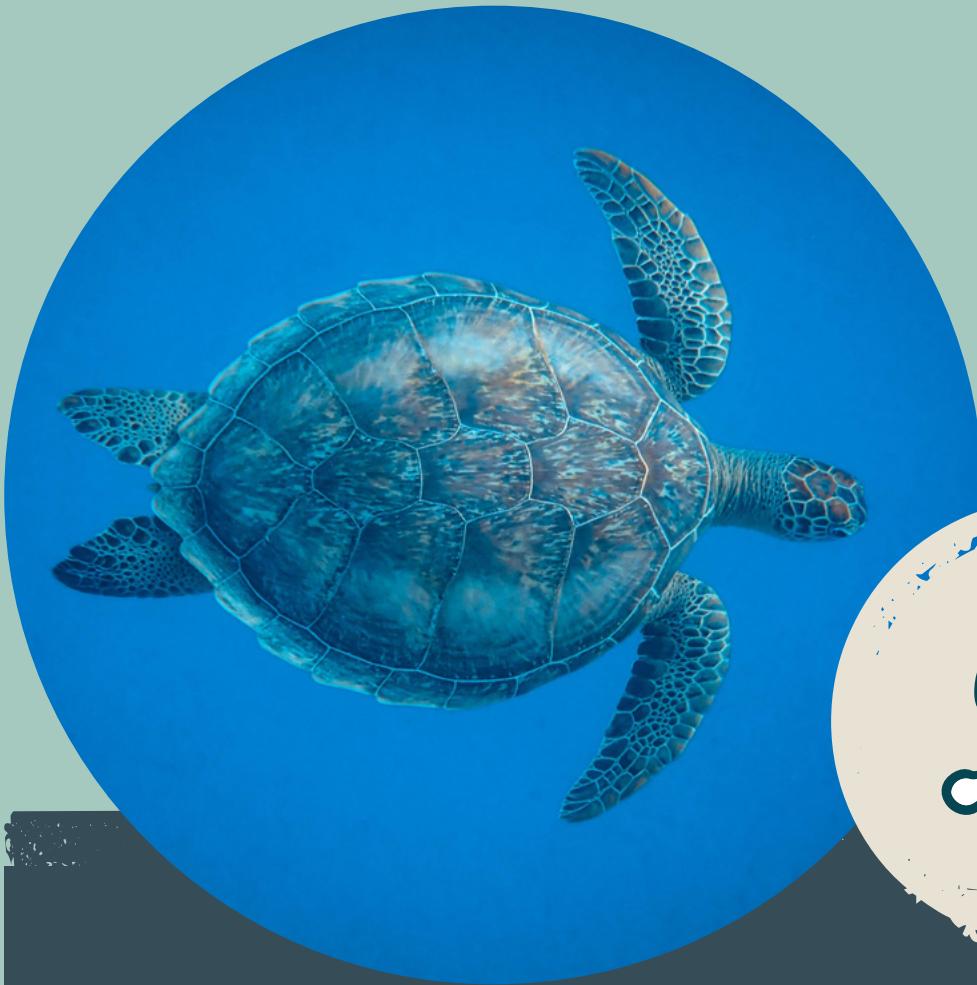
MORGAN PARK
JOHN PARK

LIBRARY

COOLUM LOCAL SHOPS

BEACH RD

DAVID LOW WAY



LOGGERHEAD TURTLE

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Caretta caretta

Turtles come to Coolum to mate in the summertime, and then the females lay their eggs on our beaches. You may also see Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) too.

BEST SPOTS TO SEE THEM

Point Arkwright and Point Perry – look down to see them swimming around and popping their heads up to breathe.

KEY FACTS

- Are carnivorous - shellfish, crabs, sea urchins and jellyfish are their favourite foods.
 - Dark brown above, sometimes speckled and can reach 1.5m
- Have a heart-shaped shell with five coastal scales on each side of the carapace (shell).
 - Lay around 125 ping-pong ball sized, round eggs
- Hatchlings emerge late December until about April (most in February to early March).
- Hatchlings from Coolum travel as far as South America, spending around 16 years at sea before returning to the south-west Pacific.



HUMPBACK WHALE

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Megaptera novaeangliae

If you are lucky to be in Coolum between July and October you might see Humpback whales are off the coast. Keep your eyes peeled for their breaches and blows.

BEST SPOTS TO SEE THEM

Point Perry, Second Bay Look Out, Tickle Park & Point Arkwright

KEY FACTS

- After eating up to 4 tone of krill and small fish a day each in the Antarctic over summer, the Humpbacks migrate to the warmer northern waters which provide perfect temperatures to give birth to their calves in the sheltered waters of Queensland's coastline.
 - On their southern migration you can see mothers with their newborn calves.
 - The best time to see whales is when the conditions are calm in the morning before any wind picks up and wave height increases.



COCKATOO

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Cacatua galerita

The Sulphur-crested Cockatoo is a large white parrot. Spot them enjoying the native plants in Jack Morgan Park in Coolum.

BEST SPOTS TO SEE THEM

Jack Morgan Park, Tickle Park

KEY FACTS

- They have a dark grey-black bill, a distinctive sulphur-yellow crest and a yellow wash on the underside of the wings.
 - Eat berries, seeds, nuts and roots
- Lay eggs in tree hollows – both birds incubate eggs and care for chicks
 - Families stay together indefinitely
 - They are noisy in flight and when resting



PEREGRINE FALCON

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Falcon peregrinus

Swoosh! Peregrine Falcons are the fastest bird in the world, reaching speeds of up to 180km per hour - agile aerial hunters.

BEST SPOTS TO SEE THEM

Mount Coolum is home to a pair of Peregrine Falcons which have been nesting on the cliffs of the south-western slopes.

KEY FACTS

- Have binocular vision eight times better than our own, these birds can see their prey over 3km's away!
- Capture prey with their large feet and sharp talons (claws).
 - Peregrine falcons live all over the world.
- In Queensland there are an estimated 950 breeding pairs of peregrine falcons.
- The rarest Coolum Creature on the trail – so you get bonus points if you spot one.



BUSH TURKEY

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Alectura lathami

These curious looking turkeys can be found all over Coolum. Please be kind and keep your turkey chasing to a minimum!

BEST SPOTS TO SEE THEM

Stumers Creek, Tickle Park, Point Arkwright

KEY FACTS

- Male bush-turkeys have a large, bright yellow wattle that hangs from its neck, while the female's is smaller and paler.
- The bush-turkey grows to 60–75 cm long and has a wingspan of 85 cm.
 - Chicks are small, plump birds with rich brown feathers.
 - Like to sleep in trees at night.
- Male bush-turkey build a mound of plant litter and soil, adding or removing material to keep it at a constant temperature of 33 degrees Celsius. A mound is usually about 2–4 m across and 1 m high.



WATER DRAGON

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Intellagama lesueurii

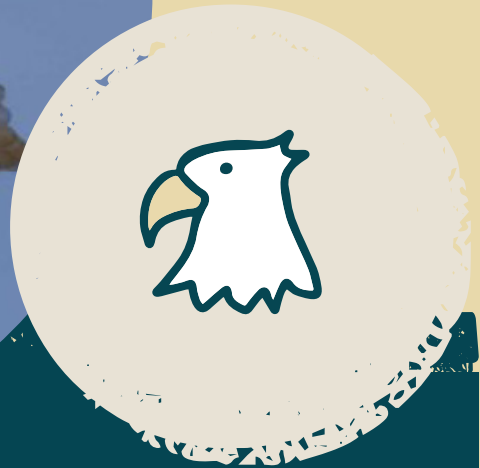
The Water Dragon is Australia's largest dragon lizard and can be spotted all over Coolum, by the creeks, hiding in bushes or sunbaking by the pool.

BEST SPOTS TO SEE THEM

Stumers Creek, Tickle Park, Point Arkwright

KEY FACTS

- Water Dragon babies are completely insectivorous, as they grow they become more omnivorous
- They can like to jump in the air to catch mozzies
- They love eat ants, cicadas and sometimes crustaceans (yabbies)
 - Can live up to 20 years in the wild
- Water dragons are fast runners and super strong climbers



WHITE BELLED SEA EAGLE

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Haliaeetus leucogaster Accipitridae

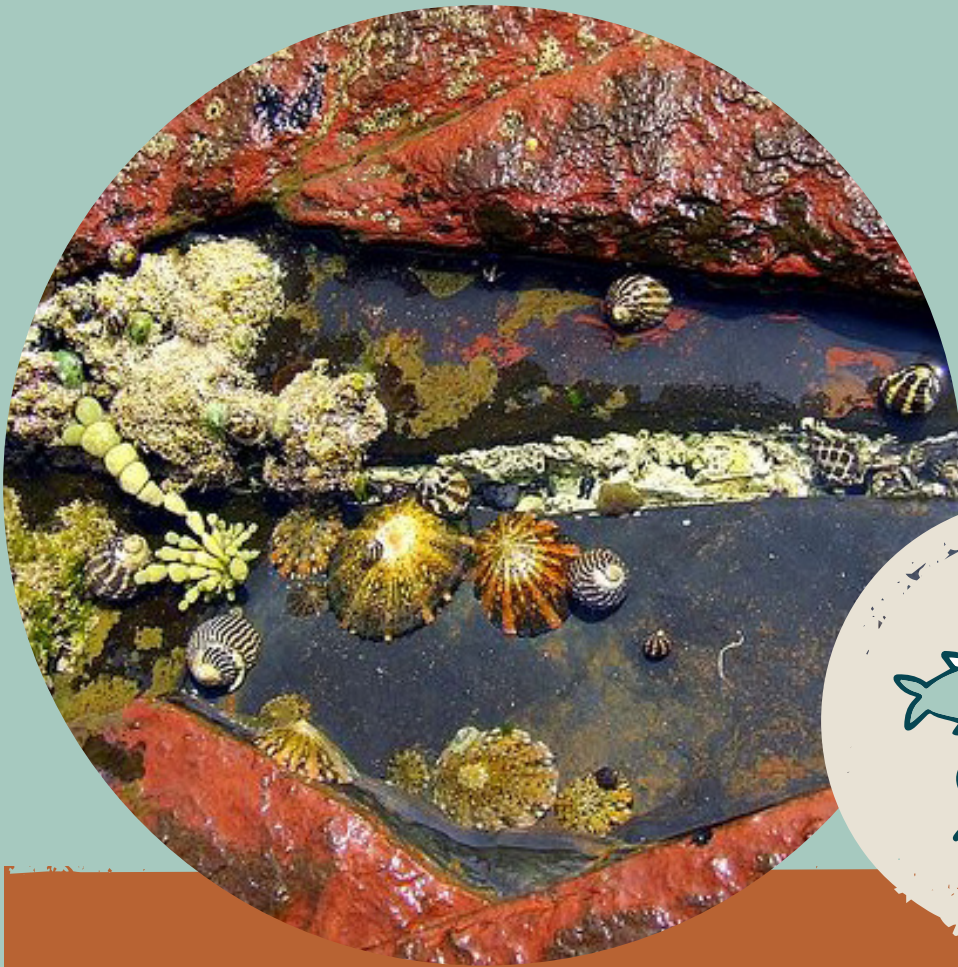
Distinguished by its contrasting crisp-white and ashy-grey plumage, which adds to its striking appearance as it soars effortlessly on broad wings (up to 2.2m wingspan)

BEST SPOTS TO SEE THEM

First Bay, Third Bay, Point Arkwright

KEY FACTS

- The white bellied sea eagle is the second biggest raptor in Australia.
- White on the head, rump and underparts and dark grey on the back and wings.
 - Large, hooked bill is grey with a darker tip, and the eye is dark brown.
 - Legs and feet are cream-white, with long black talons (claws).
- Feeds mainly off aquatic animals, such as fish, turtles and sea snakes, but it takes birds and mammals as well.
 - Builds a large stick nest, which is used for many seasons. The nest can be located in a tree up to 30m above the ground.



ROCKPOOLS

Discover a secret underwater world in the many Rockpools that surround Coolum Beach. Can you spot some tropical fish? A crab before it scuttles away or spot a red anemone on the rocks.

The Rockpools support a delicate web of creatures, an interconnected ecosystem, so please don't take anything from the Rockpools home.

BEST SPOTS TO SEE THEM

- First Bay Rockpools
- Second Bay Rockpools
- Third Bay Rockpools
- Point Arkwright Rockpools

LOOK OUT FOR

- Crab
- Fish
- Waratah (Red) Anemone



SNAKES

Be careful where you explore as in the warmer months some slithering friends can be found on the paths or in the trees.

BEST SPOTS TO SEE THEM

Tickle Park, beach access tracks and sand dunes

LOOK OUT FOR

Coastal Carpet Python
Red Bellied Black Snake
Common Tree Snake

WARNING

If you see a snake, do not approach it or pick it up.
Eastern browns, along with Red bellied black snakes are lethal!

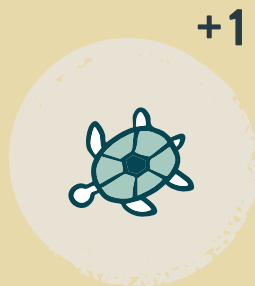


CREATURE CHECKLIST

Can you find them all? You get **1 point** per animal you find except for the Peregrine Falcon which gets you **5 bonus points** as it's super rare!



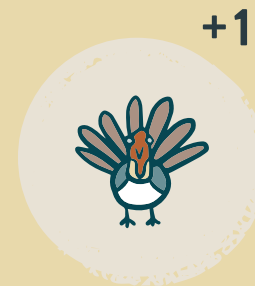
Whale



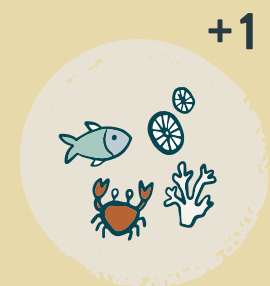
Turtle



Snake



Bush Turkey



Rockpools



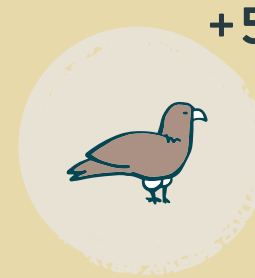
Cockatoo



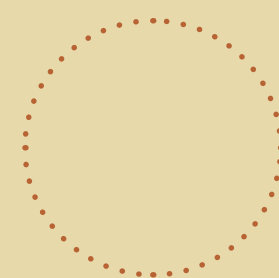
Sea Eagle



Water Dragon



Peregrine Falcon



Total Score