



## WOOLGOOLGA

*This information is intended as a guide only. Please check websites.*

### Location:

Woolgoolga is a town on the Mid North Coast of NSW. It is situated just off the Pacific Highway (the coastal route between Sydney and Brisbane) and is approximately 550 km north of Sydney and 365 km south of Brisbane.

Its closest major centre is Coffs Harbour, 26 km south of the town.

### Overview:

The town derives its name from the word *Weelgoolga*, which was used by the local Gumbaingirr people to describe the area and the lilly-pilly trees that grew there. The town was originally called *Woogoolga* and this was changed to the current name of *Woolgoolga* in 1966

Woolgoolga is not a large town (having less than 5,500 people) but it is a culturally diverse town and it has been this way for along time. Sikhs came to Woolgoolga in the late 1800s and early 1900s and are now well established in the region and own most of the banana farms. Woolgoolga has an annual Curryfest for which the town is well known and which brings many people to the town.

In recent years sales of bananas have fallen and local farmers have planted other crops, with blueberries being an important local crop. Work opportunities (often seasonal) on the blueberry farms have attracted workers from many backgrounds, including refugees, to Woolgoolga.

Woolgoolga's coastal location and warm climate make it a popular tourist destination. Many travellers also break their journey in Woolgoolga on route from Sydney to Brisbane.

### How to get there:

It takes approximately 6½ hours to drive from Sydney to Woolgoolga.

You can also get to Woolgoolga Plane, train and bus.

There are several flights each day from Sydney to nearby Coffs Harbour on Qantas, Virgin and Tiger Air. Flights take just over 1 hour and fares start at about \$90. You can then get from Coffs Harbour to Woolgoolga by bus or taxi.

The bus from Sydney takes 10½ hours and prices start at \$59 one way. The train (via Coffs Harbour) takes over 11 hours and prices start at \$119.



## Employment:

Employment opportunities in Woolgoolga and nearby Coffs Harbour include:

- Hospitality
- Aged care
- Seasonal agricultural work (especially on the blueberry and banana farms)
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Construction.

There are three employment agencies in Woolgoolga:

- ETC Enterprise and Training: Shop 4, 58 Beach St. Phone 1800 007 400. [www.etcltd.com.au](http://www.etcltd.com.au)
- Nortec Employment and Training: 47 River St. Phone 02 6654 0338
- Tursa Employment and Training: 1/17 Market St. Phone 02 6654 0344. [www.nortec.com.au](http://www.nortec.com.au).

There are more agencies in Coffs Harbour. For details of these and useful information about seeking employment, go to [www.jobsearch.gov.au](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au).

There are websites you can look at to find employment:

- The Advertiser (local paper)
- Seek: [www.seek.com.au/](http://www.seek.com.au/) .
- Jora: [www.aujora.com](http://www.aujora.com).



You might also like to make contact with:

**Refugee Talent:** specialises in linking refugees and employers ([www.refugeetalent.com](http://www.refugeetalent.com))

**Thrive Refugee Enterprise:** supports refugees to establish small businesses and provides access to micro-finance ([www.thriverefugeeenterprise.org.au](http://www.thriverefugeeenterprise.org.au)).

## Education and training:

For adults:

It is necessary to go into Coffs Harbour for most educational opportunities for adults. At Coffs Harbour Education Campus (CHEC) in Glenreagh St you can find TAFE NSW, Coffs Harbour Senior College and Southern Cross University on the one site. It is also home to Coffs Harbour Technology Park and Coffs Harbour Innovation Centre, a regional hub for creative technology-based industries.

For information about courses at TAFE go to [www.northcoasttafe.edu.au](http://www.northcoasttafe.edu.au). TAFE also offers AMEP (English) classes.

For information about courses at Southern Cross University go to [www.scu.edu.au](http://www.scu.edu.au).

Coffs Coast Community College (in Coffs Harbour) also offers a range of training courses. See [www.coffscollege.nsw.edu.au](http://www.coffscollege.nsw.edu.au).

For children:

Woolgoolga has three schools: one public primary school, one public high school and a Catholic primary school.

### **Accommodation:**

The median weekly cost of renting a two bedroom apartment in Woolgoolga is \$290. One bedroom rental options are very rare. If you are by yourself, it is much more economical to share a property with other people.

The median price of renting a three bedroom house is \$400 per week and \$440 for a 4 bedroom house.

Websites you can look at to find rental accommodation include:

[www.realestate.com.au/rent/in-woolgoolga,+nsw+2456/list-1](http://www.realestate.com.au/rent/in-woolgoolga,+nsw+2456/list-1)  
[www.allhomes.com.au/ah/nsw/rent-residential/woolgoolga/12829010](http://www.allhomes.com.au/ah/nsw/rent-residential/woolgoolga/12829010)  
[www.gumtree.com.au/s-property-for-rent/woolgoolga-coffs-harbour/c18364|3002533](http://www.gumtree.com.au/s-property-for-rent/woolgoolga-coffs-harbour/c18364|3002533)  
[www.domain.com.au/rent/woolgoolga-nsw-2456/](http://www.domain.com.au/rent/woolgoolga-nsw-2456/)  
[www.woolgoolgarealestate.com.au/search/results.aspx?class=6&qtid=3399](http://www.woolgoolgarealestate.com.au/search/results.aspx?class=6&qtid=3399)

The websites Gumtree ([www.gumtree.com.au](http://www.gumtree.com.au)) and Stayz ([www.stayz.com.au](http://www.stayz.com.au)) are good to look at for short term budget accommodation options. There are also cabins and caravans for rent at Woolgoolga's three caravan parks:

Woolgoolga Beach Holiday Park: Phone 02 6648 4710  
Woolgoolga Lakeside Holiday Park: Phone 02 6648 4715  
Sunset Caravan Park: Phone 02 6654 1499.

If you are thinking about visiting Woolgoolga to see what it's like, it's best to avoid school holidays when accommodation is scarce and more expensive.

### **Health Services:**

The closest major hospital is in Coffs Harbour: Coffs Harbour Base Hospital is located at 345 Pacific Highway, Coffs Harbour. Phone 02 6656 7000.

In Woolgoolga there is a medical centre, the Woolgoolga Medical Centre which is located at 6 Nightingale St. Phone (02) 6654 1899. There are also two general practitioners in Woolgoolga.

STARTTS, the counselling service for trauma survivors, has staff based in Coffs Harbour (14 Earl St). Phone 02 650 9195 to make an appointment.

### **Places of worship:**

In Woolgoolga there are two Christian Churches and a Sikh Temple.

26 km to the south in Coffs Harbour there are many other churches and places of worship for::

- Muslims: Islamic Association Musalla, 191 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour
- Bahá'í: The Bahá'í Community of Coffs Harbour, 9 Hull Close. Phone 02 6651 3831.

### **Local transport:**

Ryans Bus Service operates the local buss service between Woolgoolga and Coffs Harbour. See [www.coffsharbour.tv](http://www.coffsharbour.tv) for timetables.

## Sport and recreation:

View a list of sports and recreation options in the Woolgoolga and Coffs Harbour region on:

- <http://www.localsearch.com.au/find/general-social-clubs/nsw/coffs-coast-clarence-valley-region/woolgoolga>
- <http://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/our-community/Pages/sports-directory.aspx>

## Shopping and food:

Day to day items are available in Woolgoolga but many people will also go to Coffs Harbour for shopping as everything you need (including household good, equipment and specialist foods) can be purchased there.

For information about where to get halal food in Coffs Harbour go to [www.halaltrip.com/city-guide-details/653/coffsharbour/](http://www.halaltrip.com/city-guide-details/653/coffsharbour/).

The area also has a number of markets. To find out what is happening in Woolgoolga go to [www.aroundyou.com.au/mid-north-coast/woolgoolga/tags/markets/whats-on](http://www.aroundyou.com.au/mid-north-coast/woolgoolga/tags/markets/whats-on)  
<https://woolgoolga.org.au/>

## Who can help you:

**Woolgoolga Neighbourhood Centre:** 35 Beach Street. Phone 02 6654 1598

**North Coast Settlement Service:** Suites 2 & 3 Number 1 Duke Street, Coffs Harbour. Phone: 02 5612 1370.

## Where to get more information:

Woolgoolga Visitors Information Centre. corner of Beach and Boundary Streets, Woolgoolga, and the following websites:

- [www.visitnsw.com/destinations/north-coast/coffs-harbour-area/woolgoolga](http://www.visitnsw.com/destinations/north-coast/coffs-harbour-area/woolgoolga)
- <https://woolgoolga.org.au/>

There is also a Woolgoolga branch of the Coffs Harbour City Library in Ganderton Street. Phone 02 6654 0010. [www.libraries.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au](http://www.libraries.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au).

For general information in community languages about services available to people holding a Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) or Temporary Protection Visa (TPV), see the DSS Fact Sheet: [www.dss.gov.au/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs/programs-policy/australian-government-support](http://www.dss.gov.au/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs/programs-policy/australian-government-support)