

King of the beaches

When it comes to surf, sand and swimming for young and old, this Caloundra hotspot comes up trumps, writes [Alison Cotes](#)

THE sun is shining, the temperature is just right, there's not much rain and the sand is sparkling white.

Yes, Caloundra's seven beaches make for the perfect family holiday spot.

Everyone has their own favourite of the seven — I like Kings Beach because it was the first place my family discovered all those years ago, and although it has become more exciting and tourist friendly, Kings Court where we first stayed is still there and hasn't changed a bit.

Now, though, there's a wide choice of accommodation, from resorts to cottages (yes, there are a few left), to hotels and motels, and you don't have to be more than three or four minutes' walk from the beach.

Kings Beach is known as Caloundra's top surfing beach, but it's also good for ordinary swimmers and for small children because there's plenty of pure white sand, rocky pools to

explore at low tide and, best of all, a huge enclosed sea-water pool. The pool is fenced, with sun shades and everything that safety-conscious parents and councils could wish for.

There's plenty to do at Kings Beach, even for people who don't particularly care for the surf. There are rock pools, which are almost as good as the ones at Moffatt Headland, where children can safely puddle around and look for anemones and tiny crabs, and where even littler children and babies can sit in the shallow pools and squeal with delight as the gentle waves tumble over them.

There's the Caloundra Coastal Path, mostly boardwalk now, which stretches from Golden Beach around the headland and then around Moffatt Headland, all the way to Point Cartwright if you want some serious exercise.

The views are incomparable and



Family drawcard: Kings Beach boasts rocky pools, a sea-water pool and top surfing; the old bathing pavilion; and (below) the water play area

just as impressive on stormy days as they are in the balmy breezes when the waves barely have the energy to transform themselves into breakers.

And when you want to get away from the sand and the sea and rocks, but remain within striking distance of them, there's the impressive new playground with its water fountain. Ever popular with the young ones, the fountain has three sets of water jets that come on seemingly at random, so that you never know when or how you're going to get wet.

Of course, after all that fun in the sun, you're sure to want a bite to eat. Let me recommend Saltwater, right on the beach, a cheeky little day and night cafe where the calamari strips are as tender as if they'd been flogged to death by a Greek fisherman on the quay in Samos (hey, don't knock it until you've tried it).

At Saltwater, the plates are shaped like pansies, the ginger beer comes served in a boot-shaped glass, and there's a sign over the lintel which indicates a dress code of no "budgie-

CALOUNDRA

GO Kings Beach is 92km north of Brisbane.

CONTACT Caloundra Tourism: caloundratourism.com.au.

STAY There are plenty of reasonably priced resorts at Kings Beach. Try the accommodation search button on the website above.

DO Ask for a free copy of the Caloundra Holiday Guide from tourist.info@caloundratourism.com.au.

smuggler" swimsuits, though it's phrased a little more crudely.

Try their Vanilla and Coffee Soup, which is a basic affogato served in an eccentric glass, or get a takeaway and eat it on the grassy verge of the beach.

Oil spills may have hit farther up the coast, but Kings Beach is as pristine and as beautiful as it ever was.

So, just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water — it is!

Have a wonderful Easter holiday.

