

BIG4 GOLD COAST
**HOLIDAY
PARK**

Koalas



★ ★
MAGIC IN EVERY STAY
★ ★

Koalas: Guardians of the Eucalyptus Realms

Introduction:

Koalas, with their cuddly appearance and endearing nature, have captured the hearts of people worldwide. They are nocturnal marsupials who sleep for up to 20 hours a day.

Native to Australia, these marsupials are not only iconic but also play a vital role in their ecosystem. In this booklet, we will explore where koalas live, what they eat, their habitat, and how they interact with each other. Additionally, we will discuss the significance of koala conservation and how we can educate ourselves about the importance of protecting these unique creatures.

Koalas measure between 60cm and 85cm and weigh around 14kg. They have large, round heads with big fluffy ears and black noses. Their fur is grey-brown and white.



Where do Koalas Live?

Koalas are predominantly found in the eucalyptus forests of Australia, primarily along the eastern and south-eastern coastal regions. They can be spotted in states like Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. These regions provide a suitable climate and an abundant supply of their favoured food source—eucalyptus leaves.



What do Koalas Eat?

Koalas are herbivores, and are fussy animals. Their diet consists almost entirely of eucalyptus leaves eating the leaves of only some of the 700 different eucalypts varieties.

Koalas Adult koalas eat between 0.5 to 1kg of leaves every night. They possess specialized adaptations that enable them to feed on these leaves, which are toxic to many other animals. The leaves provide them with both hydration and nutrition. (They also need to drink water). However, due to their low nutritional content, koalas spend most of their time conserving energy by sleeping and resting.



Koala Habitat:

The habitat of koalas is crucial for their survival. Eucalyptus forests provide them with not only a food source but also shelter and safety. These forests offer the perfect environment, with tall, mature trees that allow koalas to move between branches and stay protected from predators. Additionally, the trees provide natural insulation during hot summers and protection from extreme weather conditions.



Interactions and Social Structure:

Koalas are generally solitary creatures, except during mating season and when rearing their young. They have established home ranges within their habitat, which they defend from other koalas through vocalizations and scent markings. Despite their solitary nature, these marsupials have a unique social structure, with overlapping home ranges that create opportunities for interaction.



Conserving Koalas:

Koala populations are declining, They are losing their homes to excessive tree clearing, forcing them to spend more time on the ground where they become vulnerable to predators and cars. Koala conservation is crucial to safeguard these incredible animals and the ecosystems they inhabit.

Here are a few ways we can care for koalas:

- **Habitat Protection:** Preserving and restoring eucalyptus forests is vital. Conserving their habitat ensures a sustainable food source and shelter for koalas.
- **Wildlife Corridors:** Creating wildlife corridors allows koalas to move between fragmented habitats safely, increasing genetic diversity and reducing the risk of inbreeding.
- **Reducing Habitat Destruction:** Implementing sustainable land-use practices, such as responsible forestry and urban development, minimizes the destruction of koala habitats.
- **Education and Awareness:** Educating children about koalas and their conservation helps instill a sense of responsibility and empathy. Teaching them about the importance of preserving biodiversity and habitats fosters a sustainable mindset.
- **Support Conservation Organizations:** Contributing to and supporting reputable conservation organizations actively involved in koala protection can make a significant impact.

Conclusion:

Koalas are unique and remarkable creatures, playing a vital role in maintaining the balance of Australia's ecosystems. By understanding their habitat, diet, and social structure, we can better appreciate the importance of koala conservation. Through habitat protection, wildlife corridors, responsible land-use practices, education, and supporting conservation organizations, we can ensure a brighter future for these beloved marsupials. Let us work together to inspire the next generation to cherish and protect our koalas and their precious eucalyptus realms.

For more information on Koalas:

<https://www.natgeokids.com/au/discover/animals/general-animals/ten-facts-about-koalas/>



BIG4 Gold Coast Holiday Park is home to several rehabilitated koalas, thanks to Wildcare Australia. The koala being released in the above photo is Mac. Named after the place she was found, near McDonalds just up the road from the park. She was taken in for a couple of weeks to help her heal, and released over 2 years ago into our park where she has made it her home.

***Please don't approach them as they are wild animals.*

For more information on how you can help the wildlife:

<https://wildcare.org.au/>



Count the numbers!

Can you count the numbers as you create the koala? How many numbers are there?



Colouring in

