

# Fraser Island & Hervey Bay

Fraser Island is located just off the southern Queensland coast, opposite Hervey Bay. It is an extraordinarily beautiful part of the world with long white sandy beaches, coloured cliffs, crystal clear waterways, serene freshwater lakes, diverse wildlife, and lush tropical rainforests. It is the largest sand island in the world at over 123 kilometres in length and 22 kilometres at its widest, a massive area of 184 000 hectares! Fraser Island is protected by a prestigious World Heritage listing, placing it in the same league as some of Australia's most precious natural wonders; Uluru, the Great Barrier Reef, and Kakadu.

Fraser Island is reached by ferry from Hervey Bay or Inskip Point north of Rainbow Beach, or chartered flight via Maroochydore Airport. There are no sealed roads on Fraser Island so a 4-wheel drive vehicle is the only way to get around (other than walking!). You can take your own 4-wheel drive vehicle (you will need a permit), rent a 4-wheel drive vehicle for a self-drive tour, or alternatively go on a fully guided tour of Fraser Island. Fraser Island tours depart from Hervey Bay, Kingfisher Bay Resort, Rainbow Beach, Noosa, The Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and even as far away as the Gold Coast. Tours are available from 1 to 5 days.

Accommodation on Fraser Island is limited to either camping or resort style rooms. Book early to avoid disappointment as space is limited; accommodation and tours on Fraser Island are very popular with both visitors and locals alike. There are backpacker hostels at Hervey Bay and Rainbow beach.

## Sights & Attractions

Fraser Island is a spectacular natural wilderness and a unique island environment unparalleled by any other with its beautiful lakes, tropical rainforests, beaches and sand dunes. There are also some gorgeous displays of native wildflowers (seasonal) to be discovered on this tropical paradise. Wherever you go on Fraser Island you will be amazed by its breathtaking natural beauty and wildlife!

Fraser Island is home to a wide variety of animal life including over 300 species of birds (some extremely rare and endangered), Australia's purest dingo's, swamp wallabies, echidnas, possums, sugar gliders (a gliding possum), flying foxes (Pteropus, a bat), and a handful of brumbies (wild horses introduced by early European settlers). There are no kangaroos on the island. There is also an abundance of reptiles and amphibians including goannas, snakes, lizards, skinks and frogs on the island.

Magnificent 75 Mile beach runs along most of the east coast of Fraser Island and is extremely beautiful despite not being the best swimming spot (dangerous currents and Tiger sharks are common along this beach). Highlights include Indian Head, Champagne Pools, the Maheno

Wreck, and the crystal clear waters of Eli Creek. Eli Creek is the largest creek on the east side of the island. A boardwalk enables visitors to reach the top of the creek and swim or ride down the creek if they wish.

The shipwreck of the S.S. Maheno is a one of the most photographed and rustic landmarks of Fraser Island. Once a luxury passenger ship and a World War 1 hospital ship, it was caught in a cyclone while being towed from Melbourne. On July 9, 1935 the ship drifted ashore and was beached on Fraser Island. During World War II the Maheno wreck was utilized as target bombing practice by the RAAF. Today the Maheno wreck stands rusting and partly buried in the sand. People are not permitted to climb on the shipwreck for safety reasons.

Central Station is also a popular tourist destination on Fraser Island. Central Station is surrounded by bushwalking tracks that weave their way through some stunning rainforest areas containing wildlife and plants, including rare ferns. Lake Mackenzie is a must see, as one of the blue lakes on this island. The sand here is so white it hurts your eyes and the clear blue fresh water will tempt you for a swim, you may even see a dingo lounging under a tree here.

## History

The Aboriginal legend surrounding Fraser Island goes as follows:

"When humans were created and needed a place to live, the mighty god Beeral sent his messenger Nendingie with the goddess K'gari down from heaven to create the land and mountains, rivers and sea. K'gari fell in love with the earth's beauty and did not want to leave it. So Yendingie changed her into a heavenly island – Fraser Island."

Fraser Island was originally known as 'K'gari' in the Aboriginal Butchulla people's language, meaning paradise. Aboriginals of the Butchalla tribe are the native inhabitants of Fraser Island, happily residing on the island for the last 5000 years until European settlement devastated their numbers and decimated their natural food sources. Surviving aboriginals were moved to allocated reserves on the mainland of Australia in 1904. Initial European contact was limited to early explorers and shipwrecks.

**web** [www.travelforever.com.au](http://www.travelforever.com.au) **email** [info@travelforever.com.au](mailto:info@travelforever.com.au)  
**phone** +61 8 6267 0700 **address** 135 Barrack Street Perth Western Australia 6000

**Tours : Adventures : Internet : Information : Australiawide**



# Fraser Island & Hervey Bay

The name of Fraser Island comes from one such tale of shipwreck. In 1836 a ship containing Captain James Fraser and his wife Eliza Fraser was shipwrecked in the treacherous waters off the island. Captain James Fraser died but Eliza Fraser was later rescued from the island. Fraser Island was named after Eliza Fraser and her dramatic story of survival.

Fraser Island later became a thriving logging community due to its vast rainforests. Logging continued on the island until the late 1980's, but as of December in 1992 Fraser Island was World Heritage Listed to preserve the unique, fragile, and pristine island environment for future generations.

## Climate

Fraser Island has a hot and humid climate, cooled by sea breezes. While the summer maximum average temperature is only 30°C (Degrees Celsius), the summer months can have some extremely hot days. Hats, cool clothing that protects from the sun, sunscreen and common sense are essentials to enjoying Fraser Island at this time of year. Average temperatures of approximately 15 °C are common in winter, which is mild, usually dry, and pleasant. Most winter days are clear and sunny with no frost.

**Hervey Bay is a small picturesque seaside city on the Queensland coast. It is best known as the Whale Watch Capital of the world and the gateway to sensational Fraser Island. Located just 3.5 hours drive north from Brisbane, or 45 minutes by air, Hervey Bay is an easily accessible and popular holiday destination. It has a population of approximately 53,000 residents and a wide range of accommodation is available.**

## Sights & Attractions

Hervey Bay's climate and idyllic waterways is perfect for a huge number of water activities. Recreational activities available to visitors include access to a beach ideal for all ages and swimming abilities, sailing, fishing, diving, and sea kayaking. As well as these water based activities, Hervey Bay features famous whale watching cruises, art galleries, nice eateries, sport and recreational facilities, clubs, botanic gardens, major annual events, picnic areas, fantastic coastal views, and natural attractions. There is something for everyone in this peaceful coastal city!

## Climate

Hervey Bay has a lovely subtropical climate. Temperatures range from 14 °C (Degrees Celsius) to 23°C in winter and 22°C to 29 °C in summer. Rainfall is low and there are more fine days here than other Queensland holiday destinations!