

The Fraser Coast...where nature comes alive

Uniting the iconic natural wonders of the **World Heritage Listed Fraser Island** and **Great Barrier Reef**, the Fraser Coast is where nature comes alive.

Offering an intriguing and unbeatable mix of eco experiences; adventure pursuits; historical, cultural and lifestyle experiences, it is where visitors come to rest, re-energise and be inspired.

As part of the UNESCO recognised **Great Sandy Biosphere**, the region's unique and diverse natural attractions are officially recognised in the same class as the Galapagos Islands and Central Amazon.

The Fraser Coast is Australia's "**Home of the Humpbacks**", where the calm protected waters of **Hervey Bay** offer a natural playground for thousands of the majestic creatures and the best up-close and personal whale watching encounters in the world.

As well as being a haven of humpback activity, the waters off the Fraser Coast are home to dwarf minke, false killer, southern right and many other whale species as well as rare dolphins, dugongs and six of the world's seven species of marine turtles.

A stunningly diverse destination, the Fraser Coast is a gateway to the iconic **Fraser Island** where towering rainforests pierce the sky, pristine freshwater streams slip silently beneath the cool canopies of ancient ferns, talc-white sand contrasts with crystal blue-green lakes and coloured sand cliffs border beautiful beaches which seemingly stretch forever.

Steeped in traditions on the Aboriginal Dreamtime, the world's largest sand island is a contradiction of respected natural conventions being one of the few places on earth where rich rainforest springs from sand. It has done so for the past 800,000 years, providing sanctuary for some 350 species of birds, wallabies, possums, echidnas and Australia's purest dingoes.

Located between Fraser Island and the mainland is **The Great Sandy Strait** featuring an eclectic mix of marine and coastal wetlands, crystal clear turquoise waters, native woodlands and dense rainforest.

The beauty of the Great Sandy Strait and its coastal villages are complimented by a stunning coastline of pristine, white sandy beaches from **Woodgate, Burrum Heads** and **Toogoom** in the north to the southern townships of **Tin Can Bay** and **Rainbow Beach**.

Fishing, boating, camping, bushwalking, bird watching or simply relaxing by the water enjoying the views across the strait to Fraser Island are all perfect ways to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the charming coastal hamlets which include **Poona, Boonooroo, Maaroom, Tuan and Tinnanbar.**

The destination's splendour is not confined to the coast, with an enchanting array of hinterland hideaways with century old streetscapes, sumptuous food and wine, museums and markets adding to the magic.

Delightful **Maryborough** with its colonial architecture, riverside parks, ghost tours, heritage characters and events makes the old port city a must-see for visitors to the Fraser Coast. It is a town with a fascination for all things "Mary", with the beautiful Mary River at its heart and as the birth place of Pamela Travers – the author of Mary Poppins.

The Fraser Coast Hinterland including the townships of **Tiaro, Bauple, Howard, Torbanlea, Woocoo** and surrounds are a joy to explore offering historical buildings, arts and crafts, country pubs, fresh-ground coffee, home-made Macadamia treats, rolling hills of sugar cane and pineapple farms and great camping and fishing opportunities.

The Fraser Coast is also the ideal stepping off point for **Lady Elliot Island** and **Lady Musgrave Island** – the start of the **Great Barrier Reef.**

A scenic 40 minute flight from Hervey Bay transports visitors to another world of wondrous marine life, unrivalled snorkelling and diving experiences, guided island walks and iridescent coral gardens regarded as some of the best the reef has to offer.

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