



## Hervey Bay.....Home of the Humpbacks

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.

Every year an estimated 13,000 humpback whales migrate from Antarctica to the warm waters of the Whitsunday Islands to breed.

On their return journey between late July and early November, the proud new parents and the cutest calves on earth make a temporary home in the tranquil marine environment of Hervey Bay creating a wonderland of whale activity.

Hervey Bay is widely regarded as the best whale-watching destination in Australia and one of the finest in the world offering the most intimate and interactive encounters imaginable.

The whales' annual pilgrimage to Hervey Bay is a rare natural phenomenon in that the humpbacks are not merely passing by.

The majestic mammals stop for three to four days refuge in the pristine waters between the mainland and Fraser Island to rest, frolic and play, giving their newborn calves the chance to fatten up in readiness for the arduous Antarctic journey ahead.

The humpbacks become so comfortable it is not unusual for the trusting mothers to bring their calves close to the boats for some "people watching".

A thrilling spectacle for visitors is watching the baby whales learning new skills, such as breaching. And like all youngsters, once they learn a new trick, they like to show off – often performing leap after leap until they run out of energy.

Adult male whales engaging in rough and tumble with each other attempting to prove their strength to the girls, and mischievous teenage whales keeping passengers amused by swimming from one side of the boat to the other are just some of the life-changing experiences to be encountered in this one-of-a-kind whale watching paradise.





As Australia's original and number one whale watching destination, Hervey Bay offers an unrivalled network of experienced, passionate and dedicated whale watching operators with guaranteed sightings from late July to early November.

Each year the arrival of the whales sends a buzz of excitement through the town. As the gentle giants of the sea "check in" to Hervey Bay, so do thousands of eager tourists, guaranteed a holiday of a lifetime where nature comes alive.

The coming of whale season marks the start of a month-long celebration including concerts, street parades, a blessing of the fleet and interactive educational displays all paying homage to the beautiful humpbacks and their unique connection with Hervey Bay.

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.

With other world-renowned eco-experiences to enjoy close by including Fraser Island and Lady Elliot Island, regarded as the stepping stone to the Great Barrier Reef, it is little wonder why nature lovers travel from around Australia and the globe to experience the Home of the Humpbacks, Hervey Bay.

**ENDS**

Media enquiries to [PClose@tourismfrasercoast.com.au](mailto:PClose@tourismfrasercoast.com.au)

Mobile: 0419 616 445



