



Fraser Island & the Fraser Coast

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Best Places to Eat

- » Waterview Bistro (p361)
- » Cafe Tapas (p358)
- » Black Dog Cafe (p357)

Best Places to Stay

- » Kingfisher Bay Resort (p369)
- » Debbie's Place (p359)
- » Beachfront Tourist Parks (p356)

Why Go?

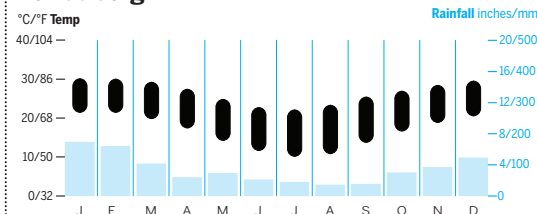
Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island, is a natural paradise sculpted by wind and surf. It's a mystical land of giant dunes, ancient rainforests, luminous lakes and endemic wildlife that includes Australia's purest strain of dingo.

Across the calm waters of the Great Sandy Strait, the mellow coastal community of Hervey Bay is the gateway to Fraser Island. From July to October, migrating humpback whales stream into the bay for a few days before continuing on to Antarctica. Further south, tiny Rainbow Beach is a laidback seaside village and an alternative launch pad to Fraser Island. Fishing, swimming, boating and camping are hugely popular along this entire stretch of coastline.

Inland, dry bushland and agricultural fields surround old-fashioned country towns steeped in history. Bundaberg, the largest city in the region, overlooks a sea of waving cane fields that gives birth to its famous liquid-gold rum, a fiery, gut-churning spirit guaranteed to scramble a few brain cells!

When to Go

Bundaberg



March–November
Sunny skies and mild winters make this a great time to visit Fraser Island.

July–November
Watch humpback whales – optimal sighting time is August to October.

November–March
Spy on turtles laying eggs in the sand at Mon Repos.



Fraser Island & the Fraser Coast Highlights

- 1** Cruising up the beach 'highway', hiking through the rainforest and camping under the stars on **Fraser Island** (p368)
- 2** Watching the whales play in **Hervey Bay** (p353)
- 3** Cooling off in the pristine, clear-blue water of the white sand-fringed freshwater **Lake**

- McKenzie** (p369) on Fraser Island
- 4** Witnessing turtles take their first flipper-stumble down the beach at **Mon Repos** (p365)
- 5** Diving with sharks at **Wolf Rock** (p359) off Rainbow Beach

- 6** Copping an eyeful of the coloured sand cliffs at **Rainbow Beach** (p359)
- 7** Sampling 'liquid gold' at the rum distillery in **Bundaberg** (p365)