



Fraser Island & the Fraser Coast

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Waterview Bistro (p366)
- ➔ Muddy Waters Cafe (p368)
- ➔ Bayaroma Cafe (p363)
- ➔ Rosie Blu (p371)
- ➔ Mammino's (p369)

Best Places to Stay

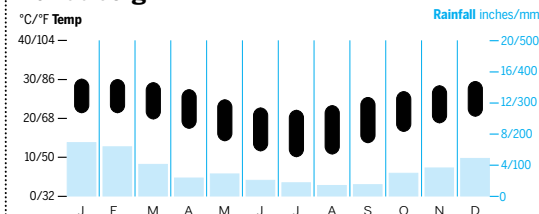
- ➔ Kingfisher Bay Resort (p375)
- ➔ Debbie's Place (p365)
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- ➔ Colonial Village YHA (p362)

Why Go?

Nature lovers, rejoice! World Heritage-listed Fraser Island is the world's largest sand island, a mystical, at times eerie, land of giant dunes, ancient rainforests, luminous lakes and wildlife including 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 before continuing on to Antarctica. Further south, tiny Rainbow Beach is a laid-back seaside village and an alternative launching pad to Fraser. Fishing, swimming, boating and camping are hugely popular along this stretch of coastline.

Inland, agricultural fields surround old-fashioned country towns steeped in history. Bundaberg, the largest city in the region, overlooks the sea of waving cane fields that fuel its eponymous rum, a fiery, gut-churning spirit guaranteed to scramble a few brain cells.

When to Go Bundaberg



Jun–Jul Bring your broly to Maryborough's Mary Poppins Festival.

Jul–Nov Watch humpback whales; optimal sighting time is August to October.

Nov–Mar 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** (p372).
- ② Watching the whales play in **Hervey Bay** (p359).
- ③ Cooling off in the pristine, clear-blue water of the white-sand-fringed freshwater **Lake**

McKenzie (p375) on Fraser Island.

- ④ Witnessing turtles take their first flipper-stumble down the beach at **Mon Repos** (p370).

⑤ Diving with sharks at **Wolf Rock** (p365) off Rainbow Beach.

- ⑥ Copping an eyeful of the coloured sand cliffs at **Rainbow Beach** (p364).

⑦ Sampling 'liquid gold' at the **rum distillery** (p369) in Bundaberg.