



Fraser Island & the Fraser Coast

Includes »

Fraser Coast	171
Gympie	171
Rainbow Beach	172
Maryborough	175
Hervey Bay	177
Childers	184
Burrum Coast National Park	186
Bundaberg	186
Around Bundaberg	190
Fraser Island	190

Best Places to Eat

- » Waterview Bistro (p174)
- » Café Tapas (p183)
- » Black Dog Café (p183)

Best Places to Stay

- » Kingfisher Bay Resort (p193)
- » Debbie's Place (p173)
- » Beachfront Tourist Parks (p181)

Why Go?

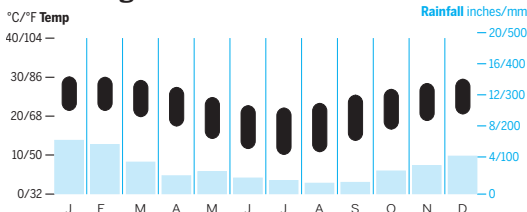
Nature buffs will beeline it to World Heritage-listed Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island. Four-wheel driving along the east coast or through inland forests reveals an island paradise sculpted by wind and surf; a mystical land of giant dunes, ancient rainforests and luminous lakes.

Across the calm waters of the Great Sandy Strait, Hervey Bay is the launch pad to Fraser. There's a whiff of burgeoning beach-café culture, but at heart it's a mellow coastal community riding on the back of the annual humpback whale migrations. Further south, Rainbow Beach is a refreshingly unaffected seaside village and an alternative departure point for Fraser Island. Fishing, swimming, boating and camping are hugely popular along the stretch of coastline.

Inland, agricultural fields surround old-fashioned country towns steeped in history. Bundaberg, the largest city in the region, overlooks a sea of waving sugar cane and is famous for its fiery, golden rum.

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 frolic in the sea. The best time for sightings 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', and exploring the rainforest on **Fraser Island** (p190), the world's largest sand island
- ② Beach camping under the stars in the **Great Sandy National Park** (p172)
- ③ Watching the humpback whales play in **Hervey Bay** (p177)
- ④ Spotting loggerhead-turtle hatchlings erupt from the sand at **Mon Repos Beach & Turtle Rookery** (p188)
- ⑤ Soaking up the laid-back beach scene and views of the spectacular coloured sand cliffs at **Rainbow Beach** (p172)
- ⑥ Diving with grey-nurse sharks, manta rays and turtles off Rainbow Beach at **Wolf Rock** (p173)
- ⑦ Drinking liquid-gold sugar cane at the rum distillery in **Bundaberg** (p186) and remaining upright