



# experience fraser island

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## A Driving Ambition To Visit Fraser Island

FRASER ISLAND: Driving along Queensland's Fraser Coast, one word comes to mind - magic. The Fraser Coast combines the charms of yesteryear with World Heritage natural beauty.

Start your trip with morning tea at one of the many chic cafes and restaurants of Noosa, or after an early-morning surf at one of the many surfing beaches stretched along the coastline. But don't dawdle too long - the Fraser Coast has much to offer.

Maryborough is the historical and cultural heart of the Fraser Coast. A tad over three hours' drive north from Brisbane; Maryborough is nestled in a curve of the Mary River.

The city's original Queenslander homes grace the broad tree-lined streets and will fascinate history buffs. For those interested in heritage, the city's heritage walk is a two-hour delight. If time's on your side, visit Elizabeth Park and smell the roses or feed the Black Swans at Ululah Lagoon.

A great time to visit Maryborough is from August to October. At this time, not only can you enjoy the simple delights of Maryborough, but a short drive to the nearby coastal town of Hervey Bay and you're in for one of nature's truly enchanting experiences - the migration of the Humpback Whales. You will discover the whales frolicking in the sheltered waters between World Heritage Fraser Island and Hervey Bay.

Hervey Bay also offers the chance to explore rivers and creeks by boat, visit secluded restaurants, a coastal winery, go fishing, enjoy a quiet walk along a beach or hop over to World Heritage Fraser Island.

Much has been written about the beauty of the largest sand island in the world, Fraser Island, and it is easy to see why. Spanning over 100km and an area of almost 200,000 hectares, Fraser has much to offer.

Fraser's distinctiveness comes from its natural environment - the only place in the world where rainforest grows on sand at elevations of 200m. The fact that you are on a large sand island seeps into your mind as you walk along a rainforest stream. There is no sound of water babbling over rocks. These creeks ramble through the forest keeping their secrets to themselves as they make their way to the sea.

Fraser is a wilderness, so be aware that it is the natural habitat of dingoes when you're enjoying the coloured sands, fishing, or picnicking. Follow the directions of signs and the advice of National Parks Rangers.



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On your return trip to Brisbane the tranquil waters of the Great Sandy Strait are worth experiencing. Dotted along the coastline of the Great Sandy Strait are the seaside townships of Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay, Tinnanbar, Poona, Tuan, Boonooroo and Maroom.

Associated with this medley of seaside villages are great surf beaches, coloured sands, mangrove-lined creeks, great fishing, and bushwalking through a magnificent display of wildflowers.

And twitchers aren't forgotten. Migratory birds from Siberia and Japan keep ornithologists busy for hours and more than 350 species have been recorded on island.

Those in the know around the Great Sandy Strait say that the tip is to hire a houseboat and enjoy the calm waters, passing dolphins, and the tranquility of your surrounds or spend some time at the two resorts on island - Kingfisher Bay Resort (on the western side) or Eurong Beach Resort - which is located on the surf side of the island and only accessible by four-wheel-drive.

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