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Kingfisher Bay Resort Backgrounder

QUEENSLAND: Multi-award-winning ecotourism resort Kingfisher Bay Resort (incorporating the Mercure Kingfisher Bay Resort - Fraser Island and village) borders the World Heritage wilderness of Fraser Island, the Great Sandy National Park and the Great Sandy Marine Park.

It is a unique island holiday destination providing adventure and excitement but, at the same time, a casual atmosphere for the ultimate relaxation.

On Fraser Island you are spoilt by nature and after a day spent exploring you are spoilt by the creature comforts available at Kingfisher Bay Resort. The resort has 152 hotel rooms, more than 100 self-contained bedroom villas, a 174-bed Wilderness Lodge for groups, three restaurants, four bars and a shopping village.

Nestled among the tree-covered dunes on the edge of the calm blue waters of the Great Sandy Strait, Kingfisher Bay offers all the amenities of an island resort while blending harmoniously with Fraser Island's sensitive ecological system.

Built to strict environmental guidelines, Kingfisher Bay Resort has won Australia's top architectural prize. It has a distinctive Queensland-style with double-storey, native-timber buildings designed to harmonise with the environment and not impact upon it. Hidden among the trees, all styles of accommodation have magnificent sea, lake or bushland views which can be enjoyed from wide private decks.

The resort is surrounded by a wealth of plant and animal species. It is a bird watcher's dream as there are 354 recorded bird species on the island. Rare acid frogs, bats and sugar gliders can be spotted at night. Dundonga Creek, a fresh-water creek edged by mangroves, is a hot spot for ranger-guided canoe tours.

The resort is not without its creature comforts and the flavours of the Australian bush shine through in Seabelle Restaurant, the best of Australian and local seafood at the Maheno buffet or dine al fresco at the Sand Bar in bush-covered surrounds. Relax with a cocktail by one of the four swimming pools, play tennis, simply bubble in a spa or indulge at the natural therapy and beauty clinic

When it comes to the great outdoors, Kingfisher Bay itself is a paradise for boating, fishing, swimming, canoeing beachcombing, bushwalking, four-wheel driving and just enjoying the magnificent natural beauty of Fraser Island.

Take to the water on a stand up paddleboard or canoe. Bushwalk along sand tracks,



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paddle a canoe to explore fresh-water creeks and mangrove colonies; or head out with a Marine Ranger on the Great Sandy Strait in search of Dolphins, Dugong and Turtles.

When it comes to education, the resort has a Junior Eco Ranger program for children at weekends and during Australian school holidays and teach children about the natural world in a fun, learning environment. The resort often caters for school and larger educational groups.

Resort activities are designed to allow guests to enjoy and, at the same time, learn about this very special island without impacting on the environment. The resort's expert interpretive rangers conduct daily a variety of 4WD guided tours to explore the Fraser Island wilderness and explain the natural and cultural history.

Resort rangers also offer a daily range of nature walks, both in and around the resort, to discover the abundant animal and bird life and to help guests learn about the Australian bush and how Aborigines and early European settlers used it for both food and medicine.

Imagine watching as an animal weighing the same as 11 elephants propels its 15 metre body out of the water with just a few flicks of its powerful tail. From August to October, Humpback Whales, on their way south to the Antarctic from the warmer northern waters, stop to rest in Platypus Bay, just 30km (or a 40 minute cruise) north of the resort. The Quick Cat II has all-round viewing decks and has one of the most experienced crews in the Hervey Bay whale watch fleet.

Fishing enthusiasts from around the world visit Kingfisher Bay Resort to experience one of Australia's most rich and diverse fishing areas. The calm, sheltered island waters allow comfortable fishing. Guides can take you estuary, surf-beach, reef, sport or game fishing.

The resort has an environmental attitude to fishing, educating guests to observe size and catch limits. The aim is to help people get the most out of fishing by enjoying the sport without depleting fish stocks.

Kingfisher Bay Resort is a specialist conference venue where breakout rooms include rainforest settings, visitors include lizards and birds create the background music. The resort has quality conference facilities and our professional conference organisers are on hand to cater for client's needs whether it's a themed dinner for a social club, outdoor adventure-based training for executives or a large conference.

The resort's ballroom/main function room seats 300 people theatre style, 180 people for a banquet and can be divided into three sections.



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There are also two smaller meeting rooms for training programs or syndicate work and conference secretariat facilities are available. Shaded decks provide additional space for breakout areas.

Living in a World Heritage area is a special privilege and Kingfisher Bay Resort offers a rare opportunity to invest and live in harmony with nature and enjoy all the amenities of resort life.

With only 0.2 percent of Fraser Island available as freehold land, Kingfisher Bay's freehold villas and land provide a rare investment combined with a fantastic lifestyle opportunity.

The villa development on the 65 hectare site is in keeping with the resort's environmental aims. Architects Guymer Bailey of Brisbane, who won Australia's top architectural prize for the main resort building, designed the villas using natural colours and native timbers.

Kingfisher Bay Resort (incorporating the Mercure Kingfisher Bay Resort Fraser Island hotel) is just a 50 minute trip by ferry from River Heads, Hervey Bay which is a 45 minute flight or a three-and-a-half hour drive from the Queensland capital of Brisbane.

Ends.

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Kingfisher Bay Resort - Fraser Island

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