



media release

Five reasons why Fraser Island will be the royal favourite

Excitement hits fever pitch on Fraser Island, with the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's impending arrival, on Monday the 22nd of October.

Whilst the royal couple will visit several Australian cities on their official tour, Kingfisher Bay Resort's Senior Ranger Annie is positive that Fraser Island will be their favourite spot.

"The traditional owners of the land, the Butchulla people call the island K'gari, which means paradise - and I have no doubt Harry and Meghan will agree," she said.

1. It is the largest sand island in the world

The Royal Couple will visit Fraser Island as part of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Initiative, which was launched in 2015.

With a total of 206, 970 acres of protected forest, the pristine environment is home to 200 metre high satinay trees, in excess of 1000 years old. The soaring satinays were even used to re-build the London docks after the Second World War – another Commonwealth connection for the royal couple.

Among its many striking features, the island is also characterised by its renowned 75 Mile beach, coastal heaths, freshwater lakes and ever-evolving sand dunes, and was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list in 1992.

2. Bush Tucker is on the menu

"We believe Meghan to be a foodie, with a strong interest in local produce and paddock to plate dining...in our case it might be rainforest to the royal plate." Annie said.

An array of bush tucker ingredients are grown on Fraser Island, from native nuts and berries bursting with flavour, to the refreshing citrus of lemon myrtle.

Kingfisher Bay Resort offers a 'Tastes of Australia' program; allowing its guests to sample a range of bush tucker, as the resident Chef and Resort Ranger detail their origin and explain how the ingredients can be utilised in cooking. The Chef then pairs a selection with freshly cooked kangaroo, crocodile and emu, presenting the freshly cooked dishes for guests to taste.

3. Secret Military Links

As a military man, Prince Harry is a passionate supporter of veterans around the world and an ambassador for the Invictus Games.

"Fraser Island has a secret military heritage that few know about - during World War 2 the island was the training ground for an elite Z Special Force Unit, where they undertook jungle and amphibious training in preparation for missions into Asia," Annie said.

The Z Force were instrumental in the victory at Singapore Harbour. The ruins of the Z Force Commando School remain today on the western side of the island, near Kingfisher Bay Resort.

4. Like Father Like Son – Harry and Meghan retrace Prince Charles' steps

In 1994 Prince Charles stayed at Kingfisher Bay Resort on Fraser Island, which at the time was one of the first sustainable development projects in Australia.



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“The Prince cruised along 75 Mile Beach, through the rainforest, expressing his interest in the ecology, learnt about the waste treatment system at Kingfisher Bay Resort, and shared stories of similar environmental initiatives on some of his properties”.

It’s only fitting that the couple make a royal return to Fraser Island, for the chance to experience this natural wonder for themselves.

5. Natural beauty abounds, especially at the day spa

We have learnt that Meghan always travels with tea tree oil in her carry-on, quoted as saying ‘it’s my little cure-all’.

In addition to the lemon-scented tea tree, and the iconic eucalyptus, Fraser Island is home to a range of other rare and native plant species. Guests at Kingfisher Bay Resort can embark on a guided "Bush Medicine" walk around the sprawling resort grounds, discovering the native remedies available, and learning how they were used within traditional Butchulla culture.

For a relaxing, back-to-nature experience, guests can retreat to the resort’s Island Day Spa, which uses Brisbane-based aromatherapy brand Perfect Potion, for soothing treatments inspired by the native island surrounds.

With Fraser Island firmly on the map, nature-lovers all over the world will undoubtedly add Fraser Island to their list, as a must-see destination.

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