

# Australia's Nature Coast

## Naturally Abundant



From the Glass House Mountains north of Brisbane to iconic Heritage listed K'gari Fraser Island – is a destination brimming with diverse landscapes and natural wonders.

Stunning views and natural adventures lie a three-and-a-half-hour drive north of Brisbane international airport or a direct flight from Brisbane and Sydney.

On Queensland's Fraser Coast, discover century old trees with three metre girths in the rainforest of World Heritage-listed Fraser Island, paddle in cool perched lakes, get up close or take a swimming tour with giant humpbacks or discover manta rays off Lady Elliott. Set amongst the beauty of nature, it's a destination offering families a wide choice of relaxing activities, without the bustle of large crowds.

The Great Sandy Strait is filled with aquatic adventures and quaint coastal townships frame a UNESCO-recognised wetland area. Awarded Biosphere Reserve status by UNESCO for its unique environment, the area sits in the same class as some of the World's most iconic locations including the Galapagos Islands, Central Amazon, the Everglades and Uluru.

Inland, the heritage city of Maryborough, one of Queensland's oldest provincial cities, will charm you with its striking art and tales of the past. The region offers affordable island, bay, beach and heritage experiences in a natural environment.

The pristine coastline continues south from Rainbow Beach to Noosa, the only region where two biospheres meet the Great Sandy Biosphere and the Noosa Biosphere through to Coolool and onto Caloundra then west to the lush hinterland. The Sunshine Coast offers visitors a natural and unspoilt canvas on which to discover nature.

### Top Five Experiences on Australia's Nature Coast

1. Explore world heritage listed Fraser Island, swim in pristine Lake McKenzie and walk through untouched rainforest.
2. Get up close with humpback Whales in the calm protected waters of Hervey Bay and Mooloolaba.
3. Experience the natural wonders of Lady Elliott Island, the most southern island on World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef.
4. Experience the Sunshine Coast's iconic coastal and aquatic lifestyle. Pristine waterways, and the Noosa Everglades.
5. Take in the breathtaking views of the Glass House Mountains National Park and the stunning coastline from the sub-tropical Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

### Where to Stay

Whether it is 5-star luxury beachfront apartments, international standard hotels, luxury lodge escapes, eco-accredited accommodation, quaint bed and breakfast, golf and spa resorts, houseboats, or camping and caravanning, Australia's Nature Coast offers accommodation options to suit all tastes and budgets.

### Did you know?

Australia's Great Beach Drive is located along the Sunshine and Fraser Coasts, connecting with World Heritage-listed Fraser Island. Experience a once in a lifetime journey, escaping the highway and four-wheel driving along a white sandy beach surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and Australian bushland.

Australia's Nature Coast boasts more than one third of Australia's bird species, more than 150 rare or endangered species, and unspoilt habitats including mangroves, wetlands, rainforests and coastal heath.



[www.australiasnaturecoast.com](http://www.australiasnaturecoast.com)

# Fraser Coast

# Where Nature Comes Alive



Hervey Bay

Experience eco-adventures and amazing aquatic action at Hervey Bay, a coastal delight with a protected and stunning shoreline. Dubbed the Whale Watching capital of the world and a whale nursery, Hervey Bay is the only place in Australia where humpbacks stop to rest and play for up to 10 days and visitors can experience close encounters with the visiting giants. Recently declared as the World's first Whale Heritage Site by the World Cetacean Alliance, recognised as the best global destination for responsible whale and dolphin watching.



Fraser Island

Explore World Heritage-listed Fraser Island, named by its traditional owners the Butchulla people K'gari, meaning paradise, the island doubles as an airstrip and a beach highway, stretching 123km and spanning 166,000 hectares.

Built up over hundreds of thousands of years of tidal action, the oldest age sequence of coastal sand dune systems exists on K'gari Fraser, some believed to be around 400,000 years old. From crystal clear lakes, to lush rainforests, the global destination is home to many species of native wildlife, abundant water life, flora and fauna.



Southern Great Barrier Reef

Uncovering the mystery of Australia's Great Barrier Reef is within a short 40-minute scenic flight from Hervey Bay to magical Lady Elliot Island. Experiencing the wonders of healthy coral reefs and an abundance of turtles, dolphins, manta rays and reef sharks is as simple as stepping off the beach and into the ocean. Underwater there is an average visibility of about 25m-plus all year round. The island is known as the home of the manta ray with more than 1000 recorded in the vicinity and the area is a sanctuary for more than 1200 species of marine life.



Maryborough

Stroll through the heritage-rich streets and uncover some of the fascinating stories which shaped one of Queensland's oldest cities. See the building where P.L. Travers, author of the Mary Poppins books, was born, take a photo with the bronze statue of the famous nanny and cross the road at pedestrian lights featuring silhouettes of the umbrella-carrying character. The city is also home to one of the best military museums in the country with more than 10,000 artefacts and its picturesque streets are dotted with fascinating public art including 30 murals which form a quirky mural trail.

## Self Drive

Maryborough is just three hours' drive (255km) north of Brisbane along the Bruce Highway (A1). Hervey Bay, gateway to Fraser Island and access point for Lady Elliot Island on the Great Barrier Reef is a further 34km north-east of Maryborough.

## Travelling by Air

QantasLink operates extensive daily flight between Brisbane and the Fraser Coast (Hervey Bay Airport) Virgin Australia operates daily flights between Sydney and the Fraser Coast. SeaAir Offers daily flights between the Fraser Coast and Lady Elliot Island.

Hervey Bay	Brisbane	Sydney	Lady Elliot island
	40min	90m	40min

## Travelling by Rail

Queensland Rail operates regular services from Brisbane, Rockhampton and Cairns to Maryborough West train station on the Fraser Coast. Coach transfers to Hervey Bay connect with many of the north and south bound trains.

## Travelling by Bus

Greyhound and Premier operate several daily services north and south bound through Maryborough and Hervey Bay, including a direct services to Brisbane Domestic and International airport. While other local operators ferry passengers between Fraser Coast and Brisbane daily, including the Sunshine Coast and Rainbow Beach.

For more information visit [www.visitfrasercoast.com](http://www.visitfrasercoast.com)