

Fraser Island World Heritage Area

Long beaches, dramatic coloured-sand cliffs, natural sandblows, rocky headlands and pristine freshwater lakes and streams are some of the island's natural features.

Growing on seemingly infertile sands is a great variety of plant communities ranging from coastal heath, mangrove forests and swamps to subtropical rainforest. Allow plenty of time to explore and appreciate the island.

Stretching over 120km and covering an area of 166,038ha, Fraser Island is the most prominent feature off Queensland's southern coast. It is the world's largest sand island and a place of remarkable natural beauty.

The creation of the island sandmass, its dynamic nature, and the ageing process of the dunes are superb examples of continuing geological and biological processes. The universal importance of these outstanding features was recognised through the island's World Heritage listing in December 1992.

Fraser Island is known as K'gari to its Aboriginal people, the Butchulla. Its many archaeological remains record thousands of years of culture and tradition, providing important links for the Butchulla people of today to their past.

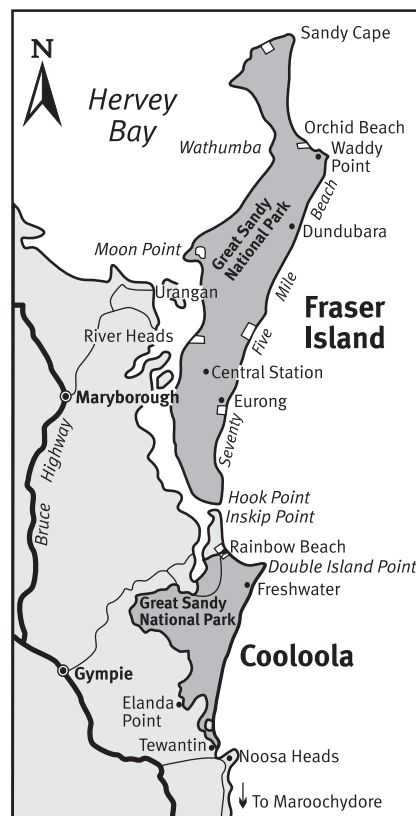
Management

Fraser Island is managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) as a protected area to conserve its natural and cultural resources for nature conservation and nature-based recreation.

Fraser Island is part of the Great Sandy National Park and the whole island (other than freehold areas such as townships) is protected to the low water mark under the Recreation Areas Management (RAM) Act.

Climate

Fraser Island has a subtropical climate with temperatures moderated by proximity to the sea. Average coastal temperatures range from 22°C to 28°C in December and 14°C to 21°C in July, although it can be more extreme inland.



Annual rainfall varies across the island, from 1200mm on the coast to 1800mm inland. Wettest months are January to March (about 160mm rainfall per month) with drier months in winter/spring (54mm rainfall in September). Moderate winds predominate from the southeast; storms are not uncommon with occasional severe storms.

Access

From Brisbane, drive north to Rainbow Beach township via Gympie. From the north, drive south to River Heads near Hervey Bay.

Visitors can also travel by bus to Rainbow Beach or Hervey Bay, by aircraft to Hervey Bay, or by train to Maryborough, which is linked by bus to Hervey Bay.

From Rainbow Beach or Hervey Bay, you can travel to Fraser Island by vehicle barge, passenger launch, aircraft, commercial tour or private boat.

Fraser Island's rough sandy forest tracks are suitable only for four-wheel-drive vehicles.

- Vehicles entering the island must be fully road registered. Unregistered and recreational registered vehicles are not allowed on Fraser Island.
- RAM vehicle and QPWS camping permits must be obtained before entering the island. Phone 13 13 04.
- Four-wheel-drives with low ground clearance may have difficulty on some inland tracks.
- Most inland tracks are not suitable for caravans. Campervans must be sturdy and have good clearance.
- Tracks are generally two-way and single lane; take care, drive safely, recommended speed limit is 35k/h.
- Four-wheel-drives can be hired on the mainland and on Fraser Island at Eurong Beach, Happy Valley and Kingfisher Bay.
- Beaches may be inaccessible for at least two hours either side of high tide. Carry a tide chart. Entire sections of the western beach are inaccessible.



Vehicle permits and fees

Visitors bringing a vehicle to Fraser Island must obtain a RAM vehicle access permit before entering and display it on the windscreen. All fees from permits contribute to managing recreation on Fraser Island and to providing facilities for visitors.

Obtain permits in advance

All permits must be purchased before entering the island. With your permit you will also receive an information pack containing a detailed colour guide, more information on camping, touring, how to be Dingo-Aware, a walking track brochure, and other relevant information. Permit issuing centres and addresses are shown on this brochure.

RAM vehicle permit fees

RAM permit fees vary according to your length of stay on the island. You can purchase a monthly or yearly permit. Check the website www.epa.qld.gov.au or call 13 13 04 (cost of a local call) for all fee charges, permit sales and bookings.

Permit refunds

Refunds are granted only if requested before the permit commences, or in extenuating circumstances (not simply bad weather). Notify QPWS Maryborough in writing and include any unused permits. An administration fee applies.

Passenger and vehicle services

Vehicle barges are managed privately and operate daily.

- **From Inskip Point** (10km from QPWS office at Rainbow Beach), regular services on demand, generally from 6am–5.30pm, to Hook Point on the southern end of the island; no bookings required. (Rainbow Venture 07 5486 3227, Manta Ray 0418 872 599).
- **From River Heads**
 - to Wanggoolba Creek (prebook 07 4125 4444);
 - to Kingfisher Bay (prebook 1800 072 555);
- **From Hervey Bay** to Moon Point (prebook 07 4125 4444).

Foot passengers can travel on any vehicle barge, or the passenger service from Hervey Bay to Kingfisher Bay (prebook 07 4125 5511).

A four-wheel-drive taxi service transports passengers between island locations (07 4127 9188).

Commercial tours are available regularly from Rainbow Beach, the Sunshine Coast, Hervey Bay and Brisbane. Most are one-two day tours.

Tours usually use four-wheel-drive buses carrying 10–50 passengers.

Several companies offer longer walking, safari or specialised tours. At Hervey Bay, whale watching cruises are available August to November. Enquire through travel agents.

Air services

Airstrips are located at Toby's Gap (phone QPWS Maryborough), Wanggoolba Creek (Eurong Beach Resort 07 4127 9122) and Orchid Beach (07 4127 9220). Contact airstrip managers for more information, prior permission to land, entry permits and fees. Beach landings are for experienced pilots only (special endorsements required); obtain permits from QPWS Maryborough. Charter aircraft are available from Brisbane, Hervey Bay, Rainbow Beach, Maryborough and the Sunshine Coast.

Boating

For private boats, popular mooring areas are at Kingfisher Bay Resort, Wathumba and Garry's Anchorage. Camping permits are required; dogs are not allowed on Fraser Island, including the beach.

Island facilities

Fraser Island is remote and facilities are limited.

- Restaurant or take-away food, a general store, fuel, gas, ice and public telephones are available at Eurong, Happy Valley, Frasers At Cathedral Beach and Kingfisher Bay. Orchid Beach has a shop, gas, ice and fuel.
- Public telephones are also at major campgrounds.
- There is no pharmacy or resident doctor and mechanical services are limited.
- Police are located at Eurong (07 4127 9288).

Accommodation

Unit, motel and resort-style accommodation are available at Eurong, Happy Valley, Frasers At Cathedral Beach, Yidney Rocks and Kingfisher Bay. Holiday houses and cabins for rent are located at Eurong, Happy Valley, The Oaks, Orchid Beach, Indian Head and Poyungan Rocks. Details from local travel agents.

Camp and day visit areas

QPWS campgrounds and day visit areas are at Central Station, Lake Boomanjin, Lake Allom, Wathumba, Waddy Point, and Dundubara. Lake McKenzie offers day use facilities and hikers camping only.

Facilities include toilets, picnic tables, and barbecues. Always carry enough drinking water to be self-sufficient.

Coin-operated hot showers are at Central Station, Waddy Point and Dundubara. Generators are not permitted at QPWS campgrounds. Please consider other campers and be quiet after 9pm.



Prebook campsites only for Dundubara and Waddy Point online (www.qld.gov.au/camping) or through call centre (ph: 13 13 04). Advance booking of several months may be required during eastern state school holidays. Other QPWS campgrounds cannot be prebooked.

In peak periods at Lake McKenzie, day car parks may be full 10am-3pm and vehicles will be diverted. Plan accordingly.

Organised groups (more than 15 people) wishing to stay at developed campsites should book through the relevant Ranger Station.

Beach camping

Camping is permitted at undeveloped sites along the east coast and some locations on the west coast. Stay clear of "no camping" zones. Occasional storms can make beach camping unpleasant. Dune vegetation plays an important role in stabilising the dunes; it is fragile and easily damaged by camping and vehicles. Always select existing beach campsites. Whenever possible, please camp in established campgrounds and help protect the island's coast. Campsites at Wathumba and Garry's Anchorage cater for boat-based camping.

Camping permits and fees

RAM camping permits are required for camping on Fraser Island (except in private camping areas, where you must book through the proprietor). You must book your permits before you go (ph: 13 13 04) or online www.qld.gov.au/camping. Concession rates apply for approved educational tours/camps. Apply to QPWS Maryborough.

RAM camping fees

Per person per night.....\$4
Per family per night (i.e. one or two adults plus children 5–17 years).....\$16
Fees accurate at June 2004.

Private camping areas

Fraser's At Cathedral Beach (07 4127 9177) offer private camping with facilities and sites available for camper trailers.

Dilli Village (07) 4127 9130 provides fenced private camping facilities. Advanced group bookings (07) 5430 2891. QPWS camping permits are not valid at private camping areas.

Things to do

Fraser Island is a large area, so allow ample time to explore and appreciate its many natural assets. A three-night trip is too rushed for many visitors. You can follow several marked tourist drives and over 40 walking tracks from short boardwalks to overnight hikes. Many visitors swim in the island's lakes and creeks. Do not swim in the ocean. The eastern beach is dangerous because of sharks, rips and occasional fireweed. Fishing from the island's beaches is a favoured pastime for some visitors.

The variety of landscapes and moods provides a smorgasbord for photographers. (Anybody planning to sell photographs taken on the island requires a RAM commercial permit from QPWS Maryborough.)

More on what to do, including a short walks brochure and some details of the tourist drives is in an information pack with your vehicle access permit.

You can purchase a low-cost brochure describing walks of the Forest Lakes Hiking Trail, a three to five day circuit around lakes of the central high dunes.

Dingoes



Fraser's dingoes are wild animals but some have become threatening to people, because they have been fed or people have encouraged their attention. Enjoy their beauty, but:

- Always stay with your children, even young teenagers.
- Keep your distance and walk in groups.
- NEVER feed dingoes.
- Lock away all food, iceboxes and rubbish, preferably in a vehicle.

Fenced campgrounds are available at: Lake Boomanjin; Central Station; Dundubara; and Waddy Point.

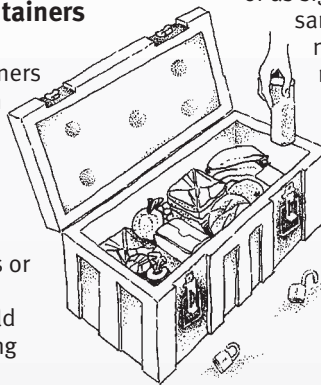
Read the *Be Dingo-Aware!* brochure in the information pack provided with purchase of your permit.

What to bring

Good preparation will help make your trip enjoyable and protect Fraser Island's natural assets every time you visit.

Strong lockable containers and rubbish bags

Strong lockable containers store food and rubbish safely from animals, particularly dingoes. Timber and metal boxes with lock down clips are ideal. Place rubbish directly in bins or keep in your vehicle. Strong plastic bags hold recyclables for emptying into recycle bins.



Iceboxes need a heavy duty strap

Dingoes can open iceboxes and plastic storage containers — use a strap to secure or store in your vehicle.

Fuel stoves — to minimise fires

Campers must bring a fuel stove as cut firewood is sometimes not available. Limited cut firewood is supplied at campgrounds, and is also for use by beach campers.



Firewood collection is not permitted from forest or beaches; fallen timber provides homes for many small animals and is naturally recycled into nutrients for plants. Put out your fires with water not sand. Children have been burnt by hot sand covering coals.

Cigarette butt containers

(e.g. film canisters) Butts are unsightly and do not decompose. Bin your butts.

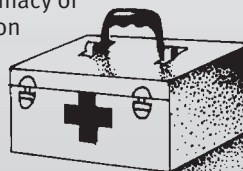


Axe and firelighters

Supplied firewood needs cutting for kindling, and firelighters help start your fire. Do not collect leaf litter and twigs from the bush.

First-aid kit and prescription medicines

There is no pharmacy or resident doctor on the island; bring adequate supplies of prescription drugs. The ambulance station at Happy Valley is staffed in Queensland school holiday periods. A mainland emergency helicopter rescue service, if necessary, is arranged through Queensland Emergency Services on 000.



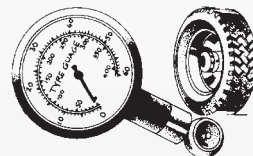
Spade and small bags — preferably use toilets provided

If beach camping, bury human wastes 50cm deep and at least 50m from creeks or as signposted. Bag tampons,

sanitary pads and disposable nappies, then dispose in rubbish bins.

Do not bury; they do not decompose and dingoes dig them up.

Bury fish scraps on the beach below high tide line to depth of at least 50cm.



Basic vehicle spares and sand driving accessories

Tyre gauge and air pump — on soft sand you may choose to reduce air pressure to improve traction. Reinflate when driving on harder sand or bitumen.

Snatch strap or tow rope

The nearest garages are located on the mainland — make sure your vehicle is mechanically sound. Limited mechanical assistance may be available at Eurong or Orchid Beach.

Camping accessories:

Torch — for use at night to see snakes or hazards.

Large tent pegs — necessary in sand conditions and for anchoring tents during winds, particularly along the beach.

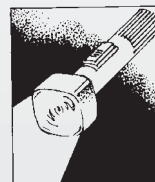
Tarpaulin, poles and rope for shelter — do not tie ropes to surrounding trees as it often damages them.

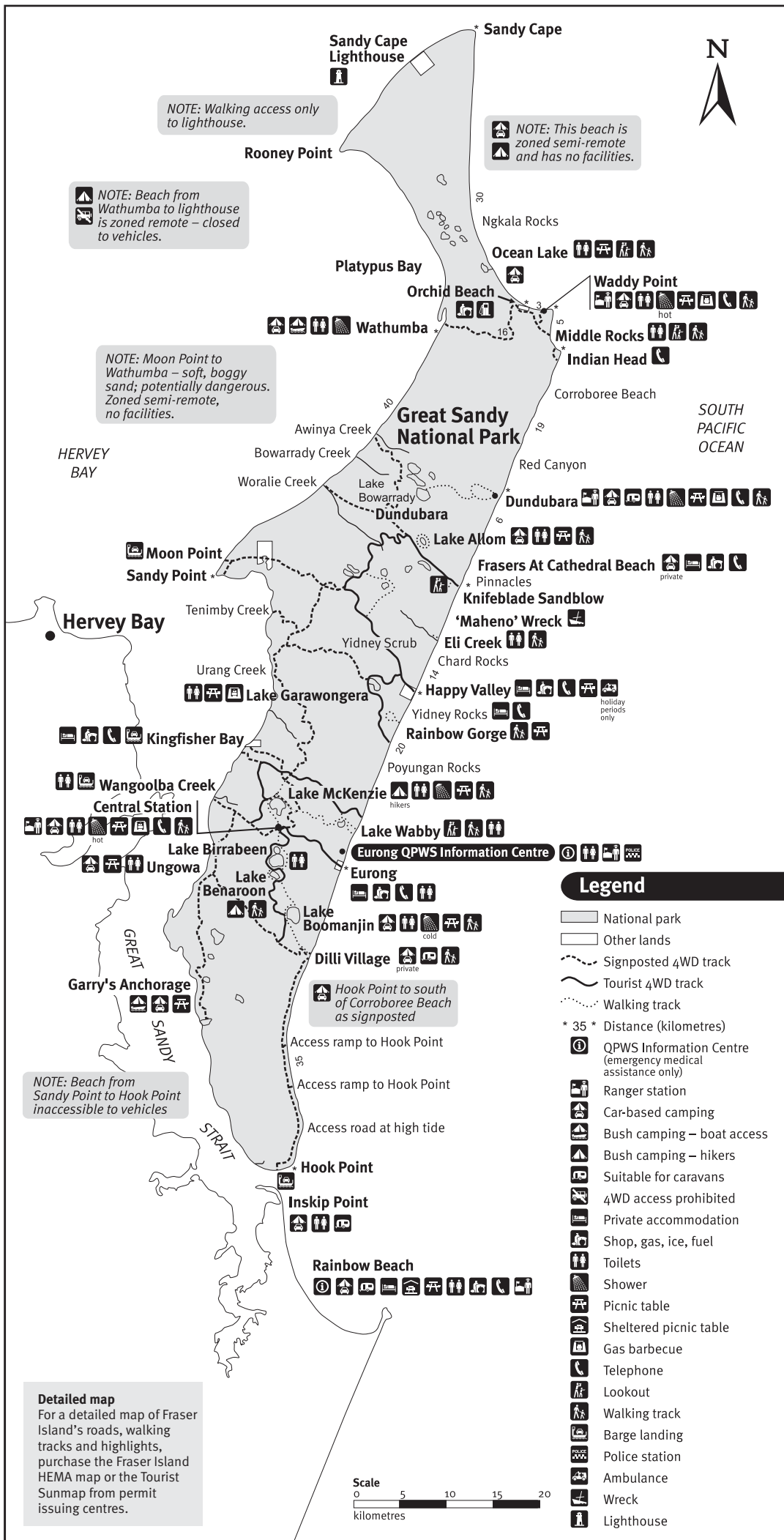
Coins

\$1 and 50c coins are needed for hot showers and gas barbecues and other coins for telephones.

Full CDMA coverage is provided at Happy Valley. Coverage is limited along the eastern and western beaches. Coverage is unlikely inland. Consult service providers.

Don't bring firearms; fireworks; animals; plants; soil or firewood (they may contain insects and disease). Chainsaws cannot be used. Permit required to bring guide dogs, apply to QPWS Maryborough.





Further information

For permits, contact any of the permit issuing centres below and contact QPWS offices below for further information. **Note that a more detailed information pack is provided with purchase of your vehicle permit, or with camping permit for hikers.** Read about Fraser Island online at [www.epa.qld.gov.au/national_parks/Fraser Island](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/national_parks/Fraser_Island).

Permit issuing offices

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service:

Online at www.qld.gov.au/camping

Call centre ph: 13 13 04

Naturally Queensland Information Centre

PO Box 155
BRISBANE ALBERT STREET
QLD 4002
160 Ann Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
8.30am–5pm Monday–Friday
(07) 3227 8185

Great Sandy Information Centre

PO Box 818
240 Moorindil Street
TEWANTIN QLD 4565
7am–4pm daily
(07) 5449 7792

Rainbow Beach

PO Box 30
Rainbow Beach Road
RAINBOW BEACH QLD 4581
7am–4pm daily
(07) 5486 3160

Maryborough

PO Box 101
Cnr Alice and Lennox Streets
MARYBOROUGH QLD 4650
8.30am–5pm Monday–Friday
(07) 4121 1800

Bundaberg

46 Quay Street
BUNDABERG QLD 4670
9am–5pm Monday–Friday
(07) 4131 1600

River Heads Information Kiosk

Carpark at barge landing.
RIVER HEADS QLD 4655
6.15–11.15am & 2–3.30pm daily

Other permit offices:

Marina Kiosk

Buccaneer Avenue
URANGAN (Boat Harbour)
QLD 4655
6am–6pm daily
(07) 4128 9800

Commercial tourist information

Fraser Coast South Burnett Regional Tourism Board
Cnr Kent and Lennox Streets
PO Box 446
MARYBOROUGH QLD 4650
(07) 4122 3444

Hervey Bay Tourism and Development Bureau
Cnr Urraween and

Maryborough-Hervey Bay Roads
HERVEY BAY QLD 4655
(07) 4124 2912