

# Hervey Bay

## Eguide

**H**ervey Bay (pronounced Harvey Bay) is a coastal city 300km North of Brisbane. It boasts two very important tourist attractions, first it is the main entry point for Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island, and second it is one of the best places in Australia to view humpback whales.

Other than those two highlights, Hervey Bay is known as a quiet suburban town made up of five suburbs, Point Vernon, Pialba, Scarness, Torquay and Urangan.

The Suburbs are situated along 10km stretch of coastline, which allows for swimming, fishing and other water activities.

Urangan Boat Harbour is Hervey Bay's meeting location for many different aquatic activities, including the whale watching vessels, passenger ferries, the barge to Fraser Island, and fishing charters. You can also find restaurants and cafes in this area.

The Esplanade takes in the picturesque foreshore and has great walking and cycle paths as well as picnic and play areas, a bustling marina and entry point to the botanical gardens.



## Fraser Island

Fraser Island is the largest sand island in the world and a World Heritage Site. The original name for Fraser Island is 'K'Gari' meaning paradise. Fraser Island is approximately 125 kilometres from north to south. Airborne nutrients and seeds have accumulated until vegetation could gain a hold, and then the decaying vegetable matter has allowed other plants and trees to grow, and forests have sprung up.

Not all of Fraser Island is covered with vegetation some is composed of shifting dunes. There are no surfaced roads on Fraser Island. The beach acts as the main north south highway, with tracks crossing the island. A four-wheel-drive is a necessity.

Basin Lake has slightly acidic waters which support seven species of frog, freshwater turtles and the Australian grebe. Central Station originally a forestry township with a short boardwalk to Wangoolba Creek.

Central Station has camping facilities and an Information Centre. Eli Creek is the largest freshwater creek and fun to float down.

Lake Mckenzie is the largest lake on Fraser Island and has a camp site here. Lake Wabby is the deepest of Fraser Island lakes. Lake Allom is a small lake with tortoises.

The Cathedrals are towering cliffs of multicoloured sands eroded by the wind. The Champagne Pools at Middle Rocks have rock pools with bubbling seawater and good for swimming at low tide. Maheno Wreck lies buried in sand north of Happy Valley.

Mt. Boomanjin at 211 metres is the highest point in this part of the island with Lake Boomanjin



## Whale watching

Day trippers and holiday makers flock to Hervey Bay every whale season, which starts late July and goes through to early November. Every year these huge whales migrate from the freezing waters of the Antarctic to the sub tropical coastal waters of western and eastern Australia.



They come to the warmer waters to give birth and mate, when they migrate back they head South, and find Hervey Bay an ideal place to stop and rest for a while.

Therefore, not only can you view the adult whales here but you can delight in their young frolicking in the crystal clear waters.

There is no shortage of whale watching boat tours here to view the whale families. Various boats take visitors out for a look at the whales and rules have been laid down to preserve the safety of these huge mammals.

## Maryborough

When Queensland became an independent state in 1859, this was a major port of entry.

A town with strong history and a number of historical buildings. *St. Paul's Anglican Church built in 1852; City Hall.*

Built in 1908 in American Colonial style; the School of Arts constructed in 1887 and Gataker's Building, built in 1868. Hervey Bay is 30 minutes drive from Maryborough. Home of P.L.Travers who wrote Mary Poppins.

Maryborough is home of Walkers Limited, who built in 1873, their first steam locomotive named the Mary Ann. A replica of the Mary Ann engine hauls trains through Queens Park on the last Sunday of every month. Walkers built the Tilt Train now used by Queensland Railways.

## Museums

### Burrum District Museum

A collection of natural and cultural artefacts located at the Burrum and District Heritage Centre.

The emphasis is on the history of mining in the Hervey Bay region. *Burrum Street, Howard (07 4197 4201).*

### Hervey Bay Historical Village and Museum

This museum has 19 buildings and 8000 exhibits which takes you on a history tour into Hervey Bay's past.

Blacksmith and woodcraft demonstrations are held on Sundays. *13 Zephyr Street, Scarness (07 4128 4804).*



### Hervey Bay Regional Gallery

Hervey Bay Regional Gallery is a modern, purpose-designed building hosting touring exhibitions from state and national galleries as well as promoting the works of artists from within the local region. *161 Old Maryborough Road (07 4197 4210).*

## Parks and Gardens

### Botanic Gardens

The Botanic Gardens are unusual in being built on the 6,000 year old former sand dunes.

Highlights are the Aboriginal bush tucker trail and the Orchid House. *Elizabeth Street, Urangan (07 4125 9700).*

### Arkarra

Arkarra Lagoons and Balinese Tea Gardens are amongst 30 acres of sub tropical rain forest.

There are great walking trails here as well as the opportunity to handfeed the fish, turtles, ducks and native birdlife who inhabit the gardens. *28 Panorama Drive, Dundowran Beach (07 4128 7300).*

The print version of Hervey Bay eGuide is produced by Eguide. And it is free! Please just do not copy or distribute, just tell others to collect their free copy from [HerveyBayEguide.com](http://HerveyBayEguide.com). If you have a website then please do link to us, that we do encourage! We will apply the copyright laws strictly and enforce any illegal copying. There is a lot more on [HerveyBayEguide.com](http://HerveyBayEguide.com), in fact all that you need to have for a great visit to Hervey Bay. And to help us pay for it all please do support our advertisers and book using our partners on [HerveyBayEguide.com](http://HerveyBayEguide.com).

© Eguide Pty Ltd 2008  
PO Box 1131  
Noosaville DC  
Queensland 4566  
Australia