

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU GET THERE???



Easy things to do (without going inland)

Chill on the beach



The beach straight down in front of the house is lovely, and a good option for families. While there are no patrolled beaches on Fraser, playing in the shallows is safe. There are also some fresh water streams and rock pools in front of Happy Valley which are great to keep children entertained.

You will find a variety of beach buckets and spades and games in the cupboard of the main bedroom downstairs that you are welcome to use.



Eli Creek

About 7km north of the Valley is Eli Creek. This is the biggest freshwater creek on the island. It is spring fed, and the water pours out at 1 million Gallons an hour. The fast-flowing creek is a must to float down.

The volume of water also makes it a hazard to cars if you stop in the middle of the creek. The sand will be washed away from your tyres and make it very difficult to get out. So safely drive right through - **DO NOT** stop your car in the creek.

Maheno - beached on the Island another 3km or so further north of Eli Creek.

The Maheno, an old passenger /hospital ship was being towed to Japan for scrap metal in 1935 when it encountered a rare winter cyclone, broke the tow line, and ended up beached on Fraser Island.

The Maheno was involved in active service during WW1, and a plaque celebrating its life and achievements is located in the dunes adjacent to the wreck. If you are lucky enough to be on the island for ANZAC Day, a moving service is held at the Maheno each year.

There is a lot of information on the Maheno on the shelves with the games in the lounge if you want to read up on it more.

Happy Valley Retreat also has a good display of Maheno information and memorabilia



Cathedral Coloured Sands

Head further north along 75 mile beach and you will notice that many of the sand dunes are coloured orange and red.



The most impressive of these is the Cathedrals, so called because the formation looks like the spires of a cathedral.

Indian Head, Middle Rocks and Waddy Point

About 40 mins drive North of the Maheno (about an hour from Shearwater), will take you to the top of 75 mile beach and Indian Head.

This is the first of three Basalt Rock outcrops, behind which the Island was built. Indian Head, Middle Rocks and Waddy point.



To go north from Indian Head, you need to drive on a sand track behind the headland (only about 400m long). This sand can be very soft, so make sure your tyre pressure is down.

It is worth driving to the other side of the headland, as there is often a lagoon on the northern side, and a great safe place for children to swim. It is also well protected when the southerly winds are blowing.

While you are there, climb to the top of the headland and enjoy the spectacular view.

The top of the headland is a great place for spotting whales in season (May to October), turtles, sharks and schools of fish.

This is the view south from the headland back along 75 mile beach.



Indian Head looking north to Middle Rocks and Waddy Point.

Champagne Pools at Middle Rocks.

From mid to high tide, waves crash over into this pool so it feels like you are swimming in Champagne bubbles. It is a great and safe place for children to swim, with lots of little fish in the pools formed by the rocks.



Wabby Lake.

The hike access trail is located 4.3km North of Eurong near One Tree Rocks camping area, or about 20 mins south of Happy Valley. It is a popular tourist spot so there are likely to be buses or tag-a-long vehicles parked near the dunes, making it easy to identify the entrance. Lake Wabby is 2.4km from the carpark and will take 40 minutes to walk in.

Lake Wabby is relatively close to the ocean side of Fraser Island and unlike the other lakes, it supports several varieties of fish. It is known as both a window lake and a barrage lake. Window lakes form when the ground level falls below the water table. Barrage lakes form when a sand blow blocks the waters of a natural spring. This phenomenon is easy to see at Lake Wabby. On one side its deep green waters are bordered by a giant sand dune that is slowly moving into the lake. In a century or so, the sand dune's inexorable march westward across Fraser Island will see it completely swallow the lake.

Fishing

Fishing attracts many visitors to Fraser Island. The fishing is regularly good and many visitors to the island are keen to throw a line in. Tailor are the most numerous fish caught from August to September but whiting, trevally, bream, flathead and mackerel are all caught in large numbers at various times of the year.

On the east coast, all tailor found north of Sydney are part of the stock that spawns at Fraser Island, Australia's only confirmed tailor spawning ground. Each autumn and winter large schools of tailor migrate north along the NSW coast into Queensland waters where they congregate near Indian Head and Waddy Point on Fraser Island. The spawning migration begins once water temperatures start to drop in early autumn and gathers pace into winter, with the peak of the spawning period around September, a time when the spawning tailor are protected by a fishing closure in that area.

Exploring the inland

Take a day trip into the centre of the Island from Eurong Beach.

Central Station

Drive down to Eurong and then head inland to Central Station. Central Station was originally established as a forestry camp. Now you can walk through the beautiful rainforest and learn about the development of the island and its various flora and fauna. There are also picnic areas and a short boardwalk around Wanggoolba Creek and through the rainforest.

Basin Lake



For a secluded and unique experience, follow the walking track from Central Station to the perched dune Basin Lake. It is only accessed on foot, and if you make the journey, you are likely to have the lake all to yourself.

The 30 - 40 minute walk to **Fraser Island's Basin Lake** passes through a rainforest. It is an easy walk and very rewarding.

Lake Mackenzie

Popular among tourists and sunbathers, Lake McKenzie is another of the island's perched dune freshwater lakes. What sets it apart among other lakes is its sugary white sand and clear, sparkling blue waters, which, beautiful as they may seem, do not encourage the development of aquatic life.



Lake Birrabeen

While better known, Lake McKenzie is often very crowded. A good alternative, equally distanced from Eurong and Central Station is Lake Birrabeen. Also a perched dune lake, Lake Birrabeen is great when you want to take a swim and avoid crowds of sunbathers in Lake McKenzie.



Lake Garawongera

Take the road past the house and follow the sign to Lake Garawongera. It is 7.7km to the lake and the drive takes about 30 minutes. It is another of the perched dune lake, but unlike Lake Mackenzie, it is lined with tea trees so has water the colour of tea. If you are up for a hike, there is a good walking track in (about 7km) that takes about 1.5 hours each way. This is part of the Great Walk, and leaves from just passed the house.



Yidney Scrub



While driving inland from Shearwater, take the time to visit Yidney scrub with its towering kauri and satinay trees, just 10km inland from the house.

Go inland for about 10 minutes and you will see the left hand fork takes you to Lake Garawongera and the right hand fork to Yidney Scrub. Unlike the inland tracks around Central Station, this road is less travelled, so you

will be able to pull up and enjoy the forest without worrying about a constant stream of traffic. A lot of the bigger trees in the centre of the scrub have plaques identifying their species.



Inside the shell of a Strangler Fig in the centre of the Yidney Scrub.

Kingfisher Bay Resort

From Eurong, drive inland past Central Station and follow the signs to Kingfisher Bay Resort on the South Western Coast of the island.

Kingfisher Bay Resort facilities include: Four swimming pools. Three restaurants. General store. Cafe. Gift shop. Petrol station. Massage and Beauty Centre.



Exploring the top end of the Island

Orchid Beach

From Middle Rocks, you take the inland track that takes about 20 minutes, cuts off Waddy Point, and brings you out at Orchid Beach. There is a shop, pub and petrol station at this township.

Wathumba Creek

From Orchid Beach follow the tracks to the western side of the Island to Wathumba Creek. It is a pristine Creek with white, white sand and blue, blue water on a clear day. There is often good fishing for whiting and flathead in the creek.



Sandy Cape

If the tides are favourable, and the beach is in good condition, a trip up to Sandy Cape is a wonderful experience. Speak to the locals before you attempt this trip, to ensure Ngala Rocks, between Orchid Beach and Sandy Cape, are passable.

If you do get to the top, you will be rewarded with endless sand dunes, lots of bird life, good fishing, and not many people.



To burn off some energy, a hike up to the Sandy Cape Light house is a memorable experience, with panoramic views of the top end.