



4 Day Fraser Island Escape 4wd Self-Drive Adventure

Located 3 hours drive north of Brisbane; Fraser Island is ideal for a short escape. The world's largest sand island mass, Fraser Is is uniquely designed for enjoying nature and getting away from it all. Rainforest walks, crystal-clear creeks leaching from the dunes, perched lakes and coloured sands are among the highlights of this world heritage listed area. Your 4-day trek takes in all the major highlights of this wonderful island and allows time to fish, swim, walk or just relax away from the hassles and pressures of the city. The Fraser Island experience is ideal for the family escape or a secluded holiday away.

Suggested Itinerary (Please note that the tides are very important to beach driving on Fraser Island and this itinerary may need adjustments for this factor)

Day 1 Brisbane to Central Station

Departing Brisbane from 4WD Hire Service depot at 72, Newmarket Rd Windsor, travel up the Gympie Road to join the Bruce Highway North. Purchase a Fraser Island map before departure. As you are coming into Gympie, a sign-posted turnoff to the right will take you through to Rainbow Beach. If you wish to camp at Dundubara, you will need to stop at Rainbow Beach Park Office and book in. After a stop for last-minute supplies, follow the signs to Inskip point and let your tyre pressure down to 35 PSI at the beginning of the sand, turn the hubs on the front wheels to 'lock' and engage High Range 4WD (4H). Take either ferry across to Hook Point. The costs fluctuate but are currently \$35 return (ensure you keep your ticket for the return journey.)

Leaving the ferry, travel along the beach to the right for a few hundred metres and take the inland track to the left. Follow signs to Dilli Village. The track is very rough and needs to be travelled slowly, avoiding the rough potholes if possible. If you are more than 2 hours before or after high tide, you can take any of tracks to the right and drive to the beach for a more comfortable ride. Refer to your map or other guides for hints on sand driving. At Dilli Beach, exit the beach and follow signs to Lake Boomanjin, the largest perched Dune Lake in the world. Stop in the car park and walk to the Lake for a delightful swim. Perhaps also take the Northern Lake walk. Departing Lake Boomanjin, the track takes you past more lakes. Stop at beautiful Lake Birrabeen, with its dazzling white sandy shores and have another dip before following signs to your

Overnight camp at Central Station. (Shower and toilet facilities) (373km (4 hours) driving to Inskip Point. 53km (2 & 1/2 hours) driving on Fraser Is, 3km (1 & 1/2 hours) walking.

Day 2 Central Station to Dundubara

Begin this morning with a delightful walk through the rainforest to Wanggoolba Creek and on to Pile Valley to marvel at the huge Satinay trees that survived the logging. Follow signs to Lake McKenzie (the red arrow route along the Central Lakes Tourist Drive) and walk to the beach, where you will be dazzled by the brilliant white sands and inviting water. Take the short walk to little McKenzie Beach to get away from the crowds.

From Lake McKenzie, continue following the red markers and on to the walk to Lake Wabby for a cooling dip and lunch. Return to the Tourist Drive and continue through to the beach down Cornwall's Break Road. Head left up the beach to Poyungan Valley and take the Lake Garrawongera Tourist drive to the left (yellow marker). Make a stop for a swim in this dark lake. Continue through Kauri Rainforest and back to the beach at Happy Valley. Head north up to your

Overnight camp at Dundubara. (Shower and toilet facilities) (82.5km (4 hours) driving), (6km (3 hours) walking.)

4 Day Fraser Island Escape

Day 3 Dundubara to Beach Camp

This morning you head north to Indian Head, clearly visible as you approach and one of the few genuine rocky sections of coastline. It also provides a more sheltered swimming beach. Continue north to Champaign pools and swim in its frothy bubbles. Continue to Orchid Beach for lunch before beginning your journey south.

Turn right off the beach at the Pinnacles and follow the Northern Forests Tourist Drive (Blue Markers). Detour to the Knifeblade Sandblow lookout with a walk through the fascinating Scribbly Gum to see the sand encroaching on the forest. You catch glimpses of Lake Allom through the forest. You pass the Boomerang Lakes, the highest dune lakes in the world before returning to the beach through a Kauri pine rainforest. Reaching the beach at Happy Valley, head north for about 3.5 km and find a site in the casuarinas near the beach to camp. Alternatively, make your way up to Cathedral Beach if you require facilities.

Overnight beach camp near Chard rocks. (No facilities) (106km (4 & 1/2 hours) driving, 1 hour walking)

Day 4 Beach Camp to Brisbane

Head north for a stop at the wreck of the Maheno and back to Eli Beach for a swim and the opportunity to swim and float in the fast-flowing creek. Continue south to Rainbow Gorge for a short walk through the multi-coloured sand-cliffs and retrace your tracks after Dilli Beach to Hook Point, where you rejoin the barge. Alighting at Inskip Point, disengage 4wd, turn the hubs to 'Free' and drive reasonably slowly to Rainbow beach to reinflate the tyres to 55 psi. Return to Gympie and on to Brisbane at the end of a relaxing Fraser Island Adventure. (76km (3 hours) driving Fraser Island, 1 & 1/2 hours (2.5km walking), 273 (3 & 1/2 hours) driving Inskip Point to Brisbane.)