



Wildlife Encounters in Queensland

Discover Queensland's native animals up close

Snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef

Walk on the wild side

Queensland is home to a phenomenal variety of wildlife. With an abundance of ecological environments from coral reefs to wetlands, rainforests and hinterlands and conservation parks, there's no shortage of opportunity to have a wildlife encounter of your own.

From the awe-inspiring wonder of a whale breaching from the depths of the ocean to the iconically Australian thrill of seeing koalas and kangaroos in their natural habitat, or snorkelling on the **Great Barrier Reef**, you'll find a nature experience in every corner of the map.

Make memories that will last a lifetime, encountering extraordinary animals like cassowaries, tree kangaroos, saltwater crocodiles, dingoes, turtles and other varieties of flourishing marine life, many of which can only be found in Queensland.



Lady Musgrave Experience

Encounter wildlife like never before

While some visitors are lucky enough to see our native **wildlife** in the wild, Queensland is also home to award-winning zoos, aquariums and wildlife sanctuaries where you're guaranteed to see iconic Australian animals.

FNQ Nature Tours

For James Boettcher, traversing the tropical landscapes of North Queensland is a labour of love, and joining his nature tours brings you face to face with jaw dropping landscapes and natural features beyond what a local can find. Lace up the hiking boots and let the FNQ Nature Tours team lead you through Wet Tropics of Queensland region in the hinterland of Cairns, where avid twitchers can spot rare and vibrant birds or take their night tour and let James's keen eye seek out nocturnal animals that are invisible during the day.



Daintree Rainforest, Cairns

Whale watching along the Fraser Coast

A whale-watching tour is the best way to enjoy a close encounter with Humpback whales in their natural environment. Migrating along the east coast of Australia from mid-July to early November, you'll have plenty of opportunity to see these majestic creatures frolic in the warm waters.

Tour with **Tasman Venture** and book their Remote Fraser Island and Whale Experience or Half Day Whale Watching Encounter tour aboard the luxurious catamaran with underwater viewing windows and a specifically designed viewing platform, taking you right to the water's edge.

Choose from **Pacific Whale Foundation's** environmentally friendly extended morning, afternoon and sunset whale tour and watch as the whales, breach and spy hop right beside the multi-functional boat.



Hervey Bay, Fraser Coast

See turtles hatching at Mon Repos Conservation Park

Transforming into a sanctuary for turtle hatchlings from November to March each year, Mon Repos Conservation Park witnesses one of nature's most awe-inspiring moments every year; mama turtles laying eggs on its beaches and baby hatchlings scrambling to the water after emerging from the warm sands. In fact, Mons Repos is home to the largest concentration of nesting marine turtles on the eastern Australian mainland.

Gain an in-depth understanding of the marine turtle's habits and habitats as well as the conservation and research programs that protect them with a visit to the Mon Repos Turtle Centre and book a night-time Turtle Encounter tour. The private night tours take place during the turtle nesting and hatching season from November to March guided by Park Rangers. Open to limited numbers of people, the experience offers up-close observation of these magnificent endangered marine turtles as the females lay their eggs and hatchlings dig free and scuttle down the beach.



Bundaberg

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Sunrise with the wallabies at Cape Hillsborough

Encounter some of Australia's most iconic animals, the eastern grey kangaroo and agile wallaby as they traverse the beach at sunrise feeding on mangrove seed pods washed up overnight. Located in Cape Hillsborough just 40 minutes' drive from Mackay, this free experience sets the stage for a magical sunrise moment experiencing nature at its finest with wild kangaroos and wallabies.

 Cape Hillsborough, Mackay

Explore the Great Barrier Reef

The World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system, stretching over 2,000 km (1242 mi) from the tip of Cape York in Queensland's far north, all the way to near Bundaberg. A mecca for sea life, the reef is home to tens of thousands of species of brilliantly coloured fish, coral and other marine life including whales, dolphins and turtles.

Dive into the crystal-clear waters of the reef and explore the natural ecosystems hosted by one of the many reef tours, with everything on offer from snorkel tours, glass bottom boats, sailing adventures, to sites for experienced divers.

Iconic species of the outer reef include sharks, stingrays, turtles, groupers and cod, maori wrasse and parrotfish aboard - commonly encountered on trips with **Lady Musgrave Experience Tours**.

Frankland Island Reef Cruise puts you right on a Great Barrier Reef tropical island for a guided or adventure snorkel tour. Swim with sea turtles and spot other marine life below, guided by experienced instructors.

Taking you to the outer edge of the Barrier Reef, **Quicksilver Cruises** allows you to dive, snorkel, or stay dry and explore the reef from their underwater observatory, or fly in a helicopter for a spectacular view over the reef.

Tour the Great Barrier Reef with **Dreamtime Dive and Snorkel** as Indigenous rangers recount the Dreamtime stories of the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji, Gunggandji, Mandingalbay and Yirrganydji people to help you gain a deeper cultural understanding of the diverse ecosystem.

 Bundaberg and Cairns

Stays on the Great Barrier Reef


Located on Lady Elliot Island at the southern tip of the Great Barrier Reef, a sanctuary for over 1,200 species of marine life, **Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort** provides a genuine ecotourism experience. Renowned for its abundance of manta rays, turtles, reef sharks, and an unspoilt coral reef, the Island which is regarded as one of the best snorkelling and diving destinations on the Reef, is only accessible by plane.

Also located in the Southern Great Barrier Reef region, **Heron Island Resort** is home to white sand and crystal-clear waters primed for swimming all year round. A true nature lover's paradise, the island is home to an abundance of marine life, native land animals, birds and nesting grounds for the green and loggerhead turtles with hatchlings emerging from December - April.

Further north in the Whitsundays region, **Cruise Whitsunday's Reefsleeper experience** offers a one-of-a-kind immersive experience in Queensland's wonder of the world. This experience begins with a scenic cruise from Airlie Beach through the Whitsundays to a specialised platform holding your accommodation for the night; Reefbeds. Spend your day snorkelling with all gear provided by Cruise Whitsundays, and sit back in the evening to spectacular dining under the stars, with beverages included. Then retire to your reef bed to gently rock with the commotion in the ocean beneath you.

Nature and nurture collide in the luxury **Lizard Island Resort**, found at the northern end of the Great Barrier Reef. Tucked within a national park and surrounded by private beaches, this Island haven offers an all-inclusive stay with food, drinks to dinghy, paddleboard and kayak, snorkelling gear, and picnic packages provided, allowing

you to focus entirely on relaxing, refreshing and immersing you in the underwater wonders around you.


 Lady Elliot Island, Bundaberg; Heron Island, Gladstone; Lizard Island, Cairns & Great Barrier Reef; Reefsleeper, Whitsundays

Accommodation with a wildlife focus

Nestled in the Gold Coast's World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park, **O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat** will have you learning about - and meeting - the native animals who call the national park home. Spot glow worms, meet the resident carpet python, sugar gliders and learn more about the predators of the sky at their Birds of Prey Show.

Broken River Mountain Resort is an ecotourism resort based in Eungella National Park, in the hinterland of the Mackay region. Spend time soaking in the peaceful nature of the tropical rainforest, known to be Australia's platypus capital.

Inspired by Steve Irwin's life, legacy and love of wild places, **The Crocodile Hunter Lodge** places guests in rustic cabins surrounded by beautiful bushland teeming with wildlife. Each booking is inclusive of free daily breakfast from the Warrior Restaurant, unlimited Australia Zoo entry, a sneak peek entry into the Wildlife Hospital and exclusive use of the lodge infinity pool, giving you time to relish your naturalistic setting and the beauty of Australia's flora and fauna during your stay.

 Canungra, Scenic Rim; Broken River, Mackay; Beerwah, Sunshine Coast



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Pacific Whale Foundation

Putting animal welfare at the forefront

Wildlife parks offer a wealth of benefits for both animals and visitors. Education programs help share knowledge and increase awareness about environmental impacts on animal welfare and conservation.

Many of the parks are also home to wildlife hospitals and run rehabilitation programs that play a pivotal role in effectively reintroducing animals back into their natural habitat, or ensuring species survival.


Queensland wildlife parks that are certified by the Zoo and Aquarium Association give visitors confidence that they operate to the highest standards, championing animal welfare and education. Parks certified by the Zoo and Aquarium Association include **Australia Zoo, Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, Hartley's Crocodile Adventures, David Fleay Wildlife Park, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas**.

Australia Zoo

Home of the iconic Crocodile Hunter, Steve Irwin, Australia Zoo provides the ultimate wildlife adventure with more than 1,200 animals, making it the most interactive conservation destination on the planet.

Visit exhibits of all your Aussie favourites - kangaroos, koalas, wombats, brolgas, echidnas and more - and meet the passionate conservationists working round the clock to deliver animal experiences like no other.

The Crocoseum is where you'll learn all about crocodiles. Spot saltwater crocs in the clear water ponds and stay for the jaw-snapping Wildlife Warriors Show, learning how they live, behave and interact in the wild.

 Beerwah, Sunshine Coast

Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

Home to more than 100 koalas and over 70 species of Australian wildlife, Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary is the world's first, and largest, koala sanctuary. Visit their line-up of daily shows from colourful wild lorikeet feeding to experiencing the power and agility of Australia's raptors: eagles, owls, kites and falcons at the Flight Raptor Show. Snap a photo beside a koala, snake, or patting a dingo and discover more about Australia's beloved native animals from the knowledgeable and experienced wildlife team at the croc, koala, and dingo talk.

Visit the friendly kangaroos and wallabies at the free feeding reserve, or head to the 360-degree crocodile viewing dome and come face to face with Australia's largest apex predator, the saltwater crocodile.

 Fig Tree Pocket, Brisbane


Hartley's Crocodile Adventures

Hartley's Crocodile Adventures is the largest wildlife attraction in Northern Australia and the best place to see crocodiles up close.

Cruise the lagoon, home to some of Hartley's crocs as experienced guides share insight into the feeding and habitat patterns of the crocodiles while they manoeuvre themselves out of the water, demonstrating their powerful physic as they 'jump' for food.

Expand your wildlife knowledge at one of the regular presentations like the Snake Show, Cassowary Feeding, Crocodile Feeding, Koala Talk and the spectacular Crocodile Attack Show.

Explore the rest of the park at your own pace along the pathways and boardwalks. Take to the Wildlife Discovery Trail, Gondwana Gateway and Cassowary Walk and spot some of the park's largest saltwater crocs along the way.

 Wangetti, Port Douglas

David Fleay Wildlife Park

David Fleay Wildlife Park may be small but it plays a mighty role in demonstrating conservation initiatives. Nestled in the heart of Burleigh Heads, the wildlife park is home to a variety of natural habitats from rainforest to bushland, providing a sanctuary for some of Australia's most iconic wildlife, including threatened species.

Fleay's is the only wildlife park where visitors can see the shy bridled nail-tail wallaby, thought to be extinct for over 30 years. Fleay was also the first to breed platypus in captivity and played a pivotal role in caring for birds and wildlife in conditions that reflect their natural environment.

Explore the park at your own pace, visit the nocturnal house and meet crocodiles, koalas, emus, brolgas, dingoes, dunnarts, bilbies and kangaroos, along with the resident platypus, Wally, or catch up with the dedicated park rangers to learn more about how they care for the park's wildlife.

 Burleigh Heads, Gold Coast

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

Get up close and personal with Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary's native and exotic wildlife, situated on 27 hectares (67 acres) of Currumbin rainforest.

Currumbin Wildlife Hospital is one of the busiest wildlife hospitals in the world, with a mission to treat, rehabilitate and release Australian wildlife. Learn about the medical care each animal receives with a private tour or join in on the daily Wildlife Hospital Presentation and chat with vets and nurses from the hospital deck.

Visit Lost Valley and explore a forgotten world, home to animal species like lemurs, cotton-top tamarins, red pandas, capybaras, free-flying

birds and exotic reptiles. Head to one of the awesome shows for lorikeet feeding, meet some of Australia's incredible bird species at the Wildskies Show and immerse yourself through the echoing sounds of clapsticks and Aboriginal dance at the Aboriginal Cultural Show.

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is a not-for-profit organisation and reinvests all proceeds back into wildlife and conservation programs.


 Currumbin, Gold Coast

Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife Habitat is an advanced ECO-certified wildlife sanctuary offering the opportunity to interact with native Australian animals in their natural habitats. Explore five spacious environments, including wetlands, rainforest, savannah, nocturnal and woodlands each providing immersive experiences and activities for all ages.

Hand-feed wallabies and kangaroos, catch a glimpse of the legendary southern cassowary and Lumholtz's tree kangaroo while spotting over 75 species of bird including the endangered southern cassowary, the black necked stork and cockatoos.

For the ultimate adrenaline rush, dive into the aquatic territory with two of the mightiest Estuarine Crocodiles at Wildlife Habitat's CrocArena. The Swim With The Salties experience will have you swimming right next to apex predators (behind a glass divider) giving you a full appreciation of their size and power.

 Port Douglas, Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef

Cairns Aquarium

Home to more than 16,000 aquatic animals, Cairns Aquarium is the only aquarium in the world to exclusively showcase aquatic wildlife from Tropical North Queensland's two World Heritage-listed areas; the **Great Barrier Reef** and the **Wet Tropics Rainforest**. Featuring marine life from nine key ecosystems, across 11 zones from the world's most ancient rainforest to the world's largest coral reef, discover more about the region's extremely rare, endangered and intriguing species.

Spot an abundance of species in the Deep Reef Tank, 360-degree Oceanarium, 20-meter (66 ft) underwater tunnel, mangrove boardwalk, and Australia's largest freshwater exhibit.

 Cairns

Queensland
AUSTRALIA




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Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

Did you know?

 **Queensland is a turtle haven** with six of the world's seven species are local residents. Leatherback, green turtle, loggerhead turtle, hawksbill turtle, flatback turtle and Olive Ridley turtle are all regular visitors to our shores.

 There is **incredible native wildlife** that you can find in Queensland including cassowaries, tree kangaroos, koalas, platypus, bilbies, crocodiles and dingoes

 You can **dive or snorkel the Great Barrier Reef** to spot the 'Great Eight' - clownfish, giant clams, manta rays, maori wrasse, potato cod, sharks, turtles and whales.

Getting here

-  Lizard Island: private charter via Cairns Airport.
-  Cairns & Great Barrier Reef: Cairns Airport services the region
-  The Whitsundays: Whitsunday Coast Airport and Hamilton Island Airport service the region
-  Reefsloop: cruises depart the Port of Airlie
-  Mackay: Mackay Airport services the region
-  Heron Island: boat or helicopter transfer via Gladstone Airport
-  Gladstone: Gladstone Airport services the region
-  Bundaberg: Bundaberg Regional Airport services the region or take the Tilt Train from Brisbane to Bundaberg via Rockhampton
-  Fraser Coast: Hervey Bay Airport services the region
-  Lady Elliot Island: planes depart from Brisbane, Hervey Bay and Bundaberg Airport direct to the island
-  Sunshine Coast: one-and-a-half-hour drive north from Brisbane. Sunshine Coast Airport and Brisbane Airport service the region
-  Brisbane: Brisbane Airport services the region
-  Gold Coast: one hour drive south from Brisbane. Gold Coast Airport and Brisbane Airport service the region
-  Scenic Rim: one hour drive from Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Brisbane Airport and Gold Coast Airport service the region



For further resources including other factsheets please visit:
teq.queensland.com/au/en/trade/trade-tools-and-resources/sales-tools



The Crocodile Hunter Lodge at Australia Zoo

