

With everything from theme parks, kids clubs, nature-based activities and the Great Barrier Reef, travelling with kids in Queensland is easy. From the blue waters of the coast to the red dirt of the Outback there are plenty of child-friendly activities to keep kids of every age amused. The only hard part is choosing where to go first!

Cairns and the Tropics

Four legs or four wheels?

Let the kids explore the lush bush and rainforest of Tropical North Queensland on the back of a horse or onboard an all-terrain vehicle (quad bike). If they can't decide which to use, Blazing Saddles at Kuranda, 35 minutes' west of Cairns, offers a full day tour which includes both activities. Blazing Saddle's fun activities are suitable for children 12 years and up. www.blazingsaddles.com.au/index.html

Get involved in indigenous culture at Tjapukai

Learn to throw a boomerang, play the didgeridoo and collect bush tucker at the Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park (located 15 minutes' drive north of Cairns). See the ancient culture and customs of indigenous Australians expressed through performances of song, dance and interactive activities. Whether you experience Tjapukai by day or by night, this is sure to be an experience the kids won't forget! www.tjapukai.com.au

Rage through the white water

Splish and splash through the gorges of the Barron River on an adventurous half day white water rafting tour. Raging Thunder Adventures operates white water rafting tours on the Barron River, 20 minutes from Cairns. Raging Thunder has the perfect spot for beginners and children to learn to white water raft (minimum age 12). www.rajingthunder.com.au

Discover a rainforest canopy

View the World Heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest from the 23 metre (76 foot) Canopy Tower and spectacular Aerial Walkway at the Daintree Discovery Centre. With five viewing platforms that look out through the rainforest canopy, the eco-accredited Daintree Discovery Centre also offers boardwalk tours including the Bush Tucker Trail and Cassowary Circuit. www.daintree-rec.com.au

Reef HQ

Experience the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef without getting your feet wet, at the world's largest living coral reef aquarium. Situated in the tropical city of Townsville, Reef HQ's coral reef exhibit is home to 130 coral species, 120 fish species, and hundreds of species of sea stars, sea-urchins, sea-cucumbers, brittle stars, feather stars snails, worms, sponges and many more. Take a guided tour, talk to divers while they're underwater in the predators dive show and don't miss the fascinating daily feeding exhibits! www.reefhq.com.au

Bird's eye view

Get a bird's eye view of the World Heritage-listed Daintree rainforest onboard a Kuranda Skyrail rainforest gondola. The Kuranda Skyrail spans 7.5km and allows you to explore and learn about the wonders of this ancient tropical rainforest. www.skyrail.com.au

Novotel Rockford Palm Cove

Children from five to 12 years can have fun at the Novotel's Dolfi kid club, while parents enjoy nearby luxurious Palm Cove. Activities such as snorkelling, swimming and even day trips to the nearby wildlife parks and aquariums will have kids thoroughly entertained! Children from six weeks to five years are catered for in the Novotel Day Care Centre which includes sand and water activities. www.novotel-pcr.com.au/kidsclub.html

Crocs close up

Watch crocodiles jump metres into the air at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures daily Crocodile Attack Shows. Located just north of Cairns, you can see crocodiles up close at the Help the keepers feed turtles, fish and waterbirds, watch the endangered cassowary being fed, or enjoy the live snake or koala feeding shows. www.crocodileadventures.com

Family life on The Strand

Townsville's fantastic beachfront promenade, The Strand offers everything you need for a great family day out. A great jetty for fishing, bike paths and walkways, restaurants, cafes, a series of headlands, a free kid's water park, picnic areas and swimming pools and enclosures. www.townsvilleholidays.info

Cultural Camp opens near Tully

Experience life in the great outdoors through the eyes of a local indigenous community at the new Echo Adventure and Cultural Camp, situated a two hour drive south-west of Cairns. The eco-friendly property offers a range of indigenous, cultural and adventure experiences including bird watching, swimming, canoeing trips, river walks, abseiling, rafting and ropes courses for the whole family. www.echoadventure.com.au

Gold Coast

Paradise Resort on the Gold Coast

Heaven for kids and a paradise for parents – that is the claim of Paradise Resort on the Gold Coast. With its million dollar themed Z4K (Zone 4 Kids) crèche, tropical pools, restaurants and bar, the whole family will find their perfect holiday haven. Catering for children aged 6 weeks to 12 year olds, Z4K is a mini fun park featuring seven themed areas such as Tiny Town with pedal powered cars and working traffic lights, Under Water World with submarines and slides, and Magic Garden with a colourful ball pit. www.paradiseresort.com.au

Sea World Resort & Water Park

Stay at Australia's only water park resort at Sea World Resort on the Gold Coast. Linked to Sea World theme park; Sea World Resort & Water Park is a huge favourite with families, with its full-size water slides, three lagoon pools plus direct monorail access to Sea World. Spend your days enjoying the rides, entertainment and animals of the theme park and spend the night at the beautiful Sea World Resort on the Broadwater. A kids club runs nightly at the resort from 5.30pm to 9pm for children aged four to 12 years. www.seaworldresort.myfun.com.au

Kids are amazed at Breakfree Paradise Island

Lose the kids in the giant outdoor maze at Breakfree Paradise Island on the Gold Coast. With a kids club that operates all year round for children aged five to 12, supervised activities also include tennis, swimming, face painting and art and crafts. www.breakfree.com.au/accommodation/resorts/paradise-island/kids-club

Catch a Crab cruise

Cruise along the Gold Coast's Tweed River and trap live mud crabs along the way! Throw in a fishing line and learn the skills of yabby pumping (if the tides are right), hand feed the friendly wild pelicans or buy some fresh oysters. Enjoy the outdoors as a family and if you have the time stay for a succulent seafood lunch. www.catchacrab.com.au

Couran Cove Resort

Children can spend a day at the beach on South Stradbroke Island, building a sandcastle, learning to surf and hunting for pipi's (shellfish). The Kids Club at Couran Cove Resort offers 28 different activities to keep children between the ages of three and 12 amused.

www.couran.com/services

Echidna Club meets at Binna Burra Mountain Lodge

In the natural surrounds of the World Heritage-listed Gold Coast Hinterland, Binna Burra Mountain Lodge offers the kids only 'Echidna Club' (educating children and developing nature awareness). Through rainforest adventures, archery, bushwalks and the Discovery Forest, kids learn all about the forces of nature through play.

www.binnaburralodge.com.au/staying/kidsclub.php

A world where dreams come true

Enjoy a fun day out for the whole family at Dreamworld theme park on the Gold Coast. The little ones can ride in the Big Red Car or set sail on the SS Feathersword in Wiggles World, while older adrenalin addicts can test out the big six thrill rides - The Claw, Tower of Terror, Giant Drop, the Wipeout and the brand new Mike Doohan's Motorcoaster. The whole family can watch the crazy antics of the white and gold Bengal tigers as they swim, wrestle and play on Tiger Island, while the kids will also love the Australian Wildlife experience at Dreamworld.

www.dreamworld.com.au

Get wet at WhiteWater World

Located right next door to Dreamworld, WhiteWater World mixes adrenaline pumping thrill rides with family style fun in the ultimate, Aussie beach paradise. For extreme thrills, WhiteWater World boasts all four of the hottest waterslides on the planet including one of only two LIM powered rocket coasters and the only eight-lane Octopus Racer in existence. Kids can run riot in Nickelodeon's Pipeline Plunge while wiggly fans splash and play at Wiggle Bay. www.whitewaterworld.com.au

The world below the sea

Let your little monsters swim with the monsters of the deep at one of Sea World's many animal encounters. Here you can swim with the sharks or some playful dolphins, or even get a kiss from a resident seal! Be sure to stop in at the Polar Bear encounter, Ray Reef, Shark Bay and Penguin Point, before sitting back and watching the incredible Waterski WipeOut performance, or the new dolphin show *imagine*. Children will also love the Sesame Street attraction at Sea World which features a host of rides, shows and attractions to entertain the young and old alike. www.seaworld.com.au

Movie World

Visiting Warner Bros. Movie World on the Gold Coast is like walking onto to the set of Hollywood movie. This backstage pass to the world of movies also includes rides, behind the scenes action, comedy stunts and shows. Hollywood Stunt Driver is the latest show on set with an incredible performance of breathtaking stunts and precision driving within a purpose-built arena. Kids of all ages will love the fun and fantasy of the Kids' WB! Fun Zone while thrills seekers are also well catered for with some exhilarating rides on offer. www.movieworld.com.au

Go wild and get wet

Find yourself in the eye of the storm on Wet 'n' Wild's latest waterslide, the Tornado. From tandem waterslides to the Supa 8 Aqua Racer, the whole family will love a day out at this theme park favourite. Wet 'n' Wild has more than 15 water rides and pools - kids can either enjoy the thrills of the Extreme H2O Zone or the calmer waters of Buccaneer Bay. And why not turn a day out at Wet 'n' Wild into a night out at the movies watching the latest-release movies while floating on a tube on the Giant Wave Pool? www.wetnwild.com.au

Australian Outback Spectacular

Travel to the heart of Queensland's outback without leaving the Gold Coast at the Australian Outback Spectacular dinner show, which takes you through the lives and skills of Australian Outback stockmen and women. The cast of talented performers is often outshone by the 31 horses, 10 Longhorn and 20 Santa Gertrudis cattle, 2 camels, 50 sheep, two dogs and various chickens who also star in the performance. Dinner is a mouth-watering array of Aussie food served during the show and a children's menu is also available. www.outbackspectacular.com.au

Currumbin Sanctuary adds more nature fun

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary has opened a range of new 'green' attractions within the popular nature park including Extreme Green Challenge, an exciting treetops ropes course; the Green Cauldron Experience, an interactive display of the area's land and wildlife; and the Green Guardian Theatre which screens wildlife documentaries. Kids of all ages love getting up close and personal with some of Australia's most beautiful animals by day or night within the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. www.cws.org.au

Soar high above the Gold Coast

Experience a bird's eye view of the Surfers Paradise high rises and hinterland mountains and rainforests, with a new sunrise hot air ballooning tour. Established operator Hot Air has begun flights on the Gold Coast, floating daily for passengers to enjoy spectacular views of the Scenic Rim. Thirty minute or one hour flights are available. www.hotair.com.au/goldcoast

A birds' eye view of the Gold Coast from Q1

Enjoy 360 degree views of the Gold Coast from the 77th level of the world's tallest residential tower, Q1. The express lifts help you to climb the 230 metres to the Skypoint Observation Deck where you can peer out through the high powered binoculars. People have been known to spot sharks, dolphins and migrating whales in the waters of the ocean below. www.q1observationdeck.com.au

Country life on Lillydale

Enjoy old-fashioned country hospitality at the Lillydale host farm, where you can join in the activities on a real cattle farm located near southern Queensland's beautiful border ranges. Children can enjoy some special activities including feeding the chickens, collecting the eggs, feeding the baby animals, wildlife spotting at night and water sports. Explore the countryside on horseback or on a tractor ride at Lillydale host farm. www.lillydale.com.au

Great Barrier Reef

School's in on the reef

If only school was like this every day! Learn the secrets of why live fish and coral change colours and much more during this incredible nature lesson for everyone. Reef Teach aims to provide youngsters with information to increase their reef experience and to understand how best to care for this precious resource. This is the ultimate preparation for a visit to the Great Barrier Reef. Reef Teach takes place in Cairns each evening from Monday through to Sunday. www.reefteach.com.au

Kids catered for on the reef

Don't let the little ones miss out on the fantastic experience of the Great Barrier Reef. With Sunlover Reef Cruises small children are catered for with their own kid's pool for swimming and snorkelling. For those a little older, the Seawalker helmet dive allows them to experience the magical underwater world of the Great Barrier Reef without needing any diving experience. Minimum age for scuba diving is 12 years old. Other activities that are fantastic for the kids to let them see it all without even getting wet are the complimentary glass bottom and semi-submersible coral viewing vessels, an underwater viewing theatre, marine life touch tank. www.sunlover.com.au

Islands of the Great Barrier Reef

Green Island

Green Island is a coral cay island great for families - the vessels, pontoons and island are pram friendly. There are wooden boardwalks that take you through the middle of the island through the rainforest and everyone can enjoy activities such as canoeing, surfskiing and windsurfing or relaxing under an umbrella on the beach. Optional activities include Marineland Melanesia, a Crocodile and marine life habit, along with a small museum. There is also an underwater observatory at the very end of the jetty where they can see Nemo (the famous clown fish), you can take a glass bottom boat ride, or feed the fish at the end of the day. www.greenislandresort.com.au

Ranger program on Dunk Island

Calling all young nature enthusiasts, the Dunk Island Kids Club Ranger Programs caters for children aged three to 12 years. Spend the day hunting for treasure, taking a rainforest discovery walk, spotting turtles in the wild and visiting Dunk Island's own farm. With so much to keep the kids entertained parents can simply relax and enjoy the seclusion of this scenic, tropical island. www.dunk-island.com

Hinchinbrook Island

Located off the north Queensland coast, Hinchinbrook Island is an ideal family escape. Here you can explore the waterways of the world's largest National Park Island by day and sleep in a giant tree house by night. Hinchinbrook Island Resort not only offers tree house accommodation but also supplies canoes and kayaks. www.hinchinbrookresort.com.au

The magic of Magnetic Island

If 23 picturesque beaches and bays aren't enough to keep the kids amused, what about handfeeding rock wallabies or spotting koalas in the wild? Magnetic Island off the Queensland coastal city of Townsville is a great place for a family holiday and offers a range of accommodation from budget to five-star. www.magnetic-island.com.au

Kids stay, eat and play for free!

Take the kids to a tropical island without blowing the budget at Hamilton Island in the Whitsundays. Children aged from zero to 14 years stay for free when sharing a room with parents and also eat for free when dining with parents at one of the island's numerous restaurants. The Clownfish Kids Club caters for children aged from six weeks to 14 years with arts and crafts activities, beachcombing, snorkeling, fishing, mini golf and pool games. www.hamiltonisland.com.au

An island daydream

Kids can get an up close look at the reef without getting wet thanks to the man-made outdoor aquarium on Daydream Island. This stunning network of reef lagoons contains more than 40 fish species, including lots of Nemo's - the clownfish and 50 varieties of coral. If you can drag the kids away from the water there are plenty of other activities to enjoy - scavenger hunts, mini pool Olympics, coconut bowling, fish feeding and even an open air movie cinema. www.daydreamisland.com

Free kids activities on Long Island

When peace and quiet is what parents desire the experienced Kids Club staff on Long Island are at hand to entertain with plenty of great activities for the children. Children will enjoy an array of supervised activities ranging from a treasure hunt, arts and crafts, face painting, fish/bird feeding and more. The professional qualified Kids Club staff care for children from four to 14 years of age all year round free of charge. Everyone is given the chance to enjoy the natural beauty of Long Island at the Club Crocodile Long Island Resort. www.oceanhotels.com.au/longisland

Circus skills on Lindeman Island

Send the kids off to the circus at the Lindeman Island Club Med resort. Fly through the air on the trapeze, learn to juggle and for the child in every adult – you can join the circus too. Lindeman Island Club Med has kid clubs for every age including Baby Welcome (up to 23 months), Petit (two - three years), Mini (four – 10 years) and Juniors (11 - 17 years). www.clubmed.com.au/lindeman/family.php

Become a Junior Ranger at Heron Island

From reef walks, bird-watching and beachcombing to paper making and tree planting, the Junior Rangers Program on Heron Island offers a number of nature based activities for its young visitors. Children aged seven to 12 can join in the fun and discovery of Heron's Junior Ranger Program, which operates during Australian eastern seaboard school holidays (or through prior arrangement outside of this period). The range of interesting and educational experiences are designed to help children nurture a sense of exploration and caring for the environment. www.heronisland.com

Turtle spotting on the Southern Great Barrier Reef

Challenge the kids to try to keep count of the turtles you spot on the day trip at Lady Musgrave Island in Southern Great Barrier Reef. Swim next to the turtles while snorkelling or spot them from the underwater observatory. Other activities at Lady Musgrave Island include fish feeding, tours of the island and reef fishing. 1770 Great Barrier Reef Cruises operate day trips to the coral lagoon that surrounds Lady Musgrave Island. www.spiritof1770.com.au

Snorkel the Great Barrier Reef

Walk straight off the beach and snorkel the Southern Great Barrier Reef in the protected waters of the Lady Elliot Island lagoon. On low tide grab a hat and a pair of reef shoes (supplied by Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort) for a guided educational reefwalk. Operating during the Eastern Seaboard holidays junior Reef Rangers Club will entertain youngsters with a range of planned activities. Get involved in a great variety of exciting escapades, from designing and creating costumes for the themed dinners, to making cool mementoes to take home. We also go out and about and discover exactly what's what on the island. www.ladyelliott.com.au

Sunshine Coast

Warrior coach charges into Noosa

Grab the kids and jump onto the Warrior to discover Fraser Island's stunning freshwater lakes, towering forests and break-taking beaches. All tours are headed by a team of highly experienced driver guides with resumes in eco touring and an extensive knowledge of Fraser Island. Freshly prepared catering from the kitchen of Sheraton Noosa Resort & Spa is offered throughout the daily tours which depart from Noosa. www.thediscoverygroup.com.au

The Valley Rattler

All aboard the Valley Rattler! Step back in time on an historic steam train tour through the scenic landscapes of the Sunshine Coast. Beginning at the Gympie Railway Station built in 1913, the train travels past commercial dairies, livestock enterprises and farms. The Valley Rattler stops along the way at fully-restored original stations where good old fashioned country hospitality can be enjoyed. There are also themed train tours available such as the Wizard's Express, Christmas in July, Wild Wild West tours and the Pirates of the Valley. www.thevalleyrattler.com.au

Something new to sea

Take a journey to another world at UnderWater World, Queensland's largest Oceanarium and aquarium with over 25,000 sea creatures! Sharks, rays, seals and otters are just some of the animals that you can get up close and personal with. Ever wondered what it would be like to be kissed by a wet, playful seal? Why not grab a kiss from one of these furry friends at UnderWater World's Seal Cove. For the ultimate adrenalin rush, try diving with the sharks, giant rays and tropical fish in UnderWater World's 2.5 million litre Oceanarium. www.underwaterworld.com.au

It's cool to stay at Coolum

Why should adults have all the fun? Camp Hyatt at the Hyatt Regency Coolum Resort provides activities for kids aged six weeks to 12 years. Enjoy a massage or a round of golf at the resort's PGA Championship Golf Course while the kids enjoy arts and crafts, music, story-telling, kite-flying, archery, swimming, beach activities, adventure playground activities, canoeing, theme days and more. www.coolum.regency.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/

Australia Zoo, Crikey Mate!

No family holiday to the Sunshine Coast is complete without a visit to Australia Zoo, home of the late Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin. Check out the amazing Tiger Temple, feed a kangaroo or enjoy daily animal and entertainment shows in the Crocoseum. Get up close and personal with some of the Australia's native animals. From tiny piglets to massive Asian elephants there are loads of opportunities to feed the animals. An Australia Zoo Safari Tour is a great way to get a unique and in-depth understanding of the history of Australia Zoo, how it operates, and of course most importantly, the beautiful and fascinating wildlife. www.australiazoo.com.au

Set sail with Kayak Noosa

The Kayak Noosa dolphin adventure is an excellent way to see the local Bottlenose Dolphin while cruising the protected bays of Noosa National Park. Sit back and enjoy the beautiful scenery and enjoy an amazing new sailing system, where with a simple flick of a cord the sail is up and away you go, taking advantage of the cooling sea breezes. This adventure is for teenagers and adults. www.kayaknoosa.com

Surfing Safari

Every Australian has tried to surf at some time. A great activity to enjoy with the kids as everyone learns to conquer the balancing act between wave and surf board in the ideal surfing conditions of the Sunshine Coast. There's heaps of fun to be had learning a skill that leaves you feeling like you're walking on water. www.surfingqueensland.com

Sunshine Coast bush tucker cruise

Experience the flavours of indigenous bush tucker cuisine while cruising down the Maroochy River. The traditional custodians of the Maroochy River - the Gubbi Gubbi people - will entertain you with traditional dances and the mystical sounds of the didgeridoo's dreamtime song. The family will feast on bush tucker including crocodile meat, emu kabanos and bunya nuts, while guides explain the area's rich indigenous history and demonstrate the art of boomerang throwing. www.cruisemaroochyeco.com.au

Coloured Sands on Noosa Foreshore

With more than 72 different shades, the Sunshine Coast's coloured sands are a natural phenomenon. Cruise past with Cooloola Safari's, in a 4WD between the sands and the rolling surf, or take a walk among the columns of red and ochre thought to have formed during the last Ice age and rich with Aboriginal legend. www.cooloolasafaris.com.au

Animals galore on this farm

This working cattle farm is full of animals that children can get up close too. The cows, goats, sheep, ducks, chickens and geese will provide hours of entertainment. Or what about pony rides, whip-cracking, boomerang throwing and animal feeding to keep everyone occupied? The Animal Farm in the Sunshine Coast hinterland has 12 cabins and three motel units all with verandahs and spectacular views. www.theanimalfarm.com.au

Brisbane

Family fun on the Story Bridge

One of only three bridge climbs in the world, Story Bridge Adventure Climb is open to anyone over the age of 10. Look out at the 360 degree views of Brisbane, the river, the mountain ranges, and beautiful Moreton Bay islands, while six lanes of traffic whiz below your feet. www.sbac.net.au

Cruise the city on a cat

See the city of Brisbane onboard a twin hulled catamaran. The Brisbane CityCats and ferries are a great mode of transport to see some of Brisbane icon sights. Get an outside seat on the deck and watch on with the wind in your hair. www.translink.com.au/qt/translin.nsf/index/ferry_timetables

Fly a Kite at Redcliffe

Get outdoors and into the fresh air of the Redcliffe Peninsular – the perfect spot to fly a kite. Pick a spot on Suttons Beach or nearby Pelican Park and have a go or just sit back and watch the beautiful, colourful kites dance in the breeze. www.redcliffekiteclub.org.au

Eat an ice-cream at the Mt Coot-tha lookout

Take in the panoramic views of Brisbane through the telescopes and point out some of city's famous landmarks from the Mt Coot-tha lookout. The perfect spot for an ice-cream or treat at the Kuta Café; time your visit for night and see the fairyland of glittering lights that is Brisbane city. www.brisbanelookout.com

A beach in the city centre

Nestled within the towering city high rises, a beautiful white sand beach and crystal clear lagoon awaits at Southbank. Build sand castles on the shoreline and take a dip in Australia's only inner-city beach. While at Southbank the kids can also play on the three separate playgrounds or enjoy time spent in the parklands. www.south-bank.net.au

Enjoy life on the Brisbane river

Riverlife, located in the heart of Brisbane, offers youngsters aged eight and over (and their parents if they choose) a selection of great activities to experience on and around the river. Have fun with hired roller blades, mountain bikes and kick bikes, or join one of the many instructed sessions in kayaking, rock climbing, abseiling and pumpabiking. www.riverlife.com.au

Go to GoMA and the Queensland Art Gallery

The Queensland Art Gallery's and the Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) exhibitions and programs for children are nationally renowned and encourage children to see the state art collection as a fun and enlightening part of their lives. Ongoing programs held in both galleries include exhibitions, artist-run workshops, publications, festivals, performances and specially designed interactive tour. www.qag.qld.gov.au

Feed wild dolphins at Tangalooma

Tangalooma Island Resort on Moreton Island is one of the few places in the world where you can hand feed wild dolphins. Close to Brisbane, it's a great place to make the most of diving, snorkelling, 4WD'ing, sand tobogganing and dozens of other island activities. www.tangalooma.com

Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

This long-time favourite is the world's first and largest koala sanctuary. As well as being home to more than 130 koalas, Lone Pine has an incredible collection of other Australian wildlife in natural surroundings. Children can also enjoy the Aussie sheep dog show. To make the day complete visit the sanctuary on a boat cruise up the Brisbane River. www.koala.net

And everywhere in between

New Outback farmstay in dinosaur country

"Windermere", the most recent addition to Queensland's growing collection of station-stays has the world famous Lark Quarry and beautiful Bladensburg National Park as close neighbours. Guests at the 30,000 acre working cattle station stay in the shearer's quarters of they can pull up in their motorhomes or caravans or pitch a tent. Guided property tours are also available. Windermere offers a family friendly environment, there are plenty of animals to feed, wildlife to spot and a Stockman's Museum has been set up in the original quarters. www.outbackholidays.info

Dig for Dinosaurs in Queensland's Outback

Journey back over 100 million years and discover Australia's largest and most unusual prehistoric locals. Get up close to ancient remains of dinosaurs, the kids can get hands on and dig with a palaeontologist while discovering the rich heritage of Australia's ancient inland seas. Why not visit Lark Quarry which has currently the only recorded dinosaur stampede on earth. A record of the drinking dinosaurs stampede is cast in more than 3,300 fossilised footprints. www.driveqld.com.au/qldhols/drive_queensland/destinations/outback.cfm

Watching the whales

Queensland's warm waters draw thousands of massive humpback whales on their annual migration from Antarctica. Measuring around 12 to 16 metres in length and weighing up to 40 tonnes, these mammoth mammals put on a spectacular show for the dozens of whale watch tours available along the Queensland coast. www.whalewatching.com.au

Junior Rangers needed on Fraser Island

Sign up for the kids club activities at Kingfisher Bay Resort Fraser Island and become a Junior Ranger. Specially trained rangers take junior eco rangers out to discover the delights of the World Heritage-listed Fraser Island. Set off for bush and beach walks, build sand sculptures, join in on Eco games, spend time stargazing around a campfire and enjoy wildlife spotting at night. www.kingfisherbay.com

Life on the land at historic farmstay

Experience everyday life on a working cattle station at Glassford Creek Farmstay - a 4,000 acre property in Central Queensland. A great place for the kids to get hands on experience with horse riding, milking the cows, feeding the horses and exploring the farm by 4WD, Glassford Creek offers a taste of life in the Outback with genuine country hospitality. www.glassfordcreekfarmstay.com.au

See the platypus in the wild

Spot a platypus playing in the creeks of Eungella National Park in the hinterland of Mackay, on the coast of Queensland. Arguably one of Australia's best locations to spot the duckbilled platypus in the wild, sunset is the best time to see the platypi play and splash about against the rainforest backdrop. www.epa.qld.gov.au/projects/park/index.cgi?parkid=95

Rydges Capricorn Resort

Famous for its two world class golf courses, Rydges Capricorn Resort also caters for children with a nine hole mini golf course, waterslides, wetland eco tours, and rainforest canoe adventure. Horse riding is also available - guide your friendly horse through the coastal dunes and down on to the endless beach, taking in spectacular views of the Keppel Island group. Rydges Capricorn Resort is located on the central Queensland coast near the town of Rockhampton. www.rydges.com/hotel/0/ROCAPR/Rydges-Capricorn-Resort-Yeppoon.htm

Turtles hatching at Mon Repos

Every year like clockwork from November to March, the small beach at Mon Repos near Bundaberg in Central Queensland is transformed into a make-shift turtle maternity ward. See the natural miracle of these endangered animals nesting and hatching on the beach on a guided tour from the visitors centre with a Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Ranger. www.bundabergregion.info

Ride the LARC

Journey across the pristine waterways and deserted beaches of Town of 1770 and Agnes Water aboard the bright pink amphibious LARC vehicle. This all terrain vehicle takes you on a guided tour of the local Central Queensland landscape which even includes a dip in the water and is a unique and family friend way to tour the region. Full day and sunset tours are available. www.1770lacrtours.com.au

Maryborough's Mary Poppins madness

Mary Poppins' fans should grab their umbrellas and head to Maryborough on Queensland's Fraser Coast every July for the town's annual celebration of the famous, fictional nanny. Mary Poppin's author, P.L. Travers, was born in Maryborough in 1899. The week long celebration includes a market day and sing-a-long movie night, with the highlight the Mary Poppins Festival in the Park. Richmond and Wharf Streets are transformed into Cherry Tree Lane while Mary Poppins, Mr Banks, the Bird Lady and the Chimney Sweep come to life for the day. Have a giggle at the Great Mary Poppins Nanny Challenge where competitors race dressed in traditional nanny costume, pushing a traditional pram complete with 'traditional' baby. www.visitmaryborough.info