

# Queensland Adventures Fact Sheet

March 2011

*Queensland's stunning natural environment is custom-made for adventure. There are hundreds of activities to choose from, whether you would like to learn to surf, take to the skies in a hot air balloon or experience the thrills of white water rafting. Here are some options to get your heart racing....*

## **Adventures by land...**

Fossils and the "gorges" Outback Hidden from the rest of the world by the Constance Range and a hot ocean of bleached grass, the red sandstone walls and splash of tropical greenery at Lawn Hill Gorge seem outrageously extravagant. Four wheel drive the dirt roads to explore the many wonders of this unique and magnificent national park. Swim in the calm green waters of the gorge, hire a canoe and go fishing, or take one of the many walks. Stay at Adels Grove, an oasis next to Lawn Hill National Park and 50km from the World Heritage-listed Riversleigh Fossil Fields. [www.savannah-guides.com.au](http://www.savannah-guides.com.au)

### **Explore Carnarvon Gorge**

Hidden in the rugged ranges of Queensland's central highlands, Carnarvon Gorge features towering sandstone cliffs, vibrantly coloured side gorges, diverse flora and fauna and Aboriginal rock art. Walk the many trails of wonders, have a picnic among towering eucalypts and cabbage palms, or have a swim at the rock pool. [www.epa.qld.gov.au](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au)

### **On the dinosaur trail**

One hundred million years ago, parts of the Queensland Outback lay under ancient inland seas alive with marine reptiles, while prehistoric creatures roamed the land. Now you can follow Australia's Dinosaur Trail linking Winton, Hughenden and Richmond where some of the world's most amazing fossils are still being found. Discover fascinating displays and fossil collections - including some of the best-preserved fossils in Australia and visit the site of the worlds only preserved dinosaur stampede. There's plenty of hands-on fossil fun - you can dig up the past at a designated public fossicking site, or join a tour on an organised fossil dig. [www.australiasdinosaurtrail.com.au](http://www.australiasdinosaurtrail.com.au)

### **Pack your hiking boots**

With the pace of life seeming to increase with the dawning of each day, isn't it refreshing to know there is a place in this busy world where it's possible to re-contact with nature and enjoy the simple pleasures of walking through outstanding national parks and state forests. Queensland's Wet Tropics, Hinchinbrook Island, Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast Hinterland/Gondwana Rainforest are just some of the spectacular natural settings best explored by foot. With nearly five percent of the huge landmass of Queensland is now protected as national park, options include world-class short, half day, full day and multiday walks, including Queensland's fabulous Great Walks. So where will your favourite Queensland walk turn out to be? [www.queenslandwalks.com.au](http://www.queenslandwalks.com.au)

### **Four-wheel driving on Fraser Island**

World Heritage-listed Fraser Island is full of contradictions and contrasts and the best way to discover them is by 4WD. Swim in the blue waters of Lake McKenzie, a fresh-water lake perched in the sand dunes; or wander along crystal-clear streams as they meander through the stunning Satinay and Brush Box forests. Drive along Seventy-Five Mile Beach's famous highway and stop off at the Maheno shipwreck and the coloured sands of The Pinnacles. With approximately 1500km of tracks on Fraser Island, there's plenty of wilderness to enjoy and plenty of spots waiting to be discovered. [www.kingfisherbay.com](http://www.kingfisherbay.com)

### **Explore the tropics on horseback or quad bike!**

What better way to experience the Aussie bush, rainforest and spectacular views than on horseback or an ATV (all terrain vehicle or quad bike) with Blazing Saddles based just outside of Kuranda. Horses are hand picked for your particular skill level, provide you with a safety and introductory riding lesson and then split groups into skill levels to ensure a safe and fun horse riding experience. Or picture this, you zooming along the rainforest and adventure trails that zig zag across the property on your very own four wheeled motor bike! (also called a quad bike). You can take a half-day tour or a combination tour of both rides in one day! [www.blazingsaddles.com.au](http://www.blazingsaddles.com.au)

### **Holden Performance Driving**

Strap yourself in and experience 4 x Hot Laps in a V8 SS Commodore while one of our professional instructors takes you for the ride of your life. The Holden Performance Driving Centre offers all this and much more. The facility is unique and provides every visitor with a truly memorable motoring experience. Above all it remains 'The' place for those looking to master the art of technically better driving. [www.performancedriving.com.au/hot.html](http://www.performancedriving.com.au/hot.html)

## **Adventures on the water...**

### **Dive Queensland**

The waters of Queensland offer some of the best underwater adventures on earth. Take the plunge and discover this wide, blue wonder accessible to all. Azure seas sparkling against crystal white sand, tropical islands, warm inviting waters home to a colourful kaleidoscope of reefs, shoals, coral cays and mysterious shipwrecks teeming with exotic tropical marine life. A mild climate and clear visibility make year-round diving a vibrant reality. [www.divingqueensland.com.au](http://www.divingqueensland.com.au)

### **White water rafting thrills**

Ride the rush on two of Australia's best rivers - the Tully River for full day tours, or a half day on the Barron River. Hone your newly learnt rafting skills on foaming white water traversing through World Heritage-listed rainforest, numerous waterfalls and basalt formations. With up to five hours of rafting and more than 45 rapids, experience the excitement of rapids with curious names like 'Alarm Clock'. Enjoy an Aussie BBQ lunch riverside and relive the fun and excitement of the day with some newly found friends. [www.raft.com.au](http://www.raft.com.au) & [www.ragingthunder.com.au](http://www.ragingthunder.com.au)

### **Learn to hang 10**

Noosa's famous Main Beach is one of the warmest water locations with perfect super safe, waist deep water to learn to surf. Former World Pro-Am Surfing Champion Merrick Davis provides you with all the skills and style you need. New technology soft boards and teaching techniques combine to make surfing lessons so much easier than ever before. Learn to surf classes can be found all along the southern Queensland coast, including the beautiful Gold Coast. <http://www.learntosurf.com.au/>

### **Ocean Rafting adventures**

Ocean Rafting takes you to visit the three top Whitsunday Island destinations on a marine safari, all in one day. Each Ocean Rafting day includes an exhilarating ride to world famous Whitehaven Beach, pristine snorkelling reefs and guided Whitsunday Island, National Park walks. Ocean Rafting semi rigid inflatable vessels are super fast allowing you to experience a fun, fast, ride teamed with adventure and education amongst the natural beauty of the Whitsundays. Operating since 1997, they are proud to have very special permits to allow you to visit protected areas of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the "Wild Side" where there are no resorts, just the natural pristine beauty of the Islands and the marine life. [www.oceanrafting.com](http://www.oceanrafting.com)

### **Swim with Minke Whales**

Make a contribution to conservation on your next holiday and book your spot on an Undersea Explorer's annual minke whale expedition in Tropical North Queensland. June and July is Minke season, and you'll join inspiring whale scientists onboard to reveal the world of the whales. The six day/six night expeditions feature a minimum 18 dives plus whale snorkelling, an unforgettable opportunity to get up close to these magical creatures. [www.undersea.com.au](http://www.undersea.com.au)

### **River fun**

Situated at the base of the 20 million year old Kangaroo Point cliffs, on the edge of the Brisbane River and just a ferry ride away from Brisbane's downtown CBD, Riverlife Adventure Centre offers a range of exciting adventure activities. Experience and challenge yourself while exploring Brisbane's natural environment and history with Riverlife's qualified instructors or on your own - kayaking, abseiling, rock climbing, cycling, rollerblading, and kick bikes. [www.riverlife.com.au](http://www.riverlife.com.au)

### **Hand feed wild dolphins**

Surrounded by crystal clear waters, white sandy beaches and untouched National Parks, Tangalooma Island Resort on Moreton Island is a natural wonderland to be explored, just 45 minutes from Brisbane. The highlight of any stay is the opportunity to interact closely with nature. Each evening the wild bottlenose dolphins eagerly swim up to the beach, where they are hand fed fresh fish by Marine biologists, their staff and Resort guests. Whether you are feeding the Dolphins or simply watching from the jetty stadium, the experience is unforgettable. <http://www.tangalooma.com/>

### **Paradise Jetboating**

Enjoy the thrills and excitement of an adrenaline pumping jet boat ride. Embrace the speed and sensation with high speed spins, turns, twists and slides! At the same time enjoy the beauty of the Broadwater - azure waters, sandy inlets, golden beaches, deserted mangrove islands, contrasting with multi-million dollar waterfront mansions. It's a jet powered thrill of a lifetime and a journey through natural and manmade wonderlands... wrapped into one sensational experience. [www.paradisejetboating.com.au](http://www.paradisejetboating.com.au)

## **Take to the skies...**

### **Bungy Jumping & Minjin Swing**

This spectacular site in Cairns is a very special place, featuring the worlds first purpose built tower for Bungy Jumping and the only bungy operation on the planet that offers 16 different jump styles from traditional swan dives to riding off the roof on a BMX Bike - so in Cairns - once is never enough! Today the Minjin roars in the shape of the Jungle Swing, at speeds of up to 120kph in 3.5 seconds. One, two or three people at a time can face the challenge - and legend further has it that anyone who enjoys the Minjin experience will live a charmed life. [www.ajhackett.com.au/](http://www.ajhackett.com.au/)

### **Jungle Surfing Canopy Tours**

A zipline flying fox provides an experience of jungle surfing through rare and ancient rainforest, from the rainforest floor to the top of the canopy. Your guide will take you through the only place on earth where two World Heritage-listed Areas (the Daintree Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef) lie side by side. We live, breath and love this forest and have become finely tuned to its many cycles. [www.junglesurfingcanopytours.com](http://www.junglesurfingcanopytours.com)

### **Balloon ride over the Gold Coast and Tropical North Queensland**

Did you know, Queensland is the most popular place in Australia to float in a hot air balloon? Taking to the skies daily over Cairns and the Gold Coast, come hot air ballooning with Australia's biggest fleet of balloons. Experience the wonder and romance of ballooning over picturesque scenery and after enjoy a delicious champagne breakfast at a historic country homestead among the vineyard. Time to raise a toast and cheers, to your very first hot air balloon ride! [www.hotair.com.au](http://www.hotair.com.au)

### **Skydiving thrills**

Cairns, the adventure capital of Australia has an awesome array of activities. An adrenalin junky heaven - there is one thing that is a "must do before you die" while in North Queensland, and that is to challenge yourself to the thrill of a lifetime. Trained for your tandem skydive by a professional tandem skydiving instructor, the drop zone is based so that your tandem skydive takes you over breathtaking views of the beautiful tropical rainforest. It just doesn't get any better than this! [www.xtremeskydiving.com.au](http://www.xtremeskydiving.com.au)

### **Brisbane bridge adventures**

A two-and-a-half hour adventure climb to the very top of Brisbane's iconic Story Bridge is one of only three such experiences in the world. It's a journey of almost 1km up over the bridge's superstructure with a high point almost 80 metres above the Brisbane River as it flows past the city heart. From the summit of the bridge climbers enjoy uninterrupted 360 degree views of Brisbane, its river and surrounding mountains. [www.storybridgeadventureclimb.com.au](http://www.storybridgeadventureclimb.com.au).

For more information visit [www.queenslandholidays.com.au](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au)