



BRISBANE TO RAINBOW BEACH, QLD

There's no such thing as one visit to Rainbow Beach for once you've been there you'll want to go back again and again. 250kms north of Brisbane, there's even a daily bus service if you don't feel like driving yourself.

Rainbow Beach was not in the plan for our Queensland trip in 2003; we planned to stay somewhere else and that fell through. Then a signpost on the side of the road changed everything and we discovered the brilliant Rainbow Beach.



This was our campsite at the Rainbow Beach Holiday Village, a very large tourist park with great amenities. The staff in the office-come-store are very friendly and helpful, freely giving advice about beach conditions and tides, fishing, tours, and all the sights. The village is in a perfect location,

central to everything.

The town sits at the northern end of the Great Sandy National Park and the beach, the last surfing beach before the Great Barrier Reef, stretches for 30kms from Double Island Point in the south to Inskip Point in the north. Inskip Point is where the barges leave for Fraser Island, the largest sand island in the world.

Driving on the beach is allowed without a permit but only at low tide; the beach access point is under water when the tide comes in. Many an unwary driver has spent a long night on the beach. The sand is hard-packed and easy to drive on and from the headland you get the best view of the magnificent and legendary coloured sands.



The spectacular coloured sands speak for themselves; no words can adequately describe them.

Take a bush track through to the other side of Double Island Point to Teewah Beach and see the remains of the 1600-ton cargo vessel Cherry Venture that ran

aground in 1973. Enjoy a hotdog from the lunch stand beside the ship as you try to imagine the howling gale and wild seas that drove her there.



There are day trip tours to Fraser Island or you can obtain a permit from the local forestry office and take your own 4-wheel-drive over on the barge.

Whichever you decide to do, Fraser Island should not be missed. Regretfully we didn't have time to go there on our first trip but it's no. 1 on things to do on our next visit.

Fishing from the beach is very popular and whiting is the fish that is most prevalent. If fishing is not for you there are any number of bushwalking tracks and you can step straight into the national park and trek through ancient palm groves and dense rainforest, visit the Carlo Sand Blow and freshwater lakes. And for bird watchers, a chance to see the rare Black Breasted Button Quail.



worth it.

Visit the lookout above Rainbow Beach for spectacular views of the area. From the parking area it is a walk of approximately 900 metres through an area of dense foliage that has a rainforest feel to it. The wooden pathway makes it an easy walk and the view is definitely

Whether you make the most of a few days break or just sit on the beach and do nothing, you can't go past Rainbow Beach. You can read more about our visit here in our journal, *Beyond The Black Stump*.

