



**Fast facts**

**HERVEY BAY, QLD**

**Location:** Located about 300km north of Brisbane, Hervey Bay is bordered by 40km of pristine beaches.

**Population:** 63,000

**Climate:** Hervey Bay has a mild, sub-tropical climate making it comfortable all year round, reaching averages of 30C in summer and 23C in winter. With an average of 300 sunny days, any time of year is perfect for a getaway.

**History:** Hervey Bay was discovered by Captain Cook in 1770. He named it after his boss, Lord Augustus Hervey. The first white settler in the area was Boyle Martin who arrived in 1863. In the 1870s many Scandinavian settlers moved into the area and for a short time Hervey Bay was known as Aarlborg.



Me with Annette and Billy

Country boy Bill fell for the allure of Hervey Bay

# COASTAL CHARM

Growing up on a cattle farm in Chinchilla, Qld, I only knew the bush. So when I travelled to Hervey Bay in 1992, with my wife Annette, I fell in love with it.

"The coastline goes on forever" I said, amazed.

"It's one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen," Annette agreed.

After mixing with a few locals, I noticed how proud

they were of their town. They loved showing it off and before long Annette and I wanted to do the same. We decided to move there that same year.

A cattle farmer by trade, I bought a property half an hour outside of Hervey Bay, so I could continue my business. I also started a company taking people on outback tours.

As if having two jobs wasn't enough, when Annette and I took a trip to nearby Fraser Island and saw the Hervey Bay Travel Centre up for sale, I was sorely tempted.

"I'd love to buy it," I told Annette. "But I don't know if I could handle running a travel centre as well as raising cattle."

"You can do anything you put your mind to," she assured me. So we worked hard to keep our cattle farm running, while trying to get our tourist business off the ground.

In 2006, we welcomed our first son Billy Jacob into the world. Coming from the country where the education opportunities were limited, I was glad we could now give him the best of both worlds.

AS TOLD TO KATHLEEN REIDER PICTURES TOURISM FRASER COAST AND QUEENSLAND TOURISM



It's a boating paradise

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Whale watching is popular

**Where to eat**

**Enzo's** on the beach is a little cafe right on the sand. Sit back and enjoy their huge burgers or Asian spiced grilled fish while the children play on the nearby jungle gym.

**Coast Restaurant & Bar** has the best vibe in town. Enjoy their amazing grilled prawns while sipping a glass of wine on the deck.

**Cafe Balaena** is on the wharf at the local marina and is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**Where to shop**

**Cathie Maree's Fashion Boutique** at the marina has homewares, jewellery and clothing - perfect for a more personal souvenir.

In nearby Pialba, **Centro Hervey Bay** has all the shops you'd find in any major shopping centre.

Every Friday from 4pm the **local markets** are held at the Hervey Bay marina.

**What to do**

**Villa Cavour** is a beautiful B&B about a 20-minute drive from the main strip. Owners Mara and Rocco moved here from Italy and offer authentic Italian cooking classes where you

can learn to roll pasta like a pro. Lessons are \$80, including dinner.

**WetSide Water Education Park** is a free park filled with water spouts and jets that the kids will just love.

**Susan River Homestead** has 640ha for you to explore on horseback. They cater for beginners through to confident riders. Adults pay \$85 for a two-hour ride with a refreshment stop.

Whale watching is very popular in the area. **That's Awesome** whale watching adventures have a speedboat that seats up to 36 people. Prices are \$100 for a three-hour trip.

Watch the sunset while enjoying a camel ride along nearby Scarness Beach with **Fraser Coast Camel Safaris**. Prices are \$50 for adults and \$30 for children for a one-hour ride.

Hire a six-seater bike and travel the paths that line the coast for 40km. **Aquavue** offer cruiser bikes for \$30 an hour.

**Where to stay**

**The Grand Mercure Allegra** offers resort-style accommodation with huge self-contained apartments. One-bedroom apartments start at \$185 per night for a two-night stay.

**Fraser Lodge Holiday Park** is perfect for families. Set among sub-tropical gardens, the villas sleep up to five people for \$170 per night or you can camp in the grounds for \$48 per night for a powered slab.

The **Ramada** has studio rooms for \$149 per night.



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