

Factsheet

Backpackers

February 2007

Australia is one of the world's best-known backpacking destinations. Backpack travellers to Queensland can expect to be greeted by a relaxed lifestyle, friendly people, great weather and an abundance of natural attractions, including the World Heritage wonders of the Great Barrier Reef, Fraser Island and ancient Daintree rainforests.

From rolling, green hinterland, superb golden beaches and rural retreats to adrenalin-charged adventure, there's something guaranteed to keep the itchiest of feet soothed... for a while at least. Here's a sample of what's on offer....

Brisbane

Bunk

Bunk in central Fortitude Valley is Brisbane's latest venture into quality budget accommodation. All rooms are air-conditioned with en suite facilities and are available in four, six and eight combinations and include lockers and privacy bed screens. Twin/double rooms are also available along with single private rooms. Bunk includes a swimming pool complete with spa and barbecue area. A café also serves meals between 5-9pm daily. Check out their groovy website!

Visit www.bunkbrisbane.com.au or Tel 1800 682 865 (Freecall).

City Backpackers

Just 400 metres from the Roma Street Transit Centre, you'll find a comfortable home away from home, complete with million-dollar river and city views from the rooftop swimming pool and balconies. City Backpackers even has its own party pub – The Fiddler's Elbow, a great place to meet fellow travellers and share stories. Free job workshops are conducted three-times weekly. The facilities include a spacious kitchen for those who want to cook for themselves complete with large fridges and food lockers, plus state-of-the-art security monitoring, fire safety and storage of valuables at reception for safekeeping.

Tel +61 7 3211 3221 or visit www.citybackpackers.com

ENTERTAINMENT

The Zoo

Located in the live entertainment mecca that is Fortitude Valley, The Zoo is Brisbane's longest running live music venue. The Zoo has long been a favourite with locals because of the variety and volume of quality international, national and local acts playing week after week including hip hop, jazz, rock, and pop to acoustic, folk, dub or reggae.

Location: 711 Ann Street, Fortitude Valley.

Tel +61 7 3854 1381 or visit www.thezoo.com.au

Sunshine Coast

Halse Lodge

The closest backpackers' accommodation to Noosa's gorgeous Main Beach is Halse Lodge, a National Trust-listed 1880s building. Set in two acres of rainforest, the lodge is a stone's throw away from beach, rainforest and bustling Hastings Street. Surfing, skiing, four-wheel-

driving, sky diving, camel safaris, art galleries, crafts, bars, cafes and many other activities are all easily accessible. If you need to have a rest, make your retreat to the lodge and take advantage of the relaxing surrounds.

Tel +61 7 5447 3377 or visit www.halselodge.com.au

Maroochydore YHA Backpackers

This vibrant activity-based backpackers is set in beautiful tropical surrounds and is close to all that beautiful, coastal Maroochydore has to offer. With discounted in-house tours to the Glasshouse Mountains and Kondallila Falls, free breakfast, drinks (Wednesdays and Saturdays), free use of bikes, free surf/boogie boards and free ocean sailing (Wednesdays and Sundays), guests are made to feel right at home.

Tel +61 7 5443 3151 or visit www.yha.com.au

Koala Beach Resort

Soak up Noosa's cosmopolitan atmosphere at the Koala Beach Resort. From here, travellers can launch into a plethora of activities on the coast itself or look a little further inland. Explore the Noosa Everglades by canoe or the Noosa National Park by foot – and its picturesque highlights like Little Cove, Teatree Bay, Granite Bay and Alexandria Bay.

Tel +61 7 5447 3355 or visit <http://www.koalaresort.com.au/noosa.htm>

ENTERTAINMENT

Noosa Heads Surf Lifesaving Club

Right on the beach at Noosa Heads, the Surf Life Saving Club offers a bar, bistro ... and a great spot for a leisurely breakfast, lunch or sundowner. The most obvious aspect of the club however is the view – looking out over the spectacular Pacific Ocean, the swimmers, surfers and dolphins. Day or night, over a drink or two, it doesn't get much better.

Location: 69 Hastings Street, Noosa Heads.

Tel +61 7 5474 5688 or email nhsurf@nhslsc.com.au

Gold Coast

Surf'n'Sun Beach Side Backpackers

The only backpackers situated beachside at Surfers Paradise and still only five minutes walk to the town centre. Surf'n'Sun also gives guests the unenviable choice of the beach or their pool - which acts as the focal point for parties, sports or just good, old-fashioned relaxation.

Tel +61 7 5592 2363 or visit www.surfnsun-goldcoast.com

Trekkers Backpackers

Get a feel for what it's truly like to grow up in Queensland. Trekkers is a beautifully renovated timber 'Queenslander' style home with 12 rooms available. High-set with sweeping verandahs, a tropical pool, games room, activities and heaps of character Trekkers offers something a little different for the budget traveller.

Tel +61 7 5591 5616 or visit www.trekkersbackpackers.com.au

Binna Burra Mountain Lodge

Bright lights of the big city blurring a little lately? Perhaps it's time to ease off the throttle for a little while and retreat to the hills. Binna Burra Mountain Lodge has a number of backpacker/ adventure accommodation and activity (or inactivity) options available. It doesn't get much more chilled than walking the trails in the World-Heritage-listed rainforest of the breathtaking Gold Coast hinterland.

Tel +61 7 5533 3622 or visit www.binnaburrallodge.com.au

ENTERTAINMENT

The Shack Nightclub

Smack in the middle of Surfers Paradise, with a heap of drinks specials and regularly themed nights, The Shack allows you the chance to let your hair down without breaking the bank. Live music and DJs keep the vibe up tempo for those who want to cut a rug.

Location: 20 Orchid Avenue, Surfers Paradise.

Tel +61 7 5538 7600

Whitsundays

Backpackers by the Bay

Backpackers by the Bay offers uninterrupted views of Airlie Beach's Boathaven Bay just five minutes from the town centre. This intimate hostel sleeps only 70 and offers four-star, tourism-award-winning facilities. The daunting array of activities on offer includes diving, cruising, snorkelling, fishing charters, sea plane flights, an inter-island water taxi, helicopter tours, sky-diving, parasailing, wildlife parks, quad biking and trivia nights. There is also a small bar where stories are swapped, a self-catering kitchen and undercover barbecue. If this seems like too much effort, why not spend some time by the palm-fringed saltwater pool in one of the hammocks or sun lounges provided?

Tel 1800 646 994 (Freecall) or visit www.backpackersbythebay.com

Beaches Backpackers

Located in the heart of Airlie Beach just across from the relaxed waterfront and lagoon (a favourite chill-out spot for backpackers) Beaches Backpackers combines home-style comforts including modern, fully-equipped self catering kitchens, recreation areas with comfy lounges, televisions and a pool table with the convenience of an in-house bar and restaurant, internet café and tour booking desks.

Tel +61 7 4946 6244 or visit www.beaches.com.au.

Townsville

Bungalow Bay Koala Village

Located on World Heritage Magnetic Island, Bungalow Bay Koala Village is a YHA resort with 25 private and 5 dormitory style bungalows. You can camp in either powered or no powered sites in a bush setting with native free ranging wildlife as a bonus. There is also the Koala Sanctuary and Learn to Dive facilities that will add to the excitement of your stay. The resort features an open deck bar with restaurant, internet facilities, tour desk and landscaped pool. Bungalow Bay Koala Village is an Advanced Eco Certified Tourism product and winner of the 2006 Queensland Tourism Awards for Backpacking Accommodation.

Tel 1800 28 55 77 or visit www.bungalowbay.com.au .

Tropical North Queensland

Banana Barracks (Tully)

The Barracks, 148km south of Cairns, offers a winning combination of easily accessible adventure activities and great work prospects to fund your fun! Tully has been touted as the best location in Australia for reliable, year-round work (farm work, fruit picking) and one of the world's best white water rafting spots! The 'barracks' also boasts a pool, volleyball court, air-conditioned rooms, transport to and from work and (last but not least) a free keg for guests on Fridays.

Tel +61 7 4068 0455 or visit www.bananabarracks.com

Cape Trib Beach House

Located on Cape Tribulation, 140km north of Cairns where the timeless beauty of the World Heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest meets up with the majesty of the Pacific Ocean – the Cape Trib Beach House offers guests the opportunity to experience paradise. The Beach House is situated a coconut's throw – or 20 metres - from the beach. You can walk in the forest, taste exotic fruits, go mountain biking and or touring the Great Barrier Reef. Tel +61 7 4098 0030 or visit www.capetribbeach.com.au

Daintree Palms Beach Resort

This resort offers absolute beachfront resort accommodation for the more budget-conscious traveller. Set on the region's oldest coconut palm plantation crowned by a pristine 7km coral beach and nestled between the ancient Daintree Rainforest and the magnificent Great Barrier Reef. From this very special place you can ride horses on the beach, explore the lush Cairns Highlands, ride the award-winning Skyrail or go hot-air ballooning. Alternatively, witness artists at work at the art colony in Kuranda or cool off in Mossman River and the rainforest-encrusted Mossman Gorge. Tel +61 7 4098 7871 or visit www.daintreepalms.com

Global Palace

Set in a beautifully refurbished turn-of-the-century cinema, Cairns' Global Palace offers guests a 'home away from home' and the benefit of the staffs' extensive local knowledge. Safety is also a high priority for the 'palace', it has all the latest in fire detection. The attractions of Cairns are at guests' finger tips – whether they wish for total relaxation or are seeking an adrenalin fix. Tel 1800 819 024 (Freecall) or visit www.globalpalace.com.au

ENTERTAINMENT

Soho Nightclub and Lounge

With the best sound in Cairns and bringing in DJ'ing talent from across the globe, visitors to Cairns will be able to put on their dancing shoes for a night on the tiles. International acts such as Judge Jules, Stanton Warriors, Phil K, Andy Van, and Australia's very own Groove Terminator are rotating to the northern-most reaches of the Sunshine State.

Location: Corner Esplanade & Shields Streets, Cairns. Tel +61 7 4051 2666 or visit <http://www.canz.com.au/soho.html>

For more information on backpacking in Queensland try these useful links:

<http://www.backpackingqueensland.com.au>

<http://www.tq.com.au/media/useful-links.cfm>

<http://www.brisbanemarketing.com.au>

<http://www.goldcoasttourism.com.au>

<http://www.sunshinecoast.org>

<http://www.tnq.org.au>

<http://www.whitsundaytourism.com.au>