

Fact Sheet

Fraser Island Great Walk

Explore the surf, sand and stunning scenery of the world's largest sand island on the Fraser Island Great Walk, one of a series of world class walking tracks through some of Queensland's most beautiful natural areas.

The Fraser Island Great Walk traverses 90km of stunning landscape between Dilli Village and Happy Valley and takes between six and eight days to complete. Additional walking tracks link the Great Walk to key barge landings, accommodation and supply centres on the island.

The walk combines challenging and remote routes for experienced walkers, with shorter, easier strolls for day or overnight visitors. This gives walkers flexibility to choose the duration and intensity of their walk.

Highlights of the Great Walk include:

- Lake Boomanjin – the largest perched lake in the world;
- crystal clear water of Wanggoolba Creek at Central Station;
- dazzling white shores of Lake McKenzie;
- Wongi, Hammerstone and Badjala Sandblows;
- variation of vegetation: open forest, heathland, wetland, vine forest and rainforest;
- giant rainforest trees, particularly within Valley of the Giants; and
- historic areas of Bogimbah Creek, McKenzies Jetty and Mill and Fraser Island Commando School.

Description of the Fraser Island Great Walk

Dilli Village to Lake Boomanjin. 6.3km (2 – 3 hours)

Cross a boardwalk over a sedge-filled creek, where melaleucas, swamp banksia, sedges and coral ferns thrive along the swampy verges. Walk through open forests and scribbly gum woodlands, and see spectacular views from Wongi Sandblow. Continue through eucalypt forest to reach the tannin-stained waters of Lake Boomanjin – the largest perched lake in the world. A walkers' camp is located at Lake Boomanjin.

Lake Boomanjin to Lake Benaroon. 7.2km (2.5 – 3.5 hours)

Stroll around Lake Boomanjin's northwestern beach where honey-coloured streams flow across the sand. Follow the track up to a scribbly gum ridge and continue through open woodland and regenerating forests of blackbutt and brush box. Here, the vegetation changes, and rainforest plants such as kauri pines, vines, staghorns, palm lilies and mosses dominate. Descend to follow the track along the shoreline to the walkers' camp at Lake Benaroon.

Lake Benaroon to Central Station. 7.5km (2.5 – 3.5 hours)

First follow Lake Benaroon's shore, which is fringed by delicately curled melaleucas, before passing Lake Birrabeen. This lake has melaleucas and sedges lining the water's edge, and blackbutt growing on the higher, drier slopes. Continue along an old logging road and through the tall forests of the central high dunes. Here, massive brushbox and satinay forests occupy the more protected dune slopes and valleys, with blackbutt forests along the ridges. Descend into the walkers' camp at historic Central Station, set among vine forest, kauri pines and palms.

Central Station to Lake McKenzie - Option 1 via Basin Lake. 6.6km (3 – 4 hours)

Follow the boardwalk and cross the bridge over Wanggoolba Creek and ascend through a variety of forests before reaching the shores of Basin Lake. Watch for turtles at the water's edge and white-bellied sea eagles that come in search of prey. Continue through banksia woodland, tall open forest and melaleuca wetland, before ascending to the dazzling white shores of Lake McKenzie. There is a walkers' camp at Lake McKenzie.

Central Station to Lake McKenzie - Option 2 via Pile Valley. 11.3km (3.5 – 4.5 hours)

Follow the boardwalk along Wanggoolba Creek, then continue through Pile Valley past an impressive stand of satinay trees. Follow an old forestry tramline through cool, shady rainforest, then continue through blackbutt forests to Lake McKenzie where there is a walkers' camp.

Lake McKenzie to Lake Wabby. 11.9km (4 – 5 hours)

Pass through some of the island's most spectacular tall, open forests and rainforests before entering the open forests of the east coast dunes. A lookout to Lake Wabby is only a short stroll away and boasts views of the lake and Hammerstone Sandblow. From here, walk to the shore of Lake Wabby, the deepest lake on Fraser Island. There is a walkers' camp at Lake Wabby.

Lake Wabby to Valley of the Giants. 16.2km (5.5 – 7.5 hours)

From Lake Wabby, re-enter the shady, closed forest of the central high dunes. Walk along a blackbutt-forested ridge and visit a lookout for views over the vast desert-like sands of the Badjala Sandblow. Descend into a series of corridors between the high dunes which are blanketed in rainforest. This area is known as the Valley of the Giants and contains some of the largest living trees on Fraser Island. The walkers' camp is located in the heart of this valley and, using it as a base, you can explore the surrounding area.

Valley of the Giants to Lake Garawongera. 13.1km (4.5 – 6.5 hours)

From the Valley of the Giants, pass through some impressive stands of brushbox and satinay trees and rainforest, as well as areas of open forest and heathland. Follow Bogimbah Creek to find an historic area that contains the remains of the earliest logging camps and forestry trial sites on the island. Continue along a scenic walk with views down to the creek and valley floor, passing through patches of piccabeen palm forests before arriving at the Lake Garawongera walkers' camp.

Lake Garawongera to Happy Valley. 6.6km (2.5 – 3.5 hours)

After skirting Lake Garawongera's northwestern shore, follow a steep, rainforest-clad ridge before re-emerging into the open forests of the east coast dunes. Continue along the track, which is mostly downhill for the last few kilometres, and complete your Great Walk adventure at the seaside village of Happy Valley.

The section of the Great Walk north of Lake Wabby is remote and suitable for experienced bushwalkers only. Distances between walkers' camps are greater than in other sections and long, steep slopes and other natural hazards are frequent. Facilities are minimal and access to help is limited. Walkers need to be fully self-sufficient and carry plenty of drinking water at all times.

Short walks

Short walks are available from the following locations.

Dilli Village to Wongi Sandblow 8.3km return (3 – 4 hours)
Dilli Village to Markwell's Break 21.6km return (7 – 9 hours)

Lake Boomanjin to Wongi Sandblow 4.2km return (1.5 - 2 hours)
Lake Boomanjin to Dilli Village 12.6km return (4 – 6 hours)
Lake Boomanjin to Markwell's Break 21.6km (7 – 9 hours)
(There is vehicle access to Lake Boomanjin)

Central Station to Wanggoolba Creek 0.9km return (0.5 to 1 hour) Wheelchair accessible
Central Station to Basin Lake 5.6km return (2 – 3 hours)
Central Station to Lake Birrabeen 12.8km return (4.5 – 6.5 hours)
Central Station to Eurong 21.2km (7 – 9 hours)

Kingfisher Bay Resort to Lake McKenzie 23.5km return (8 – 10 hours)
Kingfisher Bay Resort to McKenzies Jetty and Fraser Island Commando School 6.6km return (2 – 3 hours)

Lake Wabby carpark to Lake Wabby 3.1km return (1 – 1.5 hours)
Lake Wabby carpark to Eastern Beach 7.3km return (2.5 – 3.5 hours)
Lake Wabby carpark to Eurong 16.8km return (5.5 – 6.5 hours)

Valley of the Giants to Tallowwood tree 2.6km return (1 – 1.5 hours)
Valley of the Giants to Satinay tree 7.3km return (2.5 – 3.5 hours)
(Primarily for walkers on Great Walk)

Lake Garawongera – Bogimbah historical walk (Petrie's Camp & Dipuying Nursery) 15.6km return (5 – 7 hours)

Heritage significance

- Walkers will follow in the footsteps of the traditional custodians, the Butchulla people beneath towering rainforest, past crystal clear lakes and over vast sand dunes.
- Walking tracks that follow old logging roads and tramlines serve as reminders of the island's bygone forestry industry.
- Visit what remains of the Fraser Island Commando School at North White Cliffs. The Commando School was in operation from late 1943 to the end of World War II in 1945 and provided training to specially-selected personnel to prepare them for operations behind Japanese lines.
- Also at North White Cliffs is the remains of McKenzie's Mill and jetty. This was Fraser Island's only timber sawmill. Look for the remains of home-sites cut into the hill.

Facilities

Walkers' camps are located along the Great Walk at Lake Boomanjin, Lake Benaroon, Central Station, Lake Wabby, Valley of the Giants and Lake Garawongera and have access to a toilet, fresh water and platform seats. Individual sites are suitable for one or two small tents.

Walkers' camps must be booked in advance. To book:

- visit www.qld.gov.au/camping
- telephone 13 13 04, 8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday

Cost

Camping fees apply for the Great Walk.

Adult	\$4.00 per night
Child (five years or older)	\$4.00 per night
Each family of four or more (one or two adults with children aged five to seventeen)	\$16.00 per night

Access

Walkers can access Fraser Island from either Rainbow Beach township or Hervey Bay. You can travel to the island by vehicle barge, passenger launch, aircraft, commercial tour or private boat.

It is strongly advised that walkers intending to stay overnight or longer on the Great Walk purchase a Fraser Island Great Walk topographic map. This map contains detailed information about trip planning and preparation, safety, caring for the environment and track notes.

Other Accommodation

In addition to walkers' camps, private campgrounds are located at Dilli Village and Cathedral Beach. Accommodation is also available at Dilli Village, Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village, Eurong, Happy Valley and Cathedral Beach.

About Great Walks of Queensland

Great Walks of Queensland is a series of world class walking tracks through some of Queensland's most beautiful natural areas, including three of Queensland's World Heritage Areas. All Great Walks feature short, easy strolls, day walks and extended adventure walks, ensuring that people of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to experience and learn about Queensland's parks and forests.

Great Walks of Queensland are located at:

- Fraser Island
- Gold Coast Hinterland
- Mackay Highlands
- Sunshine Coast Hinterland
- Wet Tropics
- Whitsunday

The Fraser Island Great Walk is opening in late June 2004 and the Whitsunday Great Walk is opening in late July 2004. All other Great Walks will be open by late December 2005.

Further Information

Visit us online at www.epa.qld.gov.au

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Rainbow Beach
(07) 5486 3160

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Maryborough
(07) 4121 1800