

Get Hooked ON MACKAY

- ✓ 365 days a year fishing
- ✓ A huge variety of species
- ✓ One of Queensland's only net free zones
- ✓ Stocked Barramundi dams with no closed season
- ✓ World class fishing and boating facilities



**THE MACKAY REGION -
AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER RECREATIONAL FISHING DESTINATION**

Why Mackay

for your next fishing holiday?



The Mackay Region is ideally located roughly halfway between Brisbane and Cairns along the Queensland coast, and is well known nationally and internationally, as one of the best fishing locations in Australia.

Within 45 minutes you can be fishing at a tropical reef, rainforest stream, blue water river, a sandy estuary or an inland dam. With the highest fishing participation rate in the state, a huge variety of species and world class fishing and boating facilities The Mackay Region offers the perfect destination for your next holiday or fishing adventure.

Getting here



Fly direct from Brisbane, Rockhampton or Townsville, roadtrip via the Bruce Highway, catch a bus with Greyhound Australia or hop on a Queensland Rail train.



Distance to Mackay

Airlie Beach	149km
Rockhampton	336km
Townsville	389km
Cairns	735km
Brisbane	953km
Sydney	1,741km
Melbourne	2,320km

Fishing Events Calendar

Mackay has several fishing clubs and organisations that all run competitions throughout the year. For more information on exciting events, visit www.mackayregion.com/events

May	World Sooty Grunter Championships
May	Mackay Expo
Jul	Mackay Spanish Mackerel Shootout
Oct	Kids Fishing Day
Oct	Calen Fishing Classic
Oct	Australian Fishing Championship begins in Mackay

Mackay Climate

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average max °C	30	30	28	27	24	22	21	22	25	27	29	30
Average min °C	23	23	22	20	17	14	13	14	16	20	22	23
Rainfall mm	293	311	303	134	104	59	47	30	15	38	87	175

*Temperature and rainfall are approximate averages only. Source: www.bom.gov.au/climate from Mackay Aero Station.

Help to get you started

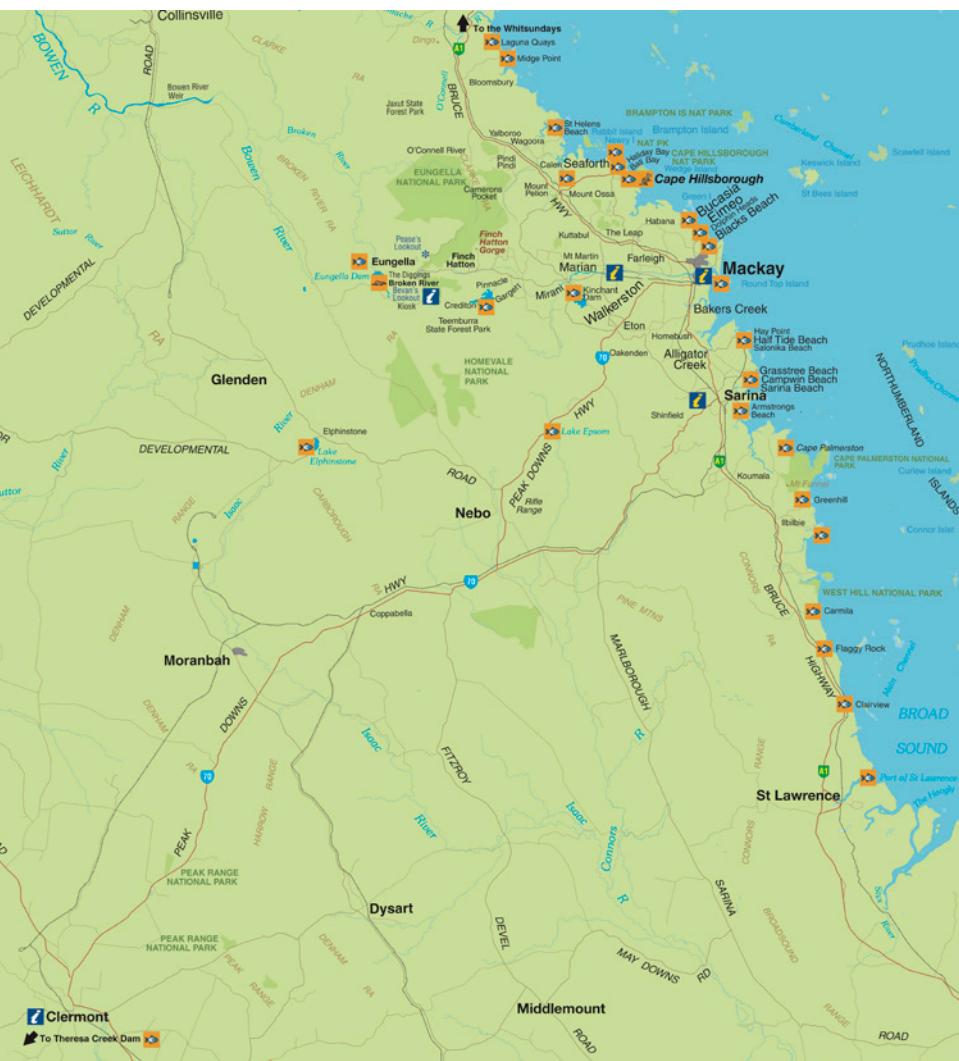
Do I need a fishing permit?

Most areas of Queensland do not require a permit for fishing however, a Stocked Impoundment Permit (SIP) is required for some Queensland dams including Kinchant, Eungella and Teemburra dams. SIPs cost \$10 a week or \$50 a year for those over 18 years of age. Visit qld.gov.au/recreation or purchase from one of our Visitor Information Centres at 320 Nebo Road, West Mackay, or Lot125 Station Lane, Sarina.

Help sustain our fishery

Please be aware that size and possession limits apply to most fish and crustaceans. For more information visit qld.gov.au/recreation.

The annual Barramundi closed season along Queensland's east coast starts from midday on 1 November, effective through to midday on 1 February. Exceptions apply to Eungella, Kinchant and Teemburra Dams.



Mackay & Northern Beaches

Mackay and Northern Beaches is blessed with some truly remarkable and unique fish habitats, many no more than a stones throw away from the city centre.



Target Species: Barramundi, Flathead, Bream, Salmon, Mangrove Jack, Trevally, Whiting, Fingermark, Queenfish, Mulloway, Barracuda, Rock Cod



Best Spots: Mackay City's Pioneer River, Mackay Marina & Breakwater, City & Northern Beaches



Boat Ramps: River Street, Mackay Small Craft Harbour, McCready's Creek, Eimeo, Eimeo Creek at Bucasia, Dunnrock



Several dedicated fishing platforms give the angler easy access to one of the only true blue water rivers in Australia, The Pioneer River, which runs through the centre of Mackay and provides sizeable Barramundi, Salmon and Mangrove Jack.

Whiting, Bream and Flathead can also be found in the Mackay Marina and surrounding beaches. The scenic walk to the end of the breakwater rewards the angler with the opportunity to target big sport species such as Makeral and Trevally. Fishing blades or floating baits works best and catching one of these speedsters before they get amongst the rocks and cut your line is a very rewarding experience for anglers.

Those looking for a quick afternoon fish can also try the Gooseponds in North Mackay or the Lagoons near the Botanical Gardens. These spots are easily accessible for any angler and thanks to stocking efforts now sport healthy populations of Barramundi and Tarpon.



Keen to tackle a famous Barra?

People from all over the world have travelled to Northern Australia to land the famous Barramundi, arguably Australia's most iconic fish. The Mackay Region has some of the best Barramundi fishing in the world. That metre plus Barramundi of your dreams is swimming right here in Mackay. To catch it we recommend a 5 – 10kg baitcaster or a spin rod with a 4000 size reel and 20lb line. Large hard-bodied lures between 60-120mm, soft plastics and vibes work well. Those preferring to use bait should opt for prawns, pilchards or live mullet



Cape Hillsborough

& Hibiscus Coast

St Helens Beach to Cape Hillsborough is home to one of only three net free zones in Queensland. This allows the angler to encounter a smorgasbord of hard fighting, great tasting reef fish that can be caught on a multitude of different techniques.



Target Species: Barramundi, Flathead, Bream, Salmon, Mangrove Jack, Trevally, Whiting, Mackerel, Coral Trout, Fingermark, Sweet Lip, Tuna, Kingfish, Nannygai, Red Emperor, Red Throat, Cobia, Queenfish



Best Spots: Seaforth, Cape Hillsborough, Newry Island, Midge Point



Boat Ramps: Constant Creek, Cape Hillsborough Beach Access, Victor Creek Seaforth, Murray Creek, St. Helens Beach, Laguna Quays



You will need a boat (or arrange a charter) to access the shipping channel and reef systems which are a considerable distance offshore, but there are also quality fishing grounds in closer around the islands.

Seasoned anglers use the traditional squid or cut flesh baits while younger generations are having great success on plastics, vibes and metal jigs. Hordes of pelagic speedsters turn up on mass from November to February each year and chasing these fish with metal slugs has got to be one of the most fun things you can do standing up.



Landbased anglers don't miss out either with spectacular fishing along the many creeks and estuaries, that are home to big Barramundi and Mangrove Jacks, whilst the beaches produce the usual bread and butter species.

Please be aware that Estuarine Crocodiles do inhabit several of The Mackay Region's waterways. To remain crocwise visit this website; <http://bit.ly/2n5tPR7>.



Want to work your muscles with our hard-hitting Reef Species?

Mackerel, Trevally and Coral Trout are just some of the big fighting, great tasting fish the Mackay Region has in abundance. To target these reef species, we recommend heavy duty rods with at least 4000 size reels, loaded with 30lb braid and 50lb leader as a minimum. Fast trolling lures, and metal slugs work best, whilst the excitement of hooking up on large surface poppers can't be beat. Live bait is another option which is well worth the effort of catching it with a caste net or light spin gear.

Sarina & the Isaac Coast

Anglers heading south from Mackay are met with some truly unique and world class fishing.



Target Species: Barramundi, Flathead, Bream, Salmon, Mangrove Jack, Trevally, Whiting, Mackerel, Coral Trout, Fingermark, Sweet Lip, Tuna, Kingfish, Nannygai, Red Emperor, Red Throat, Cobia, Queenfish



Best Spots: Offshore islands and reefs, Sarina, Cape Palmerston, Clairview and Carmila Beaches



Boat Ramps: Hay Point, Grasstree Beach, Campwin Beach, Perpetua Point, Sunset Drive, Freshwater Point, Rocky Dam Creek, Carmila Beach, Clairview Beach, Waverley Creek



The many shoals, reefs and islands offshore provide anglers with many hard fighting fish that can be targeted through a range of methods.

Fast trolling lures entice big predators such as Mackerel, whilst coming across schools of bait fish with large surface poppers will have anglers hanging on as big Trevally take hold.

The beaches down the coast are not only beautiful but also produce excellent fishing for the landbased angler. Soft plastics across the sand bars is an always popular tactic for Flathead. Turning to bait, prawns and sandworms are great choices for Bream and Whiting whilst pilchards work best for Trevally, Dart and the odd Queenfish.

Crabbing is also very popular in these areas with some truly massive mud crabs inhabiting the shallow waters and inlets around The Mackay Region. Load your crab pots with fresh bait such as chicken legs, or fish scraps, leave for a few hours during the run of the tides and return for a few delicious mud crabs.



Tips on entertaining the kids with bread and butter species

You don't need a flash boat, or expensive gear to still have a blast fishing in The Mackay Region. Most of us grew up catching the bread and butter species, and they still get the adrenaline going every time. Heading down to the nearest beach, jetty or boat ramp with a \$15 rod, or \$5 handline, with prawns, mullet or even bread will still catch Bream, Whiting and Flathead and put a smile on any face.

Freshwater Rivers & Dams

Freshwater fishing in The Mackay Region is second to none and most can be done just inland of Mackay, in The Pioneer Valley Region, with three world-class impoundment fisheries within 90 minutes of the City Centre.



Target Species: Barramundi, Sooty Grunter, Saratoga, Yellow Belly



Best Spots: Kinchant, Eungella, Teemburra, Theresa Creek & Bundoora Dams and Lake Elphinstone.



Boat Ramps: All the above locations have boat ramps



Head west from Mackay to find Kinchant and Teemburra Dams (known as one of the best places in the world for large Barramundi), and Eungella Dam, which is located high up in the ranges and is renowned for Sooty Grunter fishing. With a stocked impoundment permit, Barramundi can be targeted year-round in these dams and many an angler has ticked off a legendary metre plus Barramundi here.

Fishing at these dams works best from a boat, but fish can be caught from the banks. Look to cast close to structure, or weed beds to entice the predatory fish out for a bite. Camping options are available at Kinchant and Eungella Dams.

Heading west towards Clermont, Theresa Creek and Bundoora Dams also provide great fishing with healthy populations of Saratoga, Yellow Belly and Barramundi being present. Lake Elphinstone near Glenden meanwhile is a very popular spot for catching the famous Redclaw Crayfish.

The rivers and creeks are also worth checking out, with the Pioneer River at Mirani and Marian, and Funnel Creek in the Sarina Range producing good catches of Barramundi, Saratoga and Sooty Grunter



Tips for targeting Sooty Grunter



A favourite freshwater fish, Sooty Grunter fight hard. The Mackay Region is famous for its Sooty Grunter and Eungella Dam, every May, hosts the World Sooty Championship. Light spin gear works best for Sooty Grunters, we suggest a 2-4kg rod, and a 2500 reel loaded with 8lb line. Soft plastics, small hard-bodied lures between 30-80mm, small poppers and stickbaits all work well.



Who can hook you up with all things fishing?



Fishing Operators

Inshore Fishing Mackay

p. 0457 254 740

w. InshoreFishingMackay

Megaforce Charters

p. 4955 5290

w. megaforcecharters.com.au

Elizabeth E II

p. 4955 2563

w. elizabetheii.com.au

Mackay Fly and Sportfishing

p. 0407 674 350

w. mackaysportfishing.com.au

Action Charters

p. 0417 452 346

w. actioncharters.com.au

Reefari

p. 0413 821 736b

w. reefari.com

Cast and Catch Fishing Charters

p. 0429 833 045

w. castandcatch.com.au

Northern Conquest Charters

p. 0429 639 514

w. nccharters.com.au/destination/mackay/

Tackle Stores

Tackle World Mackay

p. 4957 2145

318 Shakespeare Street, Mackay

Nashy's Compleat Angler

p. 4957 2272

25 Harbour Road, North Mackay

Tackle Pro Mackay

p. 4955 0377

Shop 6, Corner Oak Street and Central Drive, Andergrove

Double D Fishing N Tackle

p. 0400 249 488

2/2 Broad Street, Sarina

BCF

p. 4942 3499

8-10 Windmill Crossing, Mackay

Freddys Fishing & Outdoors

p. 4942 0360

6 Trade Court, Mackay

The Square Peg

p. 4941 8256

3 Batchelor Pde, Moranbah

Inspiration

Luke's Fishin Mission

f. lukesFishinMission

Fish & Boat Magazine

w. fishandboat.com.au

Fishing Monthly Magazine

w. fishingmonthly.com.au

Mick's Gone Fishing

insta. @micksgonefishing

w. micksgonefishing.com

Ready to go?

Mackay Tourism can help you plan your next fishing holiday, with access to a range of fishing tour operators and other important information to make your trip enjoyable.

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