

In so many ways we are blessed to live in the Sunshine state and at this time of year where would you rather be? (Well maybe Europe next year!) If we have to be confined to a region of the world then we are lucky to live in a destination the world travels to visit. So why not go and explore.

We have looked at the quirky and fun Savannahlander train that travels west from Cairns. Today I thought we could look at some of our wonderful coastal resorts. As we head north Fraser island is within a relatively short drive. Heritage listed as the world's largest sand island, September and October is a great time to visit. Take a package including 3 nights at the lovely Kingfisher Bay Resort with daily breakfast, a full day ranger guided eco tour including lunch, a whale watching tour including morning breakfast, national park fees and ferry transfers from Harvey Bay return – all this from \$399 per person.

Not far up the coast there's a great little stop near Bundaberg at Kellys Beach Resort – 3 nights from \$295 per person. Why not add on a full day trip to Lady Musgrave Island for \$229 per person?

Head north to the Town of 1770 and enjoy 5 nights in a one bedroom apartment at the 1770 Lagoons Central &Spa included in the package is a full day LARC Paradise tour exploring the coastal region, the lighthouse, the sand dunes and stop for an included picnic lunch. This package from \$529 per person.

Head for the pier at Airlie Beach where you catch the ferry to Daydream Island, after a \$100M upgrade this is a wonderful Whitsunday experience. A package including 4 nights in a superior pool view room, daily breakfast, a \$400 food and beverage credit, a guided living reef snorkel tour, a guided rainforest walk, return ferry transfers from Airlie Beach or Hamilton Island, a fish feeding show and more – this package from \$999 per person.

Or if you are up near Cairns – enjoy a few days of Fitzroy Island – there is a turtle research centre based here and you can snorkel straight off the beach. Return ferry transfers from cairns and 4 nights from \$299 per person. A great way to experience the reef. Drive yourselves, fly or catch the train to Cairns and combine Fitzroy with the Atherton Tableland or Port Douglas.

If you feel like a really luxurious holiday then look no further than Lizard Island. Situated on the Great Barrier Reef, this fabulous resort offers snorkelling with the turtles off the beach, walks up Cooks Look hill, take a tinnie and explore the island and her 24 powdery white beaches with a picnic lunch, or relax in your elegant accommodation. Included on the island are all meals and beverages during your stay, a stocked mini bar in your room, use of non-motorised water sports and the motorised dinghy and a 30 minute couples massage. The scenic flight from Cairns takes about 30 minutes and you fly over spectacular pristine reefs. A package including the return flights from Cairns, 2 nights and all meals and activities listed costs from \$2839 per person or 4 nights from \$4868 per person.

All offers have conditions – the prices are per person with two sharing a room – travelling solo then please ask for costs. Also, there are dates when the offers apply. This is just a sample of different coastal offers available. Now is a great opportunity to support our local tourism operators and for you to explore our state while we have it almost to ourselves. Call Travelling Places for more ideas and offers 07 55451600.