



48 HOURS IN... HERVEY BAY

> BY DARREN STONES

YOU'RE IN A STRANGE TOWN WITH ONLY A WEEKEND AT YOUR DISPOSAL. WHAT DO YOU DO? AT'S SPEED GUIDE TO AUSTRALIA'S TOP SPOTS HAS ALL THE ANSWERS.

*E*ndless sandy beaches, a pier from here to forever and its very own whale festival; Qld's Hervey Bay is a resort town growing faster than you can say "tail slap".

> STAY HERE

GREAT SANDY STRAITS MARINA RESORT //

A popular resort with a 25m pool, two tennis courts and one, two and three bedroom apartments. Each has a private balcony for keeping watch as boats come and go while you sip on a glass.

www.greatsandystraits.com.au

PEPPERS PIER RESORT // This new kid on the block offers luxurious lodgings for couples, groups and families. Five stars, with unrestricted views of the glorious bay, pier and World Heritage-Listed Fraser Island.

www.peppers.com.au/Pier-Resort

DELFINOS RESORT // Opposite the main swimming beach, Delfinos is family friendly and offers motel rooms through to spacious three

bedroom apartments. A little easier on the purse strings and an excellent booking service provided. www.delfinos.com.au

> PLAY HERE

HERVEY BAY BOAT CLUB // Superbly appointed and overlooking the marina, it's a top spot to spend a few hours. Built in a nautical theme, the club provides a beautiful dining and entertainment experience. Excellent gourmet coffee shop. www.boatclub.com.au

TORQUAY HOTEL // An inviting pub right on the Esplanade, this place is abuzz each evening with outdoor dining a specialty. Laidback and welcoming. Nice outdoor heaters, too. (07) 4125 2266.

HOOLIHANS IRISH RESTAURANT & BAR // With traditional Irish fare and a mix of Aussie tucker thrown in for good measure, this place prides itself on being open 11 am till late eight days a week. Live music Fri/Sat nights. (07) 4194 0099

> DON'T MISS

WHALE WATCHING // The yellow catamaran *Spirit of Hervey Bay* is the ideal platform to eyeball migrating humpbacks as they frolic in the protected waters of Hervey Bay. An entertaining half-day adventure cruise will leave you mesmerised and euphoric. Highly recommended. www.spiritofherveybay.com

CELEBRATE THE WHALES // The Hervey Bay Whale Festival marks the return of the whales with the flavours, sights and sounds of the Food, Wine and Jazz Fiesta and Hot August Night Fire Event being major highlights. Kicks off in August. www.herveybaywhalefestival.com.au

720 METRE STROLL // A hand-in-hand stroll with your mate along the Urangan Pier at sunset is bound to soothe the soul. Have your camera at the ready and snap a few memorable shots as the sky lights up. Great spot to wet a line. ■