



Mammals of Fraser Island

Mammals are warm blooded animals that have hair and feed their young on milk. They may be separated into those that give birth to fully developed live young (eutherian mammals); those that give birth to small embryonic young (marsupials); and those that lay eggs (monotremes).

Most of Fraser Island's native mammals are small-sized and predominantly nocturnal. These animals can be found in a variety of habitats throughout the island and play an important role in maintaining the ecosystem. Some forage on the ground for insects and plant matter, while others stay high in the trees feeding on nectar produced by flowers.

Common Name

Scientific Name

Monotremes

Short-beaked Echidna

Tachyglossus aculeatus

Marsupials

Swamp Wallaby

Wallabia bicolor

Feathertail Glider

Acrobates pygmaeus

Squirrel Glider

Petaurus norfolcensis

Sugar Glider

Petaurus breviceps

Eutherian Mammals

Bush Rat

Rattus fuscipes

Delicate Mouse

Pseudomys delicatulus

False Water Rat

Xeromys myoides

Water Rat

Hydromys chrysogaster

Fawn-footed Melomys

Melomys cervinipes

Grassland Melomys

Melomys burtoni

Long-nosed Bandicoot

Perameles nasuta

Northern Brown Bandicoot

Isoodon macrourus

Yellow-footed Antechinus

Antechinus flavipes

Dingo

Canis lupus dingo

Bats

Bats are eutherian mammals and comprise around 25% of all this Class. Fraser Island has 12 different species of bats - 4 are fruitbats or flying foxes and the remaining 8 are insectivorous bats. Fruitbats and flying foxes feed on the fruits and blossoms of trees and shrubs (eg eucalypts and banksias), have large eyes with excellent night vision and use their sense of smell to find food. Insectivorous bats have very small eyes and so use ultrasonic echolocation for navigation and to detect and catch small insects for food.



Common Name

Scientific Name

Blossom Bat	<i>Syconycteris australis</i>
Black Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus alecto</i>
Grey Headed Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus oliocephalus</i>
Little Red Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus scapulatus</i>
Common Bentwing Bat	<i>Miniopterus chreibersii</i>
Goulds Long-eared Bat	<i>Nyctophilus gouldi</i>
Goulds Wattled Bat	<i>Chalinolobus gouldii</i>
Hoary Bat	<i>Chalinolobus nigrogriseus</i>
Large-footed mouse-eared Bat	<i>Nyctophilus bifax</i>
Yellow Bellied Sheathtailed Bat	<i>Saccolaimus flaviventris</i>

Marine Mammals

The mammals of Fraser Island are not only well represented in terrestrial (land) environments. Marine mammals may also be seen. The most famous of these is the humpback whale. Each year between August and October, migrating humpback whales can be seen in Platypus Bay. Humpback whales are large mammals weighing up to 45 tonnes and are considered an endangered species. They leave Antarctica and travel north to breed and suckle their young in the warmer waters, often visiting Hervey Bay on their return voyage. Viewing these whales aboard vessels in Hervey Bay is strictly controlled to ensure that interference with these animals is minimised to encourage their return the following year. A cruise through the Great Sandy Strait may allow you to observe other marine animals closer than from the shores. Animals you may see in the Great Sandy Strait include:

Common Name

Scientific Name

Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>
Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin Common	<i>Sousa chinensis</i>
Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>
Dugong	<i>Dugong dugon</i>