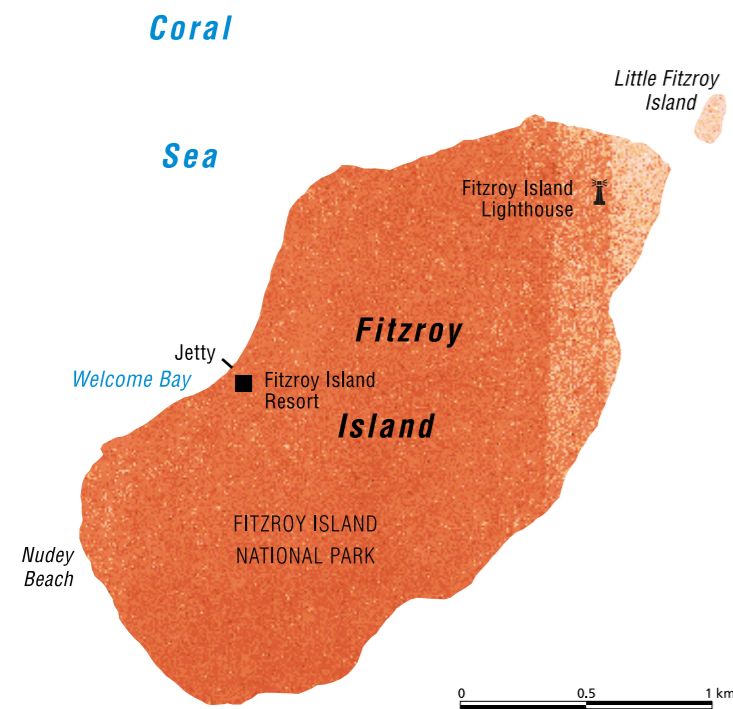


Fitzroy Island is a magnet for daytrippers from Cairns, at only 30km away, but even with the daily influx it never feels crowded.

16°93' S, 145°99' E

Fitzroy Island





ALMOST ENTIRELY COVERED in rainforest and surrounded by the Great Barrier Reef, Fitzroy Island offers views over the Cairns hinterland, just 45 minutes away by boat. Its proximity to the mainland means that Fitzroy has a long history, including the establishment of a coast watch station during World War II. While it was a station, a network of walking tracks were built on the island that still exist today. These paths allow you to climb to the highest points of the island, and provide access to beloved spots like Nudey Beach and Welcome Bay, as well as the historic lighthouse on the north-eastern end. The island hosts both a luxurious resort and the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre, which offers volunteer opportunities as well as daily educational tours for island visitors.





Previous: Nudey Beach (not a naturalist beach) can be accessed by a 15-minute walk. Nudey is often included in lists of Australia's best beaches, taking the top spot in the 2018 list of Australia's 101 Best Beaches.

Above: There's a range of activities on Fitzroy, from diving and snorkelling to hiking. Younger visitors tend to be particularly enamoured of the giant ocean trampoline, 30m from the beach, offering unlimited daily use for a small fee.



Above: Jennie Gilbert, a marine biologist at the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre, tends to an injured green turtle named Ella. Gilbert established the volunteer-run clinic with a colleague, Paul Barnes, more than 15 years ago.

Right: The proximity of Fitzroy Island to the mainland means that anyone with a ferry ticket and a camping spot can access white-coral beaches lapped by tropical waters and the magical wonderland of the Great Barrier Reef.

