



Haven on Heron

Located on the Barrier Reef itself, this luxury island resort is about quiet relaxation rather than raging night life. It's also about watching nature up close and personal. Story by Briar Jensen.

We stood on the beach in the darkness, listening. Scrrrunch. Scrrrunch. Then an exasperatingly long pause before, scrrrunch... scrrrunch... again. Further back in the dunes a laborious swishhh... swishhh... swishhh... was followed by an equally long pause. We'd found them.

It was just after 3am and although the moon highlighted their tracks up the beach, we couldn't see them under the trees, where the closest one was digging a body pit and the second one covering her eggs. The ranger had shown us how to identify them from their tracks, so we knew we were looking for two Green turtles, but we didn't want to stumble into their nesting area before locating them.

I'd hankered to come to Heron Island for ages, enticed by a travel poster I saw years ago showing a tiny coral cay, with lush green forest, encompassed by pristine white sand and surrounded by translucent turquoise waters. It depicted my ideal tropical island, but I had no idea it was also a nesting ground for sea turtles.

Located in the Capricorn Group of islands, 72 km off the Central Queensland coast between Gladstone and Rockhampton, Heron Island is part of the Great Barrier Reef. At only 18 hectares, with a circumference of 1.8 kilometres, it might be tiny but it's packed with natural attractions.



