



CAPE YORK WILDERNESS ADVENTURE

CAIRNS - CAIRNS

SAMPLE ITINERARY

This is a sample itinerary and may be subject to change. We may need to alter or amend itineraries, excursions, accommodation, or sightseeing arrangements from those published, with little or no notice. This may be due to road conditions, weather, cultural considerations, safety factors and other operational considerations or government regulations. Final itineraries are sent to passengers approximately 2-3 weeks before travel.

DAY 1 – Cairns – Port Douglas

Today you will be greeted by our friendly and professional Tour Directors. We then begin our journey north with a scenic drive along the Captain Cook Highway to Port Douglas. Enjoy a brief tour of this famous tropical village before checking into the premier accommodation choice in Port Douglas - the Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort for our overnight stay.

This evening enjoy a sumptuous welcome dinner together at the resort. **Meals: (D)**

DAY 2 – Port Douglas – Mossman Gorge – Daintree National Park

This morning we continue our journey north and visit the award-winning Mossman Gorge Centre in the Daintree National Park. Here we enjoy the Dreamtime Gorge Walk, which begins with a traditional smoking ceremony to cleanse and ward off bad spirits. Setting off on the walk, we'll be accompanied by experienced Indigenous guides who'll demonstrate traditional plant use, identify bush food sources and provide an enchanting narrative of the rainforest. At the end of the walk enjoy traditional bush tea and damper.

We then venture further into the World Heritage Listed Daintree, the oldest and most biologically diverse rainforest in the world. First up, we enjoy an informative cruise on the Daintree River before an exclusive guided tour at Cooper Creek Wilderness. Situated directly below Thornton Peak, the epicentre of refugial significance in the Daintree, Cooper Creek is home to pristine old growth rainforest and extraordinary fan palm galleries. Here we'll take a guided tour along the forest floor with expert,

inhabitant guides; an exclusive experience that's far removed from other mass tourism offerings in the area.

Late this afternoon we arrive at the Heritage Lodge and Spa for our overnight stay. **Meals: (B,L,D)**

DAY 3 – Cape Tribulation – Bloomfield Track – Cooktown

Journey deeper into the Daintree as we venture to Cape Tribulation, the only place on Earth where two UNESCO World Heritage wonders meet: the ancient Daintree rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef. After a serene beach stroll, get ready for an exhilarating drive along the legendary Bloomfield Track, a true outback adventure. There are numerous steep climbs through the rainforest and several creek crossings to navigate, so sit back and enjoy the scenery as your experienced tour driver does the hard work.

Once we're across the Bloomfield River, a visit to Bloomfield Falls will build your appetite for lunch at the Lion's Den Hotel, one of Queensland's oldest bush pubs. We arrive at Cooktown for our two night stay at the Sovereign Resort Hotel. We take in the Grassy Hill lookout followed by dinner at the hotel

We then check in to the 4-star Sovereign Resort Hotel for our overnight stay. **Meals: (B,L,D)**

DAY 4 – Cooktown

Today we depart Cooktown along the Battle Camp Road and visit the Old Laura Homestead before arriving in to Laura. This area is famous for its rock art.

This morning we visit art sites in the Laura area, where an experienced Aboriginal guide will accompany us to interpret the art and explain the significance of this cultural site.

Later on we enjoy lunch and a visit to the Quinkan Cultural Centre. We then travel through the grassy plains and woodlands of Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park, tackling several creek crossings along the way. We'll stop at Kalpowar on the Normanby River for afternoon tea, followed by a visit to Red Lily Lagoon, home to a vast array of flora and fauna. Admire the tall lotus lily with its spectacular pink flowers and dense yellow stamens, and



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keep an eye out for Brolgas and Sarus cranes striding through the lilies searching for sedge tubers.

This afternoon we pass through Nifold Plain, an open savannah characterised by thousands of magnetic termite mounds. We then continue through to Lotusbird Lodge, beautifully located on the edge of a tranquil billabong. Enjoy an exclusive two night stay to discover the area.

Meals: (B,L,D)

DAY 5 – Laura – Lotusbird Lodge

Setting out today, we travel the historic Battle Camp Road (subject to road conditions), stopping at the Old Laura Homestead before reaching the cultural heart of Laura. Here, an Indigenous guide leads us through ancient rock art sites, sharing cultural stories passed down through generations.

We then continue into Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park, pausing at Kalpowar for afternoon tea before arriving at the wildlife-rich Red Lily Lagoon. As the journey unfolds, watch the landscape transform into the vast savannah of Nifold Plain. Tonight, you'll stay at Lotusbird Lodge in unique pole style cabins, complete with private verandah and ensuite. **Meals: (B,L,D)**

DAY 6 – Rinyirru (Lakefield) from the air

Take to the skies for a breathtaking helicopter flight over Rinyirru's shimmering wetlands and sprawling floodplains. Afterwards, follow the Kennedy River to scenic Princess Charlotte Bay, part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and habitat for the dugong. The afternoon is yours - relax at the lodge or join a guided walk through the billabong, where you might spot rare birdlife. **Meals: (B,L,D)**

Please note: Weight limits apply to all scenic flights

DAY 7 – Coen – Weipa

Departing Lotusbird Lodge, we make our way north along the Peninsula Development Road, passing through Coen before arriving at a bucket list stop Archer River Roadhouse for lunch, one of Australia's northern most roadhouses.

We then continue to Weipa, the economic hub of the Cape and often referred to as the 'Barramundi capital of

Queensland' due to the abundance of marine life. **Meals: (B,L,D)**

DAY 8 – Explore Weipa and Wildlife Cruise

Start the day with a tranquil cruise along the Embly River, spotting diverse wildlife and learning about the region's unique history. Back on land, we visit the Western Cape Cultural Centre. This afternoon we head off to discover Red Beach. Once done you can relax at the hotel followed by dinner overlooking the water. **Meals: (B,L,D)**

DAY 9 – Telegraph Track – Heathlands – Fruit Bat Falls – Bamaga

Today our journey continues north along the Telegraph Track, passing through some wild and rugged countryside. However, as some sections of the track are impassable we'll mainly be travelling on the northern and southern bypass roads on our journey north from Moreton.

This morning enjoy a visit to Fruit Bat Falls for a refreshing swim in the crystal clear water of Eliot Creek, followed by a picnic lunch.

We then continue north and cross the Jardine River by vehicular ferry, before arriving at Bamaga where we check in to the Cape York Peninsula Lodge for the next two nights. **Meals: (B,L,D)**

DAY 10 – Bamaga – The Tip of Cape York

Today we venture to the northernmost point on the Australian Mainland, a Cape traveller's ultimate destination. The walking track commences at Pajinka and requires a good level of fitness, but is well worth the effort! Get your picture taken next to the iconic signpost and soak up the views of the Torres Strait as your guide fills you in on the history of the area.

This afternoon we visit Somerset, once the home of Frank Jardine and the official government residence on the Cape, protected by British Marines. After a BBQ lunch we return to the hotel where the rest of the day can be spent at your leisure. Tonight enjoy a performance by a local dance group at the resort. **Meals: (B,L,D)**



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DAY 11 – Endeavour Strait – Thursday Island – Friday Island

This morning we head to Seisia and board the ferry for our cruise across Endeavour Strait. Enjoy informative commentary about the Torres Strait Islands from the captain as we make our way to Thursday Island, situated 35km northwest of the tip of Cape York. The Island has a population of approximately 3,000 people and is the main administrative centre of the Torres Strait.

Upon our arrival on Thursday Island we'll enjoy a tour with a local expert before some free time.

We then take the short ferry trip across to Friday Island, home to Kazu Pearls. Here we enjoy a pearl demonstration and a visit to the pearl farm shop where we will have the opportunity to purchase some of their exquisite pearl jewellery.

Later this afternoon we return to Thursday Island for our overnight stay at the Jardine Motel. **Meals: (B,L,D)**

Note: For your convenience when taking the ferries to the islands, we suggest that you reduce your luggage to a small backpack. You will require a change of clothes, comfortable shoes, bathers, toiletries (no sharps), personal ID and Qantas Frequent Flyer card (if you have one). The rest of your luggage will return to Cairns on the coach.

DAY 12 – Horn Island – Cairns

This morning we catch a ferry across to Horn Island and enjoy a tour of this once prominent WWII air base before visiting the Torres Strait Heritage Museum. We then board our QANTAS flight back to Cairns, arriving in time for lunch.

For our final evening together, we'll check into the Shangri-La The Marina. Enjoy luxurious rooms in this perfectly positioned hotel along the Esplanade. Tonight, enjoy a special farewell dinner at the hotel and reflect upon our incredible adventure to the tip of Australia. **Meals: (B,L,D)**

DAY 13 – Cairns

After breakfast enjoy a relaxing morning before your transfer to Cairns airport, or to your accommodation if staying on. **Meals: (B)**

Every effort will be made by your crew to ensure that the above itinerary is followed. However, Outback Spirit reserves the right to alter the itinerary once on tour as required due to weather and track conditions or other operational considerations.