

# Great Drives in Queensland

March 2011

*We've put together some suggested itineraries to give you plenty of ideas when planning your Queensland holiday. Each of the itineraries gives you some options for where to stop and what to see and do along the way. And if you feel like taking a detour, there are plenty of itineraries you can mix and match. You can look for trips by the type of holiday – fly/drive, short breaks, extended touring or 4WD. Otherwise you can search by what you want to experience – food and wine, history, art and culture, nature or outdoor activities. Here's just a taste of some of Queensland's great drives.*

## Great Sunshine Way

The Great Sunshine Way is a new way to discover the very best of Australia, right here in Southern Queensland. From Queensland's vibrant capital, Brisbane to the stunning surf beaches of the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast, from ancient subtropical rainforests to World Heritage-listed Fraser Island, the range of experiences on offer rivals any holiday in the world. And when you add to that the sublime weather and warm, friendly people, you'll see it truly is a destination that has everything under the sun. [www.thegreatsunshineway.com](http://www.thegreatsunshineway.com)

## Great Tropical Drive

Slow your pace to tropical speed as you explore the northern coast and hinterland between Townsville and Cooktown. With World Heritage rainforest, raging rivers, lava tubes, the country's highest single-drop waterfall and the Great Barrier Reef to explore, there's enough here to justify a restful afternoon or three on a palmfringed beach. You can fly/drive from Townsville or Cairns with the drive taking between eight to 14 days. Highlights include the heritage gold rush town of Charters Towers, Undara Volcanic National Park where you can see the world's longest system of lava tubes and heading north, visit one of the world's top 10 rock art sites. You can even go crocodile spotting in the Daintree village, in the midst of the World Heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest. [www.greattropicaldrive.com.au](http://www.greattropicaldrive.com.au)

## Reef to Outback

Take a great Australian journey and discover Queensland's Reef to Outback trail, linking two of the country's most iconic natural attractions – the World Heritage-listed wonders of the Great Barrier Reef and the wide open spaces of the Outback. This vast natural playground offering experiences as varied as some of Australia's best Aboriginal rock art in magnificent Carnarvon Gorge to exploring the coral gardens of Lady Elliot Island in the midst of the Great Barrier Reef. There are oldstyle seaside villages where the locals holiday, and the chance to get up close to Australia's unique wildlife. Fossick for gems, stay on a working farm or marvel at ancient dinosaur fossils. Rediscover the freedom of what holidays used to feel like. Suggested itineraries allow four, six or 11 days for this journey. [www.southernbarrierreef.com.au](http://www.southernbarrierreef.com.au)

## Matilda Highway

Discover the Queensland Outback on the Matilda Highway, a fully-sealed 1812km stretch of road from the New South Wales border, all the way to the Gulf of Carpentaria. This is one road which most definitely leads to adventure, and a different one each day. The highway can be completed in as little of 24 hours, but you'd be missing out on the 'real Outback'... that is, the people, the attractions and natural sites. Four days is a comfortable drive, depending on how long you stay in each town, like Longreach where you can visit the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, and Qantas Founders Outback Museum (with its own decommissioned Boeing 747 Jet); and Winton where our national song "Waltzing Matilda" has its own museum. Check the byways along the route, where plenty of side-trips add much to the overall Outback experience.

[www.queenslandholidays.com.au/drivequeensland/suggested-itineraries/experiences/matilda-highway/index.cfm](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/drivequeensland/suggested-itineraries/experiences/matilda-highway/index.cfm)

## Savannah Way

The Savannah Way is one of Australia's ultimate adventure drives, 3700km, linking Cairns in Tropical North Queensland with the historic pearling town of Broome in Western Australia, via the natural wonders of Katherine in the Northern Territory. Whether you explore just a section, or the entire route, you'll pass through an amazingly diverse and spectacular landscape of wide horizons, ancient gorges, rock pools, salt pans, hot springs and abundant wildlife. Highlights include the Undara Lava Tubes, the largest and longest on the planet; the historic towns of Croydon, Normanton and Georgetown; the hidden gorges of Lawn Hill, other spectacular national parks and the World Heritage fossil fields at Riversleigh. [www.savannahway.com.au](http://www.savannahway.com.au)

## 4WD Dinosaur Adventure Loop

This four-day tour takes you into the heart of Queensland's Dinosaur Country. Discover first-hand the hidden past of Australia's dinosaur age in a region which was once part of the Great Inland Sea. Visit Muttaborra, one of the world's richest repositories of fossilised dinosaur bones. Fossils can also be found in many of the creek beds around Hughenden, home of the Flinders Discovery Centre. Other highlights of Australian Outback heritage include the Combo Waterhole, The Waltzing Matilda Centre, the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Qantas Founders Outback Museum. Although most roads are sealed, some are suitable only for 4WD. This four day route covers 863km.

[www.queenslandholidays.com.au/drive-queensland/suggesteditineraries/experiences/4wd-dinosaur-adventure-loop-drive-itinerary/index.cfm](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/drive-queensland/suggesteditineraries/experiences/4wd-dinosaur-adventure-loop-drive-itinerary/index.cfm)

## Southwest Bilby Byway

A great short 4WD adventure in South-West Queensland Bilby Country, filled with Outback stories, characters, national parks, and vast open spaces. Keep an eye out for the endangered Bilby – a desert-dwelling bandicoot. The 751km route ends at Charleville, where you can visit a captive breeding program and gaze at the magical Outback stars at the Cosmos Centre. Don't miss the famous annual World Lizard Racing Championships in Eulo (in August each year). This four-day tour from Bourke to Charleville requires a 4WD.

[www.queenslandholidays.com.au/drivequeensland/suggested-itineraries/experiences/south-west-bilby-byway-driveitinerary/index.cfm](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/drivequeensland/suggested-itineraries/experiences/south-west-bilby-byway-driveitinerary/index.cfm)

## Valleys & Vines Drive

This seven-day drive covers almost 900km and explores a special corner of Queensland surrounding its capital Brisbane. Enjoy the golden beaches of the Gold Coast, the dramatic landscapes of the stunning Scenic Rim and the Granite Belt, Queensland's premier wine growing region. The fully-sealed road takes you through green valleys, one of Queensland's richest agricultural areas and quaint country towns before finishing this drive off with a dip in the sea at stylish Noosa on the Sunshine Coast. Contemplate adding an extra day or two and discovering the subtropical rainforest of Lamington National Park, Natural Bridge, O'Reilly's Plateau and the ancient Bunya Mountains. [www.queenslandholidays.com.au/drivequeensland/suggested-itineraries/experiences/valleys-and-vines-driveitinerary/index.cfm](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/drivequeensland/suggested-itineraries/experiences/valleys-and-vines-driveitinerary/index.cfm)

## Tropical North Rejuvenation

Tropical North Queensland is chic, it's contemporary, it's natural and, with a network of scenic drives, is easily accessible. For many discerning travellers seeking a thoroughly sophisticated five-star paradise, it is one of the best places in Australia to rejuvenate. Palm-fringed beaches, exotic spas, dreamy accommodation, beautiful golf courses and five-star service - contemporary Tropical North Queensland is purpose-built for luxurious holidays amid extraordinary natural attractions. This relaxing drive takes in Palm Cove, renowned as Australia's "spa capital", spectacular Mossman Gorge and the World Heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest before ending in Cairns.

[www.queenslandholidays.com.au/drive-queensland/suggested-itineraries/luxuryjourneys/tnq-rejuvenation.cfm](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/drive-queensland/suggested-itineraries/luxuryjourneys/tnq-rejuvenation.cfm)

## Fraser Island 4WD Adventure

This three-day itinerary is a brief introduction to World Heritage-listed Fraser Island. Fraser Island is the largest sand island in the world and one of the most unique ecological masterpieces of Australia. With more than 120km of pristine beaches, pure fresh water lakes and ancient rainforests, there is so much to explore. You'll visit iconic island sights including Central Station, Eli Creek, Lake McKenzie, Lake Wabby and Indian Head. Some of the 230km route is unsealed, and a vehicle access permit must be obtained before taking your 4WD to the island.

[www.queenslandholidays.com.au/drive-queensland/suggesteditineraries/experiences/fraser-island-4wd-adventure-drive-itinerary/index.cfm](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/drive-queensland/suggesteditineraries/experiences/fraser-island-4wd-adventure-drive-itinerary/index.cfm)

For more ideas on Queensland driving holidays, visit [www.queenslandholidays.com.au/drive-queensland](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/drive-queensland)