

There are some unforgettable ways to explore the beauty of Queensland from the Outback to the Great Barrier Reef and rainforest – from the air. Take your pick from planes, hot air balloons, swinging through the rainforest canopy and even sky diving!

Hot Air Ballooning

Up, up and away, take a hot air balloon tour over the picturesque Cairns Highlands, Gold Coast Hinterland or Queensland's capital city of Brisbane.

Enjoy a spectacular bird's eye view from high above the tree tops as everyone else is waking up to another beautiful Queensland day. Gently lift off as the sun rises over a unique region of World Heritage-listed rainforests, National Parks, charming Outback towns and rolling green hills. Come down to earth and enjoy a relaxing breakfast of champagne, fresh juices and a hot and cold buffet. www.hotair.com.au or www.ragingthunder.com.au www.balloonsoverbrisbane.com.au

Bunji Jumping & Minjin Swing

Take the plunge from the world's first purpose built bungy jumping tower built deep in the World Heritage Rainforest near Cairns.

As well as its unique location, the Smithfield Bungy Tower is also the only one in the world to offer 16 different jump styles from traditional swan dives to riding off the roof on a BMX bike or swinging through the rainforest canopy. The jump menu features a selection rated "Full On" for beginners, "Adrenalin" for second time jumpers and "XXX Rated" for seasoned thrill seekers. As well as being the launching pad, the top of the tower also provides spectacular views over the Northern Beaches and out to the Great Barrier Reef. www.ajhackett.com.au

Sky Diving in Queensland

If being thrown out of a plane at 14,000 feet and landing on a white sandy beach is your idea of fun, then head to Brisbane, Cairns or Mission Beach on your next Queensland holiday.

The Australian Skydive Company operates Skydive Cairns in Cairns, Jump the Beach at Mission Beach, and Jump the Beach Brisbane to cater for thrill seekers all around the State. From Cairns and Mission Beach you'll enjoy unsurpassed views of the Great Barrier Reef, rainforests, islands and beaches... all after recovering from a 60 second freefall, and before landing in the drop zone near Cairns or on beautiful palm fringed Mission Beach, that is. Above the skies of Brisbane you'll also enjoy spectacular views stretching from the Glasshouse Mountains in the north, to the Gold Coast Hinterland in the south and the sand dunes of the Moreton Bay islands dotted just offshore before landing on Sutton's Beach. www.australianskydivecompany.com.au

Warbirds buzz the Tropics

Thrill-seekers in Tropical North Queensland have welcomed the region's newest scenic adventure, Warbird Adventure Flights.

With bases in Townsville and Cairns, Warbird Adventure Flights offers a new and adrenalin pumping way to experience the tropical skies of north Queensland. Get a glimpse of what true aerial combat was like in high performance piston-engine fighters of the WWII era, aboard the Nanchang CJ-6A aircraft which consistently pulls up to 4G. Whether chasing a mild or wild flying experience, the flights can include a range of aerobatic manoeuvres including rolls, loops, turns and wingovers. Unless you are an experienced flyer however, your pilot will execute one manoeuvre at a time and confer with you before continuing on with the next manoeuvre. Non-aerobatic scenic flights are also available where passengers simply enjoy the experience of flying in a vintage fighter aircraft over the Great Barrier Reef and Pacific Ocean. www.flyingwarbirds.com.au

Chopper to solitary sand cay bliss

See the wonders of the tropical north Queensland coastline and the Great Barrier Reef from a helicopter as it takes you to the splendid isolation of a sandy cay.

As you fly there enjoy an informative in-flight commentary from your pilot guide before he safely lands you on the sandy cay where you can spend the new few hours doing as you choose. Refreshments are available and can be upgraded to include a gourmet meal. Slather yourself in sunscreen and laze on the white sand, go snorkelling and swimming and don't forget your camera to record this remarkable experience. Return flights are available from Cairns and Port Douglas. www.skysafari.com.au

Land on the beach at Fraser Island

Swap the water arrival to the world's largest sand island for one by air with Air Fraser Island, a local company offering scenic flights and day tours to the island from the Sunshine Coast and Hervey Bay.

Marvel at the brilliant blue waters as you fly to World Heritage listed Fraser Island and during whale season watch for the action. Forget about tarmac airstrips, you will be landing right on the beach with the rainforest on one side and the surf on the other. The day trip includes a buffet lunch and time to explore or relax by the pool at Eurong Beach Resort, time to walk to Lake Wabby and for fishing fans, time to try and catch a fish. www.airfraserisland.com.au

Jungle Surfing in the Daintree

Soar from the rainforest floor to the tip of the canopy as you 'jungle surf' your way through the Daintree Rainforest in Tropical North Queensland.

Strap into a zipline flying fox and enjoy spectacular views over the Daintree Tribulation National Park and out to the magnificent Great Barrier Reef. This is the only place in the world where two World-Heritage listed areas exist side-by-side. Qualified biological scientists guide jungle surfing groups through the series of cables, pointing out tropical plants and animal species along the way, including wildlife and birds unique to the oldest living rainforest on earth. Jungle surfing operates daily and is suitable for anyone above three years of age. Bookings are essential. www.junglesurfingcanopytours.com.au

Enjoy a Birdsville Burger .. flight

Buy four \$AUD600 Birdsville Burgers and Outback Airtours will fly you and three friends to Birdsville to enjoy them!

Ideal for visitors who'd like a taste of the real Outback but have limited time in Queensland, Outback Airtours' day trip to Birdsville is a fantastic option. Departing Charleville at 7:30am, the scenic charter flight arrives in Birdsville, on the edge of the Simpson Desert in the far south-west corner of the State, at 10am. The tiny town with a population of 120 is most famous for its pub and annual races when the population grows to 6000 for the two day event. After a morning 'smoko' at the Pub, the tour visits John Menzie's Working Museum featuring an incredible collection of artefacts to present. Lunch in the Pub, built in 1884, is followed by a historic walking tour around the town. The return flight departs at 2pm and arrives back in Charleville at 4:30pm. Highlights of the scenic flight include the vast Mulga Lands to the West of Charleville, vast opal mines, Cooper Creek and its channels, Lake Yamma Yamma and Haddon Corner on the Queensland/South Australia border. www.outbackairtours.com

The only way to see the Whitsundays

View all of the famous Whitsunday icons from a spectacular bird's eye perspective in a private helicopter or seaplane charter.

Look below at some of the 74 islands floating like gems amongst the azure waters, then visit a few of the world famous destinations including Heart Reef and Whitehaven Beach. Whether it's a snorkelling tour, a champagne beach picnic or just a scenic flight, Aviation Tourism Australia cater for all needs, and service all of the Whitsunday islands and Airlie Beach on the mainland. www.avta.com.au/wst_reef_wh.asp or www.airwhitsunday.com.au

See the Gold Coast from on high in a vintage Tiger Moth

Enjoy the beauty of the Gold Coast and hinterland from the passenger seat of a vintage Tiger Mother aircraft which began flying more than 70 years ago.

As well as flying in a genuine vintage aircraft, guests also get to feel part of the action when they are outfitted in a leather flight jacket, leather helmet and goggles. You can choose from a pleasant scenic joy flight or can opt for some more action with an aerobatic flight complete with barrel rolls, loop the loops and other breathtaking manoeuvres. All passengers can have their friends or fellow travellers walk them to the aircraft so they can have their photographs taken to capture the moment. Flights depart every day of the year except for Christmas Day (weather permitting!), and fly within a 60-mile radius of Gold Coast City. www.tigermoths.com.au

Fly high without leaving the ground

Discover what it's like to fly a commercial jet airliner while staying firmly on the ground at Flight Experience on the Gold Coast.

Flight Experience Q1 is a flight simulator based on the Boeing 737-800 and guests can pilot it to any airport around the world. They enjoy a full flight as 'Captain on duty' under the watchful eye of skilled flight instructors doing everything from listening to pre-flight briefing, taking off, 'flying' to the destination, landing and taxiing to the gate. All instructors have real flying experience and understand how an airline operates. Flight Experience aims to give people a chance to experience what a professional airline captain does in their everyday job. There are three packages available – 30, 60 and 90 minutes. www.goldcoastflightsimulators.com.au