

Cairns & the Great Barrier Reef

A nature lover's paradise, this tropical escape offers a combination of some of the world's most breathtaking scenery with a diverse range of activities.

The region's environment is as unique as it is diverse with the spectacular depths of the Great Barrier Reef, the awesome heights of the Wet Tropics rainforest and the mighty vastness of the Outback all within easy reach of Cairns.

Nowhere else on earth do two World Heritage listed sites exist side by side – **the Great Barrier Reef and Australia's Tropical Rainforests** – which are both renowned for their scientific value and natural beauty.

How to get here

Airport: Fly into Cairns International or Domestic Airports

Location: Cairns is located a 19 hour drive north of Brisbane.

Transfer options

- Train – Queensland Rail's Sunlander and Tilt Train link Cairns to coastal towns along the Queensland coastline from Brisbane.
- Sunbus Cairns, Cairns Limousines, Cairns Black & White Taxis, Greyhound Buses
- Self drive

Travel Time and Distance

Flying times:

BRISBANE to Cairns - 2 hours

TOWNSVILLE to Cairns - 50 minutes

Dining out

Alfresco dining, hinterland vineyards and internationally recognised restaurants; no holiday to Tropical North Queensland is complete without tasting the local delicacies. Tempt your tastebuds at award-winning restaurants, as well as casual meals in quaint restaurants, cafes and takeaway outlets. A smorgasbord of fantastic international cuisine is on offer, and of course, unique Australian cuisine infusing 'bush tucker'.

Ideas and inspiration

The Great Barrier Reef and Islands

Stretching more than 2,000km along the Queensland coastline and covering 35 million hectares, the Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef. Tropical North Queensland offers the closest and easiest access point to this majestic underwater playground where visitors can discover some of its 1,500 brilliantly coloured species of fish, 4,000 species of molluscs and 400 types of coral. Here it's easy to slip into the region's laidback tropical lifestyle with diving, snorkelling, sailing, cruising and island hopping.



Daintree Rainforest and Cape Tribulation

North of Cairns is Cape Tribulation, the Mossman Gorge and the World Heritage listed Daintree Rainforest. The oldest surviving tropical rainforest in the world, the Daintree is a site of exceptional beauty and scientific significance. Meet the locals of the region – furry, feathered and sometimes feared – in the depths of the Rainforest or in the comfort of a wildlife park. Visitors stay in secluded resorts, eco-retreats, or drop in by day tours.

Cairns

The modern city of Cairns offers adventure, excitement, shopping and the best in dining and accommodation. A huge inner-city swimming lagoon is ideal for year round swimming, while restaurants, bars, clubs, cafes and galleries that line the Esplanade offer sweeping views across Trinity Inlet and is the perfect spot to soak up the atmosphere.

Port Douglas

Port Douglas is a delightful town situated a scenic one hour drive north of Cairns. Wedged between two World Heritage sites – the Great Barrier Reef and ancient Daintree Rainforest – this stunning seaside jewel offers palm fringed streets and beaches, beautiful boutique shopping experiences, art galleries, fantastic spas and a multitude of award-winning restaurants.

Must do!

- The Great Barrier Reef and tropical islands
- Browse local markets in Kuranda, Cairns, Port Douglas and the Cairns Highlands
- Tropical Tablelands
- Mission Beach
- Port Douglas
- Visit the Daintree Rainforest – the oldest rainforest in the world
- Cape Tribulation
- Barron and Mossman Gorges
- Go to Aboriginal rock sites and learn about Australia's rich indigenous history

General Information

www.changeyourlatitude.com.au
www.tropicalaustralia.com.au

Aboriginal Sites & Culture

See some of Australia's best indigenous experiences and the home of the largest and oldest collection of rock art sites in the world. Discover Aboriginal ancestral paintings, modern artworks, ochre body painting, authentic artefacts, indigenous knowledge of bush foods and medicines, and festivals of the Aboriginal, Thursday Islander and Torres Strait Islander people.

Kuranda Village

The picturesque mountain retreat of Kuranda Village is a vibrant little town surrounded by World Heritage rainforest. Visit Kuranda via the Kuranda Scenic Railway and return on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, the world's longest rainforest cableway offering an education rainforest experience with a spectacular view.

Cairns Highlands

Just inland from the coast is the serene setting of the Cairns Highlands, a patchwork of farmlands, ancient rainforests, crater lakes and waterfalls offering a cool rural retreat.

Palm cove

Palm Cove combines the charm of a seaside village and resort style luxuries with the serene beauty of its palm fringed white sandy beach with views over the aqua waters to the Great Barrier Reef.

Events!

- Barramundi season opens (Jan)
- Ingham Arts Festival (Apr)
- Port Douglas Carnivale (May)
- Normanton Rodeo (Jun)
- Cooktown Endeavour Festival (Jun)
- Atherton Tableland Jazz Festival (Jul)
- Cairns Super Show (Jul)
- Cairns Amateur Races (Aug/Sep)
- Dunk Billfish Classic (Sep)
- Festival Cairns (Oct)