

Townsville

With 300 days of blues skies and sunshine every year; and the beautiful Magnetic Island on its doorstep, it's easy to understand Townsville's attraction.

The region is home to two inner-city cultural hubs – Townsville's award-winning waterfront esplanade, the Strand, and the new Riverway lagoon precinct.

Townsville's streets are alive with restaurants, cafes and night life. It is also the gateway to a wide range of Australian experiences including the Great Barrier Reef, tropical islands, beaches, rainforests and Queensland's Outback.

How to get here

Airport: Fly into Townsville (2 hours flying time from Brisbane, or 50 minutes from Cairns).

Location: Townsville is a 15 hour drive north from Brisbane, or a four hour drive south from Cairns.

Transfer options

- Train – Sunlander and The Tilt Train link Townsville to coastal centres including Brisbane, Mackay and Cairns.
- Townsville Sunbus, limousines, taxis
- Self drive

Travel Time and Distance

Flying Times:

BRISBANE to Mackay - 1 hour 25 minutes

MACKAY to Townsville - 50 minutes

CAIRNS to Townsville - 50 minutes

Dining out

The city's four main dining precincts set a new standard of tropical inner city life. Head to Flinders Street East to experience Townsville's vibrant nightlife scene or visit Palmer Street to sample the award-winning international cuisine. Gregory Street is the perfect place to stop for lunch or coffee and cake, and the 2.5km beachfront precinct known as The Strand boasts fantastic restaurants with stunning views to Magnetic Island.



Ideas and inspiration

Great Barrier Reef

The options available to explore the Great Barrier Reef from Townsville are endless. Join one of the many reef trips to swim, snorkel or scuba dive among the colourful corals and marine species of one of the world's great natural wonders.

Diving

Home to one of the world's best wreck dives, SS Yongola, Townsville is a hotspot for those keen to check out the underwater scene. Scuba dive or snorkel amid the rich clusters of coral, swim in the warm ocean shallows or search for seasonal fishing haunts in the Great Barrier Reef.

Magnetic Island

Known as "Maggie" to the locals, Magnetic Island is one of Australia's undiscovered tropical island getaways and lies just 8km off the Townsville coastline. The contrasting landscape of this World Heritage listed island makes this natural destination truly distinctive.

Must do!

- Island hop between Magnetic, Orpheus, Hinchinbrook, Dunk and Bedarra Islands
- Stroll down The Strand and enjoy magnificent views across Cleveland Bay to Magnetic Island
- Tantalise your taste buds with Tropical North Queensland cuisine
- Take an underwater adventure and snorkel or dive the Great Barrier Reef
- Explore Magnetic Island in a Mini Moke
- Get up close and personal with Australian wildlife at Billabong Sanctuary, Townsville's interactive wildlife sanctuary
- White water raft down the Tully River
- Experience the Great Barrier Reef without getting wet at Reef HQ, the world's largest living reef aquarium
- Join a fishing charter and test your angling skills with deep sea tropical fishing
- Visit the Museum of Tropical Queensland

General Information

www.townsvilleholidays.com.au
www.townsvilleholidays.info

Outdoor adventures

With the reef, rainforest and Queensland's Outback all within easy reach; Townsville offers adventures in some of the country's most beautiful locations. White water rafting, bushwalking, abseiling, horse riding, sky diving, fishing, scuba diving and snorkelling are just some of the activities on offer.

Nature and wildlife

Home to Australia's largest collection of animals and plant life, North Queensland is the perfect destination to get in touch with nature. Visit a local water hole to see a platypus in the wild, wake up to the sounds of thousands of birds, wander through stunning national parks and rainforests, or camp beside beautiful waterfalls. Spot koalas on Magnetic Island or watch saltwater crocodiles being fed at a native animal sanctuary.

Events!

- Australian Italian Festival in Ingham (May)
- Charters Towers Country Music Festival (May)
- Mingela Rodeo (May)
- Australian Festival of Chamber Music (July)
- Townsville Jazz Festival (August)
- Townsville Greek Festival (October)