

# OnCourse

TOURS AND TRAVEL

## CAIRNS

and the

## TROPICAL NORTH

*FOLLOW THE SUN*

**8 DAY TOUR**

**5<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023**

Escape the Sydney winter and join us for a great 8 day tour of Cairns. Our 5 star accommodation is at the Shangri-La The Marina Cairns, which provides the perfect base for exploring this unique area. The hotel offers comfort and elegance and sits between Trinity Inlet, the Coral Sea and Esplanade Parklands framing views across Marlin Marina to the mountains beyond. It is perfectly situated to the centre of Cairns although you may need to be coaxed to leave this fabulous property!



Cairns is a modern vibrant city with a delightful blend of colonial architecture from grand public buildings to rambling country pubs. As the gateway to the world heritage listed Great Barrier Reef and lush rainforests, Cairns is one of our most popular destinations for overseas visitors and Australian holiday makers alike.

Flying into and out of Cairns our itinerary has been designed to showcase the many delights of the tropical north and enjoy our beautiful surroundings.

11 Tepko Road, Terrey Hills

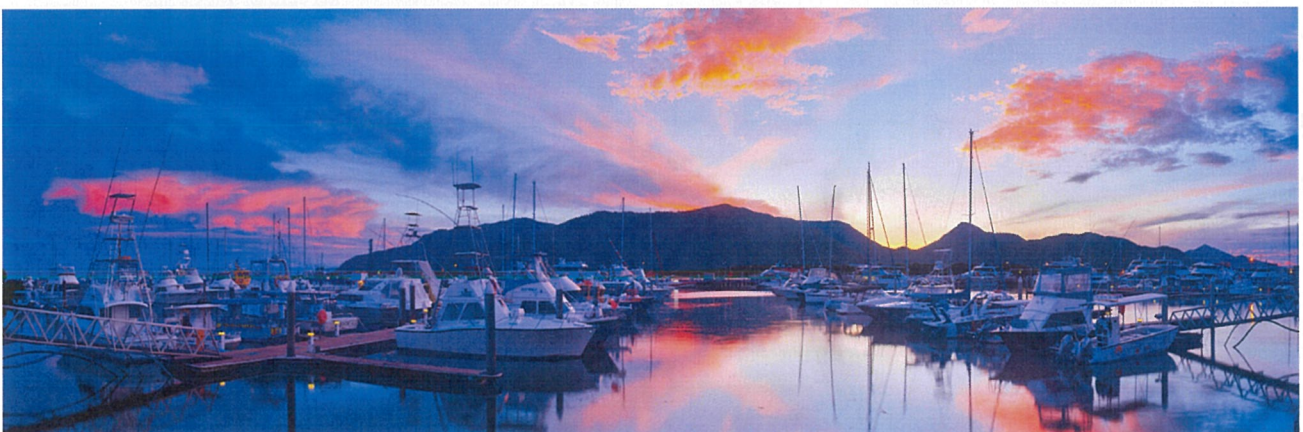
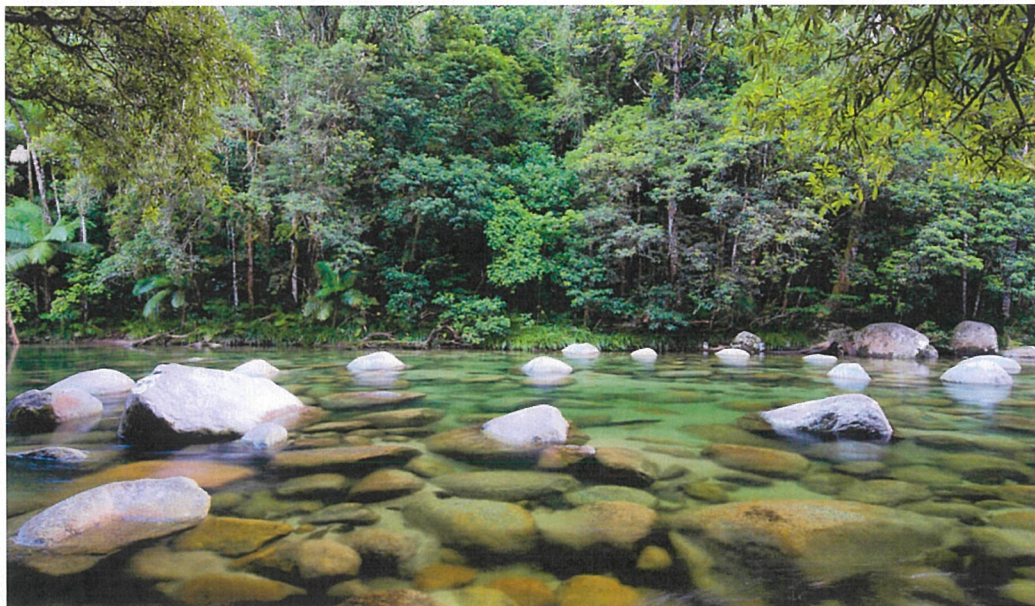
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Highlights include:-

- \* Flecker Botanic Gardens
- \* Skyrail Rainforest Cableway & Kuranda Scenic Railway
- \* Visit to Port Douglas
- \* Full Day Green Island Reef Cruise
- \* Daintree River Cruise and Rainforest
- \* Cape Tribulation
- \* Barron River
- \* Lake Barrine & Atherton Tableland
- \* Hartleys Crocodile Farm
- \* Mossman Gorge
- \* Palm Cove
- \* Milla Milla Falls
- \* Innisfail



Cost per person is \$3,590.00 and includes Airfares, 7 full breakfasts, 4 lunches and 5 dinners. Single supplement is \$980.00. Shangri-La The Marina, Cairns Ph: 07 4052 7500.



# CAIRNS ITINERARY

## DAY 1

*(Lunch & Dinner)*

Departing on our morning flight we arrive at Cairns where we will be met at the airport and commence our tour of the scenic highlights of the city and surrounds. Showcased will be the harbour area and marina, the city centre, Flecker Botanic Gardens which we will have time to explore and we will learn about the history of this spectacular region. Checking into the delightful Shangri La Marina, Cairns (07 4031 1411) – our base for all 7 nights – around 4.30pm we will have time to relax before welcome drinks at 6.00pm followed by dinner in house at 7.00pm.

## DAY 2

*(Breakfast & Dinner)*

After a hearty breakfast (full cooked buffet with an excellent variety) we commence a fabulous day in the Cairns hinterland at Kuranda travelling through the world heritage listed rainforests of the Barron Gorge National Park. The historic railway climbs through tunnels, across bridged ravines, past waterfalls and stops at Barron Falls on its way to the much photographed Kuranda Railway Station. The railway, an engineering feat, is an important part of the areas history linking the coast to the tablelands, providing supplies to the thousands of desperate miners on the Wild River tin fields.

Kuranda is a picture post card village in the rainforest with a unique character. Its markets are an attraction that showcase an amazing array of local products. The town is an interesting fusion of indigenous culture, artists, alternative lifestyle, pioneers and visitors from every point of the globe. Our visit includes the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary where we will see the brilliant blue Ulysses, the Cairns Birdwings and Red Lace Wings in an excellent display of colour.

Lunch will be in the Kuranda Village at 12.00 noon and we will have time to explore Kuranda's many galleries and stalls before our return on the sky rail. The Sky Rail is a 7.5 kilometre cableway that takes us over the canopy of the rainforest and there are 2 stations, Red Peak and Barron Falls where we can explore the rainforest and learn about its many mysteries. We return to the Shangri La around 5.00pm with dinner at 7.00pm.

## DAY 3

*(Breakfast & Dinner)*

The road north from Ellis Beach to Yule Point closely hugs the coastline, curving with it around every bay and headland and each bend brings a fresh vista of steep green slopes, palm fringed beaches and turquoise waters. It is regarded as one of the most beautiful drives in Australia! We break our journey with morning tea at Port Douglas – a very chic resort town these days. We will have time to explore the village both on the coach, taking in many fabulous vistas and on foot for some extended retail therapy.

We will then head to Mossman where the coastal plain widens and the emerald green swathes of sugar cane plantations surround the town. Another of the highlights will be a visit to the crystal clear waters and tall trees of Mossman Gorge. In the steep sided valley the headwaters of the Mossman River cascade through the rainforest creating some excellent swimming holes which are shared with freshwater turtles. The rest of

our afternoon is spent at Hartley's Adventure Park – one of the longest established and most highly regarded wildlife parks in North Queensland. The highlight will be the Crocodile Attack show in the specially designed amphitheatre. We will also cruise the tranquil waters of Hartley's lagoon and experience the domain of the saltwater crocodile in its natural habitat. There is also a crocodile farm tour and cassowary feeding. We return to the Shangri La with dinner at 7.00pm.

#### **DAY 4**

*(Breakfast & Lunch)*

An earlier start this morning leaving our motel at 8.30am for a full day on Green Island. Green Island is another of nature's rare gifts – a small coral island with a rainforest. The island is situated in the world heritage listed Great Barrier Reef marine park and our full day cruise allows us time to relax and enjoy the facilities of this special place. Our cruise on the Big Cat (a spacious comfortable 30metre air conditioned catamaran) includes lunch as well as a glass bottom boat tour over the reef and a fish feeding display. Also available is a semi submarine tour and snorkelling on the reef. Only 15 hectares in total, a leisurely walk around the Island takes around 45 minutes or simply pull up some sand to take in the beautiful surroundings.

We return to Cairns at approximately 5.00pm and tonight is free to explore Cairns – its array of restaurants and cafes and maybe a visit to the Reef Casino or the night markets. Alternatively relax at the Shangri la after a full and enjoyable day on the reef – you may prefer a light meal after a hearty lunch on the Reef Cat.

#### **DAY 5**

*(Breakfast)*

Today we will enjoy a free day to relax and enjoy our beautiful tropical surroundings. You can be as active or as passive as you like, with lots of options to explore in our northern capital. There is also a great selection of cafes and restaurants for lunch and dinner. A great opportunity to recharge the batteries for the next 3 days of our tour!

#### **DAY 6**

*(Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)*

The rich red volcanic soils of the Tableland support a wide range of rural industries, many of them growing out of Chinese gardens established to feed the thousands of miners that rushed the area after gold and tin. There are extensive herds of dairy and beef cattle along with maize, potatoes, peanuts, macadamia nuts, avocados and tobacco. The Tableland stretches 150 kilometres at an elevation of around 750 metres so temperatures are a lot milder than on the coast. Our day includes a visit to the Old Post Office Gallery and the National Trust Chinese Compound at Atherton that details the impact of the Chinese on the district.

Our lunch is a picnic at the picturesque Lake Eacham, one of the crater lakes of the district. The surrounding area contains a number of attractions and we will spend the afternoon taking in the scenic beauty of the district including the Cathedral Fig Tree, The Curtain Fig, Yungaburra, Tinaroo and Milla Milla Falls.

The journey back to Cairns takes us through the Palmerston National Park and onto the Bruce Highway just north of Innisfail. We arrive back at the Holiday Inn at approximately 5.30pm with dinner at 7.00pm.

## **DAY 7**

*(Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)*

This morning we again travel the beautiful coast road with our first destination the Village of Daintree. Following morning tea we will cruise on the picturesque and tranquil Daintree River and hopefully spot a few crocodiles (no boom netting on this cruise!) and a dazzling array of bird life - often we see the azure kingfisher and the striking Ulysses butterfly.

Our afternoon sees us cross the Daintree River on the ferry and continue on to the delightful Cape Tribulation. It is home to some of the world's most ancient rainforests and spectacular beaches. Cape Tribulation sits at the intersection of two world heritage listed areas and the reef is easily accessible. We will have time to walk through the rainforest on an elevated boardwalk, stroll the white sands of its beautiful beaches and explore the village. We will arrive back at the Shangri La with time to freshen up before dinner at 7.00pm.

## **DAY 8**

*(Breakfast)*

Today we have the morning free to either relax around the Shangri La, catch up on some last minute shopping or enjoy the ambiance of our Northern Capital, taking in some of the galleries and distinctive colonial buildings in and around the centre of Cairns. We will regroup at our hotel to travel up to the beachside village of Palm Cove, renowned for its barefoot glamour. It is centred around an esplanade lined with 500 year old Melaleuca Trees. Although it only has a permanent population of around 2000, it is home to some spectacular hotels and resorts along with lots of great cafes, restaurants, shops and galleries.

After lunch and some time to explore the village we will transfer to Cairns Airport for our direct flight back to Sydney.

\*\*\*\*\* *Due to any unforeseen circumstances this itinerary may change* \*\*\*\*\*