

Snorkel, Raft, Hike & Bike in Queensland!



Highlights

A deadset, fair dinkum ripper of a holiday! Whitewater rafting, jungle treks, bush biking and diving on the Great Barrier Reef are just a handful of the highlights on this eight-day adventure tour of Queensland!

Home to five UNESCO World Heritage Sites (the Wet Tropics, the Great Barrier Reef, Fraser Island, the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves and the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites at Riversleigh), as well as cultures spanning several millennia, Queensland is rightly considered one of the world's premier adventure holiday destinations. Australia's 'Sunshine State' is a land of ancient jungles, pristine beaches and warm turquoise waters resplendent with Technicolor corals! All this makes for some awesome exploration, be it sailing and snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef, rafting down a jungle-draped valley or watching wallabies on a sunrise balloon flight!

This eight-day tour is chock-full of action and adventure in some of the world's most spectacular surroundings! Your week begins with a rainforest trek led by a local indigenous guide, which gives you the chance to get up close and personal with some of the region's extraordinary fauna, from pythons to tree frogs, cockatoos to kookaburras! It's then off to the Great Barrier Reef for some scuba and snorkelling – look out for giant turtles, white-tipped reef sharks and playful clown fish – before heading back inland for a little whitewater rafting on the Class III-IV Tully River rapids! The Waterfalls Circuit hike via Mission Beach is the quintessential rainforest experience, complete with orchids, swimming holes and the scintillating play of butterflies! Finally, there's just enough time for some superb singletrack mountain biking in the Little Mulgrave Valley before the trip draws to a close. Phew!

Is it for me?

Simply awesome! There are few tours that match this Australian odyssey for sheer scope and scale of spectacle. There's nothing prosaic or pedestrian here; instead, it's an endless stream of breathtaking experiences! We'd recommend this trip to anyone with insatiable curiosity and an appetite for adventure, to those for whom holidays aren't just about putting one's life on pause for a week! There's plenty of time to relax on this tour, but there's also an emphasis on exploration and close encounters (with the landscape, fauna and even the locals!). Whilst you don't need to be Rambo to participate on this tour, it is an active trip, so if you prefer not to break out into a sweat, you may prefer to try the [Wildlife Tour](#) instead. Rest assured, as long as you're open-minded and not afraid of a bit of rough and tumble, you're bound to enjoy this tour – one of the best all-round adventure holidays we've come across!

Accommodation

This tour features an incredible array of accommodation types. You'll spend three nights at the luxurious Hotel Cairns, a tropical retreat in the heart of the city, before a night on the Reef aboard The Vagabond, your 65-foot private yacht! It's then on to Wooroonooran National Park, where a stylish rainforest eco-lodge awaits! All accommodation is of the highest standard, combining comfort, mod cons and impeccable service. The food is equally exceptional; Cairns is home to many fine oceanfront restaurants that specialise in local meats and seafood, while you'll also be treated to riverside BBQs, al fresco rainforest dining and leisurely lunches on the deck of your yacht! All ingredients are fresh and organic, and special dietary requirements are very well catered for.

Prices from
2,271 GBP (8 days) per person

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Day 1: Arrival, Welcome Orientation and Sunset Cruise.

After transferring from the Cairns airport, you settle into your accommodation at The Hotel Cairns. Your 4-star hotel is in the heart of the city, only a block from the ocean, and is surrounded by lush foliage and swaying palms. You gather in the afternoon for a welcome orientation over drinks and tapas with your guide who will accompany you the whole trip. Then you board a sunset boat cruise on Trinity Inlet - a perfect introduction to Cairns and its harbour. Afterwards you enjoy an elegant meal at one of Cairns restaurants in the heart of the city, where you have an opportunity to sample classic Australian cuisine. D

Day 2: Aboriginal-Guided Hike, Daintree Rainforest, Animal Refuge and Port Douglas.

Considered one of the most scenic drives in Australia, the Captain Cook Highway winds north from Cairns and treats you to views of golden beaches and the translucent sea. Travelling inland, you are welcomed by an aboriginal guide for a hike to see the rainforest through the eyes of the indigenous Kuku Yalanji. You discover how these aboriginals found their way through dense rainforest and learn what native plants were used for food, medicine, and even soap. You listen for the call of the wild cockatoo or the laughing kookaburra, and perhaps paint your faces with traditional ochre rock paint. Your guide recounts stories from the aboriginal Dreamtime, and a sonorous didgeridoo demonstration completes our morning. In the afternoon you visit a refuge for Australian animals such as the endangered cassowary, crocodiles, kangaroos, koalas, and countless exotic birds. Your guide educates you about these different species, and you have an opportunity to interact with the animals up close, whether it's holding a python, feeding a lorikeet or meeting a mother kangaroo and her joey. This evening you have time for a stroll and a savoury seaside dinner in the charming town of Port Douglas before returning to Cairns. B,L,D

Day 3: Sailing to the Great Barrier Reef, Snorkelling or SCUBA Diving.

Found perhaps on every traveller's "must-see" checklist, The Great Barrier Reef - a UNESCO World Heritage Site - lies just off Cairns' coast, luring snorkellers and divers alike to its underwater universe. Early this morning you set sail for the outer Great Barrier Reef on the Vagabond, a 65-foot yacht with a crew dedicated solely to your group of 10 people. Your group size allows for intimacy, flexibility and personal service not available on larger boats. You can take the opportunity to trim the sails, learn to jibe, and steer the vessel or instead simply soak up the sun on deck. When you arrive at the reef, snorkellers will delight in viewing the incredible array of life and colours that exist just below the surface. Snorkellers can also take advantage of the chance to try an introductory SCUBA dive - or several intro dives if they wish. SCUBA divers can log up to six dives during these two days, including a phenomenal night dive on the reef. In the evening your crew offers up a hearty meal, good conversation and perhaps a round of karaoke. Boat accommodation is single beds and shared bathrooms, and you have the option of sleeping on deck under the stars. B,L,D

Day 4: Great Barrier Reef Sailing, Snorkeling and/or SCUBA Diving

Today you spend another day exploring the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef. A roving marine park permit allows you the flexibility of choosing different sites at which to snorkel or dive, most of which are exclusive to you. You can expect to see a thousand shades of hard and soft corals, angelfish and "Nemos" in anemones, elusive white-tipped reef sharks and giant turtles. You learn about different coral species, the unusual mating habits of some undersea animals and the conservation issues facing the reef today. On the sail back to civilization, you are likely to see dolphins swimming and playing alongside you, while in the winter season both humpback and minke whales may make an appearance. You have this evening free to explore Cairns and the Cairns Esplanade waterfront only steps from your hotel. B,L

Day 5: Hiking Wooroonooran National Park and Josephine Falls, The Waterfalls Circuit.

Wooroonooran National Park hosts some of the oldest continually surviving rainforest in the world, and the park reaches its highest diversity in the area of today's hike. You hike to the enchanting Nandroya Falls, where Douglas Creek drops in a narrow, uninterrupted, 50-metre fall from a basalt parapet. This magical section of the park also has a special connection to the Wari and Dulgubara aboriginals who once lived here. Next you explore the Waterfalls Circuit, a series of three grand waterfalls under which you can swim or view from above. Your guide educates you about Australia's unique rainforest species like the brilliant blue Ulysses Butterfly, the giant tree frog, and the musky rat kangaroo, which you may spot along the way. Finally you take a short hike through the jungle to Josephine Falls, where the triple-tiered cascades end with a natural waterslide and a refreshing swimming hole. In the late afternoon you travel to Mission Beach, home of at least 33 rare and threatened plants, including endangered ferns, orchids and flowering plants. Nestled in the rainforest, your stylish eco-lodge boasts private nature trails, views to the Coral Sea and delicious meals al fresco. B,L,D

Day 6: Whitewater Rafting the Tully River

The Tully River ranks high with rafting enthusiasts around the globe for its stunning course through national parklands, thrilling Class III-IV rapids and its reliable year-round flows. First timers and experienced rafters alike will be spoiled by the Tully's non-stop action and gorgeous pristine wilderness. From your eco-lodge you travel a short distance to our put-in at Tully Gorge National Park. There you are fitted with life jackets and helmets and after a safety briefing you are on the water. You raft through UNESCO World Heritage rainforest and below waterfalls that tumble from the walls of the gorge. Rousing rapids with evocative names like The Staircase, Corkscrew and Alarm Clock mark the start of our day, after which you paddle through another 41 rapids, stopping midway for a riverside BBQ. You return to your eco-lodge in the evening where you can listen to the sounds of the rainforest or learn more about the rainforest ecology. B,L,D

Day 7: Mountain Biking the Little Mulgrave Valley

Mountain biking in Cairns is a biker's dream: mild to challenging singletrack, fun rolling terrain, gorgeous vistas and little-seen wilderness areas. You are fitted to superbly crafted Canadian Norco mountain bikes, and mountain biking basics are reviewed for the first-time biker or the more timid. Each person can choose from one of two options: a thrilling singletrack circuit in the Little Mulgrave Valley, or a more relaxed scenic route. Either path rewards you with a gorgeous ride ending at a refreshing swimming hole. Not to miss Australia's other

watering hole, you stop for “a stubbie” at a classic Aussie pub at the route’s end. This evening you return to Cairns for a celebratory dinner and a recounting of your group’s adventures over the past week. B,I,L,D

Day 8: Trip Conclusion or Extension

After breakfast, you prepare for your journey home or enjoy a few optional activities such as the Kuranda Skyrail, a sunrise balloon flight or a scenic helicopter tour. B

Details

Getting there

You can fly into Cairns airport and will need to make your own way to The Hotel Cairns, which is about a 10 minute taxi drive away.

Price includes

Price quoted is per person based on 2 people sharing. Single supplement is AUD\$530.

Accommodation, meals, transfers, activities, guide.

Typical Duration

8 days

Comfort level

Refined (boutique or luxury accommodation and food)

Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed