

# North Queensland Tours



## Highlights

Explore Aboriginal Australia in Queensland's Rainforest and Outback on these three-day guided North Queensland tours. Highlights include the spectacular Niau waterfall, a two-hour beach walk and a cruise along the Daintree River. Plus, you'll really get to the heart of things, on walks guided by an Aboriginal elder.

Australia. 'Neighbours' and 'Home and Away' don't really do this vast land justice. Ditch the dizzying city life of Sydney, shun the cultural capital, Melbourne, and head out into the wild in Queensland. Nicknamed 'The Sunshine State' because of its warm and temperate climate, not only can you be sure of a holiday packed with things to see and do, there's a pretty high chance the weather will be on your side, too – 300 days of sunshine a year to be exact.

On this tour, you will spend three days travelling from Cairns, exploring Cape Tribulation and the stunning Daintree Rainforest before reaching Cooktown. With Aboriginal Elder Willie Gordon, you'll discover the native rock art of the Nugal-warra clan high in the hills above Hope Vale. There'll also be time to pick up a few traditional survival techniques – like hunting with a spear, and stalking wildlife - as well as gorgeous treks along sandy beaches, and into tangled mangroves with traditional owners of the Kuku Yalanji. Alongside all this, you'll also enjoy a cruise down the Daintree River, a tour around the Bloomfield Falls, and time in the evening to explore the sleepy port of Cooktown.

## Is it for me?

If you're the sort of person who likes to get to the heart of the matter, and see things from a local's perspective, then this tour will tick all your boxes. What's more, it's pretty low-key, and groups are never bigger than 13 people, so you won't feel too conspicuous. And if you're holidaying in a family then this is perfect as kids are more than welcome to join in with this tour, too. One more thing, if you're not sure about travelling with a group of strangers, you needn't worry about it too much because the tour's only three days long, so the time you spend with others is relatively short and sweet.

## Accommodation

It's up to you what sort of accommodation you want to stay in. If you're happy in budget places, but if you'd rather have a little bit of luxury that's an option too. Everything from budget hostels to 4-star hotels is available on this tour.

In terms of food, most meals are included – just check the 'what is included' section. Expect tasty local dishes and hearty breakfasts and picnic lunches.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: (LD) Cairns – Cape Tribulation

Today, your journey of discovery begins as you travel north along one of Australia's most scenic coastal drives to Cooya Beach to join Kubirri Warra brothers on one of their beach, mudflat and mangrove walks. Linc and Brandon Walker, of Kuku Yalanji Cultural Habitat Tours follow the traditions of their ancestors who, for thousands of years, educated visitors about their traditional country in order to ensure the survival of their Kuku Yalanji culture. Today the brothers teach their guests how to throw a spear, hunt whilst stalking and observing

Prices from

**669** GBP (3 days) per person

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wildlife and country, and how to track coastal resources. And they share some of their extensive knowledge of this special area and how they care for their country. Enjoy fresh, homemade damper, tea and coffee, before continuing to the Daintree Village, for a 1 hour crocodile and wildlife spotting river cruise on the Daintree River.

Enjoy a picnic lunch before visiting the spectacular Niau Falls on a secluded 450acre private property, exclusive to the Bama Way. The Niau falls are a pristine natural wonder waiting for you to discover. You will see strange, primitive plants and learn about the original French settler family. Hear of their incredible story of survival. Your guided walk will unlock the secrets of this fascinating eco-system.

Time for a swim in this magical rainforest environment, (don't forget your swimmers).

We depart the falls and travel to Cape Tribulation, crossing the Daintree River by cable ferry, arriving at your overnight accommodation at Heritage Lodge & Spa Enjoy dinner in the restaurant "Bundaleer" which is aptly named from the Aboriginal word meaning amongst the trees.

**Day 2: (BLD) 10.30am Cape Tribulation - Cooktown**

A leisurely breakfast before we continue on The Bama Way through the heart of the World Heritage Listed Daintree National Park. Travel today is on the 4wd only Bloomfield Track, where we will cross rivers and mountain ranges. Arriving at Wujal Wujal we visit the Bloomfield Falls in the company of traditional custodians from the Walker Family, who share some of their knowledge about this special and sacred place. We travel to Helenvale, where we have lunch at the Lions Den Hotel, a famous Aussie bush pub established in 1875. After lunch visit Black Mountains, a unique geological oddity, surrounded in mystery and spoken of in ancient Aboriginal legend. Arriving in Cooktown have your camera ready with 360 degree panoramic views from Grassy Hill of Cooktown, the Coral Sea and the Endeavour River. Overnight Cooktown, dine with your travel companions this evening.

**Day 3: Cooktown - Cairns (BL) Rainbow Serpent Tour depart Cooktown at 7.45am**

This morning after breakfast we depart Cooktown for the 40 minute drive to the Aboriginal Rock Art sites of the Nugal-warra and meet with Nugal-warra Elder, Willie Gordon of Guurrbi Tours. Willie, the traditional story-teller of the Nugal-warra clan, takes you to the Nugal rock art sites, set in stunning countryside high in the hills above Hope Vale. You'll visit six sites, including the Reconciliation Cave and an ancestral Birthing Site, where Willie shares the stories behind the art – stories which can only be told by Elders of the Nugal clan - and explains how the paintings speak of the essence of life and the lores of his people. With his great smile and infectious laugh, Willie gives you an amazing insight into Aboriginal society and spirituality, and has you thinking about your own relationship with the land and how the lores of his people can apply to us all. The tour includes an estimated 30-minute bush walk on generally easy terrain. Water is provided, and cameras are welcome.

Return to Cooktown for a delightful lunch at the Nature Powerhouse Museum before our departure from Cooktown following the backbone of Australia's Great Dividing Range, through the spectacular scenery of Far North Queensland's Outback. Your tour of amazing discovery comes to a close as you are transferred back to your accommodation in Port Douglas or Cairns early evening.

## Details

### Getting there

The nearest airport is Cairns, which offers flights across Australia and internationally to Hong Kong, Tokyo, Auckland, Guam, Port Moresby and Singapore via Darwin. The airport itself is about seven kilometers from Cairns city centre.

### Price includes

Price quoted is per person based on 2 people sharing.

### Price breakdown:

\$999 per adult (\$899 per child 3-14) staying in a budget hostel, shared room

\$1119 per adult (\$949 per child 3-14) staying in a twin room, 3\* motel

\$1169 per adult (\$989 per child 3-14) staying in a twin room in a deluxe, 4\* resort.

Accommodation, travel on the tour, guide, morning tea and lunch on day one, breakfast, lunch and dinner on day two, and breakfast and lunch on day three.

### Available

Jan—Dec

### Typical Duration

3 days

### Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

### Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed

### Travellers should bring

Covered (closed-in) walking shoes must be worn (Rainbow Serpent & Bloomfield Falls Tours) hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, swimmers & towel, water bottle Cameras are welcome on all tours. Small overnight bag, maximum 10 kg