

16 Day Cairns, Chillagoe Caves & Atherton Tablelands



Come with us on a unique 16 day Queensland tropical adventure visiting Emerald, historic Charters Towers and the Undara Lava Tubes. Arriving in Cairns unpack your bags for an incredible 10 nights in the magnificent five star Shangri-La Hotel on the Cairns Marina with additional nights later in the tour. Branch out each day to discover the treasures of the tropical north.

Departing: Thursday, 5th August 2021 COACH/FLY

Fitness Level: M - Moderate

Meals: B = Breakfast, M = Morning Tea, L = Lunch, A = Afternoon Tea, D = Dinner



per flight

Prices relate to airfare & taxes from/to Eastern Seaboard major terminals only. Flights to/from other major airports are available but may incur an additional fee. Passengers are welcome to delay their flight home or fly in early but may incur an additional fee due to flight price fluctuation. Extra accommodation expenses will apply. For earlier flights or if delaying flight home passengers will need to arrange their own transport home to/from the airport.

DAY 1 HERVEY BAY – ROMA D

Thursday, 5th August: An early start for travelling companions joining between Hervey Bay and Caboolture. Brisbane and Gold Coast passengers join at Brisbane Coach Terminal. Stop in Toowoomba to purchase lunch. Continue westward passing through the agriculturally rich area of the Darling Downs, before arriving in Roma. Stay Roma Explorers Inn.

DAY 2 ROMA – EMERALD BMLD

Friday, 6th August: Follow the Carnarvon Development Road passing through Injune to Arcadia Valley Escape for a guided tour. Our guide will step aboard the coach and guide us through the ins and outs of the Cattle industry including a live demonstration in the cattle yards and the working dogs doing their thing! After a delicious picnic lunch continue on to Emerald. Stay Emerald Maraboon Motel.

DAY 3 EMERALD – CHARTERS TOWERS BMLD

Saturday, 7th August: Today the lonely Gregory Development Road guides us through large cattle stations to Charters Towers. The impressive buildings and architecture of Charters Towers stand testament to the wealth of the gold rush era. Enjoy a guided tour of Venus Gold Battery, which gives a fascinating insight into how the gold was extracted from the ore before some free time to explore the town. Stay Cattleman's Rest Motor Inn.

DAY 4 CHARTERS TOWERS – MT SURPRISE BLD

Sunday, 8th August: Start our day with a drive to Tower Hill Lookout for a magnificent view of Charters Towers and surrounds followed by some free time in town to explore and purchase your morning tea. Mid-morning rejoin your coach and continue our journey north to Greenvale where we stop for a picnic lunch. Pass through the Lynd Junction to arrive at our accommodation. Stay Bedrock Village Caravan Park.

DAY 5 UNDARA LAVA TUBES BLD

Monday, 9th August: This morning enjoy a half day guided tour of the spectacular Undara Lava Tubes. The lava tubes were created about 190,000 years ago when a staggering 23 cubic kilometres of lava flowed into a riverbed and kept flowing for 160km, making it the world's longest lava flow from a single volcano. After lunch, farewell our hosts and make our way to Millstream Falls, reputedly Australia's widest single-drop waterfall. The falls flow over the edge of a columnar basalt lava flow, a legacy of the Atherton Tableland's volcanic past, then on to Mareeba. Stay Jackaroo Motel.

DAY 6 MAREEBA – CAIRNS BD

Tuesday, 10th August: This morning visit the Mareeba Heritage Museum & Visitors Centre with its extensive aboriginal cultural display. There are also displays in mining, forestry, tobacco, agriculture and the Wet Tropics. Next, make our way to Mareeba Coffee Works for some free time and lunch (own expense). Enjoy, in unlimited quantities, as much coffee, tea, chocolate and liqueur as you can possibly consume! And explore the world's largest and most significant collection of coffee and tea treasures, dating back as far as the early 1700's. On to the Golden Drop Winery for a unique experience of visiting a working mango plantation, and to sample the lovely refreshing tropical Mango Wines, together with Citrus Cellos, Mango Port, and Golden Mango liqueur style wine. Continue to Cairns for our multiple night stay at our magnificent five star accommodation. 10 night stay Shangri-La Hotel.

DAY 7 CAIRNS FREE DAY BD

Wednesday, 11th August: A free day in Cairns today to explore the city at leisure or enjoy an optional sightseeing tour (own expense).

DAY 8 JEWELS OF THE ATHERTON TABLELANDS BMD

Thursday, 12th August: After a hearty breakfast, depart Cairns and travel south following the Bruce Highway passing the Bellenden Ker NP and Mt Bartle Frere – Queensland's highest mountain to Mena's Creek and fascinating Paronella Park, an unusual blend of rainforest gardens and historic structures created in the 1930's by Jose Paronella. Next, take a walk in the clouds at the Mamu Tropical Skywalk. The Skywalk passes through one of the largest-remaining continuous stands of complex vine forest on basalt soils in the Wet Tropics. Enjoy close-up views of rainforest plants, insects and birds, and take in sweeping vistas of World Heritage rainforest landscapes. After some free time in Innisfail to explore and purchase your lunch, our final destination for the day is the Australian Platypus Park where we enjoy a guided platypus tour before returning to Cairns.

DAY 9 KURANDA SIGHTSEEING BD

Friday, 13th August: A short journey this morning to the Freshwater Railway Station to board the famous Kuranda train. An amazing journey awaits as you travel one of the World's most scenic rail routes through hand hewn tunnels and over bridges spanning spectacular gorges. View Barron Falls before arriving at beautiful Kuranda village. Time to explore the delights of the quaint village and buy your lunch before boarding the Skyrail to glide silently above the rainforest canopy.

DAY 10 CHILLAGOE CAVES BMLD

Saturday, 14th August: Make our way to Chillagoe this morning for a guided tour of the Chillagoe Caves. The Chillagoe-Mungana Limestone Caves are Australia's oldest cave system (possibly 400 million years). After lunch, return to Cairns.

DAY 11 BABINDA BOULDERS & WATERFALLS BMLD

Sunday, 15th August: A memorable day ahead as we discover the delights of the tropical rainforest. Our first stop is the pristine Babinda Boulders. This rainforest icon features vibrant jade pools and tumbling rocks cascading from the foothills of the Bellenden Kerr Range and is one of the most beautiful swimming holes near Cairns. Next, visit Josephine Falls, a tiered cascade waterfall with natural rockslides. Travel to Millaa Millaa for lunch followed by a visit to Millaa Millaa Falls. Finish our day with a visit to Gallo Dairyland before returning to Cairns.

DAY 12 GREEN ISLAND CRUISE BMLD

Monday, 16th August: All aboard for a cruise to Green Island which is a Marine National Park. This beautiful coral cay on Australia's Great Barrier Reef boasts unique rainforests, surrounded by white sandy beaches and magnificent coral reefs and abundant marine life. While on the island enjoy a glass bottom boat ride over the reef and choose from a range of optional activities.

DAY 13 TJAPUKAI INDIGENOUS PARK & CRYSTAL CASCADES BD

Tuesday, 17th August: This morning, explore the rich history of the world's oldest living culture at Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park. Choose from a range of activities throughout the morning. After lunch (own expense), travel to Lambs Range to visit the secluded Crystal Cascades, one of the secrets of the Tropical North.

DAY 14 CAIRNS FREE DAY BD

Wednesday, 18th August: A free day in Cairns to explore the city further at leisure or undertake a sightseeing option.

DAY 15 NORTHERN BEACHES SIGHTSEEING BD

Thursday, 19th August: Today, enjoy a sightseeing tour of Cairns northern beaches with time to enjoy the sights.

DAY 16 CAIRNS – HOME OR FREE DAY B

Friday, 20th August: A free day for passengers continuing on tour.

Farewell to passengers leaving the tour today. Arrangements have been made for transfer to Cairns Airport for your return flights to Brisbane.

Adult: \$6698 pp

Pensioner: \$6666 pp

Past Passenger: \$6698 pp

Single Supplement: \$1942 pp

Final Payment Due: 21st June 2021