

34 Day Tropical Treasure



Come with us on a unique 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. Branch out each day to discover the delights and tropical wonders of the Atherton Tablelands. Visit Millaa Millaa Waterfall Circuit, Babinda Boulders, Josephine Falls, Chillagoe Caves, Green Island, Australian Platypus Park, Paronella Park and so much more. Taste test some refreshing mango wine at the Golden Drop Winery. At Gallo Dairyland discover the cheese-making process and be tempted by their irresistible chocolate delights. Enjoy a visit to the World's largest collection of coffee and tea treasures at Mareeba Coffee Works. Travel to Kuranda on the Scenic Rail, wander the famous Kuranda Markets and return via the Skyway for a magnificent view overlooking Cairns and the Coral Sea. Cruise the beautiful Daintree River with its crocodiles and abundant wildlife. At Port Douglas explore the fascinating underwater world of the Great Barrier Reef on a full-day sailing catamaran cruise to the Low Isles. Visit Cooktown for a historic town tour. Spend a day on Fitzroy Island. Heading south visit Charley's Chocolate Factory at Mission Beach and perhaps catch a glimpse of a wild cassowary on the way. Spend a day on magnificent Magnetic Island. At Airlie Beach, it's all aboard for a fabulous Whitsunday cruise including Whitehaven Beach. Explore Yeppoon and surrounds and enjoy a wonderful night of laughter and entertainment at Footlights Theatre Restaurant. At 1770 it's all aboard the LARC for a tour of the coastal estuaries, steep sandhills, pristine creeks and Bustard Head Lighthouse. Thirty four days, split into three tours, full of exciting attractions to enjoy, with some of the most beautiful scenery to be seen.

Departing: Thursday, 5th August 2021

Fitness Level: M - Moderate

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

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 1930s 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 – PORT DOUGLAS D

Friday, 20th August: After picking up our travelling companions flying in to join us today, we make our way north to Port Douglas. Two night stay Oaks Resort Port Douglas.

DAY 17 DAINTREE SIGHTSEEING BMD

Saturday, 21st August: Head for Daintree this morning for our Daintree Discovery Cruise. Then, off to Mossman Gorge for lunch (own expense) and a Dreamtime Gorge Walk. Be welcomed with a traditional 'smoking' ceremony then meander through stunning rainforest and take in traditional huts or humpies. Your experienced interpretive Indigenous guide demonstrates traditional plant use, identify bush food sources, and provide an enchanting narrative of the rainforest and their special relationship with this unique tropical environment. Your guide demonstrates traditions like making bush soaps and ochre painting. At the end of the tour enjoy traditional bush tea and damper. Farewelling our guide, it's off to Hartley's Crocodile Adventures and choose from a range of activities before returning to our motel.

DAY 18 WAVEDANCER LOW ISLES CRUISE BMLAD

Sunday, 22nd August: Imagine sailing on to the Great Barrier Reef Island of your dreams, lying under a palm umbrella, then slipping into the water to drift over coral gardens. From the moment Wavedancer moors in the calm waters of the island's picturesque lagoon, a host of reef activities await. Discover the mysteries of marine life while snorkelling or glass-bottom boat viewing. Take a guided beach walk and snorkelling tour with a marine biologist or just relax on the beach under a thatched umbrella or on the decks of Wavedancer. After a wonderful day return to Port Douglas.

DAY 19 PORT DOUGLAS – COOKTOWN BLD

Monday, 23rd August: Depart Port Douglas and make our way to Palmer River Roadhouse for morning tea (own expense) before continuing our journey to Cooktown. On arrival, enjoy lunch at Nature's Powerhouse at Cooktown Botanic Gardens. Following lunch, visit the James Cook Museum followed by some free time to stroll along the town streets viewing the old stone buildings which date back almost a century to when it was the port for the Palmer Goldfield. Stay River of Gold Motel.

DAY 20 COOKTOWN – CAIRNS BLD

Tuesday, 24th August: Retrace our steps this morning to Kuranda and experience the thrill of a rainforest tour in a WWII Army Duck at the Rainforestation Nature Park. After your army duck tour, take time to meander through the Tropical Fruits Orchard, which features over 40 different species of exotic tropical fruit trees. After a delicious lunch, visit the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary listed by the Guinness Book of Records as Australia's largest butterfly flight aviary and exhibit. With over 1500 magnificent tropical butterflies, you'll be enchanted by the aerial dynamics of these elusive wonders of nature as you wander through the aviary's rainforest gardens. Six night stay Shangri-La Hotel.

DAY 21 CAIRNS FREE DAY BD

Wednesday, 25th August: A free day today to enjoy our beautiful accommodation, explore the city or undertake an optional tour.

DAY 22 CAIRNS FREE DAY BD

Thursday, 26th August: A free day today for passengers to enjoy their own activities.

DAY 23 CAIRNS FREE DAY BD

Friday, 27th August: A free day today to enjoy our beautiful accommodation, explore the city or undertake an optional tour.

DAY 24 CAIRNS SIGHTSEEING BMD

Saturday, 28th August: After a refreshing few days, begin our day with a visit to Cairns Botanic Gardens. The Gardens are a tropical paradise, renowned as one of the best exhibitions of tropical plants in Australia. Explore the beauty of tropical plants, relax in stunning surroundings and learn about tropical flora and horticulture. Next, a visit to Birdworld Kuranda. Over 500 birds from around the globe and among these are 75 different species of the most spectacular birds, 56 of which are native, live in the safe enclosure, including vibrantly coloured parrots, inquisitive lorikeets, and the large elusive cassowary. Endangered Amazonian Macaws soar over the treetops of the rainforest canopy, with their dazzling blue, gold and scarlet colours. Get up close and personal with birds of all shapes and sizes. Don't be surprised if a feathered friend or two nestle on your shoulders as you wander through the lush, tropically landscaped sanctuary.

DAY 25 FITZROY ISLAND BLD

Sunday, 29th August: All aboard this morning for a 45 minute cruise to Fitzroy Island. Spend five hours exploring its many stunning natural offerings, take part in a range of optional activities on both land and water, choose one of the multiple walks around the National Park including a summit walk and a short 20 minute walk to Nudey Beach or simply relax in the lush tropical surrounds.

DAY 26 CAIRNS – MISSION BEACH – TOWNSVILLE BMLD

Monday, 30th August: Leaving Cairns, travel to the multi-award-winning Charley's Chocolate Factory at Mission Beach. Enjoy a guided farm tour and excellent commentary on the story of chocolate. The high point of the tour is the chocolate tasting! After an excellent BBQ lunch, say farewell to our hosts and continue to Tully for a photo stop at the Big Gumboot, before arriving in Townsville. Two night stay Oakes Metropole Hotel.

DAY 27 MAGNETIC ISLAND BD

Tuesday, 31st August: All aboard for transfer to Magnetic Island. On arrival sit back and admire the sights as we take a guided tour of the island. At Horseshoe Bay free time is allowed for you to purchase your lunch before the return journey to the mainland. This afternoon, experience the Great Barrier Reef without getting wet at the World's largest living coral reef aquarium, Reef HQ.

DAY 28 TOWNSVILLE – AIRLIE BEACH BMLD

Wednesday, 1st September: Our first stop this morning is to Ashworth's Treasures of the Earth to view the interesting display of rocks and gemstones, then make our way to the Bowen Hotel for lunch followed by a visit to the Big Mango & Bowen Visitors Centre. Time to try some delicious mango sorbet and view the public artwork displays around the grounds. Arriving in Airlie Beach take a walk on the Bicentennial Walkway around the lagoon and experience the great views. Two night stay Colonial

Palms Motor Inn.

DAY 29 WHITSUNDAY CRUISIN' BLAD

Thursday, 2nd September: Our day begins with a short cruise to Daydream Island where you can take a dip in the pool or experience the Living Reef, a free-form coral lagoon that's home to over 100 species of marine life. Continue on to Hamilton Island, a picturesque 30 minute cruise away. Explore famous Front Street, overlooking the luxury vessels in the marina or take a complimentary shuttle up to One Tree Hill Lookout for another stunning vista and a magnificent photo opportunity, then meet your guide for lunch at Marina Tavern. After lunch, depart Hamilton Island and head towards Whitsunday Island, the home of legendary Whitehaven Beach. Take a swim in the crystal-clear waters or take a short bushwalk – the choice is yours. Arrive back at Airlie Beach at 6:15pm.

DAY 30 AIRLIE BEACH – YEPPOON BMLD

Friday, 3rd September: Experience the Queensland sugar industry firsthand this morning on a guided tour of Sarina Sugar Mill, Australia's only unique miniature working sugar mill. See how sugar is grown, processed, milled, and distilled and enjoy a tasting of the products produced at the Sugar Shed including liqueurs, schnapps and gourmet sauces. Continue our journey, pausing in Clairview for a delightful picnic lunch then on to Yeppoon. Two night stay Salt Beachfront Yeppoon.

DAY 31 YEPPOON & ROCKHAMPTON SIGHTSEEING BMLD

Saturday, 4th September: This morning, be amazed by the spectacular Capricorn Caves. Enjoy a guided tour of this unique system of above ground caves in a limestone ridge. Then, on to Dreamtime Cultural Centre, where you will gain a thorough insight into both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. After lunch at the Parkhurst Tavern, take a wander through the beautiful Rockhampton Botanic Gardens before returning to our accommodation to rest up for our fantastic night of entertainment tonight at the Footlights Theatre Restaurant.

DAY 32 YEPPOON – 1770 BMLD

Sunday, 5th September: Farewelling Yeppoon, travel south to Gladstone where your coach captain will take you on a sight-seeing tour of the town. Then, board the Curtis Island Ferry for a Port of Gladstone Harbour Cruise before lunch at the Gladstone Hotel. Continue to the historic town of 1770 to settle into our accommodation. Two night stay Lagoons Central Apartment Resort.

DAY 33 LARCING ABOUT 1770 BMLD

Monday, 6th September: You will love the full day tour on the fabulous LARC, a cross between a 4WD bus and a boat! The journey takes us across tidal creeks, along Eurimbula National Park to historic Bustard Head Light station for some of the most spectacular panoramic views in Australia.

DAY 34 1770 – HOME BM

Tuesday, 7th September: Farewelling the beautiful 1770/Agnes Water, make our way to the sugar town of Bundaberg for morning tea at Alexander Park. Travel to Maryborough where we farewell to our Wide Bay travelling companions. After lunch, continue to Brisbane with arrival late afternoon.

Adult: \$13530 pp

Pensioner: \$13462 pp

Past Passenger: \$13429 pp

Single Supplement: \$4099 pp

Final Payment Due: 21st June 2021