





Tourism and Events Queensland acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Queensland. Queensland is the only place where these unique Indigenous cultures meet, and we recognise their traditional custodianship over lands and waters on which we at TEQ carry out our work.

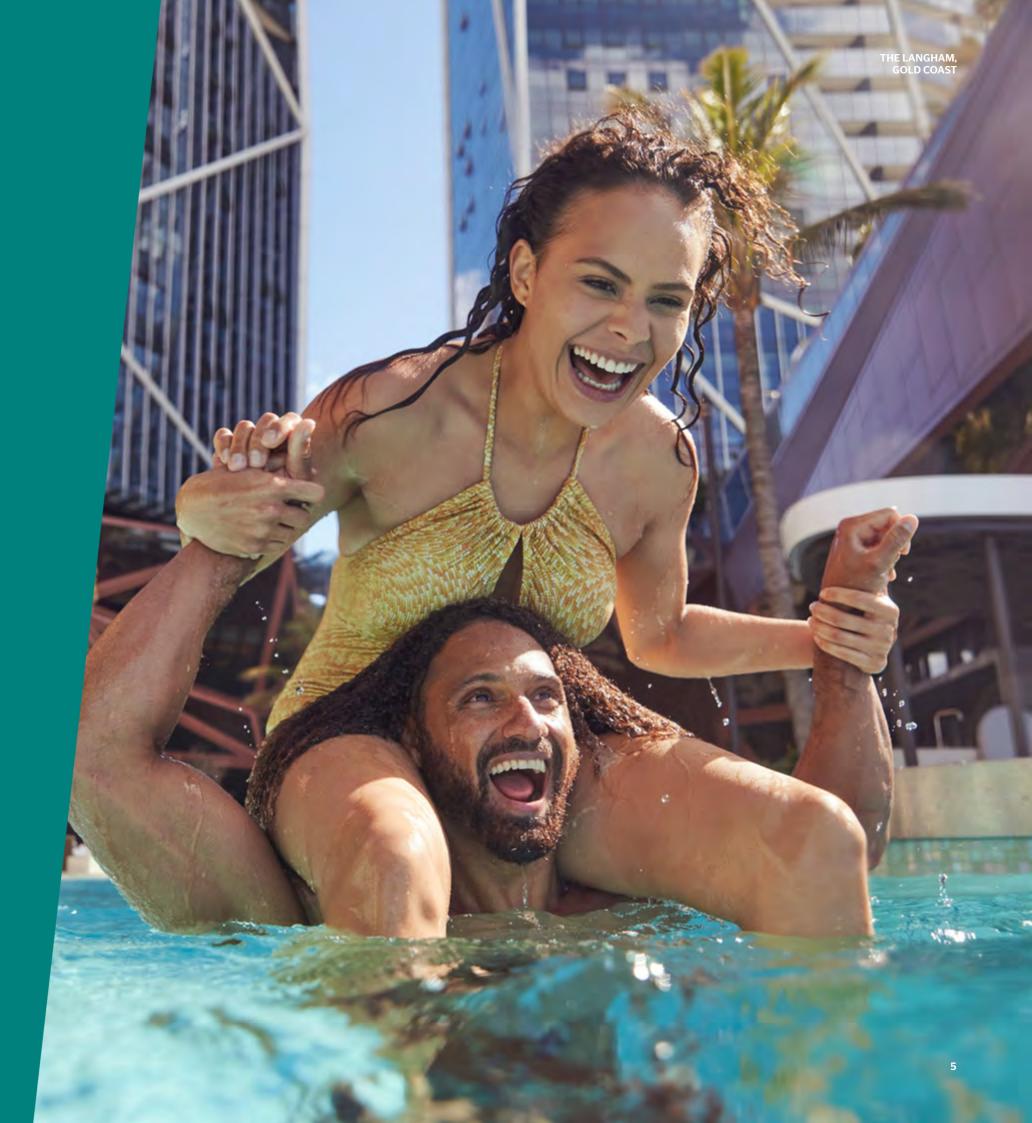
We pay our respect to the Elders past, present and emerging and we are grateful for their continual connection to Country which enriches the ongoing work we do at TEQ. It is through this knowledge and connection to Country that we can inspire the world to experience the best address on Earth.



@queensland

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When to visit Queensland, Australia

Queensland offers incredible experiences year-round. But there are some times where the magic just gets even better. For life changing natural encounters big and small, or when the conditions are just right for a bucket-list sailing trip through the islands, a road trip into the outback, or to witness our tropical waterfalls at their most powerful.























How to experience the best of Queensland

We might be famous for our sunshine, sand and Great Barrier Reef, but that's just the beginning of what you'll uncover in Queensland.

Whether you're looking for adventure through UNESCO World Heritage areas, to walk in the footsteps of the world's oldest surviving cultures, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, to hit the beach in truly magical ways, or to retreat among nature's purest beauty and rugged outback, an unforgettable getaway is waiting. We'll see you soon.







Reefs, Islands and Beaches

Home to the world's largest and most fascinating coral reef system, the most beautiful beaches on earth, and endless tropical islands to explore, Queensland might be made for postcards, but it's made for adventurers too.

One of the seven natural wonders of the world, the Great Barrier Reef stretches 2,300km along our coastline and is so large it can be seen from space. But how you explore it is uniquely Queensland.

Like staying in Australia's first underwater hotel, donning scuba gear to explore the Southern Hemisphere's first underwater art museum, or helping our Master Reef Guides conduct reef research while you snorkel through the kaleidoscope of thriving coral life.

Chart your own course through tropical paradise as you captain your own yacht or paddle your own kayak to hidden islands. Or an adventure on the world's largest sand islands, where days are spent 4WD'ing to remote treasures and nights end around a campfire.

As for our beaches? Get acquainted with spots that are world-famous, seek out quiet coves where you can pause with your toes in the sand, or join the locals on world-class surf breaks worthy of the biggest international competitions. We've got it all in Queensland - you just can't compare it.

Reef encounters

Grab a snorkel or scuba and explore the Great Barrier Reef

DISCOVER MORE

Catch a wave at our world-class surf beaches

DISCOVER MORE

Island hop The Whitsundays

DISCOVER MORE

Take a dip at K'gari's natural swimming holes

DISCOVER MORE

Sleep over night the Reef

DISCOVER MORE









Getting wild looks different in Queensland, a place defined by extraordinary nature. From vast landscapes to our ancient rainforests, secluded beaches and the Reef - our vibrant backyard is open to all, even though it might feel like you're the only person here.

Home to five UNESCO World Heritage areas and countless national parks, Queensland's wide-open spaces are home to some of the most biologically diverse environments and animals on earth.

Journey with us and come face to face with wild beauty big and small; from peering over a 100-million year old escarpment to humbling encounters with humpback whales, or soul-stirring moments like watching baby turtles hatch and wallabies graze on the beach at dawn. There's also eye-opening opportunities to learn about Australia's native animals in world-class sanctuaries.

Take time to reset or take up the opportunity to be hands-on, participating in reef research, tracing 60,000 years of history with Indigenous guides, or helping rehabilitate turtles.

A place to rediscover your sense of wonder and make memories that will last a lifetime. Queensland is nature at its awe-inspiring, life-changing best.

Natural encounters

Whale watching along the coast

DISCOVER MORE

Come face to snorkel with marine life on the Reef

DISCOVER MORE

Share a sunrise with wallabies

DISCOVER MORE

Get to know our cuddly koala's

DISCOVER MORE

Experience turtle hatching

DISCOVER MORE







A playground of spine-tingling adventures for all, there are endless unique and exhilarating ways to connect with Queensland's awe-inspiring landscapes, vibrant cities and welcoming people.

Zipline through the canopy of ancient rainforests, abseil with city skyline views, skydive to meet the sands of our golden beaches, embark on treks through rugged landscapes, sail your own yacht through island paradise, or explore beneath the surface of the Great Barrier Reef.

Feel the warm breeze in your hair and see where the journey takes you, as you road-trip into our countryside or along our coast, where bitumen highways might become off-road sand adventures.

Delve into Australia's prehistoric past, uncovering rare dinosaur discoveries and 90 million year old fossils.

From our exciting theme parks to UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Queensland is your invitation to step outside your comfort zone, get your heart-racing, and feel more alive than ever before.

Adventure and discovery

Hit the sand highways in a 4WD

DISCOVER MORE

Take flight over the Reef

DISCOVER MORE

Tackle river rapids in the Wet Tropics

DISCOVER MORE

Hike through ancient landscapes

DISCOVER MORE

Sky dive onto Gold Coast beaches

DISCOVER MORE



GOLD COAST SKYDIVE







Lifestyle, Culture and People

Queensland might be seriously spectacular, but we don't take ourselves too seriously.

And we invite visitors to do the same, so pull up a bar stool and have a yarn with a local - or jump on a tour to learn about our way of life

A holiday here is an opportunity to meet our quirky outback towns, famed for their local characters and country hospitality; to seize unique experiences in our refreshingly laid back cities; and to embrace ease in our vibrant coastal communities, where local life is ruled by the tides.

The only place in Australia that's home to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island culture, travellers in Queensland have the unique opportunity to walk in the footsteps of earth's oldest surviving cultures and learn ancient traditions passed down for 60,000 years.

But the old coexists with the new here. One day you'll be sampling bush tucker or creating Indigenous art with a traditional owner, the next you'll be tasting your way through a farmer's market, sipping expertly crafted cocktails at a rooftop bar, or perusing the latest exhibition at a modern art gallery.

So come here and make yourself at home, but be prepared for anything because Queensland life is as rich and varied as it gets.

lifestyle, culture and people

Meet our Master Reef Guides

DISCOVER MORE

Join an Indigenous-led tour

DISCOVER MORE

Sample farm to fork produce

DISCOVER MORE

Sip your way through rooftop bars

DISCOVER MORE

Say G'day to Outback locals

DISCOVER MORE







Experience the energy and spirit of Queensland at one of our word-class events and you'll quickly understand why our communities are excitedly gearing up to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032.

We do things a little differently up here. Rainforests become stages, beaches become racetracks and the outback becomes a spectacular arena.

Our vibrant cities spark your creativity and invite you to explore new ideas, new music, and concepts that will shape our future.

Here, you're not just on the sidelines, you can get in on the action - whether by immersing yourself in song, dance and Indigenous culture on sacred country, competing in a triathlon beside the Great Barrier Reef, hoisting the mainsail at an international regatta, digging into local fare at a food festival, or cheering on the world's best athletes as they come together in fierce competition.

From opera-epics to quirky community festivals where the laughs are endless, let Queensland take you on an eventful journey you'll never forget.

Want to be our plus one? Save the date for these incredible Queensland events.

DISCOVER MORE

Events

Road trip to Chinchilla Melon Festival

DISCOVER MORE

Get active at Noosa Triathlon

DISCOVER MORE

Immerse yourself in culture at Winds of Zenadth

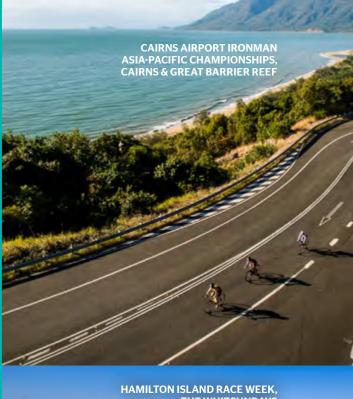
DISCOVER MORE

Catch an exhibit at QAGOMA

DISCOVER MORE

Discover the Big Red Bash

DISCOVER MORE









Discover Queensland

Home to world-famous icons like nowhere else on earth, Queensland offers lifechanging experiences alongside a unique appreciation of life's simplicities.

Ready to dive into the world's largest coral reef, escape into pure nature, and soak up city lights where culture and creativity collide?

Let us show you around.







ABOUT BRISBANE

Queensland's energising capital city feels like a warm welcome home from your first visit - and not just because of its subtropical climate. A place to relax, recharge and get outdoors, Brisbane's refreshingly laid-back approach to city living makes soaking up culture, connecting with community, and tasting nightlife feel like a true holiday.

From early morning bike rides and weekend farmers markets to sundowners and kayak adventures, life revolves around the river, year-round. Off it, you'll find Brisbane's unique creative streak - where you're invited to the chef's table at award-winning restaurants, local haunts are yours to explore, live music thrives every night of the week, South Bank's world-class galleries are free to wander, and hidden laneways reveal treasures of all kinds, like secret bars, microbreweries and boutiques.

A youthful urban centre - with a strong luxury offering - Brisbane is punctuated by sprawling green space and surrounded by timeless nature. Adventures abound from the world's largest sand islands, Mulgumpin (Moreton Island) and Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island), to rugged national parks home to UNESCO World Heritage Gondwana rainforest.

Head into the lush Scenic Rim, where welcoming country towns, farm gates, paddock-to-plate restaurants and wineries are yours to explore. Nothing's too serious here, but it's seriously good.

Brisbane also steps up as a world-class music, sport and cultural events capital - with all eyes focusing on the River City in the countdown to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Game on!

DISCOVER MORE

BEST THINGS TO DO IN BRISBANE

Climb the iconic Story Bridge for city and river views

READ NOW

Kayak along Brisbane River or abseil down Kangaroo Point Cliffs with Riverlife

READ NOW

Dine and drink at riverside precinct Howard Smith Wharves

READ NOW

Meet koalas, feed kangaroos and discover Aussie wildlife at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

READ NOW

Ignite your creative streak at the Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) in Brisbane's Cultural Centre

READ NOW

Swim at South Bank beach, Australia's only inner city beach

READ NOW

Taste your way through the Scenic Rim's farm gates and wineries

READ NOW

Hike through ancient Gondwana Rainforest in Lamington National Park

READ NOW

First time here? Fill your days with these things to do.

READ NOW



WHEN TO VISIT

BIGSound

5 - 8 September 2023

READ NOW

Brisbane Festival

1 - 23 September 2023

READ NOW

COMING SOON

The highly-anticipated Queen's Wharf precinct is set to open in late-2023. The \$3.6 billion world-class integrated resort on the river's edge will welcome four luxury hotels, including six-star Ritz Carlton, 50 bars and eateries, luxury retailers and a casino.



Islands

9 islands to discover an hour from Brisbane

READ NOW

Scenic Rim

How to explore the Scenic Rim, named one of the world's best regions by Lonely Planet

READ NOW

Eco-friendly experiences

The eco-friendly experiences making Brisbane one of Australia's greenest capital cities

READ NOW



You can day-trip to the Great Barrier Reef from Brisbane! Fly to Lady Elliot Island to spend your day snorkelling the reef, exploring on ranger-led tours, kayaking and more.

READ NOW



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ABOUT BUNDABERG

Big flavour meets big adventure in Bundaberg, where you can craft your own rum one day, then dive shipwrecks the next.

This fertile food bowl on the cusp of the Great Barrier Reef is well-known for some of its biggest exports: Bundaberg Rum and Bundaberg Ginger Beer. Visit and you can taste it at the source, between sampling farm-fresh produce among sugarcane-lined country roads that lead into the rugged nature of our Sandstone Wilderness.

Bundaberg's striking coastline is shared between swimmers, scuba divers, surfers, and thousands of sea turtles who return each year to nest on the sands. A fascinating region for nature lovers, witness the magic of new life as baby turtles make their way to the ocean by nightfall at Mon Repos (the largest loggerhead turtle rookery in the southern hemisphere), get hands-on at a farmstay, or jump off into eco-friendly experiences on the Southern Great Barrier Reef at Lady Musgrave and Lady Elliot Island. At these untouched islands, you can not only experience the magic of the reef by day, but spend the night immersed in one of the natural wonders of the world.

First time here? Fill your days with these things to do.

DISCOVER MORE





WHEN TO VISIT

Turtle nesting and hatchingNovember - March

Manta ray season on Lady Elliot Island

May - September

BEST THINGS TO DO IN BUNDABERG

Visit Mon Repos for magical turtle encounters

READ NOW

Blend your own rum at Bundaberg Rum Distillery

READ NOW

Spend a day snorkelling the reef at Lady Musgrave Island, sign up to be a marine biologist for a day, then sleep on reef pontoon Lady Musgrave HQ

READ NOW

Spend a few days exploring the beauty of the reef on Lady Elliot Island, which PADI ranks among the Top 5 destinations on the planet to dive with manta rays

READ NOW

Taste your way through Bundaberg's farm gates and producers, stopping for fresh strawberry ice cream at Tinaberries.

READ NOW

Experience country life with a farm stay at Splitters Farm

READ NOW

STORY TIPS

Regeneration

A story of regeneration: how Australia's Lady Elliot Island leads the way for sustainable tourism

READ NOW

Turtles

The world's most enriching turtle experience - with conservation at its heart

READ NOW

Dive sites

The dive sites David Attenborough names among the best on earth - and where to find them

READ NOW

COMING SOON

Fuel your appetite and your soul at the new Taribelang Bunda Deadly Dining Experience launching in mid-2023.
Guests come together to sample native bush tucker and the best of Bundaberg's produce, while connecting with Indigenous culture and history.



Bundaberg has welcomed Australia's newest 'sleep on the Great Barrier Reef' experience. Spend the night on sustainably-built Lady Musgrave HQ, a threelevel pontoon that offers upper-deck glamping or bunks below deck in the underwater observatory.







ABOUT CAIRNS & GREAT BARRIER REEF

Home to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and where two incredible UNESCO World Heritage Sites meet - Wet Tropics Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef - Queensland's northernmost region will connect you with something greater, whether you're an adventure seeker or slowing down to pause in its majesty.

Globally accessible via Cairns Airport, this place leaves its mark on all who visit. Arrive and soak up the energy of Cairns, the coastal city where you can mountain-bike world-class trails or tackle Australia's only bungy jump, before parking up at a rooftop bar or waterfront restaurant that serves trawler-fresh seafood and tropical produce on your plate.

Experiences run deeper up north: this immersion in nature is truly soul-stirring. You won't just snorkel the vibrant Reef, but learn about the natural wonder with a certified Master Reef Guide, or even lend a hand with important conservation research and monitoring.

Exploring the ancient rainforest of Daintree and Cape Tribulation, you'll be welcomed by an Indigenous guide, sharing history of the land and ways Aboriginal people have used natural medicines and sourced bush tucker for over 60,000 years.

Intrepid travellers can even journey west into the Gulf Savannah where ancient gorges and outback oases become your playground. There's an untouched wilderness and deep sense of history in every step you take, and friendly faces to welcome you along the way. But the stories imparted here will forever be part of your own.

More incredible things to do in Cairns & Great Barrier Reef

DISCOVER MORE



Tourists can now be a part of reef conservation efforts at Fitzroy Island Resort. The one-day Marine Conservation Program includes a behind-the-scenes tour of the island's turtle rehabilitation centre, learning how to identify and remove coral-eating Drupella snails, turtle monitoring and reef data collection - a unique way to not only explore the Great Barrier Reef, but be a part of its future.

READ NOW

STORY TIPS

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

How to explore two UNESCO World Heritage Sites from Cairns

READ NOW

Indigenous Experiences

The Indigenous experiences that will show you a new side to Queensland's tropical north

READ NOW

Dwarf Minke Whales

How to come face-to-face with elusive dwarf minke whales on the Great Barrier Reef

READ NOW



WHEN TO VISIT

FITZROY ISLAND RESORT

Cairns IRONMAN
Asia-Pacific Championship
18 June 2023

READ NOW

Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair 13 - 16 June 2023

READ NOW

COMING SOON

Experience a unique side of the Torres Strait Islands from May 2023, as Indigenous-owned Strait Experience offers 3-day/2-night tours to Masig Island, in the far north of the group. Get ready to be immersed in captivating cultural traditions, island experiences and a beach-side feast, complete with campfire.

READ NOW

BEST THINGS TO DO IN CAIRNS & GREAT BARRIER REEF

Discover the wonder of the Great Barrier Reef on a snorkel or dive day trip

READ NOW

Jump on a liveaboard dive trip to explore more remote reefs

READ NOW

Follow ancient footsteps on a Dreamtime walk through Mossman Gorge

READ NOW

Take a scenic heli flight to a private sand cay in the middle of the reef for a picnic

READ NOW

Tour Daintree and Cape Tribulation with an Indigenous guide, learning how to throw a spear and hunt mud crabs

READ NOW

Dine with your toes in the sand beside the iconic palm-lined beach at Nu Nu, Palm Cove

READ NOW

Chase waterfalls and local produce in Atherton Tablelands

READ NOW

Go whitewater rafting or canyoning along raging rivers

READ NOW

Soak up serenity in Mission Beach, one of the best places to see wild cassowaries







CAPRICORN

Pure joy and natural wonder await in Queensland's effortlessly beautiful Capricorn region.

This idyllic holiday destination feels like a local secret, but is home to world-class experiences that have been creating family memories for generations, and communities that embrace visitors like their own.

Located on the Tropic of Capricorn, the region's striking contrasts are perhaps what makes it most fascinating. Where the country-loving beef capital of Rockhampton shoulders seaside Yeppoon, brimming with cafe culture, microbreweries and urban art.

Adventures beneath the surface include exploring ancient cave systems or snorkelling the Southern Great Barrier Reef, and island escapes range from a rejuvenating retreat on Great Keppel (Wop-pa) Island to renting an entire island to yourself.

Out the back, step into landscapes carved over millions of years in Carnarvon National Park, or head into the Sapphire Gemfields and try your luck fossicking for precious stones.

Every moment is a new adventure - but don't rush, there's time to soak it all in.

First time here? Fill your days with these things to do

DISCOVER MORE

COMING SOON

Capricorn's rugged wilderness is more accessible to travellers than ever with the launch of walking and 4WD tag-along adventures by Central Queensland Nature Tours. The crew offers deep insight into the wildlife and landscapes of the region, with exclusive access to private Nyanda Gorge.

READ NOW



WHEN TO VISIT

Turtle nesting and hatching

November - March

Swim Around Keppel

11 - 13 August 2023



Pumpkin Island holds the title of Australia's first carbon-positive island, powered entirely by wind and sun.
What's more, you can rent the entire island and eco-resort, accessibly located just 14km off Yeppoon by ferry, and enjoy a private paradise for up to 34 guests with the Great Barrier Reef as your backyard.

READ NOW



Escape to Great Keppel (Wop-pa) Island home to barefoot adventures with 17 beaches, fringing reef and abundant wildlife - as well as down-toearth accommodation

READ NOW

Island-hop on a day tour with Keppel Explorer

READ NOW

Swim and sunbathe with sea views from Yeppoon Lagoon

READ NOW

Hike through Carnarvon Gorge to discover ancient Indigenous rock art and awe-inspiring landscapes

READ NOW

Sit down for a steak dinner and a rodeo at the iconic Great Western Hotel in Rockhampton

READ NOW

Marvel at Capricorn Caves on an adventure tour

READ NOW

STORY TIPS

Great Barrier Reef Islands

The Great Barrier Reef island escapes you've never heard of, but should visit

READ NOW

Carnarvon Gorge

Meet Carnarvon Gorge, a hiker's paradise

READ NOW

Coral Reef to Country Vistas

Coral reef to country vistas: how to take a family road trip in Queensland's best kept secret holiday destination







FRASER COAST

Welcome to a place where nature is at its most extraordinary, but at everyone's fingertips.

An easy 3.5-hour drive from Brisbane (or two hours from the Sunshine Coast), the Fraser Coast rewards those who like to get wild. The world's largest sand island and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, K'gari (pronouned gurri and meaning 'paradise' in local Butchalla language) - also known as Fraser Island - is an awe-inspiring natural playground, home to endless off-the-beaten track adventures by 4WD, hiking, sailboat and more.

Stretching 123 km long, visitors can join a range of tours that hit the colourful sand highways and explore crystal clear lakes, majestic rainforest, pristine beaches, shifting sand blows - and all manner of unique Aussie wildlife.

During Queensland's winter months, Hervey Bay takes centre stage as the whale watching capital of the world. The celebrated World Whale Heritage Site transforms into a unique haven for humpback whales to socialise and nurture their young during migration along the east coast - and travellers get a front row seat to the action.

A visit to the Fraser Coast feels deeply personal, fueled by opportunities to connect with timeless Indigenous culture, explore the quaint historic town which inspired the tales of Mary Poppins, feast on local seafood, and appreciate small moments among vast landscapes.

First time here? Fill your days with these things to do

DISCOVER MORE

BEST THINGS TO DO IN FRASER COAST

Take a whale watching cruise - some operators even offer a swim-withwhales experience

READ NOW

4WD along the beaches of K'gari (Fraser Island), exploring spots like Lake McKenzie, the Champagne Pools and Eli Creek

READ NOW

Stay overnight on K'gari at eco-friendly Kingfisher Bay Resort

READ NOW

Discover marine life, hidden islands. and Butchalla customs with Indigenous guides at Hervey Bay Eco Marine Tours

READ NOW

Pull up a seat (or beanbag) at Enzo's on the Beach for cocktails and local fare

READ NOW

Unleash your inner mermaid on Hervey Bay Dive Centre's underwater scooter, kayak & snorkel tour

READ NOW

Dive the shipwreck of ex-HMAS Tobruk

READ NOW



Hervey Bay became the world's first Whale Heritage Site in 2019.

STORY TIPS

How to explore the world's

A guide to traversing K'gari by 4WD

READ NOW

How to spend 24 hours on K'gari

How to explore the world's largest sand island in one day

world - and the community that helps them thrive

READ NOW

Australia's Nature Coast Drive

Australia's Nature Coast Drive: an unforgettable road trip you need to take in your lifetime



largest island

READ NOW

Whale-watching

Meet the whale-watching capital of the

READ NOW



HERVEY BAY DIVE CENTRE

Divers can now explore the Southern Great Barrier Reef from the Fraser Coast, on board an overnight liveaboard trip with Hervey Bay Dive Centre's Advance II Dive Expeditions.

READ NOW



WHEN TO VISIT

Whale watching season July - November

Mary Poppins Festival 2 July 2023

READ NOW

Hervey Bay Whale Festival

4 - 6 August 2023







Nestled into Queensland's central coast, Gladstone is the perfect place to cool off, whether you're casting a fishing line in some of Australia's most bountiful waters, snorkelling coral reef, surfing Queensland's northernmost surf breaks, or soaking in swimming holes hidden in ancient sandstone national parks.

Be charmed by the laid back pace of seaside communities Agnes Water and 1770, where days are spent on quiet beaches, dinner is fish and chips on the sand, and there's not a skyscraper in sight. The beauty of the Southern Great Barrier Reef awaits offshore at world-class eco resorts. Be inspired by the award-winning research centre and diversity of marine life big and small on Heron Island. Or escape to Wilson Island where you'll be among a handful of guests glamping on the sandy shores and sipping sparkling by sunset. Warm and inviting year-round, time your trip during turtle nesting and hatching seasons for even more magic.

First time here? Fill your days with these things to do

DISCOVER MORE





WHEN TO VISIT

Turtle nesting and hatching

November - March

Agnes Blues, Roots and Rock Festival

16 - 18 February 2024

READ NOW

COMING SOON

Learn new skills on your holiday with Dive Spear and Sport @1770 - the team offers spearfishing, freediving and specialty diving courses alongside recreational trips.

STORY TIPS

Glamping on the Great Barrier Reef

Shoes are optional on this luxurious adults-only glamping retreat in the middle of the Great Barrier Reef

READ NOW

Reef Research

Go behind-the-scenes on world-class reef research while holidaying on Heron Island

READ NOW

A main-stay on Australia's backpacking circuit

The seaside town that's become a mainstay on Australia's backpacker circuit, for all the right reasons

READ NOW

BEST THINGS TO DO IN GLADSTONE

Snorkel, dive, or get your PADI certification on the Great Barrier Reef at Heron Island, where you can learn at the largest island reef research station in the Southern Hemisphere

READ NOW

Get off-the-grid with a luxury glamping experience on Wilson Island

READ NOW

Enjoy sunset while kayaking the calm waters of 1770

READ NOW

Explore remote beaches and national parks on an amphibious LARC tour

READ NOW

Day trip to Lady Musgrave Island to snorkel the reef

READ NOW

Hop your way along the enchanted Paperbark Forest Boardwalk

READ NOW





1770 (officially Seventeen-Seventy) is the only Australian town with a numerical name. It was named so after the visit of James Cook in May 1770, his second landfall in Australia on HMS Endeavour.





GOLD COAST

The alluring Gold Coast is known for its iconic skyline and world-famous beaches, but this city by the sea - wrapped in lush hinterland - is an incredible place to stay, play and seek adventure.

Staking its place as Australia's sixth largest city, the 'Goldie', as locals affectionately call it, also feeds the soul. There's 50km of golden coastline beckoning ocean seekers and surfers alike, but it's bordered by World Heritage-listed Gondwana Rainforest, home to hiking trails, rushing waterfalls, eco-retreats, sustainable food encounters, and connections with pure nature (including Gwinganna Lifestyle Retreat, voted Best Eco Spa at the 2022 World Luxury Spa Awards).

A true adventure capital, thrill seekers have their thirst quenched between theme parks, skydiving, sea kayaking, jet skiing, parasailing and more. And if you're still thirsty, the Gold Coast's vibrant nightlife of craft breweries, rooftop bars, cocktail joints and bustling bars will keep you satiated between bites from chef-hatted restaurants with ocean views. Whether you're wandering through an art gallery, paddling out to catch a wave, meeting Aussie wildlife, or braving Australia's fastest roller coasters, this sundrenched region on Queensland's southern end ignites all the senses.

Following the success of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, the destination will be a major venue for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

First time here? Fill your days with these things to do DISCOVER MORE

BEST THINGS TO DO ON THE GOLD COAST

Linger over a long lunch at one of Burleigh's beachside eateries, like Rick Shores or The Tropic

READ NOW

Uncover ancient wisdom and traditions on Jellurgal mountain with an Indigenous-guided tour

READ NOW

Ascend 270-metres above the beach with SkyPoint Climb, Australia's highest external building climb

READ NOW

Meet Aussie wildlife at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, where you can have breakfast with the koalas, visit the wildlife hospital, or zipline through the treetops

READ NOW

Learn to surf at one of the Gold Coast's friendly surf schools, then design and shape a custom 'dream board' with the team at S-Lab

READ NOW

Soak in the relaxing waters of Tallebudgera Creek

READ NOW

Escape for a serene getaway in the Gold Coast Hinterland

READ NOW

Check out the latest exhibition at HOTA (Home of the Arts)

READ NOW



Australia's first Mondrian hotel is set to open in Burleigh Heads this year. The oceanfront property will offer a 208-room hotel, fitness centre, spa and resort pools, along with several restaurants and 89 residential apartments.

The world's first purpose-built

reef and marine sanctuary.

Wonder Reef, opened on the

Gold Coast in mid-2022. Just 2.5km off Main Beach, the

reef is made of a series of

suspended spiral structures

and is already home to

thriving sea life - attracting

scuba divers from all over

the world.

READ NOW

DREIGH PAVILION



A sustainable travel guide to the Gold Coast

Gold Coast's sustainable travel guide

READ NOW

World Heritage beauty

From whales to wineries and World Heritage beauty: why winter is a magical time to visit Australia's Gold Coast

READ NOW

Burleigh Heads

Spotlight on Burleigh Heads, the Gold Coast's hottest beachside borough

READ NOW



WHEN TO VISIT

Magic Millions Racing Carnival January 2024

READ NOW

Gold Coast Marathon

1 - 2 July 2023







MACKAY

Adventure among nature's finest in Mackay: your chance to connect deeper with Queensland's epic, unspoilt landscapes.

Fields of sugarcane stretch toward the horizon, meeting the sparkling Coral Sea, misty valleys and wild national parks.

There's no concrete jungles here – only the real thing – perfect for a restorative wander through Eungella National Park (Eungella meaning "a land in the clouds") and a dip in the cascading falls of Finch Hatton Gorge.

Home to Australia's longest stretch of subtropical rainforest, endless beaches to explore, tropical islands, and the mighty Great Barrier Reef, life's best lived outdoors here; a haven for hikers, anglers, snorkellers and wildlife lovers.

Mackay is your invitation to come face-to-face with nature. Share sunrise with wallabies on the beach at Cape Hillsborough, spot elusive platypus at Broken River, and dive beneath to meet untouched beauty on the Reef.

No day looks the same in Mackay, but each is filled with unique wonder.

More incredible things to do in Mackay

DISCOVER MORE

STORY TIPS

Scuba diving

Is this the world's most unique scuba dive experience?

READ NOW

A secret island

How to find - and stay the night - on a secret island in the Great Barrier Reef

READ NOW

Have breakfast with wallabies

Have breakfast with wild wallabies at this Aussie beach

READ NOW



WHEN TO VISIT

Mackay Festival of Arts

1 - 31 July 2023

READ NOW

Motorcycle Beach Races 27 August 2023

READ NOW

BEST THINGS TO DO IN MACKAY

Meet wallabies on the beach for sunrise at Cape Hillsborough

READ NOW

Spot platypus at Broken River

READ NOW

Scuba dive in the rainforest

READ NOW

Hike the walking trails of enchanted Eungella National Park, including this Great Walk

READ NOW

Take a dip at Finch Hatton Gorge

READ NOW

Snorkel untouched parts of the Great Barrier Reef with Wildcat Mackay

READ NOW

Feel the rush on a giant flying fox through the rainforest

READ NOW

Taste treats made from local sugarcane at Sarina Sugar Shed

READ NOW



COMING SOON

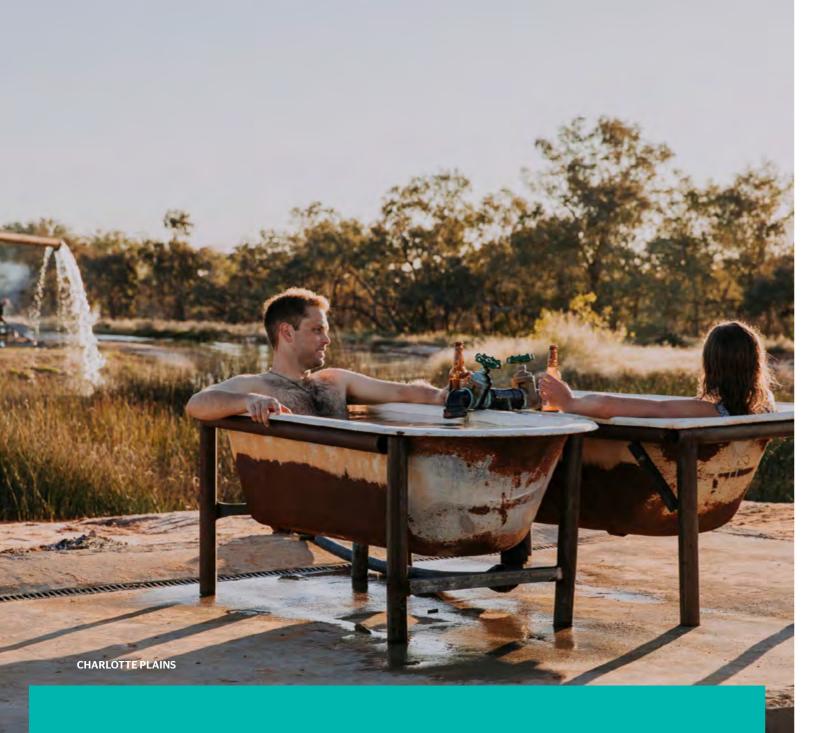
Travellers with a sense of adventure and a lighter wallet will find their haven at Mackay Adventure Lodge from mid-2023. The lodge offers a mix of private and shared rooms, and will connect visitors to unique experiences around Mackay with personalised tours and wake-park access.





Local operator, Rainforest
Scuba, offers a unique diving
experience in the crystal clear
waters on Finch Hatton - the
chance to witness platypus
and other billabong creatures
go about their day. Best
yet, this once-in-a-lifetime
experience can be enjoyed by
those eight years and older,
and you don't need to be a
certified diver.





OUTBACK QUEENSLAND

It's not just the sunshine that'll warm your soul in Outback Queensland. Considered the heart of Australia – accounting for 65% of the state's footprint – some of our earliest history can be found among the red dirt and vast outback landscapes.

Best explored between April and September, Outback Queensland has four main gateway towns: Mount Isa (in the north-west), Birdsville (in the far west), Charleville (in the south-west), and Longreach at its heart. But it's easier to get here than you think, thanks to airports, scenic rail trips, sealed highways and guided tours.

The road trips are mighty, the adventures are rugged, and the starry nights are like nowhere else. But most importantly, there's endless opportunities to get hands-on and be part of the action: dust bones at a dinosaur dig site, peer into the expanding universe at the Cosmos Centre, embark on the trek of a lifetime to discover millions-year-old gorges and desert oases, join thousands of revellers at iconic events that promise to cover your boots in layers of red dust and leave you with a lifetime of memories. While the adventures are epic in scale, it's the people you meet and the stories you learn along the way – from yarns with Indigenous elders or simply those locals that pull up a seat at the pub – that make visiting Outback Queensland a deeply grounding experience.

More incredible things to do in Outback Queensland

DISCOVER MORE

TREK WEST - TAILORED HIKING TOURS

COMING SOON

Opening June 2023, Cunnamulla Hot Springs will be the ultimate relaxation experience beside the Warrego River. The destination will feature multiple pools filled with mineral-rich artesian water, naturally warmed from the underground artesian basin, along with a range of therapeutic activities.



Tourists recently discovered Australia's most intact coyoo austalis fossil while fossicking near Kronosaurus Korner in Richmond. Remains of the 1.6-metre long carnivorous predator fish were so complete scientists could even see its stomach contents - valuable insight into a time when the species swam the inland Eromanga Sea, which covered this part of the outback some 100 million years ago.

STORY TIPS

Luxury meets red dirt

Luxury meets red dirt: new down-toearth luxury experiences are thriving in the Aussie outback

READ NOW

A complete guide to the Outback

Make your next road trip one through the Aussie outback: a complete guide to Outback Queensland road trips

READ NOW

Footsteps of dinosaurs

Follow the footsteps of dinosaurs in Queensland

READ NOW



WHEN TO VISIT

Winton's Vision Splendid Film Festival

23 June - 1 July 2023

READ NOW

Birdsville Big Red Bash

4 - 6 July 2023

READ NOW

Mount Isa Rodeo

10 - 13 August 2023

READ NOW

Birdsville Races

1 - 2 September 2023

READ NOW

BEST THINGS TO DO IN OUTBACK QUEENSLAND

Peer into the universe at Charleville Cosmos Centre

READ NOW

Strike up a conversation at one of these historic outback pubs

READ NOW

Time your visit for an unmissable outback event

READ NOW

Step back in time at Winton's Australian Age of Dinosaurs

READ NOW

Soak up Australian history in Longreach, home to the birthplace of QANTAS, Stockman's Hall of Fame and Australia's only Cobb & Co stagecoach gallop experience

READ NOW

Learn about outback life while staying on a working cattle or sheep station.

READ NOW

Journey to remote Boodjamulla National Park to paddle through ancient gorges

READ NOW

Or, fly! Seair Touring will take you from the Gold Coast to the heart of the outback on a multi-day Cessna tour. You can even visit the outback and the Reef on the same trip!





@sqcountry /SouthernQueenslandCountry

Escape to where the air is crisp, the country views are endless, and the food is bountiful. Southern Queensland

much as your taste buds.

Country is sure to charm, and a visit will fuel your soul as



SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND COUNTRY

Southern Queensland Country is your excuse to slow down and enjoy the simple life. Where morning walks lead you through rugged national parks, lunch is served among the vineyards, and the night sky wraps you in a blanket of stars.

A recharge for mind, body and soul, experiences are meant to be savoured here - from the hiking trails to food and wine trails. Whether you're trekking granite landscapes or rainforest, tasting farm-fresh produce at local markets, or getting your fill of immersive wine experiences throughout the Granite Belt.

Queensland's largest inland city, Toowoomba, is just a 90 minute drive from Brisbane and you'll feel the change of pace as you rise above the Lockyer Valley. The city delivers a striking mix of country charm and the energy of an urban centre on the rise: enjoy its vibrancy from lush botanic gardens to laneways filled with street art and bustling cafes.

Known for its distinct seasons and regional flavours, Southern Queensland Country celebrates colourful community events, from winter jazz festivals and opera to the annual Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers.

First time here? Fill your days with these things to do

DISCOVER MORE

The world's largest forest of bunya pines

The Bunya Mountains are home to the world's largest forest of bunya pines, but this destination holds significance for its cultural traditions, too. For thousands of years, Aboriginal groups would travel hundreds of kilometres on foot to celebrate the bunya nut harvest together, an opportunity to host ceremonies and corroborees, make laws and resolve disputes, renew friendships, exchange stories and songs, and, naturally, feast on the abundant bunya nuts!

COMING SOON

Lead your own adventure through charming towns and country landscapes - and treat your tastebuds at the same time - along one of six new 'Savour Southern Queensland Country' tasting trails.

STORY TIPS

A weekend exploring Stanthorpe

How to spend a weekend exploring Stanthorpe, the capital of Queensland's food bowl

READ NOW

The quirkiest places to stay

Train carriages and tents, to brewery retreats or sleeping in a wine barrel - the quirkiest places to stay in Queensland's countryside

READ NOW

Weekend country getaways

The best weekend country getaways near Brisbane

READ NOW



WHEN TO VISIT

Opera at Jimbour

5 - 7 May 2023 READ NOW

Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers

1-30 September 2023

READ NOW

BEST THINGS TO DO IN SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND COUNTRY

BA STREET

Discover granite icons like The Sphinx, The Pyramid and Castle Rock in Girraween National Park

READ NOW

Sip your way through the Granite Belt's best wineries

READ NOW

Cycle between cellar doors on a bike tour

READ NOW

Hike to the base of Queen Mary Falls, flowing among World Heritage Gondwana Rainforest

READ NOW

Get wild in the Bunya Mountains, where cosy cabins, national park hiking trails and more await - along with the opportunity to taste the region's bunya nuts at local cafes serving up its flavours in pies, ice-cream and more

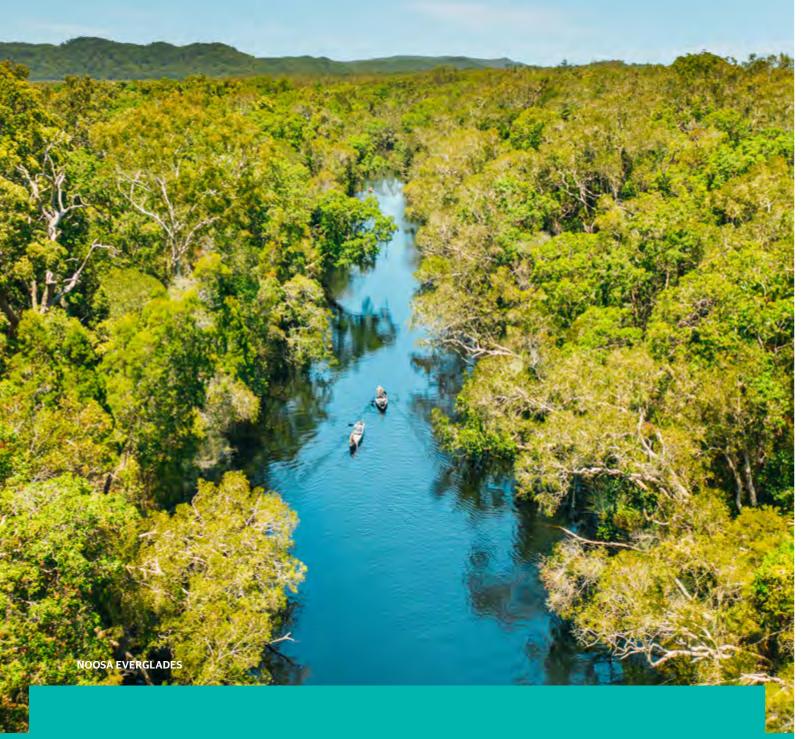
READ NOW

Feast through Stanthorpe, stopping for local cheese, apple pie and more









SUNSHINE COAST

From the beach to the hinterland, a visit to the Sunshine Coast enriches the soul for shoulder-dropping relaxation. Whether you're in search of refreshing countryside, saltwater revival, or indulging in world-class dining accented by local produce, you'll find it here, just an hour's drive north of Queensland's capital city, Brisbane.

Eco-adventures abound in the only place on the planet where three UNESCO Biosphere Reserves sit side-by-side, including the opportunity to paddle through a river of mirrors in one of the world's only everglades systems.

Wind your way along the scenic roads to lively mountain villages. Lace up your hiking boots to discover untouched beauty in our national parks, like the ancient Glass House Mountains -which is home to Indigenous mythology and 11 volcanic peaks that pierce the horizon. Head out for a surf on some of Australia's best breaks along 100km of sparkling coastline. Cafe-hop, gallery-hop and bar-hop your way from dawn to dusk. The Sunshine Coast is a feast for your senses - and will leave you on a natural high.

Long staking its claim as a world-class events destination, the Sunshine Coast also steps up as a major destination of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

First time here? Fill your days with these things to do

DISCOVER MORE





You can now spend the night at Australia Zoo! Wildlife lovers should check into The Crocodile Hunter Lodge, a long-awaited hideaway built lovingly by the Irwin family, near the iconic Glass House Mountains.

READ NOW

COMING SOON

Sustainable tourism will take another leap in late 2023 when Barns Lane Farm opens in Coolum. Delivering a true paddock-to-plate experience, the sprawling property will connect locals and travellers with the hinterland and its bounty of flavours. It's planned to include a Produce Hall filled with food stalls and farmers market, a distillery, brewery, restaurants, adventure play areas, animal farm, plant nursery, agri-tours, a performance stage and much more.

STORY TIPS

Noosa in three days

How to discover the best of Noosa in three days

READ NOW

From the coast to the country

Road trip from the coast to country in Australia's Sunshine Coast

READ NOW

Noosa Everglades

Did you know Australia has its own everglades? There's only two on the planet

READ NOW



WHEN TO VISIT

The Curated Plate Food Festival

28 July - 6 August 2023

READ NOW

Mooloolaba Triathlon

March 2024

READ NOW

BEST THINGS TO DO ON THE SUNSHINE COAST

4WD along sand highways from Noosa to Rainbow Beach on the Great Beach Drive

READ NOW

Go whale watching - or swim with humpbacks - with Sunreef Mooloolaba

READ NOW

Join a kayak or eco-boat tour through the Noosa Everglades

READ NOW

Stretch your legs on the coastal walk in Noosa National Park

READ NOW

Experience unique wildlife encounters at Australia Zoo, including the famous croc-show

READ NOW

Kayak with platypus on the Mary River (book guided tours with Ride on Mary)

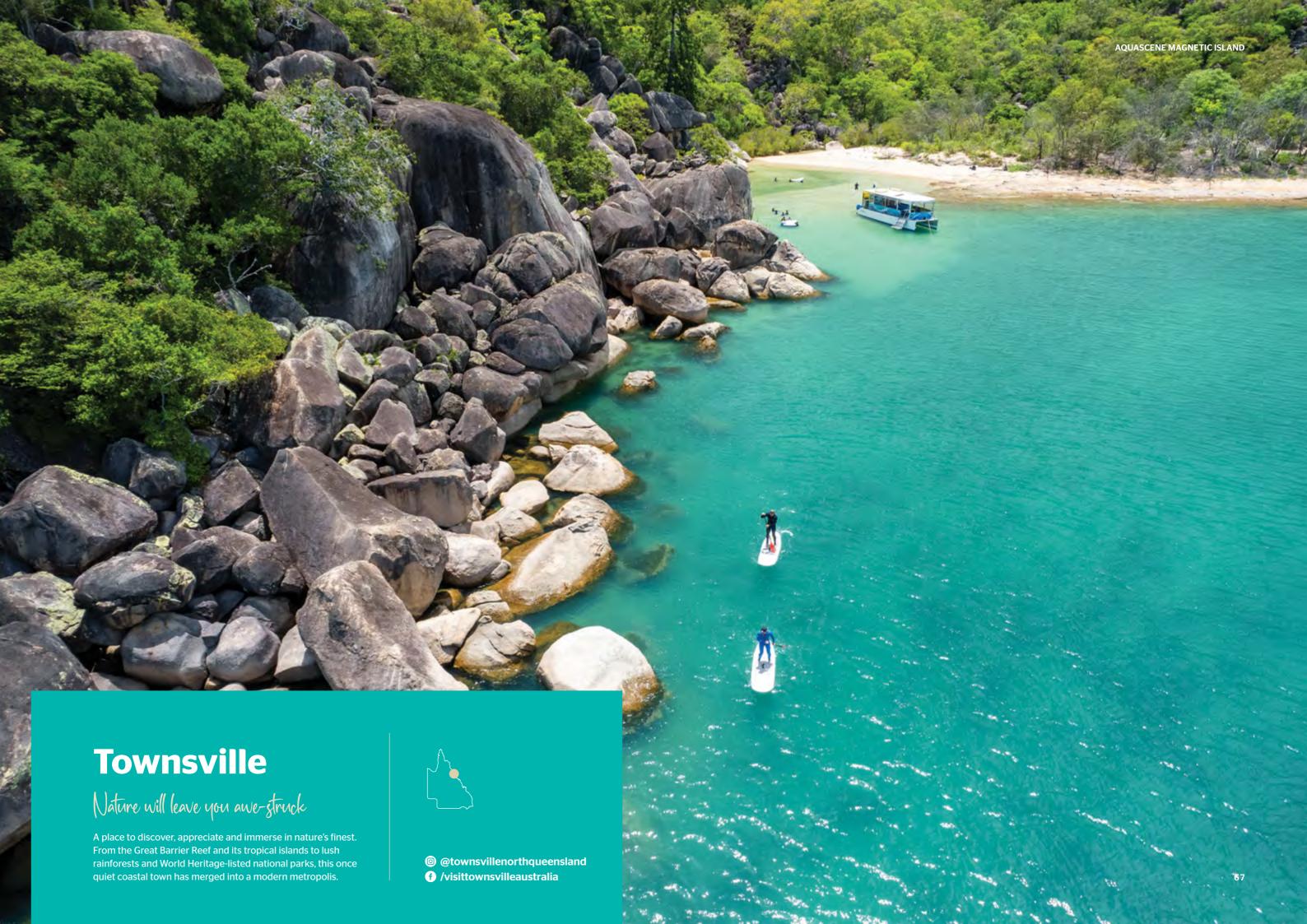
READ NOW

Walk Australia's biggest art, craft and produce market, Eumundi Markets

READ NOW

Set sail on an immersive Saltwater Eco Tour aboard a traditional timber vessel to learn about the Sunshine Coast's rich cultural and Indigenous heritage







TOWNSVILLE

The largest urban centre in Queensland's north, bright and bustling Townsville sits on the edge of the Great Barrier Reef, surrounded by World Heritage Wet Tropics rainforest, long stretches of beach, and islands that beckon adventure.

Staking its claim as one of the Great Barrier Reef's five distinct precincts, Townsville is the centre of reef research and has morphed into a vibrant metropolis and mecca for eco-adventurers keen to spark their curiosity in Queensland's most famous World Heritage-listed wonder.

Opportunities to learn can be found at the world's largest living coral reef aquarium (Reef HQ reopens in 2023), Master Reef Guide-led snorkel tours, sought-after wreck dives (the SS Yongala site is consistently rated in the world's Top 10 dive locations), and the only underwater art museum in the Southern Hemisphere, the Museum of Underwater Art (MOUA).

Here, the work of renowned underwater sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor casts a unique spotlight on reef conservation, restoration, education, and a deep connection to community.

Nature will leave you awe-struck on the mainland, where rainforest and rushing waterfalls become a playground of fun, and on Townsville's islands, too. Seek out unique wildlife encounters on Magnetic Island, with over two-thirds of the island designated national park. Tackle intrepid hiking trails on Hinchinbrook Island, where only 40 people are permitted to camp each day. Or indulge on luxurious Orpheus Island, where you can dive the reef by day and fine-dine by night.

The secret's out: Townsville is a tourism destination on the rise.

More incredible things to do in Townsville

DISCOVER MORE



World-renowned coral reef ecologist Dr Katharina Fabricius, who has spent decades researching the Great Barrier Reef at Magnetic Island, is the muse behind one of the eight new sculptures, known as Ocean Sentinels, which will soon find their home on the ocean floor as the latest installment of the Museum of Underwater Art (MOUA).

COMING SOON

The group behind luxury Queensland properties Orpheus Island Lodge, Daintree Ecolodge, and Mt Mulligan Lodge will open a new five-star hotel, Ardo, in Townsville later this year, while five private waterfront suites will open to tourism on Pelorus Island, previously camping-only.

Also highly anticipated is MOUA's newest underwater installation,
Ocean Sentinels, ready for divers from late 2023.

STORY TIPS

Pioneering science

The underwater art gallery pioneering citizen science on the Great Barrier Reef

READ NOW

Magnetic Island

How to explore the only Great Barrier Reef island with its own postcode, Magnetic Island

READ NOW

Wild adventures

The insider-guide to having a wild adventure in Townsville, Queensland's off-the-radar tropical city

READ NOW



WHEN TO VISIT

Australian Festival of Chamber Music28 July - 6 August 2023

READ NOW

Magnetic Island Race Week

31 August - 6 September 2023

READ NOW

BEST THINGS TO DO IN TOWNSVILLE

VALLAMAN FALLS

Take in city and sea views from Castle Hill

READ NOW

Don your dive gear to explore the Museum of Underwater Art

READ NOW

Jump on the ferry to Magnetic Island, where you can switch off among national park beauty and spot koalas in the wild, home to the largest colony of wild koalas in North Queensland

READ NOW

Take in sunset from the bustling bars and eateries along The Strand, Townsville's waterfront precinct

READ NOW

Dive the SS Yongala, rated one of the world's best wreck dives

READ NOW

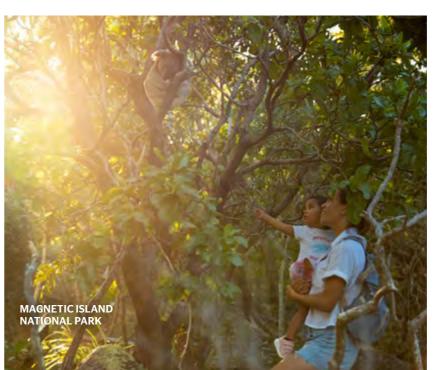
Witness the power of Wallaman Falls, Australia's highest permanent singledrop waterfall

READ NOW

Embark on a multi-day trek along Thorsborne Trail on Hinchinbrook Island, where dramatic Jurassic landscapes meet rocky beaches and Australia's most spectacular natural infinity pool, Zoe Falls

READ NOW

Gain insight into 45,000 years of Nywaigi Aboriginal culture with Mungalla Aboriginal Tours







THE WHITSUNDAYS

A true paradise, The Whitsundays goes far deeper than the postcard-perfect pictures you'll take at every turn.

Where rainforest-clad mainland meets 74 tropical islands in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef, you'll find invigorating experiences at every turn. Whether you're seeking a luxury escape at world-class resorts like qualia on Hamilton Island (awarded World's Best Resort by Conde Nast Traveller), a shoes-optional adventure on a reef-fringed eco-hideaway like Elysian Retreat, or pitching a tent on a national park island for less than \$10 a night, a truly awe-inspiring experience awaits.

Today, the archipelago is celebrated as Australia's #1 sailing mecca (and the safest in the Southern Hemisphere), easily accessible via daily flights into the Whitsunday Coast (Proserpine) and Great Barrier Reef (Hamilton Island) airports.

Tune into the good vibes of lively Airlie Beach, the mainland hub where bars reach the water's edge and a sense of community thrives, surrounded by lush national parks.

Swim in the clearest waters you'll ever see, snorkel among the kaleidoscope of coral reef and marine life, don your skipper's cap and set sail between islands, take in the views of Heart Reef from a scenic heli flight, and take pause with your toes in the squeaky silica sands of famous Whitehaven Beach.

Rejuvenation is guaranteed - and so is the holiday of a lifetime.

More things to do in The Whitsundays

DISCOVER MORE

BEST THINGS TO DO IN THE WHITSUNDAYS

Swim at Whitehaven Beach - and polish your jewellery in the silica sand

READ NOW

Soak up the good life on Hamilton Island

READ NOW

Day trip to dive or snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef

READ NOW

Sleep beneath the surface at ReefSuites on Hardy Reef, which was Australia's first underwater hotel

READ NOW

Dip into the cool waters of Cedar Creek Falls in Conway National Park

READ NOW

Learn about marine life at the unique Living Reef at Daydream Island Resort

READ NOW

Swing into action on Dent Island, home to Australia's only 18-hole championship golf course that occupies its own island

READ NOW

Follow the path of the Ngaro people on an Indigenous cultural tour with Whitsunday Paradise Explorer

READ NOW



WHEN TO VISIT

Airlie Beach Race Week, Whitsundays Festival of Sailing

10 - 17 August 2023

READ NOW

Hamilton Island Endurance Series

25 - 26 November 2023

READ NOW



The living reef

Daydream Island Resort's Living Reef wraps a whopping 200-metres around the resort's main building, holding over 1.5 million litres of seawater, and home to more than 100 species of marine life and 80 species of coral. More than just fascinating to look at, there are unique opportunities for all ages to learn about marine life on the Great **Barrier Reef, with interactive** touch pools, marine biologist talks, stingray encounters, fish feeding, reef ranger programs, guided snorkels, and coral restoration tours.

READ NOW

WHAT'S NEW

Experience the turquoise waters and white sands throughout the Whitsundays onboard the new Whitsunday Explorer. Opened in April 2023, guests are able to kayak, hike or snorkel the iconic landscape and relax with luxury amenities and spacious accommodation across four levels.

DISCOVER MORE

STORY TIPS

Captain your own yacht

How you can captain your own million-dollar yacht in Australia's paradise.

READ NOW

Unexpected things to do

Unexpected things to do in Australia's tropical island paradise, The Whitsundays

READ NOW

5 ways to explore Whitehaven

5 incredible ways to explore Whitehaven, voted Australia's best beach

READ NOW



Queensland's 2023 **Events Calendar**

Want to be our plus one?

Save the date for these incredible Oueensland events.



January Gold Coast

Millions, Queensland's most prestigious racing event. Carnival highlights across 12 action-packed days include the Barrier Draw along Surfers Paradise beach, polo competition and the \$10million Magic

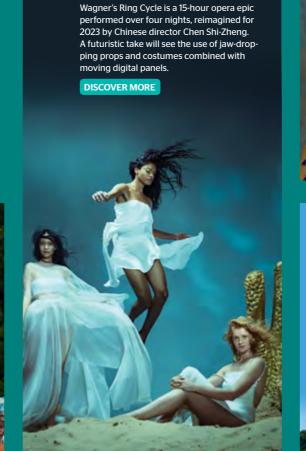
DISCOVER MORE











The Ring Cycle

1 - 21 December 2023



Noosa Triathlon Festival

One of Queensland's toughest Australia, but the biggest multi-sport

DISCOVER MORE



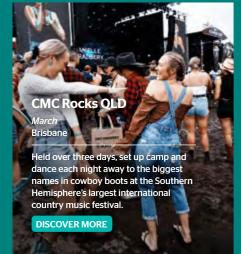
Coming in 2024

AACTA (Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts) Awards February 2024 Gold Coast

ITU World Triathlon Multisport

Lifesaving World Championship Gold Coast

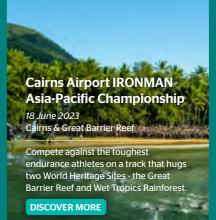














Spotlight On Queensland

The Reef, the world's largest sand island, and our vibrant capital city are all set for big things in 2023. So, we're shining a light on everything you need to know.





Spotlight One The Great Barrier Reef

An Australian icon and living global treasure



GET TO KNOW THE GREAT BARRIER REEF: WHERE TO VISIT

Stretching over 2300 km along the Queensland coastline from Bundaberg to the tip of Cape York, the Great Barrier Reef is like nowhere else on earth. With 3000 separate reefs and over 900 continental islands and coral cays, this UNESCO World Heritage site is home to a myriad of marine life and some of the world's best dive and snorkel sites.

Discover the five main regions of the Great Barrier Reef, each boasting unique experiences for travellers.

THE WILD NORTH

Discover the most remote, untouched Reef experiences, ideal for diving and fishing trip liveaboards that depart Cairns or Port Douglas.

CAIRNS & GREAT BARRIER REEF

Arguably the most well-known holiday spot, both Cairns and Port Douglas offer a huge range of day trips and overnight adventures on the Reef, fringed by World Heritage Wet Tropics Rainforest on the mainland.

TOWNSVILLE

A haven for divers looking to explore shipwrecks and the Museum of Underwater Art, with spectacular escapes at Magnetic Island and Orpheus Island.

THE WHITSUNDAYS

A playground for sailing enthusiasts and island-hoppers, snorkel the Reef between visits to famous Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet and luxurious island resorts.

SOUTHERN GREAT BARRIER REEF

Geographically closest to Brisbane (and even reachable in a day trip to Lady Elliot Island) explore island ecoresorts and world-class dives sites, or visit during turtle hatching season.



ECO EXPERIENCES ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Travellers conscious of their footprint needn't worry, thanks to a range of exciting eco-friendly experiences. Like sailing trips that harness wind power rather than rev the engine, or reef pontoons that turn their base into reef restoration and research sites, such as Quicksilver Cruises' Agincourt Reef off the coast of Port Douglas.

Sometimes it's as easy as taking the road less travelled, jumping on a day trip from Cairns to the Frankland Islands, where just one operator is licensed to take visitors. You'll have a low impact on the environment, and feel like you have a special part of the Reef all to yourself.

Eco-friendly experiences abound on the Great Barrier Reef's many islands. Tour the rehabilitation centre where sick and injured turtles are cared for at Fitzroy Island; enrich your holiday at Heron Island where you can dive and snorkel world-class sites and go behind-the-scenes on the largest island-based research station in the southern hemisphere; recharge at island resorts like Lizard Island and Orpheus Island that give equal effort to luxury and sustainability; or take a few days to learn and contribute to reef science on Lady Elliot Island, - a carbon-positive eco-retreat that encourages travellers to get hands-on.

Did you know your tourism dollars make a difference on the Great Barrier Reef?

Visiting the Reef with a tourism operator?
You'll pay an Environmental Management
Charge (EMC), a small but important 'reef tax'
that is included in your tour fee. This goes toward
the day-to-day management and conservation
of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, so future
generations can continue to visit and enjoy our
spectacular reef.

READ NOW

NEW WAYS TO EXPLORE THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

WHITSUNDAYS PARADISE EXPLORER,

Whether it's your first visit or fifteenth, there's always something new to discover on the Great Barrier Reef.

In Cairns? Spend a day on Reef Magic's Outer Great Barrier Reef pontoon, which opened in April 2022, or jump on board Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel where Indigenous sea rangers mix reef exploration with cultural insights.

Cultural connection continues south with Whitsundays
Paradise Explorer's new tour, follow history of the Ngaro
People while island-hopping, learning customs and visiting
sacred sites. While you're here, discover one of the Great
Barrier Reef's most famous coral cays — Heart Reef, on a
luxurious day out 'Journey to the Heart', or get a front row
seat to the Reef by staying the night at Reefsuites, Australia's
first underwater accommodation.

Townsville's Museum of Underwater Art became the first in the Southern Hemisphere, - with artworks by renowned sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor viewable from the mainland or on a dive trip to spectacular John Brewer Reef. Expect new installations at another top secret (for now) location later in 2023.

On the southern end, Lady Musgrave HQ offers day trippers and overnight visitors a pontoon base for adventures, complete with top-deck glamping or bunking in the underwater observatory. Prefer to glamp on land? Wilson Island Resort's safari tents are for you.





WE'RE WORKING HARD TO PROTECT THE REEF AND KEEP IT THRIVING

Covering a staggering 344,400 square kilometres (133,000 square miles), the world's largest coral reef is also the best-managed reef in the world.

We're ensuring the Reef retains its incredible diversity through initiatives like the Coral Nurture Program, which sees scientists and selected tourism providers unite to protect and plant coral and aid propagation - with thousands of new corals planted so far. Coral planting projects are ongoing at the Museum of Underwater Art's 'Coral Greenhouse' installation.

Important reef research is conducted from the Great Barrier Reef's many island research stations that stretch from Heron Island on the Southern Great Barrier Reef to Lizard Island in the far north, run in partnership with Australian universities.

Launched in 2018, the Queensland Indigenous Women Rangers Network (QIWRN) is paving the way for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to begin leading conservation efforts as rangers, mapping land and tracking changes within the local ecosystems.

Scientists, tourism operators and travellers are also joining forces to conduct The Great Reef Census, and insights from this data collection program will continue to drive research and conservation efforts.

What does healthy coral look like?

Healthy coral comes in all kinds of shades of olive green, brown, tan, pale yellows, pinks and more; after all, - there are over 400 species of coral on the Great Barrier Reef, after all. The best indicator of a healthy coral reef ecosystem is its inhabitants — it will be buzzing with activity and marine life.

Coral Spawning

Each year, around the full moon in November, planet earth's biggest reproduction show takes place on the Great Barrier Reef. Known as coral spawning, millions of corals along the Reef simultaneously release eggs and sperm bundles into the water, where the fertilisation process begins. This spawning can last a few hours or a few days, and fertilised eggs will settle on the ocean floor, eventually developing into coral. The best chance to witness this fascinating moment in nature is to head out on a dive boat from Cairns, where operators like Divers Den and Pro Dive offer night reef experiences.

READ NOW



DO YOU KNOW WHAT A MASTER REEF GUIDE IS?

Master Reef Guides are recognised as the world's leading reef guides, interpreters, and storytellers. They dedicate their lives to reef knowledge, research and conservation, and their role is to share the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef through engaging, entertaining, and educational experiences.

Accredited and trained through a specialised program run by Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority,
Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, and
Tourism and Events Queensland, Master Reef Guides
work with our highest standard reef tourism operators,
so for the best experience on the Great Barrier Reef,
choose a tour that has a Master Reef Guide on board.

Many have marine biologist backgrounds, but all have a strong passion and understanding of the Reef - and will turn an action-packed trip into the most exciting classroom of your life.



CITIZEN SCIENCE: HOW TO HELP THE REEF WHEN YOU VISIT

The ability to help protect this natural wonder stretches to travellers too, thanks to a range of citizen science experiences that not only get you exploring the Reef, but learning and participating in conservation efforts along the way.

Set sail on a day-trip from Cairns with Passions of Paradise, an eco-certified tourism leader that offsets carbon emissions through tree-planting and other research initiatives, their ECO Tour is designed for ocean lovers, where divers and snorkellers can assist Master Reef Guides in reef surveys and monitor coral planting.

Want to deep-dive into reef science? Sign up for a marine-biologist-for-a-day or reef ranger program with tour operators like Lady Musgrave Experience, Lady Elliot Island Resort, Fitzroy Island Resort, and Daydream Island Resort. Cairns-based Marine Discoveries also offers experiences that will take you into the classroom or on a coral adventure, with marine biologist-led seminars as well as multi-day reef naturalist programs.

Contributing to reef research can even be as easy as downloading an app. Eye on the Reef is one of the largest reef monitoring programs in the world - and every traveller can help survey reef health and identify marine species throughout their day. Simply download the app and record sightings which - this helps scientists monitor changes in coral over time.



One of the best ways to get involved is to head out to the reef with a high standard tourism operator. These operators have an eco-focus, and many are involved in reef monitoring, reef restoration, and site stewardship programs.

Marine biologist and Master Reef Guide Johnny Gaskell





Spotlight Two K'gari

One of Queenslands true natural paradises



K'GARI IS ONE OF THE MOST SPECIAL PLACES ON EARTH

An island getaway like no other, K'gari (Fraser Island) holds immense history within its sandy shores. Gaining UNESCO World Heritage Area status in 1992, it was formed from sand accumulation over 750,000 years – becoming the world's largest sand island. However, the Traditional Owners – the Butchulla People – have understood its significance for an estimated 20,000 years, forging an incredible connection with the land and sea, and the flora and fauna that thrive within it.

This connection is yours, too. A warm welcome is guaranteed, whether you visit for an action-packed day trip from Hervey Bay, a guided beach camping adventure, or a relaxing eco-resort stay to explore all corners of this fascinating natural playground.

To spend time on K'gari is to discover a place where the simple life comes with a stunning backdrop, and awe-inspiring experiences are found around every turn. Where heart-racing natural adventure feels as rejuvenating as it does thrilling.

K'gari is one of the most unique places on earth, open to experience. There aren't any roads here, but sand highways lead to all corners of the island, and travellers with an intrepid spirit will be rewarded with dips in the crystal-clear freshwaters of Lake McKenzie or bubbling Champagne Rock Pools. 4WD along 75-mile beach to see shipwrecks and towering coloured sand cliffs, spotting local dingoes on the way, then float down the cool waters of Eli Creek. Or wind along inland tracks to find the only known place in the world where rainforest grows on a sand island.

There's endless opportunities to experience K'gari from new perspectives. Embark on a Great Walk, a sunset sailing adventure, jetski safari to offshore islands teeming with marine life, kayak its remote western shores, or take it all in from above on a scenic flight. This island is here to explore no-matter what pace you choose, and switching off has never felt so good.

Top sights on K'gari

- 1. Lake McKenzie
- 2. S.S. Maheno shipwreck
- 3. Champagne Pools
- 4. The Pinnacles
- 5. Valley of the Giants

UNFORGETTABLE ECO-TOURISM EXPERIENCES ON K'GARI

K'gari is made for big adventures that have a light touch.

Connect with Kingfisher Bay Resort's array of tours, from ranger-led bush tucker experiences and nocturnal wildlife walks to eco-marine adventures. While you're here, visit the newly opened K'gari World Heritage Discovery Centre to learn more about ongoing environmental initiatives and conservation efforts.

Stretch your legs on a four kilometre hike to Lake Wabby and Hammerstone Sandblow, or tackle the multi-day K'gari Great Walk. The epic 90km trek is made easier thanks to Fraser Island Hiking, who take away the heavy lifting with self-guided, supported hikes for those who want to enjoy the thrills of bush camping while carrying just a day pack - and arrive at camp to a set up tent and cheese plate. Fully-guided luxury hikes are available at select times throughout the year.

Getting out on the water is eco-friendly too. Unearth the untouched beauty of K'gari's west coast with Tasman Venture and newcomer K'gari Salty Safaris, or set sail on a yacht charter with Sweet Escapes. No impact on the environment; huge impact on you.



HOW TO GET TO K'GARI?

K'gari (Fraser Island) is just 300km north of Brisbane, and 15km off the coast of Hervey Bay. Most tours to the island depart from Hervey Bay by boat, ferry or scenic flight.

Driving? A 4WD vehicle is essential. Take the car ferry from either Rainbow Beach or Hervey Bay.

Did you know?

K'gari translates to 'paradise' in the local Butchulla language.

The biggest sand dune on K'gari is 244 metres high - taller than the Sydney Opera House.

The dingoes that live on K'gari are believed to be the purest strain of dingo on Australia's east coast.

The waters around K'gari become a playground for migrating humpback whales each year, between July and November.





Spotlight Three Brisbane (Meanjin)

How to soak up culture in Queensland's capital



Make your way to Queensland from overseas and more than likely, you'll land in Brisbane. This new world city is known for its laid back charm and unique way of life where the city meets the outdoors at every opportunity. Out the front, you'll find some of the world's largest sand islands at Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) and Mulgumpin (Moreton Island), while Brisbane's backyard is an ancient green belt of lush rainforest, cascading waterfalls and rugged adventures.

But Brisbane's vast natural beauty doesn't compromise on its world-class cultural, luxury and gourmet offerings. This combination of down-to-earth, easy living meets cosmopolitan flair will excite and entice visitors to discover hidden city laneways, bustling riverfront entertainment precincts, and character-filled neighbourhoods where there's always something new to try, and friendly Brisbanites are more than willing to share their favourite spots and local secrets.

Queensland's thriving arts and culture scene has a lot to offer travellers, from immersive Indigenous experiences to eclectic art galleries that host world premiere exhibitions, or simply spending a day discovering the nooks and crannies of the city's cultural beating heart in South Bank.

When hunger strikes, a smorgasbord awaits. There's everything from farmers markets to global street food markets, and when you're craving seafood you can board a trawler boat moored in the city for a feast, or sit down for a fine dining experience. Then, settle into one of the city's many five star hotels that encourage indulgence of mind, body and soul.

It's not just fellow Australians who've been lured by Brisbane's magnetic pull, making it one of the fastest growing cities in the nation. Our sparkling River City was recently announced as the host city for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and named by TIME Magazine among the World's Greatest Places of 2023, the only Aussie city to do so.

If you're yet to experience the beauty of Brisbane, get ready to fall for this vibrant, green city: its casual charm will suck you in.

Brisbane is firmly on the map, and it should be on yours, too.



FEAST ON THE FINEST

Among the city's 36 chef-hatted restaurants, intimate finediners Elska and Joy serve exquisite, varies-by-the-day degustations to a handful of guests each night, perennial local favourite sAme sAme brings punchy Thai flavours to local produce, and celebrated chef Ben Williamson's ode to woodfired cooking at Agnes always draws a crowd.

Brisbane's dining scene bustles from 6am coffees until last call, - and it's drawing many of Australia's best chefs north too, with Andrew McConnell's Melbourne heartthrob, Supernormal, set to venture north to Brisbane later in 2023.

Relax riverside at Howard Smith Wharves, where breweries, rooftop bars and eateries are tucked into a green space underneath the iconic Story Bridge. Or, embrace our craft-culture: there's make-your-own-gin experiences at Brisbane Distillery, cellar door tastings at City Winery, and a brewery-crawl by boat with River to Bay.

Sleep well

Brisbane is booming with luxury hotels big on character: The Calile, W Brisbane, Emporium, Ovolo and Crystalbrook Vincent are all well-established destinations with unique wellness offerings. The opening of Queens Wharf in 2023 will bring four more luxury properties, including the city's first six-star hotel, the Ritz Carlton.



Shop local

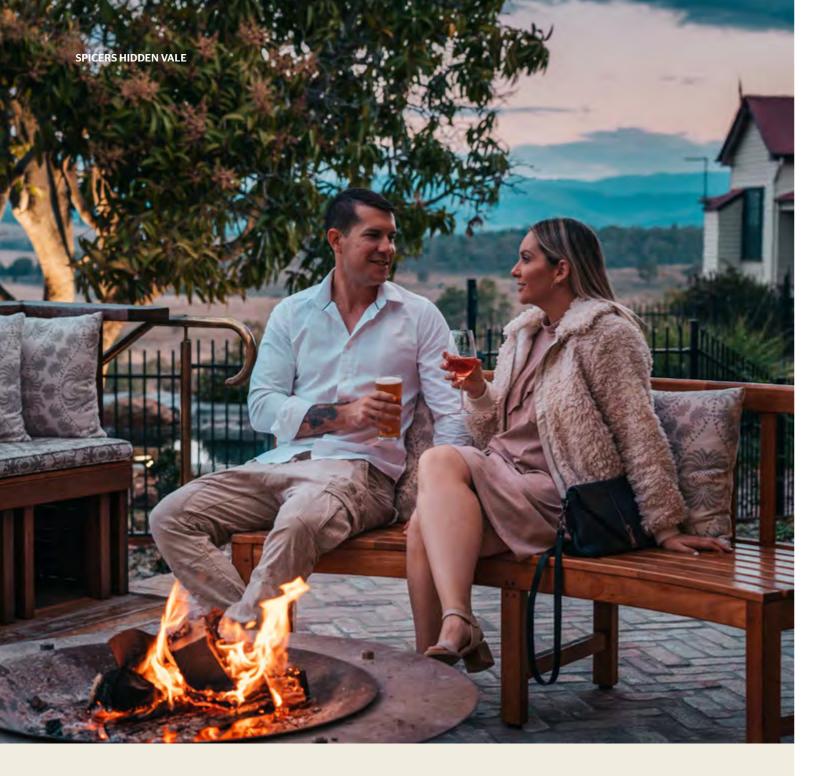
Take a piece of Brisbane home with you and shop along fig-tree lined James Street, where independent boutiques and acclaimed Australian designers sit alongside a flurry of the city's best restaurants. Head to Paddington for one-of-a-kind vintage treasures, or find authentic Indigenous art at Birrunga Gallery and Aboriginal Art Co.



BECOME A CULTURE VULTURE WHERE OLD COMPLEMENTS NEW

Follow in the footsteps of Brisbane's first people with BlackCard Cultural Tours, uncovering history and art through the city, or join Yura Tours on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) to discover the island's most sacred sites and local artisans as you learn about the Quandamooka People's customs and creation stories.

And while urban art lines the streets of neighbourhoods like Fish Lane, West End and Fortitude Valley, wander to discover the latest blockbuster exhibitions at QAGOMA or pop into Brisbane Powerhouse. As dusk falls, talent spanning opera and ballet to indie music and comedy take the stage at theatres and live music venues across the city.



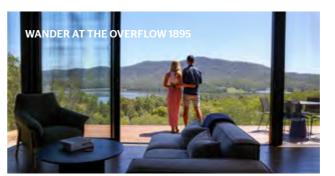
ADVENTURE MEETS LUXURY IN BRISBANE'S SCENIC RIM

Brisbane's backyard is a spectacular one. Around an hour's drive from the city you'll find the Scenic Rim – an area of outstanding beauty which sits within a volcanic caldera formed around 25 million years ago.

Home to six national parks - four of which make up the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Gondwana Rainforests - explore lush rainforests and rugged mountain ranges, and taste your way across the region's bounty of homegrown delights. Work up an appetite on hiking trails, then stop off at roadside stalls, farm gates, restaurants and local vineyards, before getting cosy at a luxurious rural retreat.

A treasure-trove of unique experiences and sights, it's little wonder Lonely Planet named our Scenic Rim one of the Top 10 regions in the world in 2022.

This is country charm at its very best, and you'll feel world's away from city life whether you make it here for a day trip or weekend. Here are some of our favourite new ways to explore.



1. Sleep in a luxury 'Pod' on a working winery

Check into one of five secluded WanderPods overlooking rolling vineyards and the serene shores of Lake Wyaralong at The Overflow Estate 1985, a historic property turned boutique winery just 1.5 hours drive from Brisbane City. Visits to the cellar door and exquisite restaurant meet days luxuriating among the eucalypts from your eco-pod, complete with king bed, sustainable linen, an outdoor stone tub to enjoy the unsurpassed beauty of the Scenic Rim.



2. Immerse yourself at Beechmont Estate

Breathe in the refreshing country air and embrace a slower state of being at Beechmont Estate. Opened in late-2021, this luxury country retreat is situated on a polo and Wagyu farm on the edge of World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park. Sink into a private cabin after a rejuvenating spa treatment, each decked out with a cosy fireplace and sweeping private deck with hinterland views. But save time for the many activities at your fingertips, including guided nature walks, yoga, hang-gliding, private picnics, cocktail masterclasses and dining at the Chef-hatted restaurant.



3. Embark on the Scenic Rim Trail

Lace up your hiking boots for the Spicers Scenic Rim Trail, an ecotourism experience that connects adventurers to ancient landscapes among World Heritage Gondwana Rainforest.

Wind your way along the multi-day walking trail, but don't expect to pitch a tent once you drop your day pack each afternoon. Instead, refuel with five-star dining and settle into treehouse-inspired eco-cabins, complete with plush king-size bedding, ensuite bathrooms and magical views of the surrounding landscape.



4. Book a stay to support Binna Burra Lodge

Perched 800-metres above sea level amidst the subtropical rainforest of Lamington National Park, Binna Burra Lodge offers some of Australia's most spectacular views alongside its fascinating history - founded by Naturalist Arthur Groom in 1933. The Lodge recently reopened after being completely razed by devastating 2019 bushfires, so booking a stay at the luxurious Sky Lodges, romantic Tiny Wild Houses, or safari tents is the ultimate natural reset that helps support this ecocertified destination. Many of the national park's best walking trails are on your doorstep, leading to mountain lookouts, cascading waterfalls and hidden caves.



5. Experience Yarriba Dreaming

Experience cultural immersion while deep in nature with Yarriba Dreaming: a three-day journey led by the Mount Barney Lodge and local Indigenous guides through the foothills and forest of rugged Mount Barney, the second highest peak in South East Queensland. Learn traditional ways of living, share stories, walk through Country and camp among the bush - a unique way to consider your own place in nature while connecting with our oldest cultures.

Discover more incredible Scenic Rim experiences here.

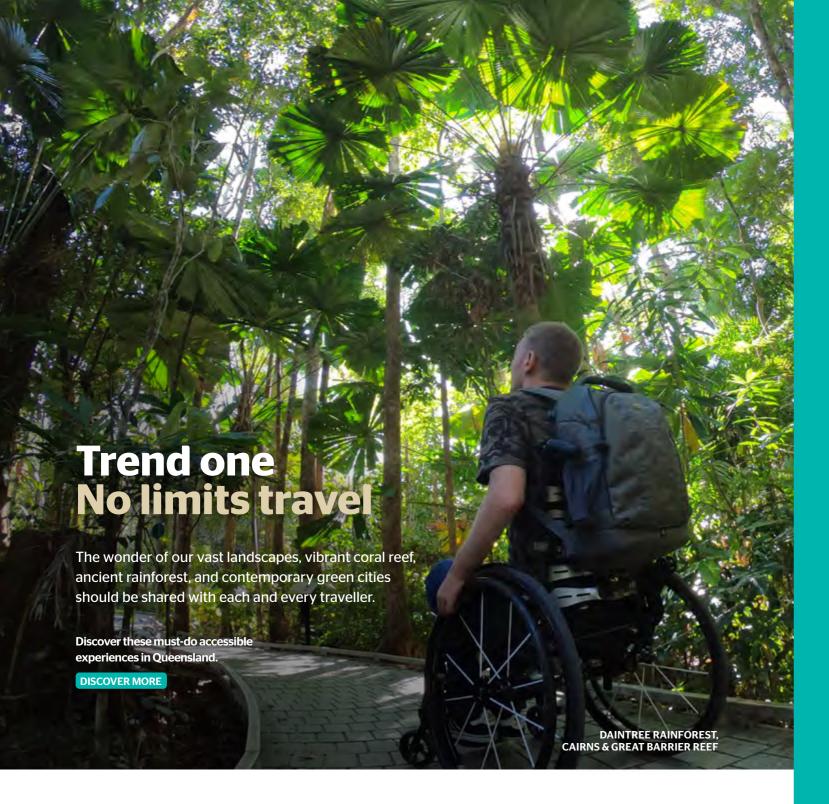
DISCOVER MORE

86 landscapes among World Heritage Gondwana Rainforest.

Travel trends in Queensland

From eco-conscious luxury to remote adventures in Australia's last frontier, here are some of the travel trends set to shape visits to Queensland for years to come.





Here in Queensland, we believe travel should be open to all, without limitation, - and our tourism industry is working hard to ensure inclusivity.

Globally, it's estimated that 23% of travellers have accessibility needs^[1] while 70% of travellers would prefer more inclusive travel options^[2]. With an ageing population there is increased demand to provide travel facilities and experiences for those with mobility issues, chronic health conditions and other accessibility needs, and we're delivering.

WANDER THROUGH INSPIRING SURROUNDS

Take in the wonder of our national parks, like the raging Barron Falls, the world's oldest surviving tropical rainforest in the Daintree, or underground lava tubes at Undara Volcanic National Park, thanks to wheelchair accessible and stroller-friendly walking trails. Or make your way through our city museums with adaptive technology, Auslan and low-vision tours.





HIT THE BEACH

Experience sparkling beaches along our coastline, from the southern tip of the Gold Coast to famous Four Mile Beach in Port Douglas, where beach matting, mobi-chairs and beach wheelchairs are on hand. Or learn to surf on the Sunshine Coast, where Coolum Surf School offers adapted surfing programs to give a surf experience to those battling MS or spina bifida.

EXPERIENCE THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Explore the Great Barrier Reef on a day cruise to the pontoon at Agincourt Reef - which features a chairlift that enables visitors to enter the water to snorkel or feel the warm water. Or, sleep on the Reef and under the stars in total comfort on Lady Musgrave HQ.

ESCAPE TO THE ISLANDS

Want a tropical island escape? A coral cay off the coast of Cairns, Green Island's unspoilt rainforest and white-sand beaches are ready to explore with accessible day trip and overnight options, while visitors to Brisbane can take the ferry to Mulgumpin (Moreton Island) to hand-feed wild dolphins.

WILD ENCOUNTERS

Things get even wilder at the Irwin family's Australia Zoo on the Sunshine Coast. Spend the day exploring this unique wildlife sanctuary: meet a koala, feed kangaroos, watch the action of the croc-show, and learn about animal species from all over the world. You can even spend the night at the new wheelchair accessible Crocodile Hunter Lodge.

Find accessible travel guides to our most popular destinations here.





Sustainability is front and centre of the global psyche - and it's changing the way we travel. As consumers, eco-experiences and light-touch ways to travel are more important than ever.

Whether embarking on a walking holiday, charting your own course on a bareboat sailing adventure or kayak trip, or spending tourism dollars with operators that invest back into their communities and environment, Queensland is just the place for an eco-friendly holiday.

Because there's no better way to connect to the nature that surrounds you than knowing you're supporting it for years to come.

TRAVELLERS ARE MORE ECO-CONSCIOUS THAN EVER

Recent surveys by Booking.com^[3] revealed 81% of global travellers agree sustainable travel is important, while 71% are making an effort to travel more sustainably (up 10% from 2021). Research also indicates travellers are putting their money where their morals are, with 60% of respondents in an Expedia study willing to pay more to make their trip more sustainable!





BOOK A HOLIDAY AT A QUEENSLAND ECO-RETREAT

Whether you're looking for an outback adventure, a wilderness experience or a sustainable stay on the Great Barrier Reef, Queensland eco-resorts deliver creature comforts with an environmentally conscious flair, from carbon-offset flights to entirely solar-powered islands.

Lady Elliot Island on the Southern Great Barrier Reef is one of Queensland's biggest sustainability success stories. Science and tourism pioneered the revival of this mined coral cay, after decades of work to replant corals and revegetate the native forest, Lady Elliot is now powered by 100% renewable energys. And it shows, the Island is home to thriving bird populations and marine life and an incredible eco-resort with a mission to educate and inspire travellers, helping them get hands-on with reef conservation.

Then there's Thala Beach Nature Reserve near Port Douglas, where a once degraded sugar cane plantation is now a thriving 58-hectare sanctuary for native wildlife, - and humans looking for a digital detox where 'home' is a treetop bungalow.

Luxury is dialled up at Spicers Tamarind Retreat in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland, where five-star eco villas and a world-class spa are light impact thanks to sustainable practices including solar power, rainwater harvesting, and produce sourced from an onsite organic garden.

Discover our favourite eco-resorts here.

DISCOVER MORE



EDU-VATION

If the world is a classroom, Queensland is one of the best, with unrivalled ways to combine fun and learning on a family holiday and inspire the next generation to live sustainably too. Step into the palaeontologist's lab at Australian Age of Dinosaurs in Outback Queensland, become a Reef Ranger on the Great Barrier Reef, track koalas with university scientists at Spicers Hidden Vale, or learn about turtles with wildlife rangers at Mon Repos as they hatch and take their first steps toward the ocean.

REGENERATIVE TOURISM EXPERIENCES

Leave places better than you found it, and sign up for a regenerative tourism experience on your Queensland holiday. There are regenerative agri-tourism experiences at Gleneden Family Farm in Southern Queensland Country, tree-planting projects, and beach clean-ups (like Eco Barge Clean Seas in The Whitsundays). Join citizen science projects and tours like Sunlover's Marine Biologist for a Day, wildlife conservation tours and volunteer programs, and the chance to contribute to coral regeneration at the Museum of Underwater Art in Townsville.

DISCOVER MORE

BECOME PART OF A CONSERVATION TEAM IN NORTH QUEENSLAND

No Limit Adventures offers one of Queensland's most exciting voluntourism experiences. Take the opportunity to provide hands-on support at the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre on Fitzroy Island, or embark on a 12-day research adventure on the Great Barrier Reef where you'll dive and undertake rapid monitoring surveys on the Reef with Master Reef Guides.



There's no better way to discover the true character of Australia than to plan a trip to Outback Queensland. While the distance between towns to fill your tank (or stomach) might initially seem daunting, there are more ways to experience the Outback than ever thanks to a network of regional airports, driving holiday itineraries, unforgettable train journeys, and tours that make conquering these rugged, remote landscapes an adventure of a lifetime.

Along the way, you'll discover endless plains, mirage-like national parks, real-life stockman experiences, and rural charm that'll stir your soul.

If big skies and open spaces are calling, embark on a road trip for an unforgettable adventure through Outback Queensland. A series of established road trip itineraries ranging from three days to two weeks connect travellers with the best of the west.

DISCOVER MORE



LONGREACH

The heart of Outback Queensland, some 1200 km from Brisbane, Longreach is the home of history old and new -but you'll get a warm welcome from the moment you arrive. Experience life on a cattle station, explore aviation history in the birthplace of QANTAS, learn about early explorer life at the Stockman's Hall of Fame, and feel the surge of adrenaline as you're transported full tilt in a restored Cobb & Co stagecoach, following the original mail route from Longreach to Windorah.

MOUNT ISA

Gateway to the wonders of North West Queensland and home to the biggest annual rodeo in the southern hemisphere, Mount Isa is an outback city of contrasts.

From visiting a former mine site to winding through tunnels towards the city's underground hospital, you'll need to go below terra firma to understand how the modern Mount Isa City was built from the ground up through mining and innovation. But you'll need to get out of town, too: landscapes don't get mightier than Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park and its neighbouring World Heritage-listed Riversleigh Fossil Fields — recognised by Sir David Attenborough as one of the most important fossil sites on earth.

CHARLEVILLE

Let the night-sky guide your travels in Charleville, where stargazers and astronomers journey to peer into the universe with powerful Meade telescopes at the Cosmos Centre. Things get curiouser elsewhere around town, where you can take tours of a hidden WWII base, or meet tiny marsupials - bilbies - and learn about conservation efforts to save the endangered species.

BIRDSVILLE

Trace the steps of explorers Burke and Wills to the edge of the Simpson Desert (Munga-Thirri National Park). Birdsville's population is around 100 people, and you'll meet most of them over a yarn at local watering hole Birdsville Hotel. But set out on 4WD to discover the windswept dunes - including 40-metre tall Big Red - that make this remote western town so famous. Time your visit for July or September when this Outback town swells to host thousands of music-lovers for Birdsville Big Red Bash, and the Birdsville Races, dubbed the 'Melbourne Cup of the Outback'.

ROMA

Just five hours' drive from Brisbane, Roma is cattle country. Home to the southern hemisphere's largest sales yards, visitors get a unique taste of the outback while watching Australia's largest cattle auction, - where you can witness the sale of up to 12,000 cattle in a single day.

Jump off into the natural splendour of Carnarvon National Park, where you can reset among the aweinspiring Carnarvon Gorge, home to 30-million year old towering sandstone cliffs, prehistoric fauna, and some of Queensland's best Indigenous rock art galleries.

WINTON

Australia's dinosaur capital and home of Waltzing Matilda, Winton is a small town with big discoveries, just 180 km from Longreach. With endless opportunities to learn and contribute to prehistoric discoveries, including the site of a dinosaur stampede, Winton will capture the hearts of true explorers. It's also a feast for the eyes, internationally certified as a Dark Sky Sanctuary and host to an annual film festival that's earned Winton's reputation as the "Hollywood of the outback". Be sure to grab a beer at North Gregory Hotel, the birthplace of Banjo Paterson's poem Waltzing Matilda -, now an Australian anthem.





The only place in Australia home to both Indigenous cultures, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders – Queensland offers unrivalled experiences for those seeking connection to Country. After all, the spectacular land on which you're holidaying has a rich history.

More than ever before, we are seeking out Indigenous experiences on our travels, with recent research by Tourism Australia^[4] revealing seven out of 10 respondents found Aboriginal experiences appealing, - particularly those centred around nature and wildlife, coastal adventures and culinary experiences.

RAINFOREST DREAMING

There's no better way to experience UNESCO World Heritage rainforest than with its Traditional Custodians. Explore Mossman Gorge on the Ngadiku Dreamtime Walk: you'll visit sacred sites, hear ancient stories and witness a traditional smoking ceremony as you learn the local Kuku Yalanji's strong relationship with the rainforest.

Spend a day with Walkabout Cultural Adventures or Kuku Yalanji Cultural Habitat Tours, immersed in the Daintree rainforest and pristine mangroves of Cooya Beach as you learn how to spear mudcrabs and hunt for shellfish, then feast





COASTAL CONNECTION

Hit the coastline to discover a culture deeply rooted in its connection to land and sea.

Cruising out of Cairns, Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel's Indigenous Sea Rangers offer unique insight into the Great Barrier Reef as you explore vibrant snorkel sites via catamaran. It's an opportunity to not only dive beneath the surface but learn the Reef's creation story, their spiritual connections to the reef, and how Indigenous communities have helped to sustain it for millennia.

Exploring hidden islands and Indigenous sites in The Whitsundays has to be the most breathtaking day out. with paradisiacal views and culturally rich experiences waiting around every corner on the Ngaro Sea Trail with Whitsunday Paradise Explorer.

Forage for bush tucker and hear 20,000-year-old creation stories as you hike to the summit of Dreaming Mountain on the southern Gold Coast with Jellurgal Aboriginal Cultural Centre. On the Sunshine Coast, set sail onboard a heritage-listed timber vessel with Saltwater Eco Tours; - a cultural sailing journey where you'll experience a traditional welcome, music and ceremony alongside native bush tucker and seafood.

EXPERIENCE AUSTRALIA'S LAST FRONTIER

Bid goodbye to the mainland and head beyond Queensland's 'tip' to Torres Strait: - a cluster of largely untouched tropical islands boasting as much cultural significance as it does natural beauty.

This remote region is now within reach thanks to Strait Experiences' new day tour from Cairns - offering rare insight into one of the few places in the world where ancient culture remains part of everyday life. A scenic flight over Cape York will touch down for a day of soul-stirring experiences on Ngurapai (Horn Island) and Waibene (Thursday Island) that blend culture, cuisine and mesmerising landscapes.

A cultural partnership

In 2021, Daintree National Park was formally returned to its Traditional Owners, now jointly managed by the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people and **Queensland Government.**

UNDERSTANDING THROUGH ART

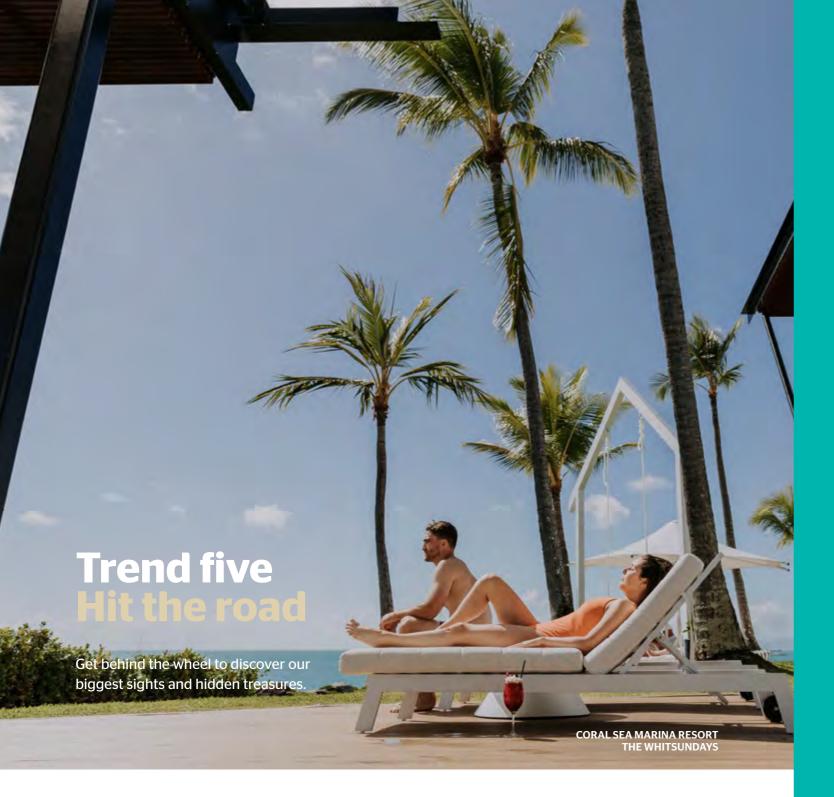
Even the most rugged and remote sides of Queensland welcome visitors to learn from our oldest cultures, thanks to the incredible ancient rock art galleries that remain carved into the landscape. Tour the homelands of Cape York's Balnggarrawarra Traditional Owners in an unforgettable day on Normanby Station (north of Cooktown) with Culture Connect and witness rock art few others get to see. Or, hop on a heli tour from Cairns with Jarramali Rock Art Tours to witness the Magnificent Gallery, - what archeologists call a 20,000-year-old outback museum.

Want to flex your creative side? Detour to Janbal Gallery on your visit to Mossman Gorge where you can learn Indigenous art techniques in a class led by a Traditional Owner, time your visit to coincide with the annual Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, or stop by Birrunga Gallery, a First Nation-owned gallery and cafe in Brisbane's CBD.

Our culture is unique. We have our own customs, we have our own beliefs and it is something that we want to share with the world.

> Fraser Nai - Co-founder of Strait Experience and a proud Traditional Owner on Masig Island

on the spoils around a campfire. 97



For explorers seeking a journey, not just a destination, the Sunshine State is an escape through wide open spaces, where the best adventures are found behind the steering wheel.

Best yet, our well-established drive routes ensure travellers have all the amenities at their fingertips for a successful adventure. Take your own accommodation with you, cruising your way by caravan or motorhome, drive and pitch your tent at serene spots along the way, or pull into hotels at the end of each day. There's a whole world waiting, so let's start with four of our most iconic road trips.

PACIFIC COAST WAY

With beaches, islands and the Great Barrier Reef on one side, lush rainforest and ancient national parks on the other, the epic Pacific Coast Way steers the spectacular coastline between Brisbane and Cairns. Discover hidden beach towns and surf havens, jump off into Great Barrier Reef adventures, wake up with wallabies at Cape Hillsborough, journey into The Whitsundays to sink your toes into Whitehaven Beach, dip in wild waterfalls and ancient Wet Tropics rainforest. This is Queensland's highlights reel, and so much more.

DISCOVER MORE



HOWARD SMITH WHARVES, BRISBANE

GREAT BARRIER REEF DRIVE

Explore Queensland's most famous nooks and crannies along the Great Barrier Reef Drive, where you'll cruise the seam between two renowned World Heritage Sites -: the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics Rainforest.

The drive ventures just 140 km north of Cairns, which is - achievable as a scenic day trip -, but set your own pace and savour the adventures along the way. Enjoy the village charm of Port Douglas, hidden swimming holes of Mossman Gorge, the Daintree's untouched rainforest and Cape Tribulation's deserted beaches.

DISCOVER MORE

MATILDA WAY

Embark along Matilda Way – named in honour of iconic Aussie ballad Waltzing Matilda – to experience the best of Outback Queensland. You'll need at least eight days to tackle the 1800 km journey, but you'll leave with lifelong memories and a deep appreciation of our diversity. Soak in Cunnamulla's artesian hot springs, be awe-inspired by the universe at Charleville's Cosmos Centre, discover the heart of the outback in Longreach, visit the world's largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils in Winton, then continue north through vast outback landscapes until you hit the Gulf of Carpentaria at Karumba - where you can raise a glass at our northernmost pub, or head out on a fishing charter to reel in barramundi.

DISCOVER MORE

We've gone electric

Queensland's Electric Super Highway is one of the world's longest EV charging networks in a single state. Fast-charging stations stretch from the Gold Coast to Port Douglas, and Brisbane to Toowoomba, with construction underway to connect into our remote outback towns.

DISCOVER MORE

AUSTRALIA NATURE COAST DRIVE

If you love a road trip, but prefer to spend more time in the great outdoors than behind the wheel, meet Australia's Nature Coast Drive: an epic 12-day drive that'll take you to the world's largest sand island, pristine national parks, and the Great Barrier Reef.

Kicking off in Brisbane, wind your way through the Sunshine Coast and Fraser Coast to Lady Elliot Island. Discover Queensland's golden beaches, step into the hinterland, explore one of the world's only everglades biospheres, come eye to eye with humpback whales, and learn from the world's oldest cultures along the way. A deeper connection to nature is inevitable, and you'll feed your soul as you feast on the region's bountiful produce and seafood.

DISCOVER MORE



Did you know?

35% of global travellers are interested in road trip holidays, according to Tourism Australia Future of Demand Project, 2022.

98



MEALS TO REMEMBER

Food and place is more intertwined than ever, with travellers seeking authentic cuisine, unique ingredients, and the desire to uncover the local flavour of their destinations.

Queensland's food scene has flourished in recent years, where an influx of homegrown and national talent, a palpable thirst for innovation, and access to Australia's best produce and seafood has resulted in a smorgasbord for diners. Some of the best? Dining beside the surf break at Rick Shores on the Gold Coast, feasting with your toes in the sand at Nu Nu in Palm Cove, devouring chef-hatted tasting menus in Brisbane, or stepping onto a fishing trawler for freshly-caught prawns in Cairns.

But travellers in Queensland will find experiences that feed the soul, too. Like Flames of the Forest, an evening that blends food and rich Indigenous culture at a secret location in the ancient Daintree Rainforest. A ranger-guided bush-tucker tour on K'gari to taste native ingredients at their source. Or honing your skills at Spirit House's acclaimed cooking school on the Sunshine Coast.





FOLLOW THE FOOD TRAIL

From the Scenic Rim to Bundaberg and the Daintree, Queensland's vibrant food bowls are best explored by letting your taste buds lead the way. Rent a car and hop between farm gates, tasting rooms and restaurants; - you might find yourself eating breakfast on a macadamia farm, ordering a latte where the beans were grown, and tasting all kinds of unusual tropical flavours — in fruit and ice cream form.

There's opportunities to jump on a tour, too. Brett's Outback Tasting Adventures will take you from Cairns or Port Douglas into the rolling hills of Atherton Tablelands, visiting coffee plantations, distilleries, dairy farms and quaint cafes tucked into the volcanic landscape.

Thirsty? Cycle-tour between cellar doors in the Granite Belt, heli-hop between country pubs in the Scenic Rim, or soak up the craft beer scene on a tour through the Sunshine Coast Hinterland or by boat along Brisbane River.

Did you know Queenzland boasts 98 chef-hatted restaurants?

Awarded annually by the Australian Good Food Guide, a 'chefs-hat' recognises excellence and discerning chefs in the country's top restaurants. Results are determined based on scores by special inspectors by AGFG who dine anonymously.

Chef-hatted venues can be found all over Queensland, from Nordic-inspired Elska in Brisbane, to Gold Coast Japanese fine-diner Kiyomi and classic French flair at The Long Apron in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. Further north, book a table at Tamarind in Cairns or dine among the palms at Nautilus, Port Douglas.



Scenic Rim Eat Local Month
1 June - 2 July 2023

The Curated Plate, Sunshine Coast 28 July - 6 August 2023

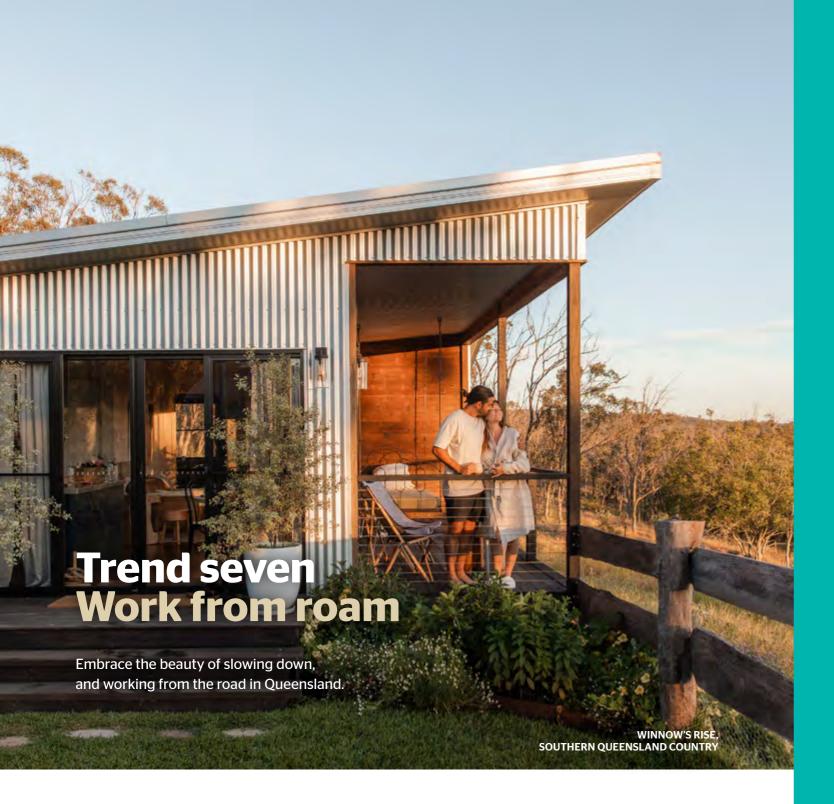
Taste Bundaberg 4 - 13 August 2023

Taste Port Douglas 10 - 13 August 2023

CONSCIOUS DINING

Sustainability carries over to what's on the menu, and how it's sourced — at Queensland restaurants. In Port Douglas, Oaks Kitchen and Garden takes a true farm-to-table approach, with a four-acre garden fuelling cooking lessons. Back in Cairns' city, CC's Bar and Grill by Crystalbrook sources meat from its own outback cattle station. But hyper-local eating is easy all over the state, thanks to farm gates and farmers markets aplenty.





The pandemic had a huge impact on travel - though for a while that meant staying put, as the switch to remote work created a largely location-independent workforce in many fields. And the travel-lovers among us quickly realised the art of working virtually — virtually anywhere in the world.

Between 2019 and 2021, work from home tripled from 5.7% to 17.9%, according to new data released by the U.S. Census Bureau, and in the UK, remote workers skyrocketed in the past two years. As of the second quarter of 2022,

Airbnb saw long-term stays (28 days or more) increase nearly 25% percent from 2021 and nearly 90% percent from 2019^[5].

This shift in attitudes from 'work from home' to 'work from roam' is a trend that's here to stay, appealing to those who want to continue to explore the world and embrace the rewards of purposeful, slow travel. Where experiences mean more than counting countries, and every day is truly lived.





QUEENSLAND VOTED REMOTE-WORK FRIENDLY

Not only is Queensland a beautiful place to visit, but it's an even better place to work remotely. Stay a little longer, soak up the surroundings, and live like the locals do. In fact, Queensland was recently voted one of the top 20 remote worker-friendly destinations in the world^[6].

And it's easy to see why. Set up your home office in Brisbane and you can rise with the sun to join the locals for a stroll along the riverside or hike up Mount Coot-tha before your morning coffee, then return for happy hour by the water. Base yourself on the coast and you can surf in your lunch break. Escape to the country and clock off at 5pm to watch the sunset from a mountain peak.

Queensland has an unbeatable work/life balance, and an array of holiday homes and extended stay Airbnb properties for remote workers.

Get inspired with this guide to the best places to live and work in Queensland.

DISCOVER MORE

TAKE A QUEENSLAND WORKING HOLIDAY

Those without remote work opportunities can experience Queensland on a working holiday, to stay, work and play in our vibrant cities and awe-inspiring destinations.

Achieving that ultimate work-life balance is much easier when you work on an island, in the outback, on a boat exploring the Great Barrier Reef, or surrounded by a World Heritage-listed rainforest.

Find out how to apply for a working holiday visa and book a Working Holidayer pass here.

DISCOVER MORE

Want to be a Working Holidayer?

Tourism & Events Queensland has partnered with Greyhound Australia, Backpacker Deals and YHA to offer working holiday visa holders Australia's most exciting holiday pass. Working Holiday Makers can book a Working Holidayer Pass which includes 30 days of non-consecutive travel over three months, \$200 of free experiences and discounted YHA accommodation.





From off-the-grid escapes to barefoot luxury, Queensland is brimming with incredible travel stories just waiting to be told. Ignite your wanderlust with these story-starters.



Story one First timers GBR

Seven tips for first-timers on the Great Barrier Reef

You'll never forget your first holiday to the Great Barrier Reef: - from your first glimpse of its awe-inspiring vastness from above, and the hive of marine activity once you dip below the surface. But with so much to see and do, planning can be overwhelming, unless you use these helpful tips for first-timers.

TIP #1: CHOOSE YOUR GATEWAY

- Stretching over 2,300km along Queensland's coast, the five main regions of the Great Barrier Reef each boast their own unique identity and things to do.
- Cairns & Great Barrier Reef: arguably the most well-known holiday spot, both Cairns and Port Douglas offer a huge range of day trips and overnight adventures on the Reef, with World Heritage Wet Tropics Rainforest as your backdrop.
- 3. Townsville: a haven for divers looking to explore shipwrecks and the Museum of Underwater Art, with spectacular island escapes at Magnetic and Orpheus.
- 4. The Whitsundays: a playground for sailing enthusiasts and island-hoppers, snorkel the Reef between visits to famous Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet.
- 5. Southern Great Barrier Reef: explore island eco-resorts and world-class dives sites stretching from Bundaberg to the Capricorn coast.
- 6. The Wild North: the most remote, untouched Reef experiences, ideal for diving and fishing trip liveaboards that depart Cairns or Port Douglas.

TIP #2: KNOW WHEN TO VISIT

It's an endless summer on the Great Barrier Reef; - warm even in Australia's winter months. Peak tourist season is between May and October, when the conditions are just right; the water is refreshing and the chance of rain is minimal.

Summer in the tropics - November to May - is hardly anything to sniff at, though. Divers and snorkellers will be given a protective wetsuit when in the water during this time of year, but you're rewarded with some of the best visibility and marine life encounters.

TIP #3: TIME YOUR TRIP WITH VISITING MARINE LIFE

Hoping to witness some of the spectacular marine life on the Great Barrier Reef? January to March is turtle hatching season in the Southern Great Barrier Reef; June and July brings dwarf minke whales to the remote Ribbon Reef off the coast of Cairns; July through October is when humpback whales migrate along the Queensland coast; and winter (May to August) is when manta rays are at the most prevalent across the Southern Great Barrier Reef and at Lady Elliot Island.

Tip #4: There are endless ways to explore the Reef

Not every Reef adventure requires a snorkel and fins. Immerse yourself in the Reef's surroundings on an unforgettable tour with Sunlover Reef Cruises, Reef Magic, Cruise Whitsundays or Lady Musgrave Experience, who transport travellers to a private pontoon in the middle of the Reef. From here, spend the day exploring the underwater observatory, glass-bottom boat tours, or dip your toes into snorkelling without the fear of being stuck on a boat if it's not for you.

TIP #5: CHOOSE A TOUR WITH A MASTER REEF GUIDE

Master Reef Guides are certified Reef interpreters and storytellers, and you'll come away with a true appreciation for your surroundings and how we can all help keep the Reef thriving.

TIP #6: HELP CONTRIBUTE TO REEF SCIENCE WHILE YOU'RE HERE

Download the Eye on the Reef app and you can log your observations, such as reef health, marine species and more.

If you want to deep-dive into reef science, sign up for a marine biologist or reef ranger program with tour operators like Lady Musgrave Experience, Lady Elliot Island Resort, Fitzroy Island Resort, and Daydream Island Resort, or go behind-the-scenes at Heron Island's research station.

TIP #7: YOU DON'T NEED DEEP POCKETS TO EXPERIENCE THE REEF

On a budget? There are many affordable ways to explore the Great Barrier Reef. In Port Douglas look to Reef Sprinter's Low Isles reef tour, day trip to Green Island off the coast of Cairns, or catch the Sealink ferry from Townsville to Magnetic Island to explore self-guided snorkel trails.

The majority of budget-friendly tours depart from major hubs like Cairns and Airlie Beach, thanks to their lively backpacker scenes. Hostel tour desks are a great place to connect with holiday deals.

Ready to start planning your Great Barrier Reef holiday? We're here to help.

PLAN NOW



HEART REEF, THE WHITSUNDAYS

Story two Barefoot luxury

Six ways to do barefoot luxury, Queensland style

Queensland is a place where the greatest luxuries are found in the simplest pleasures. Here, indulgence has been redefined. Spectacular landscapes lead the way, and pretension is left at the door, making way for experiences that captivate the senses, feed the soul, and connect travellers with something deeper, immersed in wild beauty.

Out here, stars are measured in their billions, and these are just six ways to do barefoot luxury in Queensland.

1. LIZARD ISLAND RESORT, GREAT BARRIER REEF

Known for its spectacular blend of luxury, sustainability and adventure on the northern edge of the Great Barrier Reef, award-winning Lizard Island Resort is accessible by a scenic charter flight from Cairns.

Home to a 40-villa resort and a breathtaking oceanfront mansion which accommodates up to eight guests, Lizard Island offers true seclusion just a snorkel and fins away from one of the world's natural wonders. But it's the experiences that make this a life-changing stay. Snorkel right offshore or take the short boat ride to world class dive sites like Cod Hole. Grab a gourmet picnic hamper and hop into a boat or glass-bottom kayak to find your own stretch of sand — the island's 24 beaches are yours to explore. Naturalist-led hikes, yoga classes, and a tour of the island's marine research station will keep you busy between dips.

2. ELYSIAN RETREAT, THE WHITSUNDAYS

Shoes are optional, but you won't leave a footprint at indulgent oasis, Elysian Retreat. Set on a private three hectare cove on Long Island and home for just 20 guests at a time, this is laid-back luxury at its finest at a 100% solar powered and ecologically-designed resort. Relax in your beachfront villa in between kayaking, reef snorkelling, day trips around The Whitsundays, and nourishing, ethically-sourced meals at the restaurant.

3. SILKY OAKS LODGE, DAINTREE RAINFOREST

Switch off and tune into greater purpose at Silky Oaks Lodge. Nestled within the world's oldest tropical rainforest, treehouse-style accommodation is built around an award-winning recipe of stunning rainforest views, the crystal-clear water of Mossman River, and the calls of native birds resonating through the trees.

Silky Oaks Lodge is home to 40 private treehouses, each with their own open-air bathtub to take in the scenery. Between soaks, take advantage of the immersive experiences at your fingertips, from luxury spa treatments to exquisite dining, yoga classes, and a range of activities that get you among nature, like kayaking or snorkelling the river.

4. WILSON ISLAND RESORT, SOUTHERN GREAT BARRIER REEF

Queensland's hidden gem, Wilson Island is just a tiny dot on the map east of Gladstone, but home to an adults-only ecoresort nestled among the natural beauty of pellucid waters, fringing coral reefs and subtropical rainforest.

This 100% solar and battery powered resort lets nature do the talking, yet offers all the creature comforts down to safari tents with organic linen and sunset happy hours using upcycled wine glasses. Turtles outnumber humans here, and there's no phones or televisions to distract you. Recharge to the sound of water lapping the shore, the island birds in song, and the range of adventure activities at your fingertips in your own little spot on the Great Barrier Reef.

5. NIGHTFALL CAMP, SCENIC RIM

Nightfall is known as one of Queensland's most magical glamping experiences, and you'll see why before you even pull back the canvas and step inside. Completely immersed in the wild Gondwana Rainforest beside Lamington National Park, Nightfall spoils with little luxuries, including the twin vintage metal tubs inside your safari tent, a king-sized bed with biodynamic Australian wool bedding, and fire-cooked organic meals sourced from Nightfall's own kitchen garden.

Lay back and let time drift away; - with the sounds of the rainforest and a crackling fireplace in the background, you've never felt so connected to nature.

6. MOUNT MULLIGAN LODGE, OUTBACK

Get a taste of the Outback at Mount Mulligan Lodge, - an all-inclusive boutique experience tucked into a 28,000 hectare working cattle station in the shadow of towering Ngarrabullgan — a mountain 10 times the size of Uluru.

A member of the Luxury Lodges of Australia, arrive via a 35-minute helicopter charter or three hour drive from Cairns, and get ready to explore. Go cattle mustering, kayaking or head out on ATV. Grab a sundowner as the sunset lights up the escarpment, indulge in a degustation under the stars, then return to your outback suite complete with wood-burning fireplace, private deck and deep outdoor bathtub.

The Lodge recently added three luxury outback tents if glamping is more your style.

DISCOVER MORE

NIGHTFALL CAMP, SCENIC RIM

Story three Unique Queensland experiences

Discover three totally unique experiences that you can only do in Queensland

Commanding a respectable 1.7 million square kilometres of the Australian continent, Queensland is big enough to fit the United Kingdom into it seven times. Add in World Heritage-listed rainforest, a trove of world-class beaches, expanses of outback, plus the largest coral reef in the world, and you might wonder where to start?

How about three unique experiences that you can only do in Queensland.

1. WALK THROUGH THE WORLD'S OLDEST SURVIVING TROPICAL RAINFOREST, GUIDED BY TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST SURVIVING CULTURE

Trace 60,000 years of Indigenous history as you step through the ancient Daintree Rainforest in Queensland's World Heritage-listed Wet Tropics.

Described by Sir David Attenborough as "the most extraordinary place on Earth", the Daintree is not only recognised as the world's oldest continually surviving tropical rainforest, trumping even the Amazon, but a place steeped in tradition and sacred customs.

A day tour from Port Douglas with Walkabout Cultural Adventures offers mesmerising insight into life where the rainforest meets the Reef. Guided by Juan Walker, a passionate Kuku Yalanji local who has been sharing his deep connection to the land with visitors for nearly two decades, journey through Mossman Gorge and across the Daintree River to the coastline. It's here, in Juan's home, office and playground, that you'll explore the Kuku Yalanji people's environment, learn about different foods and medicines utilised from nature, taste bush tucker, and even pick up some ancient hunting techniques, attempting to spear mud crabs among the mangroves.

2. EXPERIENCE THE WONDER OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

The Great Barrier Reef is at the top of every travellers bucket-list list when they journey to Australia, and rightly so. It's the world's largest coral reef system, and one of the most important and biodiverse ecosystems on earth. But despite millions of visitors each year, every moment on our Reef is unique - and visitors can uncover endless ways to explore.

Where to begin?

Take a private helicopter charter over iconic Heart Reef in The Whitsundays, touching down for a luxurious experience that begins with a champagne toast, snorkelling vibrant reefs and a boat trip closest to 'the heart'. Or, chopper to a remote sand cay in the middle of the Reef for the most incredible picnic of your life. Scuba dive through Townsville's Museum of Underwater Art where coral systems have grown to wrap around sculptures; spend the day snorkelling from a pontoon or sailing boat; or jump on a liveaboard dive trip from Cairns for the rare opportunity to see elusive dwarf minke whales. Whether you're on an action-packed snorkelling day trip or extending your visit to an island eco-resort, visit once and you'll be under the Reef's spell, destined to return for more.

3. PARTY AT THE WORLD'S MOST REMOTE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Queensland's biggest party is unlike anything you could ever imagine, and it's held over 2,000km west of Brisbane on the edge of the Simpson Desert.

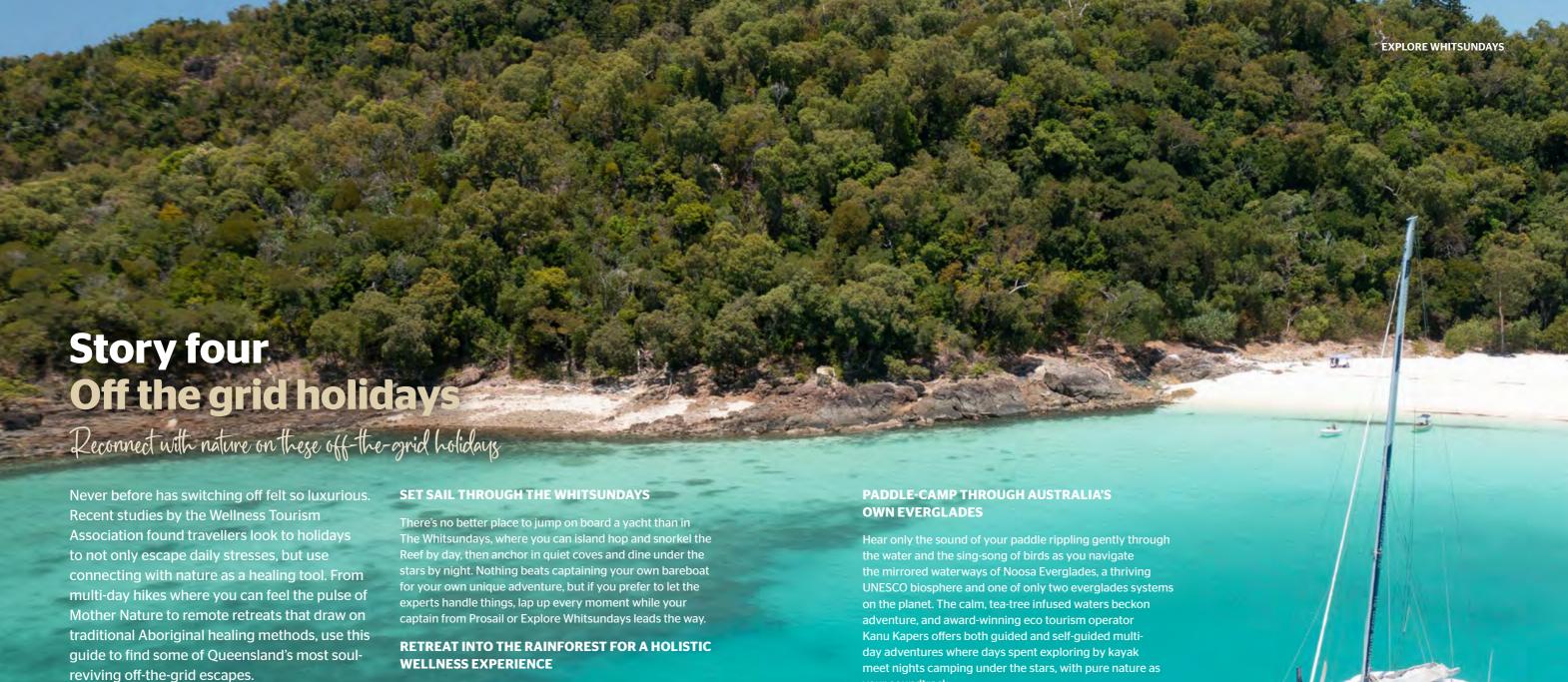
Each July, thousands of revellers make their way into the outback for Birdsville Big Red Bash. The dance floor is red dirt. The disco ball is the sparkling Milky Way. And the stage is set beneath the towering 40-metre Big Red sand dune, the largest of its kind in the world.

This is a music festival where strangers quickly become friends, and fellow campers feel like family, - but it's so much more than a showcase of the best Australian musicians. Over three days, become part of the community as you bend into sunrise yoga, surf the sand dunes, camp under the stars, and participate in hilarity from drag-comedy to air guitar competitions. There's no better excuse for an outback road trip.

Discover more unique Queensland experiences here.

DISCOVER MORE

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WALK IN WONDER - AND LUXURY

Embark on Spicers Scenic Rim Trail, a walking holiday that begins just 90-minutes' drive from Brisbane. Inspired to combine the best of the Aussie bush with sustainability and relaxed luxury, two, three, five, and seven-day guided hikes explore world-class walking trails through UNESCO World Heritage Gondwana Rainforest. All the heavy lifting is out of your hands (and off your back), so you can totally tune in to the beauty of the experience each day. Along the way, stay in unique Spicers eco-huts and enjoy sensational locally-sourced meals that champions the region's agricultural roots.

Nestled amongst the calls of the curlews and the magical mist of the Daintree Rainforest, Daintree Ecolodge is renowned for Indigenous-inspired treatments on land known as Wawu-karrba (or 'healing of the spirit'). Developed in consultation with the local Kuku Yalanii people, treatments here are imbibed with cultural wisdom and draw on traditional healing methods. Rebalance and realign your energy flow, then retreat to one of the banyans among the trees.

RENT YOUR OWN ISLAND ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Sync yourself with the sun's schedule on a private island to embrace slow living in one of the most spectacular spots on earth. A short boat-ride off the coast of Yeppoon on Queensland's Capricorn Coast, Pumpkin Island is paradise for up to 34 guests at a time in relaxed cottages and bungalows. This is island life at its best: swing back in a hammock and watch the world go by, or jam-pack as much snorkelling, swimming, kayaking and fishing into each day as possible. Totally off-the-grid, Pumpkin Island is powered entirely by wind and solar for an eco-getaway that feels

vour soundtrack.

CONNECT WITH ANCIENT WISDOM AND LANDSCAPES IN REMOTE CAPE YORK

Journey to the rugged northern frontier of Australia with Jarramali Rock Art Tours, where ancient escarpments and some of the most significant Indigenous rock art on earth make one unforgettable off-the grid adventure. The bumpy drive is well worth it as your Kuku Yalanji guide interprets the 450-strong collection of Quinkan rock art in Magnificent Gallery, before you set up camp for the night, taking in sunset over the gorge, soaking in a natural infinity pool, and hearing Dreamtime stories by campfire.

Discover more ways to get wild in Queensland here.

DISCOVER MORE

112 good inside and out. 113

Story five Gold Coast

Soak up the south: a guide to Queensland's most southern region

Beyond Surfers Paradise nightlife and thrillinducing theme parks, the Southern Gold Coast sets its own pace, flying under-the-radar of overseas visitors. But word is getting out on this local secret.

Stretching from Miami and Burleigh Heads down to Coolangatta at the New South Wales border, it's as much a home for sunrise surfers and active early-risers as it is for night owls and social butterflies. As you'll soon discover.

MEET THE BEACH

The Southern Gold Coast is where you'll find some of the world's most admired surf breaks, home to some of the biggest surf competitions. It's so special the 16-kilometre stretch from Burleigh Point to Snapper Rocks was officially declared the eighth World Surfing Reserve. While experienced surfers might head straight for the superbank, newbies can pick up the skills at one of the many surf schools that line Currumbin Alley.

Prefer the serenity of calmer waters? Make your way to sparkling Tallebudgera Creek, where kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding is just as popular as swimming, set against

BEST THINGS TO DO ON THE SOUTHERN GOLD COAST

WHERE TO DINE AND DRINK

The Southern Gold Coast is a delight for the senses, from your first sip of coffee to that final bite of dessert, with a nightcap of course.

The most iconic dining can be found beside the surf at and The Tropic sit by the sand, joined by cool-casual The Pavilion. But you'll find a smorgasbord of global flavours in this beach borough, from pan-Asian at Jimmy Wah's to Mediterranean at Maman, and modern Australian eats at Labart. Nearby, Balboa Italian in Palm Beach is scooping up

Elsewhere along the coast, greet the morning with a coffee at Bam Bam Bakehouse or The Salt Mill. Grab a casual bite and a beer at much-treasured surf life saving clubs,

Take your cues from the locals and settle in at a craft brewery once you've dusted the sand off your feet for the

WHERE TO STAY

Self-contained apartments rule the shoreline of Burleigh Heads, with Burleigh Mediterranean Resort and Bujerum Apartments boasting million-dollar beach views, soon to be joined by Australia's first Mondrian hotel, opening late-2023.

And while caravan parks can be found in just about every beach town, travellers seeking unique digs will delight in the resurgence of retro-style motels. Bilinga's 1950's-inspired La Costa Motel shares a southern experience with friendly staff and vintage bikes for rent; Crystal Pacific is just a few sandy footsteps from Tallebudgera Creek and cafe-lined Palm Beach; and The Pink Hotel hosts 17 eclectically-dressed dive bar below.



Places and faces of Queensland

Want to get to know the faces behind these places?

We have a little black book brimming with incredible people you can profile. From the outback to the coast and everywhere in between, these are just a few of the Queenslanders that make our place great.





Jacinta Shackleton, Master Reef Guide and Marine Biologist, Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort

Jacinta spends her days educating and inspiring visitors to Lady Elliot Island about the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef – and a devotion to the natural world runs deep in her DNA.

DISCOVER MORE

Fraser Nai, Co-Founder of Strait Experience

A Traditional Owner on Masig Island in Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait), Fraser offers travellers the unique opportunity to visit and learn about the Torres Strait - connecting them with incredible local tourism businesses.

DISCOVER MORE



Verena Olesch,

General Manager of Maleny Botanic Gardens & Bird World

Hailing from Germany, Verena's role in Queensland's tourism industry has had a huge impact, transforming the Les Wilson Barramundi Discovery Centre into an outback icon, giving a voice in history to Indigenous female stock workers at displays in Normanton, and now directing her talents on the Sunshine Coast.

DISCOVER MORE

LADY ELLIOT ISLAND, SOUTHERN GREAT BARRIER REEF

Peter Gould, Cowboy Up Trail Riding

Peter has experienced his fair share of movie magic, starring in Australia as a safety rider and stunt-double while working with Hugh Jackman and Nicole Kidman. But he imparts a magic of his own on visitors to Cowboy Up Trail Riding, two-hours from Brisbane in Emu Creek, where riders of all levels can experience the beauty of the countryside on horseback.



About **Tourism** and Events Queensland

Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) is a statutory body of the Queensland Government and is the state's lead tourism marketing, destination and experience development and major events agency.

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