

Spend three days exploring Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef

Where the rainforest meets the reef



Quicksilver Pro-Dive Cairns



Kuranda Scenic Railway



Smithfield Mountain Bike Park



Enter nature's playground and be captivated by the very best highlights of the tropics in this three-day itinerary. From exploring underwater wonderlands to soaring above ancient rainforests, plunging into natural rockpools and dining on delicious local cuisine, add a keen sense of adventure and a healthy appetite to your packing list.

1 Day one

Morning:

Arrive in Cairns, collect your rental car or take a transfer and then make your way 15 minutes north to the **Kuranda Scenic Railway** where you'll hop aboard the refurbished vintage carriages of a historic train to meander through rainforests and up close to waterfalls.

Afternoon:

At the top of the journey, you'll arrive in the mountain village of **Kuranda** where there is plenty to see and do.

Enjoy lunch at one of the many laidback cafes or restaurants, admire the street art and buskers and make a stop in the **Rainforestation Nature Park**. This park lets you choose your own adventure from boarding an amphibious World War II Army Duck for a rainforest tour

to learning about indigenous culture with the interactive Pamagirri Aboriginal Experience and seeing iconic Australian animals in The Koala and Wildlife Park (or all three!). After a bite to eat and a nature experience, wander Kuranda's famous markets and shop for souvenirs, handmade leather, clothing, and jewellery.

Kuranda Koala Gardens cares for Australia's cuddliest marsupials, as well as wombats, wallabies, kangaroos, possums and more. Directly next door is **Birdworld Kuranda**, home to Australia's largest collection of free flying birds including the famous Southern Cassowary. If you're after more colourful animal encounters, there's even the **Australian Butterfly Sanctuary**, where 1,500 magnificent tropical butterflies flutter about on display. Be sure to wear red, white or pink as this will attract the butterflies to you.

Make your way back to Cairns aboard the **Skyrail Rainforest Cableway** to experience a breathtaking 7.5km (4.5mi) journey of head-on views over the world's oldest rainforest.

From the comfort of your gondola, you'll glide between the canopies to see age-old Kauri Pines, then soar meters above the rainforest and witness unsurpassed panoramic views. One of the stops along the way is Barron Falls, a steep waterfall cascade that is a wonder to behold year-round.

Evening:

For some of Cairns' freshest trawler to table seafood, head to the Cairns Marlin Marina and climb aboard the **Prawn Star**, a floating restaurant showcasing platters of local prawns, bugs, crayfish and oysters. Similarly, you'll find delicious seafood dinners at **Cairns Aquarium**, where you'll sit and savour beside a 70,000 litre marine aquarium filled with the colourful fish of the Great Barrier Reef. Wander down to the trendy **Salt House** waterfront restaurant for delicious modern Australian cuisine set in a chic lantern-lit bar.

Check into your room of five-star luxury at **Crystalbrook Riley** and indulge in a sophisticated tropical retreat.



Local Tip

Cairns is a foodie wonderland. With a melting pot of international influences and some of Australia's most diverse flavours, be sure to bring your appetite. Tropical fruits such as mangoes, bananas and pineapples are sun-ripened in the fields surrounding Cairns, while reef fish and wild-caught prawns are as fresh as they come with trawler-to-table dining.



Did you know?

The Daintree Rainforest is part of the oldest continually surviving rainforest on the planet. Sir David Attenborough described it as "the most extraordinary place on earth" and you'll see why when you visit.

From the world's largest coral reef ecosystem to awe-inspiring ancient rainforests, rich Aboriginal cultural heritage to vibrant seaside towns, **Tropical North Queensland** has so much to see, do and discover.



**3 Days
2 Nights**



Weather

24-31°C (75-89°F) Summer months, December to February
18-26°C (64-80°F) Winter months, June to August



How to get there and get around

Cairns is serviced by Cairns Airport which services both domestic and international flights.



Traveller type

Couple, Solo or Friend Groups

Wildlife calendar

Discover an abundance of marine life on the Great Barrier Reef, from turtles, manta rays and a diverse range of fish. Hop aboard a boat tour on the Daintree River to see saltwater crocodiles or spot the elusive cassowary on land and many other bird life year round.

Best time to visit

In summer, enjoy full waterfalls and lush green landscapes from frequent rain, while winter and spring offer drier weather, perfect for outdoor adventures and beach days.

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Skyrail Rainforest Cableway



Australian Butterfly Sanctuary



Phrawn Star

2 Day two

Morning / Afternoon (full day tour):

It's time to rise and shine for the experience of a lifetime at the Great Barrier Reef.

After checking out of your hotel, you'll be picked up on a luxury coach and head north to Port Douglas where you'll join the crew aboard **Quicksilver Cruises** wave-piercing catamaran, and head to the outer realms of the reef to an underwater wonderland of colour and brilliance.

Choose your own adventure with snorkelling, scuba diving, ocean walking and wildlife watching from the underwater observatory all on the agenda. The brilliant blue waters make it easy to see rich coral growth and marine life in all its majesty.

See how many of the "great eight" you can tick off your bucket list from turtles to clownfish, parrot fish and giant Māori Wrasse.

Evening

The boat arrives back in Port Douglas Marina, so it's time to check in to your accommodation at **Pullman Sea Temple Port Douglas**, an opulent retreat with spacious rooms, a lagoon pool and the perfect vantage point for golden sunsets.

Dinner calls for vibrant, fresh culinary delights and tropical-themed cocktails at **Salsa Bar and Grill**. The restaurant is set in an open-air Queenslander with stunning views across the Coral Sea.

3 Day three

Morning:

It's time to set sail again, this time in the oldest rainforest in the world. The Daintree Rainforest is set in the lush surrounds of Cape Tribulation and is home to species of plants and animals found nowhere else in the world.

Spotting a saltwater crocodile amongst the river banks is a highlight of the Daintree River cruise. See these ancient reptiles in their natural environment, as well as encounter tropical bird species, tree kangaroos, cassowaries and goannas.

There are several walks around Cape Tribulation which give an opportunity to explore and learn about this magnificent area. Dubuji Boardwalk is an easy to moderate circular track with lush lowland rainforest, spring-fed creeks and overhanging vines. Nearby, Alexandra's Lookout is the highest vantage point to view the Daintree coast and beyond to the ocean.

Afternoon

A visit to the **Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre** is an unmissable experience to learn about local Indigenous history and culture. Take part in a midday guided walk hosted by local Indigenous people and experience a traditional smoking ceremony, stories of the Kuku Yalanji culture, learn about bush food and the enchanting narrative of the rainforest. After deepening your connection with nature, immerse yourself in the waterways of the Daintree Rainforest on the 2:15pm River Drift Experience with **Back Country Bliss**. Equipped with a specialised raft, you'll trek through the Mossman's lush trails before floating back, guided by the gentle currents of its clear streams.

Evening

Dine on the balcony of **Julayamba Restaurant** in the rainforest setting and taste the tropics with their degustation or a la carte menus. The natural ambience is paired perfectly for an exquisite food and wine experience.

Wind down after your adventure with a stay at **Cape Tribulation Beach House** where you can enjoy the peace and quiet of the rainforest, take a dip in the pool or stroll along Cape Tribulation Beach.

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Must see and do

Cairns is an adventure playground. Feel an adrenaline rush with everything from bungee jumping, white water rafting, jet boating, mountain biking, horse trail rides to sky diving on offer.



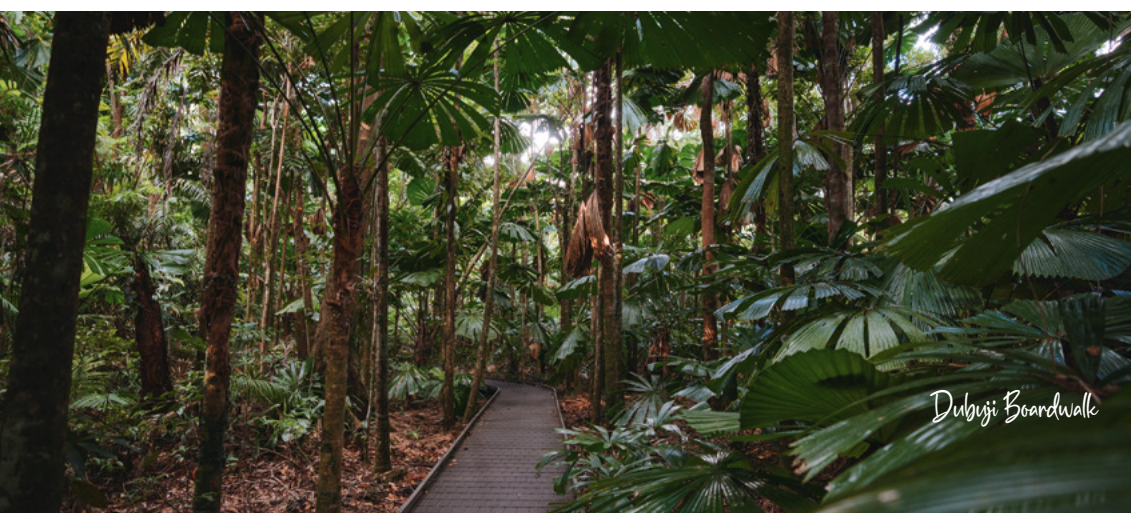
Did you know?

Six of the world's seven turtle species are found on the Great Barrier Reef and around Cairns.



Food

Taste the tropics with an abundance of locally grown produce year-round. Explore **Cairns Night Markets** and wander the open-air laneways offering fresh produce and multicultural cuisines. **Oak & Vine** rooftop restaurant and bar is the place to be for modern Australian cuisine, signature cocktails and fine wines.



Dubuji Boardwalk

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