

# Cape York & Torres Strait Explorer

11 Days

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# > Cape York & Torres Strait Explorer

This is a truly epic road trip to the far north of Australia and you'll be travelling for long distances for extended periods of time in remote areas most days, often on bumpy unsealed roads. See the daily itinerary for approximate total travel times and distances.

Other than the first night in Cairns, we spend all nights of this trip camping. Tents and camping gear are provided, but you will need to bring your own sleeping bag and pillow.

Communal showers and toilets are available at all campsite locations, other than our night in the Iron Ranges National Park.

As this is a camping trip, we rely on all travellers to help with camp duties for a smooth and enjoyable trip. This includes pitching and packing up your own tent daily and assisting your leader with cooking and cleaning duties.

The weather in Cape York and the Torres Strait can be unpredictable, with road and travel conditions sometimes affected by rain. Be prepared to be flexible and for some occasional changes of plan during our journey. Your leader will advise on any updates to the itinerary and inclusions as you travel.

## Details

## Testimonials

Arrive:	Cairns
Depart:	Cairns
Duration:	11 Days
Group Size:	Max 19 Guests
Average Age:	40-75
Activity Level:	Easy to Moderate

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# Highlights



Insights into culture through local First Nations in Cooktown and Torres Strait Islanders on Thursday Island



Explore the unique Rainforest in the Iron Ranges National Park



Discover amazing wildlife on the Eco Cruise in Weipa

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# What to expect



This is a camping trip where you will be expected to pitch your tent at each location (tents, stretchers and camping mattress are provided). Facilities are basic and are shared with other campers that are not part of our group. The facilities at the national Park campsite in the Iron Ranges are very basic, with bush toilets and no showers.



Stunning and diverse vistas as you travel all the way to "The Tip"



At times long and bumpy drives, made more comfortable by a robust and air-conditioned 4wd truck

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# Itinerary

Make the journey to the very tip of Australia and experience Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Travel to the tippy top of northern Queensland with this amazing Australian adventure in Far North Queensland. Over 11 days, you'll learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture during immersive activities with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander guides, hit the beach for swims and nature walks, cross the Iron Ranges and soak in all the natural beauty of this rural landscape. Spend a night close to Chillii Beach, camp in the bush under the clear night sky and tick Pajinka off your bucket list - the northernmost point of the country! Take an eco-cruise to spot crocodiles, walk through the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Cape Tribulation and discover ancient rock art. With all of these activities and more, you'll soak up Australia's amazing history, landscapes and remote communities.

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## Day 1 ARRIVE IN CAIRNS AND MEET YOUR GROUP

Welcome to Cairns - known as Gimuy by the Traditional Owners of this land. As the gateway to Queensland's Cape York Peninsula and the lush Daintree Rainforest, this vibrant coastal city is the perfect starting point for your adventure.

Your journey officially begins with a welcome meeting at 6 pm at your hotel, where you'll meet your trip leader and fellow travellers. If you arrive early, why not explore the Cairns Botanical Gardens, take a stroll along the waterfront promenade, or relax at one of the local bars? After the meeting, you may like to head out for an optional dinner with your group and get to know your travel companions.

**Accommodation:** Bay Village Tropical Retreat

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## Day 2 EXPLORE CAPE TRIBULATION & JOURNEY TO ROSSVILLE

This morning, hop aboard your private 4WD truck and set off towards the Daintree Rainforest, crossing the Daintree River by ferry into the heart of this UNESCO World Heritage-listed wilderness. As you arrive in Cape Tribulation, take a short nature walk, soaking in the ancient surroundings and keeping an eye out for native birdlife. At over 135 million years old, the Daintree is the oldest rainforest in the world, offering a rare glimpse into prehistoric landscapes.

After stopping at a scenic lookout and enjoying the coastal views, continue the journey along the legendary Bloomfield Track—a rugged 4WD route winding through the rainforest's creeks and coastline. By evening, arrive at your accommodation in Rossville, where you can choose to join your group for an optional dinner at the iconic Lion Den Hotel. End the night stargazing from your campsite beneath the towering Kalkajaka (Black Mountain), a place of deep cultural significance.

Total travel time today: approx 5.5hrs

**Meals:** L

**Accommodation:** Rossville Retreat - Camping

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## Day 3

### INDIGENOUS CULTURAL EXPERIENCE, COOKTOWN & QUINKAN ROCK ART

Start the day with breakfast in Rossville, then meet a local Aboriginal guide for a cultural immersion experience. Begin with a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony, followed by a bush food and medicine walk, where your guide shares stories about the land and its deep significance. Try your hand at boomerang throwing and enjoy a cup of tea as you take in this unique opportunity to connect with Country.

Next, visit the Cooktown History Centre to learn about the town's historical importance, particularly its impact on Aboriginal history. From here, leave the lush rainforest behind as you travel to Laura, home to the incredible Quinkan Country rock art. This optional self-guided walk takes you to one of the world's top 10 rock art sites, recognised by UNESCO and listed on the Australian Heritage Estate. The paintings, depicting stories that date back tens of thousands of years, are well worth the challenging uphill walk.

Tonight, settle into a local campground and enjoy dinner with your group, reflecting on a day filled with cultural discovery and adventure.

Special Information: The walk to the rock art site is steep and rocky, requiring a moderate level of fitness. If you prefer to opt out, you can relax at the base of the hill instead.

Total travel time today: approx. 3hrs

Meals:

B, L, D

Accommodation:

Laura (camping)

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## Day 4

### JOURNEY TO COEN & ARCHER RIVER

After breakfast, set off for Coen, a small rural town on the eastern side of the Cape York Peninsula. On arrival, visit the Coen Heritage House, where you can explore displays showcasing the town's gold-mining history and local heritage.

After lunch, continue the journey north to Archer River, your stop for the night. With a long travel day ahead, sit back and enjoy the ride—whether it's with a good book, your favourite playlist, or classic road trip games.

Tonight, settle in at the Archer River Roadhouse campsite, set on 400 hectares of native bushland. As the sun sets over this remote wilderness, keep an eye out for local wildlife emerging for the evening.

Total travel time today: approx. 5hrs

Meals:

B, L, D

Accommodation:

Archer River Roadhouse (camping)

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## Day 5

### IRON RANGES (KUTINI-PAYAMU) NATIONAL PARK & CHILLI BEACH

Begin the day with a walk through the Wenlock Goldfield, a heritage-listed gold mining site in Archer River that dates back to 1892. These atmospheric ruins offer a glimpse into the region's gold rush past before you continue your journey to the eastern side of The Cape. Driving through Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) National Park, stop at the Mount Tozer viewpoint, where a short walk rewards you with stunning views of the surrounding mountains and rugged wilderness. This unique national park is home to a diverse ecosystem, including rare and endangered wildlife.

By evening, arrive at our campsite, where you'll set up camp close to the water, surrounded by swaying trees. This remote and beautiful spot is a favourite for birdwatching, fishing, and simply soaking up the tranquility. Enjoy dinner with your group at the campsite and fall asleep to the sounds of the rainforest.

Total travel time today: approx. 4hrs

**Meals:**

B, L, D

**Accommodation:**

Iron Ranges basic National Park camping

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## Day 6

### PORTLAND ROADS, LOCKHART RIVER & WENLOCK RIVER

This morning, take a short drive from Chilli Beach to the remote coastal community of Portland Roads, a historic outpost framed by mangroves and tropical scenery. If the local café is open, it's the perfect spot to grab a coffee and a snack while soaking up the laid-back atmosphere.

Next, visit the Lockhart River Arts Indigenous Corporation, home to the renowned 'Art Gang', a collective of local Indigenous artists who have been sharing their vibrant and expressive works since 1995. After exploring the art centre, stop by Quintel Beach, a stunning stretch of coastline where you can take in the peaceful surroundings.

In the afternoon, travel to your campsite on the banks of the Wenlock River, where you'll be staying at Moreton Telegraph Station for the next two nights. This gives you the chance to unwind and settle in, surrounded by the beauty of the Cape York wilderness.

Total travel time today: approx. 5.5hrs

**Meals:**

B, L, D

**Accommodation:**

Moreton Telegraph Station (camping)

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## Day 7

### WEIPA, CULTURAL EXPLORATION & ECO CRUISE

This morning, journey to the Western Cape Cultural Centre in Weipa, where you'll gain insight into the history, culture, and traditions of the region's Indigenous communities. Through informative displays and artworks, learn about the centre's role in preserving traditional language and heritage.

Next, set off on a boat cruise through Cape York's mangrove-lined waterways, keeping an eye out for saltwater crocodiles and the diverse birdlife that thrives in this unique ecosystem. Along the way, discover more about the local culture and wildlife habitats from your expert guide.

After the cruise, visit Lake Patricia and take a short guided walk with your trip leader to explore the area. In the evening, return to your campsite on the Wenlock River, enjoy dinner with your group, and spend another night under the stars, surrounded by the sounds of the Cape York wilderness.

Special Information: The timing of the eco-cruise and the structure of the day may vary depending on the tides.

Total travel time today: approx. 4hrs

**Meals:**

B, L, D

**Accommodation:**

Moreton Telegraph Station (camping)

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## Day 8

### FRUIT BAT FALLS & SEISIA

This morning, journey to Kennedy's Lost Camp, where you'll learn about Edmund Besley Court Kennedy J.P., a 19th-century Australian explorer whose expeditions through Cape York ended in tragedy. Gain insight into his journey and the challenges faced by early explorers in this rugged and remote region.

Next, travel to Fruit Bat Falls, a stunning oasis nestled within Apudthama National Park. Take a nature walk around the lush surroundings or enjoy a refreshing swim in the crystal-clear waters—one of the few safe swimming spots in Cape York.

After your dip, continue north to the Jardine River ferry, crossing into Seisia, the northernmost mainland community in Queensland. With untouched beaches, calm waters, and swaying palm trees, this picturesque seaside location is the perfect place to unwind. You'll spend the next three nights at a local caravan park, with dinner tonight at the campsite alongside your group.

Total travel time today: approx. 4hrs

**Meals:**

B, L, D

**Accommodation:**

Seisia Holiday Park (camping)

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## Day 9

### PAJINKA (THE TIP), WWII WRECKAGE & SEISIA

Today marks a bucket-list moment as you journey to Pajinka, the northernmost point of mainland Australia, also known as 'The Tip'. Take a scenic inland walk to reach this iconic spot, soaking in the incredible views and the sense of achievement that comes with standing at the very edge of the continent.

From here, continue to Somerset Beach and Fly Point, where you'll have the chance to relax by the water and snap some photos while keeping an eye out for resident turtles. Then, delve into history as you visit World War II plane wreckages, scattered across Cape York—a stark reminder of the Allied air bases that once stood here and how close the war came to Australian shores.

End the day with a visit to the remote Indigenous community of Injinoo (also known as Cowal Creek or Small River), followed by some free time to explore Bamaga, the main town of the Northern Peninsula Area. Stock up on snacks and essentials before returning to Seisia for another relaxing night by the coast.

Total travel time today: approx. 4hrs

**Meals:**

B, L, D

**Accommodation:**

Seisia Holiday Park (camping)

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## Day 10

### CULTURAL EXPERIENCE ON THURSDAY ISLAND

This morning, take the local ferry to Thursday Island, the cultural and administrative hub of the Torres Strait Islands, located between mainland Australia and Papua New Guinea. Upon arrival, meet a local Torres Strait Islander guide for an immersive cultural experience. On a guided walk along Bayo Beach, learn about the history, traditions, and way of life of the Torres Strait Islander people, gaining a deeper understanding of this unique island community.

Enjoy some free time to soak up the island's tropical charm—perhaps try the famous crayfish toastie, a must-try local delicacy. In the afternoon, board the ferry back to the mainland, cruising through the stunning turquoise waters of the Torres Strait before returning to Seisia for your final night.

Special Information: The ferry ride takes approximately 2.5 hours and can be quite choppy. If you're prone to seasickness, consider taking medication beforehand. Additionally, be aware that certain items are restricted from being brought back to mainland Australia—please check regulations before departing Thursday Island.

**Meals:**

B, L, D

**Accommodation:**

Seisia Holiday Park (camping)

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## Day 11

### FAREWELL SEISIA & FLIGHT TO CAIRNS

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After breakfast, it's time to say goodbye to Seisia and transfer to Bamaga Airport for your included flight back to Cairns. Your tour leader will see you off, but the flight will be unaccompanied, allowing you to reflect on the incredible journey you've just completed. Upon arrival at Cairns Airport, your adventure officially comes to an end. If you'd like to extend your stay and explore more of Cairns, be sure to arrange additional accommodation in advance.

Due to the unpredictable flight schedule, we highly recommend booking an extra night in Cairns to allow for flexibility.

Meals:	B
Accommodation:	n/a

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# Departure Dates

07 Jun 2025	-	17 Jun 2025
21 Jun 2025	-	01 Jul 2025
05 Jul 2025	-	15 Jul 2025
26 Jul 2025	-	05 Aug 2025
09 Aug 2025	-	19 Aug 2025
23 Aug 2025	-	02 Sep 2025
13 Sep 2025	-	23 Sep 2025
27 Sep 2025	-	07 Oct 2025

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# Pricing

## Optional Extras

### Inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 8 dinners
- Private 4wd Overland Vehicle
- Hotel (1night), Camping incl. tent, stretcher & camping mattress (9 nights)
- Flight from Bamaga to Cairns on last day of tour
- Kuku Nyungkul cultural tour
- Eco Cruise in Weipa
- Return Ferry to Thursday Island & Cultural tour with local guide on Thursday Island
- All National Park fees
- Emergency support: leader carries satellite phone and a full first aid kit

### Exclusions

- Quinkan Rock Art self guided entry ticket (Approx. AUD 30)
- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Travel Insurance

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# Ready to book?

Your next adventure is two steps away...

Jump onto our website [www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au](http://www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au) , find your tour in the menu and click on the orange button in the top right hand corner that states, 'CheckAvailability/Book Now' alternatively call us on 1300 544 882 (international calls dial +618 62195164) or email us at [walk@inspirationoutdoors.com.au](mailto:walk@inspirationoutdoors.com.au).

Pay a \$350pp deposit to secure your booking (full payment is required six weeks prior to departure or at time of booking if booking within six weeks).

## Cancellation Policy

All our tours are guaranteed departures.

We hope that you do not need to cancel your booking. However, if you do, our cancellation fee, based on the notice given prior to the departure date, is:

- 85 days or more, you will be refunded all monies paid, less a \$50 administration fee
- 42 to 84 days prior to departure, you will lose your deposit
- 28 to 41 days: 25% of full tour cost
- 14 to 27 days: 50% of full tour cost
- less than 14 days: 100% of full tour cost, no refund

If you have any concerns about cancelling, please take out travel insurance covering this contingency. This policy will be adhered to despite the most compelling and compassionate circumstances.

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## About our tours

First, our tours are for people who like to walk long(ish) distances. That means we usually leave our accommodation pretty early each morning (between 7.30 and 8.30) and finish walking mid to late afternoon.

You won't break any records on our walks - for fastest or slowest hike. We keep a steady pace, but there are plenty of opportunities to rest, take photos and appreciate the views along the way.

A relaxed, social and supportive atmosphere is central to our tours. Have a chat and enjoy the sights and smells with your walking companions. Then back at the accommodation, slip into your comfy slacks and slippers and put your feet up with a cup of tea or a wine. Enjoy the conversation around the dinner table. And if you want to go to bed as soon as you've finished the last spoonful of dessert, or stay up and chat, you can.

We don't specialise in birds or plants or rare subterranean amphibians - although we're interested in all of these things. There are no evening lectures and you don't need to bring a notepad and pen (unless you want to). We have a sound and ever-expanding knowledge of the unique and special environments that we walk through, and love sharing what we know with those who are interested. We especially like digging around for stories of the plants and people whose history is linked with the areas we walk in and we'll share those stories with you as we walk.

Our tours are for those who enjoy the simple pleasure of walking in nature, combined with the luxuries of a proper relaxing holiday. We pay attention to the details so that you can relax and enjoy the experience. With the assistance of a team of knowledgeable friends, Inspiration Outdoors aims to provide... Recreation Beyond Expectation

Check out our reviews on TripAdvisor



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