

East Coast Islands and Rainforest

12 Day Guided Holiday | Sydney to Cairns | QSC



The Tour

Explore the epic Eastern Australian coastline on a journey that takes you from spectacular Sydney to the glamorous Gold Coast. Cruise to pristine Fraser Island and the Whitsundays, and head to tropical Cairns to discover the world-renowned Great Barrier Reef. There are hinterland experiences too – you'll taste premium wines in the Hunter Valley and tour a remote Rockhampton cattle station.

Choose This Trip If You'd Love To:

- Soak up island life with two nights on Hamilton Island
- Gain insight into farm life at Langmorn Cattle Station
- Snorkel the world-famous Great Barrier Reef
- Relax and enjoy four two-night stays on this tour

Highlights

Flexible Holidays

Choose your own adventure on the Gold Coast: perhaps taste a new cuisine or hike out to a waterfall!

Iconic Sites

Spend two nights on incredible Fraser Island, then enjoy a day out further north, on the Great Barrier Reef.

Time For You

Live it up on Hamilton Island as you please: take a ferry to Whitehaven Beach or enjoy an indulgent dinner.

Sustainable Travel

Take a sneak peek at Australia Zoo's Wildlife Hospital and koala rehabilitation project, supported by AAT Kings.



Itinerary

Day 1 Sydney – Coffs Harbour

Start discovering the landscapes of Australia's east coast as you travel northward to the coastal town of Coffs Harbour. From your accommodation nestled amongst sprawling tropical gardens, you'll have the opportunity to wander down to Little Diggers Beach and Diggers Head. Enjoy the early evening sea breeze just like the locals do. Tonight enjoy a Welcome Reception and dinner with your Travel Director.

Please note: Sydney Central, accommodation will need to be pre-booked for the previous night.

Hotel: BreakFree Aanuka Beach Resort

Included Meals: Dinner

Day 2 Coffs Harbour – Gold Coast

Journey to Cape Byron Lighthouse for superb views from Australia's eastern-most point over the Pacific Ocean. Afterwards spend time discovering the relaxed bohemian vibe of Byron Bay. For lunch we recommend fresh fish and chips on the beach, there's nothing more Australian. Continue to the famous holiday destination, the Gold Coast.

Hotel: Novotel Surfers Paradise, 2 nights

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 3 Gold Coast Free Time

Today you have the freedom to enjoy the Gold Coast in your own style. Nature lovers may head to Mt. Tamborine, foodies explore the growing culinary culture or those needing relaxation just stroll down to the sand and salt of Surfers Paradise Beach.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 Gold Coast – K'gari (Fraser Island)

This morning visit Australia Zoo made famous by the Crocodile Hunter, the late Steve Irwin and his family. Enjoy a sneak peek into the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital and see how AAT Kings works with the Wildlife Warriors to support the koala rehabilitation project at the hospital, the country's largest and busiest wildlife facility. This afternoon the ferry will take you across to the World Heritage listed K'gari, also known as Fraser Island.

Hotel: Kingfisher Bay Resort, 2 nights

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 5 K'gari (Fraser Island)

A day of discovery lies ahead as your 4WD tour takes you for a ride around the island's must-see sites. Visit Lake McKenzie, ringed with magnificent white sandy beaches. Walk through the ancient rainforest at Central Station and Wanggoolba Creek with its huge satiny, scribbly gum and kauri trees. Across the island to 75 Mile Beach, the sand highway will take you up the eastern coast to the Pinnacles Coloured Sands; cooling, calm waters of Eli Creek and the famous sinking Maheno Shipwreck.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 6 K'gari (Fraser Island) – Rockhampton

Visit Langmorn Station, a fully operational family run cattle station. Meet the Creed family and take a guided tour of the property including the original family homestead, built in 1873. Enjoy afternoon tea in the garden in the company of the pet kangaroo! Cross the Tropic of Capricorn as you arrive in Rockhampton, the beef capital of Australia. Your night is free so why not try some local beef at one of the town's steakhouses.

Hotel: Quality Hotel Regent, Rockhampton

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 7 Rockhampton – Hamilton Island

Travel north to Sarina today for a guided tour of its unique miniature sugar mill and distillery. At Airlie Beach you'll catch the ferry to Hamilton Island, one of 74 tropical islands that make up the Whitsunday group in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. The spectacular island boasts pristine beaches and a kaleidoscope of coral and marine life.

Hotel: Reef View Hotel, 2 nights

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 8 Hamilton Island Free Time

Today is yours to indulge in your own pleasures – consider an optional experience. Perhaps cruise to famous Whitehaven Beach, take a scenic flight over the iconic Heart Reef or sit back with a good book by one of the resort's stunning pools.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 9 Hamilton Island – Mission Beach

Take the ferry back to the mainland this morning, from where you'll head north to the seaside town of Mission Beach. Nestled between World Heritage rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef, your accommodation offers superb views over the Coral Sea.

Hotel: Castaways Resort & Spa

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10 Mission Beach – Cairns

Today's journey takes you to the Atherton Tablelands, with its lush rainforests, spectacular waterfalls and peaceful lakes. Visit Millaa Millaa Falls and the heritage listed 500-year-old Curtain Fig Tree, and keep an eye out for the magnificent Ulysses butterfly. Spend some free time in Kuranda, the 'village in the rainforest', before travelling on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway. Your six-person gondola will provide spectacular views of the rainforest and the Coral Sea.

Hotel: Pacific Hotel Cairns, 2 nights

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 11 Great Barrier Reef

Board a high-speed catamaran today and cruise out to the iconic Great Barrier Reef, the only living organism that can be seen from the moon. You'll have the opportunity to go snorkelling (equipment provided) or view the spectacular coral and tropical fish from the underwater observatory and glass bottom boat. Enjoy a tropical buffet lunch on board, before you return in the late afternoon for a Farewell Dinner with your Travel Director and new-found friends.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Farewell Dinner

Day 12 Farewell from Cairns

Say farewell to your fellow travellers when your holiday comes to an end this morning after breakfast.

Included Meals: Breakfast