

14 Day Sydney to Cairns Coastal Explorer

14 days

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Tourism Australia

Inclusions

- 13 nights of accommodation
- 14 day mid-size car rental (conditions apply)
- Return transfers to Fraser Island & 4WD ECO tour
- Return transfers to Hamilton Island
- Reef cruise

Exclusions

- Airfare unless specified as included within the itinerary
- Taxes as applicable
- Travel Insurance and Cancellation Protection (strongly recommended, ask us for a quote!)
- Gratuities for Local Guides, Tour Managers, and/or Bus Drivers
- Meals not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary
- Items (attractions and sightseeing & entrance fees) not listed as included in the itinerary

Dates & Prices

ACCOMMODATION	START PLACE	END PLACE	PRICE FROM
Moderate	Vancouver	Cairns	\$3,170 USD
Superior	Vancouver	Cairns	\$3,690 USD

All prices are per person based on double occupancy and subject to local taxes - GST, PST or HST.

* This itinerary is an independent package, it can be adjusted to suit your travel interests, time frame and budget. Please do not hesitate to call one of our travel specialists for a customized package.

Itinerary

Day 1: Sydney - Hunter Valley (2 hours)

With the Hunter River winding its way lazily through the grapevine-clad hills, the Hunter Valley is one of Australia's most important wine growing areas. Wineries range from very large estates to smaller boutique wineries, offering something to suit all palates. Fine food, relaxing and country living are all part of the Hunter experience.

Overnight: Hunter Valley

Day 2: Hunter Valley - Port Stephens (2 hours)

From the golden tropical north bordering the banana belt to the soothing south, New South Wales offers extensive coastlines ideal for travellers keen to explore, motor, cruise, swim, surf or relax on the sunny dunes.

Overnight: Port Stephens

Day 3: Port Stephens - Coffs Harbour (4 hours)

The Coffs Harbour Area is perfect for a family holiday, a romantic getaway or just a tranquil solo journey. There are plenty of things to see and do in the area. Nearby Dorrigo is a nature lover's sanctuary and well worth the visit, take in absolutely breathtaking views of Dorrigo National park at the Skywalk. Go fishing in quiet Macksville, a perfect place to take a break from a long journey or an overnight stop.

Overnight: Coffs Harbour

Day 4: Coffs Harbour - Byron Bay (3 hours)

Byron Bay's natural credentials are impeccable as humpback whales cruise past the headland, storms create rainbows on the mountains across the bay, hang-gliders ride the thermals above the lighthouse. Australia's most easterly point casts a spell over everyone who goes there.

Overnight: Byron Bay

Day 5: Byron Bay - Gold Coast (1 hour)

Fast-track fun on the Gold Coast, where the high-rises are built around superb surf beaches like Surfers Paradise. Dive into lively nightlife, international theme parks and designer boutiques, see the coast from a Spitfire plane and cheer on competitors in the Coollangatta Ocean Swim. Experience the opulent Palazzo Versace or head to the hinterland for rainforest walks and spa retreats.

Overnight: Gold Coast

Day 6: Gold Coast - Sunshine Coast (2 hours)

Considered one of Queensland's premier holiday destinations, the Sunshine Coast is home to both a perfect coastline and beautifully lush hinterland, and has everything you need to relax, shop and dine. From Noosa Heads to Caloundra, the gorgeous Sunshine Coast is the perfect holiday destination for families, backpackers and couples.

Overnight: Sunshine Coast

Day 7: Sunshine Coast - Fraser Island (2.5 hours)

Travel north to Gympie and Maryborough and onto Hervey Bay. Continue onto the River Heads village for departure to Fraser Island, the world's largest Sand Island, at 123 kilometres long, and a haven for nature lovers. Check into the mainland terminal, unload luggage and then park your car (choice of car parking available - own expense). Board the Kingfisher Bay Ferry for the transfer across to Fraser Island. On arrival on Fraser Island check-in and then the rest of the day is at leisure to start exploring the Island.

Overnight: Fraser Island

Day 8: Fraser Island Sightseeing (4.5 hours)

Today is at your leisure, to explore the natural beauty of Fraser Island.

Overnight: Fraser Island

Day 9: Fraser Island - Rockhampton (3.5 hours)

Depart Fraser Island and return to River Heads village by ferry. On arrival, collect your rental car and continue north on the Bruce Highway to Miriam Vale and take a detour to the town of Agnes Waters and 1770 and the Eurimbula National Park. Continue on the highway north to Gladstone and continue travelling a further 108 kilometres to Rockhampton, which marks the exact line of the Tropic of Capricorn. 45 kilometres from Rockhampton is Yeppoon a seaside resort located on the coast overlooking Great Keppel Island.

Overnight: Rockhampton

Day 10: Rockhampton - Mackay (2 hours)

Depart Rockhampton and return to the Bruce Highway and travel north towards Marlborough and onto Mackay. Just outside of Mackay detour to the Cape Hillsborough National Park, where the rainforest meets the reef. The headland area contains several good walking trails.

Overnight: Mackay

Day 11: Mackay - Hamilton Island, Whitsundays (2 hours)

Drive from Mackay to Airlie Beach and take a vessel transfer to Hamilton Island. Part of the Whitsundays, and in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef, Hamilton Island is one of Australia's most spectacular and sought-after holiday destinations. On a holiday to Hamilton Island, you'll be surrounded by pristine white beaches, and a kaleidoscope of coral and marine life. Hamilton Island is a perfect base for exploring the Great Barrier Reef and world-famous Whitehaven Beach. There's plenty to do during your Great Barrier Reef holiday on Hamilton Island. You can enjoy a wide selection of bars and restaurants, year-round cultural exhibitions and performances, an abundance of water sports and activities - and that's just the start. For sailing enthusiasts, there's the Hamilton Island Yacht Club, and for keen golfers, the Hamilton Island Golf Club is the only Australian 18-hole championship course on its own island. Plus, with six different levels of accommodation to choose from across the island - ranging from plush, couples' suites, to family-friendly apartments and holiday homes, a holiday on Hamilton Island really does offer something for everyone.

Overnight: Hamilton Island, Whitsundays

Day 12: Great Barrier Reef Cruise

Cruise through the stunning Whitsunday Islands to Cruise Whitsundays' innovative pontoon -Reefworld'. Tailor-made for the reef, the

pontoon has numerous features with a choice of areas to relax and a great range of activities to enhance your time at the reef. There is undercover seating and tables, sun decks, freshwater showers, change rooms and full access to the air-conditioned comfort of the reef vessel. The pontoon is ideally situated in shallower waters with protection from the surrounding sea conditions. The best coral is a short distance away from the pontoon. Marker buoys and ropes clearly indicate the areas to explore and staff will be happy to provide directions. The highlight is getting into the water to discover what lies beneath. All snorkelling gear is provided. Take a guided Reef Safari or an intro or certified dive, or stay dry and discover the amazing underwater world from spectacular underwater viewing chambers.

Overnight: Hamilton Island, Whitsundays

Day 13: Hamilton Island - Townsville (3.5 hours)

Return back to the mainland and drive to Townsville.

Overnight: Townsville

Day 14: Townsville - Cairns (4 hours)

Today your journey takes you to the far North, into the heart of the tropics and gateway to the Great Barrier Reef - Cairns and Palm Cove. Take the ferry back to the mainland at Townsville and then head north to pass through Ingham and Tully, the wettest place in Australia. Travel via Innisfail to Cairns, the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef, the tropical rainforest of the World Heritage region and the rugged outback of the Cape York Peninsula and the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Overnight: