Wendy Wu Tours

Image Credit: Tourism Australia

Queensland: Reef to Rainforest

Domestic Tour | 7 Days

Cairns - Port Douglas - Cairns

This itinerary encompasses the best of Northern Queensland's wonders including the World Heritage Listed forest region of Daintree National Park. You will take a comprehensive journey through one of Australia's most iconic sights, experiencing everything that the relaxing rural regions have to offer.

- Discover the world's largest coral reef system – the Great Barrier Reef
- Stay at National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World lodge in the renowned Daintree Rainforest
- Cultural interactions at stunning Cape Tribulation

Wendy Wu Tours

Queensland: Reef to Rainforest tour inclusions:

- All accommodation
- Most Meals (6 breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 3 Dinners)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- National Escort & English-Speaking Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

Domestic Tours:

See the classic sights in the company of expert guides so you can really understand the culture of the destination. On our classic domestic tours we take care of just about everything, leaving you to sit back and enjoy the experience to the full.

Physical Level 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

This tour is rated as a **physical level 1** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and walking around the sights and climbing some steps. There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time

Of course, our guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Joining Your Tour

The tour is 7 days in duration and does not include flights to or from Cairns. Tour price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your flight times to Reservations.

Join the tour on Day 1 in Cairns and end the tour on Day 7 in Cairns. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

Itinerary Changes:

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances, we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

Itinerary – Queensland: Reef to Rainforest

Day 1: Arrive Cairns — D

Upon arrival into Cairns Domestic Airport, be met by your driver or guide at the baggage carousel and transfer to your seaside resort. Enjoy a 3 course welcome dinner tonight at the Paper Crane (Welcome Dinner incl. 1x glass of sparkling wine upon arrival).

Hotel: The Riley (Panoramic Sea Room)

Destination Information

Cairns – located in the tropical north of Queensland and gateway to the Great Barrier Reef, Port Douglas and the Daintree Rainforest. The city is framed by a backdrop of rainforest mountain range and the 2.5km Cairns Esplanade which is a scenic promenade with a swimming lagoon, waterfront boardwalks and BBQ areas.

Day 2: Cairns — B, L

This morning meet the shuttle for your Full Day Cruise to the Outer Great Barrier Reef. Following your Indigenous welcome and acknowledgment, set sail for the pristine Outer Reef as you enjoy morning tea. Upon arrival, enjoy guided snorkelling excursions at two incredible coral reef sites. After a delicious tropical lunch, set sail for Cairns. Afternoon tea and informative talks from your Sea Rangers will be provided before you arrive back at Marlin Jetty in the late afternoon.

Hotel: The Riley (Panoramic Sea Room)

Destination Information

Great Barrier Reef – The world's largest coral reef system and one of the seven wonders of the natural world. Composed of over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands stretching for over 2,300 kilometres. Visitors can enjoy many experiences at their own cost including snorkelling, scuba diving, aircraft or helicopter tours and glass-bottomed boat viewing.

Day 3: Cairns - Port Douglas B D

After breakfast and check-out, spend some time at leisure or opt for a 30-minute Reef Discovery Heli flight (at an additional cost), before transferring north (approximately 1 hour) to Port Douglas up the Captain Cook Highway.

On arrival, check in to your luxury eco-lodge, one of National Geographic's Unique Lodges of the World, and spend the day at leisure utilising the resort's facilities, such as the massage studio, or perhaps spend some time relaxing on the private beach or meandering the network of walking trails through the native forest, palm groves and a coconut plantation. The resort also offers activities such as Australia's only coconut tour and bird and butterfly walks. Alternatively, you can opt to embark on a full-day Kuranada Village, Kuranda Scenic Rail and Rainforest Cableway experience (at an additional cost). Tonight, enjoy a 2-course dinner at Thala's Treetop Restaurant, Osprey, before a star gazing experience. The Thala night sky is free from light pollution and filled with millions of stars. Surrounded by sounds of the rainforest and ocean, enjoy an introduction to the beautiful Southern Constellations from an experienced and passionate guide. View many fascinating stars and planets using telescopes and binoculars at the unique outdoor observatory.

Hotel: Thala Beach Nature Reserve (Jungle Bungalow)

Destination Information

Port Douglas – Port Douglas is known for its beach resorts and as the gateway to both The Great Barrier reef and The Daintree. It is considered to be paradise between the reef and the rainforest.

Day 4: Daintree National Park B, L

Travel through the rich farming areas toward the World Heritage Listed forest region of the Daintree National Park. Stop at Mossman Gorge which forms the southern sector of the renowned Daintree Rainforest, which was World Heritage listed in 1988 and is the last remnant of the oldest surviving rainforest in the world. Enjoy a guided walk with a member of the local Aboriginal tribe who will explain about their indigenous customs and survival techniques. Continue south and enjoy a delightful afternoon at the Botanical Ark, a private ethno-botanical garden in the heart of the Daintree Rainforest. Enjoy an interpretive garden tour with the founder of this tropical oasis, Alan Carle. Be inspired as you learn about the intrinsic link between rainforest plants and cultures and sample some of the most unusual and interesting tastes and sights imaginable. Relax and unwind on the veranda of this beautiful Queensland home as experience their Chef's Table lunch, before returning to your hotel for an evening at leisure.

Hotel: Thala Beach Nature Reserve (Jungle Bungalow)

Destination Information

Daintree National Park- Located in far North Queensland the Daintree forms part of the Wet Tropics of Queensland and in 1988 was declared a World Heritage Site. It is the oldest rainforest in the world and believed to be 180 million years old.

Day 5: Port Douglas - Cape Tribulation Day Tour B, L

Depart on your full day trip to stunning Cape Tribulation. Arrive at Cooya (Kuyu Kuyu) Beach for your Coast & Cultural Walk with a Kubirri Warra clan member. Cooya Beach is the traditional fishing grounds of the Kuku Yalanji people. Your guide will take you on a journey across Cooya Beach, demonstrating and teaching traditional fishing and gathering techniques which are still used today to source food for their family. Enjoy a delicious tropical BBQ lunch set amongst the rainforest before finally sinking your feet into the sand on famous Cape Tribulation Beach. En-route back to Port Douglas, enjoy a delicious exotic fruit ice cream cup at the Daintree Ice Cream Company and a scenic photo stop at the iconic Alexandra Lookout.

Hotel: Thala Beach Nature Reserve (Jungle Bungalow)

Destination Information

Cape Tribulation – is a remote headland and ecotourism destination in northeast Queensland. A coastal area within Daintree National Park offering a combination of rainforest and beaches.

Day 6: Port Douglas - Atherton Tablelands Day Trip B, L, D

Embark on your full day Atherton Tablelands foodie adventure! This unique food and wine experience allows you to sample some of the best food and wine that this region has to offer. Enjoy a scenic voyage from the comfort of your vehicle through a variety of contrasting landscapes, from lush rainforest, crops and dairy land to stunning ochre savannah plains. The rich volcanic soil allows farmers to grow many diverse crops from bananas, coffee, sugar cane, avocados, mangoes, macadamia nuts, citrus and more, which you will learn about as you taste your way around the region. Make stops along the way at Mount Uncle's Distillery, Gallo Dairyland for cheese tasting, The Humpty Market, Golden Drop Winery and Platypus Hut Vineyard. This evening dine in tropical North Queensland in style with the 'Flames of the Forest' Aboriginal Cultural Experience for a very special farewell dinner. Take the shuttle transfer and enter a candlelit forest, enjoy wine and canapes upon arrival to be followed by a 7-dish banquet, Aboriginal cultural performance and storytelling experience.

Hotel: Thala Beach Nature Reserve (Jungle Bungalow)

Destination Information

Atherton Tablelands – A rural town in the tableland's region of Queensland. It features a huge variety of landscapes and attractions from ranges and waterfalls to spectacular national parks and coffee plantations.

Day 7: Port Douglas – Depart Cairns B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to Cairns airport.

Queensland: Reef to Rainforest - Travel Information

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a 4 star hotel to a luxury eco-lodge. All group tour hotels have private bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Porterage

Please be aware that porterage is included on our tours in Australia.

Transport

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary.

Group Size

Most of our groups consist of 15 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort and local guides. On this Classic Australian Tour there will be no more than 20 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 15 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

Tipping Policy

Although tipping in Australia is not customary, if you feel you have received an excellent service, please feel free to tip your guide at your discretion.

Packing List and Climate

You will find a complete packing list and a helpful climate chart in the 'Suggested Packing List', which will be included in the pre-departure information link sent within your deposit documentation. Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found on www.weather.com

Luggage

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 23kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 10 kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage.

Personal Expenses & Optional Tours

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of AU$250 per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that cannot resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available. In your Final Documentation an Optional Excursion Sheet will be included outlining the activities available in each city and local cost associated.

Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

Vaccinations and Your Health

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au

Before You Leave

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

After Your Booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: March 2021