

CAIRNS AND THE GULF COUNTRY

17 DAYS DEPARTING TUESDAY 13TH JULY TO THURSDAY 29TH JULY 2010

MOTEL ACCOMMODATION – SAFARI STYLE & RESTAURANT MEALS

KINGSTONS COACH TOURS

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HIGHLIGHTS

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| <i>Green Island</i> | <i>Port Douglas</i> |
| <i>Barrier Reef</i> | <i>Daintree River Cruise</i> |
| <i>Atherton Tableland</i> | <i>Kuranda Train & Skyrail</i> |
| <i>Breakfast with the Birds at the Habitat Port Douglas</i> | |
| <i>Undara Lava Tubes</i> | <i>Georgetown</i> |
| <i>Karumba</i> | <i>Gulf of Carpentaria</i> |
| <i>Croydon</i> | <i>Normanton</i> |
| <i>Burketown</i> | <i>Mt Isa</i> |
| <i>Birdsville</i> | <i>Flinders Ranges</i> |

DAY 1: TUE 13TH JULY HOME TO CAIRNS

Depart your home town and travel to Tullamarine for your flight to Cairns, known as the capital of the tropical far north. Cairns commands an enviable position with the Great Barrier Reef to the east, mountain rainforests and plains of the Atherton Tableland to the west and exquisite palm fringed beaches to the north and south.

DAY 2: WED 14TH JULY PORT DOUGLAS & DAINTREE RIVER CRUISE B.

Early rise this morning before heading north to indulge ourselves for the ultimate "Breakfast with the Birds" at the Rainforest Habitat at Port Douglas. Depart this extraordinary habitat and travel the short distance to the international tourist destination of Port Douglas. See St Mary's church by the sea before continuing north to Mossman. Further on to Daintree, a quaint unspoilt township which lies in the heart of the Daintree River catchment basin. Cruise on the Daintree River, through huge rainforests as we search for crocodiles that may be basking in the sun on the banks.

DAY 3: : THUR 15TH JULY CAIRNS-GREEN ISLAND-BARRIER REEF B.L.

A memorable day today as we board a catamaran for a cruise to Green Island, located on the Great Barrier Reef, a true coral

cay surrounded by beautiful patches of reef and crested with thick tropical vegetation. Free time to explore this fabulous island. Enjoy a glass bottom boat ride and try some snorkelling.

DAY 4: FRI 16TH JULY KURANDA SCENIC TRAIN & SKYRAIL B.

A memorable day today as we join one of the world's most scenic train rides today. Free time to explore Kuranda markets and other attractions before joining the Skyrail and gliding over the rainforest for a bird's eye view of the living canopy just below. Arrive at the Skyrail station and browse for some souvenirs before joining our coach for the return to our motel.

DAY 5: SAT 17TH JULY CAIRNS TO UNDARA B.L.D.

Early start this morning as we head off to tour the Atherton Tableland. At Lake Barrine we enjoy a lake cruise before visiting the Curtain Fig Tree, from here we join the Kennedy Highway and travel south/west to Undara. The Undara Volcanoes National Park is a fascinating and unforgettable experience.

DAY 6: SUN 18TH JULY UNDARA TO NORMANTON B.L.D.

Enjoy a guided tour of the lava tubes this morning, recognised as the longest and largest lava tubes in the world before continuing further west to Georgetown on the Gulf Developmental Road to Croydon. Continue our journey further west to Normanton which is the central town of the whole Gulf Savannah.

DAY 7: MON 19TH JULY NORMANTON TO KARUMBA B.L.D.

This morning we visit Normanton's corrugated iron railway station which dates back to 1891. Join the historic Gulflander Railmotor and travel to Ella Vale Station. The remainder of the morning we enjoy a town tour of Normanton. Later we have a short drive to Karumba, situated at the mouth of the Norman River. A highlight this evening will be our cruise to watch the magnificent Gulf sunset. On the cruise we will relax and enjoy a glass of wine with some freshly cooked Gulf prawns and a tropical fruit platter.

DAY 8: TUE 20TH JULY KARUMBA TO BURKETOWN B.L.D.

Travelling east this morning along the Burketown Road, passing Camp 119, the last camp of Burke & Wills during their expedition, we arrive in Burketown, home for the next two nights and the centre of rich beef country and just 25km from the Gulf of Carpentaria.

**DAY 9: WED 21ST JULY
BURKETOWN SIGHTSEEING**

B.L.D.

We set off today to discover Burketown see the hundred year old town bore which still issues boiling water and creates a billabong where birdlife gathers. See the original Burketown Post Office, over 100 years old and now the town's information centre, the original Gulf Meatworks and the cemetery which offers an insight into the town's historic past.

**DAY 10: THUR 22ND JULY
BURKETOWN TO MT ISA**

B.L.D.

Early start today as we farewell Burketown and the Gulf of Carpentaria and travel south through the outback where the only sign of civilisation is the Burke and Wills Roadhouse until we reach Cloncurry, a mining town situated on the banks of the Cloncurry River. From Cloncurry we join the Barkly Highway and travel west to Mt Isa.

**DAY 11: FRI 23RD JULY
MT ISA SIGHTSEEING**

B.L.D.

Our city tour today will take in the Clock Tower, a proud memorial to John Campbell Miles, whose discovery in 1923 of rich silver and lead ore initiated the settlement of Mt Isa. The city lookout offers panoramic views of the city and mine area. A visit to the National Trust Tent House. This afternoon you will enjoy an extensive guided tour of the Mt Isa mine complex.

**DAY 12: SAT 24TH JULY
MT ISA TO BIRDSVILLE**

B.L.D.

A very early start today as we depart Mt Isa and continue our trek south through Dajarra to Boulia, the capital of the Channel Country. It is the home of the mysterious MIN MIN LIGHT. Moving further south through Bedourie to Birdsville, home for the next two nights.

**DAY 13: SUN 25TH JULY
BIRDSVILLE SIGHTSEEING**

B.L.D.

This morning we travel a short distance out of Birdsville to view "Big Red", the biggest sand hill in the desert. Visit the Birdsville cemetery, the famous Birdsville race track and the Birdsville Information Centre where you may purchase some souvenirs. After lunch we visit the Birdsville Working Museum for a personalised guided tour into yesteryear.

**DAY 14: MON 26TH JULY
BIRDSVILLE TO MARREE**

B.L.D.

Today we commence our journey along the notorious Birdsville Track. The track links Marree (South Australia) and Birdsville (Queensland). It skirts some of the driest areas of Australia passing between the Simpson, Sturt's Stony, the Strzelecki and Tirari Deserts. We pass Lake Harry ruins, Killalpaninna Lutheran Mission Memorial en route to Marree.

**DAY 15: TUE 27TH JULY
MARREE TO FLINDERS RANGES**

B.L.D.

Depart Marree this morning and continue our journey further south through Lyndhurst before arriving in Leigh Creek, a small coal mining township situated in the North Flinders Ranges. From Leigh Creek we continue on to Blinman for a short visit to the old pub before arriving at Wilpena for our overnight stop. Time for a walk to Wilpena Homestead before dinner should you wish.

**DAY 16: WED 28TH JULY
WILPENNA TO LOXTON**

B.L.

Leaving the Flinders Ranges behind, we make our way south through Hawker to one of Australia's oldest copper mining towns, Burra. Continue on to Loxton for our last night away.

**DAY 17: THUR 29TH JULY
LOXTON TO HOME**

B.

Departing Loxton this morning, we make our way via Ouyen, Warracknabeal and Horsham for the final leg of our journey home after a memorable seventeen days away.

PRICE: \$00 Per Person Twin Share
SINGLE SUP: \$ 00 If Available
The above prices include GST