



SMALL SHIP CRUISE

GREAT BARRIER REEF DISCOVERY WITH TROPICAL QUEENSLAND HIGHLIGHTS

2025

XPCCC13



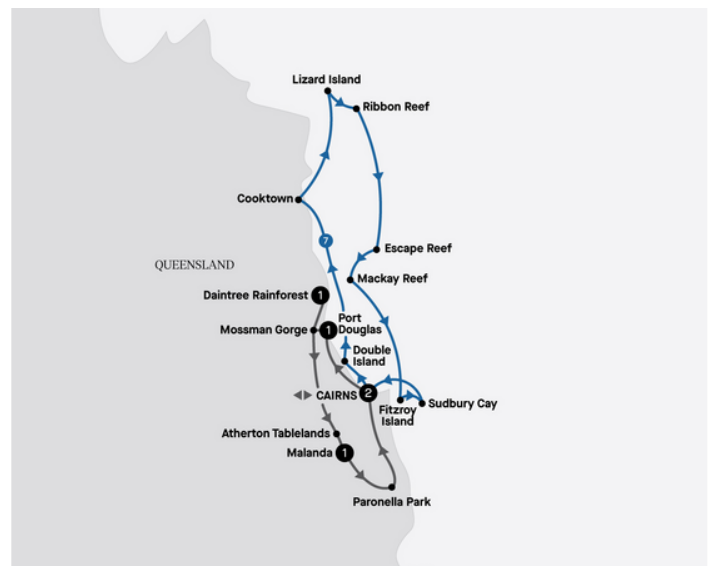
13 days / 12 nights Small Ship Cruise



Cairns to Cairns

ITINERARY

To view the itinerary in greater depth, simply click on your preferred day from the interactive list to unveil its details. Discover daily activities, immersive experiences and insider local tips that make your travel unforgettable.



CAIRNS TO CAIRNS

13 days / 13 nights Small Ship Cruise

DAY 1

Arrive Cairns, Port Douglas

Arrive in the sun-drenched haven of Cairns, where your journey to paradise begins. A scenic transfer will take you to the luxurious Sheraton Grand in Port Douglas. Find paradise as you are welcomed by the calming sounds of rolling waves blowing a gentle breeze through the tropical palms and vibrant gardens of the resort. This evening, savour a flavourful degustation dinner at Harrisons.

📞 1300 336 932



Stay: Port Douglas, Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort

Daily: • Dinner

DAY 2

Mossman Gorge & Daintree Rainforest

Explore Mossman Gorge in the Daintree Rainforest and set off on the Ngadiku Dreamtime Gorge Walk with knowledgeable Indigenous guides. After crossing the Daintree River, immerse yourself in the rainforest's magic, wandering along enchanting boardwalks and trails through its otherworldly landscape. Experience a traditional smoking ceremony, gain exclusive access to Kuku Yalanji land, and discover the rich stories and traditions of Kuku Yalanji culture. Enjoy a soap leaf and ochre demonstration, savour bush tea, and taste freshly baked damper. Your visit also includes a Day Pass Shuttle Bus transfer from Mossman Gorge Centre to Mossman Gorge National Park.

Stay: Daintree, Heritage Lodge

Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 3

Daintree Rainforest to Atherton Tablelands

Today, embark on a Daintree River cruise to spot incredible wildlife including the formidable saltwater crocodiles, birds, and other rainforest inhabitants. Later, journey to the Atherton Tablelands, a stunning region where lush rainforests, serene wetlands, and expansive savanna landscapes converge. You'll have the opportunity to view the impressive Curtain Fig Tree. Its extensive aerial roots, which cascade down an impressive 15 meters to the forest floor, create a striking 'curtain' effect. Visit Malanda Falls, a prime spot for swimming or a picnic.

Stay: Malanda Lodge

Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 4

Paronella Park, Cairns

This morning, embark on a breathtaking journey aboard the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, where you'll glide over the ancient rainforest with unparalleled views. Arrive in the charming Kuranda Village, known for its vibrant markets, art and crafts. Nestled in the heart of Kuranda, just a short stroll from the Skyrail and Kuranda Scenic Railway stations, is a haven for over 1,200 butterflies representing diverse species at the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary. As you



meander through the aviary's picturesque boardwalks and lush gardens, you'll be captivated by these delicate marvels of nature.

Return to Cairns via the Kuranda Scenic Railway and check in to the luxurious Shangri-La, where the views of the marina and Coral Sea provide the perfect backdrop for a relaxing evening. Later enjoy a dinner at Dundee's on the waterfront.

Stay: Two Nights, Cairns, Shangri-La The Marina

Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 5

Cairns, Kuranda Village

Today, step into the enchanting world of Paronella Park, a magical place renowned for its captivating ruins, lush gardens, and rich history. As you stroll through the park at your own pace, uncover the fascinating story behind its creation by Spanish visionary, José Paronella, who dreamt of building a castle in the heart of the rainforest. Explore the romantic ruins, meander through charming gardens, and marvel at the park's hidden treasures, from the grand staircase to the awe-inspiring waterfall that adds to its mystical allure. Indulge in a delightful lunch surrounded by the park's natural beauty, where the sound of the cascading waterfall and the rustling of the leaves create a serene atmosphere.

In the afternoon, return to Cairns and enjoy a sumptuous dinner at the hotel, allowing you to unwind and savour the exquisite flavours of this coastal paradise.

Daily: • Breakfast • Dinner

DAY 6

Cairns, Embark Ship, Double Island

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast and free time today before embarking your cruise in the afternoon. Step aboard the Coral Discoverer for your 7-night journey to the remote and untouched Northern reefs. Settle in on board as we anchor off Double Island, explore the ship's facilities before joining the Captain for welcome drinks on the Sun Deck.

Stay: Seven Nights, Coral Discoverer

Daily: • Breakfast • Dinner



DAY 7

Cooktown, Lizard Island

Step ashore in historic Cooktown and delve into the rich heritage of the Guugu Yimithirr, the traditional custodians of the land. Explore a chapter of European history at the site where lieutenant James Cook grounded the HMB Endeavour for repairs in 1770. Stroll through the beautiful flora and the Botanic Gardens, and Visit the James Cook Museum, where you'll learn about Cook's landing from an Aboriginal viewpoint, complemented by fascinating artefacts. Later, relax on board or enjoy the ship's amenities as we cruise toward Lizard Island.

Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 8

Lizard Island

Immerse yourself in the beauty of Lizard Island with a day of exploration. Hike to the summit of Cook's Look for breathtaking panoramic views, or dive into the vibrant underwater world as you snorkel through the giant clam gardens at Watson's Bay. If you prefer to unwind, stretch out on the soft white sands beneath the shade of she-oak trees and simply enjoy the island's tranquil charm.

Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 9

Ribbon Reef

Today, seize the rare opportunity to snorkel and dive in the stunning Ribbon Reefs. Stretching 50 to 100 km from the mainland and spanning 200 km from Cooktown to Lizard Island, this chain of narrow reefs—numbered from #1 to #10—marks the dramatic meeting point between the expansive coral ribbons and the deep, mysterious waters of the open ocean as the continental shelf falls away. Join a guided snorkel tour with our expert Expedition Team, and immerse yourself in the vibrant underwater world teeming with marine life.

Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 10

Ribbon Reef

Today, we continue our in-depth exploration of the Ribbon Reefs, delving further into this extraordinary underwater paradise. Each dive site offers its own unique features, from intricate coral gardens and impressive drop-offs to bustling schools of fish and the chance to spot larger marine creatures like manta rays and reef sharks.



Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 11

Escape Reef, Mackay Reef and Cay

Visit Escape Reef for an unforgettable snorkelling experience where you'll find an underwater world that boasts an array of flourishing coral and wildlife. Then, it's on to MacKay Reef, where its northern side benefits from extra protection provided by the nearby cay, creating a haven for turtles. This area is also home to giant sea clams, some growing as large as 1.2 metres, each showcasing their own unique colours and patterns.

Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 12

Fitzroy Island, Sudbury Cay

Today, enjoy the serenity of Fitzroy Island. Wander through the enchanting Secret Garden rainforest, or for something more adventurous, you might choose to head to the de-commissioned lighthouse where you'll find unparalleled views of Coral Sea, islands and the mainland mountain ranges. Snorkel the fringing reef, bathe in the sun on the beach, and experience the unique opportunity to assist the volunteers at the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre, where they care for sick and/or injured turtles for releasing them back into their natural habitat.

In the afternoon, arrive at Sunbury Cay, a secluded and tiny sand cay slightly emerged from the Coral Sea. Take off your shoes and feel the sand granules under your feet while gentle tropical waves caress the shore. Relax with sundowner drinks with your fellow adventurers as you watch the glorious sunset.

Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 13

Disembark Ship, Depart Cairns

Your journey concludes upon arrival in Cairns. After enjoying a final breakfast on board, you'll disembark and bid your fellow travellers farewell.

Daily: • Breakfast
