

15 Day Cape York Camping Drive Safari

Travel the beautiful Cape York Peninsular on a Cape York tour with North West Outback Safaris, whose Australian Guides have over 20 years' experience and knowledge of touring Cape York.

Cape York Highlights

- Quinkan Rock Art
- Roko Island – Pearl Farm Tour
- Private Cattle Station Stay
- Daintree Croc Cruise
- Iron Range
- The historic Lions Den Hotel
- Black Mountain
- Cooktown
- WWII sites
- Morton Telegraph Station
- Fruit Bat Falls
- Old Telegraph Track
- Weipa
- World Heritage Daintree National Park
- Batavia Gold Fields
- Portland Roads - Chilli Beach
- Chuulangun Homelands
- Lakefield National Park
- Jardine River – Torres Strait
- Seisia / Thursday Island/ Horn island
- Private guided walk through the oldest rainforest in the World
- Pajinka (local Aboriginal name for the Tip of Australia)
- 2 nights' accommodation-Daintree Safari open style timber homes (not tents)
- 1-night Unique Bush Style Accommodation – Cooks Hut (not tents)
- 1-night Historical Queenslander accommodation - Cooktown – (Built 1880's)

Includes:

- All camping equipment, stretcher bed, sleeping bag, 1 camping pillow per person, 1 fresh towel, some meals, camping fees and National Parks fees, Horn Island & Thursday Island Tours, Roko Island Pearl Farm Tour, 2 Nights accommodated in Daintree in Safari open style timber homes, 1 Night Unique Bush Style Accommodation – Cooks Hut, & 1 Night Accommodation (not tents) in Cooktown – Queenslander house (built 1880's)

Not Included:

Museum tours in Cooktown, Weipa Mine Tour, Daintree Croc Cruise, and some meals as per itinerary (BLD).

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DAY 1. CAIRNS – QUINKAN ROCK ART – PRIVATE CATTLE STATION

We start our journey by travelling over the coastal range and the James Mulligan Highway before stopping at the Palmer River Roadhouse to stretch our legs and have lunch. History of the Palmer River Gold Fields that started in 1872. After lunch we journey to Quinkan Rock Art site at Laura. The Quinkan Rock Art sites are now listed by UNESCO as being amongst the top 10 Rock Art sites in the world. Experience a unique wildlife experience at our private overnight Cattle Station. OVERNIGHT AT PRIVATE CATTLE STATION (D) *LUNCH WILL BE AT YOUR OWN COST AT PALMER RIVER.

DAY 2. PRIVATE CATTLE STATION – MORETON TELEGRAPH STATION

Today we follow parts of the original Old Telegraph Track - one of the highlights of Cape York and it is a great track for 4WD enthusiasts. We pass the memorial to "Toots", a famous lady trucking character, have morning tea at Musgrave and stop at the beautiful Archer River for a sumptuous lunch before our river crossing. We traverse open woodland country passing huge termite mounds before arrival at the historical Moreton Telegraph Station. CAMPGROUND - MORETON STATION. (BLD)

DAY 3. MORETON STATION – FRUIT BAT FALLS – SEISIA

Another exciting day of 4WD driving and creek crossings until we reach the Jardine River, named after pioneering explorers Frank and Alexander Jardine. "The Jardine" is the largest river on the Cape York Peninsula and renowned for crocodiles. Later we stop for lunch and a swim in the (crocodile free) crystal clearwater at Fruit Bat Falls. CAMPGROUND - SEISIA. (BLD)

DAY 4. SEISIA – ROKO PRIVATE ISLAND – PEARL FARM TOUR

Today we visit a very special family who live on a beautiful private island located in the Torres Strait. The owner has taken over the legacy of maintaining the status of "pearl producer from the birth place of the cultured pearl". You will be taken on a tour of the Island's Pearl Farm. Lunch today under Palm Trees - such a wonderful day! PEARL FARM INCLUDED. (BLD)

DAY 5. SEISIA – TIP

Today we visit the famous Croc Tent and walk to the TIP. We will travel through the drier savannah woodlands area which will change into dense rainforest before opening up at the deserted beaches at Australia's most northern point. After taking in the spectacular views of the Torres Straits and the surrounding beaches we will have lunch at Somerset Beach. This was the home and now resting place of Frank Jardine, visit these historic graves on the beach. Dinner tonight will be at Loyalty Beach where you get to relax and take in the far north oceanside beauty. CAMPGROUND - SEISIA. (BL) *DINNER TONIGHT AT OWN EXPENSE

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DAY 6. SEISIA – ISLANDS TOUR - THURSDAY and HORN ISLAND

We begin today by travelling to Thursday Island and Horn Island. Both Island tours have information and history of the past and the important part the Islands played in the war and keeping Australia safe. History of the early Pearling Luggers and the part they played while admiring the spectacular and breathtaking views of the Torres Straits and its turquoise waters. CAMPGROUND - SEISIA. (BLD)

DAY 7. SEISIA – FRUIT BAT FALLS – BRAMWELL STATION

This morning we head to Fruit Bat Falls for a refreshing swim in the crystal-clear waters, which amazingly originates from Papua New Guinea. Today we enjoy some 4WD action, (road conditions and weather permitting), arriving at Bramwell Station - Australia's most northern cattle station. CAMPGROUND - BRAMWELL STATION. DINNER TONIGHT AT OWN EXPENSE (BL)

DAY 8. BRAMWELL STATION – WEIPA

Early departure today travelling through the Savannah lands, past huge termite mounds eventually onto better roads. Arrive around lunchtime in Weipa and opportunity to experience the Weipa mine tour. CAMPGROUND - WEIPA, (BL) SUBSIDISED DINNER AT \$49 PER PERSON OWN COST - 3 COURSE GOURMET SMORGESBORD DINING EXPERIENCE

DAY 9. WEIPA – COOKS HUT (IRON RANGE) – UNIQUE BUSH STYLE ACCOMMODATION

This morning we move East through cattle country. We travel through the largest area of tropical lowland rainforest remaining in Australia, crossing rivers before entering Iron Range National Park via Tozers Gap. This place is truly spectacular with rare fauna and flora, like the famous Palm Cockatoos, Eclectic parrots & Green Pythons. ACCOMMODATION - COOKS HUT- UNIQUE BUSH STYLE ACCOMMODATION (BLD)

DAY 10. COOKS HUT – CHILLI BEACH – PORTLAND ROADS – BATAVIA GOLDFIELDS – CHUULANGUN

Today your guide will take you on a day of adventures where you will travel to Chilli Beach which is truly stunning with its wonderful ocean vista's and landscapes. In April 1942 Walter Maierersperger, the Commanding Officer of 33 Bomb Squadron of the 22nd Bomb Group USAAC carried out an aerial reconnaissance flight over the Iron Range area. He was tasked with surveying coastal airfields in North Queensland. We visit this significant historical site at Iron Range Airfield. Lunch today will be at the famous Portland Roads local's cafe overlooking the sea with wonderful home cooked food. After lunch we move back towards the Batavia Goldfields and the Chuulangun homelands. This is home to the Traditional Custodians, the clan group of the Kuuki'Iyu northern Karrju. "Our homelands are centre of the Wenlock and Pascoe River and encompass some 840,000 hectares." Chuulangun homelands operates a serviced campground for visitors. CAMPGROUND - CHUULANGUN. (BD) LUNCH TODAY AT YOUR OWN COST

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DAY 11. CHUULANGUN – COEN - KALPOWAR

Today we travel to Coen where you can visit the Coen Historical Museum and will be treated to lunch on the banks of the Coen River. After lunch we travel through Lakefield National Park on the same tracks where the mounted mailman delivered the mail to remote cattle stations. This National Park is filled with Billabongs and river systems abundant with wildlife. Stay tonight at the Kalpowar crossing located in the Lakefield National Park. CAMPGROUND - KALPOWAR BUSH CAMP. (BLD).

DAY 12. KALPOWAR – COOKTOWN – HISTORICAL QUEENSLANDER GUESTHOUSE ACCOMMODATION

Leaving Kalpowar, we visit old Laura Homestead then travel down the infamous Battle Camp road. Here you will marvel at this wilderness and views of the Laura escarpments, sighting signs of the old railway line that travelled from Cooktown to the Palmer River Goldfields. We travel into the area of Hope Vale then onto Cooktown for dinner at the local icon, The Sovereign Hotel. Before dinner enjoy an afternoon in historical Cooktown which became a thriving port during the gold rush era.

Cooktown is a region rich with history. Captain James Cook spent substantial time here by accident in 1770 after the HMS Endeavour ran into the reef and the ship sailed into the Endeavour River for repairs. Cooktown was founded in 1873 as a port for the Palmer River Goldfields and has a colourful history of settlement and Aboriginal culture. Hear the wonderful stories of history and Aboriginal culture of this region as your guide takes a step back in time and helps you to understand the areas colourful past. Dinner tonight is at the Sovereign Resort Hotel. HISTORICAL QUEENSLANDER GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION. (BL). DINNER TONIGHT AT OWN EXPENSE - SOVEREIGN RESORT

DAY 13. COOKTOWN - BLOOMFIELD TRACK – DAINTREE NATIONAL PARK – PRIVATE SAFARI HOMES ACCOMMODATION

You have an opportunity this morning to visit any sights in Cooktown that you may have missed the previous afternoon. We travel via Black Mountain and the famous Bloomfield Track (weather and roads permitting). A visit to the old historical Lion's Den Hotel for a photo opportunity is a must do before seeing the spectacular Bloomfield Falls in Wujal Wujal. We continue our journey through untouched rainforest on to the Bloomfield track as we begin the climb through the Daintree Ranges. Lunch today is a picnic alongside Woobita Creek on the Bloomfield Track. Northwest Australian Safaris has access to a unique beachfront location on Aboriginal lands. Tonight, our magnificent rainforest location is in the heart of Cape Tribulation, part of the World Heritage listed Daintree National Park. You will be treated to a special delicious meal and a break from the on-road cooking. This evenings accommodation is in stunning rustic open plan safari style homes, deep in the jungle of the pristine Daintree rainforest. Enjoy dinner on the property overlooking a crystal-clear rainforest creek. PRIVATE SAFARI HOMES – DAINTREE (BLD)

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DAY 14. DAINTREE NATIONAL PARK - CAPE TRIBULATION – PRIVATE SAFARI HOMES

ACCOMMODATION

Wake up in the heart of the beautiful Daintree National Park. After a cooked breakfast your guide will take you to where two World Heritage Listed Parks abut, Cape Tribulation. This is the oldest continually surviving tropical rainforest in the world, where the rainforest meets the reef. Enjoy a morning interpretive walk along this stunning beach front as the sun shines over the Coral Sea. We then move onto a café hidden deep in the rainforest for morning tea. Enjoy fresh scones with cream and jam with your cuppa before having the opportunity to swim in a crystal-clear rainforest stream. After swimming we return to the private property for lunch, with time to relax to absorb the beauty of the Daintree Rainforest. This afternoon your guide will take you on a private walk through the property, you may even get a glimpse of the resident Cassowary which is often seen. Dinner is a special treat tonight at one of the very popular local restaurants in the heart of the forest. PRIVATE SAFARI HOMES – DAINTREE (BL) DINNER AT OWN EXPENSE AT A BEAUTIFUL LOCAL CAFE IN THE HEART OF CAPE TRIBULATION

DAY 15. DAINTREE NATIONAL PARK – DAINTREE CROCODILE CRUISE – CAIRNS

Up early today for an interpretive rainforest, mangrove walk with your guide. A delicious cooked breakfast this morning before our Crocodile-spotting cruise looking for Estuarine Crocodiles and the rare Cassowary. After your wilderness croc cruise enjoy the stunning views of the mountains in the background as we make our way to the famous Daintree Ice Creamery (ice cream at own cost). Here they blend ice cream with exotic tropical fruits grown on the farm. We continue on down the Alexander Range, across the Daintree River via the Cable Ferry heading south along the Great Barrier Reef Drive to Cairns which brings us to the end of your North West Australian Safaris Cape York tour.

CROC CRUISE AND ICE CREAM AT YOUR OWN COST. (B)

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