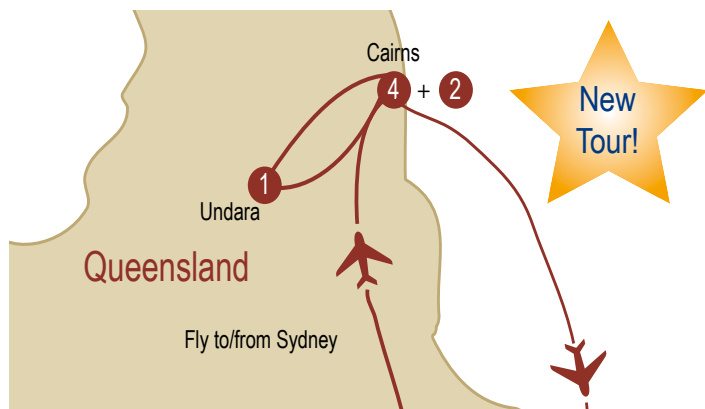


Cairns Explorer

Highlights: Mareeba Coffee Plantation, Daintree River Train, Undara Lava Tubes, Tjapukai Cultural Park, Gondola Skyrail - Cairns, Kuranda Markets & Railway, Port Douglas, Atherton Tablelands, Hartley's Crocodile Farm, Paronella Park.

25 June
2010
8 Days

\$2363ppts
\$618s/s
incl Flights



Day 4: Cairns—Free Day (BD)

Today you will have a chance to relax and explore Cairns. Visit the shops, take a mangrove stroll along the esplanade or an outer reef tour, or maybe go ballooning. If you would like to spend today out on the Great Barrier Reef we can organise this for you complete with hotel transfers. Ring us for information and prices.



Day 1: Home—Cairns (D)

Our coach will commence passenger pickups from the Hunter, Central Coast and Hornsby on our way to Sydney Airport where we meet the rest of our group before our direct flight to Cairns. Our hotel is right on the esplanade offering ocean views and well lit maintained footpaths. A buffet dinner each night including prawns, oysters, fish, roast, cold cuts of meat, vegetables, salads and of course desserts. A prawn lovers heaven!

Acacia Court Hotel 07 4051 5011 (4 Nights)

Day 2: Cairns/Daintree Cruise/Port Douglas/Hartley's Crocodile Farm (BD)

A visit to Cairns would not be complete without visiting the acclaimed "Daintree". Our **rainforest river train cruise** will be the opportunity to spot some crocs "salties", as well as a rare glimpse of the mangroves and ecosystem from the water. Passing through the Wyanbeel Valley and the Mossman Sugar Industry, Port Douglas will be your lunch venue. From fish and chips on the wharf to mango smoothies, the choices are endless with a good opportunity to do some souvenir hunting. We will head back towards Cairns taking in the spectacular scenery of the Cook Highway along the coast. There will be plenty of photo opportunities of **World Heritage Rainforest meeting World Heritage Reef**. This afternoon, we will have a visit to the acclaimed **Hartley's Crocodile Farm**. This has been relocated to a purpose built estuary, where our group will see dozens of crocs eager for dinner, from the safety of our croc cruisers. A **BBQ dinner** will be had on the deck above the mangroves. Tonight we will have the park to ourselves and the crocs come alive.

Day 3: Tjapukai Cultural Centre/Kuranda Markets & Railway/Skyway (BD)

At the **Tjapukai Cultural Theme Park** we will experience the legends of the Dreamtime in a fascinating theatrical interpretation. Aboriginal dancing, spear and boomerang throwing (with all encouraged to have a throw) will complete this visit. We will board the **exciting Skyrail** which travels for 7.5km over the rainforest canopy with spectacular views of the Coral Sea Coast as we climb to Kuranda. Lunch will be at Kuranda with some time to visit the markets and photograph the Railway Station. We will return to Cairns on the **Kuranda Scenic Railway** as it snakes its way past Barron Gorge Falls and into Freshwater Station at Cairns.

Day 5: Cairns—Undara Tubes (BLD)

We travel to the fertile Atherton Tablelands to Mareeba a district rich in food & wine. Firstly we will discover the world of coffee and how it is grown at **Jacques Coffee plantation** here we will enjoy a coffee enriched morning tea. After a tour and tasting we will then visit **Mareeba Visitor's Information**, with it's hands on approach to local farming history in this fertile region. For our lunch today we will stop at **Gallo Dairyland** and have the opportunity to experience locally made treats (own expense). This afternoon we will arrive at the **Undara Volcanic National Park** where we tour these ancient formations. A hundred thousand years ago volcanoes erupted in this area. As the lava streams cooled, they left behind a maze of spectacular tunnels. We will walk along the boardwalk inside a tunnel formed by lava. Tonight we will stay at **Undara Lava Lodge** in their unique railway carriage accommodation in a natural bush environment. These beautifully appointed carriages each contain two to three rooms and are complemented by "offsuite" ensuites at the end of each carriage. After settling into our carriages at Undara, we regroup for a open-air Australian themed dinner.

Undara Lava Lodge 07 4097 1411

Day 6: Undara Lava Lodge—Cairns (BLD)

We will wake to the relaxing sounds of the bush. After a bush breakfast around the campfire, there will be a guided walk to the Bluff overlooking the Lava Lodge. After morning tea we will return across the tablelands visiting **Millaa Millaa Falls and the Curtain Fig Tree** before we pass Malanda and head back to Cairns.

Acacia Court Hotel 07 4051 5011 (2 nights)

Day 7: Paronella Park—Tully (BLD)

Today we will visit one of the most popular tourist attractions in Queensland, **Paronella Park**. The building and surrounding Gardens were the life's work of Jose Paronella and his wife, Margarita. This morning before lunch in these spectacular surrounds we will enjoy a guided tour encompassing an incredible combination of the 7,500 plants, trees and ferns Jose and his wife Margarita planted. The park has become an amazing habitat for hundreds of varieties of birds, butterflies, fish and many other animals. After lunch we continue this to tour this southern area with a tour of the **Tully Sugar Mill**.

Day 8: Cairns—Home

We will board our flight home saying goodbye to our tropical winter escape. On arrival in Sydney our coach will meet us there for the transfers back to the Hunter.