

Australia Reef and Rainforest

Multisport Tour

A Hiking, Rafting, Mountain Biking, Snorkeling/SCUBA Diving and Wildlife Viewing Adventure in Queensland

Tropical Cairns in Queensland, Australia is a dazzling meeting of mountains and sea. Experience two magical UNESCO World Heritage areas—the Wet Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef—and see wildlife found nowhere else on earth. From snorkeling and SCUBA diving to rafting and mountain biking, adventure activities reign supreme in Queensland and we sample them all. We explore lush rainforest and sun-soaked reef, while staying in an elegant inns and eco-lodges along the way. Superb national park trails lead us to waterfalls and swimming holes, and we learn the secrets of the rainforest from Kuku Yalanji aboriginal people.

Join Nobel Laureate Brian Schmidt on our November 8 departure to witness the FULL LUNAR ECLIPSE from its center line in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef!!! Accommodations in Cairns will be at the Cairns Central Plaza Apartments, but your itinerary remains the same as our normal Reef and Rainforest tour.

Day 1, Arrival, Welcome Orientation and Sunset Cruise, The Hotel Cairns (www.thehotelcairns.com/ 011-61-7-4051-6188, private baths)

After transferring from the Cairns airport, settle into our accommodation at The Hotel Cairns, a breezy, sophisticated 4-star hotel reminiscent of Key West. At 4pm we gather in the Hotel Cairns lobby for a welcome orientation over with our guide who accompanies us for the whole trip. Then we board a sunset boat cruise on Trinity Inlet—a perfect introduction to Cairns and its harbor. Afterwards we enjoy a meal at one of Cairns' restaurants in the heart of the city, where we have an opportunity to sample classic Australian cuisine.

- Airport transfer is on your own. Approx. 10 minutes. Taxi stands are immediately outside terminals; fare about \$15 AUD. Sun Palm Transport shuttle is in the arrival halls at the terminals; fare about \$10 AUD per person to Cairns. There is a place to change money in the arrivals terminal.
- Sunset cruise [1.5 hours]

Day 2, Aboriginal-Guided Hike, Wildlife Sanctuary and Port Douglas, The Hotel Cairns

Considered one of the most scenic drives in Australia, the Captain Cook Highway winds north from Cairns and treats us to views of golden beaches and the translucent sea. Traveling inland, we join an aboriginal guide for a hike to see the rainforest through the eyes of the indigenous Kuku Yalanji. We discover how these aboriginal people found their way through dense rainforest and learn about native plants that were used for food, medicine, and even soap. We listen for the call of the wild cockatoo or the laughing kookaburra, and perhaps paint our faces with traditional ochre rock paint. Our guide recounts stories from the aboriginal

Dreamtime, and treats us to a sample of the sonorous didgeridoo.

From here our indigenous guide leads us into Mossman Gorge, part of the celebrated Daintree National Park. Considered one of the most biologically diverse places in the entire world, this UNESCO World-Heritage site is home to animals found no where else on earth, such as the Daintree River ringtail possum, the southern cassowary and Bennett's tree kangaroo.

In the afternoon we visit a refuge for Australian animals such as crocodiles, wallabies, kangaroos, koalas, and countless exotic birds. Our guide educates us about these different species, and we have an opportunity to interact with the animals up close, whether it's holding a python, feeding a lorikeet or meeting a mother kangaroo and her joey.

This evening we have time for a stroll and a savory seaside dinner in the charming town of Port Douglas before returning to Cairns.

- Scenic drive to Mossman [1 hour]
- Aboriginal-guided rainforest walk [1.5 hours, 1 mile, elevation gain/loss negligible]
- Mossman Gorge-Daintree National Park river circuit track [30 minutes, 1/4 mile]
- Animal refuge wildlife viewing [3 hours]

Day 3, Hiking to Nandroya Falls, the Waterfalls Loop and Josephine Falls, Castaways Mission Beach

(www.castaways.com.au/ 011 61 7 4068 7444, private baths)

Wooroonooran National Park hosts some of the oldest continually surviving rainforest in the world, and the park reaches its greatest diversity in the area of

For Reservations and Information call 800-488-8483 or Reserve 24 hours a day at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com

Renowned for Extraordinary Off-the-Beaten-Path Adventures since 1988

Address: 2840 Wilderness Place, Suite D Boulder, CO 80301 Fax: 303-413-0926 Email: fun@TheWorldOutdoors.com

today's hike. We hike to enchanting Nandroya Falls, where Douglas Creek drops in a narrow, uninterrupted, 165-foot fall from a basalt parapet. This magical section of the park also has a special connection to the Wari and Dulgubara aboriginals who once lived here.

Next we explore the Waterfalls Circuit: a series of three grand waterfalls under which we can swim or view from above. Our guide educates us about Australia's unique rainforest species like the brilliant blue Ulysses Butterfly, the giant tree frog, and the musky rat kangaroo, which we may spot along the way.

Finally we take a short hike through the jungle to Josephine Falls—where the triple-tiered cascades end with a natural waterslide into a refreshing swimming hole.

In the late afternoon we travel to Mission Beach, home of at least 33 rare and threatened plants, including endangered ferns, orchids and flowering plants. Situated on absolute beachfront property, our stylish resort-style hotel boasts ocean views, a day spa, and delicious meals *al fresco*.

- Shuttle to Wooroonooran National Park [1 hour, 45 minutes]
- Hiking to Nandroya Falls [3 hours, 3.5 miles round trip]
- Waterfalls Circuit [5-minute walk at Ellinjaa Falls]
- Walking to Josephine Falls [1 hour, 2 miles round trip, 100' elevation gain/loss]
- Shuttle to Mission Beach [1 hour]

Day 4, Whitewater Rafting the Tully River, Castaways Mission Beach

The Tully River ranks high with rafting enthusiasts around the globe for its stunning course through national parklands, thrilling Class III-IV rapids, and its reliable year-round flows. First timers and experienced rafters alike will be spoiled by the Tully's non-stop action and gorgeous pristine wilderness. From our eco-lodge we travel a short distance to our put-in at Tully Gorge National Park. There we are fitted with life jackets and helmets and after a safety briefing we are on the water. We raft through UNESCO World Heritage rainforest and below waterfalls that tumble from the walls of the gorge. Rousing rapids with evocative names like The Staircase, Corkscrew and Alarm Clock mark the start of our day, after which we paddle through another 41 rapids, stopping midway for a riverside BBQ.

We return to our lodge in the evening where we relax by the pool or learn more about the rainforest ecology.

- Shuttle to Tully [30 minutes]
- Whitewater Rafting [5 hours, Class III-IV Rapids]

Day 5, Mountain Biking the Little Mulgrave Valley, The Hotel Cairns

Mountain biking in Cairns is a biker's dream: mild to challenging singletrack, fun rolling terrain, gorgeous vistas and little-seen wilderness areas. We are fitted to superbly crafted Canadian *Norco* mountain bikes, and mountain biking basics are reviewed for the first-time

mountain biker. We can choose from one of two options: a thrilling singletrack circuit in the Little Mulgrave Valley, or a more relaxed scenic route. Either path rewards us with a gorgeous ride ending at a refreshing swimming hole. Not to miss Australia's other type of watering hole, we stop for "a stubbie" at a classic Aussie pub at route's end. We have this evening free to explore Cairns and the Cairns Esplanade waterfront only steps from our hotel.

- Shuttle to Little Mulgrave Valley [1.5 hours]
- Biking Option 1: [3 hours, up to 12 miles, gradual ascent/descent of approximately 500 feet]
- Biking Option 2: [3 hours, up to 6 miles, technical singletrack with some steep ascents and descents]
- Shuttle to Cairns [35 minutes]

Day 6, Snorkeling or SCUBA Diving at The Great Barrier Reef, Live Aboard Boat

(www.diversden.com.au/ 011-61-7-4046-7333 twin cabins with bathrooms)

No trip to Cairns is complete without a visit to the outer Great Barrier Reef--a UNESCO World Heritage Site and easily one of the world's top natural wonders. On this journey, we'll avoid the crowds and do the reef in style aboard a 35-metre live aboard catamaran. Early this morning we travel to the outer Great Barrier Reef, our captain choosing between fourteen permanent moorings (including Norman and Saxon reefs) that allow snorkelers fantastic access to this underwater universe. Upon arrival at the reef, snorkelers will delight in viewing the incredible array of life and colours that exist just below the surface.

Snorkelers can also opt to learn about SCUBA diving one-on-one from the dive instructor—an intro diving (also known as "resort diving") is a fantastic way to see the reef without having a certification. SCUBA divers can log 7 dives during these two days at the reef, diving along bommies and coral walls with mysterious swim-throughs that dance with light. Divers can also get to experience the magic and glow of the reef at night.

We enjoy sumptuous buffet meals on the live aboard boat, while accommodation is in twin share cabins with bathroom, air conditioning and television. This is a perfect way to meet other divers as well as experiencing the reef on a very deep level.

- Travel to the Great Barrier Reef [2 hours]
- Snorkeling [time varies]
- Optional SCUBA diving [up to 7
- dives during the trip, including a night dive] or Beginner's Intro Diving Package

Day 7, Great Barrier Reef Snorkeling and/or SCUBA Diving, The Hotel Cairns

Today we spend another day exploring the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef. A roving marine park permit allows us the flexibility of choosing different reefs on which to snorkel or dive. We can expect to see a thousand shades of hard and soft corals, angelfish and "Nemos", anemones, elusive white-tipped reef sharks,

For Reservations and Information call 800-488-8483 or Reserve 24 hours a day at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com

Renowned for Extraordinary Off-the-Beaten-Path Adventures since 1988

Address: 2840 Wilderness Place, Suite D Boulder, CO 80301 Fax: 303-413-0926 Email: fun@TheWorldOutdoors.com

and giant turtles. We learn about different coral species, the unusual mating habits of some undersea animals, and the conservation issues facing the reef today. On the way back to civilization, we may see dolphins swimming and playing alongside us, while in the winter season both humpback and minke whales may make an appearance.

This evening we return to Cairns for a celebratory dinner and a recounting of our group's adventures over the past week.

Day 8, Trip Conclusion

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home or enjoy a few optional activities (at added cost—your guide can make arrangements) such as the Kuranda

Skyrail, a sunrise balloon flight or a scenic helicopter tour.

- Airport transfer is on your own. Approx. 10 minutes. Taxi fare about \$18 AUD. Sun Palm Transport shuttle about \$10 AUD per person to Cairns.
- Kuranda Skyrail: one way AUD \$44 per person, round trip AUD \$66. Scenic train one way and Skyrail return AUD \$99. Return transfers AUD \$19
- Sunrise champagne balloon flight: AUD \$195 per person + \$30 levy
- Scenic helicopter flight to Great Barrier Reef or over rainforest: AUD \$349-\$499

Trip Details

Trip Type: Inn- and live aboard reef boat

Trip Length: 8 days / 7 nights

2011 Dates: November 21-28, December 19-26

2012 Dates: January 9-16; February 7-14; March 5-12; April 9-16; June 18-25; July 9-16; August 6-13; September 17-24; November 8-15 (Total Solar Eclipse Trip - special itinerary and pricing apply); December 20-27

Price: \$3798 per person for a total group size of 4 or more; (\$200 per person surcharge for a total group size of 3; \$600 per person surcharge for a total group size of just 2); \$4498 for the November 8-15 tour only

Single Supplement: \$750; \$975 for the November 8-15 tour only

Group Size: Minimum 2 / Maximum 10

Trip Rating: Moderately easy

Activities: Hiking (1 full day), mountain biking (1/2 day), whitewater rafting (1 full day), snorkeling and/or SCUBA diving (2 days), wildlife viewing (1/2 day), sunset boat cruise (1/2 day), Aboriginal cultural encounter (1/2 day)

Gateway City/Meeting Place: Cairns, Queensland, Australia

Meeting Time & Place: 4:00 p.m. on Day 1 at The Hotel Cairns. Please plan to transfer on your own to The Hotel Cairns when you arrive in Cairns. The transfer is approximately 10 minutes. You may take a taxi cab (immediately outside terminals; fare is about AUD \$18) or use Sun Palm Transport (airport shuttle bus service located in arrival halls at either terminal; fare is AUD \$10 per person to Cairns).

Trip Conclusion: After breakfast on Day 8. Please plan to transfer on your own from The Hotel Cairns – Cairns to the Cairns Airport via a taxi cab or use Sun Palm as described above.

Trip Fees Include: All meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 8 (except dinner on Day 5), accommodations and activities as described in the itinerary, a 25-metre rainforest square adopted in each guest's name through the Australian Rainforest Foundation, equipment for included activities, park fees, *ClimateCare*TM carbon offsetting for a carbon-neutral trip, and a professional local guide throughout who specializes in regional biology and history.

Trip Fees Exclude: Airfare, travel insurance, any pre- or post-trip lodging, certified or introductory SCUBA dives, Australian \$30 reef tax and levy to be paid directly on the boat, optional activities and extensions, dinner on Day 5, personal expenses (phone, internet, laundry, etc.), alcoholic beverages, optional guide gratuities.

Note: Certified SCUBA diving is available for an extra AUD \$50 fee total which includes up to 7 dives, wetsuit and equipment hire. Beginners may try an Intro Dive Package with a dive instructor for AUD \$200 for up to 5 Intro dives. (All divers must fill out a diving medical form, and some medical conditions may disqualify a guest from diving).

Want to add a couple of days in Sydney before or after your trip? We can arrange a tour of Sydney Opera House and/or a performance (they have everything from jazz to Shakespeare to comedy to opera); a night telescope viewing and star presentation at the Sydney Observatory; a Harbour Highlights cruise; guided day trip to boutique wineries in the Hunter Valley; a 2-hour surfing lesson at Manly or Bondi Beach and more!

For Reservations and Information call 800-488-8483 or Reserve 24 hours a day at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com

Renowned for Extraordinary Off-the-Beaten-Path Adventures since 1988

Address: 2840 Wilderness Place, Suite D Boulder, CO 80301 Fax: 303-413-0926 Email: fun@TheWorldOutdoors.com

The Next Step...

References Don't take our word for it that The World Outdoors trips are the finest in the adventure travel industry. Ask our past guests. *Call about any of our trips and we'll be happy to refer you to someone who's been there with us.*

The Best Value in Active Travel Guarantee: *We commit to you that all of our trips are of the highest quality at the best value.* If you find a trip of equal quality that matches our itinerary and inclusions at a lower fare within 30 days of booking your trip with us, we will gladly refund the difference. A simple guarantee that assures you of the best trip at the best fare!

How do I join this trip? Call The World Outdoors at (800) 488-8483 and a Trip Consultant will reserve your space(s) or register online at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com.

Special Requests: If you have any special dietary needs or any special request that will make your trip more enjoyable, please be sure to notify your Trip Consultant or travel agent upon booking.

Then Leave the Rest to Us... Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including your reservation payment receipt and confirmation, travel insurance application, suggestions for preparing for your trip, a packing list, information on pre- and post-trip arrangements, a guest questionnaire and a liability release agreement.

Travel Protection: To make your trip with The World Outdoors even more carefree, we strongly recommend the purchase of our travel insurance plan. Offering comprehensive coverage and peace of mind, our travel insurance plan is designed to protect you in case of lost or damaged luggage, a sudden illness or death in the family, emergency medical expenses and transportation costs, and flight delays. We'd be happy to arrange travel insurance coverage for you, so contact us at (800) 488-8483 with any questions.

How do I book airfare for this trip? Call our in-house travel agent, Sherry Marriner, at 800-488-8483 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time Monday through Friday or you can email her at sherrym@theworldoutdoors.com. Sherry is also available to assist you with pre- and post-lodging needs. If Sherry is unavailable and your needs are urgent, please call Frosch Travel, a local travel agency, at 800-538-7461 and ask for Georgia (ext 251) or email her at Georgia.Terry@frosch.com. Be sure to tell her you are traveling with The World Outdoors. Alternatively, you are welcome to book your airfare online, directly with the airline or through your personal travel agent.

General Information, Questions & Answers

What are the accommodations like?

The *Hotel Cairns*, with its impeccably private and tropical ambience, is a 4-star hotel superbly positioned in the central business district of Cairns, one block from the famous Esplanade. Its exterior facade is one of the most beautiful examples of Queenslander heritage style, and is a popular talking point among many of the hotel's visitors and guests. The hotel has undergone a complete refurbishment to emerge as the classic accommodation of choice in Tropical North Queensland. Privately owned and operated by an Australian family, the Bakers, The Hotel Cairns is popular with international and domestic visitors and locals from the Cairns hinterland who appreciate quality and attention to detail. Set back from the street and well shaded by tropical trees and plants, The Hotel Cairns features a tour booking desk, sparkling blue outdoor pool and spa, WiFi, state of the art cardio gymnasium, and a welcoming indoor/outdoor restaurant, The Plantation Bar & Grill. The Hotel Cairns is conveniently located just 10 minutes drive from the airport and an easy 5-minute walk from shops and restaurants.

Ocean Quest is a 36-metre luxury catamaran designed for diving, sailing and entertaining for a maximum of 48 guests. All rooms have en-suite facilities, air-conditioning, as well as TVs. There is a large lounge area on the wheelhouse deck with a bar where you can relax and kick back after a long day snorkeling or diving. The main deck has a large dining room where you can socialize with other guests.

Castaways Mission Beach offers absolute beachfront bungalows surrounded by a lush rainforest setting. Rooms are only steps from the beach, and rooms have uninterrupted views of the Coral Sea. While the tastefully decorated bungalows have both fans and air conditioning, they have been designed to capture the cooling tropical breeze off the ocean. Rooms have the little extras that will make your stay more enjoyable: a large flat-screen TV; tea & coffee making facilities, hairdye, and bar fridge. The day spa offers indulgent treatments such as salt exfoliation, mud wraps, hand and foot treatment and warm water massage. Castaways' seasonally influenced menus and daily specials include the freshest and finest produce sourced locally, and cocktails can be enjoyed on the terrace overlooking the ocean. Fourteen kilometres of sandy palm fringed beach lies just outside your door. The resort's property, full of tropical fruits and flowers, attract many of the colorful resident wildlife species. Residents of the area include rainbow lorikeets, kookaburras and the giant endangered bird, the cassowary.

What Type of Weather Should I Expect? Northern Queensland has a moist tropical climate. Temperatures are warm all year round with occasional "cold" snaps (temps in the 60s) in the winter - June to August. Summer is the heart of the wet season - December through February - with sudden thunderstorms and occasional tropical cyclones (hurricanes). Daytime highs can top 90 with humidity above 75%. Autumn - March through May - brings the end of the wet season with lower temps and humidity (highs in the 80s). Winter sees dry sunny days with highs in the upper 70s. Spring - September through November - is similar to autumn, with a build-up of heat and

For Reservations and Information call 800-488-8483 or Reserve 24 hours a day at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com

Renowned for Extraordinary Off-the-Beaten-Path Adventures since 1988

Address: 2840 Wilderness Place, Suite D Boulder, CO 80301 Fax: 303-413-0926 Email: fun@TheWorldOutdoors.com

humidity as the wet season approaches. Conditions on the Great Barrier Reef can vary greatly and are highly dependent on the prevailing winds. The difference between seasons is more pronounced the farther south you go. For more information visit <http://www.qldbaches.com/climate.html>

How Difficult Is This Trip...Really? You must have a reasonable level of fitness to fully enjoy yourself. This trip is intended for the average active adults who are comfortable exercising 4-6 hours a day. You don't have to be young and extremely fit (although if you are, you won't be bored) but you should be in the habit of doing at least some exercise. Age and experience are not important.

Beach Dangers - The beaches of Queensland are among the most magnificent in the world. But they do present dangers you need to be aware of. Use common sense and follow local advice to enjoy them safely.

Jellyfish

Jellyfish are present on Queensland beaches from Cape York to Townsville October to June. Their stings can be extremely painful, and in severe cases, even fatal. Most popular beaches have stinger-resistant enclosures so you can swim safely throughout the year. Obey warning signs and lifeguards and ask locals about conditions before swimming anywhere.

Crocodiles

Although it is rare, saltwater crocodiles can approach popular beaches. Signs will indicate if you are in area where they may be encountered. Obey warning signs and lifeguards and ask locals about conditions before swimming anywhere.

Sharks

Shark nets protect many popular beaches and Australia has less than one shark attack per year. However, to avoid this remote possibility, always follow the instructions of lifeguards and warning signs and do not swim at night, in murky water or if you are bleeding. Australia's Great White sharks live only in the south, and therefore pose no threat to swimmers in Queensland.

Tour Operator: This tour is conducted by *Small World Journeys*, a local tour operator selected for their reputation, service and reliability.

Emergency Contact Information: Our office in Boulder, Colorado is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time 1-800-488-8483. For emergencies outside of our normal business hours call Bill Marriner at 720-289-0460, Sherry Marriner at 303-915-9660, Darcie Carr at 303-595-8561 or Eric Wagner at 303-324-7795.

Small World Journeys is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They can be reached from the U.S. at 011-61-7-4053-2878, from outside Australia + 61-7-4053-2878 or within Australia 07-4053-2878 or if calling from Cairns, simply dial 4053-2878. After hours, call from the U.S. 011-61-040-123-1888, from outside Australia +61-04-0123-1888 or within Australia 04-0123-1888 or from Cairns 0123-1888. + means you need to dial the appropriate international calling code for the country you are calling from before the rest of the number. Ask local information for the correct code.

Visa & Passport Information: Citizens of the US, Canada, Britain, Germany and most other Western countries will need a valid passport and an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) to enter Australia. The ETA is used instead of a visa and can usually be obtained from your local travel agent when you purchase your airline ticket (a small fee may apply). You must obtain your ETA before departure. Check if you're eligible to apply online for one at www.eta.immi.gov.au.

Experience: You don't have to have any outdoor experience at all to take our trips because we help you make the most of Australia's incredible outdoor environment. Our staff is highly trained and experienced outdoor guides, and we will look after you! You don't need to have ever been in a raft to enjoy the paddling we have available, and you don't need snorkeling experience to enjoy that activity with us either. All we ask is that you are in reasonable shape – not a tri-athlete – and we guarantee you'll have an incredible time.

Pre/Post Trip Lodging: If you plan to be in Cairns before or after the trip, we recommend the following hotels::

- The Hotel Cairns, www.thehotelcairns.com/ 011 61 7 4051 6188

If you plan to stay in Sydney during your travels, we recommend:

- The Russell Hotel, www.therussell.com.au/ 011 61 2 9241 3543
- Bed & Breakfast Sydney Harbour www.bedandbreakfastsydney.com / 011 61 2 9247 1130

We're Always Improving! While the information presented here details this trip's planned activities, routes, accommodations, departure and conclusion times, we are consistently seeking new opportunities to enhance this itinerary and your experience. Our actual activities and sites may vary due to season, special events, or weather. As a result, we reserve the right to alter the itinerary since unforeseen circumstances that mandate change may arise. Naturally, we will keep you up-to-date on any changes that may affect your arrival or departure times.

Carbon Offsetting: If you would like to offset the carbon emissions from your trip, please visit the following link: https://sustainabletravelinternational.org/documents/op_carboncalcs.html

**For Reservations and Information call 800-488-8483 or Reserve 24 hours a day at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com
Renowned for Extraordinary Off-the-Beaten-Path Adventures since 1988
Address: 2840 Wilderness Place, Suite D Boulder, CO 80301 Fax: 303-413-0926 Email: fun@TheWorldOutdoors.com**