

2019-2020

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Hamilton Island

# East Coast Islands & Rainforest

📅 13 DAYS    📍 SYDNEY → CAIRNS

QSC

Sydney • Port Macquarie • Gold Coast • Noosa • Hervey Bay • Rockhampton • Hamilton Island  
Mission Beach • Cairns

Explore the epic Eastern Australian coastline on a journey that takes you spectacular Sydney to the glamorous Gold Coast. Cruise to pristine Fraser Island and the Whitsundays, and head to tropical Cairns to discover the world-renowned Great Barrier Reef. There are hinterland experiences too – you'll taste premium wines in the Hunter Valley and tour a remote Rockhampton cattle station.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy lunch & wine tastings in the Hunter Valley
- Visit Australia Zoo, home of the Irwin family
- See the koalas at Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital
- Free time in the resort town of Noosa
- Take an exciting 4WD tour on Fraser Island
- Taste produce at the Ohana Exotic Fruit Orchard
- Experience life on Langmorn Station 🏡
- Stop at the Sarina Sugar Shed for a guided tour and lunch at a miniature sugar mill
- Stay on Hamilton Island – everyone has a view over the Whitsundays from their balcony
- Relax in idyllic Mission Beach
- Stop at Millaa Millaa Falls & the Curtain Fig Tree
- Skirt across the treetops on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway
- Snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef
- Included Choice experiences on the Gold Coast ✓

As this holiday departs at 7.30am from Rydges Sydney Central, you'll need to pre-book accommodation for the previous night.

### Day 1 Sydney – Port Macquarie

Leave Sydney today bound for the renowned Hunter Valley, one of Australia's major wine regions. Visit a vineyard to enjoy an exclusive wine-tasting, and get to know your fellow travellers over lunch. Continue north to the seaside town of Port Macquarie, renowned for its extensive beaches and waterways. **Hotel: Sails Port Macquarie by Rydges, Port Macquarie. L DW**

### Day 2 Port Macquarie – Gold Coast

Experience superb views over the Pacific Ocean this morning from Cape Byron, the easternmost point in Australia. You may spot migrating whales breaching not far offshore. A scenic coastal drive this afternoon takes you to the legendary holiday destination of the Gold Coast, where you'll settle in for your two-night stay. **Hotel: Novotel Surfers Paradise, 2 nights. B**

### Day 3 Gold Coast Included Choice

✓ Today choose one from a selection of Included Choice sightseeing experiences. Take the 4WD track through the Gold Coast Hinterland,

or a boat trip to try your hand at crab fishing. The 270-metre SkyPoint Climb at the iconic Q1 building will tempt the energetic. **B**

### Day 4 Gold Coast – Noosa

Head north this morning, stopping in Brisbane for a short orientation tour, then continue to the famous Australia Zoo. Enjoy a sneak peek into the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital and see how our tour company works with its Wildlife Warriors to support its koala rehabilitation project. Your final destination is the beachside resort town of Noosa, where you'll join your fellow travellers for dinner at a local restaurant. **Hotel: The Sebel Noosa, 2 nights. B DW**

### Day 5 Noosa

Take time out today to discover Noosa for yourself. Swim in the clear waters of Main Beach, or venture a little further afield on an easy walk along the spectacular headland to Noosa National Park. You may like to hire a stand-up paddle-board or take a boat ride on the mysterious and tranquil waters of the Noosa Everglades. This evening, stroll along Hastings Street and dine in one of its many eateries. **B**

### Day 6 Noosa – Hervey Bay

Today you'll explore the wonders of World Heritage listed Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island. Its striking blue freshwater lakes, crystalline creeks, giant dunes and lush rainforests

combine to create a spectacular environment. Enjoy lunch before travelling on to Hervey Bay, where in spring around 7,000 humpback whales and their new calves rest and play in the calm, safe waters before they head back to the Antarctic. **Hotel: Mantra Hervey Bay. B L**

### Day 7 Hervey Bay – Rockhampton

Your day begins with a visit to the Ohana Exotic Fruit Orchard. 🏡 Then you'll travel to Langmorn Station for a guided tour of the 11,000-hectare cattle property and a Be My Guest afternoon tea. Later, cross the Tropic of Capricorn as you arrive in Rockhampton. A stroll along historic Quay Street tonight could provide the perfect opportunity to sample some local beef at one of the city's steakhouses. **Hotel: Quality Regent, Rockhampton. B**

### Day 8 Rockhampton – Hamilton Island

Travel north to Sarina today for a guided tour of its unique miniature sugar mill and distillery. At Airlie Beach you'll catch the ferry to Hamilton Island, one of 74 tropical islands that make up the Whitsunday group in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. The spectacular island boasts pristine beaches and a kaleidoscope of coral and marine life, and is home to large populations of koalas, kangaroos, wallabies and kookaburras. **Hotel: Reef View Hotel, Hamilton Island, 2 nights. B L DW**

### Day 9 Hamilton Island

Today is yours to indulge in your own pleasures – consider some optional experiences. Perhaps cruise to famous Whitehaven Beach or a scenic flight over the iconic Heart Reef. You could visit the island's wildlife park, home to many species of Australian animals or sit back with a good book by one of the resort's stunning pools. **B**

### Day 10 Hamilton Island – Mission Beach

Take the ferry back to the mainland this morning. Stroll along its handsome esplanade before heading off to the seaside town of Mission Beach, nestled between World Heritage rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef. Your accommodation offers superb views over the Coral Sea. **Hotel: Castaways Resort and Spa, Mission Beach. B DW**

### Day 11 Mission Beach – Cairns

Today's journey takes you to the Atherton Tablelands, with its lush rainforests, spectacular waterfalls and peaceful lakes. Visit Millaa Millaa Falls and the heritage listed 500-year-old Curtain Fig Tree, and keep an eye out for the magnificent Ulysses butterfly. Spend some free time in Kuranda, the 'village in the rainforest', before travelling on via the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway. Your six-person gondola will provide spectacular views of the rainforest and the Coral Sea. **Hotel: Hilton Hotel, Cairns, 2 nights. B**

### Day 12 Great Barrier Reef

Board a high-speed catamaran today and cruise out to the iconic Great Barrier Reef, the only living organism that can be seen from the moon. You'll have the opportunity to go snorkelling (equipment provided) or view the spectacular coral and tropical fish from the underwater observatory and semi-submersible craft. Enjoy a tropical buffet lunch on board, before you return in the late afternoon, for a Farewell Dinner with your Travel Director and newfound friends. **B L FD**

### Day 13 Farewell from Cairns

Say farewell to your fellow travellers when your holiday comes to an end this morning after breakfast. **B**



Great Barrier Reef



Australia Zoo



Skyrail Rainforest Cableway



Sydney



Gold Coast



Cairns

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