



Hello from Queensland



We can't wait to welcome you!

Get ready for a thrilling journey through the stunning landscapes, hidden gems, and unforgettable experiences that Queensland has to offer. Whether you're a seasoned road tripper or a first-time explorer, this publication is your go-to guide for all things road-tripping in Queensland.

Buckle up as we take you on a ride through coastal drives along the iconic Great Barrier Reef, winding roads through the lush rainforests, and adventures in the untamed Queensland Outback. Discover charming coastal towns, epic viewpoints, and the best local eats that will make your road trip an unforgettable adventure.

We're here to be your trusted companion on the road, providing tips, insights, and inspiration for creating your own Queensland road trip story. So, join us as we navigate the highways and byways of Queensland - where every kilometre is a new discovery and every destination is a new adventure.

So, what are you waiting for? Drive Queensland With Us!

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Drive Queensland acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and live. We pay our respects to Elders both past, present and emerging; and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

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Caravanning in Queensland offers an unrivalled opportunity to find adventure, while still enjoying all the modern comforts. Queensland's welcoming communities, diverse wildlife, and year-round sunshine create unforgettable caravanning experiences, with something for everyone.

Whether you are taking a relaxing holiday or exploring off the beaten track, it is essential you are VANSafe before embarking on any adventure.

Are you VANSafe?

Safe Towing and Road Safety starts with you, and Caravanning Queensland is here to help, with tips, advice, and important information to get you on the road with confidence.

A great place to start is the **National Recreational Vehicle Towing Guide**, loaded with vital information on everything towing related. Check out this publication for information, including:

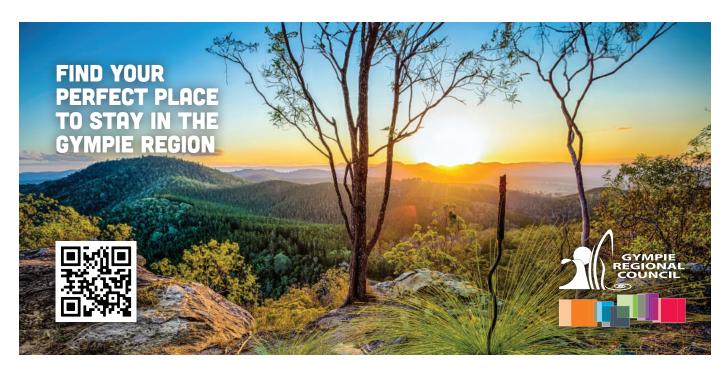
- Acronym Definitions (GVM, GCM, ATM, GTM etc)
- Towing Parts
- Braking Systems
- Tyres
- Towing Tips
- Trip Preparation.

You can pick up your copy of the FREE National Recreational Vehicle Towing Guide at one of Caravanning Queensland's official industry shows or download a copy from: caravantowingquide.com.au

For stress and incident free travel, don't forget:

- Regular maintenance of your vehicle and trailer is essential!
 For your trailer, a service at least once a year or every 10,000km is recommended. Find your nearest dealer or service and repair provider, by visiting <u>caravanqld.com.au/product_services</u>
- Develop a pre-holiday checklist or download the Caravanning Queensland checklist. Don't forget to include checks you need to do while you are travelling!
- If you aren't confident about towing your caravan, why not check out a towing course. There are several companies who can assist you, allowing you to build confidence before you hit the road. Head to <u>caravangld.com.au</u> to find out more.
- Take advantage of the great education opportunities, including Masterclasses, at our industry run Let's Go Caravan and Camping Shows held across the year.

For more information, visit: caravanqld.com.au caravantowingguide.com.au





and offers a range of accommodation options. The Gold Coast captures the essence of surf culture, and the region's world class dining and entertainment scene make it an unforgettable holiday destination.

Andrew Illingworth, Manager, Gold Coast Tourist Parks

The subtropical Queensland climate means the sunshine is abundant and the weather is warm, even through winter. There are a variety of landscapes to explore, from the long stretches of beach and buzzing urban precincts on the gorgeous coastline to the steeply winding roads, lush rainforests and pretty villages of the Hinterland.

Gold Coast holiday parks, campgrounds and tourist parks are some of the best in Australia, and you can set up camp on a prime piece of beachside real estate for an affordable stay. Park your caravan on the banks of Tallebudgera Creek, in the heart of the action at Main Beach or Burleigh Heads, at a boaties paradise on the Broadwater or wake up to the sounds of waves at Ocean Beach or exotic bird calls echoing through the rainforest at Binna Burra. Jacobs Well Tourist Park on the northern Gold Coast has instant access to the waterways of Moreton Bay Marine Park, and is dog-friendly, as is Kirra Beach Tourist Park. If you're planning to visit Gold Coast's iconic theme parks, there are some nearby holiday parks where you can stay for easy access such as Big4 Gold Coast Holiday Park. Plus they have their own waterparks and lagoon pools onsite, so parents can relax while the kids can enjoy non-stop fun. And if you're planning to travel the Pacific Coast Way, the Gold Coast makes the perfect starting point or final destination on your journey down the Queensland coast from Cairns.

There's such a diverse choice of destinations to visit from the Gold Coast on a day trip, all within a two-hour drive. From the buzzing capital city of Brisbane, to quaint coastal villages and bohemian lifestyle of northern NSW to the beauty of the Scenic Rim. With world-class art and architecture, exceptional eats, picturesque settings plus waterfalls, creeks and seaside adventures all on offer, there's a lot of ground to cover.



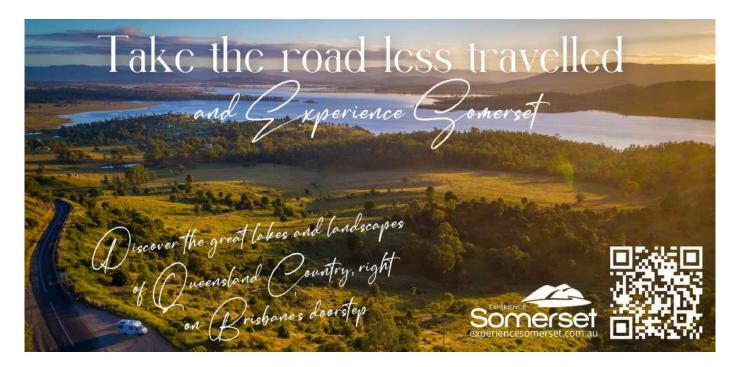


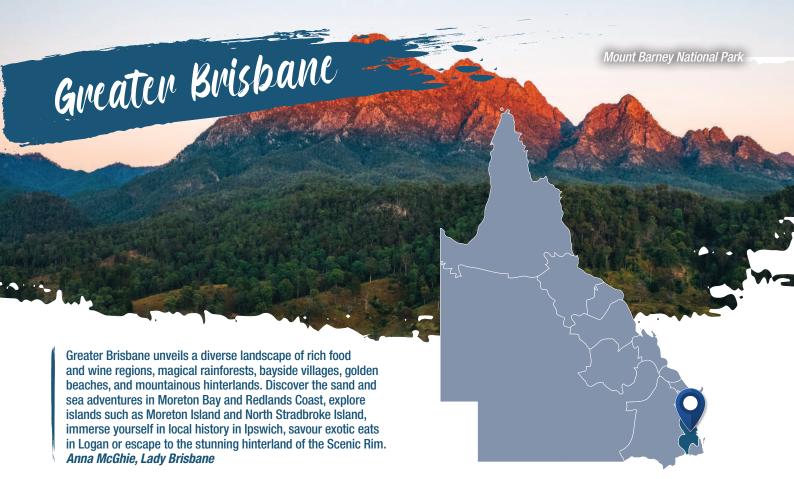
Feeling the pull of country roads and wide open spaces? It might be time to recharge, reconnect and relax in Queensland Country. Jump heart first into the call of a country drive with a region that is well connected via highways and road networks including the Cunningham, New England, D'Aguilar, Brisbane Valley and Gore Highways, the Warrego Way, the Leichhardt Way, the Great Inland Way, the Adventure Way and Australia's Country Way - just to name a few.

Experience the otherworldly beauty and diversity of the culturally significant Carnarvon Gorge as you journey through the Central Queensland Highlands in the north, the flourishing crop country of the Lockyer Valley and Somerset in the east, Queensland's cotton capital of Goondiwindi in the west; the tranquil lakes and weirs and the ancient Bunya Mountains of the Western Downs, then head south to Australia's highest wine region - the Southern Downs & Granite Belt. With the beautiful Garden City of Toowoomba and surrounds right in the middle,

and over 150 small quintessential country towns dotted in between, there are an abundance of bespoke experiences to unearth.

Each corner of the region is distinctly different offering the ultimate day trip, weekender, or a little longer for the get-out-of-towners, wholesome family getaway-ers, part time explorers and even the most daring of adventure-seekers. Climbing precariously balanced granite boulders, hiking through UNESCO-listed rainforests, stunning waterfalls, fields of bright yellow sunflowers, award-winning wines, as well as museums full of foundational history and heritage - these are just some of the adventures awaiting you. Plan your trip in line with one of our many hero events featuring cultural celebrations to quirky festivals. There is something to meet everyone's tastes. Pair these epic activities with bespoke accommodation, local artisanal produce, and friendly characters boasting country hospitality and tales to tell by the bucket loads. It's all here in Queensland Country - we look forward to welcoming you.





Believe a metropolitan area can't offer a great road trip experience? Then you haven't explored Greater Brisbane, where the perfect blend of dining, culture, and adventure awaits.

Let's start with Moreton Island where you'll find sand driving, dolphin feeding, snorkelling and shipwrecks - all a short ferry ride from the world-class facilities and CBD action of Brisbane itself.

Between Moreton Island and the CBD, you will find the Redlands Coast. Here you can explore local beach culture and depart for a North Stradbroke Island adventure.

North of Brisbane is Moreton Bay, a contrasting region offering anything from the aquatic playground of Bribie Island to the renowned Woodford Folk Festival. Relax on soft-sand beaches and at secluded hinterland swimming holes. Energise with high-adrenaline water sports. Eat and

drink your way from the farm-gate to craft breweries and wineries. Follow an arts trail to regional galleries and artisan markets and bushwalk through rainforest and waterfalls.

Moving south of the city you will find Logan with its koalas, exotic eats and Buddhist Chung Tian Temple, and west of the city is Ipswich, a favourite for the kids. Feed a llama, meet bilbies and quolls, travel on a steam train, learn from blacksmiths and bike along a rail trail. When school holidays roll around, Ipswich doubles the fun with events and experiences designed expressly for your younger family members - and all under an hour from the Brisbane CBD.

Rounding off the Greater Brisbane experience is the green paradise of the Scenic Rim, which is home to six national parks and the World-Heritage listed Gondwana Rainforest. So incredible is this region it was named in 2022 by Lonely Planet as one of the top ten Regions in the world to visit!





Australia is a land dominated by vast, expansive landscapes and Outback Queensland has some of the most stunning and unique. Queensland's beautiful backyard is ready and waiting for you to explore. And to fully appreciate this great land with all its diversity and individuality, it's time to pick up a map and take to the road.

The Outback takes us back to our roots, to the heart of what makes us Australian, reminding us of how lucky we are to live in this incredible country.

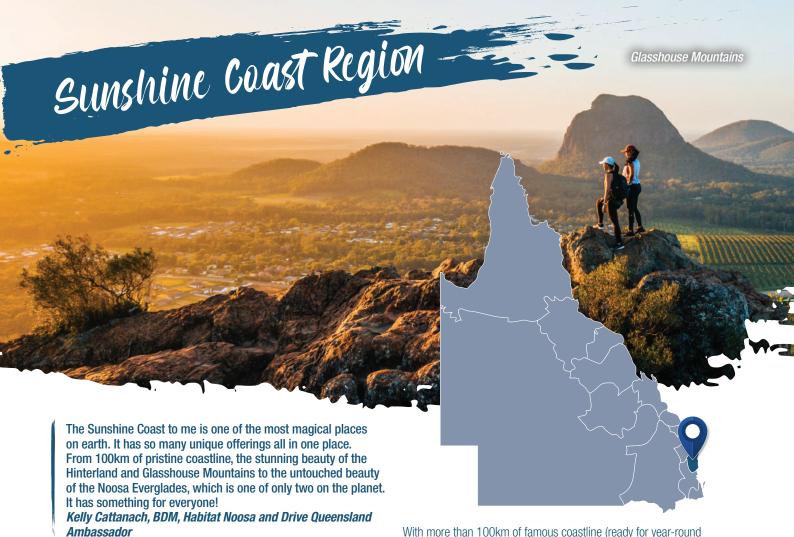
A road trip through the Outback is a fantastic, and utterly iconic way to view this majestic and historical part of our country. Driving across the open roads, with the vast blue sky hugging the red earth, you can imagine a time when dinosaurs roamed here across the plains, or picture how indigenous people worked and lived for tens of thousands of years in

this sacred part of the world. Add in quirky Outback events and cultural festivals, iconic attractions and museums, and our new hot springs bathing trail - and your road trip is complete.

When it comes to choosing how to drive through the Outback, you're only limited by your dreams. If you're starting from Brisbane, you can weave your way through to Birdsville, past the largest cattle yards in the southern hemisphere. From Sydney, you can traverse your way through incredible national parks to Rockhampton or Cooktown. From Melbourne, go from bush to beach, finally stopping on the Capricorn Coast. Wherever you are in Australia, Outback Queensland is waiting to reveal its secrets to you. An outback road trip adventure is the best way to discover our country.

We'll see you on the road!





When it comes to what makes the Sunshine Coast so special, you'll find the clue is in our name. We have a sunny disposition that radiates from the inside out, and when you're on holiday here, you'll start to feel it too. Switch screen time for green time in our lush Hinterland and swap your front yard for our great big blue one - we hope you don't mind sharing it with the locals... the humpbacks, turtles and dolphins that is.

There's plenty to seek and so much to find, from farm to fork experiences to sipping your way through our burgeoning craft beer scene (we are Australia's Craft Beer Capital after all) and discovering pinch-yourself experiences.

With more than 100km of famous coastline (ready for year-round swimming) wrapping around our lush hinterland hills, and a beautiful UNESCO Biosphere Corridor to protect, our community is committed to living sustainably, celebrating all things local, and sharing our picturesque landscapes and abundance of produce.

The Sunshine Coast is located one hour's drive (100km) north of Queensland's capital city, Brisbane. Self-driving with your own car is one of the best ways to explore the region and take in the magnificent scenery.

So what are you waiting for? Come and find your Sunshine Moment, for real, right here on the Sunshine Coast.



Between Normanton and Croydon

An iconic outback experience

From wetlands and grasslands to the arid Savannah, travel aboard the legendary Gulflander for a rail journey like no other.



Fraser Coast/K'gari



The Fraser Coast region beckons road trippers with its historic charm, natural beauty and iconic wildlife. Of course, no visit would be complete without exploring the world's largest sand island - K'gari. Also known as Fraser Island, this area is a paradise for 4WD enthusiasts, offering sandy tracks, ancient rainforests and pristine freshwater lakes. Whether you seek relaxation or adventure, it's a must-see destination! *Madelyn Homes, Lady in a Landy*

The Fraser Coast is Queensland's marine mecca and it all begins on the World-Heritage listed K'gari. Whether you join a guided tour of the island or pop the 4WD on the ferry, indulge in luxury resorts or camp deep in a rainforest, K'gari will become a favourite destination for all the family. With a focus on eco-tourism K'gari offers a multitude of adventures — think exploring shipwrecks, swimming in crystal-clear water and wildlifespotting - all within a pristine natural environment.

While we're talking islands don't miss a trip to Lady Elliot Island, a coral cay on the Southern Great Barrier Reef. Dive, snorkel and swim over coral reefs, play with dolphins and manta rays and watch the miracle of baby turtles hatching and making their away across the white sands to a life in the ocean.

If larger marine creatures take your fancy then you're in luck. Hervey Bay is a holiday spot for humpback whales on their annual migration along the east coast and between July and October tour boats can get you up close and personal with these magnificent creatures. Hervey Bay is also a great place to sit back and relax. While away the hours on family-friendly beaches and top off the day with mouth-watering meals at one of the many fine-dining experiences.

But the Fraser Coast is more than marine! Dry out for a day or two at historic Maryborough, which has a proud military past that stretches from the beaches of Gallipoli to the construction of naval ships. Explore it all at the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum.

Continue your journey along the waterways of Tiaro & Hinterland and you will discover that the Fraser Coast really does offer something for everyone. It's a Queensland driving holiday only 360km north of Brisbane!





Welcome to the Bundaberg region, where Great Care begins.

Care for our curious sea turtles, magnificent manta rays, intricate corals and giant marine life that call the Southern Great Barrier Reef home. Care for our incredible mumma turtles and adorable hatchlings who visit our shoreline every summer. And Care for our vast farmland, rich red soil and hardworking locals who provide fresh produce for the nation 365 days a year.

Bundaberg is the first city on the Southern Great Barrier Reef, and is located an easy four hour drive of Brisbane. Take the Burnett Highway (A3) as part of the alternate route from Brisbane or Sydney to Rockhampton or travel the Pacific Coast Way (Bruce Highway) north and enjoy the drive as you discover all that our region has to offer.

From our sandy shores, get to know the ladies of the reef, Lady Musgrave Island and Lady Elliot Island, and swim with the giant marine life that frequent these plankton-rich waters. Witness a miracle at Mon Repos,

as the mumma turtles haul themselves up the beach and the hatchlings scurry to meet the rhythmic waves.

Come dine with us year-round with fresh, abundant produce being grown, caught, brewed and distilled 12 months of the year. Explore Australia's most awarded distillery experience at the Bundaberg Rum Visitor Service. Learn about the history of Australia's favourite ginger beer and taste test all the great flavours of the family-owned national icon of Bundaberg Brewed Drinks. Discover where great grows.

A scenic drive inland and you'll find yourself in the North Burnett, boasting a myriad of landscapes to explore from rugged gorges, imposing mountain ranges, serene rural views and the mighty Burnett River winding its way to the ocean. Be greeted by great freshwater fishing sites and towns offering friendly country hospitality.

Bundaberg has all the ingredients of the perfect holiday; accessible reef, stunning beaches, mouth-watering food and experiences to last a lifetime.





Gladstone Region, the gateway to the Southern Great Barrier Reef, boasts pristine beaches, coral cays, uninhabited islands and inland gems including untouched hinterland with breathtaking ranges, national parks, and Queensland's most fabulous fishing spots, such as Lake Awoonga.

Indulge in coffee, art, and history, whilst you browse the exhibits at The Blue Mirror Café, the Regional Art Gallery & Museum, or the Maritime Museum. Quench your thirst with a locally brewed beer at Ward's Brewery, recently revamped using recycled materials to transform the heritage space into a rustic sustainable brewpub. Stroll through the award-winning Tondoon Botanic Gardens or relish the local seafood with a view at Auckland House, Gladstone Yacht Club or the more laid-back Gladstone Fish Market.

Ferry services to the reef and nearby islands depart from the scenic Marina Parklands. Hop on a City Sites tour to discover what makes Gladstone such an influential dynamic city. Nearby Boyne Island and

Tannum Sands have beautiful, patrolled beaches, an esplanade along the foreshore, and fully serviced campgrounds.

The Discovery Coast's Agnes Water and the Town of 1770, which together were awarded 2021 Queensland Top Small Tourism Town, are blessed with Queensland's most northern surf beaches, walking trails, and picturesque waterways. They have fully serviced campgrounds with wonderful water views and easy beach access. Nearby Eurimbula National Park is a paradise for bushwalkers and boaties.

If you prefer to forego the fancy facilities and escape to a secluded spot with stunning scenery of the open ocean and coastline, rugged and isolated Curtis Island National Park will not disappoint. With its raw natural beauty, the national park is accessible via Curtis Ferry Services. Its long beaches and sweeping sand dunes provide solitude for the novice or more adventurous with 4WD-accessible camping.





Set on the Tropic of Capricorn, in Central Queensland, the Capricorn Coast region and its hinterland of Rockhampton is a laidback holiday destination offering some of Australia's best kept secrets. From island hopping and ocean swims, to chic cafes and cultural city vibes - you will always feel welcome in this part of the world.

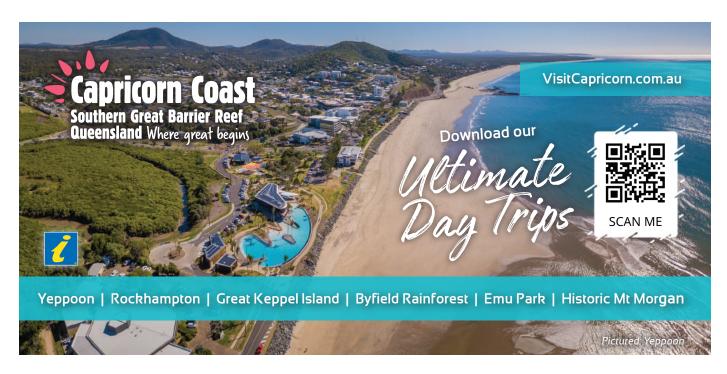
The Capricorn Coast is paradise. The main townships of Yeppoon and Emu Park are surrounded by beautiful stretches of coastline where subtropical waters meet uncrowded beaches. Stretching 95km from Stanage Bay in the north to the mouth of the Fitzroy River in the south, this coastline is speckled with beachside communities boasting quirky street art, classy boutiques, fantastic fishing and fresh local produce. The coastal life would not be complete without the amazing Keppel Bay Islands, just 30 minutes off the coast of Yeppoon. Be sure to take a day trip to Great Keppel Island or stay longer in the relaxed island accommodation.

For insta-worthy swimming holes and pockets of rainforest, a visit to the village of Byfield and Byfield National Park should also be at the top of your list when exploring this area, visiting Cooberrie Park Wildlife Sanctuary and Capricorn Dinosaur Park on the way. A mere 40 minute drive inland from Yeppoon, Rockhampton has reinvented itself as a city offering classy eateries and microbreweries.

The city basks on the banks of the swirling Fitzroy River (Tunuba) and has a fabulous riverfront precinct. Presided over by the imposing Customs House and lined with elegantly restored Victorian buildings, you'll find yourself gravitating to this neck of the woods for dining and nightlife.

The award-winning Nurim Circuit Elevated Boardwalk at Mount Archer National Park overlooks the city and your eyes will open wide to views spanning across the region from its peak 604m above ground.

North of the city is the magnificent Capricorn Caves and east is Koorana Crocodile Farm. Located 38km west of Rockhampton, and 240m above sea level, is Mount Morgan - one of the most charming gold mining towns in Australia. Rising and falling over the hills and valleys, Mount Morgan is full of wooden houses and a history reaching back to the late 1800's. A visit to this historic township is a must!





Come face-to-face with nature

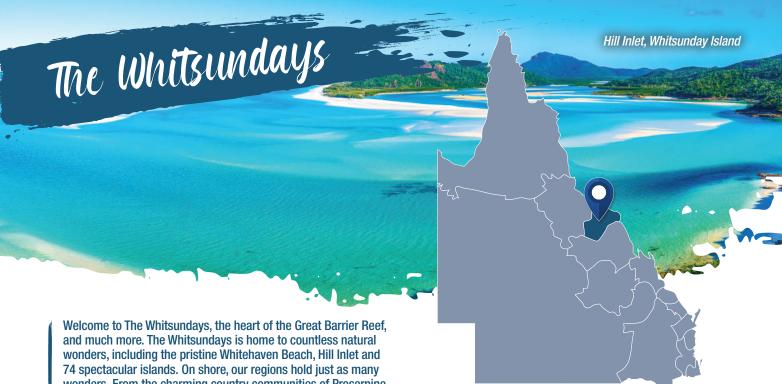
Home to Australia's longest stretch of subtropical rainforest, Mackay Isaac presents no end of opportunities to explore untouched nature and the region's multitude of breathtaking and pristine national parks.

A trip to Mackay Isaac promises natural encounters that make you feel like you're chartering your own adventure - whether it be exploring

secluded beaches, casting a line, discovering tropical islands just offshore or heading inland on the Peak Downs Highway to discover a diverse rugged playground, where the golden red soil of the outback contrasts with the 'black gold' extracted from the mineral-rich Isaac Plains coal mines.

Take your pick from one of these bucket list experiences to explore on your Mackay Isaac Region travels.





wonders. From the charming country communities of Proserpine and Collinsville to the relaxed seaside towns of Bowen and Airlie Beach, The Whitsundays has something to offer both adrenaline lovers and relaxation seekers.

Rick Hamilton, CEO, Tourism Whitsundays

Whether you're looking for a luxurious romantic getaway or an action-packed family adventure, you'll find your dream escape in The Whitsundays while snorkelling the reef, island camping, resort hopping or sailing around the 74 island wonders.

With some of the most sought-after bucket-list experiences, The Whitsundays is the ideal tropical holiday oasis. Sink your toes into the pristine white sand of the award-winning Whitehaven Beach with its crystal-clear turquoise waters, and witness the breathtaking views from Hill Inlet lookout at the island's northern tip.

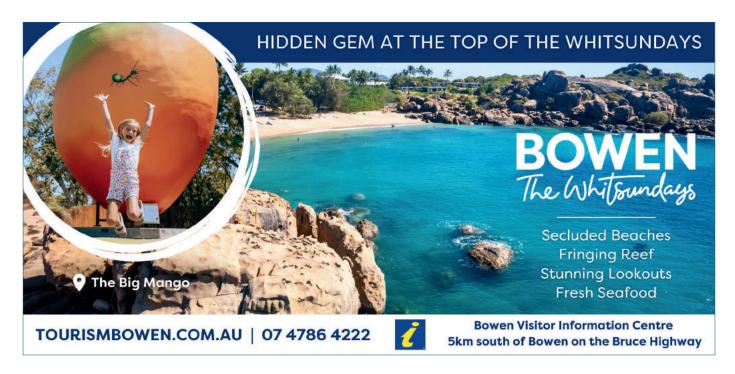
Explore the Great Barrier Reef and Whitsunday Islands from above, below and in between with the opportunity to snorkel, dive, sail or fly over the magnificent Coral Sea. While you're there, make sure you don't miss Heart Reef, a stunning natural composition of coral in the perfect shape of a heart found nowhere else in the Great Barrier Reef.

When you get back to the mainland, the tropical resort town of Airlie Beach is ready to welcome you; its main street is filled with delicious restaurants, bars, and specialty shops, as well as the famous Airlie Beach Lagoon, where families and couples can sit, relax and BBQ all day.

Take a trip to Bowen, home to some of the most beautiful, secluded beaches in The Whitsundays and visit the jaw-dropping Horseshoe Bay, which regularly features on Australia's best beaches lists for its huge granite boulder outcrops and stunning reef found only metres from the shore. Don't forget to stop at the Big Mango for some of their famous Bowen Mango Sorbet!

If you're looking for country hospitality, the charming town of Proserpine has much to offer, with old-fashioned charm, Art Deco architecture and a friendly, laid-back community. Continue exploring and head west to Collinsville, the heart of the Whitsundays' Outback and witness the fascinating history of their underground mines.

Whichever adventure you choose, The Whitsundays offers a diverse and magical experience for everyone at any budget.





region. We are the authentic heart of regional Queensland, and the events capital of the North. This is a place for curious explorers - from tropical island beaches, lush rainforest trails, to dusty Outback drives, there's so much just waiting to be explored. Discover something new, or familiar but with a twist. Are you up for unexpected?

Lisa Woolfe, Director Visitor Economy and Marketing, Townsville Enterprise

A thriving urban metropolis and renowned hub for major sport and events - Townsville is the largest regional centre in Northern Australia. Lounge in modern luxury in Townsville to explore vast Australian landscapes - all within a 90 minute drive. No matter what your holiday style, Townsville North Queensland offers a diverse range of historical, military, outback, active and tranquil experiences, complete with over 300 days of sunshine each year.

As the official headquarters of the Great Barrier Reef, Townsville is the launchpad to the central section of this natural wonder. Home to diverse coral and marine life, immerse in one of the world's most spectacular ecosystems. Exclusive to Townsville, dive deeper to appreciate the story of the reef, at the Museum of Underwater Art. The Coral Greenhouse (dive attraction), and Ocean Sentinels Snorkel Trail - located on John Brewer Reef - is an aquatic artscape with a twist, offering citizen scientists the opportunity to see reef conservation in action.

Take your car and explore Magnetic Island just 8km from Townsville. With palm-fringed beaches, large granite boulders, hoop pines, sandy beaches and fringing coral reefs, this island is a nature-lovers paradise. Home to Northern Australia's largest colony of wild koalas, and a mecca for marine science, 'Maggie' (as it's affectionately known) is a true Great Barrier Reef island experience.

Step back in time and discover the authentic 'golden' charm and elegance of Charters Towers. With unexplored waterways, remote bush camping, and hearty meals at local cafes and eateries - your laid-back visit is sure to unearth some surprises.

The Burdekin district is nestled in the delta of the mighty Burdekin River, with its two main townships - Ayr and Home Hill - linked by the iconically historic Burdekin Bridge. Well-known as the sugar cane capital of Australia, the Burdekin offers fantastic fishing, wetlands rich in biodiversity and birdlife.

The Hinchinbrook Region is the gateway to the stunning World-Heritage Wet Tropics, and home to Australia's tallest waterfall - Wallaman Falls; surrounded by ancient tropical rainforest, rugged tropical islands, and the Great Barrier Reef, this fishing mecca is rich in culture and charm.





Charters Towers Visitor Information Centre
74 Mosman Street, Charters Towers Qld 4820 | T: 07 4761 5533
www.visitcharterstowers.com.au | #unearthoursecrets





Nothing beats a good old-fashioned road trip. Whether it's a leisurely weekend drive or a lengthy getaway, hitting the road in Tropical North Queensland offers unbridled freedom. So fasten your seatbelt, shuffle your favourite playlist and settle back as you journey through the tropics.

The Tropical North Queensland region stretches from Cardwell, north to the tip of Cape York and the Torres Strait Islands, and west to the border of Queensland and the Northern Territory, offering an array of drive adventures.

Take the scenic route and travel along the Great Barrier Reef Drive for unparalleled views of the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics rainforest as you head north to Cape Tribulation. Enjoy natural wonders, mouthwatering beachfront eateries, wildlife parks, cultural experiences and, of course, a trip out to the Great Barrier Reef.

If red dirt, gems and gorges are more your thing, opt for the Savannah Way. Famously traversing 3 states and territories, this is one of most

popular family-friendly adventures through Tropical North Queensland.

With almost 4000km of true-blue Aussie outback, peppered with famous fishing hubs, bird-watching hotspots, fossicking sites and cattle stations, this is one for the bucket-list.

We might have saved the best for last - if you're ready to tackle one of Australia's most remote landscapes then a trip to The Tip (of Cape York) is for you. Discover epic 4WD tracks, explore beautiful sandy beaches and ancient culture as you challenge yourself (and your car) to this legendary adventure.

There's even something for the electric vehicles around here, with a series of EV-friendly itineraries through Cairns, Port Douglas and Daintree, Atherton Tablelands, Mission Beach and more.

So what are you waiting for? Start planning your next trip to the tropics and hit the road!



Mareeba Heritage Museum & Visitor Centre Phone (07) 4092 5674 www.mareebaheritagecentre.com.au Kuranda Visitor Information Centre Phone (07) 4093 9311 www.kuranda.org





Kuranda | Mareeba | Chillagoe | Mt Molloy | Irvinebank





Last Saturday I did a 200km day trip from Toowoomba and I found the Australian Army Flying Museum, the heritage-listed Muntapa railway tunnel, remnant rainforests and National Parks. That's why I love working with Drive Inland because we curate road trips for regional Queensland just like this one. I'd like to invite everyone to step over the range and see what we can offer. From the colours of the outback to misty mountains and historic villages we can provide you with local knowledge for your own adventure.

Ross Begent, Principal Tourism and Events, Toowoomba Regional Council

Had enough of the crowds and bright lights? Sick of beach sand getting in unwanted places? Looking for a holiday with a difference? Well, you're in luck.

Drive Inland has curated 40 road trips to guide you through the best of regional Queensland. Some trips require the investment of a week or so of time and wind along routes from southern capitals such as Sydney. Other trips are 20km jaunts showcasing the best features of an inland town. So, let's explore!

Heading south to north is Australia's Country Way stretching 1380km

from Sydney to Rockhampton along the Great Dividing Range. Want to then head west from Rocky? How about the 580km Capricorn Way to Barcaldine, the gateway to dinosaurs.

Or if you'd prefer an epic east west road trip we can recommend the Adventure Way, 1397km from Brisbane to Innamincka in South Australia. And while you're in the western part of Queensland why not discover Thargomindah on a 20km loop road? You'll soon find out what Paris, London and Thargo have in common (hint, it's got to do with street lighting).

Hungry? We've got some amazing gastronomic road trips. Take the 134km Grapes and Gourmets Drive from Nanango to Maidenwell or wander along 536km in the Scenic Rim on the Gourmet Country Escape. Fancy some fishing? We've got the 349km Southern Inland Fishing Route through St George to Bollon, the 150km Fishing the Fitzroy Drive from Rockhampton to Point Alma and the 307km Fishing Trail Long Weekend from Yarraman to Boondooma.

Then we can guide you through opal fields at Yowah, rainforests at the Bunya Mountains, bird watching at Ban Ban Springs and luxury indulgences not far from Brisbane. What are you waiting for? Come and explore inland Queensland today!





Pets are part of our family so of course we want to take them on our great Queensland driving adventure and the good news is there are a growing number of accommodation options that are pet friendly. Here are our tips for enjoyable travel with your furred (or feathered or scaled) friend.

Keep them safe

Queensland can be a hot place and dogs feel the heat more than us so keep them hydrated, don't leave them in a vehicle and protect their feet from hot pavements and sand (yes, you can even buy boots for your dog). In northern Queensland be mindful of crocodiles and keep your pets away from the water's edge. Other nasties to watch out for are Ehrlichiosis - a deadly tick-borne virus present in northern Queensland and poisons laid on rural properties for vermin control.

Keep them out

National Parks, for example, do not allow any pets, nor do many private landholders - please ask before taking your pet. During the months of November to April some Queensland beaches are closed to pets because of turtle nesting. Monitoring the nesting and then hatching of endangered turtles is a wonder to behold and no-one wants a dog inadvertently

digging up a nest. Always heed local warnings and advice.

Be Responsible

You know the drill: clean up after your pet, keep the noise down and respect the privacy of others.

Find a dog-sitter

Your dog may not be allowed in a National Park but that doesn't mean you should miss out. Pet-sitting, AKA Doggy Daycare, is becoming more and more popular with a growing number of services in towns across Queensland. Book your pet in for a day or two and give them a holiday of their own.

Have fun

From dog friendly beaches to offshore islands and from river cruises to public gardens there are many ways to incorporate your family friend into your holiday. You can even take them on the dinosaur trail at Hughenden or find dedicated agility/exercise parks in the smallest of towns such as at Barkly Park at Bororen.







6 JULY

Youth Music Organisation

MACKAY GREAT GABLE KITSCHEN BOY

6-7 JULY

YUWIBARA COUNTRY IN CAPE HILLSBOROUGH

CHRISTINE ANU (SAT) JOSH PYKE (SUN) **TIA GOSTELOW (SAT & SUN)**

13 JULY

NORTHERLIES. WHITSUNDAYS

THE BLACK SEEDS **PINK MATTER KURILPA REACH** FLYING DOUBLE FRONT KICK

COAST INTO PARADISE THIS JULY

TICKETS AND INFO AT QLDMUSICTRAILS.COM

OUMUSIC WALK







JANUARY

9-16 Magic Millions Yearling Sales and Race Day, Gold Coast 12-31 Fishing the Fitzroy, Rockhampton

Usher Cup surf contest, Coolangatta 18

26 OzFest, Townsville

FEBRUARY

The Love Train, **Gympie** 14

16-18 Blues, Roots and Rock Festival, Agnes Water Hell of the West Festival, Goondiwindi 23-24 23-3 Mar Apple & Grape Festival, Stanthorpe 25 Gravity Enduro, Kooralbyn, Scenic Rim

28-31 Harbour Festival. Gladstone

MARCH

Ocean Film Festival, Cairns 9 Summer Salt, Hervey Bay 22-23 Pink in concert, Townsville 23 **Monto** Races 24 Feast of the Senses. Innisfail

APRIL

5-6 Way Out West Festival, Winton Queensland Knife Show, Ipswich 13-14 13-21 The Outback Trail, QLD Music Trails 19-20 Dirt 'n' Dust Festival, Julia Creek

MAY

3-5 **Hughenden** Festival of Outback Skies Beef 2024, Rockhampton 5-11 10-12 Opera At Jimbour, **Dalby** Road to Rodeo Mount Isa 11 14-20 Festival of Outback Opera, Outback QLD 16-17 Port Douglas Carnivale

18 **Nebo** Rodeo 24-26 **Mackay** Expo 24-26 1770 Festival

24-26 Goomeri Pumpkin Festival

JUNE

Relish Food and Wine Festival, Maryborough 2 **Cairns** Ecofiesta 15-21 July **Outback** Queensland Masters (Golf) 16 Great Whitehaven Beach Run, Whitsundays 21-23 St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend Motorcycle Beach Races, Mackay 23 23 Rock 'N' Reef Trail Run, Bowen

JULY

27

2-4 Big Red Bash, Birdsville 5 Reef Trail Meet-Up, Mackay All-Ages: Great Gable & Kitschen Boy, Mackay 6 6-7 Between The Tides, Mackay 5-7 Supercars, Townsville

Women's State of Origin, Townsville



12-14	Boulia Camel Races
13	Swell Day, Whitsundays
13	PBR Monster Energy Tour - Origin III Cairns
18-28	Jumpers and Jazz in July, Warwick
20-21	Airlie Beach Marathon Festival
19-28	Noosa Alive
24-28	Childers Festival
26-28	Rockhampton River Festival
27-28	Airlie Beach Triathlon

AUGUST 1-4

1-4	Whitsundays Great Barrier Reef Festival
2-4	Tara Festival of Culture and Camels
8	Mount Isa Mines Indigenous Rodeo Championships
9-11	Mount Isa Mines Rodeo
10-18	The Ekka (Brisbane Royal Show)
15-24	World Triathlon & Multisport Championships, Townsville
17-18	75th Historic Leyburn Sprints
17-24	Hamilton Island Race Week
22-25	Gympie Music Muster
29-5 Sep	Magnetic Island Race Week
30-1 Sep	Swim Around Keppel

SEPTEMBER

30 Aug - 8 Taste Bundaberg Festival

6-7	Birdsville Races
6-8	Don River Dash
6-8	Whitehaven Long Lunch
8	Whitsunday Trail Fest
13-7 Oct	75th Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers
13-15	Mitchell Creek Rock N Blues Fest, Mary Valley
20-22	Wallaby Creek Festival
26-13 Oct	North Australia Festival of Arts, Townsville
27-30	Land Rover Gathering, Hervey Bay
	<u> </u>

OCTOBER

2-7	Rhythm and the Reef, Mackay
4-7	Big Skie Festival, Jimbour near Dalby
5 -7	Australian Camp Oven Festival, Millmerran
11-13	Savannah in the Round, Mareeba
21-27	Warwick Rodeo and Gold Cup Campdraft

NOVEMBER

1-2	Professional Bull Riding Australia Grand Final, Townsville
1-3	Camp and sCare Halloween Weekend, Airlie Beach
1-10	Pan Pacific Masters Games, Gold Coast
2	Halloween and Dia de Los Muertos, Gladstone
7-10	Airlie Beach Festival of Music

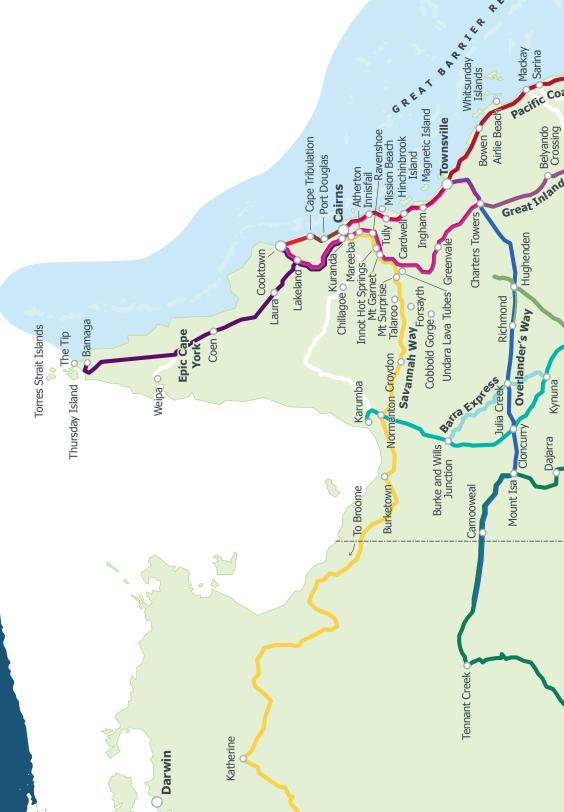
DECEMBER

20	Mount Morgan Twilight Christmas Concert
31	Cameron Corner New Year's Eve Party
31	New Year's Eve Rodeo, Mitchell
31	New Year's Eve Spectacular, Roma

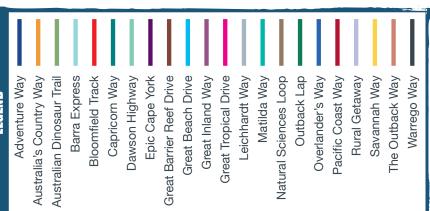




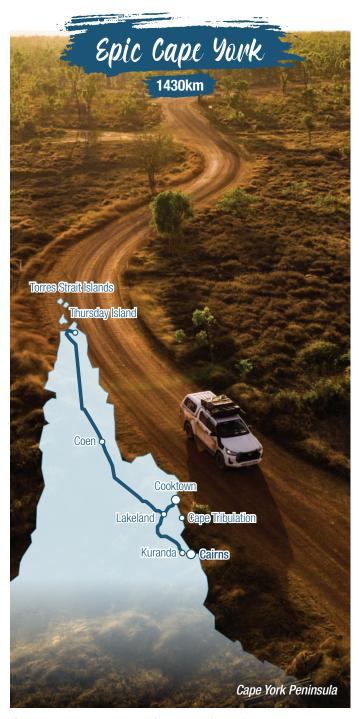
Drive Queensland Highway Map



FEVE







Cairns - Kuranda - Lakeland - Cooktown - Coen - Bamaga

Condition: 4WD, unsealed

Best Months to Travel: May to October

One of Australia's epic adventures, a trip to The Tip is a must for the well-prepared

Key Attractions:

- Be amazed at the colours at Birdworld, Kuranda
- Take in the view from Grassy Hill Lookout, Cooktown
- Visit the James Cook Museum, Cooktown
- Cool-off in Isabella Falls in Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park
- Quench your thirst at Coen's Exchange Hotel
- Detour to **Weipa** for some off-shore fishing
- Visit the Moreton Telegraph Station
- Stay a night at Bramwell Station
- Take a dip at Fruit Bat Falls, Twin Falls and Eliot Falls, Jardine River National Park
- Set up camp and relax by the Arafura Sea at Punsand Bay
- Take a selfie at **The Tip** the northernmost point of the Australian continent



Punsand Bay is the ultimate base for any Cape York adventure. Our address is right on the beach, just 5kms south-west of Australia's most northern point, The Tip "Pajinka". Our view takes in the beautiful blues of the Arafura Sea which wraps around the tropical archipelago of the Torres Strait Islands.

Punsand Bay is a family owned and operated off-grid business offering guests a range of air-conditioned rooms, beachfront cabins, powered/unpowered campsites and The Corrugation Bar & Restaurant.

CAPE YORK CAMPING PUNSAND BAY

07 4069 1722 | Lot 11 Punsand Bay Road, Bamaga, QLD, 4876 www.capeyorkcamping.com.au





Cape York Jetski Tours is the ULTIMATE Jetski adventure and destination, based in the vibrant coastal community of Seisia! Experience thrilling rides like Jetski The TIP (Pajinka), Jetski Island Cruise, Jetski Fishing, and Jetski Thursday Island. Our tours explore stunning cultural and world heritage sites of Cape York Peninsula, Torres Strait Islands, and The Great Barrier Reef. With unforgettable HEART-PUMPING rides suitable for all levels, friendly guides, 10 per group, JETSKI NOW and PAY LATER! No licence or experience needed.

CAPE YORK JETSKI TOURS

Phone: 1300JETSKI | 220 Tumema Street, Seisia, QLD 4876 www.capeyorkjetskitours.com.au bookings@capeyorkjetskitours.com.au

Follow us 6 @ @capeyorkjetski





The one stop destination for everything in the heart of Cape Tribulation

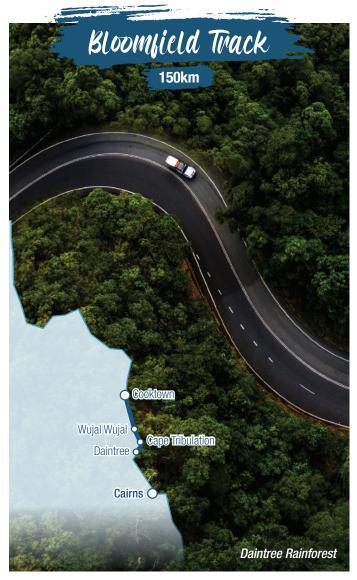
- Beachfront
- #1 Camping Spot
- Ensuite Cabins
- Shared Rooms
- Onsite Swimming pool
- Fully Licensed Pub and Bistro
- Live Music
- Bottle Shop
- Convenience Store

Serving Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

PK'S ECO VILLAGE CAPE TRIBULATION

07 4098 0040 | www.pksjunglevillage.com.au Follow us **6** @pksjungle **6** @pksjunglevillage





Daintree - Cape Tribulation - Wujal Wujal - Cooktown

Condition: 4WD, unsealed

Best Months to Travel: May to October

Take an unforgettable road-trip through this World Heritage Area where the rainforest meets the reef

Key Attractions:

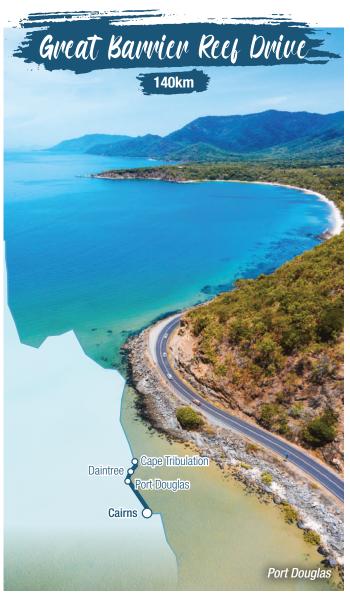
- Load your 4WD onto the Daintree River Ferry
- Book a tour with Cooper Creek Wilderness in the Daintree Rainforest
- Pop in for a beve at Cape Tribulation's local, PK's Eco Village
- Taste exotic fruits at Cape Trib Farm, Cape Tribulation
- Learn about country from Traditional Owners, Wujal Wujal
- Grab a selfie at Wujal Wujal (Bloomfield) Falls
- Lunch at the historic Lions Den Hotel
- Take a 20 minute scenic detour through Archer Point Conservation Park
- Visit the James Cook Museum, Cooktown
- Enjoy sunset from Grassy Hill Lookout, Cooktown



Enjoy a unique perspective of Queensland's World Heritage listed Wet Tropics Rainforest with Skyrail Rainforest Cableway. Explore Red Peak and Barron Falls to discover this universally accessible 90-minute experience, and unlock the secrets of the oldest tropical rainforest on earth.

Skyrail.
Rainforest Cableway

SKYRAIL RAINFOREST CABLEWAY skyrail.com.au | 07 4038 5555



Cairns - Port Douglas - Daintree - Cape Tribulation

Condition: 2WD, sealed **Best Months to Travel:** All year

All the best of Tropical North Queensland rolled into one short and sweet drive

Key Attractions:

- Snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef, Cairns
- Treat yourself to a luxurious massage, Palm Cove
- Get up close with the crocodiles at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures
- Dine in one of the specialty restaurants, Port Douglas
- Swim at Mossman Gorge in the ancient Daintree Rainforest
- Join a Dreamtime Walk, Mossman Gorge
- Stay in the rainforest canopy at Silky Oaks Lodge
- Indulge in tropical fruit sweets, Daintree Ice Cream Co.
- Walk through the rainforest to the beach, Cape Tribulation
- Challenge yourself on the 7km hike to the summit of Mount Sorrow

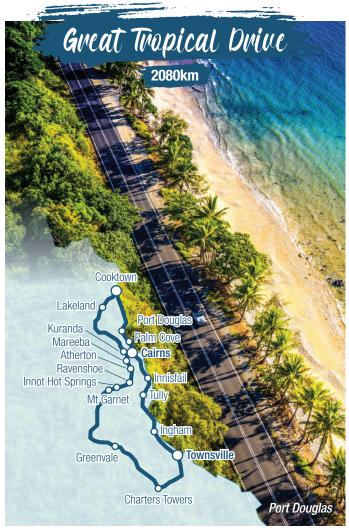


REEF INFO

We are a locally owned Visitor Information Centre and have been operating right here in Cairns for over 20 years. Our staff are the friendliest and most experienced you will come across and we take great pleasure in offering you the best advice for whatever you'd love to experience in Tropical North Queensland and afar!

REEF INFO VISITOR CENTRE

Shop 1, 34 The Esplanade, Cairns QLD 4870 Ph: (07) 4031 9566 | www.reefinfo.com.au



Cairns - Innisfail - Tully - Ingham - Townsville - Charters Towers - Mt Garnet - Atherton - Mareeba - Kuranda - Cooktown - Port Douglas - Cairns

Condition: *2WD, sealed* **Best Months to Travel:** *All year*

From bush to beach, the Great Tropical Drive gives you a true taste of northern Queensland

Key Attractions:

- Snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef, Cairns
- Enjoy a cocktail at Salt House, Cairns
- Dine in one of the specialty restaurants, Port Douglas
- Swim at Mossman Gorge
- Enjoy sunset from Grassy Hill Lookout, Cooktown
- Purchase locally grown coffee, Mareeba
- Take the waterfall circuit, Atherton Tablelands
- Soak in mineral hot springs in **Innot Hot Springs**
- View Australia's largest mosaic at Goldtower. Charters Towers
- Visit the Queensland Museum Tropics, Townsville
- Get insta-famous at the Cardwell Spa Pool
- See a fairy-tale castle, Paronella Park
- Explore the mysterious Babinda Boulders



Why not relax on a daybed and enjoy a cocktail and tapas overlooking the Trinity Inlet? Or dine in the a la carte restaurant, which has an extensive range of dishes produced with local ingredients by experienced chefs

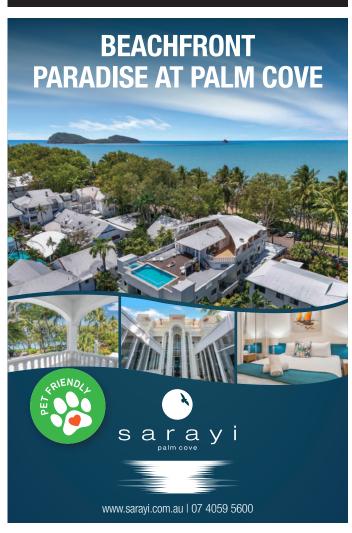
SALT HOUSE

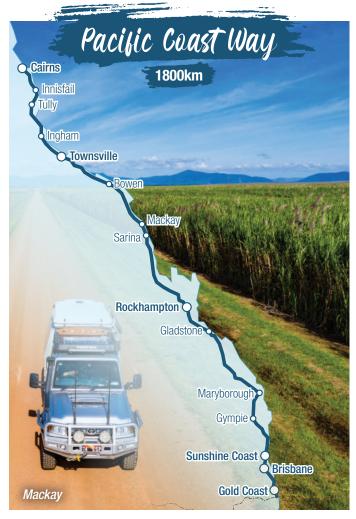
07 4041 7733 greatviews@salthouse.com.au www.salthouse.com.au

❸ ③ ② SaltHouseCairns









Gold Coast - Brisbane - Gladstone - Rockhampton - Mackay - Bowen - Townsville - Cairns

Condition: 2WD, sealed **Best Months to Travel:** All year

Queensland's ultimate coastal road trip

Kev Attractions:

- Park up the caravan at the Big4 Gold Coast Holiday Park
- Explore the theme parks on the Gold Coast
- Discover the Glasshouse Mountains, Sunshine Coast
- Jump aboard the Mary Valley Rattler, **Gympie**
- Detour to whale watch, Hervey Bay
- Detour to take a tipple at the **Bundaberg** Rum Distillery
- 4WD into the rugged Kroombit Tops, Gladstone
- Eat the country's best steak, Rockhampton
- Indulge in food and liqueurs at the Sarina Sugar Shed
- Visit Bowen's Big Mango
- Dive the Yongala wreck, Townsville
- Birdwatch at Tyto Wetlands, Ingham
- Go white-water rafting, Tully
- Explore the waterfalls, Innisfail
- Snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef, Cairns

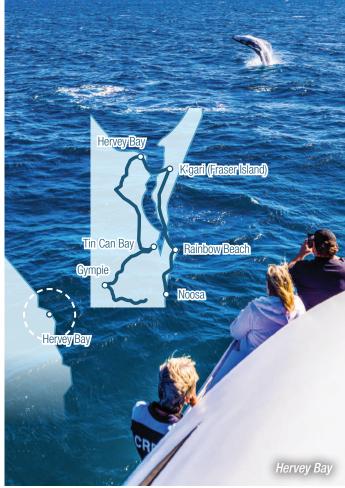


With lush surroundings and top-notch amenities, it's a haven for families and adventurers alike. Boasting a range of accommodations and activities, including waterpark, pool, playground, café and much more. They are dog friendly and close to all major theme parks.

BIG4 GOLD COAST HOLIDAY PARK

07 5514 4400 | stay@gcpark.com.au 66-86 Siganto Drive, Helensvale, QLD 4212 goldcoastholidaypark.com.au



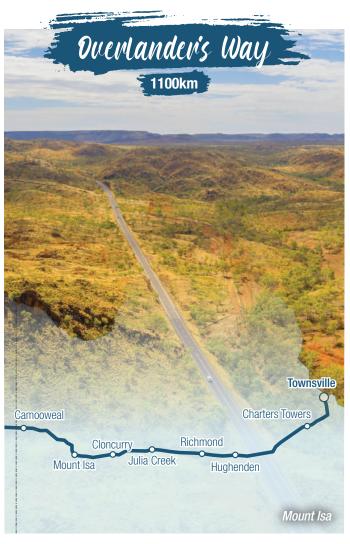


Noosa - K'gari - Hervey Bay - Tin Can Bay

Condition: 4WD, sealed/sand **Best Months to Travel:** All year

Take the 4WD for a spin in Queensland's sandy playground

- Get the latest drive news from Great Sandy Information Centre, Noosa
- Explore the everglades at **Habitat Noosa**
- Catch the vehicle ferry to Noosa North Shore
- Drive along white sand beaches, Great Sandy National Park
- Picnic at the coloured sands, Teewah Beach
- Climb to the lighthouse, **Double Island Point**
- Horse-ride along the sand, Rainbow Beach
- Board the barge and cross to **K'gari** (Fraser Island)
- Explore **K'gari** the world's largest sand island
- Whale watch, Hervey Bay
- Cruise Hervey Bay on sunset
- Feed the dolphins, Tin Can Bay
- Feast on fish and chips, Tin Can Bay



Camooweal - Mount Isa - Cloncurry - Julia Creek - Richmond -Hughenden - Charters Towers - Townsville

Condition: 2WD. sealed **Best Months to Travel:** All year

Follow in the footsteps of the droving pioneers and feel the freedom of the open road as you traverse the breadth of Queensland

Key Attractions:

- Take a guided tour at the Droving Heritage Centre, Camooweal
- Delve underground on a mine tour, Mount Isa
- Catch the world-famous **Mount Isa** rodeo
- Stay a night or 2 at Sunset Tourist Park, Mount Isa
- Explore the ghost town of Mary Kathleen. Cloncurry
- Visit the John Flynn Place Museum and Fred McKay Art Gallery,
- Indulge in artesian baths, Julia Creek
- Channel your inner palaeontologist with the dinosaurs, Richmond
- Discover Australia's mini Grand Canyon at Porcupine Gorge, Hughenden
- See the mosaics at Goldtower, Charters Towers
- Take a day trip to Magnetic Island, Townsville

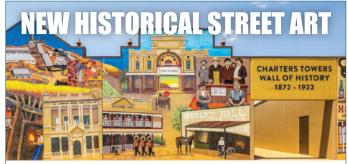


Water Country People

Julia Creek, located in north-west Outback Queensland, is known as the "Gateway to the Gulf" due to its location on the Overlander's Way. It has transformed from a sheep and cattle grazing town to a destination for sport, culture and relaxation.



Phone (07) 4746 7690



Discover historical gold mining town Charters Towers through this new and vibrant art trail at Goldtower Central! Marvel at The World, a striking stainlesssteel globe sitting at 7 metres high with a 4 metre diameter - a nod to the town's storied past; feast your eyes on Australia's largest hand-made mosaic, the Charters Towers Wall of History 1872-1922, spanning an impressive 80 metres; and meander through the Peter Lawson mosaics which bring to life his stunning oil paintings from the 1980s.

THE WORLD AND GOLD RUSH MOSAIC TRAIL FREE SELF-GUIDED TRAIL

Goldtower Central I 32 New Queen Road, Charters Towers, QLD www.goldtower.com.au



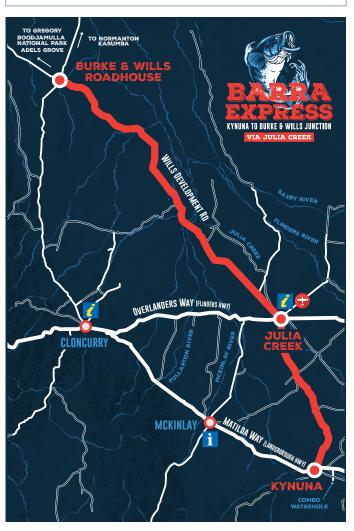


JOHN FLYNN PLACE

John Flynn Place honours a great Australian visionary who transformed outback life. The museum is located in Cloncurry for it was here that Flynn began his flying doctor experiment and pioneered his scheme of outback radio communication.

JOHN FLYNN PLACE

Corner Daintree and King Street, Cloncurry Phone (07) 4742 4174 Email johnflynnplace@cloncurry.qld.gov.au





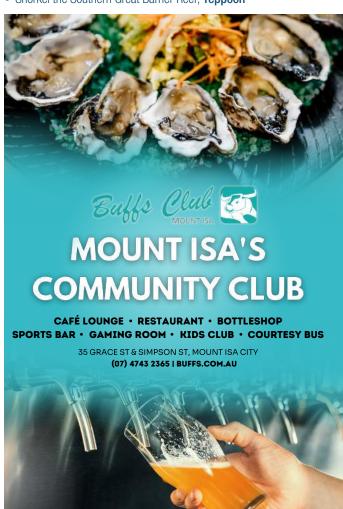
Barcaldine - Alpha - Anakie - Emerald - Blackwater - Rockhampton - Yeppoon

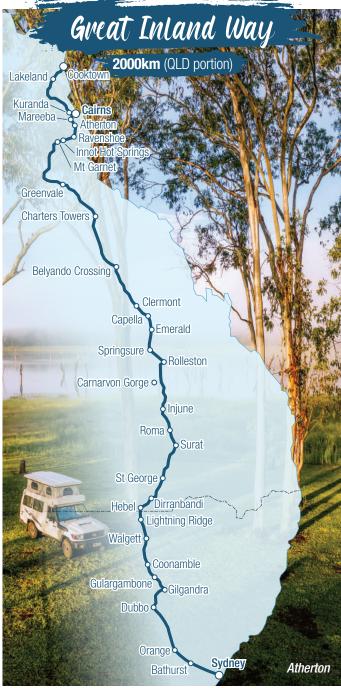
Condition: *2WD, sealed* **Best Months to Travel:** *All year*

Follow the Tropic of Capricorn and discover a geological drive trail

Key Attractions:

- See the architectural wonder of the Tree of Knowledge, Barcaldine
- Visit the Australian Workers Heritage Centre, Barcaldine
- Taste Indigenous tucker at Ridgee Didge Café, Barcaldine
- Bird-watch at Lara Wetlands, Barcaldine
- Explore the murals, Alpha
- Fossick for sapphire, Anakie
- Stroll through the Botanic Gardens, Emerald
- Throw a line in Lake Maraboon, Emerald
- Learn about the coal industry, Blackwater
- Swim in the rock holes of Blackdown National Park, Blackwater
- Go underground at Capricorn Caves north of **Rockhampton**
- Enjoy a steak in Australia's beef capital, Rockhampton
- Snorkel the Southern Great Barrier Reef, Yeppoon





Hebel - St George - Roma - Carnarvon Gorge - Emerald - Charters Towers - Mareeba - Cooktown

Condition: 2WD, sealed **Best Months to Travel:** All year

From the southern states to north Queensland this is the ultimate Aussie road trip

- Enjoy a beer at a one-horse border town, **Hebel**
- Take a cotton tour, Dirranbandi
- Cruise the Balonne River, St George
- Follow in the steps of Cobb & Co, Surat
- Tour Australia's largest cattle selling complex, Roma
- Experience a country rodeo, Injune
- View Indigenous engravings, Carnarvon Gorge
- Find the Virgin Rock, **Springsure**
- Fossick for sapphires near Emerald
- Step back into history, Capella
- Take a ghost tour, Charters Towers
- Explore the waterfalls of **Atherton**
- Dive the Great Barrier Reef, Cooktown



Hell's Gate - Burketown - Normanton - Croydon - Georgetown - Mt Surprise - Undara - Ravenshoe - Cairns

Condition: 2WD with caution, sealed/unsealed **Best Months to Travel:** April to October

A road trip for the ages, the Savannah Way combines thrills and excitement across northern Australia from Broome in WA to Cairns in QLD



At **Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park** you can swim in crystal-clear water, canoe or take a boat tour through the red sandstone gorge, explore walking trails and camp in the stunning Adele's Grove. Allow three days but you'll probably want longer.



At **Burketown** be sure to catch Yagurli Tours for a multitude of Indigenous experiences from star-gazing with state-of-the-art telescopes to cultural adventures, fishing charters and hot air ballooning.



Say G'day to Krys the Crocodile at **Normanton** (he is huge!), visit Burke and Wills Camp 119, spot the birds at Mutton Hole Wetlands and watch the Gulflander train roll into town.



Just up the road from Normanton is **Karumba**, a fisherman's paradise. Start your day with a fishing charter, visit the barramundi hatchery and end the day with a croc and crab tour on sunset.

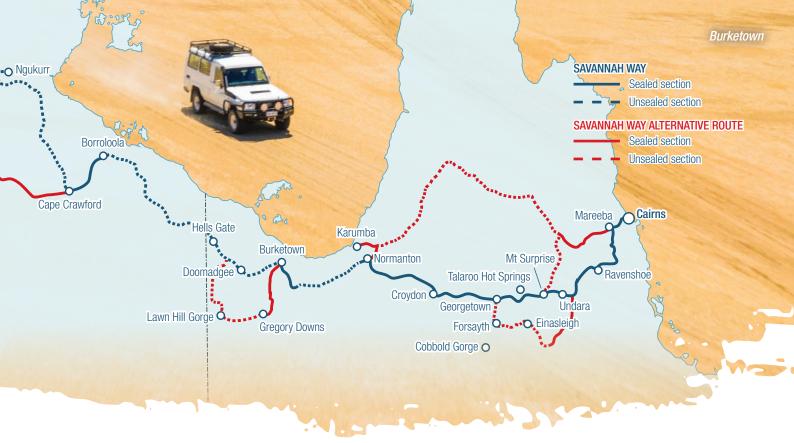


Rock on at **Croydon** by picking up a Queensland fossicking licence and searching for your own fortune in this historic goldmining town. Call into the free Mining Museum for all the local knowledge.



While you're in the geological mood go fossicking at Agate Creek south of **Forsayth**. The agates here are world-renowned for their wonderous colours and patterns. You may also find a thunder egg or two.







Take a detour from **Georgetown** south to the stunning **Cobbold Gorge** where, if you're game, you can walk across Australia's first fully glass bridge. If heights aren't your thing, be sure to catch the boat cruise along the gorge.



At **Undara** you will find the oldest Lava Tube systems on Earth! Walk to the bluff for sunrise, take a guided tour of the Tubes, and meet the wildlife on a sunset tour. Don't miss Undara.



Take a break in thermal waters at either **Tallaroo Hot Springs**, where guided tours, fishing and mountain biking are all available, or **Innot Hot Springs**, where you can laze about in a naturally hot creek.



Then cool off in the waterfalls of the **Atherton Tablelands**. Be sure to drive the Waterfall Circuit incorporating Australia's most photographed falls at Milla Milla, the stunning Zillie Falls and Ellinjaa Falls, which flow over lava columns.



Mareeba is the place to stock up on food and drink. Think fresh tropical fruit, mango wines, locally grown coffee, chocolate and home-made ice-cream and sorbet. Throw in national parks, wetlands and more waterfalls and Mareeba is not to be missed.



End (or start) your Savannah Way journey at **Cairns** and explore the world-heritage listed Great Barrier Reef with amazing coral formations and kaleidoscopic fish. Take a day tour from Cairns or indulge in an island escape such as on Green Island.





Cunnamulla - Charleville - Blackall - Barcaldine - Longreach - Winton - Cloncurry - Burke and Wills Junction - Normanton - Kurumba

Condition: 2WD, sealed

Best Months to Travel: March to November

Continuing on from NSW's Kidman Way, the Matilda Way waltzes through western Queensland

Key Attractions:

- Soak in artesian waters at **Cunnamulla Hot Springs**
- Cuddle a bilby at the Charleville Bilby Experience
- Star gaze at the Charleville Cosmos Centre and Observatory
- Go chicken racing, Tambo
- Live history at the Blackall Woolscour
- See the architectural wonder of the Tree of Knowledge, Barcaldine
- Visit the Stockman's Hall of Fame, Longreach
- Jump aboard a jet at the Qantas Founders Museum, Longreach
- Dig for dinosaurs at the Australian Age of Dinosaurs, Winton
- Visit the John Flynn Place Museum and Fred McKay Art Gallery,
 Cloncurry
- Meet Krys, the giant crocodile, Normanton
- Feast on fresh seafood, Kurumba



Goondiwindi - Moonie - Miles - Taroom - Theodore - Mt Morgan - Rockhampton - Yeppoon

Condition: 2WD; sealed **Best Months to Travel:** All year

Forge a deep connection with explorer Ludwig Leichhardt on this drive, which continues on from NSW's Newell Highway

- Say g'day to legendary racehorse Gunsynd, Goondiwindi
- Free camp at Caliguel Lagoon, Condamine
- Wander through the Miles Historical Village Museum
- Explore Isla National Park, Taroom
- Have a cold beer and stay the night, **Theodore** Hotel
- See Banana the bullock. Banana
- Detour to **Moura** for the Miners Memorial
- Fossick for gold, Mount Morgan
- Go underground at Capricorn Caves north of **Rockhampton**
- Enjoy a steak in Australia's beef capital, **Rockhampton**
- Relax by the sea and catch a feed of reef fish, Yeppoon



Winton - Middleton - Boulia - Tobermorey Station

Condition: 2WD, sealed/unsealed **Best Months to Travel:** March to October

Travel Australia's Longest Shortcut on a journey from Winton west to Laverton in Western Australia

Key Attractions:

- Dig for dinosaurs at the Australian Age of Dinosaurs, Winton
- Detour to see a dinosaur stampede at Lark Quarry, south of Winton
- Detour to visit legendary Old Cork Station, south of Winton
- Have a cold beer at the **Middleton** Hotel (and keep an eye out for movie stars!)
- Stand in awe at Cawnpore Lookout between Middleton and Boulia
- · Catch the camel races at Boulia

- Explore the mysterious lights at the **Boulia** Min Min Encounter
- · Discover marine reptile fossils at Boulia
- Jump the NT border and settle in at the **Tobermorey** Roadhouse and Caravan Park (and enjoy a beer with the station hands!)
- Take a cattle station tour at **Tobermorey**
- Bird-watch and walk along the bush trails at Tobermorey



Birdsville - Windorah - Quilpie - Charleville - Roma - Miles - Dalby - Toowoomba - Brisbane

Condition: 2WD with caution; sealed/unsealed **Best Months to Travel:** March to November

From Brisbane to Birdsville, the memorable Warrego Way takes you from city lights to star lights

- Party at the world famous Birdsville Races
- Enjoy a cold beer, **Betoota** Hotel
- Explore Cooper Creek channel country, Windorah
- Take a side trip to meet dinosaurs Cooper and George, Eromanga
- Catch yellowbelly and yabbies, Quilpie
- Cuddle a bilby at the **Charleville** Bilby Experience

- Star gaze at the Charleville Cosmos Centre and Observatory
- Tour Australia's largest cattle selling complex, Roma
- Wander through the **Miles** Historical Village Museum
- Fossick for petrified wood, Chinchilla
- Visit historic Jimbour House, Dalby
- Explore Queensland's Garden City, Toowoomba



Stanthorpe - Warwick - Toowoomba - Kingaroy - Gayndah - Biloela -Mt Morgan - Rockhampton - Yeppoon

Condition: 2WD; sealed **Best Months to Travel:** All year

Follow the Great Dividing Range from NSW through Queensland on Australia's Country Way

Key Attractions:

- Enjoy a high-country wine, Stanthorpe
- Smell the roses, Warwick
- Watch a campdrafting event, Warwick
- Have a beer in Rudd's Pub (of Dad and Dave fame), Toowoomba
- Explore Queensland's Garden City, Toowoomba
- Pick a peanut, Kingaroy
- Take a selfie with the Big Orange, Gayndah
- Walk with R.M.Williams at the Australian Bush Learning Centre,
 Fidewold
- Hike through Cania Gorge, southeast of Biloela
- Fish for barramundi at Lake Callide, Biloela
- Fossick for gold, Mount Morgan
- Enjoy a steak in Australia's beef capital, Rockhampton
- Snorkel the Southern Great Barrier Reef, Yeppoon



Birdsville - Bedourie - Boulia - Dajarra - Mount Isa - Camooweal

Condition: 2WD with caution; sealed/unsealed **Best Months to Travel:** April to October

The Queensland portion of this epic outback drive follows the trail of the drovers and cameleers

- Go racing in **Birdsville** with the horses or camels
- Have a beer at the famous **Birdsville** Hotel
- Soak in the **Bedourie** Artesian Spa and Aquatic Centre
- Catch the camel races in **Bedourie** and **Boulia**
- Explore the mysterious lights at the **Boulia** Min Min Encounter
- Discover Indigenous Culture, Dajarra
- Delve underground on a mine tour, Mount Isa
- Catch the world-famous Mount Isa rodeo
- Stay a night or 2 at Sunset Tourist Park, Mount Isa
- Take a guided tour at the Droving Heritage Centre, Camooweal
- Explore the Camooweal Caves National Park



Innamincka - Thargomindah - Cunnamulla - St George - Moonie - Dalby - Toowoomba - Brisbane

Condition: 2WD; sealed to the QLD border **Best Months to Travel:** April to October

Explore diverse cultures and experience sustainable tourism on this 1300km of adventure

Key Attractions:

- Touch the famous Dig Tree, of Bourke and Wills fame, east of Innamincka
- Rev your motors on a dirt bike tour, Thargomindah
- Fossick for opal then relax in a mud bath, Eulo
- Say g'day to the Cunnamulla Fella
- Soak in artesian waters at Cunnamulla Hot Springs
- Explore Indigenous culture with Nullawokka Tours, **Bollon**
- Catch a cod in the inland fishing capital of St George
- Taste the wine at Riversands Winery, St George
- Get your photo at the Big Yabbie at Moonie
- Stay overnight at Lake Broadwater
- Explore Queensland's Garden City of Toowoomba



Nestled alongside a spring fed creek, Sunset Tourist Park is conveniently located off the highway, while still being close to town.

Our pet friendly park has a magnesium pool and free weekly inhouse events. Huge camp kitchen, Laundry and Dump point. "We'll tell you where to go" offering trip planning and tour bookings with our knowledgeable, local staff.

Come and experience what that good old fashioned outback hospitality is like at the only locally owned and operated park in Mount Isa.

SUNSET TOURIST PARK MOUNT ISA

14 Sunset Drive Mount Isa, QLD 4825 P: 07 4743 7668 | E: ask@sunsettop.com.au Office Hours: 7 days a week 8am - 6pm





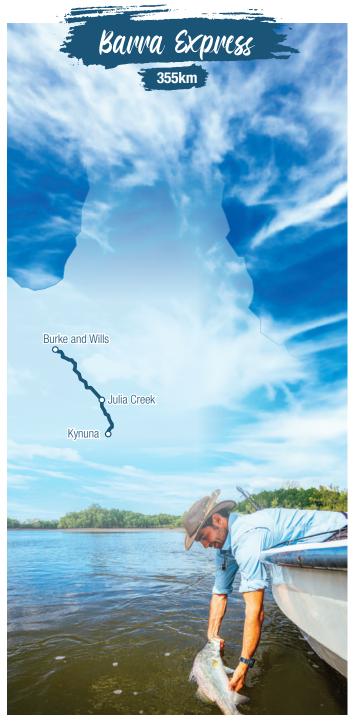
SAOUTBACK AT ISA

Discover Mount Isa, an oasis in the Outback, a city rich in history and culture and your starting point for true Outback adventures. There's always something for everyone so just ask us and we'll tell you where to go!

OUTBACK AT ISA

discovermountisa.com.au (07) 4749 1555 info@outbackatisa.com.au 19 Marian Street, Mount Isa QLD, 4825







Condition: Sealed

Best Months to Travel: March to November

Spend more time fishing and less time driving by hopping on 'The Barra Express', the fastest fully-sealed inland route to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Key Attractions:

- Experience Waltzing Matilda country at Kynuna
- Visit the Waltzing Matilda waterhole Cumbo Waterhole, 160km southeast of Kynuna
- Grab a cold drink at the famous Blue Heeler Hotel at Kynuna
- Whiz down the waterslides at the Julia Creek Swimming Pool
- Indulge in artesian baths at Julia Creek
- Feast at a Bush Dinner at the Julia Creek Caravan Park
- Stop in at "At the Creek", the award-winning Julia Creek visitors centre
- Take a virtual helicopter muster at the Julia Creek visitors centre
- Meet authentic outback truckers at the Burke and Wills Roadhouse
- Head further north to Adels Grove and Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park



Texas - Millmerran - Dalby - Mundubbera

Condition: Sealed

Best Months to Travel: All year

Stretching from Warialda in northern NSW to Mundubbera in QLD, the Rural Getaway is the quiet alternative, perfect for slowing down and enjoying the ride

- Pull up the caravan for free camping on the Dumaresg River at Texas
- Visit the Riverside Freezing Works and Rabbit Factory at Texas
- Wonder at old tobacco barns at Inglewood
- Catch the biennial Australian Camp Oven Festival at Millmerran
- Find farming memorabilia at Pioneer Park Museum in **Dalby**
- Take a **Dalby** day trip to the stunning Bunya Mountains
- Explore heritage-listed Jimbour House near **Dalby**
- Cross the Dingo Barrier Fence at **Jandowe**
- Fish for yellowbelly and bass at Lake Boondoomba
- See three rivers meet at Mundubbera
- Take a side-trip from **Mundubbera** to the Auburn River National Park



Rockhampton - Biloela - Banana - Moura - Rolleston - Springsure - Emerald

Condition: Sealed

Best Months to Travel: All year

Take in the magnificent sandstone wonders on a wandering road trip from Rockhampton to Emerald

Key Attractions:

- Find bulls, barramundi and colonial history in **Rockhampton**
- Catch live bull riding at Rockhampton's Great Western Hotel
- Step back in time at the mining village of Mt Morgan
- Visit historic Kilburnie and Greycliffe Homesteads near Biloela
- Find a bull named Banana at Banana
- Camp on the banks of the Dawson River at Moura
- Detour from Rolleston to the sandstone wonders of Carnarvon National Park
- Sleep under the Virgin Rock at **Springsure**
- Explore the old Rainworth Fort at **Springsure**
- Go fishing at Lake Maraboon near Emerald
- Relax in the beautiful Botanic Gardens in **Emerald**
- Check out the world's largest Van Gogh sunflower painting in **Emerald**



Where it all starts...

Safe Towing and Road Safety starts with **you** and Caravanning Queensland is here to help, with tips, advice and important information to get you on the road with confidence.

A great place to start is the National Recreational Vehicle Towing Guide, loaded with vital information on everything towing related, including: Acronym Definitions (GVM, GCM, ATM, GTM etc), Towing Parts, Braking Systems, Tyres, Towing Tips and Trip Preparation.

Pick up a copy of the FREE towing guide at one of Caravanning Queensland's official industry shows or download a copy from:

caravantowingguide.com.au

For stress and incident free travel, also consider the following:

- Have I ever taken a towing or caravan safety course before?
- Has my trailer been serviced at least once a year or every 10,000KM's as recommended?
- Where is my nearest dealer or service & repair provider?
- Have I developed a pre-holiday checklist?
- What towing courses are available near me?
- Am I taking advantage of the myriad of FREE safety initiatives at my disposal?

All these questions answered and more at:

caravanqld.com.au



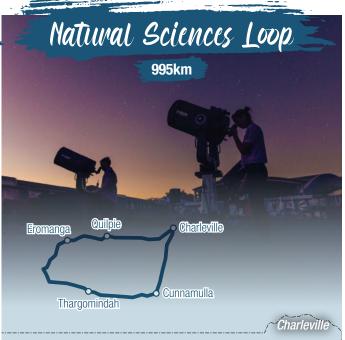


Condition: 2WD with caution; sealed/unsealed **Best Months to Travel:** April to October

This is a must-drive for all dinosaur enthusiasts and budding palaeontologists

Key Attractions:

- Experience a dinosaur stampede at Lark Quarry south of Winton
- Sing at the Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton
- Explore the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum, Winton
- Discover Australia's mini Grand Canyon at Porcupine Gorge, **Hughenden**
- Meet Hughie the Muttaburrasaurus at the Flinders Discovery Centre, Hughenden
- Take in the sunset from Mt Walker, **Hughenden**
- Relax by the water at **Hughenden** Recreational Lake
- Find your own fossils, Richmond
- Learn more about dinosaurs at Kronosaurus Korner, Richmond
- Join a cattle station tour, Richmond
- Step into pioneering history at Cambridge Downs Heritage Centre,
 Richmond



Charleville - Quilpie - Eromanga - Thargomindah - Cunnamulla - Charleville

Condition: 2WD with caution; sealed/minor unsealed

Best Months to Travel: April to October

Be inspired by the natural beauty of central Queensland

- Cuddle a bilby at the **Charleville** Bilby Experience
- Star gaze at the **Charleville** Cosmos Centre and Observatory
- Catch a yellowbelly, Quilpie
- Take in sunset from Baldy Rock, Quilpie
- Meet dinosaurs Cooper and George, Eromanga
- Detour for a cold beer in a tiny bar, Noccundra
- Explore Australia's first hydro-electric system, Thargomindah
- Visit the Old Hospital and Old Jail, Thargomindah
- Fossick for opal and then relax in a mud-bath, Eulo
- Say g'day to the **Cunnamulla** Fella
- Soak in artesian waters at **Cunnamulla Hot Springs**
- Tour a WW2 Secret Base, Charleville





WILDLIFE SAFETY

Queensland is rich with an abundance of wildlife, from the cuddly to the bitey, and while most encounters with our native animals will be memorable for all the right reasons here are a few that could pose a threat.



CASSOWARIES

These tall (up to 180cm), flightless birds of the tropics are resplendent in jet-black plumage with bright blue and purple neck feathers (wattles). Make sure you are "casso-wary" when exploring their habitat and keep a safe distance if you're lucky enough to see one as they can be unpredictable and territorial.



CROCODILES

Did you know saltwater crocodiles can grow up to 6m long? Or that they can hold their breath underwater for an hour and a half? Crocodiles are an ancient and fascinating species, but they can also be dangerous so be croc-wise: obey warning signs, don't swim where crocodiles are present and when fishing stand a few metres back from the water's edge.



SNAKES

Yes, Australia has the most venomous snakes in the world, but you are unlikely to see one in your travels. However, you can take precautions to avoid bites. Wear boots and long pants and stick to cleared paths when walking and if you see a snake, stop and let it slither away. If bitten apply a pressure bandage and seek immediate medical help.



DINGOES

They're just cuddly dogs right? Wrong. Our beautiful yellow dingoes can be dangerous. K'gari (Fraser Island) is famous for its dingos, where it is a pleasure to see them in their natural environment, but it is also important to be dingo-safe. Stay close to children, do not walk alone, do not run or jog and never attempt to feed a dingo.



KANGAROOS

Our kangaroos are generally harmless. However, they pose a risk to drivers. Kangaroos are most active at dawn and dusk, so avoid driving after sunset and before sunrise where possible, to prevent accidents on the road



JELLYFISH

Northern Australia's oceans are home to some dangerous marine stingers, such as the box jellyfish and Irukandji. Found from Tropical North Queensland to Gladstone between October/ November and May/June, swimmers should wear protective suits to minimise the risk. If stung, use vinegar, remove tentacles, and seek medical advice.





From ten days to three weeks a trip to The Tip is a journey that will put your 4WD skills to the test on the adventure of a life-time. To fully enjoy the experience (and to keep safe) remember the military expression: "Proper Planning and Preparation Prevents Piss Poor Performance"!

Before you even pack do your **research**. This may involve watching videos, reading reviews, studying maps and talking to others who have travelled these roads. Learn all you can so when the unexpected happens ... well you've been expecting it.

Next you need to get your vehicle **off-road ready**. Pay particular attention to suspension (there will be lots of bumps), brakes, tyres and engine water-protection (for all those creek crossings). Then add recovery gear, an extra tyre and spare air filters because dust is going to get EVERYWHERE.

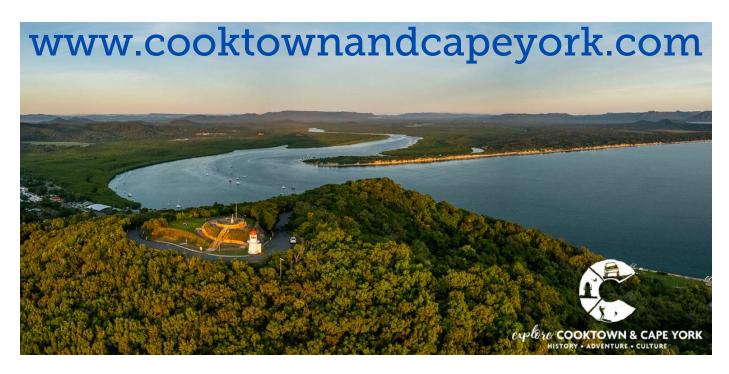
The Cape has **limited mobile reception** so installing a UHF is a top idea for communication. Because you won't get internet most of the time it's a good idea to carry paper maps as well as electronic ones. Also carry cash - when patchy internet services fail remote services may not be able to accept your credit card.

Time to pack? Not quite. What **time of year** are you travelling? To avoid the wet season (when roads may be closed) it's advised to travel between May and October. The countryside may be greener in May, but the water crossings may be shallower in October. July school holidays will be crowded.

OK, let's hit the road (you are packed aren't you?). Although it is possible to take your 2WD along the Peninsula Development Road to Weipa, heading further north to The Tip will require a 4WD. But don't let videos of crossing the infamous Gunshot Creek put you off — there are **alternate routes** around the most challenging sections.

There are some beautiful **swimming holes** along the Cape (Fruit Bat Falls is stunning), however there are crocodiles found throughout the region. Be croc wise and obey all warning signs.

And before you know it, you're at Pajinka. Congratulations, you've made it to the **northernmost tip** of Australia and crossed off that major bucket-list item.



Taking your 4WD on one of Queensland's epic off-road adventures is almost a rite of passage for the Aussie road-tripper. Other than Cape York (see page 36) here are six of our favourites.



MORETON ISLAND

As the third largest sand island in the world Moreton Island is sure to satisfy your 4WD desires. Must see hot spots include the Big and Little Sandhills, the Eastern Beach and the Desert. The Desert provides a 4WD challenge no matter how many times you've been to the island as the winds constantly move the sands and change the shape of the dunes.



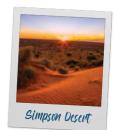
CARNARVON NATIONAL PARK

Carnarvon Gorge is the showpiece attraction of this National Park but those with a 4WD and love of the road less travelled will find other delights. Visit the Mount Moffatt, Salvator Rosa and Ka Ka Mundi sections of the Park for soaring sandstone cliffs, hidden caves, mahogany forests and the legend of the Kenniffs - Australia's last bushrangers.



KROOMBIT TOPS

At Kroombit Tops, southwest of Gladstone, you will find narrow and steep dirt roads leading to old gold mining areas, unmarked graves, wild horses, secluded camp spots and spectacular mountain views. What are you waiting for? With track names such as Razorback you know you'll be in wild country and there's even the wreck of a WWII Liberator bomber to explore.



SIMPSON DESERT

For real desert, the Simpson Desert, in the far west of the state, is a bucket-list item. Heading west from Birdsville the adventure kicks off with the Simpson's largest sand-dune - Big Red - and then hops over hundreds more via the QAA line to Poeppel Corner where Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory converge.



QUEENSLAND'S WILD COUNTRY

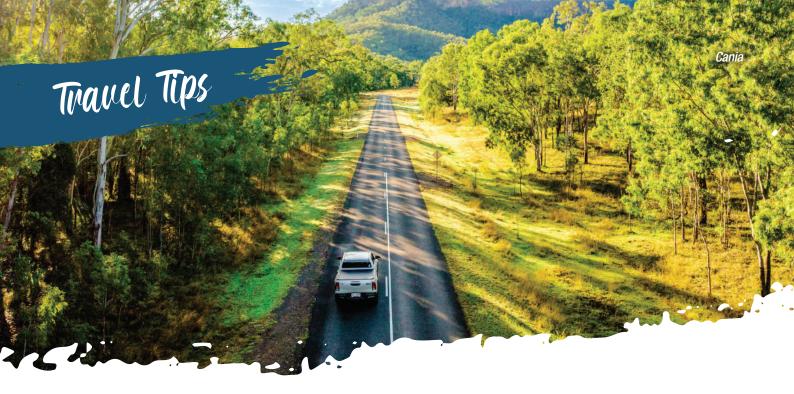
Find some of Queensland's best wild country driving in Southern Downs. Challenge yourself in the remote Sundown National Park south-west of Stanthorpe or undertake a wild adventure near the Goomburra section of Main Range National Park, north of Warwick. Thrill seekers can also enjoy 4-wheel driving at a number of well-maintained private properties in the region.



CREB TRACK

An alternative route between Daintree and Cooktown is the muddy and slippery CREB track, suitable only for experienced off-roaders. Rain will make this track even more of a challenge but with picturesque creek crossings, verdant rainforest and the Roaring Meg Falls, it is also a stunning part of the country to experience.





Queensland is a BIG place and on the coast and in major towns you will have all the comforts of home but as you venture into rural and remote areas distances between services will increase. Here are our best tips for a worry-free road trip:

- Buy a Telstra SIM card. Mobile and internet can be patchy and often the only service provider is Telstra.
- Carry a satellite phone in remote areas where there is often no mobile service at all.
- Equip your vehicle with a UHF radio. This can act as another form of communication.
- Give way to trucks and large vehicles when travelling on one-lane bitumen roads.
- Beware of wandering cattle on unfenced roads especially at night.
- Realise that unsealed roads may be closed after rain.
- Be prepared for corrugations and loose rocks on unsealed roads.
- Keep your fuel tank full. It can be a long way between service stations.
- Ensure your vehicle is mechanically sound and investigate roadside/ vehicle insurance.
- Check the weather before you leave.

- Always ask permission before entering private (including Indigenous) land.
- Do not leave toilet paper or empty toilet cassettes in the bush.
- Tell someone where you are going especially if travelling solo.
- Book accommodation and tours ahead to avoid disappointment.
- Carry water on every drive.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- Caravanning Queensland <u>caravanqld.com.au</u>
- Caravan & Camping Information <u>letsgocaravanandcamping.com.au</u>
- Department Transport & Main Roads tmr.qld.gov.au
- Drive Queensland <u>drivequeensland.com</u>
- Queensland Fire & Emergency Services gfes.qld.gov.au
- Queensland Health health.qld.gov.au
- Queensland National Parks qld.gov.au/camping
- Toll Roads linkt.com.au
- Towing Information <u>caravantowingguide.com.au</u>
- Traffic & Travel Information *qldtraffic.qld.gov.au*
- Weather bom.gov.au/gld
- Plugshare App plugshare.com
- Fires Near Me App gfes.qld.gov.au/Current-Incidents

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