

Albert Park College: Custom Trip



+61 07 4054 6693

groups@smallworldjourneys.com.au

www.smallworldjourneys.com.au



11 days & 10 nights

7 – 17
September 2026

This educational adventure captures the scenic highlights of north Australia: UNESCO World-Heritage rainforest, the rugged outback, and The Great Barrier Reef. Your naturalist guide will make your journey come alive, introducing you to peculiar wildlife, colourful local characters, and the dazzling landscapes that make this area so special. Authentic interactions with Indigenous Australians also allow you to witness how Aboriginal traditions are integrated into the modern world. You experience the best of the north's landscapes and people on this tour in wild Queensland.

Day 1

Arrival, Community Service Project & Sustainability Workshop

Monday 7 Sep



Arrive in Cairns

Welcome to the tropics! You arrive in Cairns and are warmly greeted by one of our staff members at the airport. You are then given a safety talk and orientation (please arrive before 4pm today).

Service Project for the Homeless

Part of being a “sustainable” tourist is helping the community in which you are travelling. This morning you exemplify sustainable tourists by participating in a service project for people that come to Cairns from remote Indigenous communities. These people come to Cairns for medical reasons, and often do not have anything with them. You learn how to make special bags with hygiene items they most need – like toothbrushes, shampoo and soap. No worries if you aren’t the best at arts and crafts – the bags are easy to make, and you’ll feel good doing it too.

Sustainability Workshop

This evening during this interactive session you discover what we can learn from casinos, cruise ships and cavemen, and how gorillas are setting an example of sustainable tourism. Topics range from the three pillars of sustainability, to the world's number one problem to how your little actions make a difference. A quiz-show activity also introduces thought-provoking concepts as well as plenty of laughs.



Dinner



Cairns 3-star hotel

Day 2

Fitzroy Island Inner Great Barrier Reef, Snorkelling & CoralWatch

Tuesday 8 Sep



Fitzroy Island

This morning you are ferried to the pristine Fitzroy Island. A fringing coral reef surrounds the island, part of the inner Great Barrier Reef, providing a sheltered home for a kaleidoscope of marine life: colourful corals, parrot and lionfish, turtles, cuttle fish, rays and giant clams.

Field Guide: 101 Animals of The Great Barrier Reef, written by Dr. Martin Cohen, helps you to better understand the underwater world and is yours to keep.

Turtle Rehabilitation Centre

During your visit you are welcomed to the island's Turtle Rehabilitation Centre where a collection of volunteers help save sick and injured sea turtles by looking after them until they are ready to be released back into the ocean. You learn the different types of turtles that live at the reef, their importance to ecosystem health and the human activities that impact them. Small World Journeys makes a donation to the centre on behalf of every group that tours the centre.

Guided Snorkel

With full use of snorkel gear for the day, you can walk right into the water to explore the magnificent reef system that surrounds the island. Your marine naturalist leads you to underwater examples of biodiversity and indicator species as well as examples of the reef's most interesting features.

CoralWatch Data Collection

This afternoon you collect primary data in an activity that addresses climate change and coral bleaching. During this exercise you find out more about how and why coral bleaches. You learn how to identify different kinds of coral, match its colours to a waterproof chart, and then record what you observe in teams of two. The data then goes back to the University of Queensland's Coral Watch scientists, where they analyse the results over time and look for any long term trends.

Beach Walk

In the afternoon, you traverse the island's tropical forest, keeping an eye out for reptilian skinks and yellow-spotted monitors, to emerge at the fantastic Nudey Beach (not for nudists!). Nudey Beach was rated "Australia's Best Beach" by Australia's beach ambassador Brad Farmer.



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Cairns 3-star hotel

Day 3

Native Tree Planting Service Work, Crater Lakes, Giant Trees, Waterfalls & Outback Cattle Station

Wednesday 9 Sep



Native Tree Planting Service Work

Toting your shovels and gloves, this morning you give back to the community by planting native trees. Run by a Cairns non-profit organisation, the tree planting helps to revitalize areas that have been damaged by agriculture or development. By digging, planting, and watering today, you get to meet some local volunteers, help the environment and contribute to the community.

Crater Lakes National Park

This afternoon you take a walk at Lake Eacham at Crater Lakes National Park, an ancient volcanic crater—or maar—now protected in a national park. A track around the lake passes through several different rainforest communities, offering you an opportunity to glimpse some of the area's endemic species. You'll look for Boyd's Forest Dragons, turtles and birds of paradise, after which you can take a plunge in the cool clear waters of the crater.

Giant Tree

In the Highlands, you explore the biological and geological marvels of the Wet Tropics. You visit a tract of mabi rainforest and learn why this swath of higher-altitude forest is endangered. You also pay tribute to local high-profile residents – a massive fig tree and learn how these giants eerily “strangle” their hosts.

Millaa Millaa Falls

Millaa Millaa (meaning “plenty of water” in the local Indigenous language) is the icon of tropical north Queensland and one of the most photographed natural sites in the region. The waterfall flows over pure basalt rock thousands of years old in a dramatic burst.

Outback Cattle Station

As you cross the Great Dividing Range, you enter outback country, where the dirt turns red and gum trees prevail. Here you are welcome guests at a traditional working cattle station and homestead, opened to your group. On arrival, you hop in the hay truck to trace a route through the station—much of which has been set aside for as a sanctuary for wildlife—and look for the kangaroos and crocodiles that roam the property. After a home cooked meal, you have a bonfire under starry outback skies. From this remote outback station, views of the southern hemisphere stars are phenomenal.



**Breakfast, Lunch,
Dinner**



**Outback Cattle
Station**

Day 4

National Park Walk, Bio-Dynamic Dairy Farm & Hot Springs

Thursday 10 Sep



National Park Walk

Today, you enter Mount Hypipamee National Park—a rare high-altitude rainforest nestled in the southern Evelyn Tableland, cloaked in ancient greenery and geological mystery. You walk the Crater Track, framed by towering rainforest, until you stand upon a platform overlooking a vast volcanic pipe. Sheer granite walls plunge almost 70 metres down into the earth, where a secret lake lies hidden beneath a carpet of native waterweed.

From the crater, continue onto the Dinner Falls Circuit, where the trail descends through lush rainforest, winding over leaf litter and tangled roots. It leads you to a series of cascading falls nestled in the headwaters of the mighty Barron River.

Bio-Dynamic Dairy Farm

You learn what it means for farmers to “go beyond organic” by applying a diligent set of practices to the land. At a forward-thinking dairy farm, you learn how biodynamics—one of the first sustainable agriculture movements—accounts for ecological, social and economic sustainability. With a chance to sample delicious soft cheeses and creamy yogurts, you taste the magic that makes dairy products so yummy. You also have the chance to learn the art of making butter!

Hot Springs

As the day cools, your guide takes you for a bubbling good time at the local hot springs. Once thought to be a cure for many ailments, the spring water here was bottled and shipped to Europe over 100 years ago. You can dip into six different pools of varying temperatures and enjoy the health benefit too!



**Breakfast, Lunch,
Dinner**



**Outback Cattle
Station**

Day 5

Farm Activities, Kuranda Village & Skyrail Cableway

Friday 11 Sep



Farm Activities

This morning you get a sample of true outback life on a cattle station. You visit the cattle yards to learn about the cattle musters and branding, and efforts made for humane animal treatment. You also learn what this robust rural family does to survive flooding, drought and economic hardships. You can visit the goats, chickens and learn how to milk the cow.

Kuranda Mountain Village

Stroll the market place for local arts and crafts, and sample some local fare. Options in Kuranda Village include Koala Gardens*, The Butterfly Sanctuary*, and Birdworld* (*extra cost).

Skyrail Rainforest Cableway

You experience Cairns premier eco-attraction and winner of numerous ecotourism awards – the Skyrail. You are transferred to this unique rainforest cableway for a fantastic journey over Australia's World Heritage listed tropical rainforest canopy and deep into the forest. Spanning 7.5 kilometres over Barron Gorge National Park, the Skyrail experience includes a scenic cableway ride and stops at two rainforest mid-stations. You can descend from the cableway onto rainforest boardwalks, where interpretive information is provided through guided boardwalk tours, signage and an interpretive centre.



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Cairns 3-star hotel

Day 6

Snorkelling the Outer Great Barrier Reef & Data Collection

Saturday 12 Sep



Boat Ride to the Outer Reef

Today you travel via an air-conditioned boat to a floating pontoon at the outer Great Barrier Reef. During a guided snorkel tour with your marine biologist, you can expect to see a rainbow of hard and soft corals, turtles, and a variety of fish species including butterfly fish, giant Maori Wrasse, parrot fish, and the ever-popular clown fish, also known as “Nemo”.

Snorkelling, Data Collection & Activities

Your marine biologist also introduces you the Eye on the Reef program, which involves instruction on how to complete the Rapid Monitoring Survey. Then during a timed snorkel session, you record your underwater findings. Your guide and waterproof slates help you identify a host of marine life and calculate benthic zone coverage. Most importantly, you look for signs of coral bleaching and coral predators which greatly affect the health of the reef. Your data is then collected and contributes to the central reporting system used by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) to manage the long term sustainability of this UNESCO World Heritage area.

A semi-submarine, a glass bottom boat tour, an underwater observatory, a marine life touch tank and giant slide into the water are all included for you to enjoy.



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Cairns 3-star hotel

Day 7

Cairns Aquarium, Free Time & Night Markets

Sunday 13 Sep



Guided Aquarium Study Tour

The Cairns Aquarium showcases a wide variety of ecosystems from across the local region of Tropical North Queensland. Many animals rely on the connection between these ecosystems for their survival, travelling upstream or down river for food or to find a mate, or even to complete their life cycle. These ecosystems are laid out to showcase how each environment in the region is connected and how the animals that live there are perfectly adapted to these unique tropical conditions. With your guide you explore the 10-metre Deep Reef Tank, a 360-degree Oceanarium, 20-metre underwater tunnel, and Australia's largest freshwater exhibit.

Night Markets

Tonight you have time for shopping at the Cairns Night Markets. Featuring over seventy retail outlets, this is the place to find a bargain. You can find opals, pearls, silver, clothing, massage oils, t-shirts, arts, crafts, Australian food products, toys, and plenty of souvenirs and gifts.



Breakfast

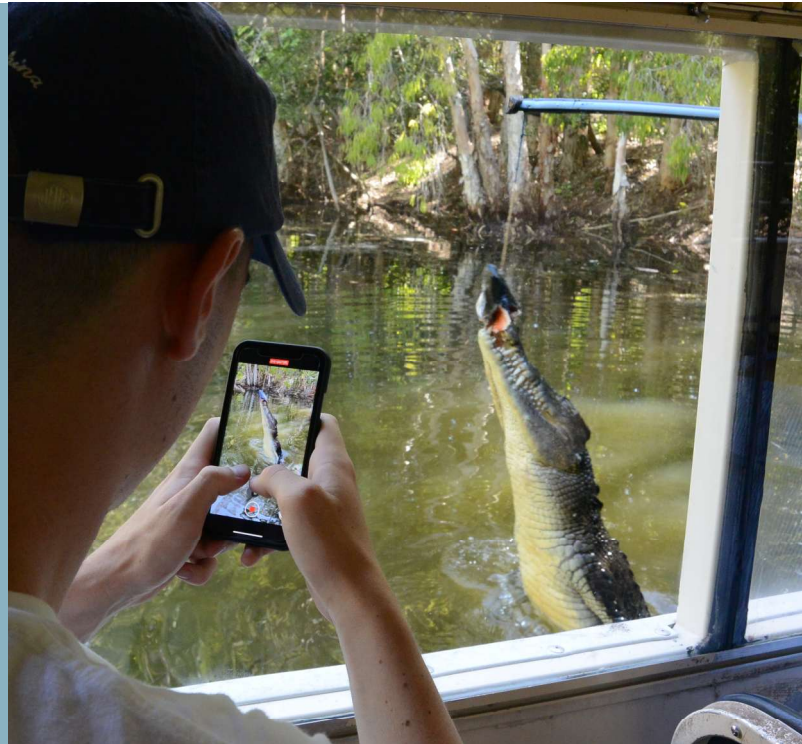


Cairns 3-star hotel

Day 8

Mangroves Service Project & Crocodile Farm and Wildlife Park

Monday 14 Sep



Mangrove Boardwalk & Creek Cleanup

Your first stop today is a critical mangrove ecosystem which is the breeding ground for many important aquatic species. Your guide teaches you about the interesting aspects of mangrove systems and their importance to the Great Barrier Reef. You learn how mangroves deal with a lot of salt in their diet, how they act as the baby nurseries of the Great Barrier Reef and why both humans and the reef rely on these complex systems. Unfortunately household rubbish also often makes its way into these creeks and so today you will be grabbing gloves and rubbish bags to do your bit to clean up the waterway. You tally your “rubbish results” at the end and the team with the top results gets a prize.

Crocodile & Wildlife Park

Meet crocodiles in their natural habitat as well as a crocodile farm at Hartley's. This multi-award winning eco adventure attraction is the best place to see crocodiles in Australia. You learn why saltwater crocodiles were almost hunted to extinction, and their importance in ecosystems today. Lagoon boat rides enable safe, guaranteed viewing of giant saltwater crocodiles in a natural setting. Hartley's is famous for its crocodile feeding, snake and wildlife presentations. In the Gondwana Gateway you also meet animals of far north Queensland, like monitors, snakes and the giant endangered cassowary.

Daintree Rainforest

Later you enter the magical Daintree Rainforest –some of the oldest continuously growing rainforest on earth. For students, this is an important area for study: this area of the country has the highest concentration of primitive flowering plant families in the world, Australia's rarest mammal (the Murina florious bat) and 13 species of birds found nowhere else on earth.



**Breakfast, Lunch,
Dinner**



**Daintree Rainforest
Lodge**

Day 9

Great Barrier Reef Snorkelling & Rainforest Swimming Hole

Tuesday 15 Sep



Great Barrier Reef Snorkelling

You begin your morning at Cape Tribulation, the only place on Earth where two World Heritage sites—the Daintree Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef—collide in spectacular harmony. After a warm welcome and safety briefing, you'll board a high-powered eco vessel for a thrilling 25-minute ride across turquoise waters to the outer reef. Your destination: Mackay and Undine Reefs, part of the same reef system where Captain Cook's Endeavour famously ran aground in 1770. These pristine sites are teeming with life and largely untouched by mass tourism, offering a rare glimpse into the reef's raw beauty. With full snorkel gear provided, you'll slip into the warm, crystal-clear waters and find yourself surrounded by a dazzling underwater world: vibrant coral gardens in every hue imaginable; parrotfish and lionfish weaving through the reef; sea turtles gliding gracefully past; cuttlefish and rays dancing in the currents. On clear days, you can even look back toward the shore and see the lush canopy of the Daintree Rainforest—a surreal reminder of the dual ecosystems you're immersed in.

Rainforest Swimming Hole

This afternoon, your guide takes you to a crystal-clear rainforest swimming hole used by locals and a perfect place to cool off.



Breakfast, Lunch,
Dinner



Daintree Rainforest
Lodge

Day 10

Guided Rainforest Walk with Indigenous Guide

Wednesday 16 Sep



Rainforest Walk with Indigenous Guide

Today you discover the Daintree Rainforest at Mossman Gorge, an area important to the Kuku Yalanji. Beginning with a traditional smoking ceremony, you wander rainforest paths, discovering with your guide how these Aboriginal people found their way through dense rainforest, made shelter and learned which native plants were tasty to eat and those that served as weapons and medicine. As your guide shares his stories, you learn how the seasons dictated life, what falls under men's and women's "business", how to make fire in the rainforest and how to make fish very easy to catch. You then sample billy tea and wattle seed damper (bread) made on the fire topped with jam from rainforest berries.



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Cairns 3-star hotel



Day 11

Departure

Thursday 17 Sep



Transfer to Airport

Eventually all good things must come to an end and you are taken to the airport for your departure flight.



Breakfast