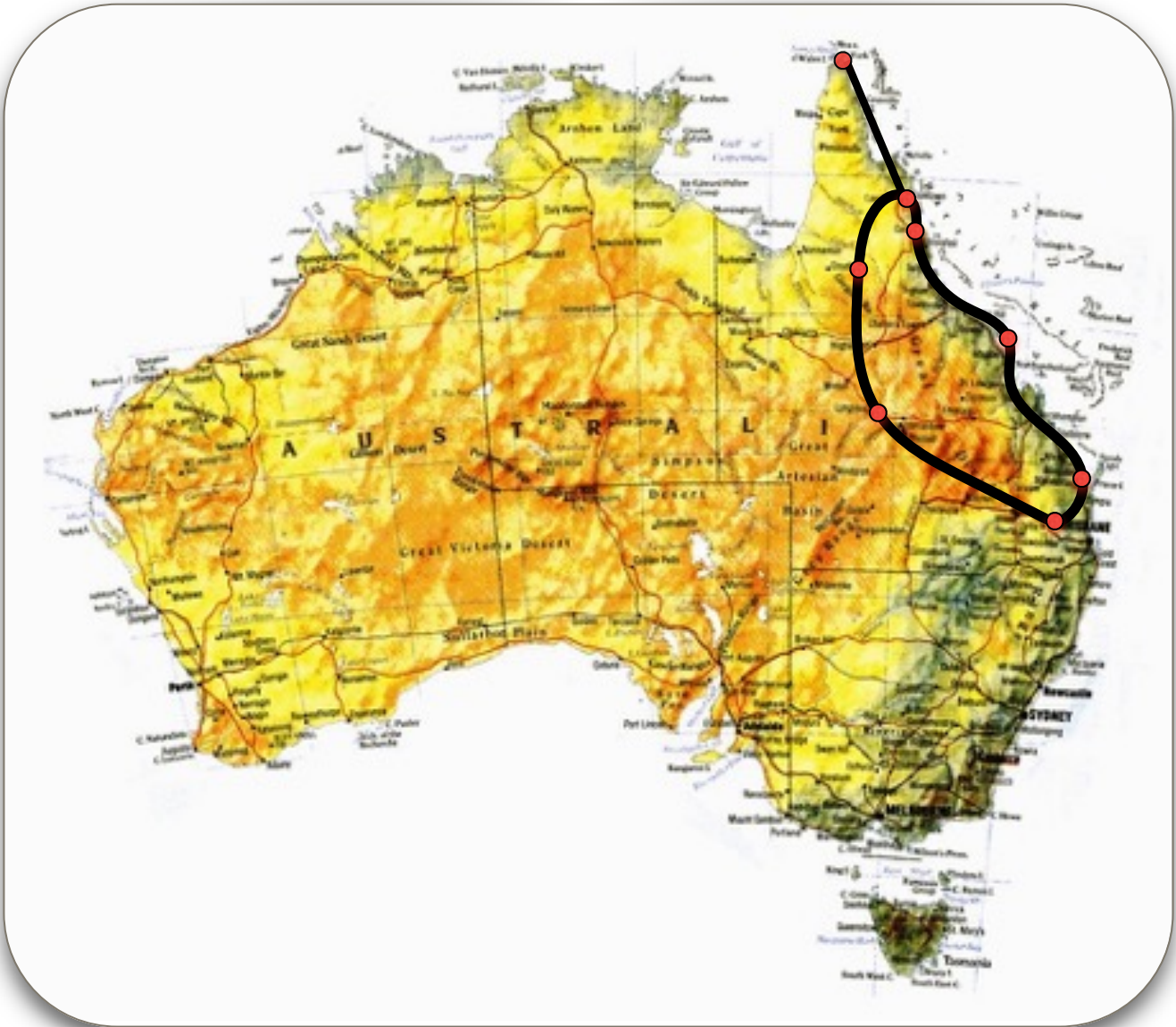


Queensland Coastal - Itinerary



Highlights - 17 days, 32 hrs, 2700 nm

The Queensland tropics and its never-ending Pacific-coast beaches are the focus of this trip. Highlights include three UNESCO Heritage sites (Daintree Rainforest, Great Barrier Reef, and Fraser Island), beautiful coastal towns, snorkelling the reef and a tour with an aboriginal elder. At the same time, the outbound leg gives you the rugged, arid Eastern Outback, a completely different experience which contrasts sharply with the lush coast. This rich itinerary gives you to the best of north-eastern Australia!

Queensland Coastal - Itinerary

Day 1 - Brisbane to Toowoomba

Our adventure begins! We start in Toowoomba, a large country town west of Brisbane at the edge of the fertile Darling Downs region. At the orientation session, meet your Lead Pilot and inspect your plane at Darling Downs Aero Club [DDAC], our aviation base and launch aerodrome for the trip.



Day 2 - Toowoomba

Today, pilots will be involved with briefings and will complete check rides.

Passengers are welcome to join the briefings, or to visit the on-site private vintage aircraft collection. Optional joy rides are available to both pilots and non-pilots. The Woolshed and Cobb & Co Museum are also worth visiting.

Days 3,4 - Longreach

Our journey begins! As we travel northwest you will see the dramatic change, from the lush paddocks that define the Darling Downs region, to rough arid land which, in spite of its appearance, is rich cattle country.

After a full day of flying, enjoy the pool and relax at the hotel, or wander into town. Longreach is a vibrant country town, with a rich history.



Longreach has two excellent museums, and we will see both of them: the Stockman's Hall of Fame and the QANTAS Museum. The former tells the story of the early farming days in the Outback and the latter tells the story of the founding of QANTAS, Australia's airline.

In the evening we will have a special treat; an evening river cruise on the Thomson River.

Queensland Coastal - Itinerary

Days 5,6 - Cobbold Gorge

On our flying day to reach Cobbold Gorge, the land becomes increasingly more rugged as we skirt along the western edge of the Great Dividing Range to arrive at Cobbold Gorge. It is located in the Gulf Savannah, a region is riddled with unique geological features.

During our full day here, we will have a guided tour of the gorge which includes a boat ride into the gorge itself, with its 30-metre walls that are only a few feet apart in some sections. We may even see a fresh water crocodile - but not to worry, these are not “salties”, they are harmless to humans.

In the evenings and during our leisure time you will be free to relax, to enjoy the hospitality of our hosts and the beauty of the Gulf Savannah region and to take in the unique atmosphere that is the Australian bush.



Days 7,8,9 - Cooktown

A flight over the Atherton Tablelands, the Daintree Rainforest and the Coast Range and we arrive in Cooktown, a beautiful small town not visited by most tourists. After checking in, enjoy the view of the Daintree River from your hotel balcony or wander down to the shoreline to take in the sights and the sounds of the harbour.

While here we will have an engaging tour with Willie Gordon, a local aboriginal “teacher” or elder. He will take us to see

rock paintings and through his talk, help us understand his culture. His insightful tours are rated in the top 10 in Queensland.

You will also have time to explore on your own. A trip to the hilltop is worth the effort for the spectacular view.

And finally, when conditions are right, we will take a day trip to the “top end” of the continent!



Queensland Coastal - Itinerary

Days 10,11,12 - Port Douglas

Port Douglas is a beautiful coastal town at the edge of the Daintree Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef. Our boutique hotel is in an ideal location, right on 4-mile Beach, on the edge of downtown, which is usually filled with bird life, but still a short walk away.

While here we have a day trip to the **Great Barrier Reef**. You can experience the reef in a number of ways, which include:

- Snorkelling (various experience levels available);
- Dive tours at three different dive locations;
- Sailing and glass bottom boat views of the reef.

On one of our nights here, we will have a unique dinner event, **Flames in the Forest**, where we dine in the rainforest and gain more insight into the local aboriginal culture.

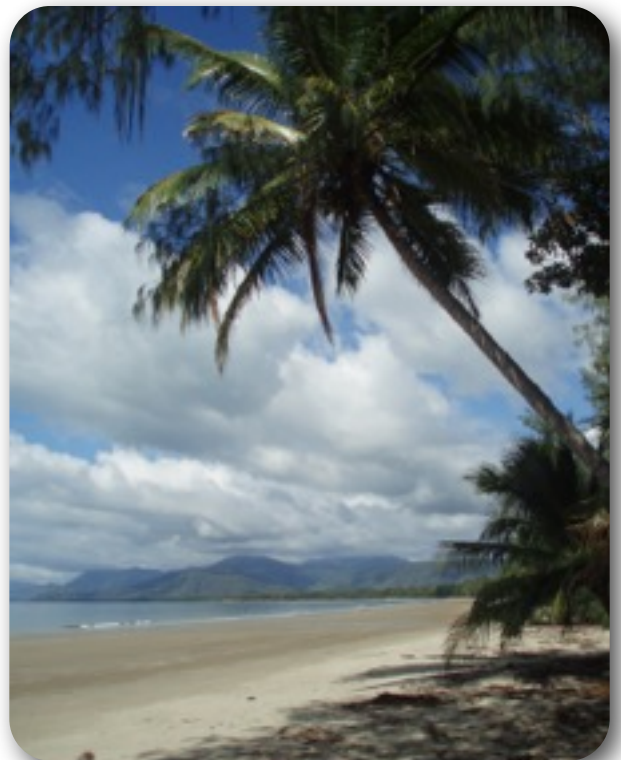
You will also have a **full at-leisure day** to explore the area as you wish. Some activities to consider are:

- Daintree Rainforest walk;
- Crocodile cruise on the Daintree River
- Trip to an eco-spa;
- Visit to Mossman Gorge.

Alternatively, you may prefer to go to **Cairns** where you can choose to:

- Ride the steam train up the Coastal Range to Kuranda,
- Ride the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway
- Take in an aboriginal site and cultural show.

Your Tour Director will be happy to provide more information.



Queensland Coastal - Itinerary

Days 13,14 - Hamilton Island

Wheels up for Hamilton Island!

Our resort is one of the premier destinations in the Whitsunday Islands group. Enjoy the Coral Sea vista from your balcony, take a walk along the beach, tour the island on a golf cart, hike up to Passage Peak for an incredible view or just head “harbourside” to the Yacht Club and the many shops and restaurants. You will quickly discover why this island is a favourite vacation playground for Aussies as well as for visitors from around the world!



Day 15, 16 - Fraser Island

Today’s scenic flight takes us along the beautiful Queensland coast with ample opportunity for photos and low flying!

We will stay on Fraser Island, the world’s largest sand island and another World Heritage Site, in a resort nestled in the trees.



Queensland Coastal - Itinerary

Fraser Island has a unique but fragile ecology. Today we will discover why, during a full-day tour in a 4WD vehicle. Highlights include stops at pristine Lake McKenzie, 75-mile beach, the Maheno shipwreck, and Eli Creek. Watch for wild dingos – the purest dingo strain in Australia!!

Your final day on the island is yours to enjoy as you see fit and follow your own schedule; enjoy the comfort and beauty of our resort, relax by the pool, take one of the many bush or beach walks that are available, or join one of the numerous ranger-guided walking tours.



Day 17 - Brisbane

For our final day we have a scenic flight around Fraser Island, where we will see many of the sights from the previous day's tour. We then track south along the coast at 500 feet.

Have your camera ready as you may see sharks, manta rays or whales along the coastline.

Our farewell dinner will be in a restaurant overlooking the Brisbane River. This is a good time to exchange memories, photos and email addresses with your new friends!

Day 18 - Depart Brisbane

We say our goodbyes after breakfast.

Thank you from the Air Safaris International team. Do tell your friends and we look forward to seeing you again soon for another trip!

Happy travels!