

14 Day Cape York Sea/Overland Camping Safari (TOUR CODE: OZ-C14SO)

Combine the excitement of a cargo ship voyage between Cairns and Cape York with the adventure of a Cape York Safari. In a style reminiscent of bygone coastal steamers, experience the colour and serenity of a Barrier Reef voyage, the magic of the Daintree, the magnificent isolation of the Peninsula wilderness and the diverse cultures of the Cape and Torres Straits.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Cargo ship voyage
- Great Barrier Reef
- Torres Straits
- Thursday Island
- Punsand Bay
- Cape York "The Tip"
- Old Telegraph Track
- Weipa
- Batavia Gold Fields
- Portland Roads
- Chilli Beach
- Iron Range National Park
- Lakefield National Park
- Cooktown
- Bloomfield Track
- Cape Tribulation

ITINERARY

DAY 1 FRIDAY (D)
DEPART CAIRNS, M.V. "TRINITY BAY". Afternoon pick from your Cairns accommodation. At 80 metres and over 3000 tonnes the Trinity Bay is the largest cargo vessel servicing the Torres Strait communities.

DAY 2 SATURDAY (BLD)
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK. Total relaxation as you enjoy the company of the crew and new ship board companions.

DAY 3 SUNDAY (BLD)
THURSDAY ISLAND, HORN ISLAND. "Barge Day". The focus of all attention today is the wharves on Thursday & Horn Islands as the MV Trinity Bay disgorges its cargo of fuel, building materials, indeed everything needed by these remote island communities. Time to explore legendary Thursday Island (conducted bus tour at own cost).

DAY 4 MONDAY (BLD)
SEISIA, BAMAGA, PUNSAND BAY. Another "barge day" but at Seisia wharf, the sea port for Bamaga's five aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. A short stop at Seisia Islander settlement before proceeding to our northern base camp for two nights.

DAY 5 TUESDAY (BLD)
CAPE YORK, SOMERSET. An unforgettable day of achievement and interest. Stand at the very 'Tip' of our continent, where oceans meet and where very few travellers visit. Somerset (road conditions permitting), the ruins of the grandiose failed 'Singapore of the Pacific'. Pristine beaches, rocky headlands, cool shaded

forest walks and twilight strolls to watch a spectacular Torres Strait sunset.

DAY 6 WEDNESDAY (BLD)
TWIN FALLS. Our exciting overland adventure starts today. Across the mighty Jardine River, through the wilderness of forests and heath to Twin Falls on the Elliot River and a cooling dip in the rapids and waterfalls before setting up camp in this unique spot. Basic camp facilities.

DAY 7 THURSDAY (BLD)
TELEGRAPH TRACK, WENLOCK RIVER. An exciting day negotiating river crossings and bush tracks while absorbing the unfamiliar landscape of eucalyptus scrub, heathlands, plains and exotic zamia forests. Camp on the Wenlock River at Moreton Telegraph Station.

DAY 8 FRIDAY (BD)
WEIPA. Travel south to Batavia Downs Station then west to the Gulf of Carpentaria through huge cattle runs and Aboriginal tribal lands to the bauxite mining town of Weipa. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight campground.

DAY 9 SATURDAY (BLD)
IRON RANGE. Time for a fascinating Weipa Mine Tour (own cost). A veritable 'Oasis in the Wilderness' and providing further contrast to your experience of this last frontier. Travel south-east to cross the Wenlock River to visit the old Batavia Gold Fields, an abandoned mining town. Overnight camp at Iron Range next 2 nights.

DAY 10 SUNDAY (BLD)
IRON RANGE NP, PORTLAND ROADS, CHILLI BEACH, WW2 SITES. Cross the Pascoe River before entering Iron Range National Park via Tozers Gap. The park features the largest area of tropical lowland rainforest remaining in Australia. Rare fauna and flora include cuscus, palm cockatoos, eclectus parrots, green pythons, palms and orchids. There is also impressive coastal and mountain range scenery. An exiting day visiting significant historical sites and breathtaking coastal scenery. Portland Roads, once a vital seaport for miners and the wartime airfields, now affords the locals a relaxed lifestyle in an idyllic tropical setting. Wartime gun emplacements are silent sentinels around the headland, some are homes to the locals at the 'Roads. Chilli Beach is wide and long and fringed with palms. A truly magical spot overlooking Restoration Island, Blighs first landing site in 1792. We explore and learn about the gold workings of the 1930's and the area around the airfield at Iron Range where there were major military installations. Anti-aircraft batteries, air raid shelters, the bakery complex and hospital site are a few to visit.

DAY 11 MONDAY (BLD)
ARCHER RIVER. Travel west through lands of the Lockhart River Aboriginal People to rejoin the Peninsula Development Road, then south to overnight at the Archer River. Camp with facilities.

DAY 12 TUESDAY (BLD)
COEN, MUSGRAVE, LAKEFIELD NATIONAL PARK.. Historic interludes as we visit the once vibrant gold rush town of Coen and Musgrave, the last remaining Telegraph Station in Cape York. We then travel East towards the Coral Sea to arrive at the massive wildlife haven, Lakefield National Park.

DAY 13 WEDNESDAY (BD)
COOKTOWN. Past pioneer homesteads, with a pause for photos at Old Laura Homestead, along tracks first blazed by gold crazed fortune hunters, over the stark Battlecamp Range to reach Cooktown. A day of interest and enjoyment as we visit Cook's landing place, Grassy Hill Lookout, James Cook museum (own cost), or shop for souvenirs in original colonial era shops. Overnight Cooktown area.

DAY 14 THURSDAY (BL)
DAINTREE RAINFORESTS, CAIRNS. Over the jungle shrouded heights of the Bloomfield Track to enter the majestic expanse of the World Heritage Rainforest. Jungle green heights descend to the very edge of the Great Barrier Reef with views of deserted beaches and fringing coral. Across the Daintree River by cable ferry and via the scenic coastal road to arrive at your Cairns accommodation.

2009 DEPARTURE DATES

Tour Code: C14SO

Sept 4,18 Oct 2,16,30

2009 FARES

Sept, Oct

Private Cabin **\$2795.00 per person**
(SHARE FACILITIES)
Share Cabin (3-4 passengers) **\$2695.00 per person**
(SHARE FACILITIES)

Single Tent Supplement - \$77.00