

FEATURING "LAURA ROCK ART" AND "IRON RANGE NATIONAL PARK"

16 Day Cape York All Overland Camping Safari

(TOUR CODE: OZ-C160)

The most comprehensive, wilderness safari available. Share first hand the breathtaking scenery, marvel at the abundant bird and animal life, absorb the timeless atmosphere of Aboriginal art galleries, traverse the fast flowing rivers and creeks, swim the crystal clear streams, photograph rapids and waterfalls. Overnight, on a Torres Strait Island. Visit Australia's largest tropical lowland rainforest, home to rare flora, fauna and remnants of rich cultural, mining and wartime history. Relax every evening around an open campfire, enjoying good food and new companions. Revel in the achievement of reaching Australia's most northerly point, Cape York.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetland Reserve
- Quinkan Aboriginal Paintings
- Musgrave Telegraph Station
- Moreton Telegraph Station
- Cape York-the very Top
- Historic Somerset (road conditions permitting)
- Horn Island – overnight
- Thursday Island
- Twin Falls & Bramwell Station
- Weipa (Gulf of Carpentaria)
- Batavia Gold Fields
- Chuulangun Homelands
- Iron Range National Park
- Portland Road – Chillii Beach
- Lakefield National Park
- Historic Cooktown
- Bloomfield Track
- World Heritage Daintree National Park

ITINERARY

DAY 1 SATURDAY (LD)
CAIRNS, JOWALBINNA (LAURA AREA). Depart your Cairns accommodation from 7.00am. We climb the rainforest-shrouded Kuranda Range, through Mareeba to the Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetland Reserve. Join a guided boat cruise and get up close and personal to the resident Jacanas and Pygmy-geese, and, for the lucky ones, a close up of the Freshwater Crocodiles! Pass by the inhospitable ranges of the Palmer River Gold Fields and enter the Laura River valley. A guided tour of The

Laura Cultural Centre' then travel via a historic goldfield road to Jowalbinna Rock Art Safari Camp. Camp with facilities.

DAY 2 SUNDAY (BLD)
MUSGRAVE TELEGRAPH STATION. This morning we take a guided walk of the rock art galleries of Jowalbinna. Aboriginal occupation dates back over 30,000 years, and the images of Quinkan spirits, totem animals and people adorn many of the rock shelters, this area ranks alongside the Kimberly and the Arnhemland escarpment as Australia's most important rock art regions. After lunch we rejoin the development road heading north to our overnight stay at Musgrave, the only original pioneer telegraph station building remaining in Cape York. Camp with facilities.

DAY 3 MONDAY (BLD)
COEN, MORETON TELEGRAPH STATION. Today we travel through typical frontier cattle country to a welcome fuel and provision stop at the mining town of Coen. With time to take in the history of the area at Heritage House. We cross the wide sandy Archer and Wenlock Rivers to arrive at Moreton Telegraph Station. Time for a bushwalk or wet a line for the elusive barramundi and spotlight for the rare Cuscus possum. Camp with facilities.

DAY 4 TUESDAY (BLD)
TELEGRAPH TRACK, TWIN FALLS. Civilisation is far behind and we are really in four-wheel drive country as we traverse the ever-changing wilderness landscape of zamias and eucalyptus forests to reach today's destination, the picturesque Twin Falls. Plenty of time to swim and explore or photograph the many enchanting rock pools, and waterfalls of this unique spot. Camp in Jardine River National Park with very basic facilities.

DAY 5 WEDNESDAY (BLD)
JARDINE RIVER, CAPE YORK. We continue negotiating bush tracks and the northern bypass road to reach the swift flowing Jardine River. A short stop at Bamaga Aboriginal and Islander settlement, before proceeding to our northern base camp overlooking the scattered islands of the Torres Strait. Camp with facilities.

DAY 6 THURSDAY (BLD)
CAPE YORK, SOMERSET, HORN ISLAND. 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, the ruins of the grandiose failed 'Singapore of the Pacific' (road conditions permitting). Afternoon cruise through the islands of Torres Strait to Thursday Island where you will connect to another ferry for transfer to Horn Island-Overnight at Gateway Torres Strait Resort.

DAY 7 FRIDAY (BLD)
HORN ISLAND, THURSDAY ISLAND, CAPE YORK. Discover Horn Island with a guided tour of the WW2 sites and a visit to the Torres Strait Heritage Museum. This is the largest collection of WW2, cultural and artistic items in the Torres Strait. Ferry transfer to Thursday Island for lunch followed by a guided tour to explore Thursday Island's fascinating past from the pearling era to present "Capital" of Torres Strait. Afternoon cruise back to mainland Cape York. Overnight camp with facilities.

DAY 8 SATURDAY (BLD)
FRUITBAT FALLS, BRAMWELL STATION. Our overland adventure south begins today. Recross the mighty Jardine River, through the wilderness of forests and heath to Fruitbat Falls on the Elliot River and a cooling dip in the rapids and waterfalls before lunch. Via the Kennedy Expedition monument at Heathlands Reserve, we arrive at Bramwell Station, the most northerly working cattle station on the Cape.

DAY 9 SUNDAY (BLD)
WENLOCK RIVER, WEIPA. We farewell our station hosts and travel south to cross the Wenlock River and via Batavia Downs detour west to the Gulf of Carpentaria through huge cattle runs and Aboriginal tribal lands to the bauxite-mining town of Weipa. Overnight at Weipa Campground.

DAY 10 MONDAY (BD)
BATAVIA GOLDFIELDS, CHUULA. In the cool of the early morning, a fascinating Weipa Mine Tour (own cost). A veritable 'Oasis in the Wilderness' and providing further contrast to your experience of this last frontier. A visit to the new Western Cape Cultural Centre before venturing East through pioneer cattle country to Old Batavia Goldfields. We explore this goldfield where approx 40,500 oz of gold was recovered. Overnight camp by the Wenlock River on Chuulangan Homelands

DAY 11 TUESDAY (BLD)
IRON RANGE NATIONAL PARK. Cross the Wenlock and Pascoe Rivers 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. Overnight camp in Iron Range National Park for 2 nights, basic facilities.

DAY 12 WEDNESDAY (BLD)
PORTLAND ROADS, CHILLI BEACH, WW2 SITES. 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. Chilli Beach, a truly magical spot overlooking Restoration Island, Bligh's 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.

DAY 13 THURSDAY (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 14 FRIDAY (BLD)
MUSGRAVE, LAKEFIELD NATIONAL PARK. Via Musgrave we head east towards the Coral Sea where we traverse almost the entire length of the huge bird and wildlife sanctuary of Lakefield National Park. An amalgamation of 3 huge cattle stations, the waterfowl teem in lily-fringed billabongs and huge crocodiles bask in broad river-lakes and lagoons. Camp with basic facilities.

DAY 15 SATURDAY (BD)
OLD LAURA, COOKTOWN. Continuing through Lakefield, past Old Laura Station, over the legendary Battlecamp Range to historic Cooktown. An eventful day of sightseeing and viewing significant landmarks and sites so important to all Australians.

DAY 16 SUNDAY (BL)
CAPE TRIBULATION NATIONAL PARK, CAIRNS. Across the rocky Bloomfield River and over the jungle clad heights of the coastal range to the secluded splendour of Cape Tribulation National Park. An informative drive and boardwalk beneath the majestic forest canopy of the World Heritage Rainforest.

2009 DEPARTURES

Tour Code: OZ-C160

May 30 Jun 27 Jul 25 Aug 22

Sept 19

2009 FARE

Twin Share \$2995.00 per person
(Jun, Jul, Aug)

Twin Share \$2725.00 per person
(May, September)

Single Tent/Accomm supplement- \$115.00