

12 Day Cape York Air/Overland Camping Safari (TOUR CODE: OZ-C12AO)

What an exciting but practical tour programme. Perfect for the holiday maker who wishes to combine the speed and scope of air travel with a comprehensive overland visit to the prime destinations of Cape York Peninsula.

Commence with a spectacular aerial reconnaissance to our least disturbed wilderness, its deserted coastline, adjoining reefs and islands. Then an absorbing 4WD exploration of the vast peninsula wilderness from North to South, with a fitting contrasting finale as you traverse the verdant Daintree/Cape Tribulation Rainforest.

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Flight Cairns-Horn Island*
- *Horn Island (overnight accommodation)*
- *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 SUNDAY (D)

CAIRNS, HORN ISLAND. Pre- arranged pick-up from your accommodation for mid morning flight to Horn Island. On arrival on you will be met by a representative from the Gateway Torres Strait Resort. Lunch included followed by a bus tour of the Island and Museum. Overnight accommodation

DAY 2 MONDAY (BD) THURSDAY ISLAND, PUNSAND BAY.

Morning ferry to Thursday Island for a conducted bus tour of this historic Island. Lunch is at own cost today. Mid afternoon by inter-island ferry for a cruise via Prince of Wales and Possession Islands to Punsand Bay Private Reserve, our Northern Base Camp.

DAY 3 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 4 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 5 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 6 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 7 SATURDAY (BLD)

CHUULA. 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 8 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, eucalypt 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. Overnight Iron Range.

DAY 9 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 10 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 11 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 12 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: C12AO

Sept 6,20 Oct 4,18 Nov 1

2009 FARES

Sept, Oct, Nov

\$2550.00 per person

Single Tent Supplement - \$77.00