



16 DAY BEST OF THE EAST COAST AUSTRALIA FROM SYDNEY (COMFORT TOUR)

PRE-DEPARTURE TRIP NOTES, AND CUSTOMER FAQ'S

A comprehensive guide for your upcoming 16 Day Best of East Coast Australia Comfort-Level Journey.

16 days. Countless memories. This ultra-indulgent Sydney to Cairns trip is designed to give you a leisurely, expansive view of one of the world's great coastlines, all with a small group. You'll explore all the iconic hot spots, of course – Sydney's glittering harbour, snorkelling with fish at the Great Barrier Reef, the bright sand at Whitehaven beach, and meeting koalas, platypus, crocs and more – but you'll also get the hidden gems that only locals know. And of course, out-of-this-world wine and seafood. Ready to discover the east coast?

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About your tour

Introducing your Best of Australia's East Coast region

This 16 Day Best of East Coast Australia Boutique Tour is a small-group, easy-paced journey from Sydney to Cairns that mixes iconic highlights (Sydney Harbour, K'gari, Whitsundays, Great Barrier Reef, Daintree) with local hidden gems, First Nations experiences, and comfort en-suite hotels.

Tour Details

- Tour code: **SD16-B** (twin share room), **SD16-S** (private double), **SD16-P** (private single)
- Operates: **Sundays** (select dates)
- 15 nights private or shared comfort style hotels/resorts - all rooms with ensuite
- Includes: 14 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 1 dinner
- Guided rainforest, gorge, river cruise & lookout walks
- Hosted by an experienced driver-guide, with local tour commentary
- All transport (private small-group vehicle, transfers, domestic flight BNE>PPP & boat trips)
- Sydney meeting point / Cairns drop-offs points

Tour Highlights

- **Boutique touring style** – enjoy a thoughtfully curated, small-group experience with a relaxed pace and a bespoke itinerary tailored for the comfort-level traveller.
- **Conservation Wildlife Park** visit – get close to kangaroos, wombats, emus, and more.
- **Hunter Valley** – wine & cheese tastings, chocolate shop visit.
- **Gumbaynggirr First Nations** cultural experience.
- **Koala Hospital** visit in Port Macquarie – learn about wildlife care and conservation.
- **Byron Bay** – enjoy the coastal town, get that small town feeling for the day and visit Cape Byron Lighthouse.
- **K'gari (Fraser Island) 4WD off-road experience** – explore the world's largest sand island.
- **Red Cat Whitsundays & Whitehaven Beach** - all inclusive full-day island trip with snorkeling.
- **Atherton Tablelands tour** – crater lake swim, waterfalls, and chance to spot wild platypus.
- **Great Barrier Reef Ocean Freedom day cruise** – including drift snorkel tour and glass-bottom boat experience.
- **Skyrail gondola ride** – soar above the rainforest to the village of Kuranda.
- **Daintree Rainforest Walk** – a guided, sustainable walk through the world's oldest rainforest, in the footsteps of Sir David Attenborough.
- **Eco-friendly nature cruise** – spot crocodiles, birds, and marine life in the wild
- **Mossman Gorge** – Dreamtime Walk lead by local indigenous guide, traditional 'smoking ceremony
- **Cape Tribulation visit** – where the rainforest meets the reef

Itinerary

Day 1: Sydney Welcome

We start in Australia's Harbour City, the glittering jewel in the east coast's crown. Check into your room, freshen up, then meet your tour leader and new travel mates for a welcome meeting at 6pm. Then we are off for a great welcome dinner, and the chance to get to know your fellow travellers.

Included Activities:

- *Get to know your fellow travellers with a welcome meeting and dinner.*

Meals: Welcome Dinner.

Driving Distance: No driving.

Accommodation: [Holiday Inn Potts point](#) or similar.

Day 2: Hunter Valley and Newcastle

We leave behind Sydney's skyscrapers and sidewalks for a wildlife park boasting an all-star cast of koalas, kangaroos, and more. We're in the heart of the Hunter Valley, so there's nothing better to do than wine & cheese tasting. We'll also visit the sunny port city of Newcastle, rounding off an eclectic day.

Included Activities:

- Conservation Wildlife Park visit - Get close to many native / unique Australian animals like kangaroos, emus and more.
- Hunter Valley wine & cheese tasting.
- Newcastle orientation tour.

Meals: Breakfast.

Driving Distance: 280 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walks.

Accommodation – [Lucky Hotel Newcastle](#) or similar.

Day 3: Port Macquarie & The Koala Hospital

After breakfast, we're off to Port Macquarie, where we'll have a chance to meet the volunteers at a Port Macquarie Koala Hospital. If you're unable to tear yourself away from the cuddly critters, don't worry – you're not the first. Expect to come away with loads more knowledge about these often misunderstood creatures & how, by joining our tour, you are supporting this amazing centre's conservation efforts. Relax for the evening with a stroll along the foreshore & a free night for dinner. Enjoy the sounds of the local bird population and keep your eyes peeled for the local wild dolphins.

Included Activities:

- Visit Port Macquarie Koala Hospital.
- Foreshore walk and a chance to spot wild dolphins.

Meals: Breakfast.

Driving Distance: 250 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walks / look out points.

Accommodation – [El Paso Motor Inn](#) or similar.

Day 4: Niigi Niigi (Sealy Lookout) & Byron Bay

Take part in an immersive First Nations experience of the Gumbaynggirr nation, that will get you in touch with the traditional custodians of this land. Then we're headed to Byron Bay, a laid-back surf paradise with boundless coastline, sand and friendly locals. We'll pay a visit to Cape Byron, for a unique photo opportunity, and the chance for the eagle-eyed to spot dolphins, whales, and other marine life.

Included Activities:

- Immersive Gumbaynggirr First Nations experience.
- Visit to Cape Byron to see the famous local lighthouse, the most easterly point of Australia for a unique photo opportunity, and the chance for the eagle-eyed to spot dolphins, whales in season, and other marine life.

Meals: Breakfast.

Driving Distance: 400 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walks / look out points.

Accommodation – [Beachcomber Byron Bay](#) or similar.

Day 5: Byron Bay

Today we're talking relaxation, relaxation, and relaxation. Spend the morning on the warm sand, shopping for bargains, or indulge in one of our optional activities: surfing or kayaking plus many activities like balloon rides, whale watching, brewery tours etc. The day is all yours – put your feet up, head to a cosy bar, or

watch the world go by from one of the local cafes.

Included Activities:

- Free day to relax, or enjoy optional activities: Surf lesson, kayak experience.

Meals: None.

Driving Distance: None.

Accommodation – [Beachcomber Byron Bay](#) or similar.

Day 6: Noosa & Rainbow Beach

We're crossing into Queensland – the Sunshine State. Your first stop is laid-back Noosa, and Noosa National Park where you will have the chance to spot koalas and other Aussie critters. We continue further up the Sunshine Coast to our base for the next 2 nights, it's time to relax and soak up the atmosphere of the vibrant Rainbow Beach.

Included Activities:

- Noosa National Park & the chance to spot koalas in the wild (self guided walk).
- Noosa orientation including Noosa Main Beach and Hastings Street.

Meals: Breakfast.

Driving Distance: 420 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walks / look out points.

Accommodation – [Rainbow Getaway Apartments](#) or similar.

Day 7: K'Gari (Fraser Island)

Ready, steady, go, for a once-in-a-lifetime 4WD K'Gari adventure today. Once known as Fraser Island, the destination has been returned to its original name K'gari. K'gari is the local Butchulla nation's name for the island, meaning 'paradise' – you'll find out why soon enough.

You'll never want to leave, as we explore the largest sand island in the world, kick back at some of Queensland's most renowned lookouts, take a walk on the wild side in a lush rainforest, swim in the crystal clear Lake Boorangoora (Lake McKenzie) or Lake Birrabreen, see the famous S.S Maheno shipwreck and course go dingo-spotting along the golden 75 Mile Beach. The fun needn't stop there; after the tour feel free to enjoy Carlo Sand Blow and Rainbow Beach, or put your feet up in your accommodation.

Included Activities:

- Once-in-a-lifetime 4WD bus adventure to K'Gari (Fraser Island).

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch.

Driving Distance: 200 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walks / look out points (5KM total).

Accommodation – [Rainbow Getaway Apartments](#) or similar.

Day 8: Brisbane

It's Bris-vegas baby! We're off to Queensland's capital, Brisbane, soon to be home of the summer Olympics. Laidback, sunny, optimistic, buzzing – in many ways it's the quintessential Aussie city. See for yourself how wonderful Brisbane is with a walk (or ferry ride) along the aptly named Brisbane river and its surrounds.

Included Activities:

- Orientation tour.

Meals: Breakfast.

Driving Distance: 240 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walk.

Accommodation – [The Point Hotel Brisbane](#) or similar.

Day 9: Brisbane to Airlie Beach

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your included flight to the Whitsundays Coast. Upon arrival, travel to Airlie Beach, a vibrant coastal town known as the gateway to the Whitsunday Islands.

The evening is free for you to explore at your own pace. Take a stroll along the Airlie Beach foreshore, relax

in the lagoon, browse local shops, or enjoy a drink at one of the many waterfront cafés and bars. Your guide will be on hand to offer recommendations depending on your interests.

As the sun sets, soak in the laid-back tropical atmosphere and get excited for the island adventures ahead.

Included Activities

- Domestic Flight to the Whitsunday Coast.
- Free afternoon & evening to explore Airlie Beach.

Meals: Breakfast.

Driving Distance: 40 kms.

Domestic Flight: from Brisbane to Proserpine (Whitsundays) included. 1 hour 50 minutes (990 km).

Accommodation – [Mantra Club Croc](#) or similar.

Day 10: Airlie Beach & Whitsunday Islands

After breakfast, we're heading out on a full-day speedboat cruise through the postcard-perfect Whitsunday Islands, including a stop at the iconic Whitehaven Beach aboard the award-winning Red Cat Adventures Thundercat vessel. Words can't quite capture the dazzling white sands, azure waters, and lush greenery of this incredible corner of the world (so we won't try!). Get up close by snorkeling among colourful coral, playful fish, and maybe even a sea turtle or two. Afterwards, unwind at your own pace or head into town to discover the best local food and drink spots.

Included Activities

- Whitsundays Islands day cruise including snorkeling, Whitehaven beach visit, Hill Inlet walk and lunch.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch.

Driving Distance: Full day fast boat trip. Approx 8 hours. 46 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walk / Hill inlet lookout point overlooking whitehaven beach.

Accommodation – [Mantra Club Croc](#) or similar.

Day 11: Mission Beach

Leave Airlie Beach behind this morning as we track north along the scenic Bruce Highway. Our journey takes us through a shifting landscape of coastal plains, vast sugarcane fields, and small Queensland townships, with plenty of comfort stops along the way.

We arrive at Mission Beach, a tranquil coastal haven where the lush rainforest meets the Great Barrier Reef. This region is famed for its stunning natural beauty and easy pace, providing a perfect, serene contrast to the busier tourist hubs.

Enjoy some free time to explore at your leisure — wander along the expansive, palm-fringed shoreline, relax by the pool, or simply soak up the quiet surroundings. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the local wildlife, including the elusive wild cassowary and wallabies that call this rainforest home.

Included Activities

- Scenic drive along the Bruce Highway.

Meals: Breakfast.

Driving Distance: 505kms (Biggest drive day).

Walking Distance: Short easy walks / look out points.

Accommodation – [Mission Beach Resort](#) or similar.

Day 12: Cairns via the Atherton Tablelands

Head inland this morning to discover the lush Atherton Tablelands, a region brimming with fertile landscapes and natural wonders. Your first port of call is the spectacular Millaa Millaa Falls—one of Australia's most iconic and photographed waterfalls—where you'll have the opportunity to take a refreshing dip in the cool waters.

We continue to the serene Lake Eacham, a volcanic crater lake nestled within the rainforest. Enjoy a short walk around its tranquil shores while your guide shares insights into the region's unique ecology and geological history.

Next, visit the awe-inspiring Curtain Fig Tree, a massive strangler fig with aerial roots that cascade dramatically to the forest floor, before we journey through rolling countryside & vibrant tropical farmland. We arrive in Cairns in the late afternoon, giving you time to unwind at your accommodation or head out to soak up the atmosphere of the Esplanade and its lively local dining scene.

Included Activities

- *Scenic Atherton tablelands tour including a volcanic crater lake, stunning waterfalls and a chance to spot wild platypus.*

Meals: Breakfast.

Driving Distance: 220 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walks / look out points.

Accommodation – [Flynn Hotel Cairns](#) or similar.

Day 13: Snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef

Get ready to witness one of the world's most spectacular natural wonders—the Great Barrier Reef. We'll board our high-quality vessel and cruise to the outer reef, where crystal-clear waters and vibrant coral ecosystems await.

Spend your day snorkelling through kaleidoscopic coral gardens teeming with marine life. Keep your eyes peeled for tropical fish, giant clams, and perhaps even a sea turtle or reef shark. With all equipment and guidance provided, this experience is perfect for everyone from first-timers to seasoned swimmers.

If you'd rather stay dry, you can take in the sights from a glass-bottom boat or simply kick back on deck and soak up the stunning scenery. For those wanting to go deeper, optional scuba diving is also available.

Throughout our adventure, you'll learn about vital conservation efforts and the importance of protecting this fragile ecosystem. We'll head back to Cairns in the late afternoon, leaving you plenty of time to enjoy another beautiful tropical evening.

Included Activities:

- *Great Barrier Reef day cruise with Ocean Freedom - including snorkeling, glass bottom boat and buffet lunch.*
- *Optional Activity – Scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef.*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch.

Driving Distance: Full day fast boat trip. Approx 6.5 hours. 30 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walks / look out points.

Accommodation – [Flynn Hotel Cairns](#) or similar.

Day 14: Kuranda and Port Douglas

It's go, go gondola today as we soar above the lush canopy on an incredible Skyrail ride, taking in views of the ancient rainforest, Barron River, and surrounding peaks on our way to the vibrant markets of picturesque Kuranda. Later, we journey north to the laid-back tropical village of Port Douglas, where you can unwind and join your travel mates for dinner, drinks, and a spectacular sunset (optional).

Included Activities:

- *Skyrail gondola ride over the rainforest canopy.*
- *Kuranda markets.*
- *Port Douglas orientation tour.*

Meals: Breakfast.

Driving Distance: 100 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walks / look out points.

Accommodation – [Paradise Links Resort](#) or similar.

Day 15: Mossman Gorge & First Nations experience

Ease into the morning in the tropical haven of Port Douglas—just as it should be. Take a leisurely stroll through the vibrant local markets, pick up a fresh brew, and simply soak up the sparkling ocean views. Later, we'll journey to Mossman Gorge within the ancient, World Heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest. Here, you'll enjoy a guided walk through the lush jungle canopy, alongside crystal-clear streams and towering, emerald trees. We connect with the land during an immersive cultural experience with the Kuku Yalanji people. Discover traditional customs, learn about ancient bush foods, and hear stories of their profound spiritual ties to Country—a truly unforgettable encounter with the world's oldest living culture.

Included Activities:

- Visit to vibrant local markets.
- Visit Mossman Gorge for an incredible walk through the rainforest.
- Kuku Yalanji (First Nations) immersive cultural experience.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch.

Driving Distance: 25 kms.

Walking Distance: 2.5 kms / 1.5 hour guided walk Mossman gorge rainforest. Anyone unable to walk that distance has the option to wait for the group to return.

Accommodation – [Paradise Links Resort](#) or similar.

Day 16: Daintree Rainforest walk, Cape Tribulation & Crocodile/nature cruise

Prepare for another immersive day as we venture further into the heart of the World Heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest and cross via ferry to Cape Tribulation. We'll enjoy a guided walk through this ancient ecosystem, visiting the local family who hosted Sir David Attenborough's documentary crew, while keeping a keen eye out for the elusive southern cassowary and other vibrant tropical wildlife.

In the afternoon, we take to the waters of the Daintree River (Julaymba) aboard the eco-friendly *Solar Whisper*. This quiet, solar-powered vessel allows for a truly serene wildlife experience, offering the chance to spot crocodiles, birds, and snakes in their natural habitat with the help of your expert guide and the unique "CROC CAM."

We conclude our journey with a spectacular coastal drive back to Cairns, where your tour finishes on arrival at approximately 6:00 pm. If you require assistance with post-tour accommodation or onward travel, please don't hesitate to ask—we're happy to help! Thank you for sharing this incredible Australian adventure with us.

Included Activities:

- Guided rainforest walk & with a chance to spot ancient cassowary birds and other wildlife.
- Eco-friendly crocodile and nature cruise on the Daintree River.
- Scenic coastal drive back to Cairns.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch.

Driving Distance: 160 kms.

Walking Distance: 7 km / 2 hour guided walk Daintree rainforest. Anyone unable to walk that distance has the option to wait for the group to return.

**Autopia Tours (Via Travel) reserves the right to alter the route or itinerary stops during seasonal weather fluctuations and/or during park closures.*

Inclusions

- 15 nights private or shared comfort style hotels/resorts - all rooms with ensuite
- Includes: 14 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 1 dinner
- All National Park entry fees included
- First Nations cultural experience
- Wine & cheese tasting
- Australian wildlife encounter and rescue centre visit

- K'gari Fraser Island 4WD small-group experience
- Whitsunday Island & Whitehaven beach day trip & snorkel
- Great Barrier Reef day cruise - incl. snorkeling gear & glass bottom boat
- Kuranda Skyrail gondola ride over lush rainforest
- Guided rainforest, gorge, river cruise & lookout walks
- Hosted by an experienced driver-guide, with local tour commentary
- All transport (private small-group vehicle, transfers, domestic flight BNE>PPP & boat trips)
- Sydney meeting point / Cairns drop-offs points

Exclusions

- Any meals not indicated within the itinerary - plenty of opportunity will be provided to purchase food along the way or dine out with the group
- Hotel transfers pre/post tour itinerary to a nominated pickup point.
- Optional activities and/or tours, and hire equipment extra. Optional Activity – Scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef. Byron Bay optional activities: Surf lesson, kayak experience
- Personal travel insurance
- Spending money for personal items and expenses
- International flights

Optional Activities

We don't offer any pre-bookable optional activities on this trip. The guide will be able to provide information once on the trip.

Room Amenities

Nights	Configuration	Facilities	Includes
1 to 15	Shared Accommodation Twin Room	Private Ensuite Facilities	Sleeps 2 people, solo travellers paired with another passenger, towel, linen, tv, air-conditioning
1 to 15	Motel Accommodation Private Double / Twin / Single	Private Ensuite Bathroom	Sleeps 1 or 2 people, towel & bed linen supplied, fridge, tv, lounge, air-conditioning, tea/coffee facilities

What to Bring

- 1L Refillable water bottle - It is important to stay hydrated at all times during your daily adventures in order to avoid health concerns arising.
- Wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses & sunscreen
- Beach towel and toiletries
- Bathers or swimwear, flip-flops shoes (beach thongs)
- Comfortable sturdy walking shoes (closed-toe shoes)
- All-weather clothing (In case extreme conditions day/night)
- Overnight bag 20kg & small day pack 7kg
- Personal medicine if required, any pre-existing medical issues, please let us know at time of booking
- Flashlight or torch (optional)
- Insect repellent & camera
- Money for snack and meals
- A sense of adventure!

Luggage Policy

To maximise the comfort of your journey no luggage storage facilities are provided on our (Short-Break / Extended Tours): Maximum baggage allowance per person is 20kg due to flight restrictions on luggage limitations.

Excessive amounts of luggage may incur a surcharge fee. Mobility scooters, wheelchairs, walking frames and other walking aids cannot be stored safely on our vehicles, please advise prior to booking if there are any of these aids required.

Where to Meet

Our meeting point for this trip will be at our first nights accommodation in the heart of Sydney.

Meeting point

Holiday Inn Potts Point

203 Victoria St, Potts Point
Sydney, New South Wales

Your **welcome meeting** will take place at **6:00pm on Day 1** in the foyer at the starting point hotel. It's very important that you're on time, so we can set off on our adventures straight after the meeting.

Drop-off Location

Our drop-off point for this trip will be back in Cairns where we stayed a few nights earlier.

Finishing Point

Crystalbrook Flynn Hotel

68/72 Abbott St, Cairns
Queensland

Your tour finishes on arrival at the **Flynn Hotel** at approximately **6:00pm on Day 16**. If you require post accommodation please advise us at time of booking or at least 30 days prior to departure.. For post tour activities and onward travel beyond Cairns please chat with your Tour Leader on Day 1. Please avoid booking any onward flights from Cairns on this day.

Important Booking Information

- **Mandatory Details:** Passenger details are required at the time of booking, including date of birth, food allergies, title or gender for rooming configuration, nationality and a contact phone number.
- **Dietary Requirements:** While we endeavor to cater to most dietary needs, passengers must inform their booking agent of any specific dietary requirements or food allergies when booking.
- **Medical Conditions:** The tour operator must be notified of any known medical conditions at the time of booking. This tour requires a moderate level of fitness and mobility.
- **Fitness Level:** Travellers can expect some light physical activities. Travellers should be mobile enough to walk unaided. A doctor's certificate is required for participants over 75 years old, submitted at least 30 days prior to travel.
- **Age Restrictions:** Children aged 12 to 17 must be accompanied by an adult or legal guardian at all times. The tour is not suitable for infants or children aged 11 and under due to the nature of the tour.
- **Solo Travellers:** Solo travellers who book separately in a **Twin Share Accommodation (SD16-B)** will be paired with another solo traveller in a twin room or with someone of the same gender.

- **Fare Type Options:**
 - **Shared Accommodation (SD16-B)** is restricted to Adults only 18+ years and over, as travellers stay in a shared room with shared ensuite. Not suitable for children.
 - **Private Double/Twin Room (SD16-S):** For Adults and Children staying in a double or twin room with ensuite and must be purchased by Qty2 people staying together.
 - **Private Single Room (SD16-P):** Restricted to Adults only (18+ years old and over) with ensuite.
- **Mobility Considerations:** This tour is not suitable for mobility-impaired travellers, including those using wheelchairs, walking aids or mobility scooters.
- **Baggage Limitations:** Limited storage space is available on our vehicle. Each traveller may bring 1 x 20 kg travel bag and 1 x 7 kg day bag. Larger or multiple suitcases are by request only.
- **Itinerary Variations:** Itineraries may change due to seasonal weather conditions, and occasionally sites in the parks may close for cultural or safety reasons or restricted swimming access. We prioritise safety and plan accordingly to ensure the best experience for our guests.

Things to know before you travel! (FAQ's)

Overview and style

Q: What kind of tour is this?

A: Where comfort meets authenticity. A 16 day/15 night boutique journey from Sydney to Cairns, this journey is curated for the traveller who wants to immerse themselves in unique Australian experiences while staying in comfort at hand-selected accommodation. It is a perfect blend of nature and wildlife, culture and heritage, and local authenticity, that define the true Australia. We manage and operate the tours ourselves, believing in personal, down-to-earth, and authentic experiences. We've handpicked the most beautiful locations, quality accommodations, and passionate guides.

Q: Who is this tour best suited for?

A: This boutique journey is tailor-made for those seeking an easy-paced, small-group adventure from Sydney to Cairns. It's perfect for the comfort-level traveller who appreciates en-suite accommodation and a curated mix of iconic coastal highlights, immersive First Nations experiences, local wildlife, and exceptional food and wine. Our small group sizes ensure that you enjoy an intimate journey with plenty of opportunities to connect with your fellow travellers.

Q: What are the main highlights?

A: Highlights include Sydney's harbour, Hunter Valley wine, cheese and wine tastings, Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, Byron Bay and Cape Byron Lighthouse, K'gari (Fraser Island) 4WD adventure, Whitsundays & Whitehaven Beach day cruise with snorkelling, Atherton Tablelands waterfalls and crater lake, Great Barrier Reef cruise, Kuranda Skyrail, Daintree Rainforest and Cape Tribulation, plus First Nations experiences with Gumbaynggirr and Kuku Yalanji.

Q: How long is the tour and where does it start and finish?

A: The tour runs for 16 days / 15 nights, starting in Sydney at Holiday Inn Potts Point at 18:00 on Day 1 and finishing in Cairns around 18:00, with drop-off at Cairns Airport or Crystalbrook Flynn.

Q: How many people will be in the group?

A: The group size is a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 16 passengers, allowing for a personalised experience.

Q: What language is the tour conducted in?

A: All touring and commentary are conducted in English.

Inclusions and exclusions

Q: What is included in the tour price?

A: Inclusions are 15 nights' hotel/resort accommodation (all with ensuite), 14 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 1 welcome dinner, all listed national park and attraction entry fees, First Nations experiences, K'gari 4WD tour, Whitsundays & Whitehaven day trip with snorkeling, Great Barrier Reef cruise with snorkeling gear and glass-bottom boat, Kuranda Skyrail, guided rainforest and gorge walks, all ground transport, listed boat trips, and a domestic flight from Brisbane to the Whitsundays.

Q: What is not included?

A: Exclusions are meals not listed in the itinerary, optional activities (e.g. scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef, Byron Bay surf or kayak tours and other local options), pre/post-tour accommodation and transfers, personal travel insurance, personal expenses, and international flights.

Q: Are national park and wildlife park entry fees included?

A: Yes, all listed national park, wildlife park, and guided cultural experiences on the itinerary are included in the tour price.

Meeting, finishing and emergency contacts

Q: Where and when does the tour start?

A: The tour starts on Day 1 at Holiday Inn Potts Point, 203 Victoria St, Potts Point, Sydney. Your welcome meeting is at 6:00 pm in the hotel foyer, followed by a group dinner, so it is essential you arrive on time.

Q: Where and when does the tour finish?

A: The tour finishes on Day 16 on arrival at Crystalbrook Flynn, 68/72 Abbott St, Cairns, at approximately 6:00 pm after returning from the Daintree and Cape Tribulation. It is strongly recommended not to book onward flights from Cairns on this day; instead, plan post-tour accommodation (we can assist) or onward travel for the following day.

Q: Who do I contact in an emergency?

A: During the trip, contact your group leader first for any issues; for genuine emergencies, call the local office on (+61) 02 7229 1083 and leave a message if there is no immediate answer so the team can return your call as soon as possible.

Accommodation and rooming

Q: What standard and style of accommodation is used?

A: You stay mostly in locally owned hotels and resorts, all with private ensuite bathrooms; the properties listed in the itinerary are a guide and may occasionally be substituted with similar standard accommodation if required.

Q: What room configurations can I book?

A: You can book:

- Shared Twin (SD16-B): Adult 18+ twin share with ensuite, solo travellers paired with the same gender.
- Private Double/Twin (SD16-S): For 2 people (Adults and/or Children) in a double or twin room with private ensuite; must be booked for two.
- Private Single (SD16-P): Adult 18+ in their own en-suited room

Q: Is this tour suitable for solo travellers?

A: Yes, many guests travel solo; you can choose a shared twin SD16-B (paired with a same-gender traveller) or a private single room, and the small-group format makes it easy to meet people.

Q: Is there a single supplement?

A: Yes, travellers who prefer not to share can book the private single room option (SD16-P) at the applicable single rate.

Q: Can children join this tour?

A: Children aged 12–17 may travel when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and must stay in a private room; the tour is not suitable for children 11 and under.

Q: What facilities do rooms have?

A: Rooms include ensuite bathroom, towels and linen, TV and air-conditioning; private rooms also generally include a fridge, lounge area and tea/coffee facilities.

Q: Is there a chance to do laundry along the way?

A: Your group leader will advise you along the trip where you will be able to do your laundry. Options may include onsite or in room laundry facilities, and could be free or charged.

Transport and domestic flights

Q: What transport is used on this tour?

A: Transport includes an air-conditioned mini-coach or small bus with luggage trailer for land sectors, 4WD vehicles on K'gari, boats and fast catamarans for Whitsundays and Great Barrier Reef days, and the Skyrail gondola to Kuranda.

Q: Are domestic flights included, and what is the baggage allowance?

A: A domestic flight from Brisbane to the Whitsundays (Brisbane–Proserpine) is included; the typical allowance on Australian domestic flights is one checked bag of up to 23 kg and one carry-on bag of up to 7 kg per person, and your name as per your passport or Australian I.D. is required at booking to issue the ticket.

Q: Is airport or hotel pickup included on Day 1?

A: No, guests make their own way to the meeting point at Holiday Inn Potts Point in Sydney by 18:00. Post-tour transfers are also at your own arrangement, although the guide is happy to assist with bookings.

Passports, visas and entry requirements

Q: What passport validity and visa requirements apply?

A: International travellers should ensure their passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond their travel dates and that the name matches the booking exactly; you are responsible for checking and obtaining the correct Australian visa and any transit visas based on your nationality by consulting your government's travel advisories.

Q: Should I carry copies of my documents?

A: Yes, carry printed or digital copies of your passport photo page, visas, insurance and flight details, and leave a copy at home, as these are useful if originals are lost or stolen.

Fitness, mobility and age

Q: How fit do I need to be?

A: The tour is graded "Easy – Relaxed Pace" but includes regular short walks to lookouts, beaches, waterfalls and through rainforest (up to around 7 km on the longest Daintree day), so travellers must be mobile enough to walk unaided on uneven ground and manage steps.

Q: Are there age or medical restrictions?

A: The tour is not suitable for infants or children 11 and under; travellers aged 12–17 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, and participants over 75 must provide a doctor's certificate at least 30 days prior, confirming they are fit for an easy active holiday.

Q: Is the tour suitable for mobility-impaired travellers?

A: Unfortunately no; due to vehicle design, terrain and walking distances, this tour is not appropriate for those using wheelchairs, mobility scooters or walking frames.

Q: What medical precautions should I take?

A: Consult your doctor before travel for personalised advice and any recommended vaccinations; carry a basic first-aid kit and any prescription medications in original packaging, and check your government's guidance for rules on bringing medicines into Australia.

Travel insurance and safety

Q: Is travel insurance mandatory?

A: Comprehensive travel insurance **covering medical care and emergency evacuation** is strongly recommended for all travellers and is **mandatory for international guests**; policies should ideally also cover trip cancellation, delays and lost belongings, and proof of cover and emergency contact numbers should be available before joining the group.

Q: What safety measures are in place on tour?

A: The tour follows local safety regulations, uses licensed operators for activities and national parks, and your group leader may alter the itinerary in response to weather, road closures or other safety concerns to protect the group.

Money, tipping and contingency funds

Q: What currency is used and how should I manage money?

A: Australia uses the Australian dollar (AUD); cards are widely accepted in cities and towns, but it is wise to carry some cash for small purchases, and note that some businesses may apply a small card surcharge, while ATMs are limited in more remote areas.

Q: Is tipping expected in Australia?

A: Tipping is optional; you may choose to tip for exceptional service (for example, 10–15% in higher-end restaurants or a modest gratuity for your leader), but it is entirely at your discretion and not compulsory. You may consider tipping your leader for excellent service throughout your trip. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline 4-6 AUD per person, per day.

Q: Tipping your tour guide?

A: Tipping your group leader is completely optional, but always appreciated if you feel they've provided outstanding service during your trip. There's no set amount — it's entirely up to you. As a general guideline, many travellers choose to give around AUD 7-10 per person per day if they wish to tip.

Q: Should I have a contingency fund?

A: It is sensible to keep an additional emergency fund (for example, around the equivalent of USD 500) for unforeseen expenses such as weather-related itinerary changes, extra accommodation, or transport disruptions not covered by your insurance.

Luggage limits and packing

Q: How much luggage can I bring?

A: Each traveller may bring one main bag up to 20 kg and one day pack up to 7 kg due to limited vehicle storage; larger or additional luggage is by request only.

Q: What should I pack for this tour?

A: Recommended items include a 1L refillable water bottle, wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen, swimwear and beach towel, comfortable closed-toe walking shoes, flip-flop, all-weather clothing layers, toiletries, personal medications, insect repellent, a small torch, camera and some cash or card for meals and optional activities.

Q: Are there any “must-bring” items?

A: Essential items include travel documents, insurance information, reusable water bottle (at least 1L), day pack, camera, adapters, small locks, basic first-aid kit, insect repellent, and optionally a money belt, earplugs and a small torch or headlamp.

Q: What is the weather like along the route?

A: Weather varies from temperate in Sydney and the Hunter to tropical in Queensland; summer can reach the high 30s°C, while winter is generally mild, but coastal areas can see sudden showers and cooler evenings, so layers and wet-weather gear are recommended.

Beach, snorkelling and marine safety

Q: How can I stay safe at Australian beaches?

A: Always swim between the red and yellow flags at patrolled beaches, never swim alone or under the influence of alcohol, check safety signage, ask lifeguards for local advice, and if you get into trouble, stay calm, float and signal for help by waving your arm.

Q: What should I know about snorkelling on this tour?

A: When snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef or in the Whitsundays, always follow crew instructions, stay near your group or buddy, be aware of currents and sun exposure, wear reef-safe sunscreen and protective clothing, and avoid touching coral or marine life.

Q: Are there stingers or dangerous marine life?

A: In tropical Queensland, marine stingers such as Irukandji may be present, particularly in warmer months; operators provide protective stinger suits, and if stung, you should exit the water, notify crew immediately and follow their first-aid procedures.

Inclusions, exclusions and meals

Q: What exactly is included in the tour price?

A: Inclusions cover 15 nights' hotel/resort accommodation with ensuite, 14 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 1 welcome dinner, all listed national park and attraction entry fees, Gumbaynggirr and Kuku Yalanji First Nations experiences, K'gari 4WD day, Whitsundays & Whitehaven snorkelling day cruise, Great Barrier Reef Ocean Freedom day cruise (with snorkel gear and glass-bottom boat), Kuranda Skyrail, guided rainforest and gorge walks, eco-cruise in the Daintree, all ground transport, boat trips and the Brisbane–Whitsundays domestic flight, plus the services of an experienced driver-guide.

Q: What is not included?

A: Exclusions are meals not specified in the itinerary, optional tours and activities (such as scuba diving, Byron Bay surf and kayak options and other local experiences), pre and post-tour accommodation and transfers, personal expenses, international flights and travel insurance.

Q: Can you cater for special diets?

A: Most common dietary requirements can usually be catered for included meals if advised at the time of booking (e.g. vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free), noting that options may be more limited in smaller or remote locations.

Itinerary flexibility and group dynamics

Q: Can the itinerary change once the tour has started?

A: Yes, the itinerary may be adjusted due to weather conditions, national park or road closures, cultural considerations or other unforeseen circumstances; any changes are made with guest safety and experience in mind, and alternative activities are arranged where possible.

Q: What is travelling on a group trip like?

A: Travelling in a small group (maximum 16) means sharing experiences with people from different backgrounds; flexibility, punctuality and consideration for others help keep the trip running smoothly and enjoyable for everyone. We usually find our gr

Q: Who leads the tour?

A: Our experienced driver-guides lead the trip from start to finish, provides commentary, organises logistics, offers restaurant and activity recommendations, and is your main point of contact for questions and assistance. We are super proud of our passionate and enthusiastic guides

Booking and departures

Q: When does the tour depart?

A: Scheduled departures operate on Sundays within the season 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2027, with updated schedules available for the following season.

Q: How do I book and what details are required?

A: : At the time of booking you must provide your name as per passport (essential as your domestic flight ticket must match your ID), date of birth, contact phone, gender/title for rooming, any dietary needs and medical conditions.

Q: Is travel insurance required?

A: Comprehensive travel insurance **covering medical care and emergency evacuation** is strongly recommended for all travellers and is **mandatory for international guests**; policies should ideally also cover trip cancellation, delays and lost belongings, and proof of cover and emergency contact numbers should be available before joining the group.

Changes, cancellations and private groups

Q: Can the tour operate as a private departure?

A: Yes, private touring for families, friends or special interest groups can usually be arranged on request directly with our charters team at charters@gltg.com.au, subject to availability and minimum numbers.

Q: What if I need to change or cancel my booking?

A: Standard booking terms and conditions apply, including release periods and any applicable fees; exact conditions should be checked at the time of booking or in the current terms and conditions. All cancellation requests must be done in writing.

Q: What happens if weather affects the itinerary?

A: The operator may modify routes, timings or activities due to severe weather, park or road closures, flood or fire risk, or cultural reasons, always with guest safety as the priority and aiming to offer suitable alternative experiences where possible.

Booking Confirmations & Enquiries

info@autopiatours.com.au or hello@viatravel.com.au.

Information is valid for travel from 1 August 2025 to 31 March 2027.