

An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. On the left, a dense green forest covers a hillside that meets a white sandy beach. The beach is curved and has several people walking on it. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, with darker patches visible beneath the surface, indicating a reef or rocky bottom. In the background, a range of blue mountains stretches across the horizon under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds.

# What to do in Tropical North Queensland



## Half day adventures

### Cairns Aquarium

Located in the heart of the city, the new Cairns Aquarium highlights the aquatic life of Northern Australia from river to reef.

[cairnsaquarium.com.au](http://cairnsaquarium.com.au)

### Cairns Museum

Located in the heart of the city, the Cairns Museum offers a glimpse of the Tropical North Queensland's historic colourful past.

[cairnsmuseum.org.au](http://cairnsmuseum.org.au)

### Ocean Safari

Snorkel the untouched Mackay and Undine Reefs on this half day Great Barrier Reef Tour from Cape Tribulation with maximum 25 passengers.

[oceansafari.com.au](http://oceansafari.com.au)

### Sailaway Sunset Sail

Enjoy the peace and tranquillity of pure sailing at twilight on board a luxury sailboat on the Coral Sea from Port Douglas.

[sailawayportdouglas.com](http://sailawayportdouglas.com)

## Unique experiences

### Predator Plank

The new Predator Plank at Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas allows visitors to test their courage as they "walk the plank" over crocodile-filled waters.

[wildlifehabitat.com.au](http://wildlifehabitat.com.au)

### Jungle Surfing

Embark on a voyage of discovery and adventure in the heart of Cape Tribulation as you zipline through the ancient rainforest canopy.

[junglesurfing.com.au](http://junglesurfing.com.au)

### Heli Pub Tour

See and taste what the Atherton Tablelands has to offer on this Heli Pub Tour, visiting four classic Queenslanders pub, flying over volcanic crater lakes and stopping at Tropical North Queensland's first and only distillery.

[helitoursnq.com.au/trips/heli-pub-tour](http://helitoursnq.com.au/trips/heli-pub-tour)

### Quicksilver Dive School

A purpose-built dive training centre on the doorstep of the Great Barrier Reef in Port Douglas, offering a range of PADI accredited courses; from entry level to advance courses.

[quicksilverdive.com.au](http://quicksilverdive.com.au)

### Billy Tea Safaris

Explore the "Best of the Cairns Tablelands" with Billy Tea Safaris' one day tour that now includes the Herberton Historic Village, voted on Trip Advisor as one of the top 10 museums in Australia.

[billytea.com.au](http://billytea.com.au)

### Blue Dive

Jump onboard the Choo Choo Explorer catamaran in Port Douglas for a relaxed sunset cruise and captivating stargazing experience under the stars.

[bluedive.com.au/stargazing](http://bluedive.com.au/stargazing)

### Dreamtime Dive and Snorkel

Step back into the Great Barrier Reef's Dreamtime with Indigenous sea rangers on a day tour to two spectacular outer Great Barrier Reef sites.

[reefmagiccruises.com/dreamtime-dive](http://reefmagiccruises.com/dreamtime-dive)

### Helifish

A unique experience for the avid, "fair dinkum" fisherman. Your personal helicopter accesses special awesome fishing spots from river to reef.

[nautilusaviation.com.au](http://nautilusaviation.com.au)

### Jarramali Rock Art Tours

An up close and personal, Aboriginal cultural experience, exploring the Quinkan Rock Art sites found among the sandstone escarpments around the small town of Laura, North Queensland.

[jarramalirockarttours.com.au](http://jarramalirockarttours.com.au)

### Brett's Outback Tasting Adventures

Offers guests a small and personalised tour of the Atherton Tablelands. Eat your way through this tropical food bowl, visiting wineries, award winning distilleries, dairy properties and coffee plantations

[outbacktastingsdventures.com.au](http://outbacktastingsdventures.com.au)

### Back Country Bliss Adventures

This Port Douglas company offers a range of tours to the Daintree National Park and Cape Tribulation including river drift snorkeling, bushwalking tours, rainforest tours including a half day Cape Tribulation tour. Fantastic choices for the nature lover.

[backcountrybliss.com](http://backcountrybliss.com)

### Thala Beach Nature Reserve

Offers guests two special evenings each week: one of indigenous story-telling and one of a look at the night sky from their own observatory.

[thalabeach.com.au](http://thalabeach.com.au)

### Chillagoe and the Outback

A full day spent exploring the Tropical North Queensland outback - lunch in an Aussie pub, guided tour of the Chillagoe-Mungana limestone caves, Aboriginal rock art and wallaby feeding.

[billytea.com.au](http://billytea.com.au)







## Main events in Tropical North Queensland

### **Undara Rock & Blues Festival: 25-27 April 2019**

A selection of some of Australia's best rock and blues artists against the backdrop of the rugged Outback. A truly unique event.

[undara.com.au](http://undara.com.au)

### **World Rafting Championships: 13-20 May 2019**

Over 1,000 of the world's best rafters will travel to the Cassowary Coast for a chance to become the 'best of the best' at the Tame the Tully championships.

[wrc2019.com](http://wrc2019.com)

### **Cairns Airport Adventure Festival: June 2019**

A week long sporting festival in one of the world's most iconic tropical destinations culminating in the Cairns Airport Ironman Asia-Pacific Championship.

[ap.ironman.com](http://ap.ironman.com)

### **Targa Great Barrier Reef: 30 August-1 September 2019**

Targa Great Barrier Reef will return to Queensland after a hugely successful launch in 2018. It will be an event like no other as it passes through landscapes that are truly unique to Tropical North Queensland.

[targa.com.au](http://targa.com.au)

### **Reef Feast Palm Cove: October 2019**

Over 3 days Palm Cove's Reef Feast presents an explosion for all the senses – innovative cuisine, fresh produce, music and a relaxed atmosphere along the beautiful palm fringed Palm Cove beach.

[tourismpalmcove.com/reeffeast](http://tourismpalmcove.com/reeffeast)

### **Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic: 5-12 October 2019**

One of the great Blue Water fishing competitions in the world. Seven days of amazing fishing in the Black Marlin rich waters of the north Coral Sea.

[lizardislandgfc.asn.au](http://lizardislandgfc.asn.au)

### **Great Barrier Reef Marathon: October 2019**

One of the must do events on the Australian running calendar. Dubbed "the world's best adventure course" by Olympic marathon champion Steve Moneghetti, the diverse landscape of Port Douglas offers a combination of beach, road and trail running for all distances.

[greatbarrierreefmarathon.com](http://greatbarrierreefmarathon.com)

## New self-drive itineraries

From reef to outback, through rainforest and grasslands, driving in Tropical North Queensland is an unforgettable travel experience. Explore the website and plan your next road trip with twelve new drive itineraries.

## Hotel Update

### **Riley**

Riley, a Crystalbrook Collection Resort, is the newest five-star hotel in Cairns for over 20 years. The first of three new Crystalbrook Resorts in Cairns, guests can expect understated elegance, contemporary design and a splash of fun. Bailey and Flynn are due to open mid and late-2019 respectively.

[crystalbrookcollection.com/riley](http://crystalbrookcollection.com/riley)

### **Pacific Hotel Cairns**

The brand-new luxurious Tropical Luxe Room Collection at Pacific Hotel Cairns provides a uniquely lush accommodation option for your next stay in Cairns.

[pacifichotelcairns.com](http://pacifichotelcairns.com)

### **Shangri-La Hotel Cairns**

The highly anticipated \$13 million dollar update of 184 rooms at the Shangri-La Hotel Cairns was completed in December 2018.

[shangri-la.com/cairns/shangrila](http://shangri-la.com/cairns/shangrila)

## Luxury experiences

### **Gilberton Outback Retreat**

An exclusive outback experience in a remote luxury lodge, where you can find yourself amongst life on a working cattle station.

[gilbertonoutbackretreat.com](http://gilbertonoutbackretreat.com)

### **Mt Mulligan Lodge**

A quintessential Australian outback experience at an all-inclusive luxury lodge in the shadow of the majestic Mount Mulligan.

[mountmulligan.com](http://mountmulligan.com)

### **Kinrara Expeditions**

A five-day outback expedition to 70,000 acres of remote, breathtaking land, flooded with diverse animal and plant life, waiting for you to explore.

[kinraraexpeditions.com.au](http://kinraraexpeditions.com.au)

# Where the locals go

Tropical North Queensland is spoilt for choice when it comes to natural beauty, attractions and tours. We also have plenty hidden secrets for visitors to discover. Here we have collected some local's tips on the fun, the funky and the fantastic spots to hang out, and wine and dine around the tropics.

## CAIRNS

### The Chambers

Cairns' newest dining experience in the heart of the city, The Chambers hosts three unique venues; Tattle cafe, SoMa restaurant and esters bar and kitchen, each with an emphasis on food, flavour and heritage.

21 Spence St, Cairns  
[the-chambers.com.au](http://the-chambers.com.au)

### Breweries

The popular Hemingway's Brewery in Port Douglas has opened in the Cruise Liner Terminal in Cairns with sweeping views across Trinity Inlet. Check out fun craft breweries, Coral Sea Brewery in the heart of Cairns, Barrier Reef Brewing at Aeroglen near the airport and Macalister Brewery at Smithfield on the way to Port Douglas.

[hemingwaysbrewery.com](http://hemingwaysbrewery.com)

### Oceana Walk

Ocean Walk is an arcade that is home to a hip and eclectic range of vintage fashion, kids fashions and toys, beauty and tasty food combined with great coffee.

62 Grafton Street, Cairns  
[oceanawalk.com.au](http://oceanawalk.com.au)

### Three Wolves

Hidden down a red brick laneway, Three Wolves offers patrons are unique and premium small bar experience. Get in on the secret!

32 Abbott Street, Cairns  
[threewolves.com.au](http://threewolves.com.au)

### Rusty's Markets

An established Cairns icon, visit the famous Rusty's Markets to stock up on fresh local produce, wander through the stalls or simply soak up the laid-back Tropical North Queensland vibe. Open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

57-89 Grafton Street, Cairns  
[rustysmarkets.com.au](http://rustysmarkets.com.au)

## CAIRNS' NORTHERN BEACHES

Trinity Beach is home to a range of beachside dining options – The Trinity Beach Tavern, L'Unicos and Fratellis. Alternatively, grab some supplies for a moonlight barbecue at the freely provided barbecue's dotted along the beach.

Palm Cove the popular seaside village between Cairns and Port Douglas offers something for everyone. Hire a jet ski or a paddle board, catch a fish from the jetty or sample the tasty treats from restaurants such as stylish Nu Nu Restaurant, laid-back Chill Cafe and 27 Degrees for great coffee on bean bags overlooking the ocean. For something completely different check out the Bad Boys of Uke every Sunday at the Beach Almond Restaurant from 2pm for live music.

## PORT DOUGLAS

### Jimmy Rums

Looking for a watering hole with a difference? Check out Jimmy Rum's Mixing Lounge. Jimmy's philosophy is simple – to serve the most delicious drinks in a world of vibrant tiles, exotic tunes and luxurious seating. Worth a look.

13/53-61 Macrossan Street, Port Douglas  
[jimmyrums.com](http://jimmyrums.com)

### Thala Beach

Looking for a relaxing lunch? Head to Thala Beach Nature Reserve's amazing Ospreys Restaurant with exquisite views over the Coral Sea before drifting away the afternoon at Rejuvenate Massage studio for a truly relaxing afternoon!

5078 Captain Cook Highway, Oak Beach  
[thalabeach.com.au](http://thalabeach.com.au)

### N17 Burger Co

N17 Burger Co brings funky beats, succulent burgers and tasty beers to Port Douglas from day to night, making it the perfect pitstop to refuel after a session at the Court House Hotel's beer garden. 2 Fish on the vibrant Macrossan Street is an award-winning seafood restaurant, exploring Australian contemporary seafood dining in fresh natural surrounds.

1/22 Macrossan Street, Port Douglas  
[n17.com.au](http://n17.com.au)

For more information:

[tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au](http://tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au)

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[barberstock.com/tropicalnorthqueensland](http://barberstock.com/tropicalnorthqueensland)

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