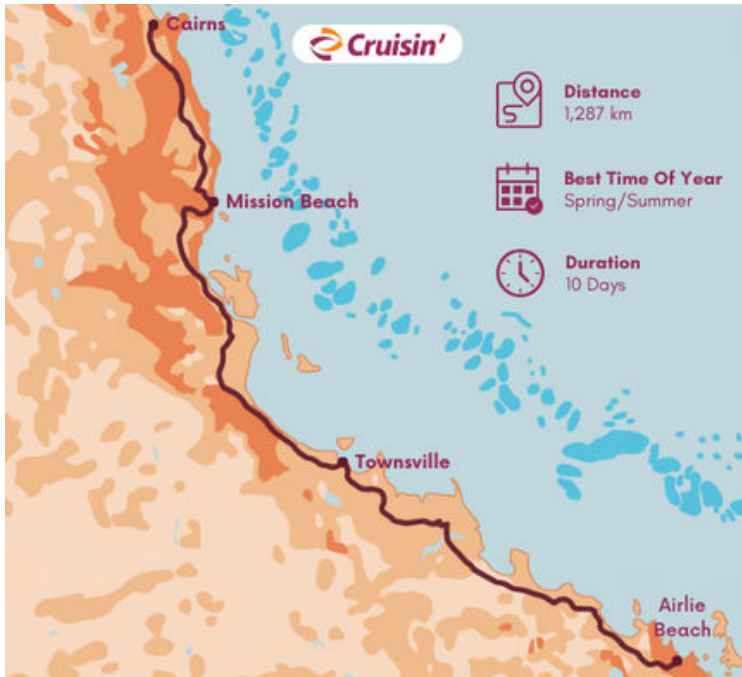




10-DAY ITINERARY: SPEND CHRISTMAS IN THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



Day 2: Cairns



Distance: 0 Kms **Time:** 0 hour

- **All day:** Embark on a full-day Great Barrier Reef cruise. Choose an operator like Cairns Reef Tours or Reef Magic for **snorkelling, scuba diving**, or semi-submersible tours. Admire the amazing corals and turquoise waters. You might even encounter reef sharks!
- **Evening:** Return to your motorhome. Cook a simple meal like stir-fried veggies and rice in the fully equipped kitchen of your Cruisin' Motorhome.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Cairns Holiday Park, 12-30 Little St, Manunda QLD 4870.

Day 3: Cairns to Mission Beach

Distance: 140 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 55 minutes

- **Morning:** Drive south along the scenic Captain Cook Highway. Stop at **Babinda Boulders** for a swim, especially if it's warm!
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in Mission Beach. Relax by the beach or walk the **Ulysses Link walking track**. Named after the brilliant blue Ulysses butterflies that you frequently see in Mission Beach, the 1.5 kilometer walking track winds its way along the beachfront taking in the breathtaking views. For the most **adventurous**, you could even [Skydive](#) and land on Mission Beach!
- **Evening:** Dine at **Mission Beach Tavern**, known for its local seafood and beachfront ambiance.
- **Where to stay:** Mission Beach Hideaway Holiday Village, 58-60 Porter Promenade, Mission Beach QLD 4852.

Day 4: Mission Beach to Townsville

Distance: 235 Kms **Time:** 3 hours

- **Morning:** Depart Mission Beach and stop at **Cardwell Spa Pools** en route for a refreshing dip.
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in Townsville. Visit Reef HQ Aquarium or take a short ferry ride to **Magnetic Island** for koala-spotting. It is an island paradise of endless sunshine, koalas, hiking trails, topless cars, snorkelling adventures, and more!
- **Evening:** Enjoy dinner inside the motorhome with a BBQ-style meal using fresh local produce.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Tasman Holiday Parks - Rowes Bay, 46 Heatleys Parade, Belgian Gardens QLD 4810.

Highlights

- Snorkelling or diving at the Great Barrier Reef
- Christmas at Airlie Beach and Boxing Day by the lagoon
- Full-day cruise to the Whitsundays
- Scenic flight over the Great Barrier Reef
- Wildlife encounters at Billabong Sanctuary

★ ★ Day 1: Cairns

Distance: 10 Kms **Time:** 25 minutes

- **Morning:** Arrive in Cairns, **collect your motorhome** at Cruisin' Motorhomes' branch. Stop at the supermarket to get some groceries, and check into your caravan park to settle in the motorhome.
- **Afternoon:** Stroll along the **Cairns Esplanade** and Lagoon, a family-friendly waterfront area with picnic spots and views.
- **Evening:** For the first night, enjoy a home-made dinner in the **luxurious kitchen** of your motorhome. Alternatively, appreciate some seafood and tropical cocktails at **Salt House**.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Cairns Holiday Park, 12-30 Little St, Manunda QLD 4870.

Day 5: Townsville to Airlie Beach

Distance: 277 Kms **Time:** 3 hours 15 minutes

- **Morning:** Depart from Townsville and enjoy a scenic drive along the Bruce Highway to Airlie Beach. Stop for a quick coffee at the **Burdekin Bridge** or stretch your legs at **Home Hill Comfort Stop**.
- **Afternoon:** Celebrate Christmas with a beach picnic at **Airlie Beach Lagoon**. Pack festive treats like sandwiches, fruit, and Christmas cookies from local stores.
- **Evening:** Prepare a **Christmas dinner** in your motorhome, using the well-equipped kitchen. Ideas include fresh seafood from **Fishi** with salads and a dessert like pavlova or Christmas **pudding**. Wind down with a stroll under the stars along the Airlie Beach Boardwalk.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort, 25/29 Shute Harbour Rd, Airlie Beach QLD 4802.



Image: Cruisin' 6-berth Deluxe, Christmas Picnic

Day 6: Airlie Beach

Distance: 0 Kms **Time:** 0 hour

- **Morning:** Start the day with a relaxed breakfast in the motorhome. Try fresh local mangoes, toast, and coffee. Stroll along the **Bicentennial Walkway**, a picturesque path connecting Airlie Beach Lagoon to Cannonvale Beach.
- **Afternoon:** Visit Coral Sea Marina to browse boutique shops and enjoy the bustling waterfront vibe. Alternatively, take a short drive to **Cedar Creek Falls**, where you can swim in the **natural pool** surrounded by lush rainforest.
- **Evening:** Treat yourself to dinner at **Fish D'vine**, famous for its seafood platters and tropical cocktails. Enjoy the casual yet vibrant atmosphere.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort, 25/29 Shute Harbour Rd, Airlie Beach QLD 4802.

Day 7: Whitehaven Beach

Distance: 0 Kms **Time:** 0 hour

- **Morning:** Join a **full-day cruise** to the **Whitsundays**, departing from Coral Sea Marina. The tour includes stops at **Whitehaven Beach**, a world-renowned beach with pristine white silica sand; and **Hill Inlet Lookout**, offering breathtaking views of the swirling turquoise waters.
- **Afternoon:** Snorkel at Fringing Reefs, explore hidden coves, and enjoy a **buffet lunch** on the boat. Relax on the cruise back, taking in the sunset over the Whitsundays.
- **Evening:** Return to the motorhome and cook a simple dinner like spaghetti bolognese or a fresh salad with grilled chicken.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort, 25/29 Shute Harbour Rd, Airlie Beach QLD 4802.

Day 8: Airlie Beach

Distance: 0 Kms **Time:** 0 hour

- **Morning:** Take a **scenic flight** over the Great Barrier Reef, including the iconic **Heart Reef**. Book with a local operator like Air Whitsunday for an unforgettable aerial view.
- **Afternoon:** Explore **Conway National Park**, home to easy hiking trails like the Coral Beach Track. Take a short trek for panoramic views of the Coral Sea. Alternatively, rent a **kayak** for a self-guided paddle along the coast.
- **Evening:** Enjoy dinner at **Fat Frog Beach Cafe**, a relaxed venue with ocean views and a laid-back tropical vibe.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort, 25/29 Shute Harbour Rd, Airlie Beach QLD 4802.

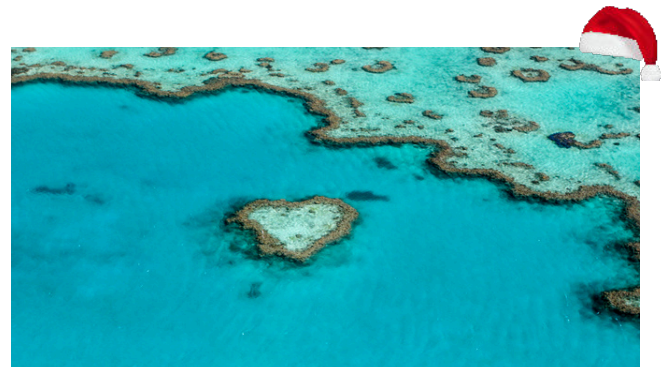


Image: Heart Reef, Scenic Flight over the Great Barrier Reef



Day 9: Arlie Beach to Townsville

Distance: 269 Kms **Time:** 3 hour 10 minutes

- **Morning:** Drive back up to Townsville. Stop at Peter Faust Dam for a peaceful picnic and admire the serene landscape. Visit the **Big Mango** for a fun photo opportunity and refreshing mango sorbet.
- **Afternoon:** Stop at **Billabong Sanctuary**, a wildlife park located just south of Townsville. Spend time interacting with iconic Australian animals like kangaroos, koalas, and wombats. Enjoy the sanctuary's educational shows and feed the kangaroos or **hold a koala** for a memorable experience.
- **Evening:** Treat yourself to dinner at **Jam Corner**, a popular local restaurant known for its modern Australian cuisine and creative flavours. Return to your caravan park and relax in the motorhome.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Townsville Gateway Holiday Park, 88 Minehane St, Cluden QLD 4811.



Image: Selfie at The Big Mango, Tourism and Events Queensland

Day 10: Townsville to Cairns

Distance: 356 Kms **Time:** 4 hour 20 minutes

- **Morning:** Begin your drive back to Cairns nice and early to make the most of your last day. Stop at **Paronella Park**, an enchanting historical site with castle ruins, stunning gardens, and cascading waterfalls.
- **Afternoon:** Head to **Josephine Falls**, a picturesque waterfall surrounded by lush rainforest, perfect for a refreshing swim and nature walk. Arrive back in Cairns and return your motorhome **before 3:30 pm**.
- **Evening:** Celebrate the end of your journey with dinner at **Ochre Restaurant**, renowned for its unique Australian dishes like kangaroo, emu, and fresh seafood.

Packing Tips For Your Tropical Road Trip

This **10-day itinerary** offers an unforgettable tropical escape, perfectly blending **adventure, relaxation, and festive joy**. With a comfortable Cruisin' Motorhome and thoughtfully chosen caravan parks, you'll enjoy the freedom to explore at your own pace while creating **lasting holiday memories**.

Some things you'll want to bring include:

- Travel Documents
- **Clothing:** Lightweight, breathable, Long-sleeved shirts & pants, Warm layers
- Hat, sunglasses & **Sunscreen**
- Swimwear & Beach towel
- **Reusable** water bottles
- Comfortable **walking shoes** or sandals and flip-flops
- **Toiletries**, including First Aid Kit, insect repellent and bandages
- **Electronics:** Camera, Phone, Power bank and all chargers
- Books or magazines
- Travel backpack



Image: Paronella Park, Tourism and Events Queensland

Have a great trip!

