

10-DAY TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND LOOP ITINERARY



Highlights

- Cairns Esplanade & Lagoon
- Great Barrier Reef Cruise or Scenic Flight
- Kuranda Scenic Railway
- Barron Falls & Babinda Boulders
- Paronella Park
- Mission Beach
- Wallaman Falls & Josephine Falls
- Paluma Range National Park & Jourama Falls

Day 2: Great Barrier Reef Adventure

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

- **Morning:** Rise early for one of the most iconic experiences on the planet – a full-day adventure to the **Great Barrier Reef**: a *snorkelling cruise* or a *scenic flight* over heart-shaped coral cays.
- **Afternoon:** Float above vibrant coral gardens, swim with *curious fish*, and – if you're lucky – spot a sea turtle gliding gracefully through the water. Enjoy a tropical *buffet lunch* onboard and soak in the endless ocean views
- **Evening:** Return to **Cairns** feeling exhilarated and sun-kissed. Wind down with a sunset stroll by the harbour, then enjoy a laid-back dinner at *Ollie's Italian* and an optional drink at *Hemingway's Brewery*.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Cairns Holiday Park, 12-30 Little St, Manunda QLD 4870.



Image: Passions of Paradise - Great Barrier Reef Tours, Tourism and Events Queensland

Day 1: Cairns

Distance: 10.1 Kms **Time:** 25 minutes

- **Morning:** After collecting your motorhome from the friendly team at Cruisin' Motorhomes Cairns, settle in and stock up on fresh local produce at **Rusty's Markets** (if you're there Thursday-Sunday).
- **Afternoon:** Head straight to the waterfront to explore the lively **Cairns Esplanade**. Kids and grown-ups alike will love cooling off in the **Lagoon**.
- **Evening:** Dine outdoors at *Salt House* or *Ochre Restaurant*, where tropical ingredients and waterfront views combine for a perfect first-night feast. Then, enjoy a stroll at the **Cairns Night Markets**.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Cairns Holiday Park, 12-30 Little St, Manunda QLD 4870.

Day 3: Cairns to Kuranda

Distance: 26 Kms **Time:** 35 minutes

- **Morning:** Today is all about the *rainforest*. Head to the base of the **Skyrail Rainforest Cableway** and glide silently above the canopy, where giant ferns, butterflies, and treetop birds surround you.
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in the mountain village of **Kuranda**, a bohemian gem with vibrant markets, handcrafted art, and delicious treats. Take a moment to appreciate the timeless beauty of nearby **Barron Falls**.
- **Evening:** Back in **Cairns**, treat yourself to wood-fired pizza at *Flynn's Italian by Crystalbrook* or sample the famous local prawns.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Cairns Holiday Park, 12-30 Little St, Manunda QLD 4870.

Day 4: Kuranda to Mena Creek

Distance: 123 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 40 minutes

- **Morning:** Leave the city behind and head south to one of Far North Queensland's best-kept secrets – **Babinda Boulders**. Here, crystal-clear rainforest water flows over smooth granite boulders, forming cool swimming holes and natural spas.
- **Afternoon:** Continue to **Paronella Park**, a magical place where history, romance, and rainforest intertwine. Feed fish in lily ponds, cross suspension bridges, and discover secret staircases among towering **Kauri** trees.
- **Evening:** As dusk falls, the park glows with subtle lighting, casting long shadows and adding mystery to the ruins. **Take the enchanting night tour!**
- **Where to stay:** Paronella Park, 1671 Innisfail Japoon Rd, Mena Creek QLD 4871.



Image: Paronella Park, Tourism and Events Queensland

Day 5: Mena Creek to Mission Beach

Distance: 46.1 Kms **Time:** 40 minutes

- **Morning:** Head to **Mission Beach**. Take a stroll through the coastal rainforest on the **Ulysses Link Walking Track**, keeping your eyes peeled for the **cassowary** stepping silently through the ferns.
- **Afternoon:** Gaze out toward **Dunk Island**, its rainforest-cloaked peaks rising from the Coral Sea. If you're feeling adventurous, take a short *water taxi ride* to the island for snorkelling, kayaking, or a rainforest hike with million-dollar views.
- **Evening:** After a sun-drenched day, wind down with a **tropical cocktail and fresh seafood dinner** at *The Garage Bar & Brewhouse*.
- **Where to stay:** Mission Beach Hideaway Holiday Village, 58-60 Porter Promenade, Mission Beach QLD 4852.
- **TIP:** Make sure your vehicle **batteries are full**, the next two nights will be at *unpowered sites*!

Day 6: Mission Beach to Wallaman Falls

Distance: 174 Kms **Time:** 2 hours 17 minutes

- **Morning:** Today's drive takes you inland through charming country towns and rolling pastures to the majestic **Girringun National Park**. Feel the anticipation build as you ascend the winding road toward **Wallaman Falls**!
- **Afternoon:** Stand in awe at the lookout, where Wallaman Falls plunges **268 metres** into a rainforest-clad gorge – **Australia's tallest single-drop waterfall**. If you're up for it, take the steep rainforest trail down to the base!
- **Evening:** Head to your campsite and cook a homemade meal in the *fully equipped kitchen* of your motorhome.
- **Where to stay:** Wallaman Falls camping area, Girringun National Park, Wallaman QLD 4850.

Day 7: Wallaman Falls to Paluma

Distance: 131 Kms **Time:** 2 hours 30 minutes

- **Morning:** The mountain air is fresh and cool as you head to the **Paluma Range**, where ancient cloud forests meet sparkling streams. Once you arrive, get a refreshing dip at **Little Crystal Creek**.
- **Afternoon:** Explore the highland village of **Paluma**, wander through mist-shrouded rainforest trails, and discover lookouts with sweeping coastal views stretching to the **Coral Sea**.
- **Evening:** Camp beneath the forest canopy at **Big Crystal Creek Campground**. As the temperature drops slightly with the elevation, cosy up in your motorhome with a warm drink and a delicious homemade meal.
- **Where to stay:** Big Crystal Creek camping area, Crystal Creek QLD 4816.

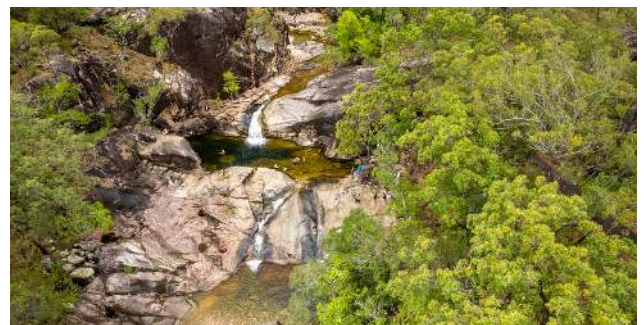


Image: Big Crystal Creek, Tourism and Events Queensland

Day 8: Paluma to Forrest Beach

Distance: 91.5 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 32 minutes

- **Morning:** Rise early and journey to **Jourama Falls** – a lesser-known treasure where clear water cascades over granite boulders in tiered falls. Wander shaded tracks and rock-hop along quiet streams, enjoying the peace of this *uncrowded paradise*.
- **Afternoon:** Continue to **Forrest Beach**, a wide, wind-swept stretch of coast where you can enjoy a picnic with panoramic views of **Hinchinbrook Island** – wild, mysterious, and largely untouched.
- **Evening:** Watch the sun sink into the ocean, grab a relaxed pub dinner, and fall asleep to the sound of waves rolling onto the sand.
- **Where to stay:** Forrest Beach Hotel, 1 Ash St, Forrest Beach QLD 4850.
- **TIP:** Make sure your **batteries are full**, the following night will be at an *unpowered site*!

Day 9: Forrest Beach to Josephine Falls

Distance: 210 Kms **Time:** 2 hours 31 minutes

- **Morning:** Head toward the majestic **Wooroonooran National Park** and one of its star attractions – **Josephine Falls**. Slide down the *natural rock slide* or simply bask in the sun on warm boulders.
- **Afternoon:** If time allows, take a short detour to the **Eubenangee Swamp walking track** – a quiet wetland where towering palms sway above a lily-filled billabong, home to hundreds of bird species. It's a serene and *soul-soothing stop* before returning to Cairns.
- **Evening:** Enjoy a quiet night at the rest area. After nine days of unforgettable sights and sounds, take a moment to savour the **comfort of your motorhome**, knowing you've truly experienced the best of the north.
- **Where to stay:** Rotary Park Rest Area, 27 Howard Kennedy Dr, Babinda QLD 4861.



Image: Josephine Falls, Tourism & Events Queensland

Day 10: Josephine Falls to Cairns

Distance: 61.9 Kms **Time:** 1 hour

- **Morning:** Ease into the final day with breakfast at a leafy café like *Caffiend* or *The Chambers*. If you're up for it, wander the **Cairns Botanic Gardens** and breathe in the scents of tropical blooms one last time.
- **Afternoon:** Pick up some last-minute souvenirs at The Pier or browse local art at the **Cairns Art Gallery**. Drop off your motorhome **by 3:30 pm** at the Cairns branch.
- **Evening:** Finish your journey with a **sunset harbour cruise** – the perfect way to reflect on the adventure you've just lived!



Image: Spirit of Freedom, Tourism and Events Queensland

Packing Tips For Your Tropical Road Trip

This **10-day motorhome loop** from Cairns takes you deep into Queensland's lush *rainforests*, alongside world-famous *reefs*, and through charming *coastal towns*.

Some things you'll want to bring include:

- **Clothing:** comfortable clothes for driving time, layers for varying temperatures, lightweight jacket or raincoat
- **Shoes:** hiking shoes, walking shoes, tongs
- Hat, sunglasses, **sunscreen**
- Plenty of **food**, snacks, and water
- Maps, journals
- **Camera**, phone, charging cables, power banks
- Personal toiletries and hygiene items
- Binoculars for spotting dolphins and birds

Have a great trip!

