

CAIRNS TO BRISBANE BY MOTORHOME ON A 19-DAY ROAD TRIP


Distance
2,606.60 Kms

Duration
19 Days

Best Time Of Year
Dry Season

Highlights

- Atherton Tablelands, Millstream Falls & Mission Beach
- Sail the Whitsundays
- Agnes Water & 1770
- Day trip to K'gari (Fraser Island)
- Wildlife Encounters: whales, dolphins, turtles...
- Noosa National Park coastal walks
- Brisbane city nights
- Full day exploring Moreton Island

Day 1: Cairns to Atherton Tablelands

Distance: 80.2 Kms **Time:** 1 Hour 25 Minutes

- **Morning:** Begin your motorhome adventure in Cairns, collecting your vehicle and stocking up on groceries and supplies before heading inland. Head south-west via the **Gillies Range Road**, taking your time on the winding road.
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in the Atherton Tablelands early afternoon. Spend the afternoon exploring nearby highlights like Lake Barrine or **Lake Eacham**, or the Yungaburra village.
- **Evening:** Check into your campsite and enjoy a quiet evening surrounded by nature. Cook dinner at camp or visit a local pub or café in Atherton or Yungaburra. Temperatures are cooler than Cairns, perfect for sleeping and stargazing.
- **Where to stay:** Atherton Holiday Park, 64-72 Mountain View Dr, Atherton QLD 4883.

Day 2: Atherton Tablelands to Mission Beach

Distance: 254 Kms **Time:** 3 Hours 35 Minutes

- **Morning:** Depart the Atherton Tablelands after breakfast, travelling south through fertile farmland and pockets of rainforest toward **Millstream Falls**. Take a short walk to the viewing platforms overlooking one of Australia's widest waterfalls.
- **Afternoon:** Continue south to **Tully Falls**. Stop here for lunch and enjoy views over the dramatic gorge surrounded by dense rainforest. Then, head toward the coast, with the landscape gradually opening up as you approach **Mission Beach**.
- **Evening:** Check into your campsite and enjoy a relaxing evening by the ocean. Take a walk along the palm-lined beach, keep an eye out for cassowaries, or enjoy dinner at camp or one of the local beachfront cafés as the sun sets.
- **Where to stay:** Mission Beach Hideaway Holiday Village, 36 Porter Promenade, QLD 4852.



Image: Millstream Falls

Day 3: Mission Beach to Townsville

Distance: 341 Kms **Time:** 4 Hours 35 Minutes

- **Morning:** Depart Mission Beach in the morning and head south toward Wallaman Falls, travelling inland through lush rainforest and rural landscapes. Arrive at the falls and walk to the lookout for views of *Australia's tallest single-drop waterfall*.
- **Afternoon:** Enjoy lunch surrounded by rainforest before beginning the drive toward **Townsville**, descending from the ranges back to the coast. Arrive late afternoon or early evening.
- **Evening:** Check into your campsite and enjoy a relaxed evening. Stroll along The Strand, enjoy a waterfront dinner, or simply unwind at camp after a scenic day of driving.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Tasman Holiday Parks - Rowes Bay, 46 Heatleys Parade, Belgian Gardens QLD 4810.

Day 4: Magnetic Island

Distance: 10 Kms **Time:** Full day excursion

- **Morning:** Drive to the Breakwater Ferry Terminal, where you can leave your motorhome parked for the day. Once parked, walk to the terminal and aboard the ferry to **Magnetic Island** (approximately 20 minutes).
- **Afternoon:** Spend the day exploring its beautiful beaches, walking trails, and bays. Popular options include relaxing at **Horseshoe Bay**, swimming at **Alma Bay**, or taking a short walk to scenic lookouts. *We recommend doing the Forts Walk, where you can spot koalas in the wild!*
- **Evening:** Enjoy a relaxed evening back on the mainland, perhaps with a sunset walk along The Strand or dinner at camp after a full day out.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Tasman Holiday Parks - Rowes Bay, 46 Heatleys Parade, Belgian Gardens QLD 4810.

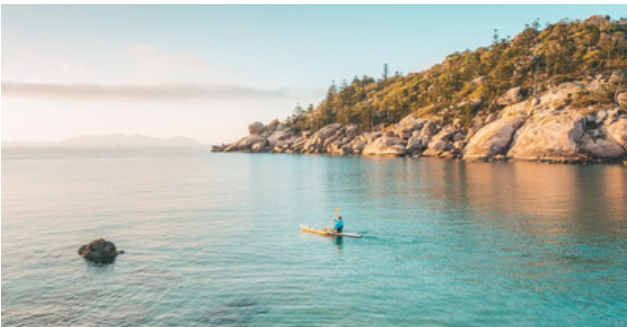


Image: Magnetic Island, Alma Bay, Tourism and Events Queensland

Day 5: Townsville to Airlie Beach

Distance: 275 Kms **Time:** 3 Hours 15 Minutes

- **Morning:** Depart Townsville in the morning and begin the coastal drive south toward **Airlie Beach**. This is a comfortable driving day with mostly flat, easy roads for motorhome travel.
- **Afternoon:** Check into your campsite and spend some time exploring the lively town centre. Take a walk along the **Airlie Beach Lagoon**, browse local shops, or relax by the waterfront before the evening crowds arrive.
- **Evening:** Enjoy a relaxed evening. Choose from a wide range of restaurants and cafés or cook dinner at camp. This is a great night to unwind and prepare for upcoming Whitsundays activities!
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Airlie Beach Holiday Park, 234 Shute Harbour Rd, Cannonvale QLD 4802.

Tip: Take the public transport to the city centre, it's only a 7-minute ride and you can leave your motorhome at the caravan park!

Day 6: Airlie Beach – Whitsunday Islands

Distance: Local travel only **Time:** Full day excursion

- **All day:** Start the day early and make your way to the marina for a full-day Whitsundays cruise. Most tours depart in the morning and include transfers from the town centre. Board your vessel and cruise through the **Whitsunday Islands**, enjoying morning tea as you take in the turquoise waters and island scenery.
- Visit highlights such as **Whitehaven Beach** and **Hill Inlet**, with time to swim, snorkel, and relax on the pristine silica sand. Lunch is typically included on board, allowing you to make the most of your time on the water without returning to the mainland early.
- Head back to your campsite for a relaxed evening or enjoy a casual dinner in town after a full day of activities. An early night is recommended after a big day out on the water.
- **Where to Stay:** NRMA Airlie Beach Holiday Park, 234 Shute Harbour Rd, Cannonvale QLD 4802.

Day 7: Airlie Beach – Free day

Distance: Local travel only **Time:** Free day

- **Morning:** Enjoy a relaxed morning in Airlie Beach after the previous day's cruise. For those wanting a special experience, this morning is ideal for an optional **scenic flight over the Great Barrier Reef** and Whitsunday Islands!
- **Afternoon:** Spend the afternoon at your own pace. Options include relaxing by the **Airlie Beach Lagoon**, visiting nearby beaches, browsing local shops, or enjoying a long lunch in town.
- **Evening:** Enjoy another relaxed evening in Airlie Beach. Dine at one of the many restaurants and bars, or return to your campsite for a quiet night. Take the opportunity to prepare for the next travel day.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Airlie Beach Holiday Park, 234 Shute Harbour Rd, Cannonvale QLD 4802.



Image: Scenic Flight over the Great Barrier Reef

Day 8: Airlie Beach to Rockhampton

Distance: 536 Kms **Time:** 6 Hours

- **Morning:** Depart Airlie Beach early in the morning and travel south toward **Finch Hatton Gorge** (*less than 2 hours*). Stretch your legs with a short walk to the gorge, cool off in the freshwater pools, or enjoy a picnic lunch surrounded by lush scenery.
- **Afternoon:** Leave the Gorge early afternoon and continue south toward **Rockhampton**. The drive is mostly straightforward highway travel, making for an easy afternoon behind the wheel. *Play your favourite music in your motorhome and sing along!*
- **Evening:** Check into your campsite and enjoy a relaxed evening, either dining out in town or cooking dinner at camp. Take a short walk through the beautiful **Kershaw Gardens**.
- **Where to stay:** Kershaw Gardens Free Campground, Cnr Moores Creek Road and High Street Entrance via, High St, Park Avenue QLD 4701.

Day 9: Rockhampton to Hervey Bay

Distance: 489 Kms **Time:** 5 Hours 50 Minutes

- **Morning:** After a delicious breakfast in your motorhome, head south along the Bruce Highway before turning off toward **Agnes Water** and **Town of 1770** (*about 3-hour drive*).
- **Afternoon:** Enjoy lunch by the water, take a walk along Agnes Water Beach, or visit the lookout at 1770 for views across the Coral Sea. *Look out for whales between June and September!* After your visit, continue south toward **Hervey Bay**, arriving late afternoon (*about 3-hour drive*).
- **Evening:** Enjoy a relaxed evening, cook a nice dinner, watch a movie or play cards.
- **Where to stay:** Hervey Bay Caravan Park, 85 Margaret St, Hervey Bay QLD 4655.



Image: Town of 1770, Tourism and Events Queensland/Katrina Elliott

Day 10: Hervey Bay – Fraser Island (K'gari)

Distance: Local travel only **Time:** Full day excursion

- **All day:** Make your way to the tour departure point for your Fraser Island (K'gari) day trip. Board the ferry and travel across to the world's largest sand island, known for its beaches, rainforests, and freshwater lakes.
- Spend the day exploring Fraser Island's highlights, typically including **75 Mile Beach**, **Lake McKenzie**, and rainforest tracks at **Central Station**. Enjoy lunch as part of the tour while learning about the island's unique ecology and history from your guide.
- **Evening:** Return to Hervey Bay and head back to your campsite and enjoy a relaxed evening.
- **Where to stay:** Hervey Bay Caravan Park, 85 Margaret St, Hervey Bay QLD 4655.



Image: K'gari Explorer Tours, Tourism and Events Queensland

Day 11: Hervey Bay – Swim with whales

Distance: Local travel only **Time:** Full day excursion

- **All day:** Start the day early in **Hervey Bay** and make your way to the marina for your swim with whales tour. After a safety briefing and equipment fitting, board the vessel and head out into the sheltered waters of Hervey Bay, one of the best places in Australia to encounter humpback whales during the migration season (*July to November*).
- Spend the afternoon on the water observing and, conditions permitting, **swimming with humpback whales** under the guidance of experienced crew. Lunch is typically provided on board, allowing you to enjoy the experience without returning to shore early.
- **Evening:** Return to Hervey Bay, head back to your campsite and enjoy a relaxed evening after a memorable day. A quiet night is recommended after a full day at sea or enjoy a casual dinner along the waterfront.
- **Where to stay:** Hervey Bay Caravan Park, 85 Margaret St, Hervey Bay QLD 4655.

Day 12: Hervey Bay to Noosa

Distance: 194 Kms **Time:** 2 Hours 30 Minutes

- **Morning:** Enjoy a slow and relaxed morning in Hervey Bay after the previous day's whale experience. Take a walk along the waterfront, enjoy a leisurely breakfast, or simply rest before continuing the journey south.
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in Noosa early afternoon and check into your campsite. Spend the afternoon exploring **Noosa Heads**, strolling along **Hastings Street**. Alternatively, relax by the river or beach.
- **Evening:** Enjoy the evening in **Noosa**, known for its vibrant dining scene and relaxed coastal atmosphere. Choose from riverside restaurants, beachfront cafés, or enjoy a quiet dinner at camp.
- **Where to stay:** Noosa River Holiday Park, 4 Russell St, Noosaville QLD 4566.

Tip: Leave your motorhome at the campsite and hop on the public transport! It's only a 5-minute walk + 6-minute ride to the centre!



Image: Hasting Street, Noosa Heads, Tourism and Events Queensland

Day 13: Noosa

Distance: Walking only **Time:** Full day exploration

- **Morning:** Hop on the public transport to the centre and start exploring **Noosa National Park**. Begin walking along the **Coastal Track**, passing scenic headlands and beaches. Stop at **Dolphin Point** before continuing to **Hell's Gates**, the northernmost lookout in the park.
- **Afternoon:** Continue to **Alexandria Bay**, take a break to rest and enjoy lunch. Begin the inland return via **Tanglewood Track**, which winds through open forest and sandy tracks.
- **Evening:** Enjoy a well-earned relaxed evening – a swim, sunset drink, or dinner in town after a full day of walking!
- **Where to stay:** Noosa River Holiday Park, 4 Russell St, Noosaville QLD 4566.

Day 14: Noosa to Maroochydore

Distance: 66.4 Kms **Time:** 1 Hour 10 Minutes

- **Morning:** Depart Noosa mid-morning and head south toward **Yandina** for your first stop at **The Ginger Factory**. Enjoy a relaxed visit, with time for morning tea, browsing the shop, or a short walk around the gardens before continuing the journey.
- **Afternoon:** Continue on to **The Big Pineapple** for photos and a brief stop, then head to **Amaze World** for a fun and interactive experience, featuring hedge mazes, puzzles, and gardens.
- **Evening:** Check into your campsite and spend the evening enjoying the beachfront location, taking a sunset walk along the sand, or relaxing at camp after a light travel day.
- **Where to stay:** Maroochydore Beach Holiday Park, 1 Melrose Parade, Maroochydore QLD 4558.

Day 15: Maroochydore to the Gold Coast

Distance: 197 Kms **Time:** 2 Hours 36 Minutes

- **Morning:** Depart Maroochydore in the morning and head south toward the **Glass House Mountains Lookout**. Stop to enjoy panoramic views across the iconic volcanic peaks, a great photo opportunity and an easy break early in the drive.
- **Afternoon:** Continue south to **Caboolture Historical Village**, arriving late morning or early afternoon. Spend time exploring the restored historic buildings, museums, and displays that showcase early Queensland life. Enjoy lunch at the village café or nearby before continuing the journey south toward the **Gold Coast**.
- **Evening:** Arrive at the Gold Coast late afternoon and check into your campsite. Spend the evening relaxing by the **Broadwater**, enjoying a waterfront walk, or dining out nearby after a full but varied travel day.
- **Where to stay:** Broadwater Tourist Park, 169 Marine Parade, Southport QLD 4215.



Image: Glass House Mountains Lookout, Tourism and Events Queensland/Jesse Lindemann

Day 16: Gold Coast – Surfers Paradise

Distance: Local travel only **Time:** Full day exploration

- **Morning:** Enjoy a slow morning with breakfast at camp. Head into **Surfers Paradise** mid-morning to enjoy the beach, take a swim, or simply relax on the sand and soak up the coastal atmosphere.
- **Afternoon:** Spend the afternoon exploring with time for shopping, cafés, and beachfront dining. Visit the observation deck at **SkyPoint**, or enjoying a long lunch overlooking the ocean.
- **Evening:** Enjoy a relaxed final evening on the Gold Coast, with dinner at camp or at one of the nearby restaurants and take a sunset walk.
- **Where to stay:** Broadwater Tourist Park, 169 Marine Parade, Southport QLD 4215.



Image: Surfers Paradise Beach, Tourism and Events Queensland

Day 17: Gold Coast to Brisbane

Distance: 118 Kms **Time:** 2 Hour 10 Minutes

- **Morning:** Depart mid-morning and travel north toward **Sirromet Winery** in the **Mt Cotton** region. Enjoy a relaxed stop with time for tastings, a walk through the vineyard, or lunch at the on-site restaurant before continuing on.
- **Afternoon:** Drive on to **Mount Coot-tha Lookout** and take in sweeping views across Brisbane, the Brisbane River, and surrounding suburbs. Continue north to check into your campsite. Take public transport into the city (*nearby bus services provide easy access to Brisbane CBD and South Bank*).
- **Evening:** Spend the evening exploring **South Bank's** riverside precinct, enjoying dinner, riverside walks, or a visit to **Streets Beach** before returning to camp later in the evening (*Taxi or Uber if no buses*).
- **Where to stay:** Brisbane North Holiday Stays, 1432 Gympie Rd, Aspley QLD 4034.

Day 18: Brisbane – Day on Moreton Island

Distance: 40 Kms **Time:** 1 Hour + Full day excursion

- **All day:** Drive to the the **Rivergate Marina**, where secure long-stay parking is available for motorhomes. Board the ferry and enjoy the scenic crossing to the island.
- Spend the day exploring **Moreton Island**, including highlights such as snorkelling at the **Tangalooma Wrecks**, sand tobogganing on the dunes, swimming, and beach time. Lunch is usually included.
- **Evening:** Return to the mainland by ferry late afternoon or early evening. Collect your motorhome and drive back to the caravan park.
- **Where to stay:** Brisbane North Holiday Stays, 1432 Gympie Rd, Aspley QLD 4034.

Day 19: Brisbane

Distance: 6 Kms **Time:** 13 Minutes

- **Morning:** Enjoy a slow final morning in your motorhome, allowing time to pack up and have breakfast at camp. Depart late morning and drive to the Cruisin Motorhomes Brisbane branch to return your vehicle and complete the drop-off process by 3:30 pm.
- After drop-off, spend your final afternoon exploring Brisbane. Head into the city to enjoy a riverside walk, visit South Bank if you didn't the previous evening, or relax at a café along the Brisbane River.

Packing List For Your road trip

Travelling by motorhome gives you the freedom to explore at your own pace, with the comfort of home always close by. Here are the favourite items:

- **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
- Picnic rug & thermos
- Head torches for night beach walks
- **Binoculars** for spotting dolphins and birds

Have a great trip!

