



## AUSTRALIAN COASTAL GETAWAY: CAIRNS TO SYDNEY IN 21 DAYS



Distance  
2,965 km



Duration  
21 Days



Best Time Of Year  
All Year

### Highlights

- Cairns Aquarium
- Bluewater Lagoon
- Snakes Downunder Reptile Park and Zoo
- The Ginger Factory - The Home of Buderim Ginger
- Australian Outback Spectacular
- Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary
- The Big Banana Fun Park
- Coffs harbour Butterfly House
- Australian Reptile Park
- Sydney Opera House

### Day 1: Cairns to Mission Beach

**Distance:** 158 Kms **Time:** 2 Hours 19 Minutes

- **Morning:** Your journey will start with a relaxing morning at the Cairns Aquarium, where you will get up and close to some of the species that call Tropical North Queensland home.
- **Afternoon:** Babinda Boulders is a popular attraction south of Cairns. The fresh-water creek is lined with huge boulders, where the water weaves between them to fill the large pools where you can stop in for a swim.
- **Evening:** The Kennedy Walking Track is a popular trail, and at only four kms the route has a combination of beach and forest walking.
- **Where to stay:** Mission Beach Camping and Caravan Park, 53 Porter Promenade, Mission Beach QLD 4852. Powered Site

### Day 2: Mission Beach to Murray Falls

**Distance:** 64 Kms **Time:** 53 Minutes

- **Morning:** The Big Cassowary is the first of many large Australian attractions you will visit on this trip, located next to the aptly named Cassowary Shopping Centre, this roadside attraction shows off the flightless bird and is worth taking the time to stop and grab a selfie.
- **Afternoon:** Head to one of the action-packed theme parks for some fun or explore local attractions and cafés along the coast.
- **Evening:** Immerse yourself in the buzz of Surfers Paradise, Australia's nightlife capital, with its lounge bars and clubs, or enjoy a more relaxed evening with cocktails in Broadbeach.
- **Where to stay:** Murray Falls Camping Area, Girramay National Park, Murray Falls Road, Upper Murray QLD 4854. Unpowered Site.



The Golden Gumboot - Tourism Queensland

### Day 3: Murray Falls to Townsville

**Distance:** 207 Kms **Time:** 2 Hours 31 Minutes

- **Morning:** Located in the Caldwell State Forest, this 60-minute walk leaves from the Caldwell lookout car park. The lookouts will give you views over to Oyster Point, Rockingham Bay and Hinchbrook Island.
- **Afternoon:** Big Crystal Creek is a stunning location, less than an hour from Townsville. A perfect spot to cool off after your morning travels. With a waterfall and natural rock slide you have entered a waterpark wonderland.
- **Evening:** The Big Townsville Sign is a popular spot for visitors to stop and grab a picture to share with family and friends.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Tasman Holiday Parks - Rowes Bay, 46 Heatleys Parade, Belgian Gardens QLD 4810. Powered Site



### Day 4: Townsville to Eungella National Park

**Distance:** 409 Kms **Time:** 4 Hours 45 Minutes

- **Morning:** Our road trip filled with big things is continuing this morning with a visit to Queensland's Big Mango! Located at the Bowen Visitor Centre this 10-meter-high fruit pays homage to the Bowen Mango!
- **Afternoon:** The Proserpine Historical Museum is a wonderful attraction that allows you to explore the history of Prosperine.
- **Evening:** The Eungella National Park is a mountain refuge that is home to a wide range of native plants and wildlife. With a range of walks available this spot has a walk to suit everybody.
- **Where to stay:** Finch Hatton Showground, 21 Anzac Parade, Finch Hatton QLD 4756. Powered Site.



*The Big Mango - Tourism Queensland*

### Day 5: Eungella National Park to Mackay

**Distance:** 87 Kms **Time:** 1 Hour 21 Minutes

- **Morning:** The Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens are home to many animals and plants, some of whom are endangered in the wild. The gardens are open from 5am to 9pm with well-lit pathways making it a fantastic place to visit throughout the day.
- **Afternoon:** The Bluewater Lagoon features three sparkling tiered pools with depths suited to all ages. There is also an on-site café and BBQ facilities that make this the perfect spot to stop and enjoy a family afternoon filled with laughter and fun.
- **Evening:** Queens Park boasts beautiful gardens, lawns and historic buildings, as well as one of the region's major playgrounds.
- **Where to stay:** The Park Mackay, 284 Farrellys Road, Paget QLD 4740. Powered Site.

### Day 6: Mackay to Malborough

**Distance:** 231 Kms **Time:** 2 Hours 32 Minutes

- **Morning:** The Bluewater Sculpture Trail consists of six installations by Indigenous Queensland artist, Fiona Foley. The artworks were commissioned in 2008.
- **Afternoon:** St. Lawrence Creek Bridge Memorial and Marg's Park are a quiet tribute to the engineering ingenuity and transport history that helped shape St. Lawrence.
- **Evening:** The Malborough Historical Museum is home to many collections, including a display of horse-drawn carriages, a blacksmiths shed and a Chrysoptera display.
- **Where to stay:** Malborough Roadhouse, 13 Perkins Road, Malborough QLD 4705. Powered Site.

### Day 7: Malborough to Rockhampton

**Distance:** 106 Kms **Time:** 1 Hours 20 Minutes

- **Morning:** The Capricorn Caves feature breathtaking views and are home to plenty of native wildlife and endangered species.
- **Afternoon:** The Rockhampton Museum of Art honours the tradition and commitment of contemporary Australian painting.
- **Evening:** The Walter Reid Cultural Centre hosts exhibitions, workshops and live performances.
- **Where to stay:** Discovery Parks - Rockhampton, 394 Yaamba Road, Norman Gardens QLD 4701. Powered Site.



*Capricorn Caves - Tourism Queensland*



### Day 8: Rockhampton to Gladstone

**Distance:** 108 Kms **Time:** 1 Hour 16 Minutes

- **Morning:** The Rockhampton Botanic Gardens include a tranquil Japanese garden that was designed by a Japanese landscape designer Kenzo as well as the Rockhampton Zoo, which is home to over 60 native and exotic animals.
- **Afternoon:** The Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum is dedicated to promoting art, culture and heritage for the Gladstone Region and Central Queensland community.
- **Evening:** Take a trip to Gladstone's first escape room at The Way Out Escape Room.
- **Where to stay:** Gladstone Showground RV Campsite, Tank Street, Gladstone Central, QLD 4680. Powered Site.



*Gladstone Art Gallery and Museum - Tourism Queensland*

### Day 9: Gladstone to Bundaberg

**Distance:** 187 Kms **Time:** 2 Hours 15 Minutes

- **Morning:** The Tondoon Botanic Gardens are home to rainforest plants from the Port Curtis, South East Queensland and Far North Queensland regions. Offering a relaxing balance of manicured gardens and natural landscaping that overlooks Lake Tondoon.
- **Afternoon:** The Alexandra Park Zoo is located next to Alexandra Park, providing visitors with a space to enjoy a picnic under the shady trees before going to visit the residents of the zoo. The zoo has a wide variety of animals, including emus, wallabies and even dingos.
- **Evening:** The Hinkler Hall of Aviation brings to life the adventures of Bert Hinkler, one of Australia's famous pioneer solo aviators, through interactive displays and exhibits.
- **Where to stay:** Bundaberg East Cabin and Tourist Park, 83 Princess Street, Bundaberg East QLD 4670. Powered Site.

### Day 10: Bundaberg to Gympie

**Distance:** 250 Kms **Time:** 2 House 18 Minutes

- **Morning:** Snakes Downunder Reptile Park and Zoo offers an engaging experience that allows visitors to connect with the resident Australian wildlife. For those seeking a little closer-up experience there are Reptile, Koala and Meerkat encounters.
- **Afternoon:** TTIaro Memorial Park is a wonderful place to park up and enjoy and afternoon. There is a well-equipped playground for the family to enjoy
- **Evening:** Explore the history of Gympie at the Gympie Gold Mining and Historical Museum.
- **Where to stay:** Nomads Rest Caravan Park and Holiday Accommodation, 97 Gympie Connection Road, Victory Heights QLD 4570. Powered Site.

### Day 11: Gympie to Sunshine Coast

**Distance:** 83 Kms **Time:** 1 Hours 7 Minutes

- **Morning:** Matilda was the mascot for the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games and now resides in Traveston off the Bruce Highway.
- **Afternoon:** The Ginger Factory is the home of Buderim Ginger and has been delighting visitors for over 40 years.
- **Evening:** The Sunshine Castle offers a self-guided medieval tour and treasure hunt, doll museum and onsite café.
- **Where to stay:** Maroochydoore Beach Holiday Park, 1 Melrose Parade, Maroochydoore QLD 4558. Powered Site.



*The Ginger Factory - Tourism Queensland*

### Day 12: Sunshine Coast to Brisbane

**Distance:** 0 Kms **Time:** 0 Hours

- **Morning/Afternoon:** Aussie world is a small theme park that offers family fun for all ages. It is a wonderful destination for laughter, adventure and making memories. There are thrilling rides, water-fuelled fun and family favourites. This park makes a welcome alternative to the big theme parks, with minimal wait times and a choice of café or pub style dining, there is something for everyone. As there is so much to see, why not make this a full day out!
- **Evening:** The South Bank Parklands are a mixture of rainforest, grassed areas and plazas. Where you can enjoy a swim at the famous Streets Beach.
- **Where to stay:** El Encanto, 555 Tarragindi Road, Salisbury QLD 4107. Powered Site..



The Banana Bender Pub at Aussie World - Tourism Queensland

### Day 13: Brisbane to Gold Coast

**Distance:** 71 Kms **Time:** 50 Minutes

- **Morning:** The Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre is one of the largest natural bushland reserves in Brisbane, with plenty of walking tracks to enjoy there is something for everyone.
- **Afternoon:** The Beenleigh Historical Village and Museum will take you back in time to yesteryear. This unique collection of heritage memorabilia features items that have been lovingly restored and preserved displayed throughout the 20 heritage buildings that make up the village.
- **Evening:** This evening is the perfect time to enjoy dinner with a show at the Australian Outback Spectacular. The live performance features amazing displays of stockmanship, stunning special effects and has a powerful story of life on the land. You can relax and enjoy the show while a hearty three-course Australian meal is served.
- **Where to stay:** Broadwater Tourist Park, 169 Marine Parade, Southport QLD 4215. Powered Site.

### Day 14: Gold Coast to Byron Bay

**Distance:** 580 Kms **Time:** 7 Hours

- **Morning:** Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is home to some of Australia's amazing native animals alongside family favourites.
- **Afternoon:** Alongside the Brunswick River locals have ensured that there are a wide variety of shops and cafes to choose from.
- **Evening:** The Cape Byron lighthouse is located on Australia's most easterly point and is a wonderful spot to stop and see the scenery.
- **Where to stay:** First Sun Holiday Park, Lawson Street, Byron Bay NSW 2481. Powered Site.



Australian Outback Spectacular - Tourism Queensland

### Day 15: Byron Bay to Coffs Harbour

**Distance:** 580 Kms **Time:** 7 Hours

- **Morning:** The Broadwater National Park is a great place to have a picnic, go on a hike, or even look out for the native birds and local whales.
- **Afternoon:** The Big Banana Fun Park is Australia's original fun park and offers everything from thrilling rides to candy-making demonstrations.
- **Evening:** The North Coast Regional Botanic Garden blends a unique range of discovery walks among natural forests and curated garden areas including Australian natives, rainforests, a sensory garden as well as ponds and lakes.
- **Where to stay:** BIG4 Park Beach Holiday Park, 1 Ocean Parade, Coffs harbour NSW 2450. Powered Site.



### Day 16: Coffs Harbour to Port Macquarie

**Distance:** 155 Kms **Time:** 1 Hour 48 Minutes

- **Morning:** The Coffs Harbour Butterfly House is home to not only hundreds of live Australian Butterflies, but dinosaur meet-and-greets, and even some resident fairies - everyone will love it!
- **Afternoon:** The Kempsey Museum showcases a history of the Macleay Valley from before settlement to the present day.
- **Evening:** If you enjoy puzzles riddles and consider yourself a sleuth, then the Façade Escape Room is for you.
- **Where to stay:** Flynn's Beach Caravan Park, 22 Ocean Street, Port Macquarie NSW 2444. Powered Site.

### Day 17: Port Macquarie to Seal Rocks

**Distance:** 153 Kms **Time:** 1 Hour 58 Minutes

- **Morning:** Located next to the Kew Visitor Information Centre, The Big Axe is one of those little gems of a photo op that is dotted throughout Australia.
- **Afternoon:** The Big Buzz Fun Park is 25 acres of fun and adventure, featuring something for all ages. There is a toboggan run, water slides, karts, tennis courts and so much more. The park has plenty of undercover seating and free gas barbeques that are perfect for a family meal.
- **Evening:** the Seal Rocks walk doesn't disappoint when it comes to views of the coast and sweeping headlands. Travelling through the dense rainforest leads you to a perfect picture opportunity off the coast with impressive views of the Sugarloaf Point Lighthouse, so make sure you bring your camera.
- **Where to stay:** Reflections Seal Rocks - Holiday Park, Kinka Road, Seal Rocks NSW 2423. Powered Site.

### Day 18: Seal Rocks to Newcastle

**Distance:** 137 Kms **Time:** 1 Hour 52 Minutes

- **Morning:** With plenty of amenities to start your day Wade Park in Bulahdelah is a great place to stop and recharge before starting your day.
- **Afternoon:** The Newcastle Museum opened in 1988, with exhibitions ranging from science to indigenous history and Newcastle history, there is something for everyone.
- **Evening:** Fort Scratchley was in operation from 1882 to 1972, and after a multimillion-dollar renovation the fort was reborn into a museum which opened to the public in 2009.
- **Where to stay:** NRMS Stockton Beach Holiday Park, 3 Pitt Street, Stockton NSW 2295. Powered Site.



Newcastle Museum - Tourism New South Wales

### Day 19: Newcastle to Central Coast

**Distance:** 106 Kms **Time:** 1 Hour 34 Minutes

- **Morning:** The Swansea peninsula is named for the network of sea caves that are situated at its southern end. Accessible only at low tide, the sea caves are astounding to explore, especially for children.
- **Afternoon:** The Strickland State Forest is a small day-use forest with a magnificent array of flora and fauna, from wildflowers to impressive eucalypts and dense rainforest.
- **Evening:** Walkabout Wildlife Sanctuary is a sanctuary dedicated to providing a safe home for rescued wildlife. The residents can move freely throughout the habitat, meaning that you can walk with kangaroos, wallabies and emus.
- **Where to stay:** Glenworth Valley Campground, 69 Cooks Road, Glenworth Valley NSW 2250. Powered Site.



## Day 20: Central Coast to Bondi

**Distance:** 101 Kms **Time:** 1 Hour 19 Minutes

- **Morning:** The Australian Reptile Park has over 50 species on display; this hands-on interactive zoo gives visitors the chance to interact with Australia's native animals and watch captivating wildlife shows.
- **Afternoon:** To continue your adventure into the native species of Australia, visit the Kalkari Discovery Centre, where you can walk the centre's discovery trail to learn about native species, indigenous history and engage with the range of activities for both adults and children.
- **Evening:** Any trip to New South Wales would not be complete without a visit to Bondi Beach.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Bathurst Panorama Holiday Park, 250 Sydney Rd, Kelso NSW 2795. Powered Site.



Bondi Beach - Tourism New South Wales

## Day 21: Bondi to Sydney

**Distance:** 8 Kms **Time:** 25 Minutes

- **Morning:** Located in the heart of Sydney is a hub of science, culture and nature – the Australian Museum. With free general entry the museum prides itself on its commitment to conservation and education. You can explore the museum at your own pace using their free online audio and Auslan tours. Once you have seen everything that Australia's oldest museum has to offer grab a bite at one of the three eateries located on-site.
- **Afternoon:** One of the most famous buildings in the world is the Sydney Opera House. With its distinctive sails the Opera House dominates the Sydney Waterfront. So why not visit the iconic venue yourself. The Opera House tours available, that vary on what you will get to see daily depending on what is happening at the venue. Just make sure that you leave enough time to get back to the Cruisin' depot by 3:30pm to return your motorhome.

## Packing List For Your Queensland road trip

Pack your sunscreen because it's time to experience the best that **Australia East Coast** has to offer! There are a few key things you won't want to forget on your road trip! These include:

- Beach towels
- Swimwear
- Beach entertainment (buckets, volleyball, cricket, etc)
- Appropriate footwear (thongs for beaches, sneakers for walking)
- Sun hat
- Sunscreen
- Camera/phone + chargers
- Light backpack (to carry food + water bottle)
- Personalised first aid kit (insect repellent, medications, band-aids, etc)
- Mixture of clothing for different weather/activities

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Have a great trip!

