

Tropical north Queensland 11

Think you know Cairns? Guess again

Take a tropical holiday destination blessed with natural beauty, add a new wave of cafes, bars and adrenalin-fuelled activities and you get an all-new approach to Cairns.

Known for its laid-back vibe, tropical climate and easy access to beaches, rainforest and tablelands, Cairns has emerged as a foodie hub well suited for a weekend getaway or longer break. Whether you're after aquatic adventure, nature time or a sunshine-filled cocktail session, the city merges Queensland's trademark chilled out vibe with a bit of get-up-and-go.

Reef and islands in 45 minutes

What could be better than spending a glorious day on Australia's most famous reef? Backing it up with an island adventure, of course. Spend your first day discovering the coral gardens of Moore Reef as you snorkel and dive on a day tour with Sunlover Reef Cruises.

Jump on a guided snorkel tour with a marine biologist who knows exactly where to find Nemo or spot fish with your kids from the pool area made just for them.

A second day will see you exploring Fitzroy Island and its short walks to Nudey Beach (one of Australia's most beautiful beaches) or to the island summit for panoramic views of the Great Barrier Reef.

Retiring to Foxy's Bar for cocktails and a delicious meal will tempt you at some point, but not before you've snorkelled the fringing reef or visited the island's turtle rehabilitation centre.

Getting high has never been such fun

Getting into nature is what this part of the world is all about and with a range of active adventures on offer visitors can take to the sea, sky, rivers, gardens and waterfalls to see Cairns from every angle. Whether you head into the air or under the sea - Tropical North Queensland looks great from every angle. From having a bird's eye view in a hot air balloon to a thrilling heli-adventure, seeing the reef and rainforest from above is a top way to gain a new perspective. Hiking the fragrant eucalypt forest of the



Clockwise from above: Nudey Beach, Fitzroy Island; snorkelling with Sunlover Reef Cruises; Blackbird Espresso. Photos: TEQ; Phil Warring



Red Arrow trail near Cairns Botanic Gardens will get your heart rate pumping; rafting the rapids of Barron Gorge injects some adrenalin into your day. Canyoning, mountain-biking, bungee jumping and hiking ensure you'll never be bored. If you've got energy to burn, Cairns obliges at every turn.

Bite into the fresh food scene

From prawns hauled straight off the boat to ripe mangoes sourced from the Atherton Tablelands, Cairns' food scene puts locally-sourced ingredients front and centre. Open Friday to Sunday, Rusty's Markets captivates with more than 180 stalls showcasing the best tropical produce of the



region. Wander through rows showcasing avocado, pineapples, bananas and dragonfruit or find gourmet stalls offering everything from made-to-order crepes to cold-pressed juices, Korean-style chicken and Italian savoury pastries.

Do as locals do and celebrate your market haul with breakfast at a hip cafe on Grafton Street or grab an espresso from Blackbird, tucked away in Oceana Walk.

For something a little quirkier, take a seat in an old fishing trawler repurposed as a much-loved seafood eatery. Prawn Star, docked at Cairns' marina, serves local mud crab, oysters and prawns in a relaxed, one-of-a-kind atmosphere.

If fine dining is more your thing, book a table at award-winning Tamarind Restaurant, where dishes such as whole crispy baby barramundi and fragrant tea-smoked quail offer complex flavours for sophisticated palates.

After dark, wander down a laneway to imbibe at Cairns' newest late-night haunt, Three Wolves.

Smooth cocktails, craft ales, moreish bar bites and seriously good bar staff bring small bar culture to Cairns in an exclusive spot away from other bars and restaurants.

Whether you're after a tropical beach break minus the jetlag or a fun weekend escape in the sun, Cairns is the answer.



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Discover the Real Reef

- 3 nights at Fitzroy Island Resort in a Studio Room
- Daily hot breakfast, Turtle Rehabilitation tour, 1 day snorkel hire, daily fish feeding and rainforest walks available.
- Full Day Outer Great Barrier Reef Tour with Sunlover Reef Cruises including guided Snorkel Safari tour.

Fitzroy island

BOOK NOW! Call 07 4044 6700 or stay@fitzroyisland.com

Travel Dates: until 31 March 2018. Block Outs: 14 - 17 & 24 April, 23 Dec to 8 Jan 2018 & 10 to 23 February 2018. Subject to availability. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Package based on 2 guests in a room, upgrades and family rates available.

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