



# Coastal Queensland & the Great Barrier Reef



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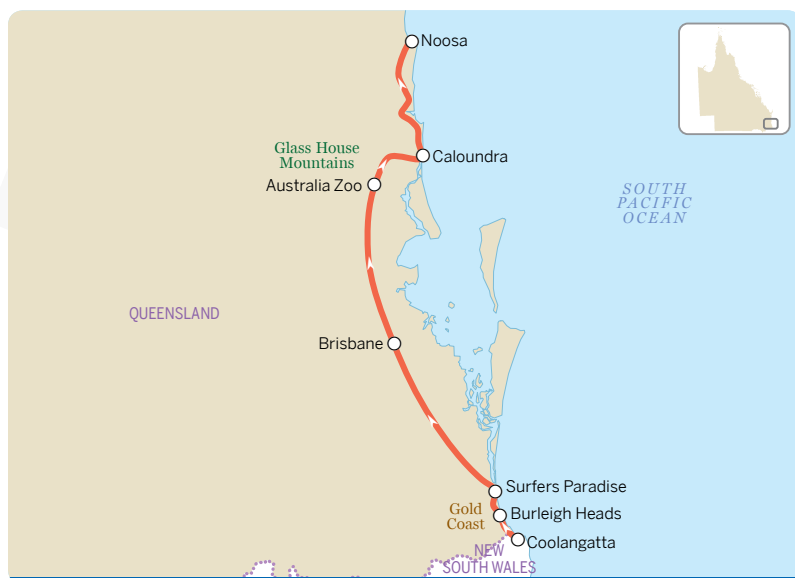
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# Itineraries



## 5 DAYS Coolangatta to Noosa

The perfect Queensland introduction, this short-on-time tour delivers the best of the state's southeast: beaches, cities, coastal towns and wildlife encounters.

Kick-start your trip on the Gold Coast, beginning in laid-back **Coolangatta** on the New South Wales border, moving through beachy, gently hipster **Burleigh Heads** – great beer and coffee – to the party-prone pleasure dome of **Surfers Paradise**. If you have a couple of days to spare, let loose your inhibitions (and your stomach) at the Gold Coast theme parks. To sample some culture head north to **Brisbane**, taking in the superb Gallery of Modern Art, some craft-beer bars and live tunes in the West End or emerging Teneriffe and Newstead, and a night on the tiles in ever-changing Fortitude Valley.

Truck north to the **Glass House Mountains** for some breathtaking panoramas and rock climbing. Nearby is the superb **Australia Zoo** – brilliant if you have the kids in tow (and even if you don't). Next up is the laid-back Sunshine Coast: sunny **Caloundra** is fast evolving, with great cafes, eateries, street art and fantastic beaches. A short hop north is **Noosa**, a classy resort town with sublime beaches, a lush national park (home to sometimes-sighted koalas) and a first-class foodie scene.



## 10 DAYS Hervey Bay to Cairns

Track north along the central section of Queensland's eastern seaboard, with plenty of islands to visit en route.

Two hours north of Noosa is amiable **Hervey Bay**: from here, explore the huge dunes and crystalline lakes on **Fraser Island**. Not far north, sip Australia's favourite rum in **Bundaberg**.

Sample Queensland's coral wonders at **Lady Musgrave Island** or **Lady Elliott Island**, then devour a steak at 'beef city' **Rockhampton**. Offshore, unwind for a few days on the trails and beaches on **Great Keppel Island** – pure tropical-beach bliss.

Spot a platypus in peaceful **Eungella National Park**, then wheel into buzzy **Airlie Beach**, gateway to the azure waters and powdery white-sand beaches of the **Whitsunday Islands**: sail, dive, snorkel, chill-out at a resort or camp on an uninhabited atoll.

Vibrant **Townsville** is next. Don't miss hiking the Thorsborne Trail on magnificent **Hinchinbrook Island**. Recover at super-chilled **Mission Beach**, where the rainforest meets the sea. End your road trip in **Cairns**: shout yourself a trip to the Great Barrier Reef and a seafood feast.



## 10 DAYS Airlie Beach to Magnetic Island

This 10-day jaunt takes in party town Airlie Beach, party remedy the Whitsunday Islands, the urban enticements of Townsville and chilled-out Magnetic Island – a quick-fire summation of our favourite things about Queensland.

Fly into **Airlie Beach** where there are two must-dos: cut loose after dark with other travellers, and book a boat trip to the **Whitsunday Islands**. There are myriad day-trip options, but a multiday sail lets you explore remote islands with no one else on them. Ensure your itinerary includes Whitsunday Island for a swim off sublime Whitehaven Beach. After cruising the islands, book a night at a swish island resort. Feeling more adventurous? Sign up for an overnight kayaking trip to one of the islands.

Back in Airlie, track north to **Townsville**, Queensland's third-biggest city. Walk along the waterfront, check out the Reef HQ Aquarium, clamber up Castle Hill and enjoy the local dining scene. Experienced divers might want to book a dive on the famous wreck of the SS *Yongala*. Wind up your journey on **Magnetic Island**, an unpretentious isle with easygoing beach villages, plenty of wildlife and scenic bushwalking tracks.



## Cairns to Cape Tribulation

Far North Queensland is like nowhere else on earth – a dizzying array of coral reefs, tropical atolls, rainforests and interesting towns.

Australia's reef-diving capital, **Cairns** is an obligatory east-coast destination. Spend a few days pinballing between botanic gardens, hip restaurants and buzzy watering holes. A short hop offshore, reef-trimmed **Green Island** and **Fitzroy Island** have verdant vegetation and lovely beaches, without too many folks competing for patches of sand. Further afield, a snorkelling or diving trip to the **Great Barrier Reef** is an essential experience, or plan a few days on a liveaboard expedition to Cod Hole, one of Australia's best dive spots.

Next up, head inland via gondola cableway or scenic railway to **Kuranda** for rainforest walks and a wander around the town's famous markets. If you have your own wheels, you can explore further: swing by the picturesque **Millaa Millaa Falls** and take a rainforest hike in spectacular **Wooroonooran National Park**.

Back down at sea level, treat yourself to a night in a plush resort at **Palm Cove**, just north of Cairns. An hour further north is **Port Douglas**, an uptempo holiday hub with fab eateries, bars and a beaut beach. It's also a popular base for boat trips to the outer reef. Next stop is **Mossman Gorge**, where lush lowland rainforest surrounds the photogenic Mossman River. Take a guided walk and cool off in a waterhole.

Further north is the **Daintree River**, where you can go on a crocodile-spotting cruise, then stop for lunch at the low-key **Daintree Village**. Afterwards, continue back to the river, where you'll cross by vehicle ferry to the northern side. From here, continue driving north (easy does it – this is cassowary country!) to the Daintree Discovery Centre – a great place to learn about this magnificent jungle wilderness. The beach at nearby **Cow Bay** is perfect for a few hours of beachcombing among the seashells and driftwood.

Last stop on your tropical tour is **Cape Tribulation**, a magnificent natural partnership between rainforest and reef. Spend a few nights taking in the splendour at one of the camping or backpacker places nooked into the rainforest.





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Top: Glass House  
Mountains (p133)  
Bottom: Fraser Island

# Map Legend

## Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

## Activities, Courses & Tours

- Body surfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

## Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

## Eating

- Eating

## Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

## Entertainment

- Entertainment

## Shopping

- Shopping

## Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

## Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

## Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

## Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

## Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

## Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

## Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

## Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

*Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book*





### **Tom Spurling**

**Coastal Queensland** Tom is an Australian LP guidebook author and high school teacher currently based in Hong Kong in search of the long-lost expatriate package. He's worked on 13 LP titles, including *Japan*, *China*, *Central America*, *Turkey*, *India*, *South Africa* and *Australia*. When not chasing his tail, he enjoys tucking it under his crossed legs for minutes on end.



### **Donna Wheeler**

**The Gold Coast** Donna has written guidebooks for Lonely Planet for ten years, including the Italy, Norway, Belgium, Africa, Tunisia, Algeria, France, Austria and Melbourne titles. She is the author of *Paris Precincts*, a curated photographic guide to the city's best bars, restaurants and shops and is reporter for Italian contemporary art publisher My Art Guides. Donna's work on contemporary art, architecture and design, food, wine, wilderness areas and cultural history also can be found in a variety of other publications.

She became a travel writer after various careers as a commissioning editor, creative director, digital producer and content strategist.



## OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

## OUR WRITERS



### Paul Harding

**Curator, Port Douglas & the Daintree** As a writer and photographer, Paul has been travelling the globe for the best part of two decades, with an interest in remote and offbeat places, islands and cultures. He's an author and contributor to more than 50 Lonely Planet guides to countries and regions as diverse as India, Iceland, Belize, Vanuatu, Iran, Indonesia, New Zealand, Finland, Philippines and – his home patch – Australia.



### Cristian Bonetto

**Brisbane, Noosa & the Sunshine Coast** Cristian has contributed to over 30 Lonely Planet guides to date, including *New York City, Italy, Venice & the Veneto, Naples & the Amalfi Coast, Denmark, Copenhagen, Sweden and Singapore*. Lonely Planet work aside, his musings on travel, food, culture and design appear in numerous publications around the world, including *The Telegraph* (UK) and *Corriere del Mezzogiorno* (Italy). When not on the road, you'll find the reformed playwright

and TV scriptwriter slurping espresso in his beloved hometown, Melbourne. Instagram: rexcat75.



### Charles Rawlings-Way

Charles is a veteran travel writer who has penned 30-something titles for Lonely Planet – including guides to Singapore, Toronto, Sydney, Tasmania, New Zealand, the South Pacific and Australia – and numerous articles. After dabbling in the dark arts of architecture, cartography, project management and busking for some years, Charles hit the road for LP in 2005 and hasn't stopped travelling since. 'What's in store for me in the direction I don't take?' (Kerouac). Charles

wrote the Plan Your Trip and Understand sections of this book.



### Tamara Sheward

**Cairns & Around** After years of freelance travel writing, rock'n'roll journalism and insalubrious authorism, Tamara leapt at the chance to join the Lonely Planet ranks in 2009. Since then, she's worked on guides to an incongruous jumble of countries including Montenegro, Australia, Serbia, Russia, the Samoas, Bulgaria and Fiji. She's written a miscellany of travel articles for the BBC, the *Independent*, *Sydney Morning Herald* et al; she's also fronted the camera as a documentary presenter for Lonely Planet TV, Nat Geo and Al-Jazeera. Tamara's based in far northern Australia, but you're more likely to find her roaming elsewhere, tattered notebook in one hand, the world's best-travelled toddler in the other.

## OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

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