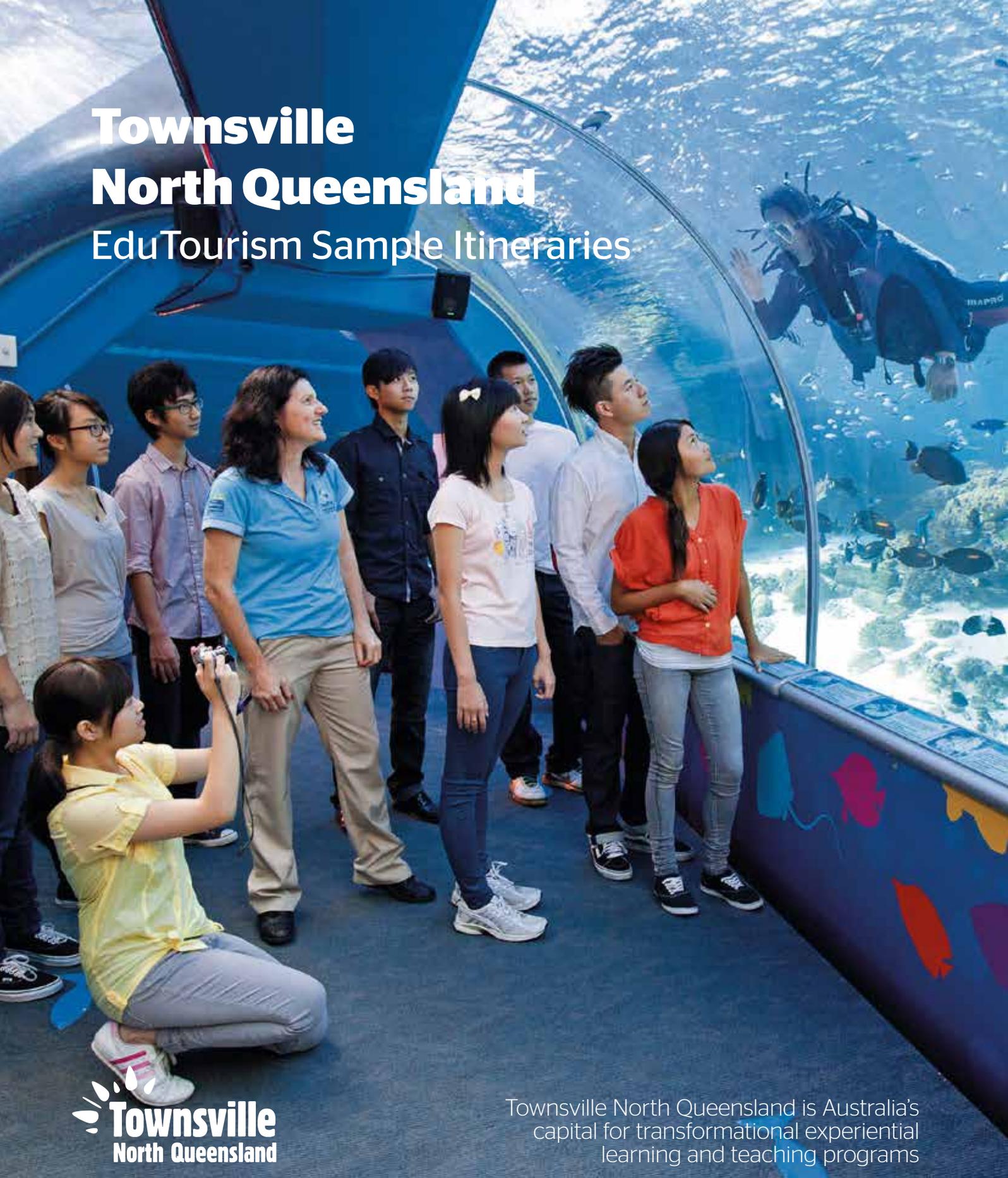


# Townsville North Queensland EduTourism Sample Itineraries



 **Townsville**  
North Queensland

Townsville North Queensland is Australia's capital for transformational experiential learning and teaching programs

 **townsville**  
enterprise

Study  
**Queensland**

**TIO** Trade &  
Investment  
Queensland  
AUSTRALIA

 Queensland  
Government



## TOWNSVILLE NORTH QUEENSLAND EDUTOURISM PROGRAMS

**The destination of excellence for faculty led study abroad teaching and learning**

The Townsville North Queensland region enjoys a unique, safe, tropical environment that offers the perfect setting to learn. Gateway to the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef, tropical islands, wet tropics rainforests, national parks, wetlands and historical, military and outback experiences, the region is also home to some of the best education experiences available in the world.

Since 2013, the Townsville North Queensland EduTourism Consortium has delivered programs to Universities and Schools from across the globe including Miami University, Auburn University, American Universities International Programs (AUIP) and Union Institute of Language (UIL) just to name a few.

The Townsville North Queensland EduTourism programs are all-inclusive nature based experiences led by educators from the Townsville EduTourism Consortium made up of world class research institutions (James Cook University and the Australian Institute of Marine Science), natural

resource management agencies (The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority) and high standard, nature based, experiential learning facilitators.

Your group will experience some of the most visually stunning Australian environments; it will most truly be a 'feast for the senses'.

What sets Townsville, North Queensland apart from other Australian and globally based destinations is that it is quite literally the epicentre of diversity for experiential learning in the Tropics. Environmentally the region is a gateway to the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef, tropical islands, Wet Tropics rainforests, national parks, wetlands of international importance and Australian outback experiences. There is also a rich Indigenous culture with connections to land and sea country. Additionally, the region has well established linkages to agriculture (agribusiness); aquaculture; research and development; conservation; and sustainable business operations and technology as one of Australia's Solar Cities.



Please note: small changes to listed itineraries may occur due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances. A similar product with the same learning outcomes may be substituted if necessary.

# 10 DAY ITINERARY TOWNSVILLE

Wildlife . Waterfalls . Rainforest . Wetlands .  
Islands, Aboriginal Culture . Great Barrier Reef

**\$150 - \$200\*** per student per day  
\*Price is based on 10-16 pax  
(plus 1 FOC Tour Leader)

All meals, accommodation, tours are inclusive  
unless otherwise stated. Excludes flights.

## Day 1: Welcome to Townsville North Queensland (Lunch and Dinner)

Private transfer from Townsville International Airport  
to hotel Townsville City Sites Tour  
Lunch on Townsville's waterfront "The Strand"  
Afternoon at leisure  
Transfer to hotel

## Evening presentation from Hands on Wildlife (Venomous Creatures)

Even before you headed down under, you probably expected that every animal over here could possibly kill you. From crocodiles to deadly snakes, Australian wildlife has a fierce reputation. Before you head out into our beautiful habitats, take a moment to learn how to stay safe from some of Australia's most dangerous creatures. Staying safe is easy, especially when you have a better understanding of how the animals behave, where you might find them, and what to do if you are lucky enough to see them. The hour-long program introduces students to some of the dangerous creatures that they may come across in Tropical North Queensland, and provides information on how to stay safe. You will have the chance to touch and hold some of our less dangerous animals as well.

## Overnight accommodation (City Oasis)

Located in Townsville city centre, City Oasis Inn offers free Wi-Fi and air-conditioned rooms with a TV. The tropical landscaped gardens feature a lagoon-style pool, a heated spa pool and waterfall. Each room includes a private bathroom, ceiling fans, tea/coffee making facilities and a refrigerator. Ironing facilities are provided. Some rooms have car parking

directly outside. Sidewalk Cafe and Bar offers a relaxed atmosphere with both indoor and al fresco dining. The Cafe is open Monday to Saturday for breakfast and Monday to Thursday for dinner. BBQ facilities and room service are also available. Guest laundry facilities are available, along with same-day dry cleaning.

## Day 2: Wet Tropics Rainforest and discovering the mysterious Platypus (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

### Private transfer from hotel to the Paluma Range National Park - Wet Tropics Rainforest

#### Wet Tropics Rainforest expedition

The Traditional Owners of Paluma Range National Park are the Nywaigi Aboriginal people. They welcome you to their country and ask that you respect and enjoy this place. The traditional name for the Paluma Range is Munan Gumburu, which means 'misty mountain', an apt description as morning mists are common. The Paluma region is a bird watcher's paradise. Some of the region's most rare and endangered species can be found here. The township of Paluma is home to a wide array of impressive native rainforest bird species while further past Paluma there are opportunities to view dry tropical forest birds."

#### Platypus viewing tour

Voted by Australian Geographic as one of the top five places to see a platypus in the wild. The tour includes a guide and history of Hidden Valley. This tour has a 98 per cent success rate.

#### Overnight accommodation (Hidden Valley Cabins)

Hidden Valley Cabins is the perfect place to relax. Designed to blend into the natural environment the accommodation is built from locally sourced recycled timber, creating a rustic appearance while still delivering a high standard of quality and comfort. Each building within the resort is built entirely from local timber, and the majority of the furniture was hand-crafted from local timber.

Hidden Valley Cabins are an outstanding example of genuine Ecotourism and have been certified as an Advanced Ecotourism operation - the highest level of certification - by Ecotourism Australia. The resort operates on 100 per cent renewable energy. Hidden Valley Cabins 90 square metre solar array supplies the resort with all its electrical needs.

### Day 3: Wetlands and Waterfalls (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Private transfer from Hidden Valley Cabins

#### Wallaman Falls

Wallaman Falls is part of the traditional lands of the Warrgamaygan Aboriginal people. 'Nginba Warrgamaygan Ngarji'. They hope you will enjoy your visit and respect this sacred place. The highest, permanent, single-drop waterfall in Australia, Wallaman Falls is part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, home to some of the oldest rainforests on earth and many endangered plants and animals.



#### Tyto wetlands - bird watching and wetland tour

Paying homage through its name to the locally found Eastern Grass Owl (*Tyto capensis*) TYTO Wetlands is a 110 hectare rehabilitated wetland area, home to unique flora and fauna including over 240 species of birds and many Agile Wallabies. With extensive walking tracks, bird hides and viewing platforms, it is a great way to get up close and personal to wildlife with the most rewarding experiences found in the early morning or late afternoon.

#### Overnight accommodation (Hidden Valley Cabins)

### Day 4: Australian Aboriginal Culture (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Private transfer from Hidden Valley Cabins to Mungulla Station

#### Mungulla Station - Australian Aboriginal Culture

Nywaigi Aboriginal people have occupied our lands north of Townsville, Tropical North Queensland for over 45,000 years. Unlike Aboriginal people in central Australia that had to travel large distances for food, we were fortunate to live in the 'land of plenty' where wildlife, fruits, berries and seafood were freely available. We used the vines of the rainforest to create our bags and the tall trees provided the raw

material for outrigger canoes that allowed us to fish in our rivers and on the nearby Great Barrier Reef.

We lived in harmony with the environment according to the Tjukurpa - a complex set of laws and beliefs (and for which there is no equivalent English word) that we followed strictly to maintain our society, ecology and culture. Our culture - passed on orally, through dance and through our art - is closely connected to the natural history and beauty of the area.

Today, the Mungalla Aboriginal Business Corporation and its parent body the Nywaigi Aboriginal Land Corporation which holds title to Mungalla Station have a mandate to improve the economic and social position of our people. We have chosen to achieve these aims by sharing the rich history and culture of Mungalla Station with you through our tours.

Captive lives story telling  
Aussie BBQ lunch  
Private transfer to hotel (City Oasis)  
Evening at leisure

#### Overnight accommodation (City Oasis)

### Day 5: Australian Wildlife Adventure (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Private transfer from hotel to Billabong Sanctuary

#### Billabong Sanctuary

Billabong Sanctuary is permanent home to native over 100 species of Australian mammals and reptiles such as kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, wombats, crocodiles, and birds including parrots and cassowaries. In addition, the natural billabong (lake) at the centre of the sanctuary is host to many visiting animals, some of which will breed and raise their young at the sanctuary.

Day of specialised talks and tours including behind the scenes tours

Private transfer to SeaLink Ferry Terminal - Ferry transfer to Magnetic Island

Private transfer to Bungalow Bay Koala Sanctuary

#### Magnetic Island

Magnetic Island ("Maggie", as the locals affectionately know it), is a world-heritage listed island on the Great Barrier Reef and was inscribed on the world heritage list in recognition of its stunning natural beauty, a



rugged landscape featuring large granite boulders and granite headlands rising to 497 metres at its highest point .

Giant hoop pines are common on the rocky outcrops. Maggie features 23 beaches and bays and with pristine coral and granite sand, the tropical waters are crystal clear. Fringing reefs featuring colourful tropical fish and vibrant coloured coral can be experienced just off the beach in bays such as Florence and Arthur.

The island is a bushwalkers paradise with over 20 kilometres of walking tracks and many lookouts. More than two thirds of the island is national park and home to northern Australia's largest koala colony. Rock wallabies are commonly seen on steep slopes in the early morning. Along the beaches; gulls, terns, sand pipers and dotterels can be seen, while osprey, brahminty kites and white-bellied sea eagles soar the skies.”

Welcome Dinner with Bungalow Bay Rangers and Wildlife Interaction  
Evening at leisure

### **Overnight accommodation (Bungalow Bay Koala Village)**

First known as Yunbunum - home of the Wulgurukaba- the canoe people. The traditional owners of Magnetic Island were invited in the planning stages to evaluate the impact the resort would have on the land, water and community. The resort was given full support and endorsed by Arthur Johnson, the Wulgurukaba elder. Bungalow Bay Koala Village has played a vital role by setting up and sponsoring the wildlife rescue on Magnetic Island, of sick, injured and orphaned native animals. We provide training for wildlife carers, co-

ordinate wildlife rescue and provide equipment and supplies for the carers. Animals after rehabilitation are released back into the wild.

### **Day 6: Magnetic Island (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)**

#### **Breakfast with the Koalas**

Bush tucker is Australian terminology for the huge variety of herbs, spices, fruits, flowers and animals that are native to Australia. Aborigines have been eating bush tucker for 50,000 years and it is now developing into an interest with local restaurants Australia over seeking “new” tastes and combinations. The chef cooked breakfast is set within a unique purpose built setting amongst native trees and a setting typical to outback Australia. During the course of the morning you will be able to cook your toast over the fire, make jaffles and cook them in the burning coals as well as being greeted by native Australian animals including Koala's, crocodiles and snakes.



Koala population study  
Koala food source tree planting  
Presentation from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on Island Management  
Evening at leisure

### **Overnight accommodation (Bungalow Bay Koala Village)**

## Day 7: Magnetic Island (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Continental Breakfast

### Four Beaches Hike

Native wildlife site seeing with Lunch on Florence Bay. The main vegetation type is open eucalypt woodland of bloodwoods, stringybarks and grey ironbarks. Poplar gums are white-barked eucalypts with large roundish leaves. Hoop pines are common on rocky headlands. Bright yellow native kapok flowers appear in early spring when leaves are absent on the tree. Small pockets of rainforest are found in sheltered gullies. Rock wallabies are commonly seen on steep slopes in the early morning. During daylight hours, koalas may be found in trees near the Forts. Along the beaches gulls, terns, sandpipers and dotterels can be seen, while ospreys, brahminy kites and white-bellied sea-eagles soar the skies. Swampheens, Australian grebes and pacific black ducks are associated with freshwater habitats. Terrestrial birds include peaceful doves, pied currawongs and yellow-bellied sunbirds. The haunting wails of bush thickknees can also be heard.

### Forts Walk

One of the best ways to explore Magnetic Island is on foot. A network of walking tracks allows you to appreciate the island's natural environment protected within the national park. One of the most popular tracks on the island, the Forts walk leads to historic WWII fortifications and infrastructure. Lookouts along the way afford excellent views to the Palm Island Group in the north and Bowling Green Bay National Park in the south. Koalas are often seen in trees along the track. The walk culminates in 360 degree views from the top of the fortifications.



Private transfer to Nelly Bay Ferry Terminal - SeaLink Ferry transfer to Townsville

Private transfer to hotel (City Oasis)

## Overnight accommodation (City Oasis)

## Day 8: Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Private transfer to Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium

### Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium

The Australian Government's National Education Centre for the Great Barrier Reef. The Coral Reef Exhibition which the Aquarium is built around is the largest living coral reef aquarium in the world.

Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park  
The Great Barrier Reef is internationally recognised for its outstanding biodiversity. The World Heritage status of the Reef recognises its great diversity of species and habitats. Conserving the Reef's biodiversity is not just desirable - it is essential. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is responsible for managing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park so it's protected for the future. During this introductory series of lectures you will gain a fuller appreciation of the enormity of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, what challenges it is facing and how it is cooperatively managed, making it arguably the best managed natural resource on planet earth.

### Reef Discovery Tour

In this Reef HQ Aquarium Education program, investigate the highly diverse and amazing reef communities found on the Great Barrier Reef. Solidify your understanding of the complex ecological structures and interrelationships. Students find out about the amazing adaptations of Great Barrier Reef creatures and will investigate the characteristics essential to their survival including feeding, reproduction, communication and camouflage.

### Visit to Turtle Hospital

Reef HQ Aquarium's Turtle Hospital provides a dedicated facility, where sick and injured marine turtles can be cared for and rehabilitated. The hospital operates under and promotes the C.A.R.E (Conserve. Act. Rehabilitate. Educate) philosophy playing a key role in raising community awareness in relation to threatened species and encouraging behavioural change that will benefit the environment. During this truly inspirational experience students will learn more about marine turtles "the ancient mariners of the sea" and visit the Turtle Hospital where sick and injured marine turtles are being cared for. During the behind the scenes tour, students will learn how Reef HQ Aquarium staff keep Reef HQ Aquarium's living exhibits healthy and how they monitor the

conditions that are required to maintain a “Living Coral Reef on Land”. They will also learn about Reef HQ Aquarium’s captive breeding and coral propagation programs.

### **Reef Discovery Snorkel and introduction to Reef Health Assessment**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority’s “Rapid Monitoring Program” is the latest community monitoring (Citizen Science) tool that enables community members to participate in monitoring the health of the Great Barrier Reef. The strength of the program is that it can be used either at the same site repeatedly for monitoring changes over time or it can be deployed anywhere on coral reefs to get a snapshot of reef health. You will receive in-water training within Reef HQ Aquarium’s Coral Reef Exhibition, instructed in the simplified steps and use of diagrams on underwater slates. The Rapid Monitoring Program can easily be adopted by people who may not have a scientific background however the data collected provides enough detail to be of scientific value for reef managers.



Private transfer to hotel (City Oasis)

### **Overnight accommodation (City Oasis)**

#### **Day 9: Diving / Snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef**

**(Breakfast, lunch and dinner)**

Private transfer to marina to board M.V. Adrenalin

Day trip to the Great Barrier Reef - snorkelling (scuba diving - optional extra)

The Central Section of the Great Barrier Reef, off shore from Townsville, is a little further off the Queensland Coast than other sections and as a result has some of the best sites of the whole Great Barrier Reef. Experience it for yourself on board our 14m custom built vessel M.V. Adrenalin designed with your comfort in mind, with fully shaded areas, sun deck, stabilizers, toilet, and shower, along with easy access in & out of the water.

Our preferred reef for day trips is Lodestone Reef. We have chosen this reef for its diversity of sites, great coral cover, fish life and reasonable protection. We have a number of sites around this reef and will choose the best site on the day. You could visit Lodestone Reef dozens of times and be surprised every time. Some sites feature large coral bommies with white coral sand sea floors, others have large gutters running through the coral occupied by hundreds of reef fish, and colourful coral walls occupied by innumerable marine animals in crystal clear water.

Depths at Lodestone range from 1 metre to 20 metres making it ideal for snorkelers, beginner and experienced divers. Big schools of trevally and bait fish are common as well as a myriad of colourful reef fish including Parrot fish, Maori wrasse, Clown fish, Angel fish, Turtles, Stingrays, White tip and Black tip reef sharks are often sighted.

A visit to Lodestone Reef with Adrenalin Snorkel & Dive is a perfect way to enjoy snorkelling, introductory scuba dives or certified dives. Both snorkelers and divers will be exhilarated witnessing the spectacular marine life that Lodestone has to offer whilst being immersed in tropical crystal clear water.”



Private transfer from marina to hotel (City Oasis)

### **Overnight accommodation (City Oasis)**

#### **Day 10: Depart Townsville North Queensland (Breakfast)**

Private transfer from hotel to Townsville International Airport



# 7 DAY ITINERARY TOWNSVILLE

Wildlife . Rainforest . Islands . Culture .  
Great Barrier Reef

**\$150 - \$200\*** per student per day  
\*Price is based on 10-16 pax (plus 1 FOC Tour  
Leader)

All meals, accommodation, tours are inclusive  
unless otherwise stated. Excludes flights.

## Day 1: Magnetic Island (Lunch and Dinner)

Arrive Townsville airport and transfer to Sealink ferry terminal (15 minutes) for your journey to Magnetic Island.

A flexible afternoon designed to welcome you North Queensland and take in some scenery of this island set on the Great Barrier Reef.

Meet your host Ranger Tony

Airport transfers + Sealink Ferry to the Island  
+Transfers to bungalow bay included.

## Afternoon Forts Walk trail through the National Park

Students will be guided on Magnetic Island most popular walking trail through the north east corner of the national park. The trail is a journey of history, culture and wildlife with interpretation of the ecology

and the surrounding environments by your guide. Also, the best place to spot koala's in the wild. All National park permits are catered for by Bungalow Bay and bottled water supplied to guests.

## Overnight accommodation (Bungalow Bay Koala Village)

First known as Yunbunum - home of the Wulgurukaba- the canoe people. The traditional owners of Magnetic Island were invited in the planning stages to evaluate the impact the resort would have on the land, water and community. The resort was given full support and endorsed by Arthur Johnson, the Wulgurukaba elder.

Bungalow Bay Koala Village has played a vital role by setting up and sponsoring the wildlife rescue on Magnetic Island, of sick, injured and orphaned native animals. We provide training for wildlife carers, coordinate wildlife rescue and provide equipment and supplies for the carers. Animals after rehabilitation are released back into the wild.

## Day 2: Introduction to Queensland Landscapes and Eco Systems (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

### Breakfast with the Koalas

Bush tucker is Australian terminology for the huge variety of herbs, spices, fruits, flowers and animals that are native to Australia. Aborigines have been eating bush tucker for 50,000 years and it is now developing into an interest with local restaurants Australia over seeking "new" tastes and combinations. The chef cooked breakfast is set within a unique purpose built setting amongst native trees and a setting typical to outback Australia. During the course of the morning you will be able to cook your toast over the fire, make jaffles and cook them in the burning coals as well as being greeted by native

Australian animals including Koala's, crocodiles and snakes.

Introduction to Queensland landscapes and eco systems - A terrestrial discovery

Magnetic Island hosts a diverse array of eco systems, flora and fauna to start your learning experience about Terrestrial Landscapes found throughout Queensland.

Magnetic Island is home to Australia's most northern population of wild koala's, the most concentrated population of northern death adders, plus a large array of interesting creatures such as the endangered bush stone curlew.

You will join Ranger Tony for a 1.25 hour presentation showcasing the biodiversity of Queensland's habitats tied in with his special personal collection of wildlife endemic to each region. The tour will then progress through the Magnetic Island National Park into the low wetlands area of Horseshoe Bay before climbing into the dry sclerophyll forests bordering the granite boulder habitats which leads to Balding Bay for a swim. We will showcase some diverse habitats making home to over 75 species of reptiles, mammals and birds found in the dry tropics.

Overnight accommodation (Bungalow Bay Koala Village)

### **Day 3: Rehabilitation Project, Horseshoe Bay and Reef HQ Aquarium, Townsville (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

Continental Breakfast

#### **Rehabilitation Project, Horseshoe Bay**

The Magnetic Island National Parks and Wildlife office is a multi-tasked office that is responsible for the marine park extending south to Cape Upstart, north including the Palm Island group and the land on Magnetic Island. With a large population surrounding these habitats pressure is increasing and our working relationship will allow us to explore their expertise.

Morning based experience sharing the day in the life of a National Parks Ranger tied with a hands on rehabilitation project that fits in with their desired outcomes. This could be tied in with track maintenance, revegetation, land clearing, flora and fauna studies.

After Lunch some free time to explore Horseshoe Bay - enjoy the cafes, beach and tropical atmosphere

of Horseshoe Bay.

Afternoon transfer to Townsville on the 4.30pm ferry / arrive at 5pm and check into Reef HQ Aquarium.

#### **Overnight accommodation (Reef HQ Aquarium)**

Reef Sleep - Have you ever wondered what happens on the night shift? Experience the world's largest living coral reef aquarium at night and find out! The Reef Sleep program is an exciting and safe way for you and your students to observe the nocturnal habits of our reef creatures. Go behind-the-scenes of our 2.5 million-litre Coral Reef Exhibit; have supper and fall asleep with the amazing reef creatures that call Reef HQ Aquarium home; and wake up to breakfast and the breathtaking views of Reef HQ Aquarium. Reef HQ Aquarium becomes exclusively yours for the night!



### **Day 4: Reef HQ Aquarium (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

#### **Reef HQ Aquarium**

Meet team at Reef HQ and begin your exclusive learning experience after Breakfast.

Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area - The Great Barrier Reef is internationally recognised for its outstanding biodiversity. The World Heritage status of the reef recognises its great diversity of species and habitats. Conserving the reef's biodiversity is not just desirable - it is essential. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is responsible for managing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park so it's protected for the future. During this introductory series of lectures you will gain a fuller appreciation of the enormity of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, what challenges it is facing and how it is cooperatively managed, making it arguably the best managed natural resource on planet earth.

#### **Creature Feature Workshop**

The Discovery Lagoon is one of Reef HQ Aquarium's newest living exhibitions. It is home to an amazing array of reef creatures. Students will have a hands-on opportunity to interact with animals such as baby

leopard sharks, rays, sea cucumbers and sea stars that inhabit Discovery Lagoon and call the Great Barrier Reef home. Using state-of-the-art technology students will also be able to look at the mouth of a sea star, the tube feet of sea urchins and examine a variety of other reef creatures up close.

### **Turtle Hospital and Behind the Scenes Tour**

Reef HQ Aquarium's Turtle Hospital provides a dedicated facility, where sick and injured marine turtles can be cared for and rehabilitated. The hospital operates under and promotes the C.A.R.E (Conserve. Act. Rehabilitate. Educate) philosophy playing a key role in raising community awareness in relation to threatened species and encouraging behavioural change that will benefit the environment. During this truly inspirational experience students will learn more about marine turtles "the ancient mariners of the sea" and visit the Turtle Hospital where sick and injured marine turtles are being cared for.

During the behind the scenes tour, students will learn how Reef HQ Aquarium staff keep Reef HQ Aquarium's living exhibits healthy and how they monitor the conditions that are required to maintain a "Living Coral Reef on Land". They will also learn about Reef HQ Aquarium's captive breeding and coral propagation programs.

Transfer to Hidden Valley Cabins - 1.5 hours from Townsville

### **Overnight accommodation (Hidden Valley Cabins)**

Hidden Valley Cabins is the perfect place to relax. Designed to blend into the natural environment the accommodation is built from locally sourced recycled timber, creating a rustic appearance while still delivering a high standard of quality and comfort. Each building within the resort is built entirely from local timber, and the majority of the furniture was hand-crafted from local timber.

Hidden Valley Cabins are an outstanding example of genuine Ecotourism and have been certified as an Advanced Ecotourism operation - the highest level of certification - by Ecotourism Australia. The resort operates on 100 per cent renewable energy. Hidden Valley Cabins 90 square metre solar array supplies the resort with all its electrical needs.

### **Day 5: Mt Moss Mine, Running River Gorge, Hidden Valley (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

Enjoy Breakfast before driving west into the dry open woodland to experience the operating Mt Moss Mine site.

### **Mt Moss Mine**

This fully guided tour will show case the minerals mined on site and their uses. The presentation will also give an overview on Mining in Australia and it benefits and problems that flow from it. Your guides will set a bush classroom overlooking the Mine Site. We then return to Hidden Valley Cabins before preparing for a hike into you own private Gorge.

### **Running River Gorge**

The spectator Running River Gorge takes you into the Dry Open Woodlands of Hidden Valley. Experience this nature wonder on your fully guided tour, no people, no signs, just nature.



### **Platypus Tour**

At dusk starts to fall we start the Platypus Tour. Hidden Valley is home to one of the only monotremes in existence - The platypus. You will travel down to Running River where the platypus can be viewed frolicking and feeding in the fresh mountain water. Your tour includes a personal guide. Hidden Valley was voted by Australian Geographic as one of the top 5 stops to see Platypus in the Wild.

Overnight accommodation (Hidden Valley Cabins)

### **Day 6: Rehabilitation Habitat, Australian Wildlife Conservancy Project (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

#### **Rehabilitation Habitat - Australian Wildlife Conservancy**

Rehabilitation of habitat for endangered fauna and flora - located 20 minutes from Hidden Valley Cabins.

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy acquires land, and works with other landholders, to establish sanctuaries for the conservation of threatened



wildlife and ecosystems. Australian Wildlife Conservancy now owns 23 sanctuaries covering over 3 million ha (7.4 million acres) in places such as north Queensland, the Kimberley, western New South Wales, Northern Territory and the forests of south western Australia.

Australian Wildlife Conservancy's Mt Zero-Taravale Sanctuary is located on the western side of the Paluma Range National Park. Reserve Manager, Tim White will spend the day showcasing Australian Wildlife Conservancy land management, rehabilitation programs, wildlife mapping and conservation and explain how Australian Wildlife Conservancy continues to build on a strong base of investments with Australia.

### **Overnight accommodation (Hidden Valley Cabins)**

#### **Day 7: Billabong Sanctuary (Breakfast, Lunch)**

Morning departure from Hidden Valley to Billabong Sanctuary

#### **Billabong Sanctuary**

Australia's most interactive wildlife experience. Wrap a python around you, hold a crocodile, hug a wombat and hold a Koala Ranger Brad will explore the workings of an Australian Wildlife sanctuary with behind the scenes tours and showcase some uniquely Australian presentations including venomous snakes show, life of the Australian Salt water crocodile from Hatchling to 500 kilogram apex predator and many other projects that are on priority at the time of visiting. Followed by some free time to explore and a BBQ lunch.

Private transfer to Townsville

Your choice of accommodation in Townsville or afternoon flight to next destination



# 10 DAY ITINERARY TOWNSVILLE (SCHOOL FOCUS)

Wildlife . Waterfalls . Rainforest . Wetlands .  
Islands . Aboriginal Culture . Great Barrier Reef

This itinerary is designed for school aged children  
\$3,459\* per person  
\*Price is based on 10 pax (plus 1 FOC Tour Leader)  
\$3,368\* per person  
\*Price is based on 20 pax (plus 1 FOC Tour Leader)

## Day 1: Arrive Townsville North Queensland (Dinner)

Transfer from Townsville International Airport to inner city accommodation.

Private Transfer to Billabong Sanctuary (20 minutes)

### Billabong Sanctuary

Australia's most interactive wildlife experience. Wrap a python around you, hold a crocodile, hug a wombat and hold a Koala Ranger Brad will explore the workings of an Australian Wildlife sanctuary with behind the scenes tours and showcase some uniquely Australian presentations including venomous snakes show, life of the Australian Salt water crocodile from Hatchling to 500 kilogram apex predator.

Welcome to Country and Dinner

Join Rangers from Billabong Sanctuary to engage in an interactive wildlife experience set on the edge of an Australian Billabong. During the evening a "Welcome to Country" ceremony and cultural performance from the Wulgurukaba Aboriginal people. Guests will enjoy an Australian themed dinner before heading back to Townsville City.

### Overnight accommodation (City Oasis)

Located in Townsville city centre, City Oasis Inn offers free Wi-Fi and air-conditioned rooms with a TV. The tropical landscaped gardens feature a lagoon-style pool, a heated spa pool and waterfall. Each room includes a private bathroom, ceiling fans, tea/coffee making facilities and a refrigerator. Ironing facilities are provided. Some rooms have car parking directly outside. Sidewalk Cafe and Bar offers a relaxed atmosphere with both indoor and al fresco dining. The Cafe is open Monday to Saturday for breakfast and Monday to Thursday for dinner. BBQ facilities and room service are also available. Guest laundry facilities are available, along with same-day dry cleaning.

## Day 2: Reef HQ Aquarium (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Transfer to Reef HQ Aquarium)

### Reef HQ Aquarium

The Australian Government's National Education Centre for the Great Barrier Reef. The world's largest 'living coral reef' aquarium! Join the Education Team at Reef HQ Aquarium on a journey of discovery. This innovative reef education program allows participants to meet and interact with Marine Park experts responsible for managing one of the world's largest marine protected areas and develop a fuller understanding of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem

and the animals and plants that call it home.

Ecosystem Adventure: The Great Barrier Reef provides students with a unique environment to:

- Observe living coral reef ecosystems and the thousands of animals that call it home;
- Experience the habitats, ecosystems and behaviour of reef creatures;
- Analyse the interactions that exist between reef creatures;
- Appreciate the requirements for a healthy ecosystem;
- Discover the latest in reef research; and
- Take Action that will protect the future of the Great Barrier Reef.

### **Turtle Hospital**

Reef HQ Aquarium's Turtle Hospital provides a dedicated facility, where sick and injured marine turtles can be cared for and rehabilitated. The hospital operates under and promotes the C.A.R.E (Conserve. Act. Rehabilitate. Educate) philosophy playing a key role in raising community awareness in relation to threatened species and encouraging behavioural change that will benefit the environment. During this truly inspirational experience students will learn more about marine turtles "the ancient mariners of the sea" and visit the Turtle Hospital where sick and injured marine turtles are being cared for.

### **Overnight accommodation (Reef HQ Aquarium)**

Reef Sleep - Have you ever wondered what happens on the night shift? Experience the world's largest living coral reef aquarium at night and find out! The Reef Sleep program is an exciting and safe way for you and your students to observe the nocturnal habits of our reef creatures. Go behind-the-scenes of our 2.5 million-litre Coral Reef Exhibit; have supper and fall asleep with the amazing reef creatures that call Reef HQ Aquarium home; and wake up to breakfast and the breathtaking views of Reef HQ Aquarium. Reef HQ Aquarium becomes exclusively yours for the night! It is like "indoor camping" with hot showers and free Wi-Fi. All members of the touring party will be provided with bedding including sleeping bag, sleeping bag liner, pillow and air mattress. It is a shared accommodation arrangement however there are separate sleeping areas for females and males.

### **Day 3: Great Barrier Reef and Magnetic Island (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)**

Prior to your departure in Townsville your luggage will be collected and transferred to Magnetic Island with Bungalow Bay Koala Village team.

Private transfer to marina to board M.V. Adrenalin

### **Day trip to the Great Barrier Reef - snorkelling (scuba diving - optional extra)**

The Central Section of the Great Barrier Reef, off shore from Townsville, is a little further off the Queensland Coast than other sections and as a result has some of the best sites of the whole Great Barrier Reef. Experience it for yourself on board our 14m custom built vessel M.V. Adrenalin designed with your comfort in mind, with fully shaded areas, sun deck, stabilizers, toilet, and shower, along with easy access in & out of the water.

Our preferred reef for day trips is Lodestone Reef. We have chosen this reef for its diversity of sites, great coral cover, fish life and reasonable protection. We have a number of sites around this reef and will choose the best site on the day. You could visit Lodestone Reef dozens of times and be surprised every time. Some sites feature large coral bommies with white coral sand sea floors, others have large gutters running through the coral occupied by hundreds of reef fish, and colourful coral walls occupied by innumerable marine animals in crystal clear water.

Depths at Lodestone range from 1 metre to 20 metres making it ideal for snorkelers, beginner and experienced divers. Big schools of trevally and bait fish are common as well as a myriad of colourful reef fish including Parrot fish, Maori wrasse, Clown fish, Angel fish, Turtles, Stingrays, White tip and Black tip reef sharks are often sighted.

A visit to Lodestone Reef with Adrenalin Snorkel & Dive is a perfect way to enjoy snorkelling, introductory scuba dives or certified dives. Both snorkelers and divers will be exhilarated witnessing the spectacular marine life that Lodestone has to offer whilst being immersed in tropical crystal clear water."

Private bus transfer at Nelly Bay on Magnetic Island.

### **Magnetic Island**

Magnetic Island ("Maggie", as the locals affectionately know it), is a world-heritage listed island on the Great Barrier Reef and was inscribed on the world heritage list in recognition of its stunning natural beauty, a rugged landscape featuring large granite boulders and granite headlands rising to 497 metres at its highest point.

Giant hoop pines are common on the rocky outcrops. Maggie features 23 beaches and bays and with pristine coral and granite sand, the tropical

waters are crystal clear. Fringing reefs featuring colourful tropical fish and vibrant coloured coral can be experienced just off the beach in bays such as Florence and Arthur.

The island is a bushwalkers paradise with over 20 kilometres of walking tracks and many lookouts. More than two thirds of the island is national park and home to northern Australia's largest koala colony. Rock wallabies are commonly seen on steep slopes in the early morning. Along the beaches; gulls, terns, sand pipers and dotterels can be seen, while osprey, brahminy kites and white-bellied sea eagles soar the skies." Welcome Dinner with Bungalow Bay Rangers and Wildlife Interaction  
Evening at leisure

### **Overnight accommodation (Bungalow Bay Koala Village)**

First known as Yunbunum - home of the Wulgurukaba- the canoe people. The traditional owners of Magnetic Island were invited in the planning stages to evaluate the impact the resort would have on the land, water and community. The resort was given full support and endorsed by Arthur Johnson, the Wulgurukaba elder.

Bungalow Bay Koala Village has played a vital role by setting up and sponsoring the wildlife rescue on Magnetic Island, of sick, injured and orphaned native animals. We provide training for wildlife carers, co-ordinate wildlife rescue and provide equipment and supplies for the carers. Animals after rehabilitation are released back into the wild.

### **Day 4: Introduction to Queensland Landscapes and Eco Systems (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)**

Terrestrial landscapes of Queensland with Ranger Tony Gordon.

- Introduction to the diversity of Australian terrestrial ecosystems; a journey from central Queensland to the coast
  - Similarities and linkages between arid environments, open eucalypt forests, grassland, rainforests, mangroves and reef islands
  - Plant and animal adaptations in the environment
  - Sensitive ecosystems
  - European impact: soil, plants and animals
  - Climate change
  - Magnetic Island ecosystems
  - Question and answer session
- At the conclusion of this presentation the students

will embark on a guided walk through the National Park to Balding Bay, during this walk interpretation on controlled burning by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service will be explored and native plant and wildlife identified. Students will have free time to swim and explore the beauty of the Four Beach Walk.

### **Overnight accommodation (Bungalow Bay Koala Village)**

### **Day 5: Rehabilitation Project, Horseshoe Bay, Magnetic Island (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)**

### **Reef Ecologic - Reef Regeneration Program Magnetic Island**

For over 20 years, the team at Reef Ecologic has worked with businesses, governments and the NGO community to design and implement innovative solutions to environmental challenges. Driven by a passion for the marine environment and a commitment to business sustainability, Reef Ecologic partner with individuals and organisations to deliver knowledge, build capacity and support leadership for triple bottom line results.

Dr. Adam Smith (Director Reef Ecologic) will facilitate an experiential education program focusing on Reef Management Strategies in an "expedition style format". Dr. Smith and his undergraduate students will utilize the Horseshoe Bay school house and fringing coral reefs surrounding Magnetic Island to explore and showcase the contemporary management strategies used to protect these vital ecosystems fundamental to sustainable development and ecosystem based adaptation. Exploring the concept of inshore reef regeneration utilizing emerging technologies and interpretive monitoring.

### **Overnight accommodation (Bungalow Bay Koala Village)**



## Day 6: Paluma Range National Park (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

Transfer Bungalow Bay Koala Village to Magnetic Island Ferry Terminal.

Ferry transfer to Townsville.

Group greeted by Hidden Valley Cabins and Tours at ferry terminal.

### Introduction to the World Heritage Listed Wet Tropics Rainforest.

Our day will be spent visiting the Paluma Range National Park (The southern entrance to the Wet Tropics) an amazing biodiversity the wet tropics region is home to between 30 per cent and 60 per cent of Australia's Marsupials, Mammals, Birds, Frogs, Reptiles, Freshwater fish and butterflies. It is also home to between 30 per cent and 65 per cent of Australia's Ferns, Cycads, Conifers and orchids. The day will be spent completing an ecosystem transect of the Paluma Range mapping its outstanding biodiversity with your accredited Wet Tropic Guide.

### Overnight accommodation (Hidden Valley Cabins)

Hidden Valley Cabins is the perfect place to relax. Designed to blend into the natural environment the accommodation is built from locally sourced recycled timber, creating a rustic appearance while still delivering a high standard of quality and comfort. Each building within the resort is built entirely from local timber, and the majority of the furniture was hand-crafted from local timber.

Hidden Valley Cabins are an outstanding example of genuine Ecotourism and have been certified as an Advanced Ecotourism operation - the highest level of certification - by Ecotourism Australia. The resort operates on 100 per cent renewable energy. Hidden Valley Cabins 90 square metre solar array supplies the resort with all its electrical needs.

## Day 7: Australian Wildlife Conservancy / Platypus Tour (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

### Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC)

Service-learning - The AWC owns and manages more than 3 million hectares, protecting more native wildlife than any other organization. AWC's Taravale and Mt Zero Conservancies are located on the western side of the Paluma Range National Park a work cattle station for 100 years; AWC purchased the properties for the conservation and preservation

in 2003. We will learn about the AWC's business module and how they raise money from donations, philanthropy and governments to purchase and manage these properties. The group will also be helping with a program to remove old fences left on the property from the cattle grazing days.

### Platypus Tour

At dusk starts to fall we start the Platypus Tour. Hidden Valley is home to one of the only monotremes in existence - The platypus. You will travel down to Running River where the platypus can be viewed frolicking and feeding in the fresh mountain water.

Your tour includes a personal guide. Hidden Valley was voted by Australian Geographic as one of the top 5 stops to see Platypus in the Wild.

### Overnight accommodation (Hidden Valley Cabins)



## Day 8: Mungulla Station / Nywaigi Aboriginal People (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

### Private transfer from Hidden Valley Cabins to Mungulla Station

Mungulla Station - Australian Aboriginal Culture Nywaigi Aboriginal people have occupied our lands north of Townsville, Tropical North Queensland for over 45,000 years. Unlike Aboriginal people in central Australia that had to travel large distances for food, we were fortunate to live in the 'land of plenty' where wildlife, fruits, berries and seafood were freely available. We used the vines of the rainforest to create our bags and the tall trees provided the raw material for outrigger canoes that allowed us to fish in our rivers and on the nearby Great Barrier Reef.

We lived in harmony with the environment according to the Tjukurpa - a complex set of laws

and beliefs (and for which there is no equivalent English word) that we followed strictly to maintain our society, ecology and culture. Our culture – passed on orally, through dance and through our art – is closely connected to the natural history and beauty of the area.

Today, the Mungalla Aboriginal Business Corporation and its parent body the Nywaigi Aboriginal Land Corporation which holds title to Mungalla Station have a mandate to improve the economic and social position of our people. We have chosen to achieve these aims by sharing the rich history and culture of Mungalla Station with you through our tours.

After the tour, enjoy a chat with Nywaigi Aboriginal people as the group enjoys a traditional Kup Murri (underground cooking).

### **Overnight accommodation (City Oasis)**

#### **Day 9: Museum of Tropical Queensland ‘white gloves tour’ and The Australian Institute of Marine Science (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)**



### **Museum of Tropical Queensland**

Discover the history of tropical Queensland and experience an amazing and engaging behind the scenes tour of the Museum of Tropical Queensland. The ‘White Glove Tour’ offers an exclusive glimpse into the collection, research and interpretation of the Museum’s world renowned natural, cultural and maritime history artefacts. Specialised presentations can be scheduled focused on any number of the Museum’s research focuses including:

- Maritime Archaeology
- Corals - we are known worldwide for the study of Great Barrier Reef and staghorn corals

- Tropical Natural History - focusing on the taxonomic study of the tropical biota of Queensland and the Indo-Pacific region

Transfer to the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

### **Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)**

Australia’s premier tropical marine research agency. AIMS plays a pivotal role in providing large-scale, long-term and world-class research that helps governments, industry and the wider community to make informed decisions on the management of Australia’s marine estate. While at AIMS your groups will have the opportunity to meet some of Australia’s most eminent marine researchers and visit the National Sea Simulator (SeaSim) a world-class marine research facility for tropical marine organisms in which scientists can conduct cutting-edge research not previously possible in Australia.

Transfer to Townsville and Farewell dinner.

### **Overnight accommodation (City Oasis)**

#### **Day 10: Depart Townsville (Breakfast)**

Transfer to Townsville International Airport. Flight to Brisbane / Sydney.

# OPTIONAL EXTRAS

## Outback Experience

Wambiana is a family-owned, working cattle station which has offered an authentic and educational farm stay experience for school, university and other groups for 25 years. Wambiana has been in the Lyons family for over 100 years and there is a wealth of history and knowledge to share about life on a cattle station, living in the bush and sustainable grazing practices. Wambiana is located approximately 70km SW of Charters Towers or 200km from Townsville (2.5 - 3 hours travel by coach).

## Learning opportunities for School/University Groups

- Observing and participating in cattle husbandry practices (including dipping, branding, castrating and pregnancy testing)
- Learning about managing cattle, grasses and soil on a 23,000 hectare property with 2,500 - 3,500 head of cattle.
- Experiencing the 'Outback' way of life, including access to education and medical assistance in a remote setting.
- Visiting the long-term grazing trial which has been operating at Wambiana for 19 years and discussing the project with the chief scientists and researchers
- Studying native fauna in a range of soil and vegetation types.
- Learning about biodiversity at Wambiana through engagement with James Cook University staff and/or students who have studied extensively in this area. This might include "spotlighting" to observe nocturnal animals, bird-watching and other observations of native animals.
- Learning about grazing management systems in a dry tropics environment.
- Learning about livestock genetics and herd improvement.
- Learning about our way of life, including access to education and medical assistance in a remote setting.

## There are several fields of study that are particularly relevant at Wambiana, including:

- Agriculture
- Environmental Science
- Natural Resource Management
- Agribusiness
- Veterinary science (large animals)

- Livestock Genetics
- Social/Cultural Studies

## Experiencing the outback lifestyle

- Interacting with farm animals - feeding orphan calves, pigs, chickens, horses and milking a cow.
- Whip cracking demonstrations and coaching hay ride and wildlife spotting.
- Tour of historical buildings and learning about Wambiana's history divining of water and precious metals.
- Campfire billy tea and evening campfire.
- Feeding some of the farm animals (poddy calf).



## Meals and Accommodation

Meals are wholesome, home-cooked fare and special dietary requirements can be catered for. Accommodation for large groups is primarily in a large, dormitory style building, partitioned for males and females. Groups of up to 30 people can be accommodated in several buildings, all of which offer air-conditioned rooms on a twin share or tripe share basis. Accommodation options can be discussed upon enquiry to devise a solution that best meets the group's needs and budget.

There are ample shower and toilet facilities. The homestead complex is equipped with a volleyball court, basketball hoop, ping pong table and plenty of wide open space for outdoor sports and activities.

# 3 DAY ITINERARY

## WAMBIANA STATION

This itinerary is designed for school children

\$400\* per person

\*Price is based on 20 pax (plus 1 FOC Tour Leader)

\$370\* per person

\*Price is based on 30 pax (plus 1 FOC Tour Leader)

\$350\* per person

\*Price is based on 40 pax (plus 1 FOC Tour Leader)

### Day 1: Arrive Townsville North Queensland (Lunch, Dinner)

- Transfer from Townsville International Airport to inner city accommodation.
- Private Transfer to Wambiana Station (2.5 - 3 hours)
- Welcome/Orientation
- Tour of historical buildings and Water Divining
- Hayride down to lagoon for billy tea and afternoon smoko.
- Biodiversity presentation and Bird Watching at the Lagoon
- Showers/Free time
- Dinner
- Whip cracking demonstration and practice
- Spotighting for wildlife

### Overnight accommodation (Wambiana Station)

Wambiana is a family-owned, working cattle station which has offered an authentic and educational farm stay experience for school, university and other groups for 25 years. Wambiana has been in the Lyons family for over 100 years and there is a wealth of history and knowledge to share about life on a cattle station, living in the bush and sustainable grazing practices. Wambiana is located approximately 70km SW of Charters Towers or 200km from Townsville (2.5 - 3 hours travel by coach).

### Day 2: Wambiana Station (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

- Breakfast
- General Q&A session
- Feeding and handling of farm animals - calves, chickens, pigs, horses, milking cow
- Morning Tea
- Presentation on School of Distance Education and Royal Flying Doctor Service

- Free time until lunch
- Lunch
- Cattle husbandry practices at cattle yards - dipping, pregnancy testing, branding, castrating
- Hayride to lagoon for "Outback Challenge" and billy tea
- Free time at lagoon, then return for showers, etc.
- Dinner
- Campfire
- Overnight accommodation (Wambiana Station)

### Day 3: Wambiana Station, Charters Towers and Townsville (Breakfast and Lunch)

- Breakfast
- Visit to Wambiana Grazing Trial
- Morning Tea
- Private transfer to Charters Towers

### Charters Towers

Take a step back in time and discover the enchanting outback town of Charters Towers, just an hour and a half west of Townsville. Driving through the streets of Charters Towers is like viewing a living montage of Australian history and heritage. When gold was first discovered in Charters Towers in 1871, Charters Towers became a gold rush town and quickly grew to become the second largest town in Queensland. Today, the magnificent heritage buildings are testament to the prosperity of years past. 2.5 hour tour of Charters Towers, including lunch.

Private transfer to Townsville

Your choice of accommodation in Townsville or afternoon flight to next destination

