



CASSOWARY TOUR

12 Day Cairns to Brisbane

Stray Journeys Select Tour - Australia East Coast

TWIN SHARE PER PERSON: AUD\$4,895

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: AUD\$1,400

STARTS: Cairns **FINISHES:** Brisbane

DURATION: 12 Days / 11 Nights

START DAY: Monday **FINISH DAY:** Friday

2023 DEPARTURES: 27 Nov

2024 DEPARTURES: 29 Jan, 26 Feb, 11 Mar, 29 Apr, 2 Sep, 7 Oct, 4 Nov, 18 Nov, 2 Dec

2025 DEPARTURES: 27 Jan, 10 Feb, 24 Feb, 10 Mar, 24 Mar

MINIMUM/MAXIMUM NUMBERS: 8/20 passengers



Overview

If you've got just under two weeks and you want to see the best bits of the East Coast, then the Cassowary tour is for you. Beginning in tropical Cairns, the majestic Cassowary will lead you to the island paradise of Magnetic Island and the stunning Whitsunday Islands, finishing off in the riverside city of Brisbane. You'll travel with a local guide (and get their insider knowledge) and a bunch of like-minded travellers (your new lifelong friends) and explore some of the best places Aussie has to offer!

Day 1 - Monday: Arrive Cairns

G'day and welcome to your epic East Coast adventure. If you've just flown in, we recommend jumping on a shuttle bus from the airport to our centrally located accommodation. Check into your hotel between 2pm and 4.30pm and then at 5pm head down to reception to meet your Stray guide and your new Stray mates. Tonight, everyone will head out for a special welcome dinner - a Taste of Australia Experience with a bush food tutorial and a 3-course menu featuring native foods that have been used by indigenous Australians for thousands of years. You'll get an awesome taste of Aussie and get to know your new travel mates in the process - what a way to start your adventure!

Accommodation included: Mercure Cairns in hotel rooms or similar

Included activities: Native Australian bush food tutorial

Optional activities: Explore Cairns Esplanade and lagoon, have a cocktail at Salt House on the water, visit Cairns Aquarium, visit Cairns Night Markets

Meals included: Dinner

Day 2 - Tuesday: Free Day Cairns

Today you're free to do whatever you choose. Walk the Esplanade and go for a refreshing dip, check out the many shops and cafes in town, or visit the tropical Botanical Gardens. If you'd like to visit Cape Tribulation, Kuranda via the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, the Great Barrier Reef or even skydive on this day please let Stray or your agent know in advance so we can reserve your spot as the best activities book up quickly (additional cost).

Accommodation: Mercure Cairns in hotel rooms or similar

Meals included: Breakfast

Meal options: Local cafes, restaurants

Free activities: Relax around the resort pool, walk the Esplanade, visit the Botanical Gardens

Optional Activities: Cape Tribulation day trip, bungee jump, skydive, rafting, Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, Great Barrier Reef snorkel or scuba trip

Day 3 - Wednesday: Cairns to Magnetic Island via Townsville

This morning we'll jump on the Stray bus and head south, stopping at the famous Josephine Falls along the way for a refreshing swim and some amazing photos. Next, we'll dry off and make our way to Townsville where we'll catch the ferry to our destination for the next two nights, Magnetic Island (known to the locals as 'Maggie'). Nearly 50% of 'Maggie Island' is national parkland so it's absolutely steeped in natural beauty, it's surrounded by beaches and is also home to loads of wildlife, including koalas and wallabies! Settle in for a dreamy couple of days in an island paradise.

Accommodation included: Selina Magnetic Island in cabins or similar

Included activities: Magnetic Island ferry, swim, walk, waterfalls

Included meals: Breakfast at Mercure Cairns, welcome drink on Magnetic Island

Meal options: Self-cater, onsite restaurant, local restaurants or cafes

Day 4 - Thursday: Free Day Magnetic Island

Today you have a full free day to explore so have a relaxing sleep-in or get an early start with a morning hike! This beautiful island is home to the historic Forts Complex, which you'll get to see during a scenic walk with your Guide, finishing with amazing views over the island and ocean beyond. Spend the rest of your day relaxing on a secluded beach, hiking through native bush, searching for wildlife or joining in on a wellness activity at your accommodation. Top tip: throughout the day, make sure you stay alert and keep your eyes on the trees - Maggie Island is one of the best places in Australia to see koalas in the wild.

Accommodation: Selina Magnetic Island in cabins or similar

Meals included: Breakfast

Meal options: Self-cater, onsite restaurant, local restaurants or cafes

Included activities: Scenic walk with your guide

Free activities: Walk, swim

Optional activities: Snorkel

Day 5 - Friday: Magnetic Island to Airlie Beach

This morning we'll say goodbye to Maggie Island and catch the ferry back to the mainland where we'll hit the road travelling south to Airlie Beach, the gateway to the amazing Whitsunday Islands! Check in and then spend some time checking out Airlie Beach - we recommend heading around to the lagoon for a swim and then to one of the many local bars for sundowners.

Accommodation included: Colonial Palms Motor Inn in hotel rooms or similar

Included activities: Magnetic Island ferry

Free activities: Explore Airlie Beach, swim

Included meals: Breakfast

Meal options: Local cafes, restaurants & bars

Day 6 - Saturday: Airlie Beach & The Whitsunday Islands

Today you'll head out on the water to see the spectacular Whitsunday Islands up close. Starting with an exhilarating ride to the world-famous Whitehaven Beach where you can actually polish jewellery with the white silica sand, we'll explore Hill Inlet Beach and a guided walk-through Whitsunday Island National Park to the lookout for the most amazing views. We'll have lunch together and then do some snorkelling over vibrant fringing reefs. If you'd like to see the Islands from above, there's time for a scenic flight (optional extra) over the outer Great Barrier Reef (including Heart Reef) in the morning before the Whitsundays tour departs.

Accommodation included: Colonial Palms Motor Inn in hotel rooms or similar

Included Activity: Ocean Rafting Whitsunday Islands day tour including Whitehaven Beach and snorkelling

Optional activities: Scenic flight over Whitehaven Beach & outer Great Barrier Reef

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Meal options: Local cafes, restaurants & bars

Day 7 - Sunday: Airlie Beach to Bundaberg

Today is a big travelling day to Bargara, a beachside suburb of Bundaberg, so load up on snacks, make sure all your devices are charged and keep your eyes on the road for some amazing views along the way. We'll make some stops to stretch our legs and arrive in Bargara in the evening, where we'll have a bush BBQ dinner together.

Accommodation: Kelly's Eco Resort in villas or similar

Included meals: Breakfast, BBQ dinner

Meal options: Self-cater, onsite restaurant, local cafes, bakery or restaurants

Day 8 - Monday: Bargara & Lady Musgrave Island

Rise and shine this morning for a big adventure, today is going to be special so make sure to pack your camera! We'll head to the marina where we'll board the Reef Empress, a luxury high speed catamaran. To wake us up we'll get a barista-made coffee which we can enjoy as we set sail for Lady Musgrave Island. The Island is a 14 hectares coral cay, a turtle breeding area and is the second southernmost island in the Great Barrier Reef chain of islands so it's pretty spectacular.

On arrival to Lady Musgrave Island, we'll be welcomed by one of their guides who will share some history and acknowledgement of our traditional owner tribes, as well as the important safety points about visiting this highly protected marine park.

After exploring the island, we'll have a delicious lunch and then we'll get to go snorkelling in the Lady Musgrave Lagoon. There's so much vibrant coral and marine life including manta rays, turtles and reef sharks, as well as ledges and caves just waiting to be explored. After all the under the sea fun, we'll head back to the mainland in the late afternoon.

Accommodation included: Kelly's Eco Resort in villas or similar

Included activity: Lady Musgrave Island Day Tour

Optional activity: Scuba dive (must be booked in advance)

Included meals: Morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea

Day 9 - Tuesday: Bundaberg to Noosa

Today we'll have a leisurely start to the morning and then jump back on the bus to head down towards the Sunshine Coast, arriving at Habitat Noosa, an Eco Camp where we'll spend the next three nights. Set amongst 65 acres of the Great Sandy National Park and perched on the edge of picturesque Lake Cootharaba, your accommodation is super close to some awesome walking trails that show you the rich history of the region and help you get up close and personal with some wildlife! Habitat is the gateway to one of only two everglades in the world, and it has its own bar and bistro serving up local produce plus there's even a Microbrewery onsite!

Accommodation included: Habitat Noosa in glamping safari tents or similar

Optional paid activity: Stand up paddle boards, canoes, wave skis, kayaks and tinnie hire. Beer tasting

Free Activity: Bush walks

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Meal options: Local cafes, bakery, restaurants

Day 10 - Wednesday: Free Day Noosa

Today you have a completely free day to spend doing whatever you like. Explore the Everglades by kayak or boat (optional extra), head into Noosa town and check out the boutiques and cafes on Hastings Street, or just spend the day at Habitat and enjoy some beer tasting or water sports (optional extra). The Noosa Surf Club is one of our faves so if you'd like a long lunch in the sunshine, you can't go wrong with a local hotspot!

Accommodation included: Habitat Noosa in glamping safari tents or similar

Optional paid activity: Stand up paddle board, canoe, wave ski, kayaks or tinnie hire, Beer tasting, Everglades tour

Free Activity: Explore Noosa, swim, bush walks

Included meals: Breakfast

Meal options: Self cater, local cafes, bakery, restaurants or onsite restaurant

Day 11 - Thursday: K'gari (formerly Fraser Island)

This morning, get an early start to make sure you can explore as much of the world's largest sand island as possible on a specially curated one-day 4WD adventure. Led by an experienced local guide, you'll see K'gari's most iconic sights from Lake McKenzie and 75 Mile Beach to Eli Creek, World Heritage-listed rainforest and the historic Maheno Shipwreck. After all the action of the day it's back to Habitat and our glamping tents under the stars.

Accommodation included: Habitat Noosa in glamping safari tents or similar

Included Activity: K'gari Island Day Tour

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Day 12 - Friday: Noosa to Brisbane (or Byron Bay)

Today is the final day of your Stray adventure. After breakfast we'll depart Noosa and head into central Brisbane for an approximate 12pm drop off (you can also finish your tour in Byron Bay, subject to availability). Give your Guide and your new mates a hug or a wave and head off for the next leg of your adventure, taking with you the most incredible memories, everything you've learned about Australia's special culture and wildlife, and of course some classic Aussie lingo - G'DAY MATES!

Included meals: Breakfast

This itinerary is a guide. Given the spontaneous nature of our trips and lack of control over Australia's weather(!), what we do each day might occasionally vary.

What's Included:

- Experienced tour guide
- Private coach transport
- 11 nights twin/double accommodation including 4 nights 3-4* hotel and resort accommodation, 3 nights glamping in Noosa, 4 nights in cabins/villas
- 10 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches and 4 Dinners
- Native Australian bush food tutorial

- Whitsunday Islands Ocean Rafting day tour including Whitehaven Beach, guided lookout walk and snorkelling
- Lady Musgrave Island and lagoon tour to the Southern Great Barrier Reef including glass bottom boat, guided island walk and snorkelling
- Full day tour to K'gari including Lake Mackenzie, Eli Creek, Maheno Shipwreck and more.
- Walks, waterfalls, wildlife spotting, lookouts and much more

What to Bring:

Camera, Sneakers/trainers, Flip Flops/Sandals, Clothing (mainly light layers but some warm items), Waterproof jacket, Hat & Sunscreen, Swimsuit/towel, Reusable water bottle, Toiletries, Motion sickness tablets, Insect repellent

Please Note:

- Drop off on the final day (Friday) is at Ann Street Bus Stop 9 near King George Square, Brisbane at approximately 12pm. This tour can also end in Byron Bay (subject to availability).
- Luggage is limited to one piece per person with a maximum weight of 20kg plus a day pack.
- A basic level of fitness is required for medium length walks.
- All accommodation rooms are twin/double share (unless you purchase a solo upgrade) and include a private ensuite or bathroom with the exception of your accommodation at Selina Magnetic Island where bathrooms are separate and shared between up to 4 people.
- 17 meals are included. We make regular supermarket stops so you can self-cater for other meals, or there are usually quite a few cafe/restaurant options in each location.

Highlights:

Amazing scenery, tropical islands, snorkelling, glamping and wildlife spotting! There are so many awesome inclusions with the Stray Cassowary Cairns to Brisbane tour and we can't wait for you to experience them:

- Enjoy the relaxed Cairns lifestyle, welcome dinner with a native bush food tutorial and the fun nightlife.
- Embrace your inner nature-lover on Magnetic Island, a wildlife paradise filled with koalas and wallabies.
- Explore the breath-taking Whitsunday Islands on an exhilarating day tour visiting both ends of the famous Whitehaven Beach, Hill Inlet lookout and snorkelling over amazing fringing reef.
- Stay at an Eco Resort in the relaxed seaside town of Bargara near Bundaberg.

- Head out on a full day tour to the jewel of the Southern Great Barrier Reef - Lady Musgrave Island and Lagoon where you will encounter abundant marine and wildlife.
- Visit Noosa and spend three nights glamping in safari tents at Habitat Noosa Eco Camp - set amongst 65 acres of National Park on the edge of Lake Cootharaba and the gateway to 1 of only 2 everglades in the world.
- Embark on a 4WD day Safari to the largest sand island in the world - K'gari. Visit a shipwreck, rainforest and swim in crystal clear waters.