

# AUGUST MOON TOUR & TRAVEL CO., LTD

7/F Humphrey Plaza, 4-4A Humphreys Avenue, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Tel : (852) 23693151-5 Fax : (852) 23111318 Licence No. 350372

E-mail: [augustmn@augustmoontravel.com.hk](mailto:augustmn@augustmoontravel.com.hk) Web Site: <http://www.augustmoontravel.com.hk>



## EDUCATION PROGRAM (A) - 7 DAYS IN CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA

Recommended age 14-16

Day 1	Cairns
-------	--------

### Arrival and Orientation

**Flight to Cairns:** Welcome to the tropics! You are met at the airport by our land operator and transferred to your accommodation in the town's restaurant and shopping district.

**Accommodation:** Your hotel won *Trip Advisor's* Traveler's Choice Award for 2012, and continues to rank as one of Cairns best rated hotels.



You will enjoy

the complimentary WiFi in your room, while all rooms have ensembles and air-conditioning, flat screen TVs with Austar and tea & coffee making facilities. The hotel also has guest laundry, a tropical pool and spa. It is also easy walking distance to shops and restaurants, and two blocks from the Esplanade and waterfront.



### Rainforest Waterfalls and Swimming Hole:

Crystal Cascades is a secluded freshwater swimming hole hidden in the tropical rainforest. A series of small waterfalls flow into large pools surrounded by boulders, and rainforest trees hang over the water, keeping it cool and refreshing. This is largely a locals-only spot, unreachable by public transport, and a perfect place to soak up the beauty of the tropics.

**Accommodation:** Heritage Cairns Hotel

**Included:** Lunch & Dinner



Day 2	Kuranda, Mossman and Daintree Rainforest
-------	------------------------------------------

### Community Service Work and Native Tree Planting and Dot Painting

**Seed Propagation & Tree Planting:** This morning with your guide you discuss loss of biodiversity and habitats for a range of species due to agriculture or development.



Then with shovels and gloves, you plant native trees to moderate temperature and humidity and to create niches for other plants and animals. This area is a 'hotspot' for biodiversity with several new endangered species, a rainforest frog (Myola frog) and a palm, so your service work here is helping to protect a buffer zone to a World Heritage area. By working with seedlings, digging, planting, and watering today, you get to meet some local volunteers, help the environment and contribute to the community.

**Aboriginal Dot Painting:** At an art gallery artist-in-residence Binna teaches you how to re-create the dot paintings that are a typical aboriginal style and symbolic of Australian art. He explains the meaning behind his paintings and what this art means to his people. You will be able to take your canvas painting home with you



- a perfect souvenir for your time in Australia!



**Daintree Rainforest Eco-Lodge & Movie OR Spotlighting with your guide:** Later you cross into the Daintree Rainforest, home of the oldest continuously growing rainforest on earth. For students, this is an important area for study: this area of the country has the highest concentration

of primitive flowering plant families in the world, Australia's rarest mammal (the *Murina floriosus* bat) and 13 species of birds found nowhere else on earth. Your Daintree lodge boasts an attractive swimming pool, games lounge, guest laundry, BBQ area, and a superb location in the rainforest. Cabins are twin-share for students, and the sounds of the jungle surround you. After dinner you can head to the movie room – complete with comfy floor pillows, bean bag chairs for a showing of a movie! Alternatively, you can look for nocturnal animals with your guide (*Please note the capacity for the cinema is 24.*)

**Field Guide:** *101 Animals of The Wet Tropics*, written by Dr. Martin Cohen, helps you to better understand species native to the region and is yours to keep.

**Accommodation:** Ferntree Rainforest Lodge

**Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Cape Tribulation &amp; Ellis Beach</b>
--------------	-------------------------------------------

### **Sea Kayaking OR Jungle Canopy Zip Line and Barbecue Beach Party**

**Sea Kayaking:** Take to the water with a paddle at the famed Cape Tribulation Bay, the site at which explorer Captain Cook ran aground. Follow a sea kayaking guide to his secret places while looking for sea eagles, stingrays, dolphins, dugongs (manatee)



and the occasional migrating whale! In one and two person kayaks, you can look down into the clear waters to glimpse the rich marine environment of corals, urchins, mollusks, rays and brightly coloured coral-fish. You can also keep a look out for sea turtles that frequently swim and play in these waters.

## **OR**

**Rainforest Canopy Zip Line:** At Cape Tribulation experience the art of "jungle surfing": an exhilarating zip line ride among the tree tops. By clipping into a series of steel cables arranged in the trees, you can fly across the rainforest canopy and get a bird's eye view of the world. This is a great way for students to safely challenge themselves in the care of naturalist guides.



**Beach Party:** In the afternoon, you head to the beach for music, games and a BBQ cookout.

**Accommodation:** Heritage Cairns Hotel  
**Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Lamb Range</b>
--------------	-------------------

### **Guided Challenge Hike to Kalphalim Rock**

In the mountains overlooking Cairns, known as the Lamb Range, you are greeted with cooler temperatures and what's considered one of the best hikes in Queensland. Formerly an area used by the Djabugay aboriginal people for painting, tool making, and special ceremonies, this area now hosts two back-to-back national parks: Dinden and Davies Creek.



**Challenge Hike:** Today with your guide you hike the Ridge Trail, a challenging but stunning route among tall eucalyptus, giant boulders and high altitude rainforest. This area is a favourite place of the eastern yellow robin, the white-cheeked honeyeater and the endangered northern bettong (a small hopping marsupial) found only in limited areas of north Queensland and nowhere else in the world.

**Peak Ascent:** At trail's end lies Kahlpahlm Rock, the highest point in the Lamb Range at approximately 4200 feet. From this point, you are treated to magnificent views of Lake Morris, Cairns and beyond to the Coral Sea. [10 km circuit, challenging track]

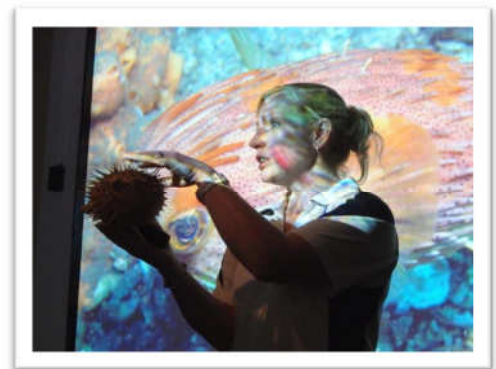


**Accommodation:** Heritage Cairns Hotel  
**Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Cairns</b>
--------------	---------------

## Reef Presentation and Service Work for the Homeless

**Marine Scientist Reef Presentation:** During this presentation taught by a marine biologist, you learn more about biodiversity and the significance of the Great Barrier Reef. From colourful corals that take whimsical shapes like broccoli, brains and baskets to a host of fish such as the chocolate-dipped damsel, the Picasso triggerfish and the giant Maori wrasse, you learn how to identify the most common creatures at the reef. You find out about threatened species and coral predators--such as the Crown of Thorns—and the consequences of climate change and human activity on the reef. More importantly, you learn about the *real* hazards at the reef (like the innocent-looking cone shell) versus the imagined ones (like scary sharks) fueled by Hollywood myths. You leave with a greater understanding of the reef



environment and an appreciation of the natural wonder you are about to experience.



**Service Project for the Homeless:** Sustainability is all about the balance between the good of the environment, the economy, and people. This afternoon you combine all of these aspects during your service project for the homeless by making special bags for a local charity using recycled materials (which helps them save money!). You then put in the bags food and hygiene items most needed by those living on the

street. Rosies Friends on The Street is a not-for-profit organisation that will then distribute the packs you make. In addition, a representative from Rosies will speak to you about how members of the Cairns community become homeless, and how your gift will help. No worries if you aren't the best at crafts – the bags are easy to make, and you'll feel good doing it too.

**Accommodation:** Heritage Cairns Hotel  
**Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Fitzroy Island Great Barrier Reef & Turtle Rehabilitation Centre

**Ferry Ride:** This morning you are ferried to the pristine Fitzroy Island. A fringing coral reef surrounds the island, part of the inner Great Barrier Reef, providing a sheltered home for a variety of fish and coral species.



**Snorkelling:** With full use of snorkel gear for the day, you can walk right into the water to explore the magnificent reef system that surrounds the island. Just offshore a kaleidoscope of marine life beckons to be discovered: colourful corals, parrot and lionfish, turtles, cuttle fish, rays and giant clams.

**Glass Bottom Boat:** For those who prefer not to swim, you can opt for a glass-bottom boat ride instead. Your captain provides commentary, and you get a fantastic look at all of the reef creatures without having to even get wet

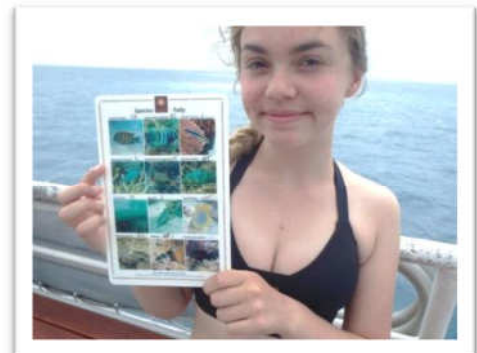


**Marine Biology & Mapping Activity:** With your marine scientist you review some basics before engaging in guided snorkel sessions. Using a life ring and a floating bar, you swim along with your marine biologist who leads you to underwater examples of some of the reef's most interesting features. Discussions out of water and in the tidal zone can include but are not limited to: *endemic and endangered species, animal behaviour and parasitism, tropic levels and human impacts on the reef*. A lunchtime mapping activity also helps students with their geography skills and understand management strategies for the reef.



**Fish Population Survey and Water Quality Testing:** Students also undertake an in-water

biodiversity study with our marine biologist using the waterproof SWJ Fish ID & tally slates that has them identifying & recording the number of specific indicator species that exist at Fitzroy island. By collecting these tallies from each group that visits Fitzroy Island so we can log this data, analyse the results over time, and look for any long term trends.



**Turtle Rehabilitation Centre:** During your visit you also visit the island's Turtle Rehabilitation Centre where a collection of volunteers help save sick and injured sea turtles by looking after them until they are ready to be released back into the ocean.



**Field Guide:** *101 Animals of The Great Barrier Reef*, written by Dr. Martin Cohen, helps you to better understand the underwater world and is yours to keep.

**Accommodation:** Heritage Cairns Hotel

**Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

<b>Day 7</b>	<b>Cairns</b>
--------------	---------------

### **Free Time, OPTIONAL Urban Challenge and Departure**

After breakfast this morning you have free time for last-minute shopping or souvenir purchases.



**Optional Urban Challenge:** If you have an afternoon flight, you can choose to spend the morning souvenir shopping, swimming at the lagoon or participating in Small World Journeys'



Urban Challenge! (*no extra cost*) The Urban Challenge is a fun team-building exercise that allows students to learn more about the history, nature, art and culture of Cairns. Small group teams compete against time in this treasure hunt-type activity in Cairns central business district. This is a popular activity for students and the winning team gets a prize! Then you are transferred to the Cairns airport for your flight home.

**Included: Breakfast**

***We reserve the right to change the order of activities for logistical reasons.***