

AUGUST MOON TOUR & TRAVEL CO., LTD

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EDUCATION PROGRAM (B) - 7 DAYS IN CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA

Recommended age 14-16

Day 1	Cairns Highlands
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Arrival and Orientation, Cairns Highlands, Crater Lakes, Giant Trees and Rainforest Waterfalls

Welcome to the tropics! You arrive in Cairns and are warmly greeted by our land operator staff members at the airport. You then immediately ascend to the Cairns Highlands where you are greeted by cooler temperatures and lush green vistas.

Trees & Crater Lake: You pay tribute to a local high-profile resident – a massive curtain fig tree, and learn how these giants straight out of *Lord of the Rings* eerily “strangle” their hosts. You also walk Crater Lakes National Park, where an ancient volcanic crater—or *maar*—is now protected in a national park. You learn about the rainbow fish that mysteriously appeared in the lake with no streams running to it, and you look for the friendly resident



turtles. A track around the lake passes through several different rainforest communities, offering you an opportunity to glimpse some of the area’s endemic species.



Millaa Millaa Falls: Millaa Millaa (meaning



“plenty of water”

in the local Aboriginal language) is the icon of tropical north Queensland and one of the most photographed natural sites in the region. The waterfall flows over pure basalt rock thousands of years old in a dramatic burst. There is a fantastic swimming hole at the base of the falls, and you can climb on the peculiar columnar basalt for a unique perspective of the falls from behind.

Highlands Cabins: Later you settle into your dorm-style accommodation next to a gorgeous waterfall. Cabins with shared bathrooms are split by gender, and teachers have their own cabins nearby with ensuites, small refrigerator, and tea & coffee making facilities.



Accommodation: Mungalli Student Village
Included: Lunch and Dinner

Day 2

Cairns Highlands

Raft Building and Teambuilding Activities, Abseiling, Obstacle Course, Landsliding and Glowworms

Team-Building Activities: Today you have a fun-filled day of activities designed to strengthen your sense of teamwork. First you band together in teams to make your way through an army-style obstacle course designed to test your skill and speed. The course is tailored to your group, and you can add special challenges if you choose.



Raft Building: Next you use your intellect and



creativity in a raft-building exercise. Using only tyres, ropes and some plastic containers, you must work together to produce a floating raft for your team, and then successfully make your way across a pond! This is a true test of your ingenuity and is sure to produce lots of laughs.

Abseiling: Under the care of a professional instructor you are introduced to the exhilarating and empowering sport of abseiling. Abseiling — a slow controlled descent down our rope with a friction device - is for some students more demanding than rock climbing. First-time climbers will be particularly well-cared for and this is a great activity for confidence building.



Landsliding: Grab a helmet for your next activity: landsliding! With the help of a mat and a steady stream of water, you plunge down the hillside on a giant chute, landing at the bottom in a pool of water. This is a hilarious activity that

leaves everyone screaming for more. Set in the gorgeous green countryside, landsliding is one of the most popular activities for young people, and makes for great photos.



Platypus Spotting and Glowworms: Near sunset with your guide you can look for the elusive platypus that swims in the property's stream, and after dark you can also creep down a path through the rainforest to view some of Australia's most unusual creatures - glow worms - that attract mates through bioluminescence and make tiny twinkles in the night.

Accommodation: Mungalli Student Village

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 3

Cairns Highlands



Sustainable Timber Farm, Tree Planting, Waterfall Swim, Aboriginal Guided Walk, Marine Scientist Presentation

Sustainable Timber Farm: Business sustainability is about helping people and the planet while still making a profit. In a time when deforestation is a major global problem, you meet business owners who are working on a solution with a sustainable timber farm. Touring the tropical property which was once a degraded dairy farm, you witness how the owners have used mixed plantations to promote biodiversity and to emulate a lush native rainforest. You discuss planting and harvest strategies, see how the wood is milled, and trace a trail among multiple stages of forest regrowth.



Tree Planting and Waterfall Swim:

Then you get the opportunity to contribute to the environment by planting some



native trees yourselves. Afterwards you walk through the rainforest--keeping an eye out for the resident endangered cassowaries and an intricately hollowed out giant tree--to a nearby private waterfall for a dip in its refreshing pool.

Aboriginal Guided Rainforest Walk & Tree Kangaroo Spotting:

You continue on to a special swathe of rainforest an area important to the *Ngadjon* indigenous people. This highland rainforest boasts a rainbow of bird

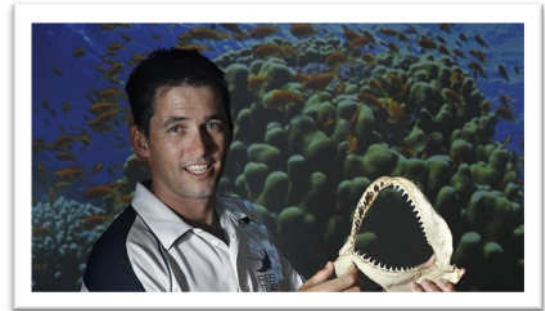


life and mammals, and is one of the best places in the world to spot the elusive tree kangaroo, or *mupee*. Your local *Ngadjon* Aboriginal guide takes you into his country, and you listen to the lively stories of his ancestors, discover an explosive volcanic history and learn the regional “bush tucker” (food) that was yummy to eat.

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.



Accommodation: Back in Cairns, 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 ensuites 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.

Accommodation: Heritage Cairns Hotel

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

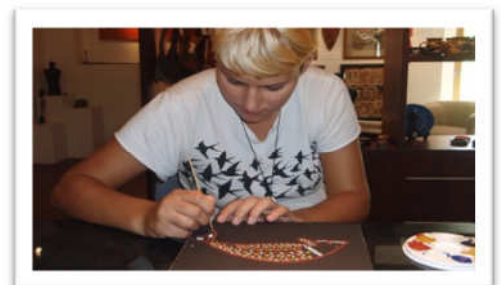


Day 4

Mossman, Port Douglas and Daintree Rainforest

Aboriginal Dot Painting and Wildlife Park

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 are able to take your canvas painting home with you - a perfect souvenir for your time in Australia!



Wildlife Park: Next you visit a refuge for Australian animals such as crocodiles,



kangaroos, koalas, and countless exotic birds. Covering 8 acres, this wildlife immersion exhibit is made up of three open and interactive environments (the Rainforest, the Wetlands and the Grasslands) for guests and animals to mingle in a natural setting. The park uses funds raised from donations and park entries to operate their **Wildlife Rescue Program** which includes a dedicated wildlife care centre.

Optional Photo – You and a Koala! If you have always wanted to get a quintessential photo with a koala- here's your chance (*extra cost*).

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 florious* 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

Day 5	Cape Tribulation and Ellis Beach
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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

Day 6	Outer Great Barrier Reef
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The Outer Great Barrier Reef – Snorkeling and Community Service

Eco-Friendly Reef Boat & Exclusive Eco-Guide: Early this morning you travel to the outer Great Barrier Reef on a sailing catamaran that has been awarded an *Advanced Ecotourism* certification. You have an accredited EcoGuide/sustainability expert devoted



exclusively to your group for today's experience as well. On your trip out to the reef he covers topics of your choice such as *food webs and the role of energy by organisms, the water cycle and the role of photosynthesis at the reef.*

Sand Cay and Snorkeling: One of the day's highlights is a stop at Michaelmas Cay where you can walk right into the water to snorkel. Michaelmas is a perfect spot for your

discussion of marine geomorphology and processes that create a cay -- and eventually an island. The cay is an important seabird refuge and marine park and here you also learn about abiotic characteristics of this marine environment.

Data Collection: At Your first location, you will receive extensive in-water training on how to conduct the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Rapid Monitoring Survey. Your guide will point out key features of the reef ecosystem, answer any questions, and conduct a practice survey with group. Then during a timed snorkel session, you record your underwater findings. Your guide and waterproof slates help you identify a host of marine life and calculate benthic zone coverage. Most importantly, you look for signs of coral bleaching and coral predators which greatly affect the health of the reef. Your data is then collected and contributes to the central reporting system used by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) to manage the long term sustainability of this UNESCO World Heritage area. Your group will compare your findings with long-term trend data, and your group ultimately receives a reef health report after your excursion that includes your contributions.



Water Quality Sampling: As you train to measure water quality, you also learn how consistent measuring at the reef shows long term trends, which in turn is a good predictor of overall reef health. This involves training in taking water temperature readings and vertical visibility readings using a Secchi disc.

Coral Predator Eradication & Community Service: Having students cover a large area of the reef site greatly increases the chances of coral predators being discovered. Once you identify coral predators such as the Crown of Thorns starfish, you then accompany your guide to learn the careful process of eliminating these harmful creatures from the reef.



Field Guide & Sightings App: *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. You also learn how to log in sightings of your reef fauna and flora using an app downloadable to your phone or tablet, and your data is then sent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA).

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

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.