

Tours In Cairns *See it all*

Cairns Museum

Cairns offers a small museum in the city mall (corner of Shields and Lake Streets). It is inexpensive to visit and is home to Cairns Historical Society. You can telephone the Museum on 07 40 515582. Visit and gain more information on <http://www.cairnsmuseum.org.au/museum.html>

Car Rental

Contact me to discuss competitive rates with trustworthy companies. I am only too happy to assist.

Clubs

RSL is on the Esplanade, Brothers Leagues Club is on Anderson Street at Manunda, Cazalys AFL Club is on Mulgrave Road at Westcourt. All these offer club style meals, pokies and visiting artists.

Crocodiles

We have mostly saltwater/estuarine crocodiles; they are the bigger ones, which are dangerous to man. They are present in tidal creek, rivers and along the coast in North Queensland (They are the ones with the rounder snout and have somewhat of a smile on their face). Yes people do swim in the beaches; we have several croc sightings in summer months off the beaches and they are sometimes closed because of this. People do swim off the beaches year-round (summer time in the stinger enclosures). If this makes you nervous you can swim in Crystal Cascades or other mountain streams. Sometimes crocs end up in the drains around the suburbs but that's just life in North Queensland. 150,000 of us live here so it can't be as scary as it sounds.

Flecker Botanic Gardens

The Flecker Botanic Gardens provides a unique array of trees, palms, climbers, ferns and a range of flowering orchids and bromeliads. There is an Aboriginal food plant section which shows examples of traditional foods eaten and a free information brochure tells you some traditional names and uses for these plants. There's also a Gondwana Heritage section, showing the evolution of the Wet Tropics region - plants can be traced from 415 million years ago, when life moved from sea to land. By

Tours In Cairns *See it all*

following the evolutionary trail and interpretive signage in the Gondwana Heritage area, one can discover living ancestors of our plant heritage. The Gardens also boast a lovely coffee shop, perfect for a morning tea or romantic lunch.

Across the road from the main gardens is Centenary Lakes, this is a popular picnic area and there's a playground for the kids. The boardwalk, though lowland rainforest will amaze you – it's hard to believe you're right in the city when you're on this boardwalk. Other walks nearby are the Red and Blue Arrow walking tracks on Mount Whitfield. It's not too far to the top through rainforest and you've got some of the best views in Cairns - a popular walk among the locals. You'll find the gardens on Collins Avenue in Edge Hill.

Hospitals

Cairns has two hospitals, both almost next to each other on the Esplanade. Cairns Base Hospital (public) 40506333 http://www.health.qld.gov.au/services/facilities/cairns_cairns_hosp.asp and Cairns Private Hospital - 1 Upward St 40525200 www.ramsayhealth.com.au We also have the 24 Hour Medical Centre located in the city on the corner of Florence and Grafton Streets 40521119. If you are Australian they will bulk bill you. Overseas visitors are welcome.

Lake Morris/Copperlode Dam/Water Supply

Just west of the city along Reservoir Road you'll find the turn off to Lake Morris at Kanimbla. It'll take you about 30 minutes to get there but our Lake/water supply is one of Cairns best kept secrets. You'll past many great lookouts along the way as you ascend the lamb range. It's officially a 16 km drive up the mountain. At the top you'll find scenery to die for. You can relax just enjoying the scenery, take a walk or enjoy the use of free barbeques. If that sounds too strenuous, try a coffee at the Ranger's café. Oh and it's off the tourist track and often you can have the place to yourself. A few small tours run though here on full and half day 4WD safaris.

Tours In Cairns *See it all*

Lake Placid Recreational Reserve

Lake Placid is a suburb about 20 minutes North West of Cairns at the entrance to the Barron River. It's not actually a separate lake but a wide, serene part of the Barron River. It's a great place to relax, feed fish and just chill out. You can canoe and do the usual National Park activities. It's also a finish point for Barron River rafting.

Night Markets

Cairns has night markets on the Esplanade in a small complex with a food court. It's right in the heart of the "backpacker strip". The markets, while pleasant, don't really offer anything different that other markets such as Kuranda (Sun, Wed, Thurs & Fri - peak days), Port Douglas (Sun), Rusty's on Sheridan Street (Fri, Sat, Sun) and the Lagoon area now has markets on a Saturday. I guess it's somewhere to go for a stroll by night.

Port Douglas

Is 60 minutes drive north of Cairns along the Captain Cook Highway. It's a lot smaller place than Cairns with probably around 3000 permanent residents. I've heard people say they think it's "Noosa-ish", another words, it has an up-market reputation. It has good markets on a Sunday and a nice lookout above the main street (Flagstaff Hill). Port, as it's known, has many resorts and self-contained apartments but often gets booked out. It's seems a bit pricier with accommodation than Cairns and is popular for its restaurants. It has a lengthy beach called Four-Mile Beach and a marina/shopping complex. It has a tropical ambience with ritzy shopping in the main street. The sort of place you'd go to wine, dine and chill out for a few days. May is the month it holds its Carnivale – food and wine festival <http://www.carnivale.com.au/>

Quarantine

Visit the link below for the Government site which should tell you everything you need to know.

<http://www.daff.gov.au/content/output.cfm?ObjectID=3E48F86-AA1A-11A1-B6300060B0AA00014>

Tours In Cairns *See it all*

Real Estate

If you are searching for real estate here in Cairns try the following link <http://www.realestate.com.au/cgi-bin/research?tb=CAIRNS&o=def&a=sf&snf=rbs&s=qld&t=res&u=CAIRNS&pme=any&is=1&pxe=any>

Royal Flying Doctor Service – Visitor Centre (RFDS)

RFDS is located in the suburb of Edge Hill (1 Junction Street) – 10 minutes north-west of the city. The actual planes run from the airport. It's a very interesting stop for anyone whether Australian or from overseas. You'll learn just how we take our medical services for granted. A small admission price is payable per person and covers a movie and entry into the museum side of things. There is a gift shop for memorabilia – take your pennies as this place helps to run the planes by subsidizing Government grants. RFDS is open 9-5 Mon-Sat, conducting tours every half hour to 4.30pm. Oh, did you know that the first flight was made from Cloncurry in north-western Queensland in May of 1928.

Shopping - Centres & Hours

City centre – open 7 days till late – every shop is individual with its opening hours but basically, the 'touristy' shops stay open till late and the regular everyday shops close at 5-5.30pm (open 8.30-9am).

The Pier on the Esplanade is a shopping complex and eatery – tourist orientated – and opens daily. Markets are open every night on the Esplanade (night markets), Rusty's fruit and veg and art and craft is open Fri, Sat and Sun on Sheridan Street. Major suburban shopping centres are Stockland Earlville (West 5km), Smithfield Centre (15km north) and Cairns Central (McLeod St city). Opening hours are Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 9-4/5, Sun 10.30-4 and Thursday nights are late night shopping till 9pm. Newly opened in Dec. 08 is DFO (Direct Factory Outlets). This can be found on Mulgrave Road at Westcourt and opens daily 10-6.

Stingers – Poisonous Jellyfish

Stingers, as they are called, are poisonous jellyfish found in Tropical waters from generally November to May each year. The larger is the Box Jellyfish or Chironex Fleckeri. This box shaped jellyfish is around grapefruit size with tentacles reaching to three metres in length. If your bare skin touches the tentacles it is very painful, leaving scars for life. The result is a sting by neurotoxins which stop your breathing, resulting in respiratory arrest and heart failure. First aid is to douse the tentacles in vinegar (don't rub them) and get assistance immediately. If you're swimming or diving you may need a lycra stinger suit which you can hire from various tour operators on tour. The smaller of the jellyfish is a thumb-nail sized fellow called an Irikanji named after an Indigenous tribe. He doesn't omit quite as powerful and painful a sting, but the result is the same. So don't swim off the beaches during summer without protection or seeking advice first or it could be the last swim you have.

Swimming

Swimming is available all year round and the climate allows for that. There is a free lagoon-pool (man-made) on the Esplanade in the heart of the city which is popular with all ages. Generally it is closed on Wednesdays for cleaning. Many accommodation houses have their own pools too. Nearby mountain stream swimming is available at Crystal Cascades (beautiful location even for a walk) 20 minutes west of the city via Redlynch and further north at Mossman – the south east corner of the Daintree World Heritage area. When swimming in summer months (wet season) be very careful after rainfall as the tranquility of the crystal clear water does not always represent the current. When swimming at the beach, try to swim in a flagged area. We don't have surf or rips as such because of the reef, but we do have crocodiles and stingers. Stinger nets are provided for your safety in summer months. Don't go swimming in waterways you haven't asked a local about because of the threat of crocodiles. Don't swim in estuaries or at night and remember that saltwater crocodiles can live in freshwater without seeing saltwater for their whole lives. Their correct name is Estuarine Crocodiles as this is their preferred habitat.

Cruise Passengers

If you're coming to Cairns on a cruise boat for a day or a stay, I can help you organise your time including accommodation, packages or a simple one day tour. Passengers on tour boats that dock for a short time can be limited to tour choices with smaller, more intimate tours either not offered on board or becoming quickly booked out. Avoid the disappointment and pre-book, that way you're organised and will partake in the experience of your choice. I'll assist you with a budget-friendly and value for money option, and ensure you're tour includes return transfers to your door. If you are disembarking and staying in town for a while, I'll help you make the most of your time in our lovely city and find you a great place to stay.

Local Residents

If you have local resident ID and have friends or family staying, please contact me for a quote. Local resident discounts apply for some tours.

All General Information provided on this page is done so in good faith, is general in nature and is as up-to-date and correct as I have been able to make it. Should you find any inaccuracies, I would be happy to hear from you so I can rectify any pricing and information. I would also be happy to hear of any suggestions with this page that may help you or others in the future. Prices are always subject to change, things close and open, and this information is designed as a guide only and is as correct as my research has been able to make it. I take no responsibility for any inaccuracies

Cheers, Tonya.

© Tours in Cairns

info@toursincairns.com