


 TOP 10 THINGS TO DO IN CAIRNS

Find rainforest, reef and diving activities, as well as dining and nightlife spots in this Top 10 list of things to do in Cairns.

Visit Cairns for the Great Barrier Reef, but don't miss the great things to do around this Far North Queensland town. Stunning beaches, spectacular hinterland, local and organic produce, brilliant cafés and bars, bustling markets and laid-back friendly people make Cairns a favourite destination. Relax by a resort pool or spend your days exploring. A tropical holiday awaits.

GREAT BARRIER REEF

Drop into the Cairns Visitor Centre, a great place to start exploring the largest reef system in the world – the Great Barrier Reef. Sign up for a scuba lesson or find the right dive for you. Jump aboard a cruise and snorkel with the sea turtles, or go for a scenic helicopter flight and witness the magnitude of the reef.

DINING AND NIGHTLIFE

Get a great pub meal at the Red Beret, or dine al fresco at one of the beautiful restaurants in Palm Cove, a 30-minute drive north. Visit sophisticated bars along the Esplanade, like Salt House, or the lively clubs on Spence and Lake Streets. In the morning, get your coffee fix at Caffiend – seriously good brews.

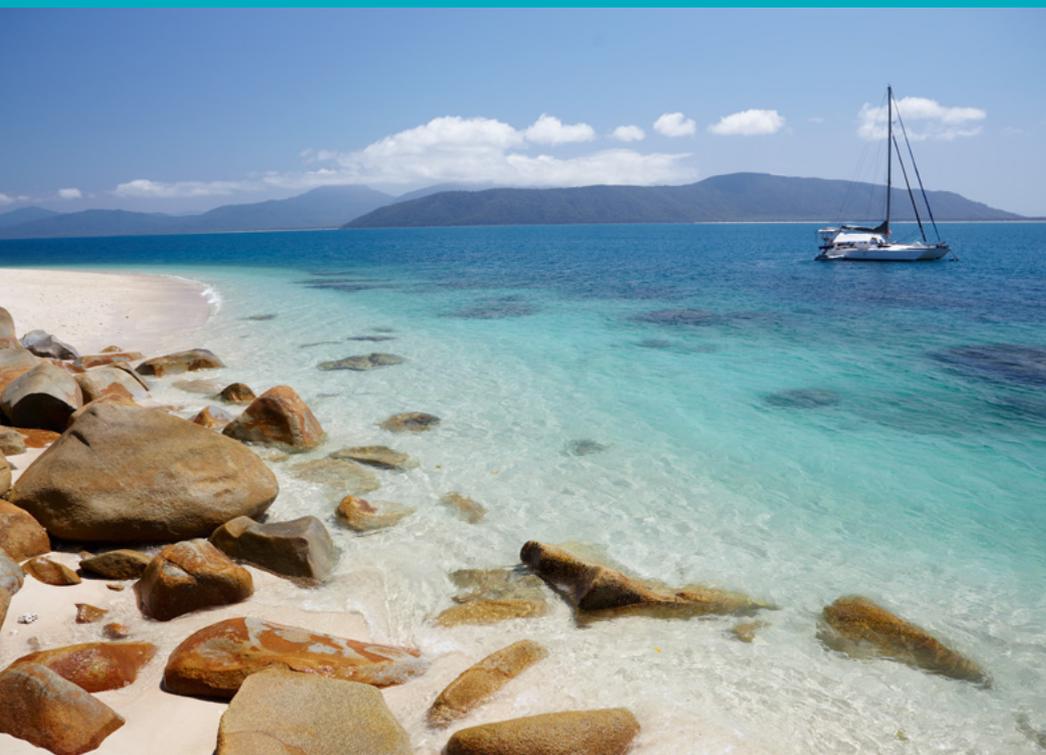
ATHERTON TABLELANDS

Find cooler temperatures and a whole different vibe in the stunning Cairns highlands, the Atherton Tableland. Set 1000 metres above sea level, you'll find quaint townships and coffee, honey, fruits, artisan dairy products and macadamia nuts. Don't miss the Platypus Park and the 800-year-old Curtain Fig Tree. Drive the 16-kilometre Waterfall Circuit, taking in Milla Milla, Zillie and Ellinjaa Falls.

WORLD HERITAGE LISTED DAINTREE RAINFOREST

Visit the oldest lowland rainforest on Earth – 135 million years old – to glimpse rare animals like tree-living kangaroos, rainforest dragons, colourful butterflies and prehistoric birds. Two hours north by car, do it as a day trip or stay in an eco-lodge. Take a river cruise and don't miss the Daintree Ice Cream Company.





KURANDA TRAIN AND SKYRAIL

Drive 90 minutes to board the historic Kuranda Scenic Railway, for a spectacular and exciting two-hour journey through Barron Gorge National Park's rugged mountains, past beautiful teeming waterfalls, over 40 bridges spanning sheer drops and through 15 tunnels. At Kuranda, jump on the Skyrail for amazing views over the lush rainforest, and then spend time in the pretty Kuranda village.

ABORIGINAL CULTURE

Find Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park, built on traditional land in a beautiful rainforest setting 15 minutes out of Cairns. Be immersed in traditional Tjapukai culture with authentic music, dance and storytelling. You can also take The Bama Way experience – learn to throw a spear, hunt and gather bush tucker in the mangroves and shallows at beautiful Kooya Beach.

FITZROY ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

Take a day trip to Fitzroy Island, 29 kilometres southeast of Cairns. Catch the high-speed ferry, scheduled to allow visitors to spend the daylight hours there and be back in town for dinner. Hike or kayak to discover one of the most unspoiled islands on the Great Barrier Reef, teeming with wildlife in mangroves, woodland, pristine rainforest and coral beaches.

CAIRNS MARKETS

Don't miss the Saturday Esplanade market for jewellery, clothing and locally made skincare that celebrities swear by. Swing by the Friday Night Market at Palm Cove, the monthly Holloway Beach Markets or Tanks Market in the gardens for great food and a social vibe. Mingle with locals at Rusty's, where the best regional produce is fresh and cheap.

ADVENTURE SPORTS

Find some of the best white-water rafting rapids in Australia on the Barron River and Tully River. Take a tandem skydive and feel the adrenaline rush with an aerial view of the Great Barrier Reef. Bungy jump at AJ Hackett's or ride their Minjin Jungle Swing. Other activities in the area include quad biking, horse riding and hang-gliding as well.

BARRAMUNDI FISHING

On the edge of the world's largest reef system, go fishing for big game with one of the many experienced operators who are aware of the environmental sensitivities and regulations. There are also world-class catches to be had by beach and estuary fishing from Kings Point and in Lake Tinaroo. However if you're into fishing, try to catch your very own barramundi, the legend of Far North Queensland angling.

USEFUL LINKS

Cairns Visitor Centre
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Kuranda Scenic Railway
www.ksr.com.au

Kuranda Skyrail
www.skyrail.com.au/tours/skyrail-kuranda-rail

Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park
www.tjapukai.com.au/

AJ Hackett
www.ajhackett.com/cairns