

20 Days Cape York Tour Itinerary

Day one: We meet at the Willows Shopping Centre on Hervey's Range Road in Townsville's western suburbs. On the way out of town, we visit some of the fascinating and little known historic spots, including two sites that feature aboriginal art over 4000 years old. Our ultimate destination today is the Undarra Lava Tubes.

<http://www.undarra.com.au/> (Toilets and Showers), Tomorrow we take a 2 hour of the Lava tubes, but you are of course free to take the sunset tour today if you wish (sunset tour cost not included).

Day two: A 2 hour tour of these incredible tubes formed by lava flows 190000 years ago is the morning agenda.

Discover this fascinating underground geological phenomenon, enjoy home-style refreshments, climb a rocky bluff to get an above ground perspective and learn more about the region's ecology. Easy to moderate fitness level - boardwalks, some un-level walking, short uneven climb. Visits a rocky bluff & 3 sections of lava tube. Includes morning or afternoon tea. Cost included in tour price.

After the tour, we then set off across the Savannah country travelling through old mining areas, and along the bed of the Mt Garnet to Lappa railway line. Our overnight stop is at Lappa junction, site of a 100 year old heritage listed building and Australia's only BYO pub.

Day three: We travel through the Hodgkinson Goldfields to Maytown and Palmerville. Maytown ruins provide some interesting insights into the life of our pioneers and our mining history. Our camp is on the Palmer River.

Day Four: Today we are in for the most exciting four-wheel driving on the Cape on the famous Laura Coach road from Maytown to Laura. Expect the 42 kilometres from Maytown to the Little Laura River to take 7 hours! Along the way discover rock art hidden away in a little know spot. See spectacular scenery and experience some real 4wding. ur bush campsite on the Little Laura river is in a clearing used by bullock teams 130 years previous.

Day Five: Lakefield National Park and Bizant is our destination. We break the trip up into manageable sections as this is rugged country. Lakefield is a delightful place on a waterhole where bird life abounds.

Day Six: Travelling through Lakefield National Park (the second largest National Park in the country) we make our way to the Peninsula Development Road and to Musgrave. From Musgrave we continue on the PDR to the enlock River and Moreton Telegraph Station.

Day Seven: The beginning of the Overland Telegraph Track is relatively easy going, but we are in no rush. There are plenty of creek crossings, all relatively easy in the dry, but impassable in the wet. Our 4wd adventure is really beginning now. We pass through a forest of Zamia palms not far past the Wenlock. We cross Palm and Dulcie creeks. Our camp site is on the Dalhunny river. Should it be crowded, we have a few other camp sites further up the track.

Day Eight: To Jardine River. The track gets narrower and more interesting now. We finally arrive at the famous Gunshot creek, and water level permitting, we drop down the steep banks. A south-bound crossing can often be impossible without a winch. Fortunately we are heading north. There are several places to cross, some more difficult than others. The more difficult crossings are not recommended. We visit the grave of a worker who died on the OTL

Day Nine: Punsand Bay and the Tip (Toilets and Showers and Laundry, Powered Sites, Swimming Pool, EFTPOS) 3.5 Hrs. More interesting creek crossings follow including the log bridge of Canal creek as we continue on the OTL. Crossing crystal clear creeks we finally arrive at the deepest crossing on the OTL. Water level permitting, we cross here. If the water is deep but crossable we need to take some care.

Day Ten: Punsand Bay. Relax, fish, take the boat to Thursday Island- the day is yours.

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Day Twelve: Captain Billy's Landing 3 Hrs. Today we depart Punsand and head south, this time along the PDR which makes for a much quicker trip. Our campsite for tonight is Captain Billy's Landing where there are toilets and bbq facilities.

Day Thirteen: Camp near Chili Beach 3.5 Hrs. The drive to Chili beach can be very interesting, with the crossing of the Pascoe river providing plenty of excitement. The crossing is rugged and the water can be fast flowing. Bypass is available if necessary.

Day Fourteen: Chili Beach area- Fish, explore. The day is yours.

Day Fifteen: Coen 3 Hrs. Travelling out of Chili beach takes some time as the 4wd adventure continues. Our goal is Coen where we camp on the river bank.

Day Sixteen: We head back into Lakefield National Park today, where our campsite is at the beautiful Kalpower Crossing on the Normanby River. Baramundi abound, as do crocodiles.

Day Seventeen: For the next two days we travel the remote and little used Starke Track initially to near the Starke River where we bush camp adjacent the ruins of an old outstation. This is a remote un-maintained track that again provides interesting 4wding.

Day Eighteen: Starke Track to Endeavour Falls. We take a quick look around Cooktown for our campsite is north of the town at the Endeavour Falls Van Park. (Showers, Toilets, Shop) The park is a beautiful setting beside the Endeavour falls.

Day Nineteen: Explore aboriginal art in the morning with Guurbi tours.

Guurbi Tours offers a rare opportunity to walk with **Willie Gordon**, a Nugal-warra Elder, on his traditional lands, and to see the rock art through his eyes, and to learn why the paintings' **conservation** is of such importance to the Nugal-warra people.

Previously inaccessible to visitors, the multitude of **rock art** sites are steeped in stories of both cultural and spiritual significance, and include the Reconciliation Cave, which portrays a heart-warming story of acceptance and compassion, and an ancestral Birthing Cave which is a place of particular importance to the clan. (Courtesy Guurbi Tours)

The Cairns Post, 3 March 2005, p.49.

"On Sunday, September 19, 2004, my husband and I spent four memorable hours with Mr. Wilfred Gordon, an elder of the Nugal-warra people, walking through his country and experiencing through his eyes and his wisdom something wonderful and life changing about his people and their culture. We are well travelled both in Australia and overseas. The Guurbi tour with this remarkable man as mentor and guide is one of the highlights of our travels...." Julienne Keane, Adelaide

We then explore Cooktown before heading for our campsite at the Lions Den Hotel

Day Twenty: Lions Den to Cairns via the CREB (subject to it being open) or via the Bloomfield track. From the Lions Den, we travel to Daintree and weather permitting journey over the steep terrain of the CREB track (no trailers). If weather does not permit, we take the scenic coastal route. It is a big day today and we have an early start tomorrow for what will be one of the best days on the tour. 5 to 6 Hrs

The schedule above is guide to where you can expect to go within the time allowed. With an off-road adventure such as this in difficult terrain, you should allow at least 2 extra days. The outback is terribly unkind to schedules, so be prepared to be flexible with timing and allow sufficient time for the trip to run over by as much as two days in changing circumstances. After a week on the Cape you will forget what a schedule is anyway, and that is the beauty of such tours. Itineraries may change for safety or reasons of weather or other unforeseen events. We reserve the right to change the itinerary as required.