



2023

CAPE YORK WILDLIFE TOUR

Cairns to Iron Range NP & Back

9-Day Tour

\$2,970

Highlights

- Daintree River Wildlife Cruise
- Bloomfield Track
- Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP Explore Day
- Welcome to Country & Culture
- Famous Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP
- Chilli Beach & Portland Roads
- Golden-shouldered parrots!
- Endemic birds, reptiles, mammals & more only found in Cape York

Inclusions

Guides

- 2 Guides/Cooks

Transportation (Isuzu)

- 15-seat, Airconditioned 4WD Coach
- 1 x Water Cruise

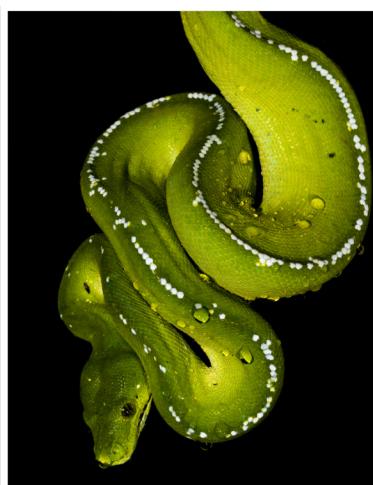
Accommodation

- 4-Man Tents (sleeps 1 or 2), 6 ft high
- Mattress, pillow, sheets & blanket
- 2 nights accommodation at Greenhouse, 6 nights camping

Meals

- Breakfast, lunch, dinner (+3 Dinners Out)

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Cape York Wildlife Tour - Overview

We couldn't be more excited for this tour! For years we have wanted to run a tour specifically to find & photograph wildlife and nature! Finally it's here: the tour designed for wildlife enthusiasts!

This is a very special Cape York tour, visiting some of the best natural regions in Cape York. We will spend our time looking for wildlife, whether that be birds, reptiles, mammals, insects or other! You will get to observe animal behaviour up close, while disconnecting and listening to the sounds of the bush. There will be countless opportunities to photograph our wonderful fauna and flora. And the best part, you will be with an awesome group of like minded people!

Starting from (or returning to) Cairns, you will first head north through "the most extraordinary place on Earth" according to Sir David Attenborough! We then spend 2 nights in 'Queensland's Kakadu', aka Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park. Rinyirru is a massive wetland ecosystem, host to exceptional birdlife!

We will be treated to an authentic Welcome to Country in Coen, with cultural activities. And then, after a few days camping you can relax in a room for 2 nights at the Greenhouse, nestled right beside Kutini-Payamu NP. Here you will have 2 full days (and nights) to find some of the most exceptional wildlife Australia has to offer!

After a couple nights in luxury, we head down to the beautiful Chilli Beach for a night's camp. We then head south to Musgrave, to spot some very rare, endemic parrots! Our last day will see us having an easy drive, mostly on bitumen again, back to Cairns.

This tour requires a good level of fitness as there will be many walks looking for wildlife as well as night spotlighting and drives. The tour is mostly camping, with a couple nights in cabins.

Itinerary

Day 1 (LDo, T) Lion's Den Hotel

Pickups starting at 600am. It's early, but we have a date with one of Australia's most knowledgeable crocodile guides! At 830am, we head out on the Solar Whisper, a silent, solar powered boat. Here we will spend two hours on the Daintree River, observing crocodile behaviour and spotting incredible birds and wildlife. You might even see some Daintree-style celebrities!

After our tour, we cross the Daintree River on the ferry and wind our way through the stunning Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, home to the world's oldest continually surviving rainforest. We will drive through Ennemagun Ck, the northernmost point for 2WDs and into 4WD country! Our next hour and a half will have you gripping your seats as we go up and down the steep 32 km Bloomfield track. Tonight we stay at the Lion's Den Hotel and have a meal out together!

Day 2 (BLD, HT) Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP

This morning we head north towards Cooktown, pulling into Kalkajaka (Black Mountain) briefly to spot some endemic species here! We then head through town and then west on Battle Camp Road and into Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park. Rinyirru is Queensland's version of Kakadu, with thousands of wetlands in a huge floodplain ecosystem. Today will mostly be spent on the road with a few stops along the way at waterfalls and a couple of wetlands. We'll set up camp at Kalpowar Crossing, where we'll be for 2 nights. Tonight we'll head out and do some spotlighting at night. There are plenty of crocs, frogs, snakes and birds to be seen at night here along the river!

Day 3 (BLD, H) Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP

Today we have the day off to explore Rinyirru! We will visit a few different lakes and rivers today, depending on what tracks are open. To avoid the heat of the day, we will do an early morning and a late afternoon wildlife spotting session! This day is epic and we finish it with a world-class sunset and a good night drive back to camp. This day will be chock-a-block full of wildlife opportunities!

Day 4 (BLD, HS) Coen

Today we will take a couple of secret tracks to find some wildlife and more amazing wetlands. We will travel through gorgeous wetland country and cross a few rivers too. Today we will make camp in Coen, where we will have a Welcome to Country by the local Traditional Owners. There will be some awesome cultural activities too, which depend on who is available at the time. In Coen we will camp on a gorgeous creek and have a few opportunities to go spotlighting at night. We have a few spots to find some special and very cute mammals here!

Day 5 (BLD, HF) Greenhouse

It's time to get to Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP! Heading north we will pop into the Coen Quarantine centre for a very important run down on animals and plants of the kind we don't want to see! We then we pass over the Archer River, eventually heading north-east towards Lockhart River and Kutini-Payamu. On our way in, we'll have a stroll at Tozer's Gap and scope out some wildlife places for the next couple of days. Tonight, you will have a bed, hot showers and a cooked dinner!

Day 6 (BLD, HF) Greenhouse

I hope you've slept well, because today will be a day jam-packed with nature walks and wildlife spotting! We will have a range of places to choose from today. We will likely split the groups up, with one group getting dropped off for walks and the other heading off in the truck. This will be swapped around while we are here. Most of our time today will be spent exploring the stunning rainforest within Kutini-Payamu National Park.

Day 7 (BLD, H) Chilli Beach

Today we will pack our gear and head off to Chilli Beach and Portlands Roads. We'll use the cool of the morning to get some birding and wildlife walks in, before setting up camp at the picturesque Chilli Beach. At this time of year it shouldn't be as windy as it is earlier in the year! We will take a drive up to Portlands Roads today to check out the gorgeous seaside town.

Day 8 (BLD, HS) Musgrave

After 3 nights around Kutini-Payamu, we finally head south. Today we will have a decent drive on our hands and we will make a few stops along the way to stretch the legs and look for critters! Tonight we end up at a nice place near Musgrave, where we will have a very good opportunity to see some extremely rare birds. Many researchers come to this area to research the endemic bird, with the hope of conserving its habitat and seeing it last long into the future.

Day 9 (BL) Home

With the final day here, we will spend our morning birding. On our way south we will pop into Split Rock near Laura to see the rock art there, and hopefully a couple of endemic species nearby. From here we have a 4 hour drive home. We will be back in Cairns in the early evening.

Key

B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, Do: Dinner Out
BYO: Buy Your Own, H: Hike Shoes Needed,
I: Togs Needed, E: Washing Facilities, S: Shops

