A unique part of Australia, absolutely unique part of North Queensland
We have the big pictures. Nature, wide open spaces, tropical
beaches all to yourself. No crowds, no rush, no stress.

Drive it.
Really? Yes. It’s a region built to Explore. We think you’ll want
to do that with the flexibility of your own vehicle.

Here’s a tip - Don’t rush it.
The 350km drive between Townsville and Cairns can be done
in about five hours, but don’t do it! You’ll want to take the time
to turn down that road, take a walk, or just stop. Give yourself
a week.

Strange dangers.
There are few first-world tropical regions that are safe, easy to
travel, affordable and offer such world scale natural sceneries.
Most visitors go home with their arms and legs!

Will my phone work?
Don’t panic you can still Twitter & Facebook! It’s Australia’s
National Highway One. Sure, many of the highlights are off
the highway, but most are within a 30 minute drive of the next
town. Relax, it’s an adventure.

Big value – Tight budget!
Barefoot millionaires abound up here, but don’t worry, we’ll
give you the same friendly welcome.

We’ve probably got more 3 star, than 5 star options, but the
awe inspiring landscapes outside are rated best in the world;
...of outstanding value to humanity” (UNESCO)

It doesn’t matter which end you start your journey.
Look it’s really hard to decide which end to start your journey.
We figured we’d start at the South (Townsville) and travel
North (to Cairns), but it’s your choice and it works equally well
in either direction!

Oh, and one last thing – Please support our supporters.
If nothing else, will you at least tell them about this magazine.
Give them some feedback, and let them know what you think.

So let’s start your next big adventure......
Explore Ultimate Fishing

Let’s go - full noise! Tides and wind are right, so you won’t be wasting a minute of it. This journey is a fishing mecca. Reef, estuaries, inshore, or simply off a jetty, you just have to fish this region.

An eco-adventure wonderland

It’s an outdoor paradise, designed by nature. This magazine takes you on a journey south to north, but the experience works equally as well either way. Use the maps to help you plan where to stay and base yourself. Remember it’s a guide only. For the full details, check the websites, and don’t hesitate to ask a local.

Tropical Coast Tourism Inc.

TCT is an operator representative group. Its objective is to represent the interests of operators and aligned businesses as the peak voice for tourism, with a focus on marketing the region between Townsville and Cairns.

CAI�NS SOUTH & BRAIMSTON & BABINDA

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KURRIMINE & CANECUTTER WAY: Mark Evans, Paronella Park. (TCT Chairman)
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Photo source credits

Department of Tourism and Events Queensland
Wet Tropics Management Authority
[Caues office, Paul Checkett]
Front cover Image:
Image supplied by Tourism Tropical North Queensland
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Explore Natural Wonders

Our two World Heritage areas, The Wet Tropics Rainforest and The Great Barrier Reef have been waiting for thousands of years to be explored. Immerse yourself in a region designed by nature.

Explore Indigenous Culture

Share the culture of one of the many Aboriginal tribal groups who have lived along the Bruce Highway journey for over 40,000 years.

www.tropicalcoasttourism.com.au
Explore Agricultural Heritage

The very roots of this region relate to food production. Shaped by migrants who arrived in the late 1800s, the region’s history, agricultural innovation and food exports continue to underpin the economy today.

Explore Fantastic Adventures

The ultimate adventure holiday menu: Picnic on a deserted tropical island, drive the back roads and forests, swim in a crystal clear world heritage rock pool, catch your first barramundi. Order now!

www.tropicalcoasttourism.com.au

8/20/2023
Townsville - North

Drive north, from the dry tropics to the wet tropics, from beaches to the mountain air.

Townsville Airport | Balgal Beach | Rollingstone | Crystal Creek | Paluma | Hidden Valley | Musharne | Jourama Falls

FAST FACTS: Townsville 4810
Townsville City Council

HISTORICAL FACT:
1895, 1st Japanese consulate in Australia, NOO Japanese sugar cane workers.

LOCAL INTERESTS:
All sports, rugby league (North Queensland Cowboys), sailing, fishing and boating, rodeo, surf lifesaving, golf & basketball.

FAMOUS FOR:
Where the Outback meets the Coral Sea.

EXPLORE AROUND:

Events:
V8 Supercars, various music and cultural events. Travelling north: Paluma Push mountain bike challenge, Rollingstone Pineapple Festival.

Swim Spots:
Try the rock pool on The Strand or Riverway. Travelling north: Rollingstone Creek, Crystal Creek rock slides, Balgal Beach (Nov-May).

Taste:
Frosty Mango’s for homemade fresh tropical fruit ice cream.

Find Out More:
Phone: (07) 4721 3660
www.townsvilleholidays.info

Townsville is the southern gateway to the Wet Tropics World Heritage area. Many travellers start their journey along the Bruce Highway from Townsville, a major regional city and airport.

Driving north from Townsville along the Bruce Highway is the start of your journey up the Tropical Coast. This drive north is interesting as you pass quite quickly from the obvious dry tropics landscape into your journey up the Tropical Coast. This drive north is interesting as you pass quite quickly from the obvious dry tropics landscape into the green blanched of the Wet Tropics, with its mountains that are part of Australia’s Great Dividing Range and coastal plains comprising forest and pock-ets of agriculture.

About 20 minutes along the highway, you will arrive at Rollingstone. Here there is a pretty creek for swimming, a park with picnic facilities and you can follow the heritage walk signage. Some of Queensland’s largest pineapple farms, which provide opportunities for seasonal employment, are at Rollingstone. There is a four star caravan park if you want to stay longer.

Nearby is Balgal Beach, a popular beach and river fishing spot with boat ramp and pontoon facilities giving easy access to the Palm Group of islands. The beach has a sinner net and a paralled beach for swimming or play golf alongside resident hangaroos. There is a choice of holiday accommodation from a caravan park to holiday homes.

The historic Mount Spec Road, about 60km north of Townsville, was built by hand in the Great Depression of the 1930s. Winding through Paluma Range National Park, it features beautiful stonework, especially the masonry arch bridge over Little Crystal Creek where you can enjoy a dip before driving through rainforest and past impressive stands of eucalypts.

Spiegelhauer Road to the north leads to Big Crystal Creek which is a great place to camp or have a refreshing swim.

The road continues to Paluma, an historic village known as the village in the mist. It has a much cooler climate than the coast. With a range of accommodation including camping and cottages, you will find arts and crafts, award-winning pottery and cosy teahouses. There are story boards to follow around Paluma for an historical walk, scenic lookouts and a number of easy to moderate rated bush walks.

Further along the Mount Spec Road is Hidden Valley where you are sure to see platypus. After dinner venture out to see sugar gliders, night spiders, possums, rufous bettongs and owls come to life in the dark.

Top Tip: Try a rock slide made by nature at Big Crystal Creek where giant boulders have been worn smooth by the water so you can slip down them into the cool rock pools below.

Find Out More:
www.tropicalcoasttourism.com.au
Ingham

A region rich in Italian heritage, natural attractions and agriculture.

Find Out More:
Phone (07) 4776 4792
www.tyto.com.au

HISTORICAL FACT:
Lucinda Sugar Jetty, at nearly 88m long is the longest in the southern hemisphere.

LOCAL INTERESTS:
Rugby league, soccer, squash, fishing & golf are some popular interests.

FAMOUS FOR:
Wallaman Falls, at 268m, is the highest single drop waterfall in Australia & being the Southern gateway to Hinchinbrook Island.

EXPLORE AROUND:

Events:
Australian Italian Festival, Sugar City Rodeo, Maraha Festival, Hinchinbrook Fishing Classic, Herbert River Show, Car Show & Shine.

Swim Spots:
Town swimming pool. Lucinda, Taylors Beach & Forrest Beach all have stinger resistant nets. Swimming holes in the region’s national parks.

Taste:
Indulge in Italian fare from local delicatessens. Authentic local pasta. Try a local steak or fresh seafood.

Welcome to Ingham on the Bruce Highway, this area is renowned for for sensational food, eco-experiences such as fishing, bird watching, Indigenous stories and natural attractions. Stay for a few days in town or at the beaches to allow yourself the time to explore the region. There is a choice of quality, affordable accommodation including motels, pubs and caravan parks.

Driving west out of town is Abergowrie State Forest in the Herbert River Valley where you can camp under tall eucalyps, swim in Broadwater Creek and bush walk. It is accessed via Trebonne, 8km west of Ingham.

On the same road out of Ingham you can enter Girringun National Park. Highlights include Mt Fox, a well preserved dormant volcano, and Wallaman Falls, Australia’s longest permanent single-drop waterfall. Camp near the falls at Stony Creek to spotlight sugar gliders at night. There are two short walk or venture on the 110km Wet Tropics Great Walk which takes you through Girringun’s rainforest, hinterland, eucalypt forests and woodlands.

The Tyto Wetlands, about 500m south of town, has lagoons and walking tracks that are home to more than 230 species of birds, numerous tropical plant species and wallabies galore. The name comes from the Eastern Grass Owl (Tyto Capensis), an endangered species which can be seen taking flight at dusk. While at the Tyto Centre, have a look at the visual displays of what local cane farmers have achieved by creating their own wetlands and conservation management initiatives that effectively manage the eco-diversity of farming areas to ensure sustainability for future farming generations and protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

A “must see” is the wonderful tribute to the history of the sugar industry in this region, with a visit to Mercer Lane Mosaic, in the centre of Ingham CBD. Wander through an impressive collection of ornate mausoleums at the New Ingham Cemetery or take in the peaceable Botanic Gardens.

Travelling out of town to the beaches you will see Victoria Mill, the largest sugar mill in the Southern Hemisphere. The mill recycles its waste product into energy through an electricity generating plant which feeds power back into the electricity grid.

Catch some waves at Forrest Beach, 20km east of Ingham. It has a store, modern beachfront hotel with an open air bar, caravan park, boat ramp, stinger net and the surf life saving club.

Ingham has a number of exciting events throughout the year such as the annual Australian Italian Festival, which celebrates Italian history and migration to the area. Its motto is “Amore Della Vita” which means Love of Life. Another event celebrating the local lifestyle is the Maraha Festival held each year.
There are calmer waters at Taylors Beach further north, a popular fishing spot at the mouth of Victoria Creek, where you will find a beautiful nine hole golf course set among the sugar cane, framed by cane trains and dotted with majestic rain trees - a quintessential North Queensland picture.

Lucinda has the world’s longest offshore sugar loading facility, a jetty that stretches almost 6km out to sea and follows the curve of the earth. Its beach has a singer net and there is a public walkway along the foreshore. Get some local fish and chips for dinner and enjoy a picnic with a view of Hinchinbrook Island and the channel mouth. Accommodation ranges from a hotel motel, caravan park with freezers to store your catch in, and a resort.

Head out via Halifax to the highway. You will pass the tiny town of Machnade, the site of the Herbert River’s second sugar mill. Here you will find a beautiful nine hole golf course set among the sugar cane, framed by cane trains and dotted with majestic rain trees - a quintessential North Queensland picture.

At Halifax, a small community which was once the hub of the Herbert River district. Historic building facades, and great little pubs sit among the heritage-listed mango trees lining the main street, a reminder of the town’s heyday. Lay your hands on the Halifax’s Tree of Knowledge to absorb its secrets and learn more at the Herbert River Museum and Gallery.

Magnificent Hinchinbrook Island looms large at Lucinda, a fisherman’s paradise. This is a popular departure point for charterers in the channel, it is close to the Palm Group of islands and Orpheus Island and the famous Thorsborne Trail. Join the locals fishing from the old sugar jetty or launch your tinnie from the Dungeness public boat ramp.
You can launch your boat here or at the Meunga boat ramp to the north. Those wanting access to the mangrove area of Hinchinbrook Channel could use the boat ramp at Fisher’s Creek, 35km south back along the highway.

With almost 40,000 hectares to explore, Hinchinbrook Island should be more than just a day trip. This pristine island national park is a particular favourite with dedicated hikers from around the world. People come to tackle the renowned 32km Thorsborne Trail to experience diverse environments from sandy bays through mangrove forests and dense rainforest to the 121m peak of Mt Bowen. Camping is available at several sites with numbers strictly limited.

Take a ferry from Cardwell to Goold Island, just 17km offshore, where you can camp in the national park. Line and spear fishing is allowed at Garden Island or snorkel the magnificent coral gardens surrounding the nearby Brook Islands.

With its stunning backdrop of Hinchinbrook Island, the foreshore is the focal point of Cardwell and a popular place for fishing or spotting turtles and dugong which are often seen from the jetty. Following the damage from Cyclone Yasi in 2011, the ‘Reconstructing Cardwell Project’ has built new playgrounds, barbecue and picnic facilities, walking and cycling paths along the 4km of newly completed beautified foreshore.

The Cardwell Region boasts over 290 species of birds! Watch Osprey and Brahminy Kite fly along the foreshore or take a walk along the Cardwell Range Lookout. Driving out of the area you can rejoin the highway further north at Murmigal, just 60km away from Tully.

There is more rich local information about this unique reef and rainforest area to be seen at the Cardwell Rainforest & Reef Information Centre. Discover the story of Girrus Gurril, the half-man, half-eel of the Girramay people and other details about the Great Barrier Reef. This is where you’ll want to stop and collect more details about this region.

At the historic Cardwell Post Office and Bush Telegraph Station, show the kids what life was like before the mobile phone by sending a morse code message. Get a feel for the early judicial system in the courthouse and look-up, “race to the top of Australia” in the Journey Room or check out the old weather instruments. Built in 1870, the telegraph office is one of the oldest buildings in North Queensland. It has been entered on the Queensland Heritage Register, the Register of the National Trust and the Register of the National Estate of the Australian Heritage Commission.

The Girrung Aboriginal Art Centre is where you can see contemporary and traditional art from the region’s nine traditional owner groups. Work includes traditional baskets, paintings, ceramics and wooden artefacts as well as the unique Bagu with Jiman artwork inspired by the traditional fire making implements of the Girrung rainforest people.

Driving west from the centre of town, is the Cardwell Forest Drive, 26km’s of scenic loops exploring swimming holes, a natural fed spa pool and waterfalls with great picnic spots, which is becoming a popular location for mountain biking enthusiasts.

Further north of Kennedy take the Bilyana turn-off to see the Murray Falls. This is a wetlands national park in a small area between the highway and the coast.

Kennedy local store on the Bruce Highway signals the turn off to the Kirrama Range Road. One of Queensland’s greatest engineering feats, Kirrama Range Road is recommended 4WD adventure through Wet Tropics World Heritage Area via lookouts and beautiful creeks up to the spectacular Blencoe Falls. Its only 62km to the Falls but allow around 3 hours, you won’t want to rush it. You camp at Blencoe Falls or drive on and through to Mt Garnet.

Further north of Kennedy take the Bilyana turn-off to see Murray Falls, a drive west of about 20km, the last 2km from the park entrance is unsealed. Here the rainforest-clad mountains meet tropical lowlands in the foothills of the Kirrama Range. Waters of the Murray River cascade in a stunning 30m drop over boulders into rock pools. One of the region’s most popular campgrounds, swimming and rock slides are popular here, along with the picnic area. The Falls can be viewed from the boardwalk or walk through the rainforest to the lookout. Driving out of the area you can rejoin the highway further north at Murmigal, just 60km away from Tully.
TOWNSVILLE
Airport
Rollingstone
Balgal Beach
Paluma
Forrest Beach
Taylors Beach
INGHAM
Halifax
Lucinda
Wallaman Falls
Crystal Creek
Japoonvale
Jourama Falls
Airport

Electricity for the cities of Cairns and Townsville. Was built in the Tully Gorge which is a major provider of important agricultural area, surrounded by wild rivers and misty mountains.

TULLY
4854 - Cassowary Coast Regional Council

Historical Fact: In 1935, a hydro electric power station was built in the Tully Gorge which is a major provider of electricity for the cities of Cairns and Townsville.

Local Interests: Rugby League (home of the Tully Tigers), golf, bowls, fishing, horse and trail bike riding, white water rafting, kayaking, Aboriginal Culture.

Famous For: The Giant Golden Gumboot, a monument to the record breaking rains of 1950, when 7.9 metres of rainfall made it the wettest town in Australia, Tully Mill Tours.

Events: Tully Show - the best little show in Qld. Camp Drafting, Rodeo, Christmas Street party, Skydiving, Rafting, Biking & Golf events.

Swim Spots: Town Pool. Locals swim at Alligators Nest (no wild animals) & Tully Gorge.

Taste: 90 per cent of Australia’s bananas are produced in the Tully/Innisfail area. Also watermelons and papaws and other exotic tropical fruits.

Find Out More:
Phone (07) 4068 2288

Driving up the Bruce Highway you’ll cross the Tully River. Further on is the turn-off to Tully Heads and Hull Heads, two beachside villages approximately 25km from the highway. Both are located near Googara Beach and overlook the Family Group Islands with fishing the most popular activity. These quiet beach communities have accommodation with a campground, caravan park and tavern.

The Tully Visitor and Heritage Centre has an interpretive display giving the history of the area. Here you can book tours of the Tully Sugar Mill during cane harvesting season for a fascinating insight to how the cane is crushed and made into sugar.

Cool Tip: A sandy swimming hole and rainforest-fringed picnic area called Alligators Nest is the best place to cool down at Tully. Ten minutes drive from town along Murray St and Bulgan Road.

Indigenous rainforest people offer tours on land and local waterways providing unique insights to special places.

With so much rain spilling down from the mountains it is no wonder Tully is considered one of Australia’s best spots to go white-water rafting. The river plunges through Tully Gorge National Park, which has a camping area not far from the Kareeya hydro-power station. From the camping area, a short wheelchair-accessible walk takes you through rainforest known for its colourful butterflies which are best seen between September and February.

Fit hikers will enjoy the panoramic view of Tully and its surrounding farms from Mt Tyson which rises 687m behind the town. Access to the walking track is from Brannigan St in Tully, with the difficult walk taking up to three hours.

Part of the Misty Mountains wilderness walking tracks network is in Tully Gorge National Park. The Cochable Creek camping area on the bank of the creek is great for swimming and short walks and a base for mountain b.ing.
Mission Beach

Idyllic tropical beaches, World Heritage rainforest and Great Barrier Reef islands.

**FAST FACTS:**
Mission Beach 4852 • Cassowary Coast Regional Council

**HISTORICAL FACT:** Australia’s first tea plantation was developed at Bingil Bay.

**LOCAL INTERESTS:** Tennis, cricket, futsal, golf at El Arish & Tully; fishing, sailing, surf lifesaving, cycling, pentangue, outrigger canoeing, kayaking & blokarts.

**FAMOUS FOR:** Dunk Island, Saving the Great Barrier Reef.

Ski diving with beach landings, and the endangered southern cassowary – Australia’s largest rainforest bird.

Find Out More:
Phone (07) 4068 7099
www.missionbeachtourism.com

Laidback Mission Beach is where you will find beautiful sandy beaches lined with coconut palms and tropical islands close enough to paddle to. This picturesque 14km length of coastline comprises the four villages of South Mission Beach, Wongaling Beach, North Mission Beach and Bingil Bay.

Accommodation choices are many: from backpacker hostels to caravan parks by the beach, to bed and breakfasts, motels and resorts. There’s also a diverse range of self-contained rental property, caravan parks by the beach, to bed and breakfasts, motels and resorts. There is an array of dining options scattered in each village from take-aways, cafés and coffee shops to gourmet bistros and restaurants.

When you do want to get active you can fill your days exploring gentle eco-friendly options or extreme experiences for adrenalin seekers. There are all sorts of boating options whether you prefer fishing, sailing, diving or an adventure and island picnic trip. Stay the night on a Great Barrier Reef island or take a day trip just to snorkel and swim. The water taxi and other charters can take you to the famous Dunk Island National Park and nearby is the exclusive eco-resort of Bedarra Island.

EXPLORE AROUND:

**Events:** Banana Festival, Ona Mission Multisport Adventure weekend; Beach Run Half Marathon, Surf Carnival, Sailing Regatta.

**Swim Spots:** Beaches and swim nets at South and North Mission beaches in season; Lacey Creek on road to El Arish.

**Taste:** Local Spanish mackerel, local Bingil Bay Beef, local exotic fruits.

Maybe you’ll just charter something; a helicopter, jet ski, blo-harri, scooter, yacht, rental car, paddle board, bike, infrared or a local expert. There are all sorts of boating options whether you prefer fishing, sailing, diving or an adventure and island picnic trip. Stay the night on a Great Barrier Reef island or take a day trip just to snorkel and swim. The water taxi and other charters can take you to the famous Dunk Island National Park and nearby is the exclusive eco-resort of Bedarra Island.

If it’s total relaxation, pampering or wedding preparations you are after, the villages offer beauty and massage services. There is an array of dining options scattered in each village from take-aways, cafés and coffee shops to gourmet bistros and restaurants.

Browse through the Mission Arts Gallery and Arts Centre at MARCS park, or the various boutique shops. Visit the Mission Beach Visitor Information Centre or the Mission Beach Travel Centre at Wongaling Beach for ideas on what to do.
Bush walking is a must and the best way of seeing a cassowary in the wild. The range of short walks to longer hikes takes you through a variety of landscapes, many of these are in the Dju’up Ngalu National Park. The Licuala day-use area is just off the road from Mission Beach to Tully. The path is great for bird watching with cassowaries frequenting the area. A short children’s walk (1000m) branches off the start of the walk, following cassowary ‘footprints’ to a “nest and eggs”. Sroll under a canopy of fan palms on the Licuala Fan Palm walk (1.3km, 30 minutes).

**WONGALING BEACH**

Wongaling Beach is the central beach village with plenty of choices to stay. Accommodation includes backpacker hostels, caravan parks, a large resort, many smaller apartments, boutique B&Bs and holiday homes. Many restaurants are located on or near the beachfront. Wongaling Beach is the only stop point in Mission Beach for the major bus companies on their way north to Cairns or south to Brisbane and beyond.

**MISSION BEACH**

Just 10 minutes drive up the road, or 20 minutes by bike on the sealed bike track, is the main village of Mission Beach, known locally as North Mission, with its many shops, restaurants and cafes, and a small supermarket.

There is a wide selection of accommodation from caravan parks to resorts. Take your time to stroll around the shops and along the beach, maybe stop at the Beach Hut where there is a stinger net which is patrolled at various times during the season.

The Mission Beach Visitor Information Centre is further up Porter Promenade where you can research and book all local attractions. The Ulysses Walk tracks the beach from North Mission to meet up with The Cutten Brothers walk.

There are a number of day trips and activities available from Mission Beach. You can hire a tinnie, or sit and enjoy a meal from the small shop and takeaway. There is a stinger net and a patrolled beach (in season). You can walk (1.3km, 30 minutes).

**SOUTH MISSION BEACH**

South Mission Beach has a caravan park and many holiday homes to rent. There is a stinger net and a patrolled beach (in season). You can hire a tinnie, or sit and enjoy a meal from the small shop and takeaway. There is a Surf Life Saving and sailing club at the end of the road. South Mission Beach also backs on to the Hull River National Park, a large estuarine mangrove system and swamp forest area. Here you can fish the protected waters of the Hull River or spot a crocodile.

**MISSION BEACH**

The Edmund Kennedy Walking Track to Lugger Bay is one of the most spectacular walks in the area. A coastal walk, and one of the longest (7km, 4 hours), it has breathtaking views of Dunk Island and its neighbouring Family Island Group, beaches and the mouth of the Hull River.
Kurrimine Beach

A beachside haven where The Great Barrier Reef nearly touches the coastline.

Silkwood | Murdering Point Road | King Reef | Maria Creek | Canecutter Way | Cowley Beach

SECRET BEACH:
North of Bingil Bay take the turn to Gamers Beach and turn again at Hot Read. At the bottom of the hill you'll find secluded Brookers Beach, the entrance nestled between two bushy outcrops, a haven you'll most likely have all to yourself.

Continue on Bingil Bay road to loop around and back into Mission Beach or out to the Bruce Highway at El Arish. Keep an eye out for the local cattlemen mustering the famous Bingil Bay Beef from paddock to paddock. These spottled, grass-fed beasts enjoy ocean views while they fatten up, which many say could be why they are the best tasting beef in North Queensland.

On the El Arish-Mission Beach Road heading back into Mission Beach is Lacey Creek. A day-use area in Djiru National Park, the Lacey Creek Walk (1.5km, 45 minutes) has interpretative signage, a cassowary information display and a beautiful rainforest creek.

Lacey Creek Beach is a day-use area in Djiru National Park, the Lacey Creek Walk (1.5km, 45 minutes) has interpretative signage, a cassowary information display and a beautiful rainforest creek.

EL ARISH

Just off the Bruce Highway in the Mission Beach hinterland is the World War I soldier settlement village of El Arish. The town is named after a major battleground in Palestine where the light horsemen defeated the Turks. It has strong historical links with streets named after Generals and battle sites, and one of the region's largest Anzac day services is held at the cenotaph.

The old railway station has been relocated and converted to the El Arish History Station and the original canecutters hotel, built in 1927, now a tavern, has memorabilia on display. There is a small caravan park, popular golf course and country club. A creek at the southern end of village on Old Tully Road is ideal for a picnic or swim.

The Musgravea track (6km one way, 25 hours) is a multi-use track for walkers and mountain-bike riders following an old forestry road through rainforest and over creeks. The track can be accessed from either the Lucala day-use area or the trailhead on the El Arish-Mission Beach Road. For a more moderate hike involving quite steep terrain join the Dreaming trail (3.2km one way, 15 hours) at the Lacey Creek day-use area.

EXPLORE AROUND:

Kurrimine Beach is just half an hour from the towns of Innisfail, Tully and Mission Beach and is in a rain shadow area receiving much less rain than surrounding areas.

COWLEY BEACH

Travelling north, Cowley Beach is located further along your journey, just 20 minutes from Innisfail. Here you will find a quiet beachfront hamlet that has a jetty and caravan park. Throw a line in Liverpool Creek for mangrove jacks, barramundi, bream and flathead or use the boat ramp to head out to the Barnard Islands.

www.tropicalcoasttourism.com.au

Kurrimine Beach 4871 | Cassowary Coast Regional Council

HISTORICAL FACT:
Originally named Murdering Point in reference to the fate of shipwrecked survivors who were eaten by local Aboriginal people.

LOCAL INTERESTS:
Fishing, spearfishing, snorkelling/ diving, archery, jet ski-range and horseriding on the beach.

FAMOUS FOR:
Walk to the Reef and Tractors - finest collection of old tractors still used to launch fishing boats.

To Innisfail / Cairns

To Tully / Townsville

To Tully / Townsville

To Tully / Townsville
**Innisfail**

Agriculturally rich and proud historic town on two mighty Wet Tropic’s rivers.

**Mourilyan | Etty Bay | Mourilyan Harbour | Coquette Point | Warrina Lakes | The Coconuts | Flying Fish Point | Ella Bay | Palmerston Highway | Misty Mountains | Garradunga | Woopen Creek | Josephine Falls

**Fast Facts:**

Innisfail 4860

**Cassowary Coast Regional Council**

**Historical Fact:**

Est 1879 originally named Geraldton, Innisfail was renamed at a public meeting in 1910 after a ship confused towns and travelled to Geraldton WA.

**Local Interests:**

A famous rugby league town, soccer, tennis, golf, swimming, Josephine Falls, Ella Bay, cricket, skydiving, fishing, hunting, outrigger canoeing, horse racing.

**Famous For:**

Art deco buildings, built after the cyclone in 1918 which destroyed almost every building in town.

**Explore Around:**

Events:

Feast of the senses (Mar), Innisfail Big Fish Tournament (Sep), Horse Racing - Annuals (Oct), Innisfail Show, Concerts & Major Art competitions.

Swim Spots:

Town Pool, Warrina Lakes pool, Polly’s Creek (north of town).

Taste:

Tropical fruits from shops and road side stalls. You must have a local banana! Local fresh caught seafood. Local vanilla and local coffee.

**Find Out More:**

Phone 0428 228 962

www.tropicalcoasttourism.com.au

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**Canecutter Way Scenic Drive**

Famous for its combination of history and magnificent North Queensland scenery.

**Kurrimine Beach | Silkwood | Nyyle Creek | Japoonvale | Liverpool Creek | Mena Creek | Paronella Park | South Johnstone | Wangan | Innisfail**

**Fast Facts:**

Six Villages, 52 Kilometres, Beach – Hinterland

**Historical Fact:**

Old Bruce Highway and popular respite stop for American and Aussie troops in World War 2.

**Local Interests:**

Live music, bush poetry, local markets, horse sports, mountain hiking and biking, camping & waterfall picnics.

**Famous For:**

Known as the Greatest Detour in the North.

José Paronella – building his dream in the Rainforest.

**Explore Around:**

Events:

Feast of the Three Saints Silkwood. Bush Poets Breakfast Mena Creek, Community Night Markets 3rd Friday of the month Kurrimine Beach.

Swim Spots:

Kurrimine Beach and Etty Bay.

Taste:

Local Wines and Liquors, Chocolate & Honey.

**Find Out More:**

www.canecutterway.com.au

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Between Silkwood and Innisfail is the alternative scenic route, The Canecutter Way. The drive takes you through small rural communities with lots to see and do. You can cool off in a swimming hole, discover local craft, enjoy a cold beer or explore romantic ruins. Locally grown beef, award-winning meat pies, fresh fruit and even chocolate from local cocoa can be found at shops and fruit stalls along the way.

Starting at Kurrimine Beach, the drive passes through cane and fruit farms with Silkwood, Japoonvale, Mena Creek, South Johnstone and Wangan in between.

The tiny town of Silkwood is the site of Australia’s largest religious and cultural festival, the Feast of the Three Saints, which is held the first Sunday in May. Mass is celebrated in honour of the Saints and the family event includes a parade, feast, live band and great fireworks. Silkwood is where you will find Australia’s only pepper van. Fields of pepper can be seen along the road.

The Queenslander country-hotels are always a good option to call in for a counter meal or burger, or some local entertainment whether it is a trivia night or a game of pool.

If you wish to stay a little longer to fully explore the area, discover life on a farm-stay with a resident bush poet and entertaining working dogs. Other choices include cabins, self-contained cottages in spectacular gardens, and a caravan park.

One of The Canecutter Way’s most romantic stories is found at the award winning Paronella Park in Mena Creek. Created in the 1930s by Spanish immigrant José Paronella, his vision included Spanish themed castles and a grand ballroom, powered by his very own hydro electric generator, and framed by magnificent gardens, lakeside tunnels, fountains and bridges.

The heritage of the sugar industry remains visible along the road with many old cane barracks (houses) still standing. As you come into South Johnstone during the cane harvesting season that starts in June you will smell the sweet aroma of sugar being processed at the mill. Cane trains operate down the main street of this quaint town, a must see, with interesting local businesses.

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**Swim Spots:**

Kurrimine Beach and Etty Bay.

**Events:**

Feast of the Three Saints.

Local Interests:

Live music, bush poetry, local markets, horse sports, mountain hiking and biking, camping & waterfall picnics.

**Famous For:**

Known as the Greatest Detour in the North. José Paronella – building his dream in the Rainforest.

**Historical Fact:**

Estimated at a public meeting in 1910 after a ship confused towns and travelled to Geraldton WA.

**Local Interests:**

A famous rugby league town, soccer, tennis, golf, swimming, Josephine Falls, Ella Bay, cricket, skydiving, fishing, hunting, outrigger canoeing, horse racing.

**Famous For:**

Art deco buildings, built after the cyclone in 1918 which destroyed almost every building in town.

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**Explore Around:**

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**Find Out More:**

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The Sugar Museum will show you how green stalks become refined white crystals for your tea. This is an ideal all-weather option (wet day or hot days) to discover history that is a major part of this region and its cultural diversity.

Historic tractors, locomotives, harvesters and a working model of a 500 horse power driven crushing engine are on display along with a collection of contemporary and historical photographs and artefacts related to Australia’s sugar industry. Recently an exhibit based around the historic cane barracks, which are still seen around the region, was opened. Around the historic barracks is now part of the Australian Sugar Heritage Centre complex.

The town has a vibrant retail centre with some national stores and many smaller specialty shops, a highlight is Indigenous art gallery Jitta Art, where you might just catch a didgeridoo workshop or a new exhibition. Innisfail has a large and diverse range of Art Deco buildings, the CBD was largely rebuilt in this style following a cyclone in 1988 which destroyed much of the town. Today you can explore the buildings on The Innisfail Town Walk where you also will find The Chinese Joss House, one of only a few still in use in Queensland.

Still in town, Warrina Lakes is a 50 hectare recreational park with kilometres of walkways through open parkland, lakes, wooded areas and rainforest trails. Within the park you can visit the Bushucher Gardens, established by the MaMu traditional owners, the Bill Marwell Botanical Gardens and Anzac Grove. Ducks and geese can be seen in the lake and there is a swimming pool, barbecues, picnic tables, a playground with bocce and volleyball equipment available, or fly a kite or hike the foosy in the wide open spaces.

Cross the southern bridge to follow the river down to the headland at Coquette Point, a marvellous high point to see the district, its two rivers and the coastline. Crossing the northern bridge on Flying Fish Points Road, track the north side of the river for a pretty drive to The Coconuts where the river meets the ocean, and on to Flying Fish Points where you can throw in a line from the beach. Stop here for a picnic or meal of fish and chips, or stay in the caravan park.

Innisfail’s annual Feast of the Senses celebrates the region’s produce with a market day extravaganza featuring farmers’ markets, cooking demonstrations and a celebrity cook-off. Various activities are held either side of the main event and include farm tours, a poet’s breakfast and gala dinner featuring local produce.

Following your journey out of Innisfail over the North Johnstone River is the turnoff to the back roads of Garradunga, and the famous pub, said to be haunted. On the highway beyond the Russell River is the turnoff to Josephine Falls, a favourite waterfall among some stiff competition along the Bruce Highway.

This section of Wooroonooran National Park has a short, easy walk from the car park through lush rainforest to lookouts and a popular picnic area. A great place to swim and side down rocks, but take note of the warnings.
Babinda
Starting from this little town, create your own recreational adventure – Wet or Dry!

MURRINNIN | BRAMSTON BEACH | EUBEUNANGEE SWAMP | THE BOULDERS | MOUNT BARTLE FERRE

FAST FACTS:
Babinda 4861 - Cairns Regional Council

HISTORICAL FACT: Officially Australia’s wettest town.

LOCAL INTERESTS: Fishing, golf, lawn bowls, touch football, frisbee-golf, hunting, paintballing, junior rugby league & swimming.

FAMOUS FOR: The only hotel in Queensland ever (1917) constructed by the State Government.

FIND OUT MORE:
Phone (07) 4067 1008
www.babindainfocentre.com.au

EXPLORE AROUND:

Events:
The Babinda Harvest Festival & The Feast of Saint Rita.

Swim Spots:
Town pool, The Boulders, Babinda Creek, Howard Kennedy Drive, Bramston Beach, Josephine Falls & Harvey Creek (Hwy North).

Taste:
An icy cold beer from a government-built hotel!

As you drive along the Bruce Highway from Innisfail, turn off the Bruce Highway at Murrinbin to explore Eubenangee Swamp National Park. This wetland is world renowned with more than 190 bird species. Water birds are prolific, birds of prey circle overhead, the vulnerable crimson finch can be seen in the grasslands and crocodiles are sometimes spotted in the Alice River.

Babinda is framed by Queensland’s two highest mountains, Mt Bartle Frere (1622m), and Mt Bellenden Ker (1593m), which gets an average 12-10 metres of rain each year. The rural township subsequently boasts the highest rainfall in Australia, with average rainfall in excess of 4m. Here some of the region’s most challenging and rewarding trails cross this rugged World Heritage area. Take a dip in the cool mountain water of the Babinda Boulders, this pretty reserve has a picnic area, safe swimming area, campground and signposted walks. Downstream the creek settles to offer a unique experience to swim or hayait in the clear waters with sandy beaches to spot fish, turtles and even platypus.

In the Babinda township itself you will find Art Deco buildings, an historic hotel, friendly shops and services as well as the Babinda Information Centre. The Babinda Air Raid Shelter is Queensland’s most intact World War 2 public air raid shelter and now serves as a brightly painted toilet block.

Drive further to the peaceful village of Bramston Beach. The beach has a sinner net and a small range of accommodation including caravan parks, motel, B&Bs and holiday homes. Bramston Beach is a popular fishing spot; anglers can expect to catch bream, grunter, whiting and possibly a jumping cod from the beach, at the right time of year. From Bramston Beach you can access the Russell River National Park with a 4WD to camp or fish.

Around the Babinda and Bramston Beach region there are many wet or dry recreational pursuits to thrill you!

Often you cannot plan the weather but these outdoor experiences should get you cool, wet or at least exposed to the water: Fishing at Bramston Beach, Swimming at The Boulders; Bird watching in a significant habitat national park; or hayaiting the gentle Babinda Creek. Paintballing through a unique rainforest mountain park with a large group will have you sweating at least. Finish off by downing an icy cold beer at the main pub - real wet options!

Alternatively, the dry options include: Relaxing with a great coffee and a good book at the café in Bramston Beach; or enjoying a picnic basket of freshly baked pastries from the bakery at a local swimming hole. Maybe drop into the Babinda Information Centre to find out more about local history and activities. Get yourself really comfortable in a deck chair and watch a latest release movie in a truly unique local theatre. Again to thrill you!

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EXPLORE AROUND:

Events: Cairns Ironman & Adventure Festival, RRR and Croc Trophy Mountain Bike races, Cairns Show & Cairns Amateurs - Horseracing Carnival.

Swim Spots: Harvey Creek at Bellenden Ker, Aloomba (Behana Creek), Mulgrave River at Goldsborough Valley, The Esplanade Lagoon - Cairns.

Taste: Seafood fresh from the Coral Sea.

FAST FACTS:
Cairns 4870 - Cairns City Council

HISTORICAL FACT: Set up as a port to service the northern gold rush.

LOCAL INTERESTS: A modern city, all sports and a diversity of leisure interests are catered for.

FAMOUS FOR: International Gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and scenic drive.

Find Out More:
Phone (07) 4051 3588
www.cairns-greatbarrierreef.org.au

From Babinda you will pass Harvey Creek, a great spot for a cool dip. Turn off the highway at Deeral, a fishing haven offering river and ocean fishing options. The Frankland Group National Park, a group of five islands just 10km offshore from the river mouth. Snorkel with turtles straight off the shore, discover rock pools or walk around Normanby Island. The islands can be accessed by private boat or take a day tour. Use either the Russell (Bellenden Ker) or Mulgrave (Deeral) river boat ramps.

Fishery Falls has a caravan park in lovely landscaped gardens. Stop for a cold beer and a chat with the locals, before heading north again.

Look for the turn off from the Bruce Highway to Aloomba to cool off at the Behana Creek causeway where you also will find toilets and a picnic area. On the other side of the highway, Behana Gorge also offers hiking and swimming options.

Soon you will see the distinctive Walshs Pyramid, one of the highest freestanding natural pyramids in the world. The difficult hike to the summit is only 6km, but takes about six hours return.