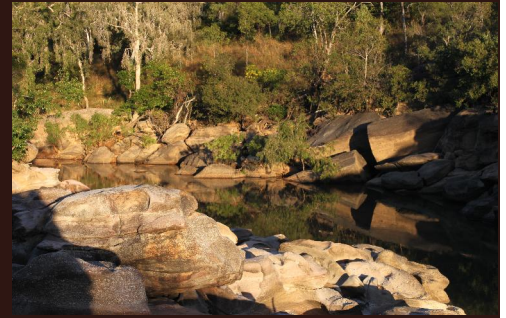




# Off Road Adventure Safaris

[www.tourcapeyork.com.au](http://www.tourcapeyork.com.au)



## OUR COMMITMENT

### TO THE ENVIRONMENT

We endeavour to conduct our safaris in a format that ensures minimal impact on the environment. That is why we only do small group tours.

### TO THE COMMUNITIES WE VISIT

Wherever possible we access services and supplies locally – assisting in the viability of the communities we travel within. We continually foster goodwill and educate our guests to do the same.

### TO YOU – OUR VALUED GUEST

We recognise the value of your holiday and appreciate the trust you place in us. We are committed to ensuring that you have an enjoyable holiday experience. We guarantee all departures; our itineraries are true reflections of our products; our vehicles and equipment is maintained to the highest of standards. Your safety and comfort is paramount and all decisions are made with this, the needs of the individual and the group in mind.

We take your holiday seriously so that you don't have to.

Mark and Jody Essenhigh  
(Owner/Operators)

## SPECIALIST SMALL GROUP 4WD ADVENTURE SAFARIS

Off Road Adventure Safaris is a family owned and operated boutique 4WD touring company based in Hervey Bay, Queensland. We operate small group charters and tours throughout the remote regions of Australia.

We specialise in private charter / soft adventure touring with customised itineraries. Our charter trips are tailored to meet the specific needs or special interests you may have.

Our Safaris encompass all the major sites - as well as some amazing hidden treasures.

Off Road Adventure Safaris prides itself on showing you the splendour our country has to offer - accessing sites well off the usual tourist maps and away from the crowds.

Our nationally qualified Tour Guides have extensive touring and driving experience and are committed to providing you with more than just a 4WD tour.

With Off Road Adventure Safaris you can feel confident of personalised service as one of only 6 guests.

You will travel in a safe, modern, air-conditioned 4WD vehicle, and for camping tours we tow a fully equipped safari trailer with all the creature comforts. In our world camping is spelt 'luxury' - whether utilising the facilities of designated sites or 'roughing-it' in the bush. For accommodated tours we utilise the best facilities available to ensure your comfort and enjoyment.





# Off Road Adventure Safaris

## CLIMATE

Winter in the tropical north is the dry season and the temperatures will be mild with low humidity. Through the months of September & October, the temperatures will become increasingly warmer.

## FITNESS

Our Safaris have been designed to suit a reasonable level of fitness. People suffering from a lack of tolerance or not of general good health should not consider these Safaris.

## LUGGAGE

One bag (soft sided) – 80cm x 30cm x 30cm. This will be provided as part of your booking. You may also bring a small day bag or pack.

## WHAT TO BRING

Clothing should be casual and footwear comfortable. Swimwear, a hat, sunglasses, sun protection, insect repellent, a pair of fast-drying wet-shoes, personal toiletries, a jacket and a change of warm clothes. Don't forget your camera, cash or credit card for personal expenses. You may wish to bring some soft drinks and/or alcohol (note alcohol restrictions apply in some areas visited) – NO glass please.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Mobile phone coverage whilst in the Cape is sporadic at best. Rest assured we carry both a satellite phone and EPIRB for emergency situations.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel Insurance is not included in this product. It is strongly recommended that you take out comprehensive travel insurance.

## CONTACT US

PO Box 1938

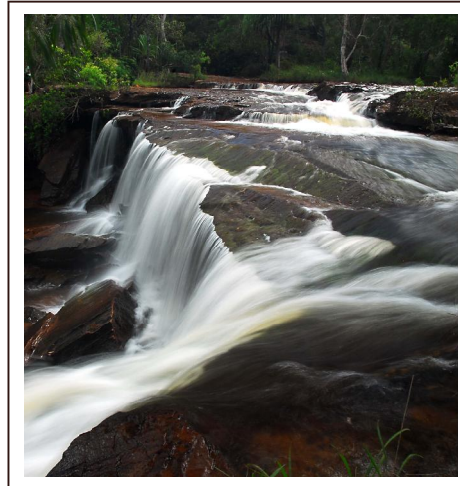
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With Off Road Adventure Safaris you are able to visit the remarkable and world-renowned icons that Cape York is famous for, as well as many 'off the beaten track' destinations. We can show you the heartbeat of the region, and make this magnificent landscape even more vibrant with experiences that will remain with you long after you return home.

Cape York Peninsula is the largest unspoilt wilderness in northern Australia and one of the last remaining great wilderness areas on earth. It supports a complex mosaic of intact tropical rainforests, tropical and subtropical grasslands savannahs, heathlands, wetlands, wild rivers and mangroves.

The flora and fauna of Cape York Peninsula are a complex mixture of Gondwanan relics making it one of the oldest natural habitats in existence. The Cape harbours an extraordinary biodiversity, with more than 700 vertebrate land animal species, of which 40 are found only on Cape York. There are more than 260 identified plant species that are Cape York specific.

The Cape is also home to the oldest living culture on earth. In many of the indigenous communities traditional practices are a daily part of life. The area around Laura, on the southern Cape, has been identified by UNESCO as one of the world's top ten sites for indigenous rock art.

So ... come with us to see, to touch, to smell and to learn ... come with us on a ride to adventure ... on a journey of discovery. Come with us to capture the emotion and romance, the tragedies and triumphs of Australia's amazing north!

## 2014 DEPARTURES

### Accommodated

11 & 31 May 2014

16 June 2014

2 & 19 July 2014

4 & 27 August 2014

13 September 2014

1 October 2014

## 2014 FARES

**Twin Share** **\$7,495 pp**

**Sole Use** **\$8,890 pp**

Early-bird discounts prior to the end of February

**Couples save** **\$350 pp**

**Singles save** **\$250 pp**

**Groups save** **\$400 pp**

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### Deposit / Payment:

We require a deposit of 20% within 7 days of booking your Safari. This confirms your booking. The balance must be paid in full 60 days prior to departure. Bookings made within two months of travel must be paid in full within 72 hours.

### Cancellations / Refunds:

If cancellation occurs more than 60 days prior to departure an administration fee of \$200 per person will be deducted from your refund. Cancellations occurring 60 – 30 days prior to travel a 25% cancellation fee applies; cancellations occurring less than one month prior to departure will incur the following charges: 29 - 14 days prior 70% of total, less than 14 days prior 100% of total.

**FOR FULL TERMS & CONDITIONS PLEASE GO TO**  
**[WWW.TOURCAPEYORK.COM.AU](http://WWW.TOURCAPEYORK.COM.AU)**



## Northern Adventure – 12 day/ 13 night Accommodated Drive / Fly Itinerary

### HIGHLIGHTS

12 FULL days of touring on Cape York

Be assured of personal service and the flexibility of a small group as one of only 6 guests

Travel the Bloomfield Track and discover Historic Cooktown

Immerse yourself in the wonders of Lakefield National Park

Catch a Barramundi in Saltwater Creek (no guarantees!)

Follow the ORIGINAL path of the Overland Telegraph Line

Refresh yourself with a dip at Fruit Bat Falls

Explore Australia's northern most beaches

Get up close and personal with the Australian Saltwater Crocodile whilst cruising on the Solar Whisper

'Toast the Tip' – Pajinka at sunset

Take a tour of the largest Bauxite mine in the World

Enjoy guided tours of both Thursday and Horn Islands

View the Quinkan (Spirit) Galleries at Split Rock

Plus .... Some exclusive sites only available to OUR GUESTS

### ITINERARY CODES

( B ) – Breakfast

( L ) – Lunch

( D ) – Dinner

( T ) – External Tour/Site

### PICK-UP / DEPARTURE INSTRUCTIONS

Pick-up on morning of departure from central Cairns location between 7.30am and 8.00am

### CONTACT US

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### PRE-TOUR – CAIRNS ( D )

Spend the night before your tour in the beautifully appointed Cairns Holiday Inn. With views of the foreshore or the surrounding mountains you can get a feel for this picturesque, tropical city. Tonight you join your fellow travellers and guide for dinner in preparation for your journey into one of the world's last great wilderness areas.



### DAY 1 – CAIRNS TO DAINTREE (B/L/D/T)

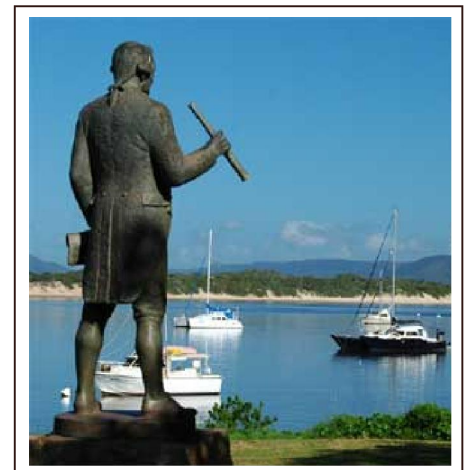
Your Cape York tour begins. We will collect you from your accommodation in Cairns before the start of our journey into one of Australia's iconic destinations - the Cape York Peninsula. We travel along Qld's version of the great ocean road before moving inland to the sugar town of Mossman, on the edge of the world famous Daintree National Park. While in Mossman we will take time out to visit Mossman Gorge

which contains the oldest continuously surviving rainforest on earth. After an early lunch in Mossman we join the Solar Whisper electric boat for a cruise on the Daintree River, where we get up close and personal with the local wildlife and in particular the estuarine crocodiles. This area has Australia's most concentrated population of Salt Water Crocodiles. Crossing the Daintree by vehicle ferry we continue on to our accommodation at Cape Tribulation. Cape Tribulation Beach House Resort, situated right on the beach and set amongst lush tropical rainforest, is sure to delight the most discerning traveller.



### DAY 2 – DAINTREE TO COOKTOWN (B/L/D/T)

Travelling via the Bloomfield Track to Wujal Wujal and Bloomfield Falls we then continue on to the historic Lion's Den Hotel before making our way into Cooktown. This isolated settlement situated on the Endeavour River is steeped in the early history of the area. From Captain Cook beaching the Endeavour for repairs after running aground on a reef, to the gold rush days that saw Cooktown grow from nothing to over 20,000 inhabitants in less than two years, this town has plenty to see and experience. The James Cook Museum and the Botanical Gardens are well worth a visit and a stroll through the main street is part of the experience. Drop into the 'Croc Shop' and meet Linda, Cape York's female version of Crocodile Dundee. You will be impressed by the view from Grassy Hill Lookout, where Cook encountered his first Gungaru (Kangaroo). The Sovereign Resort, our accommodation for tonight, is beautifully presented and staying with Sally and her team is always an enjoyable experience. Congratulations you are now officially on The Cape York Peninsula.





## DAY 3 – COOKTOWN TO LOTUSBIRD LODGE (B/L/D/T)

### INCLUSIONS

Nationally qualified, professional Tour Guide with extensive 4WD touring experience

Group limousine pick-up upon your return from Cape York

Travel in comfort in a purpose modified GXL Landcruiser

No Fuel Levy

Professional commentary delivered by integrated PA system

13 nights' accommodation in superior lodgings

ALL meals as coded (mix of continental and hot breakfasts, generous lunches and 2 course dinners)

Where our schedule permits – morning / afternoon tea and sundowners (nibbles & drinks at sunset)

Ice boxes for personal drinks (water supplied)

Ferry to Thursday Island & transfer to Horn Island

Return Scenic Flight to Cairns

National Park, site & ferry fees

Tours/activities as listed

Fishing equipment for the enthusiasts

### ITINERARY NOTE

On this journey we are travelling to very remote regions. Occasionally things happen which may require a change to the itinerary. To enjoy the full benefit of your journey you should be flexible, open-minded and prepared for the unexpected – because, after all, this is outback Australia.

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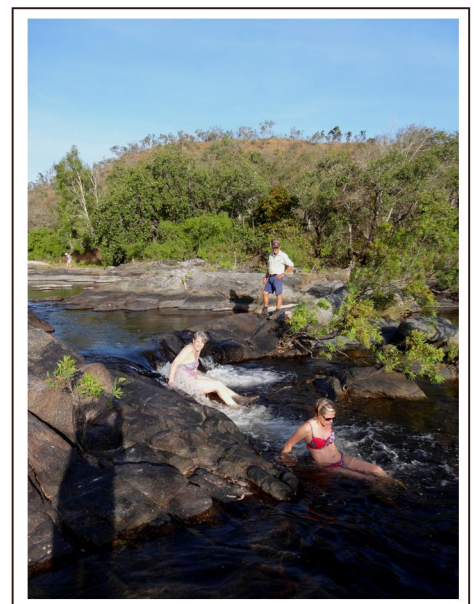
Leaving Cooktown we travel through the agricultural area of Lakeland Downs, named for the Earl of Lakeland, one of the original settlers in the area. Our first scheduled stop for today is the Split Rock Art Gallery near the small town of Laura. We are joined by one of the traditional owners to explain the importance and mystery of this ancient art. The area around Laura is known as Quinkan Country, a reference to the ancestral beings that roam the region. Numbered at over 1,200 sites, the rock art of this area is considered to be of international importance. Step into the Laura General Store and you will feel that you have stepped back in time. Have your photo taken with the fully restored Baby Austin, the same model of car that made the first overland trip to the Cape - setting a record of twenty five flat tyres in one day. Whilst in Laura we visit the Quinkan Cultural Centre to learn more of the indigenous history of the area. Leaving the sealed roads behind, we will make our way into Lakefield National Park. At



537,000 hectares (1.25 million acres) this is Queensland's second largest National Park. Open savannahs, water lily covered billabongs and a mosaic of forest types support a diversity of wildlife and birds and a large population of saltwater crocodiles. There are so many beautiful places to stop in Lakefield it becomes hard to choose however we will be stopping at White and Red Lilly Lagoons and the Nifold Plains. We also cross the Laura, Kennedy, Hann and Morehead Rivers. We will break the journey at the stunningly beautiful Saltwater Creek where you can try your luck for a Barramundi. From here it is only a short journey to the impressive (and exclusive) Lotusbird Lodge where we will spend the night. Gary and Sue are our hosts for tonight and just wait till you taste the food.

## DAY 4 – LOTUSBIRD LODGE TO ARCHER RIVER (B/L/D)

Our destination for today is the Archer River, one of Cape York's largest river systems. With its headwaters in the Great Dividing Range on the eastern side of the Cape this magnificent river flows into the Gulf of Carpentaria on the Western Cape. After a relaxed start we rejoin the Peninsula Development Road (PRD) at Musgrave Station Roadhouse, one of the few remaining original telegraph stations. The telegraph stations were built as fortified outposts and you can still see reminders of this bygone era. Continuing north we come to the town of Coen, once a thriving centre for the gold rush days. You may want to spend some time in the Coen Historical House or meet the locals and fellow adventurers at the sExchange Hotel. The beautiful Coen River is the place for a dip to cool off before travelling on to the Archer River Roadhouse, a green oasis beside the Archer River. This establishment, a piece of Cape York history, was the first roadhouse established specifically to service travellers on their way to the Tip of Cape York. Prepare to be amazed when you view the flood level marks on the side of the Roadhouse, our accommodation for tonight.





# Off Road Adventure Safaris

## DAY 5 – ARCHER RIVER TO PORTLAND ROAD (B / L / D)

Today's journey takes us to the remote village of Portland Roads where they try to keep the population under ten to avoid rush hour gridlock. During WWII this was a supply port for the military bases that were established in the area. Our drive through the Ironstone Range reveals magnificent views of the cyclone swept mountains that, for eons, have protected the largest remaining lowland rainforest in Australia and one of the last in the world. This area is doubly important as it supports the northern-most community of Australian Cassowaries. Staying at Portland House on the shores of Weymouth Bay is an experience to be remembered. The owner has travelled extensively and the house is tastefully decorated with an eclectic collection gathered during his journeys. Wine and cheese are the order of the day as we watch the sun set over the bay. Our hosts, Greg and Sheree, will treat us to the freshest seafood dinners and friendly hospitality to compliment our stay.



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### DID YOU KNOW

On this journey you will travel approximately 2,500km, 1000 km of this is on dirt roads. There is a saying in the Cape – 'Cape York – 9,685,002 corrugations to go'.

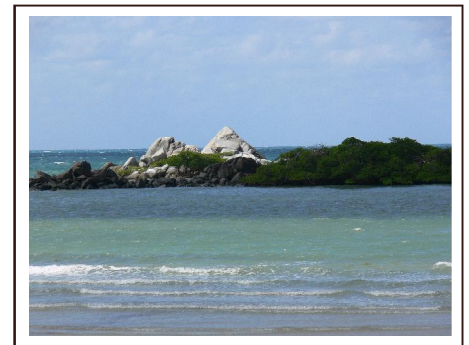
You will drive 'through' almost a dozen rivers or creeks, and cross another 2 rivers by ferry. You will see 2 seas. You will cross the Great Dividing Range 6 times, you will travel along the **original** Overland Telegraph Track and visit 6 stunning waterfalls.

You will 'nod off', sing along to an old favourite and play the 'dip game' along the way. You will sit in the front seat at least once every second day.

You will see at least 25 different species of birds, heaps of wildlife and at least one snake. You will see a fish (and a tree) that spits water; you will view rock art that is more than 15,000 years old and experience a rainforest that pre-dates the Australian continent. You will probably catch a barramundi.

## DAY 6 – PORTLAND ROAD (B / L / D)

No need to pack your bags today as we will be staying a second night at Portland House. Sleep in, have breakfast at your leisure and just enjoy the laid back attitude of what is one of Australia's most isolated communities. Supplies to this area arrive by cargo barge from Cairns. A short trip will have us at Chili Beach and in view of Restoration Island. Once the refuge of Captain Bligh and the men that remained loyal after the mutiny on the Bounty, for the past 26 years it has been home to Australia's own Robinson Crusoe. After lunch at the Out of the Blue Café we will return to Portland House for an afternoon at leisure. For those keen to wet a line Portland Road is renowned for its Cape York fishing. We supply the rods, you supply the fish.



## DAY 7 – PORTLAND ROAD TO WEIPA (B / L / D)



Retracing our journey to the PDR we make our way to Weipa. This mining town has grown out of a chance discovery of bauxite in the 1960's. Originally established by Comalco the town and mine are now owned by Rio Tinto and the mine is, based on reserves, the largest of its kind in the world. A visit to Red Beach will give you an insight to the extended occupation of this area by its traditional owners. This will also put us in close proximity of Duyfken Point. Willem Janszoon, Captain of the Portuguese trading vessel Duyfken, is attributed as having the first white contact with aboriginals in February 1606. Our stay at the Albatross Resort will be complimented by drinks on the deck while watching a (hopefully magnificent) Gulf of Carpentaria sunset.

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## DAY 8 – WEIPA TO MORETON (B/L/D/T)

### DID YOU KNOW

You will learn about the original land owners and the modern explorers and settlers. You will get to know some of the locals. You will have time to explore some of the history of the region and visit the largest bauxite mine in the world.

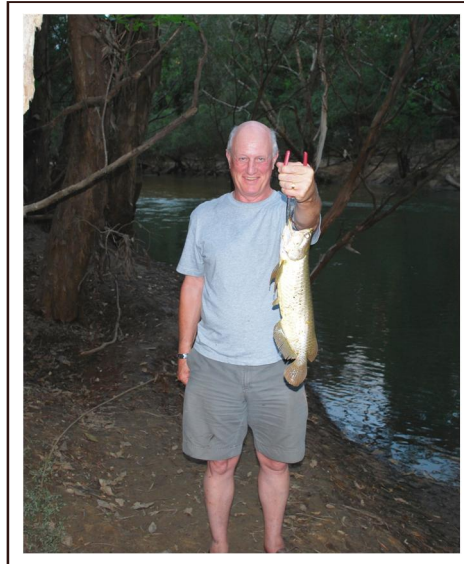
You will have a great day out on the water and see the Torres Strait in all its glory.

You will more than likely 'pee' behind a termite mound somewhere along the road.

You will never go hungry, yet never cook a meal - or wash the dishes. You will get comfortable nights sleep and you will never get up before the sun.

You will go to some sites where only Off Road Adventure Safaris goes.

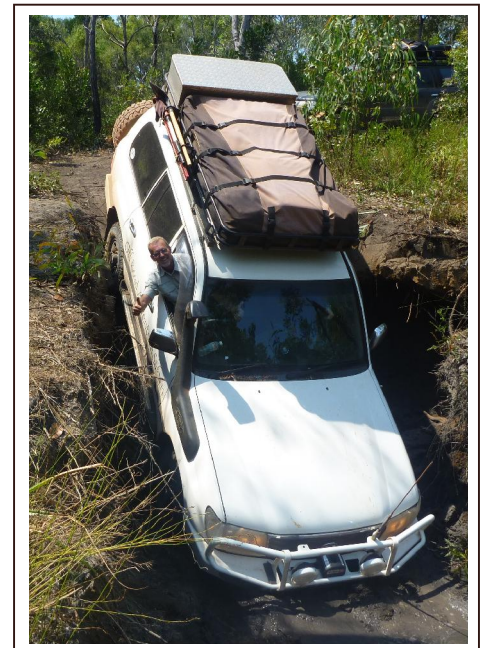
You will relax, you will laugh, you will feel exhilarated and you will be in awe of this amazing destination.



Before leaving Weipa you will join a tour of the mine and its operations. This intriguing three hour tour will also give you an insight into life in such a remote outpost. Our next destination, Moreton Telegraph Station, is only two hours up the road. Situated on the banks of the Wenlock River, Moreton is steeped in the history of the pioneering days of Cape York. Take a stroll along the tree lined banks of the river where clear water flows over a sandy bottom, watch for Archer Fish as they shoot insects off low branches with jets of water - or just sit and enjoy the sounds of the abundant birdlife that inhabits the river valley. This deceptively calm river becomes a raging torrent during the wet and, until the introduction of the bridge, was one of the major impediments to travel along the Cape. Moreton is bird watchers heaven. There is a good chance that we will see Cape York's iconic bird, the Palm Cockatoo. Early in the morning and late in the afternoon flocks of Red Wing Parrots come to Moreton to feed on the numerous fruit trees. Large Barramundi and Saratoga are a regular catch in the river below the campground.

## DAY 9 – MORETON TO PUNSAND BAY (B/L/D)

Today we take on the Overland Telegraph Track (OTT); the last remaining sections of which begin at Bramwell Junction Roadhouse, 40kms north of Moreton. Our first challenge for today will be Palm Creek with its almost vertical approach and a steep rutted departure. The OTT is a place to slow down and take time to enjoy the magnificent wilderness that we are travelling through. Further up the track we stop at the Delhunty River for a morning tea to be remembered. Rejoining the PDR we continue on to Fruit Bat Falls for a refreshing swim followed by a visit to Twin and Elliot Falls. Continuing north we come to the Jardine River, Australia's largest perennial river. Even at the peak of the dry this river flows at approximately four million litres of fresh water a second (no - that is not a typo). Crossing the river by ferry we continue on to Punsand Bay Camping Resort. Situated 5km west of the Tip of Cape York and boasting 10kms of beachfront, at Punsand you can watch the sun rise over the Coral Sea and set over the Arafura Sea. Punsand Bay's geographical position makes it one of Australia's unique accommodation venues. With an abundance of wildlife, Punsand Bay is a paradise for birdwatchers, fishermen, beachcombers, history buffs or adventurers.



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# Off Road Adventure Safaris

## ABOUT US

If you are looking for a company with a fleet of vehicles, massive headquarters and a huge staff, you are on the wrong page. Off Road Adventure Safaris is a husband and wife team and between us we have almost 50 years of experience in the Tourism industry.

Specialising in private charters we have earned a reputation for personalised service and high quality products with the flexibility to meet and exceed the client's expectations.

Now – if that is what you are looking for you are definitely on the right page.

Proud to be associated with



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## DAY 10 – PUNSAND BAY (PAJINKA – 'TIP') (B/L/D)

Cape York, named by Cook in honour of the Duke of York is properly know as Pajinka and commonly referred to as 'The Tip'. Whatever you call it, there is a magical feeling to stand at the end of our continent and know that there is no-one further north than you on mainland Australia. On the way we pass through Lockerbie Scrub, isolated pockets of monsoonal rainforest more at home in Papua New Guinea than Australia. We also visit Somerset, the failed 'Singapore of the Pacific', established by the famous (and sometimes infamous) Jardine family.



No trip to Pajinka is complete without a visit to "The Croc Shop". This Cape York icon, originally established at the Wenlock River, was instrumental in supporting the growth of tourism to the Cape. Currently under the tenure of Dale, Lee and Jaxson, this young family is the epitome of the pioneering spirit of the Cape. To add to the excitement you can start the day with an optional helicopter scenic flight. (POA: needs to be booked well in advance.)

## DAY 11 – PUNDSAND BAY TO THURSDAY ISLAND (B/L/D/T)

An early start today, to catch the ferry, for a trip through the Torres Strait to Thursday Island. The Island has been populated for thousands of years by the Melanesian Torres Strait Islanders, who named the Island Waiben, thought to mean 'no water or place of no water', owing to the scarcity of freshwater. In 1877, an administrative centre for the Torres Strait Islands was established by the Queensland Government. By 1883 over 200 pearling vessels were based on the Island. During World War II, Thursday Island became the military headquarters for the Torres Strait and was a base for Australian and United States forces. January 1942 saw the evacuation of civilians from the Island. Residents of Japanese origin or descent were interned. The residents did not return until after the end of the war and many ethnic Japanese were forcibly repatriated. The Island was spared from bombing in World War II, due, it is thought, to it being the burial place of many Japanese pearl shell divers, or possibly the Japanese thinking there were still Japanese residents on the Island. Following the conclusion of the War the Island tradition of 'no footwear' was reinstated in respect for the ancient spirits believed to reside there. Upon arrival at Thursday Island you will join a tour of the local sites. Following your tour you will be taken to your accommodation for a sumptuous lunch. The afternoon is for you to enjoy as you wish.



## DAY 12 – THURSDAY ISLAND – CAIRNS (B/L/T)



More time to explore the sights of Thursday Island before transferring to Horn Island. Joining Vanessa and Liberty from Torres Straits Heritage for a tour of the Horn Island and the World War II sites is a memorable experience. As part of a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Torres Strait family they will share their world with you and give you an insight into the conditions during the war. After an Asian buffet lunch at the Torres Strait Resort you will have time to explore the Torres Strait Heritage Museum before being transferred to the airport for your flight to Cairns. Undoubtedly the most magnificent scenic flight in Australia you will be able to retrace your journey up the Cape and, weather conditions permitting, have the most incredible views of the Great Barrier Reef. On your return to Cairns you will be met by Cairns Limousines to be taken to your accommodation at Cairns Holiday Inn.