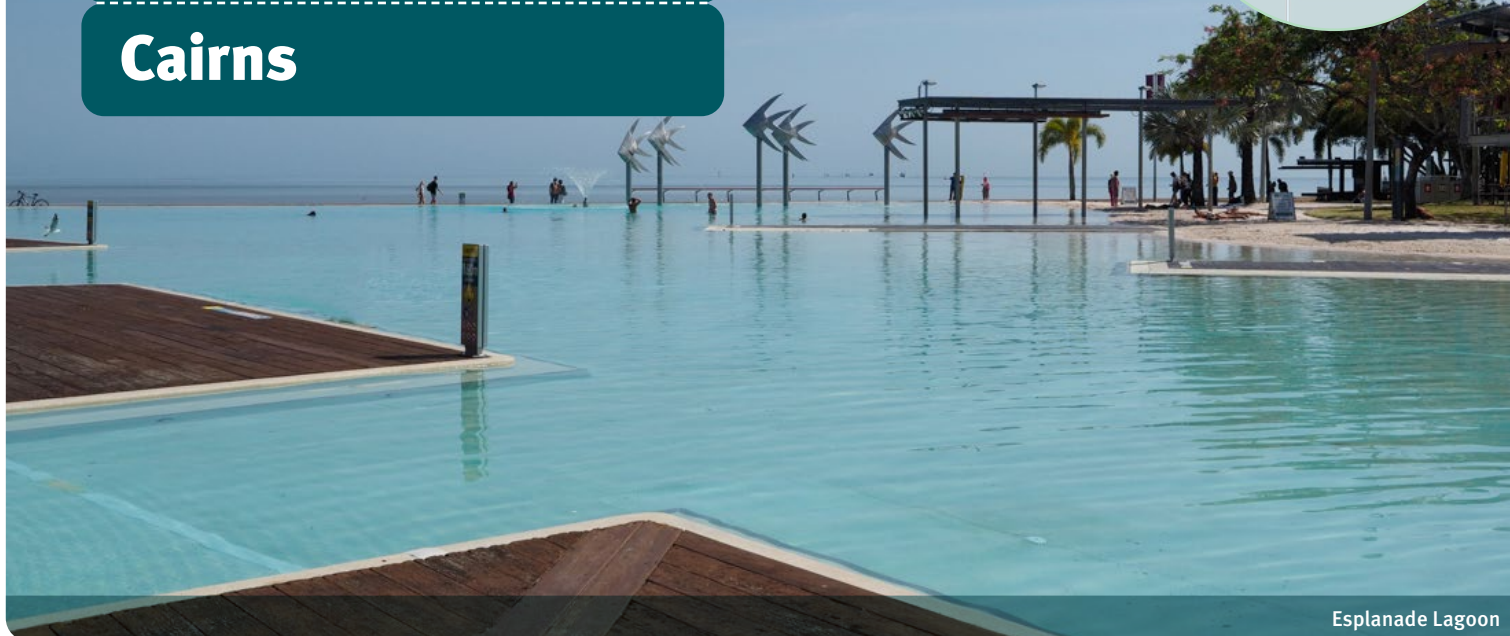


Accessible Holiday Destination Guide

Cairns



Esplanade Lagoon

Accessible tourism is the fastest growing market in tourism. This guide has been prepared as a resource to explore the best accessible experiences in the greater Cairns region.

Cairns is Australia's gateway to the tropical north, home to the Great Barrier Reef and the World Heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest.

CAIRNS CITY

CONTENTS

CAIRNS CITY	1
KURANDA	3
HARTLEY'S CROCODILE ADVENTURES	4
MOSSMAN GORGE	5
NORTHERN BEACHES	5
PORT DOUGLAS	6
CAPE TRIBULATION	7
SUGGESTED ITINERARIES	8
USEFUL LINKS	9

Foreshore Promenade

The Cairns Esplanade stretches 2.5 kilometres along the palm-lined foreshore, through parkland, giving picturesque views across the Coral Sea. The path is flat throughout with a surface alternating between asphalt and wooden boardwalk. Seats are provided at regular intervals. Signage is provided at regular intervals explaining both history and the local fauna.



Cairns City Promenade



Queensland
Government

Esplanade Lagoon

The Cairns Esplanade Lagoon is a large swimming pool located right in the heart of the Cairns business district. The large swimming area is patrolled daily by life guards. The lagoon can accommodate 1,000 swimmers at any one time. The depth ranges from 80 to 152 centimetres and the Cairns Lagoon features underwater seating benches making it easy for all to enjoy. At the southern end of the facility, the lagoon provides level entry into the water for beach wheelchairs. A beach wheelchair is provided in the lifeguard room.

Cairns Esplanade Lagoon Picnic Area

Surrounding the lagoon is a substantial picnic area providing 12 BBQ facilities and associated picnic tables. Each BBQ facility has a bench at the end that provides roll-under access for food preparation and access to the last BBQ in each facility. Every picnic table in the park has roll-under access at both ends of the table with fixed bench seating down each side. Trees provide good shade. Roll-under drinking fountains are also provided throughout the park.

Harbour Boardwalk

On the inlet side of the point, the boardwalk continues along the edge of the harbour. It is a wide boardwalk made of recycled material. Access to each jetty is wide with the slope varying on the state of the tide. At the time of our visits, the tide varied and the slopes were manageable. At extreme low tides, the ramps will exceed 1:14. The jetties give access to the charter fishing fleets, boat hire and water sports operators.

Fishing

Two accessible boats operate out of the Cairns Harbour.

Broadbill

Broadbill is a blue water fishing charter vessel that offers both offshore and estuary fishing tours. It has a wide rear door for wheelchair access. Estuary tours are more suited to those with balance issues or lack upper body strength.

Cairns Calm Water Fishing, Fun and Food

It's a shallow draft calm water fishing vessel offering fishing experiences in Trinity Inlet. The vessel has a large flat under-cover deck area with ample manoeuvring room around the boat. It is licensed to carry 25 passengers and could easily accommodate 10 wheelchairs. The boat has a narrow side entrance but the front of the boat has a wide drop down loading ramp.

Boat Hire

Cairns Boat Hire has a wheelchair accessible pontoon boat perfect for a day on the water on Trinity Inlet. It is available from Berth A1 in the Marlin Marina.

Cairns Night Market

Running between the Esplanade and Abbott Street is the Cairns Night Market. In addition to a multitude of stalls, the market has a large food court with multinational cuisine for those looking for a quick and cheap meal. The food court is well laid out making it easy to navigate. The food vendors are all located against the southern wall. The market is a combination of souvenir, food and local craft stalls. It is a typical market layout. The aisles are wide allowing easy access throughout.

Cairns Aquarium

The Cairns Aquarium is located at 5 Florence Street. There is designated disabled parking directly in front of the building. A ramp is located to the right of the entry stairs. Disabled toilets are located on both level one and level two. The upper level is accessible via an elevator next to the escalator. The pathways through the aquarium are wide, hard-surfaced with all exhibits easily viewable from wheelchair height.

On level two there is a touching experience that can be enjoyed from wheelchair height.

There are two theatrettes in the aquarium. Both contain tiered benches. Only the top level is accessible for wheelchair users, however, a full view of the displays can be seen from that level.





Kuranda Scenic Railway

Cairns Botanic Gardens

The Flecker Botanic Gardens were created in 1886 and covers an area of 38 hectares. It is a tranquil environment of lush tropical vegetation. Most paths through the garden are smooth concrete with moderate grades. The Conservatory has large, wide entry doors and a smooth surface throughout. Some of the old brick paths have been retained for heritage value. The surface and steepness of these paths make them unsuitable for wheelchair users. The gardens use a system of low-level signage to indicate accessible routes.

The visitor centre has an accessible toilet and an accessible café. Designated disabled parking is available at the visitors centre, in Collins Avenue and McCormack Street.

KURANDA

Kuranda Scenic Railway

The Kuranda Scenic Railway operates from Cairns to Kuranda Village. The scenic journey offers spectacular views over the coast and the coral sea as the train climbs onto the Atherton Tablelands. While the train operates from Cairns Central Station, most tourists elect to join the train at Freshwater Station, 20 mins from the Cairns CBD. There is disabled parking available immediately in front of the station with level access from the carpark into the building. Cars may be parked in these bays all day. A wheelchair hoist is available at all stations. A dedicated carriage is available for travellers with a disability that includes wheelchair tie-downs and an accessible toilet.



Kuranda Scenic Railway

Skyrail

The Skyrail Terminal is located just above the Kuranda Scenic Railway Station. Skyrail was opened in 1995 and is a 7.5 kilometre scenic cableway running above the Barron Gorge National Park, in the Wet Tropics of Queensland's World Heritage Area. The Gondolas detach from the cable and move at a slow pace through the station. The stations have ramps that are placed against the carriage for entry into the gondola. To assist in loading, the lift system is stopped and a staff member steadies the gondola from the far side while a second staff member assists with the loading. The staff are well trained and practised in the loading technique.



Skyrail wheelchair access



Kuranda Village

There are two intermediate stations on the Skyrail. The first is Barron Falls Station. Passengers may alight here and explore the boardwalk and lookout over the Barron Falls. The boardwalk is wheelchair accessible. Passengers may also elect to remain in the gondola and pass straight through the station. The carriages containing people with a disability are marked in the system so that the station staff are aware of the incoming cars.

The second station is Red Peak Station. This is an interchange station and all passengers must alight their gondolas for a change. Red Peak has an information display on the rainforest below the gondola deck. Access is via a ramp. From the information centre, there is a circular boardwalk through the rainforest that is about a 15 minute round trip. An accessible toilet is available. Additional accessible toilets are provided at the top and bottom stations. Disabled parking is available at the bottom station. There are size and weight limits on wheelchairs that can be accommodated. Loan wheelchairs are available.

Kuranda Village

Kuranda is a mountain village at the top of the Kuranda Railway and Skyrail. A gently sloping ramp leads into the village from both upper stations. The village is known for its arts and crafts. The sidewalks are wide and relatively flat with all shops offering wide level access. The Bazaar, a craft market, is well laid out offering easy access for mobility aid users.

An accessible toilet is available next to the visitor's centre at the far end of the village.

Australian Butterfly Sanctuary

The Australian Butterfly Sanctuary is located at the very top end of the town. The paths through the butterfly house and gardens are concrete. In places, the surface is a little uneven and there is a short steeper section at the entrance from the ticket office/gift shop. There is a small area beyond the bridge, at the rear of the butterfly house, that has a set of steps requiring people to retrace their path back over the bridge. There is a small "fairy" room that is accessed by a short wooden ramp that is suitable for child wheelchair users. The butterfly wings picture "booth" can be accessed by wheelchair users.

The internal static displays are well laid out, easy to navigate and can be easily viewed by wheelchair users.

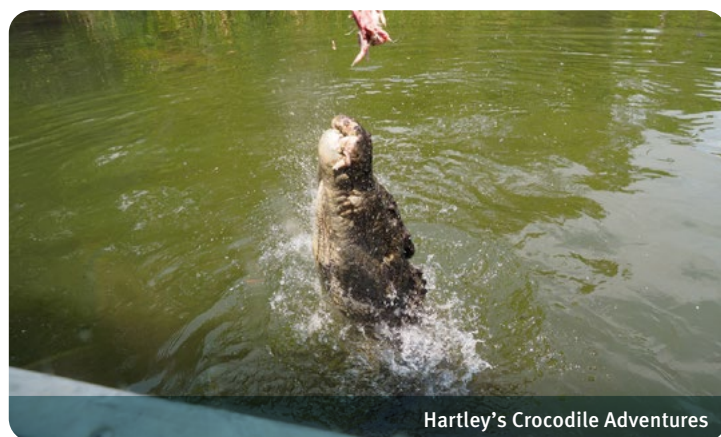
Rainforestation

Rainforestation is located 40 minutes from Cairns on the Kuranda Range Road, just outside Kuranda Village.

Rainforestation Nature Park is an all-weather attraction, home to the Army Duck Rainforest Tours on land and water, the Pamagirri Aboriginal Experience, and the iconic Australian animals in the Koala and Wildlife Park. The park is relatively flat with paved surfaces throughout. The army duck experience requires a transfer from a level loading platform. The duck is equipped with removable armrests to facilitate easy transfers for people with limited mobility.

HARTLEY'S CROCODILE ADVENTURES

Hartley's Crocodile Adventures is located 40 minutes north of Cairns on the Captain Cook Highway. It occupies over 25 acres including the large man-made lagoon.



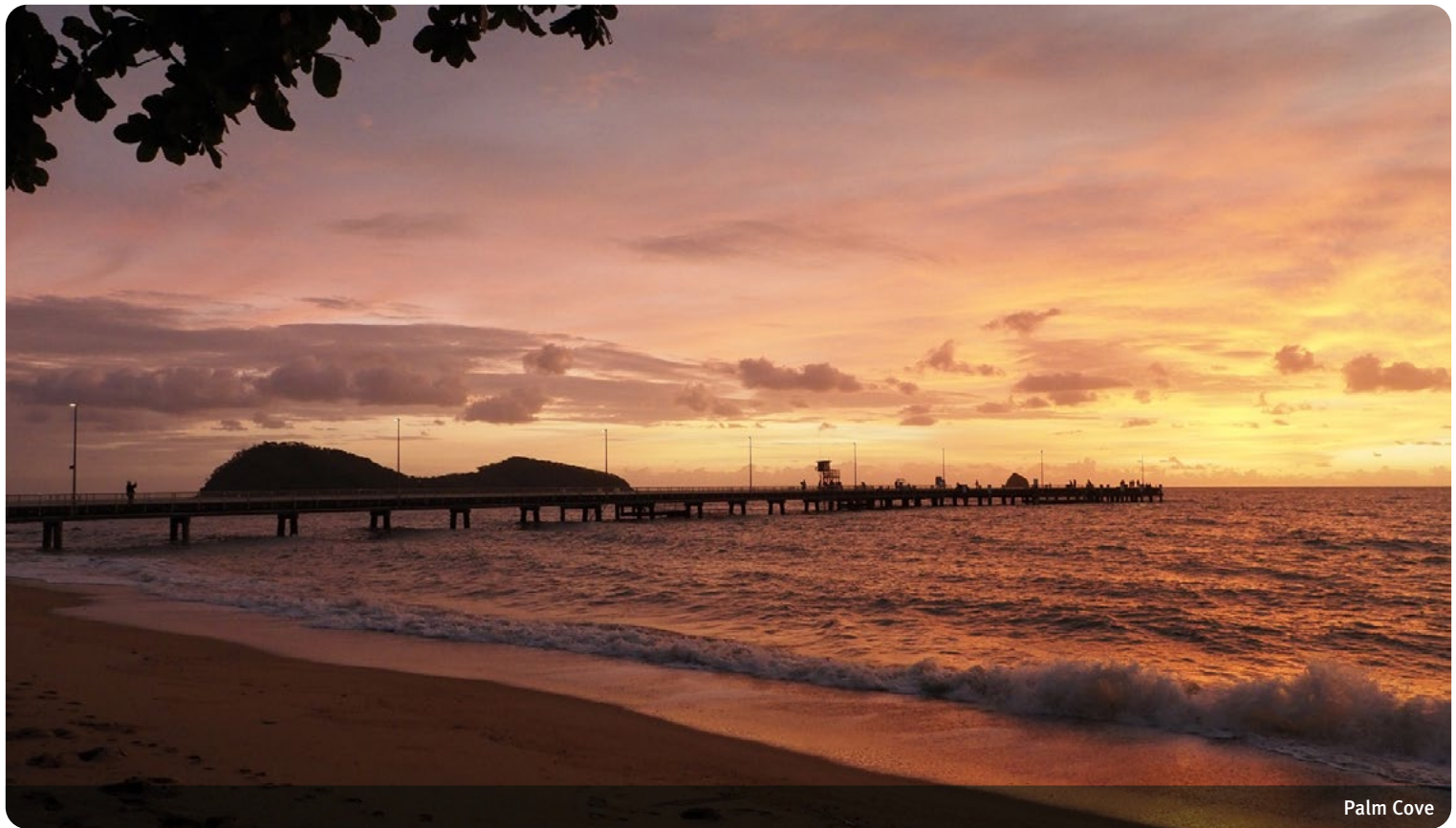
Hartley's Crocodile Adventures

Boat tour

The highlight of a visit to Hartley's is the boat tour to experience crocodiles being feed in the lagoon in a close encounter experience. The park operates three boats, all of which have a large area at the front that can be used by wheelchair users. The row immediately behind the chair is reserved for family and friends. Wheelchair users and friends are boarded before the general public. The position offers the best view on the boat of the crocodile action.

Feeding displays

There are two feeding display areas in the park, Croc Feeding Arena and the Wildlife Amphitheatre. Both locations have wheelchair access.



Palm Cove

Koala encounter

Hartley's is one of only two parks in Australia where you are able to cuddle a Koala and it is one of the parks most popular optional animal encounters. The experience is fully wheelchair accessible accessed off a concrete path a short distance from the main visitor centre.

General access

Access throughout the park is generally very good either on boardwalks or concrete pathways. Slopes are moderate.

Accessible toilets are located at the visitor centre and halfway through the park at Gondwana Gateway.



Palm Cove

MOSSMAN GORGE

The Mossman Gorge is located 77 kilometres north of Cairns or 20 kilometres north of Port Douglas. The information centre has a café and accessible toilet facilities. A wheelchair accessible shuttle bus links the visitors centre to the trail heads. The trail to the Mossman River Lookout (Baral Marrjanga Track) is a boardwalk suitable for wheelchairs, mobility devices and strollers. It has tapping guides to aid visitors with low vision.

NORTHERN BEACHES

Palm Cove

Palm Cove is located 27 kilometres, or a 30-minute drive north of Cairns. Its beach is lined with palm trees and centuries old Melaleuca trees. It is a perfect day trip from Cairns for swimming, fishing or just enjoying an idyllic tropical beach setting.

Right along the beachfront is a narrow parkland with a continuous concrete pathway. The park is dotted with accessible picnic tables and BBQ facilities. At the northern end of the town is a jetty. The jetty is a popular land-based fishing location for both visitors and locals with a large variety of species caught from it. The jetty is concrete with low sides making it suitable for wheelchair users.

A narrow road runs the length of the town between the park and the shops and accommodation. The town strip is lined with cafés and restaurants, nearly all of which provide level or ramped access giving a wide choice of dining cuisine and budgets.

Halfway along the strip is the surf lifesaving club. A stinger net is deployed. The club has a fully floating “mobi” beach chair that is available free of charge from the lifesavers on duty.

Ellis Beach

Ellis Beach is just north of Palm Cove. Parking is available adjacent to the lifesaving hut. A beach wheelchair and beach matting is available from April to November each year.



Ellis Beach

Holloways Beach

Holloways Beach is a northern suburb of Cairns. The foreshore park is shaded with a paved walking trail. The park is equipped with accessible BBQs, picnic tables, toilet and drinking fountain. Straight on the Beach is an accessible café right on the foreshore.

Yorkeys Knob

Just 15 minutes from the centre of Cairns, Yorkeys Knob is a great location for a relaxing day on the beach. Facilities include, accessible BBQs, picnic tables and toilet. There is a swimming enclosure, lifesaving club and a concrete access path to the top of the soft sand. A beach wheelchair would be required for people with limited mobility. A paved path leads out to the headland lookout. The Teno6 café is right opposite the beach park and is accessible.

Kewarra Beach

Located on the same stretch of beach as Palm Cove, Kewarra Beach is another idyllic spot for a picnic. There are accessible toilets, picnic tables and BBQs. It has a covered picnic pavilion on the water's edge.

Four Mile Beach Port Douglas

Four Mile Beach is another idyllic location for a day in the sun. It is steeped in history having been used as a racetrack for horses, cars and motorcycles and even an aircraft landing strip for the royal mail. The beach has a safe swimming enclosure, ramp onto the sand and a beach wheelchair. Facilities include an accessible toilet and changing room, accessible BBQs and picnic tables, drinking fountains and designated parking. The Surf Club Bar and Bistro is adjacent to the beach access ramp and is accessible.

PORT DOUGLAS

The Great Barrier Reef and the vast Daintree Rainforest are two UNESCO World Heritage-listed natural wonders that are on the doorstep of the laid-back tropical town of Port Douglas, about an hour's drive north of Cairns. With the tree-lined Four Mile Beach extending along the bay and a compact town centre dotted with trendy cafés and bars, it is also a tourist destination in its own right. The protected marina at Port Douglas is the home of tour operators for excursions to the outer reef and sightseeing cruises to adjacent coral cays.

The town is centered around Macrossan Street with most of the shops, cafés and bars accessible with level entry from the street. Accessible parking is available in the main street and under the Coles supermarket. Accessible toilets are available next to Coles.



Port Douglas Marina



Port Douglas Marina

Great Barrier Reef

Quicksilver Tours offer an accessible reef experience. The Quicksilver VIII is a full roll-on vessel equipped with an accessible toilet on-board. The Agincourt 3 Outer Barrier Reef platform is equipped with a lift to lower visitors into the snorkel pool.

Crystalbrook Marina

In addition to being the gateway for the Great Barrier Reef and Low Isle Cruises, the marina is a great dining and entertainment centre with Choo Choo's, Lure Restaurant and Bar and Hemingway's Brewery located within the terminal complex. Accessible toilets are located at the end of the building.

Rainforest Habitat

Located in Port Douglas, a short one hour drive North of Cairns City, the Rainforest Habitat Wildlife Sanctuary is the ideal location for an exotic and intimate nature experience. The park is divided into three distinctive and unique Australian environments—the wetlands, the grasslands, and the rainforest. The paths and boardwalks are wheelchair accessible. Accessible toilets facilities are located within the park. In wetlands, you can see pelicans or the Jabiru, a gigantic water bird that dances. In rainforests, you can see the Boyd's Forest Dragon, and in grasslands, you can see eastern grey kangaroos.

CAPE TRIBULATION

Cape Tribulation is renowned as the place where the world's most ancient rainforest meets the Great Barrier Reef. Cape Tribulation is a full day trip from Cairns and is accessed via a car ferry.

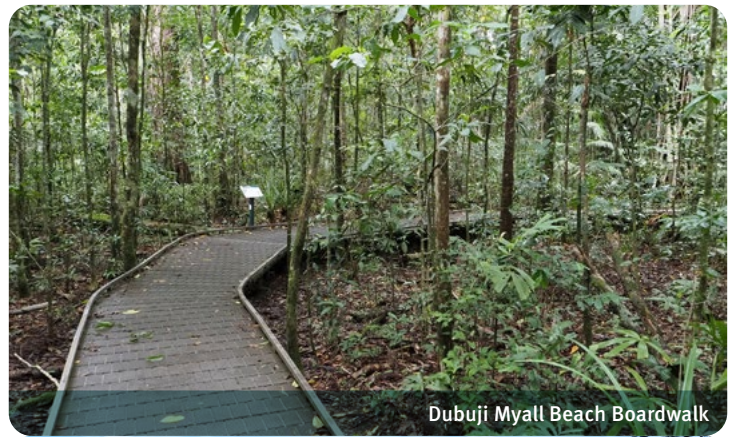
Daintree Discovery Centre

The Daintree Discovery Centre is located 10 kilometres north of the Daintree River Ferry. Both the interpretive centre and 10 metre high aerial walkway are wheelchair accessible.

Accessible Boardwalks

There are three accessible boardwalks to experience the Daintree:

- Madja, is a 1.2 kilometre circuit. It is a boardwalk throughout starting and finishing at the same point. The gradients are slight and it is suitable for wheelchairs, mobility devices and strollers.
- Dubuji, is a 1.2 kilometre circuit leading to Myall Beach. Access to the beach is across a short section of soft sand. The trail is a boardwalk to the beach with a return via hard packed gravel through the picnic area.



Dubuji Myall Beach Boardwalk



Mount Alexandra Lookout



Cape Tribulation Kulki

- Kulki provides beach access and a trail to the lookout at Cape Tribulation. The lookout trail is 600 metres return.

Mount Alexandra Lookout

Mount Alexandra Lookout offers some truly magical views of the rainforest and mouth of the Daintree River and surrounding coastline. It is best done on the return trip. The car park is sealed and the view is taken from the edge of the car park on a level surface.

Curtain Fig Tree

The Curtain Fig Tree is located just outside the small township of Yungaburra on the Atherton Tablelands. It is well signed. There is a 180 metres return walk to the tree along a wooden boardwalk with easy gradients throughout.

The fig tree is from the strangler fig species *Ficus Virens*. The curtain effect results from one tree leaning against another tree on a 45-degree angle. The strangler vine then grew along the oblique angle of the leaning tree, dangling 15 metres to the ground to create the curtain effect.

Mamu Rainforest Canopy Walkway

15 minutes from Innisfail, located in the Wooroonoon National Park, is the Mamu Rainforest Canopy Walkway. It is a steel mesh boardwalk 350 metres in length that rises 15 metres above the ground giving great views of the rainforest. There is an observation tower that rises to 37 metres that is not accessible to wheelchair users.

Accessible tour options with Tropic Wings

Tropic Wings offers accessible tours to Kuranda from Cairns, Palm Cove and Port Douglas. Tours can either be by coach or a combination including Kuranda Scenic Railway and Skyrail. Tour combinations can include Rainforestation and the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary.

SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

Great Barrier Reef (full day from Port Douglas)

The Great Barrier Reef can be accessed from Port Douglas with Quicksilver and the Quicksilver VIII platform and Quicksilver VIII catamaran. The platform is equipped with a lift into the water. The catamaran is roll-on roll-off with level decking at both Port Douglas and the Outer Reef Platform. This is a full day tour with a 9am departure and 5pm return to Port Douglas.

Kuranda Scenic Railway/Skyrail/Kuranda Village (full day)

Kuranda Scenic Railway and Skyrail can be done as a combination or as individual return journeys. Both of these options are a full day excursion to make the most of the trips and to take some time to enjoy Kuranda Village. The trip can be done as a self-drive option to Freshwater Station or Tropic Wings offer an accessible combination package with hotel pickup. Options include Rainforestation and Australian Butterfly Sanctuary.

Hartley's Crocodile Adventures (full day)

40 minutes north of Cairns is Hartley's Crocodile Adventures. This accessible crocodile farm includes an accessible boat tour and crocodile feeding. With travel time and the variety of activities this is a full day.

Mossman Gorge (half day)

The Mossman Gorge is located 77 kilometres north of Cairns or a short 20 kilometres north of Port Douglas. The trail to the Mossman River Lookout (Baral Marrjanga) is a boardwalk suitable for wheelchairs, mobility devices and strollers. It has tapping guides to aid visitors with low vision. Can be combined with Hartley's Crocodile Adventures to make a full day trip.

Wildlife Habitat (half day)

Wildlife Habitat is 10 minutes from the centre of Port Douglas and is the ideal location for an exotic and intimate nature experience. Can be combined with either Hartley's Crocodile Adventures for the ultimate wildlife experience or with an excursion to Mossman Gorge.

Cape Tribulation (full day from either Cairns or Port Douglas)

Cape Tribulation is renowned as the place where the rainforest meets the reef. It is 2.5 hours north of Cairns. Within the rainforest, there are three accessible boardwalks and beach access points. There are picnic facilities and a variety of small cafés along the route. This is a long full-day journey. It should be noted that group size is limited as the maximum sized vehicle permitted on the ferry across the Daintree River is a Toyota Coaster. This trip can only be done as a self-drive as no tour operator takes an accessible coach to the Daintree.

Fishing (2 hours to half day)

In addition to the land-based fishing opportunity from the jetty at Palm Cove, there are two commercial operators that cater for people with a disability. Broadbill is a blue water fishing charter vessel that offers both offshore and estuary fishing tours. It has a wide rear door for wheelchair access. Estuary tours are more suited to those with balance issues or lack upper body strength.

Cairns Calm Water Fishing, Fun and Food, is a shallow draft calm water fishing vessel offering fishing experiences in Trinity Inlet.

A self drive option is available from Cairns Boat Hire with a wheelchair accessible pontoon boat.

Atherton Tablelands (full day)

The Atherton Tablelands adds another dimension to a visit to Cairns. Take the Gillies Highway with a brief stop at Heales Lookout, and on to the Lake Barrine Teahouse. Highlights include the Curtain Fig, Millaa Millaa Falls, Zillie Falls and Manu Rainforest Canopy Walkway, returning to Cairns via Innisfail.

Cairns CBD

Spend a day lazying around the Esplanade Lagoon (bring a BBQ picnic)

Take a stroll along the Promenade

Dine along the Esplanade or on Marina Point

Visit the Cairns Aquarium (3 hours recommended)

Visit the Cairns Botanic Gardens (3 hours recommended)

Take a helicopter flight over the reef

Visit the Night Market

Palm Cove (full day)

Take a line and fish from the Palm Cove Jetty

Pack a picnic and sit along the Esplanade Park overlooking the Coral Sea.

Go swimming in the protected netted area with the beach wheelchair.

Enjoy a multitude of cuisines from the Esplanade Cafés

Suggested combinations

Highlights of Tropical North Queensland (2 days 3 nights)

Full day on the Reef with Quicksilver to the Agincourt Outer Reef

Full day Kuranda Experience, Skyrail, Kuranda Scenic Railway, Rainforestation

Reef and Daintree (2 days 3 nights)

Full day on the Reef with Quicksilver to the Agincourt Outer Reef

Self drive tour to Cape Tribulation

Best of North Queensland Wildlife (3 days 4 nights)

Full day on the Reef with Quicksilver to the Agincourt Outer Reef

Full day Kuranda Experience, Skyrail, Kuranda Scenic Railway, Rainforestation

Hartley's Crocodile Adventures and Rainforest Wildlife Habitat

The Best of Cairns (8 days 9 nights)

Cairns CBD - The Esplanade, Harbour, Esplanade Lagoon

Cairns CBD - Cairns Aquarium, Cairns Botanic Gardens

Full day on the Reef with Quicksilver to the Agincourt Outer Reef

Full day Kuranda Experience, Skyrail, Kuranda Scenic Railway, Rainforestation

Hartley's Crocodile Adventures and Rainforest Wildlife Habitat

Self-drive tour to Cape Tribulation

Self-drive tour of the Atherton Tablelands

A relaxing day at Palm Cove

USEFUL LINKS

Tourism Tropical North Queensland www.tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au

Cairns Esplanade cairns.qld.gov.au/esplanade

Cairns Aquarium cairnsaquarium.com.au

Cairns Botanic Gardens cairns.qld.gov.au/experience-cairns/botanic-gardens

Cairns Boat Hire boathirecairns.com.au

Kuranda Scenic Railway ksr.com.au

Hartley's Crocodile Adventures crocodileadventures.com

Mossman Gorge mossmangorge.com.au

Wild Life Habitat wildlifehabitat.com.au

Rainforestation rainforest.com.au
australianbutterflies.com

Palm Cove tourismpalmcove.com

Quicksilver Tours quicksilver-cruises.com

Tropic Wings tropicwings.com.au

Cape Tribulation destinationdaintree.com/locations/cape-tribulation

Curtain Fig athertontablelands.com.au/travel-directory/curtain-fig/

Mamu Rainforest Canopy Walk mamutropicalskywalk.com.au