

Abercrombie & Kent



FAR NORTH EXPLORATION

Delve into the tropical delights of the far north with its seductive climate where balmy days dissolve into tropical evenings under clear starry skies.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Australia, Queensland



6 days, from AU\$3,900pp



Private

Journey Overview

Delve into the tropical delights of the far north with its seductive climate where balmy days dissolve into tropical evenings under clear starry skies. Relax and revitalise in the aquamarine waters of the Coral Sea, the crystal creeks of Mossman Gorge, and on the palm fringed golden sands of Port Douglas' Four Mile Beach. Discover Australia's breathtaking northern tropics through pristine Daintree Rainforest walks and safaris, diving and snorkelling the reef and sailing the waterways. Be inspired by the myriad natural wonders and revel in its glorious simplicity.

Journey Highlights

Discover two World Heritage listed jewels - the Daintree Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef

Snorkel the sandy coral islands of the Inner Reef and gaze upon its many marine wonders

Bed down in a deluxe eco-resort nestled in the rainforest

Take part in a traditional Kuku Yalanji smoking ceremony

Meet the inspirational owners of a private conservation garden in the heart of the rainforest

Uncover Cooktown's colonial and Indigenous history and its pristine natural surrounds



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Port Douglas.

Collect your rental car and make your way to Port Douglas, an hour's drive north of Cairns, via the spectacular coastal road which is bordered by forest and the Coral Sea. Make your way to Thala Beach Lodge and settle in and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Thala Beach Lodge (Eucalypt Bungalow)

Day 2: Port Douglas.

This morning head to the marina for your full day shared snorkelling tour to the idyllic Low Isles. There are 150 different species of hard corals in the waters here, although these are dominated by 15 species of soft corals. Marvel at the variety of fish, molluscs, sea cucumbers and other animals which live amongst the corals. Spot the colourful blue, green and purple parrotfish as well as angelfish, damselfish, clownfish, trevally, sweetlip and moon wrasse, just to name a few. In addition, the island has a prolific turtle population with underwater sightings common.

There is also time to explore this protected coral cay, with its white sandy beaches and coconut palms. Your vessel moors in a sheltered blue lagoon allowing you to relax on the island, join the guided snorkel tour, take a trip on the glass bottom boat or laze on deck before an exhilarating sail back to Port Douglas.

Thala Beach Lodge (Eucalypt Bungalow) | Meals: BL

Day 3: Port Douglas.

Today your guide accompanies you on a private adventure to the Mossman Gorge for a rainforest experience like no other! Begin the day at a secret location on the Mossman River for a one-of-a-kind river drift snorkelling tour; searching for turtles, water dragons and the elusive platypus. Step into the cool, crystal-clear water and drift with the current as you explore life under the water's surface. Watch fish dart in and around the river stones and keep your eyes out for the occasional turtle. After a well-earned lunch, enjoy a traditional Kuku Yalanji smoking ceremony at the Mossman Gorge where you'll be cleansed of harmful spirits and have traditional rainforest body paint applied. Continue exploring the Daintree National Park on an interpretive 1.5 hour walk leaving you with a deeper understanding of this complex ecosystem.

Thala Beach Lodge (Eucalypt Bungalow) | Meals: BL

Day 4: Port Douglas - Cooktown.

Today depart Port Douglas and make your way north to Cooktown, a journey of approximately 3 hours. Along the way, visit a private tropical garden at the end of a jungle-clad valley in the heart of the Daintree Rainforest. Meet the founders of this tropical oasis who are recreating small microcosms of rainforest from the four corners of the globe, protecting and preserving the world's most unique plant species. Enjoy a fascinating interpretive tour of the garden and be inspired as you learn about the intrinsic link between rainforest plants and different cultures. Then relax and unwind over lunch on the veranda of their beautiful Queensland home hearing tales of travels to remote indigenous communities where they further enhance their broad knowledge of anthropology and collect examples of rare equatorial plant life. Arrive at your hotel in Cooktown late this afternoon.

Sovereign Resort Hotel (Deluxe Resort Room) | Meals: BL

Day 5: Cooktown.

This morning, meet your A&K representative for a full day private tour of Cooktown, where Captain James Cook's ship, the Endeavour, came ashore in 1770. Wander down the main street to Endeavour Landing Site and venture up to the Grassy Hill Lookout for panoramic views of Cooktown, the Coral Sea and the Endeavour River. Continue with a visit to the James Cook Museum, located in the heritage-listed former 19th century convent and school, where an extensive collection of local Guugu Yimithiir artefacts are housed along with an original anchor and cannon from HMB Endeavour.

Later, explore the Cooktown cemetery and the innovative Nature's Powerhouse in the botanical gardens where the Vera Scarth-Johnson Gallery displays the only collection of original botanical illustrations of flora from the region. Many of the plants can be found in the adjoining gardens. Lunch today is at the historic Lion's Den before visiting the Annan river crossing and Black Mountain. Return to your hotel later this afternoon.

Sovereign Resort Hotel (Deluxe Resort Room) | Meals: BL

Day 6: Depart Cooktown.

Your journey concludes today as you depart Cooktown.

Meals: B

Extraordinary Experiences

Our in-country presence allows our Journey Designers to include exceptional activities and experiences that are beyond the reach of the average traveller. Here are just a few examples.



Heart Island Reef Experience

Enjoy an exhilarating helicopter flight to Heart Island in the Whitsundays landing on the floating helipad, where a secret staircase invites you to descend into a plush 'boat shed' where champagne, canapés and a glass-bottom boat awaits. Explore the magnificent Heart Reef before returning to the pontoon to snorkel and swim in the lagoon.



Go on an Aboriginal Walkabout

Travel with a guide through the ancestral country of the Kuku Yalanji people around Daintree and down to Port Douglas. They will share the stories, history, culture and traditions of their people, show you the way of the land, and take you to many culturally significant sites. A fantastic interactive experience that is perfect for families.



Experience Island Golf

Tee off on Australia's only 18-hole championship golf course on its own island. Hamilton Island Golf Club is located on Dent Island, alongside Hamilton Island, in the magnificent Whitsundays, offering some of the most spectacular views and settings of any golf course in the world.



Visit a Private Tropical Oasis

Visit a private tropical, botanical garden in the heart of Queensland's Daintree Rainforest, recreating microcosms of rainforests from the four continents of the world, and preserving the world's most unique plant species. Learn about the intrinsic link between rainforest plants and cultures, and be entranced by the endless natural beauty on a fascinating guided tour of this tropical oasis.



Marvel at the underwater wonders of Mossman Gorge

Admire the wildlife of the biodiverse Mossman River up close on a guided snorkelling tour. Keep your eyes peeled for turtles, water dragons and the elusive platypus as you drift with the current before an enthralling indigenous Smoking Ceremony, and an interpretive walk through the Daintree, learning the history and stories of the land.



Master flavours from around the world at Tamarind Cooking School

Travel with your tastebuds and learn the secrets of worldly cuisines under the guidance of talented chefs at Tamarind Cooking School. Overlooking inspirational gardens in the heart of a rainforest, try your hand at authentic Asian staples, flavourful French fare or delicious Italian dishes, and enjoy the fruits of your labour for lunch.



Lace up your boots and explore the best of Fraser Island's Great Walk

Explore off the beaten path on an active discovery of heritage listed Fraser island, with a multi-day walking tour that immerses you in the island's celebrated landscapes. Enjoy the serenity of coastal bushland, wander through lush rainforest scenes and be spellbound by pristine freshwater lakes on this otherworldly adventure.



Fly by helicopter to a private island picnic

Soar over the Coral Sea by helicopter, admiring the tropical rainforest-dotted coastline and azure waters, eyes peeled for turtles, dolphins, rays and even humpback whales. Touch down on idyllic Vlasoff Cay, a jewel in the heart of Australia's heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef and your perfect private haven for a gourmet island picnic.

Abercrombie & Kent

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