

11 DAY GULF & SAVANNAHLANDER



INCLUSIONS

Mackay to Cairns return
Pre & Post accommodation in Cairns
9 Day Savannah & Gulflander Tour
Some meals
Air-Con 4WD Vehicle
Sightseeing

8 nights accommodation (ensuited)





HIGHLIGHTS

Herberton Historic Village
Karumba Sunset Cruise
Lawn Hill National Park
Riversleigh Fossil Fields
Normanton
Croydon Cobbold Gorge Cruise
Undara Lava Tubes

Day 1 Mackay to Cairns

It's a very early start as you board the Spirit of Queensland for your journey to Cairns. Sit back and relax and take in the vast landscapes of Queensland. Arriving at 4:30pm you have the option to explore the city centre of Cairns and dine out for dinner.

Day 2 Cairns - Herberton Historic Village to Malanda (LD)

After an early morning departure from selected accommodation, your holiday begins, travelling up the Gillies Range to the Atherton Tableland. We stop off at Lake Barrine for a short walk to the Twin Kauri Pines, before travelling on to Herberton. Today we explore the Historic Village of Herberton, where you can live the folklore and romance of yesterday's Australia in every piece of this eye-opening collection. Sit in the schoolhouse. Stand at the bar of the pub. Enjoy a latte in the Bakerville Tearooms. The award-winning attraction is more than a vintage precinct - it's a tangible buzz of things past with over 50 original buildings with intact interior displays, original machinery and vehicles, plus thousands of antique items and period memorabilia. Late afternoon we settle in the Malanda Lodge, situated on 11 acres of manicured tropical gardens. All rooms have ground level balconies and views to enjoy the tranquillity, or maybe spot their resident platypus family in the large pond. Ensuite Bathroom Facilities.

Day 3 Malanda - Savannahlander - Mt. Surprise to Georgetown (BLD)

An early start sees us travelling west on the Kennedy Highway towards Mount Surprise, where we enjoy lunch with a snake show. After lunch, you travel aboard the "Savannahlander" train as it tracks towards Einasleigh. There is enough time to have a beer in the pub or head down and check out Copperfield Gorge, before the train departs for Forsayth. From here we travel on to Georgetown where we stay overnight. Ensuite Bathroom Facilities.

Day 4 Georgetown to Karumba (BLD)

Morning "smoko" on the shore of Croydon's Lake Belmore before Normanton for lunch. Here you can absorb its famous landmarks, the "Purple Pub", historic Burns Philp General Store and a replica of Krys, the 8.63m crocodile. Continue on to Karumba on the Gulf of Carpentaria for a cruise to enjoy a spectacular Gulf sunset. We overnight in Karumba. Ensuite facilities.

Day 5 Karumba to Lawn Hill (BLD)

Back through Normanton this morning and a poignant visit to Burke & Wills Camp #119, the most northerly campsite of the ill-fated expedition of 1860. Across the vast "Plains of Promise" to Leichhardt Falls and Burketown. On to Adel's Grove, a Savannah Guides Site, where we spend two glorious outback nights. Ensuite Bathroom Facilities.

Day 6 Lawn Hill National Park (BLD)

A relaxed day enjoying Lawn Hill National Park, a spectacular oasis set amid the spinifex clad Constance Range. Enjoy a one hour cruise that offers an up close look at the Lawn Hill gorge and a stunning view of the Indarri falls. The gorge is a haven for an abundance of wildlife and a birdwatcher's paradise. Swimming or paddling a canoe (optional) up the gorge is highly recommended. Return to Adel's Grove tonight.

Day 7 Lawn Hill to Normanton (BLD)

A visit to the World Heritage listed Riversleigh Fossil Fields, a rare treasure house of palaeontology recording the history of Australia's mega-fauna of 20 million years ago. Lunch at Gregory and a short break at remote Burke & Wills Roadhouse before travelling on to Normanton. We stay in Normanton tonight. Ensuite facilities.

Day 8 Normanton to Cobbold Gorge (BLD)

This morning we depart from Normanton's famous Victorian architecture Railway Station. All aboard the historic Gulflander RM93 train, a Savannah Guides Site, for a ride through the savannah landscape across the Norman River to Critters Camp.On to Black Bull Siding then the old gold mining town of Croydon and its Historic Precinct, another Savannah Guides Site. This afternoon we visit Georgetown and Forsayth on our way to Cobbold Gorge, a Savannah Guides Station, where we stay tonight. Ensuite facilities.

Day 9 Cobbold Gorge to Undara (BLD)

This morning we cruise on Cobbold Gorge's beautiful and secluded waterway surrounded by spectacular carved Hampstead sandstone, 135 million years old. Travel on to the famous Undara Lava Tubes, a Savannah Guides Station. There's campfire entertainment after dinner before retiring to your accommodation in faithfully restored antique railway carriages. Ensuite facilities.

Day 10 Undara to Cairns (BL)

After breakfast in the Australian bush, an experienced Savannah Guide will meet you for an informative tour of the world's largest, longest and most accessible lava tube system. We continue on our scenic and leisurely drive over the Tropical Tablelands past the Wind Turbines at Ravenshoe, stopping off at the magnificent Curtain Fig Tree, before making our way back to Cairns, where you will be taken back to selected accommodation.

Day 11 Cairns to Mackay

This morning we have an early breakfast before heading to the train station to board the Spirit of Queensland for your journey back to Mackay.

2021 DATES AVAILABLE (as of 18 September 2020

19 May - 2 seats left 2, 9, 16, 23 June - 2 seats left 1, 08 September - fully booked 30 June 2021

7, 14, 21, 28 July - 1 seat left 4, 11, 18, 25 August

15, 29 September & 6 October

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