

# Topdeck

## DELVE DEEP: AUSTRALIA NORTH QUEENSLAND



TRIP CODE:

TAQCC2



## TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. Gobsmacking natural wonders. Mind-boggling hidden gems. From tangled tropical rainforest to wow-worthy coastline, nothing gets left behind on this EXTRAordinary North Queensland adventure. Plunge into tumbling waterfalls. Sink your toes into white-sand beaches. And delve deep beneath the surface for ALL the coral-filled, neon-coloured, sealife-shaped surprises. Pack your Ray-Bans: this is the Sunshine State done right.

### WORTH NOTING...

On this trip, we'll be staying in a range of local accommodation – mixed-sex couples travelling together may be separated on some nights.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Delve Deep



Nights



Download app



Meals

# Thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

Ready for the time of your LIFE?  
The countdown's on...

## ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – from where to meet your Topdeck fam to what we suggest you bring.

Read them on the train, in the supermarket queue or on the loo – we don't mind, just look through them carefully so you know what to expect on your trip. We recommend you download this document so it's with you when you travel (and give a copy to your MVPs so they know what you're up to).

**IMPORTANT:** please refresh this doc as close to your departure as possible. This means you'll have the most up-to-date info available.

**INCLUDED EXPERIENCES**

- Visit Barron Falls Lookout
- Walking tour of Mossman Gorge with local guide
- Visit Daintree Rainforest
- Visit Cape Tribulation
- Overnight cruise of the Whitsunday Islands
- Visit Whitehaven Beach
- Walking tour of Hill Inlet with local guide
- Snorkelling and banana boating
- Visit Millaa Millaa Falls
- Visit the Atherton Tablelands

### YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:  
  
Cairns  
Australia

### YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:  
  
Cairns  
Australia

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- Australia - AUD

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | CAIRNS (AUSTRALIA)

You've just touched down in Cairns for the adventure of a lifetime. Crikey! First: say g'day to the fellow explorers sharing the ride. Then: get pumped for good times at our first included group dinner. Ready to delve deep into all the mind-blowing, jaw-dropping and eye-popping experiences that North Queensland has to offer? You're in EXACTLY the right place.



### MEALS:

- Dinner

## DAY 2 | CAIRNS – BARRON GORGE – PORT DOUGLAS

Catch ya later Cairns – after brekkie we're making our way to GORGEous Barron Gorge (sorry not sorry). Treat your peepers to the rip-roaring waterfalls that gush from the Barron River and plummet through the steep slopes of the gorge below. Here in wet season? (That's November to April, FYI). \*Poof\* – prepare to disappear in a cloud of mist. Next: the quirky mountain village of Kuranda is calling our name. Wander the spice-filled, rainbow-coloured craft markets and pick up a souvenir for the cat, then hunt down some fresh falafels or crispy crêpes for lunch. Mmmm. Finally: it's onwards to Port Douglas, our b-e-a-u-t base for the next few days.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Barron Falls Lookout

## DAY 3 | PORT DOUGLAS, INCLUDING DAINTREE RAINFOREST AND CAPE TRIBULATION

Strap on those hiking boots: this morning we're heading to Mossman Gorge for a locally guided tour. Home to the indigenous Kuku Yalanji people for thousands of years, this sacred site is a tropical maze of ancient woodland, bubbling creeks and sparkling waterfalls. Wait, is that a turtle? Then: \*Daintree Rainforest joined the chat\*. It's time to delve deeper into this magical wonderland. We'll play spot-the-croc as we cross the Daintree River (they're more scared of you than you are of them... jk). After an included lunch smack-bang in the middle of this fairytale forest, Cape Tribulation is our final stop of the day. Gawp at the immense mountain and ocean views from Mount Alexandra Lookout. And keep your eyes peeled for cassowaries – aka 'the world's most dangerous bird'. Hard pass on saying hi.



### MEALS:

- Lunch



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Mossman Gorge with local guide
- Visit Daintree Rainforest
- Visit Cape Tribulation

## DAY 4 | PORT DOUGLAS

It's Great. It's a Barrier Reef. And today it's yours to explore = WIN. There's an optional full-day tour of this bucket-list topping world wonder on the cards, so make the most of it. Get the lowdown from a marine biologist on how we can help protect this incred place for gens to come. Then: dive in and find Nemo! It's time to get snorkelling and meet the locals – we're talking clownfish, manta rays, giant clams and turtles, all going about their business in a watery neon nightclub. Sebastian the crab was right – it IS better under the sea. Tonight, shake the salt from your hair and fill up at our included dinner. Those calcs need topping up, pronto.



### MEALS:

- Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Full-day tour of the Great Barrier Reef: from \$220 AUD

## DAY 5 | PORT DOUGLAS – MISSION BEACH

So long and thanks for all the fish, Great Barrier Reef. This morning we're voyaging through the day-glo-green sugarcane fields towards Mission Beach. When we jump off, your mission = complete your own spontaneous this-is-what-I-came-for thing. Want local tips? Your expert Trip Leader's got 'em. Head to Shanti Café for coffee, craft beer and tropical vibes. Make a beeline for Brookes Beach in neighbouring Bingil Bay for chill, off-the-beaten-track vibes. Or just lounge poolside with the swaying palm trees back at the hostel. It's a mood. This evening: gather the fam and head to Clump Point Lookout for all the sunset feels.

## DAY 6 | MISSION BEACH – AIRLIE BEACH

Another day, another magical coastal landscape. Today we're on the move to Airlie Beach – BFF of the Whitsunday Islands. Once we've checked into our digs, it's time to go walkabout. Zip up that windbreaker and make like the locals with a bracing stroll along the waterfront. Get involved in the lagoon pool. Or just soak up some good times in the lively bar scene along the bay. Later, rock up at the boardwalk and watch the ocean turn 50 shades of pink. Cue: alllll the goosebumps.

## DAY 7 | AIRLIE BEACH – WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS

All aboard! The REAL way to explore the gobsmackingly gorgeous Whitsundays? By private boat, duh! Expect: a tropical jigsaw of greener-than-green forests and dreamy turquoise waters. We'll motor our way to dazzling Whitehaven Beach, famed for having the whitest sand in the world (sunnies = essential). Snap on those goggles – there's a whole Little Mermaid world under the water's surface, including stingrays and baby lemon sharks in the shallows. Lunch is on us today: sweeeeet. Then perfect those pano skills as we seek out the crazy-beautiful views from Hill Inlet Lookout with a local guide. This eve we'll drop anchor for sunset bevies and dinner before bunking down for the night. Opt for a cabin or snooze under a blanket of stars on deck. This is your chance.



### MEALS:

- Lunch
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Overnight cruise of the Whitsunday Islands
- Visit Whitehaven Beach
- Walking tour of Hill Inlet with local guide

## DAY 8 | WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS – TOWNSVILLE

Hear that? That's what waking up in paradise sounds like. This morning is all about boat life perks – swimming, snorkelling, snacking and... did someone say banana boat? Show off your mad skills (read: cling on for dear life) before we make tracks for Townsville. Need some hot recommendations for your free evening here? \*Grabs foam finger and points at Trip Leader\* – they've got it covered.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Snorkelling and banana boating

## DAY 9 | TOWNSVILLE – ATHERTON TABLELANDS – CAIRNS

Nobody panic – it's our last full day, but there's more exploring in store yet. Northwards! First stop, a refreshing (spoiler: it's freezing) dip at Millaa Millaa Falls in the Wet Tropics rainforest. Fun fact: the Herbal Essences advert was filmed here. Slo-mo hair flicks complete, next we'll discover the monster Curtain Fig Tree – a ginormous 'strangler fig' that grows on other trees and then kills them. Savage. After we've soaked up the lush AF scenery of the Atherton Tablelands, we'll roll into Cairns for our last group dinner. Let's give this unreal Aussie adventure the send-off it deserves!



### MEALS:

- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Millaa Millaa Falls
- Visit the Atherton Tablelands

## DAY 10 | CAIRNS

You met the locals. You said yes to culture. Yes to history. Yes to allllll the spine-tingling landscapes. And now – after one last group brekkie – it's time to say goodbye. Swap those digits and lock in a date for the reunion. We hear Topdeck's New Zealand trips are pretty legendary...



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



# OTHER INFORMATION

## TOPDECK APP

Feeling appy? Download the Topdeck app and get PUMPED for the adventure ahead. Best bit is: from 45 days before departure you'll be able to chat with your soon-to-be tripmates.

Plus, get your itinerary at your fingertips – so you know where you'll be going and what you'll be doing on each day of your trip. Nice!

Links:

Apple <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/topdeck/id994727866>

Android <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.FlexiTechSolutions.TopDeck&hl=en>



## YOUR SAFETY

### NIGHTS OUT

We love a good night out – experiencing the nightlife and entertainment places have to offer is a big part of travelling. But alongside the fun it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety.

When you're out late, remember to avoid walking alone – particularly through deserted areas like beaches and back streets. Always stick together, take a registered taxi where possible, and keep a note of your accommodation so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. Make sure you have your trip mates' mobile numbers in case you need to get hold of them while out and about.

In some countries, alcoholic measures can be considerably larger than what you may be used to. Try to keep track of what you're drinking – and if you see one of your trip mates looking a little worse for wear, take them back to your accommodation. Never leave your drink unattended.

It's also important to be aware that what you might consider harmless flirting may be interpreted differently in some countries. Be yourself and have fun, but stay savvy – you don't want to find yourself in an uncomfortable situation.

### DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Customers should not bring any illegal substances onto the Topdeck coach or into any of the accommodation we stay in on our trips. This includes marijuana – even if it is legal in some of the states your trip passes through. If you are found in possession of drugs, you will be removed from the trip immediately. All instances of drug possession will be reported to Topdeck Head Office, who may consider alerting the relevant authorities.

**REMEMBER:** if you are found in possession of drugs, not only do you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if they are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you don't want that to happen to any of our Drivers – they're awesome.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Culture shock, homesickness, random periods of feeling down – these things happen and are totally normal. You can rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Topdeck crew will do their utmost to cheer you up.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- Call home. Sometimes it's nice to hear a familiar voice and have a good old-fashioned catch up with your loved ones
- Eat well. Never underestimate the power of a good, wholesome meal. Nobody feels at their best when they're hungry!

- Drink responsibly. Not only will you swerve the dreaded hangover, but by keeping an eye on what you drink you could also avoid getting into any potentially uncomfortable situations
- Talk to your Trip Leader. Don't forget, they're probably far from home too – so they're sure to know some tried- and- tested ways to beat the blues
- Integrate with your fellow Topdeckers. This one is key! The more fun you're having on your trip, the less likely you are to feel homesick (fact!)

## TRAVEL SINCE COVID-19

Travel looks a bit different since COVID-19. That's why we've put some new procedures in place to help keep you safe on the road.

What remains the same? Your Topdeck trip will be run hygienically, responsibly, and with your safety at the forefront of everything we do. End of.

Here's the info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/travel-safely>

# RESPECT ON THE ROAD

## RESPECTING FELLOW TRAVELLERS

Our trips are for everyone. We're a family – and we want every Topdecker to have an incredible time.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow tripmates . The golden rules? Respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation, and treat others how you'd wish to be treated. Easy!

## HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLER

Responsible travel isn't difficult to achieve. With a little conscious thought and preparation, you can have an awesome adventure AND a positive impact on the places you visit. Sweet!

Here are five things you can do to ensure you're travelling responsibly:

- Conserve water. You know the drill – reuse your room towels, take short showers and remember to turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth
- Reduce your waste. Ditch the plastic bag, refuse unnecessary packaging, dispose of your waste responsibly and recycle as much as possible
- Go local. Hunt down locally owned and operated restaurants and bars, shop in local markets, and book tours and activities run by local guides
- Consider the wildlife. Avoid any attractions that involve closely engaging with wild animals
- Respect local people and culture. Obeying local laws is a given – but also remember to dress and behave in a manner appropriate to the community. Be polite and keep an open mind!

# INSURANCE

Before your trip departs, it's compulsory for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation, medical expenses (including repatriation), loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and personal liability.

Head to our FAQ for more info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/faqs-0>

Got more Qs? Chat with our Customer Service team: <https://www.topdeck.travel/about-us/contact>

## PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your trip. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your trip's departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling. Check out our handy interactive map showing global visa requirements:

<https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/latest-border-restrictions>

PLEASE NOTE: some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure, as requirements do change periodically.

## TIPPING

Basically: it's not necessary.

Your Trip Leader and Driver don't expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. Meaning? More dollar to spend on optional activities (and a souvenir for your nan).

## WHAT TO BRING

Based on our experience, these items are key. Everyone's different though – so if you want to bring more or less, go for it (as long as you don't exceed your 20kg allowance, that is!).

Off to Japan? Your luggage must be no bigger than 160cm in total (height x width x length). So maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

Psst: this is a packing list for Topdeck trips in general. Obv you'd look silly splashing around the Greek islands in a snowsuit.

- 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes + 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- 1 pair of thongs/jandals/flip-flops
- 2 pairs of jeans/trousers
- 2 pairs of shorts/skirts
- 4 shirts/T-shirts
- 2 sweaters/jumpers
- Smart casual evening wear
- 1 warm jacket + 1 rainproof jacket



- Underwear and socks + swimwear
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Hat and sunscreen
- Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- Adaptor plug
- Reusable water bottle
- Snow gear



**THAT'S IT!**