

# Cape York Thursday Island Daintree Rock Art Cairns Tour – 8 days



## Cape York with Thursday Island Tours, Weipa, Daintree, Quinkan Rock Art Tour

Join us to **travel by luxury 4WD to the northern most tip of Australia at Cape York & Thursday Island, exploring Jowalbinna for Quinkan Rock Art**, plus **Cooktown, Weipa, Lakefield National Park**, the **Bloomfield Track** and the **Daintree Rainforest**.

**8 Days** – 8 day tour Cairns returning to Cairns overland, including Laura Rock Art, Weipa, & Billys Landing, Thursday & Horn Island ferries & day tours, including Twin & Fruit Bat Falls (on Old Telegraph Track) and last night accommodated in Cairns. Includes Cooktown, Lakefield National Park, Daintree Rainforest, Quinkan Rock Art from Cairns 4WD Tour



Rock Art Walks – Explore some of the **Quinkan Aboriginal Rock Art** at the **Split Rock art site** or the **Quinkan rock art** at **Jowalbinna** in Queensland's premier rock art site The area includes –

- Giant Wallaroo – “The Cycle of Birth and Death”: Spectacular landscapes and paintings on a walk into Pine Tree Creek valley and up to the opposite escarpment wall.
- The Brady Creek Escarpment – “Many Clans, Many Totems”: Includes Death Adder, Honeymoon Cave, Red Lady, Garfish Sorcery and Tent Shelter rock art sites, near refreshing Brady Creek.
- Emu Dreaming – “The Emu Ancestor enters the Land”: An accessible site featuring ancient abstract engravings and occupation evidence.
- Yam Dreaming – “The Archaeologists’ Choice”: A fascinating archaeological dig site on fertility ceremonial grounds, involving a challenging walk and climb into the site (available for exclusive touring only).

## Tour details

**Day 1** – Cape York Thursday Island Tours – **Depart Cairns** 730 am and travel through the rainforests and the **Atherton Tablelands** via picturesque **Kuranda** and **Mareeba** via the **Palmer River** area famous in the **gold rush days**, to the **Laura Dance Festival** site (time at festival available if dates match – biannual event). You can choose to spend the day here, or travel the short distance to the **Quinkan Rock Art Reserve**, and an afternoon tour of this amazing rock art site. Overnight Lotus Bird Lodge, Lakefield National Park BLD

**Day 2** – Depart up the **Peninsular Development Road** for the **Old Telegraph Track (OTT)** heading for **Cape York**. We travel via the **Hann River Roadhouse**, and check out the **Musgrave Telegraph Station**. Musgrave was first built as an overland telegraph station in 1887, along with Palmerville, Fairview, Coen, Mein, Moreton, McDonnell and Paterson. It was named after Sir Anthony Musgrave (1828 – 1888) who

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was Governor of Queensland from 1883 to 1888. These stations were repeater stations, with great banks of batteries and a generator to boost the power in the telegraph line.



Quinkan Rock Art

Beyond the township of **Coen** we pass the old **Quarantine Station**, and begin to pass a number of exciting creek crossings. We pass through the Mungkan Kandju National Park, a large wilderness park that stretches from the McIlwraith Range foothills, between the Archer and Coen rivers, and consists of open eucalypt woodlands, melaleuca swamps and various rainforest types. The Wik Mungkan, Kaanju and Ayapathu Aboriginal peoples, the Traditional Owners of the park, welcome you to their land and ask that you respect their culture and country during your visit. We take a break at the **Archer River Roadhouse**, and cross the **Piccaninny Plains and Savannah country** to arrive in **Weipa** for a tour of the massive bauxite mine operated by Rio Tinto. Weipa is the largest town on Cape York Peninsula, and has approx 3000 people supporting the mining and export of bauxite and cattle. Nearby is Duyfken Point, where Dutch explorer Willem Janszoon recorded the Australian coast in 1606, 164 years prior to James Cook. BLD Overnight **Weipa**



Eliot Falls Cape York tour   Sunset from Siesia, Cape York tour   Twin Falls Cape York Tour

**Day 3** – Depart Weipa to the OTT, crossing the **Wenlock River**. After a stop at the **Moreton Telegraph Station**, we turn off the OTT to the Bamaga Rd and enter the **Jardine National Park** and the **Heathlands**. Be entranced by the unusual change in the landscape. The Heathlands is a vast area of 2 metre high wet and dry heath vegetation which live side by side and is home to an abundance of wildlife. Enjoy a break at **Eliot Falls** before we cross the notorious **Jardine River**. We pass through the administrative centre for the region, **Bamaga** to **Siesia**, the “**Gateway to the Torres Strait**”. Today we also travel on to the farthest northern point of Australia to **stand on Australia’s northern most tip at Cape York**, view the numerous islands of the **Torres Strait**, and the meeting place of the **Arafura** and **Coral Seas**. Overnight **Punsand Bay Resort, Barmaga, Cape York** BLD

**Day 4** – At 8 am depart by fast cat ferry for the 1 hour 10 min ride to **Thursday Island**, passing Friday and seeing Wednesday Islands enroute. Thursday Island is known as Waiben, meaning ‘no water or place of no water’. In 1877, TI was an administrative centre for the Torres Strait Islands established by the Queensland Government. In the early days over 1000 Japanese pearl divers were operating here. In

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1880, Thursday Island acted as a defence post for Australia and old canons remain on the Island. On TI, a 1 hour island tour is included, highlighting local history and landmarks, then free time to enjoy the Torres Strait Islander cultural centre, and pearl, souvenir or window shopping. After lunch, (own cost) the return ferry departs at 2:30 from Engineers Wharf, arriving approximately 3:40. Enjoy free time this afternoon till dinner. Optionally, from Thursday Island you can join the **Horn Island tour** which visits WWII sites including a **WWII museum**. This tour also meets the last & only return ferry, and does not give time to look around Thursday Island. If you choose, you can overnight here and join us early next morning (additional cost) BD Overnight **Punsand Bay Resort, Bamaga, Cape York**



Lakefield National Park      Billy's Landing      Cape York View – The Tip

**Day 5** – Heading south we visit the **WWII aircraft wrecks** of Bamaga, and skirt the **Jardine River National Park**, take the Jardine River crossing then a rest stop at **Fruit Bat Falls** and **Elliot Falls** and a swim at **Twin Falls**. We visit the beach at **Captain Billy's Landing** located on the east coast, and arrive **Moreton Telegraph Station** for a few yarns, a great meal and overnight. BLD

**Day 6** – Today we explore **Lakefield National Park**. The park is home to threatened species including the **red goshawk**, **Lakeland Downs mouse** and **spectacled hare-wallaby**. **Hann and Kalpowar crossings** are two of the many significant **Aboriginal cultural sites** found in the area. **Barramundi** abound here if you are feeling adventurous, and many waterbirds inhabit **Low Lake**. Enjoy this rich nature and great waterholes for swimming. Arrive **Cooktown** late afternoon for overnight. BLD

**Day 7** – **Cooktown to Cairns** via the **Bloomfield Track & Daintree Rainforests**. The Daintree Rainforest encompasses an area of approximately 1,200 square kilometres, from the Daintree River north to Cooktown and west to the Great Divide, representing the single largest block of tropical rainforest in Australia. The area protected under **World Heritage listing** covers an area of approximately 12,000 square kilometres, stretching from Townsville to Cooktown 75 per cent of which is tropical rainforest, an area equivalent to about the size of Sydney. We explore and discover the magic of rainforests on our **Daintree Rainforest Discovery centre** walk.



Elliot Falls Cape York

Cooktown was first established for the goldfields on the **Palmer River** in 1872, although its also famous for when **Captain Cook** repaired his ship, **The Endeavour**, after hitting coral on the **Great Barrier Reef**. We check out some key local landmarks, including the **Vera Scarth-Johnson Gallery**, whose artwork consists of illustrations of the flowering plants from the region, the **Grassy Hill Lighthouse** which is home to the

Cooktown lighthouse, built in England and shipped to Cooktown in 1885, the sun dial which is actually a 'Global Positioning Monument' and Captain Cook's Grassy Hill Monument. Also, the **James Cook**



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**Museum**, including canon and the anchor from from Cooks ship, the **HM Barque Endeavour** and Chinese, Pastoral, Mining, and Indigenous artefacts.

We depart Cooktown via the coastal road (4WD only) and witness **Black Mountain National Park**, home to mysterious Aboriginal legends. We visit the heritage-listed **Lions Den Hotel** built in 1875, then spectacular **Bloomfield Falls** at the **Bloomfield River crossing**. This track was the site of many protests and the Daintree Blockade in 1983. The **Bloomfield track** takes us to **Cape Tribulation** and on to the ferry to cross the **Daintree River**. Time permitting, we travel through **Mossman** and visit **Mossman Gorge**, and a side trip via **Port Douglas**. Overnight Cairns. BLD

**Day 8** – Tour ends in Cairns after breakfast for flights home or join us to [travel from Cairns to Darwin via the Lost City, Undara Lava Tubes and Savannah Way Tour](#)



Cape York Tours – The Tip

**Undara Lava Tubes – Volcano Valley** – Volcanic lava over 300,000 years, has created a remarkable tunnel system that lies beneath the rich grasslands of Undara. See them on the [Lost City, Undara Lava Tubes and Savannah Way Tour](#) If travelling to Cairns join Spirit Safaris to meet this tour from Alice Springs, explore the Plenty Highway on the edge of the

Simpson Desert, the Min Min experience in Boulia, the mighty Diamantina River and the Dinosaur Trail as we travel on to Cloncurry (Qantas birthplace) Undara Lava Tubes & Cairns. If travelling [from or to Darwin, explore the Lost City, Lawn Hill, Adel's Grove, Cobbold Gorge, Dally Waters, Mataranka Hot Springs \( and "We of the Never Never" homestead\) & Katherine](#). Optionally Kakadu via Cooina (with Yellow Waters Cruise) to Darwin. (meets Darwin to Broome tour departure) Cape York, Thursday Island, Weipa, Daintree Rainforest, Quinkan Rock Art from Cairns 4WD Tour

**8 Day Cape York Thursday Island Daintree Rock Art Cairns Tour from Cairns to Cairns** 8 day tour Cairns returning to Cairns overland, including **Laura Rock Art, Weipa, & Billys Landing, Thursday & Horn Island ferries & day tours**, including **Twin & Fruit Bat Falls** (on **Old Telegraph Track**) and last night **accommodation in Cairns**. Includes all meals, entry & park fees, professional guide, ferry to & from Thursday Island, luxury 4WD transport. Prices are for deluxe camping OR for 7 nights accommodation upgrade add \$995 per person (couple or twin share) 8 Days / 7 Nights from Cairns A\$4,995 includes GST

Download Accommodation option [here](#)

**[BOOK NOW](#)** to avoid missing out **Call 1300 763 188** or email any questions [info@spiritsafaris.com](mailto:info@spiritsafaris.com)

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