

# Gulf Savannah Way Cairns to Darwin via Lost City Undara Lawn Hill Kurumba Tour 8 days



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**Cairns to Darwin via Lost City & Gulf Savannah Way Tours 8 days/7 nights – Westbound** – Walk in the stunning **Undara Lava Tubes**, Mt Surprise (Savannahlander train overnight stop), Croydon, **Normanton** (visit **Gulflander train** & station), **Karumba** (Gulf Carpentaria sunset cruise), Riversleigh Fossils / Dinosaurs tour, **Hells Gate**, Borroloola, **Lost City**, **Cape Crawford**, **Caranbirini Nature Reserve**, **Daly Waters** pub, Mataranka Hot Springs and “We of the Never Never” homestead, to Darwin.. **Cairns to Darwin** – [Book Now](#)

**8 Days tour Departs Cairns - July 7-14, 2019 OR Darwin to Cairns – June 22-29, 2019**



**Undara Lava Tubes**  
– Volcanic lava has created a remarkable tunnel system that lies beneath the rich grasslands of Undara.

**Day 1 – Gulf Savannah Way Tours – Depart Cairns** for the picturesque drive to the **Atherton tablelands** to tour through the **Undara Lava Tubes**. The Undara Lava

Tubes were formed some 190,000 years ago when a major volcano erupted, its molten lava flowing down a dry river bed. As the top layer quickly cooled and crusted, the fiery magma below continued to flow through the tubes taking it further and further from the volcano. The Undara tubes are the **world’s longest lava flow**. The word Undara means ‘a long way’ in Aboriginal language. One of the lava flows from Undara extends over 160 kilometres (or 100 miles). This makes it one of the longest lava flows from a single volcano on our planet in modern geological time. The original tube formed by the flow extended for approximately 100 kilometres, and several sections are accessible. After our 2 hour tour and tasty lunch, we overnight at **Mt Surprise** (where Savannahlander train also overnights.) LD



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**Day 2** – Travel via **Georgetown** and the multi award winning, **Terrestrial** – the Ted Elliott Mineral Collection, the largest minerals collection in the world. We follow the **Gulflander Railway** line via the Gulf Development Road through Croydon which in goldrush days had **7000 people and 122 pubs**. On to Normanton, and view the old **Burns Philp store**, and the 1870 railway history from the goldrush days, plus the hot artesian bore.

Arriving **Karumba** on the edge of the **Gulf of Carpentaria**, we enjoy a **sunset river cruise**. Karumba is the base of the gulf Barramundi and prawning industry and home to many salt water crocodiles. Overnight **Karumba** BL – Dinner at own expense in local restaurant – great fresh fish and prawns here !

**Day 3 & 4** – Today we surely see flocks of **Brolgas** on our way to **Burke and Wills last camp 119** near Burketown. Travelling westward and parallel to the coastline of the **Gulf of Carpentaria** in this spectacular savannah country, we cross numerous rivers including the **Leichardt River**, named after Ludwig Leichardt who walked this country in 1845. We check out the **Leichardt Falls** before travelling across the “**Plains of Promise**” named when H M Brig Beagle (the famous ship which had carried Charles Darwin on his voyage) visited here in 1841. Enjoy a break in the frontier town of **Burketown**, named after Burke of the Burke and Wills Expedition of 1860 who reached the gulf near here in February 1861. Burketown was established in 1865 to service new pastoral holdings established in the region. We arrive at **Lawn Hill National Park**, (now Boodjamulla National Park) **Adel’s Grove** (2 nights), and walk, canoe or swim in the beautiful lagoon with waterfalls. Visit the amazing **Riversleigh Dinosaur Fossil Field**.

Overnight **Adels Grove BLD**



**Day 5.** We travel by the large Aboriginal community of Doomadgee, then **Hells gate** where police were stationed to provide escorts for settlers to the escarpments of **Hell’s Gate**, beyond which the Aboriginals were considered fierce. Hells Gate is the routes most western settlement in Queensland and now is a popular stopover with a grassy oasis and refreshments, nearby **Aboriginal rock art and caves**. We travel via Westmoreland (uranium deposits) and enter the Northern Territory, passing the Redbank (copper) Mine and arrive at **Borrooloola** for overnight. BLD

Day 6. **Borrooloola** is now a popular fishing destination. Population is around 800 (about 200 whitefellas and 600 Aboriginal), with Aborigines living in camps around the town. Borrooloola has some very different Aboriginal cultures ie the Yanyuwa and Mara are ‘saltwater people’ from the nearby islands while the Kurdanji and Karawa people are ‘mainland people’. We visit **Caranbirini Nature Reserve** to walk amongst the **Lost City** through sandstone towers overlooking a billabong and across the escarpment country of the Gulf Region. Optional helicopter flight over the Lost City. The **Lost City** can this morning be explored by helicopter from base at the Heartbreak Hotel at Cape Crawford, with an amazing 15 or optional 30 minute flight over these ancient sandstone pillars, formed when all this area was underwater. Arrive **Daly Waters** famous pub for overnight. BLD

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**Day 7** – We take a short tour of the WWII airbase and aircraft hanger at Daly Waters – with a fascinating historic display of WWII equipment, aircraft images and life here at that time. Onwards for a swim at **Mataranka Hot Springs** and connect with the famous classic outback Australian story of “**We of the Never Never**” and **Elsie’s homestead** from the film. On to Katherine then Darwin for overnight BLD



**Day 8** – After a comfortable overnight enjoy a leisurely breakfast then tour completion by 10am. Then a free day to celebrate your journey or we can arrange airport connections for you. Otherwise experience the many sights or activities **Darwin** has to offer. Options include a trip to Kakadu or **Litchfield National Parks**, or simply shop or relax in Darwin’s balmy climate. Tour ends after breakfast. Home Flights depart from Darwin or consider travelling with us to **Alice Springs or Kakadu** with options including **Kakadu**, Katherine Gorge (optional), Lost City & Devils Marbles. B Optionally tour by **Kakadu National Park** for 1 or 2 nights from Katherine, or do Kakadu in a day or more from **Darwin**. Ask for details.

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## [Cairns to Darwin](#) or Reverse [Darwin to Cairns](#)

**8 days / 7 nights** - \$4995 comfy camping. Add \$995 per room (twin or double share) for 7 nights motel style accommodation. Single supplement \$139 per night per room [Check Dates or Book Now](#)

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