

Far North Queensland

Lake Eacham Crater

## FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION SAFARI

**F**AR NORTH QUEENSLAND is a wildlife enthusiast's paradise! This small group tour explores the rainforest habitat, concentrating on the endemic wildlife found within. We have a firm belief that tourism is the key to the protection and conservation of this World Heritage Area. Our passionate and knowledgeable guides are eager to share the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area with you.

Our tours have a major focus on observing and photographing wildlife. It's not uncommon for you to observe a southern cassowary, tree kangaroo and platypus on a single tour! The trails and boardwalks we access are the longest and most immersive compared with other commercial operators. In addition, many of our nature viewing locations are on private land or reserves for complete exclusivity. This increases your opportunities to observe wildlife in the wild.



Mossman Gorge



# ITINERARY

**Day 1 Arrival in Cairns**  
(domestic airfare not included)

After arrival in Cairns make your own way to your hotel.

△ **Accommodation: Doubletree by Hilton Cairns**

**Day 2 Cairns**  
**Daintree/Cape Tribulation**  
**World Heritage National Park**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Pick up from your hotel by your professional guide. Witness the magical Great Barrier Reef Drive as we head north on the scenic coastal highway. Learn about the unique habitats within the local environment and observe the changes in biodiversity as we get closer to the Daintree tropical rainforest. Walk the Jindalba Interpretive Rainforest Trail. The Daintree is an area of ancient tropical rainforest spanning 120,000 hectares, making it the largest portion of tropical



rainforest in Australia. Walk the quiet tracks to witness the complex ecosystems in this World Heritage Area. Jindalba nature trail offers unique and remarkable opportunities to experience the natural scenery and endemic wildlife within the national park. Wildlife sightings may include the southern cassowary, Boyd's forest dragon, wompoo fruit dove and many more. Lunch at a local restaurant enroute. After lunch continue to Cape Tribulation (where the rainforest meets the reef). This famous valley resembles a giant amphitheatre with a semicircle of hills dominated by Mt Sorrow (850m) and Mt Hemmant (1000m). The south-eastern rainfall trapped by this valley results in a lush tropical climate with high temperatures, humidity and rainfall. Several walks, scenic lookouts and beach areas are located in the coastal community. We highly recommend a swim in the azure waters of Emmagen Creek before settling in at Heritage Lodge for our

**ITINERARY CONT. →**

Far North Queensland



overnight accommodation and dinner for the evening. Heritage Lodge is an environmentally friendly resort set in the heart of a lush coastal rainforest, a short stroll from Cooper Creek for a swim!

**Optional night walk**

Night spotting in the Northern Daintree A wildlife tour in Far North Queensland is not complete without a night walk. A large portion of the local wildlife has adopted a nocturnal lifestyle to avoid to heat of the day in the tropical climate. We often visit two sites to experience the overall diversity of nocturnal wildlife in the Wet Tropics.

**△ Accommodation: Heritage Lodge in the Daintree**

**○ Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided**

**Day 3 Daintree Atherton Tablelands**

Breakfast at the lodge.

We have an early start today to maximise our wildlife viewing on the Daintree River. A short drive of 30 minutes will have us at our cruise location for a private 2-hour Daintree River Cruise on the beautiful Daintree River in the dawn light, spotting wildlife on a quiet, clean solar-electric boat with zero impact on the environment. Get closer to nature... hear, smell and experience without noise and fumes.

We have a 99 per cent success rate for spotting crocodiles, excellent bird-watching opportunities and other wildlife possibilities such as snakes, frogs and fish and bats.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch we continue to Shared Earth Reserve (SER) adjacent to the Hann Tableland National Park.

The wildlife on the Tropical Wetlands SER is incredibly diverse, and the property has some of the highest avian diversity anywhere in Australia – more than 220 recorded species, with the highest bird count for a single day sitting at 98 species. We know the property is critical habitat for buff-breasted buttonquail, one of the world’s rarest birds, and there is also a healthy population of the endangered northern quoll.

Our group has exclusive access to this site.

Our accommodation for the night, Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodge, is hidden in 486ha of Lake Eacham’s lush, tropical highland rainforest in the beautiful Waterfalls and Crater Lakes district of the Atherton Tablelands.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

**△ Accommodation: Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodge.**

**○ Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided**

**Day 4 Conservation Tour**

Breakfast at the lodge.

Become a citizen scientist for a day! We are offering an exclusive opportunity to work alongside industry experts and assist in conducting valuable research that will aid in the preservation of Far North Queensland’s endangered wildlife!

This behind-the-scenes tour provides a unique opportunity to enter research locations not accessible to the public to observe the endangered spotted-tailed quoll. Justin McMahon and Alberto Vale are our expert research guides and they have been carefully studying these fascinating and mysterious creatures for several years. Join them in the rainforest and take part in

their research projects.

- The spotted-tailed quoll is the largest marsupial mammal in the world!
- Sadly its closest cousin, the Tasmanian tiger is already extinct.
- Spotted-tailed quoll populations in North Queensland are now critically low and sadly this amazing creature is at real risk of extinction.
- This precious animal needs our help so that future generations can appreciate their magnificence and beauty.

**△ Accommodation: Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodge.**

**○ Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided**

**Day 5 Cairns Atherton Tablelands**

Breakfast at the lodge.

Birdwatching at Hasties Swamp, a large seasonal wetland renowned for its diverse range of resident and migratory birds. More than 220 species have been identified and a large bird hide, with informative identification signs, offers excellent water bird viewing opportunities.

We then continue to Lake Barrine, an outstanding location for nature activities. Several walks are available offering great wildlife and birdwatching opportunities. Let’s toast our wildlife spotting achievements at Lake Barrine Tea House with some local tea/coffee and its famous scones with jam and cream. The lake cruise is a highlight – you’ll spot reptiles such as water dragons, birds, eels, fish, other reptiles and several Wet Tropics endemic species.

Lunch at Lake Barrine Tea House.

One of our major focus points of the day, spotting wild platypus! Learn about their elusive behaviour and take as much time as you need to get that perfect photo!

In the afternoon arrive at Cathedral Fig Tree, one of the most incredible trees you’ll see in your life. This ancient fig is an epic rainforest survivor that supports a very complex ecosystem. We then return to Cairns, arriving late afternoon.

**△ Accommodation: Double Tree by Hilton.**

**○ Breakfast and lunch provided**

**Day 6 Cairns End of tour**

Make your way to the airport or airport or extend your trip at the beautiful Thala Beach Nature Reserve near Port Douglas.

**○ Breakfast provided**



Spotted-tailed quoll.

# CONSERVATION COMPONENT

**T**HE BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR on Day 4 provides a unique opportunity to enter research locations not accessible to the public to observe the endangered spotted-tailed quoll.

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**The Australian Quoll Conservancy (AQC)**  
The AQC is a not-for-profit organisation, now

## James Boettcher

Nature Guide



James Boettcher fell in love with guiding in his early twenties. The prospect of sharing and interpreting what he loves most, nature, was an unrivalled opportunity. James

has guided wildlife and nature safaris in Northern Australia for over 12 years and has been based in Cairns since 1998. His passion and enthusiasm for the region is highly contagious. With a particular interest in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, James most enjoys interpreting the evolutionary history of the tropical rainforest and its invaluable story. James loves to share photography tips and is usually found birdwatching on his days off.

in its sixth year of operation. Several Species Recovery Units are now established in Victoria and North Queensland. AQC emphasises the need for the recovery of these species in those areas, with unique, innovative and non-invasive monitoring methods that transcend current Animal Ethics, scientific methodologies and requirement.

### AQC AIMS

- To dramatically increase global awareness of spotted-tailed quolls
- To bridge the gap between tourism and science, allowing a deeper educational journey into the Wet Tropics
- To undertake and assist with studies into quoll habitats and biology
- To contribute – not many wildlife experiences allow guests to directly contribute to the prosperity of native animals.

Guests will join our researchers and other team members as they check camera traps and motion detection areas to catalogue sightings, document food sources, locations and behaviours and search for evidence of visits.



A pre-dawn cruise on the Daintree River is the perfect opportunity for crocodile spotting.

# COST & DETAILS

MIN 4 / MAX 6 PAX \$2,295. SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$449.

## Costs include the following services as per itinerary

- 5 nights accommodation as per itinerary
- Local experience wildlife guide throughout Day 2–Day 5
- Sightseeing as per itinerary by private air-conditioned charter vehicle
- Private boat cruises on Daintree River and Lake Barrine
- Meals as per itinerary

## Costs do not include

- Domestic or international airfares
- Pre-registration, late check-out or day use at hotels other than specified above
- Guide services other than specified
- Meals/beverages other than specified, alcohol
- Tips and gratuities
- Optional tours/services.



## COVID-19

FNQ Nature Tours will maintain the highest level of hygiene and cleaning among our guiding and operational practices, including our vehicles. We encourage the same principles be applied by our customers.

FNQ Nature Tours will not supply drink bottles until further notice but our vehicles will be equipped with a water station.

FNQ Nature Tours will not supply face towels until further notice. We always carry on-board hand sanitiser and our vehicles will be sanitised after every journey. COVID-19 is an evolving situation and we will continue to plan and adapt as circumstances change. Our staff will stay up to date with current advice and guidelines.

Due to the evolving COVID-19 global pandemic, FNQ Nature Tours has restructured its cancellation policy with flexible and necessary changes to our trips and to the booking conditions that apply to those trips, effective immediately.

EXTEND YOUR TRIP OPTION →



# EXTEND YOUR TRIP AND UNWIND AT THE THALA BEACH NATURE RESERVE

Located Where World Heritage Rainforest meets the Great Barrier Reef. Rainforest backs onto Thala Beach Nature Reserve's private beach frontage providing a natural setting for the guests to unwind in nature while still being within easy access to The Great Barrier Reef, Cairns and Port Douglas.

## Trip inclusions

- 3 nights accommodation in a deluxe bungalow with full breakfast daily
- Bottle of chilled Australian sparkling wine in room on arrival
- Onsite guided tours by specialist staff including wildlife walks, bird watching, star gazing & the coconut odyssey

### Jungle Walk Bungalow

- **Twin Share \$609 per person, Single room \$924 per person.** Experience the unique woodland forest from Thala's Jungle Walk Bungalows.

Located within the forest, Jungle Walk Bungalows combine comfort with the deep green, earthy beauty of the jungle.

### Eucalypt Bungalow

- **Twin Share \$799 per person, Single room \$1,181 per person** Thala's Eucalypt Bungalows allow you to intimately experience the unique tropical forest in supreme comfort and privacy. Eucalypt Bungalows are individually positioned and border Thala's pathways as they gently rise up the headland through the lush Eucalypt forest.

View from restaurant



Eucalypt Bungalow



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