

**ITINERARY: SC13**      **East Coast Deluxe**  
**QSC**                      **East Coast Islands & Rainforest**

**DURATION:** 13 Days/ 12 Nights

**TOUR CODE:** QSC

### **Day 1 Sydney to Port Macquarie**

Welcome to Sydney! Travel to the Hunter Valley for an exclusive wine tasting and get to know your fellow travellers over a delicious lunch at a local winery. After lunch continue north to picturesque seaside Port Macquarie and enjoy a dinner with your new found friends. **WL DW**

**Hotel: Sails Port Macquarie by Rydges, Port Macquarie**

### **Day 2 Port Macquarie to Gold Coast**

Journey to Cape Byron Lighthouse and enjoy superb views from Australia's eastern-most point over the Pacific Ocean. At the right time of year you may be lucky enough to spot migrating whales frolicking off the coast. For lunch we recommend fresh fish and chips on the beach at Byron Bay, there's nothing more Australian! Continue to the famous holiday destination, the Gold Coast where you'll stay for the next two nights. **B**

**Hotel: Novotel Surfers Paradise, 2 nights**

### **Day 3 Gold Coast & Included Choice**

Today you can choose from a selection of three *Included Choice* sightseeing experiences. Take a half day tour inland to Tamborine Mountain by 4WD, explore the rainforest on a guided walk to a tropical waterfall and wander through Mt Tamborine's Gallery Walk, the Hinterlands Art and Craft Centre. If the water beckons, take a boat trip to learn about crab fishing or "pumping yabbies", a truly unique and local experience. Or perhaps you prefer to be 270m in the air at the iconic Q1 building, the SkyPoint Climb of the highest external building is sure to be a thrilling experience; you will be rewarded with 360' views of the Gold Coast and beyond. **B**

### **Day 4 Gold Coast to Noosa**

After a short orientation tour of Brisbane, visit Australia Zoo made famous by the Crocodile Hunter, the late Steve Irwin and his family. Enjoy a sneak peek in to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital and see how AAT Kings works with the Wildlife Warriors to support the koala rehabilitation project at the hospital, the country's largest and busiest wildlife facility. Catch one of the many shows and wander through the zoo's fascinating grounds. Later travel to the resort town of Noosa for a relaxing stay. This evening enjoy dinner at a local restaurant with your fellow travellers and travel director. **B DW**

**Hotel: Sebel Noosa, 2 nights**

### **Day 5 Noosa 'Free Time'**

Take time out to discover Noosa for yourself. Swim at Noosa Main Beach or venture a little further with an easy, spectacular walk along the headland through to Noosa National Park. If you're feeling adventurous, you may like to hire a stand-up paddle board or even take a boat ride through the incredible Noosa Everglades, one of Australia's most beautiful wilderness areas. You'll love the dark

waterways and myriad of wildlife along the Noosa River- it's truly spectacular! This evening choose one of the town's eateries and dine on inspiring local delights. **B**

### **Day 6 Noosa - Fraser Island**

A day of discovery lies ahead as you cross by ferry to explore the wonders of World Heritage listed Fraser Island. Your 4WD tour takes you to the coloured sands of Rainbow Beach (tidal) and beyond. Visit Lake McKenzie, ringed with magnificent white sandy beaches. Walk through the ancient rainforest at Central Station with its huge satiny, scribbly gum and kauri trees and enjoy a delicious lunch before arriving in Hervey Bay. **B L**

**Hotel: Mantra Hervey Bay**

### **Day 7 Hervey Bay to Rockhampton**

This morning stop at Ohana Exotic Fruit Orchard for a guided tour with the opportunity to try some local flavours and produce. Later you'll stop at Langmorn Station, a fully operational family run cattle station. Meet the Creed family and take a guided tour of the property including the original family homestead, built in 1873. Enjoy afternoon tea in the garden in the company of the pet kangaroo! Cross the Tropic of Capricorn as you arrive in Rockhampton, the beef capital of Australia! Your night is free so why not try some local beef at one of the town's steakhouses. **B BMG**

**Hotel: Quality Regent, Rockhampton**

### **Day 8 Rockhampton to Hamilton Island**

Travel north to the sugar town of Sarina, Australia's sugar capital, to Sarina Sugar Shed, a working miniature sugar mill. On your tour you'll get a peak in to sugar cane processing and witness fully functioning sugar processing and distilling equipment in action. Afterwards you can taste some of the products made on site before sitting down for a light lunch. Continue to Airlie Beach to catch a ferry to Hamilton Island one of 74 tropical islands that make up the Whitsundays. You'll be surrounded by pristine beaches, and a kaleidoscope of coral and marine life! **B L DW**

**Hotel: Reef View Hotel, Hamilton Island, 2 nights.**

### **Day 9 Hamilton Island**

At Hamilton Island the day is yours to indulge and relax by the pool or on the beach – you may prefer to hire a buggy to explore the island or tee off in paradise against the magnificent backdrop of an azure ocean. Or perhaps the famous Whitehaven Beach beckons. Take an optional cruise aboard a catamaran to this slice of paradise, where you can simply relax on the beach, take a swim, or get involved in some fun beach activities. **B**

### **Day 10 Hamilton Island to Mission Beach**

This morning you'll board a ferry back to mainland and continue north along the Bruce Highway. Your destination for the night is Mission Beach where you'll stay with views over the ocean. Magic! **B DW**

**Hotel: Castaways Resort and Spa, Mission Beach**

**Day 11 Mission Beach to Cairns**

This morning there will be time to take a walk along the shore and feel the golden sand between your toes before you depart. Today you'll travel through the high tropical plateau known as the Atherton Tablelands, where lush rainforests, waterfalls and lakes abound. Visit Millaa Millaa Falls and the famous Curtain Fig Tree. Keep an eye out for the spectacular Ulysses Butterfly while you're there. Continue to Kuranda where you'll stop around lunch time. Enjoy some free time to explore the village in the rainforest. From Kuranda you will take the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway high above the canopy of the Barron Gorge National Park before arriving at your hotel in Cairns, gateway to the Great Barrier Reef. **B**

**Hotel: Hilton Hotel Cairns, 2 nights.**

**Day 12 The Great Barrier Reef**

Board a high speed catamaran and cruise out to the Great Barrier Reef. The world heritage listed reef is the only living organism you can see from the moon. Imagine that! You'll have the opportunity to go snorkelling and view this natural living wonder up- close (equipment provided) and view the spectacular coral and tropical fish from the underwater observatory and the semi-submersible craft. Enjoy a delicious tropical buffet lunch before you return to Cairns in the late afternoon. Tonight is your farewell dinner at restaurant on Cairns Harbour. **B L DW**

**Day 13 Farewell from Cairns**

Your wonderful holiday concludes after breakfast when you bid farewell to your fellow travellers. **B**

## **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES**

### **NOOSA**

#### **NOOSA EVERGLADES LUNCH CRUISE**

Experience one of Australia's most magnificent wilderness areas with its intriguing waterways and myriad of wildlife on a Noosa Everglades Discovery. Float through ancient landscapes, mirrored waterways and sub-tropical rainforest on an interpretive guided cruise through the Noosa Everglades on a purpose built vessel. You'll enjoy an included morning tea of freshly baked scones with tea and coffee and a delicious BBQ lunch of Sirloin Steak, Barramundi or Vegetable Frittata.

#### **NOOSA EVERGLADES LUNCH CRUISE & BAR-B-CANOE**

Experience one of Australia's most magnificent wilderness areas with its intriguing waterways and myriad of wildlife on a Noosa Everglades Discovery River Cruise. After a delicious morning tea you'll paddle upstream in your classic Canadian style canoe through ancient landscapes, mirrored waterways and sub-tropical rainforest to rejoin your tour group for a BBQ lunch of delicious Sirloin Steak, Barramundi or Vegetable Frittata. Enjoy a leisurely river cruise with your tour group back to Noosa

#### **NOOSA RIVER SUNSET CRUISE**

What a way to end the day! Sit back, relax and experience Noosa coming alive at sunset. Revel in the amazing sights and sounds of nature as you cruise the river and the beautiful hidden waterways of the Noosa Sound Canals. The photo opportunities can be breath taking and you're welcome to bring your own beverages and snacks on board with glassware and ice buckets provided! (Operates Wednesday to Saturday)

### **WHITSUNDAYS**

#### **HALF DAY WHITEHAVEN CRUISE**

This half day out allows you to spend some time exploring the wonders of Whitehaven Beach.

### **CAIRNS**

#### **GREAT ADVENTURES CERTIFIED DIVE**

If you already have a dive certification, we will provide an experienced dive guide to ensure maximum enjoyment and safety and guide you to the best sites. Proof of certification is required C-card / log book. (Certified diving is subject to availability on day of travel)

#### **GREAT ADVENTURES INTRODUCTORY DIVE**

For an underwater adventure to remember, experience an introductory dive! It's fun and no experience is necessary to take a fully supervised introductory dive.