

LIVING IN CAIRNS

Tropical North Queensland is as diverse in natural treasures as the cosmopolitan mix of cultures and people who call this region home. Cairns is the international gateway into two of the world's greatest natural treasures - the Great Barrier Reef and the World Heritage Rainforest.

The majestic coral structures that make up the Great Barrier Reef extend over 1,500 kilometres, and are home to the greatest variety of flora and fauna species found in any one location in the world. The Great Barrier Reef, now a national marine park, provides superb recreational activities such as snorkelling, diving, swimming, semi-submersibles, coral viewing and fishing, and offers a unique environment for scientific research.

The rainforests of the Wet Tropics, a 'living museum' of flora and fauna, were placed on the World Heritage List in 1988 and cover an area of nearly 900,000 hectares of rainforest and tropical vegetation. Here, pockets of primitive plants have remained undisturbed for millions of years, and rare, even previously unidentified species of birds, insects and mammals have emerged to delight biologists and nature lovers.

The warmth of the tropical climate has fostered a vigorous outdoor lifestyle, reflected in the architectural styles of open verandahs and balconies and extending to the most traditional of Australian cuisine - the barbecue. Dining is a high point, and the cosmopolitan local restaurants, cafes and eateries offer an eclectic fare of Australian and international cuisine, the highlight of most menus featuring the region's mouth-watering fresh seafoods and unusual tropical fruits.

Accommodation in the region is diverse as well, ranging from luxury resorts and five star hotels to award winning budget style apartments and backpacker lodges.

Cairns International Airport is the nation's sixth busiest in terms of international and domestic passenger movements, and the city also is rated the third most popular tourist destination in the country after Sydney and Brisbane.

In the local area there are so many unique attractions and activities to do. Cruise to the reef or islands, take a 4WD safari to the outback, trek into the rainforest or see it from the rainforest cableway above its green canopy on your way to or from Kuranda. Day touring in this region is so easy - there are over 600 trips to choose from, and our tourism industry and infrastructure is designed to ensure you, will have a truly memorable day.

Relocating to a new town can be a stressful time. To find home rental or residential rental accommodation you can search the internet and look through the Accommodation or Real Estate Section of the Cairns Post.

All within the immediate Cairns area are:

- Cairns International/Domestic Airport
- Hospitals and Medical Services
- Schools
- Police
- Bus Service
- Taxis
- Shopping Centres
- Swimming Pool
- Esplanade recreation area
- Restaurants