

great value HOLIDAYS

Cairns & Cooktown Discovery (EASY PACE)

Days Tour Only	\$2970
Single room	\$500

9 Days with return Rail Fare

QLD Pension Economy Seat add \$50

QLD Pension Railbed add \$400

Senior Railbed add

Adult Railbed add \$670

2026 Departure Dates

05th June 2026

Tour Highlights:

Paronella Park & Innisfail, Mossman Gorge & Daintree River Cruise, Port Douglas Township, Palm, Palmer River Roadhouse & Black Mountain, Cooktown Museum & Cemetery Grassy Hill Lookout, Botanical Gardens, Endeavour River Sunset Cruise, Lion's Den Hotel, Annan River, Mount Molloy & Mareeba, Accommodation & Meals as per itinerary, Coach touring & commentary, fully hosted by our friendly staff

Day 1: Depart Brisbane on the Spirit of Queensland train.

Your journey begins as you **depart bustling Brisbane** aboard the legendary **Spirit of Queensland Train**. Settle into your comfortable **Economy Seat**, or indulge in an upgrade to a **Railbed**, where you'll enjoy **all meals included** and a premium overnight experience. As the train glides northward along Queensland's picturesque coastline, watch the scenery transform — from city skylines to rolling cane fields, charming coastal towns, and lush hinterlands. Relax with a good book, chat with fellow travellers, or simply gaze out the window as the rhythm of the rails sets the tone for your incredible adventure ahead.

Accommodation: Spirit of Queensland train

Meals: All meals included for railbed passengers, dining cart available for economy seat passengers at your own expense

Note: If making your way to Cairns under your own arrangements, please

Day 2: Awake to sweeping views of tropical landscapes as your rail journey continues. Arriving into Cairns mid-afternoon, you'll be greeted by your friendly tour host and transferred to your centrally located hotel. This evening, gather with your fellow travellers for a Welcome Dinner.

Note: If making your way to Cairns under own arrangements, arrive today and check in from 15:00pm.

Accommodation: DoubleTree by Hilton, Cairns

Meals: All meals included for railbed passengers & Welcome Dinner

Day 3: Today we journey south to **Innisfail**, where you'll step into the magical world of **Paronella Park** – a story of vision, passion, and romance. In the 1930s, **José Paronella** dreamed of building a fairytale castle in the heart of the rainforest, and today his creation is a captivating blend of history and nature.

Explore the **castle ruins**, wander through lush gardens filled with **7,500 tropical plants and trees**, and marvel at the picturesque **Mena Creek Falls**. With bridges, tennis courts, and secret picnic areas, this enchanting park feels like stepping back in time to a world where dreams came alive. After a **relaxed lunch**, we return to Cairns for an afternoon and evening at leisure – perfect for a stroll along the vibrant **Cairns Esplanade** or some last-minute shopping.

Accommodation: DoubleTree by Hilton, Cairns

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 4: Prepare for a day of stunning natural beauty as we travel north to **Mossman Gorge**, part of the World Heritage-listed **Daintree National Park**. Here, the **Mossman River** tumbles over ancient granite boulders, creating crystal-clear swimming holes surrounded by towering rainforest. Stroll along boardwalks and take in the peaceful sounds of nature.

Next, board a **Daintree River Cruise** for a fascinating journey through a dense mangrove ecosystem teeming with wildlife. Keep your camera ready as you search for **saltwater crocodiles**, colourful birdlife, and other creatures that call this unique environment home.

We then continue to **Port Douglas**, a chic tropical town with boutique shops, cafés, and a relaxed vibe. Enjoy some free time to explore before returning to Cairns for a free evening.

Accommodation: DoubleTree by Hilton, Cairns

Meals: Breakfast

Day 5: Today's adventure takes us into Queensland's remote frontier. We journey through the lush, elevated landscapes of the **Atherton Tablelands**, known for their rolling hills, waterfalls, and fertile farmlands.

Stopping at the **Palmer River Roadhouse**, we enjoy a hearty lunch and a glimpse of the pioneering spirit that defines this region. Continuing north, we pass **Annan Gorge** and the striking **Black Mountain** – known to local Indigenous people as the "Place of Spears." This mysterious, pyramid-like formation of dark boulders is thought to be **150 million years old** and is steeped in local legend.

Arriving in **Cooktown**, we visit the **Cooktown Botanical Gardens**, home to exotic tropical plants and historic pathways dating back to the late 1800s. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure before dinner.

Accommodation: River of Gold Motel, Cooktown

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 6: After breakfast, we enjoy a town tour of Cooktown as we head up to **Grassy Hill Lookout** for fantastic views of Cooktown and its famous "**River of Gold**". We explore the **Cooktown Cemetery** which is a wonderful place to wander around to soak up the history. Graveyards act as a wonderful testimony to the colourful and varied lives of the locals.

It's then onto the **Captain James Cook Museum**, which is one of Queensland's best museums, showcasing the remarkable history of this remarkable town. The museum follows the story of James Cook's enforced seven-week stay at the **Endeavour River**, during which the first meaningful contact between Europeans and Indigenous people occurred.

We then head down to the famous historical **Lion's Den Hotel** for lunch and a refreshing drink. This is truly an Aussie icon built on the banks of the little **Annan River**, surrounded by 100yr old mango trees.

On returning to Cooktown, there is free time to take a stroll along Main Street, with lots of places to explore including the Old Railway Station, the Cooktown History and Cultural Centre. There is also the odd watering hole that you might want to visit as well.

As evening approaches, embark on a **Sunset Cruise along the Endeavour River**. Watch the sky turn golden as you glide through mangroves and waterways, learning about the river's fascinating history and wildlife while enjoying a shared antipasto platter. This magical experience is the perfect way to end the day.

Accommodation: River of Gold Motel, Cooktown

Meals: Breakfast and Afternoon Tea

Day 7: We bid farewell to Cooktown, travelling south with a stop in the friendly township of **Mount Molloy** for a classic country pub lunch. Continuing on to Mareeba, we explore the **Heritage Museum**, offering a deep dive into the region's rich past, followed by a visit to **Coffee Works** – a haven for coffee, tea, and chocolate lovers.

Returning to Cairns in the late afternoon, you'll have time to relax before joining your fellow travellers for a special **Farewell Dinner**, celebrating the unforgettable memories and friendships formed on this incredible journey.

Accommodation: DoubleTree by Hilton, Cairns

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 8: This morning, transfer to the Cairns railway station to **re-board the Spirit of Queensland** for your relaxing return journey south. Settle in as the train glides along the coast, offering one last chance to soak in the views of the tropical north and reflect on your amazing adventure.

Note:

If not using the rail service, please check out by 10am and enjoy the rest of your holidays. Return Rail can be pre-arranged for a later date upon availability. Extra nights in Cairns can be pre-arranged.

Accommodation: Spirit of Queensland train

Meals: All meals included for railbed passengers, dining cart available for economy seat passengers at your own expense.

Day 9: Arrival Home

Arrive back in Brisbane with hearts full of memories and a camera filled with photos from your extraordinary tropical Queensland adventure.

Health and Fitness

This is an Easy paced tour – Low Level if Fitness required

Travelers must be able to meet the below fitness level requirements or have a carer who is available to assist. GVH Staff are not able to assist with those who have reduced mobility or other health problems. It is Your responsibility to arrange for such a carer if so required:

- Participate in guided walking tours with time to rest at least every 10 minutes
- Walking is mostly on level ground
- Get on and off multiple transport types unaided including train, coach and boat
- Manage you own luggage or with the help of your own carer

GVH reserves the right at its discretion to exclude from a tour or to terminate the travel arrangements during the course of the tour without refund, of anyone who is unable to cope with the requirements of the tour, including using coach steps for embarking and disembarking or needing services or facilities that are not available. We will not be held liable for any termination of your travel arrangements or additional expenses incurred. Please be aware that some outback locations may experience high temperatures.