could love Coursetty



Rusty's Markets has the best local fruit and veggies

Cairns is Australia's northern gateway with the Cairns International Airport and seaports providing international and domestic access. It is the perfect base for you to explore and enjoy the magnificent Great Barrier Reef, pristine World Heritage listed rainforest and the rugged beauty of the Tropical Gulf Savannah. It's the ultimate destination to find fun and adventure and yet it's also the perfect place to relax and unwind and be part of the laid-back feel of the tropics.

YOU'LL WANT TO STAY LONGER

The huge range of accommodation options in Cairns easily suits all lifestyles, needs and budgets. Once here, you won't want to leave. Five-star options have world-class facilities, million-dollar views, award-winning restaurants and some of the most sought-after spa centres in the world.

Holiday units are a home away from home

where you can be yourself, make your own meals and accommodate the family. You can choose from top-of-the range apartments with pools, fitness clubs, restaurants and laundry facilities to budget options in the city. Caravan parks in Cairns are perfect for those who want to experience the tropics living outdoors closer to nature – and meeting others who are doing the same. You'll find quiet parks



nestled among rainforest as well as those that have pools and attractions for children. Cairns is a mecca for backpackers with a gamut of lodges and hostels scattered throughout the city. Options for backpackers include family rooms with ensuites to dorm accommodation. Most have cooking facilities, tour booking desks, internet access and entertainment.





You'll fall in love with the cosmopolitan atmosphere and natural beauty

DELIGHT IN THE FABULOUS FOOD

Cairns is renowned for its fresh exotic fruits, vegetables, produce, seafood, herbs and meats. That's why so many experienced chefs from around the world make the city their home, which makes dining in the city an absolute pleasure. You can enjoy fabulous food from award-winning restaurants as well as casual meals in quaint restaurants, cafes and takeaway outlets. There's so many options to choose from such as Italian, Indian, Japanese, Thai, Chinese, French, Mediterranean, American and, of course, unique Australian cuisine infusing 'bush tucker'.

Head to the waterfront, Spence Street or the bustling Esplanade strip for a fresh mix of casual fare and fine dining options. It's a vibrant exciting restaurant strip and you'll love the eclectic range of styles.

Pick up a hamper of local produce and share one of the waterfront's gas barbecues for the night. It's outdoor eating Aussie style. What better way to end the day!

■ If you like your food free from fuss, pull up a chair and dine al fresco on pizza, steaks, burgers, seafood, chicken and more as you people watch in the prettiest spot in Australia.

Like pub rock? When the sun goes down, there are plenty of places that have great pub meals and live entertainment from local or touring acts. You'll find everything from jazz and salsa to rock, hip hop and DJ music. And if you feel adventurous, there are plenty of places to karaoke. Vou will find the region's best selection of tropical fruit, vegetables, coffee, nuts and local produce at Rusty's Markets, one of the best-loved markets in the region, located in the Gilligan's Backpacker's complex.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Visiting children can skate like a pro, dangle a line or learn to dive in the safety of a resort pool. They can also head to the cinemas, enjoy ten-pin bowling, ice skating, the indoor kids' playgrounds or slip behind the wheel of a go kart for some high-octane thrills. There's plenty of wide open spaces for the youngsters to run and play, and when its warm outside, there is no better place than the creative water play area at Muddy's Playground or the award-winning saltwater lagoon on The Esplanade.

NATURE LOVERS' PARADISE

You'll be impressed with the spectacular natural beauty in and around Cairns. Need to burn some holiday calories? Test your stamina against the challenging Red and Blue Arrow walks at Edge Hill, which wind up Mt Whitfield, rewarding you at the end with unforgettable views across the ocean and the city of Cairns.

■ Nature parks, tours and facilities like the spectacular Cairns Wildlife Dome atop the Sofitel Reef Hotel Casino are a great way to meet the locals with four feet, fur or feathers and provide the perfect exposure to our unique fauna.

CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Galleries showcasing local art and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture can be found dotted around the city. Visit the Cairns Regional Gallery for the latest local and visiting exhibitions or the Tanks Art Centre in Edge Hill where exhibitions, performance art, musicals and theatrical productions show year round. Live theatre and music take centre stage at the Centre for Contemporary Arts in Abbott Street, the Cairns Civic Theatre and the Cairns Convention Centre. The Rondo Theatre in Greenslopes Street runs a program of live plays throughout the year.

Grab a picnic, a blanket and some drinks and unwind under the evening sky with the monthly outdoor movie at the Flecker Botanic Gardens' Starry Night.

Shopping in Cairns can be as intense or relaxed as you make it. There are several shopping centres dotted through the suburbs and the city centre has streets of duty-free stores, designer boutiques, jewellery and leather goods stores and souvenir spots.

Bag a bargain at the Night Markets held nightly adjacent to The Esplanade or wander through craft markets on weekends at the lagoon, once a month at the Tanks Art Centre and at other times throughout the city.

Cairns in September is a colourful time as locals celebrate Festival Cairns. It's about performance, fun, fashion, art, culture and sport when hundreds of events, exhibitions and functions take advantage of this perfect time of year.



Cairns has it all - great food, stunning scenery and memorable adventures.





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