



AUSTRALIAN
AIR SAFARIS

BY KIRKHOPE



Tip of Australia

Cape York Air Safari

13 Days | 12 Nights | All Inclusive | Private Aircraft

Cape York is Australia's final frontier — remote, rugged and irresistibly wild. This extraordinary 13-day air safari takes you to the very tip of the continent and deep into the heart of the outback. Traverse Queensland's vast inland, the untouched Gulf of Carpentaria, the tropical Torres Strait Islands and the awe-inspiring Great Barrier Reef. Along the way, encounter iconic landscapes, vibrant characters, unique wildlife and unforgettable moments both in the air and on the ground. For every Australian, this is the adventure of a lifetime.

Please note: This tour requires a higher level of fitness than some of our other itineraries. To reach the Tip, you'll need to walk up to 500 metres over uneven ground. If you're unsure whether this is manageable for you, we encourage you to contact us to discuss.

Destinations



Highlights

- Heart of the outback Innamincka and Birdsville
- Savour a Gulf Sunset cruise
- Spectacular flightseeing over outback and reef
- Bucket list tick - Tip of Australia
- Secluded luxury at exclusive Lizard Island
- Step back in time at the Qantas Founders Museum, Longreach
- Photogenic Carnarvon Gorge



Cultural Dance, Thursday Island

✈ Departures

Departing Melbourne

- 📅 05 June, 17 July 2026
- 👤 \$23,050 pp twin share
- 👤 \$26,550 single
- ✅ ALL INCLUSIVE PRICE

Departing Sydney

- 📅 12 June 2026
- 👤 \$23,050 pp twin share
- 👤 \$26,550 single
- ✅ ALL INCLUSIVE PRICE

Departing Gold Coast

- 📅 30 July 2026
- 👤 \$23,050 pp twin share
- 👤 \$26,550 single
- ✅ ALL INCLUSIVE PRICE



For full details visit australianairsafaris.com.au, call **1300 206 130** or see your local travel agent
info@australianairsafaris.com.au • Hangar 7, 2 Second Street, Moorabbin Airport, Victoria 3194



Day 1: Depart for Innamincka and Birdsville (L,D)

Begin your Cape York Air Safari with a flight to Innamincka, near the borders of NSW, SA and QLD. Fly low over the historic Dig Tree, the site where explorers Burke and Wills set up camp. On the ground, delve into these pioneering adventurers' history and ill-fated journey. Visit the Innamincka Hotel, an authentic outback pub. Continue to Birdsville for sunset drinks at Big Red, the first of 1,140 parallel dunes marking the edge of the Simpson Desert. Conclude the day with dinner at the iconic Birdsville Hotel.

Overnight: Birdsville Hotel

Day 2: Birdsville to Burketown (B,L,D)

Fly north towards the Gulf of Carpentaria, arriving in Burketown, which sits on the Savannah Way, a 3700-kilometre route linking the historic pearling town of Broome with Tropical Cairns. Tour the area with a local guide, visiting the Burketown Bore, The Old Wharf, Albert River and Escott Crossing Weir. Learn about the water systems crucial to Burketown and their significance to the Gangalidda culture.

Overnight: Savannah Lodge

Day 3: Burketown to Karumba (B,L,D)

Depart for Karumba, stopping at Hells Gate Roadhouse for lunch. Karumba is home to prawn, mud crab, barramundi and fishing fleets working in the Gulf of Carpentaria. It's also known for stunning sunsets. End the day with a camera in one hand and a glass in the other on a sunset cruise.

Overnight: End of the Road Motel or Ash's Holiday Units

Day 4: Karumba to the Tip of Australia to Thursday Island (B,L,D)

Fly north up the west side of Cape York to Bamaga, and then it's time for a bucket list adventure - visiting the Tip of Australia. Drive north to the tip for a

500-metre walk over uneven ground to the tip of mainland Australia. Snap a photo for the memory vaults! Explore a WWII DC3 crash site, Lockerbie Station and Somerset, to learn about a little of the local history. Rejoin your aircraft and fly on to Horn Island. Transfer by ferry across to Thursday Island and your accommodation. Island Villas are large and beautifully appointed, with lovely views over the harbour. As there are only a limited number of villas available, each villa will be shared with your fellow passengers. Enjoy your own bedroom and bathroom (ensuite or directly across the hallway) in these 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom villas. The lounge area of the villa is shared with your fellow passengers.

2 nights: Island Villas

Day 5: Horn Island and Thursday Island (B,L,D)

Local history experts and tour guides Liberty and Vanessa will take you back to Horn Island to the Torres Strait Heritage Museum to view exhibits from the pearling industry, myths and legends of the Torres Strait, artwork, artefacts and the World War II history of the area. On the In Their Steps WWII tour, visit gun emplacements, an underground command post, slit trenches, an aircraft wreck with an unbelievable story, a WWII airstrip, dispersal bays and taxiways. Walk in the steps of the indigenous and non-indigenous soldiers who served in the area with insightful and entertaining commentary.

Back to Thursday Island, a tour of TI and Green Hill Fort reveals how its history helped to create today's dynamic, multicultural community and the tropical lifestyle it offers. End the day with a captivating cultural dinner with Torres Strait Island food, dancing, music with traditional instruments, singing and storytelling. Learn why each dance is performed and its cultural significance.

Day 6: Thursday Island to Lizard Island (B,L,D)

Return to Horn Island and fly south to Lizard Island on the Great Barrier Reef. Enjoy the stunning coastline scenery and take in the breathtaking reef views. Lizard Island, the most northern resort on the Great Barrier Reef, offers seclusion from the rest of the world. The resort provides exceptional service, facilities, tours and food, making it the perfect place to experience the wonders of the largest coral reef in the world. It's truly an unbeatable indulgence.

2 nights: Lizard Island Resort

Day 7: Lizard Island (B,L,D)

Relax on Lizard Island with snorkelling, paddleboarding and kayaking activities. Explore the island on a nature walk, join the resident naturalist for a bird-watching tour, or take an optional boat trip to the outer reef (additional cost).



Gulf Country





Karumba



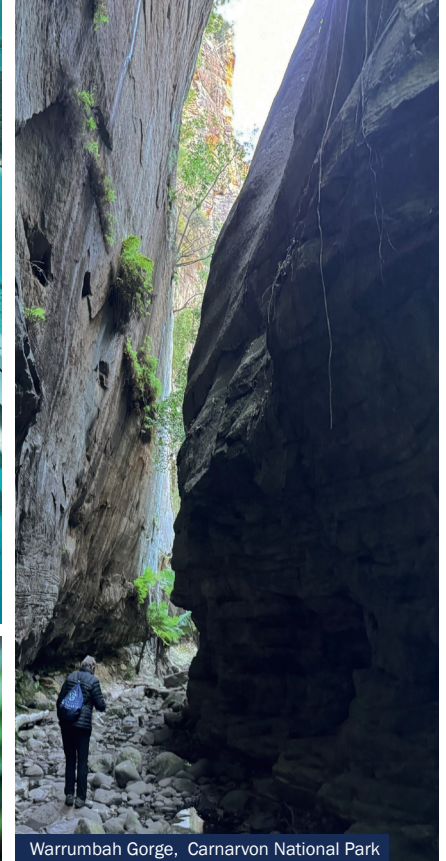
Horn Island



Carnarvon National Park



Torres Strait



Warrumbah Gorge, Carnarvon National Park



Horn Island



Ixora Coccinea, also referred to as Jungle Geranium



Cape York Tip



Qantas Founders Museum, Longreach



Karumba Sunset



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Day 8: Lizard Island to Cooktown (B,L,D)

Fly to Cooktown, where Captain Cook sought refuge when his ship, The Endeavour, sustained severe damage during his 1770 expedition. Tour the many historical sites and learn how Cooktown prospered in a gold rush, dwindled, and rose again to become an essential base in World War II. Dine in the lovely surroundings of the Balcony Restaurant.

Overnight: Sovereign Resort Hotel or The Seaview

Day 9: Cooktown to Laura to Longreach (B,L,D)

Fly to Laura for a tour of spectacular rock art. Quinkan Country contains a large and dramatic body of rock paintings. Between 15,000 and 40,000 years old, these galleries are listed by UNESCO as among the world's top 10 rock art sites. Continue to Longreach and explore the historic homestead at Camden Park Station. Take in the expansive view from the verandah, visit a circa 1920 shearing shed and gain an insight into the history of grazing in the outback. This evening, witness a thrilling luminescent light show at the Qantas Founders Museum.

2 nights: Mitchell Grass Retreat or Saltbush Retreat

Day 10: Longreach (B,L,D)

Your day in Longreach begins at the fascinating Stockman's Hall of Fame, where the Australian Stockman's Experience will take you on an adventure that depicts the rugged, harsh and sometimes humorous antics of life in the bush. Spend some more time at the Qantas Founders Museum, which has an impressive collection of aircraft. Dinner is at Mitchell Grass – relax on the sunset viewing deck, with a fire pit to keep you warm, and indulge in a delicious three course dinner in The Tin Shed.

Day 11: Longreach to Carnarvon Gorge to Wallaroo (B,L,D)

Next is Carnarvon Gorge, an oasis in the semi-arid heart of Central Queensland. Carnarvon Creek has carved a winding course through sandstone over millions of years to form a spectacular steep gorge with narrow, vibrantly coloured, lush side gorges. Take a guided walk along Mickey's Creek and Warrumbah Gorge - a side gorge so narrow that you can touch both walls simultaneously. Head to Wallaroo Outback Retreat, nestled amongst the magnificent sandstone cliffs of the Carnarvon Ranges. Wallaroo is a 72,000-acre cattle property owned by your hosts, Pauline and Justin MacDonnell. This is a natural heritage experience, away from the crowds, with only ten glamping tents for an exclusive and intimate experience. Throughout your stay, you will enjoy private touring with a local ecologist, who will share their passion and expertise to make your experience deep and meaningful. Indulge in a campfire dinner under the stars. Accommodation is in glamping tents with private ensuite (ensuites either attached or detached, up to a 30m walk).

2 nights: Wallaroo Outback Retreat

Day 12: Wallaroo (B,L,D)

Explore some of the Wallaroo highlights by air-conditioned 4WD. Staying on the property, you'll see an extensive array of unique aboriginal sites such as the Axe Factory and the Date Site, incredible rock formations,

lookouts and Rainbow Cave – the crème de la crème of Wallaroo. You'll get a sense of the region's stunning scenery and biodiversity from the massive to the microscopic.

Day 13: Wallaroo to Eulo to home city (B,L)

Fly to Eulo, known for producing honey and opals, and for recent megafauna discoveries. Lunch at the Eulo Queen Hotel and learn the many local versions of the Eulo Queen story. Back in the air, head for home, arriving in the early evening.

Scan this QR code to watch our Cape York Air Safari video

