

The itinerary may be subject to change without notice. Whilst every effort is made to adhere to the itinerary as provided, Holiday Coast Tours reserves the right to alter the touring and attractions as dictated by circumstances and conditions outside the company's control. Alterations may be made to ensure the smooth running of the tour. Every attempt will be made to ensure the alterations do not adversely effect the operation of the tour. Holiday Coast Tours will not be held responsible for weather based cancellations or those closures made at the venue's discretion.

**Passengers are strongly recommended to take out travel insurance in case of cancellation or curtailment expenses, loss of luggage or illness etc.**

Cancellations and amendments:

**Cancellation fees will be levied relative to the amount of notice given:**

**42 days or more—loss of deposit**

**29-41 days: 50% of fare plus deposit**

**30 days before and Day of departure: 100% of fare.**

In case of concert or sporting tours, where admission tickets are purchased in advance, a minimum cancellation fee equivalent to the cost of admission tickets will apply.

Some accommodation require prepayment and refund will be subject to their own conditions.

Please note: Passenger baggage to be a maximum of 20kg. per person

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# **SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND**

**featuring**

## **AGNES WATER & 1770**



10 days

Thursday 3—Saturday 12 August 2023

## **PORT MACQUARIE TRAVEL**

Hosted by

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HOLIDAY COAST TOURS  
Presents  
SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND  
Featuring  
AGNES WATERS & 1770

Thursday 3 – Saturday 12 August 2023

Agnes Waters & the town of 1770 is the birthplace of Queensland and the first recorded landing place of Captain James Cook in 1770. The then Lieutenant James Cook, on his discovery voyage of The New Found Land (Australia), first set foot at this point on the 24th May in 1770. The town was named in this honour and a monument laid near the spot where Cook and Joseph Banks came ashore. The Town of 1770 is nestled on the western side of a peninsula over looking one of the most magnificent views of Bustard Bay and Round Hill Creek. This will be our base for 3 nights as we explore the area. We will also visit Kingaroy, Hervey Bay, and the Gold Coast.

Day 1 (LD) Port Macquarie to the Gold Coast  
Thursday 03 August 2023

Welcome to our 10-day tour for the *Whale Watching Season* at *Hervey Bay*. We depart the Port Macquarie Coach Terminal at 8.30am and after the coach has been loaded we are ready to go. We travel through to the Gold Coast today with several stops along the way, including morning tea from the coach and lunch at the **Australian Hotel, South Grafton**. From here we travel to the southern part of the Gold Coast and check into the *Sebel Twin*

- Visit the Backpackers Memorial
- Group entry to the Agnes Water Museum
- Visit Captain Cook Monument
- Afternoon (LARC) Cruise
- Lady Musgrave Island Cruise including lunch
- Entry to Hinkler House Museum
- Guided tour of the Bundaberg Rum Distillery including tastings
- Entry to Flying High Bird Sanctuary
- Whale watching on the Spirit of Hervey Bay
- Visit Reefworld Aquarium
- Maryborough Step on Guide tour
- The Bond Store 'Tipples and Tales' tour including port, liquers and share platters
- Lunch at The Station Café in Gympie
- Entry & guided tour of Gold Mining Museum
- Entry to Woodworks Forestry & Timber Museum
- Group entry to Australia Zoo
- Morning tea at The Macadamia Castle
- Group lunch at Grafton District Services Club

*Towns* for the next night. Dinner tonight will be at the *Twin Towns Service Club*.

Sebel Twin Towns, Tweed Heads | 1 Night  
Lunch at Australian Hotel/Dinner at Twin Towns Service Club

## Day 2 (BD) Gold Coast to Kingaroy Friday 04 August 2023

Leaving the glitz of the Gold Coast behind us we drive to *Ipswich*, gradually seeing the countryside change at each passing mile. We have arranged a visit to the very interesting *Workshops Rail Museum* in *Ipswich*. It offers an historic & interactive journey to the birthplace of Queensland's Railways. There are steam engines in all their coal-burning, steam-blowing glory and we can witness the speed of Australia's fastest high-tech train. The Workshops Rail Museum is the finest railway museum in the country. We hit the road and make our way to *Kingaroy* where we can have some free time to look through the local shops and purchase lunch (own expense). This afternoon a local guide will join the coach to tell us about the town. Traditionally, Kingaroy has always been the centre of Australia's peanut and navy bean industries. However, since the early 1990s it's also developed into one of the twin hubs of the South Burnett's rapidly-expanding wine industry. Our tour concludes back at the *South Burnett Visitor Information Centre* in Haly Street, opposite the peanut silos. We can watch a short film on the peanut industry and then also visit the *Heritage Museum*. To cap off a pleasant day's touring, we make a stop at Kingaroy's most famous tourist attraction – *the Peanut Van!* It was established in 1969 and now, each year nearly 40 tonnes of peanuts are sold through this unique retail outlet.

Burke & Wills Motor Inn, Kingaroy | 1 Night  
Breakfast & dinner at hotel | lunch at own cost

## Day 3 (BD) Kingaroy to Agnes Water Saturday 05 August 2023

After breakfast this morning we make our way to the National Trust town of *Childers*. The township is set on top of rolling hills of red soil framed by green fields of sugar cane. In 1902 a disastrous fire destroyed much of

Childers but the subsequent rebuilding has given us the amazing variety of architectural styles still largely intact today. A great example is Gaydon's building (1894) in Churchill Street which is now the home of **Childers Pharmaceutical Museum**. The much-awarded museum is believed to be the only one of its kind in Australia and now dispenses tourist information rather than patent cures! We also stop at the **Visitor Centre** in the Backpackers Memorial Building where there is a memorial wall for the 15 young people who died in a tragic hostel fire some years ago. We head off this afternoon for **Agnes Waters**. This will be our base for the next three nights as we explore this delightful region. On arrival we check into our accommodation and settle in.

Sandcastles 1770 Motel & Resort, Agnes Water | 3 Nights  
Breakfast & dinner in the motel | Lunch at own cost

#### Day 4 (BD) Exploring Agnes Waters & 1770 Sunday 06 August 2023

This morning we enjoy breakfast and then set out to do some local exploring. First stop will be a 'voyage of discovery' through the **Shire Museum**. Of course, the first recorded European to visit Australia's shores was Lt James Cook when he anchored in Bustard Bay on the 23rd of May in the year 1770. The museum's story is focussed around this event and the subsequent development of the local Miriam Vale Shire since that time. Our touring also includes a stop at Round Hill Headland to see the anchor from the 'MV Countess Russell' which, in 1873, was wrecked to the south, on what has become known as Wreck Rock (off Deepwater National Park). We will also see the **Captain Cook Monument** located on Captain Cook Drive and the point at which he landed at what is now the Town of 1770 on the 24th May. Later this afternoon, we join the unique, award-winning **LARC** (lighter amphibious resupply cargo vessel) for a one-hour afternoon cruise. Take in the magical views and magnificent wildlife of **Round Hill Creek** and **Eurimbula National Park coastline** while enjoying entertaining historical commentary.

Breakfast & dinner at hotel | lunch at own cost

*All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times or days. We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to closures or inclement weather*

COST: \$3685.00 per person  
(based on twin/double share accommodation)  
Single Supplement \$770.00

A deposit of \$600.00 per person is required upon booking with final payment due 1 July 2023

#### TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Air-conditioned coach travel
- 9 night's motel accommodation
- 9 cooked breakfasts
- 8 motel dinners and 1 as per below
- 4 lunches – see below
- Lunch at Australian Hotel in Grafton
- Group dinner at Sebel Twin Towns
- Group entry and self-guided tour of The Workshops Rail Museum
- Group visit & peanut industry video viewing at Kingaroy Visitor Information Centre Heritage Muse
- Guided Tour of Kingaroy
- Stop off at the Peanut Van
- Entry to Childers Pharmaceutical Museum

**Day 9 (BD) Hervey Bay to Gold Coast**  
**Friday 11 August 2023**

No holiday to this area would be complete without a visit to **Australia Zoo** – home to the late Steve Irwin, “Crocodile Hunter”. Australia Zoo has a reputation for conservation work, due mainly to the popularity of the documentary series “The Crocodile Hunter”. Many millions of dollars have been invested in the park so that it is an ever changing and growing attraction. When we arrive, we have some free time to look through the zoo before we find our seats in the “Crocoseum” for the mid-day **Wildlife Warriors Show**. Get ready for some serious wildlife action! Every day in the Crocoseum, the Australia Zoo keepers are taking on the world’s conservation issues and protecting the animal kingdom, and they want us to join the army of Wildlife Warriors. Enjoy a journey of discovery and learn all about the incredible world of giant snakes, colourful soaring birds and those prehistoric legends - the big Saltwater Crocodiles. We continue our travel to the Gold Coast for our overnight accommodation.

Mermaid Waters Hotel by Nightcap Plus, Gold Coast | 1 Night  
Breakfast and dinner at hotel | lunch at own cost

**Day 10 (BL) Gold Coast to Home**  
**Saturday 12 August 2023**

This morning we farewell the Gold Coast this morning and cross the border back into New South Wales. Stopping at the **Macadamia Castle**, we enjoy morning tea and the opportunity to stock up on Macadamia nuts and other products. Sticking to the highway we arrive in **Grafton** for our farewell lunch at **Grafton District Service Club**. After fond memories and with new found friends we return home to Port Macquarie.

Breakfast at Motel | Lunch at Grafton District Service Club

**Day 5 (BLD) Cruise**  
**Monday 07 August 2023**

Today will be surreal. **Lady Musgrave Island and Lagoon** is our destination, just a 90-minute cruise to the largest true coral cay on the outer Southern Great Barrier Reef. The island is set on 3 000 acres of living reef with a 1 000-acre calm coral lagoon that is unique to the entire Great Barrier Reef. It is the only coral island and navigable lagoon of its kind on the outer Great Barrier Reef, and is one of the 7 natural wonders of the world. A vast, calm, turquoise lagoon like one big swimming pool with white sandy coral beaches and native *Pisonia* forests completes the picture of Lady Musgrave Island and Coral Lagoon. The lagoon is home to hundreds of varieties of tropical fish and 350 species of colourful hard and soft coral. The lagoon is a protected Green Zone and has never been fished and therefore offers an abundance of large and rare marine life. With five hours on the island our day is full of magical viewing of an underwater world on a glass bottom boat, or from the spacious floating pontoon with underwater observatory and undercover seating. If we choose, we can snorkel in the protected lagoon, swim with the turtles and take a guided island walk with a specialist. During the day we still have time to enjoy the hospitality of the crew with morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. This day will be remembered as one of our best! Pack up tonight as we are heading off right after breakfast tomorrow.

Breakfast & dinner at hotel | Lunch on cruise

**Day 6 (BD) Agnes Water – Hervey Bay - To the Discovery Coast**  
**Tuesday 08 August 2023**

After breakfast we are off on our day’s touring – this time we head south to **Bundaberg**, a major sugar growing, processing and exporting centre. As we drive through Bundaberg, look out for a local landmark – the Whaling Wall - it is a fantastic marine life wall mural on one of Bundaberg’s highest buildings in the town centre. We also visit the

beautiful **Botanic Gardens** and enjoy morning tea *before* visiting **Hinkler House Museum** which is dedicated to the life and times of the aviator Bert Hinkler who was born in Bundaberg. In 1928 he made the first solo flight between England and Australia. The house in which he lived his final years was transported from Southampton, England, to its present location within the gardens. After lunch (own expense) our next stop is at the iconic **Bundaberg Rum**. Explore the museum and distillery on a guided tour and enjoy samples of the internationally award-winning rum. This afternoon we continue south to Hervey Bay with a stop at **Apple Tree Creek** to visit the **Flying High Bird Habitat**. Covering an area of two acres and reaching a height of seven metres, the many varieties of Australian parrots and finches fly free in a natural habitat created especially for them! Within the aviary, there are now over 1500 birds which can be observed at the different feeding stations along the 300 metres of walking track. Now added to the collection are four spectacular South American Macaws along with numerous finches from Africa and Asia. Our accommodation for the next three nights is in Hervey Bay - one of Queensland's fastest developing areas. Once a sleepy settlement, Hervey Bay has grown at an astronomical rate in the last decade.

Ramada Hervey Bay, Hervey Bay | 3 Nights  
breakfast & dinner at hotel | lunch at own cost

#### Day 7 (BD) Hervey Bay Whale Watching Wednesday 09 August 2023

Our cruise this morning will be a **highlight** of our tour as we are off in search of the whales aboard the **Spirit of Hervey Bay**. We venture into **Hervey Bay National Marine Park** where the Humpback Whales stop over on their epic south bound migration to the Antarctic. The whales undertake the 5000 km migration each year after giving birth in the warmer tropical waters. This epic journey is necessary as calves are born without the warm insulating layer of fat needed to survive in the cold waters of Antarctica. These massive mammals weigh in at around 40 tonnes each (equivalent to 11 elephants or 600 people) and to see such a

sight is truly an experience of a lifetime. Our cruise today includes morning tea and returns to Hervey Bay at approximately 12.30pm. After some free time for lunch (*Own expense*) we visit **Reefworld Aquarium** - said by many to be the best live coral exhibit in South East Queensland. There are shark and fish feeding, touch & feel displays as well as saltwater crocodiles. After a very interesting day we return to the motel for some free time.

Breakfast & dinner at hotel | lunch at own cost

#### Day 8 (BLD) Maryborough Explore Maryborough & Gympie Thursday 10 August 2023

**Maryborough** is the birthplace of Pamela Lyndon Travers, the creator of Mary Poppins. This morning we make our way to Maryborough where we are joined by **"Mary Heritage"** who hops on our coach to give us a unique insight into the town. We then visit the **The Bond Store Museum** for a **Store Tipples and Tales tour** including port, liquers and share platters. Because it's a Thursday in Maryborough, the main street is closed to traffic for the **Heritage Market**. There's a stall to tempt us all including local entertainment all around us. At 11.00 am we watch the firing of the city's historic Time Cannon by the city's ambassadors, the Town Crier and Mary Heritage. A tradition that the cannon was fired daily at 1pm in the days before the town clock. We make our way to **Gympie**, a heritage town, rich with mining history and its where Queensland's first gold rush saved the state from near bankruptcy. Enjoy a delightful lunch at the **Station Café** before discover more about the regions past at the **Gympie Gold Museum**. Before departing Gympie, we visit the **Woodworks Museum and Interpretative Centre**. The museum offers a glimpse into the day of the wood men and timber getters. We'll see a showcase of tools and equipment used by our timber pioneers, hear the live talks and demonstrations about the early timber era and learn about the different wood in the region and how it was used. After our visit we return back to Hervey Bay for our dinner.

Breakfast & dinner at hotel | lunch at Station Cafe