

Port Douglas and the Daintree guided tour:

There aren't many places in the world where you can walk out of one World Heritage Area and straight into another one. Daintree in Far North Queensland is one such place. Here, you walk out of the Daintree Rainforest (the world's oldest rainforest) and into the Great Barrier Reef (the planet's largest living thing). These are not the only things the area has to offer. It has a fascinating Indigenous and colonial history; endless beaches, excellent accommodation and fabulous food. This new Hidden Italy all-inclusive, guided walking tour will allow you to explore all this, and more.

The seven-day tour starts with a night in a suite in a 4-star hotel overlooking Four Mile Beach in the heart of Port Douglas. From here we move north to a fabulous 'ecolodge' in the heart of the Daintree Forest. This will be our base for the next four nights. Our activities includes five guided walks; a lazy drift down the Mossman River; an introduction to the traditions of the Kuku Yalanji people; a visit to Cape Tribulation; a day visiting the Great Barrier Reef; good company; and lots of delicious food.

Accommodation:

We will stay in the very best accommodation the region has to offer: in Port Douglas, you will have a Spa Suite with sea views over Four Mile Beach at Peppers Beach Club; and then 'Canopy Bayans' (spacious rooms with balconies in the heart of the world's oldest rain forest) at the marvellous Daintree Ecolodge, a breath-taking retreat nestled on the southern banks of the Daintree River.

The food:

All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinners) are included in the cost of the tour and showcase the region's fine produce. You will have plentiful breakfasts each day; a mix of light lunches and picnics in the middle of the day; and generous dinners at the end of the day at some of the FNQ's best restaurants, including the Ecolodge's own Julaymba Restaurant and Sassi La Cucina Restaurant in Port Douglas. Wine is included with the dinners.

The walks:

Port Douglas and the Daintree offer some spectacular walks and we have included five of these. Three of the walks should be enjoyed by anyone who is a reasonably fit and confident walker. On the other two days you will have options: to do a very challenging (but very rewarding) hike up into the surrounding mountains with spectacular views (suitable for the very fit) **or** to do a less challenging (but equally satisfying) walk without the big climbs. You will be able to make the choice on at the time. Each walk will have two local guides. Please see the daily itineraries for the details of each walk.

Inclusions:

6 nights' accommodation in 4-star accommodation
All breakfasts, all lunches and all dinners with wine included (see itinerary for details)
All transfers listed in the itinerary
5 guided walks, accompanied by two guides
Boat tour on the Great Barrier Reef
All paid admissions during the tour

Port Douglas and the Daintree guided tour:

Day 1:

Arrival in Port Douglas. From its early days as a fishing village, Port Douglas has grown into a sophisticated and upmarket resort town. It stretches along golden coastline with rainforest-covered mountains rising behind it. In the evening we will enjoy an easy walk up to a spectacular view of town and coast. **(4 kms, 1 hour, 60 mts ascent)**. From here, we walk to dinner at the town's finest restaurant, a legendary Italian eatery overlooking the port. (Dinner)

Day 2:

Today we head north to Daintree, where we'll stay for the next four days. On the way, we will spend the day exploring the beautiful Mossman Gorge, starting with a river-drift down the river searching for turtles, water dragons and even the elusive platypus. After a well-earned lunch, we will be introduced to country by members of the local Kuku Yalanji people. After a short interpretive walk through the forest **(5 kms, 1.5 hours, 65 mts ascent)** we'll carry on to the Daintree Ecolodge, 30 minutes north. (Lunch and dinner)

Day 3:

The first, more demanding, walking option starts in a lowland rainforest valley climbing into upland rainforest filled with birds and small critters. The great reward is the spectacular view from the mountain top. **(7 kms, 6 hours, 700 mts ascent)**

The second, less demanding, option is a fascinating coastal walk exploring the Daintree forest. It starts with a ferry ride across the river, then takes you through mangroves lowlands as well as rainforest, where you will have the opportunity to see the national park's rich flora (mangroves, strangler figs, epiphytes, dudji fan palms etc) and fauna (cassowaries, tree-kangaroos, forests dragons). **(10 kms, 3.5 hours, 95 mts ascent)**.

(Lunch and dinner)

Day 4:

Today, we will drive north to Cape Tribulation for an exhilarating ride offshore to explore the pristine untouched Great Barrier Reef off the Daintree Coast. A thirty-minute boat trip will take us to two fabulous locations, Mackay and Undine Reefs, where you will be able to snorkel in the warm water enjoy the colourful diversity in coral and fish the reef offers. Back on dry land, we'll have a light lunch and have time to explore this fascinating, frontier village. (Lunch and dinner)

Day 5:

The first option today is a very challenging trail that provides an opportunity for explorers to discover the unique vegetation of the upland and lowland rainforest, as well as the amazing range of bird life native to the region. It is a serious slog but the reward is the view from the top which is extraordinary **(8 hours, 13 kms, 1000 mts ascent)**

The less challenging option follows one of the earliest trails the Europeans used to link the coast with the highlands. Starting in lowland forests it climbs up to a ridge, with excellent views back over the coast to Port Douglas. From here you can continue on to waterfalls or head back, stopping at Robbins Creek for a swim. **(4 hours, 12 kms, 385 mts ascent)**.

(Lunch and dinner)

Day 6:

Today we leave our rainforest lair and head back to the style of Port Douglas. On the way, we will enjoy a lovely walk, suitable for all, that starts in woodland savannah before winding through rainforest and arriving at a beautiful waterfall, where you can have a swim before enjoying a picnic lunch. **(3 hours, 8 kms, 100 mts ascent)**. We will then continue on to our hotel overlooking Four Mile Beach. We'll have our farewell dinner another excellent dinner in the heart of Port Douglas. (Lunch and dinner)