



## 20-DAY QUEENSLAND ROAD TRIP FROM BRISBANE



### Highlights

- Cuddle a koala at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary
- Kayak through the Noosa Everglades
- Discover the Maheno Shipwreck
- Swim in the Great Barrier Reef
- Sail around the Whitsundays

#### Day 1: Brisbane

**Distance:** 0 Kms **Time:** 0 minutes

- **Morning:** Pick up your camper and explore Mount Coot-Tha and the Brisbane Botanic Gardens.
- **Afternoon:** Meet the koalas at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary or visit the Gold Coast for the zoo/theme parks.
- **Evening:** Mingle with the town and dine around Brisbane or Surfers Paradise.
- **Where to stay:** Bells Caravan Park, 39 Thompson Cres, Clontarf QLD 4019.

#### Day 2: Caloundra

**Distance:** 91 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 22 minutes

- **Morning:** Set off towards the Sunshine Coast, stopping by Bulcock Beach for the coastal walk to Kings Beach.
- **Afternoon:** Visit the Queensland Air Museum for a Queensland culture trip or relax at Golden Beach.
- **Evening:** Dine out at the Caloundra waterfront.
- **Where to stay:** Golden Beach Holiday Park, 9 Onslow Street, Caloundra, QLD, 4551.

#### Day 3: Noosaville

**Distance:** 52 Kms **Time:** 50 minutes

- **Morning:** Head up the coast, stopping by Noosa's Sunday Farmers Market if it's on.
- **Afternoon:** Hire a kayak and explore the Noosa Everglades, with options for guided or self-guided adventuring. There are boat tours and on-foot adventures to be had!
- **Evening:** Feast at the Gympie Terrace, which is full of fresh seafood restaurants.
- **Where to stay:** Ingenia Holidays Noosa, 141 Cooroy Noosa Rd, Tewantin QLD 4565.

#### Day 4: Hervey Bay

**Distance:** 178 Kms **Time:** 2 hours

##### DAY FOUR

- **Morning:** Depart Noosaville early in the morning with a stop in Gympie for coffee or join the Silver Bullet High Tea Experience.
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in Hervey Bay in the afternoon to explore the Esplanade and Regional Gallery.
- **Evening:** Feast at the Gympie Terrace, which is full of fresh seafood restaurants.
- **Where to stay:** Ingenia Holidays Noosa, 141 Cooroy Noosa Rd, Tewantin QLD 4565.

##### DAY FIVE

- **Morning:** There's plenty to do! Take a whale watching tour (July-November) or a trip over to Fraser Island (K'gari). Discover Lake McKenzie, Eli Creek, and the Maheno Shipwreck.
- **Afternoon:** Stroll through the Botanic Gardens and Orchid House in the late afternoon if you have some time up your sleeve or swim at Torquay Beach.
- **Evening:** Watch the sunset from Urangan Pier and have dinner at The Vineyard Wine Bar, known for its locally inspired dishes and curated wine list.
- **Where to stay:** Ingenia Holidays Noosa, 141 Cooroy Noosa Rd, Tewantin QLD 4565.



### Day 6: Hervey Bay to Bundaberg

**Distance:** 110 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 20 minutes

- **Morning:** You have a short drive today so feel free to sleep in a bit! Stop by Bundaberg Rum Distillery on your way and have a tasting session.
- **Afternoon:** Explore the town and then check out Mon Repos Turtle Centre (closed late Dec-late April) and learn about the local turtle population.
- **Evening:** Head off on a guided night tour with Mon Repos Turtle Centre to meet the turtles and end the evening with a stroll along Bargara Beach and a tasty meal in your campervan.
- **Where to stay:** Big4 Cane Village Holiday Park, 94 Twyford St, Avoca QLD 4670

### Day 7: Bundaberg to Rockhampton

**Distance:** 288 Kms **Time:** 3 hours 15 minutes

- **Morning:** En route to Rockhampton, stop by Agnes Water for a quick look at the Captain Cook Monument and Paperbark Forest Walk.
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in Rockhampton by early afternoon to visit the Botanic Gardens and Zoo, which has free entry. Alternatively, head up to Mount Archer National Park to see the Capricorn Caves.
- **Evening:** After a busy day, take a sunset stroll alongside the Rockhampton River and cook up a meal in your camper.
- **Where to stay:** Discovery Park Rockhampton, 394 Yaamba Rd, Norman Gardens QLD 4701.

### Day 8: Rockhampton to Yeppoon

**Distance:** 40 Kms **Time:** 40 minutes

- **Morning:** Take the short drive up to Yeppoon and take advantage of the free entry to Yeppoon Lagoon for a morning swim.
- **Afternoon:** Check out the Capricorn Coast National Park, with a short hike up to Bluff Point. Alternatively, head out to the nearby islands, like Pumpkin Island or North Keppel Island. Families can check out Cooberrie Park Wildlife Sanctuary too!
- **Evening:** Try a local restaurant to get the full taste of tropical vibes.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Capricorn Yeppoon Holiday Park, Wildin Way, Mulambin QLD 4703.

### Day 9: Yeppoon to Mackay

**Distance:** 353 Kms **Time:** 4 hours

- **Morning:** You'll want to leave Yeppoon as early as possible with a full playlist since there's not much to see on this leg of the journey!
- **Afternoon:** On arrival in Mackay, check out the Bluewater Lagoon during your explorations of the city and check out the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens. For your chance to spot a wild platypus, you can take a scenic drive to Eungella National park.
- **Evening:** Either dine and relax by your camper or head out for a meal at The Dispensary. You can easily spend a second day in Mackay if needed.
- **Where to stay:** Discovery Parks Mackay, 379 Harbour Road, Mackay, QLD 4740.

### Day 10: Mackay to Airlie Beach

**Distance:** 150 Kms **Time:** 2 hours

#### DAY 10

- **Morning:** Head up the coast to Airlie Beach, the gateway to the Whitsundays! Take a short cruise or join a half-day sailing trip to explore some of the nearby islands.
- **Afternoon:** You likely won't be back on land until late afternoon, so if you're keen to swim or relax you can wind down at the Airlie Beach Lagoon.
- **Evening:** Stroll along the lively main street and embrace the fresh seafood and tropical cocktails that Airlie Beach is best known for.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Airlie Beach, 234 Shute Harbour Road, Cannonvale, QLD 4802.

#### DAY 11

- **Morning:** Pack plenty of snacks and water because it's time for a full-day trip to the Whitsundays, including Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet if you haven't seen them yet!
- **Afternoon:** Continue your Whitsundays adventures, with a packed lunch to keep you going, or head back to Airlie Beach for lunch in town.
- **Evening:** End the day with sunset drinks at Coral Sea Marina, followed by dinner at the Deck.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Airlie Beach, 234 Shute Harbour Road, Cannonvale, QLD 4802.



### Day 12: Townsville

**Distance:** 274 Kms **Time:** 3 hour 10 minutes

- **Morning:** Depart Airlie Beach early and enjoy the scenic drive to Townsville. Visit the Strand on arrival.
- **Afternoon:** Either swing by Reef HQ Aquarium, home to the largest living coral reef aquarium, or stretch your legs out at Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park.
- **Evening:** Stroll along the waterfront and head back to your camper for a homecooked meal.
- **Where to stay:** Big4 Ingenia Holidays Townsville, 234 Shute Harbour Road, Cannonvale, QLD 4802.

### Day 13: Cairns

**Distance:** 346 Kms **Time:** 4 hours 15 minutes

#### DAY 13

- **Morning:** Depart early for Cairns with a stop in Mission Beach for a swim and photo op. If you have extra time you can spend an extra day here!
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in the city around lunchtime, or late afternoon depending on your schedule. Settle into your holiday park and then jump straight into the city with a trip by the Cairns Esplanade.
- **Evening:** Treat yourself with dinner at the Salt House.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Cairns Holiday Park, 12-30 Little St, Manunda QLD 4870.

#### DAY 14

- **Morning:** There are plenty of things to do in Cairns! Your top choice is to spend the day touring the Great Barrier Reef. If you prefer keeping your feet on dry land, head up to Kuranda!
- **Afternoon:** Continue your adventures. If you're not out at the Great Barrier Reef, aim to return to Cairns in the late afternoon to see the Cairns Botanic Gardens.
- **Evening:** Dine out with the locals or save your budget with a homecooked meal.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Cairns Holiday Park, 12-30 Little St, Manunda QLD 4870.

### Day 15: Undara National Park

**Distance:** 255 Kms **Time:** 3 hours 20 minutes

- **Morning:** Pack a lunch for Undara National Park and explore the ancient lava tubes and volcanic landscapes.
- **Afternoon:** Continue your explorations of the park!
- **Evening:** Plan to camp in the area, making sure you cast your eye to the sky once the sun goes down to check out the stars!
- **Where to stay:** Discovery Resorts Undara, 1 Farrell Rd, Bulli QLD 2516.

### Day 16: Charters Towers

**Distance:** 380 Kms **Time:** 4 hours

- **Morning:** Start the day early with a trip to Charters Towers! The historic gold mining town has plenty of secrets - and plenty of bison. Visit the Towers Hill Lookout for the best views.
- **Afternoon:** Explore the Stock Exchange Arcade, a heritage-listed building, and learn all about the Miner's Cottage.
- **Evening:** Feast in your camper or head out to the Royal Private Hotel for a charming historic vibe.
- **Where to stay:** Big4 Aussie Outback Oasis Holiday Park, 76 Dr George Ellis Dr, Richmond Hill QLD 4820.

### Day 17: Charters Towers to Emerald

**Distance:** 130 Kms **Time:** 5 hours 11 minutes

- **Morning:** Pack your lunch and head out to Blackwood National Park for a day of hiking amongst rugged landscapes!
- **Afternoon:** You'll arrive in Emerald by late afternoon (depending on when you leave the park). Wrap up the day with some photos by the Big Easel.
- **Evening:** Drop by the shops and stock up for the last few days of your trip and prep a homecooked meal in your camper.
- **Where to stay:** Emerald Tourist Park, 43 Roberts St, Emerald Qld 4720.

### Day 18: Emerald to Cania Gorge National Park

**Distance:** 420 Kms **Time:** 4 hour 40 minutes

- **Morning:** Explore the Emerald Botanic Gardens or visit Lake Marabon for water activities like kayaking or fishing then drive to Cania Gorge. Begin with a trip out to the Dripping Rock and The Overhang walking trails. **Bring a camera!**
- **Afternoon:** Continue exploring, keeping an eye out for wildlife on your way to the Big Foot Art site.
- **Evening:** Camp overnight in the park's serene bushland for a real back-to-nature vibe.
- **Where to stay:** Cania Gorge Tourist Retreat, 1 Farrell Rd, Bulli QLD 2516.

### Day 19: Toowoomba

**Distance:** 435 Kms **Time:** 5 hours

- **Morning:** The majority of your morning will be spent on the road to Toowoomba.
- **Afternoon:** Depending on your departure time, you'll arrive in Toowoomba by mid-late afternoon with enough time to visit the Toowoomba Japanese Garden and/or Queens Park to see flowers in bloom. You may even have time to see the Cobb+Co Museum!
- **Evening:** Enjoy your final night of your Queensland road trip with dinner at Piccolo Papa.
- **Where to stay:** Jolly Swagman Accommodation Park, 47 Kitchener St, East Toowoomba QLD.

### Day 20: Brisbane

**Distance:** 125 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 30 minutes

- **Morning:** Return to Brisbane, stopping by King Arthur Cafe in New Farm for an extra special breakfast.
- **Afternoon:** Depending on your departure time, you'll arrive in Toowoomba by mid-late afternoon with enough time to visit the Toowoomba Japanese Garden and/or Queens Park to see flowers in bloom. You may even have time to see the Cobb+Co Museum!
- **Evening:** Enjoy your final night of your Queensland road trip with dinner at Piccolo Papa.
- **Where to stay:** Jolly Swagman Accommodation Park, 47 Kitchener St, East Toowoomba QLD.

### Packing Tips

Whether you're hiking rugged trails, snorkelling vibrant reefs, or simply soaking in spectacular sunsets, this road trip tinerary captures the best of Queensland's best coastal and inland destinations!

#### Some things you'll want to bring include:

- Appropriate footwear (comfortable, closed shoes for walking tours)
- Hat, sunscreen and sunglasses
- Mixture of clothing for different weather/activities
- Insect repellent + band-aids
- Camera/phone + chargers
- Light backpack (to carry food + water bottle)

**Reminder:** The first day of your trip will be spent in Brisbane, but if you're keen to get on the road you can grab your campervan and head straight for Caloundra!



Noosa Everglades, Tourism & Events Queensland



Undara National Park, Tourism & Events Queensland