
GEEO ITINERARY

BILL HOWE'S AUSTRALIA - Summer

Day 1: Cairns Arrive in Cairns at any time.

Arrive in Cairns at any time. There are no planned activities so check into our hotel and enjoy the city. We will have a group meeting in the evening around 6:00 p.m. There will be a note at the front desk to let you know the precise time of the meeting. The note will also tell you what time to meet in the lobby in the morning if you arrive too late for the meeting. If you miss this meeting, please don't worry, your tour leader will go over everything with you in the morning. If you arrive early, please see our optional activities section further down below.

Day 2: Cairns/Cape Tribulation (B, L) Head north to Cape Tribulation. Stop en route to explore Mossman Gorge and take an interpretive walk through the Daintree Rainforest.

Today we head north to Cape Tribulation. We will stop en route to explore Mossman Gorge and take an interpretive walk through the Daintree Rainforest. Follow the Aboriginal guide and learn about bush food, medicinal plants and the lasting relationship of the Kuku Yalanji people with their natural environment. Find out how to make bush soap, watch an ochre painting demonstration, and sample some bush tea. Approximate travel time: 3.5 hrs by private vehicle

Day 3: Cape Tribulation (B) With a free day, opt for a trip to the Great Barrier Reef or to explore Daintree National Park.

With a free day, opt for a trip to the Great Barrier Reef or to explore Daintree National Park. See our optional activities section further below for more details. If you've ever dreamt of soaring high above a treetop canopy, now's the time to make it happen. Pre-book the "Jungle Surfing Through The Daintree Rainforest" activity by emailing the GEEO team at travel@ggeo.org to include this option on your tour.

Day 4: Cape Tribulation/Cairns (B) Return to Cairns in the afternoon with free time to explore this laid-back city.

Today we return to Cairns in the afternoon with free time to explore this laid-back city. We highly recommend checking out the Skyrail & Kuranda Scenic Railway. Approximate travel time: 3.5 hrs by private vehicle

Day 5: Cairns/Airlie Beach (B) Depart early for a full day of travel to reach Airlie Beach with time to explore the town.

Depart early for a full day of travel to reach Airlie Beach with time to explore the town. Airlie Beach is a relaxed Australian resort town on Queensland's Whitsunday Coast. It's a gateway to the Whitsunday Islands and the Great Barrier Reef. Approximate travel time: 9 to 10 hrs by private vehicle

Day 6: Airlie Beach (L) Set sail for a day in the Whitsunday Islands, visiting the Great Barrier Reef. Opt to swim or snorkel, and hike to an island lookout over Whitehaven Beach, known for its stunning white sand. Return to Airlie Beach for the night.

Enjoy a day sailing amidst some of the 74 tropical islands that make up the Whitsunday archipelago. The Whitsunday Islands are in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. Spend the day sailing, then when it gets too hot, pull on a mask and snorkel (provided free of charge) and dive overboard to check out the variety of brightly colored marine plants, coral, and fish that thrive right in these warm tropical waters. We'll also

visit Whitehaven Beach. (Note that fins are not provided in order to adhere with local coral conservation efforts.)

Day 7: Airlie Beach/Byron Bay Fly to Brisbane and transfer to Byron Bay for two nights in this "hippie" paradise.

Fly to Brisbane and transfer to Byron Bay for two nights in this "hippie" paradise. Approximate travel time: 2.5 hr by plane; 2.5 hrs by private vehicle

Day 8: Byron Bay Spend the day wandering the town or taking part in a multitude of optional activities like skydiving, visiting Cape Byron Lighthouse, or relaxing on the beach. If staying active is more your speed, why not try sea kayaking?

There's plenty to see and do in Byron Bay, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like sea kayaking, yoga, and skydiving. Your tour leader has more ideas if you need them. Just ask! The timing for this trip should line up with the Splendour in the Grass music festival so you may want to purchase tickets well in advance if any of the musical acts are to your liking.

Day 9: Byron Bay/Port Macquarie Visit an organic farm. Head to the coastal township of Port Macquarie, featuring all the beauty of the beach set alongside gorgeous national parks. Enjoy an evening in Port Macquarie.

This morning we visit Byron Bay Harvest, which provides a unique Organic farm experience in the heart of Byron Bay. Come and experience this working organic farm and learn about organic farming practices in action. You'll get to experience seeing where the produce you are eating comes from and be involved in picking and tasting the produce! The 2-hour Organic Farm experience includes a sit-down lunch and a tour of the farm with our organic farmer. (Note this activity might take place on Day 8 of the trip instead) Then we head to the coastal township of Port Macquarie, featuring all the beauty of the beach set alongside gorgeous national parks. Enjoy an evening in Port Macquarie. Approximate travel time: 5 hrs by private vehicle

Day 10: Port Macquarie/Blue Mountains Visit a koala hospital before traveling to the Blue Mountains Region.

This morning we visit the Koala Hospital and learn about these unique creatures. Later we settle in for a drive to the Blue Mountains. Approximate travel time: 6-7 hrs by private vehicle

Day 11: Blue Mountains Explore the area around Leura and Katoomba including the Three Sisters. Visit the Jenolan Caves, take a walk in Jamison Valley, and ride on the Scenic Railway, the steepest railway in the world.

With charming Leura as our base, we will explore the major attractions of the Blue Mountains from sightseeing to bushwalking to cafés and more. We start with a guided tour of Jenolan Caves, a protected feature of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains. These limestone karst caves are the world's oldest caves and are significant from both a scientific and sightseeing perspective. We then go on a walk to take in some amazing lookouts over the Jamison Valley, via the iconic Three Sisters. Descend down the 900 step giant staircase to the valley floor. Walk amongst the beautiful forest to the steepest incline railway in the world — The Katoomba Scenic Railway. Opt to ride its 52-degree angle or take the Scenic Cableway. If you're keen for more walking, and time permitting, take the 900 stairs back up.

Day 12: Blue Mountains/Sydney Travel to Sydney and enjoy a free afternoon to explore the city. Opt to rent a bike, stroll the botanical gardens, or visit the iconic Opera House.

Today we travel to Sydney and enjoy a free afternoon to explore the city. Opt to rent a bike, stroll the botanical gardens, or visit the iconic Opera House. Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by private vehicle

Day 13: Sydney Get a feel for the city. Relax seaside at Bondi Beach. Enjoy an optional final night out with the group.

You will have this whole day free to explore Sydney as you choose. See our optional activities list further below. Keep in mind this is winter and Sydney will be kind of chilly.

Day 14: Sydney Depart Sydney at any time.

Today, you may depart Sydney at any time. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO trips in the same year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs). If you don't see a program that interests you that pairs with this trip but still would like to extend your time abroad, let us know. We will work with you to find a non-teacher trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Even better, if you are an educator, we can still offer you a discounted price on the trip you choose!