



PORT DOUGLAS  
DAINTREE

# TROPICAL PORT DOUGLAS MINI BREAK

## DAY 1

### AM: PORT DOUGLAS BOUND

Fly into Cairns from your closest capital city, pick up your rental car or sit back and relax as you are transferred to Port Douglas via shuttle bus, private car or limousine.

Head north from Cairns along the Captain Cook Highway, you are about to before embark on the Great Barrier Reef Drive, which showcases one of the most scenic coastlines in Australia. Admire the beauty of the deserted beaches and rainforest-clad mountains as you continue north towards Port Douglas.

Don't forget a stop at Rex Lookout for sweeping views back towards Cairns. Depending on the weather, you might catch paragliders as they're lifted from the headland and ride the thermals like an albatross.

### 2PM: CHECK-IN TO YOUR TROPICAL OASIS

Settle into your luxury lodgings and prepare to discover why Port Douglas is a great launch pad for so many quintessential tropical holiday experiences - from World Heritage listed reef and rainforest to the oldest living culture and exotic wildlife - all can be accessed from this picturesque seaside village.

Kick off with a wander down to Four Mile Beach to bask in the beauty of the golden sands or take a dip in the warm waters - just be sure to swim between the flags. Admire the tropical sunset at Rex Smeal Park before taking a gentle stroll down Macrossan Street, lined with fairy lights. Discover why Port Douglas is famed for its vibrant and varied dining scene.

### 7.30PM: RELAXED DINNER

With more deliciousness in Port Douglas than you can shake a sugar cane stick at, food lovers will rejoice with all the choices. Salsa Bar & Grill with its local tropical produce and killer cocktails is not only an enduring dining institution and locals' favourite, but they are tackling their footprint by partnering with Green Food Australia for their food waste to be upcycled into organic green waste, create soil enhancing products and encourage growers to use them in their soils - putting the carbon back where it belongs.







## DAY 2

### 9AM: BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

This region is teeming with extraordinary wildlife unique only to this area. Wildlife Habitat is the place to “Breakfast with the Birds”, hand feed kangaroos and wallabies, spot a cassowary up close, or dare your beau to jump in the water for a “Swim with the Salties” experience!

### 12 Noon: HIT THE WATER

The Great Barrier Reef is beckoning, and there are plenty of options for a half-day jaunt from the marina. The World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef is the only living structure that can be seen from outer space.

Opt for an afternoon cruise to Low Isles if you want to avoid the crowds and capture the sun setting over the McAllister Ranges on the way home. Dive in for a guided snorkel, take an interpretive tour of the reef on a glass-bottom boat, enjoy a heritage walk on the island or just kick back on the white sandy beaches under a coconut palm or thatched shelter and watch the world go by.

### 7PM: LOCAL BREWS AND CHEWS

As your sailing adventure comes to a close, with the sun setting over the mountains it's time to stop in at Hemingway's Brewery at the Crystalbrook Superyacht Marina.

Utilising the pure waters of Mossman Gorge, the team currently have ten signature brews with names like Pitchfork Betty's pale ale (named after a rather infamous local publican), and Hard Yards American dark lager (named after the treacherous Bump Track that provided the only road in and out of Port during the gold rush era). The best way to sample them all is with a tasting paddle which includes all ten Hemingway's brews!

Hands up who doesn't like eating? Yeah, we thought so. Seabeen Tapas & Bar is the perfect spot for Spanish-inspired delights for a showcase of locally sourced produce, just the thing after an afternoon exploring the Great Barrier Reef.

If it wasn't the last night of the weekend jaunt, it may be time to tuck in for an early night. However, a last hurrah calls at Zinc Restaurant's dedicated cocktail bar.







## DAY 3

### AM: WHERE THE OLDEST LIVING RAINFOREST MEETS THE OLDEST LIVING CULTURE

A short 15-minute drive out of Port Douglas will find you at the striking Mossman Gorge Centre, where Eastern Kuku Yalanji traditional owners share the stories of this banu bubu (water place).

On the Dreamtime Gorge Walk, start with a smoke cleansing ceremony before proceeding on the 90-minute tour for an accelerated bush tucker and traditional medicine lesson. See the strangler figs that inspired director James Cameron's epic movie, *Avatar*, spy a teeny bearded dragon (which incidentally are forbidden to eat for the Kuku Yalanji people), and learn about the Daintree Nut which tastes like a mix of almond and coconut.

Sit mesmerised by the rushing water over giant granite boulders and prepare to leave this magical place. Thank Mother Nature for handing it over to us, with a call of "madja madja". Dreamtime Gorge Walks are a wonderful precursor for visiting the Gorge waterholes and walking Daintree National Park platforms independently.

### PM: A LIGHT BITE

What better way to end a tropical weekend mini break than with a full tummy. The Central Hotel and The Tin Shed are excellent spots for something a little casual.

Take in the last of the Port Douglas vibe with a walk up the Flagstaff Hill Walkway, basking in the final views of Four Mile Beach, the Coral Sea, and the Daintree Rainforest, mentally planning your next trip back to paradise.

And with that, 'til next time Port Douglas.

