

Sydney Social Flying August 2024 Air Safari Destination Cape York

Two Week Flying Adventure to the Top of Australia



**FLY THE QUEENSLAND COAST TO CAPE YORK, VISIT
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND EXPLORE THE GULF**



Air Safari Lead

Chris Muller

chris.muller@socialflying.com.au

Air Safari Head Office Support

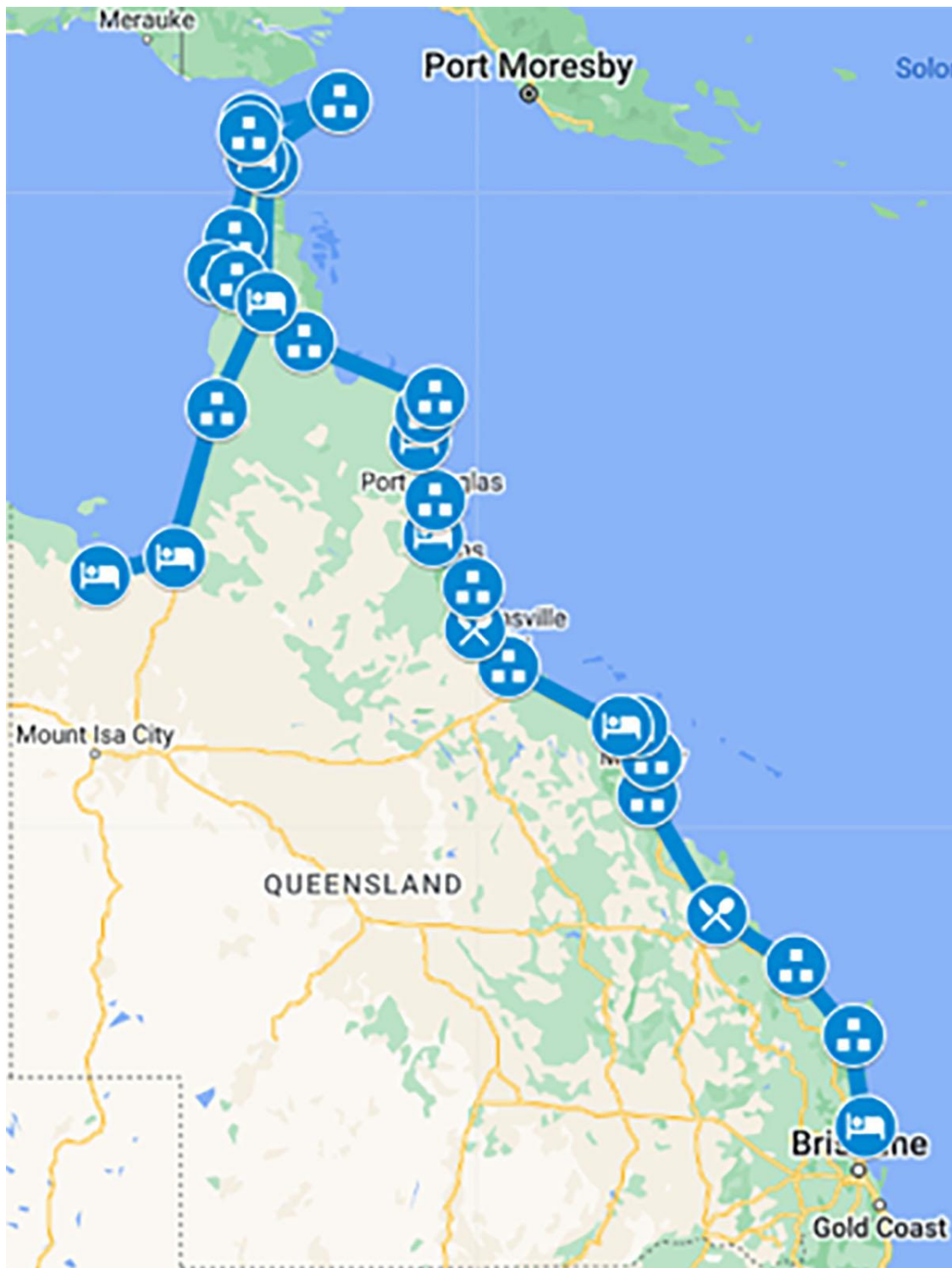
George Higgins

george.higgins@socialflying.com.au

Phone: 02 7228 0320



August 2024 Air Safari – Cape York





August 2024 Air Safari – Cape York

Date	Route	Overnight	Distance (nm)
10-Aug	Home Base to YCDR	Caloundra	
11-Aug	YCDR-YHBA-YAWT-YBRK-SRIN-YBPI-YWHN-YSHR	Airlie Beach	492
12-Aug	Rest Day	Airlie Beach	
13-Aug	YSHR-YBTL-YIGM-YDKI-YMBA	Yungaburra	287
14-Aug	Rest Day	Yungaburra	
15-Aug	YMBA-PTD-YCKN	Cooktown	99
16-Aug	Rest Day	Cooktown	
17-Aug	YCKN-YCFL-YLZI-YCOE-YMEU	Merluna Station	252
18-Aug	YMEU-Cape York-YHID	Thursday Island	157
19-Aug	Rest Day	Thursday Island	
20-Aug	YHID-YDLI-YMAA-YBAU-YHID	Thursday Island	242
21-Aug	YHID-YMPN-Duyfken Point-YBWP-YMEU-YPMP-YKMB	Karumba	467
22-Aug	YKMB-YBKT	Burketown	76
23-Aug	Rest Day	Burketown	
24-Aug	YBKT to Home Base		
	12 Stops	14 Nights	2,072

Note(1): Distances exclude travel to start location and return to home airport

Note(2): Aug-20 is an optional activity for flightseeing and visiting Badu Island

Cost Summary

Item	Single Occupancy	Double / Twin Share
Price	\$6,300	\$4,700

- Prices are quoted ***per person***.
- Accommodation prices, which exclude getting to Caloundra and returning from Burketown, are for 14 nights.
- ***Pricing includes*** five breakfasts, one morning tea, two lunches and eight dinners.
- ***Pricing includes*** Island Stars Full Malu Experience, with dinner included.
- ***Pricing includes*** Thursday Island Sunset Cruise, with dinner included.
- ***Pricing includes*** airport transfers at Caloundra (accommodation to airport only), Shute Harbour, Yungaburra, Cooktown, and Thursday Island.
- ***Pricing excludes*** Activities. A list of optional activities can be found on the Activities page towards the end of this document. The total price of the likely most popular Tours and Activities would be an additional \$1,510 per person. Please note morning tea and/or lunch is inclusive with some activities.

An alternative is to stay the night of August 20 on Badu Island. In the evening you will enjoy a sumptuous banquet on the beach featuring freshly caught local seafood, along with breakfast in the morning.

You have the option of extending an extra night at Hells Gate Roadhouse on the night of Saturday August 24. The price for accommodation, which includes lunch, dinner and breakfast will be \$200 per person double/twin share or \$300 per person single occupancy. A two-hour tour of Cliffedale Station is available in the afternoon at a cost of \$50 per person.

A deposit of \$1,500 per person is required to secure your place.

Cape York Air Safari Participants will be advised their total cost by early June, with with final payment expected late June

Please refer our web page for Terms and Conditions.

Itinerary Saturday 10 to Sunday 25 August

DAY ONE Saturday 10 August



Ocean Beach Caloundra

We meet in Caloundra on the first day, which is an excellent starting point for the journey north.

Staying at the Ocean Views Apartments, located in the heart of Caloundra, will give you easy access to shops for those last-minute things you need for the next couple of weeks.

If you have time, also use this as an opportunity to visit the highly regarded Queensland Air Museum.



Queensland Air Museum F-111

DAY TWO Sunday 11 August

Depart	Arrive	Track (Mag)	Dist (nm)
Caloundra (YCLD)	Hervey Bay (YHBA)	341	90
Hervey Bay (YHBA)	Agnes Water (YAWT)	311	86
Agnes Water (YAWT)	Rockhampton (YBRK)	293	92
Rockhampton (YBRK)	Sarina (SRIN)	320	136
Sarina (SRIN)	Brampton Island (YBPI)	356	37
Brampton Island (YBPI)	Whitehaven (YWHN)	330	34
Whitehaven (YWHN)	Shute Harbour (YSHR)	262	17

The most scenic route to get to Shute Harbour is to follow the coast with a possible fuel stop at Rockhampton. Tracking via Noosa, Double Island Point, Hervey Bay, and Agnes Waters will provide plenty of coastal scenery.

If feasible, inbound into Shute Harbour, take the long route via the Whitsunday's - Brampton, Lindeman and Hamilton Islands, Whitehaven Beach, etc. for some more photo opportunities.



Airlie Beach

DAY THREE Monday 12 August



Whitsunday Sailing Club

On the rest day at Airlie Beach, a private charter has been arranged to visit the Whitsundays' islands, inlets, and beaches. The cruise includes lunch and will see the famous Whitehaven Beach. There will also be plenty of time to go snorkelling.

Accommodation at Airlie Beach will be at the Airlie Beach Hotel, a short stroll to the village, providing options for entertainment and places to eat.



Whitehaven Beach, Whitsundays

DAY FOUR Tuesday 13 August

Depart	Arrive	Track (Mag)	Dist (nm)
Shute Harbour (YSHR)	Townsville (YBTL)	290	129
Townsville (YBTL)	Ingham (YIGM)	308	50
Ingham (YIGM)	Dunk Island (YDKI)	352	43
Dunk Island (YDKI)	Mareeba ((YMBA)	315	66

Today we continue heading north, to Yungaburra for a couple of nights. Yungaburra is a picturesque village on the the Atherton Tablelands, with many heritage listed buildings.

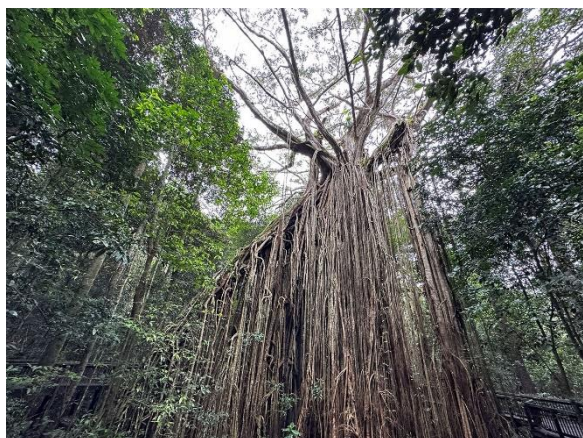
When leaving Shute Harbour, aircraft could detour to get aerial views of Whitsunday and Hook Islands. Ingham is a great place for a lunch stop , particularly at JK's Delicatessen.

The flight from Ingham to Mareeba could take you over Dunk Island or Wallaman Falls, with its main drop of 268 meters makes it Australia's tallest single-drop waterfall.



St Patrick's Church, Yungaburra

DAY FIVE Wednesday 14 August



Curtain Fig Tree, Yungaburra

Today’s tour will first take us to the Curtain Fig Tree a couple of kilometers from Yungaburra. A Giant Strangler Fig, its curtain of aerial drops 15 meters to the ground. it is estimated to be around 500 years old.

Before we stop off at Malanda Hotel, Australia's largest wooden pub we will drop into Shaylee Strawberries for morning tea and Gallo Dairyland for a cheese and chocolate tasting.

After lunch we visit Millaa Millaa Falls, which has a reputation of being the most photographed in all of Australia, and tranquil Lake Barrine, a crater lake which has a pair of towering bull kauri pine trees.



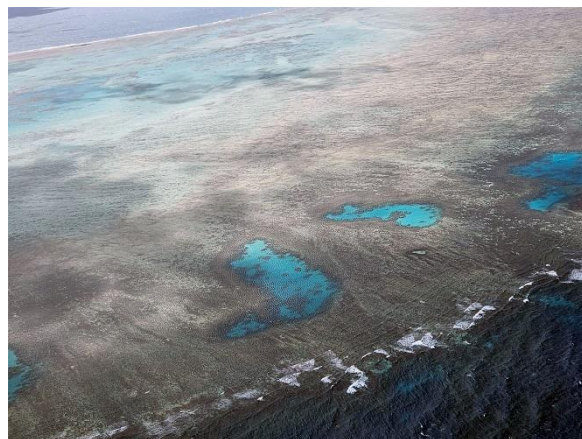
Little Eden Dinner

DAY SIX Thursday 15 August

Depart	Arrive	Track (Mag)	Dist (nm)
Mareeba (YMBA)	Port Douglas (PTD)	357	35
Port Douglas (PTD)	Cooktown (YCKN)	339	64

The short flight to Cooktown, could first take you to Port Douglas, then follow the coast rounding Cape Tribulation, and possibly then out to the spectacular Endeavour Reef.

The evening has been set aside for a sunset cruise of the Endeavour River, where you might spot a croc lurking in the mangroves!



Endeavour Reef



Endeavour River at Sunset

DAY SEVEN Friday 16 August



Cooktown Sunrise

With several hire cars available, you have the flexibility to tour the Cooktown region at your convenience.

Possible places to visit are the Grassy Hill Lookout, heritage listed old Cooktown Hospital – now a Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall, Lions Den Hotel for lunch which is one the way to the Bloomfield Falls, Botanical Gardens and the James Cook Museum.

The museum is housed in a heritage-listed building once St Mary's Convent, constructed in the 1880s.



Bloomfield Falls

DAY EIGHT Saturday 17 August

Depart	Arrive	Track (Mag)	Dist (nm)
Cooktown (YCKN)	Cape Flattery (YCFL)	008	29
Cape Flattery (YCFL)	Lizard Island (YLI)	019	20
Lizard Island (YLI)	Coen (YCOE)	286	147
Coen (YCOE)	Merluna Station (YMEU)	314	56

After breakfast, it is time to head out to Cooktown airport and drop off the hire cars. The flight the follow, could follow the coast up to Cape Flattery, out to Lizard Island before tracking northwest to Merluna Station via Cape Melville with a possible fuel stop along the way at Coen.

The Reef you can see along this route can be simply stunning. Merluna Station is a 170,000 hectares (416,000 acres) Cattle Station owned by Cameron and Michelle McLean since 2004.

Enjoy lunch on arrival and spend the afternoon and spend the afternoon relaxing in a peaceful, tranquil setting.



Relax at Merluna Station

DAY NINE Sunday 18 August

Depart	Arrive	Track (Mag)	Dist (nm)
Merluna Station (YMEU)	Cape York	352	141
Cape York	Horn Island (YHID)	289	16

After breakfast at Merluna Station, your track to Horn Island can take you up Kennedy Inlet and Albany Passage for arial views of Cape York.

With an early afternoon arrival there should be plenty of time to take either Thursday Island or the historically focused in Their Steps Tour on Horn Island or just have a leisurely explore of Thursday Island.

That evening around 5:30pm we will board the Nekana II for a sunset and evening dinner cruise, before being dropped off at the wharf for the short walk back to the Hotel.



Green Hill Fort, Thursday Island

DAY TEN Monday 19 August



Ready to Depart Thursday Island

7am is the departure time for the cruise on Nekana II to continental Australia's most northern most point.

Enjoying breakfast, the sheltered waters provide pleasant cruising while passing Prince of Wales, Roko and Possession Islands. The anchor will be dropped late morning in sight of the tip.

The Dory will transfer you to the mainland where it is a short walk for the photo opportunity.

Enjoying lunch for the return, it is possible that the boat could go via Friday Island, where it is possible to go for a swim.



Nekana II Moored Near Cape York

DAY ELEVEN Tuesday 20 August

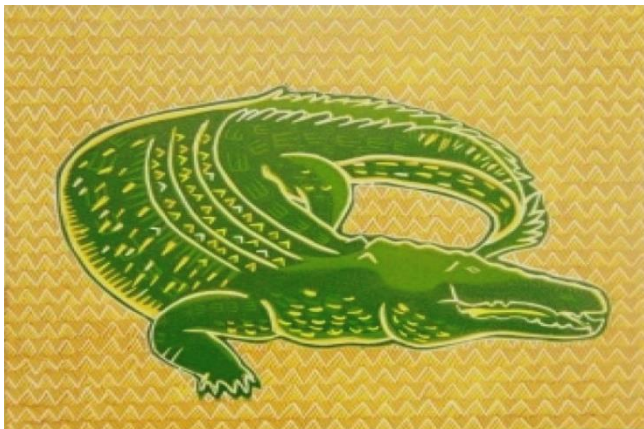
Depart	Arrive	Track (Mag)	Dist (nm)
Horn Island (YHID)	Darnley Island (YDLI)	051	107
Darnley Island (YDLI)	Mabuiag Island (YMAA)	252	96
Mabuiag Island (YMAA)	Badu Island (YBAU)	182	12
Badu Island (YBAU)	Horn Island (YHID)	161	27

Following breakfast, for those who are flight seeing today it is time to head down to the wharf for the ferry to Horn Island.

The aim is to fly a route that gets you to Badu Island by noon. This could possibly take you via Darnley and Mabuiag Islands which showcase stunning Torres Strait.

At Badu Island airstrip you will be met and taken to the Badu Island Art Centre to gain insight in the Torres Strait culture, and perhaps purchase an artwork or a unique memento.

That evening enjoy traditional dance, storytelling and musical show followed by dinner. Alternately, you may stay the night on Badu Island to enjoy a sumptuous dinner on the beach.



**Nguzi Aadhi by Matilda Nona
Badu Island Art Centre**

DAY TWELVE Wednesday 21 August

Depart	Arrive	Track (Mag)	Dist (nm)
Horn Island (YHID)	Mapoon (YMPN)	191	86
Mapoon (YMPN)	Duyfken Point	200	40
Duyfken Point	Weipa (YBWP)	104	20
Weipa (YBWP)	Merluna Station (YMEU)	119	40
Merluna Station (YMEU)	Pormpuraaw (YPMP)	200	122
Pormpuraaw (YPMP)	Karumba (YKMB)	191	159

An early start should get you to Karumba by mid-afternoon. Drop into Merluna Station for a late morning tea is recommended to break up the day's journey.

The flight, today, is another opportunity to see the many fantastic river systems, probably full of crocodiles, flowing into the gulf.

A cruise takes you to a Sand Island just off the coast of Karumba and is the perfect location to witness a famous Karumba sunset, accompanied by drinks, nibbles and freshly cooked gulf prawns.



Karumba Sand Island Sunset

DAY THIRTEEN Thursday 22 August

Depart	Arrive	Track (Mag)	Dist (nm)
Karumba (YKMB)	Burketown (YBKT)	273	205

Karumba has an interesting aviation heritage, initially refuelling base from 1937 for the Short Empire flying boat service to England and as a base for Catalina flying boats during 1943 and 1944 for the RAAF Number 43 Squadron.

The morning can be spent exploring Karumba, along with having a late breakfast before making the short flight to Burketown, which could detour via Sweers Island.

Poppy Joe's, set amongst tropical gardens at the Savannah Lodge is a great spot to relax before heading off on the interesting Gambumanda Sunset Cruise.



Gulf River System



Gambumanda Sunset Cruise, Burketown

DAY FOURTEEN Friday 23 August



Final Night Dinner, Savannah Lodge

The rest day today provides an opportunity to explore the Burketown region. Starting around 9am there are couple of choices.

The first is the Marrija Cultural Tour where you will get an insight of the history and indigenous culture of Mougibi (Burketown). During the tour you will also visit Australia's largest salt pans.

The other is the Malara Fishing Charter, which provides an opportunity to catch a Barrumundi in the Gambumanda (Albert River) in the Barramundi Capital of Australia. There is also an option to take sunrise Hot Air Balloon ride.

That evening the lush surrounds of the Savannah Lodge will be the setting for the final group dinner on the trip.

DAY FIFTEEN Saturday 24 August

After a hearty breakfast, it is time to say goodbye to your fellow travellers and set off for home.



Accommodation

Date	Destination	Accommodation	Web Site	Phone
Sat Aug 10	Caloundra	Ocean Views Resort	http://www.oceanviewsresort.com.au	(07) 5491 1788
Sun Aug 11 Mon Aug 12	Airlie Beach	Airlie Beach Hotel	https://airliebeachhotel.com.au	(07) 4964 1999
Tue Aug 13 Wed Aug 14	Yungaburra	Kookaburra Lodge Motel	https://www.kookaburra-lodge.com	(07) 4095 3222
Thu Aug 15 Fri Aug 16	Cooktown	Sea View Motel	http://www.cooktownseaviewmotel.com.au	(07) 4069 5377
Sat Aug 18	Merluna	Merluna Station	https://www.merlunastation.com.au	(07) 4060 3209
Sun Aug 18 Mon Aug 19 Tue Aug 20	Thursday Island	Grand Hotel Thursday Island	https://grandhotelti.com.au	(07) 4069 1557
Tue Aug 20	Badu Island	Grand Hotel Thursday Island	https://grandhotelti.com.au	(07) 4069 1557
Wed Aug 21	Karumba	End of the Road Motel	http://www.endoftheroadmotel.com.au/	(07) 4745 9599
Thu Aug 22 Fri Aug 23	Burketown	Savannah Lodge	http://www.savannah-lodge.com	(07) 4745 5177
Sat Aug 24	Hells Gate	Hells Gate Roadhouse	https://www.hellsgateroadhouse.com.au	(07) 4745 8258

Included Transfers

Airlie Beach, Yungaburra, Cooktown, Thursday Island, Burketown and Karumba airfield accommodation transfers are inclusive. Transfer from accommodation to Caloundra airport is inclusive.

Included Meals

Ingham: lunch

Yungaburra: 2 dinners

Merluna Station: lunch, dinner, breakfast

Thursday Island: 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner, sunset cruise with dinner and the Island Stars Full Malu Experience which includes dinner

Badu Island Option (night of Aug 20) – 1 dinner and 1 breakfast

Merluna Station: morning tea

Burketown: 2 breakfasts and 2 dinners

Totals: 5 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 8 Dinners and 1 morning tea plus Island Stars Full Malu Experience and Thursday Island Dinner Cruise



August 2024 Air Safari – Cape York

Tours

Date	Location	Activity	Start	Duration	Cost (Per Person)	Catering
Mon Aug 12	Airlie Beach	# Ocean Rafting Whitsunday Islands, Whitehaven Beach and Snorkelling (includes Lunch)	09:00	7.0 hours	\$260	Lunch
Wed Aug 14	Yungaburra	# Atherton Tablelands Tour	09:00	7.0 hours	\$175	Lunch
Thu Aug 15	Cooktown	# Endeavour River Sunset Cruise	16:30	3.0 hours	\$90	Nibbles
Fri Aug 16	Cooktown	# Self drive Cooktown exploration and Lions Den Hotel lunch	10:00	5.0 hours	\$160	Lunch
Sun Aug 18 Sun Aug 18	Thursday Island	Thursday Island Garrison Tour	TBA	2.0 hours	\$45	
	Horn Island	In Their Steps Tour	TBA	2.0 hours	\$80	
Mon Aug 19	Thursday Island	# Nekana II Cape York Tip Cruise	07:00	9.0 hours	\$500	Breakfast, Lunch
Wed Aug 21	Karumba	# Sand Island Sunset Tour	16:30	3.0 hours	\$110	Nibbles
Thu Aug 22 Fri Aug 23	Burketown	# Gambumanda Sunset Cruise	17:00	2.5 hours	\$160	Nibbles
Fri Aug 23	Burketown	# Marrija Cultural Tour	09:00	4.0 hours	\$110	Morning Tea
		Malara Fishing Charter	09:00	7.0 hours	\$450	
		Hot Air Balloon Ride	07:00	2.0 hours	\$325	
Sat Aug 24	Hells Gate	Cliffdale Station Tour	14:00	2.0 hours	\$50	

These tours are considered to be likely the most popular – Estimated Total Cost is \$1,510



August 2024 Air Safari – Cape York

Airfields

Airfield	ICAO Code	Fuel Provider	Phone	Payment Method	Self Service
Caloundra	YCDR	Air BP	07 54918588	Air BP Carnet Card	Yes
Hervey Bay	YHVB	Fraser Coast Aviation	0412 253 267	World Fuel Carnet Card	Yes
Gladstone	YGLA	Viva	0427 239 293	Viva Carnet Card Master or Visa Card	Yes
Rockhampton	YBRK	Viva World Fuel	07 4927 3181 0411 162 210	Viva Carnet Card World Fuel Carnet Card	No
		Air BP	0409 638 801	Air BP Carnet Card	Yes
Shute Harbour	YSHR	Whitsunday Airport	(07) 4946 9185	Master or Visa Card	No
Ingham	YIGM	NQ Aviation Services	(07) 4776 0350 (0409)356 252	Master or Visa Card	No
Cooktown	YCKN	Cook Shire Council	(07) 4069 5360 (0419) 511 289	Master or Visa Card	Yes
Normanton	YNTN	World Fuel Services	(07) 4745 1615	World Fuel Carnet Card Master or Visa Card (via App)	No
Karumba	YKMB	World Fuel Services	(0427) 117 765	World Fuel Carnet Card Master or Visa Card (via App)	Yes
Coen	YCOE	Cook Shire Council	(07) 4060 1136	Master or Visa Card	No
Horn Island	YHID	Air BP	(07) 4069 2224 (0409) 024 572	Air BP Carnet Card Master or Visa Card	No
Weipa	YBWP	Oznorth Services	(07) 4069 7318	Master or Visa Card	No
Merluna Station	YMEU	N/A	(07) 4060 3209	N/A	N/A
Burketown	YBKT	Nowland	(0427) 455 107	Master or Visa Card	Yes
Hells Gate	YHEG	N/A	(07) 4745 8258	Master or Visa Card	N/A

Maintenance Organisations

Organisation	Location	Web Site	Contact
Aircraft Maintenance Specialists	Caloundra Airport	http://www.ams99.com.au	07 5491 6819
Hervey Bay Aircraft Maintenance	Hervey Bay Airport		07 4128 7721
Rose Aircraft Engineers	Rockhampton Airport		07 4922 6454
NQ Aviation Services	Ingham Airport	http://www.nqaviation.com.au	07 4776 0350
Flighttech Maintance	Cairns Airport		07 4040 1222
Aero Enterprise Aust Pty Ltd	Cairns Airport	http://www.aero.com.au	07 4055 1866
Cooktown Aircraft Maintenance	Cooktown Airport	https://www.cooktownaircraftmaintenance.com.au	(07) 4034 9300
Flighttech Maintance	Horn Island Airport		0419 837 746
Marker Aviation Services Pty Ltd	Mount Isa Airport	https://www.markeraviation.com.au	07 4743 5306
Longreach Aircraft Maintenance Pty Ltd	Longreach Airport		(07) 4658 2211 (0427) 682 211
Western Queensland Air Maintenance	Charleville Airport		07 4654 2074

Links

<https://www.visitsunshinecoast.com/Caloundra>

<https://www.tourismwhitsundays.com.au>

<http://www.tourismcapeyork.com/explore/cooktown>

<http://www.tourismcapeyork.com/explore/cooktown/accommodation/lions-den-hotel>

<https://www.yungaburra.com>

<https://www.athertontablelands.com.au>

<https://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/karumba-qld>

<http://www.tourismcapeyork.com/explore/npa-torres-strait>

<https://www.facebook.com/TorresStraitCulturalExperience>

<http://www.tourismcapeyork.com/explore/western-cape>

<https://www.travelblog.org/Oceania/Australia/Queensland/Cape-York/blog-993383.html>

<https://eatlas.org.au/ts/gallery/ts-scenery>

<https://www.ww2places.qld.gov.au/place?id=824>

http://www.cairnsunlimited.com/outback_burketown.htm

<https://www.sweers.com.au>

<https://www.hellsgateroadhouse.com.au>



