# Cairns Southern Tropical Highlands Eco Tour (No Cruise at Lake Barrine Crater Lake, Morning Tea, Or Lunch)

• 11 hours (approx.) •

## KEY FACTS

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1. Entry & up to 2 hour stay at Paronella Park
2. Includes a 45 minutes Historical Guided Tour at Paronella Park
3. Chinese & Japanese tours available at Paronella Park
4. Walk to the Twin Kauri Pines
5. Wildlife spotting at various locations
6. Visits to all destinations: Walsh's Pyramid, Heales Lookout, Yungaburra, Curtain Fig Tree, Malanda, Crawford's Lookout
7. Millaa Millaa Falls, Mena Creek & Theresa Falls
8. Local fruit stall stop
9. National Park Fees
10. Complementary pickup & drop off from selected accommodations

✗

1. Cruise at Lake Barrine Crater Lake
2. Devonshire Morning Tea
3. Delicious all you can eat Hot Buffet lunch
4. Food & beverages not listed as Inclusions
5. Souvenirs
6. Travel Insurance

## Depature point

- Departs: daily, all year round
  Tour does not run on Christmas Day (25 December)
- Departure point: Cairns
- Departure Time: between 07:15 - 07:45
  Complementary transfer from/to selected hotels included before departure time
- Arrives Cairns Reef Fleet Terminal between 18:00 - 18:30

## How to get there

Complimentary transfer from/to selected hotels included. Please indicate the name of your hotel at the point of booking - the most convenient pick-up location and time will be advised in your booking confirmation.

## Check-in requirements

Please arrive 10 minutes prior to the pick-up time at your booked pick up location. There might be 5-10 minutes delay depends on the traffic on the day. If you think the pick is late or you are not being picked up, please call The Service Provider and quote your confirmation number to double check.

## What to bring/wear

- Appropriate clothing for all weather conditions, eg. jacket for cooler months.
- Comfortable enclosed walking shoes
- Protective clothing, hat, sunscreen lotion, and sunglasses
- Water bottle, Snacks
- Swimmers and towels
- Umbrella / raincoat if rains
- Insect repellent
- Camera (waterproof if swimming)
- Money / credit card for optional purchases

## • OVERVIEW •

### Cairns Southern Tropical Highlands Eco Tour (No Cruise at Lake Barrine Crater Lake, Morning Tea, Or Lunch)

Tour south of Cairns for a full day out travelling through the magnificent World Heritage Wet Tropics rainforests of Wooroonooran National Park, swimming in waterfalls, travelling through the Atherton Tablelands, and visiting local must see attractions such as beautiful Lake Barrine, Millaa Millaa Falls, Curtain Fig Tree, Paronella Park (Spanish Castle ruins – one man's inspiration and dream). Travel in a comfortable air-conditioned vehicle with local naturalist guides and experience the uniqueness of the Tropics and the diversity of our beautiful tropical rainforests.

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**Tour Highlight**

**Paronella Park**

In the cool of the afternoon we visit amazing Paronella Park's Spanish style castles in the rainforest. This includes a 45 minute tour expertly conducted by Paronella Park's own knowledgeable English, Chinese & Japanese speaking guides.

Paronella Park is a multi award winning tourist attraction with National Trust listed Heritage gardens and castle ruins, also boasting North Queensland's first hydro-electric power plant all built by Jose Paronella at Mena Creek Falls. Originally created in the 1930's by Jose Paronella, a man with a dream.

Have fun feeding the fish and turtles with free time to browse through the museum. The minature bats in the 'Tunnel of Love' will make you smile.

Enjoy the combination of the 7,500 plants, trees & ferns Jose and his wife Margarita planted plus the growth that has occured over the past 70 years. The Park has become an amazing habitat for hundreds of varieties of birds, butterflies, fish & many other animals.

**Millaa Millaa Falls**

After departing the Curtain Fig Tree, the tour travel through picturesque farming areas and country villages to visit world famous Millaa Millaa Falls, one of the most renowned and photographed waterfalls in Australia surrounded by Mabi rainforest. This waterfall has been used as a feature in both television advertisements and movies.

The waterfall flows over solid volcanic basalt rock formed over many thousands of years ago giving the perfect drop for Millaa Millaa creek to fall for approx 20 metres into a pool surrounded by rainforest.

A quick swim is also encouraged as the excitement of being underneath the cool flowing waters of the water fall is invigorating to say the least.

This rainforest is also home to the shy Lumholtz Tree Kangaroo. A stunning photo opportunity!

**Lake Barrine**

Enjoy a relaxing quiet stop in the cool of the morning at beautiful Lake Barrine filled with pristine rain water and surrounded by World Heritage listed rainforest teeming with abundant wildlife. (This is a large Maar Volcano crater – a low subcircular volcanic crater lake derived from the latin "mare" for sea.)

A short walk reveals the majestic 1100 year old giant twin Kauri Pine trees towering over 45 metres above the surrounding rainforest easily accessible by walking tracks.

Browse through beautiful colourful gardens with many native ferns, orchids and flowering plants. If desired a quick swim in the cool waters is also offered. Lake Barrine also offers a gift shop arrayed with beautifully designed local arts & crafts.

You will have the opportunity to explore the walks through the beautiful surrounds of the rainforest in the early morning. An opportunity also exists (if you are quiet) to spot the shy, tiny Musky Rat Kangaroo – Australia's smallest marsupial. (They are really fast so we haven't been able to get a good photo to add to our gallery as yet.)

**Compare Tours**

| | Option A | Option B | Option C |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Paronella Park with a 45 min Historical Guided Tour** | √ | √ | √ |
| **Chinese & Japanese tours available** | √ | √ | √ |
| **Walk to the Twin Kauri Pines** | √ | √ | √ |
| **Visits to all destinations** | √ | √ | √ |
| **Local fruit stall stop** | √ | √ | √ |
| **National Park Fees** | √ | √ | √ |
| **Complementary return transfers** | √ | √ | √ |
| **Morning Tea** | √ | √ | |
| **Hot Buffet Lunch** | √ | √ | |
| **Cruise at Lake Barrine Crater Lake** | √ | | |

**Sample Itinerary**

Reference only, subject to change without notice. Itineraries may operate in reverse order, in a different sequence or be swapped around to suit times & conditions.

To start off the tour picks up from your accommodation and return you back at the end of the day.

- The pickup is usually between 07:15 - 07:45 depending on where you are staying.
- Departure from Cairns, the tour heads south travelling past **Walsh's Pyramid**, one of the largest naturally formed pyramids in the world. Here your guide will stop so you can grab a photo of this unique North Queensland landmark.
- Travel up the World Heritage listed Gillies Highway climbing 730 metres above sea level whilst enjoying the breathtaking views over the Goldbourgh Valley.
- Just before the top of the amazing Gillies Range is a short photo oportunity at the **Heales Lookout** before heading into the gorgeous Atherton Tableands.
- The first stop is beautiful World Heritage Listed Lake Barrine Crater Lake National Park. On arrival, the tour guide will take you on a **short walk** to visit the 1000-year-old Twin Kauri Pines, true giants of the rainforest. After the guided walk, you can relax in the Tea House overlooking the Crater Lake or take a leisurely walk through the National Park rainforest walking tracks viewing two 1000-year-old Kauri Pines.
- Once the cruise is complete, you will all meet back at the bus for departure to the historical town of **Yungaburra**. Yungaburra is recognised as having the most Nationally Listed Heritage buildings in Queensland. The guide will take you on a driving tour around this quaint town showcasing the many Nationally Heritage buildings, even stop for a photo or two!
- Next stop is **The Curtain Fig Tree** located in the Curtain Fig Tree National Park. This amazing feat of nature reaching 45+ metres up into the tropical rainforest canopy. Here you will be guided around on the boardwalk interpreting the amazing formation of this 600-800-year old epiphyte while also looking out for endemic wildlife species in the rainforest canopy, like the rare Lumhotz Tree Kangaroo.
- From here, you will head through the historical dairy town of **Malanda**, home to Australia's oldest continuously running commercial picture theatre. The guide will drive you around this charming town showcasing the beautiful old pub & theatre.
- After a 30 minute drive travelling through extensive beef, dairy, sugar cane & other diverse types of farming areas, the tour arrives at **Millaa Millaa Falls** – one of Australia's most photographed waterfalls. Here you will have an option of swimming under the cool waters falling 20 metres over an ancient volcanic lava flow formed over 1 million years ago or you can sit back, relax & enjoy the tranquility of nature.

- Now it's time to descend from the mountains down the Palmerstone Highway through sugar cane & banana fields to the coastal town of Innisfail.
- There are other food outlets available for Option C tour.
- **Paronella Park** is the next destination with a 45-minute guided tour in English, Chinese or Japanese. The tour will guide you through the extensive National Trust Gardens while learning the rich history of Hosea Paronella's wonderful achievements & his colourful history of how he built his Spanish Castle in the rainforest;you will have amazing photo opportunties of the breathtaking **Mena Creek & Theresa falls** & much more. You will spend approximately 2.5 hours here allowing plenty of free time to enjoy the rest of the park at a leisurely pace after the guided tour.
- Now, it's time to head north towards Cairns where will stop at a **local banana farm** where you can purchase cheap bananas, papaya & seasonal home grown fruit.
- The tour continues northbound passing the wettest town in Queensland, Babinda with an annual rainfall total over 4 metres per year. This 'umbrella' town sits between Queenslands two highest mountains; Mt Bartle Frere (1,611 metres) & Mt Bellender Ker (1,593 metres). These majestic mountains are all covered in World Heritage Rainforest and form part of the Great Dividing Range; Australia's most substantial mountain range and the third longest land-based range in the world. The range spans 3,500 kilometres from the northeastern tip of Queensland, running the entire length of the eastern coastline through New South Wales, then into Victoria and turning west, before fading into the central plain at the Grampains in western Victoria. WOW!!
- From there it is approximately a 50 to 60 minutes drive back to the city of Cairns & return to your accommodation. Arrives back to Cairns City between 18:00 and 18:30.

## POLICY

### Cancellation Policy

● If you cancel at least 7 day(s) in advance of the scheduled departure, there is no cancellation fee. ● If you cancel between 0 and 6 day(s) in advance of the scheduled departure, there is a 100 percent cancellation fee. ● If no show, no refund.

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