



# Making Memories in Cairns

13

REASONS TO DISCOVER  
SHANGRI-LA THE MARINA, CAIRNS



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Tropical North Queensland is unique. It's a special place where rainforest meets reef, green season rains make waterfalls rumble, and the people here first tell Dreamtime stories. It's a destination where visitors can breakfast beside the Coral Sea, lunch on a dairy farm high in the hills, and linger over dinner in the rainforest. It's a bucket-list location where travellers can escape the every day to make holiday memories that will last a lifetime.

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# 1

## THE BEST VIEW IN TOWN FROM YOUR PRIVATE BALCONY

The hotel occupies an enviable plot in the heart of the Far North Queensland capital, beside Marlin Marina between Trinity Inlet and the Coral Sea. Our Executive Marina View Rooms take in vistas across the tourist fleet to the mountains on the far side of Trinity Inlet, while our Deluxe Sea View Rooms gaze above the Esplanade green to the Coral Sea blue stretching towards the horizon.





# 2

## LINGERING OVER LAZY MEALS IN THE BACKYARD

The Backyard is our iconic waterside restaurant, bar and garden with the hotel's executive chef Aaron Habgood creating a menu that uses the best local ingredients to celebrate the fabulous flavours of the Far North. Our famous buffet breakfast is back – COVID-19 contingencies put it on hold for a few months – while sunset drinks before dinner beside the marina lights is a favourite with locals and visitors alike.





# 3

## STROLLING THE ESPLANADE AT SUNRISE

Summer is the steamy season in the Far North when the humidity climbs making middle-of-the-day exercise an unappealing activity. So, do as the locals do, and stretch the legs as the sun is rising with the Esplanade footpath a favourite location. Those seeking something a little more strenuous should take on "the Arrows" with the Red Arrow circuit perfect for a short but steep climb through the rainforest. The Blue and Yellow arrows allow for longer hikes and promise refreshing Coral Sea vistas.





# 4

## GET WET ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Shangri-La The Marina, Cairns sits steps from the city's Reef Fleet Terminal making it a cinch to venture out and explore the reef. Tourist boats of all shapes and sizes depart daily with some making the dash to Fitzroy and Green islands, others heading for pontoons anchored above the colourful coral, and a few vessels drifting towards the stretches of deep blue that are home to Nemo and his mates.





# 5

## DEPART ON A DREAMY DAINTREE DAY TRIP

A trip to the Far North isn't complete without seeing the legendary land where the rainforest meets the reef. It's a 90-minute motor north of Cairns, but rather than doing the driving sign up for a hosted day trip. Tours collect guests from hotel reception in the morning before depositing them home at the end of an extended exploring day. It's the easiest way to experience bucket-list destinations like Mossman Gorge, Cape Tribulation and the Bloomfield Track.





# 6

## WEATHER WATCHING TO SEE A STORMY LIGHT SHOW

Green season in Tropical North Queensland doesn't mean constant rain, with the wet typically bringing late-afternoon storms that creep up and quickly depart. Weather watching is another favourite Far-North pastime with locals finding a place to sit and watch the gathering clouds, lightning shows, and dramatic downpours. Then, when the rain clears and the scent of flowers is carried by the evening breezes, it's time to find somewhere for dinner. Or another icy sunset tippie.





# 7

## COOL OFF WITH A WANDER TO A WATERFALL

Tropical North Queensland is home to some spectacular waterfalls with green-season showers bringing the wet stuff that makes these hidden gems rumble and tumble. Venture into the Atherton Tablelands – head up "The Gillies" for a spectacular journey – with locations like Malanda Falls, Zillie Falls, Mungalli Falls and Nandroya Falls perfect places for a summertime soak. Those after something that packs a little more adventure punch could put Windin Falls on the itinerary, but it's a hike so be ready with ample water and sturdy shoes.





# 8

## MAKE WEEKENDS ABOUT GOING TO MARKET

Weekend markets are a way of life in the Far North with communities from Palm Cove and Port Douglas to Tully and Tumoulin playing host to stalls selling all sorts of goodies. Remember to take a hat and wear comfortable shoes, pack a shopping bag to tote the goodies you snag, and arrive ready to eat as the food is always a highlight of any market visit. And, if you can't make it to the regions, Rusty's Market and the Night Markets are within walking distance of the hotel while Kuranda is just up the range.





# 9

## TACKLE THE TABLELANDS TEMPTING TASTING TRAIL

The Atherton Tablelands – an hour "up the hill" from Cairns – is one of Australia's richest and most diverse food bowls producing year round. Dairy cows make milk that's turned into cheese and ice cream, limes and avocados grow in orchards flanking the Kennedy Highway, and tea plantations crown the highest plateaus. Mungalli Dairy, Nerada Tea Plantation, Gallo Dairyland, Mt Uncle Distillery, Emerald Creek Ice-Creamery and Jaques Coffee Plantation are all worth a stop to help graze the day away.





# 10

## MAKE AN ESCAPE TO A PERFECT SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND

KEEN to see the islands but already crossed Fitzroy and Green from your to-do list? Then it's time to book a Frankland Islands tour and see one of Tropical North Queensland's true hidden gems. The excursion includes transfers from Cairns, a cruise along the South Johnstone River to the Coral Sea, and time to explore the islands from above and below the surface. This is another favourite with Far North locals but pack a picnic, as there are no shops on the island, and take some shade because it's a very sunny spot on a perfect blue-sky day.





# 11

## STOP, FLOP AND RECHARGE THE BATTERIES

Shangri-La The Marina, Cairns boasts two swimming pools sitting at the heart of our private courtyard gardens with this haven of blue perfect for doing nothing but recharging the batteries. Bring a good book or two, settle into a sun lounge, order a colourful cocktail from the Pool Bar's drinks menu, and cool down with a refreshing dip when the temperature starts climbing.





# 12

## MEETING THE MOST INTERESTING LOCALS - BUT FROM A DISTANCE

The country around Cairns is home to some wonderful wildlife and visitors don't need to venture far for a close encounter. Sojourn south to Etty Bay to meet the cassowaries that live on the sand, go north to encounter crocs on a Daintree River cruise, meet the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary's delicate residents during a visit to Kuranda, or pop in to see the marsupials at one of the region's conservation parks. For those that like getting wet strap on a snorkel and descend into the deep to meet the turtles that call the Great Barrier Reef home.





# 13

## PLANES, TRAINS, AUTOMOBILES AND GONDOLAS

While our compact city is perfect for strolling the region is ready for roaming by car, train, bicycle, helicopter and even gondola. Hire a prestige car from Cairns Luxury Car Hire to cruise the Captain Cook Highway, fly to a deserted quay for a private picnic on the sand, or pedal one of the Tablelands' mountain-bike trails. And a trip to FNQ isn't complete without spending a day sightseeing Kuranda, with a train trip up and a return ride on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway the perfect combination.

