

Tuncurry
COACH TOURS

The Gulf Savannah Experience

Fully escorted tour with Tuncurry Coach Tours!

‘Small group experience’

Tuesday 27th May to Frid 6th June 2025

11 Days & 10 Nights

PER PERSON TWIN SHARE: \$7090pp twin

Room on your own extra \$1500pp

Includes Return airfares ex Newcastle



The Gulf Savannah is a timeless landscape of natural treasures. A former frontier tackled by gold prospectors and cattle farmers, occupied by our country's indigenous people. A place pocketed with natural wonders, including the world's longest lava tubes and Australia's youngest gorge. Our Gulf Savannah tours showcase the best of the Australian savannah. You'll enjoy true Australian hospitality and sample the various styles of cuisine, as rich and colourful as the fascinating savannah outback landscapes and lifestyles you will encounter.

This is a truly unique holiday and there is some helpful information you need to know before you book.

The Gulf Savannah is an area where time almost stands still. The landscape is as vast as it is empty. The quietness pervades and is almost deafening, broken only by the squawk of a native bird or a wandering beast. Each remote town has its own unique savannah outback style, coupled with a friendliness second to none.

There's two iconic savannah rail journeys, which are as unique and special as the area itself. These fascinating modes of transport criss-cross the Gulf Savannah outback, allowing you to be a part of a long-gone history. A journey on the Gulflander is a tour back in time, to an era when a padded seat was a luxury and roads were bullock tracks. To a time where gold was the currency and home was a canvas and sapling humpy. And a generation where children were born in the dust and education was the school of hard knocks.

These days tourism is playing an ever-increasing economic role in the Australian savannah, with many pastoralists opening their cattle properties to tourists. So, we invite you to come to the Gulf Savannah to capture the emotion and romance, tragedies and triumphs of Australia's amazing savannah outback.

A holiday to the Gulf Savannah Australia offers adventure, beauty and a lesson in history giving the visitor a multitude of savannah experiences.

How will we travel? Travel these remote areas in our purpose built Isuzu off road 4WD tour-vehicles with forward facing reclining seats, footrests, and retractable seatbelts. The vehicles are equipped with standard features as a P.A. System, on-board toilet, T.V and road cam, portable satellite phone and first aid kits and all necessary off road equipment you can think of. With a maximum of 24 passengers, you will have the ultimate opportunity to enjoy the areas at its best.

Accommodation: The type of accommodation on this tour varies from location to location. From motel rooms, cabin and homestay rooms all with ensuite facilities in the townships and communities. Regardless of where we are on our adventure, you'll find our Gulf Savannah accommodation is all clean and comfortable, the hospitality genuine and the cuisine generous and appetizing.

Luggage: *Luggage cannot exceed 10kg per person.* 1. Soft bag or small overnight soft suitcase per person bag ONLY 300mm x 300mm x 700mm - **no suitcases or hard body cases.** (There will be plenty of opportunity to wash your clothes)

Mobility: A *moderate* level of mobility is required to participate in this tour. If you have any mobility issues or are over 80 years of age, a doctor's clearance may be required before booking can be confirmed. Walkers and other walking aids are not permitted on this tour.

Your guided tour itinerary

DAY 1: (D) NEWCASTLE TO CAIRNS

TUE 27th MAY 2025

Welcome to our 11 Day Gulf Savannah Experience. This morning we will make our way to Newcastle Airport, where we will board our connecting flight to Cairns. Upon arrival in tropical North Queensland, we will be transferred to our hotel, where we will spend the night before our big tour begins. A welcome dinner will be enjoyed tonight where you can meet your new travel friends.

Hotel: Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort, | 1 nights | Lunch own cost | dinner in hotel

DAY 2 (B,L,D) HERBERTON HISTORIC VILLAGE - MALANDA

WED 28th MAY 2025

After an early morning departure from the Novotel this morning, your holiday begins, travelling up the Kuranda Range to the Atherton Tableland and on to Herberton. Today we explore the Historic Village of Herberton, where you can re-live the folklore and romance of yesterday's Australia in every piece of this eye-opening collection. Sit in the schoolhouse, stand at the bar of the pub and enjoy a

latte in the Bakerville Tearooms. The award-winning attraction is more than a vintage precinct – it's a tangible buzz of things past with over 50 original buildings with intact interior displays, original machinery and vehicles, plus thousands of antique items and period memorabilia.

Late afternoon we settle in the Malanda Lodge, situated on 11 acres of manicured tropical gardens. All rooms have ensuite facilities, ground level balconies and views to enjoy the tranquillity, or maybe spot their resident platypus family in the large pond.



Hotel: Malanda Lodge, | 1 Night

DAY 3: (B,L,D) MALANDA – SAVANNAHLANDER - GEORGETOWN THU 29th MAY

An early start sees us travelling west on the Kennedy Highway towards Mount Surprise, where we enjoy lunch. Today we will aboard the "Savannahlander" train as it tracks towards Einasleigh. There is enough time to have a beer in the pub or head down and check out Copperfield Gorge, before the train departs for Forsayth. From here we travel on to Georgetown where we stay overnight.

Hotel: Georgetown | 1 Night |



DAY 4: (B,L,D) GEORGETOWN - KARUMBA FRI 30th May 2025

Morning "smoko" on the shore of Croydon's Lake Belmore before Normanton for lunch. Here you can absorb its famous landmarks, the "Purple Pub", historic Burns Philp General Store and a replica of Krys, the 8.63m crocodile. Continue on to Karumba on the Gulf of Carpentaria, where we enjoy a spectacular Gulf sunset. We stay at the Karumba Lodge with ensuite facilities for the next 2 nights.

Hotel: Karumba Lodge | 2 nights



DAY 5 KARUMBA (BLD)**SAT 31st MAY 2025**

After a leisurely breakfast we enjoy a cruise on the Gulf of Carpentaria. This afternoon we spend time at the Barramundi Centre with a guided Feed-A-Barra tour and hand-feeding will take you into the brand-new hatchery for an educational, entertaining and engaging experience! This afternoon we head out to sunset point for happy hour.

Accom: Karumba Lodge

DAY 6 KARUMBA – NORMANTON (BLD)**SUN 1st JUNE 2025**

After breakfast we visit Burke & Wills Camp #119, the most northerly campsite of the ill-fated expedition of 1860 on our way back to Normanton for lunch. This afternoon we visit the Mutton hole Wetlands for croc- and bird watching. We overnight in Normanton.

Accom: Normanton / 1 Night

**DAY 7: (B,L,D) NORMANTON – COBBOLD GORGE****MON 2nd JUNE 2025**

This morning we depart from Normanton's famous Victorian architecture Railway Station. All aboard the historic "Gulflander RM93" train, a Savannah Guides Site, for a ride through the savannah landscape across the Norman River to Critters Camp. On to Black Bull Siding then the old gold mining town of Croydon and its Historic Precinct. This afternoon we visit Georgetown and Forsayth on our way to Cobbold Gorge, a Savannah Guides Station.

Accom: Cobbold Gorge. 2 nights

**DAY 8: (B,L, D) COBBOLD GORGE****TUE 3rd JUNE 2025**

This morning we cruise on Cobbold Gorge's beautiful and secluded waterway surrounded by spectacular carved Hampstead sandstone, 135 million years old. We have ample time to enjoy this beautiful area. Overnight at Cobbold Gorge.

Accom: [Cobbold Gorge](#)

DAY 9 COBBOLD GORGE – UNDARA (BLD)

WED 4th JUNE 2025

This morning we travel via Einasleigh and Mount Surprise to the famous Undara Lava Tubes, a Savannah Guides Station. There's campfire entertainment after dinner before retiring to your accommodation. Accommodation will be at Undara in either homesteads or carriages.

Hotel: [Undara](#)



DAY 10: UNDARA - CAIRNS (BLD)

THU 5th JUNE 2025

After breakfast in the Australian bush, an experienced Savannah Guide will meet you for an informative tour of the world's largest, longest and most accessible lava tube system. We continue on our scenic and leisurely drive over the Tropical Tablelands past the Wind Turbines at Ravenshoe, stopping off at the magnificent Curtain Fig Tree, before making our way back to Cairns, where you will enjoy your final night on tour back at the Novotel Cairns

Hotel: [Novotel Oasis Resort Cairns / 1 Night](#)

DAY 11: (B) CAIRNS- NEWCASTLE

Fri 6th JUNE 2025

After breakfast, we will be transferred to the airport for our connecting flight back to Newcastle, where we will sit back and relax on the coach for the last leg of our holiday back home.

Tour price Includes:

TEN (10) Nights' accommodation
TEN (10) breakfast
EIGHT (8) Lunches
TEN (10) Dinners

Entry fees to attractions & sightseeing as per itinerary

Tour payment:

Non-Refundable Deposit of \$100.00 per person at time of booking to secure your place.

Non refundable payment of \$800.00 per person due **11th November 2024** (this is forwarded by TCT directly to Heritage tours, our tour provider for the Gulf Savannah component of this tour and is non refundable)

Non refundable 2nd installment of \$4,375 twin per person or \$5275 single due **27th January 2025**

Final payment due: 27th February 2025

***** Failure to pay by the due date may see your booking cancelled and deposits forfeited *****

Cancellation Charges: (If you cancel)

All deposits and installments are non refundable unless otherwise stated

If you cancel 0-90 days prior to departure - 100% cancellation fee of total tour cost is charged

Note: Cancellation of this trip less than 90 days prior to the 1st day of the trip there is no refund.

Travel Insurance is highly recommended by the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, we advise passengers to consider taking out travel insurance to cover any unforeseen circumstances which may arise.

All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions and opening times/days of some attractions, e.g. Accommodation, churches, wineries etc. We cannot be held responsible for any date or time changes due to pandemics, closures, inclement weather etc. Withdrawing from trips due to the above may see passengers liable to cancellation charges