

MICK PASS Basic

Sydney - Cairns

Duration: Minimum 14 Days, Maximum 12 months

Group Size: Min 4 / Max 40

Age Requirement: 18+, 16-17 with parental consent

Sydney to Barrington Tops

G'day, mate, and welcome to your Stray adventure! We depart the big city of Sydney early this morning and head to the Hunter Valley wine region for a tasting at an award-winning vineyard. From there, we carry on through the backcountry to our first stunning Strademark stop right on the edge of the World Heritage-listed Barrington Tops National Park. At our Stray exclusive accommodation overlooking the Barrington River, you can choose to go river tubing on the mild rapids, or play table tennis, pool and darts at the lodge. Finish the day with a shared group dinner and a scenic soak in the massive hot tub.

Accommodation: Lodge at Barrington Tops (set price for bed, dinner and breakfast)

Activities Included: Wine tasting

Optional Paid Activities: River tubing

Free Activities: Play games, relax in the hot tub

Barrington Tops to Spot X Surf Camp

We depart after breakfast and journey north through the remote countryside back towards the coast. Our next stop is the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, where you can get a closer look at Australia's laziest (and arguably cutest) marsupials. Check out the information centre to learn all about the hospital's efforts to rehabilitate, protect and preserve the koalas. After this, we head to Emerald Beach, an iconic kangaroo hangout, where if you're lucky you can spot them hopping along the beach. We arrive at our beachfront overnight stop Spot X in the early evening.

Accommodation: Spot X Surf Camp (set price for bed, dinner and breakfast)

Activities Included: Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, kangaroo spotting on Emerald Beach

Spot X Surf Camp to River Retreat

The morning at Spot X is all yours. Learn to surf in some of the best beginner waves in Australia, or for those who already know how to 'hang 10,' rent a board and show us what you can do! We recommend staying longer to do a Surf & Stay if you are keen to really hone your surf skills. You can also swim and chill out on the beach or sink into a hammock at the camp. We depart around midday, grabbing a bite to eat in town before travelling to our relaxing, rural River Retreat. Spend the afternoon on a guided canoe trip down the Nymboida River to learn about the area, which is home to amazing birds, snakes, and the incredibly shy platypus, and unwind with a refreshing dip in the river. This evening, we'll gather round a bonfire and sleep in wilderness cabins or tents beneath the stars.

Accommodation: River Retreat - cabins or camping

Optional Paid Activities: Surf lesson, hop off at Spot X for a Surf & Stay

Activities Included: Guided canoe trip (or bush walk if canoeing isn't possible)

Free Activities: Swim in the river

River Retreat to Byron Bay

Next up - Byron Bay, known as the most chilled out town in Australia! On the way there, we stop in the picturesque seaside town of Yamba for lunch. We'll also visit the Angourie Blue Pool, an old quarry that was accidentally (and awesomely) filled by an underground spring, meaning you can now cool off in an epic fresh water pool right on the beach! Upon arriving in Byron Bay, we'll take you on an orientation drive around town to help you get your bearings, showing you the points of interest and the top spots for food, shopping and nightlife.

Accommodation: Your choice of Byron Bay hostel, book via Stray Mate

Activities Included: Swim in Angourie Blue Pool, Byron Bay orientation drive

Byron Bay Day 1

You have two full free days in Byron Bay to "cheer up, slow down, and chill out" as the town's famous welcome sign instructs. And there is plenty to do in this laidback hippy town: practice your surfing skills down at the beach, walk to mainland Australia's most easterly point at the Cape Byron Lighthouse, search for dolphins and other marine life on a sea kayaking trip, or visit the alternative town of Nimbin. Tonight, get out to experience Byron's eclectic nightlife – there is always something going on!

Accommodation: Your choice of hostel

Optional Paid Activities: Surf lessons/hire, kayaking, Nimbin day trip, diving

Free Activities: Walk to Cape Byron Lighthouse, relax on the beach, dance the night away!

Byron Bay Day 2

You have another free day in Byron Bay today. Tick off any activities you didn't get the chance to do yet, or pass the day wandering the township and exploring the many boutique shops and cafes. Eating your way around Byron is an experience in itself, and there are plenty of vegetarian options available!

Accommodation: Your choice of hostel

Optional Paid Activities: Surf lessons/hire, kayaking, Nimbin day trip, diving

Free Activities: Walk to Cape Byron Lighthouse, relax on the beach, dance the night away!

Byron Bay to Rainbow Beach (1-3 days)

This morning we cross the border from New South Wales into Queensland. Our destination today is Rainbow Beach, but those with more time might want to hop off and explore tourist hot spot Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast, Queensland's capital city of Brisbane, or the upmarket resort town of Noosa. Tomorrow you'll begin your Fraser Island adventure (make sure you've booked in the dates in advance with Stray). Once you've checked-in, you'll have a safety briefing for your Fraser Island 4WD trip.

Accommodation: Your choice in either Noosa or Rainbow Beach

Optional Paid Activities: 3 Day / Night Fraser Island tours - available from both Noosa & Rainbow Beach

Activities Included: Walk to Carlo Sand Blow

Rainbow Beach to Emu Park

After stopping briefly to pick up those who stayed in Noosa, we depart from Cooroy on our first train journey of the trip. Kick back for a scenic train ride to Rockhampton, where we meet the bus and your Stray Guide to head to our next Strademark destination, Emu Park. While at Emu Park you'll have the option to visit stunning Great Keppel Island,

snorkel with turtles and hike to some secluded white sand beaches (extra cost); or you can choose to do your own thing!

Please Note: Some trips may have an extra night at Emu Park.

Accommodation: Emu's Beach Resort

Emu Park to Airlie Beach (Overnight Train)

Today we recommend opting to visit the highlight of the area, Great Keppel Island, a tropical island paradise at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef. Catch the ferry for a day of snorkeling or kayaking (extra cost) before exploring the island itself in search of the perfect white sand beach for a little afternoon rest and relaxation. Tonight, we'll gather together for dinner at Emu's Beach Resort before we catch our first overnight train to Airlie Beach.

Accommodation: Overnight train (included)

Optional Paid Activities: Great Keppel Island, snorkeling or kayaking, lawn bowls

Free Activities: Relax on the beach, swim, go for a walk

Airlie Beach (1-3 days)

The train arrives in Prosperine early in the morning. Your Airlie-based Stray Guide will meet you at the train and accompany you on the bus into Airlie Beach. They'll help you store your bags, and then grab breakfast (extra cost) and give you a brief orientation of the town to help you get your bearings. You'll have the rest of your day free in Airlie Beach to do as you please. Airlie Beach is the gateway to the famous Whitsunday Islands, another backpacker favourite. Many people choose to hop off here and do a multi-day sailing trip, but it is also possible to do a day tour. You can also choose to join your guide for a hike in the rainforest to see amazing almost 360-degree views of Airlie and the Whitsunday Islands.

Accommodation: Your choice of central hostel

Activities Included: Orientation walk, guided hike in the rainforest

Optional Paid Activities: 2 day / 1 night Whitsunday Islands Sailing tours, skydiving

Free Activities: Orientation walk, guided hike in the rainforest, Swim in the lagoon

Airlie Beach to Magnetic Island

You'll be up with the parakeets this morning with a medley of transport to catch today. Travelling by bus, train and ferry (oh my!) we arrive at our destination of Magnetic Island in the late morning. Nearly 50% of 'Maggie Island' is national park land, and it's chock-full of amazing beaches and abundant wildlife. Your legendary local guide will meet you at the train station and then join you on a scenic walk to either the beautiful Radical Bay beach or the historic Forts Complex for incredible views and amazing photo opportunities. Join in the group pizza dinner tonight (extra cost).

Please Note: Some trips may have an extra night at Magnetic Island.

Accommodation: Your choice of hostel near the beach, swim, explore the island

Activities Included: Fort Complex walk and/or Radical Bay walking tour

Optional Paid Activities: Snorkelling, hire a 4WD, rent a kayak

Magnetic Island to Cairns

We catch the ferry back to the mainland in the morning, and travel by train to tropical Cairns. We'll arrive in the afternoon just in time to check out the bustling Cairns Night Markets where we can grab a delicious bite, a cold beer and hunt for a bargain.

Accommodation: Your choice of central hostel

Cairns (via Tully)

You have a free day in Cairns to explore this stunning destination. You could swim amongst colourful fish and turtles at the Great Barrier Reef, go skydiving, or take a day trip to the Atherton Tablelands Rainforest Experience where you can walk through a lush rainforest, visit the oldest living history museum and swim under crystal clear waterfalls. If you just want to soak up the sun and relax, check out the beautiful Northern beaches or the Cairns lagoon where you can go for a swim and chill out with a refreshing drink.

Accommodation: Your choice of central hostel.

Optional Paid Activities: White water rafting, skydiving, bungee jumping, Great Barrier Reef trips, Atherton Tablelands Rainforest Experience - includes morning tea and lunch.

What's Included:

Transport: Private Bus, Ferry, Train, local bus transfers

Guide:

Sydney - Rainbow Beach: Stray Driver Guide on bus sectors

Rainbow Beach - Cairns: Self-guided train sectors with In-Location Guides to greet you when you arrive and show you the best bits

Activities:

- Wine tasting at Hunter Valley
- Koala hospital visit, Port Macquarie
- Kangaroo spotting, Emerald Beach
- Canoeing experience or bush walk, River Retreat
- Angourie Blue Pools, Yamba
- Byron Bay orientation drive
- Carlo Sand Blow walk, Rainbow Beach
- Airlie Orientation and Guided Rainforest Walk
- Forts Complex and/or Radical Bay Walking Tour, Magnetic Island

What's Not Included:

- All meals
- Accommodation and additional activities

This Itinerary is a guide. Given the spontaneous nature of our trips and lack of control over Australia's weather (!), what we do each day might occasionally vary.

Teilnehmer: min 4 bis max. 40 Personen (Mindestalter 18 Jahre, 16-17 Jahre in Begleitung der Eltern)

Transport: Bus, Fähre, Zug

Includierte Mahlzeiten: keine

Gepäck Limit: 15 kg, please bring a soft sided bag only

Rollstuhlgeeignet: nein

Geeignet für Menschen mit eingeschränkter Mobilität: ja (genauere Informationen auf Anfrage)

Die Sprache während der Tour ist englisch