

# Cape York Reef & Rainforest

## Homeland Spirit - 9 Days



### Day 2-4: Homeland 1

Travel to your first Homeland for a warm welcome at a well-established Ranger Station that partners with universities on local Rock Art and cultural projects, where you'll explore sacred sites, craft stone artefacts, track wildlife, forage bush tucker, fish using traditional techniques, join community projects, and share stories under the stars with Elders and Rangers.

### Day 4-7: Travel via the Community of Hopevale and hike into Homeland 2

Journey through Hopevale to your new Homeland for a Welcome to Country, where you'll hike, forage for bush tucker, learn traditional practices and local language, hear Dreaming stories by the fire, visit sacred sites, and reflect each night on your immersion.

### Day 7-8: Sea Country

Spend the day exploring two outer reef sites and learn about marine life and Aboriginal sea Country from First Nations guides



### Day 1: Welcome to Country

Begin with a sunrise flight to Cairns, journey with Red Earth Leaders through scenic landscapes to Melsonby, receive a heartfelt Welcome to Country, and camp on Country surrounded by nature and local stories.

Great Barrier Reef

Cairns

### Day 9: Farewell, But Not Goodbye

Say goodbye to friends and First Nations facilitators who shared their wisdom. Return home with a deeper understanding of culture, nature, and yourself.



# Cape York

Experience 9 unforgettable days as you explore 2 Homelands and the Great Barrier Reef



## DAY 1 The Journey Begins

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- ☉ Catch an early flight to Cairns, where your adventure kicks off with a sunrise in the sky.
- ☉ After being met at the airport by our Red Earth Leaders you will travel on a scenic bus trip to Melsonby via Mount Malloy - a journey through ever- changing landscapes.
- ☉ Experience a warm Welcome to Country ceremony, hosted by locals excited to share their land with you.
- ☉ Set up camp on Country, letting nature's beauty and inspiring lives of the locals be the backdrop for your memorable stay.

## DAYS 2-4 Travel to Homeland

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- ☉ Be welcomed to this well-established Ranger Station, which works closely with multiple universities on fascinating projects, one of which is the extensive Rock Art in the area.
- ☉ Archaeologists have spent much time at Melsonby and identified a range of unique stone artefacts and tools. Students can shape their own Stone Artefacts and grind ochre
- ☉ Take the opportunity to walk with the local rangers to the sacred sites of the Medicine Man rock art and the Scar Tree - unpacking the stories surrounding these important sites.
- ☉ Spend time exploring the history of the local waterways and the Indigenous connection to Country.





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- ☉ Try your hand at catching a Barramundi using traditional knowledge and techniques.
- ☉ Learn the skill of wildlife tracking and how traditional owners manage invasive species in the environment.
- ☉ Gain first-hand knowledge of bush tucker and understand the myriad uses of local plants.
- ☉ Take in the expansive views with a walk to a Homeland lookout.
- ☉ Contribute to a community service project.
- ☉ Take part in traditional craft workshops with Elders (may include making spears, didgeridoos, stone artefacts, and painting with ochre or weaving a dilly bag from natural pandanus materials).
- ☉ Prepare an underground oven and experience this delicious traditional feast.
- ☉ Sit out with the rangers and Traditional Owners under the huge night sky, sharing stories around the campfire.



## **DAYS 4-7** **Travel via Hopevale and hike into Homeland 2**

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- ☉ Travel to your new Homeland via the community of Hopevale. Visit the local arts centre, church and maybe even a school visit depending on term times. Take a refreshing dip in the local Isabella Falls.
- ☉ Prepare yourself to hike in and out of this stunning hillside Daintree Homeland and be Welcomed to Country on arrival by Traditional Owners, who look forward to sharing his extensive knowledge and love of this magical area.
- ☉ Learn about the fragile balance of sustainable farming and traditional techniques practised.
- ☉ Artefact making and fishing in the local creek.
- ☉ Forage for bush tucker and learn some local language.
- ☉ Hear dreaming stories by the campfire at night and the history that surrounds these forests.
- ☉ Swim in the safe, refreshing, waters of the Homeland's local creek.
- ☉ Nightly reflections on the immersion.

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## DAYS 7-8 Great Barrier Reef

- 🎯 Travel south after your time on Country for another adventure that awaits. We can explore this amazing region on a full-day snorkelling tour on the UNESCO World Heritage site, the Great Barrier Reef. This incredible area will be brought further to life by your marine biologist and cultural guides, who will accompany you on board.
- 🎯 Final reflection and debrief.

## DAY 9 Return Home

- 🎯 Final farewells and fly home out of Cairns.

