

CAPE YORK FIRST NATIONS IMMERSION

Professional Learning

Travel Dates: Sunday, 4th July - Saturday, 10th July 2027

redearth.edu.au

This is reconciliation in action

Red Earth immersions give people the opportunity to make meaningful, personal connections with First Nations People.

We have longstanding relationships with remote communities and Homelands across Australia where traditional Aboriginal cultures still live strong, so you can stay on Country with Traditional Owners and their families to gain an insight into their everyday lives and connection to Country.

During the immersion, your group will learn about the rich culture of the land directly from its custodians and may contribute to community projects chosen and guided by Traditional Owners. Whether you are hiking to sacred sites, throwing a fishing line in the creek, kicking a footy with local kids, or sharing stories around the campfire, the goal is always to facilitate personal connections and allow participants to develop a first-hand understanding of the challenges, idiosyncrasies and beauty of modern life in remote First Nations communities.



Connecting Cultures & Experiencing Life on Country

Are you ready to take part in a journey that goes beyond the classroom and deep into the heart of Australia's remote homelands?

Join Red Earth for an unforgettable immersion into the remote Homelands of Cape York. Experience life on Country, build meaningful connections with First Nations families, and discover how authentic cultural experiences are creating lasting change for communities and participating groups. You will stay in privately held, remote homelands that are inaccessible outside of this setting and witness the impact of Red Earth programs firsthand.



During your immersion, you will have the opportunity to:

- Make meaningful, authentic connections with First Nations Australians living on their own land
- Learn about language, land, and culture from Elders and Traditional Owners
- See a Red Earth immersion come together on the ground for planning future student programs
- Take your unique experience back to your school to filter through the faculty and culture
- See how service learning immersions for school students are contributing to the sustainability of remote homelands and communities in far-flung corners of Australia

Heavily Subsidised Immersion. Limited Places Available!



Cape York

Snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef, exploring ancient rainforests, learning bush medicine, and sharing stories by the campfire with Traditional Owners.

Cape York



Homeland Spirit - 7 Days

Day 1: Welcome to Country

Begin with a sunrise flight to Cairns. Meet your Red Earth Leaders before travelling to the Cairns Botanic Gardens for a Welcome to Country by Traditional Owners. Journey through the changing landscapes of Far North Queensland to your first campsite. Settle into camp, share an evening meal, and reflect on the day's experiences together.

Days 2-4: Homeland 1

Immerse yourself in Homeland life through cultural learning, language, art and bush knowledge. Learn traditional practices with Elders, explore ancient rock art and sacred sites at Melsonby, create art inspired by local stories, and cool off with a swim at Isabella Falls.

Day 5: Journey to the Atherton Tablelands



Travel south to the Atherton Tablelands, where Yidinji cultural educators welcome you to Country and guide you through Danbulla National Park. Discover the region's cultural and environmental significance.

Day 6: Sea Country



Spend the day exploring two outer reef sites, discovering marine life and learning about Aboriginal Sea Country from First Nations guides.

Day 7: 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.

Great Barrier Reef

Cairns



Cape York

Sunday, 4th July to Saturday, 10th July 2027
Length: 7 Days



DAY 1 Welcome to Country

- 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, travel by bus to Wurrey via Mount Malloy.
- Experience a Welcome to Country ceremony hosted by local community members.
- Set up camp on Country.

DAYS 2-3 Wurrey Homeland (Woo-reedy)

- Be greeted by your host Bernie, who will share the history and stories of his land.
- Use native flora to create sand paintings inspired by local stories.
- Explore Uncle Bernie's bush tucker orchard, learning about traditional uses.
- Learn Guugu Yimithirr language, history, and stories with Elders.
- Prepare an underground oven and share a traditional feast.
- Make Damper on the fire.
- Swim in the nearby creek.



Continued

Note - Day 3 will be a day visit to the Melsonby Ranger Station.

- Be welcomed to Melsonby, a well established ranger station.
- Learn about the archaeological work carried out at Melsonby and shape stone artefacts and grind ochre.
- Walk to sacred sites of the Medicine Man rock art and the Scar Tree, hearing the stories connected to these places.
- Explore the history of the local waterways and Indigenous connections to Country.
- Painting with Aunty Julie.
- Cool off with a swim at Isabella Falls on the way back to Wurrey.



DAY 4 Travel South to Mbabaram Country

- Stop off at the Arts Centre on the way south.
- Be welcomed to Country by the Team from Rainforest to Bush.
- Set up camp, light the fire and settle in for the night.
- Yarn around the campfire and hear stories from the TO's.

DAY 5 Explore Mbabaram and Yidinji Country

- Pack up camp early.
- Explore Mbabram Country.
- Travel to Lake Barrine for Lunch.
- Travel to Danbulla NP and the Cathedral Fig
- Learn about the cultural borders and clan groups of the Yidinji Nation.
- Learn about traditional lifestyles, settlement and farming history along with its effects on rainforest culture.
- Take a walk to view the majestic Cathedral Fig and learn about its significance to the Yidinji people as a place where trials and funerals were held.
- Travel to Cairns and check-in to your accommodation.





DAY 6 Great Barrier Reef

- Early start and transfer to the Cairns Marina ready for a day on the reef.
- Spend a full day snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef.
- Learn from marine biologist and cultural guides on board.
- Come together for a final reflection and debrief.
- Arrive at the Colonial Club for the final nights accommodation.
- Enjoy a catered meal at one of the local restaurants.

DAY 7 Farewell and Journey Home

- Head to breakfast for the last time as a group.
- Final debriefs and goodbyes.
- Option to be dropped at the local Cairns Internnational Art Festival or head your own way.





Travel Cost & Terms

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dates: Sunday, 4th July - Saturday, 10th July 2027
Length: 6 days
Ground Cost: $1,600 per person
Please note this is a highly-subsidised immersion.

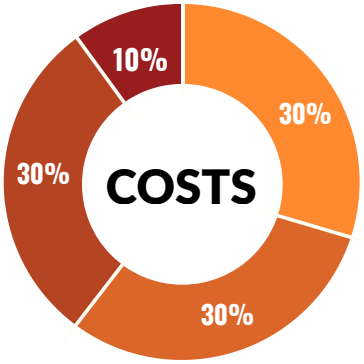
BREAKDOWN OF OPERATIONAL COSTS

10% Fixed Costs

The group will be led by 2 qualified Red Earth Leaders to uphold safety standards, look after logistics, food, and coordinate the itinerary with our First Nations partners.

30% Wages and Food

We supply three healthy meals a day plus snacks, as well as all of the equipment needed to make the immersion comfortable and safe. The immersion will be led by 2 qualified Red Earth staff .



30% Homelands

A key aspect of our mission is to enable Traditional Owners to make money on their land without losing their connection to Country. Traditional Owners tell their stories with pride and build meaningful connections with your group. This also makes Homelands more sustainable for future generations.

30% Transport

Approximately 30% of this goes directly to transport including buses, support vehicles and fuel. The remoteness of our partner communities and Homelands makes these costs a necessity.



FAQs

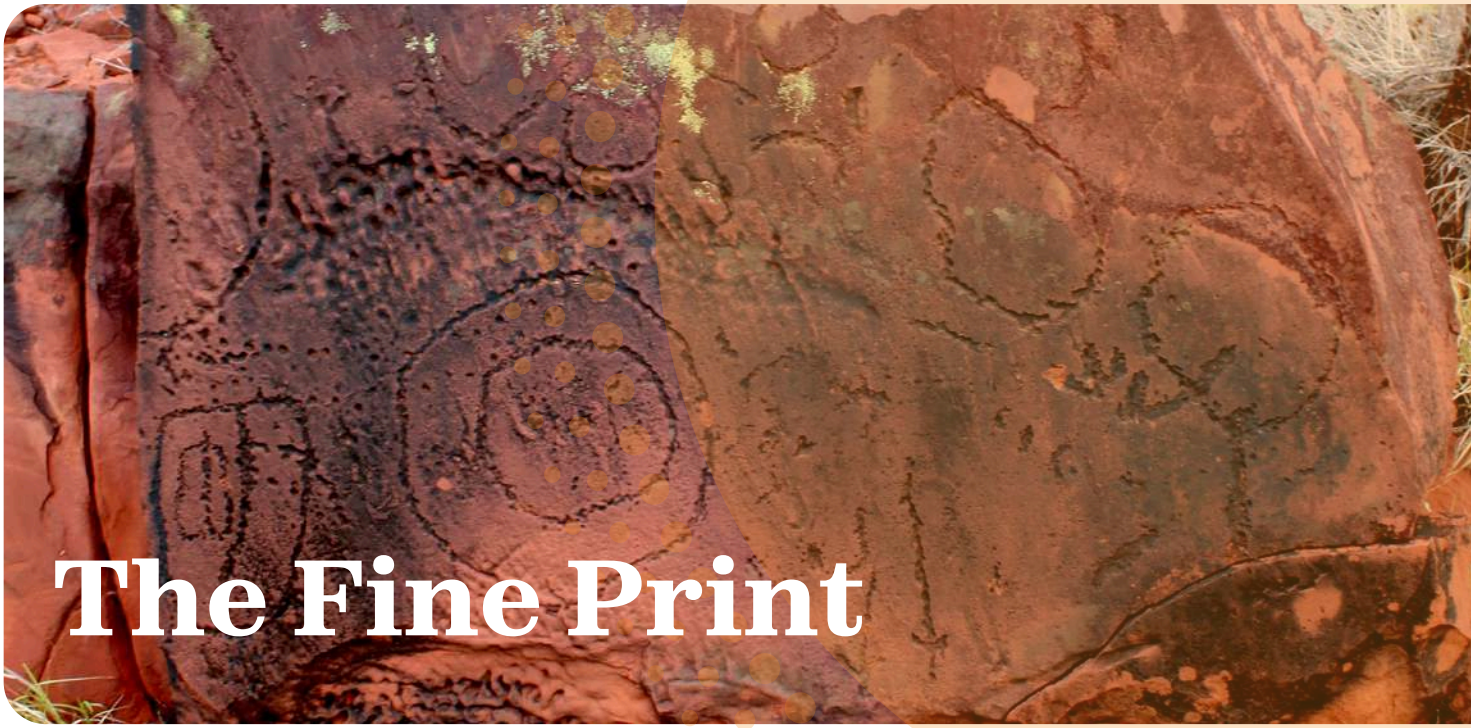
How do Elders and Traditional Owners feel about people coming onto their land? Will we be intruding?
We are an organisation driven by our First Nations partners in the homelands of remote Australia. Our mission is to give First Nations people the help they need if they wish to open the hearts and minds of visitors to their Country, culture, and way of life. We only make our resources available if we're asked to help. Traditional Owners are the ones who decide if and when people should come onto their land, not us.

What information will I get before I take off?
Red Earth takes its responsibility to ensure that each person attending an immersion is culturally and practically prepared very seriously. We have designed an online portal for this professional development trip tailored for your specific itinerary. You will be able to read up on the history of the area and the specific communities you will visit, read profiles of the Elders and Traditional Owners who will be hosting you, and look up useful information like packing lists and weather charts. You will also receive packing lists for all the gear you will need to bring.

What amenities are available? Will there be showers and bathrooms?
We will have access to showers and flushing or drop toilets every day. It won't be like your bathroom at home, but will be enough to make the experience comfortable.

What food will be available?
While there will be opportunities for you to forage for bush foods, we bring all the catering equipment and meals with us. We will have fresh fruit and vegetables and healthy meals throughout the trip. We cater for every kind of dietary requirement and encourage participants to lend a hand in the kitchen. You can bring some food of your own too, but please note this is a 100% nut-free immersion.

Is this trip accredited professional development?
No, this trip is not accredited by any peak teaching or education body. This immersion is designed to allow educators to have first-hand experiences of traditional First Nations culture by spending time on-Country with Elders and Traditional Owners. We hope you will come away from the week having made personal connections with people you may otherwise never have met, and keen to integrate the unique experience into your approach in the classroom. We also aim to give participants an understanding of Red Earth and our immersions, designed for small and large groups. While there are no obligations, we hope you will want to create a program within your school to enable students to have a similar experience to the one you had!



The Fine Print

- You will need to get yourself to the starting city for the group pick up as per your region's itinerary
- Spots on the immersion are limited and Red Earth reserves the right to limit participation to 1 spot per school.
- Flights are not included in the immersion fee.
- Accommodation outside of the immersion dates is not included in the immersion fee
- In Cape York, you will be sleeping on stretcher beds in large tents. We ask that colleagues share a tent between 2 people when possible.
- The only camping equipment you will need to bring is a sleeping bag, sleeping mat (Cape York only), a and a small travel pillow. All other camping and catering equipment will be provided.
- There will be limited mobile phone reception during the immersion.
- We encourage all participants to use their phones as little as possible throughout the immersion, or even not at all.
- All participants will be required to complete a medical and indemnity form before departure. A link to the secure form will be provided upon confirmation of your spot.
- As this is a domestic trip you will be covered by Medicare. You may also be covered by your school's insurance policy. We recommend you consider personal travel insurance, particularly for COVID coverage.

The following inclusions will be covered by your immersion fee:

- A comprehensive risk assessment mitigation strategy available upon request.
- A secure online portal with important information regarding your immersion.
- Return charter 4WD vehicles with professional drivers for the duration of the immersion.
- A 4WD support vehicle which is with the group at all times.
- Three nutritious meals a day plus snacks.
- Spacious tents & stretcher bed or swags.
- Use of land and all cultural activities, including equipment needed for the activities.
- All tourist activities identified in the itinerary.
- Permits and entry fees.
- Camping and cooking equipment, not including sleeping bag and pillow.
- Red Earth staff to look after the campsite, liaise with the communities, uphold safety standards and help lead cultural activities.
- Insurance for leaders, volunteers and third parties involved in the trip (this does not include insurance for participants).

Red Earth will not cover the costs of:

- Airfares.
- Travel Insurance.
- Accommodation prior to or following the immersion dates.
- Food purchases on top of the meals and snacks provided as part of our catering.
- Souvenirs or artwork purchased during the immersion.



Interested?

TO REGISTER:

Scan the QR Code or click **here**



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