USEFUL WORDS & PHRASES The language spoken is	
English. However, it is spiced with a vocabulary and some	
pronunciations bound to confuse non-native speakers. For	
example:	
Are you right? • Do you need help?	
Good on ya • Good for you. Good day • G'day	
Good afternoon • Arvo	
Woman - Sheila	
That's OK • No worries	
General store • Milk bar Evening meal • Tea	
Evening incar - Tea	
NOTES	
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GENERAL INFORMATION A warm climate, trade winds, lush tropical foliage, and a laid-back lifestyle have put Cairns high on the tourist list. From the Botanical Gardens to the Marlin Jetty, there are plenty of things to do in this delightful, colonial-style city. But Cairns' principle attraction is in what lies around it. There are prolific gamefishing grounds off shore, and day trips to sights as diverse as the Great Barrier Reef, the Atherton Tableland, the Daintree Rainforest Wilderness, Cape Tribulation, Port Douglas, and the Mossman River Gorge, attractions which come complete with some of the most beautiful scenery in Australia. Often referred to as the 'capital of Tropical North Queensland,' Cairns is nestled beside Trinity Bay, some 1,000 miles (1,610 km) from Brisbane. Carins itself is a pretty city with wide streets, delicate ferns and tropical shrubs at almost every turn. Look for the Queenslander style residences built on timber stilts to help keep the house cool. Just outside of Cairns one will discover fields of cane, one of the industries that helped establish the town.



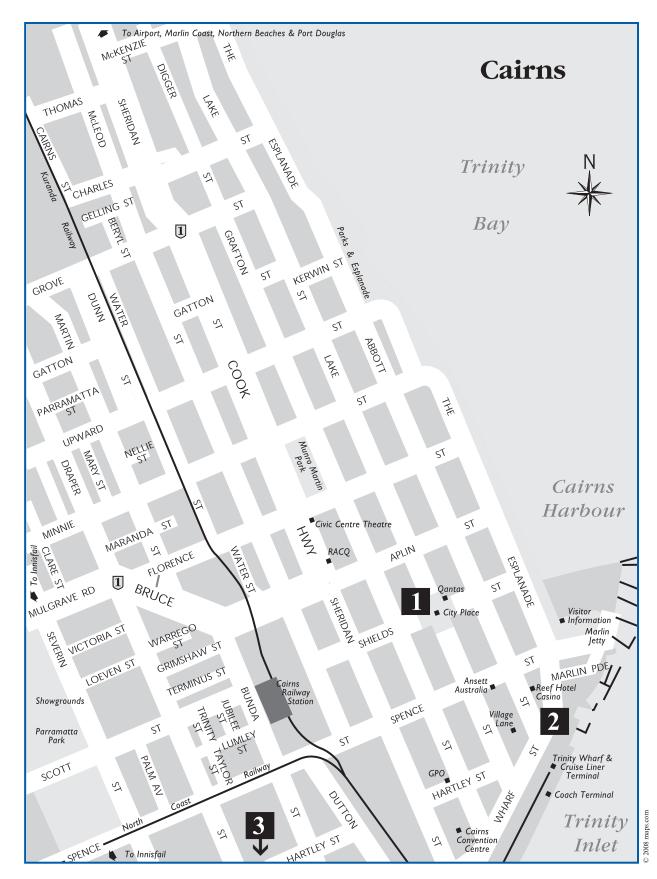
PORT EXPLORER

Cairns

HISTORY A beachedhead was established in 1876 to serve the Hodgkinson River gold fields located 62 miles (100 km) inland. It struggled against rival towns and the elements for survival. In 1879 the town was washed away in a flood. Port Douglas was founded in 1877 after an easier route was found to the gold fields. The Atherton Tableland tin rush of 1870 saved Cairns from extinction. Cairns became the starting point of the railway to the tableland. The center of modern Cairns is compact and easy to get around. The Esplanade and Wharf Street form the waterfront.







POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Cairns Museum is housed in a 1907 School of Arts building. There are Aboriginal artifacts, a display on the Kuranda railway and exhibits detailing the gold field days.

Beyond Cairns

Tjapukai Aboriginal Park & Sky Rail - located minutes from Cairns Seaport this is one of the world's most beautiful rainforest experiences – a 41/2 miles (7.5 km) rainforest cableway, Skyrail and Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park. The Cultural Park offers visitors a wonderful way to experience Aboriginal culture first

hand, including regular performances throughout the day by the internationally acclaimed Tjapukai Dance Theatre.

Royal Flying Doctor Services Visitors Centre honors the unique flying medical service. The Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia, Queensland Section (RFDS) is a highly professional and technologically advanced organization. The Royal Flying Doctor Service is the major fixed wing aeromedical service in Queensland and a significant provider of primary health care services in rural, remote and coastal areas throughout the State. The RFDS Cairns Base operates a Visitors Centre which offers self guided tours incorporating a museum, aircraft display and video presentation.

Flecker Botanical Gardens is located only 5 kilometers from the heart of Cairns. The gardens are a tropical oasis consisting of 38 hectares of native Australian gardens. Many plant species in Flecker Botanical Gardens cannot be seen elsewhere.

The Great Barrier Reef is 8 miles (13 km) offshore. The reef is as diverse as it is beautiful. View it through a glass-bottomed boat or take a closer look by getting into the water with mask, snorkel and flippers.

Port Douglas is an hour's drive north of Cairns. Wander down the streets of this charming little town before or after exploring nearby Daintree Rainforest Habitat.

Daintree Rainforest - just north of Port Douglas, the rainforests of the Wet Tropics cover thousands of acres, with pockets of primitive plants which have remained undisturbed for millions of years. You can explore this ancient wonderland on a 4WD safari or take a cruise up the magical Daintree River.

Kuranda Village is located 27 kilometers northwest of Cairns in the lush rainforest. Kuranda was for years nothing more than a railway station, a pub and a few shops. Now Kuranda is awash with arts and craft shops, casual eateries from pie shops to coffee lounges and restaurants. The eclectic market is the kind of place where candles, jewelry, leather goods, t-shirts, woodwork and tropical fruit are sold.

Green Island about 17 miles (27 km) northeast of Cairns, is a small island which offers stunning snorkeling and woodlands. The island and its surrounding reef are all National park, although a multi-million dollar tourist resort takes up a substantial proportion of the island. Nevertheless, a 10-minute stroll from the resort to the far end of the island will remind you that the beach is beautiful, the water fine, the snorkeling good and the fish prolific.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Cairns and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure, Shore Excursion TV Channel or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Tipping: While tipping is still optional in Australia it is increasingly seen at better hotels, restaurants and in taxis. As a general rule in restaurants add 5%-10% of the bill depending on service and in taxis add 5%-10% depending on the length of the trip.

Local Cuisine: Cairns has an abundance of eateries, and you shouldn't have too much trouble finding somewhere to satisfy your particular gastronomic craving. Seafood is the specialty.

Local drink: Australia boasts a vibrant spirits industry, and samples of the country's renowned beer or local wines are widely available at bars and restaurants.

SHOPPING FACILITIES The stores cater for all needs including clothes, jewelry (especially opals) and Aboriginal artifacts.

Marina - There are various shopping and numerous dining options overlooking the marina.

3 Cairns Central - a shopping complex close to the Cairns Wharf.

The City Heart has a lot to offer locals and visitors with duty-free shops, opal and jewelry outlets plus a wide number of fashion outlets. For the perfect gift, browse Cairn's fine selection of jewelers and opal dealers or shop on Lake Street for some beautifully handcrafted Australian artifacts including didgeridoos and boomerangs.

LOCAL CURRENCY The official currency of Australia is the Australian Dollar. Denominations include \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills and \$.10, \$.20, \$.50 \$1 and \$2 coins. Foreign exchange rates fluctuate. There is also a slight variation for cash or traveler's checks.

POST OFFICE & TELEPHONE FACILITIES The main Post Office is located on the corner of Grafton and Hartley Sts.

Dial the following access numbers to place a call with your personal calling card:

AT&T: 1.800.881.011 MCI: 1.800.881.100 SPRINT: 1.800.881.877

TOURIST INFORMATION The Regional Tourism Office is located at 51 The Esplanade. This site is a good source of information and brochures

TRANSPORTATION Taxis may be available on the pier or may be called for pickup.