

Townsville North Queensland

Alive in 2020



Queensland
AUSTRALIA

In 2020 Townsville North Queensland is alive with a vibrant events calendar you won't want to miss. Come for an event and stay for an experience, as you discover fascinating places that will create holiday memories to last a lifetime.

 **Townsville**
North Queensland

Welcome to Townsville North Queensland

The unique lifestyle we enjoy here in North Queensland is only magnified by the world-class experiences and events on offer year-round.

Our tropical climate, matched with some of the country's premiere natural attractions, hails Townsville as the unofficial capital of North Australia.

Last year, Townsville City Council delivered the largest event our city has ever seen - the North Australian Festival of Arts (NAFA). NAFA was a promise to the people of Townsville to host an all-inclusive arts and cultural festival our city could be proud of, and given the response from our community it's evident NAFA 2019 hit the mark.

With the completion of the Queensland Country Bank Stadium launching an array of opportunities, the return of the action-packed Watpac Townsville 400, a full theatre line-up and NAFA and Northern Fringe in 2020, Townsville's event season promises to be even bigger and better.

While we're proud of the events on offer in Townsville, they simply complement what is a world-class tourism destination, offering over 300 days of sunshine a year on the doorstep of the Great Barrier Reef, and bordered by the red dirt of the Australian outback. There is plenty to keep you and your family entertained. Jump on a ferry and venture just 20 minutes across Cleveland Bay to a tropical paradise that is Magnetic Island, dive a little further to discover life underwater on the Great Barrier Reef or explore waterfalls in our world heritage-listed rainforests before you head to one of the many events scheduled throughout the year.

Travelling to North Queensland is a step in the right direction, but stopping to make Townsville your destination is a choice you won't regret. Come and experience Townsville's event bonanza for yourself in 2020.



Cr Jenny Hill
Mayor of the City of Townsville

Front cover: Australian Festival of Chamber Music celebrating 30 years by Andrew Rapkin
Inside front cover: Aerial view of a paddle boarder on Magnetic Island by Mark Fitz



Getting here

Whether you're planning your next holiday, a business trip or visiting friends and family, Townsville Airport has you covered.

With more than 180 direct flights to Townsville each week servicing a number of major airlines departing from Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Darwin, Toowoomba, Longreach and Mount Isa, Townsville Airport is your gateway to North Queensland.



The Ville

RESORT — CASINO

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& ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCT



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the-ville.com.au



nafa-tsv.com.au

The North Australian Festival of Arts will present a curated program of national and international acts and showcase the vibrant artistic and cultural talent of northern Australia.

PLAN YOUR TRIP NOW.



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18 trips. 20 minutes. Your quickest ferry to Magnetic Island.

**FAMILY
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\$76**

**ADULT
RETURN
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Magnetic Island by @barekiwi

Townsville North Queensland's Top 20!

Townsville North Queensland, it's home to endless summer days, picture perfect beaches, the friendliest locals you'll ever meet, the greatest reef in the world (literally!), and waterfalls that will leave you speechless. Whilst this tropical destination oozes holiday appeal, it's also the perfect place to escape frenzies of holiday crowds and immerse yourself in nature's playground. There are hundreds of activities to keep you busy in this special part of the world, but you can't escape to this holiday paradise without ticking these must-dos off the bucket list. Here's our top 20 (in no particular order)!

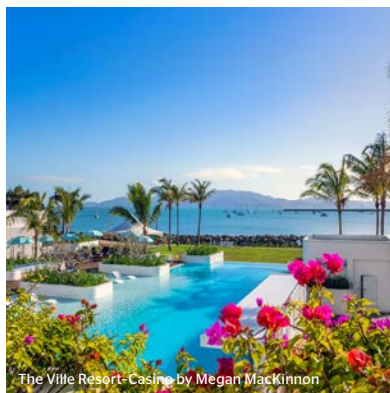
1 Whether you've got a week or just a day, be sure to explore **Magnetic Island's 23 golden beaches and bays**. See page 10 for all the Magnetic Island non-negotiables!

2 Keen to see the reef, but want to keep your feet dry? A trip to **Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium** is an absolute must. As the nationally recognised education centre for the Great Barrier Reef, you'll walk away with a mind full of fun facts.

3 Feed a croc, cuddle a koala and meet a dingo at **Billabong Sanctuary**.

4 Experience Australia's best breakfast at **Jam** on Palmer Street, devour Italian share plates at **Armati's** beside the rooftop pool at Rambutan, or enjoy something sweet with a view at **Herveys Range Heritage Tea Rooms**.

5 Head to the misty mountain village of **Paluma**, where freshwater crystal creeks and Wet Tropics Heritage-listed rainforest walks await. Jump onboard a tour with **NQ Tours** for a local's insight into the best walking trails.



The Ville Resort - Casino by Megan Mackinnon

6 Bliss out at **The Ville Resort Casino** – the place to be seen in Townsville! Whether you dine out at one of the restaurants, wade to the swim up bar (in the most epic pool!), or rest up in tropical inspired hotel rooms, you won't regret a visit to Townsville's hottest resort!

7 No holiday to Townsville is complete without a visit to Townsville's popular beachfront, **The Strand**. Swim, shop, sip, or stroll along this 2.5km spectacular beach promenade.

8 Get the adrenaline pumping with **Townsville Watersports**. A jet ski adventure which will take you to some of the most spectacular sights in and around Townsville!

9 To take in Townsville in all its glory you can't go past a scenic tour with **Tour Townsville**. Learn about the history of the city and discover the hidden stories that will even surprise the locals!

10 Hit the waters of Magnetic Island as you **sail, jet ski, kayak or cruise** your way around the island to take in all its beauty! Don't forget the snorkel, we guarantee you'll want a glimpse of stunning coral and marine life below!

11 Dive or snorkel the **Great Barrier Reef** to witness the majestic beauty of this underwater world.

12 Discover the flourishing bommies and historical wreck relics that lie beneath the waters off **Magnetic Island** on a self-guided **snorkel trail**.

13 Ride bareback through the ocean on a bush-to-beach horse riding tour at the **Horseshoe Bay Ranch** on Magnetic Island.



Texas Longhorn Wagon Tours by Budd Photography

14 The **SS Yongala** is a total bucket-list shipwreck, but if you haven't got your creds yet for this advanced dive, you can start from scratch and tick off all the certifications in one trip with **Adrenalin Snorkel and Dive** or **Yongala Dive**.

15 Breathe in the 360 degree views of the city atop **Castle Hill**. Drive up to the lookout or join the 2,500+ locals that tackle the terrain on foot each day, with several walking tracks on offer. Top tip: Have your camera on hand to snap an insta-worthy sunrise or sunset!

16 Experience a truly authentic outback encounter with **Texas Longhorn Wagon Tours and Safaris**, where you can meet JR, the 2013 Guinness World Record Holder for longest horns, measuring close to three metres from tip to tip!

17 Explore the shipwrecks of Magnetic Island on a sunset tour with **Aquascene Charters**. Discover the stories of these beautiful boats and cruise along the stunning Island shoreline.

18 Aim for the skies and check out the views from above with a helicopter tour with **Townsville Helicopters**, **Nautilus Aviation** or **Hinchinbrook Adventures**.

19 Two words: **Platypus safari**. Why? The platypus safari at **Hidden Valley Cabins** has a 98% success rate of spotting these duck-billed cuties, earning the title of one of the top six places in the country to spot them by Australian Geographic!

20 Prepare to pick your jaw up from the ground when you witness the awe of **Wallaman Falls** – Australia's largest sheer drop waterfall, located just a short drive from Ingham.



Wallaman Falls by Megan MacKinnon



9am – 5pm 364 days,
17km south of Townsville on A1
(07) 4778 8344
www.billabongsanctuary.com.au





Alma Bay on Magnetic Island by Megan MacKinnon

Paradise Found at Magnetic Island

Beaches, bays, koalas, shipwrecks, snorkelling, history, wallabies... We get it Magnetic Island, you have it all. Escape to a tropical island paradise surrounded by secluded bays, golden beaches and activities to excite all ages.

With 320 days of sunshine annually and just a 20-minute ferry from Townsville, Magnetic Island is the perfect natural escape.

S.S City of Adelaide Shipwreck

Get your cameras at the ready for what has previously been crowned

the most popular image on Tourism Australia's Instagram page! Magnetic Island's most insta-famous maiden, the S.S City of Adelaide, started her life in 1863 in Glasgow, Scotland before resting her bones 15,000 kilometres away in Cockle Bay, only 300m offshore. Hidden behind a sea of mangroves, the S.S. Adelaide is an off-the-beaten-track experience that you



SS Adelaide Shipwreck by @photoboheamian

can wade out to at low tide or jump aboard Aquascene's Shipwrecks and Sunset Tour.

Geoffrey Bay

This little bay boasts all the favourite Magnetic Island bucket list items, from meeting some cuddly locals to exploring the depths of WWII history.

Head out from the beach and discover one of the island's two snorkel trails. Explore a variety of coral and sea life along the way to the Moltke shipwreck and further on to the wreckage of a WWII bomber plane. Dry off and walk out to the original entry point to Magnetic Island where you will be greeted by some island locals of a furry nature. The local rock wallabies love to greet tourists and don't mind the odd selfie!



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MONDAY TO FRIDAY		SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	
Depart Townsville	Depart Magnetic Is.	Depart Townsville	Depart Magnetic Is.
5:20am [^]	6:15am [^]	7:10am	8:05am
7:10am	8:05am	9:00am	9:55am
9:00am	9:55am	10:45am	11:40am
10:45am [^]	11:40am [^]	12:35pm	1:25pm
12:35pm	1:25pm	2:40pm	3:30pm
2:40pm	3:30pm	4:25pm	5:15pm
4:25pm [^]	5:15pm [^]	6:05pm [*]	6:55pm [*]
6:05pm	6:55pm		

[^] Limited availability Tuesday & Thursday only
^{*} Not operating public holidays
^{*} Not operating Saturday except during QLD School holidays



Jet skiing on Magnetic Island by @photoboheimian



Big Mama Sailing by @photoboheimian

Hit the Water

Whether you like to sit back and relax or get in on the action, there are plenty of options to explore Magnetic Island by water. Don your sailors' hat as you set sail on a yacht with Big Mama Sailing or Pilgrim Sailing.

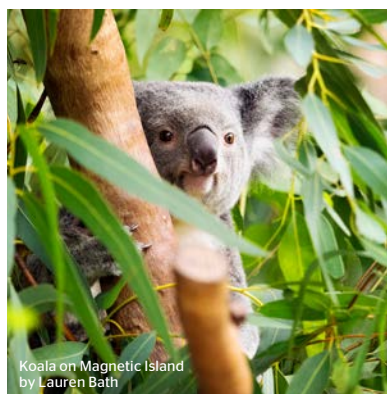
If you prefer a more relaxed hop-on, hop-off experience with a dash of history and a lot of adventure, Aquascene Charters is the vessel for you. Not forgetting you thrill seekers, visit Horseshoe Bay where you can experience all your childhood desires with jet skis, kayaks, paddleboards, tubing and more!

For an experience on the outer Great Barrier Reef, book a tour with Adrenalin Dive or Pro Dive. For those that want to ditch the dive gear, you can hire snorkel equipment from all corners of Magnetic Island and head down to popular snorkel spots at Arthur Bay, Florence Bay or the two snorkel trails at Geoffrey Bay and Nelly Bay!

Meet the cutest locals!

Magnetic Island is home to Northern Australia's largest colony of koalas! To see these cuddly creatures in the wild, chuck on your walking shoes and hit the Forts Walk trail where you're sure to see a few along the way to the historic WWII lookout. If you really want to get up close and personal with these cuties head over to Bungalow Bay Koala Village where you can meet even more wildlife and if you're lucky enough, hold a koala.

For a 'sea' horse of a different kind (with four legs and a mane), Horseshoe Bay Ranch gives you a truly magical experience of walking through the ocean on horseback in one of the most beautiful locations on earth.



Koala on Magnetic Island by Lauren Bath



Tropical Topless Car by @haylsa

Go topless!

Feel like a modern day Barbie or Ken and cruise around in style when you hire one of the iconic topless cars from Tropical Topless Car Rentals! Don't want to drive? No worries. Rest with the best with Magnetic Island Best Bus Tours. Sit back, relax and learn about the rich history of Magnetic Island as well as meeting some local characters.



Texas Longhorn at Leighton Park by Jason van Miert

Discover Charters Towers

Looking for that authentic outback experience? Time to dust off the cowboy boots and Akubra and saddle up for a true Aussie encounter in the ever charming Charters Towers.

This historic town started with humble beginnings until they struck gold (literally!) and by 1890, Charters Towers was Queensland's second largest town affectionately nicknamed "The World".

Today the quaint outback town is a little more than humble, with glimpses of yesteryear evidenced in the beautiful ornate buildings in the town centre and the stories of local legends.



Charters Towers by Megan MacKinnon



Texas Longhorns by Budd Photography

The Australian Outback Experience

Nicknamed the "Horniest place in Australia", take a trip to see the famous Texas Longhorns just on the outskirts of Charters Towers. Begin your all Aussie adventure on a horse-drawn wagon or safari vehicle to meet some of North's Queensland most unique cattle, including the 2013 Guinness World Record holder for the longest horns - JR. Take a moment to admire the pristine property over a cup of billy tea, you may even be greeted by the family's pet kangaroo, "Penny".

Pan for Gold

Now we ain't sayin' you a gold digger... but this is one experience you can't miss when visiting one of Australia's most historically rich gold mining towns. Visit The Miner's Cottage to learn the tricks of the trade from a retired prospector to find a gold nugget and have your very own 'eureka' moment!

Old west meets the digital age

Time travel has never been easier with the world in your pocket. Download the Towers Hill WWII app on your device and travel back in time and navigate through a simulation of old military bunkers, experience a bomber squadron flyover and interact with military artefacts.

You'd be crazy not to stay here

This converted mental asylum is now home to stunning accommodation with rooms complete with outback vistas. With more expansion on the horizon, Kernow Charters Towers will soon feature a crystal clear lagoon, tavern and glamping!



Image courtesy of Kernow Charters Towers



Stardust Cinema by Budd Photography

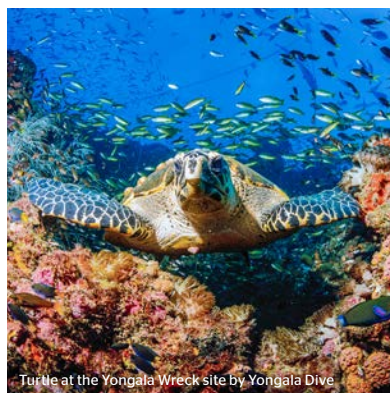
Sugar, Shipwrecks and Stars in the Burdekin

Find your next adventure in the Burdekin! Only an hour drive south of Townsville it is here you will uncover the rich history of the sugar cane capital of Australia, one of the world's best shipwreck dive sites, and a drive-in cinema.

Sweet traditions

As the sugarcane capital of Australia, the Burdekin is one of the only districts in Australia which still employs the traditional practice of burning

cane prior to harvesting. Burning the cane is still widely practiced due to the abundance of water in the region, which makes the cane too leafy to cut green. Catch the first fire of the season as well as the 2020 Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships at the annual Sweet Days, Hot Nights Festival in May.



Turtle at the Yongala Wreck site by Yongala Dive

Dive one of the world's best

Underwater is not exactly where you'd expect to find a 107m steamship, but that's exactly where you can find the S.S Yongala in Cape Bowling Green – Australia's largest and most intact historic shipwreck which sank in 1911. Come face to face with the mega marine-life of the Great Barrier Reef as you explore what has been voted one of the top 10 dive sites in the world. Book a trip with Yongala Dive for the quickest ride to this magnificent marine haven.

Starstruck

Feel the nostalgia as you enjoy a flick under the stars at Ayr's Stardust Drive-In Cinema. No Car? No worries. Pull up a beanbag and throw back some popcorn as you enjoy a movie like they did in the good ol' days.

Sweet Days

HOT NIGHTS

POWERED BY PacificHydro festival

THU 28 MAY - FIRST FIRE
HOME HILL SHOWGROUNDS

FRI 29 MAY - BURDEKIN CULTURAL FAIR
NEXT TO PCYC IN AYR

SAT 30 MAY - AUSTRALIAN HAND CANE CUTTING CHAMPIONSHIPS
HOME HILL SHOWGROUNDS

THU 28 - SAT 30 MAY 2020

ALVA BEACH

MT INKERMAN

Stay a little longer...

TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT
www.sweetdayshotnights.com.au

@sweetdayshotnights
@visitburdekin



Hinchinbrook Channel by @mycolourfulworld

Chasing Waterfalls in Hinchinbrook

Within an hour drive of Townsville you will be welcomed into the vibrant community of Ingham in the Hinchinbrook region. It is here you will find an amazing natural paradise and a tranquil regional escape. You'll need nothing more than a thirst for adventure and an appetite for antipasto!



Mercer Lane Mosaic by Megan MacKinnon

Holy Cannoli

With more than half of Ingham's population of Italian descent, it doesn't come as a surprise that the township is affectionately known as "Little Italy". It is in Ingham you can take a bite out of the traditional Italian

food culture and enjoy everything from homemade pasta to traditional antipasto. Take time to walk off your food coma with a stroll through Mercer Lane, a beautiful local art project which tells the stories and history of Ingham.



Fishing at Lucinda by Megan MacKinnon

The Perfect Catch

If you like fresh food, then what's fresher than straight from the ocean? The Hinchinbrook region is renowned for its incredible fishing. Stay right near the perfect catch at one of Hinchinbrook's neighbouring fishing communities of Lucinda, Forrest Beach or Taylors Beach. For something extra special, why not discover the thrill of heli-fishing with Hinchinbrook Adventures.



Wallaman Falls by Megan MacKinnon

Can't Help Falling in Love

Welcome to waterfall territory! The perfect way to cool off and rest those weary bodies after all that fishing, dancing and copious amounts of delicious food. Start chasing those waterfalls with Paluma National Park and Jourama Falls as a nice introduction to the main event - the mighty Wallaman Falls. Here stands a jaw-dropping 268m single drop waterfall - the largest in Australia. For an amazing view, pack your walking shoes and water as you wander down to the base of the falls to be truly blown away!

Mamma Mia

Eat all day and dance all night at the annual Australian-Italian Festival. This signature festival brings the town alive and celebrates all things Italian! With wine, cuisine, music and culture - it's the perfect family holiday outing.



tasman turtle's picnic day

Enjoy a day of adventure and discovery of art, culture, nature and knowledge with Tasman Turtle and his friends at our annual family Picnic Day. The day will be filled with activities, workshops, games, food and entertainment for you and your family.

Saturday 23 May 2020

11.00am–4.00pm

@ TYTO Parklands, Ingham

Free Entry

Entertainment and games are free of charge. Some activities may require a gold coin donation.



tasman turtle's

picnic day

DISCOVER FUN

'DISCOVER FUN!'

'AWESOME FAMILY FUN!'





Otto's Market by @gypsea_just

Taste the Region

Nothing reflects Townsville and surrounds' multicultural vibe and growing food and bar scene like a list of the region's best culinary pit stops.

SEAFOOD, GLORIOUS SEAFOOD

The Pier

Uninterrupted ocean views are a big drawcard for this iconic Townsville restaurant. Complement this with a mouth-watering seafood menu and you'll quickly realise why The Pier is a hot favourite.

Palm House (The Ville Resort - Casino)

This is a buffet with a difference. It's fresh, it's fun, it's all about local produce. With a fantastic selection of fresh and cooked seafood options at dinner - why limit yourself to just one serve of prawns?

Cbar

Perched on the coral sea with absolute waterfront views of the iconic Magnetic Island, the salty air only enhances the delicious array of freshly caught seafood on this menu!

CHEAP AND CHEERFUL

Longboard Bar & Grill

Amazing tacos and waffle fries, ice

cold beers, and stunning Strand views - what more could you ask for?

Otto's Market

Our advice when visiting Otto's... make sure you're hungry and have plenty of time to spare! It'd be a waste of a trip if you didn't try something from their breakfast menu, have a nibble on a pastry, stay for an amazing Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich for lunch, and then pop back for their super popular Taco Tuesday dinner.

City Lane

Spoilt for choice. Grab a burger at The Courtyard, perhaps a share platter at Taphouse? There are also dumplings, pizza and sushi options. Don't rush into a decision too quickly, stop for a pre-dinner drink and enjoy some live music first.

Cactus Jacks Tex Mex Bar & Grill

If you fancy Mexican matchsticks, fiery fajitas and chocolate nachos, Cactus Jacks is the place for you!

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Miss Songs (The Ville Resort-Casino)

Classic Chinese dishes with a modern twist. Get a group together and order the banquet - you won't be disappointed.

Shorehouse

An Asian-inspired shared platter menu

and one of our favourite 'long lunch' destinations. With ocean views, funky décor, friendly staff and a 'just feed me' option on the menu, it's an easy way to spend an afternoon.

Bridgewater

Bridgewater is one of the newest dining venues to hit the Townsville food scene. Offering diners a touch of coastal elegance through quality and locally sourced produce.

JAM

JAM is one restaurant you can visit for breakfast, lunch and dinner and you'll never get bored of the menu. Featuring a beautiful modern Australian inspired menu and an impressive wine list - just make sure you leave room for dessert.

Celsius Restaurant

Located poolside at the Mercure Townsville. Relax. Swim. Eat. Repeat.

SWEET TOOTH

Absolute Cravings

Go guilt-free with these treats all made from raw ingredients from scratch right here in Townsville.

Bakehouse on Eyre

Serving speciality German baked goods, and a whole swag of delicious savoury options too, your sweet tooth will thank you for the visit!



Miss Songs at The Ville Resort-Casino by Budd Photography

Heritage Tea Rooms

Relax in the peaceful gardens surrounding the heritage-listed building while you indulge in an old-fashioned scone served with lashings with whipped cream and fruity plum jam – what more could you ask for?

KID-FRIENDLY

Cowboys Leagues Club

With a fabulous new outdoor play area and great value for money kids meals – it's a winner.

Arcadia Hotel

Located on Magnetic Island, Arcadia Hotel has a games room and epic pool for the kids can enjoy. Keep an eye out for their additional school holiday activities too!

IN THE REGIONS

Hinchinbrook

The locals here know how to do good Italian food. Visit **JK's Deli** for lunch, stock up on the best Italian cheeses and cold meats at **Lou's Food Emporium**, stop in for a cake and coffee at **Heaven Scent** or enjoy dinner at **Enrico's**.

Burdekin

Claredale Pastures Windmill Café is a genuine paddock to plate café – it boasts an in-house butcher so all meat is grass fed, free range and free from nasties. Try a little bit of everything with their Ploughman's lunch platter and finish up with Raelene's famous lemon meringue pie.

Charters Towers

Visit the historic **Stock Exchange Café** and grab a bite to eat. **The Cattleman's Rest Steakhouse** showcases local beef at its best, and if it's a classic Australian pub meal you're after – head to the **Enterprise Hotel** and see if you can finish one of their parmies.

Magnetic Island

Breakfast at **Bikini Tree Café**, lunch at **Barefoot Art Food Wine**, dinner at **Peppers Blue on Blue**. There are so many dining options on this tropical island – be prepared to eat like a king!

BEST BARS

- Rambutan
- The Quarterdeck
- Shaw & Co
- The Brewery

Head for the hills

- * All day breakfast, light lunches
- * Scones & sweets, tea & coffee (including Kopi Luwak)
- * Licenced venue, walking trails
- * Enjoy the peaceful surrounds of the heritage listed tea rooms and spacious gardens



Open 9am – 4pm every day
(bookings recommended)

37 Thornton Gap Rd, Hervey Range
Ph 47780199





Rock climbers on Mount Stuart by @Wanderstories

Where the Locals Wander



Douglas Hills Tracks by @wanderstories

Douglas Hills

Distance: Approximately 3.5 km return

Time: Approximately 1 hour return

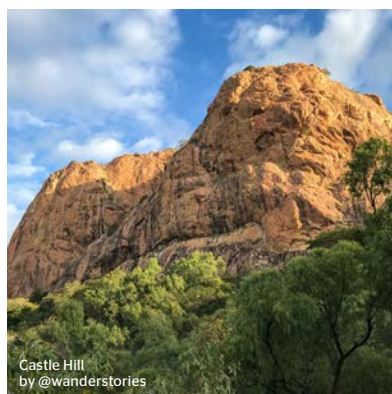
The James Cook University Walking Track, also known as the 'JCU Stairs', is made up of 493 well-maintained steps. Brave these steps spanning beautiful bushland and you'll be rewarded with stunning views at the summit, including the Mount Stuart foothills, James Cook University, Castle Hill, Townsville City, and the ocean. Kangaroos, crickets, and other little critters are common along this short, enjoyable walk.

Free parking for the trail is located behind the JCU Western Campus on Endeavour Drive, where you will find signage indicating the start of the walk. Getting to the first peak via the stairs

will take about ten minutes. Once you reach the first peak, the path continues to a higher peak called "Top Summit". While there are multiple trails to Top Summit, take care as these trails can consist of loose gravel, rocks, and washouts.

At Top Summit take a moment to sit down (yes, there are seats!), take in the refreshing breeze, and marvel at the views of Townsville and James Cook University.

Keep in mind that the Townsville Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club hold tenure over the Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve for the primary purpose of mountain biking and have the right of way. Do not walk on the 'downhill only' tracks and respect all signage. Additionally, this is a dog friendly area, but they must remain on a leash at all times.



Castle Hill by @wanderstories

Castle Hill

Distance: Approximately 4-5 km return, depending on the route

Time: Approximately 1-2 hours return depending on fitness and stopages

Castle Hill is a heritage-listed lone, monolithic, pink granite giant, and easily the most popular outdoor fitness destination within Townsville City. From the road to the more intensive goat tracks and 'Hell's Staircase', there's a route for every fitness level.

In fact, did you know that there could be as many as fifteen official trails to its summit? All the tracks are well-worn and easy to follow, but don't take shortcuts, as this causes erosion (and it's cheating!). The most popular is the Cudtheringa Track (1.1 km, one-way). It's accessed from opposite the first carpark at the bottom of Castle Hill Road and spits walkers out back onto Castle Hill Road just shy of the summit. The route climbs steeply through scrubby vegetation and rocky landscape, heading up the north-western flank, then meets with the 'Goat Track', before climbing steeply up 'Hell's Staircase', which will definitely get your heart pumping!

If you're not a fan of crowds, avoid 5:00am-7:00am and 5:00pm-7:00pm on weekdays as this track in particular is the most popular choice for before and after work fitness activities.



View from Castle Hill across Townsville City by @Wanderstories

Soon after you've regained your breath at the top, be prepared to lose it again (particularly at sunrise and sunset) with the breathtaking 360-degree views of Townsville - well worth the journey!

Even at night, the view of the city lights are quite spectacular. A World War II observation bunker still sits on one corner at the top of the hill as a reminder of Townsville's proud military history and presence to this day.

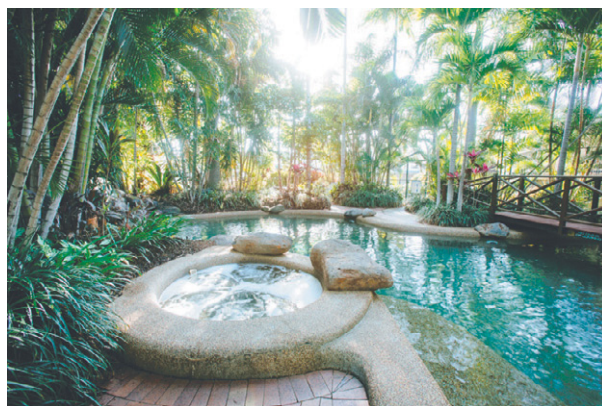
After you work up a 'hill' of an appetite, keep the healthy habit going with these top tasty picks:

- Grill'd Healthy Burgers
- Absolute Cravings
- Tide Café
- Cbar
- Squeeze Me
- Raw Energy

Treat yo' self - you deserve it:

- The Brewery
- Quarterdeck
- Bakehouse on Eyre
- Otto's Fresh Food Market
- Shaw & Co
- Rambutan

City Oasis INN Townsville



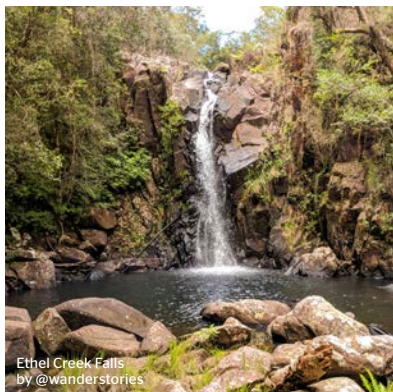
- City centre location, walking distance to new Stadium
- Lagoon style pool with heated spa
- Spacious room types to suit all guests
- Free wifi • Pet friendly rooms

Book direct with us for the best rate
reservations@cityoasis.com.au | Phone 4771 6048



Paluma Range National Park by Megan MacKinnon

The Wicked Waterfalls Trilogy



Ethel Creek Falls
by @wanderstories

Ethel Creek Falls

Distance: Approximately 3 km return from Hussey Road or 8-10 km return from Paluma Village

Time: Approximately 2-3 hours return

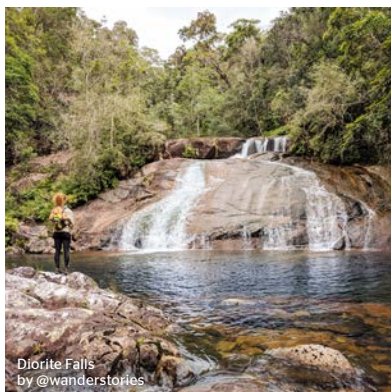
Ethel Falls is a hidden gem in the middle of Paluma Range National Park. Not only are these falls beautiful, but you're very likely to be the only one there! The falls are located behind the acreages to the west of Paluma and are primarily accessible on-track via the Paluma trail network.

Access these falls via Hussey Road, Smith Crescent, or Cloudy Creek Falls. For the latter option, start from McClelland's Lookout at the eastern edge of the Paluma township.

Once you reach Cloudy Creek Falls you will notice two steel poles concreted into the ground and two more on the other side of the creek, of which are the remains of an old suspension bridge.

The track to Ethel Creek Falls is less defined than the Cloudy Creek track, but there are also trail markers on tree trunks along the route and numbered markers at the major intersections as part of the larger trail network. All of these elements should help you find your way without trouble.

Once you reach Ethel Creek, you'll find yourself at the top of the falls. Cross the creek and follow the track to the right where you'll find a steep climb down to the bottom of the falls. There, you'll also find a rope tied as a handrail most of the way down. The waterhole at the bottom of the falls makes for a refreshing swim to cool off before your return journey. Consider packing a picnic to enjoy at the falls!



Diorite Falls
by @wanderstories

Diorite Falls

Distance: Approximately 15-22 km return, depending on route

Time: Approximately 6-10 hours return depending on fitness and stopages

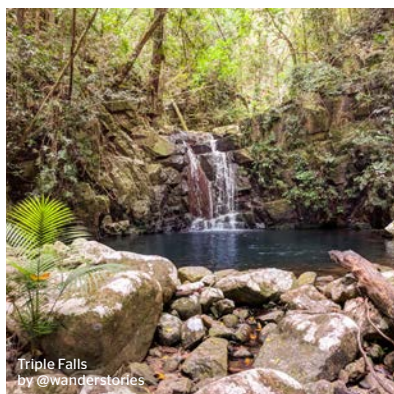
Diorite Falls offers uniquely appealing water cascades over broad rock slabs, which creates a perfect swimming hole to cool off and enjoy the day! If you have an opportunity for a swim, do it! (But be mindful when leaning up against the waterfalls as you may end up with some pesky little leeches hitching a free ride!)

Diorite Falls is best accessed via Paluma Dam and covers about an 18km loop. A great route is via crossing the Paluma Dam wall and then heading north east to Diorite Falls. It is also possible to enter Waterfall Creek from the northern track. Then you can rock hop about 100 metres upstream to Diorite Falls. When you depart you can take the southern track back to the main trail network.

While out near Diorite Falls you may also want to check out Shay's Clearing or camp there for the night, which is possible under a Queensland National Parks permit.



Little Crystal Creek by @youngadventuress



Triple Falls
by @wanderstories

Triple Falls

Distance: Approximately 3.5 km return

Time: Approximately 2-3 hours return

The Bluegum Creek Circuit starts on the south side of Paluma village and is an easy day walk that takes you on a loop down into Star Valley.

It only takes about one hour from the 'H Track' to get to what is locally known as 'Triple Falls'. Check out the waterfalls and enjoy a refreshing swim. The track takes you through a variety of rainforest, blue gum forest, and ecotone areas.

The track branches off from the well-known 'H track circuit' at the National Park 'H Track Loop' sign. The track is not marked at this point, but the footpath is clear and well-used. This route is actually a part of the original forestry H track that went down the ridgeline to Bluegum Creek. You can

occasionally see old forestry track markers as well.

The track is easy to follow and flat for a while. Further on you will encounter a 400-metre steep descent into the valley. When you reach the junction marker, turn right and take a short, but very steep walk down to Triple Falls.

There, you'll find a rope in place at the bottom to assist you to the pool and base of the falls. To explore the mid and upper falls, scramble up on the left side to reach them. Return via the same route.



Frosty Mango
by Megan MacKinnon

HOT TIP:

Head to a locals favourite and North Queensland institution, Frosty Mango, for a delicious homemade ice cream or sorbet after your swim! Look for the big mango!



Jodie Rummer and Luen Warneke of Wanderstories

About the authors... Wanderstories

We are Luen Warneke and Jodie Rummer. Luen loves to explore the great outdoors no matter the level of expedition and is constantly learning new skills and investigating new areas. Jodie is a career scientist, ocean lover, rock climber, and an all-around outdoorsy adventurer.

However, Wanderstories is really about community! We are made up of adventurers and outdoor lovers like yourself. Our goal is to share knowledge and experiences via informative resources, photographs, videos, and maps. As of October 2019, our website received 3,500+ unique visitors and 8,000+ page views each month!

We have 1,000+ website subscribers and 3,000+ social media followers across all channels.

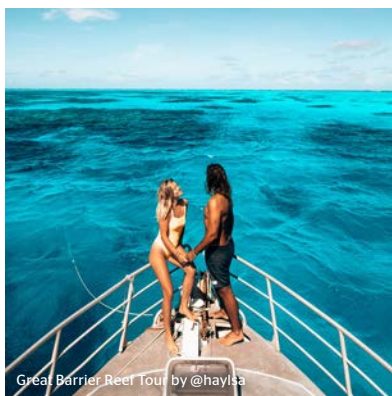
Check us out and come join us on an adventure!



Great Barrier Reef by @colbake

The Great Barrier Reef

It's nature's greatest gift to the world and it's right on our doorstep! Townsville North Queensland is the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef - a majestic underwater playground, a mosaic of colour and life, and an international living treasure.



Great Barrier Reef Tour by @haylisa

Get up close and personal

If you want to experience the Great Barrier Reef and get amongst the magic of this underwater spectacle, you can't go past a dive or snorkel trip to the outer reef. Take a tour with Adrenalin Snorkel and Dive to Lodestone Reef or for the more experienced divers, head out to SS Yongala - Australia's best dive site and one of the world's top wreck dives!

Stay a little longer on a multi-day live-aboard for unlimited access to the water, and all it beholds.

For the snorkelers wanting to be a little closer to land, follow one of Magnetic Island's self-guided snorkeling trails at either Geoffrey Bay or Nelly Bay, or take a tour with a Master Reef Guide with Aquascene Charters to discover the island's best snorkel spots.

Highlights:

- Coral walls occupied by a myriad of marine animals in crystal clear water
- Giant clams
- Schools of trevally and bait fish
- Large coral bommies
- Colourful reef fish including Parrotfish, Maori Wrasse, Clownfish, Angel fish, Turtles

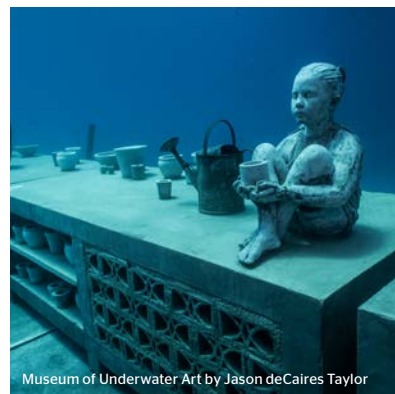


Lodestone Reef by @gypsealust

Museum of Underwater Art

Situated at John Brewer Reef, the Museum of Underwater Art (MOUA) is a globally-significant attraction making a big splash off the shores of Townsville.

With installation completed early this year (2020), MOUA is the first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and will highlight reef conservation, restoration and education on a scale many have never experienced. Read more on page 21.



Museum of Underwater Art by Jason deCaires Taylor

Wind into island time

It's magnetic by name and magnetic by nature, the Great Barrier Reef island of Magnetic Island is the perfect way to experience what island life is all about. Relax on secluded beaches, snorkel fringing reefs and experience too many wildlife encounters to count on one hand! Magnetic Island is a destination with something for everyone and is only a 20-minute ferry trip from the Townsville CBD.



Centipede Reef off Townsville by Megan MacKinnon

Adrenaline rush

Cape Cleveland is Townsville's best kept secret – an untouched coastline complete with its very own lighthouse. Head across to Cape Cleveland with a thrill via jetski with Townsville Watersports. Hold back on hitting full speed though – there's plenty of wildlife along the way including dolphins, turtles, and an array of fish.



Townsville Helicopters at Wheeler Reef Sand Cay by Megan MacKinnon

Views from above

Grasp a whole new perspective on the vastness and beauty of the Great Barrier Reef with a helicopter flight. Townsville Helicopters will take you on a journey like no other, with endless horizons and scattered reefs below. Peer down and see what you can spot – you'll be amazed at the montage of colour and patterns that make up the Great Barrier Reef. Just when you think you've seen the reef in all its glory, the helicopter will land on a secluded sand cay to give you 15 minutes on the reef all to yourself!



Pilgrim Sailing by @aswewander

Sail away

You can experience the Great Barrier Reef at any pace you like, even sailing into the sunset with a glass of bubbles in hand! Soak up the colourful hues of the spectacular skyline whilst enjoying a tropical cheese platter as you take in the endless horizon. Heading out on a sailing trip is a breeze with Pilgrim Sailing and Big Mama Sailing. It's the perfect way to end your perfect holiday!

Get reef educated

Townsville is the scientific headquarters of the Great Barrier Reef, home to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, world leading marine science university James Cook University and the world's largest living coral aquarium Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium. There is simply no better place to learn about reef conservation and make a difference to the natural environment.

How you can help:

- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Ban the bag – remember your reusable shopping bag
- Hold the straw – purchase a reusable straw, or go to paper
- Take a keep-cup or eco-water bottle
- Minimise plastic use (waste)
- Visit Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium to learn
- If you're a diver you can join the the crown-of-thorns eradication program
- Follow appropriate etiquette when visiting the reef
- Eat local and reduce your food miles



Wheeler Reef Sand Cay by Megan MacKinnon



Aquascene Charters on Magnetic Island by Mark Fitz

Meet our Master Reef Guide



Meet Stephanie Hinks – Townsville North Queensland's first qualified Master Reef Guide. Steph is a Magnetic Island local and passionate ambassador of the Great Barrier Reef. Having operated an award-winning tour business, Aquascene Charters, for over 15 years, Steph and her family love living the island lifestyle and are proud to share stories of the reef with visitors to the region.

Q: *You've recently completed your Master Reef Guide training, can you tell us a bit about the program?*

A: Yes, I am so excited! Having undergone a comprehensive selection and training process, I have just completed my training and I am proud to say I am now one

of 46 Master Reef Guides on the Queensland coast. We are recognised as the world's leading reef guides, interpreters and story-tellers sharing the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. We can provide up to date information on the Reef, share stories of the magical World Heritage Area and explain what you can do to make a difference.

Q: *The Great Barrier Reef is an amazing asset to Queensland tourism. What makes Townsville North Queensland's fringing reef so unique?*

A: We are so lucky to have one of the greatest treasures in the world right here on our doorstep. The beautiful Great Barrier Reef is a magnificent playground to explore and look after – a privilege for all of us. The tourism industry plays a vital role in presenting the values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to millions of visitors each year. The Townsville region is fast becoming the educational destination for learning about the Great Barrier Reef. I have the greatest job helping our visitors discover this beautiful underwater world, to feel connected and to take away lifetime memories!

Q: *How can visitors to the region give back to the Reef and help protect it?*

A: I truly believe visitors are looking for opportunities in their travels to make a difference and to 'give back' to their environment in some way.

The Master Reef Guide program is delivered by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators and Tourism and Events Queensland.

The program is the first of its kind for the Reef, aiming to ensure that tourism operators and staff have up-to-date and accurate information on the Marine Park and are trained to share this information with visitors in a valuable and memorable way. The program includes ongoing training, networking and leadership development to assist the guides along the Great Barrier Reef to further develop their knowledge and experience.

It doesn't matter where you live in the world, everything you do can help make a difference. Visitors to our region can help by educating others about marine life and climate change and try to follow the 'Three R's' – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – whenever possible. As a Master Reef Guide, I hope to inspire and educate others so that they can be story-tellers for the Great Barrier Reef too!

Q: *What is your message to people wanting to visit the Reef from Townsville?*

A: Every day I wake up to the absolute privilege of living on a beautiful island I call home, Magnetic Island, which is a part of the Great Barrier Reef. I wish to weave a tapestry of amazing experiences and stories together so that others will feel a sense of connection to the incredibly diverse beauty of the Great Barrier Reef. I absolutely love where I live and hope through my stories about my passion for the Reef, and all the living creatures that call it home, I can create a beautiful wave of change and inspire others to continue to tell the stories.



Aerial view of the 'Coral Greenhouse' being installed

Museum of Underwater Art

The Museum of Underwater Art (MOUA) is the latest attraction to hit Townsville North Queensland, and one that is unique and significant on a global scale. As the only underwater art museum in the Southern Hemisphere, MOUA is a beautiful and innovative blend of art, science and conservation with the first pieces already installed on The Strand and at John Brewer Reef in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

MOUA redefines art by providing visitors a thought-provoking, immersive experience with the World Heritage-Listed Great Barrier Reef, offering a platform to share the stories of the Reef and the culture of its people.



'Ocean Siren' on The Strand
by Jason deCaires Taylor

AVAILABLE TO VIEW NOW: 'Ocean Siren', The Strand Townsville (Installation One)

'Ocean Siren', modeled on local Traditional Owner Takoda Johnson, is an intertidal sculpture installed above the water at The Strand, offering locals and visitors the unique MOUA experience without getting wet! The installation receives live data from Davies Reef and changes colour in response to the water temperature, with the data supplied by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), which is also located in Townsville.



'Coral Greenhouse' at John Brewer Reef
by Jason deCaires Taylor

OPENING APRIL 2020: 'Coral Greenhouse', John Brewer Reef (Installation Two)

The 'Coral Greenhouse' sculpture at John Brewer Reef in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park offers a world class dive and snorkel experience.

Featuring a large open frame structure, divers will be able to immerse themselves in a unique experience which strongly connects to reef conservation and rehabilitation.

STILL TO COME - INSTALLATIONS THREE AND FOUR:

Palm Island

The proposed Palm Island installation will be created to engage the community and to connect the cultural story of Palm Island, the Reef, stewardship, Corroboree, land and sea.

Magnetic Island

The Magnetic Island site is vital to tell the story of reef science and Magnetic Island's significance in the scientific research of the Great Barrier Reef, particularly around coral spawning.

This installation will also look to connect the cultural story of Magnetic Island to the land and sea.



Magnetic Island
by Megan MacKinnon

YOUR 2020 TOWNSVILLE NORTH QUEENSLAND EVENTS CALENDAR

FEB

**MANPOWER AUSTRALIA -
LIVE AT THE VILLE RESORT-
CASINO**

7-8 February

**INTERNATIONAL OCEAN
FILM TOUR - TOWNSVILLE**

12 February



**BEACH RUGBY
AUSTRALIA -
NORTHERN AUSTRALIA
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

14-16 February

**HOTTER THAN HELL 2020 -
TOWNSVILLE (CONCERT)**

15 February

**GLORY DAYS: THE BRUCE
SPRINGSTEEN SHOW**

15 February

**TAYLORS BEACH FAMILY
FISHING TOURNAMENT
(HINCHINBROOK)**

22 February

CASTLE HILL TRAIL RUN

23 February



**ELTON JOHN FAREWELL
YELLOW BRICK ROAD
TOUR AT QUEENSLAND
COUNTRY BANK
STADIUM -**

29 February

MAR

**RESCUE UP LATE
(MUSEUM EXHIBITION)**

6 March



**MARCH 4X4 COME AND
TRY DAY (CHARTERS
TOWERS)**

8 March



**NORTH QUEENSLAND
TOYOTA COWBOYS VS
BRISBANE BRONCOS**

13 March

**NORTH QUEENSLAND
TOYOTA COWBOYS VS
PARRAMATTA EELS**

28 March

APR

**SHANE MUSPRATT CUP
RUGBY CARNIVAL**

4-5 April

**ELLIOT'S REVENGE TRAIL
RUN**

5 April

LIFE FESTIVAL 2019

7-10 April



**2020 NORTH
QUEENSLAND GAMES**

10-13 April

**NORTH QUEENSLAND
TOYOTA COWBOYS VS
MELBOURNE STORM**

16 April

**FIONA O'LAUGHLIN LIVE AT
THE VILLE RESORT-CASINO**

18 April

**TOWNSVILLE BIG BOYS
TOYS EXPO**

18-19 April

**RECOVERY OF THE GREAT
BARRIER REEF EXPEDITION**

22-26 April

BURDEKIN AUTO FESTIVAL

24-26 April

ANZAC DAY SERVICES

25 April

**NORTH QUEENSLAND
TOYOTA COWBOYS VS
CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN
BULLDOGS**

25 April

BURDEKIN SUGAR RUSH

26 April

MAY

**NORTH QUEENSLAND
SPORTFISHING
CHAMPIONSHIPS
(HINCHINBROOK)**

1-3 May

**CHARTERS TOWERS
COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL**

1-3 May

**TWO FIRES: THE CHISEL/
BARNES SHOW**

2 May

HOME HILL SUGAR BOWL

2-4 May

**GROOVIN THE MOO MUSIC
FESTIVAL**

3 May

INGHAM SUGAR CITY RODEO

8-9 May

**NORTH QUEENSLAND
TOYOTA COWBOYS VS
GOLD COAST TITANS**

9 May

**BURDEKIN GROWERS RACE
DAY**

16 May

**NORTH QUEENSLAND
TOYOTA COWBOYS VS
SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS**

22 May

**THE PERCIVALS
(ART EXHIBITION)**

22 May - 19 Jul

**TASMAN TURTLE'S PICNIC
DAY (HINCHINBROOK)**

23 May

THE TWO BAYS TRAIL RUN

23 May



**SWEET DAYS, HOT
NIGHTS FESTIVAL**

28-30 May

**TOWNSVILLE MAGNETICON
COSPLAY AND GAMING EXPO**

30-31 May

JUN

**MOTOR SHOW AND
SWAP MEET (CHARTERS
TOWERS)**

5-7 June

**NORTH QUEENSLAND
TOYOTA COWBOYS VS
SYDNEY ROOSTERS**

6 June

ECO FIESTA

7 June

**PALM CREEK FOLK
FESTIVAL**

11-14 June

GOLD CITY CAMPDRAFT

12-14 June

**FLEETWOOD MAC:
RUNNING IN THE SHADOWS**

13 June

PET EXPO

14 June

DAM FINE RALLY

18-30 June

**PRACTICALLY PERFECT:
THE MUSIC OF JULIE
ANDREWS**

19 June

**MIKE CARNEY TOYOTA
TOWNSVILLE BARBECUE
BATTLE**

20 June

HERITAGE DAY

21 June



**SUPERCARS WATPAC
TOWNSVILLE 400**

26-28 June

IT'S LIVE!
in Queensland

SEALINK MAGNETIC ISLAND RACE WEEK 27 August - 2 September 2020

JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV



NORTHERN FRINGE FESTIVAL
2 July - 2 August

**MILLCHESTER FESTIVAL OF
DIRT (CHARTERS TOWERS)**
4-5 July

**JULY 4X4 COME AND TRY DAY
(CHARTERS TOWERS)**
12 July

**NORTH QUEENSLAND
TOYOTA COWBOYS VS
NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS**
12 July

**RECOVERY OF THE GREAT
BARRIER REEF EXPEDITION**
15-19 July

**BURDEKIN READERS AND
WRITERS FESTIVAL**
17-19 July

HALO (LIGHT SHOW)
17 July - 2 August

LADIES DAY RACES
18 July

'PALUMA PUSH' RACE
19 July

**9TH BIENNIAL QUEENSLAND
HERITAGE RALLY**
23-26 July

**NORTH QUEENSLAND
TOYOTA COWBOYS VS
MANLY SEA EAGLES**
25 July

CHARTERS TOWERS SHOW
26-28 July

**AUSTRALIAN FESTIVAL OF
CHAMBER MUSIC**
31 July - 9 August

**NORTH QUEENSLAND
TOYOTA COWBOYS VS
CANBERRA RAIDERS**
1 August

**IRONMAN/ALUMINIUM
LADY MOTORKHANA/
KHANA CROSS
MOTORSPORT EVENT
(CHARTERS TOWERS)**
1-2 August

**MCDONALDS TOWNSVILLE
RUNNING FESTIVAL**
1-2 August

**AUSTRALIAN ITALIAN
FESTIVAL (HINCHINBROOK)**
1-2 August

**NORTH QUEENSLAND ELITE
RODEO**
14-15 August



**NORTH QUEENSLAND
TOYOTA COWBOYS VS
CRONULLA SHARKS**
20 August



**CAPE PALLARENDA TRAIL
RUN**
23 August

**NORTH QUEENSLAND
TOYOTA COWBOYS VS
NEW ZEALAND WARRIORS**
29 August

**BURDEKIN WATER
FESTIVAL**
5 September



RELAY FOR LIFE
12-13 September

**SEPTEMBER 4X4 COME
AND TRY DAY (CHARTERS
TOWERS)**
13 September

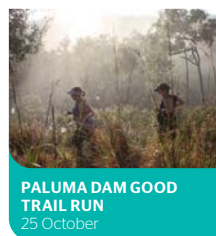
**ICN TROPIX NORTH
QUEENSLAND
CHAMPIONSHIPS**
19 September

THE GREAT ISLAND TREK
19 September



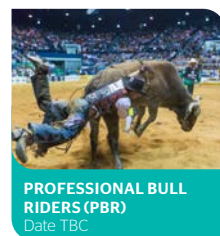
**RECOVERY OF THE GREAT
BARRIER REEF EXPEDITION**
21-25 October

**DINNER UNDER THE STARS
(HINCHINBROOK)**
24 October



**HOME HILL HARVEST
FESTIVAL**
7 November

**NOVEMBER 4X4 COME
AND TRY DAY (CHARTERS
TOWERS)**
8 November





Magnetic Island Sea Kayaks by @mycolourfulworld_

Must-do **Eco** Bucket List

Whether it's out on the water or in your hotel, make sure you're choosing to stay sustainable with these eco-friendly experiences in Townsville North Queensland.

Go Eco Certified

These certified tours and products are backed by a strong, well managed commitment to sustainable practices and provides high quality nature-based tourism experiences.

Adrenalin Snorkel and Dive

Specialising in snorkeling and diving trips, join Adrenalin to witness and explore the spectacular Great Barrier Reef or S.S. Yongala Shipwreck. Did you know that your booking includes a contribution to the management of the Great Barrier Reef through the EMC (Environmental Management Charge), so just by visiting the reef you are helping to protect it!

Billabong Sanctuary and Bungalow Bay Koala Village

Billabong Sanctuary and Bungalow Bay Koala Village offers Australia's best interactive wildlife experience, featuring native animals in their natural habitats!

Magnetic Island Sea Kayaks

Hit the water with Magnetic Island Sea Kayaks (powered by your own body!) and discover the best of Magnetic Island's surrounding marine park.

Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium

Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium is recognised as the national education centre for the Great Barrier Reef so there is no better place to learn about the world's greatest natural wonder.

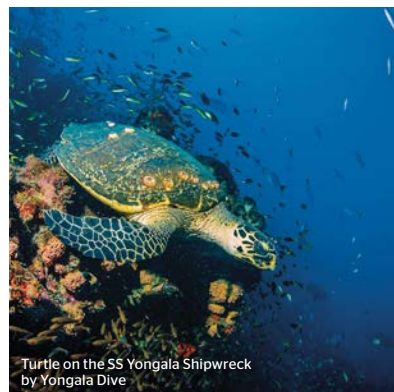
Immerse yourself in the underwater viewing tunnel, have a hands-on experience at the touch tank, hear from the experts during one of the daily tours and meet the sick and injured turtles being rehabilitated in the Turtle Hospital.



Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium by Megan MacKinnon

Big Mama Sailing

Big Mama has plenty of deck space to relax in a bean bag, a comfortable inside saloon area or join in the fun and action of sailing and other water activities.



Turtle on the SS Yongala Shipwreck by Yongala Dive

Yongala Dive

Yongala Dive offers a full range of dive courses, dive accommodation and day trips to one of the world's top dive sites- the historic S.S. Yongala Shipwreck.

Aquascene Charters Magnetic Island

Discover the incredible beauty of Magnetic Island from above and below the water. Not only experience mesmerising snorkelling on coral reefs, but learn about the island's history, its marine life and hear a few yarns along the way.

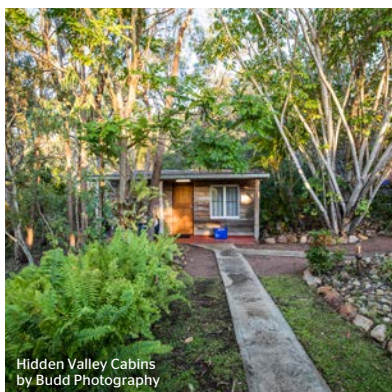


Orpheus Island Lodge

Stay With a Difference!

Hidden Valley Cabins

Hidden Valley Cabins is an award-winning eco resort, located one and a half hours north west of Townsville, on the western slope of the Paluma Range. Due to the resort's elevation, the climate is cooler and less humid than areas close to the coast - the perfect temperature year-round. Hidden Valley Cabins is operated on 100 percent solar power.



Orpheus Island Lodge Resort

This is the ultimate in eco-luxury. Orpheus Island is a secluded, unspoilt tropical paradise, and stretches across 11km of immaculate turquoise coastline. Located on the Great Barrier Reef and comprising more than 1000 hectares of National Park, the Orpheus Island Lodge Resort is amongst the

best that nature has to offer and there are plenty of ways this high end property gives back:

- \$50 per guest is donated towards the Reef Keepers Fund created by the resort
- More than 810 gleaming solar panels means the resort uses 100% renewable-energy
- An on-site veggie garden and fruit trees provides chefs with a constant supply of fresh produce
- Each guest receives a reusable water bottle
- You won't find a plastic straw here
- You'll be served sustainable seafood (and trust us when we say it'll be the best seafood you've ever tasted)

Grand Hotel and Apartments

Guests of the Grand Hotel and Apartments can choose not to have their towels laundered, and instead a donation can be made to Townsville's very own Turtle Hospital at Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium. While you're staying in Townsville's most grand accommodation take a trip over to Reef HQ to see where your contribution goes.

Bungalow Bay Koala Village

During 2006, Bungalow Bay Koala Village Magnetic Island received Advanced Accreditation with the Australian Eco Tourism Association in acknowledgement of its dedication to conservation and the environment.

With their dedication to minimising impact on the environment, conserving energy, and caring for sick, injured or orphaned native animals, Bungalow Bay is recognized as the hub of conservation on Magnetic Island.

Every aspect of the operation takes the environment into consideration.





View from Castle Hill to Magnetic Island by Jesse and Belinda Lindemann

#InstaPerfect Locations in Townsville North Queensland

Townsville North Queensland is spoilt for choice when it comes to jaw-dropping, awe-inspiring locations! Since we're in a constant state of wanderlust, we thought we would share that feeling with you and send you on an Insta-adventure with our top Insta-worthy locations (in no particular order)!

1. BE YOUR OWN KING OR QUEEN OF THE CASTLE

Make the early morning pilgrimage up Castle Hill - Townsville's best vantage point - to take in the stunning sunrise. Overlooking Townsville city, The Strand, and our very own island paradise Magnetic Island, Castle Hill offers a trail for everyone, with the most popular the affectionately named 'Goat Track'.

[#townsvilleshines](#)

2. JUST GO WITH THE FLOW

And we mean it...On epic proportions! Our very own Wet Tropics UNESCO listed Wallaman Falls is the largest single-drop waterfall in the Southern Hemisphere, and she's a stunner

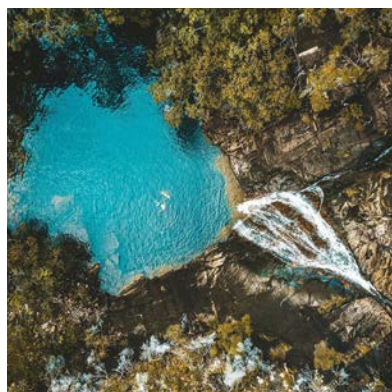
(especially after the wet season)! Only two hours from Townsville, you'll travel through the Girringun National Park and the picturesque Hinchinbrook region, offering countless selfie stops along the way.

[#townsvilleshines](#) [#hinchinbrookway](#)

3. ZOE, WE'VE FALLEN IN LOVE!

It's a love affair that no one would argue with. The dazzling Zoe Falls on Hinchinbrook Island has what every budding photographer dreams of - untouched forests, crystal clear waters, and a secluded location often with the whole place to yourself. A quick boat ride along the (just as beautiful) Hinchinbrook Channel will lead you to this little hidden gem, and once you're there take the trail to the top of the falls to find nature's own infinity plunge pool complete with panoramic views of Zoe Bay.

[#townsvilleshines](#) [#hinchinbrookway](#)



4. WE'RE DEVOTIN' FULL TIME TO FLOATIN' UNDER THE SEA

We bet you didn't know that some of the world's best diving experiences are right off the coast of the Burdekin, including one of the world's top 10 shipwreck dive sites, the S.S. Yongala! Jump into your wetsuit because this spectacular section of the Great Barrier Reef delivers on every promise. Sebastian was definitely right - it really is better down where it's wetter, under the sea!

[#townsvilleshines](#) [#visitburdekin](#)

5. GONE WILD

Townsville North Queensland's answer to the famous quokka - our very own furry friends on Magnetic Island, the rock wallaby! They're well accustomed to a selfie or two, so make sure you have your phone handy when you visit these guys at Geoffrey Bay. Disclaimer: they might steal the show, so you can't take credit for all the likes you'll get from these 'wild' Insta posts!

Not to be outdone, our cuddly koalas are also quite partial to a photo op! Home to Northern Australia's largest colony of wild koalas, Magnetic Island is your best bet to capture Queensland's faunal (animal) emblem on 'film' (for those of you who remember that reference!). If you want to get up close and personal, pay a visit to the Bungalow Bay Koala Village and feel for yourself just how cuddly these little guys are.

[#townsvilleshines](#) [#thisismagneticisland](#)



Magnetic Island by Jesse and Belinda Lindemann



6. SO IT'S A VIEW YOU'RE AFTER?

With 360° views of Magnetic Island, the Forts Walk has everything the budding Instagrammer/photographer could dream of! Views to the horizon, historical military fortifications - operated from 1943 until the end of the Pacific War in 1945 - and every chance to spot our mate, Kevin the Koala* (and maybe one or two of his distant cousins since this is one of their favourite places to lounge on the island!). For the best 'no filter' pic, strap on your walking shoes and take the 4km stroll before sunrise - you won't regret it!

*fictional name, but we think it's kinda cute!

[#thisismagneticisland](#)
[#townsvilleshines](#)

7. HEY THERE, TIME TRAVELLER

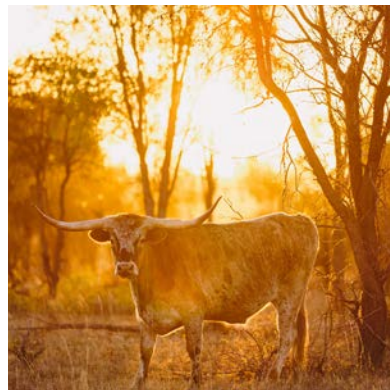
Literally take a step back in time with a visit to Ravenswood and Charters Towers. These quaint country towns are steeped in gold mining history that will have you kicking stones along the path in the hope of finding your very own golden treasure. With relics and architecture from yesteryear on every street corner, you're sure to find the perfect Insta backdrop!

[#visitcharterstowers](#) [#townsvilleshines](#)

8. YOU BEAUTY!

Dust off your boots and don your Akubra - you are now entering Cowboy country! While we rave about our furry friends - the koala and rock wallaby, our bovine buddies are also a must see! Take a Texas Longhorn tour (Charters Towers) and get up close and personal with these gentle giants.

[#visitcharterstowers](#) [#townsvilleshines](#)



9. WHO'S TRIP-TRAPPING OVER THE BRIDGE?

Be you billy goat gruff, or the average adventurous traveller, have no fear - we can officially declare Little Crystal Creek Bridge a troll free zone. But what you will find is a historic stone bridge (c.1930s), crystal clear waters, and untouched fresh rainforests. Take a dip in the refreshing stream, and rock hop your way to the perfect 'posing on a rock' pic.

[#hinchinbrookway](#) [#townsvilleshines](#)

10. GET SANDY ALONG THE STRANDY

A favourite with the locals, The Strand is a popular hotspot because it literally has everything to offer! Dip your toes in the Rock Pool, lounge on the beach, kick a footy in the park and finish it all off with a tasty gelato. Take in the whole 2.2km of oceanfront views - we can guarantee you'll find the perfect selfie site!

[#townsvilleshines](#)

11. PRETTY FLY FOR A CACTI

You'll be right at home amongst the stunning green backdrop of one of Townsville's three unique botanic gardens. Celebrating its 150th anniversary, the heritage-listed Queens Gardens is a lush green oasis; while Anderson Gardens and Palmetum collectively cover 42 hectares of land with tropical trees, palms and cycads - options to keep even the most savvy Instagrammer occupied!

[#townsvilleshines](#)



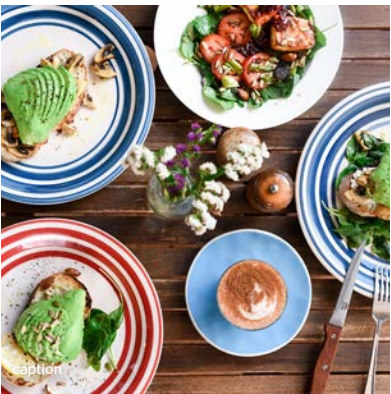
Magnetic Island by Matt Raimondo

Companion's Guide

Whether you're holidaying with your partner, kids, or perhaps your pooch, we've got you covered. No matter your entourage, we've picked some of the best activities to help you and your companion create lasting holiday memories in Townsville North Queensland.

WITH YOUR PARTNER

From laneway restaurants to raw breakfast bars, the culinary scene in Townsville North Queensland will have you and your significant other swooning with dining options for any time of day or night. From cheap and cheerful to something more special, the region's multicultural vibe is on point with these foodie picks:



For the love of food (see more on page 14)

Cheap and cheerful

- The Palm House
- Quarterdeck
- Longboard Bar & Grill
- Otto's Fresh Food Market
- City Lane

Something special

- Miss Songs
- Shorehouse
- Bridgewater
- JAM
- A Touch of Salt

In the regions

Hinchinbrook

- JK's Deli
- Lou's Emporium
- Heaven Scent
- Enrico's

Burdekin

- Claredale Pastures Café

Charters Towers

- Stock Exchange
- Cattleman's Rest Steakhouse
- Enterprise Hotel

Magnetic Island

- Early Bird Café
- Barefoot Art Food Wine
- Peppers Blue on Blue

In the lap of luxury

If you're looking to really amp up the romance, treat yourself and your loved one to a vacay on the luxurious Orpheus Island Resort. Upon heli arrival to Orpheus Island

from Townsville, you'll be met with 11km of turquoise coastline dotted with luxury rooms fringed by lush national park and stunning coral reef. Orpheus Island ticks all the boxes!

Stroll or sail...it's all better at sunset

We all know just how romantic, inspiring and utterly Instagram-able they can be, and we think the sunrises and sunsets in Townsville North Queensland are some of the best you'll see. Take in the beauty of the watercolour skies with an evening stroll to Townsville's best vantage point, Castle Hill. Better still, enjoy a glass of wine and nibble on an antipasto platter while you sail the day away with Big Mama Sailing or Pilgrim Sailing, or on a shipwreck and sunset cruise with Aquascene Charters Magnetic Island.

WITH YOUR POOCH

Treat man's best friend to an outdoor adventure with hidden trails, open parklands, and off-leash beach fronts - your pooch will really 'dig' it!

Dog friendly cafés

From free treats to water bowls, we've tracked down our pet friendly cafés so you can share a puppuchino or two with your furry friend.

- Juliette's and Juliette's Gelateria
- Tobruk Kiosk
- FatDogz
- MJ & Co Espresso Bar
- Beet Bar



Townsville Street Art by Megan MacKinnon

Trails and tracks

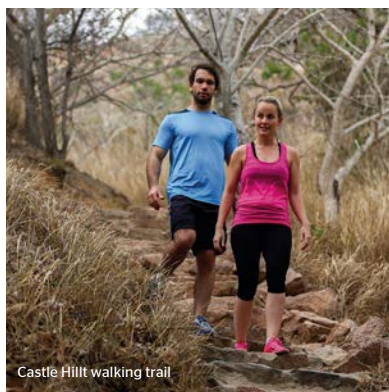
Unleash your dog's natural desire to explore with trails off the beaten track. Take a bush walk up the popular Castle Hill or let them feel the sand under their paws with a beachside stroll along Pallarenda.

- Castle Hill - hit up the popular goat track or take a more hidden track around the city's best vantage point
- Hervey Range - plenty of mini adventures along the Hervey's Marbles or old highway (Page's Road)
- Ross River pathway - take a scenic stroll then freshen up with a doggie paddle
- Rowes Bay Pallarenda - run along the beach with your pooch and feel the salty breeze in your hair (and fur). Your pup will love the off-leash section!

WITH A FRIEND

For the active body

Dive below the surface to experience a whole new view of Townsville North Queensland, the gateway to the magical Great Barrier Reef. With snorkeling and diving experiences available, there is something for all skill levels. If you are more adventurous (and a certified diver) - take a trip to the Burdekin where you can dive the SS Yongala shipwreck, one of the world's top 10 dive sites!



Castle Hill walking trail

For the active mind

You don't need to be an art student to appreciate some of the cultural curiosities that are found right across the region. From street art walking trails in the Townsville CBD, murals and sculptures along the Heritage Town Walk in Ayr to a 42-metre long mosaic art panel of Mercer Lane in Ingham - the arts scene in the region is a thriving ever-evolving masterpiece to behold.

If you're keen to release your inner marine scientist, visit the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) based right here in Townsville. Public tours of the facility are available every Friday (bookings essential), including the 'world's smartest aquarium' - the National Sea Simulator.

WITH THE KIDS

Tried, tested and parent-approved - these local hot spots will be winners with your littlies, with opportunities to get up close and personal with some of the region's native flora and fauna, while letting their curious minds explore and learn.

Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium

Home to family-favourite Nemo and Dory, the kids will be amazed by the marine life at the world's largest living coral reef aquarium. Learn about the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef and how to be more reef conscious.

Museum of Tropical Queensland

Get hands-on with the interactive displays at the Museum of Tropical Queensland where you and the tiny-tots will learn about the high-seas and discover the stories behind Indigenous artefacts. Exhibitions and collections come from across the nation and the globe so there is always something new to see and learn.



Billabong Sanctuary by Budd Photography

Billabong Sanctuary

Feeding a kangaroo and cuddling a koala must be every child's dream, and with more than 50 native animals calling Billabong Sanctuary home, this is where their dreams can come true! Plan your visit to participate in one of the park's regular animal shows – including crocodile feeding, koala talks, and reptile shows.

WITH EXTENDED FAMILY

Why would the extended family let you have all the fun! If the relatives come to visit this tropical paradise, then pack the car and hit the road (or the sea) and create family memories together with these top road trip picks!

Magnetic Island

Just 20 minutes from Townsville is the jewel in the crown of North Queensland – Magnetic Island. Being so close to a major city, it could be assumed that the hustle and bustle might also be found there – but this is definitely not the case! Boasting the natural beauty and serenity of an island paradise, 'Maggie' will have you slowing down to island time where you can spend the weekend (or longer) experiencing the many pristine beaches and bays (23 to be exact!).

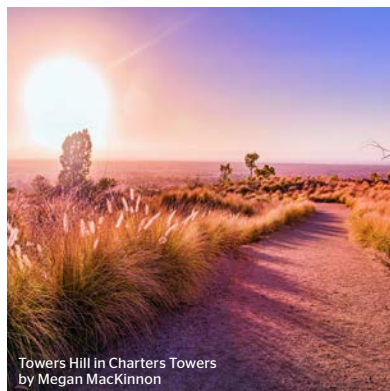
- Spot a koala amongst the gum trees
- Snorkel underwater trails with coral and giant clams
- National Park bush walks
- Horse rides in the sand

- Sip a cold beverage by the beach
- Sail the sea at sunset

Charters Towers

Rich in more than just gold, Charters Towers is a history-buff's dream with a fascinating story to tell. Just 1.5 hours' drive from Townsville, the once bustling metropolis is the ultimate Outback destination offering all the charm and hospitality one would expect from a country town.

- Visit JR and the Texas Longhorns on a working cattle station
- Celebrate the golden era with a visit to the largest and last surviving relic in Queensland, Venus Gold Battery
- Grab a coldie at one of several historical pubs
- Trek up Towers Hill to take in the sprawling outback view



Towers Hill in Charters Towers by Megan MacKinnon

Burdekin

Home to some of the nation's best fruit and vegetable producers, bountiful Burdekin really does have it all! From a world-renowned Great Barrier Reef dive site – the S.S. Yongala shipwreck, to a nostalgic trip down memory lane with their very own Stardust drive-in movie theatre – this little gem is a great one for the family!

- Dive the S.S. Yongala shipwreck
- Admire the street artworks throughout Ayr and Home Hill
- Tuck into a traditional antipasto platter

Hinchinbrook

Part of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wet Tropics, the Hinchinbrook area boasts untouched natural beauty as well as Australia's tallest single-drop waterfall – Wallaman Falls. There are waterfalls aplenty, and great fishing spots to explore. If all this makes you feel a little peckish – then Ingham (the hub of Hinchinbrook) will be sure to please with Italian delicacies.

- Chase waterfalls with Wallaman Falls and Jourama Falls just to name a couple
- Embark on an ultimate fishing adventure
- Refuel with traditional Italian fare – including cannoli, pasta and antipasto

TOWNSVILLE

Rambutan

THE OASIS IN THE CITY

QUEENSLAND



Rambutan

Rambutan is an award-winning 45 room hotel that features a stunning rooftop bar and restaurant. Part hotel, part luxury resort, Rambutan is Townsville and Magnetic Island's most vibrant place to eat, stay or play!

ARMATI'S

Armati's food menu features hearty Italian inspired food focused on fresh local produce, cooking with fire and making everything in-house. Armati's pizzas are cooked in a blazing hot wood-fired oven – the centrepiece of the restaurant.



StreetFront

CAFE & BAR

With chic coastal inspired décor and a relaxed vibe, StreetFront Cafe & Bar is a firm favourite with both locals and visitors alike, offering delicious well-priced food and drinks, in a stylish and welcoming venue.

THE OASIS IN THE CITY

Located on a rooftop overlooking Ross Creek, Rambutan is in the heart of Townsville City only moments from Reef HQ Aquarium & 10 mins walk to Queensland Country Bank Stadium.



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WWW.RAMBUTANTOWNSVILLE.COM



Artist impression of the stadium

Cowboys Country

6am: Hit the hill, Castle Hill that is. Join the 2,500 locals who walk, run or drive to the top of this staggering monolith each day. With over 15 tracks to choose from, this iconic spot is the best place for 360 degree views of the city and that epic sunrise Instagram shot.

8am: Refuel at JAM, Australia's best breakfast spot (as nominated by the Australian Savour Awards). Go with an original Smashed Avo or be adventurous and taste test their famous Asian Chicken Omelette. Don't forget a coffee – you've got a big day ahead!

12pm: Dive into Townsville's luxury watering hole and don't forget the cozzie... The Splash Bar at The Ville Resort-Casino features a swim up bar, infinity pool, views overlooking picturesque Magnetic Island and did we mention the cocktails (#yesplease). Perfect for relaxing before the excitement ramps up at kick-off!

5pm: Dry off and dress up! Get into the pre-game spirit by hitting the city bars with your fellow footy followers. From micro breweries to laneway bars and traditional Aussie pubs – you're sure to find something to your liking.

7pm: Make the short stroll over to the brand new Queensland Country Bank Stadium for kick off and cheer on the mighty North Queensland Toyota Cowboys!

2020 STADIUM EVENTS SCHEDULE

Saturday, 22 February
Queensland Country Bank Stadium
Peoples Day

Saturday, 29 February
Elton John:
Farewell Yellow Brick Road

Friday, 13 March
NRL: NQ Cowboys
vs Brisbane Broncos

Saturday, 28 March
NRL: NQ Cowboys
vs Parramatta Eels

Thursday, 9 April
NQ Games:
Opening Ceremony

Saturday, 11 April
NQ Games:
Football Saturday Fixtures

Thursday, 16 April
NRL: NQ Cowboys
vs Melbourne Storm

Saturday, 25 April
NRL: NQ Cowboys
vs Canterbury Bulldogs

Saturday, 9 May
NRL: NQ Cowboys
vs Gold Coast Titans

Friday, 22 May
NRL: NQ Cowboys
vs South Sydney Rabbitohs

Saturday, 6 June
NRL: NQ Cowboys
vs Sydney Roosters

Sunday, 12 July
NRL: NQ Cowboys
vs Newcastle Knights

Saturday, 25 July
NRL: NQ Cowboys
vs Manly Sea Eagles

Saturday, 1 August
NRL: NQ Cowboys
vs Canberra Raiders

Thursday, 20 August
NRL: NQ Cowboys
vs Cronulla Sharks

Saturday, 29 August
NRL: NQ Cowboys
vs New Zealand Warriors



Queensland Country Bank Stadium

Be Inspired by
views of the field

With multiple indoor and outdoor function spaces the stadium is perfect for any type of event from meetings, conferences, cocktail parties, weddings or gala dinners. Create memories in Townsville's newest iconic location.

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Elton John by Ben Gibson

Let Me Entertain You

From the roar of the V8s to sounds of the final siren, 2020 is jam-packed with events that will have you on the edge of your seat. Whether you're into art, food, fast cars or busting a move, Townsville North Queensland will show you how to live it up! You won't be sorry when you tick these action filled events off your list.

Elton John - Farewell Yellow Brick Road 29 February 2020

Follow us down the Yellow Brick Road and experience the energetic, dazzlingly-original, bombastic musical masterpiece that is Elton John.

Bring out the colourful glasses, wrap the feather boa around your neck and immerse yourself. You will feel the love tonight, with the performance the first major event to open Townsville North Queensland's brand new stadium.

Supercars Watpac Townsville 400 26-28 June 2020

Live life in the fast lane and experience the action-packed Supercars Townsville 400. Excite your senses and embrace an unrivaled atmosphere to discover why in the sport of supercar racing every fraction of a second counts with these fine tuned machines.

Magnetic Island Race Week 27 August - 2 September 2020

Queensland's 'Season of Sailing' culminates in this finale of first class sailing on the crystal clear waters of

Cleveland Bay. Magnetic Island Race Week brings together the excitement of competitive sailing, with a shore-side program of live bands and partying galore in a week-long regatta. Don't forget Dad on Father's Day and put those empty beer cans to good use when you compete in the annual Beer Can Regatta.



Magnetic Island Race Week
by Jesse and Belinda Lindemann

Book 3+ Nights to receive 10% off Quote code MN10
Book 5+ Nights to receive 15% off Quote code MN15
Conditions apply



Spectacular ocean views from every apartment, the perfect base for your dream holiday

mariners north
HOLIDAY APARTMENTS



North Queensland Toyota Cowboys Game Day

Professional Bull Riders (PBR) *Date TBC*

Ride em' cowboy! It's a showdown like no other - 22 riders all eager for glory as they strive to overcome the power of the most extreme bucking bulls. This is an eight second, head to head battle of power and agility.

Groovin the Moo Festival *3 May 2020*

Groovin the Moo is a regional festival favourite; one that brings national and international artists for a moo-tivating musical lineup. Getting to Groovin is generally part of the fun; often involving road-trips with pals and a playlist designed to prep the vocal chords for epic sing-alongs.

North Queensland Toyota Cowboys

NEW HOME. NEW ERA.

The North Queensland Toyota Cowboys will kick off a fresh era at the brand new Queensland Country Bank Stadium in 2020 as they celebrate their 25th anniversary of playing in the NRL! Check out page 34 for the full schedule of games in the new stadium.

Epic house-warming party

The Cowboys' 2020 NRL season opens with a blockbuster clash against arch rivals Brisbane Broncos. The Friday night showdown marks the first ever rugby league match to be played at the state-of-the-art stadium in the heart of Townsville's CBD.

New look team

Crowd favourites Michael Morgan, Jason Taumalolo, Kyle Feldt and Jordan McLean are joined by a host of new recruits, including super star Valentine Holmes, Esan Marsters and Connelly Lemuelu.

Mouth-watering clashes

Perennial premiership contenders Melbourne travel north for a Thursday night meeting in April. As a proud garrison city, Townsville will

host an Anzac Day match against the Bulldogs. In May, the Cowboys will celebrate Indigenous Round, recognising the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island culture to the game and region. Reigning premiers the Roosters will make their first trip to North Queensland since 2016 for a fan-friendly Saturday afternoon battle in June.

Saturday night fever

The 2020 draw features seven of the 12 home games on Saturdays as well as games in school holidays, with a Thursday game against the Storm in the Easter holidays and a Sunday game against the Knights on the last weekend of July school holidays.

Be there live!

Don't miss a minute of the action, with a Cowboys full season membership! It's the best way to secure every game for the 2020 season, plus access exclusive merchandise and benefits.

Want to see what it's all about first? Single game tickets let you experience the thrill of watching the Cowboys live in action. You'll soon find out why North Queensland loves the Cowboys!

Head to www.cowboys.com.au for all the info!

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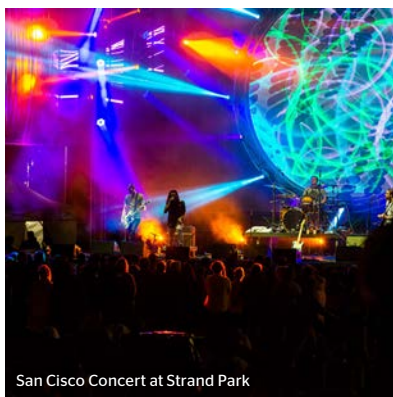




Bernie Dieter at the Spiegel tent by Cathy Friel

Arts and Culture

Northern Australia has a solid and justified reputation as a creative hotspot, a home of artists and artisans, makers of music, dance, visual arts, spoken, sung and written words mixed with 40,000 years of stories, songs and dance of our traditional custodians.



San Cisco Concert at Strand Park

The return of North Australian Festival of Arts

As the arts and culture capital of North Australia, Townsville offers an event calendar like no other, so when it comes to hosting events in the tropics we certainly don't do things by halves. Our yearly calendar boasts a myriad of genres from adrenaline packed and ethanol fuelled action, to world-class arts and culture experiences.

Last year's inaugural North Australian Festival of Arts (NAFA) was adored by North Queenslanders so much that it's set to make an even bigger and better return in 2020.

This month-long festival is set to ignite venues throughout the city to excite lovers of arts and culture and create world-class experiences throughout the region.

But it won't just be the main stages lighting up as NAFA returns to Townsville - the Northern Fringe is set to create a buzz throughout the city, entertaining locals and visitors running parallel to the broader festival.

Strand Park

Home to many of Townsville's most significant events for more than 20 years, along with a host of events in 2020, the Strand will welcome NAFA with open arms as Strand Park transforms into an event village like no other.

With well over 40,000 people experiencing NAFA at Strand Park in 2019, Townsville City Council has taken on community feedback to make the 2020 experience even better. This year's return of NAFA will see the whole of Strand Park become a hive of activity as Melbourne's iconic Spiegel tent returns to its beachside residence.

The iconic Townsville location will be home to a full month-long program as the parkland is transformed into a

festival village setting under a canopy of festoon lighting towering over the Spiegel tent and the big red 350 seat May Wirth Tent, a licensed bar, food trucks and free entertainment spaces.



Joe Camilleri and the Black Sorrows at Queens Gardens

Queens Gardens

Townsville's beautiful botanic gardens will once again be home to one of NAFA's main festival sites amongst the lush inner-city greenery. With plenty of seating, food trucks, bars and open space under the cover of spectacular illuminated raintrees, enhanced by a raft of performance venues, packed-out shows and the free Festival Stage featuring headline artists.

Queens Gardens will once again host the spectacular Australian Festival of Chamber Music free Sunday afternoon concert featuring world renowned soloists accompanied by a magnificent 60 piece orchestra.



San Cisco Concert at Strand Park by Cathy Friel

The holy grail that is HALO will shine a light on the region as the immersive sound and light experience cements itself among the lush tropical paradise of Queens Gardens. HALO had onlookers around the city in awe as the creators of Sydney's VIVID treated locals to an experience like nothing seen before in Townsville.

Visitors can expect to be whisked away to a magical wonderland as they experience the splendour on offer, grab a bite to eat before venturing into one of the many shows and performances throughout the heritage-listed gardens.



HALO at Queens Gardens

The Northern Fringe

While NAFA celebrates experiences from some of the world's most renowned international and national artists, the celebration would not be complete without the accompanying Northern Fringe Festival.

Operating on the outer edge of the North Australian Festival of Arts, the whole community will experience the Northern Fringe in one way or another as it sets our cafés, bars, retail precincts, restaurants and public spaces alight in a hive of activity.

Townsville's own arts and culture scene will be front and centre as the city hosts acts in music, theatre and comedy to dance and cabaret in both ticketed and free events.

Northern Fringe will spread its wings far and wide, enabling local and regional talent their own opportunity to shock, dazzle, entertain and excite as Townsville gains a name for itself as a Fringe Festival to keep an eye on.



Performance at Queens Gardens



North Australian Festival of Arts returns in 2020

Townsville's event season is enviable around the world, with our sensational weather leaving visitors in awe as our winter event season proves to be their perfect summer.

2020 will bring an even bigger and better North Australian Festival of Arts which will continue to cement Townsville's position as the arts and culture capital of North Australia. Come experience arts and culture in the North, come and experience NAFA – a festival for everyone.



A Mermaid's Tale

Northern Fringe Festival



Rouge - Circus for Grown Ups

In July 2019, Townsville presented the inaugural Northern Fringe Festival which ran alongside the North Australian Festival of Arts (NAFA).

NAFA presents a line-up of local, national and international acts complemented by a month-long curated arts and cultural program.

When developing the NAFA concept, Adelaide and other leading festivals around the world were used as inspiration. Like Adelaide, two separate but simultaneous festivals were envisaged - an Arts Festival and a more organic, community driven Fringe Festival.

The Northern Fringe - in the spirit of Fringe Festivals across the globe - is an inclusive and organic festival hosted in theatres, cafés, pop-up venues, laneways and street corners right across Townsville - North Australia's largest tropical city.

From live acts, music and comedy to cabaret, freaks and funk; all forms of art and performance can play in what will become over time a respected

festival on the national Fringe landscape.

The Northern Fringe Festival will return in July 2020 and registrations are open to the public.

To register to be part of the Northern Fringe Festival, visit fringe-tsv.com.au



Rouge - Circus for Grown Ups



Performance at Strand Park by Cathy Friel



HALO

HALO

Returning in 2020 for its second year, HALO will once again mesmerise the city with a new look concept in 2020.

Specifically designed for Townsville, HALO will illuminate the city through a series of sound and light art installations

throughout Queens Gardens and on Castle Hill and will run in conjunction with the North Australian Festival of Arts (NAFA). The 2020 sound and light festival will come to life with interactive light and sound displays, large scale art installations and an additional collaborative community element.

The project will be delivered in partnership with AGB Events, the

creators of the Vivid Sydney Light Walk. Like other light experiences AGB Events have designed around the world, HALO 2020 is established as a new canvas for captivating the imagination of the public. HALO 2020 will build on the success of the inaugural event and is designed to allow for more interaction and engagement from attendees.

nafa-tsv.com.au



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MAGNETIC ISLAND RACE WEEK



2020



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CITY OF TOWNSVILLE






Australian Festival of Chamber Music by Andrew Rankin

World Class Arts in Action!

In 2020 Townsville North Queensland has cultural experiences on every corner. Put yourself in the picture with these must see art and culture experiences.



Australian Festival of Chamber Music by Andrew Rankin

Australian Festival of Chamber Music

The Australian Festival of Chamber Music presents the finest musicians from around the world in a wonderfully unique and innovative program of 30 concerts set in some of the most spectacular tropical locations. Picture the sweet sounds of a cello and violin as you overlook picturesque beaches and blue oceans!

With 2020 the 30th anniversary for the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, this year will be bigger than ever, featuring a British Royal Wedding cellist, an Austrian horn player, a British Soprano, a world-class string quartet and much more!

Umbrella Studio

What started as a working studio for a group of emerging Townsville artists has transformed into a professionally managed member based contemporary arts organisation with an annual program of exhibitions, public programs and special events.

Perc Tucker Gallery

Discover international and national exhibits in this heritage-listed public gallery in the heart of the city. Perc Tucker Gallery has a diverse program of local, national and international exhibitions. A public program including floor talks, lectures and performances complement these exhibitions.

Aluminium Art

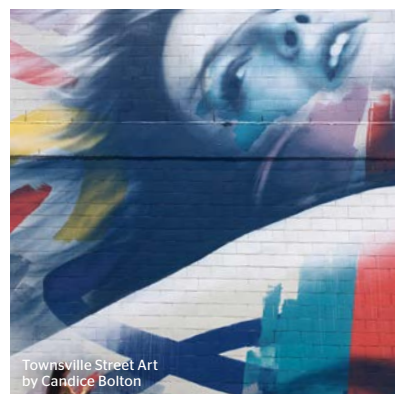
What do you get when aluminium becomes art? A gallery that will inspire and surprise. Featuring beautiful, unique pieces from international and local artists the Aluminium Art exhibit is the only one of its kind in Australia. Each piece of aluminium art is handmade and individual, so what you select will be unique.

Dancenorth

Dancenorth is an international touring contemporary dance company based in Townsville. Dance performances are held year-round showcasing bold, adventurous and critically acclaimed contemporary dance. These performances will have you in awe!

Street Art Trail

Move over Melbourne, street art is taking over Townsville. With world-class and local artists' work on display, Townsville showcases a vibrant and lively city centre. This urban transformation serves as the ultimate insta-background! Put on your #OOTD (outfit of the day) and navigate the city's streets finding the perfect backdrops. Phew, time for a coffee and some smashed avo.



Townsville Street Art by Candice Bolton

Australian Festival of Chamber Music

TOWNSVILLE
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9 AUGUST 2020

CELEBRATING
30
YEARS

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Townsville Triathlon and Multisport Festival by Eric Dickinson

Time for Your 2020 PB!

From the weekend warrior to the endurance enthusiast, Townsville North Queensland is a fitness lover's paradise. With some of the best courses and most stunning landscapes across the nation, there is no better place to smash out that 2020 PB (Personal Best). So kick into gear, get some training under your belt and set the Garmin to go!

Townsville Triathlon and Multisport Festival

Swim, bike and run in paradise in this double weekend of multisport madness! The Townsville Triathlon and Multisport Festival sees a series of events over two weekends with a spectacular course and distances to suit all fitness levels. As a national qualifying event and soon to be home to the 2021 ITU Multisport World Championships, this is the perfect opportunity to be part of one of Australia's best multisport events. This flat and fast course will have you zooming through and ready for the post-event party in no time.

Outerlimits Trail Runs

Escape the concrete jungle and have a break from the pavement with Townsville's favourite trail run series. The Outerlimits Trail Run series will take you through some of the region's very best landscapes, from the hills to rainforests and even an island paradise.

Towers Rush

Turn Charters Towers into a big playground for the day. This race event is designed for people of all ages and fitness levels. Teams of two to five participants will explore the far reaches of Charters Towers by bike, car and foot, unravelling riddles, solving puzzles, carrying out activities and overcoming challenges! It's like an outback Amazing Race, without the cameras and reality TV drama.

McDonald's Townsville Running Festival

Tie up the laces and prepare your playlist, the McDonald's Townsville Running Festival is calling! With ocean views along every distance and an unrivalled atmosphere, this is the running festival to be seen at in 2020! Distances range from 2.5km right up to the famous marathon, so there really is no excuse.



Outer Limits Trail Run

Magnetic Island Great Island Trek

They call it Magnetic Island for a reason... It'll have you coming back again and again. But if you ask us, there is no better way to explore this island paradise than on the Great Island Trek. Whether you walk, run or trek we can guarantee by the end of this event you won't want to leave! Keep an eye out for koalas and sea turtles and enjoy the endless views of Magnetic Island's most stunning (and often hidden) bays. Tip: get in early, this event sells out quickly!



Townsville McDonald's Running Festival

Magnetic Island to Townsville Swim

If you can draw yourself away from the island paradise of Magnetic Island, this surely is a unique way to do it! The Magnetic Island to Townsville Swim is an 8km open water race starting on the historic Picnic Bay waters edge and finishes at the pristine Strand beachfront.

Paluma Push

Townsville's iconic Mountain Bike event is an individual challenge as well as a great social ride.

Riders start in the dreamy Paluma Village following a course that winds its way through lush World Heritage Rainforest, past the Paluma Dam, down into shady big timber and open cattle country and finishes at the historic tin mining settlement of Hidden Valley.

Burdekin Sugar Rush

Make like Forrest Gump and head to the Burdekin Sugar Rush, just south of Townsville, to witness a community running event that will take you through some of the highlights of this agricultural and farming region.

Join the Weekly Park Run

Join hundreds of Townsville locals for a 5km weekly timed run at one of Townsville's three Park Run courses - Northshore, Riverway or Aplins Weir. Park Run is a global phenomenon which is open to everyone and totally FREE! So don't forget to set the alarms for 7am Saturday.



Townsville McDonald's Running Festival



August 2nd 2020

REGISTER NOW!

www.townsvillerunningfestival.com

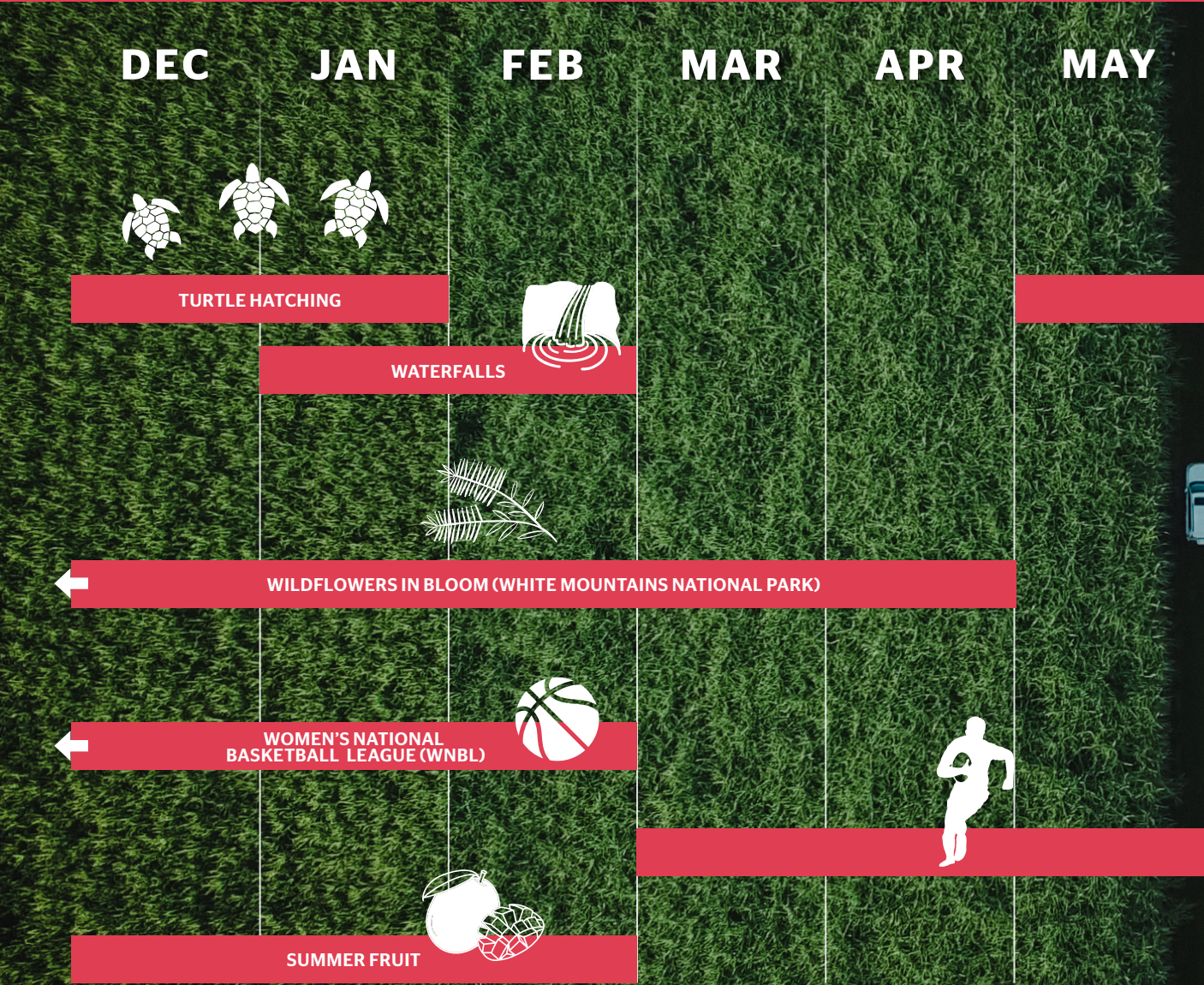
McDonald's
**TOWNSVILLE
RUNNING
FESTIVAL**

Supporting
Ronald McDonald
House Charities
North Australia



Summer fruit by @gypsealust

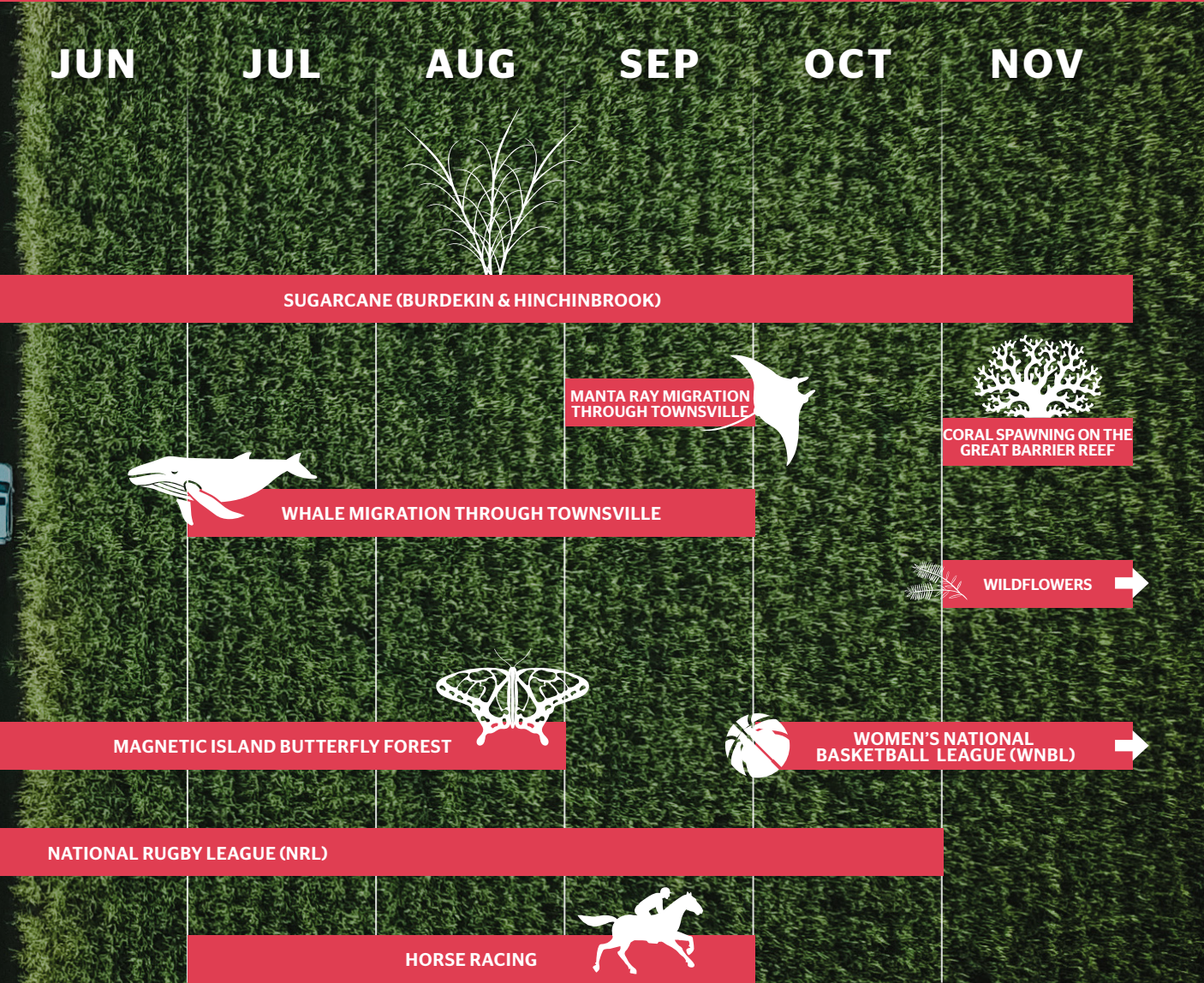
What's in Season...



Ingham cane fields by Jarrad Seng



Burdekin Farmland by Megan MacKinnon



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