

Places to visit

Cooktown

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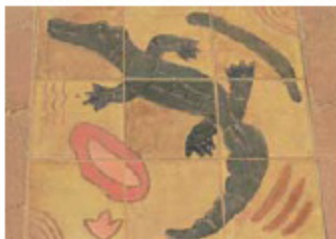
Cooktown sits at the mouth of the Croc infested Endeavour River in North Queensland. It is an interesting, unspoilt, small historic coastal town surrounded by stunning countryside. Cooktown is also Australia's closest town to the Great Barrier Reef. It is known for its laid-back atmosphere and friendly people. In 1770 when Captain Cook was in desperate need of a safe haven, he beached the Endeavour and named the river after his ship. He spent two months repairing the vessel. In 1873 gold was discovered along the Palmer River for which a new port and community took shape called Cook's Town.

Today, the town has a population of approximately 1600 and boasts some fascinating reminders of the area's past. Its rich heritage includes a self-guided Historic Streetscape Walk, incorporating buildings from the late 1800's, including the James Cook Museum. You will also find an amazing collection of Cape York plant life at Cooktown's Botanic Gardens, one of the oldest botanical gardens in Australia today.

Some of the tours available –

COOKTOWN HIGHLIGHTS - In a/c mini coaches, take an easy scenic tour of Cooktown passing by Bicentennial Park, Mibi Wall Cook Monument and Grassy Hill Lookout. Visit the James Cook Historical Museum and the Creative Art Association.

RELAXING RIVER CRUISE - Join this 1 hour very informative cruise in the historic harbour where Captain Cook beached the Endeavour. Your guide provides commentary. Bring your binoculars as there is usually a lot of birdlife and possibly crocodiles.



NUGAL-WARRA ROCK ART: ANCIENT STORIES OF A LIVING CULTURE - Travel a short distance to the Hope Vale Aboriginal Community where a village elder shares some of the rock art. Learn about some of the legends as you visit three of the caves during your 90-minute walk. You should wear comfortable shoes.



MYSTERY OF BLACK MOUNTAIN - Travel by 4WD to the intriguing Black Mountain at the northern most tip of the Wet Tropics World Heritage area. From the lookout you have spectacular views of this mass of blue green algae causing the black appearance. This is an area with many legends, plants and animals. You take the coastal road back and visit the historic Lions Den Hotel where you can purchase a drink.

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF - Travel on a small sailing sloop yacht for the two hour journey to the Reef. Once at the site, one can swim, snorkel and enjoy a buffet lunch before the return to Cooktown.

COOKTOWN HISTORY- SIGHTS - GARDENS - Enjoy an opportunity to see the beaches that Captain James Cook first sighted. Enjoy a stroll at Keating's Lagoon where large numbers of birds thrive, visit scenic Quarantine Bay and Finch Bay, and enjoy free time to explore the peaceful Botanical Gardens.





The smaller expedition type ships are able to berth, however the larger cruise ship have to anchor off shore and use their tenders to bring passengers ashore. The walk from the jetty to the main street is most interesting as you pass monuments to James Cook, where the Endeavour was beached and to the early miners. Along the way there are a large number of drawings and explanations etched into the concrete walkway as you make your way towards the main street which provides an avenue for a leisurely stroll around the town. Interesting sites are the Post Office, erected in 1887 and the nearby RSL Club, built in 1885. Across the street is the Jackey Jackey Store, built in 1886 as a general store and living quarters. During our visit it had a For Sale Notice displayed. As you walk along the main street you pass the Cook Shire Council

highlights of the town, allowing you to hop on and off as often as you wish. Cost is \$15.00 a ticket.

Cooktown is a very interesting place to visit. We are happy to say we have been there.



Offices, the Sovereign Resort Hotel and the Ferris Estates, built in 1886 for the Bank of North Queensland. Nearby is the magnificent Bank building, c1891, which exhibits memorabilia, collected by the Cooktown Historical Society. Up on the hill is the James Cook Museum administered by the National Trust of Queensland. The building was constructed in 1889 by the Catholic Church as St Mary's Convent for the Sisters of Mercy. A shuttle service runs from the wharf to the major

