



2023 JOURNEY BOOKLET A WORLD UNTO ITSELF

Strait Experience recognises the Traditional Owners of the land on which we operate. We acknowledge the past and present elders of all Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area and respect the culture and lore of all Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region.













Welcome to STRAIT EXPERIENCE

On behalf of the entire Strait Experience team we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Torres Strait. Where natural beauty, culture and hospitality meet.

As Torres Strait locals we are the first to admit that the region is a world unto itself. Distance, culture and geography combine to make tourism accessibility particularly difficult; yet intrepid travellers who venture here will be rewarded with a glimpse into a fascinating culture, stunning landscapes and a slice of history.

Strait Experience is as much a movement as it is a locally operated and indigenous-lead Destination Management Company and Travel Agency. We have proudly built an ecommerce business which amplifies Torres Strait operators into a bigger and more sustainable domestic tourism markets.

With our operations on Thursday Island, we provide extraordinary in-region support and advice. From an industry perspective, Strait Experience is a starting point for businesses and individual who want to access the region but don't know what's available, how much it will cost, what's the schedule and what makes each island unique.

Unlike existing tourism operators in the region, we don't operate our own tours and therefore have complete impartiality and neutrality in our advice and recommendations. We also create tailored packages from our tour operators and accommodation providers which are expertly curated to exemplify Ailan Kastom (Island Custom).



We respectfully obtained a blessing from Traditional Owners to operate our packages. Beyond this blessing to operate, Strait Experience, has established a Community Fund, called the 'Good Pasin Community Fund' which commits 5% of inbound package costs to the local Native Title Prescribed Body Corporate of where the Package operates. On top of the fund, a stand-alone Welcome to Country payment is provided on every package. These commitments form a significant financial injection to a diverse amount of community.

We also recognise that any tourism must be respectful of Ailan Kastom (Island Custom) and maintain community safety and cultural preservation as paramount factors. We continue to work with Traditional Owner groups via a two-way engagement process which develops a sustainable tourism model which considers the implementation of practical and real-world steps.



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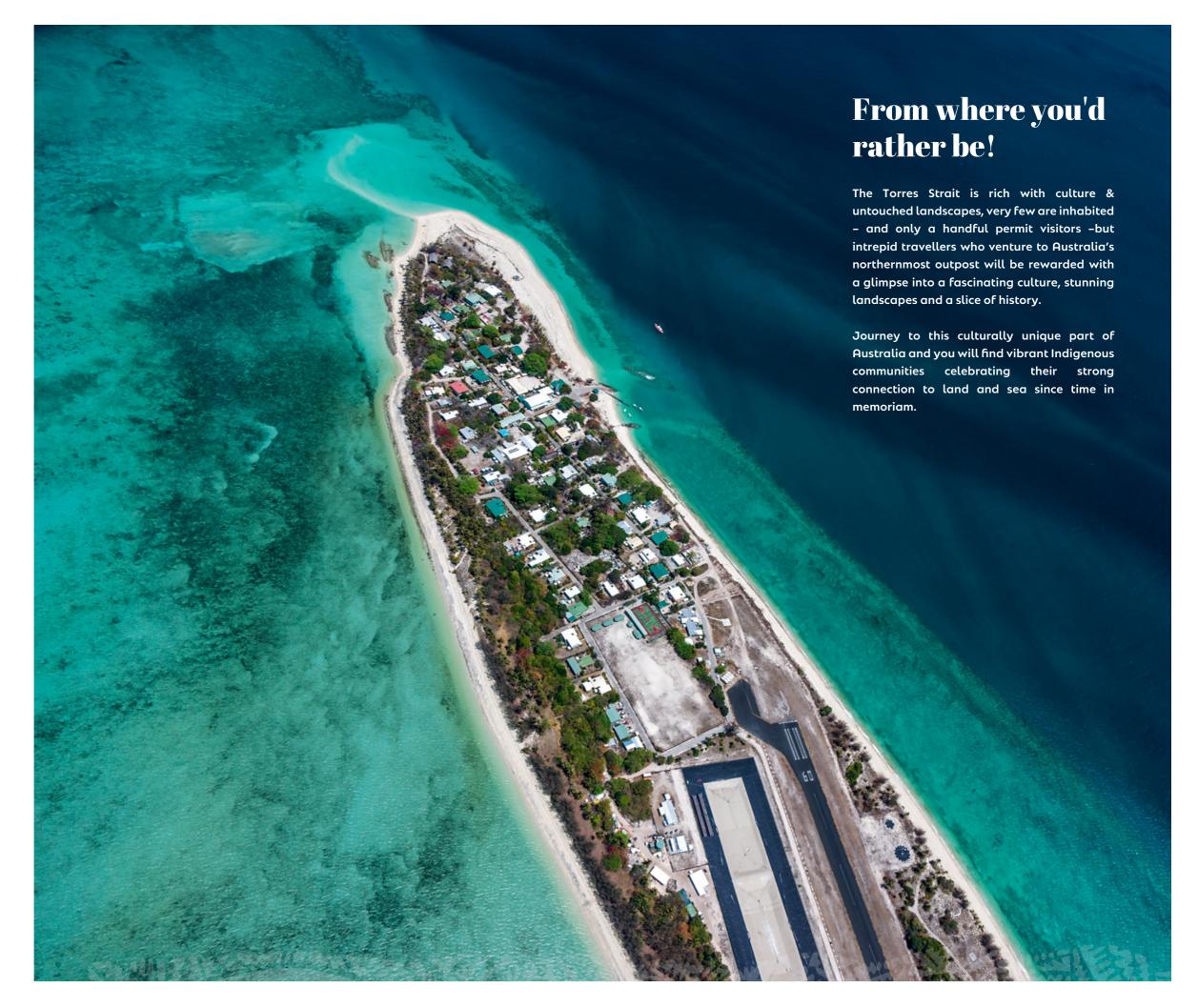
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About us STRAIT EXPERIENCE PTY LTD

Strait Experience Pty Ltd represents a locally operated and majority-owned indigenous business that is best described as a combination of a Destination Management Company (DMC), an Online Travel Agent (OTA) and a Regional Tourism Office (RTO). We act to connect out-of-region tourist and industries with small-scale tour operators, high-quality guides, comfortable accommodation and unparalleled in-region experiences.

Yet our edge is significant as it is simple – we are based in the region, we are local and we provide business development support to our suppliers. With our base-of-operation at both Thursday and Masig Island we provide extraordinary (and unprecedented) in-region support and advice.

The Team of Strait Experience

Ted 'Fraser' Nai

Fraser Nai (Co-founder) is an identified Traditional Owner on Masig Island, as well as a former Councillor of the Regional Council. Fraser has been involved in numerous tourism initiatives across the Torres Strait and has a long track record of public service including as a Board Member with a Queensland Health Service.

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John Palmer

Mr Palmer has gained broad based experience in Senior Management on a wide range of complex projects in North Queensland and Overseas. He has worked at senior levels of leadership in both Government and private sectors.

He currently operates a small group of experienced professional via his Consultancy business – Emver Partners John has a balanced, practical and professional approach supported by a keen eye for detail. He moved to the Torres Strait in 2014 and is proud to call the region home which he shares with his wife and young sons.

JA

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John Palmer

Ted 'Fraser' Nal

Co-founder of Strait Experience Co-founder of Strait Experience



'Mission of Cultural Respect

Strait Experience's mission is to make tourism and travel in the Torres Strait region commercially viable whilst maintaining culture respect for this unique region. Strait Experience uses its existing business experience and locally based network to build a culturally respectful, locally owned and environmentally conscious business. Central to their mission has been the engagement of local businesses operating microenterprises to provide small-scale, high-end tourism markets with a truly unmatched cultural and regional experience. The company uses its existing Business Management and Economic Development expertise to proactively nurture mutually beneficial synergies between its customers, its suppliers (indigenous operators) and the government bodies which provide support and facilitation to drive business success.

Vision for the Future

Strait Experiences vision for the future is to provide a locally operated, sustainable business which establishes itself as a regional leader in commercially viable, bespoke tourism experiences.

Socio-economic benefits

For a tourism business, Strait Experience delivers unprecedented social and community benefits in the Torres Strait. The regions tourism capacity is unique with untapped potential due to the regions unique culture, history, heritage, geography and isolation. The following high-level social benefits have been identified:

- It allows residents to stay in the region, to work on the island and to live their culture.
- Indigenous-based Cultural tourism is a key tourism sub-sector for the region, the expansion and increase in these experiences aids in the preservation of cultures via economic benefits.
- Alignment of tourist-based businesses with youth-based education programs to create a strong sense of belonging and connection whilst developing valuable skills that can be applied across a wide range of industries.
- Support the community to selfdetermine their own employment on-Country and leverage existing cultural skillsets
- Maximisation of the wider community dynamic – encompassing



the non-Indigenous and transient population – by allowing the wider community to engage with culture and learn about the heritage, practices, arts and language.

 A tangible and direct opportunity for interested travellers and new community entrants to directly support local Indigenous businesses.





Strait Experience continually works to engage small-scale indigenous operators to build their business and their profile to provide a high-quality list of products, services, experiences, tours and accommodation options for every type of traveller





Buying local, supports locals

Strait Experience is proud to be able to support local businesses and community groups. As a Thursday Island based business, as we grow, we will commit to supporting community by:

- Sponsoring local indigenous events, activities and teams.
- Providing pro-bono technical support, business advice and mentoring to other local businesses.
- Establish local school sessions to introduce Yr. 11 & 12 students to a career in regional-based Tourism.
- Prioritise the engagement of local and indigenous business where possible.
- At all times positively promote the Torres Straits, its culture, its environment and its people.



Community Engagement

Strait Experience is deeply committed to setting unprecedented levels of high-quality community and stakeholder engagement. Our local business and on-island experiences mean we can provide our clients and customers with high levels of confidence towards culturally conscious and respectful experiences.



This includes:

- The amount of compensation community receives as a community but also as a individuals business operator including food, accommodation and experiences;
- Beyond monetary payments this engagement would identify areas which are sacred and not accessible; and
- Briefings on basic island protocols to limit any cultural misunderstandings or confusions.

We are driven by a strong belief that Tourism in this region must be driven in a transparent, meaningful, two-way relationship with community in which we implement our packages around the best interests of community.



Strait Experience is deeply committed to setting unprecedented levels of high-quality community and stakeholder engagement.

Local & Indigenous Suppliers

Strait Experience believes that for the region to economically prosper it must maximise local employment, training, and business supply opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and local businesses. We enact this belief by implementing the following:

- Early engagement of regional councils, Native Title holders, Elders, Traditional Owners to maximise information of our operational plan and ensure all parties are properly informed.
- Where we work with third-party, nonregional businesses we will seek to ensure they hold the same business values. As much as possible, we will proudly act as a 'link' to ensure other



key businesses of our supply chain are positively informed about the region.

 Where possible, Strait Experience will use existing databases, and our own developing sources of information to find and engage Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander owned business to partner in our business.



Discover AUSTRALIA'S TORRES STRAIT

From the northern tip of Cape York to Papua New Guinea, almost 300 islands dot the ocean like steppingstones. Very few are inhabited – and only a handful permit visitors – but intrepid travellers who venture to Australia's northernmost outpost will be rewarded with a glimpse into a fascinating culture, stunning landscapes and a slice of history. Journey to this culturally unique part of Australia and you will find vibrant Indigenous communities celebrating their strong connection to land and sea since time in memoriam.

Strait Experience is a proudly Torres Strait owned business – our trust with community, lived experience in the region and stakeholder network has enabled us to 'unlock' the regions tourism potential with an unmatched level of accessibility. Strait Experience continually works to engage small-scale indigenous operators to build their business and their profile to provide a high-quality list of products, services, experiences, tours and accommodation options for every type of traveller.





The term 'Torres Strait Islander' is used to describe people who come from the islands of the Torres Strait - a section of ocean that stretches from the tip of the Cape York Peninsula in Oueensland across to Papua New Guinea. There are almost 300 islands in the Torres Strait, but only 17 of those are populated. Between 8000 and 10000 years ago, there was a land bridge between Australia and New Guinea that allowed ancient peoples to travel south from Asia and settle. Rising sea levels at the end of the last ice age flooded the area, leaving only the highest peaks above water. These peaks became the islands we know today.

The Torres Strait is divided into five major island clusters:

- Top Western Group (Boigu, Dauan and Saibai),
- Near Western Group (Badu, Mabuiag and Moa),
- Central Group (Yam, Warraber, Coconut and Masig),
- Eastern Group (Murray, Darnley and Stephen);
- Inner Island Group (Thursday, Horn, Hammond, Prince of Wales and Friday).

The Northern Pennisnula Area (NPA) of Cape York Peninsula is often included which includes 3 aboriginal communtiies (Injinoo, Umagico and New Mapoon) and 2 Torres Strait Islander communities (Bamaga and Seisia).

Three major dialects are spoken in the Torres Strait; Kala Kawa Ya (Top Western and Western), Kala Lagau Ya (Central) and Meriam (Eastern) predominate with the 'Creole' language that emerged after the arrival of the missionaries. The Torres Strait is the body of water between Australia and Papua New Guinea where the Pacific and Indian Oceans meet and where there are 133 islands, sandy cays and rocky outcrops of which 38 are inhabited. The

population of the Torres Strait at the last Census (2011) totalled 7490 people.

The fishery of the Torres Strait with the exception of trochus shell continues today and Waibene (Thursday Island) exemplifies the multiculturalism of the Torres Strait where people of many races and nationalities live and work

As the only part of Australia with an active international border and where the neighbouring country is visible from the shoreline, the Torres Strait has gained a strategic focus from Commonwealth and State governments. The issues of customs, quarantine, immigration and defence are administered daily from Waibene within a treaty that also maintains traditional cultural and trade ties between Papua New Guinea and the people of the Torres Strait

Cultural Protocol

Strait Experience is committed to providing services to the region that respects the unique qualities of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture which are found inside the region. We recognise that understanding culture is a stepping-stone to understanding context. As you can appreciate it would be impossible to try and explain all the protocols of a culture which has existed since time immemorial. Yet below we tried to highlight some key points which can often be a starting point for misunderstandings or unintended offence. This will also a better experience for you as a traveller.

How To Get Here



X By Air

Qantas and Skytrans fly from Cairns to Horn Island daily.



⚠ By Sea

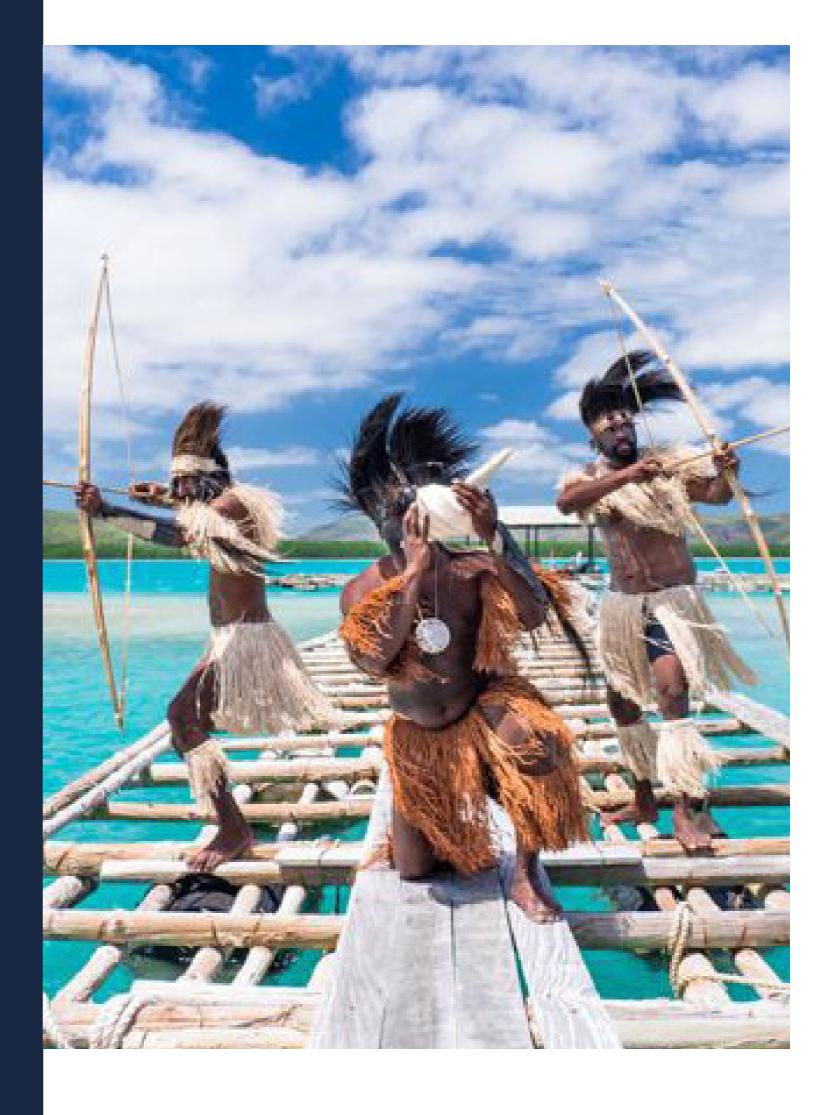
You can catch a ferry across to Thursday Island.

When To Visit

- Avoid stinging jellyfish (affectionately known as stingers) and the rain.
- Visit during the dry season, from May to September

What to Wear

- Lightwear gear
- Thick Jacket/ Raincoat
- Runners
- Walking Sandals
- Sunscreen
- Large Water Bottle





Destinations TORRES STRAIT REGION

From the volcanic islands in the eastern clusters, granite island of the western cluster, the eluvial wetland island of the northern cluster and the coral cay island of the central region as well as the open expanses of the Northern Peninsula Area there really is a destination to suit everyone's taste, style and budget

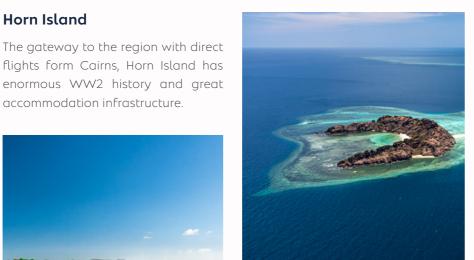
accommodation infrastructure.

Horn Island



Thursday Island ('TI')

As the commercial and administrative hub of the Torres Strait, TI is a great starting point with enormous amounts of history and experiences available.



Mer (Murray) Island

The Murray Group comprises of three high level volcanic islands, characterised by dense vegetation. Located within sight of the Great Barrier Reef. The islands are the home of Native Title in Australia.



Erub (Darnley) Island

The largest of the Eastern Islands, Erub is of volcanic origin. The island has many hills and good vegetation. The landing place of Christianity to the region and beautiful clear waters.



Northern Peninsula Area (NPA)

The NPA Region is made up of five indigenous communities of Injinoo, Umagico, New Mapoon, Seisia and Bamaga. A great staging point for the Torres Strait with great accommodation and activity options.



Only 5mins by boat from TI, Hammond Island is a hilly island, with mounds of basaltic rocks. Its church (built form the rock) is an incredible feat of ingenuity.

Hammond Island



Badu Island

Badu Island is one of the larger more populated islands of the region. The community is a great staging point to other smaller islands of the region.



Prince Of Wales Island (POW)

Spanning over 203km², POW is the biggest of all the island of the Torres Straits yet has a low population. Great for bushwalking and other land-based adventures.

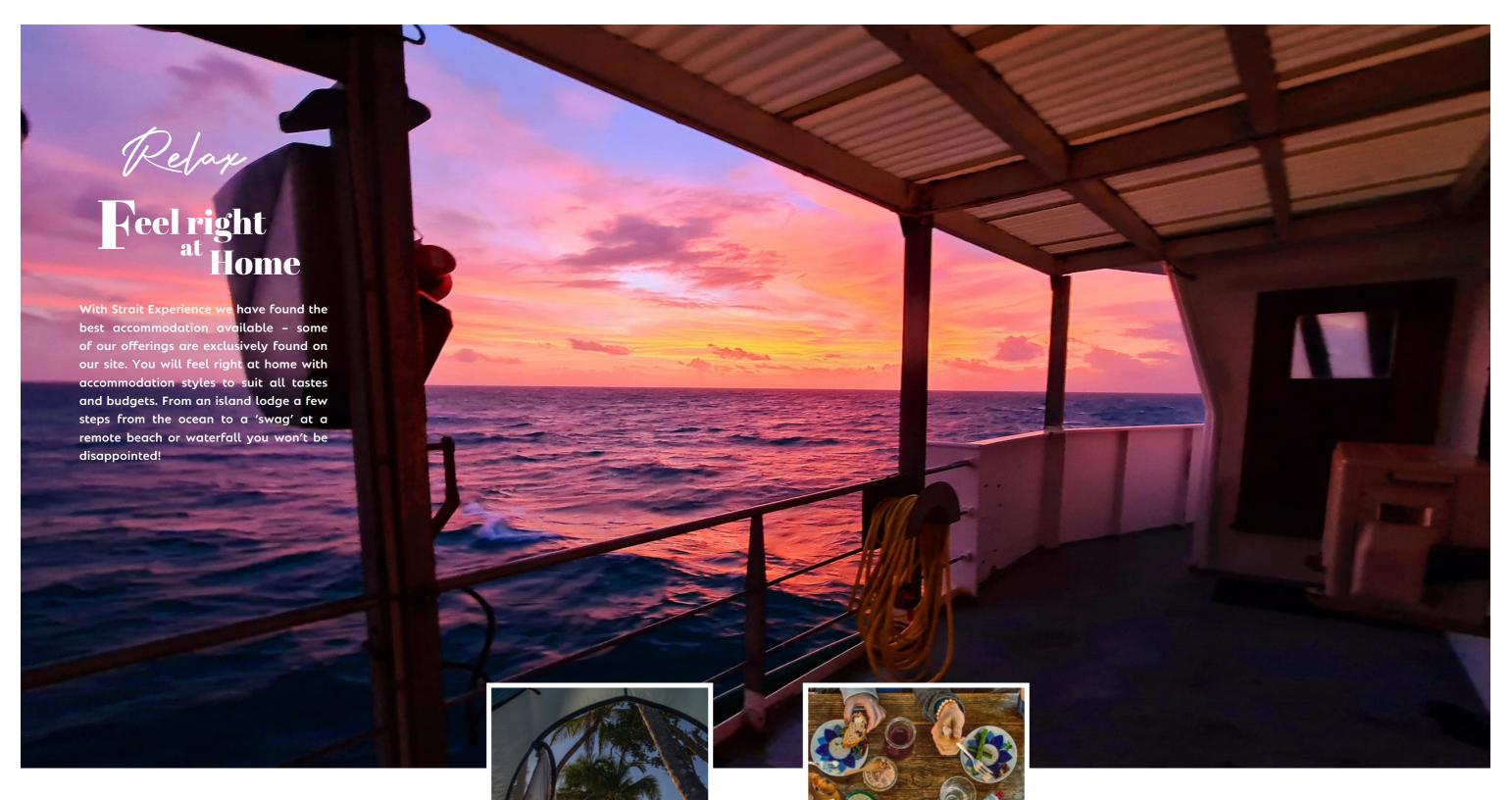


Masig (Yorke) Island

Everything an idyllic tropical island should be. A perfect staging post to explore both central and eastern island. Coconut tree fringed sandy beaches create a picture post card experience.



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B&B & Guesthouses

A Bed and Breakfast is typically a small establishment that offers overnight and weekend accommodation that includes breakfast. So if you want to spoil yourself for the weekend then a NPA. These include power, toilets and B&B is an excellent choice. Typically a Bed and Breakfast will be part of a private home that has a small number of rooms available.

Campers & Campings

Camping grounds and caravan parks are convenient, affordable and offer many services to the traveller. These are very common in around Bamaga/ showers, play areas and BBQ areas. Glamping is limited but what exists is amazing with a number of new facilities underway.

Houses (Homestay)

Homestays typically provide a middle-ground for tourists- they are more intimate than a hotel, but offer more of a formal setting than staying with friends and relatives. A homestay can offer the tourist with facilities that traditional types of accommodation may not be able to provide.

Cultural Stay

Cultural Stays are a relatively new concept that have been introduced in the region by Strait Experience to give tourists an unparalleled experience in the way in which communities in the Torres Strait Experience everyday life. It is similar to a normal homestay but we differentiate so people understand the uniqueness of this style of accommodation.











Experiences **TORRES STRAIT REGION**

All Tours & Experiences

Not sure where to go what to do? The following information shows all our tours and experiences and is a great way to unpack all options available.

Cultural Experiences

Torres Strait Islanders have a distinct culture which varies slightly within each island or community. A proud sea-faring people who engaged in trade and war with people of Papua New Guinea and Northern Australia.

Historical Site Experiences

Cave paintings, sacred stone carvings, meeting areas and storytelling locations can all form part of this Experience.

PNG Meet & Greet Experience

The only place in Australia where another country travels daily to trade and visit. Meet & Greets are a moving experience.

Crabbing & Prawning Experiences

The western islands have some of Australia's best crabbing and prawning areas. Watch out for crocs!

Church & Religion Experiences

Church and religion are a huge component of Torres Strait Islander life, Sundays service is an unique twist on a classic event

Tombstone Unveiling Experience

Moving and enlightening this experience is a way of reaffirming the imperishable bonds between the living and the departed.

Fire by the Beach Experience

One of the Torres Strait's most epic experiences. Start with a world-class sunset followed by a Fire by the beach. Turtle Nesting Experience

From November to late March visitors

glimpse of a turtle's world—at least for one night!

Turtle Nesting Experience

have a unique opportunity to catch a glimpse of a turtle's world—at least for one night!

Glamping & Camping in the Torres Strait comes with multi-million-dollar views of beaches and bush.

During the wet season the rivers and creeks run creating infinity falls and plunge pools with unbeatable backdrops.

Adventure Experiences

The warm water and coral fringed islands are becoming globally popular for Kite surfing and spearfishing.

Cultural Festival Experience

Every second September, Thursday Island holds the Winds Of Zenadth Cultural Festival where the communities of the Torres Strait descend on the island. This spectacular cultural event includes song, dance, and the sense of motion created by and art.

Share your experiences with us **#StraitExperience**

#TorresStrait **#TorresStraitIslands**



info@straitexperience.com.au



have a unique opportunity to catch a **Cruise & Liveaboard Experience**

Newly established but increasingly popular are a growing number of quality cruise operations.

From November to late March visitors **Turtle and Dugong Spotting** Experience

The Torres Strait has some of the highest number of Turtles and Dugongs in the **Glamping & Camping Experiences** world. They are both often seen while on the water.

Food and Dining Experience

Steered by plentiful seafood, Torres Waterfalls & Walking Experiences Strait food is a multicultural melting pot with food having a strong Asian

Fishing & Spearfishing Experiences

Some of Australia's most arable fishing fields are found inside the Torres Strait where Crabs, Prawns, Crays and Fish abound.

Ailan Kastom Experiences

Torres Strait Islanders have a strong connection with their islands and sea country, governed by the unique Ailan Kastom (Island Custom).

Torres Strait art pieces wil immediately catch your eye with their striking detail, the intricate patterns.

Island Hopping Experiences

A world-class island-hopping location with almost 300 islands scattered across the Torres Strait, only 17 are inhabited.

Wartime and Military Experiences

A long history of service and sacrifice. During WWII the Torres Strait was Australia's 2nd most bombed location after Darwin.



2023 CALENDAR OF JOURNEYS

JOURNEY	PAGE #	PRICED FROM		2023 DEPARTURE MONTHS											
CHARTERS & TOURS				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	No.	Dec
Coral Cays and Culture	3	\$3,250	3				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Art, Culture and Sunsets	3	\$3,250	3					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
A Strait Day	3	\$3,250	3					•	•	•	•	•			
Tip in a Day	3	\$3,250	3							•	•	•			
A Strait Escape	3	\$3,250	3				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birds of Cape York and Torres Strait	3	\$3,250	3		•		•		•		•		•		
Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival	3	\$3,250	3					•	•						
Strait Round	3	\$3,250	3					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Cultural Practice Training	3	\$3,250	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
EXCLUSIVES & BESPOKE PACKAGES				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Juc	Aug	Sep	Oct	> N N	Dec
Edge of Australia	3	\$3,250	3				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
The Zenadth Kes	3	\$3,250	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birds of Torres Strait	3	\$3,250	3				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	

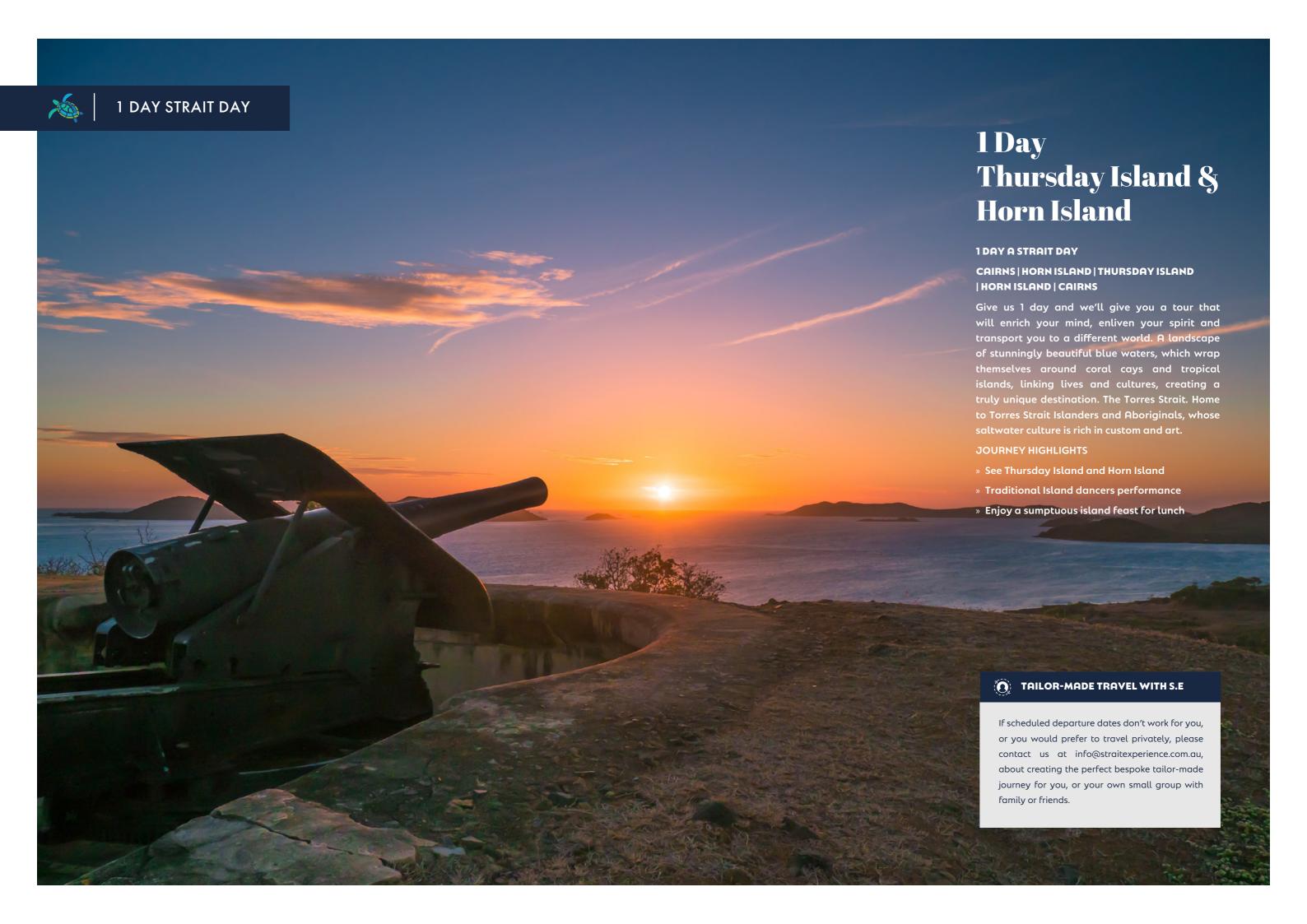


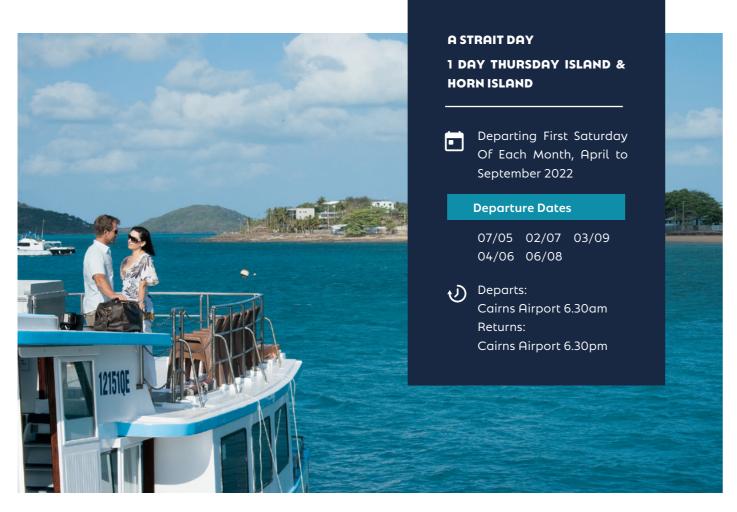


1 BOOKING INFORMATION

To reserve your space now on these select 2023 Strait Experience Journey, speak with your onboard guide or for further details visit at www.straitexperience.com.au









An experienced Islander guide shares their stories and living history, delving deep into the cultural and natural wonders of their home. Be mesmerised by traditional Islander Dancing, meet celebrated local artists and visit historic landmarks. Traverse the land and sea of two of the Torres Strait's Inner Islands, Horn Island and Thursday Island, in one unforgettable Strait Day.

See www.straitexperience.com.au for up-to-date 2023 departure dates, availability and pricing.

THE TORRES STRAIT, A TROPICAL ARCHIPELAGO

The Torres Strait sits above the Australian mainland. A tropical archipelago of 274 islands. Green gems in a vast blue sea - island stepping stones - scattered between Queensland and Papua New Guinea. Home to descendants of ancient seafarers, skilled navigators who keep their culture alive and maintain their ties to land and sea.

Only 17 of the islands are inhabited and on the 1 Strait Day tour, you visit two the most populated ones – Horn and Thursday Island. This provides those travellers short on time, the ability to engage with people and culture, enrich with experiences and leave with memories of vast blue seas, tropical islands, traditional dancing and our fiercely and proudly defended northern frontier.

(···) INCLUSIONS AND EXTRAS

- » Accompanied by an experienced Torres Strait Islander Guide
- » Return flights between Cairns & Horn Island
- » All transfers, including water taxi and coaches
- » Island Tours:
- 2 Hour Horn Island Tour including Torres Strait Heritage Museum,
- 2 Hour Thursday Island Tour including Green Hill Fort and Thursday Island Cemetery
- » Cultural Activities
- Feasting-style lunch buffet
- Visit to Gab Titui Cultural Centre and Gallery (if open on day of visit)
- 1 Hour Traditional Islander Dancing & Singing Performance
- Artist Presentation & Discussion
- Q & A with Torres Strait Islander Guide on return flight to Cairns
- » Optional Extras: N/A



Stop 1 | HORN ISLAND - Military History & Museum

Your Strait Day starts with a spectacular scenic flight on a private charter. Taking off from Cairns your compass heads north, crossing over the Great Barrier Reef and vast wilderness area that is Queensland's Cape York Peninsula. Leaving the mainland behind, our touch down point in the Torres Strait is Horn (Ngurupai) Island, which has a fusion of Melanesian, Torres Strait and Australian Aboriginal cultures. This island has a rich cultural, mining and military history, which will be revealed to you on a 2 hour Horn Island tour.

Horn Island Tour

The Torres Strait was a critical Allied Forces stronghold during the war. Hundreds of local men enlisted to defend their country - in fact, at Horn Island, only 10 able-bodied men remained to protect their community and to this day, the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion, is the only Indigenous battalion in Australia's military history.

During this tour you'll walk in their steps, visiting gun emplacements, slit trenches, underground rooms and more. Stop in at the Torres Strait Heritage Museum on Horn Island to gain further insights – here you can read diaries and historic newspapers, see maps and learn more about the





area's rich wartime history, local myths and legends and more.

The adventure continues when you catch a local ferry to Thursday Island. Slicing through the impossibly turquoise water, keep watch for fish, turtles and dugongs which thrive in this tropical paradise.

Stop 2 | THURSDAY ISLAND - Cultural Centre, Performances & History

Thursday (Waiben) Island is the administrative hub for the Torres Strait and home to the Island Stars experience found directly opposite Bayo Beach on Main Street. This is a locally run business representing a contemporary art gallery and keeping place for cultural artefacts. It's also the space where you'll engage with traditional Ailan Kastom (Island Custom) through art and dance, during a local feasting-style lunch buffet. A respected Torres Strait Islander dance group will showcase their vibrant culture with a 1-hour performance, in traditional ceremonial dress and adornments. Their movements are powerful and represent years of practice. Their Dhari headdress are intricate and beautiful, like nothing you've ever seen before.

This expands your growing awareness of the rich tapestry of art, dance, rituals and performance that keeps language and traditional knowledge alive, in the Torres Strait. Meet celebrated visual artists and

admire their incredibly detailed lino prints, which illustrate various aspects of island life, legends and custom. Artworks are available for sale and apart from supporting the local community and culture, these works make a striking, contemporary addition to any décor, serving as a visual reminder of your time in the Torres Strait.

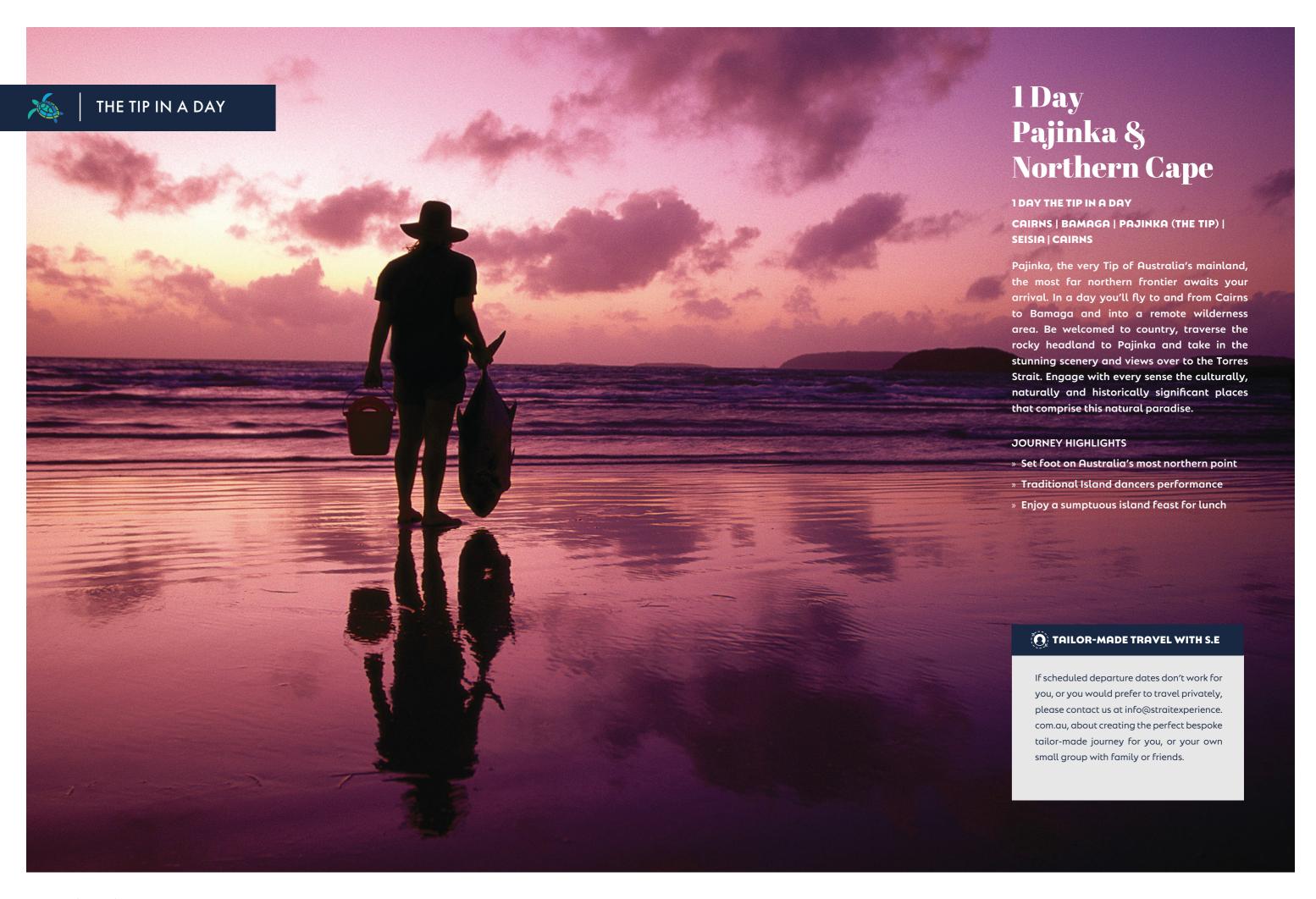
Thursday Island Tour

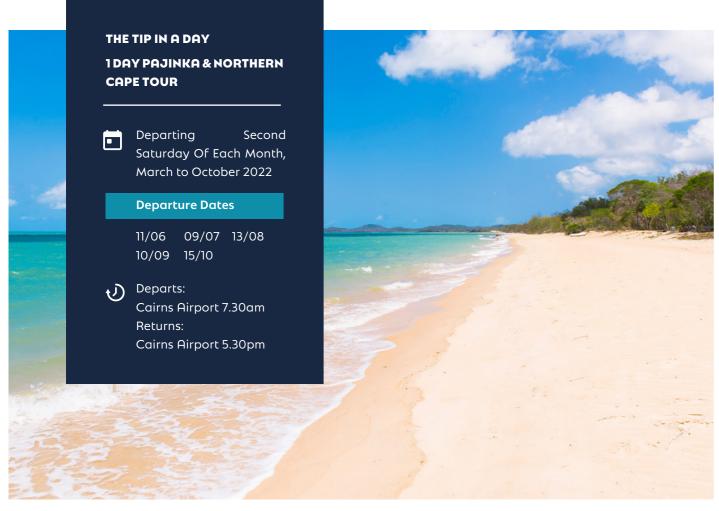
Traverse more of the cultural tapestry, military history, religious and commercial activity that is island life, on a 2 hour Thursday Island tour. A comfortable air-conditioned coach takes you around the island, visiting key points of interest, which your local guide will illuminate through an interesting and informative commentary.

Highlights include Green Hill Fort and the historic Thursday Island cemetery. Positioned on the hill, Green Hill Fort is an ideal place to get some truly unique photographs, with a stunning backdrop of blue seas and islands. The Fort was constructed in the late 1800s to help protect Australia from a possible Russian invasion. The gun emplacements are still in place, but the canons have been disarmed. In the underground rooms beneath, there's an extensive array of military artefacts, uniforms and more.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

- Minimum of 30 people are required for this trip to operate
- Bookings close 2 weeks prior to departure
- Full refund provided if minimum numbers are not met
- A credit will be issued should the trip need to be suspended due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions





Your experienced Indigenous guide provides the link between you, the landscape, culture and community. Traditional dance performances showcase a vibrant and living culture. Local artists display their detailed works, which represent important aspects of traditional and natural life. Historical remnants of early European days and wartime history, round out your 1 Day, Tip In A Day tour.

NORTHERN PENINSULA AREA (NPA)

Australia's Northern Peninsula Area is a culturally, naturally and historically important part of Queensland and Australia. Culturally it's home to Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, whose saltwater culture is rich in custom and art. Its landscape is a stunning mosaic of golden beaches, tropical rainforest, epic coastlines and seriously blue water.

You get to experience it all, engage with people and culture, enrich with experiences and leave with memories of rocky headlands, vast blue seas, traditional dancing and our fiercely and proudly defended northern frontier.





SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

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- · Bookings close 2 weeks prior to departure
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Stop 1 | BAMAGA - Culture & Military History

Short on time, but not going to compromise on experience? Tip In A Day is for you. Launching from Cairns on a private charter you'll fly over the Great Barrier Reef and remote wilderness area that is Cape York Peninsula. From the air, you can appreciate this vast tract of largely unpopulated land. Our destination is the Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) which is home to both Torres Strait and Australian Aboriginal people and cultures. We touch down at Bamaga, which is one of two NPA Torres Strait communities and will visit the other one, Seisia and of course - journey to Pajinka (The Tip).

Bamaga - A Saibai Island Community

Bamaga is the largest of the five NPA communities and is the administrative hub for the area. It's named after its founder from the Torres Strait island of Saibai, Bamaga Ginau. It has a permanent population of around 1,000 people and with its airport, it provides an important transport link between this northern outpost and the rest of the country.

Bamaga Airport was originally built during Word War II. There are two plane wrecks here from that era, including a DC3 that crashed into trees on approach, killing 6 passengers. We'll visit the wreck to pay our respects and remember how vital the top end of Australia was, as a part of the Allied defense.

Stop 2 | SEISIA - A Coastal Saibai **Island Community**

Seisia is a very scenic waterfront community, with golden beaches, coconut trees and a busy jetty, providing the launching point for many day trips to the Torres Strait. Seisia is where you connect with culture. Share a local feasting style lunch,



as a respected Torres Strait Islander dance group showcase their vibrant culture, with a 1-hour performance in traditional ceremonial dress and adornments. Their movements are powerful and precise. Their Dhari headdress are intricate and beautiful, like nothing you've ever seen before.

You'll also meet accomplished local artists, who will talk on their work and inspiration. Artworks are available for sale and apart from supporting the local community and culture, these works make a striking, contemporary addition to any décor, serving as a visual reminder of your time at the Tip of Australia.

Stop 3 | PAJINKA - The Tip, Australia's Most Northern PoinTt.

Pajinka awaits. Your guide will take you over the rocky headlands to Pajinka, also known as 'The Tip', where you can stand with the sign and get that bucket list photo. The seas, breeze,

beaches and views to the Torres Strait beyond are remarkable, combining to make this a place you will remember forever. A 2 hour guided tour of Pajinka and all that surrounds it, is included in the Tip In A Day experience.

As well as Pajinka, you'll also visit Somerset, or what is left of what was once planned to be the Singapore of Australia. In 1864 construction of Somerset commenced and when completed, it had a magistrate's house, hospital, barracks, police quarter's, armoury and customs house. The first magistrate was John Jardine - the Jardine family played a significant role in the early European days on the Cape - sadly, it was poorly positioned and eventually the Somerset settlement was abandoned.

We'll stop at the legendary Croc Tent, provides the opportunity to purchase some merchandise to remember your trip to the Tip.

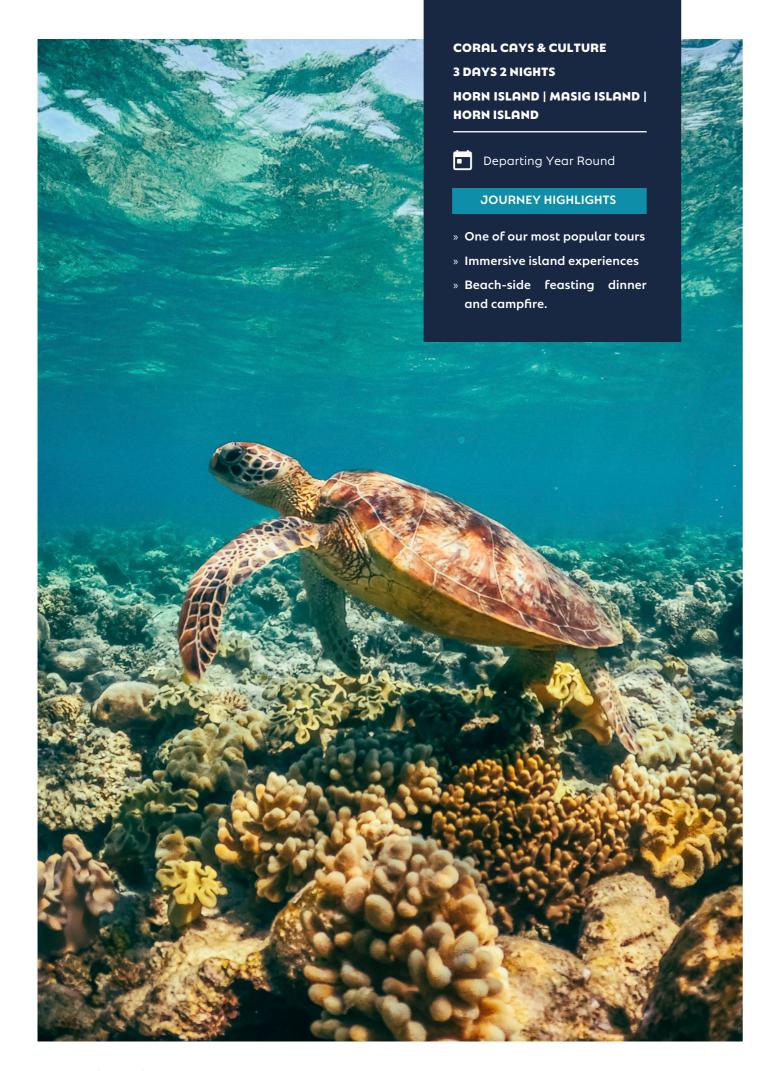
(···) INCLUSIONS AND EXTRAS

- » Accompanied by an experienced Torres Strait Islander Guide
- » Return flights between Cairns & Horn Island
- » All transfers, including coaches and/ or 4WD
- » Tour To The Tip:
- 2 Hour Guided Tour of Pajinka (northern most 'tip' of Australia)
- Visit Somerset
- Stop-in at the legendary Croc Tent

Cultural Activities:

- Welcome to Country
- Feasting-style lunch buffet
- 1 Hour Traditional Islander Dancing & Singing Performance
- Indigenous Artist Presentation & Discussion
- Q & A with an Indigenous Guide on return flight to Cairns
- » Optional Extras: N/A







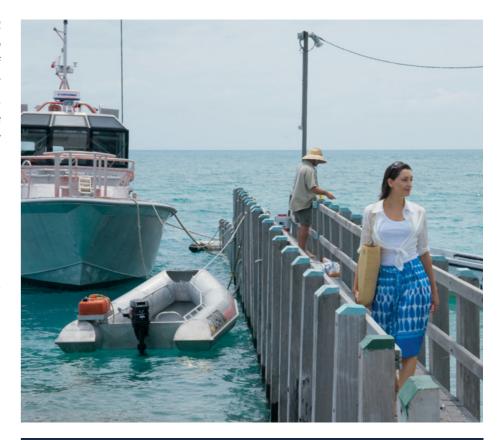
Your island home for this 3 day / 2 night adventure is Masig Island, also known as Yorke Island, and part of the Torres Strait, Central Island cluster group. A place of remarkable beauty. A place to connect with nature and culture, on a pristine sand cay surrounded by coral gardens.

MASIG (YORKE) ISLAND, YOUR ISLAND HOME

Masig (Yorke) Island is part of the Central Islands, a cluster of sand cays, with beautiful beaches. This tiny cay is everything an idyllic, tropical destination should be. A green gem in a blue sea, measuring no more than 800m wide and 2.7km long, with coconut tree fringed sandy beaches. Surrounded by stunningly clear, vibrant blue waters, home to coral gardens and an array of marine creatures, including turtles and dugongs. The ground level is no more than 3m above sea level and more than half of Masig retains undisturbed vegetation. The island's permanent population numbers less than 300 and their cultural context has been passed on through languages and traditional upbringing, as a way of life by their ancestors from time immemorial.



See www.straitexperience.com.au for up-to-date 2023 departure dates, availability and pricing.



(···) INCLUSIONS AND EXTRAS

- » Return flights between Horn & Masig Island
- » 2 nights twin-share accommodation at Lowatta Lodg
- » Some Meals. Day 1 Lunch & Dinner. Day 2 – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner. Day 3 – Breakfast & Lunch
- » Cultural Activities:
- Welcome to Country
- Informal Historical Introduction
- Coconut Oil Making Class
- $\bullet \ \ \mathsf{Traditional} \ \mathsf{Hunting} \ \mathsf{Demonstration}$
- Make Your Own Fishing Spear

- Locally-inspired Seafood Feasts
- Traditional Islander Dancing & Singing Performance
- Guided Walk to Kondall Island (weather and tide dependent)
- Opportunity to purchase local art
- » Optional Extras:
- Return, interconnecting flights between Cairns & Horn Island
- Horn Island Wartime Tour & Lunch (prior to departure on Day 1 of the tour)

YOUR STAY SUPPORTS THEIR COMMUNITY & CULTURE

Masig Island's visionary community strive to protect interest and culture. Your stay supports this purpose, contributing to the social and economic wellbeing of the island. During your sojourn here in the heart of the Torres Strait, you'll discover a unique culture and be drawn into their traditional lifestyle. A place to embrace the land, sea and people, who together have existed in harmony for thousands of years.

Community connection is key to this Strait Experience – Masig Island Coral Cays and Culture. Every aspect of your visit is tailored to elevate your knowledge and illuminate your mind with traditional practices, continued to this very day with vibrant cultural purpose and practicalities. Come to a new world you've never seen, in Queensland's far north.











CORAL CAYS & CULTURE

DAY 1: Horn Island to Masig Island

All the best adventures start with a scenic flight. Climb aboard a Skytrans Cessna 208B Grand Caravan at Horn Island and take to the sky, flying high over the tropical archipelago that is the Torres Strait, on a 40 minute flight to Masig Island. Friendly local guides are waiting to greet you to their island home. An official Welcome to Country by a Masig Island Traditional Owner takes place at the Council Offices, which is where you check-in to community, before checking into your accommodation at Lowatta Lodge.

Today you'll learn all about the history and people of Masig Island. A place which has played a central position in the Strait's trading networks, for hundreds and thousands of years. Its people are renowned as skilled navigators, possessing detailed knowledge of the reefs and cycles of the sea. These stories are shared in a relaxed and informal information session.

DAY 2: Cultural Connection

Slide into island life and make some cultural connections, that's what day 2 on Masig Island is all about. After breakfast at the Lodge, you'll leave to meet a selected community representative, who will show you how to make Coconut Oil. Coconuts have long been an important part of island life, providing water, food

and materials for weaving. This is an engaging way to immerse in tradition.

There's free time to relax before lunch. Your journey of discovery continues in the early afternoon with locals sharing more on traditional Torres Strait Islander life, as well as the impacts of the pearl and trochus shell industry, missionaries and European settlement in the islands.



As the afternoon breezes blow across Masig Island, you'll be shown traditional hunting techniques and have the opportunity to make your own decorative spear. Sunset Beach is the place for a simply stunning sunset, and as the last golden rays disappear beneath the sea, it's time for a localinspired feast accompanied by a display of Traditional Island dancing and singing.

DAY 3: Island Time > Before Heading Back to Horn Island

After breakfast, there's two options available for your enjoyment. Firstly, you may like to kick back and relax. Stroll down to the beach and just enjoy the serenity of this island paradise. Or if you're feeling more adventurous, and the tides are right, there's the opportunity to take a guided walk to Kodall Island. Kodall sits very close to Masig - and the two cays are like sandy teardrops in the sea, sometimes separated by water, but united again at low tide (pending the season).

Lunch is at Lowatta Lodge, before you farewell Masig Island and catch a Skytrans flight back to Horn Islandforever. A 2 hour guided tour of Pajinka and all that surrounds it, is included in the Tip In A Day experience.

As well as Pajinka, you'll also visit Somerset, or what is left of what was once planned to be the Singapore of Australia. In 1864 construction of Somerset commenced and when completed, it had a magistrate's house, hospital, barracks, police quarter's, armoury and customs house. The first magistrate was John Jardine – the Jardine family played a significant role in the early European days on the Cape – sadly, it was poorly positioned and eventually the Somerset settlement was abandoned.

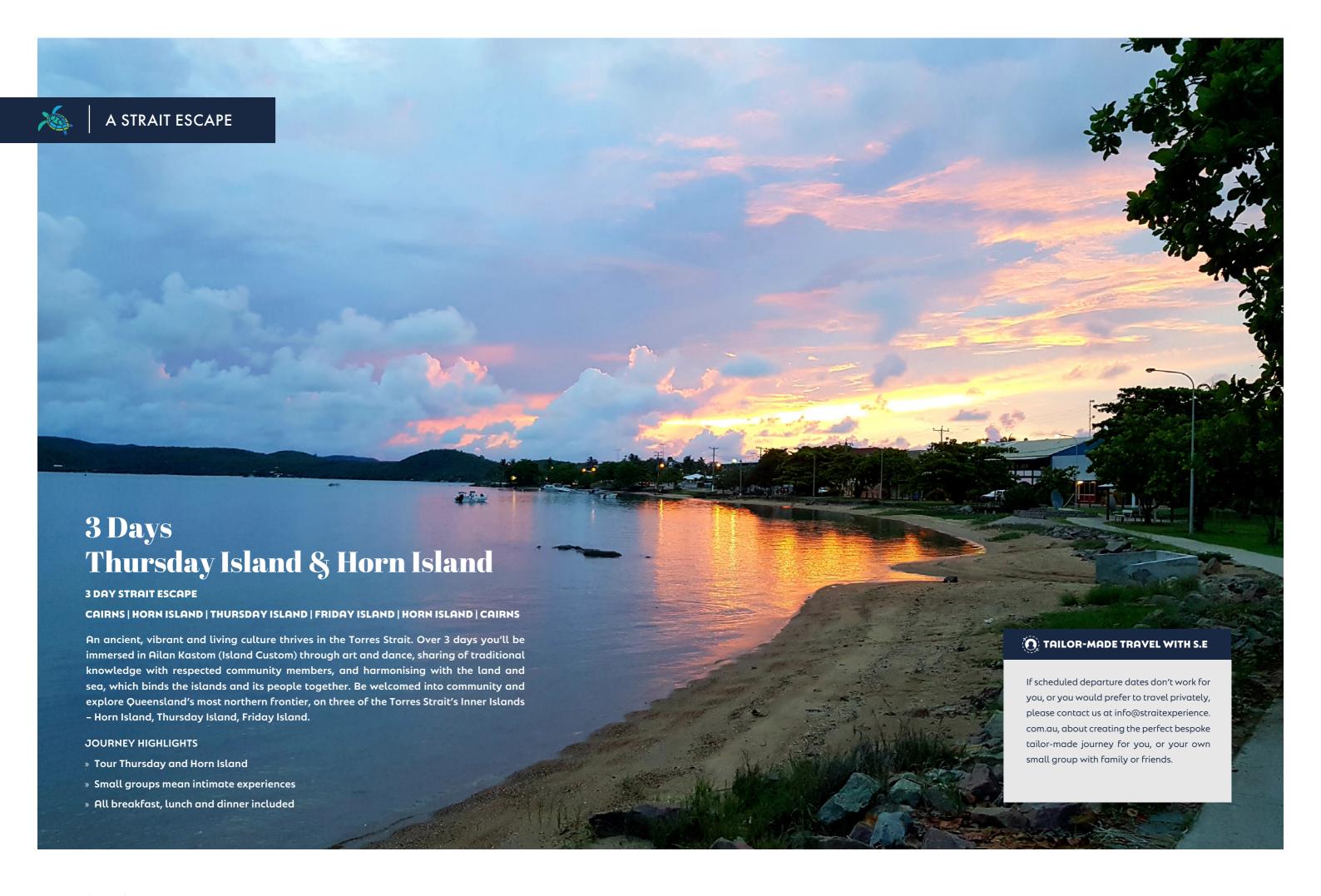
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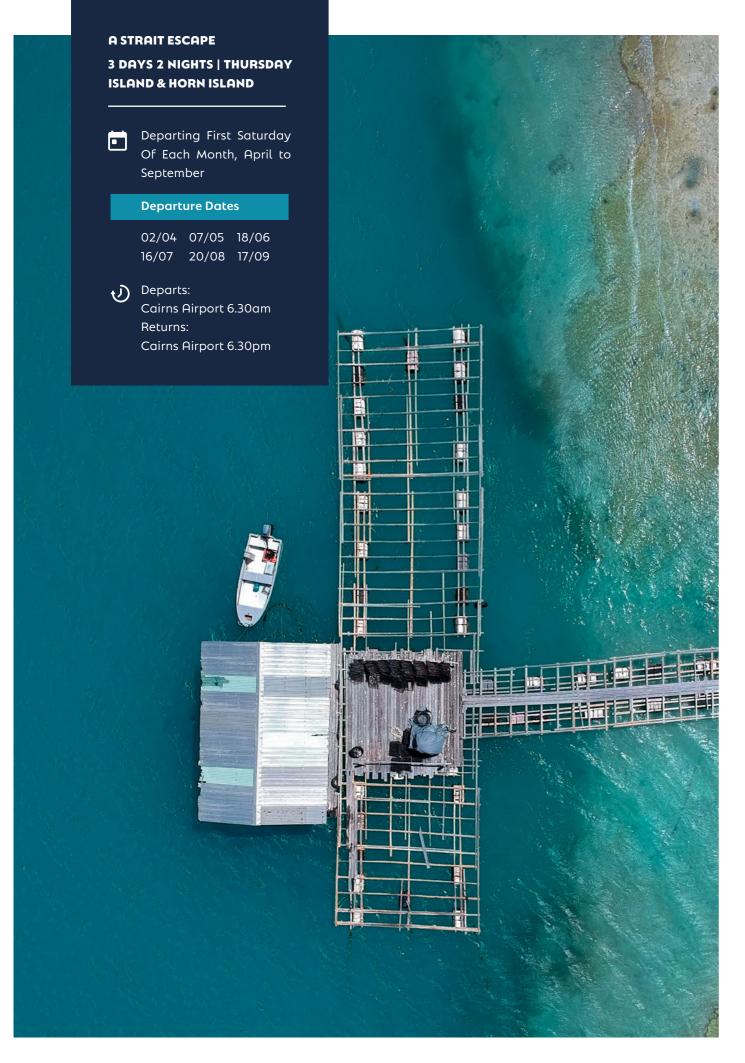


Lowatta Lodge, named after the traditional land owners

Your Coral Cays & Culture adventure on Masig Island takes you right into the far northern realms of Australia. Into the Torres Strait. A remote paradise where culture thrives and the people are deeply connected to land and sea. Masig Island is a tiny dot in a big blue sea. Your accommodation here is at Lowatta Lodge, named after the traditional land owners – the Lowatta family. It's owned by the Community Organisation (Kailag Enterprises Ltd) and run by local community members. Its accommodation is comfortable, but note it is of a different standard to city accommodation.









Launching from Cairns, you'll take to the sky for a seriously scenic flight to Horn Island, flying over the Great Barrier Reef and wilderness area of Cape York Peninsula, going beyond Australia's mainland to the tropical archipelago that is the Torres Strait. Your island home for this 3 day / 2 night adventure is Waiben Island, also known as Thursday Island.



THURSDAY (WAIBEN) ISLAND, YOUR ISLAND HOME

Thursday (Waiben) Island is part of the Inner Islands of the Torres Strait. A place where the people are strongly connected to the land, the sea and celebrate their rich culture and traditions. An interesting fact is that Thursday Island is on Aboriginal Country (not Torres Strait Country). You will learn more about this on the Thursday Island tour, where your local guide points out historically and culturally important landmarks to the Kaurareg Nation people, who are the identified Aboriginal Traditional Owners.

Today, Thursday Island is the administrative hub of the Torres Straits, and has a permanent population of over 2,500 people, which fluctuates with the arrival and departure of residents from the surrounding islands, visiting for supplies. It's a place to engage with people and culture, enrich with experiences and leave with memories of dancing, pearls and our fiercely and proudly defended northern frontier.

- » Accompanied by an experienced Torres Strait Islander Guide
- » Return flights between Cairns & Horn Island
- » 2 nights twin-share accommodation at Grand Hotel, on Thursday Island
- » All Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Daily, including feasting-style lunch buffet
- » All transfers, including water taxi and coaches
- » Island Tours
- 2 Hour Horn Island Tour including Torres Strait Heritage Museum

- 2 Hour Thursday Island Tour including Green Hill Fort and Thursday Island Cemetery
- Visit Friday Island and Kazu Pearl Farm with Japanese-style lunch
- » Cultural Activities:
- Visit to Gab Titui Cultural Centre and Gallery and meet artists
- 1 Hour Traditional Islander Dancing & Singing Performance
- Artist Presentation & Discussion
- Q & A with Torres Strait Islander Guide on return flight to Cairns
- » Optional Extras: N/A



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A STRAIT ESCAPE

HORN ISLAND - Military History & Museum

Horn (Ngurupai) Island has a rich cultural, mining and military history. It's located just 17 kilometres off Queensland's coastline, and its people are descendants of all who came before. A fusion of Melanesian, Torres Strait and Australian Aboriginal cultures. This tropical island hosted a gold rush in the late 1800s, and at one time had 27 mines, including a 30 feet deep, open cut mine.

In the 1940s, this area became an invaluable and strategic Allied Forces stronghold during the war. Most Torres Strait men enlisted to defend their country - in fact, at Horn Island, only 10 able-bodied men remained to protect their community. To this very day, the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion, is the only Indigenous battalion in Australia's military history.



2 Hour Horn Island Tour

The Torres Strait people proudly defended their island home. You'll walk in their footsteps, during a 2 hour Horn Island tour, visiting gun emplacements, underground rooms and more. We stop at the Torres Strait Heritage Museum on Horn Island, which provides further insights - here you can read diaries and historic newspapers, see maps and learn more about the area's rich wartime history, local myths and legends and more. All of this is included in your 3 Day Strait Escape adventure.



Horn (Ngurupai) Island is also the point where we fly in and out of the Torres Strait, to and from Cairns. A local water taxi provides the short 10 minute transfer between Horn and Thursday Island, which is where you will be staying.

THURSDAY ISLAND - Cultural Centre, **Performances & History**

Thursday (Waiben) Island is the administrative hub for the Torres Strait and your 'base' for the 3 Day Strait Escape. You'll check into your accommodation at the Grand Hotel, which is located on the hillside adjacent to the jetty. The Grand Hotel has panoramic views over the island's clear blue waters, 31 rooms of accommodation and a café and bistro Malu Paru. All of the rooms have ensuite, tea and coffee making facilities, fans and air conditioning - 2 nights accommodation is included in your package, as well as all of your

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

- Minimum of 30 people are required for this trip to operate
- Bookings close 2 weeks prior to
- Full refund provided if minimum numbers are not met
- · A credit will be issued should the trip need to be suspended due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions

2 Hour Thursday Island Tour

On Thursday Island, you'll traverse more of the cultural tapestry, military history, religious and commercial activity that is island life. An airconditioned coach takes you around the island on a guided 2 hour tour, visiting key points of interest, which your local guide will illuminate through an interesting and informative commentary. Highlights include Green Hill Fort, which was constructed in the late 1800s to help protect Australia from a possible Russian invasion. Apart from its amazing views, over the surrounding seas and islands, the fortifications are impressive. Its underground rooms have 600mm thick concrete walls. They once housed



ammunition and more, but today contain a gallery of military artefacts, spanning the last century.

Travelling around the island in comfort on the coach, you'll next visit the historic Thursday Island cemetery. Cemeteries reveal a lot about a community. Its history, significant events and ancient and current traditions. Your guide will talk to you about the early and highly dangerous pearling industry (more on this in the Friday Island section), which lead to the development of the Japanese Cemetery. You'll also learn about the culturally important tombstone unveiling ceremonies, that are today an important part of Ailan Kastom (Island Custom).



Traditional Islander Dance Performance & Feasting-style Lunch

Join your guide for a local feasting-style lunch buffet. As you slip into island time and enjoy the feast before you, a respected Torres Strait Islander dance group will showcase their vibrant culture with a 1-hour performance. The ceremonial dress and adornments are both striking and beautiful, while the power in their precision movements enlivens all you have seen regarding these proud, warriorlike people, on your two island tours.

Gab Titui Cultural Centre and Gallery

The landmark Gab Titui Cultural Centre and Gallery - is a contemporary art gallery and keeping place for cultural artefacts. Here, you'll expand your growing awareness of the rich tapestry of art, dance, rituals and performance that keeps language and traditional knowledge alive, in the Torres Strait. The incredibly detailed lino prints illustrate various aspects of island life and Ailan Kastom (Island Custom) and there's the opportunity to meet some celebrated local artists. Artworks are available for sale and apart from supporting the local community and culture, these works make a striking, contemporary addition to any décor, serving as a visual reminder of your time in the Torres Strait.



1 ISLAND ACCOMODATION

Grand Hotel, with views across the seas

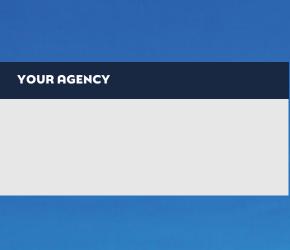
Your 3 Day Strait Escape takes you straight to the Inner Islands of the Torres Strait and to its administrative hub, at Thursday Island. Your accommodation here is at Grand Hotel, which has 31 rooms and is located at 6 Victoria Parade. Its rooms are motel style, with combined bedroom and living space, they have ensuite and tea and coffee making facilities, as well as air conditioning and fans. Accommodation is safe and comfortable, but note it is of a different standard to city accommodation.

FRIDAY ISLAND - Kazu Pearl Farm

You might not know the Torres Strait once had a massive pearl industry, which started in the late 1800s. While there were some local divers, the majority of pearl divers in the early days were Japanese. In fact, by the 1920s almost all of the pearl divers working around the Inner Islands were Japanese, and it was no easy task. The heavy helmets were cumbersome and the divers were reliant on those above, to pump the air down to the them. It was dangerous and many lost their lives - so many, that they needed their own section at the Thursday Island cemetery. World War II largely put a halt to the pearl industry, but in the 1970s some cultured pearling operations began.



Kazu Pearl Farm is perhaps the last remaining active pearl farm from that time - and is a bucket list item for visitors to the Torres Strait. Kazu Pearl Farm started in the 1970s and is run today, by the same man who founded it all those years ago, Mr Kazu. As well as providing you with a delicious Japanese-style lunch, showcasing fresh local produce, including sushi, sashimi and tempura, with pickled vegetables, fresh fruit and accompaniments, you also get to see how cultured pearls are 'grown'. This is explained in a fascinating demonstration covering cultivation, seeding and harvesting. There's also the opportunity to purchase a pearl, or piece of jewellery, which supports the island and provides you with a treasured reminder of your tropical adventure in the Torres Strait.













Queensland 4875

AUSTRALIA

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