

# townsville magnetic island



# tropical queensland

## A SENSE OF STYLE AND SOPHISTICATION



Photos courtesy of Tourism Queensland

1. Townsville viewed from Castle Hill
2. Aerial of the Great Barrier Reef
3. Wallaman Falls, Ingham
4. Castle Hill lookout
5. Hinchbrook Island



With the idyllic paradise of Magnetic Island right at your doorstep, it's not hard to see why people are attracted to Townsville. With an eclectic mix of rainforest, reef, sandy beaches, outback bush and big city benefits, Townsville has something for every holiday itinerary. However, the city is more than a magnetic destination – it's the very heart of life in the tropics, with the region extending north to captivating Mission Beach, south to the rustic Burdekin and west to historic Charters Towers.

Surrounded by a rich hinterland of tropical rainforests and waterfalls, Townsville is the gateway to heritage gold-mining towns, the stunning outback, scenic islands and, of course, the Great Barrier Reef.

It's true what they say, the attraction truly is magnetic. Maggie, as 2500 locals affectionately know her, is the perfect island escape. A short ferry ride to Magnetic Island lands you in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, where more than 2000 koalas roam wild and unique bird life inhabit the island. With 23 bays and beaches at various locations across the island, you are free to explore the splendour and beauty the island is renowned for.

If looking for hidden treasures sounds exhausting, other gems await you in the hub of Townsville city.

Catering for sophisticated palates and elegant tropical fun, this flourishing cosmopolitan city boasts an array of cafés, bars, restaurants, nightclubs, a world class casino and shopping experiences like no other. Whichever one you choose, you'll experience Townsville's friendly and unique, relaxed tropical ambience.

The Strand is the perfect place to unwind for any holiday to Townsville. The popular foreshore stretches for 2.5km and offers views across Cleveland Bay to Magnetic Island. It is a favourite for locals and visitors alike, with BBQ facilities, swimming enclosures, freshwater showers and playgrounds for social gatherings.

For the kids, the state-of-the-art water park on The Strand is a playground of fun. Children wait anxiously while a huge overhead bucket fills with water then spills over them, causing many squeals and giggles.

For a relaxing day out or a long secluded walk on the beach, Townsville's five northern beaches 60 kilometres north of the city are the ideal getaway. Bushland, Saunders, Toolakea, Toomulla and Balgal are spectacular beaches. They combine the rugged bush with necessary amenities and beachside hideaways, where swimming, fishing, picnicking and bird watching are ideal.

Little Crystal Creek, located 11km up the winding road to Paluma Village, is well known for its historic stone arch bridge built in the 1930's, and cascading waterfalls that feed into one of the best freshwater swimming holes in the north.

Continue up the winding road to Paluma Village, nestled amongst the misty clouds. Located within the Mount Spec National Park, it is the southern-most point in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. At



### PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE ...

- Enjoy the views across Cleveland Bay to Magnetic Island
- Visit the Billabong Wildlife Sanctuary
- Snorkel or dive the Great Barrier Reef
- Visit the Museum of Tropical Queensland
- Reef HQ, the largest living coral reef aquarium in the world
- Learn about local Indigenous history at the Cultural Centre
- Castle Hill offers breathtaking views
- Go swimming at Riverway esplanade

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1000 metres above sea level, Paluma is a cool mountain retreat with a convenient lack of mobile phone coverage. With cosy accommodation, cafes, arts and craft, bird watching and a large network of rainforest walks, Paluma promises the perfect getaway for a quiet, romantic weekend, or place to unwind.

Further north, see hundreds of wallabies at Tyto Wetlands, a nature reserve perfect for the avid bird watcher. Dugongs laze around in the coastal waters and are often spotted near the islands of Magnetic and Hinchinbrook, with winter seeing the arrival of whales to breed in the warmer waters.

If the local underwater residents are your kind of company, visit Reef HQ in Townsville's city to meet them up close, watch shark feeding and learn about the marine life that call the reef home. If you like a more hands-on experience, the Great Barrier Reef offers visitors one of the most beautiful, diverse, rich and abundant coral reef environments to explore on this planet.

With rainforest, reef, outback and city coming together to form this colourful region, there is something for everyone, from heart-pounding, lump-in-your-throat fun to a more peaceful adventure at whatever pace you are comfortable with.

Explore the terrain and admire the wildlife as you please on a sea kayak or push bike. Throw on your hiking boots and tackle the 32km Thorsborne Trail on Hinchinbrook Island or trek to the base of Wallaman Falls, the highest single-drop waterfall in Australia.

For thrill seekers, a scenic flight will allow you to take in the overwhelming beauty of the north, give your head a spin with aerobatics over the skyline of Townsville and views over tropical islands or watch as the north's own cowboys take on a bull at various rodeos.

Heading west will find you driving down the wide streets of Charters Towers, a montage of Australian heritage. Once the most populated town in Queensland outside Brisbane, Charters Towers is as rich in history as it is in gold.

So whether you're looking for an action-packed tropical holiday, or just want to laze on a warm secluded beach, you can experience life in the tropics and more on your holiday to Townsville.

## 3 Great Attractions 1 Convenient Location

Located in the heart of Townsville CBD, Reef HQ, the Cultural Centre and the Museum of Tropical Queensland are a must for all visitors to North Queensland, there's plenty to see and do, so head down to Flinders Street East today!



Visit the world's largest living coral reef aquarium  
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Discover North Queensland's Cultural & Natural Heritage  
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Adult \$12.00, Concession \$8.00, Child \$7.00, Family \$30.00



### Three must-see attractions in Townsville

Located in the heart of Townsville's CBD and within easy walking distance from the Greyhound bus station, Reef HQ Aquarium, the Cultural Centre Townsville and the Museum of Tropical Queensland are a must for all visitors to North Queensland.

Experience the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef without getting wet at the award winning Reef HQ Aquarium. With many exhibits to explore, it's the ultimate reef experience. Immerse yourself in the underwater discovery tunnel and plunge into our 2½ million litre world of living, breathing coral home to thousands of incredible reef creatures.

The Cultural Centre Townsville is home to a unique collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, culture and history and provides visitors with an insight into the traditional and contemporary life and cultural practices of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Museum of Tropical Queensland is a fantastic place to discover the natural and cultural heritage of North Queensland. The museum is full of captivating exhibitions, including the Pandora Gallery where visitors have the opportunity to see artefacts from the HMS Pandora, the ship sent by British Admiralty to capture the Bounty and her mutinous crew.

Best of all, these three big attractions are all next door to one another on Flinders Street East, so visit us today!

### Adventurers Backpackers Resort

Welcome to Adventurers Backpackers Resort. If you are looking for cheap, clean and safe accommodation, you have found the right place. Adventurers Resort has a lot to offer: Double, single and share accommodation, rooftop pool, air conditioning and ceiling fans, courtesy bus, night security, a huge kitchen, internet, convenience store, undercover car parking, tour desk (backpacker discounts), 24-hour video surveillance, a guest lounge, free tea and coffee, free storage, discount meal and drink voucher and a beautiful Indian restaurant. Save your money for all the great tours and things to do in sunny Townsville. Adventurers Resort is situated in the trendy café street, 10 minutes walk to the CBD and 15 minutes walk to the Strand. At the Strand you will find the beach with two netted swimming areas, free water park and a long walking path along the beach. Things to do, places to see in Townsville – Wildlife Sanctuary, day reef trips, diving the Yongala wreck (Australia's best wreck dive), Learn to Scuba dive course, sky diving, Magnetic Island, aquarium and museum. Discounted backpacker rates and a free night available (conditions apply). Phone 1800 211 522 or visit [www.adventurersresort.com](http://www.adventurersresort.com).

### Reef Lodge Backpackers

**Lonely Planet 2007 – 2008:** "With its mellow atmosphere, beautiful murals, cheery bed covers and outdoor nooks, Reef Lodge leads the hostel pack. Space is a premium in the two-tier complex overlooking a courtyard, with book exchange, a laundry and travellers notice board, you're well catered for."

**BUG Review:** Reef Lodge is a beautifully maintained hostel with a laid back atmosphere right in the heart of the city centre. The dorms are air-conditioned, comfortable and clean; bathrooms are spotless with new fittings and hair dryers and the kitchen is well equipped. There is a games room/gym and with a pool table plus a couple of cozy TV lounges. Internet access is available in the courtyard (\$5 per hour) and there are laundry facilities. Security is very good and the reception staff are wonderfully kind and helpful.

Reef Lodge is one of Townsville's oldest hostels and certainly one of Townsville's most central Hostels. It was built back in the early 70's and has a unique charm of its own. Please don't take my word for it, feel free to come and look through the hostel before you check in.

We have no hidden costs and you get what you pay for. We understand that most of our travellers are looking for a fairly quiet, laid back environment so we ask that people settle down after 10.30pm and take the party to the clubs, the first of which is only about 20 meters away. This way people can get some rest as many of the backpackers staying here have jobs. If you are looking for work most backpackers have little trouble finding it. With its central location, you are only 200 to 600 meters from the beach, city centre, ferry terminal, Museum, Aquarium, Imax Theatre, Indigenous Centre and the Tourist Information Centre. "The Strand" at 2.5 kilometres long, is a great walk and has a free saltwater pool at one end and a small water park at the other.

We also have a free BBQ, pool table and gym, three TV and DVD areas. There are also plenty of places to just sit around and take it easy. All rooms have air-conditioning, and our twins, doubles, small dorms and motel rooms have fridge, toaster and kettle provided.

Did I mention you can kill yourself in Townsville? There is a large hill that takes about 45 minutes to walk up. The only time I walked up the hill, I felt I was going to have myself a good old fashioned myocardial infarction and drop dead! There is an upside; after you realize you're not going to die and it was only a near-death experience, the effort is well worth it, as it has a great panoramic view of the whole city. Particularly good at sunset! Visit [www.reeflodge.com.au](http://www.reeflodge.com.au).

### Sunferries

#### The Quickest Link to Magnetic Island

Whether you want to snorkel the Great Barrier Reef, explore pristine rainforests, relax on a secluded beach or try one of the many activities available on Magnetic Island, Sunferries is your one-stop-shop for the perfect holiday in North Queensland. An award winning ferry service since 1997, Sunferries provides the quickest link between Townsville and Magnetic Island with 19 services a day, and have a wide range of tour and accommodation packages to choose from at their travel company, Sunsea Travel. Situated in two convenient locations, Sunsea Travel can be found at The Nelly Bay Ferry Terminal, Magnetic Island,

## ADVENTURERS •BACKPACKERS•S



79 Palmer Street Townsville, QLD 4810  
Ph: 07 4721 1522 Fax: 07 4721 3251  
Free pick-up from Townsville Transit Centre

# 1800 211 522

Email: [adventurersresort@hotmail.com](mailto:adventurersresort@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.adventurersresort.com](http://www.adventurersresort.com)

- Air conditioned rooms
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- Crisp white sheets
- New Indian restaurant

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**3RD NIGHT FREE**  
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**\$4 OFF ANY ROOM**

## Reef Lodge Backpackers

IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

- All rooms with A/C
- Ensuite rooms
- Double rooms
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- Main dorm
- Female dorm
- Small dorms

- CC TV
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- Olympic Pool

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- Tropical Museum • IMAX Theatre
- Reef HQ Aquarium

**www.reeflodge.com.au**

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Chilling out at Florence Bay, Magnetic Island.

and The Breakwater Ferry Terminal, Townsville. The travel agencies offer a huge selection of tours and travel services including helpful advice and the best price on accommodation/tours and activities for Magnetic Island, Townsville and the greater region. Sunferries is much more than just a ferry service and can help you see North Queensland at its best.

Contact Sunferries today on (07) 4726 0800 or visit [www.sunferries.com.au](http://www.sunferries.com.au).

## MAGNETIC island

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