



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS: CAIRNS CAMPERVAN ADVENTURE



Highlights

- Explore Christmas Markets & Charming towns
- Soak up coastal beaches
- Meet Australia native wildlife
- Hop aboard the Skyrail & Kuranda Scenic Railway
- Experience a Great Barrier Reef tour
- Discover National Parks & Rainforests
- Enjoy local cuisine and sightseeing
- Spend the day at botanical parks
- Cool off at waterfalls and lakes

Day 2: Kuranda Village

Distance: 0 Kms **Time:** 0 Hours

- **Morning:** Head to Kuranda Village, leave your campervan at the campsite, and take the [Kuranda Scenic Railway](#) through the rainforest. Explore the famous [Kuranda Markets](#) and enjoy brunch in the village.
- **Afternoon:** Visit the [Australian Butterfly Sanctuary](#), then swing by [Birdworld Kuranda](#) if time allows. End the day with the unforgettable [Skyrail Rainforest Cableway](#) ride back.
- **Evening:** Head back to your campsite and wind down with a delicious homemade dinner using your [fully equipped](#) campervan kitchen.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Cairns Holiday Park, 12-30 Little St, Manunda QLD 4870. Powered Site.



Kuranda Scenic Railway, Tourism and Events Queensland

Day 1: Cairns

Distance: 2.9 Kms **Time:** 6 Minutes

- **Morning:** Start your Christmas road trip by picking up your campervan from the [Cairns GoCheap branch](#), then enjoy a peaceful walk through the lush **Cairns Botanic Gardens**.
- **Afternoon:** Explore the **Cairns Christmas Markets**, filled with festive stalls offering handmade gifts, seasonal crafts and delicious local treats, perfect for soaking up the holiday atmosphere and grabbing a few souvenirs.
- **Evening:** Wrap up your first day with a relaxed stroll along the **Cairns Esplanade**, glowing with Christmas lights and holiday displays. The waterfront feels magical after dark, especially with live carols and festive performances on the Esplanade stage.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Cairns Holiday Park, 12-30 Little St, Manunda QLD 4870. Powered Site.

Day 3: Kuranda Village

Distance: 27.7 Kms **Time:** 37 Minutes

- **Morning:** Drive your campervan to your Kuranda campsite, then head to [Rainforestation Nature Park](#) to explore 100 acres of rainforest, join a [tour](#), meet native wildlife and enjoy hands-on cultural experiences.
- **Afternoon:** Visit [Kuranda Koala Gardens](#), home to wallabies, wombats, reptiles, gliders and freshwater crocodiles. Be sure to hand-feed the kangaroos and wallabies for a memorable encounter.
- **Evening:** End your day with a game of [mini golf](#) in a rainforest setting, then stroll through the **Kuranda Markets** to grab dinner and explore the village at night.
- **Where to stay:** Kuranda Caravan park, 88 Kuranda Heights Rd, Kuranda QLD 4881. Powered Site.

Day 4: Palm Cove

Distance: 28.6 Kms **Time:** 37 Minutes

- **Morning:** Rise early, make a [delicious breakfast](#) in your campervan and hit the road toward Palm Cove. Once you arrive, start your day with some sunshine and a refreshing swim at **Clifton Beach**.
- **Afternoon:** Head to [Hartley's Crocodile Adventures](#) for an unforgettable visit. Part wildlife park and part crocodile farm, it's one of the best places to see **crocodiles** up close and learn about Far North Queensland's incredible wildlife.
- **Evening:** End your day with a sunset stroll along the jetty as Christmas lights sparkle through the village. Take in the festive atmosphere before enjoying a delicious seafood dinner at **Nu Nu Restaurant** by the beach.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Palm Cove Holiday Park, 149 Williams Esplanade, Palm Cove QLD 4879. Powered Site.



Clifton Beach, Tourism and Events Queensland

Day 5: Port Douglas

Distance: 41.6 Kms **Time:** 49 Minutes

- **Morning:** Head to Port Douglas to continue your tropical Christmas adventure. Join a **Great Barrier Reef** tour and spot colourful Christmas Tree worms, vibrant starfish and festive-looking coral beneath the water.
- **Afternoon:** Cool off at **Spring Creek**, where you can enjoy scenic walking trails and relax in refreshing natural rock pools surrounded by lush greenery.
- **Evening:** Stroll along **Macrossan Street**, glowing with Christmas decorations, sparkling lights, tropical trees and festive carols — the perfect way to end your night in Port Douglas.
- **Where to stay:** Pandanus Caravan Park, 97-107 Davidson St, Port Douglas QLD 4877. Powered Site.

Day 6: Daintree

Distance: 54 Kms **Time:** 48 Minutes

- **Morning:** Travel to your next destination, Daintree, and begin your day at [Mossman Gorge](#). Visit the **Mossman Gorge Centre** for Indigenous-guided walks, an art gallery and helpful tips before exploring the area at your own pace.
- **Afternoon:** Cool off with an unforgettable [River Drift Experience](#), drifting through the rainforest on the **Mossman River**.
- **Evening:** As the sun sets, join a guided [night tour](#) to watch the rainforest come alive after dark. Spot nocturnal wildlife like owls, bandicoots, insects and even snakes, a magical way to end your day in the Daintree.
- **Where to stay:** Daintree Riverview Lodges & Van Park, Riverview Caravan Park, 2 Stewart St, Daintree QLD 4873. Powered Site.



Mossman Gorge, Tourism and Events Queensland



White Christmas Tree Worms, Tourism and Events Queensland

Day 7: Yungaburra

Distance: 157 Kms **Time:** 2 Hours 13 Minutes

- **Morning:** Start your day with [cooking breakfast](#) in your campervan before driving to Yungaburra. Once you arrive, wander through the charming **village markets** and enjoy the Christmas decorations and seasonal displays.
- **Afternoon:** Pack your swimmers and head to **Lake Eacham** for a refreshing swim. Walk the Lake Eacham circuit track, taking in rainforest views on one side and the deep blue lake on the other.
- **Evening:** Finish the day at **Yungaburra's Candlelight Christmas Shopping event**, where candlelit streets, boutique stores and local makers create a festive atmosphere — perfect for wrapping up your Christmas shopping.
- **Where to stay:** Lakeside Motor Inn & Caravan Park, 2 Tinaburra Dr, Yungaburra QLD 4884. Powered Site.



Lake Eacham, Tourism and Events Queensland

Day 8: Millaa Millaa

Distance: 39.8 Kms **Time:** 34 Minutes

- **Morning:** Begin your morning with a scenic drive to Millaa Millaa for the next stretch of your Christmas road trip. Stop at **Rumours Diner** for a tasty breakfast before heading out to explore.
- **Afternoon:** Cool off at the iconic **Millaa Millaa Falls** with a refreshing swim and a picnic surrounded by rainforest. Keep an eye out for Ulysses butterflies and even platypuses in the late afternoon.
- **Evening:** Settle in at your campsite and unwind. Cook a cosy [Christmas-themed dinner](#) in your campervan, sip hot cocoa and finish the night with your favourite holiday classics.
- **Where to stay:** Millaa Millaa Caravan Park, Corner Lodge Ave Millaa Millaa-Malanda Road, Millaa Millaa QLD 4886. Powered Site.

Day 9: Mission Beach

Distance: 102 Kms **Time:** 1 Hour 25 Minutes

- **Morning:** Set off toward Mission Beach for another sunny day on your festive road trip. Once you arrive, wander through town and visit the **Monster Markets** if they're on during your stay.
- **Afternoon:** Explore **Djiru National Park** along the 1.5 km **Lacey Creek track**, where crystal-clear swimming spots and rare Licuala palms await. Keep an eye out for **cassowaries** along the way!
- **Evening:** End your day with a classic Aussie [Christmas BBQ](#) on **South Mission Beach**. Enjoy the ocean breeze, stunning views and fresh, juicy prawns straight off the barbie — a true Mission Beach favourite.
- **Where to stay:** Mission Beach Camping & Caravan Park, 53 Porter Promenade, Mission Beach QLD 4852. Powered Site.

Day 10: Mission Beach

Distance: 0 Kms **Time:** 0 Hours

- **Morning:** Rise and shine for a day trip to beautiful Dunk Island. Catch the [ferry](#) and spend your morning at **Muggy Muggy Beach**, where you can snorkel, swim or simply relax by the water.
- **Afternoon:** After some beach time, explore Dunk Island's **rainforest trails**, discovering hidden waterfalls, ancient flora and peaceful pockets of untouched paradise.
- **Evening:** Head up to **Mount Kotaloo**, the island's highest point, for unbeatable sunset views. After soaking in the scenery, take the ferry back to your campsite and unwind for the night.
- **Where to stay:** Mission Beach Camping & Caravan Park, 53 Porter Promenade, Mission Beach QLD 4852. Powered Site.



Dunk Island, Tourism and Events Queensland

Day 11: Innisfail

Distance: 50.5 Kms **Time:** 43 Minutes

- **Morning:** Your next stop is Innisfail. Start your visit at **Mena Creek Falls** and soak in the breathtaking beauty of [Paronella Park](#), home to a 100-year-old Spanish castle and one of Queensland's most iconic heritage sites.
- **Afternoon:** Continue your journey at the [Innisfail Museum](#), where you can browse fascinating artefacts and learn more about the region's rich local history.
- **Evening:** Finish your day at beautiful **Etty Bay**, a pristine strip of golden sand framed by rainforest hills. Enjoy a peaceful sunset picnic and take in one of Tropical North Queensland's most scenic coastal views.
- **Where to stay:** River Drive Van Park, 7 River Ave, Mighell QLD 4860. Powered Site.



Paronella Park, Tourism and Events Queensland

Day 12: Cairns

Distance: 90.6 Kms **Time:** 1 Hour 17 Minutes

- **Morning:** On the 12th day of your Christmas road trip, cook a [festive breakfast](#) in your campervan's fully equipped kitchen before hitting the road and making your way back to Cairns.
- **Afternoon:** Once you arrive, enjoy a tasty lunch at **Wild Thyme**, then wander through the city centre to take in the Christmas decorations and festive treats. When you're ready, return your campervan to the GoCheap branch — marking the end of your magical Christmas adventure.

Packing Tips for your Christmas road trip in Cairns

Some things you'll want to bring include:

- Santa Hats and Festive clothing
- Appropriate clothing for all types of weather and activities
- Swimwear + Picnic Blankets
- Footwear (comfortable, versatile shoes for walking on the beach and hiking)
- Hat, sunscreen and sunglasses
- Insect repellent + band-aids
- Camera/phone + chargers + portable chargers
- Light backpack (to carry food + water bottle)
- Have important documents ready (license, insurance, booking confirmations, and roadside assistance)

Reminder: Christmas in Australia falls during peak summer, meaning hot days and busy roads. Stay hydrated, take regular breaks and keep your campervan cool. Campsites book out fast during the holidays, so reserve spots early to ensure a smooth and stress-free Christmas road trip.



Cairns's city centre, Tourism and Events Queensland

HAVE A GREAT TRIP!

