

Cairns, Queensland, Australia

Two UNESCO World Heritage sites, one port call. Cairns puts the outer Great Barrier Reef and ancient Wet Tropics rainforest within easy reach of the cruise terminal.

Docked (most ships) or tender at Yorkeys Knob (large vessels)

Typical call: 8–10 hrs

Australian Dollar (AUD)

English

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Most ships dock at Trinity Wharf in the city centre; very large vessels anchor in Trinity Bay and tender to Yorkeys Knob (~20 min shuttle to town)

Best For: Great Barrier Reef snorkel/dive, Kuranda Scenic Railway, wildlife parks

Walk to centre: 5 min on foot to Esplanade; 7 min to Reef Fleet Terminal (reef tour departures)

Don't Miss: Full-day outer reef tour — departures are steps from the pier at Reef Fleet Terminal

Getting around: **Taxi** ✓ AU\$15–25 · **Rideshare** ✓ Uber, DiDi · **Hop-on hop-off** ✓ Hop-on hop-off

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Outer Great Barrier Reef Day Tour** — Sail 90 minutes to the outer reef pontoon for snorkelling, semi-submersible rides, underwater viewing chambers, and optional scuba dives.
- Kuranda Scenic Railway & Skyrail Cableway** — Ride the historic 1891 Kuranda Scenic Railway through rainforest gorges and waterfalls to the village of Kuranda, then glide back over the treetops...
- Green Island Day Trip** — A 45-minute catamaran ride from Cairns reaches this coral cay on the inner reef — snorkel off the beach, take a glass-bottom boat, or simply relax...
- Mossman Gorge & Daintree Rainforest** — Head north to Mossman Gorge for a guided Kuku Yalanji Aboriginal walk through ancient rainforest, then continue into the Daintree — the world's...
- Whitewater Rafting on the Tully River** — Grade 3–4 rapids through tropical gorges on the Tully River, one of Australia's top whitewater runs.

BEST WALKS

- Esplanade Lagoon & Waterfront Walk** 2 km · Flat · 30–45 min · Free — Head north from Trinity Wharf along the Esplanade to the famous free saltwater swimming lagoon, parklands, playgrounds, and boardwalks overlooking Trinity Bay.
- City Centre & Night Markets Stroll** 1.5 km loop · Flat · 20–30 min — From the terminal, walk through The Pier shopping centre and into the Cairns CBD.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		82°	73°	15d
Jun		76°	67°	10d
Aug		77°	65°	6d
Sep		79°	67°	7d
Oct		83°	70°	8d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:25AM–6:08PM · Jun 6:43AM–5:50PM · Aug 6:35AM–6:07PM · Sep 6:12AM–6:11PM · Oct 5:49AM–6:16PM

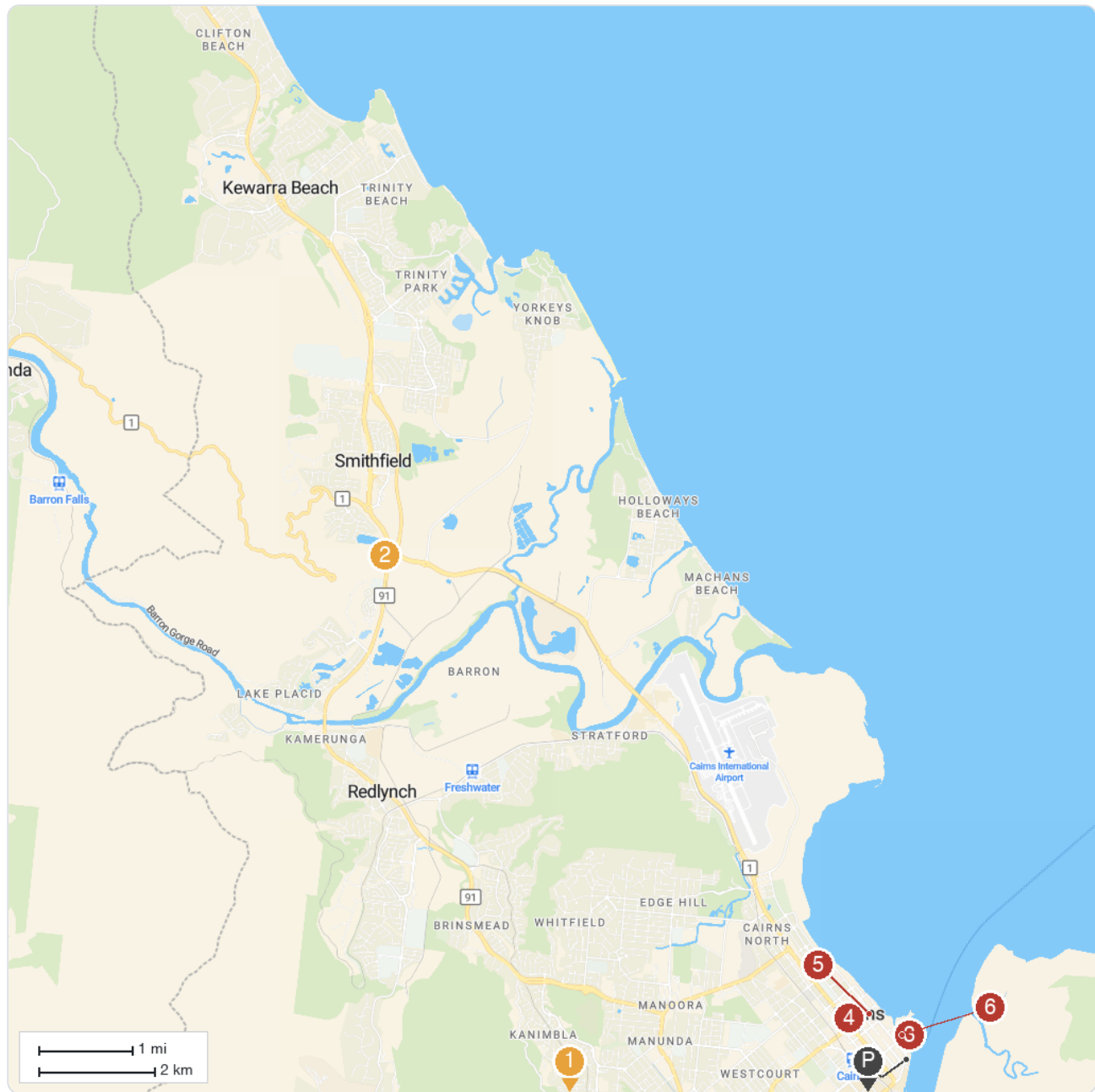
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book reef tours early. Popular outer-reef operators sell out weeks in advance — book before you board, or as soon as you dock at the Reef Fleet Terminal information booths.
- Stingers in summer (Nov–May). Marine stingers (box jellyfish) are present in northern Queensland waters. Opt for reef tours that provide lycra stinger suits, and avoid swimming off beaches without enclosures.
- Sun is intense. Cairns sits just south of the tropics. Bring SPF 50+, a hat, and a rash vest for reef activities — you'll burn faster in the water than you expect.
- Tendering to Yorkeys Knob? Build in extra time — the tender plus shuttle adds 45–60 minutes each way. Factor this into any independently booked tour timings.
- Cash is largely unnecessary. Cards are accepted virtually everywhere in Cairns. ATMs are available at The Pier shopping centre adjacent to the terminal.
- Crocodiles are real. Do not swim in rivers, estuaries, or unfenced lake areas around Cairns — crocodile warning signs are not decoration. Stick to the Esplanade Lagoon or reef.

Cairns, Queensland, Australia — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Down Under Cruise & Dive - Evolution Outer Reef Cruise | Outer Great Barrier Reef cruise for snorkeling and diving. | 2 Munro Martin Parklands | City park with tropical gardens, walking paths, and events. |
| 3 Cairns Aquarium | Explore Queensland's aquatic life, from rainforest to reef. | 4 Fogarty Park Sound Shell | Outdoor performance venue in a park, often hosting events. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |