# Queensland Coast

**Day 1 –** On arrival in Brisbane, you will pick up your car for your self-drive tour of Queensland's magnificent coastline. From beaches to rainforests, today will be the start of a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.
Your early morning arrival into Brisbane will ensure that you have enough time to pick up your vehicle and head straight up to the Sunshine Coast and the award winning Australia Zoo (approx 1 hour drive).
"CRIKEY!" The entire day is yours to discover at your leisure the awesome wildlife action that makes Australia Zoo so unique. From the cute and cuddly koalas, the giant Asian Elephants to Australia Zoo's very own Bengal & Sumatran Tigers and not to mention the world-famous crocodiles!
Why not have your own personal encounter with one of our animals? Have a naughty time with the Naughty Wombats or even check out our cheeky Leapin' Lemurs. These encounters can be prebooked prior to arrival from only $40.00 per person.
There is so much to see and do at Australia Zoo so for more information log onto their website www.australiazoo.com.au.
This afternoon, continue onto Mooloolaba (approx 25 mins drive) where you will find your base at the Mantra Mooloolaba Beach for the next 2 nights.

**Day 2 -** Today is yours to explore the beautiful Sunshine Coast. You may want to head into the Hinterland and visit Montville & Maleny, where you will discover these quaint little townships full of arts, crafts and specialty shops. Local delicacies are almost on every corner in this area, from wines to cheeses to local made ice cream. Whilst visiting this area don't miss the national parks, rainforests and waterfalls that make the Blackall Ranges a retreat for the peaceful at heart.
For those looking for a little more action or prefer the coastal charm, why not head up to Noosa to enjoy the many beachfront restaurants and shopping that Noosa is famous for. Noosa is approximately 30 mins from Mooloolaba and the coastal drive will be one of the highlights of your day.

**Day 3 –** A leisurely start this morning as you head to Hervey Bay. Known as the whale capital of the world, you will be able to see these marvelous animals between the months of August and November. The drive will take you approximately 3 hours passing through historic towns of Gympie and Maryborough. Accommodation for the next 2 nights will be at the Mantra Hervey Bay.

**Day 4 –** This morning you will be picked up for your full day Fraser Island tour. The tour departs at 8:30AM from Hervey Bay, and you will catch the barge across to Fraser Island from River Heads.
Your island tour will be taken at a leisurely pace in a modern air conditioned vehicle. Drive along the famous Seventy-Five Mile Beach as the surf crashes around you and see the coloured sands of the Pinnacles and the wreck of the cruise ship Maheno. Stop for a swim in the cool fresh waters of Eli Creek as it flows swiftly into the ocean or admire the flora and fauna as you walk along the scenic boardwalk beside the sea.
After a hot and cold buffet lunch at the Eurong Beach Resort, experience the peaceful beauty of Central Station as you stroll through the rainforest along the banks of

Wanggoolba Creek. Relax at Lake McKenzie, Fraser Island's most spectacular fresh water lake. Swim in the crystal clear waters or just relax and enjoy the amazing view.
Your tour today will end approximately 6pm with a transfer back to your hotel.

**Day 5** – This morning you will continue on your northward journey to the Capricorn region and the City of Rockhampton (approx 3 hours drive). Known as the Beef Capital of Australia, Rockhampton is the capital of the Capricorn region and a great overnight stopping point on your way to the Great Barrier Reef. Tonight will be just a short 1 night stopover at the Leichhardt Hotel.

**Day 6** – Today will be your longest distance drive to the coastal Whitsunday town of Airlie Beach (approx 5 hours). The Whitsundays are in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef and one of Australia's most desirable holiday destinations. As one of the world's most spectacular aquatic playgrounds, the Whitsundays encompass over 70 tropical islands. Airlie Beach is your perfect gateway to the magical Great Barrier Reef and your stopover for the next 3 nights, staying at the Coral Sea Resort.

**Day 7** – One of the highlights of your trip will be your visit today to the Great Barrier Reef. Your Cruise today will depart from your Cairns accommodation at approximately 8:00am. You will cruise to Agincourt Ribbon Reef at the very edge of the Great Barrier Reef where you will enjoy a fun-filled day exploring the beautiful coral and sea life. Your tour will include a tropical hot & cold buffet lunch, guided coral viewing from a semi-submersible craft and glass bottom boat, guided snorkeling tours (including equipment) and the use of the marine life touch tank. Certified or introductory divers can also organise dives from the vessel.
Arrival back into Cairns is at approximately 6:00PM, and you will be transferred back to your accommodation.

**Day 8** – A leisurely day for you to explore the endless attractions which are available in the area. You may choose to take another cruise to one of the Whitsunday Islands and spend the day around one of the island resorts. You may also wish to visit the famous Whitehaven Beach, over 7 kilometres of some of the whitest, purest silica sand in the world.

**Day 9** – The time has come to leave this exotic paradise and head north once again. Today you will head to the North Queensland town of Townsville (approx 4 hours drive). Just another short overnight stopover as we head north to our final destination of Cairns.
Townsville is known as the unofficial capital of North Queensland. It combines the lure of the tropics with the attractions of a major city. Take a walk down to "The Strand" which is the favorite leisure place for locals and visitors with four man-made headlands, rockpools, numerous eateries and waterslides.
Tonight's accommodation will be at the Holiday Inn Townsville.

**Day 10** – Head off to your final destination, Cairns, where the reef meets the rainforest. Your drive today from Townsville will take approx 4 hours.
Your accommodation for the next 3 nights is at the Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort. Spend the remainder of the day getting to know the local area.

**Day 11** – Today you will join your Ultimate Kuranda Experience tour from your Cairns accommodation. You will be picked up at 8:00AM and transferred by coach to Caravonica Lakes where you will join the Skyrail to take you through the untouched beauty of North Queensland's rainforests. Stop at the Barron Falls station and learn more about the eco-system at the CSIRO Interpretative Centre. View the Barron Falls or take a leisurely walk along the rainforest boardwalk.
Shortly you will arrive into Kuranda, where the village is yours to explore. Kuranda is well known for its vibrant and colorful markets which take place daily.
Along the way, you can explore the award winning Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park, which provides a passionate and theatrical insight into an ancient culture.
Your return to Cairns will be via the Scenic Railway, winding around curves, across bridges and through hand made tunnels. Spectacular Scenery is the order of the day, before arriving into Freshwater Station where you will board your coach back to your accommodation, arriving at approximately 5:30PM.

**Day 12** – Your final day of leisure on this wonderful once-in-a-lifetime journey. You may choose to visit the Great Barrier Reef again before your departure, or you may catch up on some well deserved R and R.

**Day 13** – This morning will bring the end of your self drive tour.