



Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival

Discovering People and Culture



Come celebrate the world's oldest living culture. The Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival is an exciting biennial gathering, an opportunity to highlight the diverse communities of Cape York Peninsula and pass on culture across generations through language, song, dance and stories.

Your Trails Tours

Contact: 07 4039 4572
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Day trips, extended tours and special events
Personalised for small groups in tropical north Queensland

Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival

Premium package 5 Days, 4 nights (28 June – 2 July 2017)

Exclusive to six guests.

Includes all meals, accommodation, entry fees, taxes, except where specified.

\$3,250 per person (twin share).



Optional

Cairns airport pick up/drop off and accommodation before or after your tour:

Stay at a B&B for a more intimate, local experience.

Guided Aboriginal rock art tours

at Laura: Yalangi Galleries, Quinkan Galleries, Giant Horse, Mushroom Rock sites.

Tablelands Explorer day tour

Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival guests who also book this tour receive **15% discount on Tablelands Explorer.**

Day or overnight tours to explore the Great Barrier Reef, Tablelands, Rainforest or outback Queensland.

Visit yourtrails.com.au or [contact us](#) for a customised itinerary.



Day 1 (Wednesday 28 June)

Pick up from Cairns City, Northern Beaches or Port Douglas accommodation.

Discover the lush, green rainforest with a walk through Mossman Gorge.

Spot wildlife while cruising on the Daintree River.

Visit iconic Cape Tribulation, where the rainforest meets the Great Barrier Reef.

Adventure on the Bloomfield Track, visiting Bana Yirriji Art and Cultural Centre.

Stop in for a cold one at the historic Lion's Den pub (guests buy own drinks) on our way to our base for the next few days, Cooktown.

After dinner tutorial on getting the most out of your phone camera settings.

Day 2 (Thursday 29 June)

Heading north from Cooktown, travel through incredible coastal dunes to Cape Bedford, site of the original Hope Vale mission. Experience the spectacular coloured sands, meet traditional owners, and explore beautiful Elim Beach.

Return to Cooktown for a delicious lunch, and take time this afternoon to explore the Botanic Gardens and gallery, and the fascinating James Cook Museum.

The day will wrap up with a sunset cruise on the Endeavour River with opportunities for wildlife spotting and pre-dinner drinks and snacks.

Return to our accommodation for a relaxed dinner and a chance for expert help to review and edit the day's photos.

Day 3 (Friday 30 June)

Early morning drive (or walk for the fit!) up Grassy Hill to check out the breathtaking views of the district and out to the Great Barrier Reef.

Visit the Hopevale Arts and Cultural Centre and Nganthanun Bamawi Gayan Gallery, where artists work in both contemporary and traditional styles.

Traverse Lakefield National Park, with stops at Horseshoe Lagoon and for a picnic lunch at the Old Homestead before entering the Laura Dance Grounds for the opening of the Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival.

Early evening light dinner at the dance grounds, returning to our accommodation later for supper and a chance to review the day's photos.

Day 4 (Saturday 1 July)

Head to picturesque Archer Point and learn about the Yuku Baja Muliku Indigenous Rangers' program at the Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre.

We may stop for a coffee break at the historic Quinkan Hotel in Laura before spending the rest of the day and evening at the Dance Festival.

Lunch and light dinner at the dance grounds, followed by supper on return to our accommodation.

Day 5 (Sunday 2 July)

This morning we check out of our accommodation and return to Laura for the close of the Festival. Before we enter the dance grounds for the last time, we'll check out the Split Rock art site.

After lunch, we'll depart via the Mulligan Highway, with stops at scenic locations to enjoy the sweeping views and at the historic Palmer River Road House. Our trip back to Cairns will see us return to the rainforest via the Rex Range.



Discover the unique landscapes, history and culture of Far North Queensland.

Tablelands Explorer

Exclusive to six guests.

\$265 pp (incl GST, all transport, entry to National Parks and Historic Village Herberton, morning tea, Lake Barrine Cruise, lunch, gourmet afternoon snack).

How the day will unfold

Pick up from Cairns accommodation for 7am departure.

We travel up the Gillies Range, famous for its 263 corners and amazing views, to our first destination, to be immersed in the upland rainforest ecosystems of the Wet Tropics world heritage area. We may be lucky enough to spot native wildlife such as small mammals and some of the many bird species that share this rich habitat.

Weather permitting, we'll adventure down a beautiful rainforest track for breathtaking views and get a feel for the dynamic geological forces that have shaped the regional landscape, which includes Queensland's highest peaks. We'll also find out about the local Aboriginal clans, their culture and the difficulties they faced when European settlers came to the region.

Next we head to the Crater Lakes National Park for a relaxing cruise on Lake Barrine: cool world heritage rainforest surrounds its clear, blue waters. We'll gain an insight into the area's wartime and settler history and find out about the Curry family, custodians of this special place, over a Devonshire tea with scones made to a secret recipe going back four generations.

Yungaburra village has existed largely unchanged since 1910, and has the highest proportion of heritage listed buildings outside regional centres in Queensland. We'll tour its old town, before heading to historic Atherton to get a unique perspective on the geological processes that formed the rich, red soils that support much of the region's agriculture.

Heading west through peaceful grazing lands and dry eucalypt forest ecosystems we arrive at the Historic Village, Herberton. Enjoy a guided tour, a scrumptious lunch at the Bakerville Hotel and free time to explore some of the priceless collections of objects that feature in this outdoor museum that presents the story of Australia's pioneering past.

We continue south, into the Jirrbal Aboriginal people's country, hear some of their stories and traditions, and find out about the early timber industry that continued until the the surrounding rainforest was world heritage listed in 1987. We'll drive through dairy country and high-altitude remnant rainforest bordering the Misty Mountains wilderness area, with crystal clear creeks and panoramic views, before finally reaching iconic Millaa Millaa Falls, looking forward to a gourmet afternoon snack.

Our return journey will feature amazing views of Queensland's highest peaks and the surrounding valleys and should see our arrival in Cairns around 6.30pm.

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