

Let your imagination RUN WILD

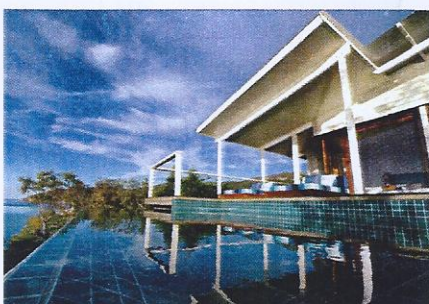
NATURE & WILDLIFE

What do you get when you cross the Daintree Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef? Quite simply, one of the most wondrous conglomerations of nature in the world. The latter is, after all, the world's largest living organism, spanning two thirds of the Queensland coastline. A mind-boggling 1,500 of the world's fish species call it home. Snorkel colourful coral gardens; scuba dive with exotic marine life, from dwarf minke whales off Port Douglas to dreamy turtles. Join a luxury boat expedition such as **Ocean Freedom** or take a sunset sail, complete with Champagne and canapés, with **Sailaway**; you could even land on a remote cay for the day, before being whisked back to the Daintree Rainforest to spend the

night in a treehouse. On the peaceful Mossman River, **Silky Oaks Lodge's** elevated rooms, restaurant and dreamy spa make the most of the magnificent natural surroundings – where days can be spent being dwarfed by king ferns and giant bull kauri pines, watching for the flash of blue of a cassowary moving through the undergrowth, visiting cascading waterfalls or discovering tiny fish in cool freshwater pools.

FOOD AND WINE

Australia's national airline Qantas has won innumerable food and wine awards over the years – and it isn't difficult to see where it gets its inspiration. Flush with fresh seafood, an array of tropical fruits and endless local produce, the Cairns & Great Barrier Reef region offers a distinct flavour of its own. Fuse this with its unique settings – on the deck of a yacht as you cruise over clear blue



ADVENTURE



With its extraordinarily diverse array of backdrops – ocean, outback, rainforest, reef – setting the scene, this is the place to get a whole new perspective on life, whether gliding through treetops in glass-bottom gondolas or hot-air ballooning over the Atherton Tablelands, taking in sunrises, vast landscapes and the wallabies hopping below. Back down to earth, there's four-wheel drives in Cape Tribulation, or bushwalking with an aboriginal guide at the **Mossman Gorge Centre**, listening to dreamtime stories and learning about the Kuku Yalanji tribe. For the ultimate sense of escapism, it's hard to beat the scenic flight

waters; under a canopy of stars in a rainforest resort; overlooking a beach at an al fresco restaurant in Palm Cove and Port Douglas; or perhaps even a helicopter ride to a cay for a Champagne picnic looking out across the Great Barrier Reef – and



FORAGE FOR FRESH PRODUCE, SUCH AS MANGOES (WHICH MAKE UNEXPECTEDLY DELICIOUS WINE)

your culinary experience is sure to be sensational, literally. Alternatively, do as the indigenous Australians do on a trip with the **Walker Brothers**, members of the Kuku Yalanji tribe who have lived in this area for tens of thousands of years, and spear your own crabs and fish to cook for yourself. Or forage for fresh produce, such as mangoes (which make unexpectedly delicious wine) and lemon myrtle, and savour the taste of natural fare that seems somehow to be all the more flavoursome when collected by your own hand.

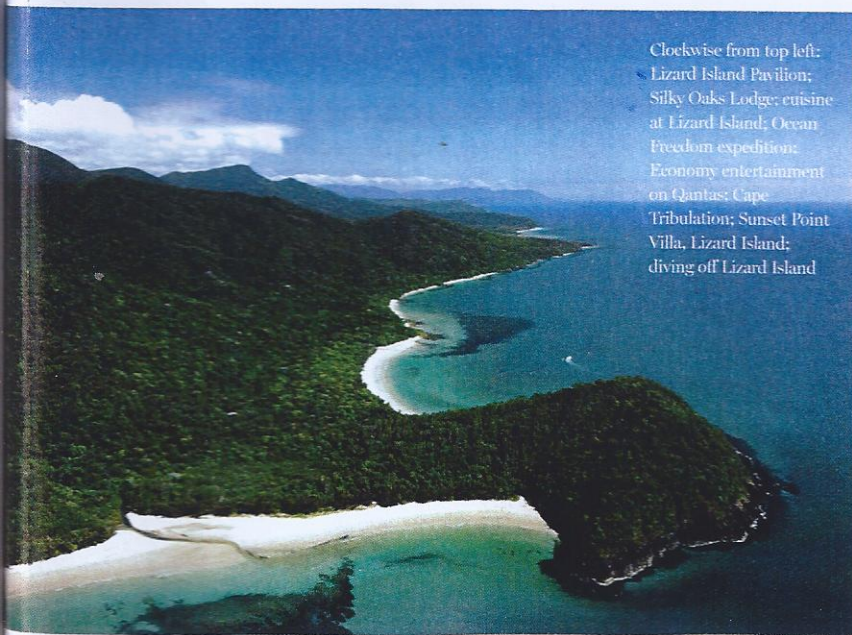
from the Great Barrier Reef to the luxurious **Crystalbrook Lodge** – where a maximum of 10 guests protects the unique serenity of its Outback surroundings (all the better to enjoy the brilliant Southern Cross-spangled skies). Or head for remote **Bloomfield Lodge**, a luxury eco-hideaway with only 17 retreats set in spectacular rainforest surroundings on the shores of the Coral Sea. From here, an unforgettable 30-minute flight along the coast, a short four-wheel drive trip and a cruise across Weary

Bay is all part of the WEXAS Travel – organised experience.

ISLANDS AND BEACHES

What better launch pad for this paradise of perfect blue waters bursting with life than glorious tropical sands? Cairns & Great Barrier Reef has a wealth of such beaches and islands. Green Island, Fitzroy Island, Mission Beach, Port Douglas' Four Mile Beach, Bedarra: the world-famous names roll off like a Who's Who of the world's

hottest hotspots. WEXAS Travel can land you in the lap of luxury at the likes of **Lizard Island**, a little slice of perfection in the ultimate paragon of nature, where you can spend halcyon days swimming and snorkelling the Great Barrier Reef, followed by a Sunset Beach degustation menu on the sands. Or there's Palm Cove's **Pepper's Beach Club & Spa** for total indulgence – not least the sundowners, as the sun sets over one of the world's most indisputably beautiful vistas. Wherever you experience your first island sunset, we defy you not to surrender to the natural beauty, relaxation and romance of Cairns & Great Barrier Reef's island retreats.



Clockwise from top left: Lizard Island Pavilion; Silky Oaks Lodge; cuisine at Lizard Island; Ocean Freedom expedition; Economy entertainment on Qantas; Cape Tribulation; Sunset Point Villa, Lizard Island; diving off Lizard Island

READER OFFER

Experience the ultimate luxury escape with a nine-night holiday in **Cairns & Great Barrier Reef region** for £2,999pp, saving £955 per couple with **WEXAS Travel**. You'll spend time in Cairns, the Daintree Rainforest and finish off with an island escape. Fly in style and

comfort with **Qantas** from London Heathrow to Australia on the award-winning Qantas A380. Enjoy food, wine and the Spirit of Australia as soon as you board. Connect easily to Cairns on arrival with the Qantas domestic network. To take advantage of this fantastic offer, visit cntraveller.com/promotions/cairnsqbr/

