

# Townsville

## Eguide



Townsville is in the far North of Queensland and the entry port for Magnetic Island. The third largest city in Queensland is a large tropical city with many historic buildings.

The centre of the city is Flinders Street, running from the Railway Station almost to the Strand with fine old buildings. Flinders Mall is the central section of the street and a pedestrian only area. Castle Hill reigns supreme over the city the Ross Creek weaves it's way through the city and there is coastline that goes on forever.

The Strand is Townsville's prominent promenade, providing entertainment, dining, playgrounds and picnic spots. It is located on the beach, which is patrolled and protected by two stingers enclosures. A highlight is the Rockpool, a swimming lagoon surrounded by beach like environs and a safe place to cool down.

Townsville boomed during WWII, as it's population tripled when it became a major base for Australian and US forces. It still has a strong military presence as it is home to the Royal Australian Air Force(RAAF) major base situated in Garbutt, five minutes from Townsville.

Townsville's popularity lies with tourists, both national and international, due to it's access to the Great Barrier Reef and Magnetic Island, where snorkelling and diving is an ideal past time. And of course it is the wonderful tropical weather that draws hoards of tourists. Townsville boasts 300 sunny days per year, with warm conditions most of the time, and humidity and tropical storms abundant during the summer months. Townsville has a vibrant night life and restaurant scene, where all styles of entertainment and dining can be found. The hub areas for partying and eating are Flinders Street, Palmer Street, The Strand and the Marina.

## Hinchinbrook Island

This is the world's largest national island park and is accessible by ferry from Port Hinchinbrook. There are some good bushwalks here, taking in the reef, mountains and tropical terrain.

## Magnetic Island

Magnetic Island is eight kilometres from Townsville. It is one of the largest islands in the Great Barrier Reef and 70% of it is national park. Captain Cook named the island when he sailed past on 6th June 1770 as his compass would not work well. Magnetic Island has 16 beaches and lots of accommodation from cheap to resort style. There are more than 22km of walking tracks on the island, as well as an aquarium, a koala sanctuary and a pottery. Magnetic Island is divided into four sections Picnic Bay, Nelly Bay, Arcadia and Horseshoe Bay.

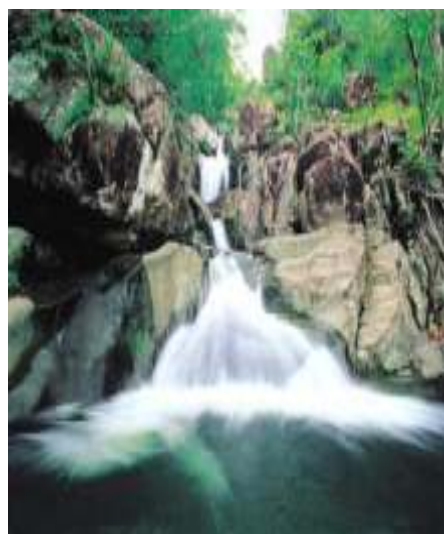
The passenger ferry arrives at Picnic Bay, which is the southern tip of the island. The passenger ferry operates from two points on the city side of the river. The terminal is in Flinders Street. There is a second pick-up point closer to the mouth of the river, on the breakwater along the road to the Casino. The crossing takes 25mins.

There is a bus service on the island that meets the ferry and can take you on a tour or just drop you at one of the locations. There is also a taxi service, moke rentals and scooter hire. You can take your car on the ferry but is often not necessary due to the good transport services provided on the island.



## Orpheus Island

This island is mostly national park, but it does have a reef that is great for diving and snorkelling. Orpheus Island is 80km North of Townsville and can be reached by seaplane from Townsville.



## Anderson Park

Located 6km Northwest of the CBD are 20 hectares of gardens with a tropical feel, Gulliver Street, Mundingburra.

## Anzac Park

A War Memorial commemorating the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Townsville was one of the few places in Australia to be bombed during the Second World War.

## Castle Hill Lookout

A fine view of the whole city as well as being great exercise.



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