

GREAT BARRIER REEF BEACH HOUSE

Wonga Beach *travel handbook*

Beaches, reef and rainforest from our front door: a map, day plans and local know-how for your stay.

Welcome to our little piece of paradise.

We're Mark and Fiona Peart, the proud owners of this beautiful beachfront home at Wonga Beach, nestled between the ancient Daintree Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef.

We believe places this special are meant to be shared, and it's our pleasure to open our home to families, friends and travellers looking for somewhere truly extraordinary to relax, reconnect and create lasting memories.

We hope you enjoy this little piece of paradise as much as we do.

Mark & Fiona, your hosts



From the house

Wonga Beach	1 min walk
Daintree ferry	~10 min
Daintree Village	~15 min
Mossman	~15 min
Mossman Gorge	~20 min
Port Douglas	~25 min
Cape Tribulation	~1 hr
Cairns Airport	~1 hr 20

How to use this handbook

The map on the next page shows everything in this guide, numbered from the closest. Turn over for what each stop is, four easy day plans, and the local know-how that keeps a tropical holiday easy: crocs, stingers, the ferry and where to shop.

Drive times are approximate. Check operators' websites for current times, prices and bookings.



GREAT BARRIER REEF BEACH HOUSE

Wonga Beach

& around

Drive times from the house

➤ Mackay Reef, by boat
from Cape Tribulation



Cape Tribulation
~1 hr

13

Thornton Beach & Cow Bay
~40 min + ferry

12

Daintree Ice Cream
~35 min + ferry

11

Discovery Centre
~30 min + ferry

10

Daintree Village
~15 min

6

Daintree River & ferry
~10 min

2

Snapper Island

Daintree Rainforest
WORLD HERITAGE



Our house

Wonga Beach · 1 min to the sand

Hook-A-Barra
~5 min

1

Newell Beach
~10 min

3

Cooya Beach
~12 min

4

Mossman
~15 min

5

Mossman Gorge
~20 min

7

Port Douglas
~25 min

8

Wildlife Habitat
~25 min

9

↓ Cairns Airport ~1 hr 20

Great Barrier Reef →
outer reef ~90 min by boat
from the Port Douglas marina

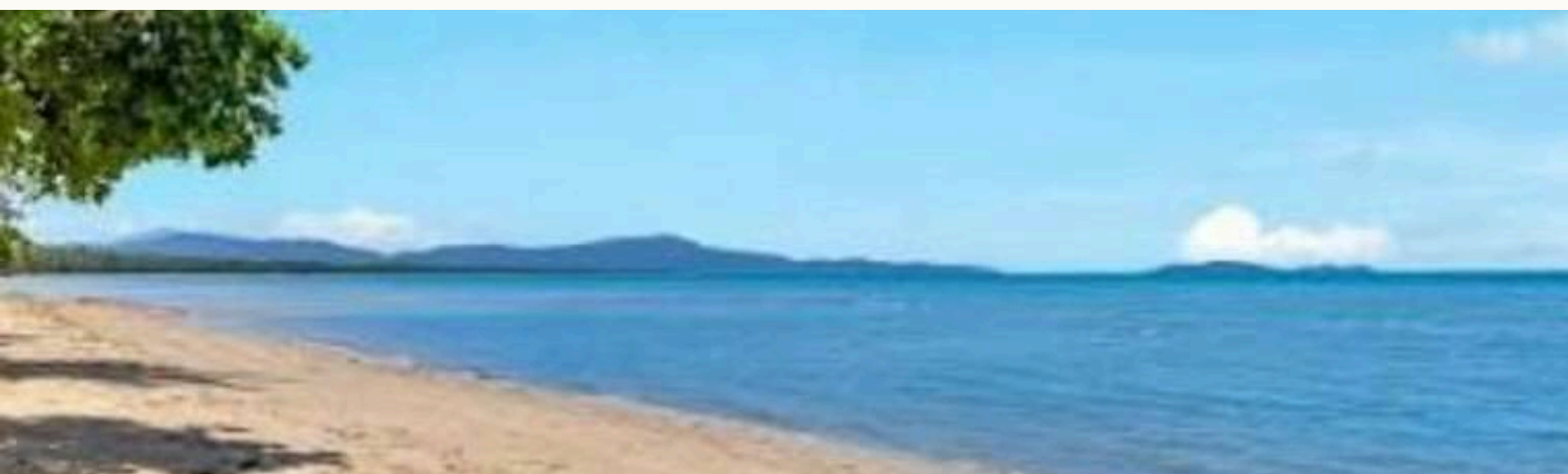
Low Isles
boat from Port Douglas

5 km

Thirteen stops, closest first

- 1 **Hook-A-Barra** ~5 min
Barramundi fishing, farm tours and a café, just down the road.
- 2 **Daintree River & ferry** ~10 min
Croc-spotting cruises and fishing trips. The cable ferry takes you north into the rainforest.
- 3 **Newell Beach** ~10 min
A sleepy beach village looking out to Low Isles.
- 4 **Cooya Beach** ~12 min
Walk the mangroves and learn spear throwing with Kuku Yalanji guides.
- 5 **Mossman** ~15 min
Supermarkets, fuel and the Saturday morning markets.
- 6 **Daintree Village** ~15 min
A small riverside village with cafés, galleries and river cruises.
- 7 **Mossman Gorge** ~20 min
Swimming holes and rainforest boardwalks. Shuttle from the Gorge Centre.
- 8 **Port Douglas** ~25 min
Reef boats from the marina, Four Mile Beach, Flagstaff Hill and the Sunday markets.
- 9 **Wildlife Habitat** ~25 min
Koalas, cassowaries and crocs up close.
- 10 **Discovery Centre** ~30 min + ferry
Canopy tower and aerial walkway through the rainforest.
- 11 **Daintree Ice Cream** ~35 min + ferry
Four tropical-fruit ice creams, made from the orchard. Bring cash.
- 12 **Thornton Beach & Cow Bay** ~40 min + ferry
Wild, empty beaches where the rainforest meets the sand.
- 13 **Cape Tribulation** ~1 hr
Rainforest onto the reef: Myall Beach, boardwalks, horse rides and beach snorkel trips.

By boat: Low Isles and the outer Great Barrier Reef from the Port Douglas marina; Mackay Reef from Cape Tribulation. Snapper Island sits off the mouth of the Daintree River.



Four easy days



STAY CLOSE

An easy first day

1. Sunrise on Wonga Beach, right out the front.
2. A long breakfast on the deck, then low tide on the sand flats.
3. Lunch and a swim in the pool. Nobody needs the car.
4. A drink at the palm swing at dusk.



HEAD NORTH

The rainforest day

1. Early Daintree River cruise to spot crocs (mid-morning in the cooler months).
2. Cross on the ferry and climb the canopy tower at the Discovery Centre.
3. Ice cream at the Daintree Ice Cream Company (bring cash).
4. Myall Beach and the boardwalks at Cape Tribulation, back by dusk.

HEAD SOUTH

The reef day

1. Boats leave the Port Douglas marina in the morning, about 25 minutes away.
2. Low Isles for an easy half day with younger kids, or the outer reef for the full day.
3. A late afternoon on Four Mile Beach, or the view from Flagstaff Hill.
4. Dinner in Port Douglas, then the drive home along the coast.

CLOSE TO HOME

A slow or rainy day

1. Saturday: mangoes and coffee at the Mossman markets. Sunday: Port Douglas markets.
2. Catch a barramundi at Hook-A-Barra, down the road.
3. Koalas and cassowaries at Wildlife Habitat.
4. Coffee and the galleries in Daintree Village, by the river.

Between the rainforest and the reef

Beach

Sunrise & sunset on Wonga Beach **On the doorstep**

The sun comes up straight out of the Coral Sea, and at dusk the sky over the water glows pink and gold.

Beachsafe: Wonga

Fishing & crabbing on the Daintree **~10 min**

Private fishing, crabbing and nature trips on the Daintree River and along the coast with a local guide, aboard a stable, shaded catamaran. daintreefishing.com.au

Newell & Cooya beaches **~10–12 min**

Two quiet neighbouring beaches for a change of scene.

Newell Beach

Kuku Yalanji beach & mangrove tour **~12 min**

Walk the beach, mudflats and mangroves at Cooya Beach with Kuku Yalanji guides. kycht.com.au

Paddleboard & kitesurf lessons **~25 min**

Beginner-friendly paddleboard sessions and kitesurf lessons on Four Mile Beach, or a calm paddle up the rainforest-lined Mossman River, with WindSwell (running since 1999). windswell.com.au

Four Mile Beach **~25 min**

A patrolled beach with lifeguards and a stinger net (usually November to May), for safe sea swims with the kids. **Douglas Shire**

Thornton & Cow Bay beaches **~30–40 min + ferry**

Wild, empty beaches where the rainforest runs right down to the sand. **Thornton Beach**

Reef

Outer Great Barrier Reef **~25 min to marina**

Boats leave Port Douglas every morning for the outer ribbon reefs. **Quicksilver**

Low Isles **~25 min to marina**

Sail to a tiny coral cay with a lighthouse, turtles in the lagoon and a marine biologist on board. **Sailaway**

Reef snorkel from the beach **~1 hr**

Ocean Safari leaves straight from the sand at Cape Tribulation. oceansafari.com.au

Nature

Daintree River wildlife cruise **~10 min**

Glide past crocodiles sunning on the banks, kingfishers and tree snakes. **Solar Whisper**

Mossman Gorge **~20 min**

Clear swimming holes and rainforest boardwalks in the oldest rainforest on earth. mossmangorge.com.au

Flagstaff Hill lookout **~25 min**

A short trail above Four Mile Beach with views over the Coral Sea to Low Isles and Snapper Island. **Douglas Shire**

Daintree Discovery Centre **~30 min + ferry**

Climb the canopy tower and aerial walkway to see the rainforest from the top down. discoverthedaintree.com

Cape Tribulation & Myall Beach **~1 hr**

Where the rainforest runs straight onto the reef. **Myall Beach**

Food & markets

Mossman Saturday Markets **~15 min**

Tropical fruit, local produce and crafts under the big raintrees on Foxton Avenue every Saturday morning. **Douglas Shire**

Port Douglas Sunday Markets **~25 min**

Anzac Park on a Sunday morning: coconuts, local art and fresh juice, then lunch on Macrossan Street. **Tourism Port Douglas**

Daintree Ice Cream Company **~35 min + ferry**

A cup of four tropical-fruit ice creams, made from whatever is fruiting in the orchard that day. daintreeicecream.com.au

Family

Hook-A-Barra **~5 min**

Catch-and-release barramundi fishing and farm tours just down the road in Wonga Beach, with a café on site. hookabarra.com

Wildlife Habitat **~25 min**

Get close to koalas, cassowaries, crocs and wetland birds across five habitats. wildlifehabitat.com.au

Local know-how

Crocodile country

Saltwater crocodiles live in the rivers, creeks and estuaries here and can turn up on beaches. Don't swim in rivers or creeks, keep back from the water's edge and follow the signs.

qld.gov.au/crocwise

Stinger season

Marine stingers are about from roughly November to May. Swim at patrolled beaches inside the stinger nets (Four Mile Beach) and wear a stinger suit in the sea. Pour vinegar on a sting and call 000.

[Beachsafe](#)

Sun and water

The tropical sun is strong all year. Hat, sunscreen and plenty of water, even on cloudy days.

The Daintree ferry

The cable ferry across the Daintree River runs every day, about 5am to midnight. Mobile coverage is patchy north of the river.

daintreeferry.com.au

Supplies

Mossman (about 15 minutes) has supermarkets, fuel, a pharmacy and the hospital. Port Douglas has more shops and restaurants.

Emergencies

Call 000 for police, fire or ambulance.

When to come

Dry season [May to October](#)

Warm days, cooler nights and low humidity. Clear water for the reef and the best time to spot crocs.

Wet season [November to April](#)

Hot and humid with tropical downpours. The rainforest is at its greenest and the waterfalls are full. Stinger season.



SEE YOU AT THE BEACH

Come back to Wonga Beach

Sleeps 11 · 5 bedrooms · one minute to the sand. Live rates and availability are on our website.



gbrbeachhouse.com.au

Book your next stay, read the Journal and see the house.

Instagram @gbr2.026

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