



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences in Queensland

Discover Queensland's oldest living cultures

Jellungal Aboriginal Cultural Centre

Uncover the stories of Queensland's Traditional Owners

In Queensland, two of the world's oldest living cultures converge, making it the only place to experience both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' traditions.

From the rainforests of the Wet Tropics to the sparkling waters of the Torres Strait, experience rich traditions guided by Traditional Owners, whose ancient knowledge of the land spans over 60,000 to 80,000 years.

Through immersive cultural experiences, venture into a deeper connection with nature and a new way of seeing this sun-soaked land of ancient landscapes.

Ways to enjoy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences

Through Dreamtime stories, traditional dance ceremonies and bush tucker encounters, these experiences offer a deeper connection to culture and country in Queensland.

Land based experiences

Step onto country with Traditional Owners and traverse Queensland's ancient landscapes through their eyes.

Starting in Cairns/Gimuy, follow **Culture Connect's** expert guides to explore ancient rock art and master traditional coastal survival skills in interactive workshops. For a captivating overnight experience, join **Mandingalbay Authentic Indigenous Tours** along the East Trinity Reserve riverbank near Cairns/Gimuy. Sleep beneath melaleuca trees as Traditional Owners share native foods, bush medicines and ancient customs in this signature camping adventure.

Take your experience further with **Jarramali Rock Art Tours**, accessing the treasured UNESCO-listed Quinkan Rock Art by helicopter or 4WD - one of the world's top 10 rock art sites.

Venture into World Heritage-listed Mossman Gorge with **Down Under Tours**, or wade alongside Traditional Owners during ancient fishing practices across the mudflats and mangroves of Cooya Beach.

Journey with Pamagirri Aboriginal Experience at **Rainforestation Nature Park** to delve into ancient traditions within the Atherton Tablelands area. Experience the Wet Tropics through the eyes of Pamagirri Guides, who share their cultural knowledge and languages during enriching Dreamtime Walks and Rainforest Walkabouts.

Nestled in the Douglas region (Port Douglas), **Flames of the Forest** transforms the rainforest into an intimate dining sanctuary. As candlelight dances through the canopy, two Aboriginal brothers share their heritage through mesmerising storytelling and didgeridoo performances.

A little further south in Bundaberg, you'll find **Taribelang Bunda Cultural Tours**. Exclusive to the area, the Taribelang Bunda Elders have developed a half day tour sharing the culture embedded and passed on from many generations, traditional artifacts and intricate flavours of bush tucker.

Closer to Brisbane, visit Burleigh on the Gold Coast where **Jellungal Aboriginal Cultural Centre** share the stories of Jellungal/Dreaming Mountain on a guided walk.. Meander through coastal rainforest as Yugambah guides demonstrate traditional fishing methods and share bush tucker knowledge, before cooling off in the crystal-clear waters of Tallebudgera Creek.

Water based experiences

From the pristine coral gardens of the Great Barrier Reef to ancient mangrove forests, Queensland's waterways hold profound cultural significance. Experience three diverse ecosystems - beach, mangroves and coastal reef - where Traditional Owners share their deep connection to waterways through first-hand cultural tours.

Begin your exploration in Cairns & Great Barrier Reef with **Strait Experience**, offering tailored adventures through the Torres Strait. Set sail for two nights to the remote island of Masig, where local guides connect you with Torres Strait Islander culture and traditions.



Rainforestation Nature Park

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Janbal Gallery

Gain a deeper understanding of the Great Barrier Reef's delicate ecosystem and indigenous heritage with a **Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel** trip. Departing from Cairns/Gimuy, engage with clap sticks and fire poles along with live demonstrations of traditional dances and the didgeridoo.

Explore the sparkling beaches and mangrove forests along the southern side of the Daintree River and Mossman area with **Walkabout Cultural Adventures**. Try your hand at boomerang and spear throwing - you might even catch a mud crab!

Join **Kuku Yalanji Cultural Habitat Tours** for a night time fishing activity or private tour of mangroves and mudflats at Kuyu Kuyu/Cooya Beach. You'll learn about the history and environment as well as traditional hunting techniques.

Trek across the powder-soft sands of North Stradbroke Island/Minjerrabah, off the coast of Brisbane, alongside **Yura Tours'** knowledgeable guides. Connect with Quandamooka culture through coastal walks, seasonal whale watching, or exhilarating 4WD adventures.

Only an hour and 20 minute drive from Brisbane, cruise the shores of the Sunshine Coast with **Saltwater Eco Tours** to experience signature bush tucker menus with items like Mooloolaba king prawns with bush tomato, pepperberry and fresh herbs and entertainment all while learning about history, ecology and sustainability. Or explore the serene Mooloolah River on a small group canoe adventure in traditionally painted vessels. Join an immersive cultural cruise across the turquoise waters of the Gold Coast

Broadwater with **Jellurgal Aboriginal Cultural Centre** aboard their luxurious Kokomo vessel. Discover the rich heritage of the Yugambah people through ancient customs, stories and significant sites.

Art galleries and artist experiences

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art is a powerful vessel for cultural knowledge, where each symbol and pattern tells stories of country and ceremony. This artistic tradition - from ancient rock art to contemporary gallery pieces - preserves sacred stories shared through Queensland's galleries and workshops.

Visit **Janbal Gallery** near Port Douglas to join a workshop to create a traditional canvas or boomerang of your own under the guidance of Aboriginal artist, Brian 'Binna' Swindley.

While in the area, don't miss the **Mossman Gorge Culture Centre** to browse the art gallery or participate in a self-guided walk through the Daintree. We recommend the Rainforest Circuit which meanders through the rainforest and presents views of Manjal Dimbi/Mount Demi.

Birrunnga Gallery, in Brisbane's CBD, offers a gallery displaying contemporary First Nations art and performance.

Browse paintings and Aboriginal artefacts such as dilly bags, shields, tools, boomerangs, nulla nullas, message sticks, didgeridoos and other tools and instruments at the **Jellurgal Aboriginal Cultural Centre** in Burleigh Heads. While you're there, wander along the boardwalk story board display where you can further examine the traditional lives of the Yugambah people.

Native bushfood experiences

Discover ancient food traditions through immersive bush tucker experiences that showcase the rich diversity of native ingredients. From sophisticated dining featuring contemporary interpretations of traditional foods, to guided wilderness tours where you'll learn to identify and gather edible plants, these authentic Indigenous experiences offer a taste of the world's oldest living food culture.

Savour bush tucker-infused canapes aboard a two-hour cruise through Mooloolaba canals with **Saltwater Eco Tours**. Sample local seafood like smoked barramundi with saltbush, lilly pillly, Davidson plum, blood orange and blue quandong.

Learn about different foods and medicines, sample seasonal bush tucker, and try traditional Aboriginal hunting practices in Port Douglas with **Walkabout Cultural Adventures**. Join Traditional Owners as they share their deep knowledge of native ingredients and time-honoured preparation techniques.

Take to the skies with **Kiff and Culture's** Aboriginal Culture & Wildlife Heli-Tour. Glide above Moreton Bay to Moreton Island/Mulgumpin before witnessing North Stradbroke. Enjoy fresh shucked oysters and conclude with a beachside feast on Moreton Island.

Walk barefoot along North Stradbroke Island/Minjerrabah shores with **Yura Tours'** Sand Beneath My Feet experience. Learn about the Quandamooka peoples' deep connection to native plants and trees, taste bush tucker gathered from the island's abundance, and hear ancient Dreamtime stories as you stroll to Adder Rock.

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Strait Experience

Performances

Traditional performances offer powerful windows into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, combining music, dance and storytelling in ways that have captivated audiences for thousands of years. Queensland provides several distinctive experiences where these ancient and contemporary art forms come alive.

With the Queensland rainforest as your backdrop, the Pamagirri Dance Performance at **Rainforestation Nature Park** in Kuranda, delights audiences in a natural amphitheatre. Sounds of wildlife accompany the harmony of the didgeridoo and clapsticks.

For a truly enchanting Aboriginal cultural experience in the rainforest, near Port Douglas join **Flames of the Forest** for an intimate dinner and performance by two local Aboriginal brothers. Including traditional storytelling, didgeridoo playing and song, guests are completely immersed in the candlelit rainforest experience.

Glide across azure waters from Cairns/Gimuy to Horn Island and Thursday Island with **Strait Experience**. This day trip showcases Torres Strait Islander culture through powerful traditional performances that bring ancient stories to life.

Indigenous Events

Throughout the year, Queensland comes alive with **Indigenous festivals and events** where visitors can connect with local communities.

- Immerse yourself in the **Shine On Gimuy** arts and cultural festival in Cairns/Gimuy
- Learn about Aboriginal history through cultural workshops and music performances at the **1770 Cultural Connections Festival** in Gladstone
- Cast a line at the **Mapoon Barra Bash** fishing competition in the waters of western Cape York
- Wander around Fogarty Park, Cairns/Gimuy with the family for the **Big Talk One Fire Cultural Festival**
- Watch the sun rise along the banks of Stumers Creek, Sunshine Coast as part of the **Horizon Festival**, followed by art, storytelling, dance and spoken word
- Explore the **Cairns/Gimuy Indigenous Art Fair** for a taste of fashion, performance art, weaves, painting and more
- Head to the outback for the **Mount Isa Mines Indigenous Rodeo Championships** where over 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rodeo athletes compete



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Flames of the Forest

Getting here

Choose your perfect path through Queensland - relax on scenic rail journeys, craft your own adventure on the open roads, or fly direct to international and regional airports.

 International airports are located at Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Cairns/Gimuy.

 Chart your own course on Queensland's open roads and great drives from Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Cairns/Gimuy.

Find more information about experiencing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in Queensland [here](#).

