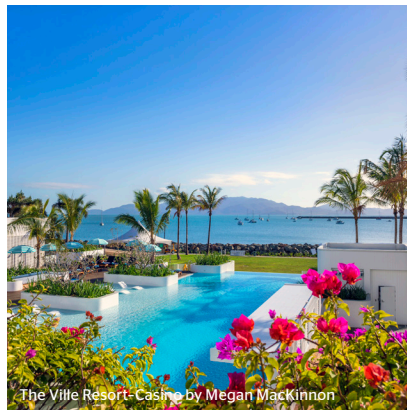


# Pre and Post Touring: Townsville North Queensland's Top 20

**Townsville North Queensland, it's home to endless summer days, picture perfect beaches, the friendliest locals you'll ever meet, the greatest reef in the world (literally!), and waterfalls that will leave you speechless. Whilst this tropical destination oozes holiday appeal, it's also the perfect place to escape frenzies of holiday crowds and immerse yourself in nature's playground. There are hundreds of activities to keep you busy in this special part of the world, but you can't escape to this holiday paradise without ticking these must-dos off the bucket list. Here's our top 20 (in no particular order)!**

- 1 Whether you've got a week or just a day, be sure to explore **Magnetic Island's 23 golden beaches and bays**. See page 10 for all the Magnetic Island non-negotiables!
- 2 Keen to see the reef, but want to keep your feet dry? A trip to **Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium** is an absolute must. As the nationally recognised education centre for the Great Barrier Reef, you'll walk away with a mind full of fun facts.
- 3 Feed a croc, cuddle a koala and meet a dingo at **Billabong Sanctuary**.
- 4 Experience Australia's best breakfast at **Jam** on Palmer Street, devour Italian share plates at **Armati's** beside the rooftop pool at Rambutan, or enjoy something sweet with a view at **Herveys Range Heritage Tea Rooms**.

- 5 Head to the misty mountain village of **Paluma**, where freshwater crystal creeks and Wet Tropics Heritage-listed rainforest walks await. Jump onboard a tour with **NQ Tours** for a local's insight into the best walking trails.



The Ville Resort-Casino by Megan Mackinnon

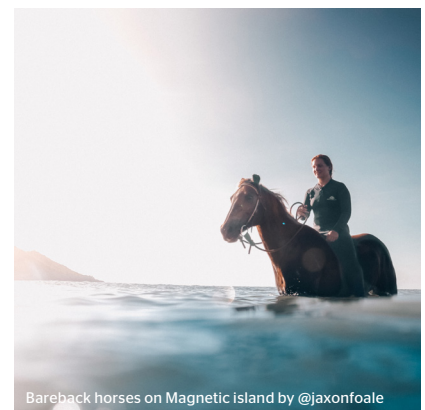
- 6 Bliss out at **The Ville Resort Casino** – the place to be seen in Townsville! Whether you dine out at one of the restaurants, wade to the swim up bar (in the most epic pool!), or rest up in tropical inspired hotel rooms, you won't regret a visit to Townsville's hottest resort!
- 7 No holiday to Townsville is complete without a visit to Townsville's popular beachfront, **The Strand**. Swim, shop, sip, or stroll along this 2.5km spectacular beach promenade.
- 8 Get the adrenaline pumping with **Townsville Watersports**. A jet ski adventure which will take you to some of the most spectacular sights in and around Townsville!

- 9 To take in Townsville in all its glory you can't go past a scenic tour with **Tour Townsville**. Learn about the history of the city and discover the hidden stories that will even surprise the locals!

- 10 Hit the waters of Magnetic Island as you **sail, jet ski, kayak or cruise** your way around the island to take in all its beauty! Don't forget the snorkel, we guarantee you'll want a glimpse of stunning coral and marine life below!

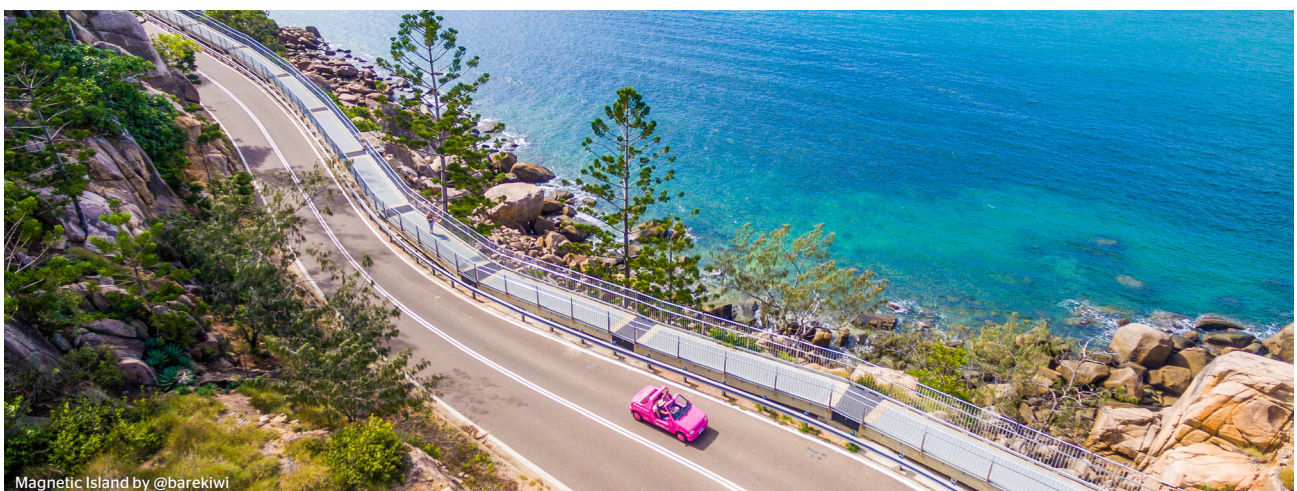
- 11 Dive or snorkel the **Great Barrier Reef** to witness the majestic beauty of this underwater world.

- 12 Discover the flourishing bommies and historical wreck relics that lie beneath the waters off **Magnetic Island** on a self-guided **snorkel trail**.



Bareback horses on Magnetic island by @jaxonfoale

- 13 Ride bareback through the ocean on a bush-to-beach horse riding tour at the **Horseshoe Bay Ranch** on Magnetic Island.



Magnetic Island by @barekiwi





Yongala Dive

**14** The **SS Yongala** is a total bucket-list shipwreck, but if you haven't got your creds yet for this advanced dive, you can start from scratch and tick off all the certifications in one trip with **Adrenalin Snorkel and Dive** or **Yongala Dive**.

**15** Breathe in the 360 degree views of the city atop **Castle Hill**. Drive up to the lookout or join the 2,500+ locals that tackle the terrain on foot each day, with several walking tracks on offer. Top tip: Have your camera on hand to snap an insta-worthy sunrise or sunset!

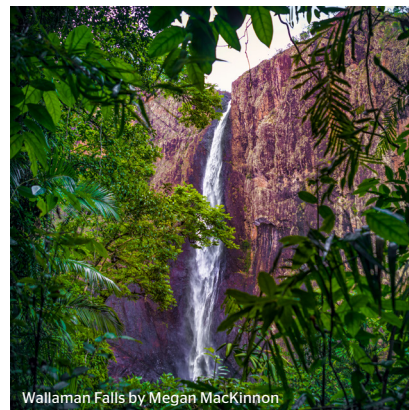
**16** Experience a truly authentic outback encounter with **Texas Longhorn Wagon Tours and Safaris**, where you can meet JR, the 2013 Guinness World Record Holder for longest horns, measuring close to three metres from tip to tip!

**17** Explore the shipwrecks of Magnetic Island on a sunset tour with **Aquascene Charters**. Discover the stories of these beautiful boats and cruise along the stunning Island shoreline.

**18** Aim for the skies and check out the views from above with a helicopter tour with **Townsville Helicopters**, **Nautilus Aviation** or **Hinchinbrook Adventures**.

**19** Two words: **Platypus safari**. Why? The platypus safari at **Hidden Valley Cabins** has a 98% success rate of spotting these duck-billed cuties, earning the title of one of the top six places in the country to spot them by Australian Geographic!

**20** Prepare to pick your jaw up from the ground when you witness the awe of **Wallaman Falls** - Australia's largest sheer drop waterfall, located just a short drive from Ingham.



Wallaman Falls by Megan MacKinnon



Texas Longhorn Wagon Tours by Budd Photography