

# SUGGESTED COOKTOWN ITINERARY BY HILLCREST GUEST HOUSE

## Day 2

- Fishing/Boat trip • Botanic Gardens • Finch Bay • Sunset Cruise



### Fishing/Boat trip

Cooktown is unique for its close proximity to a range of exclusive fishing spots. The Endeavour and Annan Rivers, as well as the Wharf in town are great places to find trevally, queenies, permit and the elusive bonefish; and in the estuaries barramundi, mangrove jacks, fingermark and crabs. Meanwhile, inshore reefs lie just a couple of miles out whilst travelling 10-15 miles further out from the Wharf will open even more possibilities.

As Cooktown is the closest town to the iconic world heritage site, The Great Barrier Reef, a fishing trip with companies such as Gone Fishing or Cooktown Barra Charters would be the perfect way to explore the local rivers and Reef.



### Botanic Gardens

Gallop Botanic Reserve was established in 1878 as the Cooktown Botanic Gardens and Recreation Reserve. The Reserve commemorates the work of Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander from the HMS Endeavour who collected and documented botanical specimens from the district in 1770. A century later, the establishment of the Reserve reflected Cooktown's emergence as the principal port of Far North Queensland. It was the port that thousands of Chinese flocked to for work at the Palmer River gold fields.

A cyclone hit Cooktown in 1907 causing the gardens to suffer. The Reserve was closed after World War One and not rebuilt until 1979. In 1997 the Gallop Botanic Reserve, incorporating Cooktown Botanic Gardens was listed on the Queensland Heritage Register after satisfying criteria.

HILLCREST GUEST HOUSE - IDEAL ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUR STAY IN COOKTOWN



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Now, the Reserve stands unique in Queensland for its combination of formal botanical garden, substantial natural forest and ocean frontage, not to mention; its 19th century layout is one of the most intact in Queensland.



### Finch Bay

Finch Bay is a fairly sheltered beach located approximately 2km from downtown Cooktown – along the same road as the Botanic Gardens and the Natures Powerhouse Visitor Information Centre. It can also be accessed via a walking track through the Botanic Gardens.

The north-east facing beach is 500m long and is surrounded by heavily vegetated, granite headlands. When the tide is out the beach is a broad expanse of flat sand. There are interesting rock formations to see and thousands of small sand crabs make Finch Bay their home. The small round balls of sand they make are fascinating.

In addition, be sure to watch out for crocs in Alligator Creek which crosses the centre of the beach, with its tidal channel tending to meander across the southern half of the beach.

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### Sunset Cruise – Riverbend Tours

Experience the magic of a Cooktown sunset on a cruise down one of Cooktown’s rivers – the Endeavour River...the exact river that James Cook sailed, in 1770, before landing in Cooktown.

The sunset cruise explores the harbour in the long afternoon light before heading upstream to admire the sunset over the distant ranges. While the boat navigates its way through the maze of smaller creeks you will be served a complimentary gourmet cheese platter to accompany your drink of choice.

Departs; 5pm daily during winter, and 5:30pm during summer (must have a minimum of 4 people to operate).

ADULT	\$45
CHILD	(Aged 7-14): \$25
CHILD (Under 7)	Free
FAMILY PASS (2 ad. & 2 ch.)	\$125

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