

Travel With Me
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Christmas and Cocos Discovery Jan 2021

Duration : 11 Days / 10 Nights
Departure Dates : 5th January 2021
Tour Type : Adventure – Travel with Me Exclusive

Day 1: 5 Jan – Depart Perth to Christmas Island

On arrive into Christmas Island, you will be met at the airport and taken to your accommodation. Once you have settled in there will be an Island Briefing on the back deck of VQ3 Lodge. For dinner enjoy a Beach BBQ at Flying Fish Cove. BBQ included - BYO alcohol (will stop at mini-market for people to purchase drinks and other snacks they might like for the week). Then return to the hotel.

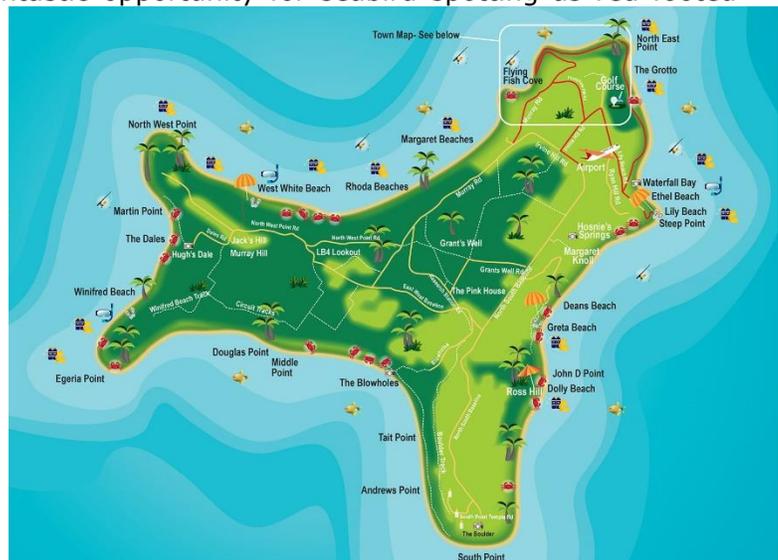
Hotel: VQ3 Lodge (D)

Day 2: 6 Jan – Christmas Island Orientation

The morning will start with a Continental Breakfast at the Hotel. We will then take our Christmas Island Orientation Tour where you will discover the local history, culture and be taken to places of interest. We will then stop for lunch at the Local Café.

After a nice lunch break we will then take in some breathtaking views as we trek into Golf Course Lookout. You will need good mobility for this. It is a short walk but there is a steep descent/ascension). This will be a fantastic opportunity for seabird spotting as red-footed boobies, frigate birds and golden bosuns glide overhead the picturesque cliff tops. You will then return to the hotel and get ready for dinner at the local restaurant.

Hotel: VQ3 Lodge (B/L/D)



Day 3: 7 Jan – Lily & Ethel Beaches

Enjoy the start to a new day with a Continental breakfast at Hotel. We are heading off to Lily & Ethel beaches this morning. Take a swim or a walk along the boardwalk between the 2 beaches to view the birds nesting on the cliffs overlooking the ocean. Lunch will be a picnic at Lily Beach before returning to town for some rest and relaxation time. Dinner will be at a local restaurant

Hotel: VQ3 Lodge (B/L/D)

Day 4: 8 Jan – Learn about the wildlife

Start the relaxing day with a Cooked breakfast at VQ3 Lodge. Take your time as you have all morning to laze around your hotel and do things at your leisure. We will all meet up and head to a local café for lunch. Then it is off to visit Lizard Lodge where you will learn all about the reptile conservation program. From there we will visit the Orphaned Bird feeding program where you will have a rare chance to watch volunteers feed rescued Christmas Island birds and learn about the rehabilitation project. Return to the hotel for a rest before dinner at a local restaurant

Hotel VQ3 Lodge (B/L/D)

Day 5: - 9 Jan – Hughs Dale Waterfall

Enjoy a Continental breakfast at Hotel before we set off for a walking tour into Hugh's Dale Waterfall. One of the only places on the island with flowing water all year round, these rainforested wetlands are home to mighty Tahitian chestnut trees, blue crabs and an array of rare and endemic species. The **Hughs Dale** track is a raised boardwalk that leads to a permanent **waterfall** in the rainforest. (good mobility and some endurance required). We will stop for morning tea along the way. Further into the day we will have a picnic lunch before returning to the hotel for some rest and relaxation. Dinner will be at a local restaurant.

Hotel: VQ3 Lodge (B/L/D)



Day 6: - 10 Jan – Blowholes and Snorkeling Boat Trip

Start the day with a Continental breakfast at hotel. We are off to the Blowholes today where you can walk through towering rainforest and watch seawater rocketing high into the air. Lunch will be a delicious fish lunch served at Flying Fish Cove. With coral reefs surrounding the Island, and an abundance of fish and coral to see, just a few metres from the shore, you will have the time of your life on the 2-hour snorkelling boat trip. Return to the hotel for relaxation before dinner at a local restaurant. You can then enjoy the Outdoor Cinema for a \$5 donation (subject to being open)

Hotel: VQ3 Lodge (B/L/D)

Day 7: 11 Jan – Dolly & Greta Beaches

Rise and Shine for your Continental breakfast at Hotel. After breakfast head off to Dolly & Greta Beaches. Dolly is one of the prettiest and most secluded beaches on the island. Walk through the rainforest along a boardwalk for approx. 2 km's. You will come to a sandy beach surrounded by overhanging coconut palms and shallow rock pools. Marine turtles nest at both Dolly & Greta beaches so you are bound to come across some on your visit. Morning tea will be provided. You will return to the township for a picnic lunch before heading back to the hotel for relaxation or whatever you decide to do. Being the last night we will all come back together for a farewell dinner.

Hotel: VQ3 Lodge (B/L/D)

Day 8: 12 Jan – Fly to Cocos Islands

Last morning for a Cooked breakfast at Hotel. Have a relaxing morning before packing and checking out of the hotel. Time for any last minute shopping or souvenir hunting. Lunch will be provided at a local café before returning to the airport for your flight onto Cocos Islands.

On arrive into Cocos Islands, you will be met at the airport and taken to your hotel. Dinner on your first night will be at Salty's.

Hotel: Cocos Beach Resort (B/L/D)



Day 9: 13 Jan – Options today

OPTION 1 : Enjoy breakfast and depart early on the ferry from West Island to Home Island. For the more adventurous, we will be taking the Atoll Walk starting from the Jetty on Home Island and continuing down the right side of the atoll. The walk encounters a range of different ground conditions under foot, from soft boggy soil (yellow section shown) to large rocks and boulders when we are on the ocean side of the Atoll walk, very little beach walking. One of the most picturesque walks in the world. It will take approx. 6 hours with a stop for lunch along the way. Once arriving at South Island, Ash will meet the group with drinks and nibbles. After enjoying rest time on South Island, the Motorised Outrigger Canoes will head back to West Island with a stop along the way for a snorkel at Pulu Maraya. Dinner this evening will be held at House 20.

OPTION 2 : Enjoy breakfast and depart early on the ferry from West Island to Home Island. Tour Home Island and visit The Museum and delve into the fascinating history of Cocos. Then onto the picturesque cemetery located towards the north of the island. Here you can enjoy the amazing views of Prison Island and Direction Island. Return by ferry to West Island then onto the Big Barge Art Centre and clam farm. The colourful barge hosts and sells a unique collection of local art including paintings, photo canvases, textiles, carvings and jewellery. A light lunch will be served here before heading back to the hotel to get changed for the afternoon Motorised Canoe Tour at 1pm. Explore the pristine waters of the Southern Atoll and enjoy a swim or snorkel and while looking out for numerous birds, turtles or crabs. Drinks and Nibbles will be provided. Head back to the hotel to get ready for dinner at House 20

Hotel: Cocos Beach Resort (B/L/D)

Day 10: 14 Jan – Direction Island

An early start to catch the ferry to Direction Island where we will have breakfast on the beach. Have a relaxing morning swimming and snorkelling the waters surrounding Direction Island offering as spectacular array of colourful reef fish and beautiful coral formations. Get ready for a historical walk along the Direction Island Heritage Trail where you will learn the fascinating history of Direction Island as you pass by interpretive panels telling its story. We will follow up with lunch before a final swim/snorkel, then catch the ferry back to West Island. On arrival we will explore hidden spots, learn more about the history and unknown stories as we do a tour of West Island. The evening will be a wonderful experience with a Malay cooking class at Saltmakers café which will be followed by dinner

Hotel: Cocos Beach Resort (B/L/D)



Day 11: 15 Jan – Flight back to Perth departing 11.50

The final morning has arrived and it is time to pack your bags as you will be saying farewell to the Islands today. Breakfast will be at Saltly's at your own expense this morning. Take in any last minute shopping before heading to the airport for your flight home.

Virgin Australia VA1909

Departing Perth on 05JAN21 at 12:30

Arriving Christmas Island on 05JAN21 at 15:20

Virgin Australia VA1918

Departing Christmas Island on 12JAN21 at 16:05

Arriving Cocos Islands on 12JAN21 at 17:10

Virgin Australia VA1917

Departing Cocos Islands on 15JAN21 at 11:50

Arriving Christmas Island on 15JAN21 at 13:55

Virgin Australia VA1912

Departing Christmas Island on 15JAN21 at 14:40

Arriving Perth on 15JAN21 at 19:15

