



Sample Itinerary for AUIP Australia - Sustainability in South Queensland Program

Please note: This itinerary is a sample of potential program activities, based on previous years' programs. Deviations from this plan may be expected.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Australia

Day 2: En route to Australia

(lose a day crossing the International Dateline)

Day 3: Brisbane

Our Australian adventure begins today with a barbeque lunch and visit to Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary where we'll be introduced to some of this continent's unique wildlife. Cuddle a koala, hand-feed kangaroos, and encounter a large variety of Australian species, all in their naturalistic habitat. There will be orientation briefings and some free time to help you get settled in for the amazing adventures ahead.

Day 4: Brisbane

We dive right into the academic content today with a variety of lectures from local authorities. Topics such as indigenous culture, Aboriginal spirituality, Australian art, and more will get us on track for getting the most out of our program.

Day 5: Brisbane

Foundation lectures continue today as we cover still further topics, including Australia's history and biogeography. There will also be ample time for individual work on our module assignments.

Day 6: Brisbane

Brisbane is Queensland's largest city and today we continue to take advantage of the broad expertise that is concentrated here. We'll hear from additional speakers on urban issues while also further exploring the flora and fauna of the smallest continent. Aiding us in this latter task will be a hands-on demonstration with some native animals. You'll have a chance to see and touch a variety of birds, marsupials, snakes, and lizards.

Day 7: Brisbane to Lamington National Park

Today we trade the big city for the lush highlands of Lamington National Park. Home to remnants of the temperate rainforests of Gondwana, the park is an ideal place for us to explore natural Australia. Led by our knowledgeable local guide, we'll learn about the plants and animals of the park, including how to identify and track them. This evening we'll learn more about the human side of this region as we are entertained with some bush poetry and bush dancing.

Day 8: Lamington National Park

The forest beckons again as we stretch our legs to explore a range of vegetation zones, while the chorus of native birds make the canopy come alive. Included in today's hike are some of the stunning waterfalls of the region, where the heavy rainfall has carved tight channels in the rocks. After a hearty dinner, we'll return to the forest for our nocturnal field exercises, which give us a chance to see some of the wildlife like possums and gliders, which only come out after dark.

Day 9: Lamington National Park

Today we put all our newfound rainforest knowledge to use as we work on our rainforest field exercise. There will be plenty of time for discussion and review of this important assessment before and after lunch. By late afternoon, we'll turn our attention to completing a census of flying foxes, and perhaps even go in search of platypus in a nearby stream.

Day 10: Lamington National Park to Brisbane

This morning we have our last contact with the rainforest and finish our module work before driving back to Brisbane. This evening is unstructured so you're free to enjoy reconnecting with warm weather, bright lights, and modern conveniences.

Day 11: Brisbane to Noosa

Heading north of Brisbane, we travel by chartered coach to the coastal town of Noosa. The drive up to the Sunshine Coast winds through the suburban sprawl of Brisbane before fertile farmlands take over, with fields bursting with strawberries, oranges, lemons, pineapples, and more.

Day 12: Noosa

Today we visit the Noosa Biosphere, Queensland's first UNESCO Biosphere, which promotes harmony between people and nature through education, conservation, and sustainable activities. Spend the evening at leisure grabbing dinner on your own at one of Noosa's many restaurants.

Day 13: Noosa to Hervey Bay

We continue our journey north to the coastal town of Hervey Bay. As we prepare for our visit to the Great Barrier Reef, we'll have lectures today about sustainability principles and tourism and discuss how these two things can coexist. There's time for module discussions and for reading ahead in your course reader on marine ecology.

Day 14: Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef! As we settle into our resort on the reef, we begin our marine ecology module, kicking things off with an introduction to snorkeling, project design, and a group module discussion. There will be time to enjoy our exotic location, and we'll also learn about ecotourism from a tour operator's perspective.

Day 15: Great Barrier Reef

While we'll have further lectures that prepare us for what to expect, it's only when you get in the water that you can truly appreciate the complexity of the Great Barrier Reef - one of

the natural wonders of the world. Today we get up close to the reef and its many colorful residents when we travel by boat to snorkel offshore in the morning, and spend the afternoon exploring the near-shore waters with a reef walk. In the evening, we'll reflect on today's sightings and prepare for tomorrow's research project.

Day 16: Great Barrier Reef

The health of a coral reef ecosystem can be measured by looking at the relative abundance of the animals that live there. Today we'll be briefed on the methods of our reef ecology research project before going snorkeling again to collect data on the health of this section of reef. With yesterday's experience under our belts, it's amazing how much more you'll notice now that you're "snorkeling with a purpose."

Day 17: Great Barrier Reef to Brisbane

We wrap-up the reef module this morning with group project presentations, discussion, and a quiz. There will be a little free time to enjoy the beach and coral one last time before we head back to civilization this afternoon.

Day 18: Brisbane

You'll be getting familiar with Brisbane by now so you will probably have lots of ideas on how you want to spend today's open schedule. Whether you want to explore more of the city, catch up on your modules and reading, or just take some time to relax, you've got the whole day to do it.

Day 19: Brisbane to Homestays

You've seen a lot of Australia by now, and you've *met* some Australians. But with today's farmstay you'll have the opportunity to really *get to know* some Aussies. You'll stay with an Australian family, sharing their daily routines and learning from them as they work on their farm or rural property. It's a great way to better understand the people and their connection to the land. A delicious home-cooked dinner completes your day.

Day 20: Homestays to Carnarvon Gorge

Regrouping this morning, we head further inland today with a drive to Carnarvon Gorge. This takes us well away from the built-up areas of coastal Queensland and into the Australian hinterlands. The land here is sparsely populated, and we'll get an appreciation for the expansiveness of Queensland as we head toward the Outback. At Carnarvon, we'll stay in cozy safari tents.

Day 21: Carnarvon Gorge

Carnarvon Gorge has long been an important place for Aboriginal people and in our time here we'll hear of how they used this area and get some hands-on experience with indigenous technology. Our guides will also lead us on an exploration of the national park, interpreting the landscape and identifying wildlife as we go. This evening, our guided night walk searches for nocturnal wildlife like possums and other marsupials.

Day 22: Carnarvon Gorge



The sandstone cliffs at Carnarvon are the canvas on which much Aboriginal art has been painted. The oldest works here are over 3,000 years old. Our guides will explain the significance of some of these stencils and engravings as we start on our project, looking at how the landscape here has influenced human culture. Tonight we'll take advantage of the lack of urban light pollution and enjoy some stargazing at the southern skies.

Day 23: Carnarvon Gorge

We'll finish our exercise here in the gorge with further opportunities to view rock art and understand the geology of this unusual formation. And tonight, around a roaring campfire, we'll complete our module discussions.

Day 24: Carnarvon Gorge to Brisbane

Our experience in the "bush" completed, it's now time to head back to Brisbane and start preparing for the final exam. The drive back to the state capital takes about nine hours so if you aren't busy staring at the gorgeous landscapes, there's ample time to review your notes and finish your module work.

Day 25: Brisbane

It's our final full day in Australia and with it comes this morning's Final Exam. That leaves the afternoon free for a chance at some last-minute shopping or revisiting a favorite spot in this vibrant, subtropical city. We'll have our Farewell Dinner this evening to wrap up this study abroad experience.

Day 26: Brisbane to U.S.

With new friends and a deeper understanding of the land Down Under, it's time to make our way back across the Pacific Ocean and the International Dateline, which means you'll gain back the day you lost when you flew down to Australia! Students also studying on the Fiji Sustainability Program instead depart for Fiji.