

## Hokies Abroad Australia: Tasmania and Queensland – Humans + the Environment

### *Itinerary Highlights*

Please note that activities and itinerary components are subject to change.

### Day 1 – 6 Hobart

#### **Salamanca Market**

With more than 300 stalls selling arts, crafts, jewellery and local produce, you will have the opportunity to speak with local artisans and try some of Tasmania's best food.



Photo credit: City of Hobart and Alastair Bett

#### **Mount Field National Park & Gordon Dam visit**

Walk through the towering tree ferns and giant eucalypts to the breathtaking, three-tiered Russell Falls, arguably one of the most impressive waterfalls in Tasmania.

Gordon is Tasmania's largest power station. The dam on the Gordon River is a 140m high concrete arch, which holds 30 times the water of Sydney Harbour. Descend the steel steps on to the face of the Gordon Dam and walk along the top to enjoy this awe-inspiring feat of engineering.



#### **Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens guided tour**

The Royal Botanical Gardens is Australia's premier cool-climate garden. Your tour will showcase many of the Gardens' key collections and provide insight into the work being undertaken to preserve Tasmania's unique flora for the future.



Photo credit: Tourism Australia

#### **Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery (TMAG)**

TMAG is Tasmania's leading natural and cultural heritage organization. It is a combined museum, art gallery and herbarium. Learn about Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage as well as contemporary culture.

#### **Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary**

En route, drive to the summit of Mt Wellington, allowing for fabulous views over Hobart. Spend some time on the boardwalk and in the observation shelter.

Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary (pronounced "Bon-a-rong" - Aboriginal meaning "Native Companion") was established in 1981 as a sanctuary for injured and orphaned wildlife. You will see native animals which are extinct everywhere but Tasmania, such as the famous Tassie Devil, Tasmanian Bettong, Eastern Quoll and Tasmanian Pademelon. You will also see Aussie favorites like wombats, kangaroos, possums, lizards, native birds and so many more.



### **Tasman Island Cruise**

Spend the day cruising along the Tasmanian peninsula. The cruise travels beneath the highest vertical sea cliffs in the Southern Hemisphere. You will explore waterfalls, rock formations, archways, and deep-sea caves. The coastline is part of the Tasman National Park, home to a variety of wildlife including hundreds of seals, migrating whales and abundant sea birds in their thousands.



Photo credit: Poon Wai Nang

### **Day 6 – 10 Magnetic Island**

Receive lectures from experts on coastal ecosystems, including culturally significant wetlands. Hike to The Forts, with the opportunity to see koalas in the wild. Later get up close and personal with Hagrid, an injured koala being cared for in captivity.



### **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park extends over 2300kms and is one of the richest, most complex, and diverse ecosystems in the world. Meet expert educators to find out about the diverse reef communities and amazing creatures that live there, how the reef is monitored and managed, as well as the role GBRMPA plays in conservation, research and in protecting the long-term health of the reef.

### **Koala Population Study**

You will participate in a field-based survey of the local koala population, in an area where koalas are known to occur.

### **Day 10 – 13 Hidden Valley**

#### **Hidden Valley Cabins**

Your hosts will share their experience of operating a 100% solar-powered, family-run remote ecotourism resort. Your guide will talk tourism and lead you on hikes through rainforests. You will swim in creeks, go platypus spotting, and enjoy delicious barbecue dinners.

#### **Wallaman Falls hike & master plan development**

See the largest sheer drop waterfall (305m) in the southern hemisphere. Hike to the base and enjoy a picnic lunch.



#### **Mungalla Station Aboriginal cultural experience**

Learn about Nywaigi Aboriginal culture and hear the stories of your guide's ancestors who were exhibited as cannibals in the 19th century circuses of Europe and the US. Try traditional activities such as throwing boomerangs and take part in service-learning.

### **Day 13 – 14 Mission Beach**

#### **Cassowary conservation**

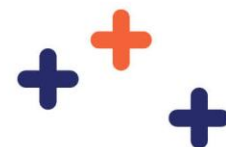
C4 members maintain a nursery to propagate local native species and an environment center for education and advocacy. They work to identify, secure, and rehabilitate degraded habitat, including cassowary corridors.

### **Day 14 – 16 Atherton**

#### **Homestay**

Get a taste of rural Aussie life by spending two nights with a farming family in small groups of your fellow students. Your host families will encourage you to enjoy life on the farm and take part in a variety of fun and immersive experiences.





## Day 16 – 18 Cape Tribulation

### Daintree Rainforest

You will explore from the forest floor to the upper canopy with the aid of elevated boardwalks, a 23-metre-tall tower, and a gondola. Conduct a service-learning project involving surveying and monitoring of trees on a revegetation plot and discuss development issues.



### Ngadiku Dreamtime Walk

Walk through the rainforest with a local Indigenous guide, experiencing a traditional smoking ceremony, a visit to traditional huts (humpies), identification of edible and medicinal plants, a demonstration of bush soap making and ochre painting; and sampling bush tea and damper.

## Day 18 – 22 Port Douglas

### Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife Habitat is an open and interactive environment where you can wander along elevated boardwalks, observing up close a huge range of freely roaming animals.

### Great Barrier Reef day trips

You will spend two unforgettable days snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef! Learn about the challenges the reef faces due to climate change, and how scientists and governments are working cooperatively to manage this most precious natural resource. Learn to identify the marine species you will encounter while snorkeling on the reef, including schools of tropical fish, coral gardens, sea turtles, eels, reef sharks, and much more!



## Day 22 – 23 Cairns

### Cairns Aquarium and Living Coral Biobank

An Australian reef expert will guide you through Cairns' newest aquarium. Visit Australia's only 10-metre Deep Reef Tank, 360-degree Oceanarium, and 20-metre underwater tunnel. You will get up close to freshwater fish, pythons, emerald tree monitors, crocodiles, colorful reef fish, sharks, rays, and more. Next go behind the scenes, to where you will bear witness to the Earth's largest collection of hard corals; situated in a state-of-the-art living coral biobank, designed to keep these corals alive forever.