T: 1-800-985-4852
E: info@realgap.com
P: Real Gap Experience, 8 Essex Center Drive, Peabody, MA 01960

Oz Experience Cozzie Pass

Adventure Relaxation Culture

Trip Name: Oz Experience Cozzie Pass **Trip Code:** OZXC **Duration:**

Trip Highlights

- Flexible hop on hop off bus pass that allows you to journey from Sydney to Cairns or Cairns to Sydney.
- Cruise the beautiful Whitsunday Islands aboard a 2 day/ 1 night sailing adventure.
- Feel the sand between your toes on Fraser Island - the largest sand island in the world!
- Experience the weird and whacky town of Nimbin.
- Surf and stay at Spot X.
- Stay at a real Aussie ranch at Kroombit Cattle Farm.

Overview

Travel the East Coast of Australia starting in either Sydney or Cairns for up to six months. The pass gives you great flexibility, with the opportunity to stop off at a number of great locations that will give you a glimpse of the laid back Australian culture.

This pass also includes two great trips in two of the jewels of the East Coast. A 4WD tag along tour around Fraser Island is included which takes you to the largest sand island in the world. Renowned for its furry inhabitants; the Dingoes, you can swim in the fresh water Lake McKenzie and catch a glimpse of the Maheno shipwreck. You'll also get to experience a 2 day/1 night sailing adventure around the beautiful Whitsunday Islands in the Great Barrier Reef. This is the Cozzie Pass. This is the ultimate Australia Experience.

Destination Info

The East Coast of Australia is renowned for its backpacking scene, where thousands of travellers enjoy the sandy beaches and laid back atmosphere year on year. The coast boasts fabulous lively cities and beaches including cosmopolitan Sydney, bohemia Byron Bay, the ever-changing sands at Rainbow Beach, party central Airlie Beach and tropical Cairns.

Oz Experience Cozzie Pass

Australia attracts many visitors each year due to its broad range of things to see and do. The varying landscape offers many beautiful attractions and fantastic activities, from surfing and white water rafting to trekking and skiing. As well as natural beauty, Australia's cosmopolitan cities offer a wide variety of cultural attractions from sports to art.

Australia is a huge country size wise, and therefore offers a diverse population and landscape, creating a perfect environment for travelling and working.

Itinerary

The itinerary listed below includes the main highlights en route from Sydney to Cairns (Northbound); however you can also travel on this pass from Cairns to Sydney (Southbound).

Hunter Valley
We drive into Ku-Ring Gai Chase National Park, the second oldest National Park in Sydney, rich in Aboriginal history, admire Rock Art and carvings. Have your taste buds ready as we spend the afternoon tasting the best of the Hunter Valley region.

Sydney to Spot X Surf Camp
East Coast, here we come! It's out of the city nice and early heading to the mid North East coast of New South Wales with a hop-off option at Coffs Harbour and Crescent Head. If you're keen for a surf (one lesson is included in your pass) then surf away! There is a local payment to cover the cost of your overnight accommodation and meals. Stay longer if you reckon surfing's your thing!

Surf Camp to Byron Bay (compulsory stopover)
Surfs-up this morning! It's time for your surf lesson – this is included in your ticket and all gear is supplied: wetsuits, surfboards, professional surf instructors, water and lots of fun. Surfing can be addictive so you may wish to stay longer and enjoy the tranquil and uncrowded surf beaches. For those continuing north we leave around midday for the short drive to Byron Bay where we stay the night.

Also included is a return day trip to the weird and whacky town of Nimbin!

Byron Bay to Gold Coast
Wave good bye to beautiful Byron Bay and cross the border into Queensland. Our first pick up/drop-off point is Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast: golden sands, theme parks, and great bars and clubs. It's a lot of high-rise buildings, but it's a lot of fun. Try it out for a couple of days yourself and see…

Gold Coast to Brisbane
Roll into Brisbane (Queensland's capital) just before lunch time for pickups and drop offs. It's a laid back city, and a great place to stop and look for work if you're on a working holiday visa.

Brisbane to Noosa
Brisbane disappears behind us as we head north to the sunny Sunshine Coast. We pass the Glasshouse Mountains, the name of which will be fully explained by your guide, before arriving in Noosa to drop-off and pick-up more Oz Experience beachgoers. On the way we take a break at Wild Horse Mountain National Park for a walk and panoramic views of the Sunshine Coast area.

Noosa to Rainbow Beach (compulsory stopover)
Rainbow Beach is the shortcut to Fraser Island so the best place to start your tag along four wheel drive island adventure. We think the really cool thing about Rainbow is that once you're back from Fraser Island there's more stuff to do. Rainbows got beaches, great natural attractions like the Carlo Sand Blow and the coloured cliffs, and even wild dolphin feeding (optional). Hop off the bus here for an exclusive Oz Experience cultural walk around the local area.

Fraser Island* (compulsory stopover – 2 nights)
It's an early start today for our four-wheel-driving on the beautiful World Heritage Fraser Island. This 'tag along' tour means you can relax as an experienced driver takes the wheel. Fraser has shipwrecks, sandy bush tracks, smooth beaches and beautiful freshwater lakes to swim in. After an action packed 3 days we return to Rainbow Beach.

Rainbow Beach to Hervey Bay

It's an early start today for those going on the cruise to feed the dolphins; or those going for a few days four-wheel-driving on the beautiful World Heritage Fraser Island. For those who are continuing their journey north, we board the bus to Hervey Bay for hostel drop-offs and pickups.

Hervey Bay to Childers and Bundaberg
If its cash you need then the fruit-picking towns of Bundaberg or Childers may be your next stop. Its hard work, but you'll get paid by the 'bucket load'. Bundaberg is also famous for an Aussie brand of rum called Bundaberg Rum (or Bundy as the locals call it).

Bundaberg to Town of 1770
If by now you're feeling a little tired and in need of a holiday within your holiday then the Town of 1770 is the place to stop. 1770 is special: the activities don't cost much, the beaches are great, the people are friendly, and it's that ideal place to chill out and recharge your batteries before heading to Far North Queensland. You may wish to try the famous Scooteroo (ride an easy-rider motorbike complete with leathers)!

Town of 1770 to Rockhampton (including overnight side trip to Kroombit Cattle Station – compulsory 1 night stopover)
Leaving 1770 the bus will travel north to Rockhampton. Your pass includes the opportunity to 'go bush' to the dust dirt of our unique cattle station by catching the free round trip transfer from Rockhampton to Kroombit - it's well worth a visit! You'll arrive in Kroombit just before lunch and then get into the afternoon action; enjoy the original and world famous (in Kroombit) goat rodeo; there's a goat muster on horseback (own expense) and don't go to bed before cracking a whip and having a ride on the mechanical bull!

Kroombit is a great taste of life in the Australian outback not to mention the campfire cooked dinner, bush bar and the western clothes. There's a local payment to cover the cost of dinner, bed and breakfast and we travel back to Rockhampton the following morning, with connections through to Airlie Beach. (If the 'bush' doesn't interest you can simply stay on the bus in Rockhampton and continue through to Airlie Beach.)

Rockhampton to Airlie Beach* (compulsory stopover)
Next stop, the sailing and party paradise known as the Whitsunday Islands. There are a few more towns to see and miles to cover before our evening arrival into Airlie Beach. For the next 2 days most of you will say goodbye Oz Ex Bus and hello sunshine and sailing boats …a highlight of the east coast trip.

Airlie Beach to Townsville (gateway to Magnetic Island)
Today the bus will travel via Bowen, which is a great place to stop and earn some money picking fruit or vegetables. For those wanting to go over to Magnetic Island we'll drop you off at the ferry terminal in Townsville. Magnetic Island is the sunniest spot on the Queensland coast with more than 320 sunny days a year! You'll think you've landed in paradise. Get out for some hikes or try and spot koalas in their natural habitat. Look out for the full-moon parties at base backpackers.

Townsville to Mission Beach
Heading towards the lush rainforests of Far North Queensland as you leave Townsville, you'll witness the the mountains grow higher and the forests greener. We drive into Mission Beach where the rainforest meets the sea, which is one great place to stay over for a few days. The beaches are superb. Relax or go skydiving or white water rafting (optional extras). If you're lucky you'll see a Cassowary, these are seriously big birds with attitude to match.

Mission Beach to Cairns
An easy afternoon section completes your Oz EX trip. This place is the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef, one of the seven natural wonders of the world; and the Daintree at Cape Tribulation, the world's oldest living rainforest. Don't forget to visit the legendary Woolshed Bar.

Rainforest and Waterfalls Day Tour
Explore the Atherton Tablelands; cool off in freshwater Lake Barrine, gaze up at 1000 year old pin tress, see the famous Curtain Fig Tree, visit a real cattle station homestead and taste the local produce at Mount Uncle Distillery.

compulsory stopover = compulsory 1 night stay is required at the end of these journeys, however as the pass is valid for 6 months why not stay longer or stop off one at one of the other optional stopovers on the route, including;

- Coffs Harbour
- Surfers Paradise
- Brisbane
- Noosa
- Hervey Bay
- Rockhampton
- Bowen
- Mission Beach

*****You will need to pre-book your Fraser Island trip and Whitsundays Sailing Adventure during your Cozzie Pass. Your driver can assist you.

Please note: Activities are not included in the price and both itineraries and activities are subject to change.

Accommodation

Generally accommodation and meals are not included, but we will help you get both organised. There are ‘pay on board’ fees that cover some meals and overnight stops in remote locations, and these are explained below.

‘Pay on board fees’ cover local payments, which are paid directly to suppliers for costs such as meals and accommodation. We are not charging you extra to travel with us. The only difference is that we take this payment up front.

In most cases you can pay for meals and accommodation yourself when you arrive at overnight stops. However, because of where Oz Experience operates there are remote areas and you will often be camping, there are no hostels or the nearest supermarket is 100km’s away. What’s more it is impractical in a touring environment for an entire group to individually prepare their own meals.

You will definitely be getting value for money with the POB fees. In fact you'll be saving money. Let’s say, for example, if you were to buy your own meals you would be paying an average $10 a meal. Your minimum average accommodation costs per night would be $20, but we’ll organise the whole lot for you on certain sections of the trip for a lot less than this!

Programme Services and Facilities

Internet

Most larger towns and cities along the way will have cyber cafes so you can keep in touch by email and book ahead onto buses, tours and into hostels. Prices vary from around $1-$3 per hour. Some hostels may offer free access.

Telephone

As with the net, all towns and cities will have pay phones, so you will need to get yourself an international phone card. You can buy one when you arrive, or get one before you go, such as the one Real Gap offers.

Another good option would be to take your mobile and purchase a pay-as-you-go SIM in Australia, or get a Real Gap SIM before you depart, to allow you to text and call cheaply, and keep track of your spending. Before you depart, please ensure that your mobile is set up with international roaming and unlocked, so you may use a pay-as-you-go SIM while you are away.

The international telephone access number for Australia is +61.

To place an outgoing, direct dialled international call, dial +44 for the UK, +49 for Germany, followed by the telephone number. For example to call Real Gap Experience dial +44 1892 516164 / +49 69 222226 475.

Laundry

You will find launderettes in large towns and cities. Some hostels also offer laundry facilities. It is advisable to take some travel wash with you so that you can wash essentials, like underwear and swimwear, by hand as you go.

Meals

See accommodation.

What's Included

- Bus pass valid for 12 months
- Blue Mountains Scenic Day Tour
- Surf & Stay at Spot X with meals included
- Nimbin Day Tour
- Farmstay at Kroombit Ranch
- 3 days, 2 nights Fraser Island 4WD Tag Along tour
- 2 day/1 night Whitsunday Sailing Adventure
- 3 nights dorm accommodation at Rainbow Beach
- 24 hour emergency assistance
- Extensive tour information provided by bus staff

What's Not Included

- All flights
- Travel insurance
- Visas
- Pay on board fee of approx AUD $189

What to Pack

Please note that this kit list is intended to help you plan what you may need to take with you and therefore, you may not need all of the listed items on your travels nor is it exhaustive.

Personal Admin

- Visa documents
- Passport
- Driving Licence
- NHS card or a National Insurance card or proof of entitlement to your National Health Service
- Insurance policy document or card
- Credit card for emergencies and booking internal flights

General

- Journal or diary
- Towel
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush etc)
- Alarm clock
- Torch/ batteries (necessary for bush camp and caving)
- Sleeping bag
- Sun block
- Small padlock to secure luggage

Clothing

- Clothing suitable for all weather conditions
- Raincoat and/or waterproof clothing (expect some rainy days)
- Sturdy work boots (suitable for rugged and wet conditions) and thick socks
- Wide brim hat
- Sunglasses
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Swimming costume

Medical Kit

- Medication
- First Aid Kit

- Insect repellent

Minimum Age

18 years

Flights

Your flight to Australia should arrive at Sydney Airport if you are starting your trip in Sydney or Cairns Airport if you are starting your trip in Cairns on your programme start date. Your return flight should be arranged for your programme end date from Cairns or Sydney depending on where you end your trip.

To book your flights, please contact your travel advisor who will do their best to get you the best deal on the day. Please provide them with your full name as it is stated in your passport. Before you make the call please make sure you have your required departure dates, return dates and other details you may require.

Please note: If you are flying to Australia via the USA you will need to obtain Travel Authorisation by registering online through the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) no later than 72 hours before departure. This is compulsory and will cost USD$14 to register. To register, please visit: www.esta.cbp.dhs.gov

It is important that once you have booked your flights you add these details to your Online account, or alternatively you can contact us with your departure date, the flight number and arrival time at your destination.

FAQs

1. **When do I organise my extra included activities?**
   Along the way, your driver/guide will book and confirm these activities for you. The bonus is as they are included in the price, you won't have to pay for them when your there!

2. **Can I start my tour anytime or are there set start dates?**
   There are set start dates, but you can have an opendated ticket. You will need to contact Oz Experience when you arrive in Australia to choose a departure date.

3. **Can I stay longer in places along the tour?**
   The tour is very flexible and you can travel the pass for up to 6 months. This means you can hop off and hop on the bus where you like. You will need to pre-book departures in the Summer Seasons to confirm you have a seat.

4. **Do I need to organise my accommodation before I leave the UK?**
   You don't need to organise your accommodation before you depart. One of the benefits of this pass, is that it is flexible and you can change plans along the way to suit you!

Support & Advice

Your safety is paramount which is why all our programs have been visited and assessments have been conducted to ensure any major risks have been minimized.

In addition, you will have access to a 24 hour emergency contact number so you can contact one of our staff at any

time should you need to. In addition our overseas partners and coordinators are on hand in-country to assist you.

Financial Security

We know that the last thing you want to worry about when you're planning your trip of a lifetime is whether your money is in safe hands. As a leading global gap year provider it's our job to make sure your finances are secure, so when you book with us you can be confident that we do just that.

Real Gap Experience is part of TUI Travel Plc, one of the largest travel organisations in the world, and these days in the travel industry, large means secure.

Insurance

Whether you're traveling for two weeks or two years, trekking the Amazon in Ecuador or on safari in Africa, insurance is an essential part of your adventure and will help you enjoy your travels, secure in the knowledge that you have the protection you need. In fact, everyone traveling with us must have adequate cover before their trip begins.

Of course you are free to buy insurance from any provider, however at Real Gap Experience, we have partnered with World Nomads to offer policies that have been specifically designed to meet the needs of global travel. If you think you're already covered by an existing policy, such as those offered by credit card providers, check the policy wording very carefully to ensure it covers you for your Real Gap Experience.

For more information on travel insurance please contact us to speak to one of our travel advisors.

Money Matters

The unit of currency is the Australian Dollar. Changing foreign currency or travellers cheques is usually no problem at banks throughout Australia or at licensed moneychangers.

Australia is affordable by Western European and American standards, but if you are travelling on from Southeast Asia you'll notice a big increase in costs!

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant 13.37 $

Domestic Beer (0.5 litre draught) 5.04 $
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litre bottle) 2.40 $
Water (0.33 litre bottle) 2.14 $

(Prices quoted in US Dollar)

Passports and Visas

You should ensure that you have a full passport that is valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information provided below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of

entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

All visitors to Australia need a visa – only New Zealand nationals are exempt, however you will receive a 'special category' visa on arrival.

For entry into Australia you will require an eVisitor visa. UK passport holders can apply for a 90-day tourist visa online at www.immi.gov.au All other nationalities should consult the relevant embassy.

If you intend to look for work in Australia you will be required to apply for a working holiday visa.

Working Holiday Visa
The working holiday visa is available to anyone age 18-30. The emphasis is on casual employment: you are meant to work for no more than six months at any one job. If you want to stay in Australia for up to 24 months, this is now possible for some nationalities. Speak to one of our sales advisors for more information.

To be eligible for a Working Holiday Visa, you must:

- Be aged between 18 and 30 years at the time of application
- Have a valid passport for one of the countries listed at Australian Immigration, www.immi.gov.au
- Have no dependant children
- Have not previously entered Australia on a working holiday visa
- Meet health and character requirements
- Be outside Australia at the time of visa grant

To be granted a working holiday visa you must also agree that:

- Your main reason for coming to Australia is to holiday
- You must not undertake studies or training for more than 4 months
- You will leave Australia at the end of your authorized stay
- You must have sufficient funds to support yourself for the initial part of your stay. AUD$5000 minimum is regarded as sufficient. You may have to provide evidence of this in the form of a bank statement.

For the most up to date information on visa requirements, please visit http://www.immi.gov.au/

If you are from the UK we can help you apply for your Working Holiday Visa, just ask a sales advisor for more information.

Cultural Considerations

Australia is a melting pot of different cultures. It has a population of over 21 million people with most of the population living on the east coast between Adelaide and Cairns. High waves of immigration from England, Ireland, Italy, Greece, Malta and Eastern Europe have occurred during Australia's brief history, particularly after World War II, and the later waves from the Middle-East, East, and South-East Asia, as well as the Indian subcontinent, have

created a truly diverse population.

Although Australia has no official language, English is spoken by 80% of the population. Chinese, Italian and Greek are respectively the next most common languages, reflecting Australia's cultural diversity and concentration of nationalities. Australians have very strong attitudes and belief systems which are reflected in their culture. Australians traditionally have a very ironic sense of humour.

Vaccinations & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad. The risks to your health whilst travelling will vary depending on your general health and the type of activities you are going to be partaking in and the length of your stay.

Since we are not medically qualified, it is recommended that you consult with your Doctor or a recognised Travel Medical Advisory Service who will assess your particular health risks before recommending vaccines and/or anti-malarial tablets and advising you on what precautions you should take.

Safety

As in most countries there are people who try to take advantage of tourists. The following advice is intended to help you keep safe:

- Always keep your personal items such as passport, money and camera with you and in a safe place. You can buy mini padlocks to prevent people from going into your bag without your permission.
- Don't carry excess amounts of cash
- Wherever possible, walk around in groups, especially after dark, and avoid taking short cuts
- Do not pick up hitchhikers if you are driving and do not hitch hike yourself
- When you are out do not leave your drinks unattended, as there have been reports of drinks being spiked

We advise that you check your government's advice before travelling abroad. For UK and American customers please see the relevant links below;

UK: www.fco.gov.uk
USA: www.travel.state.gov

ATM Theft

It is very likely that you will need to withdraw cash at some point during your travels. Please be cautious when withdrawing money from an ATM and ensure that you are vigilant of other people near the ATM, especially those that offer unsolicited assistance if your card is detained. It has been recognised that individuals are operating unlawful withdrawals by placing 'traps' in ATMs whereby personal bank cards are being detained, causing the victim to believe their card transaction has not been completed, and leaving their bank card in the ATM which is then later retrieved by the thief.

If your card is confiscated or you are concerned that your card has been tampered with, please report immediately

to the bank or cancel your card.

Language Guide

Here are some Australian terms and phrases that you might find useful:

Bottle Shop - *Off-licence/Liquor store*
Bonzer - *Good*
Bush - *Unsettled country area*
Dag - *Nerd*
Esky - *Portable insulated box to keep food/drink cold*
Fair Dinkum - *Honestly, truly*
Pokies - *Gambling machines*
Pom - *Person of English descent*
Singlet - *Sleeveless cotton vest*
Smoko - *Tea break*
Thongs - *Flip flops/Sandals*
Ute - *Utility vehicle/pick-up truck*

Food & Drink

You will find food in Australia to suit all taste buds, with the larger cities in particular offering a great range of places to eat. Due to the large amount of British settlers, Australian food is reasonably similar to that in Western Europe, but if you are feeling particularly adventurous get involved in some bush tucker (kangaroo, emus) or the infamous vegemite. For less scary Aussie food, look out for fresh seafood and of course, a typical Aussie barbecue!

Please let Real Gap know before you depart if you are a vegetarian or have any other dietary requirements.

Public Holidays

When planning your trip, you should be aware of the major national holidays celebrated throughout the country.

To view a list of the public holidays for Australia, please see the link below:

www.timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/

Weather

Australia is located in the southern hemisphere, where seasons are the opposite of those in the northern hemisphere.

The summer months in Australia (November to March) can get very hot. Up north, in Queensland for example, the summer period brings the rainy season and the weather can be very hot and humid with lots of rainfall. The winter months (June to August) in Queensland bring much dryer weather but still heat. The further south you go the colder and wetter winter becomes and in some mountainous areas of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania skiing is possible.

Time

Australia is such a big country that it has three time zones:

Eastern Standard Time (Queensland) – 10 hours ahead of GMT depending on Daylight Savings
Central Time – 9.5 hours ahead of GMT
Western Time - 8 hours ahead of GMT

Electricity

Electricity in Australia is 240 Volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second.

Sockets in Australia are V-shaped flat prongs.

Trip Note Disclaimer

The information contained in this trip note has been compiled with great care and is provided in good faith. Any itinerary featured is correct at time of release. However, our itineraries may change as make improvements that result from travellers' comments, our own research or from time to time as a result of reommended travel advice.

You can rest assured that it is always our goal to provide you with the most rewarding trip and experience ever!

Our Details

If you have any questions about this trip please do not hesitate to contact us and we'll be happy to answer them.

Phone: 1-800-985-4852
Email: info@realgap.com
Post: Real Gap Experience, 8 Essex Center Drive, Peabody, MA 01960
Web: www.realgap.com