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GREAT EAST COAST RAIL & CRUISE

14 DAYS / 13 NIGHTS

DAY 1 4 SEP 2019 ARRIVE CAIRNS

On arrival in Cairns you will be met for your transfer from the airport to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Dinner this evening is at your hotel. (D)

Stay: 2 nights at Bay Village Tropical Retreat and Apartments (standard room), Cairns

DAY 2 5 SEP 2019 CAIRNS

Today enjoy a half day tour at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures. Cruise through the melaleuca wetland while your guide feeds the crocodiles. Attend the Crocodile Attack Show for an up close view of the infamous crocodile head shake and death roll. There is also a range of other wildlife. After the visit return to Cairns. (B,D)

DAY 3 6 SEP 2019 CAIRNS TO TOWNSVILLE

Depart Cairns this morning as you begin your tour south. Pass through Innisfail, a rich sugar farming region on the junction of the South and North Johnstone River. Visit Paronella Park, a Spanish Castle listed by the National Trust. Completed in 1935, it covers 5 hectares beside Mena Creek Falls and features over 7000 tropical plants and its own hydro-electric plant. Continue to the coast and Cardwell looking across to Hinchinbrook Island, to arrive at Townsville. (B,D)

Stay: 2 nights at Comfort Inn Robert Towns (twin room), Townsville

DAY 4 7 SEP 2019 TOWNSVILLE

Today view Townsville from the top of the Castle Hill Lookout and the city foreshore, before visiting the Australian Army's Jezzine Barracks and Museum, which honours those who have fought for Australia. (Entry is free, but donations are greatly appreciated.) (B,D)

DAY 5 8 SEP 2019 TOWNSVILLE TO AIRLIE BEACH

This morning visit the Australian Institute of Marine Science Headquarters at Cape Ferguson (subject to availability), a world class marine research aquarium facility for tropical marine life. Then continue south through Ayr and Bowen to Airlie Beach, the gateway port for the Whitsunday Islands, your base for the next two nights. (B,D)

Stay: 2 nights at Airlie Beach Hotel (standard twin town room), Airlie Beach

DAY 6 9 SEP 2019 WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS

Today enjoy a cruise to the Great Barrier Reef on your fast, comfortable vessel fitted with motion control stabilisers. The use of wetsuits and beach activity equipment and a visit to Hamilton Island are included. Bring a towel, swimwear, protective clothing, hat, sunscreen and camera. Lunch and morning tea are included. (B,L,D)

DAY 7 10 SEP 2019 AIRLIE BEACH TO MACKAY

Travel inland to the cane fields and the towns of Marion and Mirani to the Great Dividing Range and the quaint hamlet of Eungella. Continue to the coast and Mackay. (B,D)

Stay: overnight at Clarion Hotel Mackay Marina (superior deluxe room), Mackay

DAY 8 11 SEP 2019 MACKAY TO ROCKHAMPTON

Enjoy free time to explore Mackay before continuing through the sugar town of Sarina and skirting the Australian Army Shoalwater Bay Training Area to arrive in Rockhampton. (B,D)

Stay: 2 nights at Travelodge Hotel (guest room), Rockhampton

DAY 9 12 SEP 2019 ROCKHAMPTON

This morning tour the inspiring Cathedral Cave on your visit to the Capricorn Caves, and reach the Queensland Coast for Yeppoon, the gateway to the Keppel Islands. (B,D)

DAY 10 13 SEP 2019 ROCKHAMPTON TO BRISBANE

Transfer to Rockhampton Railway Station for your 639km journey aboard the Queensland Rail *Tilt Train* to Brisbane. Depart at 7.10am and arrive in Brisbane at 2.50pm. Travel in comfortable economy class seats. Refreshments are available for purchase in the Galley Car. On arrival at Brisbane's Roma Street Station you will be transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. (B,D)

Stay: 2 nights at Ibis Styles Hotel (city view standard twin room), Brisbane

DAY 11 14 SEP 2019 BRISBANE

This morning make your way to Brisbane's Southbank Parklands, Jetty A (in front of the Wheel of Brisbane) for your Brisbane River sightseeing cruise. The cruise departs at 10.30am and boarding commences 15 minutes prior to departure. Morning tea and a souvenir map are included on your 90 minute cruise. The remainder of the day is at leisure. (B,D)

DAY 12 15 SEP 2019 BOARD MAJESTIC PRINCESS

Today you will be transferred to Brisbane's Cruise Terminal to board *Majestic Princess*, the newest member of Princess Cruises' Australia-based fleet. Depart this evening at 6.00pm for your voyage to Sydney. (B,D)

Stay: 2 nights aboard *Majestic Princess* (Princess Cruises)

DAY 13 16 SEP 2019 AT SEA

Relax as you cruise southwards, enjoying the dining, activities and entertainment onboard. *Majestic Princess* features 20 restaurants and bars including 2 new restaurants created by Michelin-star chefs (supplementary charges apply to some venues and activities), and nearly 1,100 square metres of retail space. The ship is the length of 6 Olympic swimming pools and weighs as much as 256 Airbus A380 planes. (B,L,D)

DAY 14 17 SEP 2019 ARRIVE SYDNEY

Majestic Princess arrives into Sydney Harbour early this morning, berthing at the Circular Quay Overseas Passenger Terminal at 6.00am. (B)

Meals: B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner.

All main meals are included on *Majestic Princess*. Surcharges apply for some specialty dining venues.