



Nothing competes with Tropical North Queensland, for flowers, colours, flavours and tranquillity. This tour is a treat for all the senses!

*Graham Ross*

Graham Ross AM VMM  
Founder of Ross Garden Tours



# NORTH QUEENSLAND GARDENS



12 - 19 AUGUST 2022

Escape the winter chills. Discover Port Douglas, Mossman Gorge, the Daintree, Cairns and Botanical Ark. Immerse yourself in tropical gingers and heliconias, lipstick palms, and miracle fruit. Be welcomed into luxuriant private gardens, with hospitality to match.

**ROSS**  
garden tours

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 FRI 12 AUG HOME TO CAIRNS

Check-in at Sydney Domestic Airport for your flight to Cairns. On arrival, meet your tour leader Claire Bickle and travel to Port Douglas with a lunch stop at Tabu, a lush tropical garden. Settle into Peppers Beach Club, our very comfortable accommodation for the next 4 nights. Welcome Dinner tonight at the hotel.

#### **Peppers Beach Club, Port Douglas**

### DAY 2 SAT 13 AUG MOSSMAN GORGE

Our destination today is Mossman Gorge, within the Daintree, the world's oldest rainforest (UNESCO wet tropics World Heritage). Local indigenous guide will explain the cultural aspects of this place as we take a Dreamtime Walk. Hear local Ngadiku stories and legends as you walk the gentle tracks along meandering cool rainforest streams. Visit culturally significant sites, traditional bark shelters to gain a better understanding of this ancient rainforest home to the Ngadiku. After lunch in the cafe, we visit the new Mossman Botanic Garden.

#### **Peppers Beach Club, Port Douglas**

### DAY 3 SUN 14 AUG PORT DOUGLAS

Start the day as the locals do, at the famous Port Douglas Sunday Market; arts and crafts, jewellery, pottery, clothing, fruit and vegetables, glassware, books, homemade foods and unique Australian goods. The remainder of the day is at leisure. We can arrange an optional Great

Barrier Reef cruise so you can experience this marine wonder of the world.

#### **Peppers Beach Club, Port Douglas**

### DAY 4 MON 15 AUG BOTANICAL ARK

Botanical Ark is a dream come true for owners Alan and Susie Carle with their ambitious goal to save the rainforest. Instead of writing a cheque, they are going about it with a mix of creativity, practicality and sheer hard work. Meet the Carles and enjoy their hospitality at lunch today. Lunch at Botanical Ark is a treat. But first, there's a tour of the garden, crammed with 3000 species of rainforest plants, 400 of them are edible. Learn from Alan, about these unusual tropical fruits and flowers.

#### **Peppers Beach Club, Port Douglas**

### DAY 5 TUE 16 AUG PORT DOUGLAS TO CAIRNS

We visit our friend, respected local garden designer John Sullivan's idyllic Coral Sea house and garden with sublime views of an azure sea. House and garden sit together in perfect harmony; a heavenly combination of native and exotic plants and contemporary tropical architecture. John will show us around his 1960s house which has been completely repurposed for comfortable 21st century living. The pool area pays homage to Thomas Church, pioneer 'Modernist' landscape architect. You'll never want to leave! Travel on to Cairns; stroll around the beautiful tropical Flecker Botanic Garden before checking in to Pullman Hotel Cairns for the next three nights.

#### **Pullman Hotel, Cairns**

### PRICE

- Twin Share land only \$3,650 pp
- Twin Share inc airfare \$3,995 pp
- Single Supplement \$1,195
- All prices in Australian dollars. Prices based on minimum 15 passengers.

### DISCOUNTS

- Earlybird \$100 - Pay by 14/4/22
- Previous Traveller \$100
- Garden Clinic Member \$50

### DAY 6 WED 17 AUG PARONELLA PARK

South of Cairns is the extraordinary Paronella Park. In 1929, Jose Paronella bought 13 acres of virgin scrub beside Mena Creek Falls, with the plan to create a castle. After years of dedication the park officially opened to the public in 1935. Today the ruined castle is wrapped in a cloak of 7,500 tropical plants and trees as the lush jungle takes hold. Learn about tropical orchids this afternoon at Orchids North, farm and nursery, with a beautiful collection of tropical and exotic orchids on display.

#### **Pullman Hotel, Cairns**

### DAY 7 THU 18 AUG ATHERTON TABLELANDS

Discover the fertile plateau, part of the Great Dividing Range, known as the Atherton. Scenic drive up the Gillies Range this morning to Australia's largest tea plantation, Nerada. Learn about the culture of growing 'tea' with a guided tour before Devonshire tea. On the way to Lake Barrine, we will stop at Curtain Fig Tree National Park, named after the 500-year-old fig tree with 15m ariel roots that form a 'curtain' to the forest floor. Lake Barrine was created 10,000 years go after a volcanic eruption when water filled the crater. Farewell dinner tonight in our hotel.

#### **Pullman Hotel, Cairns**

### DAY 8 FRI 19 AUG CAIRNS TO HOME

Free morning in Cairns then afternoon flight home.

### TOUR LEADER CLAIRE BICKLE

Claire is a Brisbane based horticulturalist with a Diploma in Horticulture and an Advanced Design Certificate in Permaculture Design.



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