

Cooktown, Queensland, Australia

The first place Captain Cook set foot in Australia, Cooktown feels like the real frontier — history, Indigenous culture, and wild tropics meeting at the edge of Cape York.

Tender port

Typical call: 6–8 hrs

Australian Dollar (AUD)

English

Crocodile country — no ocean swimming

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Cooktown Wharf (Endeavour River)

Best For: History, Indigenous culture, scenic lookouts, river wildlife

Walk to centre: 2–5 min flat walk from the wharf to Charlotte St

Don't Miss: The original HMS Endeavour anchor at the Cooktown Museum

Getting around: Taxi AUD \$3.80 flag fall + ~\$2.88/km · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Cooktown Museum (James Cook Museum)** — The must-do.
 - Grassy Hill Lookout** — Climb to the same hilltop where Cook stood in 1770 to chart a way through the reef.
 - Endeavour River Crocodile Cruise** — Local operators run 1–2 hour river cruises departing near the wharf.
- Milbi Wall & Charlotte Street Historic Walk** — The Milbi Wall near the wharf is a vivid Indigenous mosaic telling the Guugu Yimithirr story of Cook's arrival.
 - Cooktown Botanic Gardens & Nature's Powerhouse** — Established in 1878 — among Queensland's oldest — these tropical gardens sit within the 62-hectare Gallop Botanic Reserve and include walking tracks...

BEST WALKS

- Wharf to Charlotte Street Foreshore Loop** 1.5 km · 20–30 min · Flat · Free — Walk from the tender wharf along the Endeavour River esplanade past the Milbi Wall and Reconciliation Rocks, then up Charlotte Street passing the Cook Statue, heritage...
- Botanic Gardens & Nature's Powerhouse** 2 km from wharf · 45 min walk · Mostly flat — Follow Botanic Gardens Road from Charlotte Street into the gardens.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		83°	75°	16d
Jun		77°	71°	10d
Aug		78°	70°	5d
Sep		80°	72°	4d
Oct		83°	74°	4d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:26AM–6:11PM · Jun 6:43AM–5:55PM · Aug 6:36AM–6:11PM · Sep 6:14AM–6:14PM · Oct 5:52AM–6:17PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- No swimming — anywhere. Saltwater crocodiles inhabit the Endeavour River, the beaches, and nearby waterways. Warning signs are posted. Heed them.
- Sun and heat are brutal. Cooktown sits in the wet tropics. Wear a hat, apply high-SPF sunscreen before you leave the ship, and carry water — you'll need it.
- Insect repellent is essential near the river and botanic gardens. Sandflies and mosquitoes are active. Bring DEET-based repellent.
- Tender early. The first tenders fill fast on busy call days. Head to the tender queue well before peak time to maximise your time ashore.
- Australian Dollars (AUD) — credit cards are widely accepted, but bring a little cash for local shuttle buses, the Saturday market on Charlotte Street, or small cafés.
- Don't skip the Cooktown Museum. The original HMS Endeavour anchor is one of the most significant maritime relics in Australia — worth every cent of the entry fee.

Cooktown, Queensland, Australia — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 1 Grassy Hill Lookout | Panoramic views from a historic lighthouse lookout. | 2 Cooktown Museum | Explore local history and Captain Cook's Endeavour voyage. |
| 3 Cooktown History Centre | Research local history and family archives. | 4 Cooktown Botanic Gardens | Stroll through tropical plants and native flora. |
| 5 Finch Bay | Relax on a scenic beach with calm waters. | 6 Keatings Lagoon Conservation Park | Observe diverse birdlife and wetlands in a natural park. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |