



/ EDUCATIONAL
TOURS



EF STEM

Reef Regeneration and Conservation Down Under

Whether exploring Australia by land or at sea, you'll soon realize life here is interconnected—and it all traces back to the Great Barrier Reef. As the foundation of Australia's coastal ecosystems (and the world's largest living organism) the reef supports an incredible array of marine life. And Townsville, which will serve as your base of operations for this tour, is the world-renowned epicenter of scientific reef research and conservation. You'll see the reef up close while also witnessing the abundant Australian biodiversity that relies on it. Take a koala hike, snorkel alongside the reef, and meet local Aboriginals who have been guardians of these precious natural resources for millennia.

Explore a world built on STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math shape communities across the globe. Our STEM-focused tours showcase the value of diverse ways of thinking and building, while also highlighting the powerful universality of STEM subjects. At EF, we've spent over 55 years witnessing the power of educational travel, and we know how it can transform STEM learners. Each STEM tour challenges travelers to think critically, and helps students develop innovative solutions to global problems.

What to expect on a STEM tour

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Apply STEM principles by participating in project-based learning that goes well beyond theory.

INNOVATIVE LOCATIONS

Tour exciting international destinations that host some of the world's most advanced laboratories, universities, and companies, or are simply perfect global "classrooms" to study analytical issues of the day in real life.

INDUSTRY EXPERTS

Collaborate and learn with scientists, engineers, researchers, and other STEM practitioners in the field.

YOUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES

Full-time Tour Director; sightseeing tours; activities include a ferry to Watsons Bay, Sydney Tower, Australian Museum, Sydney Opera House, Rowes Bay Sustainability Centre Workshop, "Living off-the-grid" discovery workshop, Wet Tropics Rainforest expedition, Mungalla Station Indigenous experience, koala hike, snorkeling with marine biologist, "Day in the Life of a Marine Biologist" workshop, Castle Hill lookout (*with extension: tree-planting activity, ziplining*); 9 overnight stays in hotels (*12 with extension*); breakfast and dinner daily, lunch on days 8 and 10 (*and day 13 with extension*)



Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the iconic Sydney Opera House.



Snorkel with a marine biologist at the Great Barrier Reef.



Days 1–2: Fly to Australia

Cross the International Date Line.

Day 3: Sydney

Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Sydney. View the city skyline as you enjoy a ferry ride across the harbor to Watsons Bay, Australia's oldest fishing village. Then, enjoy a bird's-eye view of the city from the Sydney Tower observation deck. End your day with a walking tour of Sydney to familiarize yourself with the city landscape.

Day 4: Sydney

Explore the Australian Museum and learn about some of the country's most pressing environmental and social challenges, like the loss of biodiversity, changing climate, and search for cultural identity. Later, go behind the scenes at the famous Sydney Opera House and see what it takes to get a live production on stage.

Day 5: Sydney

Enjoy a full day to explore Sydney, or [take a surfing lesson at the city's famous Manly Beach \(wetsuit included\)](#).

Day 6: Sydney | Townsville | Paluma

Fly to Townsville, a city where Australia's most iconic landscapes merge. Start your day with a walking tour of the city. From there, travel to the Hidden Valley Cabins resort in Paluma, a family-owned business that operates on 100% renewable energy, where you and your group will spend the night.

Learn about the conservation efforts dedicated to preserving the wild koalas of Magnetic Island.

Magnetic Island is one of three community-based islands in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.



Day 7: Paluma

Learn more about the Hidden Valley Cabins Resort in their interactive "Living off-the-grid" discovery workshop. You'll interview members of the family, observe the infrastructure, and reflect on the challenges of living off the grid. Then embark on a hike through the Wet Tropics Rainforest in Paluma Range National Park. (Try and spot a wild platypus and some of the region's rare bird species!)

Day 8: Paluma | Townsville

Visit Mungalla Station on your way back to Townsville to learn about the culture and history of the Nywaigi Aboriginal people. You'll hear about their complicated history with European settlers, interact with locals (including other students), and experience a day in their lives. You might even get the opportunity to help with a land management project, such as planting trees at revegetation sites.

Day 9: Townsville | Magnetic Island

Take a ferry to Magnetic Island, one of three community-based islands within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. After attending a seminar on the impact of land development and clearing, you'll participate in a fauna survey to document animal activity in the area. Then, search for koalas with help from a park ranger. In the evening, you'll participate in a "Day in the Life of a Marine Biologist" workshop with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Day 10: Townsville | Great Barrier Reef

Take in the dazzling blue of the ocean as you cruise from Townsville on a speedy catamaran to the Central Section of the Great Barrier Reef, home to some of the reef's most iconic sites. Stretching 1,240 miles along the Queensland coast, the reef is nature's largest living organism. Here, you'll learn firsthand about marine animal and plant life during a snorkeling adventure with a Marine Biologist.

Day 11: Townsville | Brisbane

Spend the day exploring local efforts in environmental stewardship with your group. Then enjoy time to explore The Strand on your own, a beachfront promenade lined with palm trees and souvenir shops.

Days 12–15: Return home or add extension

Depart for home on Day 12 or extend your trip to Auckland. Participate in wetlands restoration on Waiheke Island before a ziplining experience. End your time with a full day to explore Auckland or [go cave tubing in the Waitomo Glowworm Caves](#).

The world leader in international education

For over 55 years, EF has been working toward one global mission: *Opening the World Through Education*. Your teacher has partnered with EF because of our unmatched worldwide presence, our focus on affordability, and our commitment to providing experiences that teach critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and global competence.

AFFORDABILITY

Every student should have the opportunity to travel, which is why we're dedicated to providing the lowest prices.

INSIGHT

We believe in experiential learning at the most important sites. Your Tour Director is with you at every step, providing their own perspective and local tips.

SAFETY

We're committed to your safety. With 600+ schools and offices in over 50 countries, EF staff can react quickly and in person wherever you travel.

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