

## Texas Global May Term in North Queensland, Australia: The Politics of Protecting the Great Barrier Reef

*Itinerary Highlights (subject to change)*

### Day 1 – 2 Townsville

#### Welcome orientation and group dinner

#### Hands on Wildlife experience

Discover which dangerous animals live in the region and learn what you should do if you encounter them. You will get up close and personal with some of these creatures in a safe and secure environment.

### Day 3 – 6 Magnetic Island

#### Tour the island with a local guide

Spend time with a local Magnetic Island guide to learn about current issues that residents are facing and their perspectives on protecting the Great Barrier Reef. In the evening, enjoy watching the local Rock Wallabies at Geoffrey Bay and stay on for an optional night at the local Toad Races.



#### Explore Magnetic Island by boat and snorkel

Visit secluded bays and pristine beaches, hear stories and the history of the area from your Master Reef Guides, and interact with marine wildlife. There will be an opportunity to swim and snorkel on the fringing reefs.

### Day 7 – 9 Hidden Valley & Ingham

#### Travel by ferry and coach to the Wet Tropics of the GBR

Stay at an award-winning eco-friendly resort and learn about the connection between the rainforest and the reef.

#### Ecotourism in rural Queensland

See the solar plant used at your cabin eco-retreat and discuss the importance of renewable energy in Australia and resilience following climate events. Your guide will share the challenges and successes of running a remote business sustainably.

#### Experience an indigenous sound bath session

Traditional, ancient sound tools such as the didgeridoo create an immersive, restorative and memorable cultural experience.

#### Sustainable fishing practice workshop

Visit a local seafood restaurant and shop for a talk and tasting.

#### Running River Gorge

Hike down into a red rock gorge to Running River where you can swim in the crystal-clear waters or explore the nooks and crannies of the gorge.



#### Mungalla Station Aboriginal cultural experience

Learn about Nywaigi Aboriginal culture and hear the stories of their ancestors who were exhibited as cannibals in the 19th century circuses of Europe and the US. Try traditional activities such as throwing boomerangs and take part in a restoration project in the Mungalla wetlands.



### Day 10 – 15 Townsville

#### Guest speakers and class sessions

Hear lectures from various stakeholders and interests:

- Policy and permitting on the reef
- Local politician guest speaker
- Political Science and International Relations
- Culturally significant wetlands
- Arc Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies



## Free day to explore the region

### Traditional Owners and the Great Barrier Reef

Learn about Aboriginal Australian history and traditional values and beliefs. Hear about the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's programs to incorporate Traditional Owners and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

### Marine conservation field activity at Alva Beach

Hear about the impact of climate change and plastic pollution on marine life, specifically on turtles, and determine your own carbon footprint. You will spend time at the beach, undertaking a study on the impact of microplastics in marine ecosystem and contribute your findings in the Australian Marine Debris Database.



### Excursion to a sugar cane farm

Visit a sugar cane farm to learn about growing techniques and the connection between farming and the reef.

### Experiential learning in the Burdekin Region

Explore the region's mangroves, enjoy birdwatching, and visit a grazing property while you learn in the field about the important Wongaloo wetlands.

### Tours to the Port of Townsville and Zinc refinery

## Day 16 – 19 Cairns

### Visit Cairns Aquarium and Turtle Hospital

You will explore Cairns Aquarium and the Turtle Hospital and have free time to explore the waterfront!



### Great Barrier Reef pontoon excursion

Spend a full day snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef based on a large-scale pontoon. Enjoy a cultural presentation, visit to the laboratory, and a presentation by a marine biologist, in addition to swimming amongst vibrant tropical fish.

### Tourism operators' perspectives

Hear from a local Skipper and the Chief Executive of the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators about the challenges and efforts by local tourism operators related to business practices, policies and programs on the GBR.

### Indigenous-led Dreamtime snorkel excursion

Spend a second day out on the reef by boat this time heading to the outer reef led by cultural guides (Indigenous Traditional Owners) and qualified marine biologists who will give you a second look at the GBR through a cultural lens.

## Day 20 – 22 Brisbane

### Free morning in Cairns, with afternoon flight to Brisbane

### Queensland Parliament visit

You will visit the State Parliament building in Brisbane and meet with a local politician to discuss a variety of political issues surrounding the Great Barrier Reef.



### Site visit to the Office of the GBR and World Heritage and Queensland Seafood Industry Association talk

### Q&A with Griffith University professor

Have a dialogue with a local professor of journalism, media, and communication studies who is an expert in environmental communication.

### Cane Growers Association

Cane Growers have been advancing and protecting the interests of cane farming families in Queensland since 1926 and are a not-for-profit public company providing a professional and cohesive voice to its members.

## Day 23 Sydney to USA

### Depart to Brisbane Airport