

# Winter escape FOLLOW THE SUN

The forecast is for warm weather and plenty of family fun in Cairns

**U**nder the hot northern sun in Cairns, a change is brewing. The locals feel it's time for their town to lose the crowded backpacker image and transform into an arts and cultural mecca.

Of course, Tropical North Queensland is renowned for the spectacular Great Barrier Reef and stunning rainforests, but there's much more to enjoy up north.

## TANKS A MILLION

Start your cultural journey at the Tanks Arts Centre, 4km north of the CBD and set in the beautiful Cairns Botanic Gardens precinct. You can enjoy the ever-changing artworks on display or immerse yourself in fabulous musical acts ranging from singer Deborah Conway to the Ukulele Festival. And if you love a good market, go on the last Sunday of the month from April until November to find great collectables, vintage

clothing, art, craft and more. To find out what's on, visit [www.tanksartscentre.com](http://www.tanksartscentre.com).

## IT'S A FOOD-FEST!

Fresh prawns on the barbie anyone? Food lovers head to Farmgate markets at The Pier at the Marina every Saturday. Produce comes from within a 200km radius of Cairns and there's lots on offer from redclaw and sugarcane juice to organic cheese and lemon myrtle chocolate. It's perfect if you're staying in self-contained accommodation – whip up lunch or dinner with the day's purchases.

Looking for tropical fruit to eat on your tropical getaway? Visit Rusty's Markets on Friday, Saturday or Sunday – you'll find lots of jackfruit, passionfruit, soursop, coconuts and mangoes!

Cairns also has a superb range of dining options covering



There's plenty to keep families entertained, from Festival Cairns to the city's huge lagoon (below).



## FABULOUS FESTIVAL!

To get the most out of your visit, drop in during the annual Festival Cairns, August 20 to September 5. It's Tropical North Queensland's most significant annual celebration. For a comprehensive guide to this great event and to plan your stay, visit [www.festivalcairns.com.au](http://www.festivalcairns.com.au).

**TO GO:** Perfect for families, choose from one, two or three-bedroom self-catering apartments set among landscaped gardens, lakes and beach lagoon pools at The Lakes Cairns Resort & Spa. Visit [www.thelakescairns.com.au](http://www.thelakescairns.com.au) or call 1800 666 614. Virgin Blue, Qantas and Jetstar fly to Cairns.

many different cuisines. Check out the family-friendly Fasta Pasta restaurant – they make all their own pasta on site ([www.fastapasta.com.au](http://www.fastapasta.com.au)). Or if you've got a babysitter to look after the kids and want a romantic night out, you could try Salt House Bar & Restaurant ([www.salthouse.com.au](http://www.salthouse.com.au)) or Ochre ([www.ochrerestaurant.com.au](http://www.ochrerestaurant.com.au)). **NI**

DID YOU KNOW?

The world's oldest goldfish lived to be 43 years old. His name was Tish, and he died in 1999 in North Yorkshire, UK.

## This much I know TOM HANKS

The acclaimed actor and director shares his wisdom

I love what I do, it's the greatest job in the world, but you have to survive an awful lot of attention that you don't deserve and you have to live up to your professional responsibilities. I'm always trying to balance that with what's really important. Some people go to bed thinking: 'That was a good day.' I'm one of those who asks: 'How did I screw up today?' If there's something that makes you laugh, then every day's going to be OK.



## WE'RE CLICKING ON... WWW.PETNET.COM.AU

Promoting socially responsible pet ownership, this website is a one-stop shop for pet owners. If you're thinking of adopting a pet, try the Selectapet quiz, which matches your lifestyle, family and living arrangements to the best cat or dog for you. All of Australia's animal shelters are listed with a handy map showing the closest to you. There are also handy pet tips and a list of the best pet-friendly parks and beaches.

