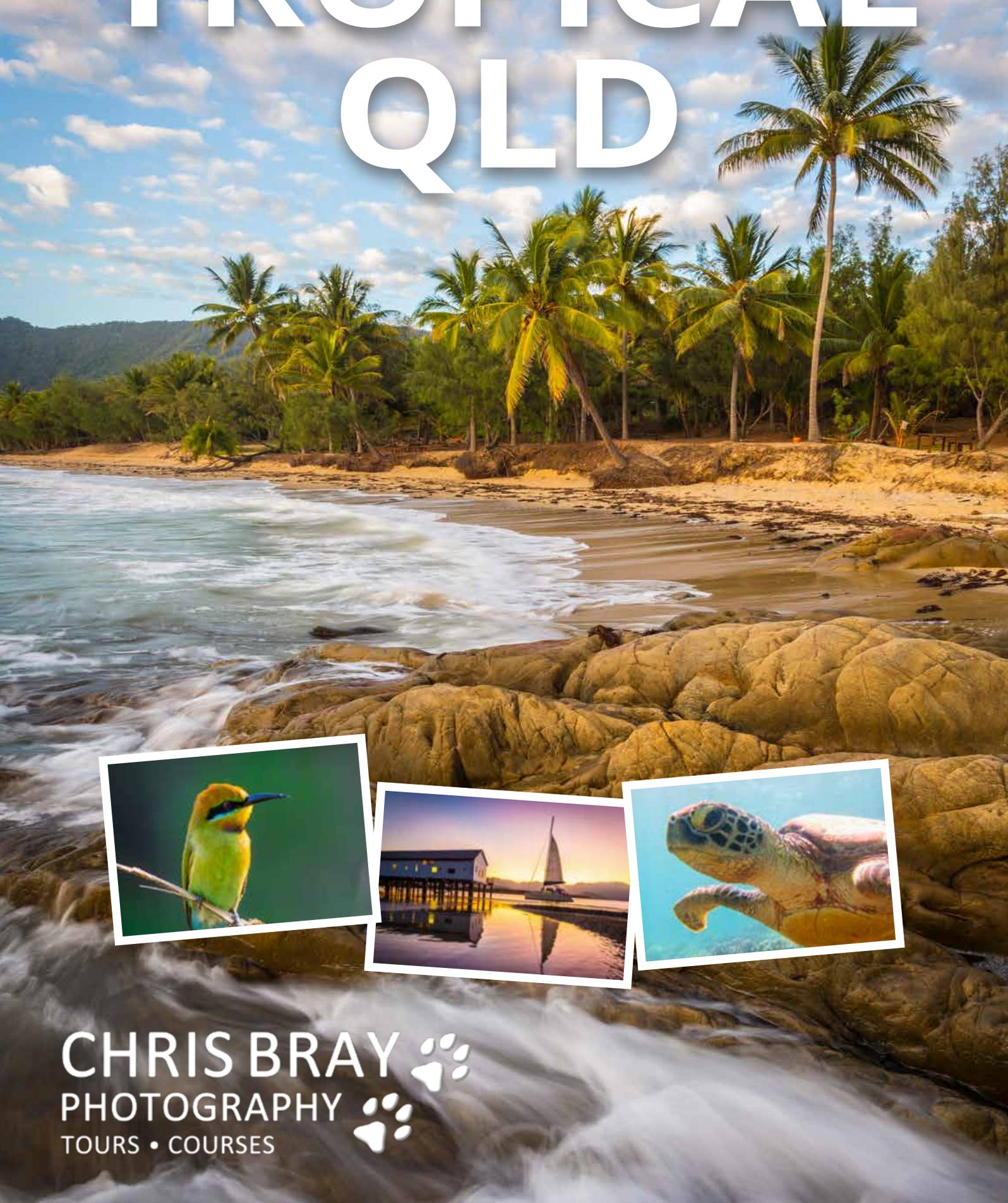


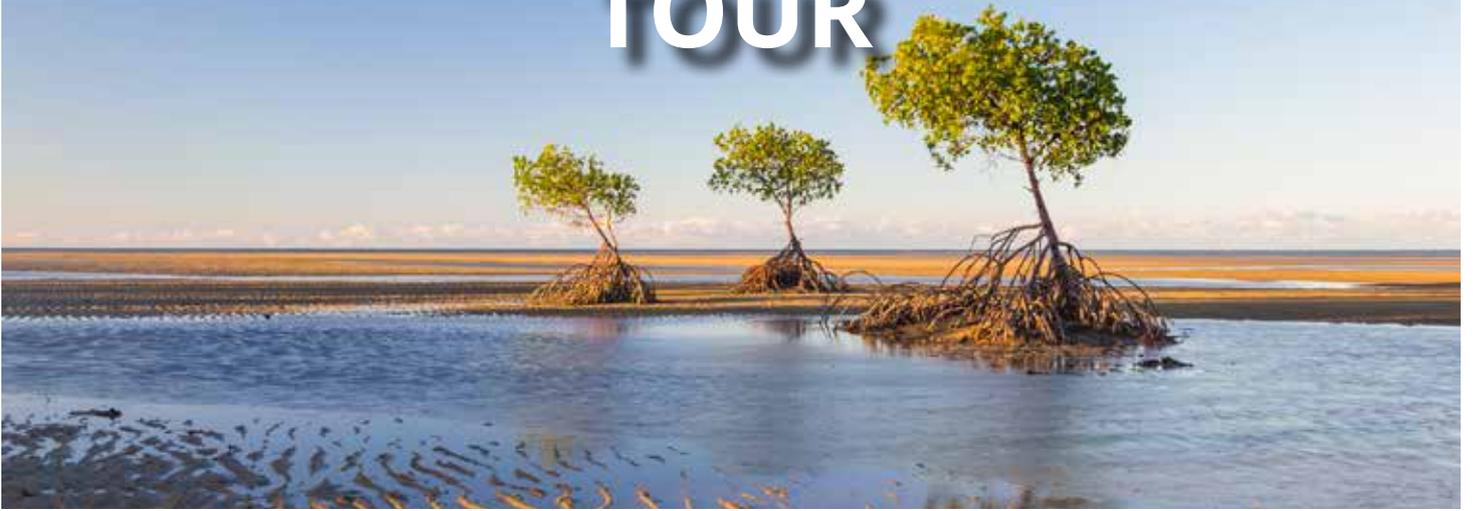
CHRIS BRAY PHOTOGRAPHY

TROPICAL QLD



CHRIS BRAY 
PHOTOGRAPHY 
TOURS • COURSES

TROPICAL QLD TOUR



This tour is the ultimate way to experience and photograph the magic of North Queensland's tropical rainforest near Port Douglas. Wrapped around five nights of luxury at the private Thala Beach Lodge, we've organised everything including doors-off helicopter flights out to photograph the Great Barrier Reef; private river cruises to find crocodiles, birds and other wildlife; photo shoots at the famous Mossman Gorge and the Daintree Rainforest; a snorkelling trip out to the Great Barrier Reef on a private sailing vessel; silhouetted palm trees at sunset and more!

Please check the [website](#) for up to date information on price, hosts, dates and inclusions.



Highlights

- Doors-off helicopter flight over the coastal rainforest and the beautiful 'Batt Reef' on the Great Barrier Reef.
- Photograph the tranquility of Mossman Gorge, where the Mossman river tumbles over huge granite boulders.
- Snorkel the World Heritage Barrier Reef from our private sailing vessel and explore ashore on the Low Isles.
- Photograph Cape Tribulation National Park - where the rainforest meets the sea with amazing tidal flats.
- Enjoy five nights at the luxurious eco-accommodation Thala Beach Lodge, with its private beach and rainforest!
- Explore the wonders of the tropical Daintree Rainforest.
- Look for crocodiles, birds and other wildlife on a private wilderness cruise up Cooper Creek and Packers Creek.



CONTENTS

03

ITINERARY

07

**ABOUT TROPICAL
QLD**

09

GETTING ORGANISED

13

WHAT TO PACK

15

PACKING CHECKLIST

23

WHY BOOK A CBP COURSE

25

HOW TO BOOK

Online photography course videos

Want to brush up on your photography skills before we go?

The fastest way to get off 'Auto' and unlock the creative potential of your camera.

<http://www.chrisbrayphotography.com/courses/>

ITINERARY



Day 1: Welcome

We'll arrange your airport transfer from Cairns to Thala Beach Nature Reserve and Lodge, our base for the next 5 nights. Here you'll have the afternoon to relax or explore the private beach and 145 acre property. Once all your fellow photographers have arrived, we'll do a quick photography crash course before dining together at Thala's own 'Osprey Restaurant', situated literally in the treetop canopy with spectacular views of the Coral Sea all the way to the horizon.

Day 2 : Helicopter & Lightroom

This morning we'll head down to Thala's own private beach to photograph the sunrise over the ocean. The scene is postcard-worthy with the beautiful white sandy beach, lush green forest, smooth rocks and azure blue water. After a well-earned buffet breakfast back at the lodge the adventure begins as our helicopter lands just behind the lodge and removes its doors to give us an unbeatable photographic outlook! We'll climb in, 3 per trip, to embark on a 30 min photography flight along the coastal beaches and rainforests and even out to Low Isles to photograph the great barrier reef in all its stunning colour from the air. Following our gourmet lunch back at the lodge will be a quick afternoon tutorial on photo editing using the program 'Lightroom' before heading into Port Douglas for dinner.



Day 3: Daintree & Crocs

We'll be eating breakfast very early this morning as we head off for our exclusive Daintree river cruise. Slowly and quietly we'll cruise along the shoreline spotting saltwater crocodiles and an amazing variety of birdlife such as White-bellied sea eagles, the Eastern Great Egret and even the Sacred and the Azure Kingfishers. After morning tea we'll drive across the river to the Maardja Boardwalk for a short loop walk through the forest to spot the Boyds Forest Dragon (a colourful lizard), backlit tree ferns, butterflies and of course keep your eyes peeled for a Cassowary before boarding our exclusive Cooper Creek wilderness cruise in search of Estuarine Crocodiles and other wildlife on the river banks. There might even be just enough time to stop at Alexandra lookout on the way back to our lodge to photograph the panoramic view out over the Daintree Coast. This evening will be a beautiful sunset shoot at Yule Point (tide dependent) before dinner in Port Douglas.

Day 4: Sail to Reef & Snorkel

We'll have another opportunity to photograph Oak Beach at sunrise this morning before another buffet breakfast back at the lodge, after which we'll board our private luxury sailing yacht for a full day snorkelling & reef excursion. Our yacht will sail out to Low Isles (the same group of Islands we photographed from the helicopter) so we can snorkel in the clear warm water - home to hundreds of soft corals and an abundance of fish and sea turtles. We'll even have the opportunity to walk on the palm-fringed island and photograph the lighthouse, sandy beach and lagoon before jumping back on board for a gourmet lunch. There's enough time for an afternoon snorkel before casting off and heading back to Port Douglas. This evening we'll be photographing the iconic old 'sugar wharf' in Port Douglas at sunset and eating out at another local restaurant for dinner.

Day 5: Mossman Gorge, Crocs

It's another early departure this morning as we head along to Mossman Gorge where the Mossman River tumbles over huge granite boulders amidst the awe inspiring, tree-clad mountain. We'll spend some time here capturing perfectly framed photos with long shutter speeds to show the movement of the water. This afternoon we'll visit 'Hartley's Crocodile Adventure' to photograph crocodiles, Cassowarys and other Aussie wildlife before once again eating at the lodge's 'Osprey Restaurant' - a fantastic finale to what has been an amazing Tropical Queensland photo tour. But don't go to bed too early, we have arranged a private viewing of the stars with Thala's resident astronomer and her amazing telescope. On the walk back to your rooms we'll spotlight for any other nocturnal wildlife like owls and possums..



Day 6: End

Go on, sleep in – you deserve it! We'll have a leisurely breakfast at the lodge before we offer airport transfers back to Cairns from where you can jet back to the reality of your busy lives back home and get ready to return to work on Monday.





ABOUT TROPICAL QLD

Mobile Phone Reception

All mobile carriers should have good mobile phone reception at Thala lodge, Cairns and Port Douglas. You may not get mobile reception during some of the day activities like when on the yacht, in the Daintree rainforest, Cooper Creek and Mossman Gorge.



Climate

Northern Queensland is tropical, with wet and dry seasons. We visit in May, just at the end of the wet season. Being May, the wet season has made everything lush and green but most of the rain will have passed, temperatures & humidity are a little lower. Average maximum temperature is 27, average low temperature is 19 and average humidity is about 75%.

Internet

There is complimentary Wifi in the main Thala Lodge area.
There is no Wifi in your rooms.

Time Zone: Australian central time zone

Currency: AUD

Electricity: 240V





GETTING ORGANISED

Before you go

Flights

Price does not include return flights from your hometown into Cairns.

We will arrange an airport transfer between Cairns & Thala Beach Lodge on the first and last day of the tour. Please let us know your flight details once they are booked so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Physical activity and fitness

There won't be any strenuous hiking, but a reasonable level of mobility and fitness will be required to find the best photography spots, to climb into the helicopter & walk down to the beach and through the rainforest, get on and off boats etc. There is some walking involved in the Daintree and at Mossman gorge, although this is mostly level board walks considered easy grade. However, these walks are all optional and with so much to photograph all around you, feel free to walk at your own pace with no pressure to walk the entire distance. And we're in no hurry anyway, so you can take your time, using the excuse "Oh, I think *pant* that I should *pant* stop and take a photo of this..."

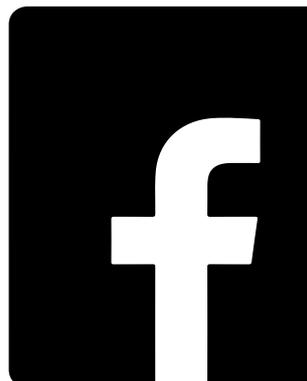
The most challenging walks will actually be around the lodge, as Thala is built on a hill with bungalows spread throughout the rainforest grounds.



Staff in golf buggies are always on hand to transport guests around the lodge if you need to give your legs a little break.

If you're worried about your level of fitness, please feel free to email us (tours@ChrisBrayPhotography.com) and we can give you further details about the nature of the walks.

For safety reasons the doors-off helicopter flight has a per-passenger weight limit of 130kg. If you are over this weight you will be unable to participate on the flight.



This group is for those who've been on (or are about to go on) a Chris Bray Photography Tour. This is a space to e-meet fellow travellers, ask questions of veteran travellers and generally get excited (or reminisce) about the trip of a lifetime! You must be booked in to join (or to contribute), but feel free to check it out and read what people have said.

Chris Bray Photography voyager club



Medical information

This is important – when you book into the tour you'll receive your own personal login details to our voyager guest online hub where you will need to fill in your medical details. We don't mind what medication you take, but importantly we do need this information to present to hospital staff should you be taken ill or have an accident – such information could then save your life. If you carry any life-critical medication such as an EpiPen for Anaphylaxis, it is important that you tell us where we can find it, in case you need it in an emergency.

Itinerary

The exact itinerary may be shuffled around and tweaked due to weather, but you can rest assured that we'll be working flat-out to get you to all the best places, at the best times, for the best photos possible. There will be no refunds due to poor weather or similar changes forced upon us by factors outside our control, as per our Booking Terms and Conditions.

Travel insurance

Chris Bray Photography will not be liable for any damage to your camera gear or equipment, nor your personal health or wellbeing. You **MUST** obtain your own travel insurance and we recommend that you organise this insurance as soon as you have paid the initial deposit on the tour. Ensure your selected insurance will cover you against any damage to your property (ie camera gear) or any financial loss due to an unexpected cancellation (see our payment Terms & Conditions). Our travel agent is very willing and able to help secure you the best travel insurance deal. Just email us if you'd like to be put in touch with them. Once you've organised your insurance, please email a copy of your policy through to tours@ChrisBrayPhotography.com





Food and Drink

All meals are provided, however beverages must be purchased at your own expense,

Dietary requirements

We can cater for just about anything and our trips have been enjoyed by vegetarians, gluten-free, lactose-free and much more obscure diets too - you just have to let us know in advance!

Smoking

While we don't ban smoking on our tours, we generally encourage guests not to smoke on tour if possible. Many places we visit will have smoking bans in place (many National Parks, public restaurants etc). If you do choose to smoke while on tour, we just ask that you be mindful of your fellow safari guests by smoking discreetly in designated smoking areas away from the group, away from communal dining areas and accommodation rooms (particularly if sharing a room with someone else on the tour). Some of our past tour guests have actually decided to use our tour as an opportunity to cut back on their smoking habit or quit altogether and have seen lasting results upon returning home. Why not give it a shot!? We'll be cheering you on. :)

In case of emergency

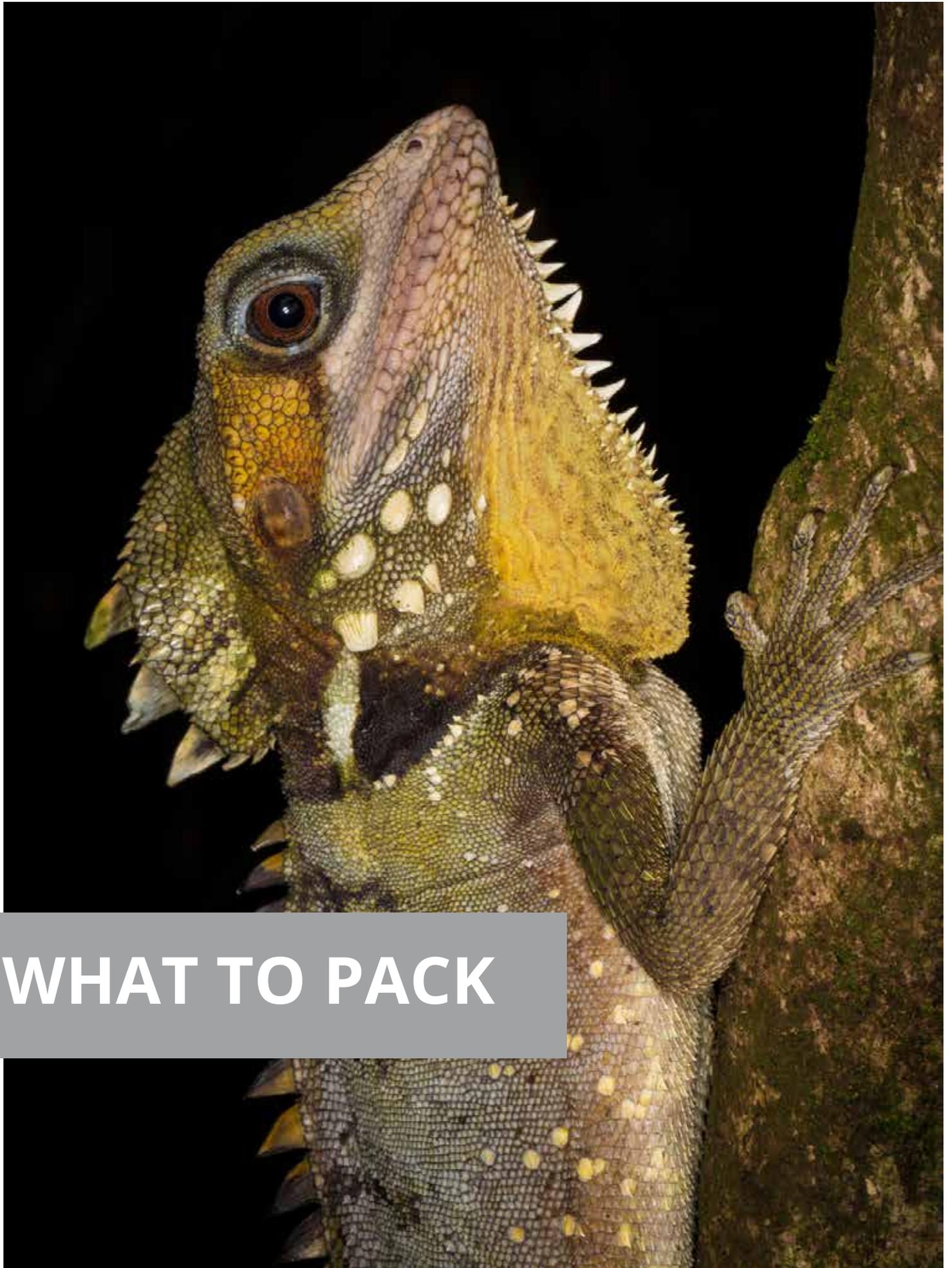
As mentioned we carry a satellite phone just in case we have a problem in a reception black-hole. We have been trained in first aid and will carry an extensive first aid kit, although you must bring any personal medication, which you may likely need.



Accommodation

All accommodation is twin-share. So, if you're booking on your own, then you'll have to share a room with someone else, and if you're booking as a couple, then let us know and we can try and organise a double bed rather than two singles. For solo travellers we can't guarantee that we'll always be able to have you sharing with someone of the same sex - it depends on the gender split, but we do our best. Keep in mind though that you're only usually in your rooms to sleep as we fill your waking hours with plenty to do. We can arrange a single supplement for an extra fee upon request, please just ask us!





WHAT TO PACK



Clothing

In terms of clothes, it's really up to you, but keep it comfortable and practical – giving you heaps of mobility to clamber over rocks, crouch or even lay down for those interesting angle shots etc. This is a practical photography tour - we're going out there to take photos, not to be seen. You might want to pack something nice to wear in the evenings when we have dinner at Thala lodge (first and last night of the tour.) But apart from that we normally wear a pair of light weight hiking pants or shorts with a Icebreaker marino wool t-shirt or hiking shirt.

Raincoat

(what you prepare for won't happen, hopefully!),

Sturdy comfortable closed-in walking shoes

Head torch

(comes in handy when you're shooting in the dark. We use and recommend 'Led Lenser' brand, ideally their USB rechargeable head torch the 'SEO 5R' or 'SEO 7R' available from GearSupply.com.au for 10% off if you use our discount code of 'GSCHRISB10')

Sunscreen, sunnies, personal medication, insect repellent, Hat.

Camera gear

Including tripod (See our 'Domestic Safari Camera Advice' booklet),

Laptop

(ideally with [Adobe Photoshop Lightroom Classic](https://www.adobe.com/au/products/photshop/lightroom-classic.html) installed), or at least some way of viewing your photos like an iPad etc.

A backup hard drive

(or some way to ensure you always have 2 copies of your photos),

Power board

(with in-built surge protector) for charging.

Reusable water bottle

Swimmers and snorkelling gear

If you don't own your own snorkelling gear, you can borrow some from the chartered yacht!



Code of conduct

The aim of the tour is to have an enjoyable time learning and practising photography with like-minded people, photographing some of the most amazing subjects in the world while also lapping up a few of life's little luxuries. CBP also aims to allow our guests to appreciate the natural world in a sustainable manner, so future generations can continue to experience its beauty. As per our 'Booking Terms and Conditions' please help us achieve this and help ensure everyone has a great time by following the below points:

Look after the wildlife

Please don't handle, feed or harass the wildlife. When viewing the wildlife please keep noise to a minimum. Don't surround, chase or approach the animals too closely. Excitedly jumping around and shouting at how amazing it is will only cause the animal to disappear, much to the annoyance of your fellow travellers! We are here to photograph the animals, not stress them out. We find most of our guests are wonderfully caring and sensitive towards wildlife, but if we decide it's best to back away or move on, please respect our decision.

Look after your fellow photographers

Be considerate of the other group members at all times. Share the best vantage points.

Look after the environment

"Take only photographs, leave only footprints." Where possible please stay on the designated footpaths and walkways. Please recycle and dispose of litter in the appropriate bins.

My Checklist

- Sign booking terms & conditions
- Sort travel insurance
- Fill in medical form
- Book flights
- Send all of the above to
tours@chrisbrayphotography.com
- Join Facebook group
- Read 'Domestic Tour Camera Advice' booklet,



Notes:



WHY BOOK A CBP TOUR



Australia's largest and most-loved photo tour operator for a reason



We offer the highest quality, small-group, unique operations focused on providing the access and luxuries the others don't - such as exclusive charter of ships, planes & helicopters (doors-off for better photography) along with off-road & special access permits to get you closer - so we can give you what we know you want. For example, while other operators might book you a spot on a busy, regular scenic cruise, we'd privately charter the whole boat, relaxing the pace, giving you plenty of space and modifying the route for the best photogenic locations and timings. We delight in welcoming you to beautiful accommodation and providing fantastic food and other luxuries to ensure the tour is as much a wonderful holiday as it is a photographic experience.





Unlike most, we're fully accredited and insured, obtain all the proper permits, respect and give back to the communities and environment, and employ industry best-practices such as holding your payments in a trust-fund, and have been awarded the tick from the Accredited Tourism Business Australia (Australian national symbol of tourism quality). We don't waste your time with 'rest-days' or surprise you with hidden costs.

Perhaps one of the key differences our guests keep saying is how we - unlike so many other operators - always put YOU and YOUR photos first, always there to help out with any issues or check your images and suggest ways you could improve - never getting in your way or even taking any photos ourselves unless every single guest is content. Our friendly pro photography guides are all young, energetic and up-to-date and are a pleasure to be around. Our goal is to help YOU have the best experience possible, improving YOUR photography, and helping YOU take the best photos!

If you're still not convinced, then ask anyone who's come away with us - our repeat guest rate speaks for itself: We've had entire tours sell-out solely with repeat guests, and if you'd like, we can put you in touch with a guest who's already been on the tour your considering to ask their opinion.



"Awesome photography experiences"

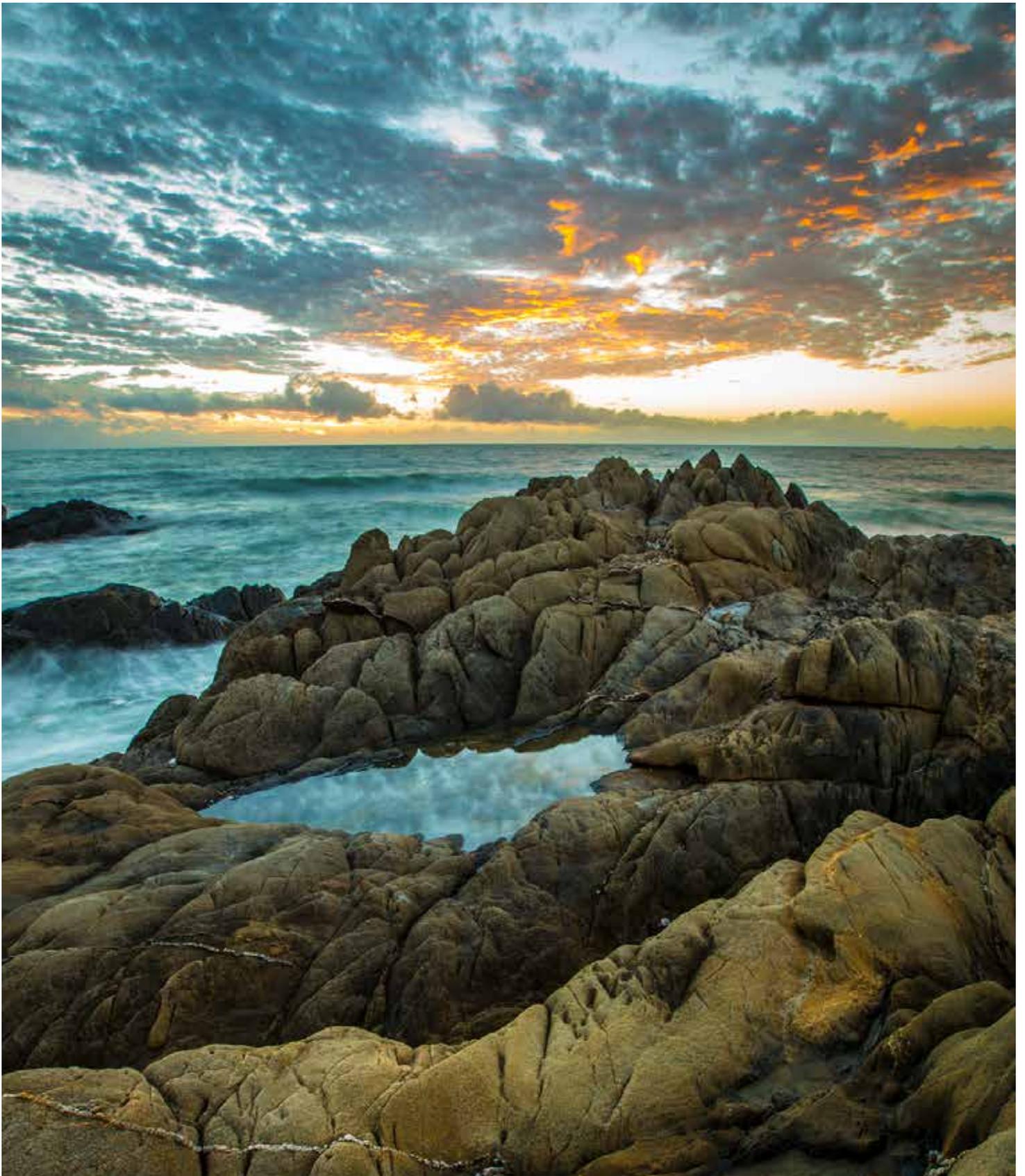
"Lovely accommodation at Thala Beach Nature Reserve and Lodge, delicious food (is this a photography or a gourmet trip), clever and attentive leaders, and, most importantly, awesome photography experiences! With a great group, this tour was lots of fun." J. Mackinder

"Best week ever"

"This tour was amazing, the best week ever. Everyday I was amazed at the photo opportunities we were given, the fabulous food, luxury accommodation and most importantly the most fantastic group of people (now lifetime friends) to share it with". A. McNelly

Always putting you and your photos first!

There to help out with any issues or check your images and suggest ways you could improve



HOW TO BOOK

Payment Details

A non-refundable, non-transferable \$1,000 AUD per person booking deposit is required to secure your booking.

The second payment of 50% is payable 6-months out (or at time of booking if elapsed) and is also non-refundable, non-transferable.

The remainder is due 3-months out and is refundable, unless cancelling within 45 days before departure.

Details of our cancellation policy etc are in our 'Booking Terms and Conditions' document.

CBP Voyager Club members may be eligible for a discount, please see our 'Booking Terms and Conditions' document for details.



Questions? Please don't hesitate to ask!

If you have any questions that are not answered in this document, please just ask Tours@ChrisBrayPhotography.com and we'll let you know, and we'll also then add that piece of information into this document for others in the future!

Thanks very much - we look forward to sharing our photo tour with you!

The CBP Team

www.ChrisBrayPhotography.com

tours@ChrisBrayPhotography.com

CHRIS BRAY 
PHOTOGRAPHY 
TOURS • COURSES

Information current as of Nov 2019 - Tour details subject to change -
Booking terms and conditions apply - for details visit ChrisBrayPhotography.com.