

## Ecology and Resource Management in Australia

### Wake Forest University – Summer 2021

*Itinerary Highlights*

#### Day 1 – 4 Brisbane

##### Welcome orientation and group dinner

##### Traditional Aboriginal welcome and Australian history

Be welcomed to “country” by a local aboriginal person and spend some time hearing about indigenous Australia. Then learn more about colonialism and events of the last decade that have shaped society.

##### Aussie wildlife interactions

Learn about the history and evolution of Australia’s native wildlife. Visit the world’s largest koala sanctuary, where a highlight for many is hand feeding kangaroos, and get up close and personal with snakes, birds, frogs, and lizards.



#### Day 5 – 6 Lamington National Park

##### Binna Burra

Positioned 800 meters above sea level amidst the sub-tropical rainforest of Lamington National Park in the Gold Coast Hinterland, Binna Burra is center stage to some of Australia’s most spectacular natural features. The unique isolation provides the chance to get back to basics, interact with nature and experience a freedom and sense of peace that few places can offer. Participate in bush poetry, bush dancing, animal tracking and census, bird watching, guided walks and nocturnal spotlighting.

#### Day 7 – 10 Magnetic Island

##### Explore Magnetic Island

Magnetic Island is a rugged mountainous island about eight kilometers offshore from Townsville. Affectionately known as “Maggie” by the locals, the island boasts a tremendous array of native flora and fauna (including wild koalas) and stunning beaches.



##### Koala population survey project

Take part in a field-based study surveying the koala population on Magnetic Island. The day includes a seminar on koala biology and ecology, a briefing on the survey methodology and a discussion on the use of the data.

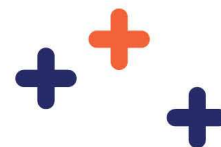
##### Beach scrub study

Participate in a project to conserve beach scrub, which is a threatened ecological environment. Learn about Conservation Action Planning, do field work at active project sites, learn how to use camera traps, and conduct a fauna survey.

#### Day 11 – 14 Hidden Valley

##### Hidden Valley Cabins

Stay at a family-run ecotourism business with hosts that are passionate about the natural environment. They will share their experience of operating a sustainable, 100% solar powered business in a remote region. Your guide will lead you on hikes through rainforests and to spectacular



waterfalls. You will swim in stunning creeks, go platypus spotting, and enjoy delicious barbecue dinners.



### **Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC)**

AWC's reserves cover more than 7.4 million acres, including the critical conservation areas of Mt Zero and Taravale. Spend the day working on a range of service-learning activities, such as bush fire control methods of clearing brush, or business assessment and monitoring.

### **Day 15 – 17 Townsville**

#### **Aboriginal cultural experience**

Learn about Nywaigi Aboriginal culture and hear the stories of their ancestors who were exhibited as cannibals and savages in nineteenth century circuses in Europe and the US. Try your hand at traditional activities such as throwing boomerangs and spears and take part in a service-learning project on the Mungalla wetlands.



### **Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)**

Take a guided walk around the research institute facilities, including a tour of the 'world's smartest aquarium', the National Sea Simulator. Learn about current research being conducted at AIMS.

### **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park extends over 2300kms and is one of the richest, most complex, and diverse ecosystems in the world. Education is a key role of the GBRMPA, and you will meet one of their expert educators to find out about the diverse reef communities and amazing creatures that live there, how the reef is monitored and managed, as well as the role GBRMPA plays in reef conservation and research.

### **Day 18 – 21 Lady Elliot Island**

#### **Noosa Biosphere**

The Noosa Biosphere is a unique learning site for sustainable living. During your visit, en route to Lady Elliot Island, you will learn about its history and development issues, take a guided bush walk, and visit the tourist strip.

#### **Eco island resort**

Situated within a highly protected 'Green Zone', the coral cay is a sanctuary for over 1,200 species of marine life and is known for its abundance of manta rays, turtles, and unspoilt coral reef. During your stay, hear from the owners of this eco-tourism business who will give you a behind the scenes tour of the resort and share their insights. Get up close to marine creatures, including sea cucumbers, starfish, sea urchins, coral, clams, crabs, and colorful fish by snorkeling, sailing on a glass bottom boat and taking a guided reef walk.



### **Day 22 – 23 Brisbane to USA**

#### **Travel back to Brisbane**

The program wraps up with a group farewell dinner in Brisbane on the final night before you return home.