



AUSTRALIAN ECLIPSE, 2012

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

An Awesome Experience

9-15 November, 2012

This exciting tour is designed for those who want adventure *and* luxury and wish to see a spectacular phenomenon – The Australian Eclipse 2012.

The **Angsana Resort in Palm Cove** is superbly located on the foreshore of the Coral Sea about 30 minutes drive north of Cairns and is a luxurious base for our tour programme. We visit the highlights of the **Far North Queensland** region of Australia. These include the **Great Barrier Reef**, **Cooktown**, the **Daintree Rainforest** and the **Atherton Tablelands**.

You can choose to:

- 1. See the eclipse in 5 star comfort at the Angsana Beach Spa and Resort.** The resort is directly under the path of the Australian Eclipse,

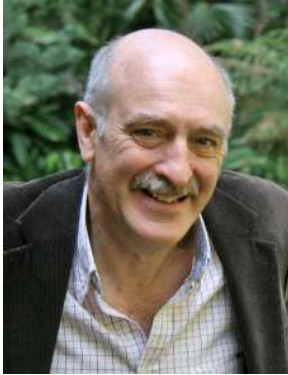
or
- 2. Venture Outback and view the eclipse from a private site at Maitland Downs Cattle Station. Travel outback to a million star basic bush-camp at Maitland Downs. Prepare for the eclipse, explore your natural surroundings, and OVERNIGHT IN THE BUSH, before witnessing the eclipse the next morning.**

That night, after the eclipse, we will reunite at the Angsana for a **Gala Celebration Dinner**.

This tour is designed with enough time to learn about and experience the eclipse, to enjoy the Australian environment, and to relax and enjoy the ambiance of Palm Cove.

You will be overwhelmed by the Australian Outback and the Australian Eclipse, 2012.

Fred Watson – Guest Host



We are thrilled to have Fred Watson accompany this exciting programme to North Queensland to view the solar eclipse. He led us to Peru to view an ancient Incan observatory, and to Europe to trace the history of the telescope (as narrated in his book "STARGAZER, the LIFE and TIMES of the TELESCOPE"). Recently he was our ASTRONOMER on the MV ORION trip that took us from DARWIN to BROOME.

FRED WATSON is Astronomer-in-Charge of the Anglo-Australian Observatory, operating Australia's largest optical telescope (the 3.9m Anglo-Australian Telescope), and is Project Manager for the International RAVE Radial Velocity Survey of a Million Stars at Siding Springs near Coonabarabran in NSW, Australia.

He has several sessions on ABC radio each week, is a regular contributor to Australian Geographic and has a busy speaking schedule. Fred is a well-known author on subjects astronomical and his enthusiasm and love of his subject will enhance your eclipse experience.

For more information visit www.fredwatson.com.au

Exclusive Outback Site

The broad open skies of outback Queensland provide a great venue for the Australian Eclipse.

The region is seeped with history. In the 1870s tens of thousands of miners flocked to this area searching for gold leading to the establishment of the ports of **Cairns, Cooktown and Port Douglas**. Palmer River, about 250 kilometres north-west of Palm Cove, has remnants of one of north Queensland's most famous **gold mining towns**.



An estimated 4500 Eclipsers will be heading to the solitary Palmer River Roadhouse north of our site. Our site is private and entry is by special permission of the owner of Maitland Downs. This area has been noted as one of the best viewing sites for the eclipse.

As a bonus this site has the excitement of the Australian outback with its commanding views over one of **Australia's most remote vistas**.

Your outback adventure to the private site on Maitland Downs is included in the tour package price. However, you may choose that experiencing the Australian Eclipse from the comfort of the Angsana is more your style. The choice is yours, but either way, you'll have some of the best vantage points for the **Australian Eclipse 2012**.

Please note itinerary is subject to change at any time though every effort will be made to follow the program.

7 day Itinerary

DAY 1

– FRIDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2012 - PALM COVE

Arrive at Cairns International Airport and transfer to the **Angsana Reef Resort and Spa in Palm Cove** (**assuming arrival falls within the tour dates)

Make yourself comfortable in your suite, stroll along the beautiful beachfront, or enjoy a treatment in the day spa.

At 6.30pm in the Lobby Lounge we have organised a **Welcome Cocktail Party** where you can meet your fellow eclipsers and hear about the planned activities.

Dinner: Own arrangements



DAY 2

– SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2012 - COOKTOWN

We depart early from the hotel for a 4WD air-conditioned coach adventure to Cooktown. **Cooktown** has over two centuries of rich history. Captain James Cook landed there in 1770. Explore Cooktown's history and culture, walk through town, and visit the museums, monuments and the spectacular lighthouse lookout.

Our journey travels north along the Captain Cook Highway, one of Australia's most scenic coastal drives, to the World Heritage listed **Daintree National Park**. You will journey through this ancient rainforest. The **Bloomfield Track** is 32km long and will take you across the **Daintree River** by cable ferry. We stop for lunch at the famous **Lion's Den Hotel** (est. 1875), North Queensland's oldest bush pub. After lunch we continue to the unique geological oddity, **Black Mountain**, which is surrounded in mystery and spoken of in ancient Aboriginal legend.

*** OPTIONAL TOUR - SCENIC FLIGHT ***

Enjoy a 45 minute flight with skytrans airlines as you fly along the coast between the world heritage rainforest (which you've just experienced by 4wd) and the world heritage great barrier reef. On return to cairns airport you will be met and transferred to the angšana.

(NB: approximate cost \$180. Flight must be pre-booked and paid for with your final payment.)



Breakfast: Buffet
Lunch: Lion's Den
Dinner: Own Arrangements

DAY 3**– SUNDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2012 – KURANDA**

Kuranda Rail is one of the world's most scenic train routes. You will travel through hand-hewn tunnels and across bridges with breathtaking views. Stop at the **Barron Gorge** to view the Falls before arriving at beautiful Kuranda station.

Explore **Kuranda**, the "**Village in the Rainforest**" and visit the **Heritage Markets**, which operate daily.

We will then visit the **Mareeba Wetlands Conservation Centre** to see Australia's remarkable wetland flora and fauna.

Breakfast: Buffet
Lunch: Own arrangements
Dinner: Included

Join Fred Watson for a very special dinner and lecture about the upcoming eclipse. Fred's passion and enthusiasm for all things astronomical will enhance this spectacular eclipse experience.

DAY 4**– MONDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2012 – GREAT BARRIER REEF**

We will depart early this morning to cruise to the **Great Barrier Reef**. Don't forget your towel, swimmers, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses and binoculars.

We have organised a special guest expedition leader, **Adam Cropp, Marine Biologist**, to guide us to some unique locations uncovering beautiful coral reefs and wonderful fish in their thousands. You may even like to give scuba-diving a go. Bird life too is diverse and bountiful.

After a full day on the water, **snorkelling**, a **Gourmet Seafood Buffet Lunch**, and a **glass of champagne**, we will cruise back to Cairns where our coach will return us to the Angsana.



Breakfast: Buffet
Lunch: Seafood Buffet
Dinner: Own Arrangements

DAY 5**OPTION 1 – TUESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2012 – ANGSANA RESORT**

If you choose to stay in the Angsana Resort to view the eclipse, take time on this day to plan a location for your telescope. Set up early on the morning of the eclipse. More details about this will be provided on site.

***** Please note there will be no astronomers at the Angsana.*****

DAY 5

OPTION 2 – TUESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2012 – MAITLAND DOWNS

Outback Adventure

Depart early from the Angsana Hotel armed with telescopes for a trip through the Atherton Tablelands to our site at Maitland Downs. Stop en route at the delightful **Mareeba Coffee Plantation** for coffee and cake before continuing outback to our site. Set up your equipment, perhaps participate in some organised activities. Then the time is yours to enjoy the tranquillity of the bush setting and the commanding views of the valley and cattle station.

Our exclusive bushcamp site permits perfect viewing of the eclipse (*subject to weather conditions) and has been carefully chosen under the eclipse path. After a **HEARTY BUSH DINNER** there will be time for your astronomy questions and a few tunes from Fred Watson.

Please note that there will be only basic bushcamp facilities with sleeping space, seating and amenities. There are no shower facilities or water on site. Note that we will return to the Angsana after the eclipse, when luxury will be re-established.

NO electricity will be available to power or charge your equipment (this can be done in Palm Cove BEFORE departure.) NO naked flame may be used.

DAY 6

– WEDNESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2012 – MAITLAND DOWNS / PALM COVE



ECLIPSE DAY - THE DAY WE'VE ALL BEEN AWAITING!

VIEW THE ECLIPSE. Then adjourn to share a warm drink and your tales. Coaches will return you to Palm Cove. You have a free afternoon to relax.

If you would like to share your images tonight, please supply them prior to 4pm.

Breakfast: Included

Lunch: Own Arrangements

Dinner: Included - Gala Celebration Dinner

The Australian Eclipse is over but that is not the end of the fun. A Gala Celebration Dinner will be served in the Far Horizons Restaurant at the Angsana Resort commencing at 7.30pm, giving you the opportunity to share eclipse images and tales

DAY 7

– THURSDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2012 - HOME

After breakfast say good-bye to your fellow eclipsers and make your way home.

Breakfast: Buffet

Accommodation

ANGSANA RESORT & SPA, GREAT BARRIER REEF

Blissful Sun, Surf and Spa

Nestled in the gorgeous Palm Cove village just 20 minutes north of Cairns, Australia, **Angsana Great Barrier Reef** is paradise for nature lovers.

The Angsana is located close to the **world's longest coral reef and oldest rainforest** and is the only resort in Palm Cove to enjoy absolute beach frontage on the spectacular **Coral Sea**.

There are few places in the world where natural and man-made ingredients are mixed together with a gentle hand to create a special location that is paradise. Palm Cove, in Tropical North Queensland, Australia, is one of these locations — a glorious beachside community bursting with fun activities and luxury accommodation for holidaymakers.

The Angsana Resort is only metres away from a lazy village where you can buy goods and meals at reasonable prices.



SUITES:



Exquisitely designed, your roomy suite comes complete with full kitchen amenities to offer the familiar feeling of home after all the excitement of the day. The decadent ambiance consists of a refreshing pool and spacious patios with beachfront views. Each suite also has a washing machine for your convenience.

We have organised 1 and 2 bedroom suites at the Angsana. The 2 bedrooms suites are large and will allow 2 singles to share comfortably or a family of up to 5 people. The 2 separate bedrooms each have a private en suite.

If you do not have a roommate, we will match up by gender in a 2 bedroom apartment.

**** BOOK AND DEPOSIT FOR THE AUSTRALIAN ECLIPSE 2012 TOUR
AND RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY UPGRADE TO A SEA-FACING ROOM.****

(*OFFER APPLIES TO BOOKINGS MADE PRIOR TO 30 JUNE 2010 *SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY – LIMITED NUMBER APPLIES*)

RESTAURANTS IN PALM COVE

Palm Cove has some of the finest restaurants in all of Tropical North Queensland. Take a stroll along the beachfront at Palm Cove on any night and you'll smell the aromas wafting from fine-dining restaurants. The choice is dazzling - from Thai to contemporary Australian. Palm Cove is a diner's delight.

Palm Cove is located in a region renowned for its wonderful seafood, plucked from the ocean mere miles away. The high-calibre restaurants serve the freshest and highest quality catch cooked to perfection.

If you feel like a more relaxed dining experience without needing to get dressed up in your fine garb, Palm Cove also features a number of fish and chips shops where you can grab traditional Aussie beach food wrapped in paper. Lie on the sand and tuck into the quintessential tropical dinner: fish and chips. Sometimes the best dining is experienced under the stars while listening to the ocean gently lap at the beach.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Several airlines fly directly into Cairns International Airport via Singapore and Japan. Regular flights are available to Cairns Domestic Airport from all Australian Capital cities with Qantas, Jetstar and Virgin Blue. A designated coach has been organized to transfer you to Palm Cove. **time to be confirmed with airline*

Eclipse conditions

Our exclusive site is on the property of Maitland Downs Cattle Station and has been written about several times as one of the best vantages for the eclipse.

See: <http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~jander/tot2012/tse12intro.htm>

Whilst all efforts will be made to ensure a good viewing of the eclipse, Mother Nature will be the biggest factor in determining the outcome. For more information the following websites may be useful and describe weather conditions in detail.

Real-time satellite images of Australia from Weather Zone: www.weatherzone.com.au/satellite.jsp

Archive satellite images from Dundee University (registration required): www.sat.dundee.ac.uk/

Queensland forecasts from the Bureau of Meteorology in Australia: www.bom.gov.au/weather/qld/

Inclusions

- ✓ **Private Eclipse Viewing in Palm Cove or Maitland Downs.**
- ✓ **After dinner talk by Fred Watson**
- ✓ **7 days luxury accommodation at the Angsana Reef Resort and Spa**
- ✓ **Kuranda Train, and Mareeba Wetlands, and Cairns excursion.**
- ✓ **All day Great Barrier Reef Cruise with Gourmet Seafood Buffet Lunch**
- ✓ **Full day Cooktown excursion with lunch in a historic pub**
- ✓ **Welcome Cocktail Party**
- ✓ **Gala Eclipse Dinner**
- ✓ **Eclipse souvenir pack**
- ✓ **Private air-conditioned motor coach transport throughout the tour**
- ✓ **All hotel taxes and service charges**
- ✓ **Airport transfers (subject to days of arrival and departure)**
- ✓ **Tips and gratuities**

NB: Thrive Australia has included tips in the overall tour package price. Gratuities to Tour Director, Coach Drivers and Local Guides are estimated at AUD\$4.00 pp per day for a Tour Director, AUD\$2.50 pp per day for a Driver and AUD\$2.00 pp for a Local Guide. However extra tips for good service are always appreciated.

TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- International / Domestic airfares
- Additional charge(s) relating to documentation for telescopes
- Travel insurance (required)
- Costs of passport or visas
- Beverages during meals except where indicated
- Optional excursions
- Personal expenses and anything else not included in the 'tour includes' features list.

Cost

ROOM TYPE	STATUS	PER PERSON	PER UNDER 12	NOTES
One Bedroom Suite	Single	\$ 5,270 + \$1150 Single Supplement	N/A	1 King Bed
	Twin Share	\$ 5,270	\$4290	
Two Bedroom Suite	Twin Share (2 x singles or 2 x couples)	\$ 5,590	\$4550	1 King + 2 single beds with private en suite (Family or predetermined groups only)
	Triple Share	\$ 5,180	\$3980	
	Quad Share	\$ 4,990	\$3790	

****BOOK AND DEPOSIT BEFORE 30 JUNE 2010 AND RECEIVE A FREE UPGRADE TO A SEA-FACING ROOM.**

(*Numbers are strictly limited so get in quickly! Subject to availability)

Available on request: Extra bedding and three bedroom apartments. # Itinerary and prices are subject to third party changes at any time and will be notified to passengers with deposited bookings. Where possible, Thrive Travel will not pass on prices changes to deposited bookings.

SECURING YOUR PLACE

Please fill out the form below and return it along with a copy of your passport to marnie@fredwatson.com.au or post it to:

Marnie Ogg
PO Box 973
Newport NSW
2106 Australia

Feel free to ask any questions too!

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

AMOUNT PER PERSON	DUE DATE	TERMS AND CONDITIONS
Deposit: - \$1000 - booking form - Copy of your passport	8 November 2011 or earlier	\$200 non-refundable after initial deposit \$500 non-refundable after 31 st December 2010
Second Payment: - \$1500 or - \$2500 total	8 November 2011 or earlier	\$1500 (total) non – refundable after 8 November 2011
Final Payment: + Insurance copy + flight details	8 August 2012 or earlier	75% non refundable of payment after 8 August 2012 100% non refundable after 8

PASSENGER DETAILS:

PLEASE FILL OUT ONE FORM PER COUPLE OR FAMILY. TWO COUPLES SHARING SHOULD FILL OUT SEPARATE FORMS

Travelers Name:	1.	2.	
<i>(for groups or families only)</i>	3.	4.	
Contact details:	Mobile:	=	Home:
	Email:		
Postal:			
	State:		Postcode:
	Country:		
		September 2012	

Please tick your room preference and let us know who you will be sharing with. If you would like us to match you up for a twin share arrangement with a member of the same sex please indicate below.

Room type	tick	Accommodating	Travel Companion names
One Bedroom Suite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Twin Share	Travelers 1 + 2 sharing
Two Bedroom Suite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Twin Share	As listed above
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Triple Share	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quad Share	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed Twin Share	I would like to be paired up with one other person

IF YOU WILL BE TRAVELLING WITH A TELESCOPE PLEASE TELL US DIMENSIONS WHEN PACKED

DEPOSIT DETAILS

CREDIT CARD DETAILS	<input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT DEPOSIT	<input type="checkbox"/> CHEQUE
NAME ON CARD	----- EXP __ / __ CVV# ----			

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT: _____
 DATE: _____