

THE 20 COOLEST JOBS IN TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND

26 Jun, 15 by [Fiona Harper](#)

With two World Heritage sites in their backyard, locals who live and work in Tropical North Queensland get to do some pretty cool things as part of their jobs. Jobs like crocodile keeper, microlight, balloon or helicopter pilot, sky diver, bungee jumper, kayak, fishing or rock art guide, boat skipper or fish tickler (ok, maybe that's not an official job but it sounds like fun!). It doesn't really sound like work does it? But it is and these locals get paid to do just that.

We're going to meet some of these people over the coming months to find out about their cool jobs and whether they live up to 'dream job' status. In the meantime, here's a little teaser of what's to come as we check out 20 of the coolest jobs in TNQ. Can you work out who is working and who is on holidays?



Crocodile Keeper: this is an easy one! Children don't try this at home.



Skydive Instructor: Another easy one. The 'cool job guy' is the one looking super cool despite free-falling through the sky. The holiday maker on the other end looks terrified. In a good way!



Adventure Guide: Just another day in the office for a Back Country Bliss sea kayak guide. Oh look, is that another turtle? Photo [Travel Boating Lifestyle](#)



Bungee Jump Operator: Don't even think about this [AJ Hackett](#) Bungee job if the thought of this view from your office turns your legs to jelly. Jumping home is optional.



Helicopter Pilot: Poor old chopper pilots have to contend with monotonous greens and blues on their daily commute. Ya gotta feel sorry for them. Photo [@rikerama](#)



White Water Rafting Guide: It's hard to tell who's having more fun here – the thrill seeking holidaymakers or the R n R Rafting Guide.



The Cable Guy: that's probably not the job description on his tax return but it seems appropriate for the treetop fella at [Jungle Surfing Canopy Tours](#).
Photo [@lebackpacker](#)



Chef: Who would want to work in such appalling conditions? Sunshine, sand & there's way too much fresh air! It's no wonder he's turned his back on that blinding ocean.



Lifeguard: 'Which way to the beach?' Lifeguards need the patience of Job. (that's Job, rhymes with lobe, as in the Biblical figure, not job, rhymes with lob... oh never mind)



Bar Attendant: It's not all beer & skittles manning the bar in an Outback pub. Actually, there is beer. Lots of it.



Microlight Pilot: What goes up must come down. The tricky part of microlight flying is the pesky landing part. Otherwise it's all blue skies and tail winds. Photo [@gregorsnell](#)



Mountain Biker: It doesn't sound like a real job but it is for some. Particularly for those Pros who contest the annual Crocodile Trophy.



Photo Bomber: Not an official job but one that serial pest, aka Gavin the Photo Bomber, has made his own at Green Island's [Seawalker](#). Seriously Gavin? Can you please let someone else into the frame?



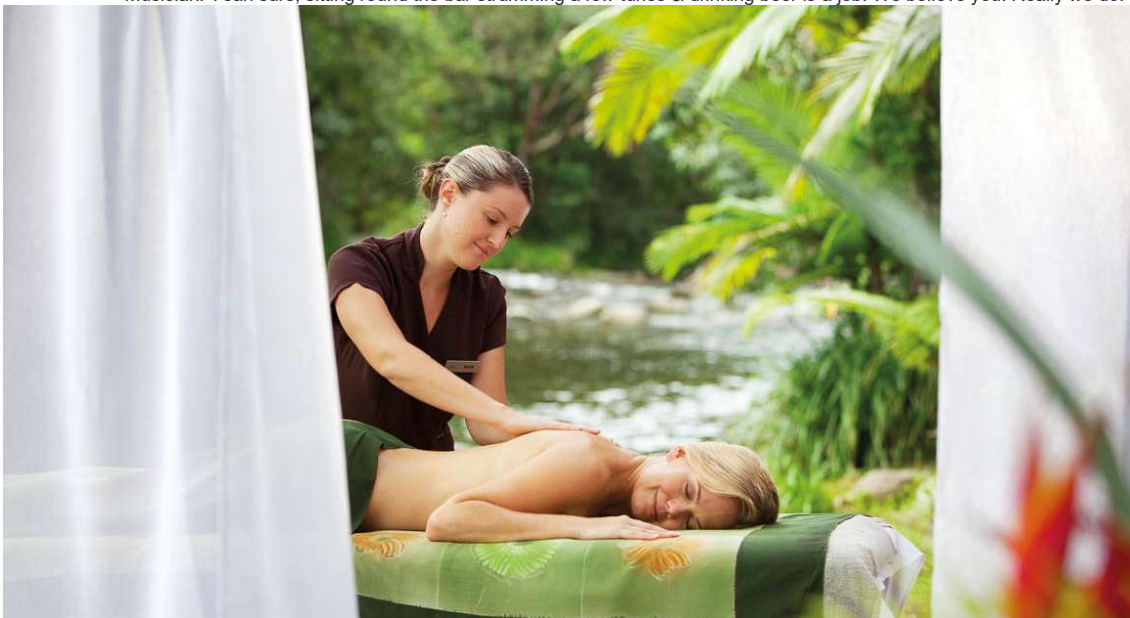
Fish Ticker: Marine Biologist is what it says on the job description but why spend all those years at Uni if you can't have a little fun with the critters you've studied? Photo [@lebackpacker](#)



Instagrammer: Who knew that a quirky little smartphone app would launch Instagrammer careers? These guys at the Green Island Instameet are on to it!



Musician: Yeah sure, sitting round the bar strumming a few tunes & drinking beer is a job. We believe you. Really we do.



Masseuse: No, no, no this won't do at all. Can you at least look like your workplace is stressful, polluted and noisy? That satisfied smugness is just a little bit too contented thanks very much.



Rock Art Guide: How do you explain cultural artifacts almost as old as time itself? That's the challenge facing Rock Art Guides at ancient Laura rock art sites.



Boat Captain: Fancy spending your day on the water unable to wipe the silly grin from your face? Try being a Boat Skipper, like Pat from [Bad Fishy](#), where it's all part of the job!



Balloon Pilot: There are few downsides to being a hot air balloon pilot. The obvious one is the early starts, but beyond that it's all plain sailing, err drifting. Photo [@markclinton](#)