

Couples-only holidays in Queensland

Whether it's a romantic weekend away or a month-long holiday, Queensland offers some fantastic destinations that are exclusive to couples. Enjoy time out with your partner at retreats as varied as stunning island resorts, mountain retreats or quaint rainforest B&Bs. Here are just some of the tempting Queensland getaways available:

Tropical North Queensland islands aplenty

Tropical North Queensland boasts a string of stunning island resorts to choose from, but if you're looking for a couples-only experience, head to the luxurious Orpheus or Lizard Islands.

- **Orpheus Island** is accessed via a seaplane from Cairns or Townsville and is the perfect destination for a romantic getaway with no televisions, phones, day trippers, or children under 15 years. Snorkel or dive on spectacular coral gardens, enjoy a chef-prepared picnic on a secluded beach and drift to sleep in a private bungalow. Food and wine is a big part of the Orpheus Island experience; enjoy the incredible seven-course degustation dinner, or why not spend a romantic night dining alone with your partner under the stars on the jetty? www.orpheus.com.au
- **Lizard Island** on the Great Barrier Reef features 24 powdery-white beaches to explore, offering a tropical private escape. Exclusive to guests over the age of 12 years, the resort features 40 luxurious suites and is renowned for its sensational snorkelling and diving opportunities. Discover secluded, pristine beaches by foot or by motorised dinghy with a gourmet picnic for two. The island's restaurant Ospreys embodies the resort's understated elegance, with a menu changing daily to showcase the finest local produce and freshest seafood. www.lizardisland.com.au

Honeymoon on Hamilton

Situated in the heart of Queensland's Whitsundays, Hamilton Island features two resorts which are exclusive to guests aged over 18 years. The six-star qualia resort is located on the secluded and northern-most tip of the island, while The Beach Club is set right on Catseye Beach. Unwind in your own personal space at qualia while looking out over the distant Whitsunday Islands in one of 60 elegant pavilions or beach houses. The on-site spa, Spa qualia is the perfect place to relax in seclusion and includes a state-of-the-art gym, yoga centre on the water's edge and infinity pools. www.qualia.com.au. The Beach Club is Hamilton Island's five-star boutique hotel offering an intimate holiday experience exclusively for couples. Set in landscaped gardens, the property's 57 rooms all enjoy uninterrupted views of the Coral Sea from their own private balcony. www.hamiltonisland.com.au. Both resorts offer a myriad of opportunities for guests to explore the stunning Great Barrier Reef.

Island life on Wilson

For a Robinson-Crusoe style getaway, you can't go past Wilson Island - an exclusive island retreat for a maximum of just 12 guests. This tiny coral cay is both part of the Great Barrier Reef and surrounded by it with pristine reef and beach environments including rare turtle and bird breeding grounds. Accommodation is in one of six designer-inspired tents which sit right on the beach, while all meals are catered for by the onsite chefs. Guests on Wilson Island are able to enjoy exceptional snorkelling, bird watching, island and reef walks or simply relaxing within the peaceful natural setting, enjoying the stunning views. Children 12 years and under are not catered for. www.wilsonisland.com

The green behind the gold

If you're looking for a romantic rainforest retreat, head to the World Heritage-listed region of the Gold Coast Hinterland where you are spoilt for choice. All accommodation is just a short drive to Gold Coast shopping centres, golf courses and beaches, while local vineyards and wineries also make for a great day trip. And the bush walking options in the area through national parks are endless.

- **Ruffles Lodge** is a luxurious five-star retreat that features fine dining and a cellar with a large collection of Australian boutique wines. Enjoy stunning views of the surrounding region right through to the highrises and golden beaches of the Gold Coast from both the main lodge and your accommodation villa.
www.ruffleslodge.com.au
- **The Gwinganna Lifestyle Retreat** features stunning ocean and valley views and is a great place to unwind and refocus. Superb organic cuisine, an incredible selection of relaxing activities, nurturing massage, scenic walks and a casual atmosphere completes the package. www.gwinganna.com
- **Pethers Rainforest Retreat** is a romantic getaway with Asian-inspired surrounds. Gaze out over the tops of the trees from your designer tree house, explore the five hectares of privately owned pristine rainforest, indulge in fine food and wine and spoil yourself with a spa treatment. www.pethers.com.au

Retreat to Peppers Spicers Peak

Breathe in the fresh mountain air and indulge in fine food and wine at Peppers Spicers Peak Lodge, a two hour drive south-west of Brisbane. Comprising just 10 luxurious suites, this all-inclusive lodge, sits atop a large private cattle property and at 1,100 metres, is the highest retreat in Queensland. The seven course degustation meals are an experienced to be savoured at Spicers Peak, and if you feel like taking lunch into the great outdoors the chef can prepare a gourmet hamper picnic for you. Bush walks, spa treatments, wine tasting, sitting by the fire, mountain bike rides and tennis, are just some of the activities you can choose from. Children are not encouraged as facilities are limited.

www.spicerspeaklodge.com.au

Secrets on the Lake

Secrets on the Lake tree houses are nestled on the shores of peaceful Lake Baroon in Queensland's stunning Sunshine Coast Hinterland. This intimate and romantic getaway features hand-carved, elevated wooden walkways that lead you through the rainforest treetops to ten individually themed, private tree houses. Each tree house features carved cedar furniture, double showers, kitchen facilities, home baked treats, log fires, stained glass windows, blown glass lamps and pottery work, sunken double spas, and your own private balcony with BBQ. www.secretsonthelake.com.au

Coopers Couples Retreat

Escape, relax and unwind at a retreat exclusively for couples in the Central Queensland town of Bundaberg. Boasting fantastic access to the jewels of the southern Great Barrier Reef, Coopers Couples Retreat is a great option for couples searching for an intimate getaway in regional Queensland. Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine upon your arrival, before settling into your Deluxe Spa Room. Romantic candlelit dinners, breakfasts in your private courtyard and optional in-room massages are all highlights.

www.cooperscouplesretreat.com.au

Couples in Port

The tropical town of Port Douglas, an hours' drive north of Cairns, features three couples-only resorts which are all within easy walking distance to Marina Mirage, the Great Barrier Reef cruise departure point, spectacular Four Mile Beach, the town's famed restaurants, shops on the cosmopolitan main thoroughfare of Macrossan Street.

- **The Meridian Port Douglas** is ideal for couples requiring a peaceful and relaxing getaway offering a range of luxurious self-catered studios, one bedroom units and Honeymoon apartments which all feature heated Jacuzzi spa baths on spacious balconies. www.portdouglasmeridian.com
- **Port Douglas Peninsula Boutique Hotel** boasts a prime position overlooking Four Mile Beach and features just 34 spacious suites with private balconies. Your hosts, Sheryn and Phil, promise an authentic Port Douglas tropical experience and the hotel's guests are required to be over 15 years. www.peninsulahotel.com.au
- **Shantara Resort & Spa** is a small and personalised boutique apartment resort, ideal for a short break in Port Douglas. The tropical-styled three storey building features timeless classical architecture comprising hotel rooms and luxury one and two bedroom self-contained apartments. Indulge with a couples' treatment at the resort's award-winning day spa, or in the comfort and privacy of your own room. www.shantara.com.au

A cottage getaway in Tropical North Queensland

Away from Tropical North Queensland's main tourist hubs you can find dozens of beautiful B&Bs, quaint cottages and retreats situated in the stunning Atherton Tableland region. Take in the local scenic attractions including Lakes Barrine and Eacham, Art galleries, Cafes & Award winning Restaurants, Coffee tastings, Wine Tastings, and even platypus viewing.

- **Allumbah Pocket Cottages** caters for couples only. Located in the middle of Heritage-listed village of Yungaburra, these bygone style cottages come complete with all the modern luxuries to pamper yourself and your partner. www.allumbahpocketcottages.com.au.
- Enjoy luxury five-star accommodation in architecturally-designed, self-contained pole cabins at the **Mt Quincan Crater Retreat**. Sensitively placed in the rainforest on the slopes of the Mt Quincan Crater, the retreat is an ideal honeymoon destination. After a double spa, snuggle up in front of the wood fire or perhaps enjoy a midnight snack from the generous pantry. www.tablelands.org/accommodation.html
- The nearby Mossman Gorge features another adults-only cottage known as the **Papillon Bed and Breakfast**. Situated just 15 minutes from Port Douglas, on the doorstep of the Great Barrier Reef and Daintree Rainforest, Papillon Bed and Breakfast is a wooden pole-house surrounded by beautiful tropical gardens. www.papillonstays.com.au