

Farm and Station Stay Holidays

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Experience the real Queensland bush on a farm or station holiday

There's nothing like getting back to the land when it comes to experiencing the real Australia and in Queensland you are spoiled for choice. Stay on a pretty hinterland farm or head out to the Outback. Grab your hat, some sturdy clothes and get ready for some fun on the farm.

Southern Queensland

Peppers Hidden Vale – Experience a touch of luxury in the Scenic Rim near Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Situated on a 12,000 acre working cattle station, this boutique hotel accommodation is built around the historic homestead and guests can also escape to one of the overnight cabins as part of the 4WD and horse riding tours. Activities include bushwalks, mountain biking, horse riding, clay target-shooting, massage and beauty treatments as well as fine dining in Cotton's Restaurant. www.peppers.com.au/Hidden-Vale

Lillydale Farmstay – Enjoy a day in the country or stay overnight in the original and stylish homestead at Lillydale Farmstay, which features breathtaking views of Mt Barney and a real country lifestyle experience. As a working cattle property, visitors can learn basic farm skills, go on tractor rides, try their hand at whip-cracking, see historic timber skills at work and sample scrumptious Billy tea and damper straight from a camp oven. The more active can choose to go abseiling or horse riding while the youngsters can collect the eggs and feed the animals. www.lillydale.com.au

Cedar Glen Farmstay - Situated in the foothills of the spectacular 'Lost World' section of the Lamington National Park behind the Gold Coast, the Stephens Family have worked the cattle property for over one hundred years and it is steeped in history and family tradition. Farm activities including horse riding, bushwalking, bird watching, swimming and tennis are all available. A range of unique accommodation is available including the "Stinson Cottage" (fully restored 1900 workers cottage), "Tantallon" (family home built in 1932), "Dairy House" (1940's farmhouse) and "Cedar Glen" (1901 Original Family Homestead). www.cedarglen.com.au

Passchendaele Farm Holidays – This 7,500 acre working cattle property is located three and a half hours north of Brisbane and has been owned and operated by the same family since 1921. Your hosts, Ken and Carolyn Stone are real country people who are proud of their country heritage. Younger visitors can feed the chooks and collect eggs, milk cows and feed pigs, go fishing and yabbing, spotlighting for wildlife and play with farmyard animals. Accommodation is in a farm cottage or the homestead, and activities include four wheel drive tours, bushwalks, nearby wineries, waterfalls and local waterholes perfect for swimming. www.pfarm.com.au

Tropical North Queensland

Alkoomie Station – Accessible only by 4WD, this two-storey homestead is built on an escarpment atop Mt Dickson and offers unimpeded views across the spectacular Endeavour River Valley and onwards to Cooktown and the Great Barrier Reef. The luxury mountain retreat is situated a four hour drive north of Cairns and caters for eight to 12 people or visitors can also camp without roughing it in furnished, self-contained, all-weather tents. Watch, learn and assist with the cattle round-up alongside the working cattle dogs, explore the diverse landscape rich with fauna and flora, or simply just relax. www.alkoomie.com.au

Bluff Downs Station - Step back in time on this property on the edge of Charters Towers in north Queensland. Meet the colourful Outback Australians who run Brahman cattle, quarter horses and chital deer on this rugged 400km² property. Red soil, dust and breathtaking rural scenery are just some of the many attractions. Learn about the history of the area, join a fossil finding tour, go mustering and four wheel driving. www.bluffdowns.com.au

Mount Mulligan Station – Take an amazing helicopter flight over some of Tropical North Queensland’s most secluded and untouched terrain to Mount Mulligan Station for an overnight farmstay in a traditional homestead. This rambling white weatherboard building is edged with broad verandahs and was once the hospital for the Mount Mulligan Mine. Accommodation is simple, but comfortable. Join in horse riding, mustering, didgeridoo making, fossicking and prospecting. Visit www.downunderheli.com/tours.php

Central Queensland

Glassford Creek Farmstay – Family owned and operated, this beautiful Outback retreat is situated on a 4,000 acre working cattle property just 45 minutes from Gladstone. Ideal for families once visitors enter the gate they can get involved in just about everything that happens on the property. Enjoy a worker’s lunch in the smoko shed, saddle up for a ride, milk cows, check water troughs and fences, and feast on camp-oven roast dinners by the fire. www.glassfordcreekfarmstay.com.au

Lochenbar Station, Kroombit Park – Join a two-day horse trail ride and sleep in a swag under the stars on an overnight camp-out tour on Lochenbar Station. Situated on a 10,000 acre working cattle station 35km from Biloela, this property is for guests who want to experience the traditional life of the Outback. Learn to crack a whip, try lassoing and mustering, outlast the bell on the "mechanical bucking bull", laze by the swimming pool, or enjoy one of the many nature walks around the station. Guests stay in the campsite, bush cabins or upmarket ensembles cabins. www.kroombit.com.au

Henderson Park – Henderson Park is a working cattle property located just 30 minutes’ drive north of Rockhampton. Stay in luxurious self-contained cabins set on the banks of beautiful Hedlow Creek which is ideal for fishing, bird watching, canoeing, or a cool swim on a warm Central Queensland afternoon. www.hendersonpark.com.au

Rocky Creek Farmstay – Ever thought of becoming an authentic ‘Jackaroo’ or ‘Jillaroo’? Rocky Creek Farmstay offers a variety of courses for visitors who want to take on the challenge and get their hands dirty in the rural central Queensland Outback. By the end of the course visitors will be experienced in farm life and know how to muster, round up cattle, fix fences, organise droves, four wheel drive and manage animals. Located south-west of Bundaberg in central Queensland, the station offers working holidays and traditional farmstay experiences. Enjoy the warmth of country hospitality, tasty home cooked meals, comfortable spacious accommodation and fantastic views. www.isisol.com.au/rockycrkfarmstay

Myella – This is a cattle property with a difference and features an ever changing daily list of activities for guests. Whip cracking demonstrations, cow milking, hay rides, motorbike riding, horse riding, four wheel drive tours, animal feeding, lasso demonstrations, fence fixing to cattle mustering and exploring are all part of the lineup. The homestead features all the modern comforts and serves hearty old fashioned country food every night made from recipes passed down through the family. Myella is small, personal and relaxing and is situated 125km south-west of Rockhampton in central Queensland. www.myella.com

Coopers Downs Cattle Station – This historic property specialises in horse riding and Outback station activities. Enjoy dinner around a campfire, bush walking, watching the cattle mustering and swimming in local waterholes and the river or at the homestead swimming pool. Stay in modern cottages with ensuite facilities. An airstrip is located on the property for charter flights. www.australianfarmtourism.com.au/details.php?p_id=272&categoryid=6&menuid=category_id_6&seo=Cooper_Downs_Cattle_Station_Resort

The Outback

Charlotte Plains - "Cunnamulla is at the back of Bourke where the crows fly backwards to keep the dust out of their eyes!" Set on a 70,000 acre working sheep and cattle station which has been family run and operated for more than 80 years, the Charlotte Plains farmstay is a unique adventure in the Outback town of Cunnamulla which offers a range of activities including an education camel wagon safari, animal activities and a free flowing artesian bore – nature's spa bath. With accommodation ranging from bush cooking to modern suites, the property also features a private airstrip with groups and fly-ins are welcome. www.charlotteplains.com.au

Wattle Downs Sheep Station – Help out in the daily running of a 5,000 acre station and merino sheep stud located 340km west of Brisbane. Discover the family's rich pioneering history since 1913 and enjoy a range of day and night-time activities, an abundance of wildlife and lots of children's activities which make this a great place to visit. Generations of genuine Australian family hospitality welcome you to a gracious homestead and elegant garden cottages. www.wattledowns.com.au

Ray Station - Located north of Quilpie and settled in 1874 by Patsy and Sarah Tully, Ray Station is still in the Tully family. Accommodation is available in the shearer's quarters or the two bedroom cottage beside the homestead and two museum buildings contain a wealth of historic family memorabilia and a large photographic display. Experience a two or three night stopover and enjoy informative tours peppered with anecdotes, bush poetry and evening sing-a-longs around the campfire. www.raystation.com.au

Nardoo Station - Lie back in the hot artesian spas and share the first rays of the sun with the galahs in the gidgee on this 45,000 hectare sheep and cattle station north of Cunnamulla. This is the 'Real Australia' and you could be a part of it. Be welcomed by genuine Australian country hospitality and experience a small part of life on the land while joining in with some station activities. There are 19 bedrooms for guests along with powered camping sites. Daily activities include property tours, sheep mustering and sheering, self drive tours, bushwalking, campfire storytelling and what better way to finish the day than relaxing under the stars in one of Nardoo Station's naturally-heated artesian spas? www.nardoo.com.au

Colac Station – A sheep and cattle station located north east of Quilpie where guests can be part of daily life. Colac extends from open sand plain country to rugged gorge country along the Bulloo-Darling watershed. When not sightseeing or joining station activities guests can play tennis, fish, fossick for opals, or relax in the garden. Accommodation is offered in the homestead or two-bedroom cottage set in the bush. www.colacstation.com.au

Other Ways to go Bush

Visitoz – Are you a dreamer, an adventurer or someone just wanting to work and experience the real Australia whilst travelling "Down Under"? Visitoz could be the answer. This company specialises in helping young people find employment in the land or in rural hospitality. www.visitoz.org

Other farmstays – Because so much of Queensland is bush and farming lands these are just a selection of the many station and farmstays available throughout the State. To find out about others please visit: www.queenslandholidays.com.au/accommodation/farmstay/list-all.cfm