

# Factsheet

## Roughing it, Queensland style

### 10 places where getting back to nature was never so comfortable

Given the size and vast spaces of Queensland, it is not hard to find a place to get away from it all and immerse yourself in the state's unique environment. From the sun-drenched outback and cosy mountain hideaways to the tropical wet rainforests, secluded sandy beaches and island escapes, Queensland offers a never-ending menu of natural attractions to satisfy all desires for getting off the beaten track, back to nature and 'roughing it'. Here's a quick guide to Roughing It Queensland Style... 10 places where getting back to nature was never so comfortable:

#### 1. Outback Indulgence

The Australian outback may conjure up images of heat, rugged beauty and vast open spaces, but at the Wrotham Park Lodge in north Queensland you can also add premium accommodation and gourmet dining to the picture. This unique outback station is located 300km west of Cairns, just a short flight by plane, on a 600,000 hectare working cattle property. Wrotham Park Lodge, which caters to a maximum of only 20 guests, combines the rich heritage of Australia's rural history and outback cattle station life with a luxury resort experience. 'The Homestead' and 10 guest 'Quarters' are located high above the banks of the Mitchell River providing breathtaking views over the stark red landscape and endless blue skies. Guests can experience the lives of outback stockmen through a range of organized activities and indulge in gourmet dining, including sunset canapés and drinks. [www.wrothampark.com.au](http://www.wrothampark.com.au)

#### 2. Golden Glow

Closer to Cairns, Tyrconnell adds another colour to the stunning outback landscape – gold. The Tyrconnell Outback Experience & Historic Gold Mine is just 150km west of Cairns by road and offers a choice of heritage-style cottages or luxury group camping in a secluded bush setting that was once home to 10,000 people scrambling for gold. Overnight guests are limited to 12 and the owners of the historic mine, Andrew Bell and Cate Harley, are the hosts. Several original buildings and machines remain from the bustling gold era and Andrew and Cate run a variety of activities including mine site tours and gold panning. The luxury camping for groups and events feature canvas cabin tents fully equipped with beds, matting, drapery, table and toiletries. [www.tyrconnell.com.au](http://www.tyrconnell.com.au)

#### 3. Camping Safari Style

The Jabiru Camp at the Mareeba Tropical Savanna & Wetland Reserve offers camping at its most comfortable with fully-furnished safari style tents complete with timber verandahs and chairs to soak up the tranquility of this wetlands oasis. Just one hour's drive north-west of Cairns, the Mareeba reserve features over 5,000 acres of savannas and wetlands providing a sanctuary for much of tropical Queensland's unique flora and fauna. Run by a not-for-profit organization, the reserve combines valuable conservation work with nature-based tourism. Wake up at the Jabiru Camp to the sounds of the birds and spend the nights stargazing at the skies. Activities include bird watching safaris, hiking, sunset cheese and wine and bush poetry around the camp fire. [www.mareebawetlands.com](http://www.mareebawetlands.com)

#### 4. The Beauty of Bloomfield

Back on the coast, the magnificent rainforest ecosystem of the Daintree in far north Queensland provides the perfect contrast to the outback. At Peppers Bloomfield Lodge you

are nestled almost unseen in the rainforest in luxury accommodation. Getting there is half the fun as the 30-minute scenic flight from Cairns follows the dazzling Queensland coastline over the fringing reefs and tiny islands of the Coral Sea before guests board a launch to cruise down the Bloomfield River to their idyllic resort surrounds. Whether it is lazing by the pool with a book, sampling the gourmet delights, pampering yourself with a massage to the soothing sounds of the forest or partaking in a range of pursuits including fishing, birdwatching, nature walks and more, Peppers Bloomfield Lodge is the ultimate rainforest retreat. [www.peppers.com.au](http://www.peppers.com.au)

### **5. Mission Possible**

Half-way between Cairns and Townsville lies the untouched paradise of Mission Beach. This is where the rainforest really meets the sea and the secluded Cassawong Cottages is the perfect place to immerse yourself in the isolation. Fronting onto the white sands of Mission Beach and backing onto the natural untouched wet tropical rainforest, Cassawong Cottages offers the choice of four individual themed and luxurious cottages nestled under the giant rainforest canopy. With private terraces and BBQs and garden bench seats in personal gardens, this is really getting away from it all in the heart of the majestic rainforests of North Queensland. [www.cassawongcottages.com.au](http://www.cassawongcottages.com.au)

### **6. Ladies First**

Lady Elliot Island is the first island of the Great Barrier Reef, located at its southern most tip 80km off central Queensland. A true island paradise formed over 3000 years ago, this beautiful coral cay is home to 57 species of birds, nesting sea turtles and a stunning underwater world of coral formations and diverse marine life that has made it one of the top dive and snorkeling sites in the world. On Lady Elliot Island, you set the pace. You can bury your nose in a good book on a stretch of deserted beach, go diving with one of our qualified dive instructors, or explore the island on foot. The island offers four unique styles of accommodation – Island suites, Reef units, Shearwater rooms and Tent Cabins – and all have a casual atmosphere free of the usual distractions of working life with no TVs, radios or telephones. [www.ladyelliot.com.au](http://www.ladyelliot.com.au)

### **7. Island Wilderness**

Fraser Island, off Queensland's central coast, is the world's largest sand island and a haven of World Heritage listed rainforests, endless beaches, pristine freshwater lakes and exotic flora and fauna. However, you don't have to rough it to enjoy this secluded island wilderness. The Fraser Island Company offers a range of options for exploring the island, including 4WD and helicopter safaris and permanent well-appointed tented accommodation. The Kingfisher Bay eco-resort also allows visitors to soak up the surrounds of this unique island experience in the comfort of its hotel rooms and self-contained villas and full resort facilities, including swimming pool and restaurants. [www.fraserislandco.com.au](http://www.fraserislandco.com.au); [www.kingfisherbay.com](http://www.kingfisherbay.com)

### **8. Hinterland Heaven**

The green rolling hills of the Sunshine Coast hinterland, one hour's drive north of Brisbane, are home to numerous Bed & Breakfast establishments, but The Tamarind at Maleny offers a unique rural and gastronomical experience courtesy of owner chef Paul Blain. Set on a secluded rural property overlooking a waterfall and surrounded by rainforest, The Tamarind's five luxury bungalows combine tranquility and sophistication for a truly re-energizing nature escape. The food is what really sets The Tamarind apart as Paul delivers breakfast to your bungalow and provides cheese platters and picnic hampers throughout the day, capped off with a sensational Thai banquet at night. Paul also runs Thai cooking

retreats at the property. To keep up with the food intake, take a stroll down to the creek and keep an eye out for platypus. [www.thetamarind.com.au](http://www.thetamarind.com.au)

### **9. Gold Coast Escape**

Queensland's world-famous Gold Coast is not somewhere you would immediately associate with getting back to nature, but the Couran Cove Island Resort provides a peaceful retreat from the glitter strip. Located on South Stradroke Island, just a 40 minute ferry ride from the mainland, Couran Cove offers a choice of hotel rooms perched over the water's edge or self-contained cabins nestled deep in the forest. While the Gold Coast skyline is still within sight, you are a world away from the hustle and bustle without giving up the pampered surrounds of a resort setting and the region's famous white sand and sparkling waters. With 22 kilometres of Pacific Ocean surf beach at your doorstep and not a car or traffic jam to be seen, this is the Gold Coast escape for those who want the room to really spread out their beach towel. The resort offers an endless choice of water activities, as well as rock climbing and ropes courses for the more adventurous, and a stylish selection of restaurants and bars. [www.couran-cove.com.au](http://www.couran-cove.com.au)

### **10. Mountain Retreat**

Back on the mainland, the World Heritage listed rainforests of the Gold Coast hinterland are a nature lover's paradise. The Binna Burra Mountain Lodge is a cosy and comfortable retreat from which to explore the walking tracks of the Lamington National Park. The area is abundant with native birds and wildlife and there are also abseiling, flying fox and ropes course activities. Binna Burra provides country comfort in rustic mountain cabins, but with no phones, clocks, radios or TVs to remind you of what you left behind. Enjoy the home-style country cuisine on the spectacular cliff-top dining room to rest your legs at the end of the day. [www.binnaburrallodge.com.au](http://www.binnaburrallodge.com.au)