

Chamber of Commerce 10 Day Eco-Tour Australia June 18 – 27 2010

Trip Summary

An ancient volcano on Australia's east coast created a landscape of rainforest-covered mountains, beautiful beaches and coastal islands. The "Green Cauldron" is a huge caldera stretching from Byron Bay (Australia's most easterly point) to the rainforests and waterfalls of Lamington National Park. Our tour commences on the Gold Coast, at the marine edge of South East Queensland. The coastal strip is one of Australia's best known playgrounds. One hour inland, we explore World Heritage listed rainforests of Lamington National Park then enjoy the eco-friendly delights of country Northern New South and Byron Bay. Our tour ends on Stradbroke Island, one of the world's largest sand islands. The tour features outdoor guided activities, eco-accredited accommodation, local cuisine and a chance to see unique Australian wildlife. Hike to hidden valleys and waterfalls, learn about Aboriginal dreamtime, become involved with conservation efforts, enjoy pristine beaches & waterways and experience a side of Australia that's "off the beaten track".

Itinerary

Day 1: June 18 - Brisbane to Gold Coast

Tour departs from Brisbane airport or meet at Sea World Nara (Gold Coast) • Shuttle to Gold Coast check into resort • Easy sunset stroll along beach. Dinner is at your expense.

Meals: Lunch (picnic)
Transport: 60 miles

Day 2: June 19 - Gold Coast optional trips

Begin the day with an early morning beach walk, birding and marine interpretation • Optional extra to visit Sea World (famous for its marine life shows, education and theme park rides!). The Gold Coast also has several other award winning theme parks • Lunch at your own leisure • Tonight's dinner is a civic celebration with partners Jet Global whisking us to a surprise destination.

Meals: B, D (civic celebration)
Transport: varies pending activity
Activity: Guided walks/strolls

Day 3: June 20 - Travel to World Heritage Listed Lamington National Park

Embark on an extraordinary journey to the northern rim of the Green Cauldron. Binna Burra Lodge is our base for the next two nights. After settling in to our mountain cabins, we explore the lodge and surrounding walking trails • Join an interpretative walk concluding with late afternoon "welcome to country" in an indigenous tradition • Enjoy sunset over the Coomera River valley and home style cooked buffet dinner, finishing with fireplace Australian stories.

Meals: B, L, D
Transport: 30 miles
Activity: Guided walks approx 2-3 hrs

Day 4: June 21 - Binna Burra walks, rainforests & waterfalls

Wake early to view the sunrise and abundant birdlife • Today you can explore Lamington National Park's forests, waterfalls and streams with a choice of walks ranging from full day



Chamber of Commerce 10 Day Eco-Tour Australia June 18 – 27 2010

hikes to short strolls • Join our guide or choose from optional extra lodge based activities like abseiling or zip-line flying fox.
• Alternatively you can opt for a scenic coach trip to nearby Tamborine Mountain famous for its galleries, Rainforest Skywalk and local wine & food production. Gather tonight on the Binna Burra terrace for an Aussie BBQ dinner.

Meals: B, L, D

Activity: Moderate walks: Ship's Stern Circuit 19km / 5 – 6 hrs; Coomera Circuit 17.9km / 7 hrs; Dave's Creek Circuit 12km / 4 hrs. Easy: Tullawallal circuit 5km / 2 ½ hrs

Day 5: June 22 - Travel to Byron Bay

After breakfast we depart for a scenic drive via Numinbah Valley into Northern New South Wales to Byron Bay for the next two nights • This area is famous for its lighthouse on Australia's most easterly headland, pristine beaches, surf culture, markets, relaxed lifestyle, local food & restaurants • Dinner at your own leisure tonight.

Meals: B, L

Transport: 62 miles

Day 6: June 23 - Byron Bay & hinterland

Choose from a selection of activities including guided walks through native forests to the base of the spectacular Minyon Falls (keep a watch for koalas in the trees) • Chat to Mick and Thelma at the Aboriginal Cafe and Learning Centre • Enjoy bush tea and damper... it doesn't get any more Aussie than that! • Visit 100 acre organic Permaforest farm. Optional extra trips (at own cost) may include a snorkel or dive to nearby Julian

Rocks for great views of marine life; surfing the many beaches around Bryon headland (lessons are available) • Join one of the whale watching tours departing every day from Byron Bay during the season (June to November) • Join in a local cooking classes or simply wander through town with its friendly village atmosphere, cafes & fashion stores.

Meals: B, D (set)

Transport: Pending activity

Activity: Guided walks, Permaforest farm educational visit

Day 7: June 24 - Travel to Couran Cove South Stradbroke Island

Depart Byron Bay and travel north again to the Gold Coast • Depending on schedules, en route we visit Munjungbul Aboriginal Museum for a guided walk to an ancient Bora Bora ring, then stop at one of the largest shopping centers on the Gold Coast. We then board our ferry to Couran Cove for two nights on Stradbroke Island. Enjoy an afternoon introduction to the nature & ecology of this fascinating sand island. • There are a range of optional activities including guided walks, mangrove kayaking and bike riding. • Dinner at your own leisure tonight.

Meals: B, D

Transport: 120 miles

Activity: Museum entry & Aboriginal walk. Shopping. Eco introduction Couran Cove

Day 8: June 25 - Couran Cove

Early morning wildlife stroll • Explore the island on a guided walk and enjoy the koala education show • Contribute to local environmental



Chamber of Commerce 10 Day Eco-Tour Australia June 18 – 27 2010

initiatives or join optional tours from the resort.

- Or just simply sit back enjoy sun and sea or the resort's Day Spa (own expense).
- We end our stay on the island with a farewell celebration dinner and a special tribute to our time spent in the 'Land Down Under'.

Meals: B, L, D (set menu)
Activity: Guided walks; Koala show; birding. Free kayak & catamaran. Contribute to an eco initiative (eg: help rid the island of a pest amphibian, the 'toad' or see how the island serves its advanced eco accreditation).

Day 9: June 26 - Couran Cove - Brisbane

We depart on a midday ferry from the island and then drive back Brisbane for overnight. After checking into our centrally located hotel, there's free time to explore the city's parks, museums and art galleries. Brisbane also has an excellent network river walkways and ferries. Final group dinner.

Meals: B, L, D
Transport: 40 miles
Walks: short strolls

Day 10: June 27 – Tour ends Brisbane

Due to varied departure times, please arrange your independent transfers to Brisbane International Airport (taxi or train).

Meals: B

**Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate.*

Activities

Hiking: 2 to 5 miles per hike, easy to moderate terrain. Some optional longer hikes are also available.

Discovery: Learn environmental issues that impact on the World Heritage Listed rainforests and sand islands; be amazed by the abundance of birds and unique wildlife that inhabit these complex and diverse ecosystems.

Guides: Our guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each area & activity and answer any questions you may have. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Your guides will help you select the activity that's right for you.

Eco-Accommodation

Night 1 & 2: Sea World Nara

Centrally located, close to Sea World Marine Park and beach entrance, this low rise resort is set amongst beautiful tropical gardens.

Night 3 & 4: Binna Burra Lodge

Advanced eco-accredited Binna Burra is an authentic rustic style heritage lodge welcoming guests since the early 1930s.

Nights 5 & 6: Byron Bay Village

Centrally located apartments position to gain easy access to the village atmosphere of this beachside country town

Night 7 & 8: Couran Cove Resort

This award winning resort is a leading example of large-scale ecotourism through design. 40 minutes by ferry from the Gold Coast, the resort has advanced eco-accreditation.

Night 9: Brisbane central hotel



Chamber of Commerce 10 Day Eco-Tour Australia June 18 – 27 2010

Meals & Extras

All meals: breakfasts, lunches, dinners are included – except three lunches & two dinners on your own. Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.

Trip Price

US\$2998 (24-40 guests)

US\$2798 (41+ guests)

There will be a surcharge if the total number of guests is less than 24. This surcharge would not exceed US\$300 for 8-16 guests and US\$200 for 17-23 guests.

Note the tour price is ex Brisbane Australia. Flights from the US are extra.

Trip Dates / Length

June 18-27, 2010

10 days/9 nights

Host Cities

Brisbane & Gold Coast, South East Queensland. The nearest major international airport is Brisbane (code: BNE) and is a 60min coach transfer from the Gold Coast. Limited international flight available from Asia direct to the Gold Coast.

Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, log on to our website www.parktours.com.au/eco-australia to complete an initial reservation and deposit. A US \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days.

Choose one of the following contact methods:

Online (preferred):

www.parktours.com.au/eco-australia

Email: info@parktours.com.au

Phone: +61 7 55333583 (please note time difference 6-10 hours behind US)

Mail: interNATIONAL PARKtours,
6 Timbarra Drive, Beechmont QLD 4211,
Australia. Reservation form (contact us for a copy) must be completed along with deposit payment of \$500 / person.
We accept Visa, MasterCard and personal checks. Please do not send cash.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure: Full trip payment less a US \$100 cancellation/administration fee is refunded.

Cancellation 61 to 90 days before trip departure: Full trip payment less the US \$500 deposit is refunded.

Cancellation 60 to 31 days before trip departure: 50% of the trip payment is refunded.

Cancellation 0 to 30 days before trip departure: No refund is given.

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our #1 priority. If we fail to meet your expectations and are unable to resolve a matter to your satisfaction during your trip, we'll refund up to the full amount you paid to our company

Australian Tour Operator

