

June 2010

Glamp it up in Queensland

Visitors are spoiled for choice when it comes to "glamping" (glamorous camping) options in Queensland. Relax in a designer tent on a tropical island paradise, stay close to natural wonders like lush rainforest and wetlands while staying in a comfortable safari-style tent or camp out under the stars in the Queensland Outback. These "glamping" options give you just a taste of how you can rough it in style in Queensland.

Wilson Island – Experience the "glampers'" paradise of Wilson Island, a tiny coral cay on the Great Barrier Reef off Central Queensland. This Robinson Crusoe-style resort offers 12 guests accommodation in comfortable, designer-inspired tents with reef and ocean outlooks. There's no shortage of creature comforts with solar power hot showers, and delicious meals prepared by your Island Hosts. Relax in a hammock, take a self-guided nature walk, experience the wonder of watching Green and Loggerhead turtles laying their eggs or their baby hatchlings emerging from their nests (in season), and enjoy world-class snorkelling directly off the beach. The resort is not suitable for children under 12 years old and is closed each February for bird-nesting season. www.wilsonisland.com

Jabiru Safari Lodge – Camp out in style on the Mareeba Tropical Savannah and Wetland Reserve in Tropical North Queensland where the fully-furnished safari style tents come complete with timber verandahs and chairs to soak up the tranquillity of this wetlands oasis. Jabiru Safari Lodge's unique tent-cabins blend into the open savannah woodland and feature luxurious furnishings, private ensuite facilities, insect screens, a fridge and a fan. There's even a heated spa located in a rustic bush setting to relax after your wildlife safari and other activities including canoeing, a nature eco cruise and a self-guided walk. www.jabirusafarilodge.com.au

Hidden Peaks Spicers Private Walk – Located 90 minutes west of Brisbane, Hidden Peaks Spicers Private Walk offers guests a three or four day guided trek through one of Australia's most exclusive and stunning nature refuges, staying at deluxe permanent tents before ending your adventure with a night of five-star accommodation and a seven course dinner at Spicers Peak Lodge. After winding your way through a landscape of eucalyptus forest and woodlands and impressive mountain peaks and ridges with opportunities to see many species of rare and endangered native flora and fauna, the Spicers Canopy Campsite is a welcoming haven for walkers. Positioned on a plateau offering panoramic views of the surrounding mountain ranges, each safari-style tent is luxuriously appointed with fine linen, cosy mohair blankets and an armchair. This is "glamping" at its very best – hot showers, turn-down service and a combined lounge and dining lodge where you can relax in front of a cosy fire with a glass of wine and indulge in a gourmet dinner prepared by your guides. www.hiddenpeaks.com.au

Clancy's Campout – Clancy's on the Thomson overnight tour gives visitors the chance to experience the Queensland Outback, ride an authentic Cobb and Co coach, and spend the night under a canopy of stars in your own luxury swag on the banks of the Thomson River in Longreach. Fish in the river as the sun goes down, relax in a canvas chair by the fire, take in a spectacular Outback sunset, and enjoy a three course camp oven dinner and a night of laughter and bush poetry at Clancy's Campout. www.longreachtravelcentre.com.au



Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort – Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort gives the whole family the opportunity to rough it in style metres from the Great Barrier Reef with the resort’s popular Eco Cabin accommodation. The permanent safari-style tents offer all the comforts of home with four bunk beds, polished timber floors, full power and lighting and communal bathrooms located nearby. You can walk straight off the beach and snorkel the Southern Great Barrier Reef in the protected waters of the Lady Elliot Island lagoon, spot nesting sea turtles, or grab a hat and a pair of reef shoes during low tide for a guided educational reefwalk. Operating during the Queensland and New South Wales school holidays, the resort’s Junior Reef Rangers Club will entertain youngsters with a range of planned activities. www.ladyelliott.com.au

The Fraser Island Company – World Heritage-listed Fraser Island is the world’s largest sand island featuring pristine subtropical rainforest, crystal clear freshwater lakes, vast sand dunes and exotic flora and fauna located off the Fraser Coast to the north of the Sunshine Coast. Visitors can camp in luxury in the Fraser Island Company’s permanent tent village at Cathedral Beach with well-appointed tents complete with fabulous king beds. There’s a central lounge and dining area where you can relax and enjoy drinks and delicious meals. www.fraserislandco.com.au

Undara Experience – Located a four hour drive inland from Cairns, Undara is a multi-award-winning experience where visitors can tour world famous lava tubes and camp out in beautifully restored antique railway carriages nestled in the bush. The charming, compact and comfortable carriages come complete with linen, fans, screens, ensuites (some) and covered decks to watch the wildlife. Guests can also choose to stay in large comfortable permanent tents which feature a gas barbeque, fridge, electric hot plates, picnic tables, electric lights, screens, beds and kitchenettes (most). Your stay at Undara also includes wildlife spotting walks, campfire evenings, delicious dining featuring the region’s best produce or a quiet drink in the bar as the Outback sunset fades into the clearest starlit night. www.undara.com.au

Carnarvon Gorge Wilderness Lodge – This fully eco-accredited retreat is located at the entrance to spectacular Carnarvon Gorge in Central Queensland and offers accommodation in luxurious timber and canvas safari-style cabins. Take in the sights and sounds of native birds and animals from your own verandah or explore the spectacular surroundings for some of the best bushwalking in the country. Enjoy interpretive full and half day walks through the gorge with fully-qualified guides to places such as the Moss Garden and the Aboriginal Rock Art Gallery as well as early morning platypus search tours. The lodge closes each year in mid-December through to March. www.carnarvon-gorge.com

Oz Tours Safaris – Oz Tours Safaris offer a range of adventure camping and accommodated tours. Overland, air and sea tours include Great Barrier Reef and 4WD Outback experiences and visits Cape York Peninsula and the Savannah region. Our overnight stays reflect the unique nature of the sparsely inhabited regions in which we travel. After your action-packed day a roomy, twin-share dome style tent with a sewn in floor and a high density foam mattress provides a comfy camping experience or "No-Frill" cattle station cabins and cabin tent accommodation along the track where no alternatives exist. All are clean and comfortable, the hospitality genuine, open and friendly, and the cuisine generous and appetising. An important element is participation whether striking camp, a fireside chat or an early morning bush walk. www.oztours.com.au



While these next two options aren't strictly "glamping", they both provide luxurious, remote and back to nature holiday experiences.

Haggerstone Island – Think luxury Swiss Family Robinson and you have conjured up Haggerstone Island, 600km north of Cairns near the tip of Cape York accessed via a two hour plane flight from Cairns and 20 minute boat trip. The family-friendly island accommodates 12 guests in four open-pan huts including a tree house with timber shutters to let in the cool sea breeze and another built from driftwood which is located right on the beach. Listed the number one destination for the 21st century by the prestigious Conde Nast Traveller magazine USA (2002), this back to nature remote island experience offers a variety of activities including fishing, scuba diving, snorkelling, bird watching, beach combing and heli fishing. Guests also have access to a 40 foot boat.

www.haggerstoneisland.com

Mungumby Lodge – Tropical North Queensland's Mungumby Lodge, located 35km south of Cooktown on the boundary of the World Heritage Black Mountain and Cedar Bay National Parks features 10 newly-refurbished wooden bungalows with private ensuites. For meals, reading or just plain relaxing by the pool guests use the spacious main house, which is surrounded by large tropical gardens and a pool. Mungumby Lodge offers easy access to the area's many well known attractions including the Great Barrier Reef, Archer Point, Bloomfield Falls, Black Mountain, Daintree, Cape Tribulation and Cedar Bay National Parks.

www.mungumby.com