Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk

24-28 September 2017 (4 nights)

Highlights

- Explore the mountains, waterfalls & forests of Lamington & Springbrook National Parks
- Relax each night in comfortable lodges & chalet accommodation
- Informative interpretation from locally based guides
- Walk through World Heritage listed subtropical rainforest & eucalypt forest
- Marvel at the ancient Antarctic beech trees
- View magnificent waterfalls & vistas
- Journey from the Green Mountains section of Lamington National Park to Springbrook with only a day-pack (main luggage is transferred)

Make a pilgrimage to the heart of the Gondwana rainforests on one of Queensland’s long distance hiking trails. Spend 5 days walking this 54km trail with the comfort of luggage transfers and walking only with a day pack. Traverse the mountains, World Heritage listed rainforest and hidden valleys of Lamington and Springbrook National Parks. This fully accommodated tour includes options at two of Lamington’s iconic lodges and chalet accommodation on Springbrook. From O’Reillys Rainforest Retreat, walk 21km through the Green Mountain section of Lamington following sections of the QLD / NSW border. Based at Binna Burra Lodge, explore the Lower Bellbird Circuit with lookouts over the eastern side of Lamington National Park. Admire the stands of flooded gums, brushbox and piccabeen groves on the way to lunch at the base of Ballanjui Falls. Leaving Lamington plateau, descend past Egg Rock, a remnant plug from the Tweed shield volcano, Wollumbin (Mt Warning). The trail continues through the farming valley of Numinbah, then climbs steadily to the mountain plateau of Springbrook. Staying overnight in chalet accommodation, a highlight is a half day hike via Warringah Pools to the cool spray of Purlingbrook Falls in Springbrook National Park.

DETAILS

Price: Twinshare / person (ex Gold Coast)
Early Bird: A$1,850 until 30/06/2017
Regular: A$2,150
Single Supplement: A$260

Note: For single people who prefer to share, we will try to find a suitable roommate, but if this is not possible the sole-use surcharge will apply.

Minimum Group size: 5 guests
Special Interest: Botanical, History, Wildlife
**FAQ’S**

**How & when to book?**
Our biggest message to you is BOOK EARLY!! Many tours book out very quickly so the moral of the story is the early bird catches the worm! To qualify for any of the early bird prices, you simply need to send a completed booking form and deposit of A$400 per person per tour, by the early bird dates listed at the front of the tour itinerary. We offer A$500 discount per person if you book by the Advanced Early Bird date and A$300 discount per person if you book by the Early Bird date. If your deposit arrives after any of the early bird dates, the tour balance will be at the regular price. To place your booking, simply visit www.parktours.com.au to pay your deposit and book online, or complete a Tour Booking Form, and post / fax / email it to us with your deposit. Once you have booked on a tour, we will stay in contact with regular mailings (see below).

**What information and contact can I expect?**
When you send your initial deposit, we will contact you to confirm your booking. Once the tour has been confirmed to depart, a comprehensive information pack will be sent to you, including a Tour A-Z, suggested packing list, medical questionnaire, balance of payment invoice, and pre / post accommodation options. We can assist you with flight arrangements but please don’t book flights until our office contacts you to confirm that your tour has been confirmed to depart. The final mailing is sent out approximately three weeks before departure and includes final tour documents, address list for family and friends, meeting points, and any final travel information.

**What is the group size?**
We specialise in small group travel with an average group size of around 10-20 guests. Please see the front page for details on the minimum group size for this particular tour. All tours need a minimum number of passengers to operate at the price listed in the itinerary. If the minimum number is not reached, a tour may still passengers to operate at the price listed in the itinerary. All tours need a minimum number of

**How fit do I have to be?**
When you are assessing your ability and agility to participate, age is not necessarily as important as your fitness and recent walking experience. Please read the tour walk rating and the day by day walking descriptions in the itinerary to determine if the tour is suitable for your fitness. If you have any queries, we are happy to put you in touch with either the tour coordinator or tour leader to discuss your fitness in more detail.

**What gear and equipment do I need to take?**
Because we focus on half and full day walks, returning to our accommodation in the afternoon, you don’t need to carry any more than a daypack with rain wear, sunscreen, drinking water, camera and lunch. A few tours include an overnight hike where you will need to carry personal gear for the journey. We recommend hiking boots on most of our tours as they offer good ankle support and grip. A detailed packing list is included with your tour’s information pack.

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**WALK RATING**

Moderate to Challenging: 3 - 22km per walking day. Age is not necessarily as important as your fitness and recent walking experience, and anyone of reasonable fitness should be able to join this tour. We reserve the right to be flexible with the itinerary to allow for unforeseen circumstances including weather conditions and group fitness.

**INCLUSIONS**

- 4 nights twin share accommodation with private and some shared facilities.
- All meals included - 4 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 4 Dinners
- Group transfers
- Luggage transfers between accommodations
- National park entry fees
- Professional tour leader
- Pre-departure material including background & personalised A-Z tour information

**EXCLUSIONS**

- Airfares & taxes to/from start/end of tour
- Heavy or excess baggage
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses e.g. drinks (water, alcohol, tea & coffee), laundry, telephone, or optional tours / excursions

**TOUR LEADER**

Luke Christiansen has worked as a guide and environmental educator for the vast majority of his adult life. For just over a decade he was employed at one of Australia’s longest-established nature-based resorts, Binna Burra Mountain Lodge, and spent his days guiding visitors through the beautiful wilderness of the Lamington National Park. Luke performs regularly as a musician and creates visual art across a range of mediums. He is also a keen adventure traveller and has crossed a number of Australia’s great deserts and spent two years working his way around the country. He lived in central Australia for a period, working as an entertainer (didgeridoo performance and story-telling) on the multi-award winning tourism experience, ‘Sounds of Silence’.

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TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 – Sun 24 Sep | Lamington National Park
Your tour starts with a group transfer from the Gold Coast to O'Reilly’s Rainforest Retreat. After checking in, the afternoon is free to spend at your leisure or you can join Luke on a short guided walk. Close to the lodge, you can explore the Tree Top Walk which consists of nine suspension bridges up to 16m above ground. A bird’s eye view is offered from a deck 30m above ground in a fig tree over the walkway. We enjoy our first night’s dinner at O’Reilly’s.
Meals: D
Walks: Optional easy walks

Day 2 – Mon 25 Sep | Green Mountain to Binna Burra
Today you officially begin the Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk with a full day walk through the largest protected pristine subtropical rainforest in Australia. We follow the Border Track, the backbone of the Lamington National Park walking system. The lush and diverse vegetation in this UNESCO World Heritage wilderness area includes Strangler figs, ancient Antarctic beech and buttressed Booyongs. This is a photographer’s dream, with several lookouts along the track offering magnificent views into the Tweed / Limpinwood Valleys, Mount Warning and the Tweed Range. Amidst this spectacular scenery, we enjoy a picnic lunch en route. Later this afternoon, we arrive at Binna Burra Mountain Lodge where we stay for two nights.
Meals: B, L, D
Walks: 21.4km, 7hr, well graded track

Day 3 – Tue 26 Sep | Lower Bellbird Circuit, Binna Burra
We spend today on the eastern side of the Lamington Plateau, walking the Lower Bellbird Circuit, another part of the Great Walk. Our track includes the Yangahla and Koolanbilba Lookouts and passes through stands of flooded gums, brushbox, and piccabeen groves. We stop for lunch at the base of beautiful Ballanjui Falls and continue on Lower Bellbird back to the lodge. The afternoon is free to explore the beautiful surrounds of Binna Burra or just relax at the Lodge.
Meals: B, L, D
Walks: 12km, 4hr, mostly easy with some steep sections

Day 4 – Wed 27 Sep | Springbrook National Park
Our Great Walk journey continues as we set out early to walk to Springbrook. We descend through a former dairy farm and then down a series of old forestry trails to Egg Rock, a secondary vent of the ancient Tweed volcano. We pause for morning tea beside a beautiful pool. Continuing through a mix of forest types, we descend to the Numinbah Valley Road and traverse the valley floor through lush farmland. A lunch break beside the Nerang River gives us energy for our afternoon climb onto the Springbrook Plateau via open eucalypt forest and a cycad grove. Our walking day ends with a steep climb up the ridge to Springbrook’s Apple Tree Park. We stay tonight in chalet accommodation on Springbrook Mountain.
Meals: B, L, D
Walks: 22km, 8hr, steep descent to Egg-Rock and steep ascent of Springbrook, elevation 400m over 2km

Day 5 – Thu 28 Sep | Purling Brook Falls, Springbrook National Park
Our final day on the Great Walk Track sees us walking from Apple Tree to Little Nerang Creek. We follow this upstream to Warringah Pools - a great spot to relax year-round, and in warmer weather, to enjoy a dip. The spectacle of Purling Brook Falls is breathtaking and we take the opportunity to walk underneath the falls and enjoy the cool spray tumbling from above. We ascend to the top of the falls where lookouts afford magnificent views over the surrounding countryside. Our tour concludes with lunch at a local cafe, before our bus picks us up for the return journey to the Gold Coast.
Meals: B, L
Walks: 8km, 4hr, steep climb to top of the falls
WHY TRAVEL WITH US?

InterNATIONAL PARKtours have been leading small group walking holidays since 1975. Our like-minded guests bond easily and often create reunions, celebrations and friendships, many of them lifelong. Our tours are active with regular half and full day walks. Aside from walking, we also spend time meeting local people, tasting regional food and immersing ourselves in the culture and history of a destination. Our flexibility enables us to adapt to the likes, dislikes and agility of our travellers, and changing situations such as weather and unforeseen circumstances. In most locations, we stay 2-3 nights and sometimes longer. This allows us to slow down, unpack our bags and enjoy the local atmosphere at different times of the day. Accommodation is comfortable, unique plus locally owned and operated where possible.

Our guides are dedicated, informative people who share their passion and knowledge on local history, culture, wildlife & topography. Our journeys are designed to safeguard the ecosystems; benefit the communities we visit and contribute to the sustainability of destinations. Travel is a chance to change your perspective. Nature always provides a new view if we take the time to look.

“ITP offers great value for money with their programmes. There is minimum spending money needed once on tour and there are no hidden extras along the way.”

Judy & Peter Hughes

Responsible Travel

For your protection, we are allied members of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents. Your payments are kept in a trust account until required for payment of your tour. We are accredited with ATAS, a national accreditation scheme, endorsing travel agents who have met strict financial and customer service criteria. We also have advanced accreditation with Ecotourism Australia and are members of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council

Serendipity of travel

Our guides will work 24/7 on your behalf to make sure that we are doing all we can to ensure your enjoyment. We have planned an intimate adventure, but adventure cannot be guaranteed. If indeed it could then it would lose its appeal.

Though we do the best we can to plan a smooth journey, sometimes things change at short notice. Some things may take longer than anticipated, transport and accommodation arrangements may alter, and you may experience occasional shortcomings and be frustrated by the ‘manana’ attitude; at other times you will be amazed by local efficiency. Tour itineraries may need to be modified but this is done so with your needs in mind and to provide the best tour experience.

So, be flexible, surprised and delighted with the serendipity that comes from being open to the unexpected. Your enjoyment of this journey is ultimately up to you.

“I know that you get the blue ribbon extras with IPT and I was in the mood to be spoilt.”

Judy Potkonen

Disclaimer of Liability

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