New South Wales - North Coast to the Tablelands

02–10 May 2020 (8 nights)

Highlights

• Soak up the ocean views on day walks in Iluka Nature Reserve & Yuraygir National Park
• Enjoy rainforest, escarpment & waterfall walks at Dorrigo National Park
• Visit spectacular Wollomombi Falls, part of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park
• View both Antarctic beech trees & snow gum woodlands in New England National Park
• Follow creek & rainforest tracks in Washpool National Park
• Explore the granite outcrops of Gibraltar Range National Park
• Learn the stories of Boonoo Boonoo National Park & its link with poet Banjo Patterson
• Admire the view from the summit of Bald Rock

Take the time to unwind on spectacular coastal walks, stroll through World Heritage listed Gondwana rainforest, admire granite formations and enjoy the ambiance of country towns. This circular journey includes many national parks and reserves with a diverse mix of landscapes, vegetation, geology, wildlife and walks. From our first base in Yamba near the mouth of the Clarence River, our initial walks include the littoral rainforest in Iluka Nature Reserve and a section of the spectacular Yuraygir Coastal Walk, the renowned Angourie walking track. Headlands provide the opportunity to spot marine life while the coastal heath is a haven for birdlife. Heading south west, for a refreshing perspective, we climb to the summit of Woolpack Rocks and explore the forests and waterfalls in Dorrigo National Park. Wollomombi Falls is accessible via short walks in Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, which also has an interesting history of mining. Nearby New England National Park protects a wide diversity of forest types, including cool temperate rainforest (with Antarctic beech trees), eucalypt forests and heathlands. Turning north, we discover more World Heritage listed rainforest in Washpool National Park. Birdlife is abundant in this park with over 220 species recorded and it's a haven for koalas, quolls, wallabies and long-nosed potoroos. Nearby Gibraltar Range National Park, offers contrasting landscapes of granite rock outcrops and boulders. Our final parks include the cascading waterfalls, gorge scenery and history of Boonoo Boonoo National park. Nearby, there's the option to climb to the summit of the largest granite rock in Australia in Bald Rock National Park. This walking holiday spends eight nights in comfortable accommodation at Yamba, Dorrigo, Glen Innes and Tenterfield.

DETAILS

Price: Twinshare / person (ex Gold Coast)
Advanced Early Bird: A$3,700 until 11/11/2019
Regular: A$4,200
Single Supplement: A$595
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: 8 guests
Special Interest: Wildlife, Botanical, Geology, Birding
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WALK RATING:

Easy to Moderate: Our walking days are from 2-13km with some more challenging walking days. Most walks are in national parks, with mostly graded tracks and some beach walking. A moderate level of fitness is required with bushwalking experience recommended. We reserve the right to be flexible with the itinerary to allow for unforeseen circumstances including weather conditions and group fitness.

INCLUSIONS

- 8 nights twin share accommodation - hotel accommodation with private facilities
- Meals include - 8 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, and 5 Dinners
- All transfers as listed in itinerary
- National park entry fees
- Professional tour leader assisted when required by local driver
- Basic group tips where required
- Pre-departure material including background & personalised A-Z tour information & destination tour companion

EXCLUSIONS

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

TOUR LEADER

Graeme McGregor is a geographer with a passion for discovering our natural and cultural environments, especially through walking. Some of Graeme’s early roles include teaching and establishing and operating the Grampians Field Studies Centre near Dunkeld; planning for the Grampians and Point Nepean National Parks in Victoria, and planning or managing numerous national parks and reserves in Queensland, Northern New South Wales and on Kangaroo Island. Graeme is the author of many park management plans and schools’ educational material on soil conservation and land use planning. Graeme’s most recent work was with the South Australia National Parks and Wildlife Service on Kangaroo Island where he lived for 4½ years, finding time to discover the wonders of Kangaroo Island and other areas of South Australia. He now lives in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales. Graeme is passionate about our natural and cultural environments and enjoys nothing more than sharing it with others.

WALK RATING:

FAQ

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! You save $500 per person when you pay a deposit by the Advanced Early Bird date. To qualify for this price, we simply need to receive your completed Tour Booking Form and a deposit of $500 per person per tour, by the date listed at the front of the tour itinerary. If your deposit arrives after this date, the tour balance will be at the regular price. To place your booking, simply visit www.parktours.com.au and select the “Bookings” page, or complete a Tour Booking form and return by post or email 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. Please do not book any flights or travel arrangements until our office contacts you to advise that your tour has been confirmed to depart. Once the tour has been confirmed to depart, a comprehensive pre-departure 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. The final mailing is sent approximately three weeks before departure and includes final tour information, meeting points, accommodation and guest list, and a Tour Companion.

What is the group size?
We specialise in small group travel with a tour size normally between 8 to 18 guests. Please refer to the front page for details on the minimum group size for this particular tour. All tours need a minimum number of participants to operate at the price listed in the itinerary. If the minimum number is not reached, a tour may still operate with a surcharge.

How fit do I have to be?
When you are assessing your ability 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 level. 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. We recommend walking poles and 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.

For bookings call 1300 197 201 | visit www.parktours.com.au | or email info@parktours.com.au
**NEW SOUTH WALES - NORTH COAST TO THE TABLELANDS**

**TOUR ITINERARY**

**Day 1 – Sat 2 May | Ballina - Yamba**
Your tour starts at 9am from the Gold Coast (Coolangatta) airport for our journey south. We cross the border into New South Wales where we enjoy our first walk along the Cape Byron walking track. This short loop leads you through rainforest and across cliff tops with views of the ocean and hinterland. En-route we also take in the historic Cape Byron lighthouse, constructed in 1901 on this rugged headland the most easterly point of the Australian mainland. Following our walk we enjoy lunch before continuing to the coastal village of Yamba on the Clarence River. We enjoy our welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

**Meals:** D  
**Walks:** 3.7km – 2hours, some steep sections

**Day 2 – Sun 3 May | Iluka Nature Reserve**
This morning after breakfast we drive to Woody Head in Bundjalung National Park where we will commence our walk south along this beautiful coastline to Iluka Bluff. The bus will then take us to nearby Iluka where we will enjoy fresh fish and chips for lunch at the local fish co-op. Returning to the trail after lunch we continue on a leisurely walk through the littoral rainforest of World Heritage listed Iluka Nature Reserve. Following our walk we return to Yamba, which is just across the river, but involves a 30 minute drive to get there. Both Iluka and Yamba are at the mouth of the mighty Clarence River. You will have time this afternoon to explore Yamba, both with a walk to the lighthouse and some free time to browse the shops. Dinner is at leisure in Yamba.

**Meals:** B, L  
**Walks:** Woody Head to Iluka Bluff: easy 4km / 2hr; Iluka rainforest walk: easy 2½km / 1hr

**Day 3 – Mon 4 May | Cathedral Rocks National Park / Dorrigo**
After packing up we explore a section of Yuraygir National Park. The park protects the longest stretch of undeveloped coastline in NSW and features long sandy beaches, rocky headlands, coastal heath, and abundant flora and fauna. We drive to the coastal village of Minnie Water to begin our walk. South of the town, we follow the Back Beach walking trail down to the sand and continue a few kilometres to a rocky platform. This gives us access to the smaller Diggers Beach and the hamlet of Diggers Camp. After climbing steps up to Boorkoom Camping Area, we enjoy the Wilsons Headland Walk with its panoramic ocean views and secluded coves. You can decide to end the walk here or continue on to Wooli Beach and south to the township of Wooli. Alternatively, you can take the bus transfer to Wooli and relax on the beach or by the Wooli River mouth or estuary. Once the whole group has arrived in Wooli, we will travel to our accommodation for the next two nights in Dorrigo in time for dinner.

**Meals:** B, L, D  
**Walks:** Minnie Water to Wilsons Headland: easy-moderate 6.5km / 2½hr undulating walk with bush tracks, beach & rock platform. Optional additional Wilsons Headland to Wooli: moderate to challenging (due to soft sand beach walking near Wooli) 6.5km / 2½hr beach walk

**Day 4 – Tue 5 May | Dorrigo National Park**
Still on the Waterfall Way, we have a full day in the Dorrigo area. In the morning, we visit Dorrigo National Park’s rainforest visitor centre and skywalk. This short boardwalk soars over the edge of the escarpment some 21m above the rainforest and offers great views of the rainforest, the Bellingen Valley and east to Coffs Harbour. We then enjoy delightful walks in Dorrigo National Park starting with the Wonga Walk, an easy 6km loop through the lush rainforest to

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Tristania and Crystal Falls. Following lunch at the Rainforest Café (guests own) we drive to Never Never Picnic Area for the easy Rosewood Creek circuit walk. After a full day of walking we return to our accommodation in Dorrigo for our group dinner.

**Meals:** B, D

**Walks:** Dorrigo Skywalk: short, easy boardwalk. Wonga Walk: 6.6km / 2-3hr circuit. Rosewood Creek circuit walk; 6km / 2-3hr circuit

Day 5 – Wed 6 May | Oxley Wild Rivers National Park / New England National Park / Glen Innes (combining 2 days into 1)

This morning we travel south west to enjoy a short walk and viewpoint at the spectacular Wollomombi Falls, part of the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. These are one of the highest falls in NSW where the Wollomombi and Chandler Rivers meet and plunge 220m over dramatic cliffs into an enormous ravine. After viewing the falls from the lookout, we will do the easy circuit around the rim of the Wollomombi Gorge. We then travel east on Waterfall Way to New England National Park, part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area. From the magnificent views of Point Lookout, 1600m above sea level, the Eagles Nest loop takes us below the cliff-line. We walk through stands of Antarctic beeches and rainforest to Weeping Rock. We can then continue on the Lyrebird walking track, a 5.5km circuit through eucalypt forest and cool temperate rainforest, past babbling brooks, waterfalls and colourful heath. All the while we will listen for the calls and maybe see the display mounds and courtship of the local lyrebirds. We then continue through the Northern Tablelands to the town of Glen Innes, our base for the next two nights.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Walks:** Wollomombi Falls circuit: easy-moderate 4km loop / 1½-2hr
New England National Park walks: Eagles Nest moderate 2.2km / 2hr.
Lyrebird track: easy 5.5km / 3hr

Day 6 – Thu 7 May | Washpool National Park

From Glen Innes we travel two hours west to Washpool National Park, one of the gems of Northern NSW with walks in World Heritage listed Gondwana rainforest. You may prefer to do shorter walks but our main group walk will explore the Washpool Walking Track loop. Winding through gentle hills, this walking track leads to one of the largest stands of coachwood forest in NSW along with waterfalls, viewpoints and the chance to spot rainforest locals such as satin bower birds and lyrebirds. After lunch, we return on the loop and if time allows, may also walk the Coombadja Nature Stroll and/or The Granite Lookout. We return to our accommodation in Glen Innes where dinner is at your leisure.

**Meals:** B, L

**Walks:** Choice of easy-moderate loop walks from 1.4-10km / 1-4hr

Day 7 – Fri 8 May | Gibraltar Range National Park

Our route to Tenterfield takes us via Gibraltar Range National Park. At 79km east of Glen Innes Highlands on the World Heritage Way, it is best known for its spectacular granite areas weathered into fantastic outcrops, huge granite tors with names like The Needles, Anvil Rock, Old Man’s Hat. Walking tracks leading to Fern Tree Forest and Dandahra Crags offer scenic views and birdwatching opportunities. Your tour leader will advise you on direction of walks today depending on conditions of the parks. We then continue to the charming federation town of Tenterfield, our base for the next two nights.

**Meals:** B, L

**Walks:** 6.5km to 13km walking options available, with some rough track with occasional steps.
Day 8 – Sat 9 May | Bald Rock National Park | Boonoo Boonoo National Park
Today we hope to explore the Bald Rock Summit walking track. The walk meanders through tranquil bush, with gradual climbs through granite boulders and tors to the summit of Bald Rock. Here we are rewarded with scenic views across the park. After a picnic lunch we continue onto Boonoo Boonoo National Park we walk a section along Boonoo Boonoo creek to its stunning waterfall. We return to Tenterfield with time to freshen up before our farewell dinner.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Walks:** 3.2km; and possible 6.1km on formed track with steep sections, some steps.

Day 9 – Sun 10 May | Tenterfield to Gold Coast
We begin this morning with a stroll down to the Tenterfield Information Centre. We begin our one hour historic walking tour of the town taking in a large number of landmarks, such as the Sir Henry Parkes Memorial School of Arts and the Tenterfield Saddler. We then commence our drive back towards the Gold Coast with a lunch stop along the way at beautiful Ballina. Expected arrival time is approximately 4pm.

**Meals:** B

**Walks:** Short walks around Ballina, time permitting.
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 life-long. 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 and 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 and 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.

“\nI find the organisation and attention to detail is always good. Having travelled quite a few times with IPT now I would not consider a walking tour with any other organization”
\nCatherine Eakin

“I have had a wonderful experience on my IPT trips. I know the accommodation, meals, etc. will have the level of comfort I’m looking for”

Anne Stanfield

Disclaimer of Liability

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Itinerary Updated: October 29, 2019 1:15 PM

Serendipity of travel

Our Leader and local guides will continually work on your behalf to provide a memorable journey. 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.