

The Gold Coast Hinterland Walk



Highlights

A guided walk through the Gold Coast hinterland (with a self guided option available), this six-day tour will take you through a world heritage rainforest with an abundance of rivers and waterfalls populated by Australia's fascinating wildlife.

Properly mapped and explored in 1842, the Gold Coast hinterland has grown to become a well-protected tourist attraction located only an hour's drive south of Brisbane. The area is one of high ecological importance in Queensland as it is home to many species of flora and fauna which use this physically attractive region as their natural habitat. With hundreds of colourful tropical birds and other fascinating animals, this 20,590 hectare rainforest is a great stage for tremendous hiking.

Starting in Lamington National Park, your six day walking break will have you delving into rainforests filled with ancient trees, relaxing beside staggering waterfalls and hiking across dizzying cliff tops. Following a hard day of walking you'll get to retreat to a country lodge for a sumptuous meal and a well-earned muscle soak.

The itinerary has a little bit of everything, from inspecting trees thousands of years old, swimming in crystal pools fed into by towering waterfalls and identifying new species of plant life. No two days of the walking break are the same, and by the time you are back in your cosy lodge you'll be full of stories to share with your fellow travellers.

Is it for me?

This walking holiday will appeal to just about everyone, from the botanist to budding ornithologist, and especially to those who simply enjoy great walking. You can't get much better than the experience of walking through a tropical rainforest listening to nothing but the living environment around you. If you want to escape from the hubbub of city life and gaze upon the natural wonders of the world then the Gold Coast hinterland in Australia is the perfect place to be.

The walks are taken at a leisurely pace but the terrain can get tricky, so a reasonable level of fitness is necessary and this tour probably isn't ideal for families with small children or the disabled.

Accommodation

Accommodation for the break is spread over three different inns - a rainforest lodge, a mountain lodge and a country manor. All three are incredible retreats and you won't want for anything during your stay - pampering yourself in a spa after a long day out seeing the wonders of this walk is something everyone will enjoy. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are provided most days, with tea, coffee and breakfast juice. There is a wide variety of local and country style meals to cater for all tastes, and you'll also have the opportunity to sample some great local wines available. On days out, a packed lunch will be provided and kept fresh in insulated containers.

Itinerary

The Self-Guided Walk can be done over 6 or 8 days.
The 6 day option incorporates Days 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 & 8

Prices from

1,535 GBP (6 days) per person

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Day 1: Starts in Nerang (Gold Coast) any time after 2pm. There is no walking scheduled for today.

Accommodation: Nerang

Day 2: After breakfast, transfer to O'Reillys on the Lamington Plateau. The morning walk is an excellent introduction to the unique flora and fauna of the area. Hug the "Wishing Tree" and walk to stunning Moran Falls. After lunch at the café, the afternoon walk criss-crosses pretty Canungra Creek. Walk through lush sub-tropical rainforest with impressive stands of brush box and piccabeen palms. Climb the giant fig tree and explore the different levels of the rainforest on the Tree Tops Walk. Finish the day with a soak in the heated outdoor spa pool.

Accommodation: O'Reillys

Day 3: Full day Lamington Traverse. Walk across the rainforest plateau on the Border Track to Binna Burra Lodge - at 25km it's a long way but the route is almost flat and the going is easy. The track emerges from the subtropical rainforest at several panoramic escarpment lookouts along the way.

Accommodation: Binna Burra

Day 4: A full day circuit walk from Binna Burra on the Coomera Circuit. This is one of the prettiest walks in the park. It criss-crosses rainforest creeks for much of the day, passing many waterfalls. If you don't want to go all the way you can go to Coomera Falls Lookout then retrace your route and enjoy some relaxation at the lodge.

Accommodation: Binna Burra.

Day 5: Hike via Bellbird Lookout and Lower Ballanlui Falls down into the Numinbah Valley. The conical shaped Egg Rock is a feature today along with the beautiful Little Nerang River. This is the first section of new track that has been constructed to extend the Lamington walking into the valley and up to the Springbrook Plateau on the other side. Accommodation: Numinbah Valley area

Day 6: From the Numinbah, head uphill onto the Springbrook Plateau. Highlights include hiking alongside the Little Nerang River past waterfall after waterfall. At Warringa Pool you can enjoy a refreshing dip in a rainforest swimming hole. And Purling Brook Falls will take your breath away!

Accommodation: Springbrook Plateau

Day 7: A circuit walk today on the Springbrook Plateau. The Warrie Circuit is a major highlight as it zigzags its way through a valley of waterfalls and canyons, criss-crossing the creeks and ending up at the Meeting-of-the-Waters. The climb out via Twin Falls is equally impressive. If you don't want to go all the way there's a shorter option of the Twin Falls Circuit.

Accommodation: Springbrook Plateau

Day 8: After breakfast, you'll be transported back to your car at the first B&B or to Nerang train station for public transport connections.

The guided itinerary

Day 1: Starting at the Gold Coast airport (Coolangatta) at 10am, you'll travel to Lamington National Park where you will get straight into the tour with a delightful walk on the Brush Box Circuit. By exploring the top of the rainforest on the Tree Tops Walk and you'll have the opportunity to climb the Fig Tree Tower.

Day 2: A full day in Lamington Traverse, walking across the rainforest plateau on the Border Track to Binna Burra Lodge - at 25km it's a long way but the route is almost flat and the going is easy. The track emerges from the subtropical rainforest at several panoramic escarpment lookouts along the way.

Day 3: A full day circuit walk from Binna Burra on the Coomera Circuit. This is one of the prettiest walks in the park - it criss-crosses rainforest creeks for much of the day, passing many waterfalls. If you don't want to go all the way you can go to Coomera Falls Lookout then retrace your route and enjoy some relaxation at the lodge.

Day 4: Hiking via Bellbird Lookout and Lower Ballanlui Falls will bring you down into the Numinbah Valley. The conical shaped Egg Rock is a thought-provoking feature you'll come across today along with the beautiful Little Nerang River. This is the first section of new track that has been constructed to extend the Lamington walking into the valley and up the other side to the Springbrook Plateau.

Day 5: From the Numinbah, you'll head uphill onto the Springbrook Plateau. This includes hiking alongside the Little Nerang River past numerous waterfalls. At Warringa Pool you can also enjoy a refreshing dip in a rainforest swimming hole, and Purling Brook Falls is guaranteed to take your breath away.

Day 6: Another circuit walk this morning to Twin Falls, another of many impressive geological features in the area. You'll top it off with a visit to the Best of All Lookout, which really is as good as it sounds, before travelling back to the Gold Coast to arrive around 2.00pm.

Details

Getting there

The guided walk departs from the Gold Coast Airport - there are regular internal flights from most major Australian cities. The self-guided walk begins in Nerang which can be reached by train from Brisbane. If you are driving, you can park your car at the first accommodation for the duration of the walk.

Price includes

The price quoted is per person for the 6 day guided walk. Single supplement is \$425.

Self-guided walks have lower prices starting at \$2095 for 6 days and rising to \$2495 for 8 days. Please contact us for exact prices to match your dates.

6 Day Guided Walk:

Guiding, all transport starting at Gold Coast airport / Coolangatta, 5 nights accommodation, 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners, National Park fees, insulated lunch bag, maps, map case & a pack of information about the area.

Self-Guided Walks:

8 day trip: 7 nights accommodation, 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners, luggage transfers, all transport to/from the Gold Coast airport, information booklets, insulated lunch bag, map case, walking notes, maps.

6 day trip: 5 nights accommodation, 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners, luggage transfers, all transport to/from the Gold Coast airport, information booklets, insulated lunch bag, map case, walking notes, maps.

Not included Alcohol and additional meals not stated above.

When is best

Late autumn / early winter as there is low humidity and the temperature is usually very pleasant for walking.

Departures

29 Apr 2012 - 04 Jan 2011

Typical Duration

6 days - 8 days

Comfort level

Refined (boutique or luxury accommodation and food)

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed