



Nº 5

BLOOMFIELD LODGE

July-October

Temperature: 18-30°C

Rainfall: Medium

Humidity: 60-80 per cent

Where is it? Weary Bay on the coast of Far North Queensland, 140 kilometres north of Cairns. Guests generally arrive by air with a scenic charter flight from Cairns, though it is also possible to drive to Port Bloomfield and be taken by boat across the bay to the lodge.

Why go now? Daytime temperatures stay roughly the same all year round at Bloomfield, but from June to September night time temperatures drop, making for a more comfortable sleep (there are ceiling fans but no air conditioning). The next few months spell lower humidity, cool evenings and dry days.

What do you do there? The lodge is surrounded by the Daintree Rainforest, one of the most ecologically diverse places on earth. Take a guided

rainforest walk or explore some of the surrounding bush trails on your own – look out for the endangered southern cassowary that will be building its nests during winter. Fish the Great Barrier Reef on a day trip or throw a line in from the jetty.

Where do you sleep? Colonial-style timber rooms are spread around the main lodge building and up the hill into the rainforest. The larger suites have a private hot tub and outdoor day bed.

What else is there? A restaurant and bar in the main lodge, a swimming pool, fitness centre, games room, spa and helipad.

What do people love about it? *Forbes* magazine once named Bloomfield Lodge the best remote hotel in the world, which is a pretty good indication of what's great about it.

How much? Rooms start from A\$368 per person per night up to A\$568 per person per night for the Bloomfield Suite including all meals. Return air transfers start from A\$280 per person. The lodge doesn't accept children under the age of 10. bloomfieldlodge.com.au

Nº 6

WILDMAN WILDERNESS LODGE

July-October

Temperature: 19-37°C

Rainfall: Low

Humidity: 70 per cent

Where is it? In the Mary River Wetlands in the Northern Territory, halfway between Darwin and Kakadu. The property is less than two hours' drive from Darwin along the sealed Arnhem Highway, or there is a grass airstrip that can take light planes or helicopters.

Why go now? The property is only open during the dry season, from March to November, so now is prime time. As many of the lakes and rivers around the region begin to dry up, the water level in the Mary River Wetlands remains high enough to attract millions of birds to the waterholes – keep an eye out for white bellied sea eagles. The dry season also means that all sites in Kakadu will be open.

What do you do there? Take a cruise up the Mary River and venture into quiet billabongs

to see crocodiles and birds or explore the wetlands on foot, walking past huge termite mounds, freshwater mangroves and possibly a buffalo or two. There are also a number of walking tracks a short drive from the camp or there are bicycles available. Kakadu National Park is an absolute must and the famous jumping crocodile cruises on the Adelaide River run daily.

Where do you sleep? 10 air conditioned cabins (called habitats) and 15 permanent safaris tents are spread out along the property. Both the habitats and tents have ensembles and verandahs, and five of the tents have additional single beds for families.

What else is there? The main building has a restaurant, bar and air conditioned lounge as well as a swimming pool in front.

What do people love about it? The friendly and attentive staff.

How much? Habitats are priced from A\$250 per person per night and safari tents from A\$180 per person per night. Dinner and breakfast can be included for an extra A\$80 per person per night. wildmanwildernesslodge.com.au



Nº 7

KIMBERLEY COASTAL CAMP

July-October

Temperature: 12-36°C

Rainfall: Low

Humidity: 25-40 per cent

Where is it? On the remote shores of the Admiralty Gulf in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, opposite the Mitchell Plateau and the famed Mitchell Falls. There are a few ways to reach the camp. Guests can arrive by floatplane or take a light aircraft from Broome, Darby or Kununurra to the plateau and then a helicopter to land directly on the beach. The more adventurous can drive the famous Gibb River Road to the plateau to meet the helicopter.

Why go now? The camp is only

open from mid March to mid October each year. While temperatures from July onwards still hover around the mid to high 30s, the nights cool down to below 20 degrees – a bonus when the tents have no air conditioning. Spring tides can also bring choppy water, making fishing from a boat difficult, while the waters tend to be clearer and calmer through winter.

What do you do there? Sadly the beautiful blue ocean is unswimmable because of crocodiles, but it's still a top spot for fishing and the camp has three boats with knowledgeable guides to take you out into deep water or into the mangroves looking for mud crabs. The camp is also at the centre of one of the world's most important areas of indigenous rock art dating back more than 25,000 years. Don't miss a scenic helicopter flight

over the Mitchell Falls.

Where do you sleep? Six spacious, tin-roofed gazebos face the Timor Sea. There's no air conditioning (or even windows) but the flyscreened openings around the walls encourage the breeze. Bathrooms are shared and set against a large rock wall, open to the sky.

What else is there? The aptly named The Shed is the centre of camp life – it's where meals are eaten, books are read and drinks are drunk. There's also a small swimming pool.

What do people love about it? The sense that they are on a real adventure.

How much? Stay for two nights from A\$2,594 per person including all meals, non-alcoholic beverages, activities and air transfers from the Mitchell Plateau. Prices increase for transfers from Kununurra, Broome or Darwin. kimberleycoastalcamp.com.au

Don't miss a scenic helicopter flight over the Mitchell Falls.