

Bloomfield Lodge

BEAUTIFULLY REMOTE

Spotting Crocodiles on the Bloomfield River by guest blogger Andy Bullock

I thought I was temporarily on a film set with Paul Hogan instead of being out on a complimentary river excursion from Far North Queensland's most luxurious retreat. But that is the beauty of Bloomfield, one moment choosing which fine wine to have with the Coral Sea prawns and salsa mussels, and the next experiencing nature up close in the wilderness outback of the Daintree.



“Ah – that’s only a little Sheila,” informs Shane in his thick Aussie drawl, as we take far too many pictures of a fairly small crocodile, “let’s see if we can find something a little bigger.” The excitement of seeing my first wild crocodile is somewhat tempered by the thought that there are much larger specimens patrolling the river, Shane, who has been taking Bloomfield guests on this trip for several years, is expert at handling the boat, and knows all the resident crocs favourite basking spots. I soon realise why Bloomfield employ such experienced and knowledgeable guides, when he skilfully manoeuvres the boat close (far too close for my liking) to a very large male croc, gaping casually on the riverbank. “ I must make sure I don’t tramp him in, “ Shane whispers, “they tend to get a little agitated if they can’t see an escape route” After a couple of glorious minutes, the croc gets bored with us, leaps into the water, as our hearts jump into our mouths, and disappears through the gap that Shane has thankfully left it.

People often make places and this is yet another area where Bloomfield excels. All the guides enthuse so passionately about their subjects that you just know that they are in love with this area. And with good reason, beautifully nestled in the World Heritage listed rainforest and bordering the similarly listed Barrier reef, there are few places in the world that can compete with its natural beauty. The lodge staff are all extremely friendly with managers Ben and Courtenay catching up with you every day in Mulligans bar before dinner to make sure your stay exceeds your expectations and to plan the following day’s activities.

