

Bloomfield Lodge

BEAUTIFULLY REMOTE

LOST IN PARADISE by Maureen Bartlett

"We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures we can have if we only seek them with our eyes open." Jawaharlal Nehru.

Bloomfield was described as "beautifully remote" and as we knew we had six months of fun and activity ahead of us, this seemed like the perfect place to get over our jetlag and recharge our batteries before the action kicked in. What a fantastic piece of planning it turned out to be!

We arrived at Bloomfield Lodge on a small 6 seater Cessna (fantastic views of the coastline as we headed up to the Daintree Forest) followed by a four wheel drive ride and finally a short boat ride to arrive on the jetty at Bloomfield. Below the jetty, turtles and sharks could be found swimming in harmony. Bloomfield certainly was in the middle of nowhere, but a more picturesque nowhere would be hard to find.

Our cabin was heavenly, complete with hot tub on the deck and a breathtaking view over Weary Bay. We are usually city people but this was heaven on earth.

Bloomfield holds a maximum of 34 people and it was interesting to have people arriving and departing every day, each with different stories about their time in Australia. The maximum number of guests while we were there was around 18, so we always felt we had the place to ourselves and yet also had the feeling of being part of a large family.

We took a boat trip down the river with others from the lodge and out of 12 people; we were the only non bird watchers. We watched the bird watchers with as much interest as they watched the birds, and marveled that so many grown up people could get so excited and have such a passionate discussion over whether the bird we had just seen had a yellow circle round its eye or a red circle. I loved it! Although it didn't persuade either Jeff or I to take up bird watching though!



The guided trip through the rainforest was fascinating. Shayne, our guide had spent his six weeks summer holidays every year in his early years with the Aboriginals in their village, so had learned many of their customs and was so knowledgeable about the plants and herbs, what fixes a sore tummy, a sore head etc. it gave us an admiration for people who could look after themselves long before we discovered drugs.

The food was delicious and often came from the forest (fruit and berries at breakfast) or the sea (especially the tasty prawns, coral trout and red emperor fish) and for someone who never eats fish normally, I discovered I actually enjoyed ALL the fish we were offered!



The days were most enjoyable. Nothing felt rushed, there was time for everything and after a hard morning on the boat or in the forest, it was great to be able to go back to the cabin and slide into the hot tub with a glass of bubbly! No possibility of reading; the view was such you didn't want to miss a moment of it. Certainly NOT Weary Bay for us!!

Both sunrises and sunsets are gentle here rather than dramatic and blend into the leisurely ambience of this wonderful rainforest. Grey's, silver and lilacs rather than the dazzling and dramatic blood reds and crimsons, but somehow it suits the landscape and helps continue the feeling of relaxation and tranquility.

We felt sad when day five came and we had to board our boat for the first leg of our journey back to Cairns.....but we had recharged our batteries and were raring to enjoy the rest of our adventure.

