

# Great to green on Mount Tamborine

After getting a 'fix' in the Mount Tamborine rainforest, Cathy Finch reports, she went shopping.

I AM drowning in a double spa bath which is cooing bubbles. Around me, I feel nature at my door.

My bathroom is a glassed oasis that draws the outdoors in. Even the ceiling is glass, allowing me to gaze up at the rose gums towering overhead, their branches swaying in the wind.

My bed rests in a cosy, stone, gable cottage, wherein a fireplace crackles, port and chocolate is set out on the table and the smell of freshly baked bread wafts from a cloth-draped basket.

Across the road is an ancient, tangled rainforest, where water tumbles and glow-worms shine.

Witches Falls Cottages are perched high above city worries, near the edge of Mount Tamborine escarpment, 50 minutes drive south of Brisbane.

It was recently reopened as an enhanced escape for couples—and I get the feeling owners David and Daniela enjoy nothing more than extending the finer elements of eating and relaxing.

In the morning, as the smell of chimney smoke drifts through the mountain air, the forest fairies deliver breakfast outside my door.

A hamper overflows with fresh yogurt, cereal, smoked ham, cheeses, juices and the most amazing-smelling loaf of freshly baked bread.

The following morning we opt for German sausages, eggs, bacon, tomatoes and mushroom to barbecue in our private courtyard, amid flowering cannellinis, as kookaburras and lorikeets fly overhead.

Outside, there is much to explore in Queensland's oldest national park, spread over the Tamborine plateau and surrounding foothills.

We start across the road on the old Witches Falls Circuit, passing over Fenwick Creek, which falls from cliffs of basalt columns into lush pines groves below. The walk to Curtis Falls and back is only 1.5km through some of the prettiest rainforest you are likely to encounter and there are many more trails to choose from that will take you into the heart of nature.

When the green in me is saturated, I turn to shopping and short blacks at Gallery Walk, the hub of art and antiques, craft, art and trinket shops. There are also several wineries not to be missed.

At Cedar Creek Estate Vineyard and Winery, we lunch on duckling tangelo—a roast breast of duck with ginger, glazed with tangelo syrup and served with Asian vegetables.

Out on a wooden deck, we sip wine to a lightly strummed guitar and gaze over a quiet lake (excavated by owner John) used to be his penance for shooting ducks when he was younger).

Far more than just a cellar door and popular wedding venue, this charming winery also provides an opportunity to see thousands of glow-worms in purpose-built underground caves.

Back in town, Witches Falls Winery also shines when I find partner Richard, a bright light in an open fermenter, ensuring his 'hand made' wines are correctly trod.

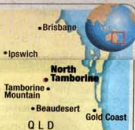
Perhaps the newest, most exciting that boasts rich blackcurrant and cinnamon aromas, but admit I still think about Richard's toes.

Perhaps the newest, most exciting



Mountain escape: Witches Falls Cottages offer a world of relaxation far from city cares

## DESTINATION >>



### North Tamborine

Getting there: About 50 minutes' drive south of Brisbane.

Stay: Witches Falls Cottages are near the edge of the escarpment, across the road from the entrance to the Witches Falls section of Tamborine Mountain National Park.

Accommodation is for couples; midweek from \$195 a cottage for two, including a gourmet breakfast hamper; contact [www.witchesfallscottages.com.au](http://www.witchesfallscottages.com.au) or (07) 5545 4411.

Do: Blueodog Photography workshops or retreats, from beginners to advanced; [www.blueodog.com.au](http://www.blueodog.com.au) or (07) 5545 4777.

addition to the mountain is the opportunity to capture its beauty more professionally on a Blueodog Photography workshop and retreat.

Photographers Danielle and Nick Lancaster, with visiting tutors, will help you transform your impossible rainforest flops into dramatic images with flair.

With workshops ranging from beginner to advanced, Blueodog offers class sizes or one-on-one tutoring, utilising the stunning surroundings of Mount Tamborine.

After all, once the smell of the rainforest and log fires are distant memories, what lingers?

Our photographs. Permanent records of our travels, emotions and experiences. We all want to take home the perfect holiday shot. And on Mount Tamborine, the opportunities are endless.

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