

CERRA and the Border Ranges

Dates: *Sunday, 18th May to Tuesday, 27th May 2008* **(10 days)**
Cost: \$1900 *5 nights budget accom and 4 nights camping* **Start & Finish:** *Brisbane*

The World Heritage Listed Central Eastern Rainforest of Australia (CERRA) includes several National Parks of the Border Ranges of Northern New South Wales and South East Queensland. They contain great biodiversity set in grand scenery. This safari focuses on the reserves which straddle the state borders and includes the Gibraltar Range and Washpool Parks. The Border Range parks surround Mt Warning, a once active volcano which poured rich layers of basalt over a vast region extending into Moreton Bay. Apart from providing steep and rugged topography, the rich basalt soil has nurtured a very diverse assortment of plants and animals in a range of subtropical habitats.

Guides: **John Sinclair** has been visiting and exploring the area covered by this safari since 1968 and is familiar with the whole area. John will be assisted in legendary rainforest naturalists, writers and greenie activists, **Hugh & Nan Nicholson**, who live in the heart of this region.

Style: Up to 20 safarists will travel in a Coaster bus. The price includes all transport, meals, shared budget accommodation with four nights of camping.

The Border Ranges: The Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia) or CERRA World Heritage listing now includes 50 reserves from Toowoomba to Barrington Tops. In 1994, as a result of the decisions of the Goss Government, many national parks in Queensland's Scenic Rim were added to the rainforests of NSW inscribed in 1986. The core of the Border Ranges is mainly the result of volcanic activity which centred on the huge Mt Warning volcano. Altitudes range from sea-level to almost 1600 m on the Great Escarpment. A dramatic change in altitude is found within many sites. They feature a diverse range of sub-tropical to temperate rainforest ecotypes.

Draft Itinerary

Sunday, 18th May: Travel down via Beaudesert, Mt Lindsay and Wiangaree to explore the spectacular rain forests in NSW's Border Ranges National Park. Take short walks to see some very ancient Antarctic beech and red cedar trees at Brindle Creek, and some spectacular views of Mt Warning.
Accom: Toonumbar.

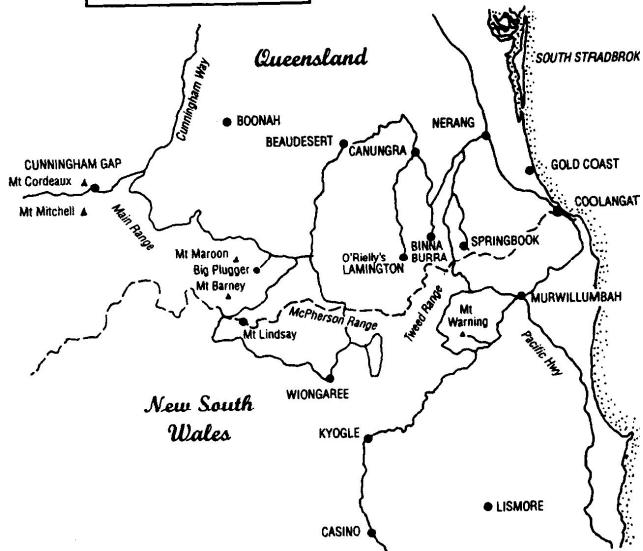
Monday, 19th May: Explore the Nightcap National Park with some fascinating sites that have in the past been battle grounds between forest protesters and loggers — Mt Nardi, Terrania Creek.
Accom: Lismore.

Tuesday, 20th May: Drive via Grafton to Gibraltar Range National Park, where our camping equipment should be waiting for us, then proceed to Mulligans Hut we will explore a number of sites including the Raspberry Lookout and some of the famous hanging swamps of Dandahra.
Camp: Mulligans Hut, Gibraltar Range National Park.

Wednesday, 21st May: Wake to the chorus of bell birds, bower birds, lyrebirds and currawongs amongst a melodic dawn chorus. There are a variety of walks in the adjacent Washpool National Park from the easy (for the less energetic) to quite challenging walks. The Cedars walk is particularly rewarding. It offers inspirational and stimulating scenery along Coombadja Creek. Some may try spotlighting after dinner.
Camp: Mulligans Hut.

Thursday, 22nd May: Walk options include the two rain forests walks to Dandahra Falls and the Needles. These are great spots for relaxing as well as exciting areas for both fauna and wild-flowers. You may even meet Lyrebirds or noisy scrub birds along the way.
Camp: Mulligans Hut.

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Friday, 23rd May: After another walk in the Gibraltar Washpool area, head to the coast via Grafton to the Iluka Nature Reserve. This is another part of the CERRA World Heritage, which is littoral rainforest right on the coast. Explore this site and the nearby Bundjalung National Park. Camp: Black Rocks, Bundjalung National Park.

Saturday, 24th May: Murwillumbah to Mt Warning National Park. There will be an opportunity to climb to the summit which is the centre of the caldera of this once huge volcano. Then travel via Tyalgum and Chillingham to our accommodation very close to the wonderful Natural Bridge glow-worm cave.
Accom: Numinbah.

Sunday, 25th May: To Springbrook to explore the National Park with walks and waterfalls and interesting features including Purlingbrook Falls. Then continue through the rural Numinbah Valley to Nerang and on to Binna Burra surrounded by the Lamington National Park.
Accom: Binna Burra Environmental Education Centre.

Monday, 26th May: This is the day for our most challenging walk. We drive to O'Reillys, Green Mountains, to start the long 21.4 km walk along the Border Track. This passes through magnificent Antarctic Beech forests on the way back to Binna Burra. For the less ambitious there is the option of shorter walks at both O'Reillys and Binna Burra.
Accom: Binna Burra.

Tuesday, 27th May: Take one of the less rigorous walks from Binna Burra to Daves Creek Circuit to see the heathlands and rainforest. This is a chance to observe some of the wonderful vistas, as well as more of the prodigious wildlife, before returning to Brisbane about 5.30 pm.