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THE BUSH EXPERIENCE

EXPERIENCE THE AUTHENTIC AUSTRALIAN BUSH IN ALL ITS GLORY.

The sun rises brightly over the vast rugged landscape slowly waking every living creature. The morning calls of native birds fills the air as Stockmen, Farmers and Graziers begin their day. As the sun belts down against their backs and sweat pours from their brow these mighty Australian men and women carry out their daily tasks in the most open and beautiful office in the country, the wild and untamed Australian bush. As the sun sets a blanket of stars envelops the landscape. The campfire glistens and all that can be heard is that unmistakable resonance, the sound of silence. This is the authentic Australian bush. And now anyone can experience it.



The Gladstone Region is an excellent destination for those wanting to experience the real Australian bush. Kroombit Lochenbar Station, Myella Farm Stay and Glassford Creek Farmstay offer guests a quiet and laid back atmosphere to enjoy a genuine bush experience.

Kroombit Lochenbar Station is located 35 kilometres from Biloela is about as untamed at the bush gets. This 10 000 acre family run, goat and cattle property is conveniently located right next door to Kroombit Tops National Park and Forest Reserve, which is home to rugged parklands, spectacular views and subtropical rainforest. This makes Kroombit the ideal place to indulge in both nature and outback life.

Finding things to do at the station is almost endless. Take part in horse riding, goat mustering, clay pigeon shooting, feeding farm animals, a wagon ride pulled by Clydesdales, mechanical bull riding or abseiling down the trunk of a Blue Gum Tree. Learn how to crack a whip, throw a boomerang or gain knowledge about the area's geological history. Explore the ruggedness of Kroombit Tops National Park and be astounded by the amazing views of the coast, the lush rainforest and gorge walks. Be entranced by the mysterious resting place of the World War II B 24 Liberator Bomber which crashed in 1945.



Alternatively, take a small and personalized four wheel drive tour of the area or breathe in the country air, enjoy the wide open spaces and relax around the farm stay. But, whatever you choose to do be assured that it will not cause havoc to the environment as Kroombit Lochenbar Station is Eco Certified.

After a long day of fun and adventure bask in true Australian hospitality as you savour the station's camp oven cooking served on a unique table carved from a Blue Gum Tree. Wash down your hearty meal with a cup of tea straight from the Billy and mingle with other travelers. At the end of the night retire to confines of your comfortable cabin, powered caravan or camping site. Alternatively, sleep under the blanket of stars in an organized camp out. To experience life at Kroombit Lochenbar Station a number of package and accommodation options are available.



Located 200 kilometres south west of Gladstone, near the small country town of Baralaba is Myella Farm Stay. This 2600 acre working cattle property has up to 350 head of Braham-cross cattle roaming the plains.

Myella prides itself on providing an activity- packed, true Aussie bush experience. Guests can take an active role in the running of the property; involving themselves in tasks such as milking cows, feeding the farm animals, collecting eggs, mustering or sorting cattle, collecting firewood and fixing fences. Activities such as horse riding, motorbike riding, bush walking, canoeing and four wheel drive tours can also be enjoyed. On the other hand, for those seeking something of a slower pace watching the World go by from the comfortable confines of a hammock or taking a dip in the pool are just as pleasurable.

In the evening share a home cooked meal with the family owners in a relaxing outdoor dining area. Closely view the stars through the farmstay's telescope or sit around the camp fire and be entertained by authentic bush poetry and a good yarn or two. Hit the hay in your restful, air conditioned room to be ready for another big day.

Glassford Creek Farmstay, a relatively new establishment, is situated near the small country town of Builyan, 50 minutes from Gladstone. The farmstay offers visitors an activity based holiday package on 'Boxvale', a working cattle station.

Patrons will get a taste of the true Australian bush and way of life as 'Boxvale' runs 400 beef breeding cattle and about 20 horses over 4000 acres of rugged bush land. Guests are encouraged to take an active role in running the family-owned property. Milking cows, feeding horses or orphan calves, educated young cattle, feeding bulls and mustering on horse back all need to be done on a daily basis.



For those not interested in a little 'hard yakka', they can still a true insight into life on the farm by going on a four wheel drive tour or indulging in a leisurely sunrise or sunset trail ride. Alternatively, guests can explore the rainforest pockets and creeks that surround the farm. Kangaroos, Koalas, Platypus, Wallabies, Echidnas, Wedge-Tail Eagles and many other species can be seen at different times. This is no doubt because the owner of 'Boxvale' believe in ecological sustainable farming practices.

At the end of a hard day's labour, or relaxation, tuck into some home style cooking and mingle with the owners and other visitors in the outdoor dining facility or simply sit around the camp fire and talk into

the night. When it's time to hit the hay, retire to Glassford Creek Farmstay's the well appointed guest house, breathe in the fresh country air and let the comfortable bed transport you to the Land of Nod.

If time is against you to experience the true Australian bush, located just 5 minutes from Gladstone is El Shaddai Ranch. Guests can explore the picturesque State Forest by horse back on a 1 hour trail ride on Saturdays or 2 and 3 hour trail rides every Tuesday to Friday. On the first Saturday of every second month El Shaddai hosts a 4 hour Mystery Ride which includes a hearty lunch. Bush Days are held on the first Saturday of every month and provide children aged 8 to 14 with a real bush experience. Kids can enjoy horse rides and hay rides or try their hand at archery and other games. The most enjoyable part of the day is making dough boys. Long snakes of dough are wrapped around sticks, cooked in a wood fire and filled to the brim with syrup. Yummo!

For further information on the Gladstone region's bush experiences, contact Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited on 49729000 or www.gladstoneregion.info.