

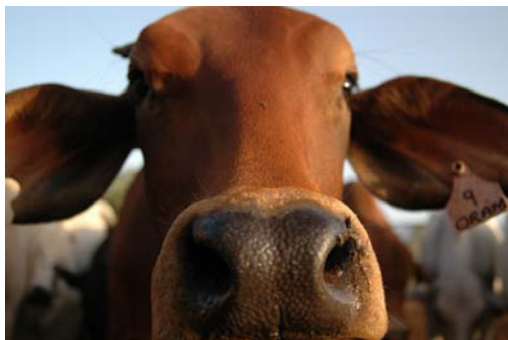
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By Tracey Lenz
479 words

GENUINE OUTBACK EXPERIENCE AT GLASSFORD CREEK

STOP! Can you hear that? Nothing? It's the sound of silence. Look around. All that can be seen are rolling hills, trees horses and cows. Not another soul. No houses. No street lights. Just a blanket of stars. It's like you've been transported to the middle of nowhere. But, you're not. You're at Glassford Creek Farmstay, found just under an hour from Gladstone.



'Best holiday ever', 'traditional outback lifestyle' and 'beautiful scenery' are just some of the words springing from the mouths of delighted visitors to the newly opened Glassford Creek Farmstay. Beginning operation at the end of September 2005, this family owned and run farm stay situated near the small country town of Builyan, 50 minutes from Gladstone, has already made an impression with tourists.

Surrounded by other properties, national parks and forests, patrons often say they feel as though they are far away from civilization, while being just under an hour from a major city. Visitors will get a taste of true Australian bush life as the farm stay is situated on the working cattle station of 'Boxvale'. 400 beef breeding cattle and about 20 horses roam over the 4000 acres of the property. 'Boxvale' is a property steeped in history as it was part of one of the first properties settled in the Boyne Valley. The original homestead, manager's residence, ringer's quarters, meat house and shed can still be found and explored on the property.

At Glassford Creek, guests are encouraged to take an active role in running the family-owned property. Milking cows, feeding horses or orphaned calves, educating young cattle, feeding bulls and mustering on horse back all need to be done on a daily basis and visitors can join in on the action. For those not interested in a little 'hard yakka', they can still gain 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 on horse back.

The pristine rainforest pockets, natural bush areas and creeks that surround Glassford Creek Farmstay are teeming with wildlife. Kangaroos, Koalas, Platypus, Wallabies, Echidnas, Wedge-Tail Eagles and many other species can be seen at different times. This is no doubt because the cattle station employs ecological, sustainable farming practices.

At the end of a hard day's labour, or some hearty home style cooking and mingle in the outdoor dining facility or simply sit and talk into the night. When it's time to hit Glassford Creek Farm stay's well appointed in the fresh country air and let the transport you to the Land of Nod.



relaxation, tuck into with the other visitors around the camp fire the hay, retire to guest house, breathe comfortable bed

For further information on the Gladstone experiences, contact Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited on 49724000 or www.gladstoneregion.info region's bush