



travel feature

EXPERIENCE THE TWEED

Nestled in the caldera of an ancient shield volcano, the Tweed region offers a unique combination of World Heritage listed rainforests, lush rolling farmland and unspoilt beaches – all within a relatively compact area adjacent to the NSW/Queensland border.

The Mt Warning Wollumbin Caldera has been classified as one of Australia's unique 'National Landscapes' – a must-see destination for travellers who want to get off the beaten tourist track to experience the real Australia and meet real Australians.

At the very heart of this vast 'green cauldron', Mt Warning overlooks a patchwork of caneland, banana plantations and organic market gardens, intersected by a network of rambling rivers.

Circling around the rim of the eroded escarpment, a series of World Heritage-listed National Parks protect ancient Gondwanan rainforests, cascading waterfalls, crystal clear mountain pools and hundreds of kilometres of well-marked bushwalking trails.

Within this Eden-like landscape, the Rainforest Way touring route provides easy access to quaint art and craft villages, traditional Aussie pubs, country B&Bs and hidden rainforest retreats as you drive along winding country roads lined with rustic farm stalls offering samples of unique Tweed produce like native fingerlimes, lemon myrtle and Davidson plums.

Where the caldera meets the coast, a 35km stretch of pristine beaches offers the choice of laid-back seaside and fishing villages with budget-priced accommodation or ultra-luxurious five star resorts with pampering day spas at their doorstep.

This is where you'll discover the birthplace of Australia's surfing culture at legendary pointbreaks that attract world champion surfers and a wealth of marine-focussed activities such as whale watching (June to November), deep sea fishing, snorkelling and diving with the turtles and tropical fish of Cook Island, learn to surf lessons and much more.

On the calm river estuary and inlets, you can also try your hand at favourite Aussie pastimes like potting for mudcrabs, pumping for yabbies, kayaking through the Cudgen Creek wetlands, houseboating holidays and feeding the wild birds that make their home in and around the waterways.

At the gateway to this fantastic region, the bustling town of Tweed Heads straddling the Queensland/NSW border is renowned for the live entertainment and international performers that feature at world-class sporting and service clubs, as well as shopping centres, cinemas and a host of great restaurants and cafes.

Getting to the Tweed region couldn't be easier: Tweed Heads is located just five minutes from the Gold Coast Airport which is serviced by a range of domestic and international airlines, and the Pacific Highway provides self-drive or bus access from Sydney, Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

Tweed Tourism can provide details on what's available and make all your reservations, as well as sending you a free copy of their Tweed Coolangatta Visitor Guide. Phone tollfree on 1800 674 414 or go to www.tweedtourism.com.au.

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