


SCENIC RIM GREAT WALK

14 TO 16 JUNE 2024

HIKE THROUGH UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE-LISTED GONDWANA RAINFOREST, ALONG THE CLIFF-RIMMED ESCARPMENT OF AN ANCIENT VOLCANO, AND TAKE IN THE STUNNING VIEWS OVER THE VALLEYS AND IMPRESSIVE PEAKS OF SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND'S SCENIC RIM.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- ANCIENT SUBTROPICAL RAINFOREST
- DIVERSITY OF WILDLIFE AND FLORA
- CRISSCROSS STEAMS AND FLOWING CREEKS
- ASCEND DRAMATIC PEAKS, RIDGES AND ESCARPMENTS
- BREATHTAKING VIEWS OF THE SCENIC RIM, ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO BRISBANE
- DELICIOUS HOME COOKED MEALS.

BRIEF:

-  DURATION: 2 DAYS HIKING, 2 NIGHTS ACCOM
-  DISTANCE: 47 KM
-  DIFFICULTY: MODERATE TO HARD
-  DATE: 14 TO 16 JUNE
-  ACCOM: MOTEL OR FARMSTAY
-  TRANSPORT / SHUTTLES.

COST:

\$785PP - TWIN SHARE ONLY



DAY 1 - THORNTON VIEW TO MT CASTLE VIEW

GRADE 4

DISTANCE: APPROX. 23.5KM

TIME: ALLOW 8+ HRS

DAY 1 ON THE SCENIC RIM TRAIL IS ARDUOUS, WITH THE CLIMB UP TO THE RANGE CREST BOUND TO GET YOUR HEART RACING. BUT HANG IN THERE - THE STUNNING VIEWS ARE TOTALLY WORTH IT!!

THE TRAILHEAD AND FIRST 6KM OF THE SCENIC RIM TRAIL ARE LOCATED ON THORNTON VIEW NATURE REFUGE, A PRIVATELY-OWNED PROPERTY MANAGED BY THE TURNER FAMILY. A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT AND PROPERTY OWNERS ENABLES THE PUBLIC TO TRAVERSE THE TRAIL THROUGH PRIVATE PROPERTY.

FROM THE THORNTON TRAILHEAD AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAIDLEY VALLEY, WE BEGIN THE STEEP 3KM (2-3HR) CLIMB THROUGH THE THORNTON VIEW NATURE REFUGE TO THE CREST OF OUR FIRST CLIFF-RIMMED RIDGE.



DAY 1 CONTINUED...

THERE IS A STEEP ROCKY SECTION WE ASCEND, OPENING UP TO TRAIL WHERE YOU WILL NOTICE HOW THE LANDSCAPE AROUND YOU IS RECOVERING FROM THE SEVERE FIRES OF LATE 2019.

FROM HERE, WE FOLLOW THE VERY STEEP, AND SOMETIMES SLIPPERY TRAIL AROUND THE CLIFF BREAK AS WE MAKE OUR FINAL ASCENT TO THE RIDGE TOP. STOP HERE FOR A SNACK AND BREATHE IN THE INCREDIBLE VIEWS ACROSS THE LAIDLEY VALLEY, TOWARDS BRISBANE.

WE BEGIN TO CLIMB SLOWLY THROUGH OPEN EUCALYPT FOREST TOWARDS THE PLATEAU, ADMIRING HUNDREDS-OF-YEARS-OLD GRASS TREES GROWING ALMOST 4M HIGH. ABOUT 5KM (3HRS) AFTER CRESTING THE RIDGE, WE HIT A NATURAL LOOKOUT WHERE YOU CAN SEE OUT TO MOUNT MISTAKE IN THE DISTANCE. THIS IS OUR PERFECT LUNCH SPOT! THE TRAIL LEADS FROM GRASSY EUCALYPT FOREST INTO THE SHADED COOLNESS BENEATH THE RAINFOREST CANOPY AS YOU BEGIN TO CLIMB STEADILY ALONG THE CREST OF 'THE MISTAKE' RANGE.



DAY 1 CONTINUED...

WE FOLLOW A WIDE MANAGEMENT TRAIL, WHICH WAS ONCE USED TO HAUL TIMBER OUT OF THE FOREST. THIS SECTION CAN BE MUDDY AND SLIPPERY IN THE WET, SO TAKE CARE!! IN PLACES THE TRAIL SKIRTS CLOSE TO THE ESCARPMENT EDGE WITH VIEWS OVER THE VALLEY. BE CAREFUL NOT TO WALK TOO CLOSE TO THE EDGE. CONTINUE SOUTH TOWARDS THE WINDER – ANOTHER RELIC OF LOGGING IN DAYS GONE BY.

FROM THE WINDER, THE SCENIC RIM GREAT WALK FOLLOWS THE DISTINCT WALKING TRACK TOWARDS GOOMBURRA, AND MOUNT CASTLE LOOKOUT.

WE MEET OUR TRANSPORT VEHICLE WHO WILL TAKE US BACK TO OUR ACCOMMODATION FOR THE EVENING.

SHOES OFF, FEET UP & RELAX.

DAY 1 IS DONE 

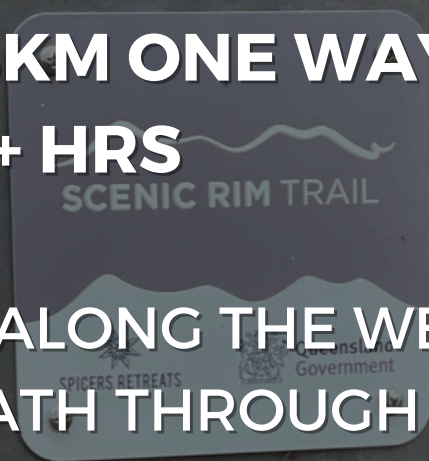


DAY 2 - MT CASTLE VIEW TO CUNNINGHAM'S GAP

GRADE 4

DISTANCE: 23.8KM ONE WAY

TIME: ALLOW 7+ HRS



WE BEGIN DAY 2 ALONG THE WELL-TRODDEN AND POPULAR PATH THROUGH MAGNIFICENT RAINFOREST SCATTERED WITH HOOP PINES TO MOUNT CASTLE LOOKOUT AT THE ESCARPMENT EDGE. DRINK IN THE VIEWS OVER THE PINK-HUED TRACHYTE CLIFFS AND BEYOND, BEFORE WE FIND THE SCENIC RIM TRAILMARKER AND HEAD SOUTH DEEP INTO THE DENSE RAINFOREST.

AFTER ABOUT 1.5HR OF STEEP HIKING UPHILL THEN DOWN AGAIN, WE REACH A FORMED TRACK AND PANORAMIC VIEWS AT SYLVESTERS LOOKOUT.

GREAT SNACK SPOT HERE!



DAY 2 CONTINUED...

WE TURN OFF AND FOLLOW THE ESCARPMENT SOUTH, THROUGH A TANGLE OF VINES, HIKING SLOWLY THROUGH THE DENSE FOREST, ENJOYING THE OPEN SECTIONS AND PICCABEEN PALM GROVES. THE TRAIL TURNS AWAY FROM THE ESCARPMENT AND FOLLOWS THE RIDGELINE INTO DALRYMPLE CREEK, WHERE WE REACH A SERIES OF STEEP ZIGZAGS, BRINGING US DOWN INTO THE GULLY. AFTER CREEK JUNCTIONS AND A CROSSING, WE MEET THE 'CASCADES' CIRCUITS, A NICE EASY TRACK, CONTINUING UPSTREAM AS WE PASS MORE RUNNING CREEKS, ROCK POOLS AND CASCADES.

AFTER DESCENDING THE VALLEY, WE CLIMB STEADILY AGAIN ALONG THE RIDGE TRACK, TOWARDS OUR FINAL PEAK OF BARE ROCK. A STEEP ROCK SCRAMBLE AWAITS US, BRINGING US TO THE PERFECT SPOT TO CATCH YOUR BREATH AND TAKE IN THE PANORAMIC VIEWS, LOOKING BACK OVER THE RAINFOREST WE'VE WALKED AS WELL AS SHEER CLIFF DROPS DOWN INTO THE VALLEY BELOW.



DAY 2 CONTINUED...

FROM BARE ROCK IT'S AN EASY 5.8KM (2-3HR) DESCENT TO CUNNINGHAMS GAP ALONG A WELL-DEFINED TRACK, WALKING THROUGH RAINFOREST THEN INTO EUCALYPT WOODLAND AND A HEATH WITH EMERGENT GRASSTREES, BANKSIAS AND GIANT SPEAR LILIES HUGGING THE IMPRESSIVE SIDES AND PEAK OF MOUNT CORDEAUX. WE STOP AT THE LOOKOUT FOR THOSE STUNNING VIEWS TOWARDS BRISBANE AND ACROSS TO MT MITCHELL AND THE SCENIC RIM BEYOND, BEFORE CONTINUING THROUGH THE RAINFOREST CANOPY TO THE BOTTOM OF CUNNINGHAM'S GAP AND OUR FINAL STOP.

KICK BACK ON YOUR SECOND NIGHT AND REFLECT ON YOUR AMAZING SCENIC RIM TRAIL JOURNEY WITH YOUR FELLOW WALKERS.

THANKYOU FOR CHOOSING YOUR NEXT ESCAPE.