



Are you a keen walker? A bit more than a stroll around the block with your dog or even if you aspire to be then like me you may have taken up pounding the pavements (where we have them!), walking our national park trails or even heading to Lamington National Park or the Sunshine coast hinterland for a days walk through our pristine countryside.

It is amazing how many walks are within cooee of Tamborine and as you will all be aware we are home to Queensland's first national park -Witches Falls. We have several walks on and off the escarpment which grant us entry into the world of rainforest and giant cycads, pademelons and the odd koala. Further afield but still close enough for a day trip are the wonderful walks from Binna Burra and O'Reillys. We will all recall it was only a few short months ago that historic Binna Burra Lodge was lost to bush fires, there was also extensive damage to the access areas to the area although this is set to reopen in September. Although the lodge was destroyed we ow able to take bookings for the Sky Lodges. O'Reillys was threated but luckily escaped bush fire damage so you can stay there for a couple of days and explore the national park. It's extra ordinary how quickly our native bush land bounces back after fire has swept through.

Apart from these nearby walks there are twelve "Great Walks of Australia". These feature areas of fabulous natural beauty, from coastal to big sky country to the red centre. These walks vary in duration from 2 days to a week and they have been set up for you to really enjoy. Join a small group (usually around 8to 12) with a guide who brings to life the history, culture, environment and fauna of the area. These guides are highly experienced and love sharing the stories to give you an insiders view of the region. There is no need to carry your luggage as this is moved for you, and all catering is also provided. A typical day is up early for breakfast, walk around 4 to 5 hours during the course of the day with drink and snack breaks as well as lunch. Early evening arrive in camp which may be a small lodge or glamping, after a hot shower or a soak in the bath, enjoy a welcome drink and your gourmet dinner perhaps around the camp fire or in the lodge.

There are currently twelve Great Walks of Australia. Head to the Margaret River for the Cape to Cape walk. The Great Ocean Road area for the Twelve Apostles Lodge walk. The red centre for the Larapinta trek in comfort. Head to Tassie for the Bay of Fires walk, Cradle Mountain huts walk, Freycinet experience walk, Maria Island walk or the Three Capes lodge walk. Head to South Australia for the Murray River walk or the Arkaba walk in the Flinders ranges. Closer to home take a trip to Lord Howe for the Seven Peaks walk.

Close to home is the Scenic Rim trail – this exploration will take you through areas that are closed to the public, that are pristine and unique to our region, walking through world heritage listed Gondwana land rainforest, walking up to vantage points for fabulous panoramic views, or walking through historical aboriginal settlement areas and small pockets where pioneers logged. A wonderful experience.

Some of these walks have been closed because of Covid 19 travel restrictions but most have come out of hibernation and would love visitors to return to employ their local staff and bring a sense of normality back to the regions. If you are interested in any of these or other fabulous walking experiences contact Travelling Places for further information.