

Our Sustainability Commitments and Priorities

We are a certified tour operator that reflects a genuine commitment to:

- ✓ Embedding sustainability across business planning and daily operations
- ✓ Practicing responsible and ethical marketing
- ✓ Providing exceptional guest experiences
- ✓ Managing and minimising our environmental impact
- ✓ Reducing our carbon footprint- a portion of your tour fee goes to Carbon Neutral for tree planting
- ✓ Educating visitors on sustainable practices
- ✓ Contributing to conservation efforts
- ✓ Supporting and engaging with our local community
- ✓ Respecting and celebrating cultural traditions and sensitivities

Please join us in sustainable practices and minimise environmental impact on tour by:

Following guide direction

Staying on the path and no excessive torch use

No flash photography of nocturnal animals or cave inhabitants

Lookout for wildlife or birds on walking tracks and pass with care

Observe wildlife from a distance and do not touch or feed

Respect the site and cultural heritage with appropriate behaviour

Leave no trace – leave what you find and be considerate of others!

Refrain from smoking

Please do NOT wear insect repellent. Please choose a safe alternative:

Use a natural repellent roll-on with ingredients like oil of lemon eucalyptus rather than DEET and spray-on repellents which can harm microorganisms and environment around us.

Wear sun-protective clothing and consider darker colours when viewing nocturnal animals.

Hats and long sleeves minimize the need for insect repellent and sunscreen.

Choose mineral-based non aerosol sunscreens that use non-nano Zinc Oxide or Titanium Dioxide as active ingredients. Oxybenzone and Octinoxate are not safe for waterways.

Finally, bring a refillable water bottle.

We can't wait to share this wonderful part of the world with you.

Description of Springbrook and Green Mountain environment and cultural heritage

Glow worm tour takes place in the World Heritage-listed Natural Bridge National Park at Springbrook on the Gold Coast. It is a subtropical and cool temperate rainforest with rare fauna including more than 1700 species of flowering plants, a rich diversity of wildlife of 500 vertebrate animals. The landscape of the Springbrook plateau is a remnant of the northern side of a shield volcano that dominated the region about 23 million years ago. It is a cultural site for the local Kombumerri Indigenous people (family group of the Yugambeh language peoples) – the earliest inhabitants who lived in this area. The Yugambeh carefully managed and used the rich natural resources of the area and considered the mountains a sacred and spiritual place to be nurtured and respected. World Heritage sites are places that are important to and belong to everyone, no matter where they are located. They have universal value that transcends the importance they hold for one particular nation. The World Heritage Convention aims to promote cooperation among nations to protect heritage from around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations. There is no guarantee to see Glow Worms or wildlife.

Minimal Impact Practices in a Cave (Natural Bridge)

- **Stay on Tracks:** Walk only on designated or marked paths to prevent soil compaction, track widening, and damage to delicate cave floors
- **Protect Formations:** Avoid touching any formations – stay on the man-made viewing platform
- **Manage Waste:** Take all solid and liquid human waste; do not leave food scraps, crumbs, or rubbish behind

- **Prevent Contamination:** Clean and wash boots, clothing, and gear before entering to stop the spread of mud, dust, invasive seeds, and foreign microbes between cave systems.
- **Protect Wildlife:** Never disturb bats, glow worms or other cave-dwelling fauna, and avoid shining bright lights directly on sensitive creatures. Use a red torch and shine to the floor only

Green Mountain is in the Lamington National Park—the world's largest subtropical rainforest designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1994—is so named because an endless sea of ancient, giant trees can be seen from there. As the name suggests, this World Heritage-listed Green Mountain, where the subtropical rainforest goes on endlessly, allows you to experience greenery and nature as far as the eye can see.

- **Canopy Walkway:** A bridge lets you walk high up in the treetops
- **Antarctic Beech Trees:** Some trees are over 2,000 years old with twisted, mossy trunks.
- **Rainforest Canopy:** Tall trees block most of the bright sunlight.
- **Ferns and Vines:** Giant ferns and hanging vines cover the forest floor and tree trunks.
- **Animal Life and Birds:** You can see colourful regent bowerbirds and hear loud catbirds. There is no guarantee of sighting and please do not feed the birds and wildlife.

Cultural commitment – respecting and protecting

QJS commits to not selling merchandise derived from heritage artefacts or items of significant cultural value and advice is provided to customers to not purchase these items from other sources.

Always ask:

Who and where is the artist from?

How did the artwork or product get to the gallery or shop?

What are the royalties or licensing fees for reproductions of artist's works?

Is the gallery or shop a member of the Indigenous Art Code?

Please note – Oreilly's gift shop during the Green Mountain Tour has items labelled with indigenous artist bio and appropriately acknowledged verification of authentic art. You can read the artist's story behind the artwork.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Yugambeh language-speaking peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we gather today, including the ancient landscapes of Natural Bridge and Green Mountains. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and recognise their enduring connection to Country, culture, and community. For countless generations, the Yugambeh people have cared for these forests, waterways, mountains, and wildlife, sustaining the deep knowledge and traditions that continue today. As we enjoy and learn from these remarkable places, we acknowledge their cultural significance and commit to walking respectfully on Country, honouring the stories, wisdom, and custodianship of First Nations peoples