

CHANGE OF SCENE

Whether immersing yourself in nature or staying at luxury resorts, holidays don't have to cost the earth

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CONSERVATION SAFARI

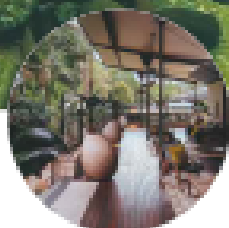
Queensland

FMS Nature Tours showcases the tropical north's wilderness, but on its four-day Nature, Wildlife and Conservation Safari you can also get hands-on with wildlife rescue and rehabilitation and help with research aiming to preserve endangered wildlife. Quolls, tree kangaroos, pademelons, rock wallabies and lace monitors are some of the possible encounters, while you'll also meet conservation experts and get to explore extraordinary places like the Daintree Rainforest and Great Lakes National Park. fmsnaturetours.com.au

GRAMPLANS PEAKS TRAIL

Victoria

What's quickly become known as the GPT has finally made walking the length of the spectacular Gramplans National Park (southward) possible. It takes 13 days to walk the 100km, or just choose a section to suit. The trail has been designed to minimise environmental impact, with natural rock slabs, hike-in campgrounds that blend into the landscape, and systems to treat or remove wastewater. visitgramplans.com.au



CRYSTALBROOK BYRON

New South Wales

This rainforest resort is part of Crystalbrook Collection's portfolio of hotels in Australia. The hospitality group promotes sustainable luxury, from reusable glass water bottles and waste-free bathrooms to sourcing 80 per cent of fresh produce within three hours' drive of its properties. Its Byron Bay resort's initiatives also include composting, hosting beehives, partnering with a local eco-friendly fashion label for uniforms and donating 5¢ to Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital for every Pilsner Lager sold. crystalbrookcollection.com



WHALE WATCHING

Tasmania

Take whale watching to the next level by paddling in a See Kayak with southern See Ventures. The company's four-day Tasman Peninsula See Kayak and whale watch escape is timed to coincide with the annual humpback and southern right whale migration along the coast from May to November. The tour also includes short cliff-top hikes for whale spotting from on high, a half-day cruise, insights from a biologist and accommodation at a private seaside lodge. southernseeswhales.com



HIDEAWAY LITCHFIELD

Northern Territory

Enjoy stylish, self-contained comfort near Litchfield National Park, home to stunning waterfalls and magnetic-termite mounds spaced 70m apart. Hideaway's solar-powered cabins are upcycled shipping containers filled out with natural materials including wood and stone. A third, two-storey cabin recently opened complete with a covered deck, balcony and floor-to-ceiling windows for that incredible Top end indoor-outdoor living. hideawaylitchfield.com

We all love to take a holiday but, increasingly, more of us are considering how our travels are creating an impact on the planet. According to Booking.com's 2021 Sustainable Travel Report, 89 per cent of global travellers think sustainable travel is vital, with 61 per cent saying the pandemic has made them want to travel more sustainably in the future.

So, how do you have a more eco-conscious holiday? For starters, you could pay a tiny bit extra to carbon offset your flight and accept accommodation offers to not wash sheets and towels daily.

As more tourism businesses roll out the green carpet, we highlight some ideas for your next trip.

Gemtree Wines

South Australia

Taste the difference at this McLaren Vale winery, which champions biodynamic farming practices including natural fertilisers and sheep grazing to control weeds. Find out more with Gemtree's guided being biodynamic experience, and wander the 8km eco trail that winds through regenerated bush and wetland. Your designated driver will love the option of staying in an off-grid, low-impact cabin minimum two-night stay. gemtreewines.com