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## **Gourmet Safari to Byron Bay – 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

### **SAMPLE ITINERARY**

Byron Bay and its lush hinterland is literally heaven on earth; the beaches are long and pristine, the rainforest and farmland is magnificent - the rich volcanic soil perfect for growing a huge range of fruit and vegetables...which makes it a perfect place to explore, meet some inspiring locals and taste some of the best the region has to offer.

We stay in luxurious accommodation at the glamorous resort right on Belongil Beach – Elements of Byron – where you can start the day with a long beach walk, a swim or yoga on the headland overlooking the stretch of sand. Each day is filled with simply perfect moments... you'll meet people who have created lush gardens and farms from nothing, people who grow exceptional produce including a visit to a true Garden of Eden, a couple who created their own rainforest and make some very cool gin from the berries they grow; we meet many talented chefs and visit some of the top restaurants and a great local produce market... there's time for you to unwind, enjoy a spa treatment, laze by a choice of 2 exceptional pools, walk along the beach at our doorstep or the quiet stillness of the rainforest. We want to give you a real taste of one of our favourite places at this most romantic time of year – Valentine's Day.

**Host:** Maeve O'Meara

#### **Day 1 – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

We will pick you up in a luxurious coach at **Ballina Airport** at 12 noon (**Note – Please check with us before booking flights**) This gives enough time for flights from major capitals. Please advise Suzy of which flight you're due in on. Wear or bring shoes that you can comfortably walk around a farm in.

We drive to the beautiful property of our friends John and Lyndall Piccone. We'll settle in for a long lunch with a nod to John's Sicilian background – antipasto and lamb on the spit with many accompaniments then we'll explore the Garden of Eden he's planted and nurtured over many years – a huge orchard full of tropical fruit - you'll see and try varieties that have yet to be seen commercially... truly a dream to walk and taste and enjoy.

Late afternoon we drive to our beautiful accommodation at Elements of Byron, with its huge swimming pool, cafe and restaurant, set right on Belongil Beach. **Lunch, welcome drinks at the resort**

#### **Day 2 – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

Optional Yoga on the headland overlooking the beach to start the day. Enjoy a relaxed breakfast before heading out for the day.

We'll drive to the famous lighthouse, the most easterly point of Australia and have a good walk to get up an appetite for later.

We'll head to lunch on a farm then spend the afternoon with a charming family who created their own rainforest and have a very cool gin distillery.

Return to our resort to swim and enjoy that perfect beach. **Breakfast, lunch, tastings**

### **Day 3 - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

Yoga - if you like. Another relaxed breakfast.

We walk amongst the area's lovely coffee plantation Zentveld's coffee at Newrybar before enjoying a great cup of coffee then visit Anthony Hotson to learn how he harvests the rainforest to make some delicious foods, head to the beach at Lennox head for lunch at Shelter. Afternoon explore in the village of Bangalow then a swim or walk.

Dinner tonight is at a local favourite restaurant. **Breakfast, lunch, dinner**

### **Day 4 – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

Yoga and breakfast.

Free morning to stroll that fabulous beach on our doorstep, catch the train into Byron, book a spa treatment or enjoy the pool at our resort.

In the afternoon we visit the glorious Tweed Gallery for a guided visit through this beautifully designed art space. Dinner at the popular La Casita in Brunswick Heads. **Breakfast, dinner**

### **Day 5 - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

Breakfast and a visit to the vibrant produce markets at Byron which are full of the best produce of the area and really give you a feel for the rich vibrancy of the place. There are so many people we enjoy speaking with and learning from...including the market supremo, passionfruit farmer Tom Carey.

Change of pace as we head to the acclaimed Pipit restaurant and an exclusive lunch with the brilliant chef Ben Devlin, who uses local produce so inventively. Lunch is a glorious 5 courses with matched wines.

Relaxed evening at resort. **Breakfast, lunch, tastings**

### **Day 6 – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

Yoga and Breakfast – check out.

Bus to airport - depart mid-morning to arrive 12 noon for afternoon flights. **Breakfast**

**Costs: Botanica Villa - \$3750 per person twin share. Single supplement + \$900.  
2 bedroom villa - \$3750 per person + \$775 supplement**

**Please note:** Accommodation is in stylish villas – doubles and singles will have their own villa and twin share will be in 2 bedroom villa (each bedroom with its own bathroom)

**Includes:** 5 nights luxury accommodation in Byron Bay, return coach transport from Ballina Airport and transport throughout the tour, meals as specified - 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners, many with wine included, tours, tastings and tips.

**Not included:** Airfares, taxes, and items of a personal nature.

### **Terms and conditions:**

**Deposit and Payment:** A **non-refundable deposit** of \$500 per person is required on confirmation in order to secure your reservation. Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure date.

**Special Requirements:** Please advise Gourmet Safaris of any special requirements such as Special Meals, Medical Requirements etc., as soon as possible. If you get motion sickness it is imperative that you bring with you motion sickness pills as we travel by boat and coach through sometimes winding and bumpy roads.

**Travel Insurance:** We strongly recommend you purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy of your choice at the time of booking. Insurance covers cancellation fees payable for airline tickets, accommodation, loss of deposit, luggage etc. Normal travel insurance conditions apply. (Insurance may not cover trip cancellation due to pre-existing medical conditions). Please read your policy carefully.

**Cancellation:** If cancelling prior to final payment the deposit is non-refundable. After final payment is received a cancellation fee of approximately 75% applies. This percentage may be less depending on the date of cancellation. A cancellation fee of 100% is applicable within 14 days of travel. If cancellation is not due to pre-existing illnesses, travel insurance will cover most or all of the cancellation fee. Please read your policy carefully.

**Pricing:** All prices are shown in Australian dollars and are current at the date of printing this itinerary. If there is a dramatic fluctuation in the exchange rate or the price of services provided, which are beyond the control of Gourmet Safaris, Gourmet Safaris reserves the right to adjust tour prices accordingly, even though the balance of payment may have been made. This would only happen in unusual circumstances

**Exclusions:** Excess baggage, extra meals, laundry, drinks and items of a personal nature.

**Itinerary Validity and Content:** This itinerary is valid for the period of **2021** unless otherwise specified. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. Gourmet Safaris shall not be liable for any injury, damage or loss caused by any inaccuracy. Gourmet Safaris reserves the right to change tour arrangements or accommodations due to safety or security reasons, and will endeavour to provide alternative arrangements of the same standard as that originally booked.

**Disclaimer:** Gourmet Safaris is not a carrier or hotelier, nor do we own aircraft, hotels or coaches. The services Gourmet Safaris supplies consist of arranging and coordinating accommodation, tours and transfers, making bookings and issuing vouchers to be redeemed by suppliers if necessary. We exercise every care in the selection of reputable airlines, tour operators, coach operators, hotels and other suppliers of the various travel services which are used in these tours. It is important to note, therefore, all bookings with Gourmet Safaris are subject to the terms, conditions and limitations of liability imposed by the service providers whose services we utilise, some of which limit or exclude liability in respect of death, personal injury, delay and loss or damage of baggage. Because of this Gourmet Safaris does not accept liability for events beyond our control nor liability for accidents incurred due to actions taken at your own risk.

**Clients' Responsibilities:** It is your responsibility to obtain passports, health certificates or other travel documents where required for the tour. It remains your responsibility to ensure that these documents are in order and to meet any additional costs incurred as a result of failure to comply with such requirements. It is also your responsibility to obtain any vaccinations that may be required to travel.