

# Do you get butterflies when you go on holiday?

by Eddy & Kathy - the resident managers

*What a lovely place - Coffs Harbour*

**D**o you remember a time back in your youth, the excitement of running after a butterfly as if flits erratically from flower to flower, and wonder at the beauty of the colours on its wings? If you do, there is an absolute treat waiting for you and your children/grandchildren at the Butterfly House in Bonville, NSW which is a very short distance south of sunny Coffs Harbour.

The indoor facilities have dozens of butterflies of different types, mesmerising the guests. I particularly enjoyed watching one emerging from a chrysalis and pump up its wings. A visit to the Butterfly House should be on everyone's bucket list. It is such a unique experience. The kids will also be captivated by the dinosaur forest where life-sized dinosaurs don't just roar, they move as well. There is also a maze to occupy them, if you prefer to sip your coffee without interruptions.

Bonville is also the home of the stunningly picturesque Bonville Golf Club. The course quality and vistas are well above average. To enjoy it, you need to have a reasonable handicap. While

it is more expensive to play here than at your average club, people who have done so tell us it is a treasured, somewhat unique experience, so it is worth the higher cost.



*Wonder at a Wanderer Butterfly and many others*

Another unique experience is to watch wooden clogs being made at the Clog Barn, unless you are prepared to travel to Holland. Built in the Dutch barn style and serving Dutch delicacies in the café, time your visit to 11.00 am, 2.00pm or 4.00 pm to coincide with the clog making.

While there are dolphin shows in many places, it is a rather exceptional experience to become a trainer for a day at the Dolphin Marine

Conservation Park. If you want an extra special memory, the experiences on offer will be right up your alley. Book an ultimate swim with the dolphins, or a seal experience or choose from many more. Our guests rate these experiences as being the best in Australia. The key thing is to book your experience before you arrive because the opportunities get booked out well in advance.

In and around Coffs Harbour there is so much to see and do, you could come back several times and still not experience them all. Everyone will know about the Big Banana amusement park, and it is definitely worth a visit. If you like a challenge, the Treetop Adventure Park will have you ziplining and traversing aerial walkways. As an API member you can **get 10% off** the tickets at the Treetop Adventure Park by purchasing them through the **API website** and clicking on **Experience Oz**. The Forest Sky Pier is almost opposite the Treetop Adventure Park. It is free to enter and is a great place to walk out over the edge of the mountain and see for miles up and down the coast as well as looking over the tiny map of the Coffs Harbour township below.



*The Old Butter Factory in Bellingen serves delicious food and great coffee*

If you want a slightly more sedate experience, Dorrigo National Park offers a very scenic drive and wonderful picnic spots. So does a trip down to the quaint town of Bellingen, where the markets are a real draw card and so are eateries such as the Old Butter Factory Café, where even your pets are welcome. Bellingen is located on the Waterfall Way, which is a spectacular route leading all the way through to Armidale if you have enough time and inclination.



*Scrumptious food at the Old Butter Factory in Bellingen*

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