



## Bugs and Other Critters

Being in the middle of the oldest rainforest on earth you will encounter some insects and wildlife during your stay. Around the house we tend not to see too much, but it is good to be aware, especially at night.

We do have an endless stream of butterflies fluttering past the deck. The Ulysses is the most common, but we also get a myriad of smaller species and the majestic Cairns Birdwing, especially when the Ice Cream Bean tree is in flower outside the kitchen window..



This is also a bird watchers paradise with a huge number of different species that can be spotted at different times of the year.

You may well spot an Eastern Water Dragon sunning themselves on the rocks during the day. These are medium sized lizards which are very timid.



Frogs are semi-regular visitors on the verandah, both the green tree frog varieties and smaller brown frogs. They will not take much notice of you and generally stay in the same spot for an entire day and/or night.

Little micro-bats can sometimes be seen buzzing around just before dark. These will not hurt you and eat mosquitoes, so are a welcome sight. You may also see spectacled flying foxes feeding in the fig trees or flying overhead.

Mosquitoes can sometimes be a problem, but we provide mosquito coils which are very effective at keeping them at bay. Many small insects are attracted to the lights at night. We suggest keeping screens closed at all times to prevent them from venturing in.

There are also many varieties of spiders in the rainforest, but unless you're trekking through an unused track (which we discourage), you are unlikely to come across these. You may find small harmless spiders on webs throughout the garden.

Of course, the waterhole is teeming with jungle perch, and a few small catfish. The smaller ponds are home to turtles, small fresh-water crays and occasional eels.

The above are the most frequently sighted critters at Daintree Secrets. People always ask us about crocodiles but we are too far upstream for crocodiles and the water is too cold for them.

Snakes are the next most asked about critter – there is always a possibility that you could see a carpet snake (which is harmless) but they appear rarely. If you do see a snake, just avoid going near it. They are not interested in you. If a snake is on the deck and not moving anywhere, you can call our caretaker who will come over and remove it.

Small animals do live in the rainforest, but are rarely seen. There are small marsupials that are nocturnal and may be seen if you are driving at night, or take the torch out for some spotlighting.

Wild pigs can occasionally be seen early in the morning or late afternoon in the area, but none have been sighted at Daintree Secrets.

The musky rat kangaroo and Bennett's Tree Kangaroo are also native to the area, but spotted rarely. The striped possum can make an appearance at night, and keep an eye out for fireflies on the far side of the swimming hole and upstream.

Cassowaries can be seen throughout the area but they are typically shy. We occasionally have cassowaries visit Daintree Secrets. Keep your eyes open while out driving though, as sightings are common.

#### Interacting with Wildlife at Daintree Secrets

If you are lucky enough to see a cassowary or any other wildlife whilst at Daintree Secrets do not be afraid, but do not make any sudden movements.

Do not corner, chase or provoke wildlife into performing particular behaviours (e.g. flying, gliding, defence display, etc.)

Do not touch or feed wildlife

Be respectful of any animals you see.

I hope this has helped to allay the fears of those nervous about what they may encounter while in the rainforest. Relax and enjoy your stay at Daintree Secrets.