

Media Release



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Silky Oaks Lodge Opens in Queensland's Tropical North

Baillie Lodges has revealed a new-look Silky Oaks Lodge, the newest luxury lodge in its growing portfolio, which has opened amongst the leafy canopy of the Daintree Rainforest following a \$20 million refurbishment. Long regarded as the region's luxury bolthole, the stylish rainforest retreat is set to offer a revitalised experience of Queensland's magnificent tropical north.

Following an architectural redesign and 20-month build, Silky Oaks Lodge has emerged from its chrysalis with a fresh, contemporary style featuring soaring ceilings, slowly turning fans and generous open-air spaces designed to welcome in the sights and sounds of the rainforest.

The new experience starts even before check-in, as guests making the 50-minute journey to Silky Oaks Lodge along the Great Barrier Reef Drive can tune in to Baillie Lodges' new [Luxury Redefined](#) podcast for a virtually escorted arrival. Timed to align with the drive from Cairns Airport to the lodge, the podcast offers a personalised introduction to the destination and its people, from Baillie Lodges Founders James and Hayley and Silky Oaks Lodge Manager Sonya Boaden to Walkabout Cultural Adventures' First Nations guide Juan Walker and commissioned artist Catherine Nelson.

The main lodge and 40 guest suites have been recreated to reflect the Baillie Lodges style in cool, contemporary luxury with king beds, premium finishes and now-famous attention to detail. Generous in- and outdoor lounging spaces feature specially designed furniture and commissioned artworks offer a real sense of the destination. An in-suite bar is stocked with local gourmet treats. Private decks feature hammocks ready to sway in the afternoon breeze and outdoor baths invite gazing to the treetops.

Executive Chef Mark Godbeer heads up the Silky Oaks Lodge kitchen and has worked with the region's producers to create a refreshing, daily changing menu ideally suited to the tropical climate. Breakfast, sunset drinks and canapés and dinner are included in the tariff, while a la carte lunch is available. A walk through the new Kitchen Garden reveals a very short 'plant to plate' journey.

An itinerary of included signature experiences includes morning yoga, rainforest walks and drifting in the Mossman River. Silky Oaks Lodge is centrally located to many of the broader region's natural attractions, making it a hub for adventures in the Daintree Rainforest and Mossman Gorge, Port Douglas, the Great Barrier Reef, the Atherton Tablelands and the wilderness of Cape Tribulation. The lodge has established partnerships with the region's premium local operators to offer guests a swag of experiences from Indigenous guided hikes and snorkelling the reef to scenic helicopter flights.

Baillie Lodges Founder James Baillie said it was personally very special to bring a new generation of guests to Silky Oaks Lodge under the Baillie Lodges banner.

“The property has always held a place in my heart as I was the general manager there in the mid-1990s, so having it under our own brand is a circle completed” Mr Baillie said.

“It’s now a very different time for Queensland tourism, and we’re thrilled to invest in the destination and its operators, bringing a stylish and contemporary vibe to the luxury lodge and offering so many ways for our guests to experience the tropical north,” he said.

Set adjacent to the World Heritage-listed wilderness of the Daintree National Park and along the banks of the gently flowing Mossman River, Silky Oaks Lodge offers guests a stylish rainforest escape, with experiences spanning river-snorkelling, driving safaris, Indigenous guided walks, the lodge’s own Healing Waters Spa and access to Port Douglas and the Great Barrier Reef.

Image for download [here](#):



Editors’ Notes: Baillie Lodges is a growing portfolio of luxury lodges renowned for setting benchmarks in premium experiential travel. Set in exclusive locations of unique natural or cultural significance, the boutique properties appeal to the discerning global traveller seeking a remarkable experience. The Australia-based collection was founded in 2003 by James and Hayley Baillie and includes Longitude 131° at Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Capella Lodge on Lord Howe Island and Silky Oaks Lodge at the Daintree Rainforest. Flagship property Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island was destroyed in the 2020 bushfires and its rebuild is in progress, with an anticipated reopening in mid-2023. In 2019, an affiliate of KSL Capital Partners acquired Baillie Lodges with the aim to further expand the unique collection of luxury lodges. The addition of Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge on Canada’s Vancouver Island and New Zealand’s Huka Lodge marked the collection’s foray into international waters. Most recently, The Louise in the Barossa Valley has joined the family, heralding Baillie Lodges return to South Australia. For more information, please visit baillielodges.com.au. Baillie Lodges’ Australian properties are honoured as members of [Luxury Lodges of Australia](#).