



CALL OF THE WILD

Louise Martin-Chew finds an oasis where the rainforest meets the reef.

The road in from the Daintree forest can be an adventure, and the traveller arriving at Coconut Beach Rainforest Resort could be excused for repairing immediately to The Long House. This is the site of the resort restaurant, coffee shop and bar. Overlooking the unspoilt expanse of Coconut Beach, the abundant tropical vegetation and the free-form swimming pool, this luxurious shelter is the oasis for which the wet road was negotiated.

Cape Tribulation, 150km north of Cairns, is renowned as the point where the rainforest meets the reef. Here the environment dominates. Every effort has been made to maintain the natural beauty of the 18 hectares of the Coconut Beach Resort. Buildings, activities and guest accommodation are designed in harmony with the surroundings, and this 'close to nature' experience also includes a comfortable room, quality facilities and helpful staff.

On arrival, a guided walk provides a gentle

introduction to rainforest ecology. A slide show which soon follows reveals a myriad of outdoor activities designed to tempt the visitor — a variety of reef and snorkelling trips, inland safaris, horse riding and swimming, all designed to draw the most indolent guest into an active environmental experience.

Accommodation, in the form of 27 huts, is set in lush tropical vegetation. Verandahs on the pole-framed buildings overlook the resort

and provide each unit with an outdoor area. In keeping with the rustic architecture of the resort, is the Round House, which contains the breakfast bar, library and reading room for quieter moments. World Heritage rainforest surrounds the resort, and the noise of animals and the rustling of plants intermingles with those of holidaying people, inducing relaxation.

Tariffs at the resort begin at \$115 per person per night. The road to Cape Tribulation

is partly sealed, but if the Daintree ferry crossing and drive do not appeal, alternatives are available. Coaches travelling to Coconut Beach leave from Cairns, personalised transfers may be arranged from Cairns Airport, or choose between boat, light aircraft or helicopter, also from Cairns.

*Coconut Beach Resort,
Cape Tribulation,
Far North Queensland.
Telephone (070) 52 1311.* 📞