

SECTION 2

RECREATION OFFICER

Great. Well, hi, everyone! My name's Jody and I'm one of the four recreation officers here at Rainforest Lodge. My job is to make sure that you all have a great stay here with us and go away feeling relaxed and refreshed. As you can see, we're literally in the middle of nowhere at the Lodge. There are no newspapers or TVs and there's only

Q11

one phone and that's in the office. The Lodge is a complete 'getaway from it all' experience: a place to unwind and appreciate the world without a lot of interruptions and distractions.

From your cabin balcony you'll find that you can't see anyone else and the only noise you should hear is the birds. When the luggage comes, one of the guys will take it across to your cabin for you and make sure you know the way back here to the main centre for dinner in the restaurant. Dinner will be served in about an hour or so. Q12

All the times of each day's activities are printed on the blue sheet you should have got in the information guides that were handed out on the coach. Each Explorer trip has a different focus, so it doesn't matter how many you do or on what day, because there's always something new to discover in the rainforest.

Tomorrow I think we've still got places on the Orchid and Fungi Tour. This is on foot and takes you to different parts of the rainforest. Or, if you'd prefer, there's the Four-Wheel-Drive tour to the waterfalls, or the fishing trip where I promise you we'll catch some lunch, and last but not least, the famous Crocodile Cruise that leaves at 11 am each day. (Just in time for the crocodile's lunch!) Plenty to choose from here at Rainforest Lodge or just sit on your balcony, relax and unwind and enjoy the views. In the evenings there is the Spotlight Tour, one of my favourites. The Spotlight Tour leaves at sundown and lets you catch a glimpse of some more of the rainforest's wildlife as it comes out at dusk to feed. That's a great trip and if you can, I'd really try to make sure you do it during your stay.

You've chosen to visit the rainforest in March, which is just at the end of the wet season, so you'll soon notice how well the waterfalls are running and also how damp the ground is. Things can tend to get a bit slippery, too, so if you didn't bring any walking boots I'd advise you to hire some from the office. You'll also be much better off in long trousers rather than shorts because they will give your legs more protection, and socks are a good idea too. Q16 Q17 Q18

There's no need to be nervous of the rainforest provided that you treat it with respect and common sense. Most of the animals and wildlife are gentle and harmless. There are some venomous snakes to beware of, but really they're much more frightened of you than you are of them. The other thing is that certain plants can cause irritation if you touch them with bare skin. Q19 Q20

Well, that's about all for the time being. The guys are here to take you and your luggage to the cabins...