

Australian Butterfly Sanctuary

Australian Butterfly Sanctuary is the largest butterfly flight aviary and exhibit in Australia. Home to over 1,500 magnificent tropical butterflies including the majestic green Cairns Birdwing, the sanctuary is an all-weather experience in the heart of Kuranda.

You'll be enchanted by these elusive wonders of nature as you wander through the aviary's boardwalks and gardens, set in a picturesque rainforest backdrop.

Download our free Audio Tour and make the most of our extensive signage and you will learn to identify each of the butterfly species. Be sure to wear something bright (we recommend red, white or hot pink) and let these beautiful creatures flutter all over you!

You can also enjoy a tour behind the scenes in the breeding laboratory, housing up to 4,000 caterpillars. This world-class educational experience provides an opportunity to see the caterpillars and pupae in their varying stages of development whilst our dedicated team work.

Learn more about these magical creatures with our educational exhibits. See a butterfly wing through a microscope, observe Silk Moth Caterpillars, the massive Hercules Moth and the insects in our Mini Beasts display. See through the eyes of a butterfly in the UV Room and be amazed at butterflies from all over the globe in our museum displays.

Learn about caterpillar food host plants and how they are used in our laboratory on our new 20-minute food plant walk and wander into our Fairy Garden to see dainty butterflies amongst a fairy-dotted mini world.

Our butterflies are reared on the premises. Our laboratory staff collect eggs daily and "hand-raise" the caterpillars right through to the chrysalis stage, until they are released as butterflies into the Sanctuary daily, at approximately 11:30am and 2:30pm.