



Mobility fact sheet



Positioned between lush rainforest, sugar cane fields and rolling mountains in Queensland's tropical north, Silky Oaks Lodge offers guests a chance to surround themselves in the beauty of the World Heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest. The treehouse-inspired main lodge is a hub for guests, with expansive lounge, bar and dining space. Elevated guest suites are dotted around the grounds, designed to keep guests cool while minimising impact on the natural environment.

A stay at Silky Oaks Lodge ideally places guests to explore the region's spectacular natural attractions including Mossman Gorge, the Great Barrier Reef and Cape Tribulation.

For elderly guests or those who experience temporary or ongoing mobility issues, some considered advance planning ensures a rewarding and comfortable experience of Tropical North Queensland.

Accommodation

Luxury guest treehouses are linked via winding, cement pathways to the main lodge, the pool and the Healing Waters Spa. Set above the forest floor suites are generally accessible via a short flight of stairs. The dedicated wheelchair/mobility-accessible Garden Retreat is generously sized to allow ample space to move around the room. It's located close to the main lodge and features level ramp access to reach the central guest areas. The accessible Garden Retreat features a level bathroom with aids including grab rails, barrier-free shower and integrated shower chair that can fold away when not in use. Additionally, guests with limited mobility may easily access the outdoor deck. The accessible Garden Retreat is best requested at the time of booking and has a fixed king bed.

Access to guest recreation areas

Garden pathways

Many of the cement pathways around the lodge are quite steep and may prove challenging for navigation by wheelchair. These steep pathways limit access to the pool, self-guided walks and guest laundry facilities. Some paths feature handrails, while others do not.

Main lodge

Set in the cool shade of a soaring skillion roofline, the central complex is home to the Treehouse Restaurant and bar, Kubirri Lounge, Marrdja Pavilion and Jungle Perch along with reception and boutique. The main lodge flows on one level throughout all areas, while the Treehouse Restaurant is tiered over two levels joined by a couple of steps. A portable ramp can be fitted on request for access.

Pool

The swimming pool at Silky Oaks Lodge is surrounded by a wooden deck and is accessible from the lower level of the main lodge via several steps with a handrail. Those with limited mobility can be escorted to this area in a motorised golf buggy.

Guest laundry

The guest laundry is located on the ground floor of the lodge (adjacent to the pool entrance) and access to this area is as per the description above. A wash and fold service is available to guests, coordinated by the Guest Services team.



Riverbank

The Mossman River is located below the main lodge with two access points which both involve stairs. On the eastern side of the lodge, a steep stairway leads to the riverbank hut where the kayaks and snorkel gear are stored for guest use. On the western side of the lodge, a descending boardwalk with intermittent steps leads to a rocky outcrop before reaching the sandbank on the river's edge. We advise that the riverbank is not accessible by wheelchair and not recommended for those with mobility issues.

Kitchen Garden

The Kitchen Garden is accessed via a cement pathway from the main boardwalk. Please note for wheelchair access, there is a two-metre section of stones to cross from the pathway into the Kitchen Garden. Assistance can be provided by Silky Oaks Lodge staff if required. The Kitchen Garden features flat, hard pathways suitable for guests on foot or in a wheelchair. Note, as it's a working garden we advise guests to take care in the space.

Gym & media room

The gym and media room adjoin the Kitchen Garden. They can be accessed via a cement pathway from the main boardwalk and then via the ramp at the eastern side of the Kitchen Garden.

Healing Waters Spa

Access to the Healing Waters Spa is via a level pathway leading to a sliding entrance door. Silky Oaks Lodge spa therapists can tailor a treatment to suit guests' needs and comfort. For occupational health and safety reasons, Silky Oaks Lodge spa therapists and staff cannot physically assist guests, however, treatment tables can be lowered to accommodate transfer from a mobility aid to table. The bathroom and change room area in the spa offers wheelchair access to the toilet, however, not to the shower. Please note this area does not include grab rails.

Port Douglas transfers

Silky Oaks Lodge offers guests a daily scheduled courtesy shuttle service to and from Port Douglas. Transfers are operated on a shared basis with other guests in vehicles which offer generous seating but which are not equipped with ramps or lifts. Wheelchairs and aids need to be folded and stored in the boot. Guests and their travel companions need to be willing and able to assist with lifting themselves and any equipment in and out of vehicles.

Experiences

Lodge experiences

During a stay at Silky Oaks Lodge, guests may join a daily guided walk around the lodge grounds and wheelchair access can be arranged with advance notice. A series of self-guided walking trails is also available, however, as bush paths the terrain is uneven, undulating and steeply inclined in some places. There are no built-in handrails. Private experiences can be arranged at an additional cost, subject to availability and accessibility.

Regional touring

Silky Oaks Lodge works with preferred local tour operators who provide specialised adventures exploring the Daintree Rainforest, Cape Tribulation and the Great Barrier Reef. Mobility access varies between experiences and we recommend contacting the lodge to discuss the activities of interest prior to booking. For many, a visit to Mossman Gorge is a must-do when visiting the region and the shuttle bus, picnic area, toilets and the rainforest boardwalk Baral Marrjanga track which leads from the car park to the Mossman River lookout are all wheelchair accessible.