

# Welcome to Hinchinbrook Island National Park

Delve into the wild paradise of spectacular, World Heritage-listed, Hinchinbrook Island. Rising dramatically from Great Barrier Reef waters, Hinchinbrook's rugged mountain range and untouched sweeping beaches create a superb backdrop for an exhilarating tropical adventure.

Hike the challenging, world-renowned Thorsborne Trail, fish the famous Hinchinbrook Channel and Missionary Bay, kayak from one perfect beach to the next or simply enjoy a day visit discovering the island's magic.

Middens, and the remains of fish traps made from stone, are the enduring reminders that First Nations peoples lived on Hinchinbrook Island for many thousands of years. Today, First Nations peoples continue to care for the island and work alongside Rangers to preserve its values. They welcome you to their special place and ask that you visit with care and respect.

“Hinchinbrook Island soothes your soul, leaves you refreshed and wanting more! This island paradise has it all—rugged mountains, crystal-clear creeks, enchanting waterfalls, secluded beaches and fringing reefs. From untouched rainforest to mountaintop heathlands, melaleuca swamps, mangroves and towering eucalypts, its beauty and diverse wildlife will captivate you. Come and experience the isolated splendour of Hinchinbrook Island and create your own everlasting memories; we guarantee you will fall in love with it too!

*Hinchinbrook Island Park Rangers*

## Getting there and getting around

Take a boat from either Cardwell or Dungeness, near Lucinda—vehicle parking is available near boat ramps. The only means of getting around the island is on foot or by vessel from bay to bay.

Walking the Thorsborne Trail? Local boat charters will drop-off and pick-up at the northern and southern end points of the trail. Visit [qld.gov.au/ThorsborneTrail](http://qld.gov.au/ThorsborneTrail) for details.

## Camping


If you're looking for isolation, tropical beaches, forest hideaways and boat-only access, Hinchinbrook is ideal for those seeking a secluded nature escape. Of the 16 camping areas, some are only for Thorsborne Trail walkers and some only for sea-kayakers.

Book your camping permit well in advance at [qld.gov.au/Camping](http://qld.gov.au/Camping)

## Camping on the Thorsborne Trail

The trail is very popular and often fully booked during peak periods and school holidays.

When booking, select 'Thorsborne Trail'. This gives you access to any Thorsborne Trail camping area during your walk and means you don't have to book each area separately.

 Little Ramsay Bay camping area (right); walking the trail (far right); when fishing, stand well back from the water (above).  
Tamara Vallance © Qld Govt (right); © Tamara Vallance (far right and (above))

© Ben Blanche







## Boating, kayaking and fishing

Take your own or hire a boat to explore the rich waters beneath a dramatic skyline of rugged mountain peaks. Fish the famed Hinchinbrook Channel and Missionary Bay for some of the best saltwater sportfishing on the tropical Queensland coast. Green turtles, dolphins and dugongs often bob up for air and sometimes glide alongside—you'll never tire of spotting them!

Spend a few days paddling transparent waters from beach to beach along Hinchinbrook Island's idyllic east coast. Wash salty skin under rainforest waterfalls and enjoy colourful sunrises from your exclusive sea kayak-only camp site on the beach. If you don't have your own kayak, book a guided tour. Visit [queensland.com](http://queensland.com) for information.

## Check what you can do!

The waters adjacent to Hinchinbrook Island National Park are in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park. If you're heading out on the water, check marine park zoning maps and fishing information at [gbrmpa.qld.gov.au](http://gbrmpa.qld.gov.au) and [daf.qld.gov.au/fisheries](http://daf.qld.gov.au/fisheries)






Fishing, crabbing and bait collecting is prohibited in Channel 9 at Missionary Bay and in all freshwater streams, lagoons and creeks of the national park.








## Day visits

You don't have to hike the Thorsborne Trail to experience Hinchinbrook's magic. Find a boat or kayak and strand yourself for a day at a day-use area or enjoy a short walk into this island wilderness.



### Day-use areas at a glance

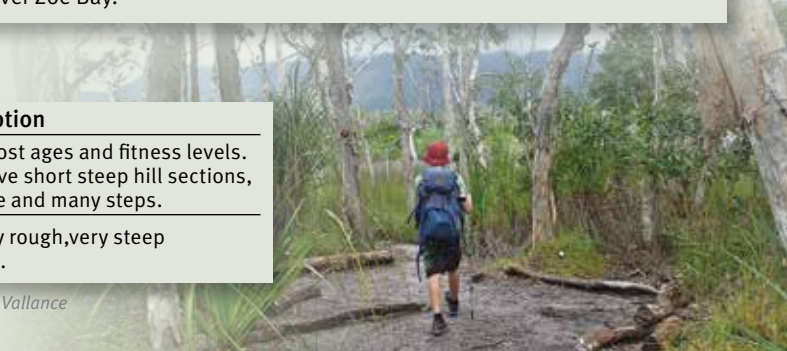
Day-use area	Facilities	Description
The Haven <b>1</b>		The only day-use area on the Hinchinbrook Channel is a great base for fishing and walking The Haven track <b>A</b> .
South Macushla <b>2</b>		This shady spot looking into Missionary Bay is an excellent base for fishing and has access to the North Shepherd Bay <b>B</b> and South Shepherd Bay <b>C</b> walking tracks via North Macushla <b>3</b> .
North Macushla <b>3</b>		A sandy beach backed by rainforest near the northern tip of the island. You can access the North Shepherd Bay <b>B</b> and South Shepherd Bay <b>C</b> walking tracks from here.
South Zoe Bay <b>12</b>		An idyllic, sheltered spot on Zoe Bay's expansive beach with beautiful Zoe Falls <b>13</b> just a few minutes away. Swimming in the freshwater pool at the base of the falls is a must!
George Point <b>16</b>		On the beach at the southern-most point of the island and easily accessed from Dungeness; this is also the southern drop-off/collection point for Thorsborne Trail walkers.

### Day walks at a glance

Track name	Grade	Distance	Walk time	Description
The Haven <b>A</b>		1km circuit	30min	Follow the circuit from The Haven day-use and camping areas along the bank of a serene freshwater creek.
North Shepherd Bay <b>B</b>		3.8km return	1hr	Walk from Macushla to North Shepherd Bay, then return the way you came. Look for nesting mounds of the orange-footed scrub fowl.
South Shepherd Bay <b>C</b>		7.6km return	3hr	From Macushla, walk to the isolated and wind-swept South Shepherd Bay beach. Return the way you came, do not attempt to walk around the headlands.
Nina Peak <b>3</b>		6.6km return from Ramsay Bay boardwalk	3hr	Conquer this challenging, unmarked climb to the peak for spectacular views over the wilds of Hinchinbrook and surrounding tropical waters.
Zoe Falls <b>13</b>		900m return	30min	Stroll from South Zoe Bay day-use area to refresh with a swim at the base of the falls. A difficult track leads to the top of the falls for a glorious view over Zoe Bay.

### Track and trail classification

Grade	Suits	Track description
3  .....	People with bushwalking experience	Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, rough surface and many steps.
5  .....	Very experienced bushwalkers	Tracks are very rough, very steep and unmarked.





## Further information

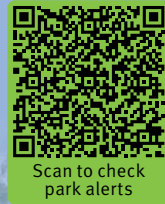
 [qld.gov.au/NationalParks](http://qld.gov.au/NationalParks)

 [qld.gov.au/Camping](http://qld.gov.au/Camping)

 [qldnationalparks](https://www.facebook.com/qldnationalparks)

 [@QldParks](https://www.instagram.com/QldParks); [#QldParks](https://www.instagram.com/QldParks)

This brochure is also available online at [qld.gov.au/ParkBrochures](http://qld.gov.au/ParkBrochures)



## Thorsborne Trail packlist

- Water containers to hold 4L of water per person, per day. Remember to treat collected water before drinking.
- Personal locator beacon (PLB) and satellite phone (mobile phone coverage is unreliable).
- First-aid kit including compression bandage, space blanket, electrolytes and medications.
- Sturdy walking shoes and clothing to protect yourself from the sun, rain and insects.
- Insect repellent, hat, sunscreen and sunglasses.
- Trail guide or map, tide timetable for Lucinda, and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Map 6 (Innisfail).
- Fuel stove with spare fuel and cooking equipment.
- Torch or headlamp.
- Toilet paper and hand trowel.
- Nourishing food that is compact and lightweight, plus 1–2 days extra emergency supply.
- High quality lightweight tent and sleeping gear.
- Waterproof pack liner or bag.
- Strong rubbish bags.

## Be Pest-free

Pest plants and animals can hitch a ride on your footwear, clothing, boats, vehicles and gear. Viruses, bacteria and fungi, transported in soil and mud can kill native plants and animals. National parks and our precious Great Barrier Reef World Heritage islands need your help to be pest-free.


### Before you visit:

- Check that your boat, clothing, footwear and gear are free of soil, seeds, parts of plants, eggs, insects, spiders, lizards, toads, rats and mice. Unpack your camping gear and check for hidden stowaways.
- Remove seeds from pockets, cuffs and velcro.
- Clean soil from footwear and gear.

### While on the island:

- Remove soil, weeds, seeds and pests from your boat, gear and clothes before moving to a new site.
- Wrap seeds and plant material, and place them in your rubbish.



 The bright blue fruit of native blue quandong (top) litter the rainforest floor. Curious fawn-footed melomys (above) and giant white-tailed rats might explore your camp. Use the pack racks provided—ensure your backpack is secured.

© Wet Tropics Management Authority (top); Emma Schmidt © Qld Govt (above); © Tamara Vallance (background)

 Little Ramsay Bay © Andrew Bain (front cover); Mulligan Falls © Garry Hutcheson (back cover)





# Hinchinbrook Island National Park

## Venture safely

- Leave your boating or hiking details with a responsible person and contact them when you return. Have a plan in place if you fail to contact them by the agreed time.
- Treat all water before using. Draw water from freshwater creeks and streams. If creeks are dry or salty at recommended watering points, head upstream.
- Cross creeks with care. Heavy rain causes creek levels to rise and fall rapidly. Plan to cross tidal creeks at low to half tide.
- Never swim in tidal waters. Dangerous stinging jellyfish ('stingers') may be present at any time, but more frequently in the warmer months.



## Be crocwise

### Hinchinbrook Island is crocodile country.

- Don't be ambushed—stay out of the water and away from the water's edge, especially when fishing.
- Supervise children closely—they can be easily distracted and may forget the potential danger.
- Camp as far from the water as possible—make it difficult for a crocodile to visit your camp.
- Don't leave food scraps or fish waste around—this attracts crocodiles and endangers lives.
- Never approach, feed or harass crocodiles—stay well away!

## Venture softly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Take all rubbish (including food scraps, cigarette butts and sanitary items) with you when you leave.
- Where toilets aren't provided, move well away from camp sites, walking tracks and creeks, and use a trowel to bury waste at least 15cm deep.
- Avoid contaminating water with soaps, detergents, toothpaste and cosmetics.
- Wash at least 50m from creeks and swimming holes. Use gritty sand and a scourer instead of soap to clean dishes and scatter wash water so that it filters through the soil.
- Stay on the walking tracks—shortcutting causes erosion and visual scarring misdirects walkers that follow.
- All plants and animals are protected. Do not remove plant material, living or dead.
- Don't feed fish and other wildlife—keep wildlife wild.

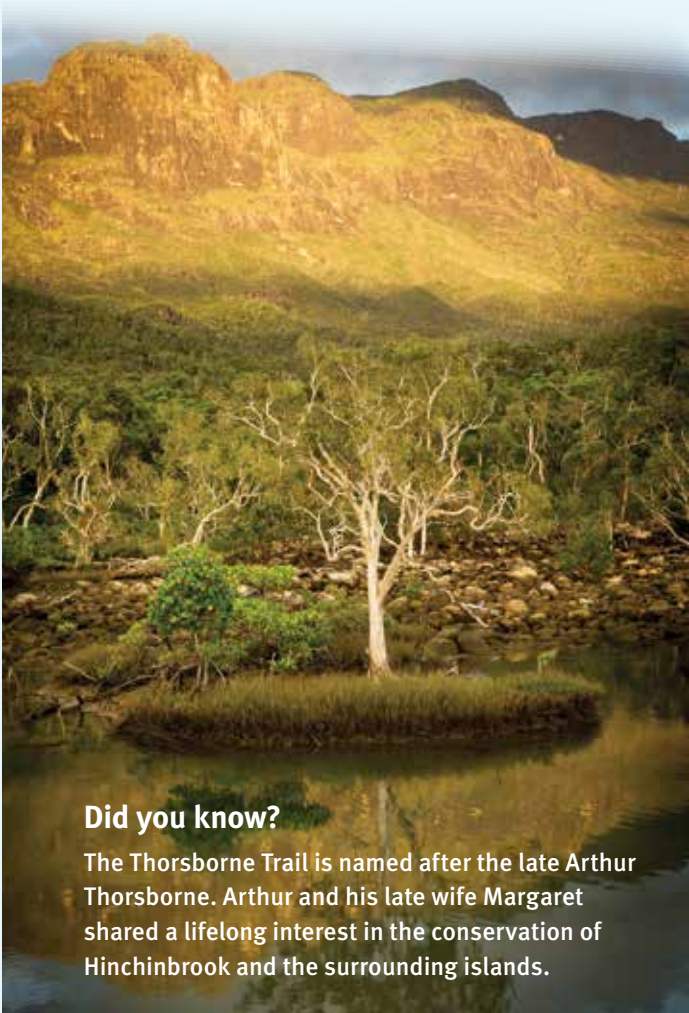
## In an emergency...

On the Thorsborne Trail, remain in your location, try calling Triple Zero (000) and activate your personal locator beacon. Mobile phone coverage is unreliable.

Or use marine radio on VHF channel 16 to call Australian Volunteer Coastguard at Ingham (call sign VMR414), Cardwell (on VMR423) or if these fail call Townsville (on VMR408).







### Did you know?

The Thorsborne Trail is named after the late Arthur Thorsborne. Arthur and his late wife Margaret shared a lifelong interest in the conservation of Hinchinbrook and the surrounding islands.

© Garry Hutcheson

## Thorsborne Trail

Trek 32km along Hinchinbrook's spectacular east coast on a rough, wilderness trail. Climb rugged heath-covered mountains for awesome views, stretch out along wild deserted beaches and creep through lush rainforest to splash into beautiful freshwater creeks and tropical waterfalls.

### Essential tips

Allow a minimum of 4 days (3 nights). Take longer to really enjoy the walk, and to swim, fish, watch wildlife and take photos along the way.

April to September are the best months for hiking and to avoid the very wet or very dry periods. The trail can sometimes be closed due to severe weather or planned burns. Fresh water availability can vary depending on season and rainfall. Treat collected water before drinking.

Walk the trail south from Ramsay Bay (following orange trail markers) or north from George Point (using yellow trail markers). Rock cairns are used where trail markers are absent. The north to south direction is described here. Visit [qld.gov.au/ThorsborneTrail](http://qld.gov.au/ThorsborneTrail) for more information.

Only fit, experienced and well-prepared walkers should venture onto the Thorsborne Trail. Plan your walk carefully to arrive at your camp in daylight. For suggested packing list see reverse side.



Tea-tree flowers  
© Tamara Vallance



## Trail notes

### Ramsay Bay to Nina Bay

4km (allow 2.5hr)

**Camping/pack racks and toilet:** Nina Bay

**Water:** 100–200m upstream of creeks at either end of Nina Bay

Head east from the ferry landing to the beach. At the southern end of Ramsay Bay ① an orange marker to the right of a large granite rock marks the trail head. Follow the ridge then descend to Blacksand Beach ②.

Continue along the beach beneath broad-leaved tea-trees then venture through tall open forest of Gympie messmate on to the saddle below Nina Peak ③.

Descend beside a seasonal creek into a forest of red-flowered black mangrove and spotted mangrove. It's best to cross the creek at low or half tide and then follow the trail at the edge of the mangroves to emerge near the northern end of serene Nina Bay ④.

### Nina Bay to Little Ramsay Bay

2.5km (allow 2 hr)

**Camping/pack racks and toilet:** Little Ramsay Bay—southern side of lagoon

**Water:** Little Ramsay Bay—creek upstream from the lagoon area

Scramble from Nina Bay ④ over rocky ground; climb a small cliff and follow the headland to Boulder Bay ⑤. Detour at very high tides through dense vegetation around the top of Nina headland. Rock hop around Boulder Bay to the headland at the southern end, and then follow the orange markers south-east, over a low ridge to Little Ramsay Bay ⑥.

### Little Ramsay Bay to Zoe Bay

10.5km (allow 6hr)

**Camping:** South Zoe Bay (has pack racks) and Banksia Bay

**Water:** Zoe Creek—600m upstream from the camp sites and Banksia Creek—100m upstream from the beach

**Toilet:** Zoe Bay—southern end

Trek south from Little Ramsay Bay ⑥, cross a tidal creek and rock hop around the headland to the next beach. Head to and then along another beach before veering south-east through a small gully to the top of a ridge.

Here, you can take a side path to Banksia Bay ⑦ (600m return) and a small camping area where golden orchids grow on beach-side rocks.

Following the main trail south, cross Banksia Creek ⑧ to the saddle between Banksia and Zoe bays. Descend from the saddle into a rocky creek and continue south-south-west through dry open forest, rainforest and mangrove swamps to North Zoe Creek ⑨.

Trudge through palm swamps and tall rainforest to Fan Palm Creek ⑩. The trail is hard to see so look carefully for trail markers.

Refill water containers at Fan Palm Creek ⑩ or Cypress Pine Creek ⑪ and prepare to wet your feet at creek crossings and swampy sections hiking to Zoe Bay ⑫. The mouth of South Zoe Creek is about 400m to the south.

Cool off in the pool at the base of Zoe Falls ⑬, 450m from South Zoe Bay camping area. Curious jungle perch will swim up to you if you sit quietly in the shadows and yabbies will nibble on your toes.

### Zoe Bay to Diamantina Creek

6.5km (allow 4hr)

**Camping:** Sunken Reef Bay—behind the foredune

**Water:** Sunken Reef Bay—creek at northern end of beach and Diamantina Creek

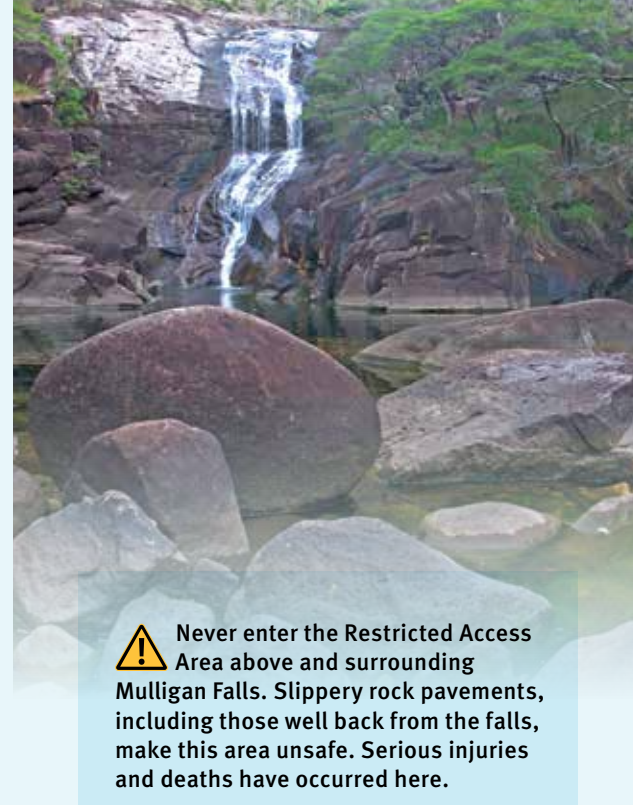
Follow the trail parallel to South Zoe Creek ⑭, before crossing it and climbing steeply to the granite slabs above Zoe Falls. Catch your breath and enjoy spectacular views!

Continue along South Zoe Creek then follow a spur to the granite rock pavement of a saddle. At 260m above the sea, this is the highest point on the Thorsborne Trail. On a clear day you will see the Palm islands and Magnetic Island to the south.

Cross the saddle and trek slopes of coastal she-oak and grasstrees before descending to the Diamantina Creek crossing, passing a side-track to Sunken Reef Bay ⑮ on the way.

### Sunken Reef Bay

Take a 30min diversion to Sunken Reef Bay camping area. You can draw water from a small creek at the northern end of the beach, or from Diamantina Creek ⑯ during the dry season.



**⚠ Never enter the Restricted Access Area above and surrounding Mulligan Falls. Slippery rock pavements, including those well back from the falls, make this area unsafe. Serious injuries and deaths have occurred here.**

© Andrew Bain

### Diamantina Creek to Mulligan Falls

1km (allow 30min)

**Camping/pack racks and water:** Mulligan Falls

Follow the markers across Diamantina Creek ⑯, taking care, especially after heavy rain. Climb the short slope then descend to the base of Mulligan Falls ⑰. Collect fresh water before you leave as water sources further along the trail are not reliable.

### Mulligan Falls to George Point

7.5km (allow 2.5hr)

**Camping/pack racks:** George Point—southern end of Mulligan Bay

**Toilet:** George Point

Follow the coast, travelling through rainforest then crossing 5 creeks. About 300m south of the Diamantina Creek inlet a sign indicates the northern entrance to Mulligan Bay ⑱.

Stroll 2km along the beach to Mulligan Creek ⑲, cross it at low to half tide, and then 3km further on is George Point ⑳ and the southern end of the trail.



**The Haven**  
camping/day-use areas

# Hinchinbrook Island National Park

Mount Burnett

**6** **W** **Blacksand Beach** camping area (sea kayaks only)

**7** **PW** **Nina Bay** camping area

**8** **WP** **Little Ramsay Bay** camping area

**9** **Banksia Bay** camping area

**10** **Agnes Beach** camping area

**11** **North Zoe Bay** camping area

**12** **PW** **South Zoe Bay** camping/day-use areas

**13** **Sunken Reef Bay** camping area

**14** **PW** **Mulligan Falls** camping area

**15** **Mulligan Bay** camping area

**16** **P** **George Point** camping/day-use areas

# Girringun National Park

Bruce Highway

Hinchinbrook Channel

Mount Bowen

The Thumb

North Zoe Creek

East Zoe Creek

Cypress Pine Creek

South Zoe Creek

Mount Diamantina

Mount Straloch

Haycock Island

Picnic Beach

Dungeness

Lucinda



























**Legend**



















National park	Visitor information centre
Land	Boat ramp
Water	Ferry
Waterways	Toilets
Ferry route	Shelter
Contour lines	Picnic table
Highway	Pack rack
Sealed road	Thorsborne Trail hikers camping
Walking track	Boat camping
Track identifier	Sea kayak camping
Thorsborne Trail	Water collection point —treat before drinking
Trail note	Water —treat before drinking
Camping area	
Mountain	



## Camping at a glance

Remember to set up camp only in designated camp sites and behind any crocodile barriers.

Camping area	Facilities	Max nights
<b>The Haven</b> ①  A great place to base yourself while fishing the Hinchinbrook Channel. Boat access only—tide-dependent.  Camp behind the crocodile barriers.	 	7
<b>South Macushla</b> ②  Overlooks Missionary Bay and is a popular base for fishing. Boat access only.  Camp behind the crocodile barriers.	   	7
<b>North Macushla</b> ③  This shady spot with a northern outlook is the starting point for the North and South Shepherd Bay walking tracks. Boat access only.	 	7
<b>Sunset Beach</b> ④  A little spot of paradise on the beach at deserted South Shepherd Bay. Boat and kayak access only.	None	2
<b>Banshee Bay</b> ⑤  An isolated camp looking out to the Coral Sea and Eva Island. Whale watch in winter and bird watch in summer.	None	2
<b>Blacksand Beach</b> ⑥  only Near a serene tidal lagoon and in the shadow of towering Mount Bowen, this camp is exclusively for sea kayakers.	None	1
<b>Nina Bay</b> ⑦  only Close to the beach and nestled under the trees, this camp is exclusively for Thorsborne Trail hikers.	  	2
<b>Little Ramsay Bay</b> ⑧  only Exclusively for Thorsborne Trail hikers. Camp in a serene bay with the dramatic backdrop of Hinchinbrook's rugged ridgelines.	  	2
<b>Banksia Bay</b> ⑨  Secluded bush camp near Banksia Creek, with views of Ramsay Bay.	None	2 (3 boats)
<b>Agnes Beach</b> ⑩  Offers views and privacy. To protect nesting seabirds, camp only between April and September.	None	2 (3 boats)

Camping area	Facilities	Max nights
<b>North Zoe Bay</b> ⑪  A prime fishing spot at the mouth of North Zoe Creek with unlimited beach access. Spot sea turtles feeding in the mouth of the creek.	None	2
<b>South Zoe Bay</b> ⑫  Fronts Zoe Bay's expansive beach, with beautiful Zoe Falls a 15min walk away.	   	2 (3 boats)
<b>Sunken Reef Bay</b> ⑬  A shady spot 30min walk off the Thorsborne Trail with panoramic views of the bay, Hinchinbrook's southern mountains and the Lucinda jetty.		2
<b>Mulligan Falls</b> ⑭  only Exclusively for Thorsborne Trail hikers near the base of the falls. Never enter the Restricted Access Area above and around of the falls—deaths and serious injuries have occurred here.	   	1
<b>Mulligan Bay</b> ⑮  Camp with views to Orpheus Island and Mount Diamantina. Explore the nearby creek lined with tall mangroves.	None	2
<b>George Point</b> ⑯  The southern transfer point for Thorsborne Trail hikers has views to Lucinda and Orpheus Island.	  	2



### Ranger's tip!

Take care not to become entangled in yellow lawyer cane and hairy mary. These climbing palms use hook-studded branches to reach skyward. They're not poisonous, but the tendrils can painfully grab your skin, packs and clothing.

