



# Chillagoe– Mungana Caves National Park

## Getting to the park

**From Cairns:** 215km (approx. 3hr) via Mareeba and Dimbulah along the Burke Developmental Road (3km of unsealed road west of Almaden, suitable for 2WDs with caution).

**From Atherton:** 179km (approx. 2.5hr) via Mareeba and Dimbulah along Burke Development Road (3km of unsealed road west of Almaden, suitable for 2WDs with caution).

**From Undara:** 200km (approx. 3hr) via Gulf Development Road (sealed), Ootaan Road (mostly unsealed – 4WD recommended) and Burke Development Road (sealed).

Before you set out, check road conditions at [qldtraffic.qld.gov.au](http://qldtraffic.qld.gov.au) or phone 13 19 40.

## Getting around the park

### From Chillagoe Hub to:

#### Royal Arch Cave

Drive west on Queen Street; cross Chillagoe Creek; turn left onto Bolwarra Road; drive 4.3km on unsealed road to car park.

#### Donna Cave and Balancing Rock including Pompeii, Bauhinia and Trezkinn caves

Drive west on Queen Street; turn left into Frew Street; follow the road out of town; cross a cattle grid; follow signs to car parks.

#### The Archways, Mungana

Drive west on Queen Street; cross Chillagoe Creek; continue 15km west on Burke Developmental Road; turn right where signposted; drive 2km on gravel road past Mungana rock art site to car park.

#### Chillagoe Smelters

Drive west on Queen Street; cross Chillagoe Creek; turn right where signposted; follow signs on unsealed road to car park, 2.3km from town.

## Caring for the park

- Enjoy watching wildlife but don't be tempted to feed, chase or scare them.
- In the caves, avoid touching the cave formations. Natural acids in your skin can damage them.
- At rock art sites, avoid raising dust and don't touch the rock imagery. Rock art sites are irreplaceable and easily damaged.
- Please take your rubbish with you. No rubbish bins provided.

## Cave tour tickets

For cave tour bookings phone (07) 4094 7111

For email enquiries:

[ChillagoeCaveBooking@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:ChillagoeCaveBooking@des.qld.gov.au)

Collect tickets from the Chillagoe Hub, 21–23 Queen Street, Chillagoe (cash, EFTPOS and payment cards accepted).

Opening hours: 8am–3.30pm, everyday except Christmas Day.

## Further information



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



[qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts](http://qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts)  
(access, closures and conditions)



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



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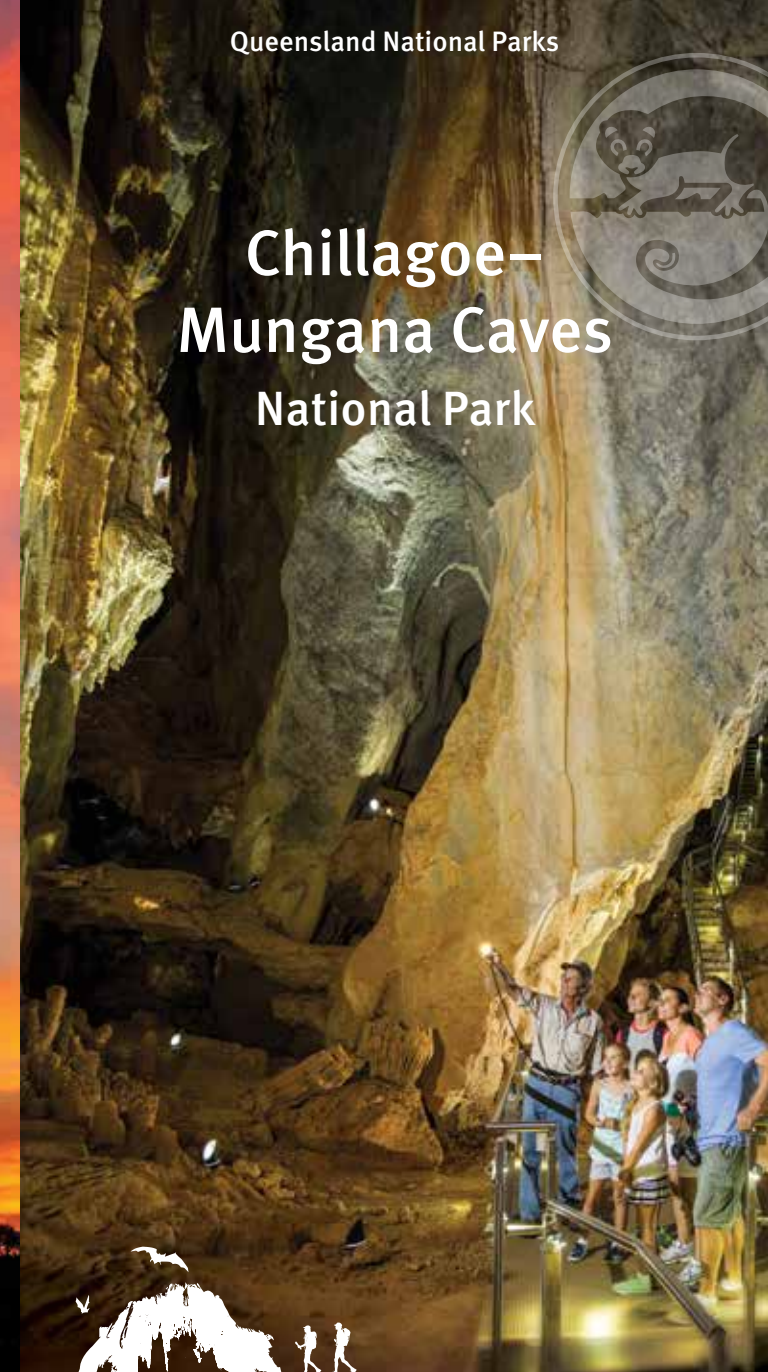
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This brochure is also available online at [qld.gov.au/ParkBrochures](http://qld.gov.au/ParkBrochures)



Chillagoe Smelters  
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Department of Environment and Science.  
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Photo (front): Donna Cave © *Tourism Tropical North Qld.*





## Welcome to Chillagoe–Mungana Caves National Park

Venture deep into a mysterious underground world of grand caverns and exquisite limestone formations, then, above ground, explore the savannah landscape dotted with limestone outcrops and discover the region's fascinating mining heritage.

“Join us on ranger-guided tours of stunning limestone caves and find out what's really special about Chillagoe.

*Chillagoe Rangers*

“The caves are full of nature's magnificence, the tour is adventurous and the rangers are very knowledgeable. You can have a very special experience here.

*Lisa (visitor)*

## Choose your cave tour

Ranger-guided tours run daily (except Christmas Day). Book your tickets **in advance** from the Chillagoe Hub. For the Donna and Trezinn Cave tours meet your guide at the cave entrance.

### Donna Cave 9am

#### 830m return (1hr), moderate grade

Descend through a narrow cave entrance into a hidden world. Discover enchanting columns, sparkling crystals and surprising cave decorations illuminated in the darkness. (To cave: 180m walk with 50 steps from Donna Cave car park. Inside cave: 470m walk with 330 very steep ladder-like steps).

### Trezinn Cave 11am

#### 830m return (45min), moderate grade

Explore a steel catwalk encircling a huge mass of limestone. Be delighted by the 'chandelier', a spectacular cluster of stalactites, bathed in spotlights. (To cave: 300m track with 140 steps from Donna Cave car park. Inside cave: 230m walk with 250 very steep ladder-like steps).

### Royal Arch 1.30pm

#### 1.3km return (1.5hr), easy/moderate grade


Explore a labyrinth of passages and 11 lofty caverns with hand-held lamps. Glimpse darting bats, spot ancient marine fossils and admire limestone formations. (To cave: 250m walk from Royal Arch car park. Inside cave: 800m walk with 300 steps and low overhangs).

### Am I able to do a cave tour?

Caves can be challenging. Chillagoe caves include many flights of stairs, very steep ladder-type steps, narrow passages and low overhangs. Claustrophobia, fear of heights, pain when climbing steps, heart conditions, shortness of breath, back pain or lack of flexibility may prevent you from safely doing a tour.

## Explore a self-guided cave

There are several caves you can explore without a guide. You need to be fit and well-prepared.

 Carry at least two torches, a first-aid kit, water, and sturdy footwear and go with at least one other person. Be prepared to encounter steep slopes, large boulders, low overhangs and uneven loose surfaces. Take care, especially after rain.

### The Archways

#### 220m return (about 30min), easy grade

Ramble through this semi-open cave system and be surprised by sudden shafts of sunlight and many shadowy tunnels. Access from The Archways car park in Mungana, 15km from Chillagoe.

### Bauhinia Cave

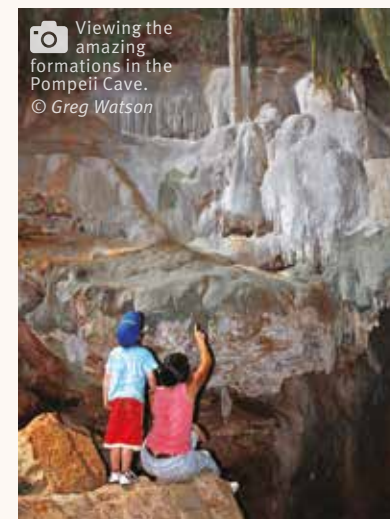
#### 300m return (about 20min), difficult grade

Squeeze through a dark, narrow crevice and scramble down large boulders into an open chamber. Catch your breath and marvel at the beauty of this underground world. Access from Donna Cave car park.

### Pompeii Cave

#### 600m return (about 50min), difficult grade

Clamber down a short steep slope into a boulder-filled cleft in the rock. Explore a dark passage where your torchlight will reveal intricate cave formations and bats roosting in dark crevices. Access from Donna Cave car park.



 Viewing the amazing formations in the Pompeii Cave.  
© Greg Watson

## Take a walk

See Chillagoe's remarkable landscape above the ground.



Walk during the cooler parts of the day, carry drinking water, wear a hat and sturdy footwear, and make sure you stay on the walking track.

## Chillagoe Smelters

Once the centre of a thriving mining industry that brought wealth and development to the Chillagoe area, today the Chillagoe Smelters are a fascinating ruin. Follow walking tracks to viewing shelters and gaze over this significant heritage site. The distinctive chimneys stand as reminders of the gritty bustling workforce, heavily-loaded ore trains and large-scale innovative industry that gave life to this site between 1901 and 1943.



Please stay within the visitors' area at the smelters. You can appreciate the size and layout of the site from viewing shelters and walking tracks. This historical, industrial site is unstable and includes pits, tanks and contaminants including asbestos. The site has been declared a restricted access area to protect public safety.

 Encounter striking limestone outcrops of tower karst—features of world scientific interest—at Balancing Rock.



 Slag Heap lookout at the historic Chillagoe Smelter site.  
Photo: Tourism Tropical North Qld

Walk	Distance, time, grade	Starts from	Details
Balancing Rock track	440m return (20min), Grade 4	Balancing Rock car park	Climb a rough track for a great photo of Balancing Rock—a spectacular limestone outcrop. Enjoy views of the surrounding open woodlands as you catch your breath.
Donna Cave to Balancing Rock	2km return (1hr), Grade 3	Donna Cave car park	This track meanders through open woodland of eucalypts and ironwoods. Look out for wallaroos or agile wallabies resting in the shade and listen for the 'laughing' calls of blue-winged kookaburras.
Royal Arch track	6km return (2.5hr), Grade 3	Balancing Rock car park	Take an easy ramble through open woodland, past the Wullumba art site, and cross the paperbark-lined Chillagoe Creek. Look for the Royal Arch bluff, an imposing jagged limestone outcrop, rising abruptly from the landscape.

### Grade

### Suits

### Track description

3



People with some bushwalking experience

Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Tracks may have short steep hill sections and many steps.

4



Bushwalking experience recommended

Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Ankle-supporting footwear required.

## Chillagoe







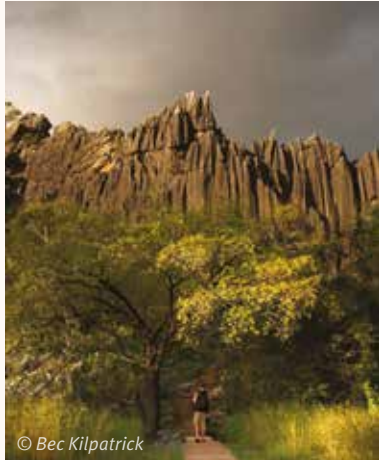
Mick Cockburn © Qld Govt



© Qld Govt



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© Bec Kilpatrick

Explore a fascinating underground world on a cave tour at Royal Arch (above). Look up in awe at the shawls and stalactites in the Trezkinn Cave (left). Make surprising discoveries in the Royal Arch cave (below).