

## Welcome to Cape Hillsborough National Park

Rugged, rainforest-clad hills plunge to rocky headlands and sandy beaches in this diverse and scenic park. Enjoy walking, snorkelling, wildlife viewing, camping, or simply a relaxing picnic. Be at the beach at sunrise or sunset to hang out with agile wallabies—a truly unmissable Australian experience. Learn how the Yuibera people have thrived in this special place for thousands of years. Climb the headland for views over the nearby islands ... be tempted to head offshore and continue your holiday on one of these Great Barrier Reef gems!

“ Welcome to Cape Hillsborough, *Yuibera nandhi*, land of the Yuibera people—one of five local clan groups in the greater boundary area referred to as Yuwi Country. *Ngandadyi wanggaranybarra* (hello to you all). We welcome you to walk these spiritual lands of our people. We invite you to still your minds, open your hearts and truly listen to the songs of the land. All we ask in return is for you to respect our lands, helping to preserve and protect this spiritual country for generations to come. Take only memories. Leave only footprints. *Binde gurrybirry yidyilla wanggaranybarra* (have a good day today to you all). *Yuibera Elders—2019*

*Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and  
Yuwibara traditional descendants working together*

“ Welcome to Cape Hillsborough National Park, one of the most beautiful parks on the central Queensland coast! Whether it's enjoying a picnic on the foreshore, taking a leisurely stroll on the beach to view the agile wallabies at sunrise, or hiking a rugged track with views across the Coral Sea to the coastal islands, it really has something for everyone. The walking tracks provide an amazing opportunity to discover a diversity of habitats from lowland rainforest to mangrove communities and rocky headlands supporting tall open eucalypt forests. *Ranger Ben*

Looking south over  
Cape Hillsborough  
Photos: © Mike Griinke;  
© Qld Gov (Ranger)

## Stay a while

You'll need a few days to fully appreciate this peaceful park, so make Smalleys Beach camping area ① your home-away-from-home.

Smalleys is a small, shady camping area accessible to conventional vehicles, caravans, campervans and camper trailers. Picnic tables, toilets and town water are provided. Fires are permitted in off-ground fire containers but please bring your own clean, milled timber. Book your camp site online at [qld.gov.au/Camping](http://qld.gov.au/Camping). Self-registration at the camping area is not available.

You can also stay in commercial camping areas which offer cabin-style accommodation at Cape Hillsborough, or private accommodation at Seaforth. Visit [mackayregion.com](http://mackayregion.com) for more information.

Make Smalleys Beach camping area (right) your home-away-from-home and enjoy relaxing at picturesque Smalleys Beach (below).

Photos: © John Augusteyn (right); Brooke Miles © Tourism and Events Qld (below)





# Cape Hillsborough National Park




## Relax with the residents

Cape Hillsborough provides refuge for a diverse array of wildlife, including 6 species of kangaroos and wallabies and more than 150 species of birds.

Hear orange-footed scrub fowl and Australian brush-turkeys scratching in the undergrowth in search of food. Watch colourful butterflies flitting along the walking tracks and look for lace monitors strutting around Cape Hillsborough picnic area (2). Do not feed any of the wildlife—it can make them sick or aggressive.

On the broad beaches, sand bubbler crabs leave intricate patterns at low tide, and many sea creatures shelter in tidal rock pools. Watching wallabies on the beach at sunrise and sunset is not to be missed!

 (clockwise from top) Blue tiger butterflies; Eastern sedgefrog; Lace monitor; Beach stone curlew.

Photos (clockwise from top): John Atkinson © Qld Govt; Querida Hutchinson © Qld Govt; John Atkinson © Qld Govt; © Mike Griinke;



## Getting there and around

From Mackay, travel 20km north on the Bruce Highway and turn right onto Seaforth Road.

From Proserpine, travel 79km south on the Bruce Highway to Mount Ossa. Turn left onto Mount Ossa Road\* and travel 15km towards Seaforth. Turn right onto Seaforth Road.

\*Mount Ossa Road is partly unsealed and not suitable for caravans. Caravan owners should continue to the sealed Seaforth Road, 20km north of Mackay.

From Seaforth Road turn onto Cape Hillsborough Road, it's then 10km to the main park entrance, picnic area and walking tracks.

**Campers:** to get to Smalleys Beach camping area, take the signposted gravel road turn-off about 6km along Cape Hillsborough Road.



## Further information

-  [qld.gov.au/CapeHillsborough](http://qld.gov.au/CapeHillsborough)
-  [qld.gov.au/Camping](http://qld.gov.au/Camping)
-  [qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts](http://qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts)  
(access, closures and conditions)
-  [qldnationalparks](https://www.facebook.com/qldnationalparks)
-  [@QldParks](https://www.instagram.com/QldParks); [#QldParks](https://twitter.com/QldParks)



Scan to check park alerts

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



## Explore on foot

For all walks, wear insect repellent, a hat and sunscreen, and carry drinking water.

### ③ Diversity boardwalk

**Easy | 1.2km circuit | 40min**

Journey through a diverse tapestry of plant communities—mangroves, melaleuca woodland, open eucalypt forest and vine thicket—learning how each is shaped and their importance to the Yuibera people. Stop to look at a Yuibera midden—the remnants of long past shellfish feasts. The first 300m of the boardwalk is wheelchair and pram friendly.



### ④ Beachcomber Cove track

**Steep | 2.2km return | 1.5–2hr**

Take in glimpses of ocean views on a hike up through forests of hoop pines, ferns and vines, and down to the secluded Beachcomber Cove. From the cove, see sloping volcanic strata on the hillsides and light purple-grey rhyolite lava broken up on the beach—dramatic remnants of Cape Hillsborough’s explosive past. You can return to the picnic area along the beach when the tide is low. Check tide times before you start walking.



### ⑤ Yuibera Plant trail

**Easy | 1.5km return | 40min**

The natural productivity of the Cape Hillsborough area makes it a rich homeland for the Yuibera people. They traditionally make use of the diverse plant communities here for food and medicine. Learn more about the Yuibera people’s connection to country on this trail. Be sure to look for the remains of a traditional stone fish trap.



*Photos: (3, 4, 6) John Atkinson  
© Qld Govt; (5) © Q Hutchinson*

### ⑥ Andrews Point track

**Steep | 5.2km return along the track;  
2.8km return via beach | 2–2.5hr**

This steep rocky track is visually-rewarding with breathtaking ocean, island and coastal views from numerous lookouts. From the eastern end of the resort beach, climb through moist vine forest, home to more than 25 species of bright tropical butterflies and 150 bird species. See rugged, hoop pine clad hills plunge to rocky headlands of rhyolite boulders. At low tide, cross the causeway and explore Wedge Island. You can also return to the start of the track along the beach when the tide is low. Make sure to check tide times before you start walking.





## Legend

|  |               |   |                     |
|--|---------------|---|---------------------|
|  | National park |  | Parking             |
|  | Mangroves     |  | Toilets             |
|  | Sealed road   |  | Camping             |
|  | Unsealed road |  | Picnic tables       |
|  | Walking track |  | Barbecues—gas       |
|  |               |  | Natural viewpoint   |
|  |               |  | Constructed lookout |



## Ranger tips

Explore Wedge Island on low tide! Orchid Rock has a tidal rockpool that can be quite stunning at times! Be careful you don't get stuck with an incoming tide.  
*Ranger Greg*



Photos: John Atkinson  
© Qld Govt (left);  
Mia Glastonbury  
© Tourism and Events Qld  
(below); © Tourism and  
Events Qld (right)



If you miss the wallabies at sunrise, they are also quite often present on the beach at sunset if the tide is out!  
*Ranger Ben*

## Boating, fishing and snorkelling

The waters surrounding Cape Hillsborough National Park provide a host of boating and fishing opportunities. They are part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and certain activities may be restricted. Make sure you have a free zoning map, so you know where you can go and what you can do. Get your free zoning maps at bait and tackle shops, visitor information centres and ship chandlers, or online at [gbrmpa.gov.au/access-and-use/zoning/zoning-maps](http://gbrmpa.gov.au/access-and-use/zoning/zoning-maps).

Take to the water and observe soft corals and other marine life while snorkelling near the resort or at Orchid Rock. Take care as marine stingers are prevalent from November to May and may be present year round.



## Explore safely

- In an emergency call Triple Zero (000).
- Consider your ability and the track conditions carefully before setting out. Never walk alone.
- Carry extra food and drinking water in case your walk takes longer than expected.
- Carry a first-aid kit and know how to use it.
- Protect yourself from the sun and rain. Wear sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses and a long-sleeve shirt and pack a raincoat.
- Wear sturdy footwear, protective clothing and insect repellent to help protect against bites, scratches and stings. Sandflies and mosquitoes can be prolific.
- Wear stinger suits when swimming or wading. Dangerous marine stingers (jellyfish) are most common in the warmer months but can occur throughout the year. Visit [beachsafe.org.au/surf-safety/tropical-stingers](http://beachsafe.org.au/surf-safety/tropical-stingers) for the latest safety advice.
- Beware of estuarine crocodiles—be crocwise. Visit [des.qld.gov.au/crocwise](http://des.qld.gov.au/crocwise) for details.

## Explore softly

You are important in helping preserve the unique and diverse landscape of this park. Show respect for its spiritual, ecological and scenic significance.

- Stay on the walking tracks. Shortcutting causes erosion and damages vegetation.
- Use the barbecues provided in the picnic area or bring a fuel stove or an off-ground fire container for cooking. Bring your own clean, milled timber.
- Pack sturdy rubbish bags and take all rubbish home with you. Carry a container for cigarette butts.
- Leave pets at home—you will protect your pet and native animals, and encounter more wildlife during your visit.
- Never feed or leave food scraps for animals. Let animals find their own food. Our food can be harmful to wildlife and you could be bitten or scratched.