

Queensland's Sandstone Wilderness parks



Contents

Parks at a glance	2	Salvator Rosa section, Carnarvon National Park.....	16
Welcome.....	3	Minerva Hills National Park	18
Queensland's Sandstone Wilderness	4	Nuga Nuga National Park	19
Plan your getaway	6	Lonesome section, Expedition National Park	20
Choose your adventure	7	Beilba section, Expedition National Park	21
Blackdown Tableland National Park	8	Robinson Gorge section, Expedition National Park.....	22
Carnarvon Gorge section, Carnarvon National Park.....	10	Lake Murphy Conservation Park	24
Mount Moffatt section, Carnarvon National Park.....	12	Isla Gorge National Park	25
Slow down on a Great Walk.....	14	Stay longer.....	26
Ka Ka Mundi section, Carnarvon National Park.....	15	Further information	28

Parks at a glance

	Wheelchair-assisted access	Toilets	Camping	Camp fires	Day-use area	Short walks	Hiking	Scenic lookout	4WD access
Blackdown Tableland National Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	■
Carnarvon Gorge section, Carnarvon National Park	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mount Moffatt section, Carnarvon National Park		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ka Ka Mundi section, Carnarvon National Park			✓						✓
Salvator Rosa section, Carnarvon National Park		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Minerva Hills National Park		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
Nuga Nuga National Park			✓	✓					●
Lonesome section, Expedition National Park			✓	✓	✓			✓	
Beilba section, Expedition National Park			✓	✓					✓
Robinson Gorge section, Expedition National Park		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Lake Murphy Conservation Park		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Isla Gorge National Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

*Camping in Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Area is only available in the Easter, June–July and September–October Queensland school holidays.
 ■ Some areas within the park can only be accessed by 4WD.
 ● 4WD recommended.



Follow in the footsteps of famous explorers, where hidden springs, tumbling streams and seasonal lakes sustain an amazing diversity of plants and animals.



Embark on a challenging 6–7 day hike, through winding gorges and elevated plateaus of spectacular, remote sandstone country.



Be uplifted as you watch the sunrise and enjoy marvellous views from towering sandstone cliffs, rising above valleys and plains.

Puzzle over precious stories told on stone in an ancient cultural landscape.



Awaken with the morning bird chorus, fresh eucalypt-scented air and pure relaxation in the heart of the Sandstone Wilderness.



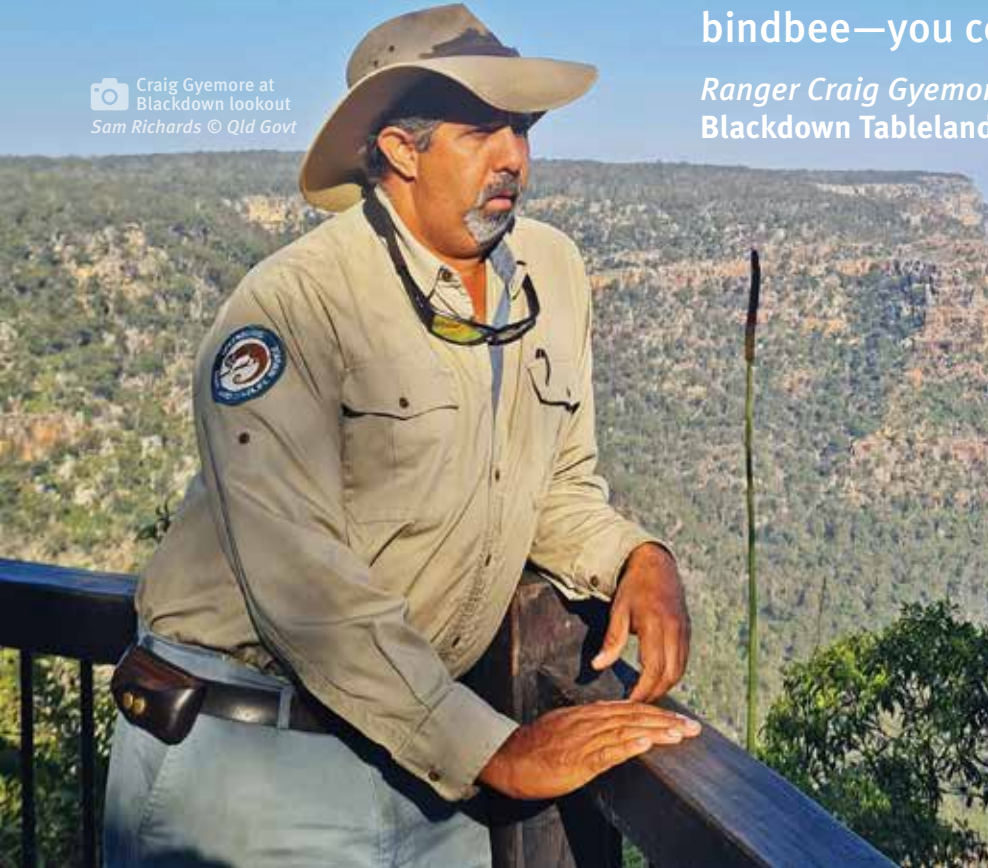
(clockwise from top): Carlia schmeltzii, Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt; view from Boolimba Bluff, Carnarvon Gorge, © Dave Hoolihan; king parrot, © Bernice Sigley; Cathedral Cave, Carnarvon Gorge, Michael O'Connor © Qld Govt; Carnarvon Great Walk, Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt; (centre) grass tree, © Robert Ashdown

Welcome to Queensland's Sandstone Wilderness parks

“Yindi woogoo yunie thiligoo nunee bindbee—you come to see good land.

Ranger Craig Gyemore Ghungalu Descendant, Blackdown Tableland National Park

Craig Gyemore at Blackdown lookout Sam Richards © Qld Govt



Welcome to Sandstone Country. Take a moment to discover the natural beauty that this land has to offer. As a Park Ranger and a Traditional Owner, I welcome you to discover the hidden treasures within the Sandstone Wilderness, where you can experience diversity and cultural connections. Respect this country and the places you visit as if they were your own. Leave only footprints and take home wonderful memories, so we can have this special area for future generations.

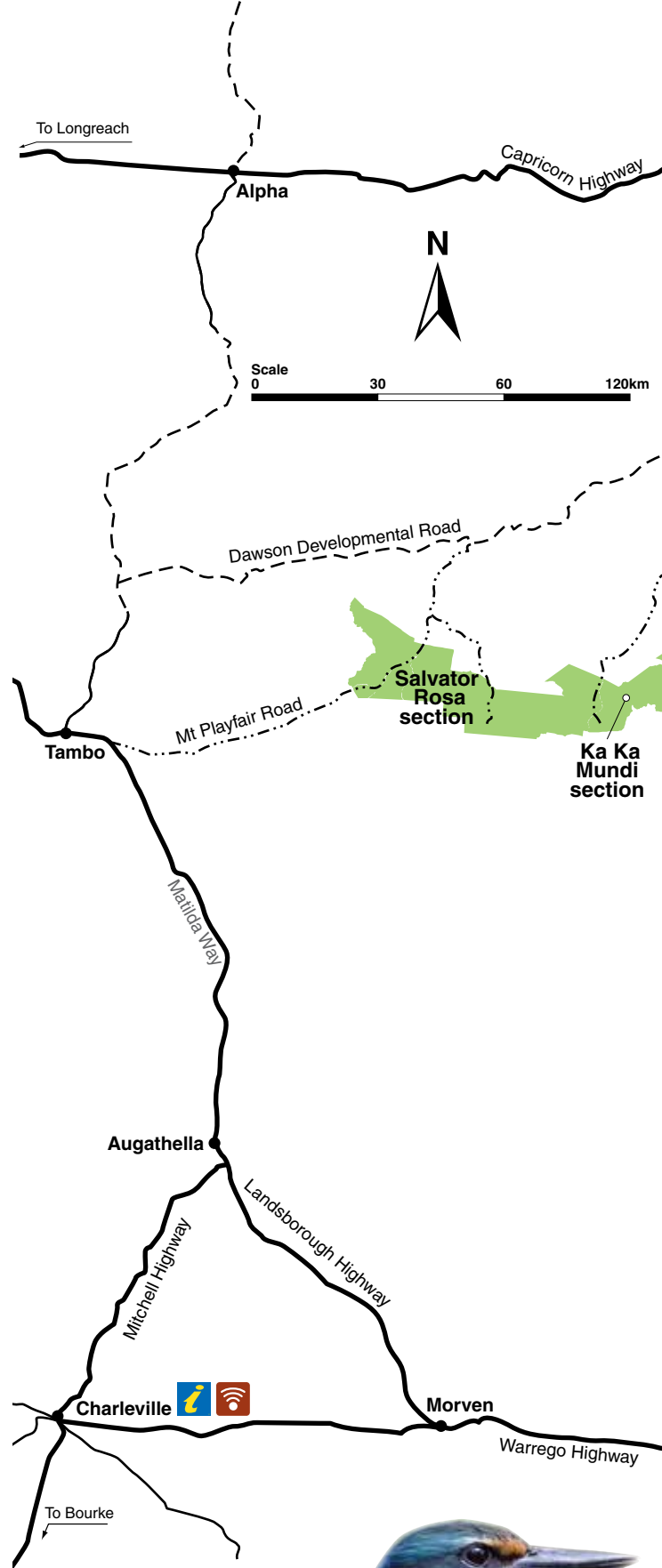
Parks of Queensland's Sandstone Wilderness

Legend

- National park
- Conservation park
- Camping area
- Waterways
- Visitor information centre (VIC)
- WiFi access
- QldParks-WiFi
- Park office
- Information
- Information shelter
- Parking
- Parking—bus
- Toilets
- Shower
- Wheelchair access
- Cellular coverage
- Restaurant
- Accommodation
- Walking track
- Picnic table
- Sheltered picnic table
- Fires permitted
- Open fireplace
- Barbecue—wood
- Barbecue—fuel
- Viewpoint
- Lookout
- Wildlife spotting
- Scenic drive
- 4WD access
- Shared road
- Great Walk
- Rock art
- Camping
- Camping—car access
- Camping—4WD access
- Caravan
- 4WD camper trailer
- 2WD camper trailer
- Swimming
- No water
- Fires prohibited
- No rubbish bins
- Swimming prohibited
- Diving prohibited
- Warning
- Water—treat before drinking
- Unstable cliff
- Town
- Mountain
- Spring
- Cliff line
- Gate
- Grid
- Fence
- Highway
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD track
- Walking track
- Great Walk

Track classifications

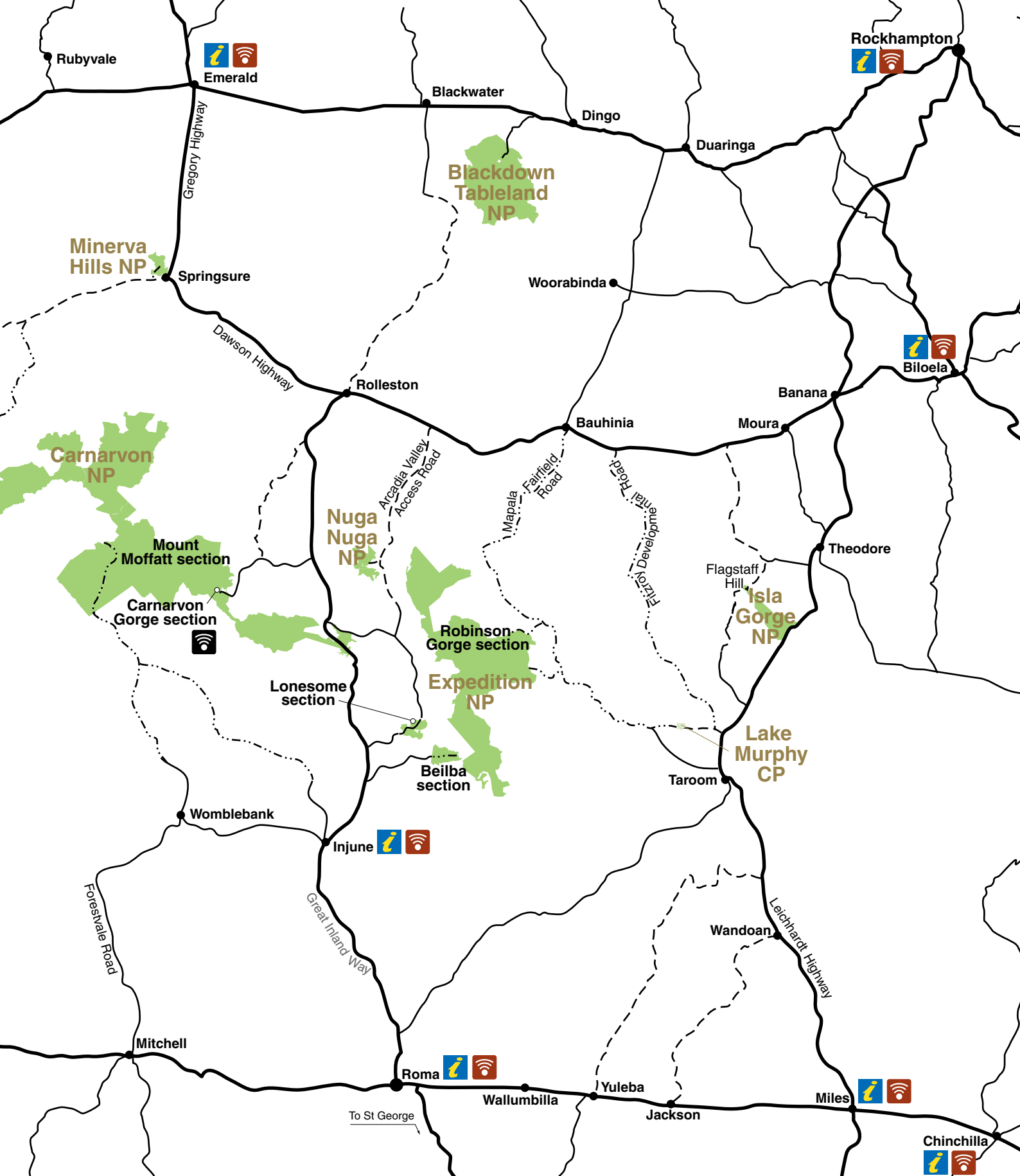
Grade	Suits	Track description
2	Families with young children	No bushwalking experience required. Tracks may have a compacted surface with gentle incline sections and some steps. May be suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them.
3	People with some bushwalking experience	Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Tracks may have short steep hill sections and many steps. Caution is needed on creek crossings, ladders and lookouts. Ankle-supporting footwear required.
4	Experienced bushwalkers	Tracks may be extensively overgrown, rough and very steep. Caution is needed on creek crossings, loose surfaces, cliff edges and exposed naturally-occurring outlooks. Ankle-supporting footwear required.
5	Very experienced bushwalkers	High level of physical fitness and map-reading skills required. Track has very steep sections, irregular surface and loose stones. Directional signs limited. High-quality, ankle-supporting footwear required.



(Left to right): Sacred kingfisher; Boolimba Bluff walking track, Carnarvon Gorge; Lake Nuga Nuga

Photos: (left to right): © Mike Peisley; © Michael O'Connor; Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt







📷 Sandstone outcrops from grassy plains

Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt

Plan your getaway

Wander through twisting gorges, gazing in awe at towering sandstone cliffs and outcrops. Discover rock art sites, cooling mountain streams, tumbling waterfalls and abundant wildlife. Let the wild, dramatic scenery and evidence of an ancient yet ongoing culture lift your spirit and capture your imagination. Almost 5000km² of national parks in Queensland’s Sandstone Wilderness await your discovery!

Best time to visit

The best time to visit is between April and September. Temperatures vary widely, with summer temperatures regularly exceeding 35°C. Heavy frosts sometimes occur in winter when temperatures fall below freezing.

Rain falls mostly between December and March; however, storms can occur throughout the year. Many roads are unsealed and impassable after even a small amount of rain. **Remember—if it’s flooded, forget it.**

Best way to visit

Head out in your own vehicle to explore. You can reach most parks by conventional vehicle but may require a high-clearance 4WD to travel around some of them. Stop at local towns to refuel and stock up on food when preparing for longer journeys—it’s a long way between stops out here.

Add some local flavour

Plan your journey to coincide with local events and festivals. From Southern Queensland Country to the Southern Great Barrier Reef area, you’re bound to fill your calendar with memorable experiences to last a lifetime. Choose from Easter festivals, rodeos and country shows, food and art festivals, sporting events or just stop and discover some of the region’s best assets, the people. Find all the details at myanmaranoa.org.au and centralhighlands.com.au

Visit southerngreatbarrierreef.com.au and southernqueenslandcountry.com.au



📷 Salvator Rosa, Carnarvon National Park
Brendan Moodie © Queensland Government



📷 Beware of stock on the roads and leave gates as you find them (right); Wards Canyon, Carnarvon Gorge (far right)
Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt

Choose your adventure

In the heart of Queensland's drive routes, enjoy an easy and scenic journey to Queensland's Sandstone Wilderness from the east via the Capricorn and Warrego Highways, from the north or south via the Leichhardt Highway, Gregory and Dawson Highways and Great Inland Way, or via the Matilda Highway to the west.

Via the Matilda Way between Bourke and Longreach

Turn east at Charleville onto the Warrego Highway and travel to Mitchell, a good place to stock up before heading to the **Mount Moffatt section of Carnarvon National Park**. Alternatively, resupply at Augathella or Tambo before heading to the **Salvator Rosa and Ka Ka Mundi sections of Carnarvon National Park**.

From Longreach you can also travel east through Barcaldine to Emerald, then either east towards Blackwater or south to Springsure to explore the northern and eastern parks of Queensland's Sandstone Wilderness.

Via the Great Inland Way (Dirranbandi to Emerald)

Head north from the New South Wales border, near Dirranbandi, through St George and Surat to the Warrego Highway. Travel to Roma and buy fuel and food before heading north-west to **Carnarvon**


National Park, north towards **Nuga Nuga National Park**, or the **Lonesome and Beilba sections of Expedition National Park**.

From Emerald, travel south to Springsure—a good stepping off point for **Minerva Hills National Park** or the **Ka Ka Mundi and Salvator Rosa sections of Carnarvon National Park**. Continue south and turn off the Dawson Highway to the **Carnarvon Gorge section of Carnarvon National Park, Nuga Nuga National Park** and the **Lonesome and Beilba sections of Expedition National Park**.

Via Toowoomba along the Warrego Highway

Travel north-west from Toowoomba along the Warrego Highway to Miles and turn right to explore **Lake Murphy Conservation Park, Isla Gorge National Park** and the **Robinson Gorge section of Expedition National Park**. Alternatively, continue to Roma and drive north-west to **Carnarvon National Park**.



 Drive to the conditions on dusty unsealed roads; a 4WD is required to access many of the Sandstone parks
Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt

From Rockhampton along the Capricorn Highway or Leichhardt Highway

From Rockhampton, head west on the Capricorn Highway to visit parks at the eastern end of the central Queensland Sandstone region. Travel south-west on the Leichhardt Highway with deviations to **Isla Gorge National Park** and **Lake Murphy Conservation Park**, or stay on the Capricorn Highway and turn off 11km west of Dingo towards **Blackdown Tableland National Park**.





Blackdown Tableland rises high above the surrounding plains

Peter Lik © Tourism and Events Queensland

Blackdown Tableland National Park

Highlights

- Go for a walk to discover the park's heritage, tumbling creeks and unusual plants, including species found nowhere else.
- Capture the morning sun on sandstone cliffs from Mook Mook, or the rich colours of sunset from Yaddamen Dhina.
- Keep an eye out for a Blackdown cricket-like 'monster' after rain, or a unique Christmas beetle.
- Cool off in the rock pool below Gudda Gumoo.
- Capture the colourful tapestry of wildflowers on your camera or canvas in spring.

Getting there

Blackdown Tableland National Park lies 183km west of Rockhampton and 110km east of Emerald. Turn off the Capricorn Highway 11km west of Dingo or 35km east of Blackwater.

Follow the sealed road to the top of the tableland. Beware! The 6km climb from the base of the tableland is winding and steep, and unsuitable for towing heavy trailers or caravans.

Roads past the entrance shelter are unsealed, slippery and winding. Some sections of the park are accessible to 2WDs driven with care, but you'll need a 4WD for the Loop Road to Mitha Boongulla.

The Munall camping area is 8km past the park entrance shelter.

Head high above the surrounding plains to a cool oasis of deep gorges, spectacular lookouts and scenic waterfalls. Marvel at rock art of the Ghungalu people and the glory of sunlight splashing colour across imposing sandstone cliffs.

Things to do


Scenic driving

Explore this unique landscape, stopping to admire the attractions whenever the whim takes you. Be aware that pea gravel makes the roads quite slippery. Slow is safe, especially when approaching corners and passing other vehicles.

4WD Loop Road—19km loop

Four-wheel drive past amazing sandstone outcrops alive with basket ferns and king orchids. Stop at Mitha Boongulla for panoramic views of the surrounding plains below. Please note, the 4WD Loop Road may be closed during wet weather.

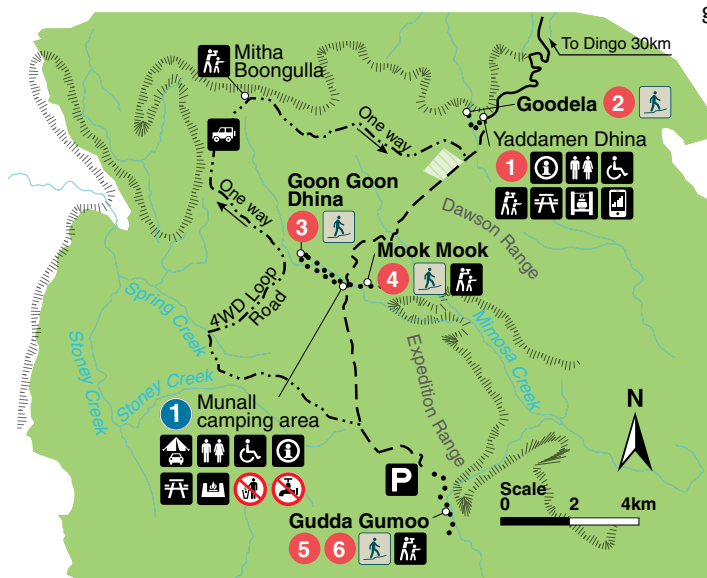


 Silver-headed antechinus *Antechinus argentus*
© Gary Cranitch, Qld Museum


Wildlife spotting

Catch a splash of colour as kingfishers and cockatoos flit through the forest, while secretive robins and treecreepers blend in with the bush. See peregrine falcons, wedge-tailed eagles and

goshawks hunting and roosting along cliffs and escarpments, or spot honeyeaters, thornbills and rainbow bee-eaters in the heath. Look for skinks, geckos and goannas basking on sandstone ledges. Blackdown is also known for its fascinating insects—a rare Christmas beetle and its very own cricket-like 'monster'.





 Gudda Gumoo (left); Yaddamen Dhina lookout (above); Walking track to Gudda Gumoo (below)
© John Augusteyn

Ranger's tips

“ My favourite things to do at Blackdown include walking quietly along the tracks and finding the tiny, hidden features of the landscape – like the peacock spiders, sun skinks and fairy wrens. Discovering the seasonal displays of stunning and unique wildflowers, and finishing the day off watching the sunset over the rugged cliff faces at Yaddamen Dhina. *Ranger Jaala*



Places to camp

1 Munall camping area

Camp in cool, quiet bush surroundings close to popular short walks. There's no water available so bring plenty for drinking, cooking, washing and extinguishing your camp fire.

Places to go

1 Yaddamen Dhina

200m return (5min walking time).

Admire a variety of wattles growing along this short track to a lookout offering sweeping views of distant ranges and plains 500m below.

2 Goodela

3.6km return (1hr walking time).

Follow the escarpment through eucalypt forest and watch for birds as you stop and rest at the track's end.

3 Goon Goon Dhina

2.5km circuit (1hr walking time).

Stroll from the camping area past an old cattle yard and up along Mimosa Creek to a Ghungalu art site. Learn about the park's history and how Ghungalu people use plants for food and shelter.

4 Mook Mook

2.4km return (50min walking time).

Cross Mimosa Creek and walk over gentle ridges to the edge of the tableland for stunning views of sandstone cliffs and distant ranges.

5 Gudda Gumoo lookout

3.6km return (1.5hr walking time).

Observe rough stringybarks and spiky grasstrees on the way to Gudda Gumoo lookout, where you can gaze across the gorge to distant plains and hills. Learn about the significance of Moonda Gudda to the Ghungalu people.

6 Gudda Gumoo Gorge

4km return (2hr walking time).

Brave the 240-stair descent deep into the gorge, where damp ferns flourish and colourful birds come to cool off. Catch a rainbow reflected in water spilling over red-stained sandstone ledges. For your safety and to respect sites significant to the Ghungalu people, please do not venture to other water holes in this area.

Safety

Cliff edges may be crumbly. Keep well back from the edge and supervise children closely. Pea gravel that naturally occurs on walking tracks can be slippery! Walk with care!



📷 Towering sandstone cliffs of Carnarvon Gorge

Robert Ashdown © QldGovt

Highlights

- Spot platypus in the creek from the Nature Trail early in the morning or at dusk.
- Crisscross Carnarvon Creek as you delve deep into the gorge. Sneak into cool, shady side-gorges and crane your neck towards the top of towering cliffs.
- Contemplate the spiritual relationship the area's First Nations peoples have with this special landscape.
- Learn more about Carnarvon Gorge from displays in the visitor centre.

Getting there

Carnarvon Gorge is approximately 600km north-west of Brisbane, 300km south-west of Rockhampton, 246km north of Roma and 241km south-east of Emerald.

Turn off the Carnarvon Developmental Road, 111km north of Injune or 61km south of Rolleston, and take the 44km sealed roads to the park.

Be careful. Carnarvon Creek rises rapidly after rain, cutting access roads. Remember—if it's flooded, forget it!

Before you set out, check road conditions at qldtraffic.qld.gov.au or phone 13 19 40.



Carnarvon Gorge section, Carnarvon National Park

Feel excitement build as you drive across the plains towards towering white cliffs rising above the distant tree line. Linger at huge rock overhangs adorned with ochre stencils and engravings to reflect on an ancient, ongoing culture. People have been drawn to this oasis for millennia—you too will be captivated and keep coming back time after time.

Things to do

Picnicking


Enjoy a picnic or cook up a storm on a gas barbecue in the visitor area. You might see whiptail wallabies grazing, apostle birds squabbling, busy fairy-wrens snapping up insects or a rummaging echidna.



📷 Look for echidnas in the visitor area (left); Whiptail wallaby (above)
Robert Ashdown © QldGovt





 Venture into the gorge on the main walking track (far left); learn about an ancient and ongoing culture at the Art Gallery (left); Macrozamia fruiting body (above)

Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt (far left and above); Adam Creed © Qld Govt (left)

Places to camp

1 Carnarvon Gorge camping area



The leafy Carnarvon Gorge camping area is only open during the Easter, June–July and September–October Queensland school holidays. At any time of the year you can stay just outside the park at a range of private accommodation facilities. Visit queensland.com to help plan your stay.

2 Big Bend camping area



Hike with your gear 9.7km to Big Bend for a bush camping experience any time of the year.

Places to go

1 Mickey Creek Gorge

3km return (1.5hr walking time).

Wander along Mickey Creek to narrow side-gorges where walking becomes an off-track adventure.

2 Rock Pool

400m return (20min walking time) from the Rock Pool car park or 3.6km return (2hr) from the Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Area. Linger in the shade of fig and casuarina trees watching for fish and turtles, or take a refreshing dip on a hot day. This is the only place in Carnarvon Gorge where you can swim.

3 Nature Trail

1.5km return (1hr walking time).

Expect close encounters with local wildlife from the shady banks of Carnarvon Creek. Wildlife watching is best at dusk or dawn.

4 The main gorge walking track

19.4km return (7–8hr walking time).

Crisscross Carnarvon Creek as it winds 9.7km to a tranquil pool at Big Bend. Explore side tracks leading to narrow, hidden gorges and timeless rock art sites.

At Big Bend, the graded walking track ends and the remote hiking trail of the Carnarvon Great Walk begins.

5 Boolimba Bluff

6.4km return (2–3hr walking time).

Discover what lies above the cliff line. Scale the steep slopes 200m above Carnarvon Creek and be rewarded with stunning views towards distant ranges.

6 Moss Garden

7km return (2–3hr walking time).

Beneath tree ferns searching for sunlight, a small waterfall tumbles over a rock ledge into an icy pool, a perfect place to seek refuge from the heat in summer.

7 Amphitheatre

8.6km return (3–4hr walking time).

Climb a ladder to discover a secret oasis. Hidden inside the gorge walls is a 60m deep chamber, gouged from the rock by running water.

8 Wards Canyon

9.2km return (3–4hr walking time).

Be enticed into cool and inviting Wards Canyon, where a small pocket of the world's largest fern, the king fern *Angiopteris evecta*, flourishes.

9 Art Gallery

10.8km return (3–4hr walking time).

Gaze at more than 2000 engravings, ochre stencils and freehand paintings adorning the 62m-long sandstone walls of this site of deep cultural significance to First Nations peoples.

10 Cathedral Cave

18.2km return (5–6hr walking time).

This massive wind-eroded overhang sheltered the area's First Nations peoples for thousands of years. Admire the panorama of rock imagery decorating its walls, reflecting the rich cultural life of those who gathered here.

11 Boowinda Gorge

18.4km return (5–6hr walking time).

Rock-hop into this sculpted side-gorge 100m upstream of Cathedral Cave.

12 Big Bend

Big Bend is at the end of the main gorge walking track. 19.4km return (7–8hr walking time).

Visit a natural pool nestled beneath looming sandstone cliffs in Carnarvon Creek. You can camp here all year round.



Rotary lookout, Mount Moffatt

© John Augusteyn

Highlights

- Picnic with a view at Top Shelter Shed or at Rotary Shelter Shed.
- Wake to stunning sunrises over ranges and valleys from your camp site.
- Take a scenic 4WD past The Chimneys, Lots Wife, Marlong Arch and more towering rock formations, or head up through the Mahogany Forest to the head of Carnarvon Creek.
- Sense the passage of time in ancient rock art at The Tombs and a wind-eroded outcrop at The Looking Glass.

Getting there

Travel 220km north of Mitchell via Womblebank Station. Alternatively head 160km north-west of Injune via Womblebank Station or Westgrove Station.

The road from Womblebank is unsealed and can become impassable after rain. 4WD is recommended. Once on park a high-clearance 4WD is required to reach many features of the park.

No roads directly link Mount Moffatt with Carnarvon Gorge or other sections of Carnarvon National Park.

Mount Moffatt section, Carnarvon National Park

Get a natural high exploring the ‘Roof of Queensland’. Be mesmerised by rock art sites of the area’s First Nations peoples and tales of a colourful pastoral past involving outlaws and cattle duffing, set against a backdrop of fascinating rock outcrops, spectacular views, woodlands, towering forests and wildflowers.

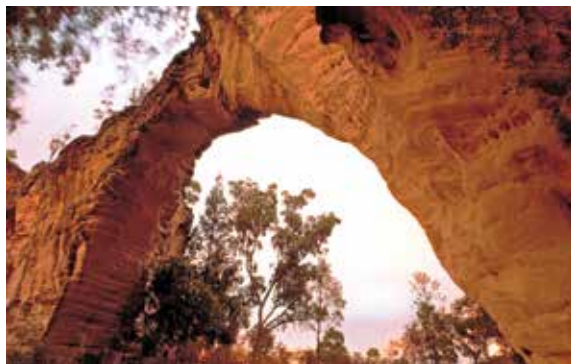
Things to do

Experience this section of the park on two levels. Visit cultural sites and rock formations on the lower sandstone slopes, before climbing to the top of the basalt-crested plateau for magnificent views.



Scenic driving

Drive the 37km Mount Moffatt circuit — past many of the park’s main features, or drive up the high-clearance 4WD track — to the head of Carnarvon Creek. This drive is accessible during dry weather only.



West Branch camping area (above); Marlong Arch (right); thick-tailed gecko *Underwoodisaurus milii* (far right); The Chimneys (opposite page)

© John Augusteyn (above and opposite page); Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt (right and far right)

Places to camp

1 Dargonelly camping area



10km from the park entrance.

Holiday in the park's largest camping area, in a semi-shaded woodland setting next to Marlong Creek.

2 West Branch camping area



9km north-east of the QPWS Ranger Base.

Relax in this pleasant semi-open area near the west branch of the Maranoa River. This is the alternative starting point for the 87km Carnarvon Great Walk.

3 Rotary Shelter Shed camping area



Wake to amazing views from your camp site, 30km from the park entrance at the base of the steep climb to Consuelo Tableland.

4 Top Moffatt camping area



Pick a top spot in this quiet bush camping area, 28km from the park entrance.

Places to go

1 Cathedral Rock

380m return (20min) from the visitor orientation site car park.

Witness the unusual rectangular patterns on the grey weathered surface of this sandstone bluff.

2 The Chimneys

1.4km return (40min walking time). Admire three rock pillars separated from the narrow end of a small sandstone bluff, created when water penetrated vertical fractures in the rock.

3 The Looking Glass

1.9km return (1hr walking time). See how wind has eroded right through an isolated sandstone pillar standing guard beside the Maranoa River.

4 The Tombs

4.2km return (2hr walking time) from the visitor orientation site car park. Stay on the boardwalk for the best view of more than 400 stencilled images decorating the walls of a sandstone shelter that once contained burial chambers of the area's First Nations peoples.

5 Marlong Arch

200m return (5min walking time). Ponder how long this natural sandstone arch took to weather, and how long it might stay standing, as you meander along this short walk.

6 Lots Wife

View a remarkable sandstone pillar, the last isolated remnant of a once-extensive bluff.

7 Kookaburra Cave

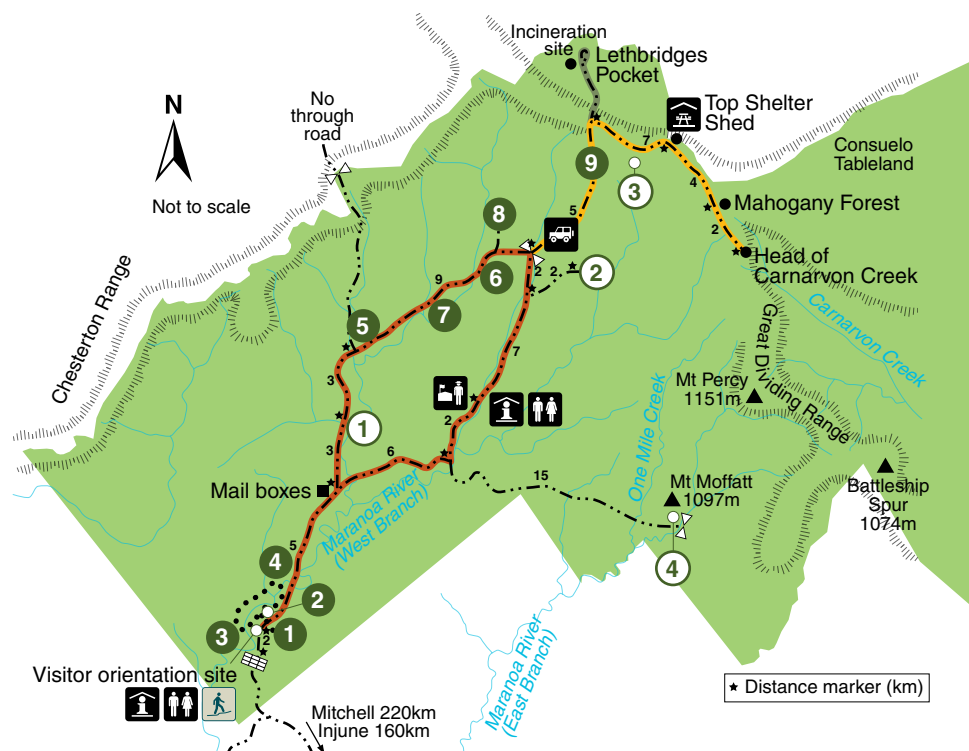
1.7km return (1hr walking time). See if you can find the hand stencil of the bird, created by the area's First Nations peoples, that gives this site its name.

8 Marlong Plain

Park at the locked gate and walk to the edge of the Queensland bluegrass plain to enjoy distant sandstone cliffs and ridges changing colour as the sun slips below the horizon.

9 High Country drive

42km return (allow 3hr driving time). Climb to the Head of Carnarvon Creek, stopping at the Incineration site, Top Shelter Shed and Mahogany Forest along the way. This drive is accessible during dry weather only. A high-clearance 4WD is required.





Safety

The Carnarvon Great Walk is a Grade 5 walking trail. A high level of physical fitness and navigational skills are essential to hike the more remote sections of this walk.

Getting there

Carnarvon National Park lies within the Central Highlands, approximately 600km north-west of Brisbane and 300km south-west of Rockhampton.

Carnarvon Great Walk is best walked in a clockwise direction beginning at Carnarvon Gorge, but you could also start from the Mount Moffatt section.


The drive between the Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Area and the entrance to the Mount Moffatt section of Carnarvon National Park via Injune is 316km.

Safety

Carry adequate drinking water, a complete first-aid kit including sun and insect protection, reliable camping gear, compass, GPS, topographic map and Personal Location Beacon (PLB).

You can obtain topographic maps on-line from sites such as QTopo. <https://qtopo.information.qld.gov.au/>

Book your camp site online at qld.gov.au/Camping

 The final descent into the gorge from Boolimba Bluff (right); Consuelo camping zone (far right)

Photos: (right) © Rayelene Brown (far right) Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt

Slow down on a Great Walk

Reconnect with nature on a hiking adventure, along rugged trails through spectacular and remote landscapes in Queensland's Sandstone Wilderness. It takes 6–7 days to hike the 87km Carnarvon Great Walk, linking the Carnarvon Gorge and Mount Moffatt sections of Carnarvon National Park.

Water has carved a mosaic of winding gorges, towering sandstone cliffs and broad, basalt-capped tablelands, through vast and ancient sedimentary and volcanic rocks over many millions of years. This is an area of outstanding natural beauty and human enterprise.

Wander into shady, cool side-gorges of Carnarvon Creek then climb ridgelines above and beyond the gorge to the lofty, dry woodland plateaus of the 'Roof of Queensland', the source of many mighty rivers. This is a true adventure to remember, but you need to be fit, experienced and able to carry all your gear and food for the entire walk.



When to visit

While the Carnarvon Gorge and Mount Moffatt sections of the park are open to visitors all year round, the Carnarvon Great Walk is closed from the start of November to the end of February—the hottest time of the year. The track may also be closed at other times during fires, adverse weather or for safety reasons. Check online at parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/carnarvon-great-walk/ for current conditions.

Planning your walk

Before heading off on the Great Walk be sure to visit the above website, obtain a Carnarvon Great Walk topographic map, book your camping sites and complete a bushwalking advice form.



Barry Spooner © Qld Govt

Ka Ka Mundi section, Carnarvon National Park

Highlights

- Gaze in wonder at imposing Mount Mooloolong’s craggy sandstone spire or Mount Ka Ka Mundi—a remnant of the volcanic basalt that covered ancient sandstone sediments.
- Explore deep into the park on foot through dense undergrowth.
- Watch birdlife at Bunbuncundoo Springs.

! Safety

There are no formal walking tracks in the park so take a topographic map and GPS if you want to explore.

Getting there

From Springsure, take the Dawson Development Road for about 50km. Take Buckland Road to the south and follow signed tracks past Petrona and Tanderra, through Yandaburra to the park boundary.

A 4WD is recommended. Access to Ka Ka Mundi is via unsealed roads that become impassable when wet. **Take care to avoid stock on unfenced roads and leave gates as you find them.**



Tree ferns thrive on the moist banks of Bunbuncundoo Springs (above); Major Mitchell’s cockatoo (right)

Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt (above); © Qld Govt (right)

Ka Ka Mundi section, Carnarvon National Park

A dramatic skyline of sandstone cliffs, plateaus and remnant basalt outcrops beckons with the promise of cool, lush fern-covered springs, seeping from foothills and hidden creek beds.

See bonewood, softwood and brigalow scrubs on clay soils, forests of poplar box and silver-leaved ironbark, and grassy downs on rich black soils, protected when this former grazing lease became national park in 1974.

swamp wallabies. Look for stocky, dark-furred wallaroos around rocky ridges and outcrops.

Places to camp

1 Bunbuncundoo Springs camping area

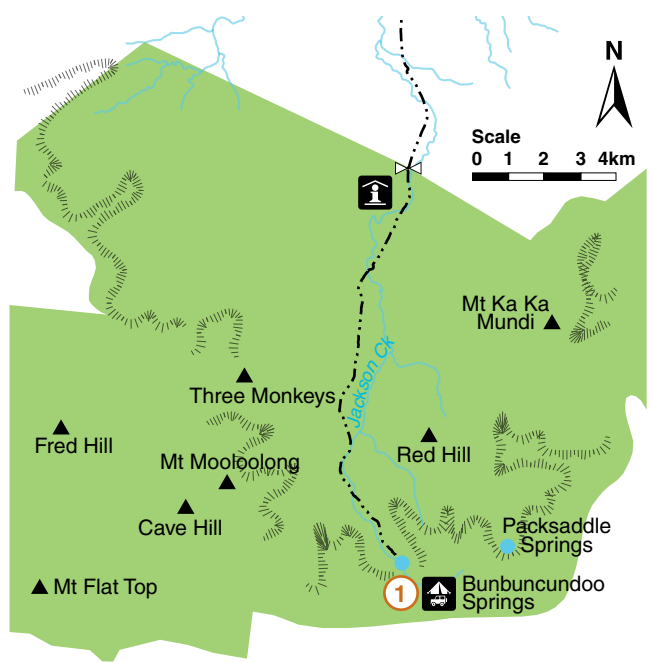


Sheltered by overhanging sandstone cliffs, the sun rises late and sets early at this pleasant camping area. You must be totally self-sufficient as there are no facilities here.

Things to do

🦋 Wildlife spotting

Visit the springs and spot a myriad of wildlife attracted to the water, including king parrots, wompoo fruit-doves and





📷 Salvator Rosa

© Rayelene Brown

Highlights

- Venture deep into the park, imagining a time when the area's First Nations peoples thrived on the bounty of this land and the waters that sustain it.
- Camp under the stars on the banks of the meandering Nogoia River.
- Picnic beneath a skyline of ragged, pink hued cliffs at Louisa Creek junction.

Getting there

Access to Salvator Rosa is only by 4WD. The unsealed roads become impassable in wet weather.

From Springsure, head west along the Dawson Developmental Road for 114km, then veer left at the Y-intersection onto Cungelella Road and drive 24km. Veer left again to continue on Cungelella Road for a further 14km. Turn right onto Salvator Rosa Road travelling 16km to the Nogoia River camping area.

From Tambo, two routes use the loop road Wilderness Way. To take route one, head north on the Dawson Developmental Road for 42km. Turn right to head east and stay on the Dawson Developmental Road for a further 89km. Turn right onto Cungelella Road for 24km then veer left to continue on Cungelella Road for a further 14km. Turn right at Salvator Rosa Road and travel 16km to the Nogoia River camping area.

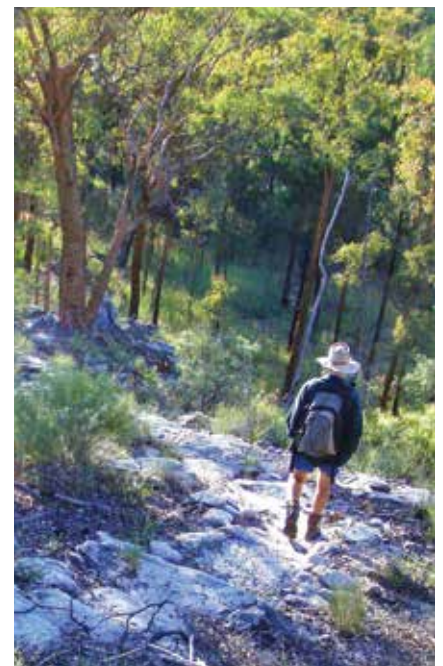
Route two is for high-clearance 4WDs only. Head south on the Landsborough Highway for 8km, then turn left onto Mount Playfair Road (Wilderness Way) and drive 33km. Turn left to stay on Mount Playfair Road for another 63km. Turn right

Salvator Rosa section, Carnarvon National Park

After a long drive across often-dry, mostly-cleared grazing land, Salvator Rosa's spring-fed creeks seem like a welcome oasis beneath a backdrop of rocky sandstone crags and spires.

Discover crystal-clear springs varying from small soaks, like Belinda Springs, to spurting jets. Together they add more than four million litres of water a day to peaceful Louisa Creek and the Nogoia River.

Enjoy easy walks and sightseeing through this open country, a stark contrast to the Ka Ka Mundi section. Visit in spring, when large white flannel flowers and cream sprays of narrow-leaf logania contrast with bright pink flowers hanging from the shrubby homoranthus. Out of more than 300 plant species recorded in the park, at least ten are considered rare or threatened.



onto Cungelella Road and drive 14km, then turn right at Salvator Rosa Road and travel 16km to the Nogoia River camping area.

Please note, the majority of the road names are not signposted at the intersections.


Please respect the rights of property owners and leave all gates as you find them.

Warning: Travel can be unexpectedly slow due to predominantly unsealed roads. Beware of bull dust, sand and other changing conditions. Watch for wildlife and livestock on the roads.



📷 Homoranthus Hill (top); pink fringe myrtle *Calytrix longiflora* (above)
Barry Spooner © Qld Govt (top); Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt (above)



 Nogoa River (left);
Nogoa River camping area (above)

Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt (left);
© Rayelene Brown (above)



Did you know

Thomas Mitchell and his party camped near here on 5 July 1864, at a place they called 'Pyramids Camp'. Returning on 5 September 1864, they created a base camp above the springs, where the bullock teams and party would recover after exploring the wild country to the north and north-east.

How the park got its name

The sandstone skyline reminded Mitchell of the haunting paintings of Salvator Rosa, an Italian Baroque painter in the 1600s.

Ranger tip

“ Heavy storms in the upper catchment can cause flash flooding. Camp only in the designated area and keep an eye on the weather.

Things to do

Picnicking

Louisa Creek junction

Enjoy a relaxing picnic in the shelter shed between spring-fed Louisa Creek and crumbling peaks.

Scenic driving

Follow the rough 4WD track to the park's most outstanding features, including flowing springs and towering sandstone formations. Enjoy birdwatching, photography and bushwalks along the way.

Wildlife spotting

Look for frogs, fish, molluscs and other freshwater invertebrates enjoying the haven provided by the permanent water and dense stand of reeds. Catch a glimpse of Australian reed-warblers, kingfishers and red-backed fairy-wrens around the creek, and birds of prey hunting from on high.

Places to camp

1 Nogoa River camping area



Take a break on the broad sandbank of the Nogoa River, 2.4km from the park entrance.

Places to go

1 Spyglass circuit and Hadrians Wall loop

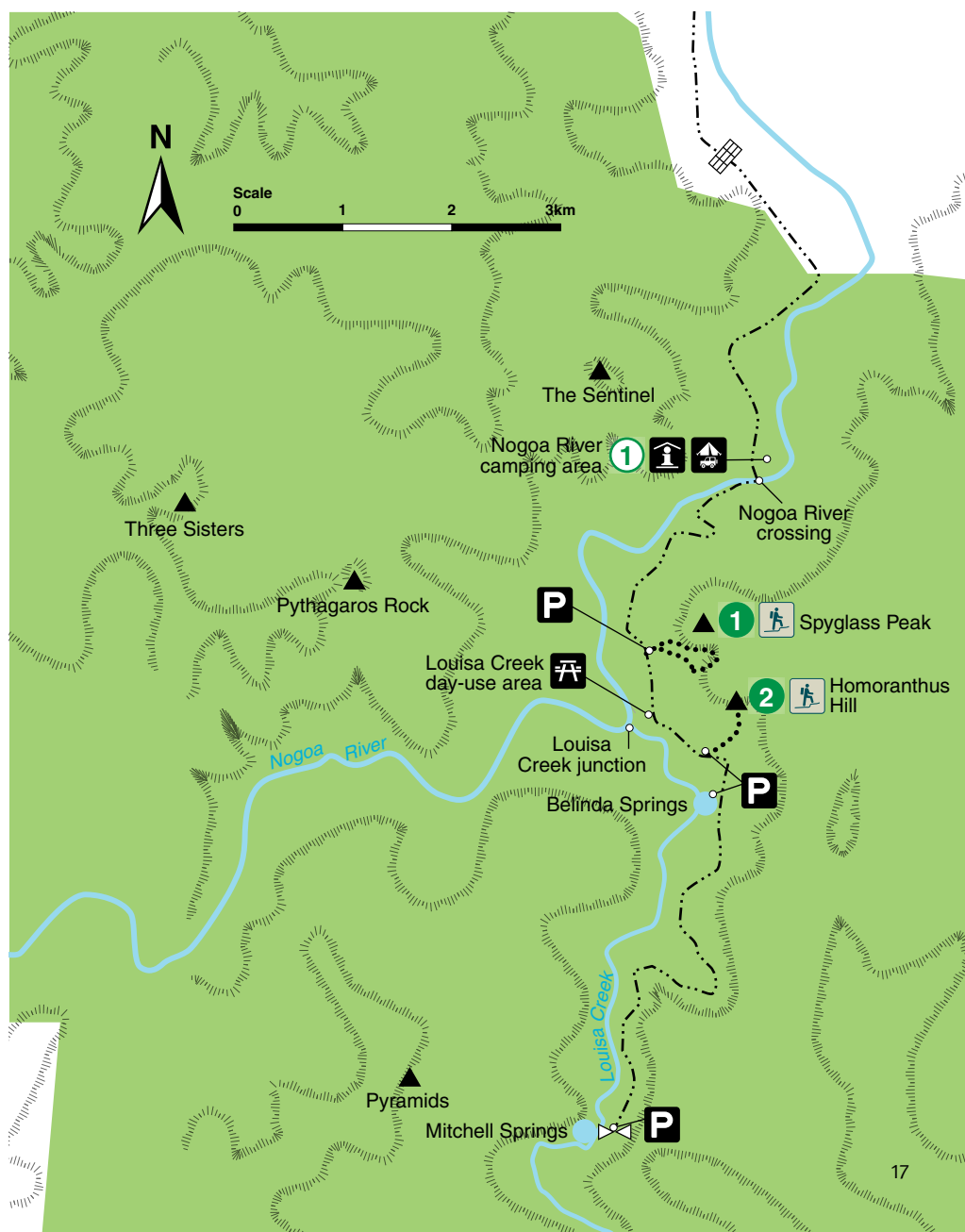
Spyglass Peak circuit 2km.
Hadrians Wall loop 950m.

Take a short stroll past the Hadrians Wall rock formation and loop back around the base of Spyglass Peak or continue on the longer circuit walk to marvel at the impressive 10m diameter hole of Spyglass Peak.

2 Homoranthus Hill

300m return (15min walking time).

Pass through open bloodwood forest to the base of Homoranthus Hill, then climb rock-carved steps to a lookout with 360-degree views over all the bluffs and spires of the park.





View from Freds Gorge lookout

Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt

Highlights

- Wander along Skyline lookout track for close-up views of Virgin Rock standing sentinel over Springsure far below.
- Relax over a picnic at Freds Gorge lookout. Feel the breeze and admire views down the gorge, cutting a swathe from plateau to plain.

Getting there

Travel 4km west of Springsure on the Tambo Road then turn north and follow Dendle Drive to lookouts along the edge of the mountain. The unsealed road is accessible only in dry weather and unsuitable for caravans. A 4WD is recommended. Camping is not permitted in the park but you can stay overnight in nearby Springsure.



SpringSURE lookout track
Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt

Minerva Hills National Park

Be captivated by a myriad of colours and textures on an unforgettable journey to the rocky peak of Mount Zamia. Breathe the fresh scent of eucalypts, marvel at statuesque grasstrees and macrozamia, and gaze across a carpet of grey-green spinifex blanketing the shallow soils on exposed hills and summits.

Immerse yourself in a dramatic landscape, born of blazing volcanic eruptions and devastating lava flows from 30 million years ago. You'll find spectacular rocky peaks, domes, gorges and plateaus, clothed in grassland, open forests and hidden dry rainforest.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting

During the day spot grazing kangaroos, wallaroos and wallabies, and maybe a snoozing koala. Lookouts are the perfect place to watch soaring birds of prey.

Places to go

1 Skyline lookout walk

1.6km return (40–55min walking time). Stroll through a moonscape masterpiece clothed in spinifex to viewing platforms offering scenic vistas south over Virgin Rock and Springsure.

2 Eclipse Gap lookout

Walk from the end of Dendle Drive to the edge of the plateau, overlooking farming lands and Dillies Knob, a remnant basalt column from the fiery volcanic past.

3 Freds Gorge lookout

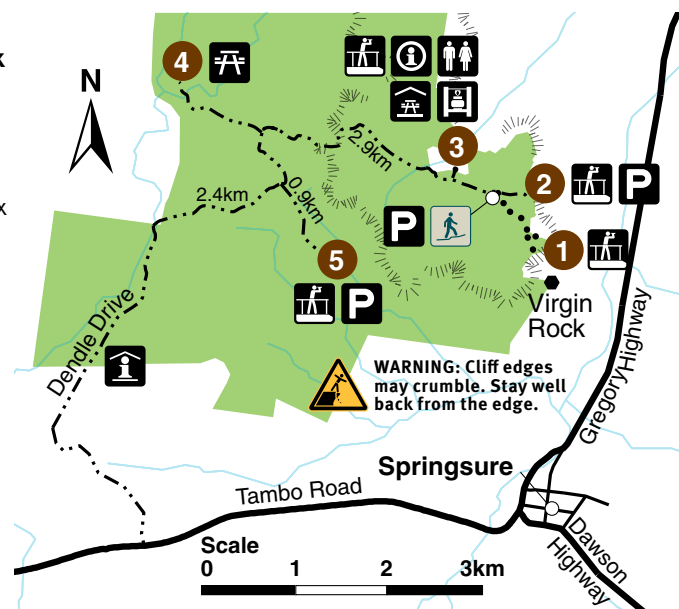
Enjoy a bush picnic with views down the gorge from mountain top to plain.

4 Norwood Creek picnic area

Take the first left turn off Dendle Drive to soak up the heady aroma of lemon-scented gums and if lucky, glimpse a koala napping overhead. Access is by 4WD only.

5 Springsure lookout

Take the first right turn off Dendle Drive down a dirt track to reach Springsure lookout, just a short stroll from the car park. Access is by 4WD only.





© Qld Govt

Aerial view of Lake Nuga Nuga

Highlights

- Capture an image (or a lasting memory) of the birdlife, changing sunset colours or twinkling stars over Lake Nuga Nuga.
- Birdwatch or pause for reflection beside the lake or in the bush.

Getting there

From Roma on the Warrego Highway, turn onto the Carnarvon Developmental Road and travel north 89km to Injune. Continue north 37km from Injune, then turn right onto the Arcadia Valley Access Road. Travel 83km on gravel road (some sections sealed) to the Lake Nuga Nuga Road turn-off.

From Springsure, travel 71km south-east to Rolleston then a further 28km on the Dawson Highway to the Arcadia Valley Access Road turn-off. Travel 58km on gravel and turn right at the Lake Nuga Nuga turn-off.

Arcadia Valley Access Road is not suited to wet weather travel. The last 7km into the national park requires caution. A 4WD is recommended.



Nuga Nuga National Park

Find refuge beside a stunning lake nestled beneath a scrub-covered, dome-shaped mountain in the sparsely-vegetated Arcadia Valley.

Lake Nuga Nuga is one of the largest seasonal lakes in central Queensland. The adjacent park conserves remnants of endangered bonewood scrub as well as vulnerable ooline trees. Explore semi-evergreen vine thickets and surrounding woodlands, providing vital habitat for native animals that emerge at dawn and dusk to feed.


Things to do

Birdwatching

Scratch that twitch! More than 150 different birds live here with Lake Nuga Nuga's waters attracting large flocks of waterbirds, such as pelicans, black swans, magpie geese, spoonbills, egrets and ducks. See cormorants and woodswallows nesting in dead trees emerging from the lake.

There are no formal walking tracks in the park, so take a topographic map and GPS if you want to explore.



 Nuga Nuga bush camping area

Melitta Marr © Qld Govt (above);
Gareth Graham © Qld Govt (below left)

Places to camp

Nuga Nuga bush camping area



Camp beneath the stars on the banks of Lake Nuga Nuga. You will need to be self-sufficient as no facilities are provided.





Looking over Arcadia Valley towards Expedition Range

© John Augusteyn

Lonesome section, Expedition National Park

Highlights

- Picnic at Lonesome lookout then descend to the valley floor.
- Bush camp and explore the seasonally-flowing upper reaches of the Dawson River.

Getting there

From Injune, travel north for 37km on the Carnarvon Developmental Road and turn right onto the Arcadia Valley Access Road. Drive 18km to Lonesome.

During wet weather, take care on the roads as they become slippery. The road into the park is suitable for all vehicle types.

Be alone with your thoughts, gazing from clifftops across Arcadia Valley and the Dawson River to Expedition Range in the distance. Imagine soaring like an eagle above brigalow scrubs and ‘The Candlesticks’, silhouetted against the skyline.

Lancewood, wilga, native bauhinia, bottlebrush and riverine vegetation are prominent through Lonesome, preserving one of the few brigalow remnants growing in the red clay soils of the Arcadia Valley.

Things to do

Stop at the Lonesome lookout for sweeping views over the Arcadia Valley and the Expedition Range in the distance.

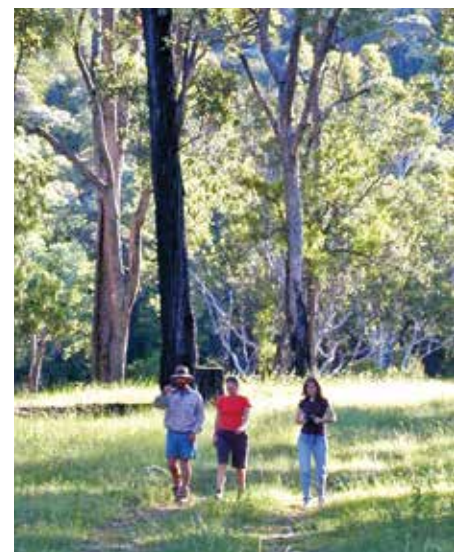
There are no formal walking tracks in the park, so take a topographic map and GPS if you want to explore.

Places to camp

① Lonesome camping area

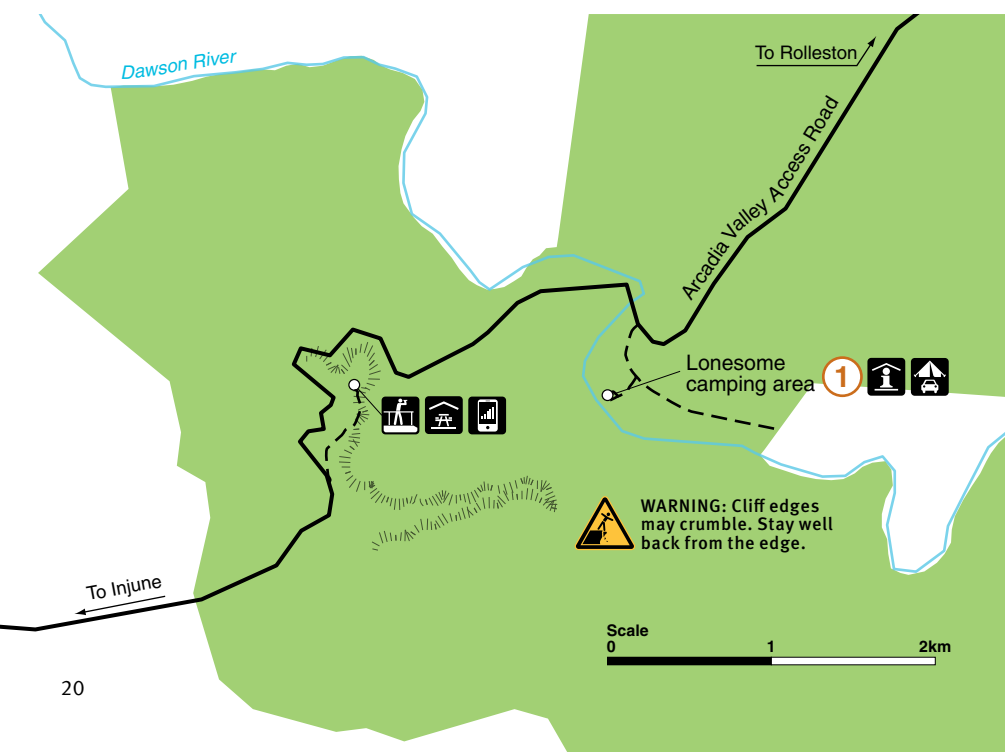


Set up camp in a grassy area surrounded by brigalow scrub and forest on the banks of the Dawson River. The camping area is 500m from Arcadia Valley Access Road, approximately 4km from the lookout. There are no facilities.



📷 Camp beside the seasonal Dawson River under shady eucalyptus (above); contrasting colours of eucalypt leaves (right)

Robert Ashdown
© Qld Govt



The rugged gorges of Beilba

Beilba section, Expedition National Park

Highlights

- Explore the rugged sandstone gorges to discover hidden oases.
- Spotlight at night for gliders, owls and nightjars.

Getting there

From Injune, travel north for 26km on the Carnarvon Developmental Road. Turn right onto Fairview Road, then left and follow the unsealed Beilba Road 30km to the park.

A 4WD is recommended. Travel only during dry weather and drive carefully due to loose gravel and unfenced roads.

Not the kind of place to casually drop into, Beilba is rocky and remote with rugged plateaus and scenic escarpments along the Upper Dawson River.

See remnants of a time when herds of cattle roamed these lonely ranges. Enjoy a variety of vegetation types, including nearly 4,000ha of brigalow, lancewood and softwood shrubs.

Things to do

Keep a journal

Beilba is a great spot to add to your nature diary. Wildflowers, including grevilleas, flannel flowers, acacias and pea flowers provide splashes of colour throughout the park in late winter and spring. Glimpse squatter pigeons in open woodlands and wallaroos on basalt hills in the centre of the park.

⚠ Safety

There are no formal walking tracks in the park, so take a topographic map and GPS if you want to explore. Be cautious near cliff edges.

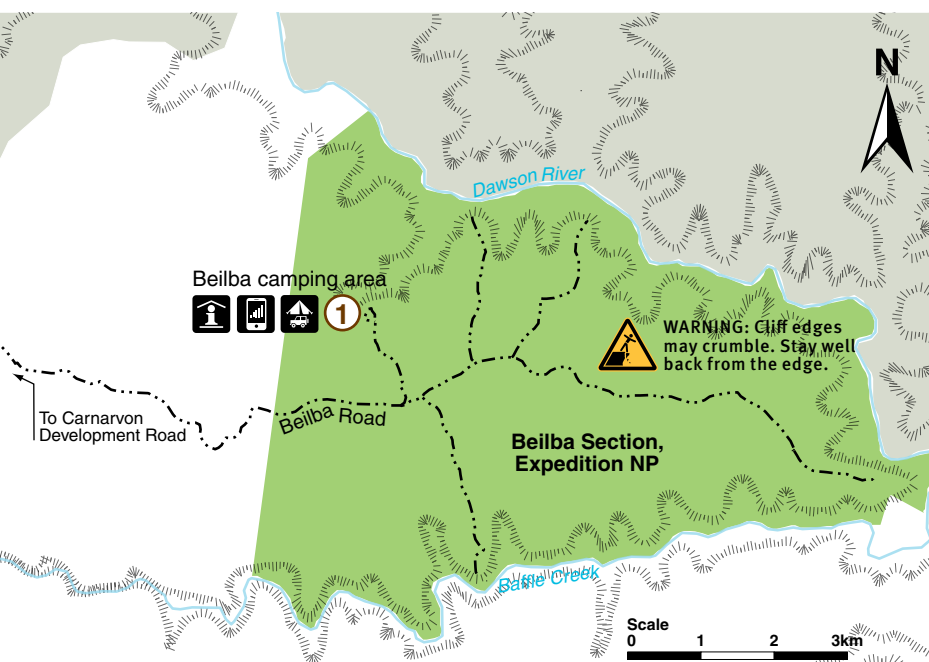
Places to camp

① Beilba camping area



Settle down to sleep in open woodland with views over a rocky gorge.

There are no facilities at this camping area, so make sure you pack everything you need.



Australian bustard (above)
 Flannel flower (left)
 Actinotus helianthi
 Mark Weaver © Qld Govt (above); Karen Smith © Qld Govt (left)



Explore Robinson Gorge

Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt

Highlights

- Hike to a lookout and gaze into the deeply-dissected Robinson Gorge, or head to Shepherds Peak for views over the surrounding peaks and valleys.
- Photograph wildflowers along cliffs and plateaus during winter and spring, or birdwatch along Robinson Creek.
- Leave the warm glow of your camp fire to go spotlighting for gliders, geckos and owls.

Getting there

Robinson Gorge is 90km north-west of Taroom along a gravel road. The last 16km is suitable for 4WD only.

Head north from Taroom on the Leichhardt Highway for 10km and turn left onto Broadmere Road. Continue for 24km and turn right onto Robinson Creek Road. Travel a further 1.5km and turn left at a T-intersection onto Glenhaughton Road. Follow Glenhaughton Road for approximately 40km then turn left at the signposted entrance to Expedition National Park. From here you need a 4WD. Follow the track to a T-intersection, turn right and follow the road to Starkvale camping area.

From the north, turn off the Dawson Highway 1km east of Bauhinia Downs and follow Mapala–Fairfield Road for 93km. Turn right at Oil Bore Road and continue 7km before turning left and driving a further 16km along a 4WD signposted track.

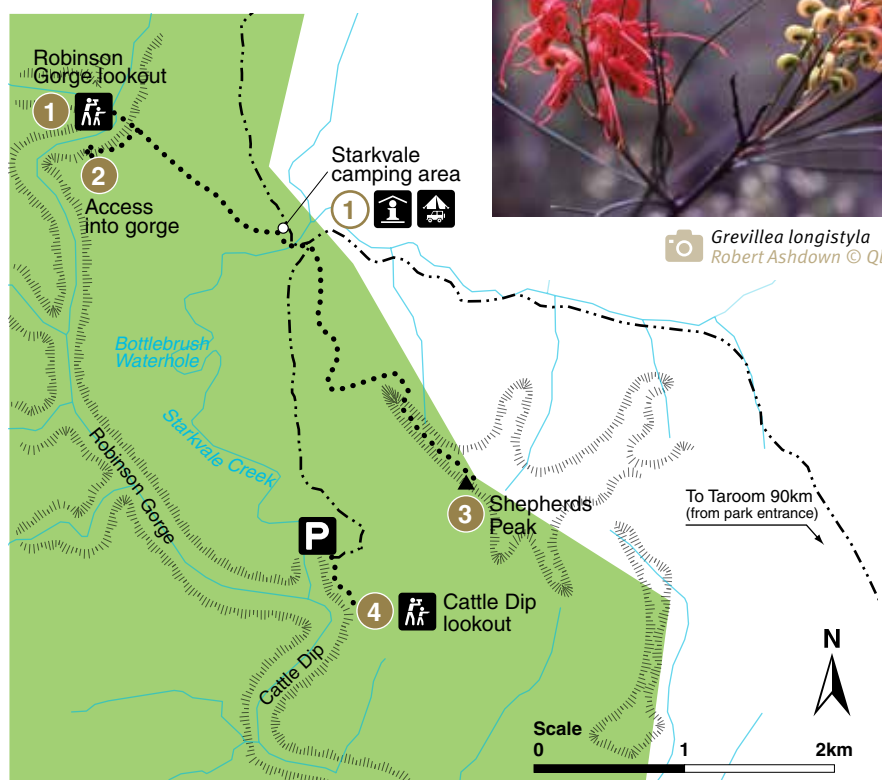
Roads are impassable in wet weather and unsuitable for caravans.

Robinson Gorge section, Expedition National Park

Enjoy isolation in a rugged and heavily-timbered plateau, deeply dissected by gorges of beautiful white, yellow, orange and salmon-coloured sandstone. Overlook Robinson Gorge or, if adventurous, head deep into the gorge—it begins as a broad shallow basin before winding 14km south between sheer cliffs to become a narrow crevice with a spectacular deep pool.

See cabbage palms (a relict-plant from the age of dinosaurs), bottlebrush and wattles lining creeks with patches of dry rainforest in side-gorges and wildflowers along cliff tops. Spot rare plants including towering *Eucalyptus rubiginosa* and small, prickly *Leucopogon grandiflorus*. The rich social

and spiritual association First Nations peoples have with this landscape is seen in the rock art on cliffs and overhangs in the more remote parts of the park.



Grevillea longistyla
Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt



Did you know

Explorer Ludwig Leichhardt passed through here in 1844 and named many landscape features after members or supporters of his expedition.

📷 Lace monitor (top left); sandstone cliffs and eucalypt woodland (above); *Cyclorana novaehollandiae* (left); blue argus *Junonia orithya* (right)
Photos: Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt

Things to do

🦘 Wildlife spotting

Listen for the metallic ‘chink’ of king parrots feeding on eucalypt flowers, fruits of cabbage palms, figs and insects in the gorge. See pale-headed rosellas, lorikeets and many different honeyeaters flit around Starkvale camping area. Go spotlighting with your torch at night to see gliders, geckos, owls and other nocturnal critters.

Places to camp

① Starkvale camping area



Camp among the eucalypts beside a permanent waterhole. This site is suitable for tent camping and high-clearance, off-road camper trailers only.

Places to go

① 🦿 Robinson Gorge lookout

4km return (1hr walking time).

Venture to the escarpment edge overlooking wide, tree-lined Robinson Gorge. There are numerous cliffs in the area. Make sure to supervise children at all times.

② 🦿 Robinson Gorge

6km return (3hr walking time).

Head towards the lookout then turn off at the signposted intersection and descend into the gorge along a steep, rough trail. There are no marked trails in the gorge. Beware of flood debris, tree and rock falls. Bushwalking experience and navigation skills are required. Be prepared—wear ankle-supporting footwear, take a first-aid kit and plenty of water.

⚠️ **Note carefully where you enter the gorge—it’s the only way out.**

③ 🦿 Shepherds Peak

3.6km return (1.5hr walking time).

Head to a sandstone plateau with views over the surrounding peaks and creeks. Take extreme care on top of Shepherds Peak as there are crevices and unguarded cliffs.

④ 🦿 Cattle Dip

1.2km return (1hr walking time).

Be impressed as you overlook the ‘Cattle Dip’, a spectacular narrow cleft between sheer rock walls surrounding a permanent waterhole.



📷 Lake Murphy

Frank Carter © Qld Govt

Highlights

- Glimpse a gorgeous greater glider in the beam of your torchlight as you stroll beneath the stars.
- Watch waterbirds gliding across the lake and listen to woodland birds warbling in the surrounding bush.

Getting there

The park can be reached via the Warrego Highway from Brisbane or via the Dawson Highway from Gladstone.

Turn onto the Leichhardt Highway from the Warrego Highway at Miles or from the Dawson Highway at Banana. Turn off the Leichhardt Highway 18km north of Taroom, onto the road signposted Fitzroy Development Road. Travel 2km to the Glenhaughton Road turn-off. Turn left and drive 10.5km to Lake Murphy. Conventional vehicle access is possible in dry weather.



📷 Clearwing swallowtail (left); Black swan (above)
Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt

Lake Murphy Conservation Park

Discover the ever-changing landscape of this watery oasis. Following rain, see ducks and large wading birds revelling in the shallows of this ephemeral perched lake, while in the dry season, wallabies graze the land where water has evaporated.

Nestled beneath Murphy Range, Lake Murphy only fills when nearby Robinson Creek overflows. This 550ha park was a camp site for explorer Ludwig Leichhardt and his party (including 16-year-old John Murphy) as they travelled between the Darling Downs and the Northern Territory in 1844.

Things to do

📷 Wildlife spotting

Look for koalas in the forest red gums or red-necked wallabies grazing the grassy plains. Watch for plum-headed finches, grey-crowned babbler and white-winged choughs in the woodland and black swans, pygmy geese and black-necked storks on or near the water when the lake is full. If you go spotlighting at night, you might see greater gliders and masked and powerful owls in the trees along the walking track.

Places to camp

① Lake Murphy camping area



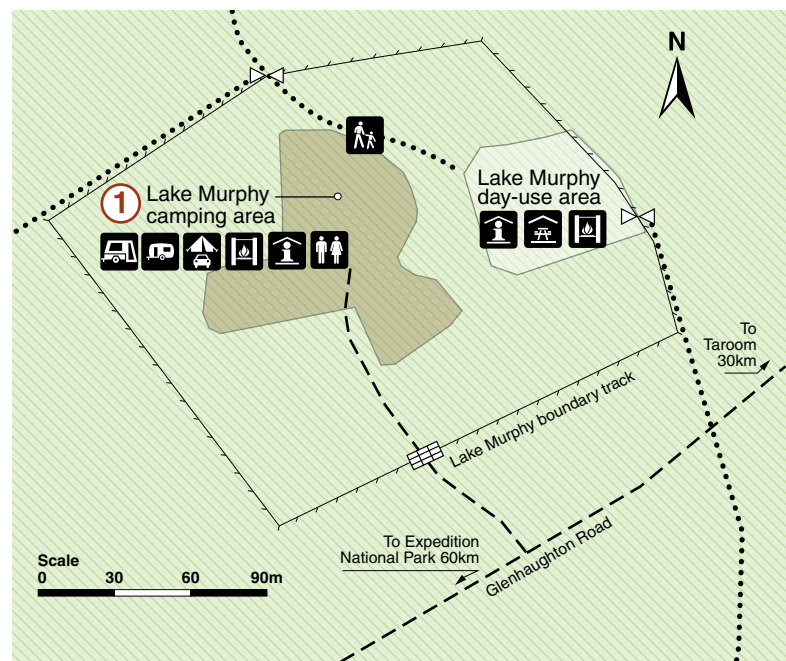
This pleasant semi-shaded open camping area is accessible to trailers, caravans and buses during dry weather.

Places to go

🚶 Lake Murphy circuit

4km (1hr walking time).

Wander 300m from the day-use area to the shores of Lake Murphy. Head back to the gate to walk the circuit through coolibah forest, forest red gums and along Robinson Creek before returning to the picnic area.





Highlights

- Watch the sun set and moon rise over the fascinating maze of orange-hued cliffs, peaks, tunnels and arches.
- Imagine bullock wagons heavily-laden with wool and supplies bumping along the hand-paved road at Flagstaff Hill.

Getting there

Turn onto the Leichhardt Highway from the Warrego Highway at Miles or from the Dawson Highway at Banana. To reach Isla Gorge lookout, turn off the Leichhardt Highway 55km north of Taroom and 35km south of Theodore. The lookout is 1.3km west of the highway.

Attention! There is no public access to the park through Devil’s Nest State Forest. Follow the **road signs** to Isla Gorge National Park—your mapping applications may be incorrect.

Warning: Unsealed roads are slippery when wet and can become impassable after heavy rain.

Isla Gorge National Park

With its picnic and camping area only a kilometre from the highway, Isla Gorge is a perfect place to break your journey. Cast your gaze over a complex maze of gorges, sandstone outcrops and striking rock formations. See this breathtaking panorama change from yellow to orange and pink with the angle of the sun.

Enjoy brilliant displays of wildflowers, panoramic views or walk the historic hand-paved Flagstaff Road.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting

Look for spiny-cheeked, brown, white-eared and blue-faced honeyeaters when the eucalypts, wattles, grevilleas and boronias are in flower from mid-winter to summer.

Places to camp

① Isla Gorge camping area



1.3km from the Leichhardt Highway. Camp atop a cliff face and watch the sun rise over the landscape below. Sheer drops surround the camping area so make sure you stay well back from the edge—one slip could be fatal or lead to serious injury. Ensure you supervise children closely at all times.

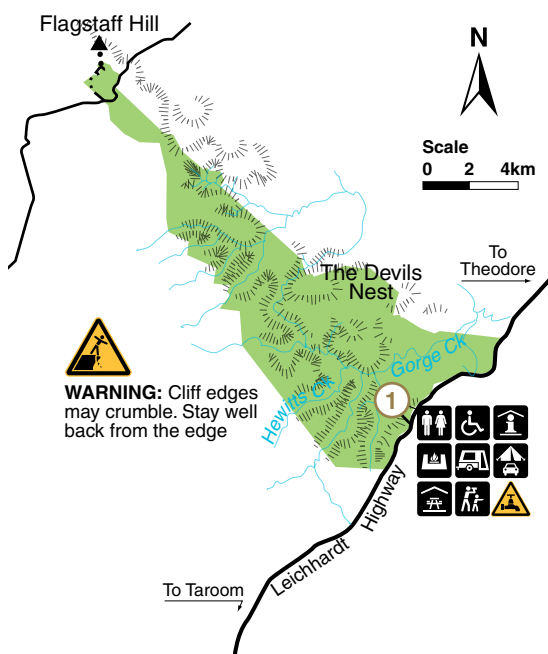
Places to go

Flagstaff section

Drive to the Flagstaff section to see remnants of a hand-paved road constructed by work teams in the early 1860s.


From Taroom, drive north for 31km along the Leichhardt Highway. Turn left at the Flagstaff via Waterton signpost and travel for 49km (9km past the turn-off to Flagstaff Station). Turn left again and drive another 2km.

From Theodore, drive south for 8km along the Leichhardt Highway and turn onto a road signposted ‘Glenmoral Roundstone and Brigalow Research Station’. Travel 14km, then turn left into Glenbar Road. Continue for a further 3.6km before turning right into Flagstaff Road. After 9km, turn sharp right into the park at a cattle grid on the top of the range. Follow the road for a further 2km.



Wildflowers (far left and above); Herbert’s rock-wallaby (left)
Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt



 Dargonelly camping area, Mount Moffatt

© Rayelene Brown

Stay longer

For an extended overnight stay in the Sandstone Wilderness parks, remember to book your camp sites and purchase camping permits before you arrive. It's best to book well in advance as camp sites in popular parks are in great demand during peak periods such as long weekends and school holidays.

For accommodation options outside parks visit southerngreatbarrierreef.com.au and southernqueenslandcountry.com.au

How to book a camp site

- At qld.gov.au/Camping using a payment card or online Gift Card. Free Wi-Fi is available at many accredited visitor information centres.
- Visit an over-the-counter permit booking office accepting cash, eftpos and payment card. Locations are listed at qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/camping/booking-locations

Stay informed

Regularly check:

- park alerts at qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts for conditions and closures
- bushfire alerts at qfes.qld.gov.au for fire danger and fire bans
- current and forecast weather conditions at bom.gov.au
- traffic and travel information at qldtraffic.qld.gov.au or phone 13 19 40 for road conditions.

Be prepared

- Pack for all weather conditions. Sandstone Wilderness parks can be very hot during the day and very cold (to below freezing) overnight.
- Access to or within many parks is only by 4WD. Expect rough, slow, dusty and/or boggy or slippery roads.
- Choose your destination carefully. Are you, your vehicle and equipment up to it? Ensure someone in your group has remote travel experience and sound mechanical knowledge of your vehicle. You could be far from help should something go wrong.
- Fuel up regularly at towns along the way—park bases are not service stations and do not provide fuel.
- Plan for emergencies. Pack extra supplies and leave an itinerary (including travel routes and/or check-in points) with a friend or relative.
- When planning a remote hiking trip, check park alerts at qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts for conditions and closures and go to parks.des.qld.gov.au/things-to-do/activities/walking for bushwalking tips.
- Avoid rushing. Relax! Slow down, take your time to appreciate the landscape and its wildlife, and allow for delays.
- Roads and sections of some parks might be closed during wet conditions, in the event of wildfires or when rangers are carrying out other management duties. Check regularly for updates at qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts



Packing checklist

- Adequate drinking water, food and emergency supplies.
- Complete first-aid kit, including sun and insect protection.
- Detailed map showing travel routes and distances.
- Communication equipment and list of emergency contacts. Mobile phone coverage is limited.
- Extra fuel, vehicle spares and repair equipment. Frequent low gear and 4WD travel will use fuel more quickly. Use maps to calculate fuel requirements and plan refuelling stops.
- Reliable camping gear in good working order.
- Portable stove and/or clean, weed-free firewood.
- Sturdy rubbish bags and/or sealable, animal-proof containers. No bins are provided.
- Long distance walkers: take a topographic map, compass, GPS and Personal Location Beacon (PLB).

Drive safely

- Drive according to local conditions. Watch for animals and avoid risks at washouts and flooded crossings. Move off the road for trucks.
- Keep to designated roads to help prevent erosion and the confusion of multiple tracks.
- Be considerate of other road users and local landholders. Leave gates as you find them and never drive on private property without permission. Some maps show roads that are private and not open to the public.
- Never drive on rain-affected roads. Even if you make it through, the road surface will be damaged and dangerous for other road users.
- Remember—if it's flooded, forget it.
- If you break down, **always** stay with your vehicle until help arrives.

Be safe

- Allow plenty of time to reach your planned destination before dark.
- Stay on formed tracks and do not take shortcuts.
- Treat all water from taps, creeks and lakes. Boil water for 10 minutes or use sterilisation tablets.
- Wear sturdy boots, protective clothing and insect repellent to avoid bites, scratches and stings.
- Stay well back from cliff edges and natural outlooks.
- Never dive or jump into creeks, waterholes or lakes.

Be responsible


- Rubbish—pack it in, pack it out. Take all rubbish (including food scraps, cigarette butts and sanitary items) with you.
- Use a portable stove, or your own clean, weed-free firewood. Collecting firewood in national parks is not permitted. Where permitted, light camp fires only within existing fire rings.
- Avoid the spread of weeds by checking clothing and equipment regularly for seeds.
- Use vehicle wash-down facilities in local towns to help prevent the spread of weeds.
- Leave your pets at home.
- Don't use generators, firearms or chainsaws.
- Camp only in the sites provided. Please set up camp away from animal nests and/or burrows.
- Please don't feed wildlife or leave food or scraps behind.
- Keep to tracks and boardwalks to avoid damaging fragile First Nations peoples' rock art, trampling sensitive vegetation or causing erosion.
- Graffiti is not 'leaving your mark'—it's vandalism. Penalties apply.
- Where toilets are not provided, bury human waste and toilet paper at least 15cm deep and 100m away from camp sites, tracks and watercourses.
- Wash at least 50m away from watercourses and minimise use of soap and detergent.





Be prepared (opposite page); enjoy a day exploring Carnarvon Gorge (far left); camping in Carnarvon National Park (left); tranquil waters of Carnarvon Creek (above)


Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt


Further information

 qld.gov.au/NationalParks

 qld.gov.au/Camping

 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

Useful contacts

Emergencies:

Call Triple Zero (000)

Road conditions:

Visit the Department of Transport and Main Roads
at 131940.qld.gov.au or phone 13 19 40.

Maranoa Regional Council

maranoa.qld.gov.au

Blackall-Tambo Regional Council

btrc.qld.gov.au

Banana Shire

banana.qld.gov.au

Central Highlands Region

chrc.qld.gov.au

Tourism information:

visitcapricorn.com.au

Dump points:

sanidumps.com