



Tropical Coast national parks



Contents

Parks at a glance	2	Girringun National Park	14
Welcome.....	3	Cardwell State Forest.....	16
Map of the Tropical Coast national parks	4	Hinchinbrook Island National Park.....	17
Plan your getaway.....	6	Girramay National Park.....	18
Wet Tropics World Heritage Area	6	Tully Gorge National Park.....	19
Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area	6	Djiru and Clump Mountain national parks	20
Choose your adventure	8	Eubenangee Swamp and Russell River national parks	21
Bowling Green Bay National Park	9	Wooroonooran National Park	22
Townsville Town Common and Cape Pallarenda conservation parks.....	10	Smithfield and Mount Whitfield conservation parks.....	24
Magnetic Island National Park	11	Tropical island national parks	25
Paluma Range National Park.....	12	Camping in parks.....	26
Broadwater, Abergowrie State Forest.....	13	Further information	28

Parks at a glance

	Toilets 	Camping 	Camp fires 	Day-use area 	Lookout/ viewing platform 	Short walk 	Long walk 	Mountain biking 	Kayaking/ canoeing 	Fishing 
Bowling Green Bay NP	✓*	✓	✓^	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Townsville Town Common CP	1			1	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Cape Pallarenda CP	1			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Magnetic Island NP	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Paluma Range NP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Broadwater, Abergowrie SF	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Girringun NP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Cardwell SF	✓			✓	✓	✓				
Hinchinbrook Island NP	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Girramay NP	✓	✓	3	✓	✓	✓				2
Tully Gorge NP	✓	✓	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Djiru NP	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Clump Mountain NP					✓	✓				
Eubenangee Swamp NP					✓	✓				
Russell River NP		✓	✓							✓
Mount Whitfield CP	1			✓	✓	✓	✓			
Wooroonooran NP	✓	✓	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Smithfield CP						✓	✓	✓		
Tropical island national parks	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

1—close to park; 2—only at Edmund Kennedy section; 3—only at Murray Falls camping area; 4—only at Tully Gorge camping area; 5—only at Goldsborough Valley camping area.

^ coastal camping areas only

* Alligator Creek day-use area only



Unique wildlife

Delight in spotting Queensland's iconic wildlife—watch a cassowary weave through the rainforest, or snorkel the Great Barrier Reef, filled with a rainbow of corals and a thrilling array of marine life.



World Heritage treasures

Discover special World Heritage places, from mist-shrouded mountain tops to reef-fringed islands—a new treasure awaits around every bend.

Ancient rainforests

Wonder at the majesty and mystery of the world's oldest continuously surviving tropical rainforest—a place of breathtaking beauty and a unique sanctuary for some of the world's most threatened species.



Tropical paradise

Refresh on a tropical holiday full of glorious tumbling waterfalls, rushing wild rivers and beaches caressed by balmy seas— everything that makes the Wet Tropics wet!



Exhilarating adventures

Energise on a tropical adventure—rafting whitewater rapids, trekking rugged landscapes, mountain biking historic trails or ocean kayaking from one perfect beach to the next!

Welcome to Tropical Coast parks

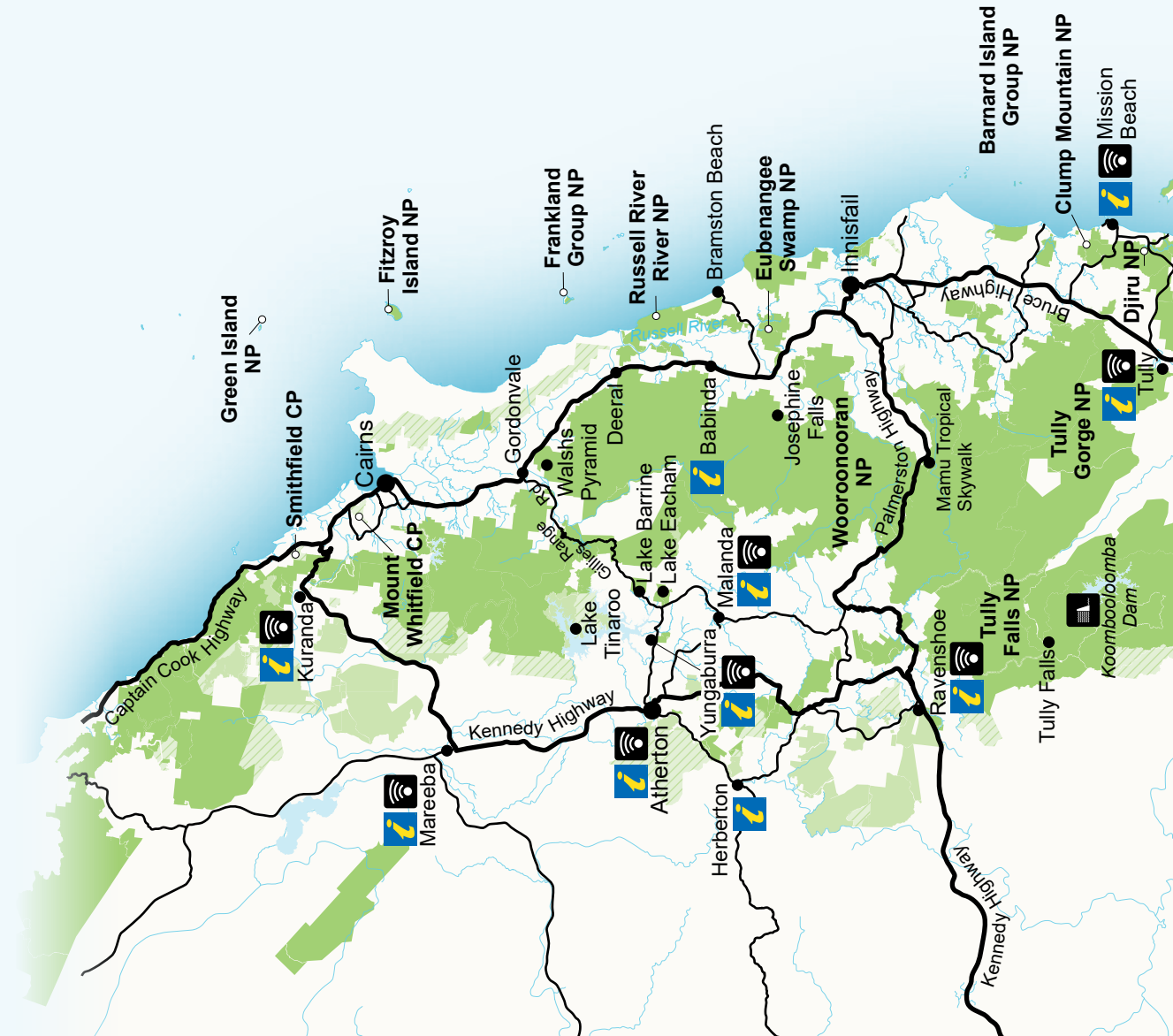
“Welcome to our national parks—part of which is my country. Warrgamay land is of great significance to me and my peoples. The connection I feel to country can't be any stronger and I have strong pride and passion to be a caretaker and role model for the Indigenous and the non-Indigenous community. The land is the mother and we are of the land; we do not own the land rather the land owns us. The land is our food, our culture, our spirit and our identity. So when myself and my people of Warrgamay talk about country it is spoken of like a person: we speak to country, we sing to country, we worry about country and we long for country. This job as a caretaker makes me proud of who I am, and I am privileged to work and to care for country.

Ranger Clarence

on behalf of the Park Rangers of the Tropical Coast



Map of the Tropical Coast national parks

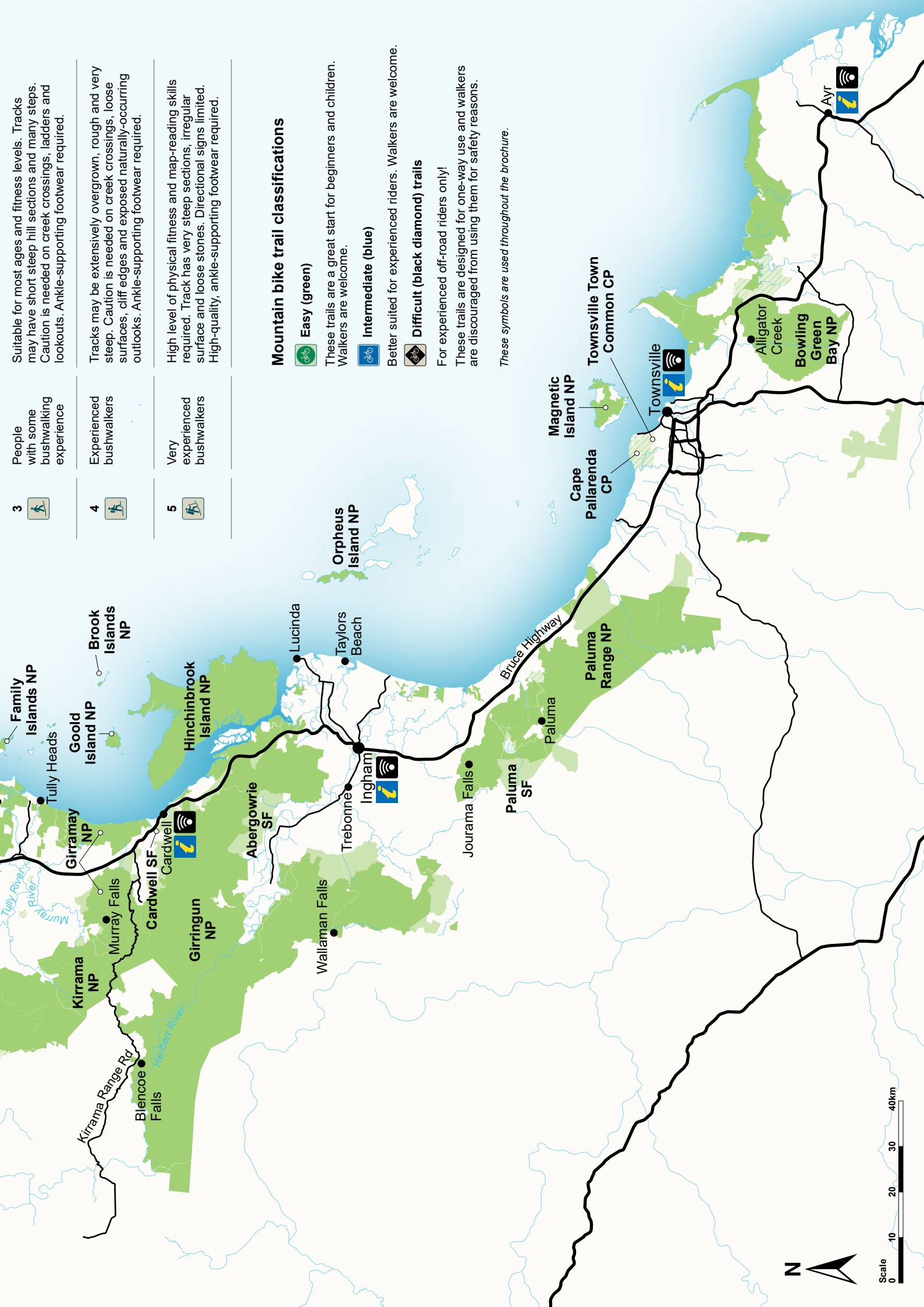


Legend for maps

	National park		Information hut		Mountain biking
	State forest		Parking		Wildlife spotting
	Conservation park		Wheelchair access		Swimming
	Waterways		Toilets		Swim between the flags
	Township		Day-use area		Snorkelling
	Mountain		Shelter		Fishing
	Highway		Picnic tables		Boat ramp
	Sealed road		Picnic platform		Boating
	Unsealed road		Sheltered picnic tables		Canoeing/kayaking
	4WD road		Viewpoint		Vehicular ferry
	Walking track		Lookout		Dam
	Boardwalk		Camping		Generators permitted
	Mountain bike track		Camping—car access		No vehicle access
	Shared trail—walkers and mountain bike		Camping—boat access		No fishing
	Stairs		Camping—canoe access		Warning
	Visitor information centre (VIC)		Shower		Do not drink the water
	Wi-Fi access		Fires permitted		Bullrouts
	Telephone		Open fireplace		Be Crocwise in croc country
	Park office/information		Barbecue—gas/electric		

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.



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.

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.

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.

3 People with some bushwalking experience

4 Experienced bushwalkers

5 Very experienced bushwalkers

Mountain bike trail classifications

- Easy (green)**
These trails are a great start for beginners and children. Walkers are welcome.
- Intermediate (blue)**
Better suited for experienced riders. Walkers are welcome.
- Difficult (black diamond) trails**
For experienced off-road riders only!
These trails are designed for one-way use and walkers are discouraged from using them for safety reasons.

These symbols are used throughout the brochure.





Magnetic Island, Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

Photo: © Townsville Enterprise

Plan your getaway

Ancient rainforest-clad mountains, carved by waterfalls and gorges, sweep down to a patchwork of lush tropical farms, forests and wetlands. Rivers and creeks meander to the coast where pristine beaches are lapped by tropical waters—the meeting place of two World Heritage areas, the Wet Tropics of Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef. The Tropical Coast awaits your discovery.

Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

Discover the breathtaking beauty and biodiversity of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Extending from Townsville to Cooktown, these ancient rainforests are a living cultural landscape for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples, with the Area included on the National Heritage list for its Indigenous cultural values. Encompassing almost 900,000ha of rainforest, open woodlands and mangroves, this remarkable landscape is home to an astounding variety of animals and plants including many found nowhere else in the world.

Find out more at wettropics.gov.au

 Paluma Range National Park
Photo: Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt



Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area features the world's largest coral reef, famed for its incredible beauty and outstanding biodiversity. Stretching more than 2,000km along Queensland's coast, the Reef comprises 3,000 individual reefs and islands. The remarkable ecosystem is home to thousands of different species of fish, molluscs, corals, sponges and abundant marine mammals, reptiles and birds.

Find out more at gbrmpa.gov.au


 Coastline (above); snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef (below).

Photo: © Tourism Tropical North Qld



Living cultural landscape

The Tropical Coast is the traditional country of numerous Aboriginal clan groups where nature and culture are interwoven. Rich with spiritual meaning, traditional knowledge and cultural sites, this unique and irreplaceable area is a living cultural landscape. Modern development impacted the Aboriginal people's traditional way of life but did not disrupt their strong, enduring connection to Country. Today, the area's Traditional Owners continue caring for their Country, assisting with management of parks and keeping their culture strong. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Queensland's national parks.

Best time to visit

The best time to visit the Tropical Coast is the dry season from May to September, when temperatures and humidity are lower. Summer months are hot and humid, often with extended rain, flooding and occasional cyclones. Parks can be temporarily closed during extreme weather events.

Best way to visit


Enjoy the freedom of your own vehicle on a self-drive road trip. Most mainland parks are accessible by 2WD. Some island national parks have ferry services, while others can only be accessed by private or charter vessels. Use the suggested itineraries on page 8 to help plan your journey.

Local events

Make the most of your visit and time your holiday with a local event. Choose from country shows, fishing competitions, mountain-bike rides and races, sailing and swimming events and music, food and cultural festivals. There is something happening all year, so join the fun!

Visit townsvillenorthqueensland.com.au and tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au

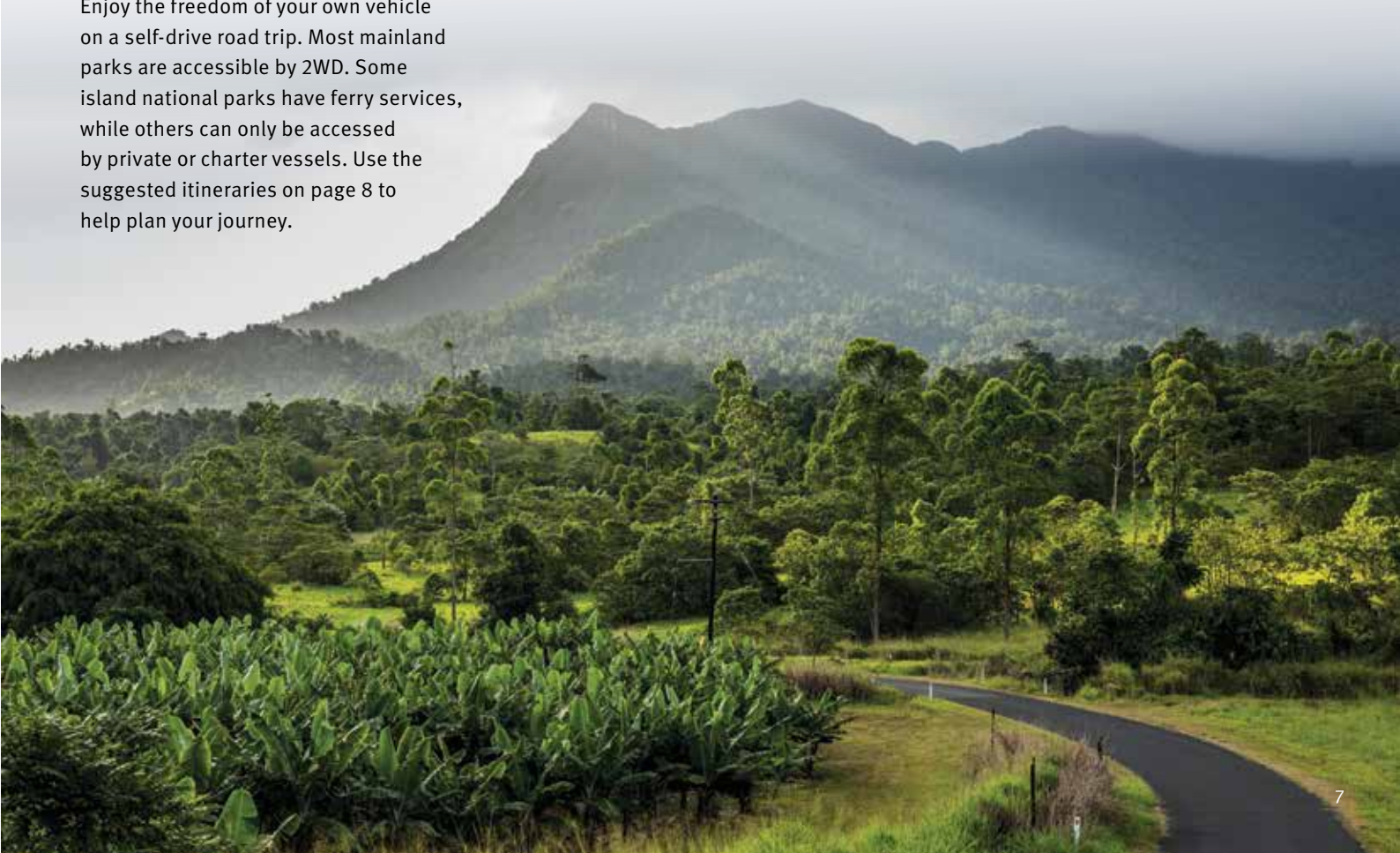


 Giringun and QPWS Rangers working together on Country (above); Enjoy a tropical drive (below).

Photos: © Qld Govt (above); Greg Snell © Tourism Tropical North Qld (below)

Guided tours

Join a guided tour with an experienced local. Tour companies offer half to multi-day excursions and cater for special interests. Find out more at townsvillenorthqueensland.com.au and tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au. When booking your tour, look for the ECO Certified logo. For more information visit ecotourism.org.au



Choose your adventure

The coast between Townsville and Cairns is ideal for a self-drive road trip. With many different park experiences along the way, you'll be spoilt for choice. Will you follow the coast or detour inland?

Stay on the main roads and visit popular parks or head along country roads to explore lesser-known gems? Allow a day or two, a week or even more—you decide! Along the way you'll discover thriving country towns and fascinating local attractions to make your journey even more memorable. Use the information below to plan your journey, with the main towns as your base for visiting some of Queensland's best parks. **Happy road-tripping!**

Suggested itineraries

Around Townsville

Escape the city and try the fantastic mountain bike and walking trails at **Townsville Town Common** and **Cape Pallarenda conservation parks** before heading south to **Bowling Green Bay National Park** to finish your day with a peaceful picnic and a refreshing dip in Alligator Creek.

For a day in paradise catch the ferry for a 20min ride from Townsville to idyllic **Magnetic Island National Park**—the bays and beaches are spectacular, but it's the local koalas that will steal your heart.

Looking for a weekend getaway? Retreat to the rainforest and the quaint village of Paluma north of Townsville at **Mount Spec, Paluma Range National Park**. It's high in the hills and packed full of walking tracks and wildlife.

Hot tip!

While in Townsville, learn more about north Queensland and the tale of shipwrecked HMS *Pandora*—the ship sent to capture the *Bounty* mutineers—at the Museum of Tropical Queensland.

Around Ingham

Spend a day exploring serene Waterview Creek at **Jourama Falls, Paluma Range National Park** or marvelling at the spectacular falls and picnicking with a view at **Wallaman Falls, Girringun National Park**.

Is a day fishing more your style? Hire a charter boat or take your own to the southern end of the famed Hinchinbrook Channel and spend a day chasing barramundi.

For a night or two away, take the family camping at **Broadwater, Abergowrie State Forest**. There's plenty of space for a game of cricket, a swimming platform for easy access into beautiful Broadwater Creek and fire rings to enjoy a crackling campfire under the stars.

Hot tip!

At the top of the Cardwell Range, 16km north of Ingham on the Bruce Highway, stretch your legs and admire the awesome view over Hinchinbrook Channel and the island.

Around Cardwell

Enjoy a day exploring **Girramay National Park**. Take a morning stroll on Wreck Creek Beach at **Edmund Kennedy** before driving to **Murray Falls** for a picnic lunch and a refreshing swim at the Murray Falls day-use area.

Driving more your style? Take the scenic route and explore the seasonal falls and creeks along the Cardwell Forest Drive in **Cardwell State Forest**.

Head to the hills for a night or two at **Blencoe Falls, Girringun National Park** and enjoy a peaceful camp by the creek, swimming and fishing at your leisure. Wander among the giant kauri pines and rose gum trees at **Kirrama National Park** on the way.

Grab your hiking boots and tick the Thorsborne Trail in **Hinchinbrook Island National Park** off your bucket list! Cardwell and Lucinda are the gateways to this world-renowned trail where you can trek 4–7 days through spectacular wilderness and be captivated by Hinchinbrook's untouched beauty.

Around Tully and Mission Beach

Immerse yourself for a day in the lush rainforest of **Tully Gorge National Park**. Take the easy and short Butterfly walk or challenge yourself with a strenuous climb up Mount Tyson. Finish your day with a swim and a barbecue at picturesque Alligators Nest, just a few minute's drive from Tully.

Near Mission Beach explore the trails of **Djiru National Park** where you have the best chance of spotting a cassowary in the wild, then climb Bicton Hill at **Clump Mountain National Park** for an awesome view over the Coral Sea and **Family Islands National Park**.

For a longer stay, venture deep into the rainforest and camp for a night or two by Cochable Creek near Tully Gorge or beach yourself at Family Islands National Park for a few days soaking up the tropical island lifestyle.

Around Innisfail and Babinda

Don't miss **Wooroonooran National Park!** Fill a day wandering the rainforest canopy at Mamu Tropical Skywalk and discovering beautiful waterfalls on the walking tracks at Palmerston. Drive to Josephine Falls where the water tumbles down from the top of Bartle Frere.

Indulge in a spot of quiet birdwatching at **Eubenangee Swamp National Park** or, for some fun on two wheels, mountain bike part of the Goldfield trail in **Wooroonooran National Park**.

Stay a little longer and enjoy a remote camp on the beach at **Russell River National Park**.

Around Cairns

Feeling energetic? Join the locals and hit the amazing walking tracks of **Mount Whitfield** and **Earl Hill conservation parks** and **Smithfield Conservation Park** mountain bike trails.

Looking for a challenge? Conquer the 922m summit of Walshs Pyramid in **Wooroonooran National Park**, with panoramic views of Cairns and the tropical coastline. Then drive to **Goldsborough Valley** and reward yourself with some green time in the rainforest—relax by the Mulgrave River and set up camp for a night or two.

While in Cairns, make sure you visit the Great Barrier Reef. Enjoy an easy day trip to **Green Island** or **Fitzroy Island national parks**. Go for a snorkel, a swim and a stroll along tropical shores before relaxing on a sunset cruise back to Cairns.

Alligator Creek day-use area

Bowling Green Bay National Park

Refresh your spirit with some peaceful fishing, a lazy creek-side barbecue with rewarding birdwatching or a strenuous hike in this mountainous coastal park.



Must dos

- Have a relaxing picnic before exploring the clear granite pools of Cockatoo Creek.
- Take a gentle stroll along the boardwalk, spotting the creek's residents as you go.

Getting there

Drive 25km south of Townsville along the Bruce Highway, turn onto Alligator Creek Road and follow the signs to Alligator Creek day-use area (about 30min drive from Townsville).

Safety

Never dive or jump into Alligator Creek.

Be Crocwise in croc country in coastal areas of the park (see page 27).

Explore the tumbling mountain creeks, rich wetlands, teeming estuaries and sandy wind-blown shores that create this park's unique landscape and provide a treasure trove for birdwatchers. The park is home to more than 300 species of birds!

Things to do

Wildlife spotting

See shorebirds on the beach from Cungulla to Salmon Creek. Kingfishers and honeyeaters are found in trees lining the creek bank at Alligator Creek. At night, rufous bettongs and brushtail possums can be spotted around your camp site.

Fishing

Fish in tidal areas of the park. Fisheries regulations and marine park zoning restrictions apply (see page 27).

Places to camp

Camp by your car or hike in—choose your experience! Find out more about the camping areas at qld.gov.au/BowlingGreenBayNP

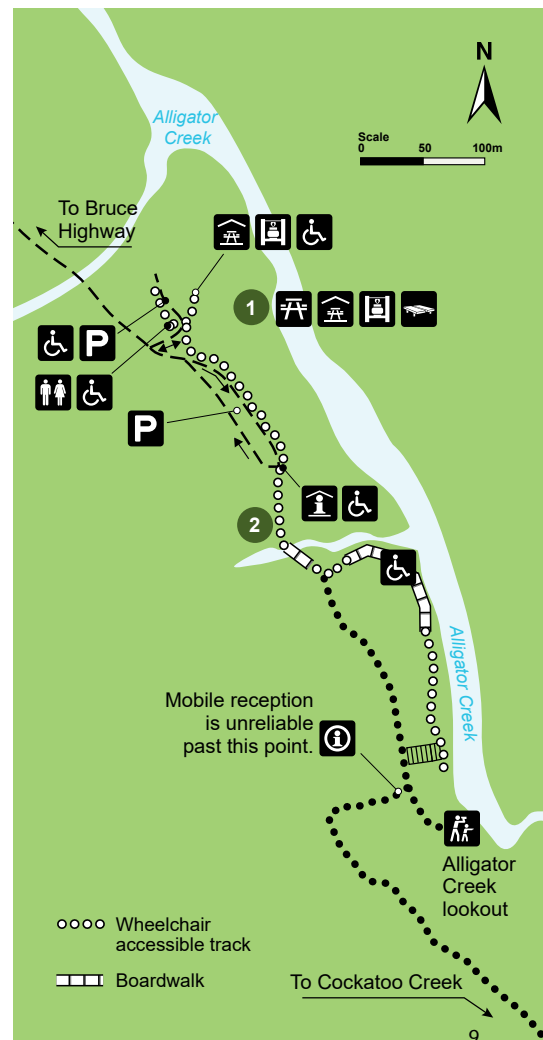
Places to go

Enjoy a refreshing dip, barbecue or easy walk at **Alligator Creek day-use area** 1 and **Alligator Creek walk**, suitable for mobility impaired visitors 2.

Cockatoo Creek trail

3.2km return (2hr)

Lace up your shoes and walk through open woodlands to Cockatoo Creek. Enjoy a tranquil rest spot lined with bottlebrush trees and clear rock pools.



Native rosella (top right); agile wallaby (left).

Photos: © Qld Govt (above); © Keith Dyson (left)





Riding Smedley's trail

Photo: © Sue Rutherford

Townsville Town Common and Cape Pallarenda conservation parks

Must dos

- Mountain bike the Under the Radar trail for awesome views of Townsville's northern coastline.
- Arm yourself with binoculars and tramp the wetland trails to the bird hides to see intriguing birdlife.
- Catch a stunning sunrise over Cleveland Bay on an early morning stroll on the Shelly Cove trail.

Getting there

Townsville Town Common is 500m off Cape Pallarenda Road, 2km from Rows Bay. Cape Pallarenda is at the end of Cape Pallarenda Road, 5.5km from Rows Bay.

Set your adrenaline racing when you grab your bike or hiking boots and hit the stunning nature trails winding through these parks.

Enjoy the secluded beaches framed by rocky headlands, coastal woodlands bordering seasonal wetlands and deep-water lagoons that make these parks special. The Cape Pallarenda Trails, ranging from short easy walks to cross-country mountain bike rides, traverse the parks providing a popular nature escape—and lots of heart-pumping fun—close to the city of Townsville.

Wildlife spotting

Spy comb-crested jacanas and plumed whistling ducks in the wetlands and spot double-barred finches and red-backed fairy-wrens in the grasslands. High in the open branches of overhead trees the acrobatic antics of the dollarbirds will entertain you. Watch brahminy kites and white-bellied sea-eagles scan for prey from above.

Things to do

Mountain biking

Ride 34km of easy and intermediate trails. Rated intermediate, Under the Radar and Smedley's trails (blue) suit experienced riders only, featuring steep sections and rock obstacles. Lagoon, Freshwater and Shelly Beach trails (red) are shared with walkers and rated easy—perfect for beginners!

Places to go

1 Forts walk 500m (45min)

Explore the searchlight, gun emplacement and command tower remains of historic WWII Pallarenda Battery.

2 Many Peaks track 5.7km (3hr)

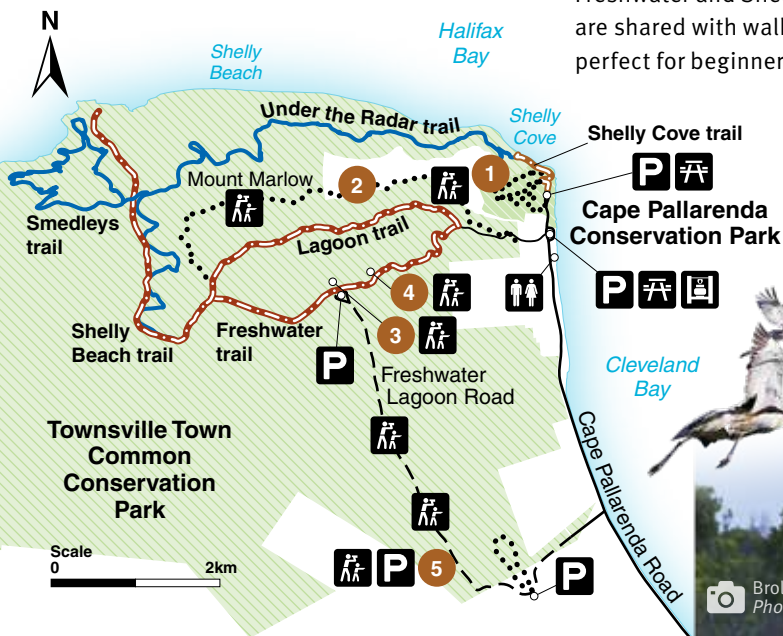
Trek across the range to the summit of Mount Marlow enjoying 360 degree vistas of Townsville, the surrounding mountain ranges and the Coral Sea.

Bird hides

The Freshwater 3 and Jacana 4 bird hides and Payet's Tower 5 in Townsville Town Common Conservation Park are easy walks from your car.

Safety

Under the Radar and Smedley's are narrow mountain bike trails—walkers and runners may share these trails but must give way to cyclists.



Brolgas on the wetlands
Photo: © Keith Dyson



Magnetic Island National Park

Must dos

- Hike to a secluded bay, relax on the tropical sand and snorkel in tranquil water.
- Snap some fabulous scenery when you explore the park's walking trails.

Getting there

Catch the passenger or car ferry from Townsville for a 30min ride to Nelly Bay on the island. Catch a bus or drive your own vehicle around the island roads or hire a car, scooter or bike.

Visit the Forts Junction, a gateway to the national park and walking trails.

Slow down to 'Maggie time' and relish the special experiences offered on this treasured island park, famed for its stunning scenery and its furry residents. Can you spot a koala? Northern Australia's largest colony of koalas lives in the park.

Admire granite boulder headlands dotted with majestic hoop pines and picture-perfect bays with blue-green waters and fringing reefs.

The island, together with its surrounding reefs, is part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Be adventurous!

Hire a kayak or paddle your own around the island to secluded bays and beaches only accessible by boat. If you like a faster pace, hire a jet ski or for those wanting to explore the underwater world, take a guided snorkelling tour on the reefs surrounding the island.

See the rich colours of the Great Barrier Reef as you snorkel at Picnic, Arthur and Florence bays.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting

Search for koalas in gum trees along the Forts walk, spy allied rock-wallabies at dawn or dusk at Geoffrey Bay headland and watch birds of prey swooping for fish at any of the island's beaches.

Places to stay

You can't camp in the park but the island offers many different accommodation options such as hotels, holiday houses and backpacker hostels.



Koala
Photo: Maxime Coquard © Qld Govt

Places to go

- Forts walk**
4km return (2hr)
From the Forts Junction, discover the fascinating WWII history of the island and enjoy brilliant 360 degree views. This is also one of the best places to spot a koala in the trees beside the walking track.
- Forts Walk–Florence Bay track**
3km one way (1.5hr)
Continue on from the Forts Walk to Florence Bay to experience this secluded tropical bay.
- Hawkings Point track**
1.2km return (1hr)
At Picnic Bay climb to the top of the headland for views over Cleveland Bay, to Townsville and beyond.





Photo: © John Augusteyn

Paluma Range National Park

Must dos

- Reinvigorate in the cool mountain air as you explore historic rainforest tracks.
- Frolic in the cool water of Little Crystal Creek near the historic stone-pitched bridge.

Getting there

64km north of Townsville, turn off the Bruce Highway onto Mount Spec Road and follow the signs to Little Crystal Creek, Paluma (about 45min from the highway along a narrow winding range road) and Big Crystal Creek (Paradise Waterhole).

Turn off the Bruce Highway 23km south of Ingham onto Jourama Road and follow the signs for 5km to Jourama Falls day-use and camping areas.

Escape the heat of the coast and feel the temperature drop as you step into the cool rainforests of the Paluma Range.

Don't miss rainforest-cloaked Mount Spec's crystal-clear cascades, stunning coastal views and the historic township of Paluma—'village in the clouds'. Nearby Jourama Falls, with its picturesque waterfall framed by tropical woodland, is a low-key camping getaway. This birdwatchers' paradise is the southern gateway to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Things to do

Mountain biking

Pedal your way through cool rainforest to Paluma Dam via the unsealed Lake Paluma Road.

Wildlife spotting

Birdwatching is very rewarding—search for the elusive golden bowerbird in the Paluma rainforest. Spotlight for endangered mahogany gliders at night around Jourama Falls camping area.

Places to go

Take a drive to picturesque **Little Crystal Creek** in Mount Spec **1** and admire the historic stone-pitched bridge or dip your toes in the cool, crystal-clear water at **Paradise Waterhole 2** or the **Rockslides 3**.

For a short stroll or a longer ramble through rich rainforest, head to the Paluma township. Enjoy amazing coastal views from **Witts 4** and **McClelland lookouts 5** or experience a water rush at **Birthday Creek Falls 6**.

After a pleasant hike through open woodland to a lookout, enjoy scenic views of the falls at Jourama.

Never jump or dive into creeks in this park. Serious injuries and deaths have happened here.

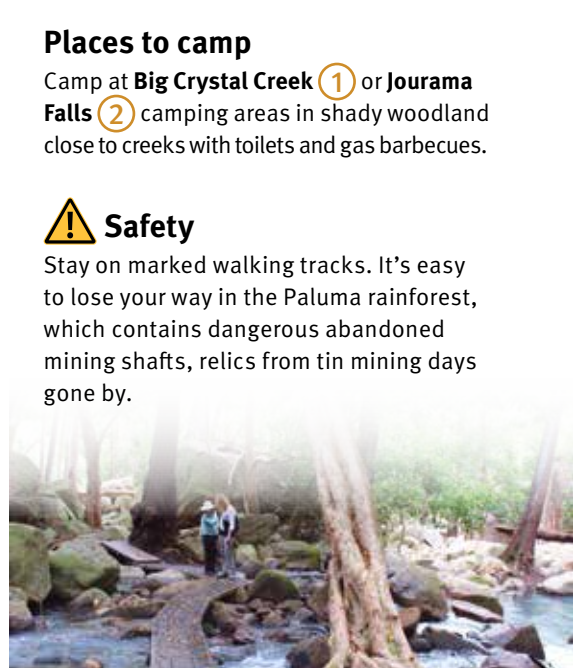
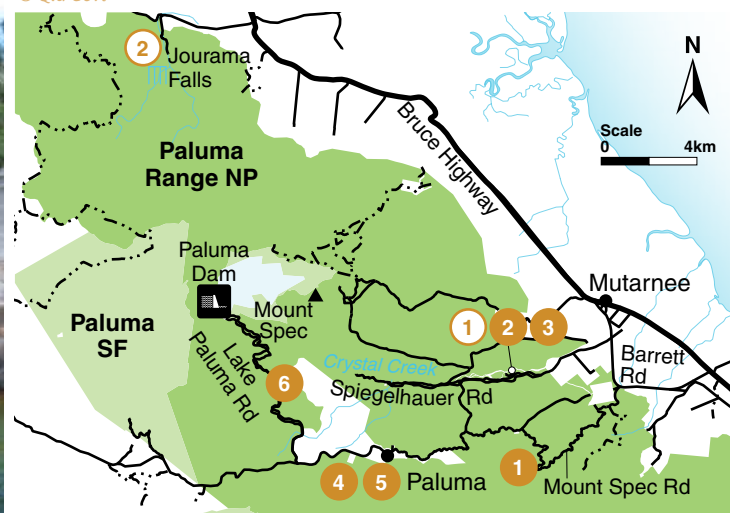
Places to camp

Camp at **Big Crystal Creek 1** or **Jourama Falls 2** camping areas in shady woodland close to creeks with toilets and gas barbecues.

Safety

Stay on marked walking tracks. It's easy to lose your way in the Paluma rainforest, which contains dangerous abandoned mining shafts, relics from tin mining days gone by.

The Rockslides (left); Jourama Falls track (right)
Photos: Fiona O'Grady © Qld Govt



Broadwater Creek

Broadwater, Abergowrie State Forest

Must dos

- Take a dip in the creek’s waterholes and feel your worries wash away.
- Enjoy a barbecue lunch in the forest but watch for crafty kookaburras intent on stealing your sausage!

Getting there

Turn off the Bruce Highway onto Hawkins Creek Road 3.5km north of Ingham and follow the signs for 44km to arrive at Broadwater day-use area.

Safety

Bullrouts (venomous freshwater stonefish) live in Broadwater Creek—wear shoes when swimming (see page 27).

Enjoy a lazy afternoon picnic, a relaxing camping holiday, a quick dip, and lots of family fun, in Broadwater’s spacious grassy setting beside a waterhole.

In scenic Herbert River Valley’s tall open forest Broadwater Creek ripples past the shady day-use and camping areas. Here, delight in the pockets of rainforest rich with fan palms, Alexandra palms, birds nest ferns and pink-flowering evodias that line the creek.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting

Watch quietly for noisy pittas, wompoo pigeons and emerald doves in the rainforest. Spotlight at night for rufous owls, feathertail gliders and the infamous native white-tailed rat.

Places to go

1 Rainforest walk

1.6km return (30min). Grade: easy
Ramble through the rainforest to a magnificent large white fig tree.


2 Creek walk

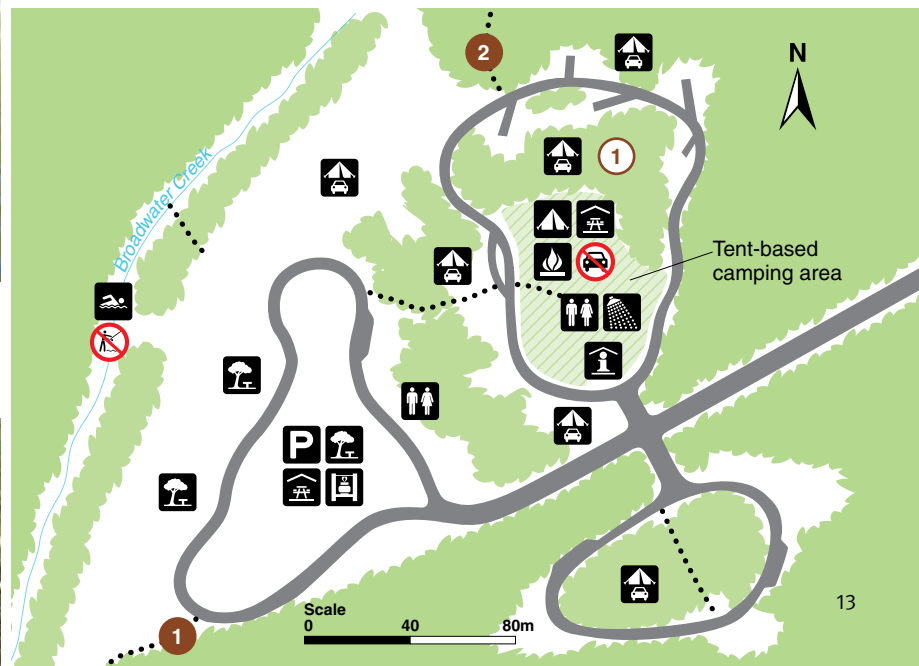
3km return (1hr). Grade: easy
Wander through eucalypt and creek-side forest to pools along Broadwater Creek, upstream from the swimming hole.

Places to camp

Broadwater camping area 1 is a large grassy area with some private nodes set among tall open forest, beside the creek. Toilets and gas barbecues are provided and campfires are allowed.



 Fun in the creek (above); camping at Broadwater (below left); Rainforest walk (below right)
Photos: © Fiona O’Grady (above); © Qld Govt (below left); Russell Klaver © Qld Govt (below right)





unesco
Wet Tropics of Queensland
World Heritage Area since 1988

Wallaman Falls

Photo: © Townsville Enterprise

Girringun National Park

Must dos

- Stand in awe at Wallaman Falls where Stony Creek plummets into a cloud of mist in the river below.
- Reconnect with nature as you camp at Blencoe Falls. Throw a line into the creek and toast a marshmallow over an open fire under a sparkling night sky.
- Share space with the locals—a platypus feeding in Stony Creek, a bandicoot nosing around your camp site, or even a cassowary rambling through the rainforest.

Getting there

Wallaman Falls is 51km west of Ingham. Drive 8.7km along Ingham-Abergowrie Road to Trebonne and follow the signs to the park. Allow 1.5hr for this drive through rural areas and up a narrow winding range road.

You need a 4WD to visit Blencoe Falls. Drive 10km north of Cardwell along the Bruce Highway and turn onto Kennedy Creek Road. Travel for 6km then turn onto Kirrama Range Road and follow the signs to the camping area. The roads from here are unsealed, winding and narrow—allow 2hr for this drive.

Relax in a riverside bush or gaze in awe at two of Australia’s most spectacular waterfalls, plummeting dramatically off the Great Dividing Range.

Wallaman Falls, Australia’s highest single-drop waterfall, plunges spectacularly from a 268m-high cliff top. To the north-west, Blencoe Falls tumbles 90m, then another 230m into the base of an impressive gorge before it rushes towards the Herbert River.

Featuring wild terrain of rugged forest-clad ridge tops, untamed rivers, imposing gorges and quintessential Australian bushland, this park is the place where coastal rainforest meets the western savanna.

Did you know?

The Dalrymple Gap track follows a path Aboriginal people used to collect food and attend cultural activities.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting


Spotlight for gliders high in the treetops around your camp site—amazingly all of Australia’s six glider species live in this park. Bandicoots and musky rat-kangaroos frequent camps at night—remember not to feed them!

Fishing

Fish in the park’s creeks and rivers. Fishing regulations apply (see page 27). Be aware that estuarine crocodiles live in the water below Blencoe Falls. Be Crocwise! (see page 27).

Safety

Take care around cliffs, steep slopes and rock faces along tracks and at lookouts.

 Be Crocwise in croc country (see page 27).



Blencoe Falls
Photo: © Keith Dyson 

Places to go

Around Wallaman

1 Banggurru walk

800m return (45min). Grade: easy
Wander through the rainforest on the banks of Stony Creek. Look in the water for platypus, eastern water dragons or saw-shelled turtles.

2 Wallaman Falls lookout

Gaze in awe at the spectacular falls as Stony Creek plunges into the gorge below.

3 Djyinda walk

3.2km return (2hr). Grade: moderate
Walk to the base of the gorge to experience Wallaman Falls from below.

Around Blencoe

4 Blencoe Falls and Herbert River Gorge lookouts

400m return (20min). Grade: easy
See Blencoe Creek tumble over the scenic falls and race into the Herbert River Gorge.

5 Jabali walk

5km return (2hr). Grade: moderate
Discover the delights of open eucalypt forest as you meander from the Blencoe Falls camping area to the Blencoe Falls lookout and car park.

Around Abergowie

6 Dalrymple Gap walking track

10km (6hr). Grade: difficult
Follow in the footsteps of Aboriginal people and early settlers as you cross the Cardwell Range. Arrange for a vehicle to meet you at the opposite end of the walk or just walk shorter sections from either end of the track and return the way you came.

Places to camp

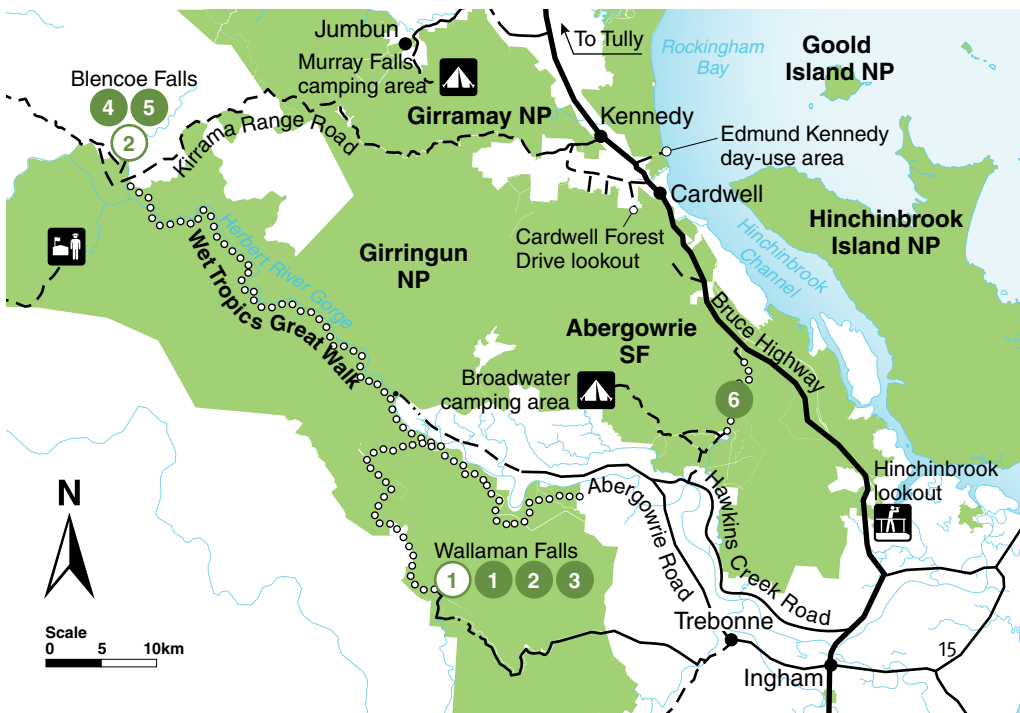
1 Wallaman Falls camping area is set amongst tall shady woodland close to Stony Creek. Camp sites are grassed, toilets and wood-fired barbecues are provided and campfires are allowed.

2 Blencoe Falls camping area lies beside Blencoe Creek in open woodland. Toilets are provided and campfires are allowed.

Wet Tropics Great Walk

Interested in a multi-day hike? See spectacular waterfalls, deep gorges and amazing views on this Great Walk. Check it out at qld.gov.au/WetTropicsGreatWalk

 Fungi found at Wallaman Falls (below); Blencoe Falls camping area (right)
Photos: Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt (below); © Lea Ezzy (right)





Spa pool when flowing

Photo: Kelly Biles © Qld Govt

Cardwell State Forest

Must dos

- Head to Cardwell lookout for stunning views over the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Hinchinbrook Island.
- Get your blood pumping on the 700m uphill hike to Attie Creek Falls.

Getting there

Cardwell Forest Drive

Access to Cardwell Forest Drive is via Brasenose Street off Victoria Street, in the Cardwell township.

Five Mile Creek day-use area

Travel south from Cardwell, 8km along the Bruce Highway. Five Mile Creek is signposted and is located on the right-hand side of the highway. Turn off the highway and drive 800m on the unsealed road, which can be accessed by conventional vehicle.

Take in sweeping coastal views and then descend to picnic beside rainforest-fringed waterholes, all within easy reach of Cardwell.

Forested mountain ranges are the backdrop to a patchwork of native forests and pine plantations near Cardwell. Streams, draining the hills on their way to the sea, have formed a series of idyllic, seasonal waterholes offering a refreshing stop for locals and travellers.

Did you know?

The creek that flows through the Spa Pool is called Scrubby Creek. It relies solely on rainfall to flow. During the dry season, the water slows and can stop completely, leaving dry creek beds or stagnant water.

Things to do

Scenic drive

Take a short drive and explore Cardwell Forest Drive to discover beautiful views of the Cardwell township and Hinchinbrook Island from Cardwell lookout and then picnic beside picturesque seasonal creeks. Cardwell Forest Drive is 9km long and is best completed as a return trip from Cardwell township via Brasenose Street. Take your time to explore.

Safety

Cardwell State Forest is a working forest plantation and heavy machinery frequent the area. Stay on designated marked roads and be aware of machinery.

Places to go

1 Cardwell lookout

1.6km return (60min)

From the car park at the Cardwell lookout, make your way along the loose gravel walking track for more lookout points over the Hinchinbrook Channel and Rockingham Bay.

2 Attie Creek Falls

1.4km return (30min)

Starting at the car park, take a 700m uphill walk to view Attie Creek Falls. The falls are seasonal and may not be flowing all year round. Some sections of the track are steep.

3 4 Dead Horse Creek and Spa Pool

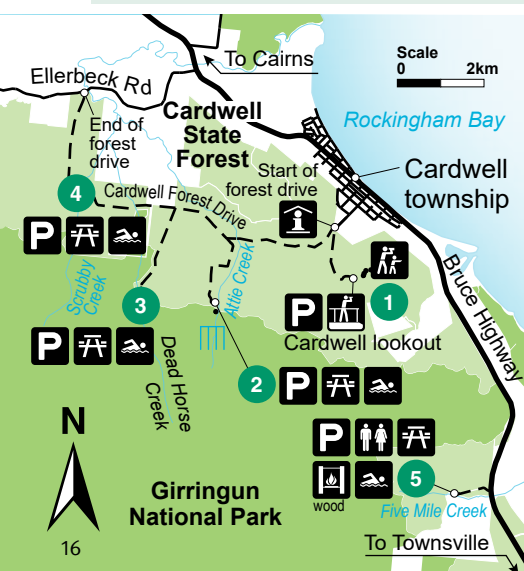
Dead Horse Creek and Spa Pool provide picnic areas beside seasonal creeks.


5 Five Mile Creek day-use area

Stop to enjoy a picnic beside this picturesque creek. Picnic tables and toilets are provided.

Safety

- Never jump or dive into the water—it may be shallow or hide submerged objects.
- During and after heavy rain, creek conditions can change and become dangerous. Fast flowing, rapidly rising water—with strong currents—can occur. To stay safe do not enter the water.



 View north from Cardwell lookout
Photo: © Qld Govt





Hinchinbrook Island

Hinchinbrook Island National Park

Must dos

- Hike up Nina Peak and enjoy the breathtaking view over the east coast of the island with not a sign of civilisation in sight.
- Swim at pristine Zoe Falls then bask on a warm granite boulder with the local skinks as you dry off.
- Challenge yourself on the Thorsborne Trail to discover untouched wilderness and stunning vistas around every corner.

Getting there

Launch your own boat or travel with a tourist operator from Dungeness (24km east of Ingham) or Cardwell. Hinchinbrook is about 5km offshore of the mainland. The only means of getting around is on foot or by vessel from bay to bay.

Safety

Be well prepared for your visit to Hinchinbrook Island. It is remote and there are no facilities. Mobile phone coverage is unreliable—consider taking a satellite phone and a personal locator beacon (PLB).

Be Crocwise in croc country (see page 27).

Feel your heart beat to nature’s rhythm as you climb rugged mountain slopes, explore the forested depths and wander the sweeping beaches of Hinchinbrook’s world-renowned wilderness.

Home to the iconic Thorsborne Trail, Hinchinbrook Island is a wild paradise rising dramatically from the surrounding Great Barrier Reef waters. Boasting craggy mountain peaks, wind-swept heathlands, lush rainforest, unspoiled beaches and crystal-water creeks, the island is rich in varied landscapes waiting for discovery.

Aboriginal people lived on the island for thousands of years. Remaining middens and fish traps tell of their lives spent caring for and being sustained by the island’s cultural landscape.

Places to camp

North ① and **South Macushla ②** camping areas are shady with easy boat access. Toilets are provided at both areas.

The Haven camping area ③ is sheltered, and has a toilet. Be Crocwise and remain behind the crocodile barriers at all times.

Numerous camping areas are located at the beaches and bays on the eastern side of the island for Thorsborne Trail walkers, sea kayakers and visitors with private vessels.

Things to do

Walk the Thorsborne Trail

If you have 4–7 days to spare, you can explore the breathtaking wilderness of Hinchinbrook Island on this world renowned trail. Walker numbers are limited.

Places to go

Zoe Falls is a 1km easy walk from South Zoe Bay camping and day-use areas. Refresh in the cool water then follow the trail another 225m to the top of the falls for a breathtaking view over Zoe Bay. The return trip back to South Zoe Bay is about 30min.



Sunrise at Hinchinbrook
Photo: © Garry Hutcheson



unesco
Wet Tropics of Queensland
World Heritage Area since 1988

Murray Falls day-use area

Photo: © Tourism Tropical North Queensland

Girramay National Park

Must dos

- Enjoy a stroll at Wreck Creek beach, strewn with large driftwood from nearby swamps.
- Delight in a misty spritz on the boardwalk as water tumbles over huge granite slabs at Murray Falls.

Getting there


Edmund Kennedy section is 1km along Clift Road. Turn off the Bruce Highway 4km north of Cardwell.

To access Murray Falls section travel 21km north of Cardwell and turn west onto Bilyana Road. Follow the signs for 20km to Murray Falls camping and day-use areas.

! Safety

Be careful around Murray Falls. Serious injuries and deaths have happened here. Obey all safety signs.

Bullrouts (venomous freshwater stonefish) live in the Murray River—wear shoes when swimming at Murray Falls day-use area (see page 27).

 Be Crocwise in croc country at Edmund Kennedy (see page 27).

Wander the wild windswept beach and mangrove forests at Edmund Kennedy or enjoy a peaceful picnic near picturesque Murray Falls.

From the rainforest-clad mountains to the paperbark wetlands, sedge swamps and mangroves along the coast, the Murray River links the Murray Falls and Edmund Kennedy sections of the park.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting

Look for orange-footed scrubfowl tending their raked mounds of leaves and sticks at Edmund Kennedy, and the many colourful birds at Murray Falls camping area.

Places to go

At Edmund Kennedy

1 Wreck Creek walk

2.5km (1.5hr). Grade: easy
Walk along the beach to Wreck Creek and admire serene ocean views with a backdrop of Hinchinbrook Island's craggy skyline.

At Murray Falls

2 Murray Falls day-use area

Take a dip in the cold waters of the Murray River surrounded by rainforest then dry off with a picnic in the shady day-use area.

3 River boardwalk

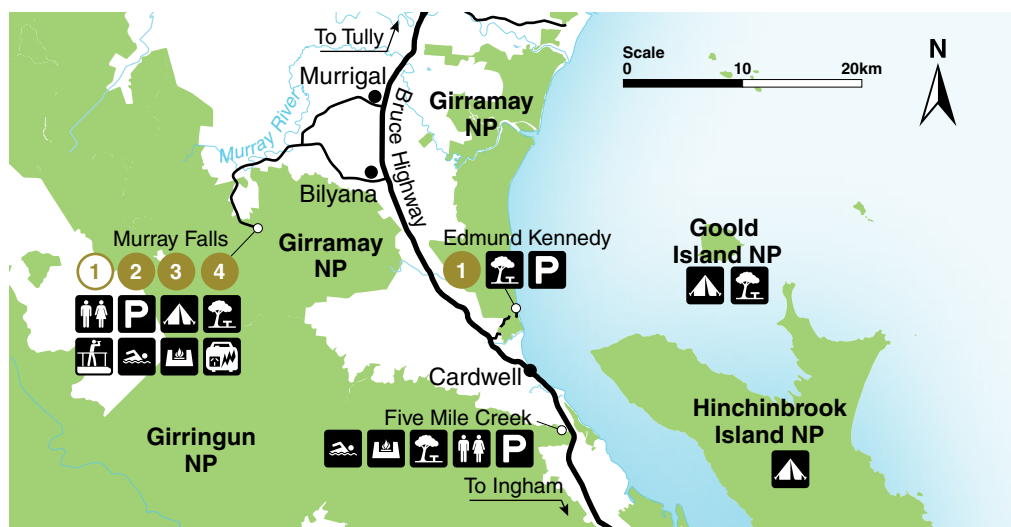
300m return (10min). Grade: easy
Stroll along this pleasant, easy walk to the river to view the cascading Murray Falls.

4 Yalgay Ginja Bulumi walk

1.8km return (1.5hr). Grade: moderate
Learn about Traditional Owners' culture on this walk through the rainforest to a lookout over the falls.

Places to camp

Camp at **Murray Falls camping area** 1, an open grassy area with shady trees.





Tully Gorge National Park

Must dos

- Challenge your limits and try whitewater rafting—strap on your helmet, hold on tight and enjoy the ride!
- Enjoy a lazy afternoon picnic and refreshing swim at Alligators Nest.

Getting there

Tully Gorge camping and day-use area is a 41km drive west of Tully via Tully Gorge Road.

The turnoff to Cochable Creek camping area is 38km west of Tully on Tully Gorge Road, before you cross the Tully River.

To access Alligators Nest day-use area drive 6km north from Tully via Murray Street and Bulgan and Lizzio roads.

Mount Tyson walking track begins at the end of Brannigan Street in Tully.

Get your adrenaline pumping in the wilds of Tully Gorge and feel the whitewater rush in one of Australia’s wettest places.

Lush vegetation, boulder-strewn waters and spectacular rainforest views await you. The mighty Tully River dominates the landscape, plunging from the hillslopes high above and forming roaring rapids as it races towards the coast.

Did you know?

Alligators Nest day-use area is named after a local scout group—not the reptile—and it is a great place for a swim!

Things to do

Wildlife spotting

Take the Butterfly walk to see colourful and varied butterflies including tailed emperors, banded demons and Ulysses. The warmer months of September to February are best for butterfly spotting. Don’t forget to look up!

2 Butterfly walk

375m return (20min). Grade: easy
Wander through tropical rainforest spotting tropical butterflies along the way.

3 Mount Tyson

6.4km return (3–5hr)
Climb the very steep hillside to the 674m summit overlooking Tully and the coastline, or trek the shorter option to Scouts Rock, 5km return.

Interested in a remote rainforest hike? Check out the Misty Mountain wilderness tracks at qld.gov.au/NationalParks

Places to camp

Tully Gorge camping area ①, beside Tully River, is suitable for tents, caravans and motorhomes and has picnic tables, cold showers and wheelchair accessible toilets. **Cochable Creek camping area** ② has picnic tables and a toilet, is for tents only and is the trailhead for the Misty Mountains wilderness tracks.

! Safety

Do not enter the water at Tully Gorge. Water released from the dam upstream can cause river levels to rise rapidly without warning.

Be Crocwise in croc country. Do not swim at Tully Gorge camping and day-use areas, estuarine crocodiles may be present (see page 27).

Places to go

① **Alligators Nest day-use area** has a swimming platform, picnic tables, toilets and a gas barbecue.

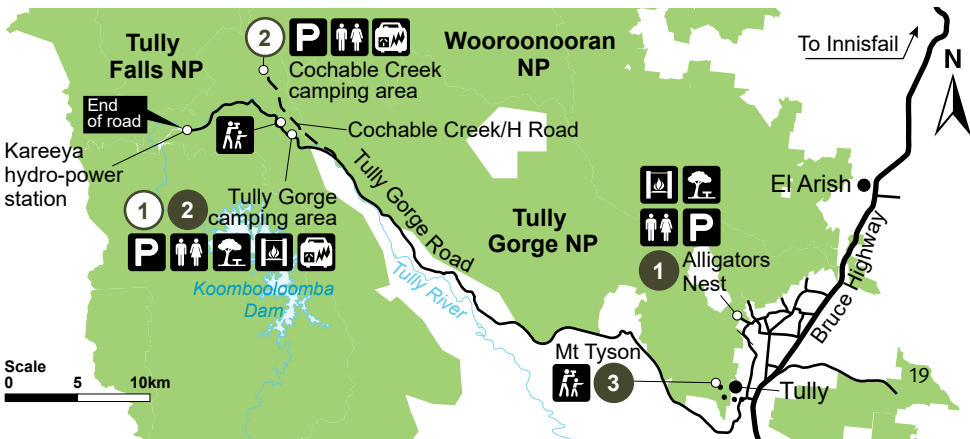




Photo: Maxime Coquard © Qld Govt

Djiru and Clump Mountain national parks

Must dos

- Wander in the dappled shade under the beautiful splayed fronds of rare palms on the Fan Palm walk in Djiru National Park.
- From Bicton Hill lookout in Clump Mountain National Park admire the expansive coastal views, just as the Djiru Aboriginal people have done for many years.

Getting there

Djiru National Park
Licuala day-use area in Djiru National Park is at the end of an unsealed road off Tully-Mission Beach road about 8km south-west of Mission Beach. Turn off Tully-Mission Beach road at the sign. To access Lacey Creek day-use area drive 7.5km west from Mission Beach along El Arish-Mission Beach Road.

Clump Mountain National Park
Access to the car park for Bicton Hill walking track is 4.3km north of Mission Beach on Alexander Drive.

Hike through lush fan palm forest, soak up exquisite tropical island views and spot an iconic cassowary, all a stone's throw from Mission Beach.

Wander through lowland rainforest and rare fan palm forest. Now surrounded by agricultural land, these parks are a refuge rich in tropical forest life and Aboriginal cultural history.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting
Look for cassowaries roaming through the rainforest or lace monitors scrambling up tree trunks.

Mountain biking
Cycle the easy 6km Musgravea trail, an old logging road in days gone by.

Places to go

From Licuala day-use area enjoy a 1.3km return stroll through a fan palm forest on the **Fan Palm walk 1**. Kids—find the cassowary nest on the 400m **Children's walk 2**. Mountain bike or hike the 6km one-way **Musgravea track 3**.

From Lacey Creek day-use area look for saw-shelled turtles on the 1.5km return **Lacey Creek walk 4** or explore the 3.2km **Dreaming trail 5**.

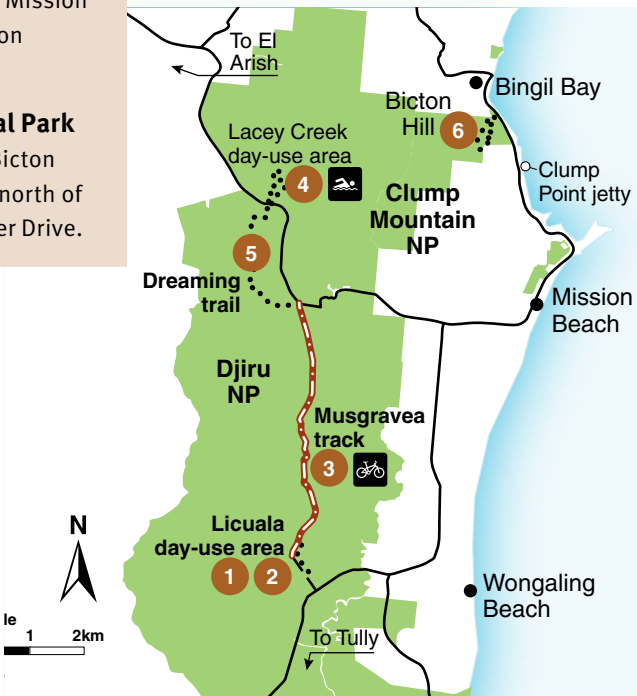
6 Bicton Hill track
3.9km return (2.5hr). Grade: moderate
Climb Bicton Hill for amazing blue-water views of Dunk Island and beyond.

Places to stay

You can't camp in the park but there are many accommodation options at Mission Beach. Find out more at tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au

Safety
Remember to Be CassowARY (see page 27).

Fan Palm walk, Djiru National Park
Photo: © Tourism Tropical North Queensland



Eubenangee Swamp



Eubenangee Swamp and Russell River national parks

Must dos

- Feel the excitement of spotting a croc or watching waterbirds at Eubenangee Swamp.
- Revel in the solitude of your beach-side camp at Graham Range camping area.

Getting there

Eubenangee Swamp National Park

From Babinda, drive 6.7km south on the Bruce Highway then turn east onto Bramston Beach Road. Travel 7.3km, turn onto Cartwright Road and drive 1.3km to the Eubenangee Swamp car park.

Russell River National Park

Continue on Bramston Beach Road to Bramston Beach, turn north onto Sassafras Street and drive 6km to the park and Graham Range camping area.

Intermediate egret (below); Graham Range camping area (right)
Photos: © Greg Watson (below); © Les Jackson (right)

Spot crocs and waterbirds in a scenic paperbark swamp. Fish a pristine coastal river or sit back, relax and watch a brilliant sunrise from a beach-side camp.

Rich in coastal wetlands, lowland rainforest and mangrove-fringed tidal rivers, these coastal parks are set against the scenic backdrop of Bartle Frere and Bellenden Ker, Queensland's two highest peaks.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting

See resident and migratory waterbirds such as black-necked storks and spoonbills at the globally-significant waterbird habitat of Eubenangee Swamp.

Fishing

Fish in the Russell River, its tributaries and along the coastal section of the park. Fishing regulations and marine park zoning restrictions apply (see page 27).

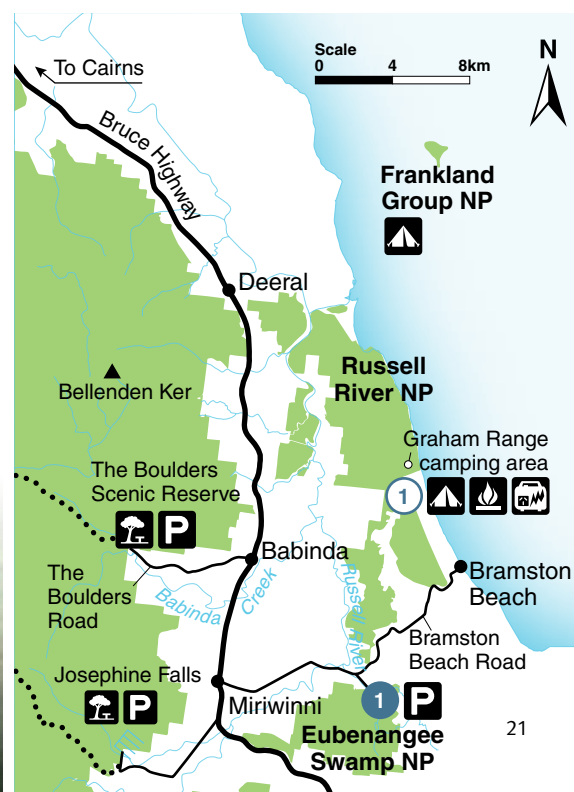
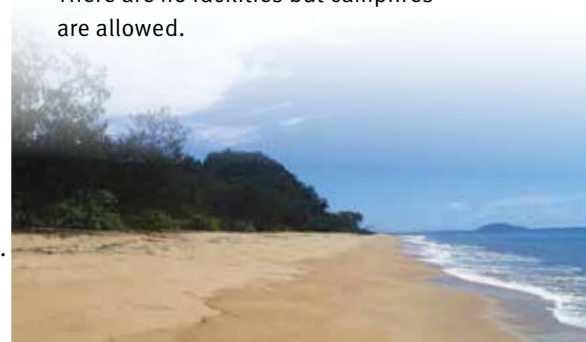
Be Crocwise in croc country (see page 27).

Places to go

1 Swamp walk
1.5km return (30min). Grade: easy
Walk through rainforest and ascend a grassy hill for views over Eubenangee Swamp.

Places to camp

Graham Range camping area 1 is a secluded spot by the beach, surrounded by paperbark and mangrove forests for self-sufficient campers. There are no facilities but campfires are allowed.





Wooroonooran National Park

Must dos

- Admire the view from Crawfords Lookout then tick off a few waterfalls in the Palmerston.
- Be mesmerised at Josephine Falls as you watch the clear cold waters thundering down from the 1622m summit of Bartle Frere.
- Tackle the exhilarating 922m-high Walshs Pyramid for outstanding views over the coastal lowlands.
- Set up camp in Goldsborough Valley where you (and your kids) can swim, fish, paddle, explore and relax to your heart's content.

Getting there

Turn west off the Bruce Highway 5km north of Innisfail onto the Palmerston Highway and travel 27km to the Palmerston section of the park. Mamu Tropical Skywalk, Crawfords Lookout, Henrietta Creek camping area and various walking tracks are all accessed off the Palmerston Highway.

To visit Josephine Falls, turn west off the Bruce Highway 8km south of Babinda onto Bartle Frere Road and follow the signs to the car park.

To access Walshs Pyramid, turn west off the Bruce Highway 24km south of Cairns onto Moss Road and follow the signs for 500m.

Goldsborough Valley camping area is accessible via the Gillies Highway from Gordonvale, south of Cairns. Drive 6km to the Goldsborough Valley turn-off then travel 16km through farms and cane fields.

Breathe in the rainforest-filtered air and refresh body and soul as you explore the depths and heights of Wooroonooran, in the heart of Queensland's Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Wooroonooran stretches along the coastal hinterland from Innisfail to Gordonvale. In the south, you can explore the rugged rainforest-clad mountain slopes, gorges and sparkling waterfalls of the Palmerston. Marvel at Queensland's highest peak, Bartle Frere, the birthplace of Josephine Creek, which becomes the cascading Josephine Falls. In the north, the distinctive landmark of Walshs Pyramid and the picturesque Goldsborough Valley along the Mulgrave River will impress you.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting

Look for musky rat-kangaroos and emerald doves foraging on the forest floor. Watch rainforest birds and brilliant butterflies flitting through the forest canopy. Spot azure kingfishers swooping down to the water or spy jungle perch, rainbowfish, and long-finned eels below the river surface.

Canoeing

Launch your canoe into the Mulgrave River from the Goldsborough Valley camping or day-use area.

Mountain biking

Mountain bike in the Misty Mountains along the 26km Gorrell trail. Bike 8km of the Goldfield trail between Goldsborough Valley camping area and the Mulgrave causeway, then return the same way.


Fishing

Fish in the Mulgrave River. Fishing regulations apply (see page 27).

Hot tip!

Explore the **Mamu Tropical Skywalk** **1** and venture into the rainforest canopy on elevated walkways and an observation tower.




 Mamu Tropical Skywalk
Photo: © Qld Govt

Places to go

Around the south

2 Josephine Falls walking track 1.2km return (30min)

Walk through lush tropical rainforest to viewing platforms overlooking Josephine Falls. Wheelchair access is possible to the top platform.


 Water conditions here are hazardous and unpredictable. Serious injuries and deaths have happened here. Obey all safety signs.

3 Bartle Frere trail 15km (2 days)

Not for the faint-hearted, this strenuous trail climbs to the Bartle Frere summit. A 10km return walk—**Broken Nose trail**—is a shorter but still difficult alternative to explore the mountain.

4 Palmerston walking tracks

From 800m to 6km in length, numerous tracks begin at Crawfords Lookout, Gooligans picnic area and Henrietta Creek camping area along the Palmerston Highway in the Palmerston section of the park. Discover dense rainforest, sparkling waterfalls, crystal-clear creeks, wildlife and lookouts with breathtaking views.

 Avoid stinging trees—plants with large heart-shaped leaves with serrated edges—touching the leaves will cause an extremely painful sting (see page 27). Wear repellent and protective clothing to discourage leeches and stinging march flies.

Around the north

5 Walshs Pyramid walking track 6km return (6hr)

A steep rocky track to the summit of the pyramid-shaped mountain rewards walkers with 360 degree views of the surrounding tropical landscape.

6 Goldfield trail 19km (9hr)

Follow a historic gold prospecting trail over a saddle in the Bellenden Ker Range. You can also take mountain bikes on the trail between Goldsborough Valley and the Mulgrave River causeway. Bikes are not permitted on the causeway or on the trail east of the causeway.

Places to camp

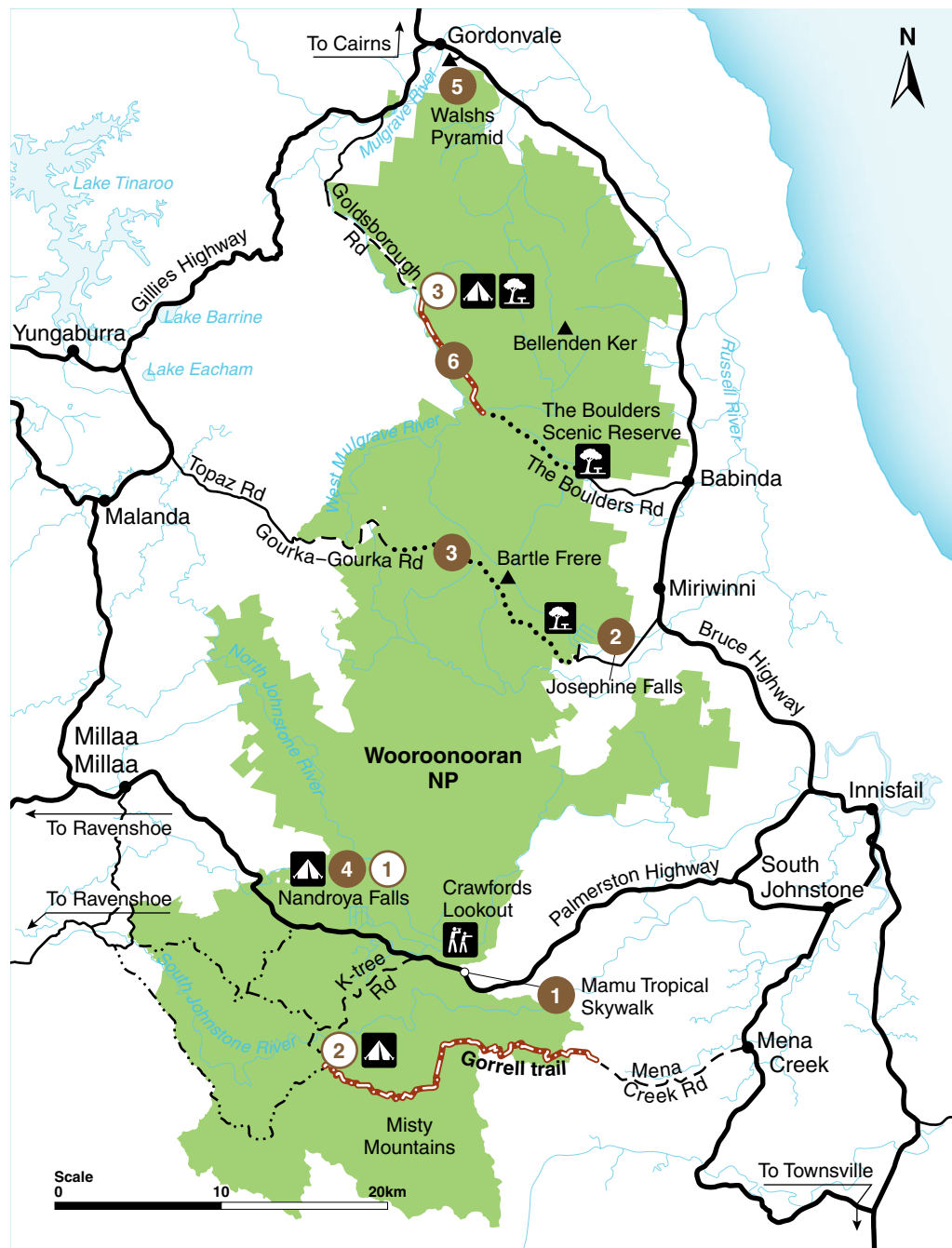
Henrietta Creek camping area ① is nestled beside Henrietta Creek with grassy camp sites tucked into pockets of rainforest. Caravan access, toilets and gas barbecues are provided.

South Johnstone camping area ② lies deep in the rainforest near the South Johnstone River. Sheltered picnic tables and toilets are provided.

Goldsborough Valley camping area ③ beside the Mulgrave River has open, grassy camp sites. Toilets and gas barbecues are provided and campfires are allowed.



 Kids playing at Goldsborough Valley
Photo: Maxime Coquard © Qld Govt





Mountain biking in Smithfield Conservation Park

Photo: © Tourism Tropical North Queensland

Smithfield and Mount Whitfield conservation parks

Must dos

- Ride your mountain bike, or just take a walk, on Smithfield's shady and easy shared trails.
- Join Cairns locals as they stroll, power-walk and jog on Mount Whitfield's popular trails.

Getting there

Smithfield

Smithfield Conservation Park is 11km north of Cairns off the Captain Cook Highway. Turn into McGregor Road and drive 1km to the park entrance and car park.

Mount Whitfield

Mount Whitfield Conservation Park is 5km north of the Cairns city centre. Turn off Sheridan Street onto Collins Avenue and drive 400m to the car park and walking track entrance.

The walking track entrances are near the Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre and Tanks Art Centre.

Explore surprising trails winding through rainforest and open forest close to the city—paradise for mountain bikers, trail runners and walkers!

Up for a challenge? Smithfield is home to internationally-renowned mountain bike trails, ranging from easy meandering paths to extreme downhill trails. If you prefer a good walk then climb through rainforest and open forest on Lumley Hill and soak up the scenic views of Cairns and the coast at Mount Whitfield.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting

Look for spectacled monarchs and Macleay's fig-parrots in the foliage, and noisy pittas and orange-footed scrubfowls on the forest floor at Smithfield.

Mountain biking

At Smithfield Conservation Park, ride more than 12km of cross-country and downhill rainforest trails suitable for beginners to world-class athletes.

Places to go

Mount Whitfield

1 Red Arrow circuit

1.5km return (1hr). Grade: moderate
Walk through rainforest and open woodland to two lookouts over Cairns.

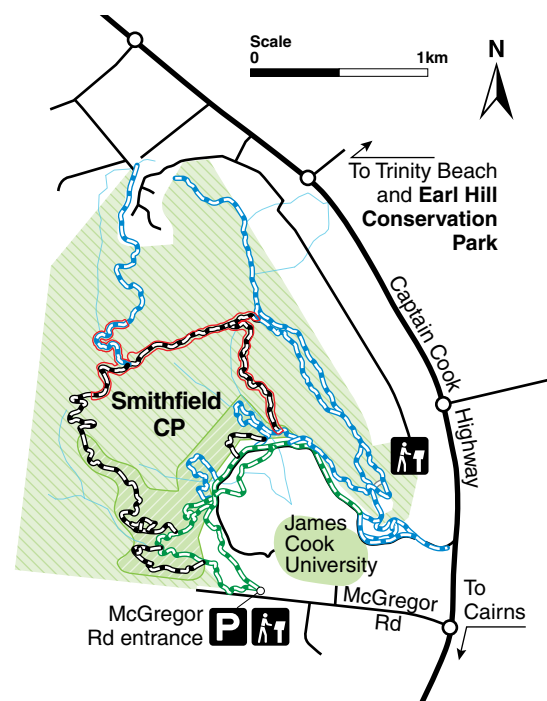
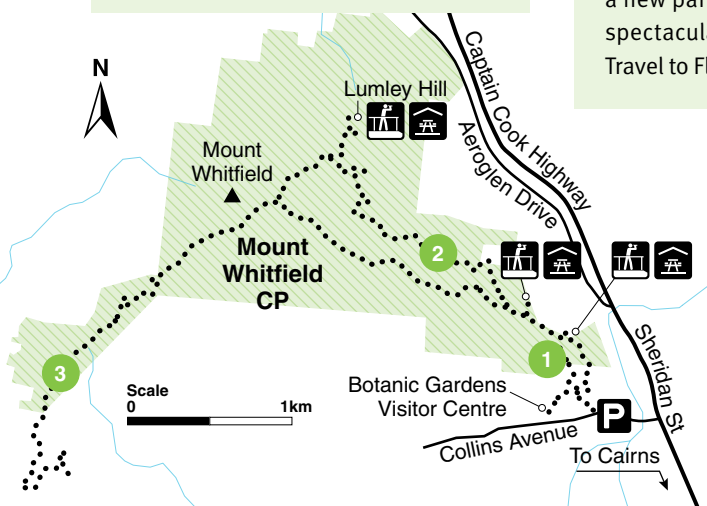
2 Blue Arrow circuit

6km return (5hr). Grade: moderate
A steep track through rainforest and open grassland. Climb to the Lumley Hill summit for views from Red Peak to Green Island.

3 Green Arrow

3km (1.5hr). Grade: moderate
Climb a steep ridgeline to the 364m summit of Mount Whitfield.

Visit **Earl Hill Conservation Park**—a new park offering walking with spectacular views of the Coral Sea. Travel to Flagship Drive, Trinity Beach.





Tropical island national parks

Must dos

- Don mask and snorkel and be enthralled at the diversity, movement and colour of the Great Barrier Reef!
- Wander secluded sandy shores and have a picnic on the beach with only shorebirds for company.

Getting there


You can get to all the island parks with your own boat or with a tourist operator from neighbouring towns on the mainland. Visit queensland.com for more information.

On the islands, explore the walking tracks on foot. You can't take vehicles or mountain bikes onto the islands (except for Magnetic Island).

Be pest-free—keep the Great Barrier Reef islands free from pests and disease (see page 27).

Safety

Dangerous stinging jellyfish may be present in coastal waters at any time. A full-body lycra suit may provide good protection or avoid swimming during the warmer months (see page 27). If you are not a confident swimmer please wear a personal flotation device while snorkelling.

 Be Crocwise in croc country (see page 27).



Find your own personal paradise on a tropical island as you relax on sun-kissed sands lapped by the sparkling waters of the Great Barrier Reef.

Like green jewels, the Great Barrier Reef's tropical islands float on vibrant azure seas. High forested slopes, secluded beaches nestled between rocky headlands, and colourful fringing reefs characterise most island parks, while Green Island is a tiny coral cay cloaked with rainforest.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting

Look for dolphins, dugong and turtles from your boat, watch shorebirds feeding on the water's edge and birds of prey soaring overhead. Spot humpback whales during the whale watching season (June to November).

Snorkelling

Thrill to the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef—snorkel off the beaches around Orpheus, Family, Barnard, Frankland, Green and Fitzroy island national parks.

Boating

Explore the blue tropical waters and many secluded beaches with your own boat. Reduce your speed in seagrass areas—dugongs feed here.


Fishing

Fish off the beaches or from your boat—golden snapper, barred javelin and trevally are likely catches. Marine park zoning and fishing regulations apply (see page 27).

Places to camp

Orpheus, Goold, Family, Barnard (seasonal closures apply) and Frankland island national parks have camping areas. You need to be totally self-sufficient when camping on these islands. See qld.gov.au/NationalParks for more information.



 Snorkelling Fitzroy Island (below left); kayaking near Dunk Island (below); Orpheus island (above)
Photos: © Tourism and Events Qld (below left/below); Aaron Dean © Qld Govt (above)





Trekking in Hinchinbrook Island National Park

Photo: © Garry Hutcheson

Camping in parks

How to book a camp site

- go to qld.gov.au/Camping using a payment card or online Gift Card
- visit an over-the-counter permit booking office accepting cash, eftpos and payment card. Locations are listed at qld.gov.au/CampingBookingOffices



Enjoy camping (inset); Witts lookout, Paluma Range National Park (below)

Photos: © Qld Govt (inset); © Keith Dyson (below)

To camp in national parks and State forests along the Tropical Coast, you need to book your camp sites and purchase camping permits before you arrive—mobile reception may not be available. It's best to book well in advance as camp sites in popular parks are in high demand during peak periods such as long weekends and school holidays.

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 for road conditions.

Using generators

In some parks, you can use generators that operate at a noise level less than 65dB(A) when measured at a distance of 7m from the generator. When booking your camp site, check whether generators are permitted in your selected camping area and note specified operating times.

Other places to stay

For accommodation options outside national parks visit townsvillenorthqueensland.com.au and tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au



Be responsible



Fishing

Fishing regulations apply to fishing and collecting in national and marine parks. For details visit Fisheries Queensland at fisheries.qld.gov.au

All waters adjacent to coastal and island national parks are protected within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park. Before visiting, check marine park zoning maps or download Eye on the Reef app. Learn more at gbrmpa.gov.au

Be safe

- In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000).
- Keep to the walking tracks. Stay back from cliff edges. Take care on uneven slippery track surfaces, especially when wet.
- Wear sunscreen, a hat, protective clothing and sturdy footwear and always carry water.
- Never dive or jump into the water. It may be shallower than it looks and there could be hidden, submerged objects. Supervise children around water.
- Venomous freshwater stonefish called bullrouts live in some rivers and creeks. Wear sandshoes or similar footwear when wading or swimming.
- Beware of stinging trees. The heart-shaped leaves, stems and red fruits of these shrubby plants are covered with tiny silica hairs which inject toxins. The very painful sting can persist for months. If stung, and symptoms are severe, seek medical advice.
- Dangerous stinging jellyfish (“stingers”) may be present in tropical coastal waters at any time, but occur more frequently in the warmer months. A full-body lycra suit or equivalent may provide protection against stinging jellyfish and sunburn.
- If you are not a confident swimmer wear a personal flotation device while snorkelling.
- Check weather forecasts before heading to parks, especially islands. Parks can be closed in extreme conditions.

- Obey all directional and safety signs.
- Do not enter restricted access areas—they exist for your safety.

Caring for parks

- Avoid disturbing animals and plants.
 - Leave your pets at home.
 - Don't feed wildlife or leave food or scraps around camp sites or picnic areas.
 - Light campfires responsibly using existing fire rings. Bring your own clean milled firewood. Put your campfire out with water. Campfires are not permitted in some parks. See page 2.
- Be pest-free—remove soil, seeds, parts of plants, insects, eggs, lizards, toads, rats and mice from your camping gear, clothes, shoes and vessels before visiting an island park.
 - Don't place rubbish or contents of chemical toilet tanks in the toilets.
 - Camp only in the sites provided.
 - Minimise your use of soaps and detergents near waterways.
 - Where toilets are not provided, bury human waste and toilet paper at least 15cm deep and 100m away from camp sites, tracks and watercourses.



Be CassowARY

The Wet Tropics is home to the cassowary—Australia's largest rainforest animal. This bird can cause serious injuries to people.

- Never approach cassowaries.
- Never approach chicks—male cassowaries will defend them.
- Never feed cassowaries—it is illegal and dangerous and has caused cassowary deaths.
- Always discard food scraps in closed bins.
- Always slow down when driving in cassowary territory.
- Never stop your vehicle on the road to look at cassowaries.



Be Crocwise


The Tropical Coast is crocodile country.

- Don't be ambushed—stay out of the water and away from the water's edge, especially when fishing.
- Watch 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!





Photos: Paul Candlin © Qld Govt (cassowary); Kate Pelling © Qld Govt (crocodile)

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://www.instagram.com/QldParks)

This brochure is also available online
at qld.gov.au/ParkBrochures



Scan to check
park alerts

Useful contacts

For help planning your holiday,
visit queensland.com

Tourism information:
Townsville Enterprise Pty Ltd
townsvillenorthqueensland.com.au

Tourism Tropical North Queensland
tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au