Welcome to Tamborine National Park

Take a scenic escape into the heart of the Gold Coast hinterland and lose yourself in the shade of subtropical rainforest thick with piccabeen palms. Walk past white-washed flooded gums and silvery eucalypt trees, letting the fresh mountain air revitalise every step. Admire striking views from numerous lookouts, have a family picnic or barbecue, or enjoy strolling along one of many bushwalks on offer. See red-necked pademelons bound across the forest floor and large land mullets bask in warm patches of sunlight. Peaceful waterfalls and tranquil pools offer the perfect place to stop, rest and take in the natural mountain surrounds.

Tamborine Mountain has long been the traditional land of the First Nations peoples of this region who speak dialects of the Yugambeh language. Many names of the places, animals and plants in this area are derived from, or are Yugambeh—some are featured in this guide in this format: banjan (piccabeen palms).

Exploring the plateau

Located one hour’s drive from Brisbane, Tamborine National Park is a lush mountain plateau nestled in the Gold Coast hinterland. The park protects precious remnants of subtropical rainforest, wet eucalypt forest, open eucalypt forest and woodland. Basalt columns, cliffs, rocky outcrops and waterfalls are a 23 million year old legacy of the Tweed shield volcano. The park is on the northern end of the biggest erosion caldera (a large cauldron-like hollow) in the southern hemisphere and one of the largest on Earth!

The Witches Falls section of the park was declared in 1908, making it Queensland’s first national park. Over the years additional reserves have been declared and today the park is made up of 14 sections of land, protecting over 2,000ha.

There are 6 park sections with walks to explore: MacDonald, Witches Falls, Cedar Creek, Palm Grove, The Knoll and Joalah. Other sections include Lepidozamia Grove, Panorama Point, Pirrailla, Guanaba, North Tamborine, Corbould and Dunlop.

MacDonald section

Visit a quiet pocket of subtropical rainforest, where birdlife abounds in the ferny understorey and tangled canopy of vines. Surrounded by urban development, this small oasis of land was donated by Miss Jessie MacDonald in 1933. MacDonald section is on Wongawallen Road, off Tamborine–Oxenford Road. There is a small car park for visitors to use. Picnic tables and a small covered area are located at the entrance.

MacDonald rainforest circuit

1.4km return

Experience towering strangler figs and lush groves of banjan (piccabeen palms) along this short rainforest walk.

Witches Falls section

Visit Queensland’s first national park. Be enthralled by towering basalt boulders, large red cedar trees, palm and cycad groves and views from the western side of the plateau. Trace the footsteps of folklore—local children once believed this forest was haunted by witches and giants.

Witches Falls section is located on Main Western Road. Parking is suitable for larger vehicles at the southern end of the picnic area which has electric barbecues, wheelchair-accessible picnic tables and toilets.
Witches Falls circuit
3.6km return
Descend through rainforest featuring giant bujei (strangler figs), seasonal lagoons and banjan (piccabeen palm) groves to the lookout platform beside Witches Falls. After rain, view the waterfall flowing over basalt cliffs into the valley below.

Witches Chase track
2.6km return
Branching off the Witches Falls circuit, this track leads to Witches Chase entry off Beacon Road. Pass Witches Falls lookout as you explore eucalypt forest and rainforest featuring large red cedar trees. Return along the same track to rejoin the circuit.

Cedar Creek section
With waterfalls and 2 large picnic areas with tables, toilets and barbecues, Cedar Creek is a popular family destination. Listen to rushing cascades and birdlife chipping overhead. Cedar Creek section is located on Cedar Creek Falls Road. Parking is available in the designated car spaces only. There is no parking available for large buses, caravans and motorhomes.

Cedar Creek Falls lookout track
500m return
Take a walk to Cedar Creek Falls and admire views of the gorge and waterfalls. The track to the lookout is suitable for strollers and wheelchairs with assistance.

Cedar Creek Falls track to rock pools
1.1km return
From Cedar Creek Falls lookout, descend through eucalypt forest and dry rainforest to the rock pools below. There are many steps on this walk, so be prepared for an uphill climb on your return.

Palm Grove section
Escape to the cool, dappled forest at Palm Grove, where you'll discover biyan (pademelons), banjan (piccabeen palms) and cathedral buttress roots. Palm Grove Avenue is the main access point for the walking tracks but you can also enter from Curtis Road. Parking for buses and caravans is not available.

Palm Grove circuit
2.7km return
Explore the lush and diverse world of subtropical rainforest on this shady walk. Discover peaceful palm groves, giant bujei (strangler figs), immense buttress roots and fascinating fungi along the way.

Jenyns circuit
4.8km return
Incorporating Palm Grove circuit this walk branches into the mountain's drier eucalypt forest. Walk through stands of bimbil (hoop pines), brush box, grey gums and a grove of ancient burrawang (cycads). Sections of this track travel close to steep cliff edges, so please stay on the track and supervise children at all times.

The Knoll section
Enjoy a barbecue picnic in this lovely setting nestled among tall open eucalypt forest. Marvel at sweeping views out to Flinders Peak and Brisbane from the northern edge of the picnic area.

Access is via Main Street and Knoll Road in North Tamborine. The parking area is small and not suitable for large vehicles.

Sandy Creek circuit
2.6km return
Explore lush rainforest with towering man-garagin (flooded gums) emerging through the canopy. Follow Sandy Creek to Cameron Falls lookout where you'll be rewarded with sweeping views of the waterfall and out across the valley to Brisbane, Mount Coot-tha and D'Aguilar Range. This track travels close to steep cliff edges, so please stay on the track and supervise children at all times.

Joalah section
View picturesque Curtis Falls plunging over basalt columns into a large rock pool, home to a fragile ngari jalngay (glow-worm) colony. In winter, listen for the loud cries of the male kalbun (Albert's lyrebird) calling for its mate. Joalah section is located at the headwaters of Cedar Creek and accessed from Dapsang Drive car park. Larger vehicle parking is available.

Eagle Heights Road access track
400m return
Take a short walk to explore rainforest on the outer edge of Joalah. The walk links to cafes and shops on Eagle Heights Road.

Curtis Falls track
1.1km return
This enchanting walk begins in wet eucalypt forest beneath towering man-garagin (flooded gums). Feel the temperature drop as you descend into lush rainforest. Look up to a ceiling of beautiful jumbil (bird's nest ferns) and dumbin (staghorn ferns) growing in the canopy above. There are over 100 steps on this walk, so be prepared for the uphill return.

Lower creek circuit
2.5km return
Branching off Curtis Falls track, this circuit crosses Cedar Creek, passing rainforest, rock pools, cascades and a giant, fallen bujei (strangler fig). Beyond the bujei (strangler fig), the track becomes more challenging with creek crossings that involve rock hopping.
Wildlife spotting

With its diverse forest vegetation, Tamborine National Park provides an essential wildlife refuge from surrounding urban and residential development.

Listen for strange gurgling sounds coming from the forest floor—these may be giant Tamborine earthworms, up to 1m long, travelling through their underground burrows. In summer, colourful jalngay-ngarijan (Richmond birdwing butterflies) and jahwun-gawang (noisy pittas) add vibrancy to the forest greenery. Look around for wagun (Australian brush-turkey) mounds—a huge pile of leaf litter used to incubate eggs—scratched together by the male bird.

While walking in the cooler months, you may be lucky enough to hear mimicry of the near-threatened kalbun (Albert’s lyrebird). The lyrebird mixes its call, a mellow, far-crying ‘caw-cree-craw-wheat’ with other rainforest noises—including the calls of bowerbirds, nyimara (whipbirds) and bilin (rosellas).

Freshwater creeks and rock pools provide the perfect sanctuary for taran (cascade treefrogs), tusked frogs and jurun (long-fin eels). At night, white-striped freetail bats come out to feed, flying above treetops as they hunt their insect prey. The park’s old growth trees provide hollows that are essential nesting sites for bats, owls and gliders.

Did you know?
The placename ‘Tamborine’ comes from the local Yugambeh word jambreen. It means wild lime and refers to the finger lime trees (Citrus australasica) that grow wild on the mountain and are eaten by the First Nations people as a tangy thirst quencher.

Stand on traditional land

Tamborine Mountain has long been the traditional land of the First Nations peoples of this region who speak dialects of the Yugambeh language. Many names of the places, animals and plants in this area are derived from, or are Yugambeh.

In a traditional lifestyle, rainforest plants and animals provide food and resources. Banjan (piccabeen palm) fronds make excellent baskets for carrying water, food or honey. The long stems of ngabul (lawyer vine), also known as wait-a-while, are strong material for basket making.

First Nations people still walk the land of their ancestors, telling stories and reminding visitors that this land is our shared heritage. Ngulli yanbalehla bu—we are still here.
Views from Cameron Falls lookout, in The Knoll section, reach all the way to Brisbane.

Bluelog Photography © Qld Govt

You’ll want to spend more than a day exploring Tamborine National Park.

Maxime Coquard © Qld Govt

Getting there

Tamborine Mountain is about 80km south of Brisbane via Beenleigh and Tamborine Village or via the Pacific Motorway (M1) and Tamborine–Oxenford Road.

Travelling north from the Gold Coast, Tamborine Mountain is 36km from Southport via the Pacific Motorway (M1) and Tamborine–Oxenford Road or 28km from Nerang via Beaudesert–Nerang Road. From Canungra, take Tamborine Mountain Road for 8km.

⚠️ The steep, narrow roads from Nerang and Canungra are unsuitable for buses, trailers, caravans and trucks.

Start your visit at the Tamborine Mountain Visitor Information Centre at Doughty Park, on the corner of Geissmann Drive and Main Western Road, North Tamborine.

Other adventures

Horseriding
Ride your horse on designated trails in Corbould and Cedar Creek sections of the park. Most trails are Class 2 (intermediate) with some steep sections and natural hazards such as loose gravel. Access is from Beaudesert–Beenleigh Road or Tamborine Mountain Road.

Overnight stays
Stay a little longer to give yourself time to see all that Tamborine has to offer. Camp at one of the private campgrounds on Tamborine Mountain or treat yourself to a stay at a range of holiday accommodation including hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts and cabins. For more information see visittamborinemountain.com.au or visitscenicrim.com.au

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Ranger favourites

For a cooler walk try the Palm Grove circuit. It has lush rainforest and some swampy areas that the frogs love to call home.

Ranger John

Cameron Falls lookout, on the Sandy Creek circuit, is my favourite spot. It has great views of Brisbane and on a clear day you can see all the way to the Glass House Mountains!

Ranger Paul

Joalah section is my favourite, it has it all! Along a relatively short walk you get tranquil Curtis Falls and plenty of wildlife like flying foxes, land mullets (a type of skink), snakes and plenty of birds.

Ranger Murray

If you don't have much time, but would still like to experience Tamborine’s rainforest, the MacDonald rainforest circuit is for you. Take in towering strangler figs and look for shy pademelons on this great short walk.

Ranger Jess
Walks at a glance

_Baugull yanbalehla._ Have a good walk.

### MacDonald section

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Walk time</th>
<th>See Map</th>
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<td>MacDonald rainforest circuit</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.4km return</td>
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### Witches Falls section

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<tr>
<td>Witches Falls circuit</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.6km return</td>
<td>1hr</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witches Chase track</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.6km return</td>
<td>1hr</td>
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### Cedar Creek section

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<th>See Map</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cedar Creek Falls lookout track</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>500m return</td>
<td>15min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cedar Creek Falls track to rock pools</td>
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<td>1.1km return</td>
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### Palm Grove section

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palm Grove circuit</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.7km circuit</td>
<td>1hr</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenyns circuit</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.8km circuit</td>
<td>1.5hr</td>
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### The Knoll section

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<th>Track name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy Creek circuit</td>
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<td>2.6km circuit</td>
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### Joalah section

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<tr>
<td>Eagle Heights Road access track</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>400m return</td>
<td>10min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curtis Falls track</td>
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<td>1.1km return</td>
<td>30min</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower creek circuit</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.5km return</td>
<td>1hr</td>
<td>11</td>
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Caring for Tamborine

*Nyah-nyah ngalingah gamaygay gaban.*

**Take care of our wilderness.**

- Do not take or disturb plants and animals. Everything is protected.
- Leave your pets at home. No domestic animals are allowed in the national park. Horses are permitted only on designated horse trails in the park.
- Take your rubbish home. There are no bins provided in the national park.
- Let animals find their natural food. Human food can make native animals susceptible to disease and can cause overpopulation and aggressive behaviour.
- Stay on the walking tracks. Shortcutting causes erosion, damages plants and can be dangerous on steep slopes.
- Use the gas or electric barbecues provided. Lighting a fire in the national park is prohibited.

**Explore safely**

**Make your visit to the park memorable for the right reasons.**

- Protect yourself—wear sturdy shoes with good grip, a hat, protective clothing and sunscreen.
- Wear insect repellent to help deter ticks and leeches.
- Bring your own drinking water. Creek water is unsuitable for drinking as it may contain organisms that can cause illness.
- Stay on the walking tracks and supervise children at all times, especially around lookout and steep track edges.
- Walk safely. Walk with a group and follow directions provided on signs to avoid getting lost. Tracks and steps can be slippery, especially after rain.
- Do not disturb snakes—give them space and wait for them to move on. Some snakes are dangerous. If bitten, seek medical attention immediately.
- Take care of your property. Do not leave valuables, including garage remotes, in parked vehicles in case of theft.
- Protect yourself—wear sturdy shoes with good grip, a hat, protective clothing and sunscreen.

**Important safety information**

- Never dive or jump into rivers, creeks or pools as they may be shallow or hide submerged debris, rocks or objects.
- Access to the Curtis Falls rock pool and the surrounding rock face is prohibited. Observe the restricted access area notice. This is for the safety of visitors and the protection of glow-worm populations.
- Access to the Cedar Creek section is prohibited at night. The entry gate is closed and locked each evening. Between 1 October and 31 March, the gate is open from 6am to 8pm. Between 1 April and 30 September, it is open from 6am to 6pm.
- Observe the restricted access area signs at Cedar Creek and remain within the fenced walking track area. Access is not permitted to the area immediately above the waterfall or to sections of the gorge, including some of the rock pools. This is for the safety of visitors—serious injuries and deaths have occurred there.

**In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000)**

Mobile reception may be limited or unavailable. If there is no mobile coverage on any network, you will not be able to reach the Emergency Call Service via a mobile phone.
Walking track classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Suits</th>
<th>Track description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>⚠️</td>
<td>Strollers and wheelchairs with assistance</td>
<td>No bushwalking experience required. Flat, even surface with no steps or steep sections.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>⚠️</td>
<td>People with some bushwalking experience</td>
<td>Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>⚠️</td>
<td>Experienced bushwalkers</td>
<td>Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signs may be limited.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Legend for maps

- National park
- Restricted access area
- Seasonal lagoon
- Major sealed road
- Minor sealed road
- Access track
- Walking track
- Creek
- Waterfall
- Park entrance
- Information centre
- Parking *
- Toilets
- Wheelchair-assisted access **
- Walking track
- Picnic table
- Sheltered picnic table
- BBQ (gas)
- BBQ (electric)
- Lookout
- Viewpoint
- Shops and cafés

Note:
* Parking (limited) is available for large buses and vehicles such as caravans and motorhomes in Joalah and Witches Falls sections only.
** Wheelchair-assisted access is only available in the day-use areas at Witches Falls. The Knoll and Cedar Creek sections, and along the Cedar Creek Falls lookout track.