Come and immerse yourself in the vast history and extraordinary biodiversity of Queensland's national parks.

Ranger Evan, on behalf of the rangers of the Tropical North

Explore national parks

Welcome

... to the Park Rangers' top picks for the best short walks in north Queensland's national parks and World Heritage areas.

Truly experience Queensland's tropical north as you venture among boulders, through woodlands, across streams and up to lookouts perched high above the landscape. Explore long sandy palm-fringed beaches and dip your toes into the waters of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

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Your ‘must do’ list

Our Park Rangers have chosen walks suitable for everyone from the young to the young at heart.

These walks showcase the different habitats protected by our national parks, giving you the chance to explore rainforest, bushland, islands, beaches and even wetlands.

Walks take you to the very best features in our national parks. They are a fun way to experience nature and get active with family and friends.

Which one will be your favourite? Create your own ‘must-do’ list from the walks featured in this guide and start exploring.

Find more walking ideas in Tropical North Queensland and Townsville North Queensland regions on our website at qld.gov.au/NationalParks

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 people and home to many threatened species.

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.
Choose your walk

Whether you want to delve into ancient rainforests, explore tropical beaches or spot awesome wildlife, you’ll find information within these pages to help you select walks you’ll really enjoy.

Choose from a selection of some of the most popular walks in north Queensland.

Under a brief description of the Park Rangers’ favourite short walks, we’ve provided the following information to help you plan your trip:

Walk distance and time. Track length is not always the best indicator of the time the walk might take. Check walking time before deciding whether a track is suitable.

All walks featured here can be walked in less than 3 hours. Suggested walking times are for people with average fitness.

Allow more time if your group includes young children and elderly people or if you’re a keen photographer stopping to capture moments along the way.

What's the track like? All are suitable for anyone with average fitness.

Some walks can accommodate strollers and wheelchairs. Others are longer, might be uneven or have some steps.

Where the walk starts. Most walks start near a picnic or camping area. Special instructions are provided here.

Getting there. Guide to finding your way to the park entrance.

What else can I do? Information about visitor facilities near the track, including where you can picnic or camp nearby.

Ranger tips from the local Ranger are useful hints to help you enjoy your walk.

Here's a guide to what to expect:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Tracks and strollers</th>
<th>Families with young children</th>
<th>People with some bushwalking experience</th>
<th>Track description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wheelchairs and strollers</td>
<td>Access Area</td>
<td>Waterways</td>
<td>Sealed major road</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Getting ready

When walking, it’s best to wear sturdy comfortable shoes, loose cool clothing (preferably long sleeves and long pants for protection against sunburn, bites and stings), a hat and sunscreen.

Pack your day pack with:
- drinking water and energy-boosting snacks
- insect repellent and extra sunscreen
- basic first-aid kit (including compression bandages for snake bite)
- camera and binoculars
- rubbish bag
- mobile phone (although you’ll be out of range in many places).

Before you go, find out how to walk with care—how to be cass-o-wary and to avoid other potentially hazardous wildlife—at qld.com.au/NationalParks

Stay a little longer

If you enjoy walking and want to explore further, stay overnight. You can camp in many of the parks mentioned in this guide but you need to book and pay for your camp site first.

Book your camp site online at qld.gov.au/Camping or visit queensland.com for other local accommodation options.

Enjoy your walk!

Map legend

The areas covered in this guide are shown on this map of Queensland.

Maps of these tourism regions are at the start of each section.

Walking track maps are provided for every featured walk. Symbols used on the track maps are explained here.
Townsville

Townsville's national parks are studded with streams to refresh you, wetlands alive with waterbirds and rugged rainforest-clad ranges waiting to be explored. Experience the thrill of plunging waterfalls and enjoy stunning views. Encounter sleepy resident koalas, glimpse rare birds and delve into a rich military and maritime history.

Legend
- Townsville North Queensland
- Parks and forests
- World Heritage area
- Visitor information centre
- Airport
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Town

Alligator Creek lookout
Bowling Green Bay National Park

The rugged mountains of this park are the southern gateway to north Queensland's tropical rainforest. At Mount Elliot, stroll to the lookout for pleasant views over Alligator Creek. Then backtrack and take the steps down to the creek and cool off with a refreshing swim. For a shorter walk, take the wheelchair-accessible boardwalk from the day-use area to the bank of Alligator Creek.

1km return (30min)
Hardened or compacted surface and may have gentle hill sections and occasional steps.
Alligator Creek main day-use area

Forts walk
Magnetic Island National Park

A 'must-do' on Magnetic Island, the popular Forts walk leads to historic WWII fortifications. Learn the fascinating history of the fort ruins and enjoy bird's-eye views over the coast and islands. As you walk, take the time to look up into the eucalypt trees, you might just spot a sleeping koala. From the top of the fortifications, snap a photo with breathtaking 360 degree views as your backdrop.

4km return (1.5hr)
Uneven surface, some steep sections.
Forts Junction car park

Ranger Jo's tip: Speak to other people on the walk to find out where the koalas are. They're more active in the early morning and late afternoon.
The ‘Town Common’ is a great place to enjoy nature close to the bustling city centre of Townsville. Walk along the Freshwater trail and turn off to the Jacana bird hide overlooking Freshwater Lagoon. Sit quietly in the hide and watch waterbirds foraging for food. Return the way you came or continue on the Freshwater and Lagoon trails to complete a longer 8km loop.

900m return (1hr)
Uneven surface. Walkers and mountain-bike riders share this trail.

Shelly Cove trail
Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park

Explore an old access road created during World War II that leads to Shelly Cove, hidden behind the Cape Pallarenda headland. Large rock steps lead down the beach at the end of the trail. Relax on the beach with a picnic and enjoy picturesque views across to Magnetic Island. To return, retrace your steps.

1.5km return (1.5hr)
Uneven surface, steep sections and steps. Walkers and mountain-bike riders share this trail.

Witts lookout track
Paluma Range National Park, Mount Spec

Escape the coastal lowland heat and head to the hills of Mount Spec in the Paluma Range. Meander through World Heritage-listed rainforest then climb steeply through open forest to the lookout. On a clear day, you’ll enjoy views over Halifax Bay and the Palm Islands to the north-east. Along the walk, look for wet tropics birds, including the golden bowerbird.

3km return (2hr)
Hardened surface, short steep hill sections and steps.

Jourama Falls track
Paluma Range National Park, Jourama Falls

Embrace the natural beauty of this southern gateway to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Ramble through open woodland, cross the creek and continue uphill to the lookout. Be rewarded by scenic views of Jourama Falls, where streams flow down from higher slopes, feeding the falls and other cascades and rapids on Waterview Creek.

3km return (1hr)
Hardened surface, 600m uphill section with steps.

Jacana bird hide track
Townsville Town Common Conservation Park

The ‘Town Common’ is a great place to enjoy nature close to the bustling city centre of Townsville. Walk along the Freshwater trail and turn off to the Jacana bird hide overlooking Freshwater Lagoon. Sit quietly in the hide and watch waterbirds foraging for food. Return the way you came or continue on the Freshwater and Lagoon trails to complete a longer 8km loop.

900m return (1hr)
Uneven surface. Walkers and mountain-bike riders share this trail.

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3km return (1hr)
Hardened surface, 600m uphill section with steps.
Wild, unspoilt, and exciting, Tropical North Queensland is home to the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics World Heritage areas. Explore rugged rainforested slopes of the coastal range and discover sparkling waterfalls tumbling towards the sea. On the coast, wander beneath the shady canopy of lowland fan palm forest then head out to enticing tropical islands shimmering just off shore.

Banggurru walk
Girringun National Park, Wallaman Falls

Delight in the beauty of World Heritage-listed rainforest along the banks of Stony Creek on this easy walk (pronounced ‘Bun-gu-roo’, meaning turtle). Glimpse a platypus rippling the water’s surface and look for water dragons and saw-shelled turtles basking on rocks. Afterwards, drive 2km to Wallaman Falls lookout to see Stony Creek form the highest permanent single-drop waterfall in Australia.

Soak up the sounds and scents of the Aussie bush along this walk, (pronounced ‘Ju-bah-li’ meaning whiptail wallaby). From the Blencoe Falls lookout gaze in awe at the scenic falls and rugged landscape of the Herbert River Gorge. Return the same way or arrange for a pick-up at the nearby Herbert River Gorge lookout for a shorter walk.

Jabali walk
Girringun National Park, Blencoe Falls

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Tropical North Queensland (coast)

Legend
Tropical North Queensland
Parks and forests
World Heritage area
Visitor information centre
Airport
Sealed road
Unsealed road
Town

To Wallaman Falls lookout
Wallaman Falls camping and day-use area

To Blencoe Falls lookout
Blencoe Falls camping area

To Blencoe Falls camping area
Toilets at Blencoe Falls camping area.

Ranger Marty’s tips: Visit Wallaman Falls from mid-morning to mid-afternoon to experience the magical beauty of the rainbow formed in the falls’ mist.

Ranger Nick’s tip: This is one of Australia’s most stunning waterfalls! Don’t get carried away when taking photos—make sure you stay behind the safety fence.

Legend
Tropical North Queensland
Parks and forests
World Heritage area
Visitor information centre
Airport
Sealed road
Unsealed road
Town

1 Girramay National Park
2 Djiru National Park
3 Clump Mountain National Park
4 Family Islands National Park
5 Tully Gorge National Park
6 Wooroonooran National Park
7 Eubenangee Swamp National Park
8 Mount Whitfield Conservation Park
9 Fitzroy Island National Park
10 Green Island National Park
11 Barron Gorge National Park
12 Daintree National Park

Wallaman Falls day-use and camping area
Travel 11km west from Ingham to Trebonne then follow signs for a further 40km. Sealed road, suitable for conventional vehicles. Range can be slippery when wet.

Toilets, picnic tables and barbecues are at Wallaman Falls camping and day-use area.

Ranger Marty’s tips: Visit Wallaman Falls from mid-morning to mid-afternoon to experience the magical beauty of the rainbow formed in the falls’ mist.

5km return (2hr)
Exposed roots and uneven surface, some steep sections.

Blencoe Falls camping area
From the coast, drive 84km from Cardwell via the Kirrama Range Road. From inland, drive about 100km from Mount Garnet via the Kirrama–Cashmere Road. Note: Blencoe Falls is remote.

Toilets at Blencoe Falls camping area.

Ranger Marty’s tips: Visit Wallaman Falls from mid-morning to mid-afternoon to experience the magical beauty of the rainbow formed in the falls’ mist.

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Ranger Marty’s tips: Visit Wallaman Falls from mid-morning to mid-afternoon to experience the magical beauty of the rainbow formed in the falls’ mist.
Fan Palm walk
Djiru National Park

Enter a cool green world on this loop track winding through lush fan palm forest. Look for evidence of past cyclones and marvel at nature’s resilience. At the end of the track, another short track follows ‘cassowary footprints’ to a ‘nest’ (Children’s Walk, 400m, 8min). Keep your eyes open for cassowaries—they are regularly seen here! Be cass-o-wary.

Feeling energetic? Tackle this exhilarating walk through lowland rainforest that winds around Bicton Hill to the summit. Your reward? Fantastic photo opportunities with stunning views overlooking the coastline and idyllic Family Islands.

1.3km return (20min)
Boardwalk and track with hardened surface, wheelchair-accessible with assistance.

Licuala day-use area
From Mission Beach township, drive 8km along the Tully–Mission Beach Road, then turn north onto the signed unsealed road, and drive 1.6km. Unsealed road is accessible by conventional vehicles but may be unsuitable for caravans.

Picnic tables and cassowary-proof fence at day-use area. Do not share your meal with these big birds!

Ranger Audrey’s tip: Look up. See the dappled light filter through the radiating segments of overlapping umbrella-like leaves in the canopy of the fan palm swamp.

3.9km return (2–2.5hr)
Steep sections and many steps.

Picnic table at start of track.

Ranger Audrey’s tip: Take your time on this walk; enjoy the sounds and smells of the rainforest, and stop at the lookouts to soak up the scenic views over beautiful Bingil Bay.
Muggy Muggy Beach track
Family Islands National Park, Dunk Island

Feel like Dunk Island’s famous beachcomber as you walk along a deserted beach to the start of the track. Wind your way through rainforest, woodland and mangroves to a picturesque sandy cove, sheltered behind a headland. Cool down with a swim, or explore with a snorkel at Muggy Muggy Beach before returning along the same track.

Butterfly walk
Tully Gorge National Park, Tully

Can you tell a blue triangle from a banded demon? Or an orange aeroplane from an orchard swallowtail? Explore the World Heritage-listed rainforest along this easy walk and you soon will! The area is noted for its beautiful Wet Tropics butterflies, which are best seen between September and February.

3km return (70min)
Sandy beach then track with gentle hill sections and occasional steps. Access to track is best at mid–low tide.

The Spit day-use area
4.5km east of Mission Beach, access by private vessel or water taxi from Wongaling and South Mission beaches (travel time approximately 10min).

Toilets, picnic tables and barbecues at The Spit day-use and camping areas.

Ranger Evan’s tip: Look for brilliant blue Ulysses butterflies and, if you’re lucky, echidnas, along this track. And make sure you steer clear of the spiny wait-a-while vine!

375m return (20min)
Track has flat even surface, no steps or steep sections, suitable for wheelchairs with assistance.

Tully Gorge camping area (eastern end)
From Tully, drive south on the Bruce Highway for 1.4km then turn east onto Dean Road, which becomes Jara Creek Road and Cardstone Road, driving 41km to the camping area.

Picnic tables, shower, barbecues and toilets in the camping and day-use areas.

Ranger Audrey’s tip: Hear your children’s squeals of delight when they spot baby butterflies clustered under leaves or delight in the bright colours of butterflies in the swallowtail family flitting along the track.

Nandroya Falls
Wooroonooran National Park, Palmerston

Cross the footbridge over Henrietta Creek and follow the signs to the walk entrance. Wander along the upper valley of Douglass Creek past Silver Creek Falls to Nandroya Falls, where Douglass Creek drops in a narrow, uninterrupted, 50m fall from a basalt parapet. This walk can be done as a circuit walk, returning by the alternative route.

6km return (2–3hr)
Track may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.

Henrietta Creek camping area (western side)
From Cairns travel south along the Bruce Highway for 10km then turn west onto the Palmerston Highway 5km north of Innisfail. The Henrietta Creek camping area is 37km from the Palmerston Highway turn-off.

Picnic tables, free gas barbecues, and toilets in camping and day-use areas.

Ranger Cam’s tip: It’s such a nice walk, seeing Silver Falls on the way and the reward of Nandroya Falls at the end. If you have time I recommend the full circuit.

1.2km return (40min)
Hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps.

Car park on Palmerston Highway, 3km west from Mamu Tropical Skywalk

From Innisfail drive north on the Bruce Highway for 5km then turn west onto the Palmerston Highway and drive 30km.

Closest facilities at Gooligans picnic area (1.4km) and Henrietta Creek (2.4km).

Ranger Brenton’s tip: Tchupala Falls are a must-see, so remember your camera. Then settle in for a picnic at Henrietta Creek after your walk.
Swamp walk
Eubenangee Swamp National Park
Meander along the rainforested banks of the Alice River, then walk up grassy Baldy Hill. Soak up the serenity as you enjoy views of Bartle Frere and Bellenden Ker, Queensland’s highest peaks. Hear the trills and honks of many waterbirds feeding in the swamp below. Estuarine crocodiles live in the park so remember to be crocwise.

On the edge of the city, join the locals as they amble, stride and jog the hilly paths and many steps of this track. Pass through shady rainforest gullies, open woodland and towering fishpole bamboo to lookouts with expansive views over Cairns city, Trinity Bay, and the rich, green, coastal mangrove forests lining the Barron River.

1.5km return (1hr)
Track may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.

Ranger Jodie’s tip:
Enjoy wildlife spotting along the walk. If you are lucky you may see a red-legged pademelon, common orange-footed scrub fowl or Australian brush turkeys scratching around on the forest floor.

1.5km return (30min)
Short gravel and grass walking track with no steps. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them.

Ranger Les’s tip:
Look very closely and you may be able to spot a crocodile in the waterhole from atop Baldy Hill!
Stoney Creek Garndal Garndal track
Green Island National Park

Venture through rainforest and coastal woodlands, skirting massive granite boulders to reach this picturesque beach. Swim and snorkel at Nudey Beach or just settle in the shade with your picnic lunch but be warned—keep your clothes on. It’s ‘nudey’ by name not by nature!

Nudey Beach track
Fitzroy Island National Park

Stroll along the shaded boardwalk through the heart of this small rainforest-clad coral cay. Listen to pied-imperial pigeons in the canopy, watch buff-banded rails dash around the undergrowth and glimpse the coral-studded sea through the trees. Retrace your steps then enjoy a swim at the patrolled beach or relax in the shade with a picnic.

Green Island boardwalk
Green Island National Park

Rock-hop along this rough track beside Stoney Creek. Admire clear limpid pools and small waterfalls along the way. At the top of Stoney Creek gorge, catch your breath as you stand on the large boulder overlooking the creek. Return along the same track then cool off with a refreshing dip in the creek.

Stoney Creek Garndal Garndal track
Barron Gorge National Park

Explore lush World Heritage rainforest as you amble along elevated boardwalks to the Mossman River lookouts. Watch the waters tumble spectacularly over granite boulders. Retrace your steps along the boardwalk. Alternatively return along the (rougner) Lower river track. Think before you swim and obey all warning signs.

Baral Marrjanga track
Daintree National Park, Mossman Gorge

1.2km return (45min)

- Bitumen surface with some steep stone steps.
- Resort, western side
- 25km offshore from Cairns, access is by private boat or ferry services from Cairns Reef Fleet Terminal. The trip takes about 45min.
- Toilets, telephones and food outlets are provided within the resort for day visitors.
- Ranger Wayne’s tip: Make sure you bring a pair of shoes or thongs as the coral rubble on the beach can be a bit hard on the feet!

1.3km return (50min)

- Flat even surface with no steps. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them.
- Jetty, in resort area
- 27km offshore from Cairns, access is by private boat or ferry services from Cairns Reef Fleet Terminal. One-way trip is 45min.
- Toilets, showers, telephones and food outlets within the resort for day visitors. Picnic tables along the boardwalk.
- Ranger Wayne’s tip: Take the time to read the signs on the boardwalk and find out about the fascinating history of Green Island.

2km return (30min)

- The track is unformed with a rough, uneven surface of rocks and twisted tree roots.
- Car park at the end of Stoney Creek Road
- From Cairns, drive 16km north along Captain Cook Highway and turn left onto Cairns Western Arterial (Kamerunga Road). Drive 3.5km, turn right onto Stoney Creek Road and drive 2.1km to the car park.
- No facilities.
- Ranger Jodie’s tip: Don’t forget your swimmers. Enjoy a relaxing swim at your choice of numerous secluded rock pools set within the tranquil rainforest.

540m return (15min)

- Elevated boardwalk and hardened surfaces. (The lower river track has bituman surfaces, bridges and stairs—no wheelchair access).
- Shuttle bus stop at park entrance
- From Cairns, drive 80km north along Captain Cook Highway to Mossman. Before the town centre, turn left into Johnston Road and drive 2km to Mossman Gorge Visitor Centre. Shuttle buses operate daily from centre to park entrance, every 15min from 8am–6pm. Fees apply. Walk or cycle to the park at any time at no cost. Keep to the edge of the narrow road to avoid traffic.
- Toilets and picnic tables at shuttle bus stop.
- Ranger Wayne’s tip: Take the time to read the signs on the boardwalk and find out about the fascinating history of Green Island.
**Jindalba circuit track**  
Daintree National Park, Cape Tribulation

Venture into the rainforest on this easy circuit track at Jindalba (‘foot of the mountain’). Walk quietly and you may glimpse a tree-kangaroo or cassowary. Feel a sense of awe as the realisation hits you—you are in the iconic Daintree, one of Australia’s last extensive stands of lowland rainforest.

- **3km return (1.5hr)**
  - Track is uneven in places and you may get your feet wet as you cross the rainforest creeks.

**Dubuji boardwalk**  
Daintree National Park, Cape Tribulation

The Dubuji (meaning ‘place of spirits’) boardwalk travels through lowland rainforest swamps and mangroves. Signs explain the survival strategies used by rainforest plants and animals. The site is close to Myall Beach and has large grassed areas with picnic shelters and toilets.

- **1.2km loop (45min)**
  - Boardwalk with flat even surface with no steps or steep sections.

**Tropical North Queensland (tablelands)**

Tropical North Queensland short walks offer magical experiences and memories to treasure. Escape the summer heat in the parks of the Atherton and Evelyn tablelands. Discover volcanic crater lakes and lush upland rainforests with spectacular waterfalls in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, all within easy reach of Cairns and tablelands towns.
Davies Creek Falls circuit track
Davies Creek and Dinden national parks

Amble through woodlands to lookouts where you can watch the spectacular Davies Creek Falls plunge 75m into the valley below. Capture picture-perfect valley views from behind the safety barrier. Follow the track along a tranquil section of creek lined with paperbarks and pandanus and then cool off with a refreshing dip.

Descend this short walking track through cool, upland rainforest to Mobo Creek and the shady, sheer-sided pool known as Mobo Crater. Despite the volcanic rocks of the creek bed, the sides of the crater are sandstone and shale. Three kilometres along Danbulla Drive is a short rainforest walk to the impressive Cathedral Fig Tree.

1.1km return (40min)
Track may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.

Davies Creek Falls circuit car park
From Kuranda, drive 21km south-west along the Kennedy Highway then turn left onto Davies Creek Road. Follow this gravel road for 6km to the Lower Davies Creek camping area and drive a further 2km to the circuit car park. The access road can be rough and is unsuitable for caravans.

Toilets at Lower Davies Creek camping area.

Ranger Rob’s tip: In the late afternoon or early morning you may be lucky enough to see a platypus in the tranquil section of the creek.

1.5km return (1hr)
An elevated, wheelchair-accessible (with assistance) boardwalk and paved track with some slopes, no steps.

Mobo Creek Crater car park
Danbulla Road runs through the park and forest. The eastern entrance is on Boar Pocket Road near the top of the Gillies Highway and the western entrance is reached via the townships of Kairi and Tinaroo.
Mobo Creek Crater is 4.6km from eastern entrance and 23.4km from western entrance.
No facilities.

Ranger Miki’s tip: This is my favourite walk on the tablelands. When you get to the crater you can hear the water over the rocks. It’s the perfect setting to soak up the sounds of the rainforest.
Lake Barrine circuit
Crater Lakes National Park, Lake Barrine

Stand at the base of 2 exceptionally large bull kauri pines and marvel at their sheer size—45m tall and more than 6m in girth! For a longer walk, continue on the circuit track around the edge of the crater lake. Enjoy secluded rainforest-fringed lake views and look for saw-shelled turtles and eastern water dragons in the lake.

160m return (10min) for Twin Kauris or 5km return (2hr) for circuit
Track may have short steep hill sections, a rough uneven surface and many steps.

Lake Barrine day-use area
From Atherton drive 23km east along the Gillies Highway.
Picnic tables, shelters and toilets; privately-operated food outlet on the lake's shore.

Ranger Roger's tip: It’s great to lie on the boardwalk and look up at the majestic canopy of these trees, (just make sure you are not in anyone’s path!)

Children’s walk
Crater Lakes National Park, Lake Eacham

Wriggle like a snake, search for dragons and create amazing creatures on this fun (and educational) walk through Lake Eacham’s rainforest. Then cool off with a swim and picnic on the grassy slopes overlooking the picturesque blue lake surrounded by lush rainforest.

1.4km return (1hr)
The track is a hardened or compacted surface suitable for prams, but is steep in places.

Lake Eacham day-use area
From Atherton drive 20km east via the Gillies Highway, Malanda–Lake Barrine Road and Lake Eacham Road.
Picnic tables, shelters, toilets, and barbecues at day-use area. Two lake viewing decks nearby.

Ranger Darren’s tip: Jump in and do the activities along the walk with your kids. They’ll enjoy it even more and you’ll have loads of fun too!

Tulip oak walk
Malanda Falls Conservation Park

Immerse yourself in the rainforest and culture of the Ngadjon-Jii Aboriginal people. Keep an eye out for platypuses in the North Johnstone River, especially at dawn and dusk. Look up to spot Lumholtz’s tree-kangaroos in the canopy (ask at the visitor centre for recent sightings). After your walk, take a memorable ‘snap’ of Malanda Falls.

1km return (35min)
The track is a hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill sections and occasional steps.

Malanda Falls car park
From Malanda, follow the Malanda–Atherton Road and after 1km turn right into the car park just after crossing the North Johnstone River.
Toilets, picnic tables, shelters and barbecues in the adjoining Malanda Falls Scenic Reserve.

Ranger Matt’s tip: You often see tree-kangaroos in the trees below the visitor information centre close to the falls.

Curtain Fig boardwalk
Curtain Fig National Park

Stroll along the boardwalk to admire this immense fig tree from every angle. The formation of this fig tree is unique—extensive aerial roots drop 15m to the forest floor to form a ‘curtain’. Look for wildlife sheltering in the rainforest, including Lumholtz’s tree-kangaroos and Herbert River ringtail possums.

180m return (10min)
Gently sloping boardwalk with flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them.

Curtain Fig car park
From Yungaburra, drive 2.5km west along the Gillies Highway and Fig Tree Road.
No facilities.

Ranger Simon’s tip: Keep an eye out for ancient volcanic (basalt) boulders scattered across the forest floor—just some of the many volcanic features you’ll see in this area!
Meander along a rainforest track and emerge at a viewing platform overlooking the sheer granite walls of a crater that is thought to have been created by a massive gas explosion. Peep over the rim of this diatreme (volcanic pipe) and, far below, glimpse a lake with a green layer of native waterweed covering its mysterious depths.

Meander along a rainforest track and emerge at a viewing platform overlooking the sheer granite walls of a crater that is thought to have been created by a massive gas explosion. Peep over the rim of this diatreme (volcanic pipe) and, far below, glimpse a lake with a green layer of native waterweed covering its mysterious depths.

800m return (30min)

- The track is a hardened or compacted surface and my have gentle hill sections and steps.

Mount Hypipamee day-use area

From Atherton drive 25km south on the Kennedy Highway to the day-use area.

Picnic tables and toilets in day-use area.

Ranger Mark’s tip: For a different experience, walk back to the car park along the Dinner Falls track. And keep an eye out for the local cassowary. Remember to be cass-o-wary!

1km return (45min)

- The track may have short steep hill sections, a rough uneven surface and many steps.

Big Millstream Falls day-use area

From Ravenshoe, drive 3.5km south-west on the Kennedy Highway. Turn left into the signed entrance and drive 1km to Big Millstream Falls picnic area.

Barbecues, tables and toilets in picnic area.

Ranger Matt’s tip: After your walk, settle down with a picnic at this historic destination.
Your guide to 36 of the best short walks in national parks, conservation parks and forests in north Queensland.

Further information

- [qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts](qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts) (access, closures and conditions)
- [qldnationalparks](qldnationalparks)
- [@QldParks; #QldParks](twitter)

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

World Heritage area information

- [wettropics.gov.au](wettropics.gov.au)
- [gbrmpa.gov.au](gbrmpa.gov.au)