Welcome to the
Glass House Mountains National Park

The amazing landscape of the Glass House Mountains area is part of Jinibara country and Kabi Kabi country. The national park and adjoining State forests are of traditional and contemporary cultural significance for both groups. This area has both tangible and intangible cultural heritage and is an intrinsic part of their country. Their connections with traditional country include caring for country and working together with QPWS to protect this valuable cultural and conservation area for future generations. We hope you will enjoy your visit and respect these sacred places.

Venture into the Sunshine Coast Hinterland and discover dramatic peaks with magnificent views.

Stand before giant monoliths rising up from a tapestry of eucalypt forests, macadamia orchards, pineapple farms and pine plantations. Scenic walks wind through fragrant eucalypt forest and flowering heathland, offering spectacular views of the unique mountains and surrounding landscape. Hear the screeching sounds of yellow-tailed black-cockatoos and peregrine falcons as they soar overhead.

Be captivated by glowing, sunlit domes, cones and spires as dawn breaks across the plains and lights up the remnants of a volcanic era. Appreciate the spiritual significance of this place, which is an intrinsic part of the Jinibara and Kabi Kabi peoples’ powerful creation stories and beliefs.

The Glass House Mountains mean different things to different people. They are an iconic south east Queensland landscape feature, a valuable remnant of our native plant communities and a place for visitors to explore forest walks with spectacular mountain views, within 30min of the Sunshine Coast.

But first and foremost, these mountains are highly significant for local Traditional Owners, the Jinibara people and Kabi Kabi people. We ask visitors to consider this carefully while they are here. For the Traditional Owners, Beerwah and Tibrogargan are not summits to be conquered, but representations of their great cultural heritage and their place in this land. The Jinibara people and Kabi Kabi people request that visitors don’t climb these mountains out of respect for the mountains’ sacred values.

Ranger Nat, on behalf of the Rangers of the Glass House Mountains

Volcanic beginnings

Try to imagine the natural forces that forged these impressive mountains. Masses of molten rock were forced upwards more than 25 million years ago, cooling and hardening to form bodies of rock beneath the surface. As time passed, the softer surrounding rock eroded leaving these uniquely shaped, igneous intrusions—the Glass House Mountains. View some incredible geological sculpting at Beerwah day-use area where the Organ Pipes, a tessellation of hexagonal columns formed as volcanic magma cooled and cracked.

Lieutenant James Cook, on his voyage along Australia’s east coast, gave these peaks the English name of Glass House Mountains. His journal, dated Thursday 17 May 1770, notes:

‘These hills lay but a little way inland and not far from each other, they are very remarkable on account of their singular form of elivation which very much resemble glass houses which occasioned my giving them that name ...’
Traditional land

These mountains and the surrounding plains are the ancestral home of the Jinibara and Kabi Kabi peoples, the Traditional Owners of this area. With plentiful resources, this area was a special meeting place for groups to trade goods and perform ceremonies.

Listen to the bush sounds and try to imagine them mixed with stories, music and laughter of Jinibara and Kabi Kabi peoples who for thousands of years gathered here for festivals. These mountains continue to be a place of spiritual significance for Traditional Owners, with many ceremonial sites still present and protected today.

According to Jinibara peoples’ lore and custom, Beerwah is the ancestral, pregnant mother. As there is nothing more important than a mother giving birth, Jinibara people are taught to respect and protect Beerwah—a deeply spiritual place. Their lore and custom teaches them not to climb this mountain out of respect for its great sacredness.

Tibrogargan is seen as the father with Ngungun, his faithful dingo, lying at his feet. The mountains around them are their children. Coonowrin is the eldest. The others are Beerburrum, Coochin, Elimbah, Tibberooowuccum, Miketeebumpriai, Tunubudla, and the youngest Wild Horse Mountain (its traditional name has been lost).

Jinibara and Kabi Kabi peoples request that visitors do not climb the culturally-sacred Beerwah and Tibrogargan peaks.

Natural beauty

Wander through forests of stringybark, blackbutt, pink bloodwood and grey ironbark where you might spot resident koalas. Look for eastern grey kangaroos and whiptail wallabies grazing the understorey or snoozing away the hotter hours in the shade.

Trace your fingers over the patterned bark of scribbly gums. See scaly-breasted and rainbow lorikeets peek from hollows of older trees. On the Mount Ngungun summit walk, montane heath plants cling to the exposed rock, forming a sparse shrubland where lizards and honeyeaters hide.

A profusion of wildflowers colour the landscape in spring. Hovea, wattle and parrot pea provide bright splashes of purple, yellow and orange. Walk amid stiff, yellow flower spikes of banksias and coppery-red ribbons of bark peeling from trunks of Glass House Mountains tea-trees. Some species, like the Mount Beerwah mallee Eucalyptus kabiana and Coochin Hills grevillea Grevillea hodgei, are found only on the Glass House Mountains’ peaks.


Learn more about the fascinating plants of the Glass House Mountains National Park by purchasing a Ranger Field Guide. Yes, it’s the guide the Rangers use! Search for Ranger Field Guide on qld.gov.au for sales outlets.
**Bushwalking**

Start your Glass House Mountains getaway on the **Mount Beerburrum summit walk**. From Beerburrum trailhead, you'll walk through wet eucalypt forest and up into drier open forest to reach the fire tower at the top of Beerburrum, one of the smaller peaks (280m). The track includes 750m of very steep, paved pathway, so make sure you're fit enough for this. Once you catch your breath, you can behold hazy mountain silhouettes.

The **Yul-yan-man track**—meaning ‘walk slowly’ in Kabi Kabi language—is a bushwalking and rock-scrambling challenge. You'll need good rock-scrambling skills for the sections of exposed rock faces, some with car-sized boulders balanced on the side of the mountain. Start at the Beerburrum trailhead and take your time to enjoy the spectacular country with breathtaking, 360 degree views, especially along the Trachyte Ridge section. You’ll notice different plant communities as you walk up and down hills and through the forest. These change for many reasons—aspect, altitude, slope, rainfall, soils and fire regime.

**Overnight escapes**

Head to nearby **Beerwah State Forest** and pitch your tent at Coochin Creek camping area. From here you can launch your canoe, go boating or throw in a line and catch dinner fresh from the creek. Book your camp site before you go at [qld.gov.au/Camping](http://qld.gov.au/Camping)

**Shared trails**

**Beerburrum** and **Tibrogargan** trailheads are linked by a shared trail for mountain biking, walking and running.

There are other opportunities nearby in **Beerburrum West State Forest** and adjoining **Glass House Mountains Conservation Park**, which is off the D’Aguilar Highway between Wamuran and D’Aguilar townships. Runners can go for an exhilarating forest run on 3 purpose-built **Bracalba running trails**. A shared trail for mountain biking, walking, running and horseriding follows parts of an old railway route.
Visit Tibrogargan where families with children can enjoy the easier walk around Tibrogargan circuit. You’ll easily distinguish the unique shapes of Beerwah and Coonowrin at Mountain View lookout. Wander around the base of Tibrogargan through casuarina groves, open eucalypt woodland and paperbark forests for more views of Tiboobuurwuccum and Tunbubudla. Look up through the forest canopy—black-shouldered kites may be circling and hunting.

Hike past spear-topped grass trees and golden banksia flowers on the longer Trachyte circuit at Tibrogargan. Marvel at the spectacular mountains, including the glorious Tibrogargan, from Jack Ferris lookout on Trachyte Ridge. Look for ruby-coloured sundews sparkling on the forest floor.

Take a very short stroll on the Mount Beerwah view walk to a small, grassed, day-use area. Relax and take in a spectacular view of the mountain.

Get that top-of-the-world feeling on Mount Ngungun summit walk. Begin in shaded forest, where blue-faced, scarlet, and white-cheeked honeyeaters dart between flowering plants. Walk uphill to your reward—a 360 degree panorama of the surrounding Glass House Mountain peaks with a clear view of Tibrogargan, Coonowrin and Beerwah peaks.

Adventure safely

Make your visit to the park memorable for all the right reasons. Rescues are risky, even for the rescue team.

- Choose activities that suit your skills, experience and fitness, and that of your group.
- Never walk or climb in wet conditions or if it is likely to rain as tracks and rock surfaces become very slippery.
- Keep children close and safe.
- Let somebody know where you are going, when you plan to return and what to do if you’re late or lost.
- Leave plenty of time to complete your park adventure in daylight and always keep your group together.
- Plan your activity time to avoid heat exhaustion.

In an emergency call Triple Zero (000)

The essential packlist

- Mobile phone—reception may be poor in places.
- First-aid kit.
- Adequate drinking water—safe drinking water is not provided in the park.
- Suitable footwear, clothing and equipment for the activity you are planning.
- A camera to snap the amazing views and wildlife!

Tread softly

Help maintain this pristine environment and leave no trace of your visit. It’s easy!

- Take all your rubbish home, including food scraps, cigarette butts, and sanitary and hygiene items.
- Leave your pets at home—domestic animals are not permitted in national parks.
- Stay on the tracks—don’t cut corners or create new tracks.

Never feed wildlife

Let animals hunt and forage naturally. Our food can make them sick. Animals that are used to being fed lose their fear of people and become aggressive nuisances around the day-use areas.
Ranger favourites

Experience solitude in the middle of the Sunshine Coast by tackling the Yul-yan-man track. Although a challenging hike, the feeling you get from standing on the saddleback without a sign of civilisation is well worth it!

*Ranger Cheryl*

The park’s best kept secret—Beerwah day-use area. On a weekday it is a quiet place with a spectacular mountain view to soak up while sharing a picnic and relaxing.

*Ranger Liz*

I love exploring the park’s diverse vegetation with my Glass House Mountains Ranger Field Guide in hand. There are many unique plants to discover like the vulnerable Glass House Mountains tea-tree *Leptospermum luehmannii*, which only grows in the Glass House Mountains area.

*Ranger Shelley*
Summit routes at a glance

When deciding whether to climb, consider respecting the Jinibara and Kabi Kabi peoples request to not climb the culturally-sacred Beerwah and Tibrogargan peaks.

⚠️ The summit routes are only suitable for fit and experienced rock scramblers. This is a steep, strenuous climb with sheer rock faces.

- Be fully informed and suitably equipped before you go.
- Never climb in wet or impending wet conditions—rocks become very slippery, making fall and injury risk higher and rescue more difficult.
- Plan to start early in the day and allow at least 3–4 hr.
- Return in daylight.
- Always check conditions and abandon climbing if they’re not suitable.
- Check weather at bom.gov.au and fire danger at ruralfire.qld.gov.au

⚠️ Know the hazards:
- falling rocks and loose rock debris can occur anytime and in large amounts
- steep, exposed rock faces and slabs
- very slippery rocks in wet conditions
- heat exhaustion and dehydration
- strong winds
- poor visibility in mist or fading daylight
- becoming trapped on cliff edges by deviating off-route
- slips and falls from inexperience, poor preparation and inappropriate gear.

⚠️ Climb safely:
- Be aware of what is happening around you.
- Don’t climb directly below others and be careful not to dislodge rocks.
- Wear a helmet and sturdy, flexible-soled footwear with good grip.
Walking tracks and shared trail at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Walk time</th>
<th>Map location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From Tibrogargan trailhead</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tibrogargan circuit</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.1km return</td>
<td>1.5hr</td>
<td>See Map 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trachyte circuit</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.7km return</td>
<td>2–3hr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Beerburrum trailhead</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Beerburrum summit walk</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.5km return</td>
<td>1.5hr</td>
<td>See Map 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yul-yan-man track</td>
<td></td>
<td>Choose from 2 access points</td>
<td>3–4hr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Ngungun entrance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Ngungun summit walk</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.8km return</td>
<td>2hr</td>
<td>See Map 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>From Beerwah entrance</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mount Beerwah view walk</td>
<td></td>
<td>200m</td>
<td>15min</td>
<td>See Map 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shared trail</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tibrogargan trailhead to Beerburrum trailhead</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.4km one way</td>
<td>2–3hr</td>
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Track and trail classifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Suits</th>
<th>Track and trail description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>People with bushwalking experience</td>
<td>Tracks may be long, rough and very steep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills</td>
<td>Tracks are likely to be very rough, and very steep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Skilled mountain bike riders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Don’t be bullied up the summit by others. These are tough climbs and not suitable if you:
- are looking for a bushwalking experience — there are alternatives
- are visiting with young children or unfit people
- require assistance or you’re unsure of your ability.

Rescues are risky, even for the rescue team.

- Stay in pairs — never climb alone.
- If you choose to stop, don’t wait in high-risk rockfall zones and “no waiting zones”.
- Take care near cliff edges — they are unstable and can give way.
- Look back regularly to make sure you are comfortable with the steepness. If not, climb down.