

# WELCOME TO MACKAY HIGHLANDS AND EUNGELLA NATIONAL PARK

Enter an enchanting world, where clouds cloak the rainforest, birds call from quiet creeks, breezes carry soft bush scents, and the afternoon sun shines on the sheer cliffs of the Clarke Ranges.

Feel refreshed dipping into clear rock pools surrounded by volcanic boulders and countless waterfalls. Sense the shy movements of platypus and Eungella spiny crayfish darting through the water. Catch glimpses of colourful birdlife moving in the canopy.

Wander through misty-veiled rainforests and dense palm groves, past towering forest giants standing sentinel on the dramatic cliff line. Let shadows envelop you on a twilight safari, where tawny frogmouths, gliders and possums will greet you as they emerge into the night.

Come and discover this magical mountainous place where the tropics and subtropics meet.



“I love the diversity in the landscape as you cross the Clarke Connors Range. Within one hour’s drive you can experience dense subtropical rainforest with an abundance of wildlife, then drive through open eucalypt woodlands and enjoy the steep rugged escarpments of Diamond Cliffs in Homevale National Park.”

*Ranger Ben*

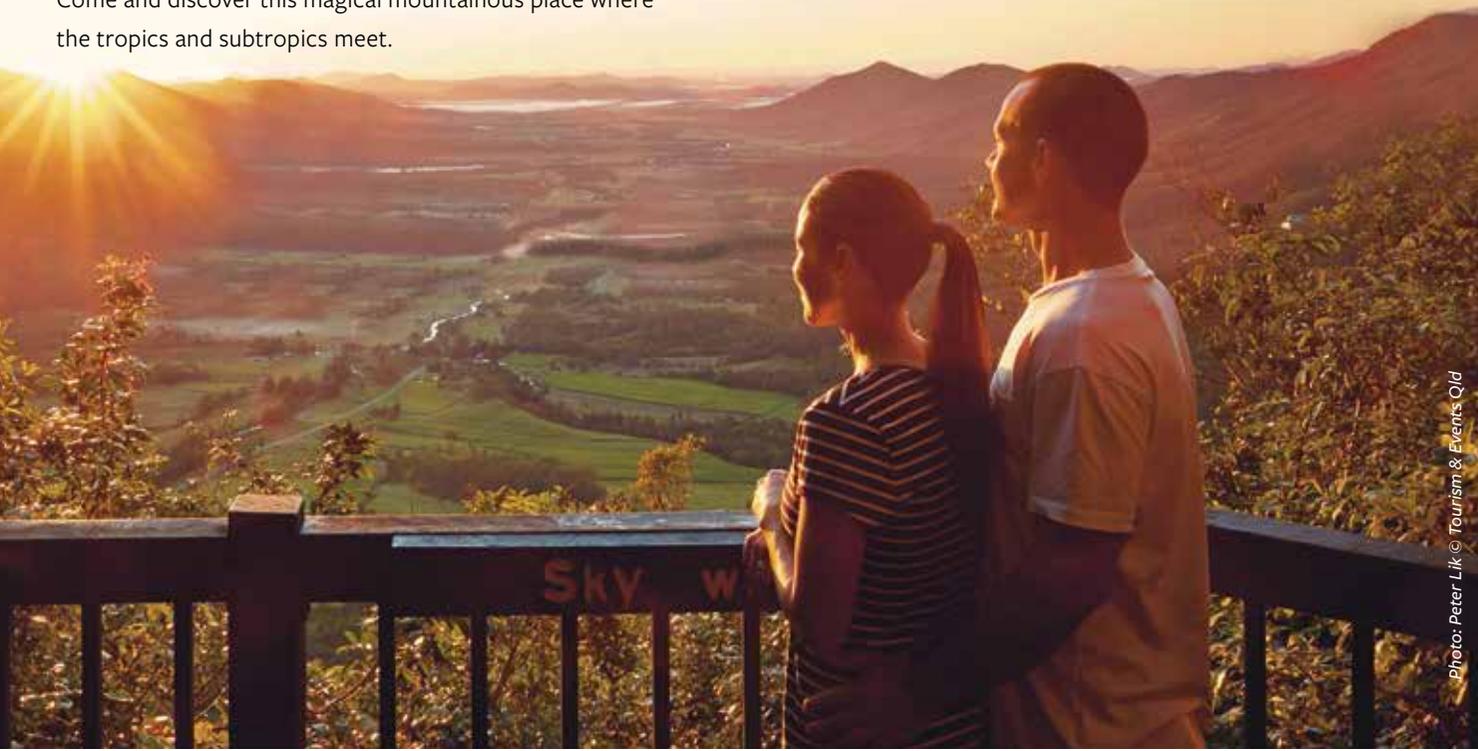


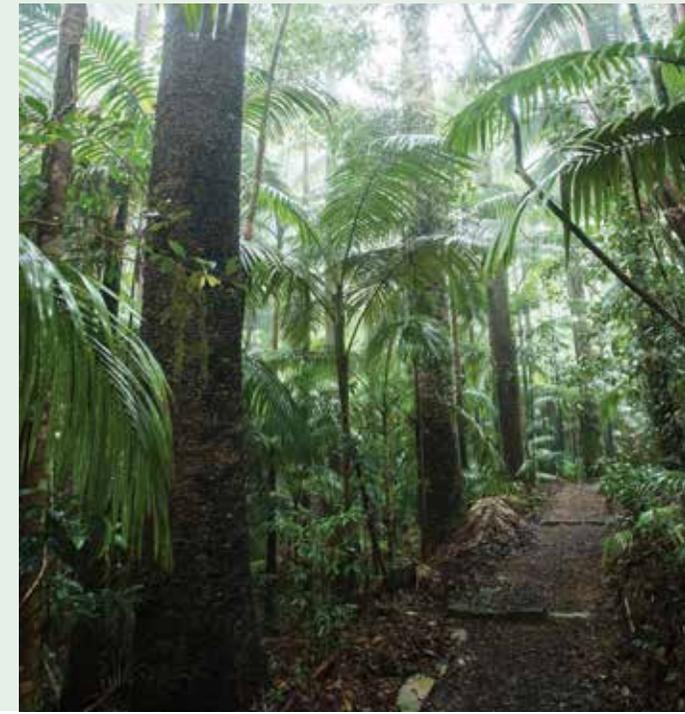
Photo: Peter Lik © Tourism & Events Qld

# DISCOVER MACKAY HIGHLANDS

With tranquil rainforest, rustic charm and dramatic terrain, Mackay Highlands has a natural beauty you will never forget. The landscape is a sculpted masterpiece—steep escarpments give way to deep gorges and waterholes, with dense rainforest and majestic woodland hemmed by a patchwork of farming communities.

Explore cloud-shrouded mountains in **Eungella National Park**, Australia’s longest remaining stretch of subtropical rainforest and one of Queensland’s most ecologically-diverse parks. Eungella protects more than 860 subtropical and tropical rainforest plant species and a spectacular array of wildlife.

Lose yourself in picturesque creek scenery, lush rainforest remnants and open forest dotted with beautiful, century-old rose gums in **Crediton State Forest**. Trace the footsteps



of Birri Gubba Traditional Owners, gold miners and early timber harvesters, or tell ghost stories by torchlight at the camp near historic Crediton Hall.

Dramatic peaks and spires jut breathtakingly out of the vast dry plains in **Homevale National Park**—the remains of ancient volcanic eruptions. Delight in broilgas dancing and honeyeaters dipping into Moonlight Dam’s watery oasis.

Imagine yourself on an outback adventure, riding horseback or pedalling through the grasstree-lined foothills of the Clarke Range at **Mia Mia State Forest**, a melody of bird calls ringing through the forest.



(Top) Pioneer Valley view; (far left) rainforest on the Mackay Highlands Great Walk; (left) Eungella gastric brooding frog.

Photos: (top) Adam Creed © Qld Govt; (far left) Tourism and Events Qld; (left) © Qld Govt



Photo: © Qld Govt

## OVERNIGHT ESCAPES

Don’t rush away! Wind down in a nearby cabin or resort, or let the stars stretching to the horizon be your rooftop and the tranquil rainforest your walls on a camping adventure in the park. There is an experience to suit everyone, from family-friendly camping with plenty of facilities, to reclusive bush camping away from it all. Make sure you book your camp site before you go at [qld.gov.au/camping](http://qld.gov.au/camping)

## CAMPING AT A GLANCE

### Eungella National Park

#### Fern Flat camping area

Small camping area in a natural bushland setting next to Broken River.

No generators permitted.



Nearby:



#### Broken River bush camp

Open camping area beside Broken River, where you may be lucky to spot a platypus.

Fires are permitted in fireplaces provided except during fire bans. Fuel stoves are recommended.

Generators that operate at or below 65 dB(A) are permitted between 9am and 8pm only.



### Crediton State Forest

#### Denham Range camping area

Open camping area atop a mountain ridge with cool breezes and views.

No fires or generators permitted.



#### The Diggings camping area

Open tranquil camping area beside Broken River in a shady clearing surrounded by tall trees. 4WD or high-clearance vehicles only.

Fires are permitted in fireplaces provided except during fire bans. Fuel stoves are recommended.

Generators that operate at or below 65 dB(A) are permitted between 9am and 8pm only.



### Homevale National Park

#### Moonlight Dam camping area

Quiet camping area on the edge of Moonlight Dam—a popular place where birds come to drink at dusk.

No fires or generators permitted.



### Mia Mia State Forest

#### Captain’s Crossing camping area

Open camping area beside Teemburra Creek. 4WD or high-clearance vehicles only.

No facilities.

No fires or generators permitted.



## CALL OF THE WILD

Stand quietly in this lush, green paradise and discover forests brimming with life.

Listen closely and hear the clear, sharp calls of the Eungella honeyeater, found only in these highlands. Be entertained by an orchestral chorus of rainbow lorikeets (pictured left), red-browed finches and blue-faced honeyeaters in the trees, or hear the rustle and distinctive ‘walk-to-work’ call of noisy pittas foraging for snails in the leaf litter. Watch turtles bob at the surface at Broken River and wait for a resident platypus to make a shy appearance.

At night, secretive Eungella tinkerfrogs punctuate the air with metallic ‘tinks’. Hold your breath as greater gliders and common ringtail possums cling to high branches, and rare golden-tipped bats dart silently through the canopy. Like staring at a magic eye, see if you can spy the Clarke Range’s own species of leaf-tailed gecko, almost invisible against rough tree bark.

Camping is also available at Crediton Hall, managed by and booked through Mackay Regional Council.



## CONNECT WITH QUEENSLAND NATIONAL PARKS

 [queenslandnationalparks.com.au](http://queenslandnationalparks.com.au)

 book at [qld.gov.au/camping](http://qld.gov.au/camping)

 [facebook.com/qldnationalparks](https://facebook.com/qldnationalparks)

 @QldParks; #QldParks

For help planning your holiday, visit [queensland.com](http://queensland.com) or [mackayregion.com.au](http://mackayregion.com.au)

Photos: (front cover) Maxime Coquard © Qld Govt; (this page) Adam Creed © Qld Govt

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## WALKING IN THE CLOUDS

Let the crisp mountain air invigorate you as you explore magnificent walking tracks. Stroll with the family, walk for several hours, or for a challenge, set out on the 56km Mackay Highlands Great Walk.

For further detail including walk distances refer to the included map or visit [queenslandnationalparks.com.au](http://queenslandnationalparks.com.au)

### 1 PINE GROVE

Delight in walking through shady rainforest on **Pine Grove circuit**, catching glimpses of picturesque Pioneer Valley beyond tall trees. Or continue to Sky Window along **Cedar Grove track** and admire views of the valley floor from the lookout—a patchwork of green and brown cane fields with a sheer mountain backdrop. Feel dwarfed by towering red cedars and tulip oaks. Be a child again, peering from inside a twisted strangler fig tree arch.

### 2 SKY WINDOW

See bright piccabeen and Alexandra palms glistening in the breeze after light rain or morning mist along **Sky Window circuit**. Drink in breathtaking views stretching to the steep, rugged northern wall, before descending to the tumbling cascades of Broken River.

### 3 BROKEN RIVER

Be entranced by playful platypus along the **Platypus walk**. Cross trickling creeks beneath a forest ceiling decorated with epiphytes and vines on the cool and shady **Rainforest Discovery circuit**. Explore tall groves of livistona palms lining the **Granite Bend circuit**—their fan-shaped leaves beckoning you to the banks of Broken River to listen to the sounds of water rushing over rocks.

Watch for ripples and bubbles of platypus, eels and freshwater turtles on the creek surface on **Crediton Creek track**. Walk through rainforest gullies up to rocky ridges

covered in drier vine forest where you may see unadorned rock-wallabies or red-legged pademelons. To extend your walk, continue along **Wishing Pool circuit**, through tall rainforest carpeted with ferns, and listen for whipbirds and fruit-doves calling around you.

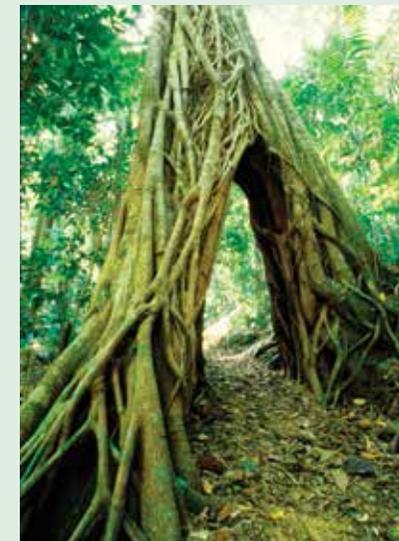
Take a break with a leisurely bush picnic among tall swamp mahogany and red gum trees in the Broken River visitor area.

### 9 FINCH HATTON GORGE

Weave between large granite boulders on the **Araluen Cascades track** before walking through emerald-green rainforest to reach the lookout above the cascades. Those seeking a place for quiet contemplation will fall in love with the **Wheel of Fire track**, where forest reflections shimmer across the still rock pool surface.

Finch Hatton Gorge has many dangerous cascades. While the cascades look inviting to explore and climb, please beware of the dangers—lives have been lost here.

Access to the gorge is along dirt roads with multiple creek crossings. Some may be impassable after heavy rain.



(Left) Strangler fig; (above) Sky Window track; (right) Finch Hatton Gorge.

Photos: (left) John Augusteyn © Qld Govt; (above) © Tamara Vallance; (right) Tourism and Events Qld

## MACKAY HIGHLANDS GREAT WALK

Satisfy your wanderlust with a long trek through rainforest and palm groves, cliffs and peaks, quiet roads and farmland. Walk for a while or tackle all 56km! The full walk is recommended only for fit, experienced walkers with strong navigational skills. Park Rangers recommend you take a topographic map. For the less experienced, why not try a few short sections. Visit [npsr.qld.gov.au/great-walks-mackay-highlands/](https://npsr.qld.gov.au/great-walks-mackay-highlands/) for detailed information.

## BUSH ADVENTURES

Take a scenic drive, exploring stunning stretches of dense rainforest, russet-red gum forest and quiet farmland that stretch as far as the eye can see. Cruise along easy roads, stopping to sample local fare at a cafe and watch the sunset at a scenic lookout. Or rumble along curves of a washboard road for a 4WD adventure sure to make your heart beat faster.

Adventurous mountain bikers and horseriders will relish exploring the quiet country roads and trails in Mia Mia and Crediton state forests. Watch for vehicles and walkers sharing the road!

For detailed trail information visit [queenslandnationalparks.com.au](https://queenslandnationalparks.com.au)

### RIDE SAFE, RIDE HAPPY

- Cyclists should give way to horses and walkers.
- Walkers should give way to horses.
- Bikes and horses are not permitted on walking tracks or in national parks.

## ADVENTURE SAFELY

Make your visit to the highlands memorable for the right reasons.

- Walk between April and September to avoid wet and dry weather extremes.
- Never dive or jump into creeks or pools as the water level may be shallow or hide submerged objects.
- Take care on slippery rocks and at creek crossings.
- Take care near cliff edges—do not climb on rock faces.
- Wear warm, protective clothing and insect repellent.
- Leave plenty of time to reach your destination in daylight.

### THE ESSENTIAL PACKLIST

- Mobile phone. Reception may be poor in places.
- First-aid kit.
- Untreated, clean-milled firewood for camping area fire rings. Firewood cannot be collected from the park.
- Drinking water or sterilisation tablets—safe drinking water is not provided in the park.

## TREAD SOFTLY

Help maintain this pristine environment and leave no trace of your visit. It's easy—here's how:

- Rubbish—pack it in, pack it out. Take all rubbish (including food scraps, cigarette butts and sanitary and hygiene items) with you.
- Stay on the walking tracks—shortcutting causes erosion and damages vegetation.
- Be frog friendly—please don't disturb or remove rocks or trample vegetation near creeks.
- Leave your pets at home—domestic animals are not permitted in national parks.

# MACKAY HIGHLANDS AND EUNGELLA NATIONAL PARK

## Reveal magically



Queensland  
national parks  
keep DISCOVERING



## RANGER FAVOURITES

“If you only go to one place, visit Broken River ③. Enjoy watching saw-shelled turtles, perch, eels and platypus in the waterways, and if you are really lucky, you might see a male regent bowerbird (pictured right) fly through the rainforest like a flame across the canopy!”

Ranger Ben

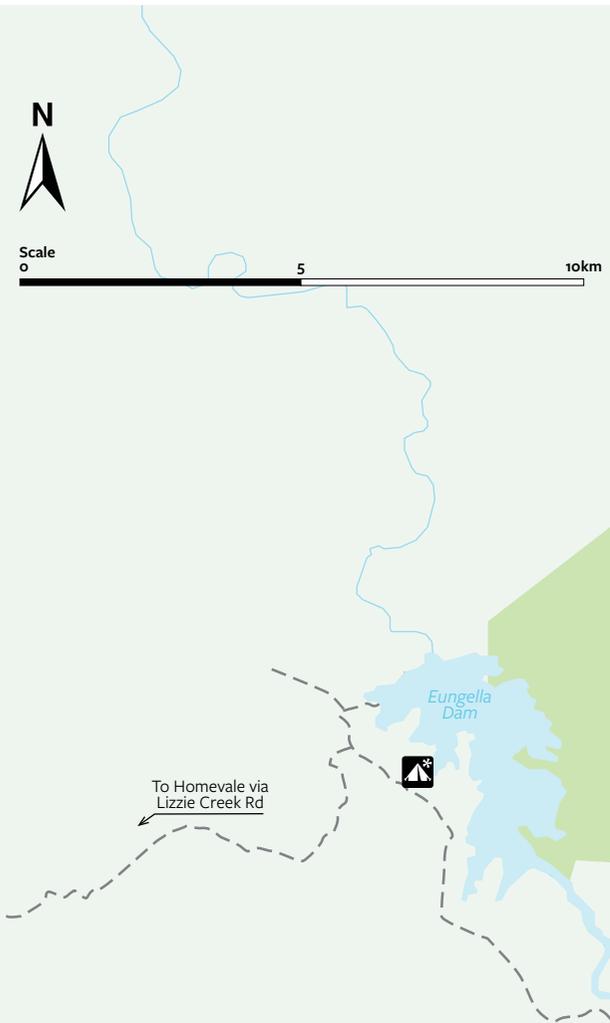


“My favourite hike is the Crediton Creek track. You follow Broken River ③ and experience wildlife in abundance, with several rock pools providing numerous chances to see platypus (pictured below).”

Ranger Cliff



Photos: (left) © Queensland Museum, The Ray Viljoen Image Collection; (above) Maxime Coquard © Qld Govt



## FOREST DRIVES AT A GLANCE

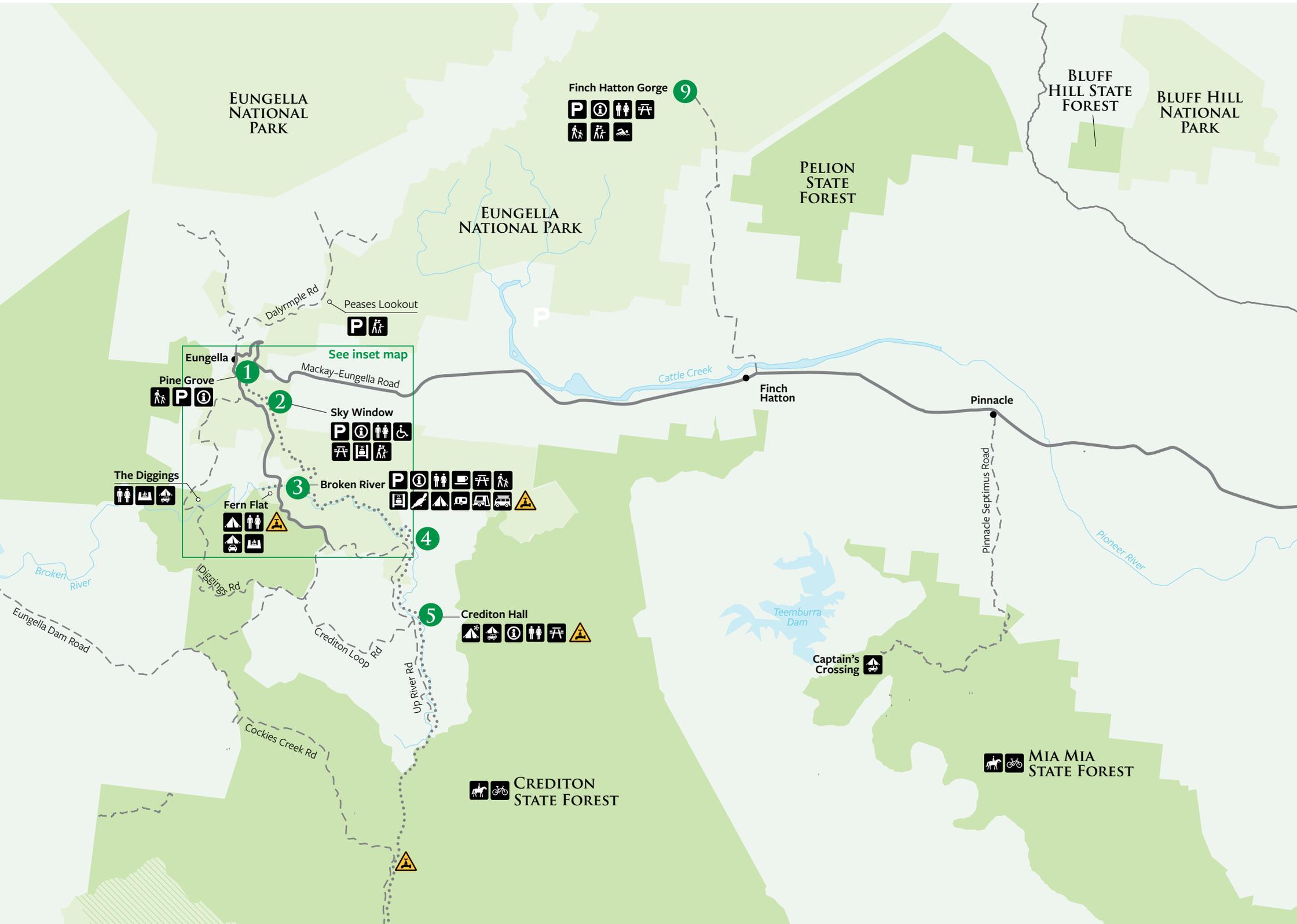
Track name	Distance	Time	Suitable for
Pine Grove ① – Broken River ③	5km one way	10mins drive	2WD and 4WD vehicles
Broken River ③ – Crediton Hall ⑤	9.7km one way	10mins drive	2WD and 4WD vehicles
Crediton Hall ⑤ – Denham Range ⑥	33.3km one way	40mins drive	4WD vehicles only
Denham Range ⑥ – Moonlight Dam ⑦	100km one way	1.25hrs drive	4WD vehicles only
Moonlight Dam ⑦ – Mount Britton ⑧	15km one way	20mins drive	4WD vehicles only

## SHORT WALKS AT A GLANCE

Track name	Class	Distance	Walk time	Access point
Pine Grove circuit	4	1.6km return	45mins–1hr	①
Cedar Grove track	4	2.8km return	1–1.5hrs	① or ②
Sky Window circuit	2	250m circuit	5–10mins	②
Clarke Range track	4	8.2km one way	3–4hrs	② or ③
Platypus walk	1	400m	10–20mins	③
Rainforest Discovery circuit	3	780m circuit	20–30mins	③



(Top) The view from Sky Window lookout; (left) Eungella National Park; (below left) snake-necked turtle (below right) red-browed finch.



EUNGELLA NATIONAL PARK

Finch Hatton Gorge  
P ⓘ ♿ ♿ ♿  
♿ ♿ ♿

BLUFF HILL STATE FOREST  
BLUFF HILL NATIONAL PARK

EUNGELLA NATIONAL PARK

PELION STATE FOREST

Eungella  
Pine Grove  
The Diggings  
Fern Flat  
Broken River  
Sky Window  
See inset map  
Mackay-Eungella Road

Finch Hatton

Pinnacle

The Diggings  
♿ ♿ ♿

Fern Flat  
♿ ♿ ♿  
♿ ♿ ♿

Broken River  
P ⓘ ♿ ♿ ♿  
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4  
♿ ♿ ♿  
♿ ♿ ♿

5  
Crediton Hall  
♿ ♿ ♿ ⓘ ♿ ♿ ♿  
♿ ♿ ♿

Teemurra Dam

Captain's Crossing  
♿

MIA MIA STATE FOREST  
♿ ♿

CREDITON STATE FOREST  
♿ ♿

Eungella Dam Road

Diggings Rd

Crediton Loop Rd

Up River Rd

Cocksies Creek Rd

Dalympde Rd

Peases Lookout  
P ♿

Cattle Creek

Pioneer River

Granite Bend circuit	3	1.6km circuit	40–55mins	3
Crediton Creek track	4	8km one way	3–4hrs	3 or 4
Wishing Pool circuit	4	1.7km circuit	35–50mins	4
Araluen Cascades track	3	2.8km return	1–1.5hrs	9
Wheel of Fire track	4	4.2km return	1.5–2hrs	9



Photos: (top) © Tamara Vallance; (above) Peter Lik © Tourism and Events Qld; (far left and left) Paul Candlin © Qld Govt



## LONG WALKS AT A GLANCE

Track name	Class	Distance	Walk time
Pine Grove 1 – Broken River 3	4	10km one way	3.5–5hrs
Broken River 3 – Crediton Hall 5	4	11.2km one way	3.75–5hrs
Crediton Hall 5 – Denham Range 6	4	19.5km one way	6.5–9.75hrs
Denham Range 6 – Moonlight Dam 7	4	16.2km one way	5.5–8hrs
Moonlight Dam 7 – Mount Britton 8	4	5.5km one way	2–2.75hrs
Mackay Highlands Great Walk	4	56km one way	3–5 days



To Eungella Dam  
via Turrawulla Road

## WALKING TRACK CLASSIFICATIONS

Class	Suits	Track description
1	Assisted wheelchair and stroller access	No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections.
2	Families with young children	No bushwalking experience required. The track is a hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps.
3	People with some bushwalking experience	Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.
4	Experienced bushwalkers	Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signs may be limited.

### Legend

	National park		Information		Private camping area
	State forest		Walking track		Caravan
	Regional park		Picnic table		Camper trailer
	Water		Fire place		Motorhome
	Sealed road		Barbecue—gas		Viewpoint
	Unsealed road— high-clearance 4WD only		Horserying		Swimming
	Walking track		Mountain biking		Platypus
	Township		Camping		Refreshments
	Parking		Camping—2WD access		Generators permitted
	Toilets		Camping—4WD access		Water— treat before drinking
	Wheelchair access				



