Welcome to

Hinchinbrook Island National Park

Delve into the wild paradise of spectacular, World Heritage-listed, Hinchinbrook Island. Rising dramatically from Great Barrier Reef waters, Hinchinbrook's rugged mountain range and untouched sweeping beaches create a superb backdrop for an exhilarating tropical adventure.

Hike the challenging, world-renowned Thorsborne Trail, fish the famous Hinchinbrook Channel and Missionary Bay, kayak from one perfect beach to the next or simply enjoy a day visit discovering the island’s magic.

Middens, and the remains of fish traps made from stone, are the enduring reminders that First Nations peoples lived on Hinchinbrook Island for many thousands of years. Today, First Nations peoples continue to care for the island and work alongside Rangers to preserve its values. They welcome you to their special place and ask that you visit with care and respect.

“Hinchinbrook Island soothes your soul, leaves you refreshed and wanting more! This island paradise has it all—rugged mountains, crystal-clear creeks, enchanting waterfalls, secluded beaches and fringing reefs. From untouched rainforest to mountaintop heathlands, melaleuca swamps, mangroves and towering eucalypts, its beauty and diverse wildlife will captivate you. Come and experience the isolated splendour of Hinchinbrook Island and create your own everlasting memories; we guarantee you will fall in love with it too!

Hinchinbrook Island Park Rangers

Getting there and getting around

Take a boat from either Cardwell or Dungeness, near Lucinda—vehicle parking is available near boat ramps. The only means of getting around the island is on foot or by vessel from bay to bay.

Walking the Thorsborne Trail? Local boat charters will drop-off and pick-up at the northern and southern end points of the trail. Visit qld.gov.au/ThorsborneTrail for details.

Camping

If you’re looking for isolation, tropical beaches, forest hideaways and boat-only access, Hinchinbrook is ideal for those seeking a secluded nature escape. Of the 16 camping areas, some are only for Thorsborne Trail walkers and some only for sea-kayakers.

Book your camping permit well in advance at qld.gov.au/Camping

Camping on the Thorsborne Trail

The trail is very popular and often fully booked during peak periods and school holidays.

When booking, select ‘Thorsborne Trail’. This gives you access to any Thorsborne Trail camping area during your walk and means you don’t have to book each area separately.
Day visits
You don’t have to hike the Thorsborne Trail to experience Hinchinbrook’s magic. Find a boat or kayak and strand yourself for a day at a day-use area or enjoy a short walk into this island wilderness.

Day-use areas at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day-use area</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Haven 1</td>
<td>🛠️</td>
<td>The only day-use area on the Hinchinbrook Channel is a great base for fishing and walking The Haven track A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Macushla 2</td>
<td>🛠️</td>
<td>This shady spot looking into Missionary Bay is an excellent base for fishing and has access to the North Shepherd Bay B and South Shepherd Bay C walking tracks via North Macushla 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Macushla 3</td>
<td>🛠️</td>
<td>A sandy beach backed by rainforest near the northern tip of the island. You can access the North Shepherd Bay B and South Shepherd Bay C walking tracks from here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Zoe Bay 12</td>
<td>🛠️</td>
<td>An idyllic, sheltered spot on Zoe Bay’s expansive beach with beautiful Zoe Falls 13 just a few minutes away. Swimming in the freshwater pool at the base of the falls is a must!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Point 16</td>
<td>🛠️</td>
<td>On the beach at the southern-most point of the island and easily accessed from Dungeness; this is also the southern drop-off/collection point for Thorsborne Trail walkers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Day walks at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Walk time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Haven A</td>
<td>📚</td>
<td>1km circuit</td>
<td>30min</td>
<td>Follow the circuit from The Haven day-use and camping areas along the bank of a serene freshwater creek.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Shepherd Bay B</td>
<td>📚</td>
<td>3.8km return</td>
<td>1hr</td>
<td>Walk from Macushla to North Shepherd Bay, then return the way you came. Look for nesting mounds of the orange-footed scrub fowl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Shepherd Bay C</td>
<td>📚</td>
<td>7.6km return</td>
<td>3hr</td>
<td>From Macushla, walk to the isolated and wind-swept South Shepherd Bay beach. Return the way you came, do not attempt to walk around the headlands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nina Peak 3</td>
<td>📚</td>
<td>6.6km return from Ramosay Bay boardwalk</td>
<td>3hr</td>
<td>Conquer this challenging, unmarked climb to the peak for spectacular views over the wilds of Hinchinbrook and surrounding tropical waters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoe Falls 13</td>
<td>📚</td>
<td>900m return</td>
<td>30min</td>
<td>Stroll from South Zoe Bay day-use area to refresh with a swim at the base of the falls. A difficult track leads to the top of the falls for a glorious view over Zoe Bay.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Track and trail classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Suits</th>
<th>Track description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>📚</td>
<td>🗽️</td>
<td>Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, rough surface and many steps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>📚</td>
<td>🗽️</td>
<td>Very experienced bushwalkers Tracks are very rough, very steep and unmarked.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Further information

qld.gov.au/NationalParks
qld.gov.au/Camping
qldnationalparks
@QldParks; #QldParks

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

Thorsborne Trail packlist

- Water containers to hold 4L of water per person, per day. Remember to treat collected water before drinking.
- Personal locator beacon (PLB) and satellite phone (mobile phone coverage is unreliable).
- First-aid kit including compression bandage, space blanket, electrolytes and medications.
- Sturdy walking shoes and clothing to protect yourself from the sun, rain and insects.
- Insect repellent, hat, sunscreen and sunglasses.
- Fuel stove with spare fuel and cooking equipment.
- Torch or headlamp.
- Toilet paper and hand trowel.
- Nourishing food that is compact and lightweight, plus 1–2 days extra emergency supply.
- High quality lightweight tent and sleeping gear.
- Waterproof pack liner or bag.
- Strong rubbish bags.

Be Pest-free

Pest plants and animals can hitch a ride on your footwear, clothing, boats, vehicles and gear. Viruses, bacteria and fungi, transported in soil and mud can kill native plants and animals. National parks and our precious Great Barrier Reef World Heritage islands need your help to be pest-free.

Before you visit:

- Check that your boat, clothing, footwear and gear are free of soil, seeds, parts of plants, eggs, insects, spiders, lizards, toads, rats and mice. Unpack your camping gear and check for hidden stowaways.
- Remove seeds from pockets, cuffs and velcro.
- Clean soil from footwear and gear.

While on the island:

- Remove soil, weeds, seeds and pests from your boat, gear and clothes before moving to a new site.
- Wrap seeds and plant material, and place them in your rubbish.
Venture safely

- Leave your boating or hiking details with a responsible person and contact them when you return. Have a plan in place if you fail to contact them by the agreed time.
- Treat all water before using. Draw water from freshwater creeks and streams. If creeks are dry or salty at recommended watering points, head upstream.
- Cross creeks with care. Heavy rain causes creeks levels to rise and fall rapidly. Plan to cross tidal creeks at low to half tide.
- Never swim in tidal waters. Dangerous stinging jellyfish (‘stingers’) may be present at any time, but more frequently in the warmer months.

Be crosse

Hinchinbrook Island is crocodile country.
- Don’t be ambushed—stay out of the water and away from the water’s edge, especially when fishing.
- Supervise 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!

Venture softly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Take all rubbish (including food scraps, cigarette butts and sanitary items) with you when you leave.
- Where toilets aren’t provided, move well away from camp sites, walking tracks and creeks, and use a trowel to bury waste at least 15cm deep.
- Avoid contaminating water with soaps, detergents, toothpaste and cosmetics.
- Wash at least 50m from creeks and swimming holes. Use gritty sand and a scourer instead of soap to clean dishes and scatter wash water so that it filters through the soil.
- Stay on the walking tracks—shortcutting causes erosion and visual scarring misdirects walkers that follow.
- All plants and animals are protected. Do not remove plant material, living or dead.
- Don’t feed fish and other wildlife—keep wildlife wild.

In an emergency...

On the Thorsborne Trail, remain in your location, try calling Triple Zero (000) and activate your personal locator beacon. Mobile phone coverage is unreliable.

Or use marine radio on VHF channel 16 to call Australian Volunteer Coastguard at Ingham (call sign VMR414), Cardwell (on VMR423) or if these fail call Townsville (on VMR408).

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Queensland National Parks

Hinchinbrook Island Natural Park
Thorsborne Trail

Trek 32km along Hinchinbrook’s spectacular east coast on a rough, wilderness trail. Climb rugged heath-covered mountains for awesome views, stretch out along wild deserted beaches and creep through lush rainforest to splash into beautiful freshwater creeks and tropical waterfalls.

Essential tips

Allow a minimum of 4 days (3 nights). Take longer to really enjoy the walk, and to swim, fish, watch wildlife and take photos along the way.

April to September are the best months for hiking and to avoid the very wet or very dry periods. The trail can sometimes be closed due to severe weather or planned burns. Fresh water availability can vary depending on season and rainfall. Treat collected water before drinking.

Walk the trail south from Ramsay Bay (following orange trail markers) or north from George Point (using yellow trail markers). Rock cairns are used where trail markers are absent. The north to south direction is described here. Visit qld.gov.au/ThorsborneTrail for more information.

Only fit, experienced and well-prepared walkers should venture onto the Thorsborne Trail. Plan your walk carefully to arrive at your camp in daylight. For suggested packing list see reverse side.

Did you know?

The Thorsborne Trail is named after the late Arthur Thorsborne. Arthur and his late wife Margaret shared a lifelong interest in the conservation of Hinchinbrook and the surrounding islands.
Trail notes

Ramsay Bay to Nina Bay
4km (allow 2.5hr)
Camping/pack racks and toilet: Nina Bay
Water: 100–200m upstream of creeks at either end of Nina Bay
Head east from the ferry landing to the beach. At the southern end of Ramsay Bay 1 an orange marker to the right of a large granite rock marks the trail head. Follow the ridge then descend to Blacksand Beach 2.
Continue along the beach beneath broad-leaved tea-trees then venture through tall open forest of Gympie messmate on to the saddle below Nina Peak 3.
Descend beside a seasonal creek into a forest of red-flowered black mangrove and spotted mangrove. It’s best to cross the creek at low or half tide and then follow the trail at the edge of the mangroves to emerge near the northern end of serene Nina Bay 4.

Nina Bay to Little Ramsay Bay
2.5km (allow 2 hr)
Camping/pack racks and toilet: Little Ramsay Bay—southern side of lagoon
Water: Little Ramsay Bay—creek upstream from the lagoon area
Scramble from Nina Bay 4 over rocky ground; climb a small cliff and follow the headland to Boulder Bay 5. Detour at very high tides through dense vegetation around the top of Nina headland. Rock hop around Boulder Bay to the headland at the southern end, and then follow the orange markers south-east, over a low ridge to Little Ramsay Bay 6.

Little Ramsay Bay to Zoe Bay
10.5km (allow 6hr)
Camping: South Zoe Bay (has pack racks) and Banksia Bay
Water: Zoe Creek—600m upstream from the camp sites and Banksia Creek—100m upstream from the beach
Toilet: Zoe Bay—southern end
Trek south from Little Ramsay Bay 6, cross a tidal creek and rock hop around the headland to the next beach. Head to and then along another beach before veering south-east through a small gully to the top of a ridge. Here, you can take a side path to Banksia Bay 7 (600m return) and a small camping area where golden orchids grow on beach-side rocks.
Following the main trail south, cross Banksia Creek 8 to the saddle between Banksia and Zoe bays. Descend from the saddle into a rocky creek and continue south-south-west through dry open forest, rainforest and mangrove swamps to North Zoe Creek 9.
Trudge through palm swamps and tall rainforest to Fan Palm Creek 10. The trail is hard to see so look carefully for trail markers.
Refill water containers at Fan Palm Creek 10 or Cypress Pine Creek 11 and prepare to wet your feet at creek crossings and swampy sections hiking to Zoe Bay 12. The mouth of South Zoe Creek is about 400m to the south.
Cool off in the pool at the base of Zoe Falls 13. 450m from South Zoe Bay camping area. Curious jungle perch will swim up to you if you sit quietly in the shadows and yabbies will nibble on your toes.

Zoe Bay to Diamantina Creek
6.5km (allow 4hr)
Camping: Sunken Reef Bay—behind the foredune
Water: Sunken Reef Bay—creek at northern end of beach and Diamantina Creek
Follow the trail parallel to South Zoe Creek 14, before crossing it and climbing steeply to the granite slabs above Zoe Falls. Catch your breath and enjoy spectacular views!
Continue along South Zoe Creek then follow a spur to the granite rock pavement of a saddle. At 260m above the sea, this is the highest point on the Thorsborne Trail. On a clear day you will see the Palm islands and Magnetic Island to the south.
Cross the saddle and trek slopes of coastal she-oak and grasstrees before descending to the Diamantina Creek crossing, passing a side-track to Sunken Reef Bay 15 on the way.

Sunken Reef Bay
Take a 30min diversion to Sunken Reef Bay camping area. You can draw water from a small creek at the northern end of the beach, or from Diamantina Creek 16 during the dry season.

Diamantina Creek to Mulligan Falls
1km (allow 30min)
Camping/pack racks and water: Mulligan Falls
Follow the markers across Diamantina Creek 17, taking care, especially after heavy rain. Climb the short slope then descend to the base of Mulligan Falls 17. Collect fresh water before you leave as water sources further along the trail are not reliable.

Mulligan Falls to George Point
7.5km (allow 2.5hr)
Camping/pack racks: George Point—southern end of Mulligan Bay
Toilet: George Point
Follow the coast, travelling through rainforest then crossing 5 creeks. About 300m south of the Diamantina Creek inlet a sign indicates the northern entrance to Mulligan Bay 17.
Stroll 2km along the beach to Mulligan Creek 19, cross it at low to half tide, and then 3km further on is George Point 20 and the southern end of the trail.
The Thorsborne Trail is named after the late Arthur Girringun. The trail offers magnificent views of beaches, coastlines, rainforests, and waterfalls. It's recommended to hike from April to September, as the trail can be very wet during other periods. Fresh water availability can vary depending on season and rainfall. Treat collected water before drinking.

The trail is 10km long and can be challenging due to the rugged terrain. It's advisable to plan your walk carefully, as the north-south direction is described here. You can venture onto the Thorsborne Trail from Little Ramsay Bay (using yellow markers) or north from George Point (using yellow markers).

Detour at very high tides through dense vegetation around Mulligan Bay. The trail markers can lead to a small cliff and follow the headland to Boulder Bay. You can cross over rocky ground; climb a small cliff and follow the headland to the next beach. Head inside the lagoon at South Zoe Creek to Diamantina Creek and rock hop around the headland to the next beach. Head across a low ridge to Little Ramsay Bay.

Thorsborne Bay—southern side of lagoon. South Zoe Creek to Diamantina Creek has pack racks and toilets.

Water: Nina Bay, Sunken Reef Bay (has pack racks) and Banksia Bay.

Camping/pack racks and toilet: Nina Bay. Agnes Beach, a little spot of paradise on the beach at Hinchinbrook Island.

Secluded bush camp near Banksia Creek, with views of Ramsay Bay.

Camp behind the crocodile barriers in a serene bay with the dramatic backdrop of Hinchinbrook's rugged ridgelines.

Little Ramsay Bay—southern side of lagoon.

Trail hikers can draw water from a small creek at the northern end of the Sunken Reef Bay. Cross over rocky ground; climb a small cliff and follow the headland to Boulder Bay. Cross over rocky ground; climb a small cliff and follow the headland to Boulder Bay.

Diamantina. Explore the nearby creek lined with tall mangroves. Diamantina Creek to Mulligan Falls has pack racks and toilets.

A prime fishing spot at the mouth of North Zoe Creek. Spot sea creature and beach side of lagoon. Nina Bay has pack racks and camping.

Exclusively for Thorsborne Trail hikers near the headland at the northern end of Little Ramsay Bay. Camp behind the crocodile barriers.

The trail is 10km long and can be challenging. It's advisable to plan your walk carefully. Fresh water availability can vary depending on season and rainfall. Treat collected water before drinking.

Never enter the Restricted Access area. Collect fresh water during the dry season. Collect fresh water or Cypress Pine creeks during the wet season. They're not poisonous, but the tendrils can nibble on your toes.

Remember to set up camp only in designated camp sites and behind any crocodile barriers.
### Camping area

**Camping area** | **Facilities** | **Max. nights**
--- | --- | ---
**The Haven** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 7
- A great place to base yourself while fishing the Hinchinbrook Channel. Boat access only—tide-dependent.
- Camp behind the crocodile barriers.

**South Macushla** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 7
- Overlooks Missionary Bay and is a popular base for fishing. Boat access only.
- Camp behind the crocodile barriers.

**North Macushla** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 7
- This shady spot with a northern outlook is the starting point for the North and South Shepherd Bay walking tracks. Boat access only.

**Sunset Beach** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 2
- A little spot of paradise on the beach at deserted South Shepherd Bay. Boat and kayak access only.

**Banshee Bay** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 2
- An isolated camp looking out to the Coral Sea and Eva Island. Whale watch in winter and bird watch in summer.

**Blacksand Beach** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 1
- Near a serene tidal lagoon and in the shadow of towering Mount Bowen, this camp is exclusively for sea kayakers.

**Nina Bay** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 2
- Close to the beach and nestled under the trees, this camp is exclusively for Thorsborne Trail hikers.

**Little Ramsay Bay** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 2
- Exclusively for Thorsborne Trail hikers.
- Camp in a serene bay with the dramatic backdrop of Hinchinbrook’s rugged ridgelines.

**Banksia Bay** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 2
- Secluded bush camp near Banksia Creek, with views of Ramsay Bay.

**Agnes Beach** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 2
- Offers views and privacy. To protect nesting seabirds, camp only between April and September.

### Camping area

**North Zoe Bay** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 2
- A prime fishing spot at the mouth of North Zoe Creek with unlimited beach access. Spot sea turtles feeding in the mouth of the creek.

**South Zoe Bay** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 2
- Fronts Zoe Bay’s expansive beach, with beautiful Zoe Falls a 15min walk away.

**Sunken Reef Bay** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 2
- A shady spot 30min walk off the Thorsborne Trail with panoramic views of the bay, Hinchinbrook’s southern mountains and the Lucinda jetty.

**Mulligan Falls** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 1
- Exclusively for Thorsborne Trail hikers near the base of the falls. Never enter the Restricted Access Area above and around of the falls—deaths and serious injuries have occurred here.

**Mulligan Bay** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 2
- Camp with views to Orpheus Island and Mount Diamantina. Explore the nearby creek lined with tall mangroves.

**George Point** | ![Camp behind the crocodile barriers.](image) | 2
- The southern transfer point for Thorsborne Trail hikers has views to Lucinda and Orpheus Island.

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**Ranger’s tip!**

Take care not to become entangled in yellow lawyer cane and hairy mary. These climbing palms use hook-studded branches to reach skyward. They’re not poisonous, but the tendrils can painfully grab your skin, packs and clothing.

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