Gold Coast and Scenic Rim
national parks
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Parks at a glance

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- on the SEQ horse riding trail network only (refer to qld.gov.au/NationalParks for map)
- nearby
- in Numinbah section only
Welcome to Gold Coast and Scenic Rim parks

Welcome to the Gold Coast and Scenic Rim! From the ocean to the rugged mountains framing the western skyline, we invite you to explore this beautiful wilderness. Come for a day or several weeks and uncover this region’s hidden gems. Be well prepared and respect the land—be rewarded with many unforgettable and magical experiences.

Tanya Sweeney, Ranger

Some parks featured in this brochure are part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area, famed for its ongoing geological processes, evolutionary history, and diversity (especially of rare, threatened and endemic species).
**Track and trail classification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Suits</th>
<th>Track description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>🎵</td>
<td>Wheelchairs and strollers</td>
<td>No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections.</td>
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<tr>
<td>🏼</td>
<td>Families with young children</td>
<td>No bushwalking experience required. The track is a hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps.</td>
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<tr>
<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>
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<tr>
<td>🏼</td>
<td>Experienced bushwalkers</td>
<td>Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signs may be limited.</td>
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<tr>
<td>🎵</td>
<td>Very experienced bushwalkers</td>
<td>Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked.</td>
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<tr>
<td>🍃</td>
<td>Novice riders and experienced horses with basic skills</td>
<td>Wide trail with a gentle slope and a relatively obstacle-free, hardened natural slope.</td>
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<tr>
<td>🍃</td>
<td>Experienced riders and horses with moderate skills and fitness</td>
<td>Trail with obstacles, variable surface and moderate slope. May include steep sections.</td>
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<tr>
<td>🏼</td>
<td>Experienced mountain bike riders used to physically demanding routes.</td>
<td>Challenging and variable trails with long, steep climbs or descents, loose surfaces and unavoidable obstacles and features.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Plan your getaway

Venture into the green beyond the gold, where open woodland and rainforest stretch across rolling valleys and peaks, and seemingly impassable ranges reach to the clouds. Write your own story on a day trip or longer holiday, exploring all that this vast and beautiful region has to offer.

Best time to visit
Along the coast the climate is mild and subtropical with temperatures ranging from 20°C to 28°C in summer and from 11°C to 21°C in winter. But in the west and on the mountain plateaus winter mornings can fall below a frosty 0°C and hot summer days can reach a simmering 25°C to 40°C, especially on the exposed ridges.

Walking in the cooler months from April to September is best when rain and leeches are less common.

Add some local flavour
Add one of the region’s fun-loving events or tourist attractions to your journey.

Slow dance with a special someone at a jazz festival, steal through neon-lit city streets for some late-night shopping, treasure hunt at a local market or scream upside down on a rollercoaster ride.

Dress up and enjoy a day out at the country races, ride your bike past farmland and open country plains, celebrate at a firefly festival or savour regional flavours at a country pub, teahouse or winery.

Find out more at visitscenicrim.com.au and destinationgoldcoast.com

Guided tours
If you prefer someone else to do the planning, or you’re simply short of time, you can join tours with experienced guides for a day or several nights. See visitscenicrim.com.au and destinationgoldcoast.com for more information.

Photos: Briony Masters © Qld Govt (below left); Anna Osetroff © Qld Govt; (below right); © Bruce Thomson (inset)
Choose your adventure

Whether you want to picnic beside a freshwater creek, tackle a challenging bushwalk or treat yourself to an overnight stay in the country, there is a park adventure waiting for you! Take your time—explore the natural beauty of this region on a leisurely scenic drive. Here are some suggestions to help plan your journey.

Travelling from the West (Warwick)

Day and overnight trips

• Enjoy a peaceful morning tea and easy bushwalks with great views at Mount French section in Moogerah Peaks National Park.

• Stroll through rainforest and take in spectacular lookouts and cascades at Goomburra section in Main Range National Park. With plenty of space for the kids to run, this is the perfect place to camp overnight with the family.

• Picnic amid tall forest and witness a majestic waterfall at Queen Mary Falls section in Main Range National Park.

Multi-day trips

• Camp in Mount Barney National Park and spend a couple of days exploring the rugged landscape on epic summit routes and rock climbs. For experienced walkers only!

• Take your hiking boots or ride your horse and discover the rocky escarpments of Glen Rock State Forest, camping overnight at Casuarina camping area.

Travelling from the East (Brisbane and Gold Coast)

Day and overnight trips

• Visit David Fleay Wildlife Park for a wildlife encounter, ranger-led show and Devonshire tea, before walking along Tallebudgera Creek mangrove boardwalk to ocean views at Burleigh Head National Park.

• Begin with a morning bike ride in Nerang National Park and State Forest then drive to Tamborine National Park to discover cool rainforest walks, cafes and boutiques, and the local hospitality of a cosy bed and breakfast.

Multi-day trips

• Bushwalk through rainforest and past waterfalls to take in scenic views at Lamington National Park, before camping under the stars or staying at a local guesthouse.

• Enjoy an outdoor barbecue on a weekend retreat to Springbrook National Park, venturing on bushwalks with waterfalls, rock caves and breathtaking views.

• See panoramic views at Mount French section in Moogerah Peaks National Park before driving to Queen Mary Falls. Return via Cunninghams Gap section in Main Range National Park for a rainforest walk on the escarpment.

Tackle a Great Walk

Challenge yourself on a 54km track linking Lamington and Springbrook national parks. Your route follows an ancient volcanic rim through the Numinbah Valley and sections of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area.

Visit parks.des.qld.gov/great-walks-gold-coast-hinterland for more information.

Photos: Lightcapturer © Qld Govt
Burleigh Head National Park

Highlights
- Stand atop Tumgun lookout and be mesmerised by humpback whales breaching gracefully in the coastal waters during winter and spring.
- Glory in sea, surf and sun hitting the waves on a surfboard at the world-renowned Burleigh Heads surf break.
- Escape the summer heat with a bushwalk through cool rainforest.

Getting there
Travelling from Brisbane on the Pacific Motorway, take exit 89 and drive into Burleigh Heads. Turn right onto the Gold Coast Highway and left into Goodwin Terrace. Travelling from New South Wales, take exit 92 and drive into Palm Beach. Turn left onto the Gold Coast Highway and right at the traffic lights north of Tallebudgera Creek.

Discover tumbled basalt boulders, pandanus groves and sweeping ocean views on a walk through this peaceful coastal park.

Meander through a living museum of rainforest, mangroves and eucalyptus trees and imagine a time when this was once an abundantly-forested golden coast. Venture to the top of the headland and discover hexagonal-shaped basalt columns jutting out from the earth, cracked from the ancient Tweed Valley lava flow. Feel the sea spray blowing in from the ocean as you watch waves roll into the beach.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting
Spy water dragons and mottled carpet pythons sunning themselves on rocks, and Australian brush-turkeys obsessively tending their leafy nesting mounds. In mid-summer, jewel-coloured Richmond birdwing butterflies flit through the forest feeding on rainforest nectars. Walk along the rocky foreshore and delight in dolphins playing in the waves, and white-bellied sea-eagles and whistling kites riding the ridge updrafts on the hunt for fish.

Places to go
1 Oceanview track
1.2km one way (30min)
Wander the rocky coastal headland from Tallebudgera Creek, exploring rainforest and pandanus groves.

2 Rainforest circuit
2.3km return (45min)
Duck into cool rainforest on this uphill hike to superb views of the coast from Tumgun and Jebbribillum lookouts.

Safety
Sections of the Oceanview track may be closed during or after high winds, heavy rainfall or extreme temperatures and fire. Check park alerts at qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts for the latest safety information. Please comply with warning and safety signs.

See whales breaching (left);
Walk around the headland (below).
Photos: © Qld Govt (left); Jess Rosewell © Qld Govt (below);
David Fleay Wildlife Park

Highlights
- Flinch at the ‘snap’ of jaws closing, as estuarine crocodiles launch out of the water to snatch prey from Park Rangers at feeding time (September–February, subject to change).
- Marvel at the playful escapades of Wally, the resident platypus, as he forages for crayfish and slides down his waterfall.
- Feel like an excited kid again as Park Rangers introduce you to amazing wildlife, some rarely seen in the wild.

Getting there
Take the West Burleigh turn-off (exit 89) from the Pacific Motorway and follow the signs along West Burleigh Road to the park entrance.

Venture into this much-loved wildlife park, beneath dappled eucalypt and arching fig tree canopies, in search of some of Queensland's most intriguing and rarely seen animals.

Imagine yourself on safari, glimpsing prehistoric-looking cassowaries, tree-kangaroos, dingoes, emus and iconic koalas from the boardwalk.
Wander through wetlands, rainforest and open woodlands, where animals roam free in the natural surroundings. The park is open from 9am to 5pm daily, except Christmas Day and ANZAC Day opening at 1pm. Admission fees apply. Phone (07) 5669 2051.

Things to do
- Watch daily wildlife shows
Join Park Rangers to learn about the unique wildlife that share our backyard, as well as elusive, endangered and even dangerous critters! Snakes, gliders, cassowaries and crocodiles all have their time in the spotlight.

- Visit the nocturnal house
Uncover the secret night-time antics of platypus, woma pythons and mahogany gliders inside the nocturnal house. Have a 'Eureka' moment far from the hot, dry grasslands of their native outback homes, discovering endangered bilbies and the story of the people trying to save them.

Places to go
Free attractions outside the park.

1 Mangrove boardwalk
Weave through fringing plants living between land and water, peeping through stunning views of Tallebudgera Creek. Delight in azure kingfishers and rainbow bee-eaters darting through the mangroves.

2 Canoeing and kayaking
Be enchanted on a peaceful paddle along mangrove-lined Tallebudgera Creek, where you can drift past fish, stingrays, sea-eagles, and if you’re lucky, dolphins.

Enjoy our Fleays in Flight show (left); Wally the platypus (middle).
Photos: Steve Browne © Qld Govt (left); Maxime Coquard © Qld Govt (middle)
Nerang National Park and State Forest

Highlights
- Listen for the ‘crack’ of glossy black-cockatoos greedily breaking open casuarina seeds above.
- Tiptoe along the creek line in search of shy golden swamp wallabies, koalas and echidnas.

Getting there
Nerang National Park is 12km from Surfers Paradise and 70km south of Brisbane. Access is along Hope Street or Yarrayne Road, from the Pacific Motorway, Nerang township or Beaudesert–Nerang Road.

Things to do

Mountain biking
Grab your mountain bike and test your skills on one of the technically-challenging single mountain bike trails, mastering small drop-offs and rock gardens as you go.

Horseriding
Saddle up for a more relaxed adventure riding horseback along mountain ridges bathed in golden afternoon haze.

Places to go

Casuarina Grove circuit
2.1km circuit plus optional 1km loop (20min riding time)
Enjoy an easy, family-friendly ride through a grove of casuarina trees.

Goanna
5.2km one way (30min riding time)
Travel through eucalypt forest and dry rainforest on this mostly easy ride with a few minor challenges.

Three hills
2.7km one way (20min riding time)
Downhill—one way only! Wind through open forest of ghostly grey gum and tallowwood with steep hilly sections.

Pete’s and Pete’s extension
2.1km one way (15min riding time)
Enjoy a flowing ride from the North–East corner of the park back to the car park.

GC2018 Loops 1–3
4km return (1hr riding time)
One way only! Test your fitness and technical skills on these challenging loop trails designed especially for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. (distance and time are total of the 3 loops, not each)

For a detailed mountain bike trail map visit parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/nerang or scan the QR code.
Pine Ridge Conservation Park

**Highlights**
- Breathe in the perfume of delicate wildflowers—wallum wedge pea, yellow peabush and prickly broom heath bloom in late winter and spring.
- Peek through binoculars and spy sacred kingfishers, rainbow bee-eaters and variegated fairy-wrens darting through the paperbark swamp forest.

**Getting there**
Pine Ridge Conservation Park is in Runaway Bay, 10km north of the Gold Coast city centre, accessed via Oxley Drive off the Gold Coast Highway.

**Escape the bustling coast to the golden banksia woodland and flowering heathland of a park rich with Aboriginal cultural significance.**

Connect with this sacred land of the local Aboriginal people, a place where meals made from local bush foods, fish and shellfish have been shared by the Traditional Owners for thousands of years. Discover shell heaps (middens) piled with oyster shells and imagine past feasts. Be a botanist for the day and try to distinguish the abundant forest types growing here—eucalypt forest with fragrant wattle, banksia woodland, paperbark swamp and coastal heath bursting with wildflowers.

**Things to do**

- **Picnic**
  Relax with a picnic under the shaded forest canopy. Picnic tables are provided.

- **Walking and cycling**
  Unwind on a gentle bushland walk or cycle along the forested trail, past the last remaining patch of wallum banksia heath on the Gold Coast.

- **Wildlife spotting**
  Watch for echidnas snuffling in the leaf litter, and koalas and goannas in the tall bloodwood trees.

Photos: © Qld Museum (left); © Alison Illc (right)
Walk through ethereal rainforest and silvery eucalypt woodland, the fresh air revitalising your every step. Admire sweeping views of Flinders Peak, the Scenic Rim and Brisbane. Declared in 1908, Tamborine National Park was Queensland’s first national park, (originally Witches Falls National Park). Today’s park has 14 separate sections for visitors to explore.

Did you know?
The place name ‘Tamborine’ means ‘wild lime’ and refers to the finger lime trees that grow wild on the mountain and were eaten by the traditional Aboriginal people of this area.

Escape to the mountains and lose yourself in the shade of white-washed flooded gums and rainforest gullies thick with piccabeen palms.
Places to go

1. Cedar Creek Falls lookout track
   500m return (15min)
   Take a walk to Cedar Creek Falls lookout and admire views of the gorge, waterfalls and rock pools. The track to the lookout is suitable for strollers and assisted wheelchair access.

2. Cedar Creek Falls track
   1.1km return (30min)
   From Cedar Creek Falls lookout, descend through eucalypt forest and dry rainforest to the rock pools below.

3. Curtis Falls track
   1.1km return (30min)
   Be enchanted on a walk beneath towering flooded gums into lush rainforest to Curtis Falls.

4. Lower creek circuit
   2.5km return (1hr)
   Branch off Curtis Falls track and cross Cedar Creek before passing a giant, fallen strangler fig.

5. MacDonald rainforest circuit
   1.4km return (30min)
   Enjoy an easy, gentle walk past strangler figs and lush groves of piccabeen palms.

6. Palm Grove circuit
   2.7km circuit (1hr)
   Discover peaceful piccabeen palm groves, rainforest with emergent strangler figs and distinctively-buttressed yellow carabeens. See fascinating fungi along the way.

7. Jenyns circuit
   4.8km circuit (1.5hr)
   Veer off Palm Grove circuit into drier eucalypt forest featuring a grove of ancient cycads.

8. Witches Chase track
   2.6km return (1hr)
   Wander down this track to Witches Falls lookout and continue through rainforest with large red cedar trees and eucalypt forest.

9. Witches Falls circuit
   3.6km return (1hr)
   Zigzag down the mountain side through an open forest of banksia trees and into rainforest before reaching Witches Falls lookout.

10. Sandy Creek circuit
    2.6km circuit (1hr)
    Explore lush rainforest with towering trees emerging through the canopy. Admire views across the valley to the southern suburbs of Brisbane and D’Aguilar Range from Cameron Falls lookout.

Safety

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

Parking

There is limited car parking at Cedar Creek section and limited bus, caravan and motorhome parking in Joalah and Witches Falls sections.

Photos: © Lev Evison (below left); © Queensland Museum (below middle); Adam Creed © Qld Govt (below left)
Springbrook National Park

**Highlights**

- Stand on the suspension bridge and feel the spray of Purling Brook Falls plummeting into the rock pools.
- Walk among ancient Antarctic beech trees in the cool temperate rainforest on the Best of All lookout track.
- Visit Natural Bridge by day to see the unique waterfall. At night, be entranced by the blue-green lights of thousands of glow-worms living in the cave.

**Getting there**

Springbrook has four sections—the plateau, Mount Cougal to the east and Natural Bridge and Numinbah to the west.

**Springbrook plateau section**
Exit the Pacific Motorway at Nerang and follow Nerang–Murwillumbah Road to the Springbrook turn-off at Pine Creek Road or take the Mudgeeraba turn off and follow the Gold Coast–Springbrook Road.

**Mount Cougal section**
Exit the Gold Coast Highway at Currumbin and follow Currumbin Creek Road to its end.

**Numinbah and Natural Bridge sections**
Exit the Pacific Motorway at Nerang and follow Nerang–Murwillumbah Road. Signs on your journey to Natural Bridge can be more reliable than your GPS in this area.

**Spectacular waterfalls and cool ancient forests await you in this beautiful World Heritage-listed Gondwana rainforest.**

Strap on your hiking boots and submerge into lush subtropical rainforest, open eucalypt woodland and montane heath, the sound of tumbling creeks and songbirds in the air. Witness the power of roaring cascades as they continue to sculpt rocky escarpments and caves. Feel you’ve reached the world’s edge as you venture atop lookouts and take in breathtaking views of the valleys below.

**Did you know?**

Glow-worms seen at Natural Bridge are not actually worms but the larvae of a small fly. The light you see is a chemical reaction occurring inside the glow-worm’s body. Known as bioluminescence, meaning ‘living light’, this quirk of nature is used to lure prey.

**Rangers’ tip**

Book in advance with a local tour operator for a night-time glow worm tour. Find out more at destinationgoldcoast.com

**Things to do**

**Wildlife spotting**

Spot brilliant blue spiny crays, frogs and long-finned eels swimming in the sparkling mountain streams. Shy pademelons, swamp wallabies and potoros roam the forest floor and glossy-black satin bowerbirds forage for blue treasures to decorate their bowers. At night, glow-worms provide a magical experience inside the cave at Natural Bridge.

**Horseriding**


Photos: © Robert Ashdown (left); © Tourism and Events Qld (below); Maxime Coquard © Qld Govt (right); Anna Osetroff © Qld Govt (far right)
Places to go

1. **Goomoolahra Falls lookout and track**
   200m return (5min)
   Take in the view stretching to Stradbroke and Moreton islands from several lookout at the top of the 60m high Goomoolahra Falls.

2. **Best of All lookout track**
   600m return (30min)
   Venture past Antarctic beech trees to a spectacular view of northern New South Wales dominated by Mount Warning, an ancient extinct volcano.

3. **Purling Brook Falls circuit**
   4km return (2hr)
   Pass through open eucalypt forest with tall New England ash, ancient lepidozamias, hakeas and wildflowers before descending into the gorge to view the falls from the suspension bridge over the rock pools. With 265 steps this walk is best travelled in a clockwise direction.

4. **Twin Falls circuit**
   4km return (2hr)
   Pass behind two waterfalls, through rock clefts and among palms and treeferns on this exciting bushwalk through changing forests.

5. **Warrie circuit**
   17km return (allow 5–6hr)
   Follow the base of The Canyon cliffs to Goomoolahra Falls before descending into the mossy green depths of the rainforest to reach the ‘Meeting of the Waters’, where all watercourses draining The Canyon meet.

6. **Natural Bridge circuit**
   1km return (1hr)
   Walk across Cave Creek to witness the waterfall plunging into the arched cave. At night, the cave is illuminated by glow-worms and fungi and alive with the flutter of little bent-wing bat wings. This track is best walked in a clockwise direction.

7. **Cascades track**
   1.6km return (1hr)
   Walk through subtropical rainforest beside Currumbin Creek to a viewing platform overlooking scenic cascades and an old bush sawmill.

Places to camp

1. **The Settlement camping area**
   Pitch a tent beside your car or bring your camper trailer or campervan to this beautiful mountain top camping area. Slumber peacefully under a starry sky then a short walk to the top of Purling Brook Falls.

Safety

Be cautious near cliff edges, remain on formed walking tracks and stay well outside the restricted access area at the top and base of Purling Brook Falls, and on Cave Creek at Natural Bridge. Do not jump into rock pools at Mount Cougal. Serious injuries have occurred.
Elabana Falls

Reinvigorate your spirit on a short or full-day bushwalk past roaring cascades and rainforest groves, under the twisted arms of ancient Antarctic beech trees and through blankets of flowering heath. Lamington’s rainforests are remnants of ancient Gondwanan forests that once covered Australia. With each step feel a connection with this beautiful land.

Did you know?
The Albert’s lyrebird can imitate sounds of up to 20 different bird calls. If you hear a kookaburra laughing in the rainforest, the chances are it’s a male Albert’s lyrebird broadcasting his remarkable vocal abilities to impress potential mates.

Getting there
Lamington National Park has two sections—Green Mountains (O’Reilly) and Binna Burra. If you’re using GPS directions type ‘Binna Burra’, and ‘O’Reilly’s’ or ‘Lamington National Park Road’ for Green Mountains.

Green Mountains section
Exit the Pacific Motorway at Beenleigh or Nerang and follow signs to Canungra. The 36km road to the park from Canungra is unsuitable for large campervans, camper trailers or caravans.

Binna Burra section
Exit the Pacific Motorway at Nerang and follow signs west to Lamington National Park, Binna Burra. The final 1km of the 10km drive is very narrow and winding.

Rangers’ tip
The best way to truly experience this historic World Heritage gem is to stay overnight. Discover the park’s special stories at the Binna Burra and Green Mountains information centres.

Places to go
Green Mountains section
1  🏜️ Centenary track
1.8km return (30min)
Pass through tall hoop pines into subtropical forest on this easy walk, stopping to pause at the bench seating provided to watch for regent and satin bowerbirds darting through the branches.

2  🏜️ Rainforest return
1.4km return (30min)
Watch for yellow-throated scrubwrens and logrunners among the leaf litter on this short rainforest stroll at the start of the lengthy Border Track.
Python Rock track
4.9km return (1.5hr)
Pass through rainforest into an open eucalypt forest scattered with grass-trees. Enjoy views of Morans Falls, Castle Crag and the Razorback and the distant peaks that form the scenic rim from Python Rock lookout.

Morans Falls track
6.2km return (2hr) via the Centenary track. See Morans Falls and a scenic panorama from Morans clearing lookout with views over the Kerry Valley and distant ranges that frame the scenic rim.

Binna Burra section
Rainforest circuit
1.2km return (30min)
Listen for the calls of bowerbirds and catbirds as you pass through warm subtropical rainforest.

Lower Bellbird lookout track
12km return (4hr)
Descend through rainforest and open forest to Bellbird lookout, which is a short side track, with excellent views of Ships Stern, Turtle Rock, ‘Kurraragin’ (Egg Rock) and Numinbah Valley. End your walk here or continue on the Lower Bellbird track to Koolanibilba and Yangaha lookouts. Binna Burra Road forms part of the return circuit, please take care especially on weekends when traffic is busy. Alternatively, return to the start of the track by walking back along the circuit.

Caves circuit
5km circuit return (1.5hr)
Wind through open forest and rainforest, taking in views of Coomera Valley. The Caves circuit includes 1km of the Binna Burra Road. Take care when walking beside the bitumen road. Alternatively, return to the start of the track by walking back along the circuit.

Tullawallal circuit
5km return (1.5hr)
Walk through subtropical rainforest before arriving at a pocket of cool temperate rainforest dominated by ancient Antarctic beech trees.

Places to camp
Privately-managed campgrounds are located close to the park at Green Mountains and Binna Burra.

Safety
A high level of physical fitness and navigational skills are essential to walk more remote parts of this extremely rugged mountain park. Arrive early to complete any full-day walks and avoid getting lost at night.

Photo: Leanne White © Qld Govt (left); Anna Osetroff © Qld Govt (middle/right)
Main Range National Park

Highlights
- Stand at the edge of the receding escarpment at Sylvesters lookout and feel as if you’re soaring above the valley below.
- Behold spectacular Queen Mary Falls plunging 40m into the lush boulder-strewn valley below.
- Follow the footsteps of early explorers and pioneers at Cunninghams and Spicers gaps.

Getting there
The park has four sections—Cunninghams Gap and Spicers Gap at the top of the range and Goomburra and Queen Mary Falls in the sheltered foothills.

Cunninghams Gap section
Cunninghams Gap is 116km south-west of Brisbane, 21km from Aratula, or 50km north-east of Warwick.

Spicers Gap section
To access Spicers Gap turn south off the Cunningham Highway into Lake Moogerah Road then turn right into Spicers Gap Road. This road is steep in places and is not suitable for campervans or caravans.

Goomburra section
Goomburra can be reached from either the New England Highway south of Allora or from the Cunningham Highway west of Cunninghams Gap. The last 6km of road to the park is unsealed and may be flooded after heavy rain.

Queen Mary Falls section
Queen Mary Falls is 11km from Killarney and 64km south-west of Boonah on Killarney–Boonah Road. The scenic road from the east is steep and not suitable for caravans.

Did you know?
History is alive in these hills! It’s believed that up to 13 people are buried at the Pioneer gravesite at Spicers Gap. One grave is reputed to be that of Mrs Collins, the wife of a bullock driver, who fell from a loaded wool dray while descending the ‘pinch’ (narrow road), and after whom Mother Collins Pinch was named.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting
Glimpse brush-tailed rock-wallabies balancing precariously on the cliffs or Cunninghams skinks sunning themselves on rocky outcrops. Listen for the throaty ‘ok-ok-ok-ok-ok-ok’ call of the Fleay’s barred-frog after rainfall. Delight in wedge-tailed eagles soaring overhead and treecreepers scurrying up tree trunks to sneak unsuspecting prey.

Picnicking
Enjoy a scenic picnic at Cunninghams Gap, Spicers Gap, Queen Mary Falls (pictured below) or Goomburra.

Rangers’ tip
Stop for 5 minutes in a quiet place and become part of the bush—it’s amazing what you’ll see and hear!
Places to go

1. **Queen Mary Falls circuit**
   2km return (40min)
   Take a leisurely stroll through the eucalypt-covered ridge top to the rainforest gorge and witness Queen Mary Falls from the lookout.

2. **Sylvesters lookout**
   940m return (30min)
   Take in magnificent views over the coastal plains from Sylvesters lookout, including the southern tip of Lake Moogerah and the rugged Border Ranges to the south.

3. **Mount Castle lookout**
   960m return (30min)
   Gaze at views over Laidley Valley and the Little Liverpool Range from Mount Castle lookout.

4. **Dalrymple circuit**
   1.2km return (30min)
   Explore the rich history and natural values of the forest on this self-guided signed circuit, ideal for young family groups.

5. **Rainforest circuit**
   1.6km return (25min)
   Pass the Allan Cunningham monument before detouring to Fassifern Valley lookout, offering a spectacular view over distinctive volcanic peaks, Fassifern Valley and Lake Moogerah.

6. **Box Forest track**
   5km return (2hr)
   Pass through rainforest and open forest to arrive at brush-box-lined West Gap Creek.

7. **Pioneer Graves**
   260m return (15min)
   Venture on a short walk from the picnic area to a small cemetery where 13 people are believed to be buried.

8. **Governors Chair lookout**
   300m return (15min)
   Visit Governors Chair, the large rock on the edge of the cliff face, which was reportedly a popular resting spot for early governors of Queensland journeying through Spicers Gap. Look out over Fassifern Valley.

These are just a few of the 22 walking tracks on park, visit qld.gov.au/MainRange for detailed information on the walks.

Safety
Take care near cliff edges and remain on formed walking tracks.

Places to camp
Camping at Goomburra is a fantastic family experience with plenty to see and do. Book your camp site well in advance for school holidays and long weekends to make sure you don’t miss out.

1. **Poplar Flat camping area—Goomburra**
   Enjoy an open, flat, grassy camping area adjacent to Dalrymple Creek.

2. **Manna Gum camping area—Goomburra**
   Manna gums provide ample shade during the warmer months in this open, flat, grassy area next to Dalrymple Creek.

3. **Spicers Gap camping area**
   For a more cosy experience, pitch a tent in this small, grassy area set in a clearing on the eastern side of Spicers Gap.

Remote camping
Some opportunities for remote, walk-in bush camping are available. You must be fit, experienced and suitably prepared and purchase camping permits before you go. There are no facilities.

\[\text{Places to go}\]

\[\text{Places to camp}\]
Highlights

- Watch the many moods of Mount Barney from the Yellow Pinch lookout and don’t even raise a sweat!
- Sit quietly beside crystal-clear Mount Barney Creek at the Lower Portals and scout for tell-tale bubbles of platypus activity breaking on the water’s surface.

Getting there

From Mt Lindesay Highway turn right onto Boonah–Rathdowney Road at Rathdowney and left onto Barney View–Upper Logan Road, following signs to either Lower Portals or Yellow Pinch.

To get to the Upper Portals track, turn off the Boonah–Rathdowney Road onto Newman Road, then turn left onto the Waterfall Creek Road. A high-clearance 4WD vehicle is required for access beyond Waterfall Creek Reserve.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting

See kingfishers swoop over rock pools and honeyeaters and robins flitting in the trees. Grey kangaroos and red-necked wallabies bound through the foothills.

Places to go

1. **Yellow Pinch lookout**
   - 2km return (1hr)
   - Learn about the geological history of this ancient landscape—volcanoes and ring faults, and be mesmerised by the commanding presence of Mount Barney before you.

2. **Cronan Creek Falls**
   - 12km return (4hr)
   - Walk along the picturesque rock-tumbled Cronan Creek as it meanders through cool green riparian rainforest to the falls.

3. **Lower Portals track**
   - 7.4km return (3hr)
   - Discover the delights of beautiful rock pools along a gorge on Mount Barney Creek.

4. **Upper Portals track**
   - 8km return (3hr)
   - Crisscross Yamahra Creek through patches of rainforest, eucalypt and hoop pine forest before refreshing at a cool waterhole.

Summit routes

Summit routes are not walking tracks! Climb with a capable, experienced leader and follow a route guide to navigate over the steep terrain.

Places to camp

Remote bush camping

All remote camping sites in Mount Barney National Park can only be reached by foot. Minimal impact camping is encouraged within the park—please, if you pack it in, pack it out. There are no facilities at the camp sites.

Safety

Climbing the peaks of Mount Barney National Park is extremely challenging, with exposed rocky sections, steep cliffs and areas requiring rock scrambling and climbing skills. All summit routes should only be attempted by fit and experienced people. Clouds on the summit can make navigation challenging. A high level of fitness, bush navigation and map reading experience, and thorough preparation are essential.

Only the very experienced can climb sheer, rugged mountains to witness awe-inspiring views of craggy ridges and distant ranges.

Rising dramatically above the surrounding grazing and farmlands, mounts Barney, Maroon, May, Ernest, Ballow and Clunie form a hiking mecca. These peaks are important refuges for animals such as the endangered Eastern bristlebird and threatened brush-tailed rock wallaby.

You don’t have to climb Mount Barney to discover the park’s many gems.
Moogerah Peaks National Park

Marvel at the ancient volcanic peaks of Mounts French, Greville, Moon and Edwards, standing sentinel as the remnants of a once-forested Fassifern Valley.

Explore the mountains, venturing through eucalypt woodland, extremely rare brisalow scrub and dry rainforest featuring hoop pines, vines and slender piccabeen palms. Emerge onto rocky summits with montane heath hugging the craggy outcrops and the wind blowing across your face.

**Things to do**

**Rock climbing**
Crack climbing at its best! Chalk up and scale the sheer rock face of world-famous Frog Buttress on Mount French. This is for experienced climbers only!

**Wildlife spotting**
Be amazed by the acrobatics of peregrine falcons performing near-vertical dives into the valleys. Colourful finches dart through the grass and goannas cling to the tree trunks around you. Small populations of the rarely-seen black-breasted button-quail live on Mount French.

**Places to go**

1. **North cliff track**
   720m return (15min)
   Walk to Logans lookout for panoramic views over Fassifern Valley, with the Main Range escarpment to the west and Flinders Peak and beyond to the east.

2. **Mee-bor-rum circuit**
   840m return (25min)
   Pass through heathland and delight in views of Tamborine, Lamington, Mount Barney and the southern section of Mount French.

**Places to camp**

1. **Frog Buttress camping area**
   Relax in a small grassy area set in open eucalypt forest close to walking tracks. This spot is often booked by international and local rock climbers during the climbing season (April to September).

2. **Mount French vehicle camp sites**
   Two vehicle camp sites are available adjacent to the Mount French car park. Toilets, picnic tables and electric barbecues are provided in the picnic area nearby.

**Getting there**

Mount French is 9km west of the turn-off just south of Boonah. Mount Edwards is east of the Cunningham Highway and 9km south of Aratula. Mount Greville is 25km south-west of Boonah via Mount Alford Road or 11km south of Lake Moogerah. Mount Moon is surrounded by private property.

**Highlights**

- Feel on top of the world looking out over Fassifern Valley, Cunninghams Gap and Mount Barney from lookouts on Mount French.
- Soak in the rainbow hues of wildflowers—ruby-red pea flowers, yellow dogwood and creamy Leptospermum colour the springtime landscape atop Mount Greville.

**Safety**

The rough trails to the summits of Mount Edwards and Greville are spectacular but should only be tackled by fit, experienced walkers.

Photo: © Cameron Semple

Rock climbing at Mount French.
Glen Rock State Forest

Explore open woodlands, rocky escarpments and rainforest in this beautiful park nestled in Tenthill Valley near Gatton.

Venture along forest roads, past twisted eucalypt trees and grasstrees. Named after a prominent volcanic rock outcrop, this park bounds the most westerly extent of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area.

Getting there
Glen Rock State Forest is 40km south of Gatton and located at the southern end of East Haldon Road on Blackfellow Creek. From the Gatton–Toowoomba Road at the western edge of Gatton take the Mount Sylvia Road turn-off. Travel south through Tenthill to Junction View. At Junction View State Primary School turn left and follow East Haldon Road to the park.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting
Be a wildlife detective and look for tracks and oval-shaped scats left by brush-tailed rock-wallabies. Search for the bright red flash of a glossy black-cockatoo’s tail in nearby casuarina trees.

Walking, horseriding and cycling
The management roads provide paths for walkers and riders to explore the unique landscape. Swap boots for hooves and ride in the footsteps of early settlers and farmers on the trail to Top Yards and Christies Loop. Cyclists can enjoy a flowing ride along the shared trails, taking in views down to the rainforest gorge.

Places to camp

Casuarina camping area
This open, flat, grassy camping area is close to Blackfellow Creek and is dominated by the dramatic ridgelines of the surrounding valley. Suitable for tent camping, trailers, caravans and camper vans.

Places to go

Christies loop
5.2km return
Climb this steep and rocky trail to admire views over Blackfellow Creek Valley and the signature red rock outcrop that is Glen Rock.

Blackfellow Creek trail
16km return
Follow the creek from the fertile, alluvial flats to the headwaters of Blackfellow Creek, ending at the historic Top Yards.

Mount Machar walking track
3.2km return
Take a stroll to a small knoll with views over the valley.

Highlights
- Watch the setting sun pass over volcanic outcrops and forested hills before it disappears beyond the sweeping pastel plains.
- Picnic leisurely by Blackfellow Creek or camp overnight and listen for the storybook ‘whoohoo’ hoot of the powerful owl.
Travel safely

Packing checklist
✓ Adequate drinking water, food and emergency supplies.
✓ Complete first-aid kit. Include sun and insect protection.
✓ Detailed map showing travel routes and distances.
✓ Reliable camping gear in good working order.
✓ Sturdy rubbish bags and/or sealable, animal-proof containers. No bins are provided.
✓ Long distance walkers: take a topographic map, compass and personal location beacon (PLB).

Camping
It’s best to book well in advance as camp sites in popular parks are in great demand during peak periods such as long weekends and school holidays.

Book your camp sites and purchase your camping permits online at qld.gov.au/camping

Be safe
• Walk with a group and avoid walking alone.
• Allow plenty of time to reach your planned destination before dark.
• Treat all water from taps, creeks and lakes before drinking.
• Wear sturdy boots, protective clothing and insect repellent to avoid bites, scratches and stings.
• Stay well back from cliff edges and waterfalls.
• Never dive or jump into creeks, waterholes or lakes.
• Remember mobile phone coverage is limited in most parks away from the coast. Inform family or friends of your planned itinerary.

Be responsible
• Rubbish—pack it in, pack it out. All rubbish (including food scraps, cigarette butts and sanitary and hygiene items) must be carried out.
• Stay on formed tracks and do not take shortcuts.
• Where permitted, light campfires only within existing fire rings.
• Avoid the spread of weeds by checking clothing and equipment regularly for seeds. Wash boots at pathogen control stations where available to stop the spread of dangerous fungi.
• Be frog-friendly—please do not disturb, handle or remove frogs, their eggs or tadpoles.
• Leave your pets at home.
• Please don’t feed wildlife.
• Wash away from streams, gullies and watercourses, minimising use of soap and detergent.
• Where toilets are not provided, bury all faecal waste and toilet paper 15cm deep and at least 100m from waterways, tracks and camp sites.

Your safety
In high fire danger conditions, walking tracks and other areas may be closed. In the case of a bushfire or any illegal activity, please call Triple Zero (000) as soon as possible.
Further information

- qld.gov.au/NationalParks
- qld.gov.au/Camping
- qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts (access, closures and conditions)
- qldnationalparks
- @QldParks; #QldParks

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

Useful contacts

Emergencies:
Call Triple Zero (000) or 112 from your mobile phone.

Road conditions:
Visit the Department of Transport and Main Roads at qldtraffic.qld.gov.au or phone 13 19 40.

Tourism information:
Gold Coast Tourism destinationgoldcoast.com
Scenic Rim Regional Council
visitscenicrim.com.au
tourism@scenicrim.qld.gov.au