Southern Inland
Queensland
parks and forests
Welcome to Southern Inland Queensland

Make memories!

Share stunning sunsets with a friend and your campsite with parrots, possums and other colourful and curious creatures of the Australian bush.

Travel ancient pathways tread by Aboriginal peoples to sacred mountain-top meeting places. Connect with an ancient landscape, with nature and with yourself.

Stop and smell the wildflowers—wattles, daisies, banksias, bottlebrush, orchids and more. Let your thoughts wander as you rest beside a trickling stream or gaze across mountains and valleys far away from the everyday.

Crunch fallen leaves and sometimes frost beneath your feet. Turn a corner and catch sight of a balancing boulder, wondrous panorama, soaring eagle, towering forest giant or delicate fungi, fruit or frond.

Season your escape. Breathe crisp cold air beneath clear winter skies. Witness colourful autumn leaves or stunning spring-time wildflowers. Stroll through the rainforest or refresh in a rock pool on a scorching summer’s day.

If you are chasing variety, coupled with beauty, our parks and forests are the place to be. Boulders and wildflowers of the Granite Belt are absolutely spectacular while the giant bunya pines, and picture-postcard views from mountain ranges are nothing but impressive. From parks brim-full of incredible birdlife, to little-visited hidden gems and extensive forests, you’ll find much to admire and the perfect spot to relax or be active—no matter the season.

Ranger Clare, on behalf of the Park Rangers of Southern Inland Queensland

Contents

Parks at a glance .............................................................. 2
Welcome to Southern Inland Queensland ......................... 3
Make memories! ...............................................................3
Map of Southern Inland Queensland .........................4
Track and trail classification ............................................ 5
Map legend ........................................................................ 5
Plan your escape ............................................................ 6
Choose your adventure ....................................................7
Girraween National Park .............................................8
Sundown National Park ...............................................10
Ravensbourne National Park .......................................12
Crows Nest National Park ...........................................13
Bunya Mountains National Park ..................................14
Benarkin and Yarraman state forests .........................16
The Palms National Park ............................................18
Boat Mountain Conservation Park .................................19
Lake Broadwater Conservation Park .........................20
Barakula State Forest ..................................................21
Have a safe and enjoyable visit. Packing checklist .............22
Do the right thing, Be safe ..................................................23
Connect with Queensland National Parks: Useful contacts 24

Parks at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Wheelchair access</th>
<th>Toilets</th>
<th>Camping</th>
<th>Water harvesting (tap)</th>
<th>Picnic/BBQ area</th>
<th>Stroll walks</th>
<th>Long walks</th>
<th>Bag drop (in vehicle)</th>
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*In some sections of the park or forest
Parks and forests of Southern Inland Queensland

Legend for publication
- National park
- State forest
- Conservation park
- Restricted access area do not enter
- Water
- Waterway
- Cliff line
- Highway
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD road
- Class 2 walking track
- Class 3 walking track
- Class 4 walking track
- Shared trail
- State boundary
- Town
- Rail Trail
- Bicentennial National Trail
- Gate
- Mountain peak
- Waterfall
- Accredited visitor information centre
- Wi-Fi access
- Parking
- Toilets
- Park office
- Information
- Short easy walks
- Longer, more difficult walks
- 4WD access
- Wheelchair access
- Interpretive trail
- Dogs on leash permitted
- Horses permitted
- Fishing permitted
- Swimming
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Picnic area
- Sheltered picnic table
- Barbecue—wood
- Barbecue—electric or gas
- Natural viewpoint
- Constructed lookout
- Camping
- Car camping
- Camper trailer
- Motorhome/campervan
- Caravan
- Showers
- Accommodation
- Restaurant
- Telephone
- Boat ramp
- Mines
- Water
- Treat before drinking
- Shallow water
- Unstable cliff
- Diving prohibited
- Jumping prohibited
- Camping prohibited
- Fishing prohibited
- Drive Queensland routes
  - Warrego Way
  - Leichhardt Way
  - Adventure Way
  - Australia’s Country Way

Track and trail classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Suits</th>
<th>Track description</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Families with young children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Easy to moderate</td>
<td>Most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Experienced bushwalkers with moderate levels of fitness.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Easy intermediate</td>
<td>Beginner mountain bikers with basic mountain-bike skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Skilled mountain bikers.</td>
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No bushwalking experience required. The track has a compacted surface and may have gentle incline sections, some steps and a ramp. May be suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them.

Well-defined tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps. Tracks may have obstacles and be partly overgrown. Ankle-supporting footwear required.

Tracks may be long, rough, very steep and potentially overgrown. Caution is needed on creek crossings, loose surfaces, steep rock inclines, cliff edges and at exposed naturally-occurring outlooks. Directional signs may be limited. Ankle-supporting footwear required.

Wide trail with gentle gradient and some obstacles such as roots, logs and rocks. Trail with moderate gradients, variable surface and obstacles. May have steep sections.
Plan your escape

Swap the bustling of Queensland’s busy south-east for a taste of country air and stunning locations that delight the senses. Find inspiration on a rainforest-clad peak or beneath awe-inspiring balancing boulders. Venture across grasslands, through towering forests, past tumbling waterfalls, along meandering streams or to unexpected lakes and waterholes.

Best time to visit

In a region that experiences four distinct seasons, it’s always a good time to visit.

On icy winter mornings temperatures fall below freezing, followed by clear blue skies and the promise of colourful wildflowers bursting into blossom in spring. Simmering summer days reaching 35-40°C make escaping to cool streams and rainforest-clad mountain tops an enticing prospect. Most rain falls from November to March, often as heavy storms that send water rushing down creeks and streams. Then, as days shorten into autumn, leaves may fall and the forests and woodlands ring with the songs of migrating birds.

Walking is best in the cooler months from April to September when skies are clear and rain is less likely.

Best ways to visit

Enjoy the freedom of a scenic country drive. Most parks are accessible in a car, but some areas require a 4WD. Use the map, itineraries and access details provided in this brochure to help plan your journey—please don’t rely on your mobile phone or GPS for navigation as they may be unreliable.

Add some local flavour

Savour the tastes of Queensland’s premium wine and fresh food region. Take a meandering route through farmland to peaceful country towns and stop for a chat, shop from local producers and check out the sights. Snuggle up beside a wood fire at a mountain retreat, holiday cottage, B&B or farm stay.

With a year-round festival calendar featuring food and arts, rodeos, markets, country shows and culture, there’s something for everyone. Find out more at southernqueenslandcountry.com.au

Choose your adventure

Find that perfect picnic spot, quiet camp or secluded fishing hole. Explore the bush on a short stroll or long hike, take off on a mountain bike trail to a new favourite destination or bump along rough 4WD roads.

Amazing park adventures await on an easy road trip into Southern Inland Queensland.

Wildflowers and wilderness along the border

Let the promise of icy-cold winters, vibrant spring-time wildflowers, tantalising summer rock pools and the chorus of autumn woodland birds entice you to the Southern Downs and Granite Belt.

In addition to four distinct seasons, this region is renowned for its wineries and locally grown produce. Taste the flavours of nature on a day-trip or weekend adventure sampling an abundance of tempting on and off-park experiences.

Turn off the New England Highway between Stanthorpe and Tenterfield to Girraween National Park and a stunning landscape unlike any other. Relax or go wild amidst the balancing boulders, eucalypt forests, cascading creeks and colourful wildflowers. From sedate strolls to challenging hikes and fun rock scrambles, there’s something for everyone.

Sundown National Park south-west of Stanthorpe is the place to head off the beaten track and find seclusion. Find mountain-top camp sites, shady picnic spots, winding walks and cheeky, colourful bintillee will enthrall.

Stop in at other parks and forests in the foothills along the way.

Detour off the O’Aguilera Highway for a picnic or scenic drive admiring long straight rows of hoop pine at Yarraman and Benarkin state forests. You can camp at Benarkin, and walk or ride sections of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail and Bicentennial National Trail.

Heading from Gympie and the Wide Bay region? Stop in to Bo Mountain Conservation Park near Murgon for a picnic, walk and to admire the views. Travellers on the New England Highway near Croyar can take a quick side-trip to The Palms National Park—a hidden gem of unesperated beauty and diversity.

High country and foothills of the Great Divide

Take the Great Bunya Drive from the South Burnett or Darling Downs and escape to cool, lush rainforests and panoramic views at Bunya Mountains National Park. Connect with nature and your spirit amid ancient bunya pines or at lookout on open grassy ‘balids’. Mountain-top camp sites, shady picnic spots, winding walks and cheeky, colourful bintillee will enthrall.

Let your legs (and thoughts) wander in the high country north from Toowoomba.

Crows Nest National Park has a meandering creek with rock pools, cliffs, gorges and 20m waterfall. It is popular for bushwalking, seasonal wildflowers and for cooling off in warmer months. You might even spot a brush-tailed rock-wallaby.

Ravensbourne National Park is loved for its lush rolling hills, scenic lookout and shady rainforest walks. Tune in to the sights and sounds of forest birds and frogs in the creek.

Woodlands and wetlands in the western downs

West along the Warrego Highway, country towns lead to wild adventures far from cities and the coast.

Waterbirds and people flock to Lake Broadwater south-west of Dalby—the largest naturally occurring body of water on the Darling Downs. Relax lake-side, get wet (either in or on the water), watch birds, savour a picnic or camp.

Chinchilla is the gateway to Barakula—Queensland’s largest state forest. You’ll find no facilities or crowds when you head bush to this working state forest brimming with eucalypts and cypress pines, forest birds and wildflowers.
Girraween National Park

Must do
- Stroll to Granite Arch ③ or hike through jaw-dropping scenery of rocky outcrops amid forests of eucalypts.
- Climb The Pyramid ④ and snap a photo beside Balancing Rock.
- Dip your toes in or laze like a lizard beside Bald Rock Creek ④.
- Stop in at the visitor centre ⑤ to learn about the nature, history and walks of Girraween.

Getting there
Girraween is on the Queensland–New South Wales border 260km south-west of Brisbane. Turn off the New England Highway 26km south of Stanthorpe (or 30km north of Tenterfield) and follow the sealed road 9km east to the park visitor centre.

Longing for a nature escape? Precariously balanced granite boulders, mesmerising rock pools and spectacular spring-time wildflowers create a stunning backdrop for many memorable adventures.

Set your heart racing, or simply relax! Laze by the creek or climb a granite monolith to gaze over rugged scenery eroded by water, wind and ice. Discover sunlit outcrops, deep waterholes and countless feathered, furred and scaled creatures of woodland and forest. Visit in spring and early summer when wildflowers set Girraween’s forests, woodlands and heathlands ablaze with colour.

Girraween is an Aboriginal word meaning ‘Place of Flowers’ and its changing seasons will lure you back time and time again.

Things to do

⑤ Picnicking
Bald Rock Creek day-use area ② has free electric barbecues close to walking tracks and the visitor centre. Secluded Mount Norman day-use area ⑤ is set deep in the forest and reached via sealed roads.

② Wildlife spotting
Spot wrens, robins, thornbills, finches, honeyeaters, warblers, parrots and flycatchers. Come face-to-face with Cunningham’s skinks on sunlit rocks and eastern water dragons by the creek. By night, shine a light on bold brushtail possums, tiny sugar or feathertail gliders, and maybe a well-camouflaged leaf-tailed gecko.

From wattles to banksias, pea-flowers to flannel flowers, be enthralled by displays of more than 700 species of wildflowers. Be mesmerised by burnished-gold, water-sculpted rocks where Bald Rock Creek disappears mysteriously underground. Take care near water. Never dive or jump into the water as it may be shallow or have hidden rocks or objects.

⑦ Bushwalking and mountain biking
Take a short or long walk or challenging overnight hike. Feel the freedom of pedalling through the forest along shared trails and rough tracks.

Be safe
Supervise children closely.
- Watch your step. Granite rocks become very slippery when wet and decomposed granite on tracks can also be slippery. Stay well back from rock edges and cliff faces.

Places to go

① Wyerba walk
280m one-way (15mins).
Stroll by the creek admiring wildflowers, views to The Pyramid, reflections in the water and maybe even a shy Bell’s turtle.

② Granite Arch
1.6km return (30mins).
Cross Bald Rock Creek, wind through woodland and under a natural stone archway. Perfect for families or if time is short.

③ The Pyramid
3.6km return (1.5–2hrs).
Class 3 to base. Class 4 to summit. If the climb up the final rock face doesn’t take your breath away, the unforgettable views will. Only for the brave and sure-footed—wear shoes with good grip and take time to rest and soak up the scenery.

④ Bald Rock Creek circuit
2.2km return (1hr).
Drink in the sights and sounds of the cascading creek—sun-seeking lizards, butterflies, bush birds, and the swirling eddies of a rock pool.

⑤ The Junction
5.2km return (2hrs).
Follow Bald Rock Creek to its junction with Ramsey Creek. A must for wildflower lovers in spring.

⑥ Dr Roberts Waterhole
1.2km return (30mins).
Contemplate nature reflected in still, deep water. Discover ground orchids, conesticks, geebung and bakinskias.

⑦ Underground Creek
2.8km return (1–1.5hrs).
Be mesmerised by burnished-gold, water-sculpted rocks where Bald Rock Creek disappears mysteriously underground.

⑧ The Sphinx and Turtle Rock
7.4km return (3–4hrs).
Mostly Class 3. Class 4 at very end. Start of Southern walking tracks. See for yourself if a towering pinnacle makes you take your breath away, the unforgettable views to The Pyramid, reflections in the water. Only for the brave and sure-footed—wear shoes with good grip and take time to rest and soak up the scenery. Never dive or jump into the water as it may be shallow or have hidden rocks or objects.

⑨ Castle Rock
5.2km return (1.5–2hrs).
Class 3 to base. Class 4 to summit. Rise above the tree-line for spectacular 360 degree views and great birdwatching.

⑩ Mount Norman
11km return (4–5hrs) from visitor centre. 4km return (1.5–2hrs) from Mount Norman day-use area ⑤ and class 3 to base. Class 4 to final approach. Trek through Girraween’s heart to this imposing granite monolith. Reaching the absolute top requires rock climbing experience—never rock climb alone.

⑩ Castle Rock
5.2km return (1.5–2hrs).
Class 3 to base. Class 4 to summit.

Be safe

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Eastern and southern tracks

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- Never dive or jump into the water as it may be shallow or have hidden rocks or objects.
Sundown National Park

Must dos
- Drop a line into the Severn River and catch a yellow-belly or eel-tailed catfish for dinner.
- Rock-hop along the river, delve into a gorge or take a refreshing rock pool dip.
- Imagine stories behind the old mines, scattered diggings, wells, fences, yards and other remains of past mining and pastoral eras.
- Marvel at the view and watch peregrine falcons soaring over Red Rock Gorge.

Getting there
Sundown is about 250km south-west of Brisbane and has three entrances via unsealed roads. The Broadwater is accessible by car. From Stanthorpe: take Texas Road for 62km, then Glenlyon Dam Road for 14km. Turn left at the park signs into unsealed Permanents Road and continue 4km to the camping area. From Tenterfield: head north for 5km and camp sites along the Severn River. Find individual sites and a large group area close to a waterhole. Use the donkey heater to warm water for showers.

Sundown means seclusion. Few facilities, few people—just rugged ranges, meandering watercourses and space to escape and breathe in the sights and sounds of the bush.

Surrounded by hillsides clothed in eucalypts, the Severn River and its tributaries carve away at wild ‘traprock country’ along the Queensland—New South Wales border. Drift off to sleep near the river under twinking stars and wake with the morning chorus of woodland birds. You’ll feel like you’re ‘out west’ even though you are only a few hours’ drive from the coast.

Things to do
- **Wildlife spotting**
  Look along the river for turtles, frogs, water dragons, waterbirds and honeyeaters feasting on colourful bottlebrush flowers. Sundown is known for its woodland birds, so listen for white-throated tree-creepers, spotted pardalotes and red-capped robins. Watch red-winged and turquoise parrots for its woodland birds, so listen for white-throated tree-creepers, spotted pardalotes and red-capped robins. Watch red-winged and turquoise parrots.

- **Four-wheel driving**
  Engage 4WD for the narrow 20km track from Sundown’s eastern boundary (via Ballandean) to Red Rock Gorge and camp sites along the Severn River. You’ll need a high clearance 4WD vehicle and to check the weather first as creeks rise rapidly after rain. The track is very rough with steep, single-lane sections. It is not suitable for trailers.

- **Fishing and paddling**
  You can fish in the Severn River. Deeper waterholes are also great for canoeing, kayaking and swimming.

- **Be safe**
  Never dive or jump into the water as there are deep, narrow chasms below. Never drink from watercourses near Sundown’s old mines.

- **Did you know?**
  Tin, copper, arsenic and other minerals were mined sporadically in the Sundown area from the 1870s to the 1950s. You can see remains of mines from the 4WD track—but stay safe and keep out of fenced areas.

Places to go
- **Western circuit**
  4.5km return (1.5hrs). Ramble along an open ridge for extensive views up the valley. Keep watch for golden whistlers, spiny-cheeked and yellow-faced honeyeaters and other woodland birds.

- **Permanent Waterhole**
  2km return (2hrs). Even in the driest of times, Permanent Waterhole is a haven for wildlife and perfect for a swim. Spot wildlife coming to drink at dawn or dusk.

- **Red Rock Gorge Lookout**
  500m return (1.5mins). Gaze to granite cliffs stained red by lichen. Listen out in winter for the mimicking calls of superb lyrebirds in the thick vine scrub in the gorge far below.

Places to camp
- **The Broadwater camping area**
  Find individual sites and a large group area close to a waterhole. Use the donkey heater to warm water for showers.

- **Red Rock Gorge camping area**
  Capture the changing hues of sunset from cliffs near this small camp site surrounded by fragrant eucalypt forest.

- **Reedy Waterhole camping area**
  Devour your freshly-caught fish then sleep under the stars beside the Severn River.

- **Burrows Waterhole camping area**
  Rugged ranges clothed in woodland surround this attractive river flat. Relax or wander downstream to Rats Castle—a distinctive granite outcrop.

Remote bush camping
Some opportunities for remote, walk-in bush camping are available. There are no facilities and walkers need to be well-equipped, physically fit, have a camping permit, topographic map and carry plenty of water. Please use fuel stoves and leave no trace of your visit.

Enjoying the park
- **Did you know?**
  Tin, copper, arsenic and other minerals were mined sporadically in the Sundown area from the 1870s to the 1950s. You can see remains of mines from the 4WD track—but stay safe and keep out of fenced areas.

- **Be safe**
  BYO drinking water. River water is not suitable for drinking without purification. Never drink from watercourses near Sundown’s old mines.

- **Take care near water.**
  Never dive or jump into the water as it may be shallow and have hidden rocks or objects.

- **Keep out of fenced areas.**
  Never drink from watercourses near Sundown’s old mines.

- **Mimicking calls of superb lyrebirds.**
  Listen out for the mimicking calls of superb lyrebirds in the thick vine scrub in the gorge far below.

- **Never drink from watercourses near Sundown’s old mines.**
  Take care near water. Never dive or jump into the water as it may be shallow and have hidden rocks or objects.

- **Keep out of fenced areas.**
  Never drink from watercourses near Sundown’s old mines.

- **Be safe**
  BYO drinking water. River water is not suitable for drinking without purification. Never drink from watercourses near Sundown’s old mines.

- **Do not enter fenced areas.**
  Never drink from watercourses near Sundown’s old mines.

- **Always wash hands before eating.**
  Never drink from watercourses near Sundown’s old mines.

- **Never drink from watercourses near Sundown’s old mines.**
  Take care near water. Never dive or jump into the water as it may be shallow and have hidden rocks or objects.
Ravensbourne National Park

Be enticed from a sunny hill-top picnic spot into cool, lush rainforest teeming with birds. Wander amid ancient forest giants, past palm groves and trickling streams.

Tiny jewelled fungi, ferns and birdsong from the canopy help us to appreciate the little that is left of the remnant rainforests and wet eucalypt forests along the Great Dividing Range. See how rainforest is slowly taking over the open forests; gullies are moist and inviting, while exposed ridges are warm and dry.

Aboriginal people gathered food, lived and travelled through here for generations. In the 1860s logging of rainforest hardwoods, red cedar and other timbers began, followed by the clearing of scrubs for farming and grazing from 1889.

Things to do

Wildlife spotting
Ravensbourne is known for its birdlife. Hear green catbirds, wompoo fruit doves, noisier pittas and eastern whipbirds in the rainforest. Watch for wrens in sunny open forest; see red-tailed black-cockatoos and glossy black-cockatoos feeding on casuarina seeds in winter.

Picnicking
Spread out your picnic rug at Cedar Block and enjoy forest fruits in the shade of a giant fig or in a sun-drenched spot near the lookout. Relax to the notes of birdsong in the dappled shade at Blackbean day-use area.

Places to stay
You can’t camp in this park. Visit southernqueenslandcountry.com.au for places to stay nearby.

Places to go

Gus Beutel Lookout
Gaze over the Lockyer Valley towards Brisbane and the Scenic Rim.

Cedar Block circuit
50km return (35mins).
Learn about the rainforest and its use by Aboriginal people and timber-getters long ago.

Rainforest circuit
1.7km return (40mins).
Admire ferns, vines, epiphytes and giant Sydney blue gums emerging above the rainforest canopy.

Palm Creek circuit
3.6km return (1.5hrs).
Descend into a steep, palm-filled creek then out into the open forest. Don’t miss the side-track to a sandstone overhang.

Gusara Creek
6.2km return (2-2.5hrs).
Birdlife is most abundant where rainforest merges with open eucalypt forest as you descend towards the creek. Carry drinking water for the climb back up hill.

Crows Nest National Park

Boulder-strewn cascades, a waterfall, tranquil waterholes and a gorge rimmed by towering granite cliffs are just some of the reasons to visit.

Must dos

• Be mesmerised as water plummets 20m over Crows Nest Falls
• Let your spirits soar like an eagle at Koonin Lookout when you gaze across the Valley of Diamonds.
• Chill out on a granite boulder watching bush-tailed rock-wallabies watching you.

Getting there
Crows Nest National Park is about 56km north of Toowoomba. Turn off the New England Highway at the Crows Nest Police Station and take the sealed road 6km to the park.

Places to camp
Crows Nest camping area
Spot possums and gliders at night and listen for a male koala calling in the eucalypts. Bring a bucket for use at the ‘boil-your-own-water’ bush showers.

Getting there
Travel 17km east of Hampton (32km north of Toowoomba) or 33km west of Esk via the Esk-Hampton Road, north of Toowoomba.

Getting there
Ravensbourne is 50km north-east of Toowoomba. Travel 17km east of Hampton (32km north of Toowoomba) or 33km west of Esk via the Esk-Hampton Road, then turn south at the sign and continue 1.3km to the park.

Getting there
Ravensbourne is 50km north-east of Toowoomba. Travel 17km east of Hampton (32km north of Toowoomba) or 33km west of Esk via the Esk-Hampton Road, then turn south at the sign and continue 1.3km to the park.

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Burtons Well
14 15

Your senses will be nourished here, as will your spirit.
Enter the world’s largest stand of bunya pines and feel renewed.

Bunya Mountains National Park

Must dos
- Enjoy a mountain-top stroll or picnic at the forest edge; apply the brakes and relish the scenery.
- Catch brilliant flashes of colour as king parrots and crimson rosellas swoop to a nearby branch.
- Reconnect with family, friends and nature where countless generations of Aboriginal people have been gathering for feasts, ceremonies and to receive strength.

Getting there
Burunya Mountains National Park is about 200km north-west of Brisbane and 125km north-west of Toowoomba.

Follow the signed Great Bunya Drive:
- 3.2km one-way (1hr 15min).
- Experience arguably the best bunya pine forest on the planet. Do just this walk (4km return) to experience their magnificence, or continue around Barker Creek circuit (10km).

Western walks
- 4.8km one-way (1.5–2 hrs).
- Zigzag downhill to a lookout giving views towards Bell, Dalby and the open plains. Open forest merges into rainforest as you climb steadily back uphill.

Did you know?
The Bunya Mountains are a spiritual gathering place for Aboriginal peoples from near and far. Edible bunya nuts were, and remain, a ceremonial food of great significance. Bunya pines produce fruiting cones from mid-summer to autumn. Coinciding with extra large crops every few years, Aboriginal people travelled hundreds of kilometres along traditional pathways to take part in what is today known as the ‘Bunya Festival’. Sometimes lasting several months, this was a time for ceremonies, to share customs, trade, settle disputes, arrange marriages and be nourished by Mother Earth.

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Scenic circuit
4km return (3hr 20min).
- Be enticed into the rainforest, past trickling streams and waterfalls beneath enormous bunya pines, hoop pines and strangler figs. Take in picture-perfect views to the east at Pine Gorge Lookout.

Places to go
Eastern rainforest tracks
- Bunya Bunya track 500m return (10mins).
- Stroll the fern-carpeted forest and be humbled by ancient forest giants.

Barker Creek Lookout
10km return (3–4hrs).
- Wind through magnificent rainforest and eucalypt forest, then onto a sunny, grassy bald. Take the side track to Big Falls and Barker Creek lookouts.

Barker Creek Lookout
5.4km return (2hrs).
- Follow tree identification signs past Paradise Falls and Little Falls to Barker Creek Lookouts. Big Falls is at its best after heavy rain.

Rangers tip
Learn more about the park at the visitor centre and interpretive displays at Dandabah.
Benarkin and Yarraman state forests

**Must dos**
- Kick back at your creek-side camp site. Relax and watch the kids playing in nature.
- Get active and have an adventure—saddle up or jump on your bike to explore forest trails.
- Sneak up on platypus in a rock pool or skinks and lizards basking on warm, sunlit rocks.

**Getting there**
Benarkin and Yarraman state forests are 150km north-west of Brisbane. For Benarkin State Forest: turn off the D’Aguilar Highway at Benarkin (3.5km east of Blackbutt) and follow the scenic, winding gravel road (3.5km east of Blackbutt) and follow the D’Aguilar Highway at Benarkin. For Yarraman State Forest: turn off the New England Highway at Rogers Park, then take the D'Aguilar Highway at Benarkin and Yarraman state forests. Beware of logging trucks using roads through these working state forests.

**Drive, ride or trot through impressive hoop pine plantations, towering eucalypt forests and dense vine scrubs. Find a quiet spot to linger over a picnic, camp by a refreshing stream or simply unwind.**

Hoop pines grow naturally along the Blackbutt Range and rolling hills at the head of the Brisbane River, emerging above the canopy of subtropical rainforest and vine forests. Since the 1920s, hoop and other pines have also been planted here in tall straight rows alongside eucalypt forests containing blackbutt, tallowwood, white mahogany, gums and ironbarks. As well as growing timber, these state forests are home to possums and pademelons, birds and butterflies and are great places to visit—even just for a quick look!

**Visiting with dogs**
You can take your dog to Clancys camping area and Rogers Park providing it remains on a leash and under control at all times. Dogs are not permitted in any other parts of Benarkin or Yarraman state forests.

**Walking, cycling, horse riding and driving**
Walk, ride a horse or cycle along logging tracks, or follow the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail or Bicentennial National Trail. You can also ride a trail bike or drive a 4WD along formed roads through the forests providing you are licensed and using a road-registered vehicle. Remember the give-way code: vehicles and bicycles give way to horses and walkers; and walkers give way to horses. Beware of logging trucks.

You are not permitted in harvesting areas—heed the signs and stay on tracks.

**Wildlife spotting**
Hear the distinctive calls of rufous whistlers and eastern whipbirds ringing through forests and plantations. Dense vine scrub hosts green catbirds, paradise riflebirds, noisy pittas and shy black-breasted button-quails. Spot waterbirds, water dragons, freshwater turtles and maybe even a platypus at the deeper pools of Emu Creek. Watch kingfishers waiting patiently on overhanging branches, honeyleaters in the bottlebrush and furred and feathered residents coming in for a drink.

**Places to camp**
- Clancys camping area
- Picnic surrounded by pine plantations at Rogers Park in Yarraman State Forest, under tall stringybark and ironbark trees at Benarkin day-use area.
- Clancys camping area is just off Station Road, 18km south of Yarraman.
- Benarkin day-use area is 13km east of Blackbutt and 12km north of Toowoomba.
- Benarkin is 18km south of Yarraman, 140km south of Brisbane and 110km off the New England Highway.

**Did you know?**
Benarkin was once considered one of the finest ironbark stands in Queensland. But timber-getting and fires led to their demise.

Re-afforestation began about 1920 and experiments determined that hoop pine was the best species to plant. Using seedlings grown at Benarkin, Blackbutt and Yarraman, hoop pine plantations were established by 1926 and expanded to comprise, at one point, 35 percent of Queensland’s total hoop pine plantation.

**Things to do**
- **Picnicking**
Picnic surrounded by pine plantations at Rogers Park in Yarraman State Forest, under tall stringybark and ironbark trees at Benarkin day-use area.

**Visiting with dogs**
You can take your dog to Clancys camping area and Rogers Park providing it remains on a leash and under control at all times. Dogs are not permitted in any other parts of Benarkin or Yarraman state forests.

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The Palms National Park

Must dos
- Feel re- invigorated as you stretch your legs through shady, densely-packed piccabeen palms.
- Be amused by the antics of noisy flying-foxes in summer.

Getting there
The Palms is about 200km north-west of Brisbane. Turn off the New England Highway just north of Cooyar (94km north of Toowoomba, 28km south-west of Yarraman) and follow the signs 8km along a sealed road.

Things to do
- Wildlife spotting: Listen for the calls of frogs and birds, and watch creatures coming to the spring-fed creek to drink. More than 90 species of birds live here. Hear the repetitive calls of Wonga pigeons and brown cuckoo-doves echoing through the forest. Be enchanted by rose-crowned fruit doves and green catbirds feeding in the canopy on the fruits of piccabeen palms and figs, while eastern yellow robins and white-browed scrub wrens flit through the shaded understorey. In sunny patches at the forest edge you might spot buff-rumped and brown thornbills, honeyleasers or even a barking owl at rest. Encounter red-necked pademelons and swamp wallabies thumping noisily along.
- Picnicking: Say hello to the resident brush turkeys while you picnic in the patchy shade.

Walking
- The Palms circuit: 6.5km return (5mins).

Rangers tip
- Summer is the best time to see grey-headed flying-foxes resting by day in the park before taking to the skies at dusk to feed on forest fruits in the surrounding hills and valleys.

Boat Mountain Conservation Park

Must dos
- Snack at the forest edge then head off to explore.
- Gaze to the horizon from Braithwaites Lookout or Daniels Lookout and feel like you are on top of the world.

Getting there
Boat Mountain is about 260km north-west of Brisbane. Access is not suitable for buses, caravans and trailers.

Things to do
- Wildlife spotting: Meet the locals: white-browed scrubwrens and eastern yellow robins in the dense, prickly vine scrub; and double-barred bandicoots and the dish-shaped scrapes made by black-breasted button-quails spinning on the spot as they feed on ants, beetles and seeds.
- Picnicking: Just add food—we’ve provided tables in a quiet, sunny spot.

Places to stay
You can’t camp in this park.

Rangers tip
- Add Jack Smith Scrub Conservation Park to your itinerary and enjoy another short nature walk.

Places to go
- Braithwaites Lookout: 500m return (30mins)
- Daniels Lookout: 2.6km return (1–1.5hrs).
Lake Broadwater Conservation Park

Watch waterbirds and feel the breeze at the largest natural lake on the Darling Downs. Linger over a picnic, cool off with a swim or enjoy a day of activity out on the water.

River red gums fringe this 350ha tadpole-shaped lake which fills to a mere 3m depth only after heavy rains. It often dries out—sometimes for lengthy periods. Cypress pine, eucalypt and brigalow woodlands surrounding the lake are remnants of vegetation once widespread across this now mostly cleared agricultural region.

Things to do

- Picnicking
  Find a shady spot under a tree or shelter. Wood barbecues, play equipment, a boat ramp, toilets, showers and small community hall are all nearby. To hire the hall phone (07) 4663 3555.
- Swimming and boating
  Chill out on a warm summer’s day—swim, boating at all times. The ‘neck’ of the lake is suitable for boating, and for details of how to obtain boating permits call (07) 4663 3562 to check if conditions are suitable for boating, and for details of how to obtain boating permits.
- Fishing is not permitted.

Wildlife spotting

More than 230 bird, 30 mammal, 22 frog, 55 reptile, numerous fish species and invertebrates are on record here. Garrulous galahs and corellas live here, and you might also spot a visiting white-bellied sea-eagle or black-necked stork. Glimpse rainbow-skinks scurrying under leaves or logs, and burrowing frogs after rain.

Places to camp

Camp sites at Lake Broadwater are managed by Western Downs Regional Council. You can pay fees and get your camping permit from self-registration stands when you arrive.

- Wilga Bush camping area
  Escape the crowds at shady, individual camp sites set amid eucalypt woodland.
- Lake Broadwater camping area
  The large, open grassy area beside the lake can be popular in warmer months when the lake is full.

Places to go

- Wilga campground track
  4.4km return (1hr 30mins). Walk between camping areas, passing remains of a dingo fence built in the 1860s.
- Red gum track
  3km return (3hr). Wander along the lake edge spotting birds on the water and in the bush.
- Bird hide
  200m return (15-30mins). Grasing grey kangaroos watch unconcerned as you pass through eucalypt woodland to an elevated bird hide overlooking the ‘neck’ of the lake.

Nate monitor Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt

Barakula State Forest

Head bush to the largest state forest in the southern hemisphere. Find peace amid towering trees, spot birds and delight in an abundance of wildflowers from late winter to spring.

Barakula—an Aboriginal word meaning ‘Place of Tall Timber’—aptly describes these 283,000 hectares of towering eucalypts, cypress pine forests and brigalow scrub. Naturalists and lovers of the bush will feel right at home here!

Things to do

- Wildlife spotting
  Barakula has more than 200 bird species—you might spot a powerful owl, turquoise parrot or glossy black-cockatoo. Wildflowers attract honeyeaters and butterflies while tree hollows are home to bats, possums and squirrel, sugar and yellow-bellied gliders. Look for yakka skinks on logs and golden-tailed geckoes on trunks of cypress pines.
- Driving, riding and walking
  Drive, ride, cycle or walk roads criss-crossing Barakula. Stay out of harvesting areas—heed the signs and keep to tracks. If driving, or riding a trail bike, you must be licensed and have a registered vehicle.

Places to camp

- Dogwood Creek camping area
  Relax beside a seasonal waterhole 19km north of the Barakula Forest Station. There are no facilities.

Nate monitor Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt

To do today

- Catch reflections at seasonal waterholes on meandering forest creeks.
- Tick speckled warblers, yellow-tufted honeyeaters and crested hawks off your must-see list.
- Reflect on more than a century of logging history at rusting remains of old fire towers, tramways, bridges, and former sawmills, forestry camps and school sites.

Nate monitor Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt

Must dos

- Picnic at the lake edge under a huge old river red gum.
- Watch water and woodland birds from the cover of the bird hide.
- Get out on the glistening water in your canoe, kayak or boat.

Getting there

Lake Broadwater is 240km north-west of Brisbane (113km from Toowoomba).

Drive 20km west from Dalby along the Moonie Highway. Turn left into Broadwater Road and continue 9km west of Brisbane (113km from Toowoomba).
How to have a safe and enjoyable visit

Make your visit memorable for all the right reasons. Parks and forests are natural environments and conditions can be unpredictable, so take care and be prepared.

Stay overnight

To stay overnight in Queensland’s parks and forests you need to purchase a camping permit for your tent, camper or caravan site, before you arrive. Camp sites in popular parks are in great demand during peak periods such as long weekends and school holidays. It’s best to book well in advance.

To make a booking:
- go online at qld.gov.au/camping
- visit an over-the-counter permit booking office or use a self-service kiosk. Locations are listed at recreation.npsr.qld.gov.au/booking-offices/
- if you can’t book online or via a self-service kiosk or counter, phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

For other accommodation options visit southernqueenslandcountry.com.au

Stay informed

Conditions can change rapidly, so regularly check:
- park alerts at qld.gov.au/park-alerts for conditions and closures
- current and forecast weather conditions and river heights at bom.gov.au
- bushfire alerts at qfes.qld.gov.au for fire danger and fire bans
- travel and road condition information at qdstraffic.qld.gov.au or phone 13 19 40.

Packing checklist

- Adequate drinking water, food and emergency supplies. You’ll need at least 7L of water per person per day (for drinking, cooking and limited washing) plus in more remote areas an extra emergency supply for 3–4 days in case of stranding.
- Well-stocked first-aid kit. Include sun and insect protection.
- Reliable walking and camping gear in good working order.
- Portable stove and/or clean, weed-free firewood.
- Sturdy rubbish bags and/or sealable, animal-proof containers. No bins are provided.
- Binoculars for observing amazing wildlife and a camera for recording wonderful memories.
- Detailed map showing travel routes and distances. Signs and printed maps are more reliable than GPS.
- Communication equipment and list of emergency contacts.
- Long distance walkers need a topographic map, compass and personal locator beacon (PLB).

Fishing

You can fish in the Severn River at Sundown National Park. Regulations apply, see daf.qld.gov.au/fisheries for details.

Do the right thing

- Rubbish—bring it in, take it out (including food scraps, cigarette butts, fruit stickers and sanitary items).
- Leave your pets at home.
- Please don’t feed wildlife.
- Keep to tracks and obey signs.
- Use a portable stove. Where permitted, light campfires only within existing barbecues and fire rings. Bring your own clean, weed and insect-free firewood; never collect firewood from the park.
- Clean your boots, clothes and equipment of soil and seeds before and after you visit and help to stop the spread of harmful organisms and weeds. Check regularly for seeds—if found, remove and wrap them well, before placing in with your rubbish.
- Wash well away from streams, gullies and watercourses and minimise the use of soap and detergent.
- Use toilets at picnic and camping areas. If you must ‘go’ in the bush, bury human waste and camp sites.
- Never place rubbish or contents of chemical toilet tanks in park toilets.
- Never collect firewood from the park.
- Barbecues and fire rings. Bring your own free firewood.
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Be safe

- Prepare for all weather conditions: days can be hot and nights can be cold (in any season).
- Wear sturdy walking shoes (not thongs), a hat and sunscreen. Put on protective clothing and insect repellent to avoid bites, scratches and stings.
- Stay well back from cliff edges, natural lookouts and waterfalls.
- Supervise children closely and ensure they do not run ahead out of sight. Remind children to wait at track junctions so they don’t take a wrong turn; and to stay put if they become lost or unsure of where they are.
- Avoid walking alone. Take extra care in windy or rainy weather.
- Take care near water. Never dive or jump into creeks, waterholes or lakes. Always check water conditions before swimming. Never swim in flood waters.
- Stay on marked tracks, trails and roads. Heed all signs.
- Allow plenty of time to reach your destination before dark.
- Carry drinking water. Treat all water (including from taps) before use.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and on the lookout for animals that could scratch, sting or bite.
- Falling trees and branches, flash flooding and landslips occur naturally at any time. Avoid visiting in extreme weather.
- Drive safely and to the conditions; roads may be unsealed. Remember—if it’s flooded, forget it!
- Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Mobile phone coverage is unreliable. Consider carrying a satellite phone or personal locator beacon (PLB) when visiting remote locations.

Do the right thing

- Rubbish—bring it in, take it out (including food scraps, cigarette butts, fruit stickers and sanitary items).
- Leave your pets at home.
- Please don’t feed wildlife.
- Keep to tracks and obey signs.
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Connect with Queensland National Parks

[qldnationalparks](qldnationalparks)
[@QldParks](@QldParks); #QldParks

For help planning a holiday, visit [queensland.com](queensland.com) and [southernqueenslandcountry.com.au](southernqueenslandcountry.com.au)

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

Useful contacts

**Emergencies**: Dial Triple Zero (000)

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

South Burnett Regional Council
[southburnett.qld.gov.au](southburnett.qld.gov.au)

Southern Downs Regional Council
[sdrc.qld.gov.au](sdrc.qld.gov.au)
[southerndownsandgranitebelt.com.au](southerndownsandgranitebelt.com.au)

Toowoomba Regional Council
[tr.qld.gov.au](tr.qld.gov.au)

Western Downs Regional Council
[wdrc.qld.gov.au](wdrc.qld.gov.au)

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