Featuring
Bunya Mountains National Park
Yarraman State Forest
The Palms National Park
Benarkin State Forest
Ravensbourne National Park
Crows Nest National Park
Lake Broadwater Conservation Park
Main Range National Park
Girraween National Park
Sundown National Park

Balancing boulders and rugged gorges, rainforest-clad mountains and grassy plains, waterfalls and wetlands await discovery just a few hours inland from the beaches and busy cities of southern Queensland.
Welcome to
Southern Inland Queensland

Whether for a short stroll or longer hike, a day trip or overnight stay, Queensland’s southern inland parks and forests are easy to get to and outstanding places to visit.

Use this guide to help plan your trip. Each park or forest is different from the others, but all offer something special—from scenic views or distinctive features and wildlife, to glimpses into the past.

Visitor facilities and opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park/Forest</th>
<th>toilet</th>
<th>on-site information</th>
<th>drinking water</th>
<th>shelter shed</th>
<th>picnic table</th>
<th>electric barbecue/woodfire</th>
<th>walking track</th>
<th>lookout</th>
<th>dogs allowed on leash</th>
<th>caravan/campervan</th>
<th>hiking (perhaps overnight)</th>
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<tbody>
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Key to track classifications (Australian Standards)

Class 1 track
- Easy, level, wide track suitable for visitors with reduced mobility (including wheelchairs). High level of facilities and interpretation.
- Track may be uneven and partially overgrown.
- Reasonable level of fitness and ankle-supporting footwear required.

Class 2 track
- Easy, level, well-graded track suitable

Class 3 track
- Gently sloping, well-defined track with slight inclines or some steps.
- Caution needed on loose gravel or muddy surfaces and at exposed natural lookouts.

Class 4 track
- Distinct track may be narrow, up and down or overgrown.
- Usually with steep exposed inclines or many steps.
- Caution needed on loose gravel surfaces, muddy areas, and at exposed natural lookouts.
- Moderate level of fitness and ankle-supporting footwear required.

Class 5 track
- Trails are not constructed or maintained.

Lookouts—not all the same
- This indicates a lookout with a built platform and handrail.
- This indicates a vantage point with no built structures or handrails. Please keep away from the edge and supervise children at all times. Take extra care when using binoculars or cameras at these sites.
Eastern rainforest circuits
Stroll beneath giant bunya pines in a fern-carpeted rainforest along easy tracks. Walk past waterfalls and to lookouts giving views to the east.

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Scenic circuit</td>
<td>4 km return</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Barker Creek circuit</td>
<td>10 km return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Barker Creek lookout</td>
<td>5.4 km return</td>
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Places to walk
Enjoy 35 km of walking tracks; ranging from a short 500 m stroll to a 10 km hike.

Western walks
Shady rainforest gives way to sunny eucalypt-clad ridges with views to the west. Start and finish at picnic areas or link together to make a longer walk.

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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Paradise to Westcott</td>
<td>3.2 km + 1.5 km return by road</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Koondaii circuit</td>
<td>2.5 km return</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Westcott to Cherry Plain</td>
<td>4.8 km + 1.8 km return by road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cherry Plain to Burtons Well</td>
<td>6 km + 2.4 km return by road</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mt Kiangarow track</td>
<td>2.3 km return</td>
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Bunya Mountains National Park
Discover the largest stand of bunya pines in the world. Rainforests, waterfalls, mountain-top grasslands known as ‘balds’ and colourful birdlife feature in Queensland’s second oldest national park.

Getting there
The Great Bunya Drive from Dalby, Kingaroy or Nanango leads up steep and narrow winding roads to the mountain top. Some sections from Maidenwell and Maclagan are unsealed. The Department of Transport and Main Roads advises that all access roads are unsuitable for travel by long and/or heavy vehicles. Discretion is urged with respect to caravans, motorhomes and buses.

Places to visit and stay
Picnic or start your walk at Dandabah, Westcott and Burtons Well where there are toilets, barbecues and picnic tables. Tracks can also be accessed from car parks at Paradise or Cherry Plain.

Westcott and Burtons Well camping areas have tent sites only. Dandabah camping area is a large open area with vehicle access and electric barbecues. Book in advance for all camping.

A small general store, food and holiday accommodation is available nearby.

Learn about the park and places you can walk from on-site signs or visit www.nprsr.qld.gov.au.
Yarraman State Forest

Hoop pine grows naturally above vine forests and in straight plantation rows adjacent to eucalypt forests and woodlands.

Getting there
Turn off the D’Aguilar Highway 1.5 km north of Yarraman.

Places to visit
Drive 1.4 km through pine plantations to picnic at shady Rogers Park. Toilets, picnic tables and barbecues are provided. Bring your own firewood.

Dogs must remain on leash and be restrained at all times. Camping is not permitted.

Benarkin State Forest

Majestic hoop pine plantations, towering eucalypt forests and dense vine scrub cover the scenic Blackbutt Range and the rolling hills at the head of the Brisbane River.

Getting there
Turn off the D’Aguilar Highway 3.5 km east of Blackbutt. Gravel roads are accessible by conventional vehicles but caution is needed, especially after rain.

Places to visit and stay
Clancys camping area and Emu Creek camping and day-use areas are situated on small flats beside the semi-permanent waters of Emu Creek. They have toilets, fireplaces and picnic tables. Book in advance for all camping.

Dogs are permitted (on-leash at all times) in day-use areas and can stay overnight at Clancys camping area.

Things to do
Logging and service tracks criss-cross the forest and can be used for cycling, walking or horse riding. Motorised vehicles are restricted to formed roads only. Entry into harvesting areas is not permitted. Obey all signs.

A section of The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (open to walking, cycling and horse riding) also passes through Benarkin State Forest, following the old rail line up the Blackbutt Range. Find trail information and access details at www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.org.au.

Horse riders can also follow the Bicentennial National Trail through Benarkin State Forest. Visit www.nationaltrail.com.au for trail details.

Access roads to Emu Creek camping and day-use areas may be closed due to flood damage. To check if open, visit www.nprs.qld.gov.au.
The Palms National Park

*Take a short walk through a tiny patch of remnant rainforest filled with impressive piccabeen palms and rich birdlife.*

**Getting there**

Turn east off the New England Highway at Cooyar, 94 km north of Toowoomba and 28 km south-west of Yarraman. The park is a further 8 km drive along a sealed but narrow road.

**Places to visit**

The picnic area has picnic tables and wood-fired barbecues. Camping is not permitted.

**Places to walk**

- The Palms circuit 650 m. Allow 15 mins. Class 3.

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Lake Broadwater Conservation Park

Lake Broadwater is the only naturally occurring water body of this type on the Darling Downs and is listed in the Directory of Nationally Important Wetlands. The lake covers approximately 350 ha of the 1220 ha park and, when full, is up to 3 m deep. It dries out periodically, sometimes for lengthy periods.

**Places to visit and stay**

The recreation area has picnic tables, toilets, showers, barbecues, a boat ramp, camping area and a small community hall. To hire the hall phone (07) 4663 3555.

The Wilga Bush camping area on the lake’s northern side has toilets but no showers.

Obtain camping permits from self-registration stands on arrival. Camping fees apply. Contact the caretakers at Lake Broadwater on (07) 4663 3562 for further information.

**Getting there**

Turn off the Moonie Highway 20 km south-west of Dalby and drive a further 10 km to the park.

**Things to do**

The lake is popular for bird-watching, walking and picnicking, as well as boating and skiing when full.

Boating and skiing are permitted on the main body of the lake only, with boating permits required prior to launching. The ‘neck’ area of the lake has been designated a waterfowl refuge and no boats are permitted there. As the lake can dry out for lengthy periods, contact the caretakers on (07) 4663 3562 to check if conditions are suitable for boating activities and for details of how to obtain boating permits.

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**1. Wilga campground track**

4.4 km return. Allow 1 hr 30 mins.

Connects the Wilga Bush camping area with the lake and main recreation area.

**2. Red gum track**

3 km return. Allow 1 hr. Class 3.

Wind through large river red gums beside the lake. Great for birdwatching.

**3. Self-guided drive and bird hide**

5 km return.

Drive through woodland south-west of the lake. Stop at the elevated bird hide to view wildlife on the neck of the lake.
Crows Nest National Park

After good rain, water tumbles along a series of boulder-strewn cascades before spilling over Crows Nest Falls. Downstream, cliffs up to 100 m high surround a gorge known locally as Valley of Diamonds.

Getting there

Turn off the New England Highway at the Crows Nest Police Station and take the sealed road 6 km to the park.

Places to visit and stay

The picnic area beside Crows Nest Creek has picnic tables, gas barbecues and pit toilets.

A small bush campground has unpowered tent and caravan sites, pit toilets, fireplaces and boil-your-own-water bush showers. Firewood is not provided so bring your own clean, milled wood, or use a gas or fuel stove. Never collect wood from the national park. Bring your own drinking water. Book in advance for camping.

Places to walk

Take a creek-side walk to waterholes and to lookouts giving spectacular views over the gorge.

1. Crows Nest Falls lookout
   2.1 km return.  Allow 45 mins.
   At Crows Nest Falls, water tumbles over 20 m high granite cliffs. For your safety, stay behind the lookout barriers. Deaths have occurred here and risk of rock falls make this area unsafe.

2. Crows Nest Falls via Kauyoo loop includes The Cascades, Kauyoo Pool and Bottlebrush Pool
   2.7 km return.  Allow 1 hour.
   At Kauyoo Pool, access is easy into shallow water. Steep crevices and slippery rocks lead to The Cascades. Watch your step, especially if the creek is flowing. Bottlebrush Pool is the ideal place to enjoy a swim and relax.
   For your safety, never dive or jump into the water – it may be shallower than it looks or hide submerged obstructions

3. Koonin lookout
   4.5 km return.  Allow 1 hr 30 mins.
   Koonin lookout gives a bird’s-eye view over the Valley of Diamonds and onto distant rolling hills.
Ravensbourne National Park

This day-use park has short walks through remnant rainforest and eucalypt forest, and an amazing array of native birdlife.

Getting there
Turn off the New England Highway at Hampton and head east towards Esk for 17 km to the park turnoff. Take the 1.3 km sealed road to the park. From Esk, follow the Esk–Hampton Road for 33 km before turning off to the park.

Places to visit
Both Blackbean day-use area and Cedar Block day-use area have wood-fired barbecues, toilets, picnic tables and shelter sheds. Bring your own drinking water and clean-milled firewood or fuel stove.

Gus Beutel lookout provides panoramic views over the range towards Brisbane, the Lockyer Valley and the Scenic Rim.

Camping is not permitted.

Places to walk
1. Cedar Block circuit
500 m circuit. Allow 15 mins.
Learn about the rainforest and how it has been used by Aboriginal travellers and timber-getters from the signed, self-guided walk starting at the Cedar Block day-use area.

2. Rainforest circuit
1.7 km return. Allow 40 mins.
Large Sydney blue gums emerge above the rainforest in where ferns, vines and epiphytes grow.

3. Palm Creek circuit
3.6 km return. Allow 1 hr 15 mins.
Descend into Palm Creek—named after the piccabeen palms covering its steep banks. Take the short side track to a small sandstone overhang.

4. Buaraba Creek
6.2 km return. Allow 2 hrs.
Rainforest merges into eucalypt forest on the way down into the shady, spring-fed Buaraba Creek. Return along the same track. Carry drinking water.

Caring for parks and forests
Help protect parks, forests and heritage into the future by following these guidelines.

- Everything within national parks, conservation parks and State forests is protected. Do not take or interfere with plants, animals, rocks or historic artefacts.
- Domestic animals are not allowed in national parks or conservation parks. Dogs and horses may be permitted in designated areas of some State forests—check first.
- Do not collect firewood from the national parks or State forests.
- Never feed or leave food for animals.
- Keep to tracks. Cutting corners or creating new tracks causes damage and erosion.
- Take care with fire. Light fires only in fireplaces, where provided, and extinguish with water before leaving. Store cigarette butts and dispose of them back home.
- Be tidy. Remove all rubbish and recyclables from the park.
- Access to State forest roads is not permitted where ‘no entry’ signs have been erected due to harvesting activities.
Main Range National Park

Impressive mountain peaks, escarpments and ridges are part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area and offer excellent walking opportunities and breathtaking views.

Getting there

Cunninghams Gap is a distinctive landmark on the Cunningham Highway 116 km south-west of Brisbane and 50 km east of Warwick.

Spicers Gap is accessible to conventional vehicles from the east. Turn off the Cunningham Highway 5 km west of Aratula onto Lake Moogerah Road, then right into Spicers Gap Road. The last 5 km is unsealed.

Queen Mary Falls is a popular day trip destination 11 km east of Killarney or 64 km south-west of Boonah on the Killarney–Boonah Road. The scenic and winding road from the east is steep and should be travelled with care. It is not suitable for caravans.

Goomburra is nestled in the western foothills of the Great Dividing Range. Turn off the Cunningham Highway at Gladfield, 25 km west of Cunninghams Gap and follow the signs; or from Warwick or Toowoomba, turn off the New England Highway 3 km south of Allora and head east. The last 6 km is unsealed. After heavy rain, creek crossings may be flooded or roads to lookouts closed. Check road conditions before visiting.

Planes to visit and stay

Picnic at Cunninghams Gap, Spicers Gap, Goomburra and Queen Mary Falls. Camp at Goomburra and Spicers Gap. All sites have toilets, but bring your own drinking water and firewood or fuel stove.

Planes to walk

Walks range from short, easy strolls to long, physically demanding hikes. Main Range also offers spectacular remote area bushwalking. Only experienced, fit and well-prepared walkers should attempt hikes into remote and extremely rugged mountain terrain.

Some tracks were damaged during heavy rains in 2013. To check which tracks are open visit www.nprsr.qld.gov.au.

Limited bush campsites are available. Visit www.nprsr.qld.gov.au for details.

Tracks from Cunninghams Gap

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Trail Name</th>
<th>Distance</th>
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<td>Box forest track</td>
<td>5 km</td>
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<td>Rainforest circuit</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Palm Grove circuit</td>
<td>4.4 km</td>
<td>2 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mount Cordeaux track</td>
<td>6.8 km</td>
<td>2 hrs 30 mins</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Bare Rock/Morgans walk</td>
<td>12.4 km</td>
<td>4 hrs 30 mins</td>
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<td>7</td>
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Tracks around Spicers Gap

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<tr>
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<td>Moss’s Well track</td>
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<td>Governors Chair lookout</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Mount Mathieson trail</td>
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Goomburra section tracks

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<td>Ridge track</td>
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<td>2 hrs 30 mins</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Araucaria Falls</td>
<td>3.6 km</td>
<td>1 hr 30 mins</td>
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<td>Sylvester’s lookout</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Mount Castle lookout</td>
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Queen Mary Falls tracks

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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Queen Mary Falls circuit</td>
<td>2 km</td>
<td>40 mins</td>
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Photo: Queensland Government
Girraween National Park

Girraween—meaning ‘place of flowers’—is a landscape of massive granite outcrops, precariously balanced boulders and spectacular wildflower displays in spring. The park is renowned for its walking and birdwatching opportunities.

Getting there

Turn off the New England Highway 26 km south of Stanthorpe or 11 km north of Wallangarra, then continue east for 9 km to the Girraween visitor information centre.

Places to visit and stay

The Bald Rock Creek day-use area has electric barbecues, picnic tables and toilets.

Two camping areas—Castle Rock and Bald Rock Creek—have hot showers, flushing toilets, picnic tables and fireplaces.

Places to walk

Visit the Girraween visitor information centre to learn more about the park.

Firewood is not provided so bring your own clean, milled wood or purchase it locally on the way to Girraween. Caravan sites are not powered and generators are not permitted. This park is popular so book well in advance for holidays and long weekends.

Bush camping is permitted in some remote locations providing permits are obtained in advance. All bush camping is for walking access only.

Except where indicated, Girraween’s 17 km of walking tracks start near the visitor information centre or day-use area. Main tracks are well defined but expect rocky sections. Most summit tracks have steep upper slopes. For track details, refer to on-site signs or visit www.nprsr.qld.gov.au.

- **Northern walking tracks (from Bald Rock Creek day-use area)**
  - Wyberba Walk: 280 m, 15 min
  - Granite Arch: 1.6 km return, 30 min
  - Bald Rock Creek circuit: 2.2 km return, 1 hr
  - The Junction: 5.2 km return, 2 hrs
  - The Pyramid: 3.7 km return, 1.5–2 hrs

- **Southern walking tracks (from Pyramids Road)**
  - Castle Rock: 5.2 km return, 1.5–2 hrs
  - The Sphinx and Turtle Rock: 7.4 km return, 3–4 hrs
  - Mt Norman: 11 km return, 4–5 hrs
  - Mt Norman (from the Mt Norman day-use area): 4 km return, 1.5–2 hrs

- **Eastern walking tracks (from Dr Roberts carpark)**
  - Dr Roberts waterhole: 1.2 km return, 30 min
  - Underground Creek: 2.8 km return, 1–1.5 hrs

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Location map

- **To Stanthorpe**: 20 km
- **To Tenterfield**: 17 km
- **New South Wales**:
  - Bald Rock
  - Mt Lindsay
  - Granite Arch
  - Bald Rock Creek circuit
  - Bald Rock Creek camping area
  - Dr Roberts Waterhole
  - United Press

- **Queensland**
  - Dr Roberts carpark
  - Castle Rock
  - Bald Rock Creek
day-use area
  - Wyberba Walk
  - Granite Arch
  - Bald Rock Creek
circuit
  - The Pyramid
  - The Sphinx
  - Mt Norman
  - Mt Norman day-use area

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Visit the Girraween visitor information centre to learn more about the park.
Sundown National Park

Discover a rugged wilderness of spectacular sharp ridges and steep-sided gorges surrounding the Severn River on the Queensland–New South Wales border.

Getting there

Sundown is 250 km south-west of Brisbane and has three entry points. The Broadwater campground at the park’s southern entrance can be reached in conventional vehicles.

From Stanthorpe: travel 62 km west on the Texas Road and turn left onto the Glenlyon Dam Road. Drive 14 km before turning left onto Permanents Road. The Broadwater campground is a further 4 km along a good gravel road.

From Tenterfield: travel north 5 km along the New England Highway then west along the Bruxner Highway 52 km to Mingoola. Turn right and drive 12 km to the park turn-off.

The park’s eastern boundary is 16 km from Ballandean along gravel roads via Curr Road and Sundown Road. A rough 4WD track then leads to Red Rock Gorge, Reedy Waterhole and Burrows Waterhole camping areas. The 20 km drive along rough, steep narrow roads from the park entrance to Burrows Waterhole takes nearly two hours to complete. Towing of trailers or campers is not recommended. Bushwalkers can leave vehicles inside the park entrance.

To reach Nundubbermere Falls in the north, travel 8 km along the Texas Road west of Stanthorpe, then 20 km along Nundubbermere Road to Falls Road and 4 km to the park entrance.

Places to visit and stay

The Broadwater campground has individual sites with fireplaces, pit toilets and boil-your-own-water bush showers. Caravans longer than 4 m will not fit across the small bridge leading to the campground. Burrows Waterhole and Red Rock Gorge camping areas have pit toilets. There are no facilities at Reedy Waterhole or Nundubbermere Falls.

Camping at Red Rock Gorge is not permitted on long weekends. For all other areas, book well in advance for camping over long weekends and school holidays. Walkers can bush camp in some remote locations providing rangers are notified and permits obtained in advance.

Things to do

Sundown is perfect for a remote camping and walking experience. Bird watch or explore along the river and up side creeks. Waterholes along the Severn River are suitable for swimming, canoeing and fishing. Never dive or jump into waterholes—water may be shallower than it looks or hide submerged objects.

Places to walk

Sundown has formed tracks as well as remote walks. Short walks only are listed here. Only experienced and fit walkers who are well-prepared and have detailed topographic maps should attempt any other longer or more difficult hikes into Sundown’s remote and extremely rugged mountain terrain.

From Broadwater campground

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Difficulty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Permanent Waterhole</td>
<td>2 km</td>
<td>1 hr</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Ooline Creek</td>
<td>4 km</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Western Circuit</td>
<td>4.5 km</td>
<td>1 hr 30 min</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Red Rock Gorge lookout</td>
<td>500 m</td>
<td>15 min</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At northern end
Overnight stays and camping

Before camping overnight in a park or forest, you must obtain a camping permit and pay your camping fees. People who camp without a permit can be fined.

Book and pay for your permit before you arrive. School and public holidays can be very busy so book several months ahead.

To obtain camping permits or camping credits:
- visit www.qld.gov.au/camping
- phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68). Mobile phone charges may apply.

A booking number will be issued which is to be prominently displayed on your camping structure.

*Camping credits are a convenient way for campers to pay for camping without providing credit card or personal details every time a booking is made. Customers with credits must still have a valid camping permit before setting up camp.

Further information

Go to ‘Park alerts’ for the latest information on access, closures and conditions.
Or phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68). Mobile phone charges may apply.
For information on road conditions visit www.131940.qld.gov.au or phone 13 19 40.

Other contacts

Police
- Toowoomba area (07) 4631 6333
- Dalby area (07) 4669 9222
- Warwick area (07) 4660 4444
- RACQ roadside assistance 13 11 11

In an emergency call Triple Zero 000

Mobile phone coverage is limited or non-existent in most park or forest areas.

- If you cannot reach Triple Zero (000) from a GSM mobile, try 112.
- If deaf or speech or hearing impaired, call 106 using a text phone.
- Advise the location and nature of the emergency.
- Stay on the phone until advised to hang up.

Staying safe

Your safety is our concern but your responsibility. Be aware of potential dangers and follow these guidelines to keep yourself and others safe.

- Supervise children closely.
- Take care at cliff edges.
- Never dive or jump into water. It may be shallower than it looks or hide submerged objects.
- Obey warning and advisory signs and park closure notices.
- Tracks, rocks and creek crossings can be slippery, especially after rain.
- Carry drinking water, a first-aid kit and insect repellent.
- Wear sturdy footwear and choose tracks appropriate to your fitness level and time available.
- Never walk alone and stay on the tracks unless you are a very experienced and well-equipped bushwalker.
- Plan to complete walks or drives well before dark.
- Drive carefully—obey speed limits and road rules. Roads may be unsealed with loose gravel, sharp curves, narrow sections and steep grades.
- Watch out for the unexpected. Slow down to allow time to react to changed road conditions, wildlife, other park users and logging trucks (in or near State forests).
- Tell friends or family where you are going and when you expect to return. If your plans change, let them know.

All information provided in this guide is correct at the time of printing. Check for park alerts and closures online at www.npnrqld.gov.au/parks or at the nearest accredited visitor information centre.

Front cover photo: The Sphinx, Girraween National Park. Darren Jew, Queensland Government

Back cover photo: Castle Rock camping area, Girraween National Park. Karen Smith, Queensland Government