TROPICAL COAST
NATIONAL PARKS

explore enticingly
PARKS AT A GLANCE

Bowling Green Bay NP
Townsville Town Common CP
Cape Pallarenda CP
Magnetic Island NP
Paluma Range NP
Broadwater, Abergowrie SF
Girringun NP
Hinchinbrook Island NP
Giramay NP
Tully Gorge NP
Djiru NP
Clump Mountain NP
Eubenangee Swamp NP
Russell River NP
Mount Whitfield CP
Wooroonooran NP
Smithfield CP
Tropical island national parks

1—close to park; 2—only at Edmund Kennedy section; 3—only at Murray Falls camping area; 4—only at Tully Gorge camping area; 5—only at Goldsborough Valley camping area.

Photo (front cover): Hinchinbrook Island National Park, Maxime Coquard © Tourism and Events Queensland
Photo (this page): Family Islands National Park, Christian Nott © Tourism and Events Queensland
Welcome to Tropical Coast Parks

“A diverse and exciting area where you can walk in the footsteps of our early explorers; appreciate the lush forest meeting the sea; be rewarded by views of coastal islands that remain almost unchanged, standing guard over the great beauty of what the tropics have to offer. There’s something for everyone here with some of the greatest weather in the country, come see for yourself, once you visit I’ll guarantee you’ll be back!”

Ranger Alex
on behalf of the Park Rangers of the Tropical Coast

Be inspired!

Delight
in spotting Queensland’s iconic wildlife—watch a cassowary weave through the rainforest or snorkel the Great Barrier Reef, filled with a rainbow of corals and a thrilling array of marine life.

Exhilarate
on a tropical adventure—rafting whitewater rapids, trekking rugged landscapes, mountain biking historic trails or ocean kayaking from one perfect beach to the next!

Discover
special World Heritage places, from mist-shrouded mountain tops to reef-fringed islands—a new treasure awaits around every bend.

Incorporate!
on a tropical holiday full of glorious tumbling waterfalls, rushing wild rivers and beaches caressed by balmy seas—everything that makes the wet tropics wet!

Wonder
at the majesty and mystery of the world’s oldest tropical rainforest—a place of breathtaking beauty and a unique sanctuary for some of the world’s most threatened species.
Plan your getaway

Ancient rainforest-clad mountains carved by waterfalls and gorges, sweep down to a patchwork of lush tropical farms, forests and wetlands. Rivers and creeks meander to the coast where pristine beaches are lapped by tropical waters—the meeting place of two World Heritage areas, the Wet Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef. The Tropical coast awaits your discovery.

Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area features the world’s largest coral reef, famed for its incredible beauty and outstanding biodiversity. Stretching more than 2000km along Queensland’s coast, the Reef comprises 3000 individual reefs and islands. The remarkable ecosystem is home to thousands of different species of fish, molluscs, corals, sponges and abundant marine mammals, reptiles and birds.

Find out more at gbrmpa.gov.au

Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

Discover the breathtaking beauty, overwhelming biodiversity and ancient forests, of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Extending from Townsville to Cooktown it is a sanctuary for some of the world’s most threatened species. Rainforests, open woodlands and mangroves are home to an astounding variety of animals and plants, including many found nowhere else in the world. Find out more at wettropics.gov.au
Living cultural landscape

The Tropical coast is the traditional country of numerous Aboriginal clan groups where nature and culture are interwoven. Rich with spiritual meaning, traditional knowledge and cultural sites, this area is a unique and irreplaceable part of the heritage of the Traditional Owners. Modern development impacted the Rainforest Aboriginal people’s traditional way of life but did not disrupt their strong, enduring connection to country. Today, Aboriginal people continue caring for their country, assisting with management of parks and keeping their culture strong. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Queensland’s national parks.

Best time to visit

The best time to visit the Tropical coast is the dry season from May to September, when temperatures and humidity are lower. Summer months are hot and humid, often with extended rain, flooding and occasional cyclones. Parks can be temporarily closed during extreme weather events.

Best way to visit

Enjoy the freedom of your own vehicle on a self-drive road trip. Most mainland parks are accessible by 2WD. Some island national parks have ferry services, while others can only be accessed by private or charter vessels. Use the suggested itineraries on page 8 to help plan your journey.

Guided tours

Join a guided tour with an experienced local. Tour companies offer half to multi-day excursions and cater for special interests. Find out more at townsvillenorthqueensland.com.au and tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au. When booking your tour, look for the ECO Certified logo. For more information visit ecotourism.org.au

Local events

Make the most of your visit and time your holiday with a local event. Choose from country shows, fishing competitions, mountain bike rides and races, sailing and swimming events and music, food and cultural festivals. There is something happening all year, so join the fun!

Visit townsvillenorthqueensland.com.au and tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au

(Above) Enjoy a tropical drive; (above right) Trail running Cape Pallarenda Trails; (right) Reef HQ

Photos: (above) Greg Snell © Tourism Tropical North Qld; (above right) © TheGo Townsville; (right) Vince Valsutti © Tourism and Events Qld
**Choose your adventure**

The coast between Townsville and Cairns is ideal for a self-drive road trip. With many different park experiences along the way, you’ll be spoilt for choice. Will you follow the coast or detour inland? Stay on the main roads and visit popular parks or head along country roads to explore lesser-known gems? Allow a day or two, a week or even more—you decide! Along the way you’ll discover thriving country towns and fascinating local attractions to make your journey even more memorable. Use the information below to plan your journey, with the main towns as your base for visiting some of Queensland’s best parks. Happy road-tripping!

### Suggested itineraries

**Around Townsville**

Escape the city and try the fantastic mountain bike and walking trails at **Townsville Town Common** and **Cape Pallarenda conservation parks** before heading south to **Bowling Green Bay National Park** to finish your day with a peaceful picnic and a swim in Alligator Creek.

For a day in paradise catch the ferry for a 20min ride from Townsville to idyllic **Magnetic Island National Park**—the bays and beaches are spectacular, but it’s the local koalas that will steal your heart.

Looking for a weekend getaway? Retreat to the rainforest and the quaint village of Paluma north of Townsville at **Mount Spec, Paluma Range National Park**. It’s high in the hills and packed full of walking tracks, wildlife and wonderful memories waiting to be made.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Hot tip!</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>While in Townsville, learn more about north Queensland and Great Barrier Reef wonders at the Museum of Tropical Queensland or ReefHQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium—the world’s largest living coral reef aquarium.</strong></td>
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**Around Cardwell**

Enjoy a day exploring **Girramay National Park**. Take a morning stroll on Wreck Creek Beach at **Edmund Kennedy** before driving to **Murray Falls** for a barbecue lunch. Feel refreshed with a swim in the cool water of pristine Murray River.

Head to the hills for a night or two at **Blencoe Falls, Girringun National Park** and enjoy a peaceful camp by the creek, swimming and fishing at your leisure. Wander among the giant kauri pines and rose gum trees at **Kirimaya National Park** on the way.

Grab your hiking boots and tick the **Thoroborne Trail in Hinchinbrook Island National Park** off your bucket list! Cardwell and Lucinda are the gateways to this world-renowned trail where you can trek 4–7 days through spectacular wilderness and be captivated by Hinchinbrook’s untouched beauty.

**Around Tully and Mission Beach**

Immerse yourself for a day in the lush rainforest of **Tully Gorge National Park**. Take the easy and short Butterfly walk or challenge yourself with a strenuous climb up Mount Tyson. Finish your day with a swim and a barbecue at picturesque Alligators Nest, just a few minute’s drive from Tully.

Near Mission Beach explore the trails of **Djiru National Park** where you have the best chance of spotting a cassowary in the wild, then climb Bicton Hill at **Clump Mountain National Park** for an awesome view over the Coral Sea and **Family Islands National Park**.

For a longer stay, venture deep into the rainforest and camp for a night or two by Cochable Creek near Tully Gorge or beach yourself at Family Islands National Park for a few days soaking up the tropical island lifestyle.

**Around Innisfail and Babinda**

Don’t miss **Wooroonoora National Park**! Fill a day wandering the rainforest canopy at Mamu Tropical Skywalk and discovering beautiful waterfalls on the walking tracks at Palmerston. Drive to Josephine Falls where the water tumbles down from the top of Bartle Frere.

Indulge in a spot of quiet birdwatching at Eubenangee Swamp National Park or, for some fun on two wheels, mountain bike the Goldfield trail in **Wooroonoonaan National Park**, beginning at the Boulders Scenic Reserve.

If you have a 4WD, stay a little longer and enjoy a remote camp on the beach at **Russell River National Park**.

**Around Cairns**

Feeling energetic? Join the locals and hit the amazing walking tracks and mountain bike trails of **Mount Whitfield and Smithfield conservation parks**.

Looking for a challenge? Conquer the 922m summit of Walshs pyramid in **Wooroonoonaan National Park**, with panoramic views of Cairns and the tropical coastline. Then drive to **Goldsborough Valley** and reward yourself with some green time in the rainforest—relax by the Mulgrave River and set up camp for a night or two.

While in Cairns, make sure you visit the Great Barrier Reef. Enjoy an easy day trip to **Green Island or Fitzroy Island national parks**. Go for a snorkel, a swim and a stroll along tropical shores before relaxing on a sunset cruise back to Cairns.
**BOWLING GREEN BAY NATIONAL PARK**

**MUST DOS**
- Have a relaxing picnic before exploring the clear granite pools of Cockatoo Creek.
- Revel in a warm salty breeze as you catch a fresh fish for dinner a step away from your camp site!

**GETTING THERE**
Drive 25km south of Townsville along the Bruce Highway, turn onto Alligator Creek Road and follow the signs to Alligator Creek camping and day-use areas (about 30mins drive from Townsville).

**THINGS TO DO**

**Wildlife spotting**
See shorebirds on the beach from Cungulla to Salmon Creek. Kingfishers and honeyeaters are found in trees lining the creek bank at Alligator Creek. At night, rufous bettongs and brushtail possums can be spotted around your camp site.

**Fishing**
Fish in tidal areas of the park. Fisheries regulations and marine park zoning restrictions apply (see page 27).

**PLACES TO CAMP**
Camp on the shady creek bank at Alligator Creek camping area or beside your fishing spot at Cocoa Creek, Salmon Creek and Barratta Creek camping areas.

**PLACES TO GO**
Enjoy a swim, barbecue or easy walk at Alligator Creek day-use area and Cockatoo Creek.

**Alligator Falls track**
17km return (6hrs). Grade: difficult
Hike through woodland and rainforest and wade across creeks to reach the cascading Alligator Falls.

**SAFETY**
- Never dive or jump into Alligator Creek.
- Be croc wise in croc country in coastal areas of the park (see page 27).

Refresh your spirit with some peaceful fishing, a lazy creek-side barbecue with rewarding birdwatching or even a strenuous hike in this mountainous coastal park.
**Townsville Town Common and Cape Pallarenda conservation parks**

Set your adrenaline racing when you grab your bike or hiking boots and hit the stunning nature trails winding through these parks.

**Must dos**
- Mountain bike the Under the Radar trail for awesome views of Townsville’s northern coastline.
- Arm yourself with binoculars and tramp the wetland trails to see intriguing birdlife.

**Getting there**
Townsville Town Common is 500m off Cape Pallarenda Road, 2km from Rowes Bay. Cape Pallarenda is at the end of Cape Pallarenda Road, 5.5km from Rowes Bay.

**Safety**
Under the Radar and Smedley’s are narrow mountain bike trails—walkers and runners may share these trails but must give way to cyclists.

**Things to do**

**Mountain biking**
Ride 22km of easy (green) and intermediate (blue) trails. Rated intermediate, Under the Radar and Smedley’s trails suit experienced riders only and have black rated B lines. Lagoon, Freshwater and Shelly Beach trails are shared with walkers and rated easy—perfect for beginners!

**Wildlife spotting**
Spy comb-crested jacanas and plumed whistling ducks in the wetlands and spot double-barred finches and red-backed fairy-wrens in the grasslands. High in the open branches of overhead trees the acrobatic antics of the dollarbirds will entertain you. Watch brahminy kites and white-bellied sea-eagles scan for prey from above.

**Places to go**
1. **Forts walk**
   - 500m (45min). Grade: moderate
   - Explore the searchlight, gun emplacement and command tower remains of historic WWII Pallarenda Battery.

2. **Many Peaks track**
   - 5.7km (3hrs). Grade: difficult
   - Trek across the range to the summit of Mount Marlow enjoying 360 degree vistas of Townsville, the surrounding mountain ranges and the Coral Sea.

Bird hides
The Freshwater and Jacana bird hides and Payet’s Tower in Townsville Town Common Conservation Park are easy walks from your car.

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Magnetic Island National Park

Must dos
- Hike to a secluded bay, relax on the tropical sand and snorkel in tranquil water.
- Snap some ‘selfies’ with fabulously scenic backdrops when you explore the park’s walking trails.

Getting there
Catch the passenger or car ferry from Townsville for a 30min ride to Nelly Bay on the island. Drive your own vehicle around the island roads or hire a bike, car or scooter or catch a bus when you arrive.
Nelly Bay to Picnic Bay: 3.5km
Nelly Bay to Forts Junction: 4km

Things to do

Wildlife spotting
Search for koalas in gum trees along the Forts walk, spy allied rock-wallabies at dawn or dusk at Geoffrey Bay headland and watch birds of prey swooping for fish at any of the island’s beaches.

Be adventurous!
Hire a kayak or paddle your own around the island to secluded bays and beaches only accessible by boat. If you like a faster pace, hire a jet ski or for those wanting to explore the underwater world, take a guided snorkelling tour on the reefs surrounding the island.

See the vibrant colours of the Great Barrier Reef as you snorkel at Picnic, Arthur and Florence bays.

Places to go

1. Forts walk
4km return (1.5hrs). Grade: moderate
From the Forts Junction, discover the fascinating WWII history of the island and enjoy brilliant 360 degree views. This is also one of the best places to spot a koala in the trees beside the walking track.

2. Florence Bay track
3.6km return (1hr). Grade: moderate
Beginning at the Forts Junction, experience restful quiet at this secluded tropical bay.

3. Hawkings Point track
1.2km return (1hr). Grade: moderate
At Picnic Bay climb to the top of the headland for views over Cleveland Bay, to Townsville and beyond.

Places to stay
You can’t camp in the park but the island offers many different accommodation options such as hotels, holiday houses and backpacker hostels.

Slow down to ‘Maggie time’ and relish the special experiences offered on this treasured island park, famed for its stunning scenery and its furry residents. Can you spot a koala? Northern Australia’s largest colony of koalas lives in the park.
Paluma Range National Park

**MUST DOS**
- Reinvigorate in the cool mountain air as you explore historic rainforest tracks.
- Frolic in the cool water of Little Crystal Creek near the historic stone-pitched bridge.

**GETTING THERE**
64km north of Townsville, turn off the Bruce Highway onto Mt Spec Road and follow the signs to Little Crystal Creek, Paluma (about 45mins from the highway along a narrow winding range road) and Big Crystal Creek (Paradise Waterhole). Turn off the Bruce Highway 23km south of Ingham onto Jourama Road and follow the signs for 5km to Jourama Falls day-use and camping areas.

**Escaping the heat of the coast and feel the temperature drop as you step into the cool rainforests of the Paluma Range.**

Don’t miss rainforest-cloaked Mount Spec’s crystal-clear cascades, stunning coastal views and the historic township of Paluma—‘village in the clouds’. Nearby Jourama Falls, with its picturesque waterfall framed by tropical woodland, is a low-key camping getaway. This birdwatchers’ paradise is the southern gateway to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

**THING TO DO**

- **Mountain biking**
  Pedal your way through cool rainforest to Paluma Dam via the unsealed Lake Paluma Road.

- **Wildlife spotting**
  Birdwatching is very rewarding—search for the elusive golden bowerbird in the Paluma rainforest. Spotlight for endangered mahogany gliders at night around Jourama Falls camping area.

**PLACES TO GO**

- Take a drive to picturesque **Little Crystal Creek** in Mount Spec and admire the historic stone-pitched bridge or dip your toes in the cool, crystal-clear water at **Paradise Waterhole** or the **Rocksides**.

- For a short stroll or a longer ramble through rich rainforest, head to the Paluma township. Enjoy amazing coastal views from **Witts** and **McClelland lookouts** or experience a water rush at **Birthday Creek Falls**.

After a pleasant hike through open woodland to a lookout, enjoy scenic views of the falls at Jourama.

Never jump or dive into Little Crystal Creek. Serious injuries and deaths have happened here.

**PLACES TO CAMP**

- Camp at **Big Crystal Creek** or **Jourama Falls** camping areas in shady woodland close to creeks with toilets and gas barbecues.

**SAFETY**

Stay on marked walking tracks. It’s easy to lose your way in the Paluma rainforest, which contains dangerous abandoned mining shafts, relics from tin mining days gone by.
Broadwater, Abergowrie State Forest

Enjoy a lazy afternoon picnic, a relaxing camping holiday, a quick dip, and lots of family fun, in Broadwater’s spacious grassy setting beside a waterhole.

Must dos
- Take a dip in the creek’s waterholes and feel your worries wash away.
- Enjoy a barbecue lunch in the forest but watch for crafty kookaburras intent on stealing your sausage!

Getting there
Turn off the Bruce Highway onto Hawkins Creek Road 3.5km north of Ingham and follow the signs for 44km to arrive at Broadwater day-use area.

Things to do
- Wildlife spotting
  Watch quietly for noisy pittas, wompoo pigeons and emerald doves in the rainforest. Spotlight at night for rufous owls, feathertail gliders and the infamous native white-tailed rat.

Places to go
1. Rainforest walk
   1.6km return (30min). Grade: easy
   Ramble through the rainforest to a magnificent large white fig tree.

2. Creek walk
   3km return (1hr). Grade: easy
   Wander through eucalypt and creek-side forest to pools along Broadwater Creek, upstream from the swimming hole.

Places to camp
Broadwater camping area 1 is a large grassy area with some private nodes set among tall open forest, beside the creek. Toilets and gas barbecues are provided and campfires are allowed.

Safety
Bullrouts (venomous freshwater stonefish) live in Broadwater Creek—wear shoes when swimming (see page 27).
Girringun National Park

MUST DOS
- Snap a ‘selfie’ at Wallaman Falls where Stony Creek plummets into a cloud of mist in the river below.
- Reconnect with nature as you camp at Blencoe Falls. Throw a line into the creek and toast a marshmallow over an open fire under a sparkling night sky.
- Share space with the locals—a platypus feeding in Stony Creek, a bandicoot nosing around your camp site, or even a cassowary rambling through the rainforest.

GETTING THERE
Wallaman Falls is 51km west of Ingham. Drive 8.7km along Ingham–Abergowrie Road to Trebonne and follow the signs to the park. Allow 1.5hrs for this drive through rural areas and up a narrow winding range road.

You need a 4WD to visit Blencoe Falls. Drive 10km north of Cardwell along the Bruce Highway and turn onto Kennedy Creek Road. Travel for 6km then turn onto Kirrama Range Road and follow the signs to the camping area. The roads from here are unsealed, winding and narrow—allow 2hrs for this drive.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Dalrymple Gap track blazed by early explorer George Dalrymple follows a path Aboriginal people used to collect food and attend cultural activities.

Relax in a riverside bush camp, hike in the footsteps of an enterprising explorer or gaze in awe at two of Australia’s most spectacular waterfalls, plummeting dramatically off the Great Dividing Range.

Wallaman Falls, Australia’s highest single-drop waterfall, plunges spectacularly from a 268m high cliff top. To the north-west, Blencoe Falls tumbles 90m, then another 230m into the base of an impressive gorge before it rushes towards the Herbert River.

Featuring wild terrain of rugged forest-clad ridge tops, untamed rivers, imposing gorges and quintessential Aussie bushland, this park is the place where coastal rainforest meets the western savanna.

THINGS TO DO
- Wildlife spotting
Spotlight for gliders high in the treetops around your camp site—amazingly all of Australia’s six glider species live in this park. Bandicoots and musky rat-kangaroos frequent camps at night—remember not to feed them!

- Fishing
Fish in the park’s creeks and rivers. Fishing regulations apply (see page 27). Be aware that estuarine crocodiles live in the water below Blencoe Falls. Be croc wise! (see page 27).

SAFETY
Take care around cliffs, steep slopes and rock faces along tracks and at lookouts.

Be croc wise in croc country
See page 27.

Did you know?
The Dalrymple Gap track blazed by early explorer George Dalrymple follows a path Aboriginal people used to collect food and attend cultural activities.
Places to go

Around Wallaman

1. Banggurru walk
800m return (45min). Grade: easy
Wander through the rainforest on the banks of Stony Creek. Look in the water for platypus, eastern water dragons or saw-shelled turtles.

2. Wallaman Falls lookout
Gaze in awe at the spectacular falls as Stony Creek plunges into the gorge below.

3. Djyinda walk
3.2km return (2hrs). Grade: moderate
Walk to the base of the gorge to experience Wallaman Falls from below.

Around Blencoe

4. Blencoe Falls and Herbert River Gorge lookouts
400m return (20min). Grade: easy
See Blencoe Creek tumble over the scenic falls and race into the Herbert River Gorge.

5. Jabali walk
5km return (2hrs). Grade: moderate
Discover the delights of open eucalypt forest as you meander from the Blencoe Falls camping area to the Blencoe Falls lookout and car park.

Around Abergowie

6. Dalrymple Gap walking track
10km (6hrs). Grade: difficult
Follow in the footsteps of Aboriginal people and early settlers as you cross the Cardwell Range. Arrange for a vehicle to meet you at the opposite end of the walk or just walk shorter sections from either end of the track and return the way you came.

Places to camp

1. Wallaman Falls camping area
is set amongst tall shady woodland close to Stony Creek. Camp sites are grassed, toilets and gas barbecues are provided and campfires are allowed.

2. Blencoe Falls camping area
lies beside Blencoe Creek in open woodland. Toilets are provided and campfires are allowed.

Wet Tropics Great Walk
Interested in a multi-day hike? See spectacular waterfalls, deep gorges and amazing views on this Great Walk. Check it out at queenslandnationalparks.com.au
Hinchinbrook Island National Park

MUST DOS

- Hike up Nina Peak and enjoy the breathtaking view over the east coast of the island with no sign of civilisation in sight.
- Swim at pristine Zoe Falls then bask on a warm granite boulder with the local skinks as you dry off.
- Challenge yourself on the Thorsborne Trail to discover untouched wilderness and stunning vistas around every corner.
- Fish the famed Hinchinbrook Channel for a big barra while you spot crocodiles, dugong, turtles and dolphins sharing the unspoilt waterway.

GETTING THERE

Launch your own boat or travel with a tourist operator from Dungeness (24km east of Ingham) or Cardwell. Hinchinbrook is about 5km offshore of the mainland. You can’t take vehicles or mountain bikes onto the island—the only means of getting around is on foot or by vessel from bay to bay.

Feel your heart beat to nature’s rhythm as you climb rugged mountain slopes, explore the forested depths and wander the sweeping beaches of Hinchinbrook’s world-renowned wilderness.

Home to the iconic Thorsborne Trail, Hinchinbrook Island is a wild paradise rising dramatically from the surrounding Great Barrier Reef waters. Boasting craggy mountain peaks, wind-swept heathlands, lush rainforest, untouched beaches and crystal-water creeks, the island is rich in varied landscapes waiting for discovery.

Aboriginal people lived on the island for thousands of years. Remaining middens and fish traps tell of their lives spent caring for and being sustained by the island’s cultural landscape.

THINGS TO DO

Walk the Thorsborne Trail

If you have 4–7 days to spare, you can explore the breathtaking wilderness of Hinchinbrook Island on this world renowned trail. Walker numbers are limited. Obtain your camping permit well in advance and be very well prepared. Find out more at queenslandnationalparks.com.au/hinchinbrook

Kayaking

Paddle around the eastern side of the island and soak up the stunning views, visit deserted beaches and look for turtles, dolphins and dugong. Take your own kayak or book a guided tour. Check the weather forecast before you set off.

Fishing

Try your luck for a fresh barramundi dinner in the Hinchinbrook Channel or at Missionary Bay. Fishing regulations and marine park zoning restrictions apply (see page 27).

Safety

Be well prepared for your visit to Hinchinbrook Island. It is remote and there are no facilities. Mobile phone coverage is unreliable—consider taking a satellite phone and a personal locator beacon (PLB).

Be croc wise in croc country (see page 27).
**Places to camp**

North [1] and South Macushla [2] camping areas are shady with easy boat access. Toilets are provided at both areas. South Macushla is an ideal base for fishing in Missionary Bay.

The Haven camping area [3] is sheltered, has a toilet and is an excellent base for fishing the Hinchinbrook Channel. Be crocodile wise and remain behind the crocodile barriers at all times.

Numerous camping areas are located at the beaches and bays on the eastern side of the island for Thorsborne Trail walkers, sea kayakers and visitors with private vessels.

**Places to go**

Zoe Falls is a 1km easy walk from South Zoe Bay camping and day-use areas. Refresh in the cool water then follow the trail another 225m to the top of the falls for a breathtaking view over Zoe Bay. The return trip back to South Zoe Bay is about 30mins.

Missionary Bay should be on every angler’s bucket list. With eight mangrove-lined channels to choose from and extensive estuarine flats, the ‘big one’ is never far away! Take your own boat and camp at South Macushla or book a local charter vessel to find all the secret spots.

George Point is an easy boat or kayak trip from Lucinda. Enjoy the beach and blue water views from the southern end of the island.

**Ranger’s tip**

“Revel in the beauty and magic of Hinchinbrook. I grew up here, have worked on Hinchinbrook for over 10 years and I’m still captivated every time I visit the island.”

Ranger Emma

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*Photos: (left) © Garry Hutcheson; (above and top) Tamara Vallance © Qld Govt*
Girramay National Park

Must Dos

- Enjoy a stroll at Wreck Creek beach, strewn with large driftwood from nearby swamps.
- Delight in a misty spritz on the boardwalk as water tumbles over huge granite slabs at Murray Falls.

Getting There

Edmund Kennedy section is 4km along Clift Road. Turn off the Bruce Highway 4km north of Cardwell.

To access Murray Falls section travel 21km north of Cardwell and turn west onto Bilyana Road. Follow the signs for 20km to Murray Falls camping and day-use areas.

Safety

Bullrouts (venomous freshwater stonefish) live in Murray River—wear shoes when swimming at Murray Falls day-use area (see page 27).

Be careful around Murray Falls. Serious injuries and deaths have happened. Obey all safety signs. Swim in the designated swimming area.

Be croc wise in croc country at Edmund Kennedy. (see page 27).

Things to Do

Wildlife spotting

Look for orange-footed scrubfowl tending their raked mounds of leaves and sticks at Edmund Kennedy, and grazing wallabies at Murray Falls camping area.

Places to Camp

Camp at Murray Falls camping area 1, an open grassy area with shady trees.

Places to Go

At Edmund Kennedy

1. Wreck Creek walk
   2.5km (1.5hrs). Grade: easy

At Murray Falls

2. Murray Falls day-use area
   Take a dip in the cold waters of the Murray River surrounded by rainforest then dry off with a picnic in the shady day-use area.

3. River boardwalk
   300m return (10min). Grade: easy
   Stroll along this pleasant, easy walk to the river to view the cascading Murray Falls.

4. Yalgay Ginja Bulumi walk
   1.8km return (1.5hrs). Grade: moderate
   Learn about Aboriginal culture on this walk through the rainforest to a lookout over the falls.
**Tully Gorge National Park**

**Must Dos**
- Challenge your limits and try whitewater rafting—strap on your helmet, hold on tight and enjoy the ride!
- Enjoy a lazy afternoon picnic and refreshing swim at Alligators Nest.

**Getting There**
Tully Gorge is a 41km drive west of Tully via Jarra Creek and Cardstone roads.
Drive a further 12km along Cardstone and Cochable Creek/H roads to Cochable Creek camping area.
To access Alligators Nest day-use area drive 6km north from Tully via Murray Street and Bulgan and Lizzio roads.
Mount Tyson walking track begins at the end of Brannigan Street in Tully.

**Places to Camp**
- **Tully Gorge camping area** beside Tully River, is suitable for tents, caravans and motorhomes and has picnic tables, cold showers and wheelchair accessible toilets.
- **Cochable Creek camping area** has picnic tables and a toilet, is for tents only and is the trailhead for the Misty Mountains wilderness tracks.

**Things to Do**

1. **Wildlife spotting**
Take the Butterfly walk to see colourful and varied butterflies including tailed emperors, banded demons and Ulysses. The warmer months of September to February are best for butterfly spotting. Don’t forget to look up!

2. **Alligators Nest day-use area** has a swimming platform, picnic tables, toilets and a gas barbecue.
3. **Butterfly walk** 375m return (20min). Grade: easy
Wander through tropical rainforest spotting tropical butterflies along the way.
4. **Mount Tyson** 4km return (4hrs). Grade: difficult
Climb the very steep hillside to the 678m summit overlooking Tully and the coastline.

**Did You Know?**
Alligators Nest day-use area is named after a local scout group—not the reptile—and it is a great place for a swim!

**Safety**
Water released from the dam upstream can cause river levels to rise rapidly without warning. Do not enter the water at Tully Gorge.

Be croc wise in croc country. Do not swim at Tully Gorge camping and day-use areas, estuarine crocodiles may be present.

Get your adrenaline pumping in the wilds of Tully Gorge and feel the whitewater rush in one of Australia’s wettest places.
Lush vegetation, boulder-strewn waters and spectacular rainforest views await you. The mighty Tully River dominates the landscape, plunging from the hillslopes high above and forming roaring rapids as it races towards the coast.

Interested in a remote rainforest hike? Check out the Misty Mountain wilderness tracks at queenslandnationalparks.com.au
Djiru and Clump Mountain national parks

**MUST DOS**
- Wander in the dappled shade under the beautiful splayed fronds of rare palms on the Fan Palm walk in Djiru National Park.
- From Bicton Hill lookout in Clump Mountain National Park admire the expansive coastal views, just as the Djiru Aboriginal people have done for many years.

**GETTING THERE**

**Djiru National Park**
Licuala day-use area in Djiru National Park is at the end of an unsealed road off Tully-Mission Beach road about 8km south-west of Mission Beach. Turn off Tully-Mission Beach road at the sign. To access Lacey Creek day-use area drive 7.5km west from Mission Beach along El Arish-Mission Beach Road.

**Clump Mountain National Park**
Access to the car park for Bicton Hill walking track is 4.3km north of Mission Beach on Alexander Drive.

**PlACES TO GO**
From Licuala day-use area enjoy a 1.3km return wander through a fan palm forest on the Fan Palm walk 1. Kids—find the cassowary nest on the 400m Children’s walk 2. Mountain bike or hike the 6km one-way Musgravea track 3.

From Lacey Creek day-use area look for saw-shelled turtles on the 1.5km return Lacey Creek walk 4 or explore the 3.2km Dreaming trail 5.

**Bicton Hill track**
3.9km return (2.5hrs). Grade: moderate
Climb Bicton Hill for amazing blue-water views of Dunk Island and beyond.

**PLACES TO STAY**
You can’t camp in the park but there are many accommodation options at Mission Beach. Find out more at tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au

**SAFETY**
Remember to be cass-o-wary, see page 27 for details.

Wander through lowland rainforest and rare fan palm forest. Now surrounded by agricultural land, these parks are a refuge rich in tropical forest life and Aboriginal cultural history.

**THINGS TO DO**

- **Wildlife spotting**
  Look for cassowaries roaming through the rainforest or lace monitors scrambling up tree trunks.

- **Mountain biking**
  Cycle the easy 6km Musgravea trail, an old logging road in days gone by.

Roam through lush fan palm forest, soak up exquisite tropical island views and spot an iconic cassowary, all a stone’s throw from Mission Beach.

Wander through the dappled shade under the beautiful splayed fronds of rare palms on the Fan Palm walk in Djiru National Park.
Eubenangee Swamp and Russell River national parks

**MUST DOS**
- Feel the excitement of spotting a croc or watching waterbirds at Eubenangee Swamp.
- Revel in the solitude of your beach-side camp at Graham Range camping area.

**GETTING THERE**

**Eubenangee Swamp National Park**
From Babinda, drive 6.7km south on the Bruce Highway then turn east onto Bramston Beach Road. Travel 7.3km, turn onto Cartwright Road and drive 1.3km to the Eubenangee Swamp car park.

**Russell River National Park**
If you have a 4WD—continue on Bramston Beach Road to Bramston Beach, turn north onto Sassafras Street and drive 5.5km to the park and Graham Range camping area.

**THINGS TO DO**

**Wildlife spotting**
See resident and migratory waterbirds such as black-necked storks and spoonbills at the globally-significant waterbird habitat of Eubenangee Swamp.

**Fishing**
Fish in the Russell River, its tributaries and along the coastal section of the park. Fishing regulations and marine park zoning restrictions apply (see page 27).

**Be croc wise in croc country**
(see page 27)

**Places to go**

**Swamp walk**
1.5km return (30min). Grade: easy
Thread through rainforest and ascend a grassy hill for views over Eubenangee Swamp.

**Places to camp**

**Graham Range camping area**
is a secluded spot by the beach, surrounded by paperbark and mangrove forests for self-sufficient campers. There are no facilities but campfires are allowed.

Spot crocs and waterbirds in a scenic paperbark swamp. Fish a pristine coastal river or sit back, relax and watch a brilliant sunrise from a beach-side camp.

Rich in coastal wetlands, lowland rainforest and mangrove-fringed tidal rivers, these coastal parks are set against the scenic backdrop of Bartle Frere and Bellenden Ker, Queensland’s two highest peaks.

(Below) Graham Range camping area; (top right) Intermediate egret

Photos: (above) © Les Jackson; (top right, Egret photo) © Greg Watson; (top right, background photo) © Qld Govt
Wooroonooran National Park

**MUST DOS**
- Admire the view from Crawfords lookout then tick off a few waterfalls in the Palmerston.
- Be mesmerised at Josephine Falls as you watch the clear cold waters thundering down from the 1622m summit of Bartle Frere.
- Tackle the exhilarating heights of 922m Walshs Pyramid for outstanding views over the coastal lowlands.
- Set up camp in Goldsborough Valley where you (and your kids) can swim, fish, paddle, explore and relax to your heart’s content.

**GETTING THERE**
Turn west off the Bruce Highway 5km north of Innisfail onto the Palmerston Highway and travel 27km to the Palmerston section of the park. Mamu Tropical Skywalk, Crawfords lookout, Henrietta Creek camping area and various walking tracks are all accessed off the Palmerston Highway.
To visit Josephine Falls, turn west off the Bruce Highway 8km south of Babinda onto Bartle Frere Road and follow the signs to the car park.
To access Walshs Pyramid turn west off the Bruce Highway 24km south of Cairns onto Moss Road and follow the signs for 500m.
Goldsborough Valley camping area is accessible via the Gillies Highway from Gordonvale, south of Cairns. Drive 6km to the Goldsborough Valley turn-off then travel 16km through farms and cane fields.

Breathe in the rainforest-filtered air and refresh body and soul as you explore the depths and heights of Wooroonooran, in the heart of Queensland’s Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Wooroonooran stretches along the coastal hinterland from Innisfail to Gordonvale. In the south, you can explore the rugged rainforest-clad mountain slopes, gorges and sparkling waterfalls of the Palmerston. Marvel at Queensland’s highest peak, Bartle Frere, the birthplace of Josephine Creek, which becomes the cascading Josephine Falls. In the north, the distinctive landmark of Walshs Pyramid and the picturesque Goldsborough Valley along the Mulgrave River will impress you.

**Hot tip!**
Explore the Mamu Tropical Skywalk and venture into the rainforest canopy on elevated walkways and an observation tower.

**Things to do**

- **Wildlife spotting**
  Look for musky rat-kangaroos and emerald doves foraging on the forest floor and rainforest birds and brilliant butterflies flitting through the forest canopy. Spot azure kingfishers swooping down to the water or spy jungle perch, rainbowfish, and long-finned eels below the river surface.

- **Canoeing**
  Launch your canoe into the Mulgrave River from the Goldsborough Valley camping or day-use area.

- **Mountain biking**
  Mountain bike 8km of the Goldfield trail between Goldsborough Valley camping area and the East Mulgrave causeway, then return the same way. Bikes are not permitted on the causeway or on the trail east of the causeway.

- **Fishing**
  Fish in the Mulgrave River. Fishing regulations apply (see page 27).
PLACES TO CAMP

Henrietta Creek camping area is nestled beside Henrietta Creek with grassy camp sites tucked into pockets of rainforest. Caravan access, toilets and gas barbecues are provided.

South Johnstone camping area lies deep in the rainforest near the South Johnstone River. Sheltered picnic tables and toilets are provided.

Goldsborough Valley camping area beside the Mulgrave River has open, grassy camp sites. Toilets and gas barbecues are provided and campfires are allowed.

PLACES TO GO

Around the south

1. Josephine Falls walking track
   1.2km return (30mins). Grade: easy
   Walk through lush tropical rainforest to viewing platforms overlooking Josephine Falls. Wheelchair access is possible to the top platform.
   Water conditions here are hazardous and unpredictable. Serious injuries and deaths have happened. Obey all safety signs. Swim in the designated swimming area.

2. Bartle Frere trail
   15km (2 days). Grade: difficult
   Not for the faint-hearted, this strenuous trail climbs to the Bartle Frere summit. A 10km return walk—Broken Nose trail—is a shorter but still difficult alternative to explore the mountain.

3. Palmerston walking tracks
   From 800m to 6km in length, numerous tracks begin at Crawfords lookout, Gooligans picnic area and Henrietta Creek camping area along the Palmerston Highway in the Palmerston section of the park. Discover dense rainforest, sparkling waterfalls, crystal-clear creeks, wildlife and lookouts with stupendous views.

   Avoid stinging trees—plants with large heart-shaped leaves with serrated edges—touching the leaves will cause an extremely painful sting (see page 27). Wear repellent and protective clothing to discourage leeches and stinging march flies.

4. Walshs Pyramid walking track
   6km return (6hrs). Grade: difficult
   A steep rocky track to the summit of the pyramid-shaped mountain rewards walkers with 360 degree views of the surrounding tropical landscape.

5. Wajil walk
   1.7km return (1.5hrs). Grade: easy
   Uncover the stories of the local Aboriginal people as you meander through the rainforest to the scenic Kearneys Falls.

6. Goldfield trail
   19km (9hrs). Grade: moderate
   Follow a historic gold prospecting trail over a saddle in the Bellenden Ker Range. You can also take mountain bikes on the trail between Goldsborough Valley and the Mulgrave River causeway.
Smithfield and Mount Whitfield Conservation Parks

Must Dos
- Ride your mountain bike, or just take a walk, on Smithfield’s shady and easy shared trails.
- Join Cairns locals as they stroll, power-walk and jog on Mount Whitfield’s popular trails.

Getting There
Smithfield
Smithfield Conservation Park is 11km north of Cairns off the Captain Cook Highway. Access the park via McGregor Road, Panguna Street (via Arawa Street) or Moore Road (via Discovery Drive).

Captain Cook Highway to McGregor Road entrance: 1km
Captain Cook Highway to Panguna Street entrance (via Arawa Street): 500m
Captain Cook Highway to Moore Road entrance (via Discovery Drive): 1km

Mount Whitfield
Mount Whitfield Conservation Park is 5km north of Cairns. Turn off the Captain Cook Highway onto Collins Avenue and drive 400m to the car park and walking track entrance.

The two walking track entrances are near the Botanical Gardens Visitor Centre and Tanks Art Centre.

Things to Do

Wildlife spotting
Look for spectacled monarchs and Macleay’s fig-parrots in the foliage, and noisy pittas and orange-footed scrubfowls on the forest floor at Smithfield.

Mountain biking
At Smithfield, ride more than 12km of cross-country and downhill rainforest trails suitable for beginners to world-class athletes.

Mount Whitfield

1. Red Arrow circuit
1.5km return (1hr). Grade: moderate
Walk through rainforest and open forest on Lumley Hill and soak up the scenic views of Cairns and the coast at Mount Whitfield.

2. Blue Arrow circuit
6.6km return (5hrs). Grade: moderate
A steep track through rainforest and open grassland. Climb to the Lumley Hill summit for views from Red Peak to Green Island.

3. Green Arrow
3km (1.5hrs). Grade: moderate
Climb a steep ridgeline to the 364m summit of Mount Whitfield.

Places to Go

Mount Whitfield

1. Red Arrow circuit
1.5km return (1hr). Grade: moderate
Walk through rainforest and open forest on Lumley Hill and soak up the scenic views of Cairns and the coast at Mount Whitfield.

2. Blue Arrow circuit
6.6km return (5hrs). Grade: moderate
A steep track through rainforest and open grassland. Climb to the Lumley Hill summit for views from Red Peak to Green Island.

3. Green Arrow
3km (1.5hrs). Grade: moderate
Climb a steep ridgeline to the 364m summit of Mount Whitfield.

Explore surprising trails winding through rainforest and open forest close to the city—a mountain bikers’ and trail runners’ (or walkers’) paradise!

Up for a challenge? Smithfield is home to internationally-renowned mountain bike trails, ranging from easy meandering paths to extreme downhill trails. If you prefer a good walk then climb through rainforest and open forest on Lumley Hill and soak up the scenic views of Cairns and the coast at Mount Whitfield.
Tropical island national parks

**MUST DOS**
- Don mask and snorkel and be enthralled at the diversity, movement and colour of the Great Barrier Reef!
- Wander secluded sandy shores and have a picnic on the beach with only shorebirds for company.

**GETTING THERE**
You can get to all the island parks with your own boat or with a tourist operator from neighbouring towns on the mainland. See queensland.com for more information.

On the islands, explore the walking tracks on foot. You can’t take vehicles or mountain bikes onto the islands (except for Magnetic Island).

**Things to do**

**Wildlife spotting**
Look for dolphins, dugong and turtles from your boat, watch shorebirds feeding on the water’s edge and birds of prey soaring overhead. Spot humpback whales during the whale watching season (June to November).

**Snorkelling**
Thrill to the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef—snorkel off the beaches around Orpheus, Family, Barnard, Frankland, Green and Fitzroy island national parks.

**Boating**
Explore the blue tropical waters and many secluded beaches with your own boat. Reduce your speed in seagrass areas—dugongs feed here.

**Fishing**
Fish off the beaches or from your boat—golden snapper, barred javelin and trevally are likely catches. Marine park zoning and fishing regulations apply (see page 27).

**Places to camp**
Orpheus, Goold, Family, Barnard and Frankland island national parks have camping areas. You need to be totally self-sufficient when camping on these islands. See queenslandnationalparks.com.au for more information.

**Safety**

Dangerous stinging jellyfish may be present in coastal waters at any time. A full-body lycra suit may provide good protection or avoid swimming during the warmer months (see page 27).

If you are not a confident swimmer please wear a personal flotation device while snorkelling.

Be croc wise in croc country (see page 27).

Be pest-free—keep the Great Barrier Reef islands free from pests and disease (see page 27).

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Find your own personal paradise on a tropical island as you relax on sun-kissed sands lapped by the sparkling waters of the Great Barrier Reef.

Like green jewels, the Great Barrier Reef’s tropical islands float on vibrant azure seas. High forested slopes, secluded beaches nestled between rocky headlands, and colourful fringing reefs characterise most island parks, while Green Island is a tiny coral cay cloaked with rainforest.
Camping in parks

To camp in national parks and state forests along the tropical coast, you need to book your camp sites and purchase camping permits before you arrive. It’s best to book well in advance as camp sites in popular parks are in high demand during peak periods such as long weekends and school holidays.

How to book a camp site

- go to qld.gov.au/camping using a payment card or online Gift Card
- visit an over-the-counter permit booking office accepting cash, eftpos and payment card or use a self-service kiosk. Locations are listed at npsr.qld.gov.au/experiences/over-counter-permits

Using generators

In some parks, you can use generators that operate at a noise level less than 65dB(A) when measured at a distance of 7m from the generator. When booking your camp site, check whether generators are permitted in your selected camping area and note specified operating times.

Stay informed

Regularly check:
- park alerts at npsr.qld.gov.au/park-alerts for conditions and closures
- bushfire alerts at qfes.qld.gov.au for fire danger and fire bans
- current and forecast weather conditions at bom.gov.au
- traffic and travel information at 131940.qld.gov.au for road conditions.

Other places to stay

For accommodation options outside national parks visit townsvenorthqueensland.com.au and tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au
BE SAFE

• In an emergency, dial Triple Zero (000) or 112 with a digital or satellite mobile phone.
• Keep to the walking tracks. Stay back from cliff edges. Take care on uneven slippery track surfaces, especially when wet.
• Wear sunscreen, a hat, protective clothing and sturdy footwear and always carry water.
• Never dive or jump into the water. It may be shallower than it looks and there could be hidden, submerged objects. Supervise children around water.
• Venemous stinging fish called bullrouts live in some rivers and creeks. Wear sandshoes or similar footwear when wading or swimming.
• Beware of stinging trees. The heart-shaped leaves, stems and red fruits of these shrubby plants are covered with tiny silica hairs which inject toxins. The very painful sting can persist for months. If stung, and symptoms are severe, seek medical advice.
• Dangerous stinging jellyfish (‘stingers’) may be present in tropical coastal waters at any time, but occur more frequently in the warmer months. A full-body lycra suit or equivalent may provide protection against stinging jellyfish and sunburn.
• If you are not a confident swimmer please wear a personal flotation device while snorkelling.
• Check weather forecasts before heading to parks, especially islands. Parks can be closed in extreme conditions.
• Obey all directional and safety signs.
• Do not enter restricted access areas—they exist for your safety.

BE RESPONSIBLE

Fishing

Fishing regulations apply to fishing and collecting in national and marine parks. For details visit Fisheries Queensland at fisheries.qld.gov.au

All waters adjacent to coastal national parks are protected within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park. Check marine park zoning maps and fishing information at gbrmpa.qld.gov.au

Carving for Parks

• Avoid disturbing animals and plants.
• Leave your pets at home.
• Don’t feed wildlife or leave food or scraps around camp sites or picnic areas.
• Light campfires responsibly using existing fire rings. Put your campfire out with water.
• Be pest-free—remove soil, seeds, parts of plants, insects, eggs, lizards, toads, rats and mice from your camping gear, clothes, shoes and vessels before visiting an island park.
• Don’t place rubbish or contents of chemical toilet tanks in the toilets.
• Camp only in the sites provided.
• Minimise your use of soaps and detergents near waterways.
• Where toilets are not provided, bury human waste and toilet paper at least 15cm deep and 100m away from camp sites, tracks and watercourses.

BE CROC WISE

The Tropic Coast is crocodile country.
• Don’t be ambushed—stay out of the water and away from the water’s edge, especially when fishing.
• Watch children closely—they can be easily distracted and may forget the potential danger.
• Camp as far from the water as possible—make it difficult for a crocodile to visit your camp.
• Don’t leave food scraps or fish waste around—this attracts crocodiles and endangers lives.
• Never approach, feed or harass crocodiles—stay well away!

BE CASS-O-WARY

The wet tropics coast is home to the cassowary—Australia’s largest rainforest animal. This bird can cause serious injuries to people.
• Never approach cassowaries.
• Never approach chicks—male cassowaries will defend them.
• Never feed cassowaries—it is illegal and dangerous and has caused cassowary deaths.
• Always discard food scraps in closed bins.
• Always slow down when driving in cassowary territory.
• Never stop your vehicle on the road to look at cassowaries.

Photo: Paul Candlin © Qld Govt
Connect with Queensland National Parks
queenslandnationalparks.com.au
book at qld.gov.au/camping
facebook.com/qldnationalparks
@QldParks #QldParks

Useful contacts
For help planning your holiday, visit queensland.com

Tourism information:
Townsville Enterprise Pty Ltd
townsvillenorthqueensland.com.au

Tourism Tropical North Queensland
tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au

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