Welcome to Tamborine National Park

Take a scenic escape into the Gold Coast Hinterland and lose yourself in the shade of subtropical rainforest thick with piccabeen palms. Walk past white-washed flooded gums and silvery eucalypt trees, letting the fresh mountain air revitalise every step. Admire spectacular views from numerous lookouts, have a family picnic or barbecue, or enjoy strolling one of many bushwalks on offer. See red-necked pademelons bound across the forest floor and large land mullets bask in warm patches of sunlight. Peaceful waterfalls and tranquil pools offer the perfect place to stop, rest and take in the natural mountain surrounds. Take a break from the golden coast and escape to the heart of the hinterland at Tamborine National Park.

Tamborine National Park offers a smorgasbord of landscapes and environments to explore. You can choose from subtropical rainforest with lush palm groves, open eucalypt forest with grassy understoreys and deep weathered gorges with trickling mountain streams. With spectacular views to the west and its added history of being Queensland’s first national park, it truly does have something for everyone. Being a diverse and popular park, within just an hour’s drive of the tourism hub of the Gold Coast, presents us with some management challenges. Maintaining visitor facilities while protecting the park’s special natural values, in an area with a growing population, is a balancing act. But this park provides a beautiful and unique office, there’s nowhere else I’d rather work!

Ranger in Charge Mark Patenaude on behalf of the Tamborine Park Rangers

Exploring the plateau

Located only one hour’s drive from Brisbane, Tamborine National Park is a lush mountain plateau nestled in the Gold Coast Hinterland. The park protects precious remnants of subtropical rainforest, wet eucalypt forest, open eucalypt forest and woodland. Basalt columns, cliffs, rocky outcrops and waterfalls are a 23 million year old legacy of the Tweed shield volcano. The park is on the northern end of the biggest erosion caldera in the southern hemisphere and one of the largest on Earth!

The Witches Falls section of the park was declared in 1908, making it Queensland’s first national park. Over the years additional reserves have been declared and today the park is made up of 14 sections of land, protecting over 2000ha. There are six park sections with walks to explore—MacDonald, Witches Falls, Cedar Creek, Palm Grove, The Knoll and Joalah. Other sections forming the park include Lepidozamia Grove, Panorama Point, Pirralilla, Guanaba, North Tamborine, Corbould and Dunlop.

MacDonald section

Visit a quiet pocket of subtropical rainforest, where birdlife abounds in the ferny understorey and tangled canopy of vines. Surrounded by urban development, this small oasis of land was donated by Miss Jessie MacDonald in 1933. MacDonald section is on Wongawallen Road, off Tamborine–Oxenford Road. There is a small car park for visitors to use.

MacDonald rainforest circuit

Experience towering strangler figs and lush groves of banjan piccabeen palms along this short rainforest walk.
Witches Falls section
Visit Queensland’s first national park. Be enthralled by towering basalt boulders, large red cedar trees, palm and cycad groves and panoramic views from the western side of the plateau. Trace the footsteps of folklore—local children once believed this forest was haunted by witches and giants. Witches Falls section is located on Main Western Road. Parking is suitable for larger vehicles at the southern end of the picnic area.

Witches Falls circuit
Descend through rainforest featuring giant bujei strangler figs, seasonal lagoons and banjan piccabeen palm groves to the lookout platform beside Witches Falls. After rain, view the waterfall flowing over basalt cliffs into the valley below.

Witches Chase track
Branching off the Witches Falls circuit, this track leads to Witches Chase entry off Beacon Road. Pass Witches Falls lookout as you explore eucalypt forest and rainforest featuring large red cedar trees. Return along the same track to rejoin the circuit.

Palm Grove section
Escape to the cool, dappled forest at Palm Grove, where you’ll discover biyan pademelons, banjan piccabeen palms and cathedral buttress roots. Palm Grove Avenue is the main access point for the walking tracks but you can also enter from Curtis Road. Parking for buses and caravans is not available.

Palm Grove circuit
Explore the lush and diverse world of subtropical rainforest on this shady walk. Discover peaceful palm groves, giant bujei (strangler figs), immense buttress roots and fascinating fungi along the way.

Jenyns circuit
Incorporating Palm Grove circuit, this walk branches into the mountain’s drier eucalypt forest. Walk through stands of bimbil hoop pines, brush box, grey gums and a grove of ancient burrawang cycads. Sections of this track travel close to steep cliff edges, so please stay on the track and watch children at all times.

The Knoll section
Enjoy a barbecue picnic in this lovely setting nestled among tall open eucalypt forest. Marvel at sweeping views out to Flinders Peak and Brisbane from the northern edge of the picnic area.

Cedar Creek section
With waterfalls and a large, grassy picnic area, it’s easy to see why Cedar Creek is a popular family destination. Listen to rushing cascades and birdlife chirping overhead. Cedar Creek section is located on Cedar Creek Falls Road. Parking is available in the designated car spaces only. There is no access for large buses, caravans and motorhomes.

Cedar Creek Falls lookout track
Take a walk to Cedar Creek Falls and admire views of the gorge and waterfalls. The track to the lookout is suitable for strollers and wheelchairs with assistance.

Cedar Creek Falls track to rock pools
From Cedar Creek Falls lookout, descend through eucalypt forest and dry rainforest to the rock pools below. There are many steps on this walk, so be prepared for an uphill climb on your return.

Sandy Creek circuit
Explore lush rainforest with towering man-garagin flooded gums emerging through the canopy. Follow Sandy Creek to Cameron Falls lookout, where you’ll be rewarded with spectacular views of the waterfall and out across the valley to Brisbane, Mt Coot-tha and D’Aguilar Range. This track travels close to steep cliff edges, so please keep children close by.

Joalah section
View spectacular Curtis Falls plunging over basalt columns into a large rock pool, home to wajun platypus and a fragile ngari jalngay glow-worm colony. In winter, listen for the loud cries of the male kalbun Albert’s lyrebird calling for its mate. Joalah section is located at the headwaters of Cedar Creek and accessed from Dapsang Drive car park. Larger vehicle parking is available.

Eagle Heights Road access track
Take a short walk to explore rainforest on the outer edge of Joalah. The walk links to cafes and shops on Eagle Heights Road.

Curtis Falls track
This enchanting walk begins in wet eucalypt forest beneath towering man-garagin flooded gums. Feel the temperature drop as you descend into lush rainforest. Look up to a ceiling of beautiful jumbil crows nest and dumbin staghorn ferns growing in the canopy above. There are over 100 steps on this walk, so be prepared for the uphill return.

Lower creek circuit
Branching off Curtis Falls track, this circuit crosses Cedar Creek, passing rainforest, rock pools, cascades and a giant, fallen strangler fig. Beyond the bujei strangler fig, the track becomes more challenging with creek crossings that involve rock hopping.
Wildlife spotting

With its diverse forest vegetation, Tamborine National Park provides an essential wildlife refuge from surrounding urban and residential development.

Listen for strange gurgling sounds coming from the forest floor—these may be giant Tamborine earthworms, up to 1m long, travelling through their underground burrows. In summer, colourful jolangay-ngorian Richmond birdwing butterflies and jahwun-gawang noisy pittas add vibrancy to the forest greenery. Look around for wagun Australian brush-turkey mounds—a huge pile of leaf litter used to incubate eggs—scratched together by the tireless male.

While walking in the cooler months, you may be lucky enough to hear mimicry of the near-threatened kalbun Albert’s lyrebird (Menura alberti). The lyrebird mixes its own call—a mellow, far-crying ‘caw-cree-craw-wheat’—with other rainforest noises, including the calls of bowerbirds, nyimara whipbirds and bilin rosellas.

Freshwater creeks and rock pools provide the perfect sanctuary for taran cascade treefrogs, tusked frogs and jurun long-fin eels. At night, white-striped freetail bats come out to feed, flying above treetops as they hunt their insect prey. The park’s old growth trees provide hollows—essential nesting sites for bats, owls and gliders.

Stand on traditional land

Tamborine Mountain has long been the traditional land of the Yugambeh people—the traditional language group of Aboriginal people of this region. Rainforest plants and animals provided them with food and resources. Banjan piccabeen palm fronds made excellent baskets for carrying water, food or honey. The ngabul lawyer vine, also known as wait-a-while, was used for basket making after the spikes had been removed.

Yugambeh people still walk the land of their ancestors, telling stories and reminding visitors that this land is our shared heritage. Ngulli yanbalehla bu—we are still here.

Did you know?
The place name ‘Tamborine’ comes from the local Yugambeh word jambreen. It means wild lime and refers to the finger lime trees (Citrus australasica) that grow wild on the mountain and were eaten by the Yugambeh people as a tangy thirst quencher.
Other adventures

Horseriding
Ride your horse on designated trails in Corbould and Cedar Creek sections of the park. Most trails are intermediate-class with some steep sections and natural hazards such as loose gravel. Access is from Beaudesert–Beenleigh Road or Tamborine Mountain Road. Visit des.qld.gov.au/experiences/horse-trails for information about the SEQ horse riding trail network.

Overnight stays
Stay a little longer to give yourself time to see all that Tamborine has to offer. Camp at one of the private campgrounds on Tamborine Mountain or treat yourself to a stay at a range of holiday accommodation including hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts and cabins. For more information see visittamborinemountain.com.au or visitscenicrim.com.au

Getting there
Tamborine Mountain is about 80km south of Brisbane via Beenleigh and Tamborine Village or via the Pacific Highway and Oxenford–Tamborine Road.

Travelling north from the Gold Coast, Tamborine Mountain is 36km from Southport via the Pacific Highway and Oxenford–Tamborine Road or 28km from Nerang via Nerang–Beaudesert Road. From Canungra, take Tamborine Mountain Road for 8km.

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

Start your visit at the Tamborine Mountain Visitor Information Centre at Doughty Park, on the corner of Geissmann Drive and Main Western Road, North Tamborine.
## Walks at a glance

*Baugull yanbalehla. Have a good walk.*

### MacDonald section

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Walk time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MacDonald rainforest circuit</td>
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<td><img src="image1" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>1.4km return</td>
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### Witches Falls section

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Witches Falls circuit</td>
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<td><img src="image2" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>3.6km return</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witches Chase track</td>
<td>4</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>2.6km return</td>
<td>1hr</td>
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### Cedar Creek section

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<tr>
<td>Cedar Creek Falls lookout track</td>
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<td><img src="image4" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>500m return</td>
<td>15min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cedar Creek Falls track to rock pools</td>
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<td><img src="image5" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>1.1km return</td>
<td>30min</td>
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### Palm Grove section

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<tr>
<td>Palm Grove circuit</td>
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<td><img src="image6" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>2.7km circuit</td>
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<td>Jenyns circuit</td>
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<td><img src="image7" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>4.8km circuit</td>
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### The Knoll section

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<tr>
<td>Sandy Creek circuit</td>
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<td><img src="image8" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>2.6km circuit</td>
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Walking track classification

Walks at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>300 600m</td>
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<td>MacDonald section</td>
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<td></td>
<td>200m</td>
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<td>Jenyns circuit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witches Chase</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.1km</td>
<td>30min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wongawallan Road</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2.6km</td>
<td>1hr</td>
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<td>Cedar Creek section</td>
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<td>2.5km</td>
<td>1hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geissm Heights Road</td>
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<td>Point section</td>
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<td>Main Western Rd</td>
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<td>1 2 3 4km</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main W Rd</td>
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<td>Eagle Heights Rd</td>
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<td>Joalah</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rock pools</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Explore safely

Make your visit to the park memorable for the right reasons.

- Protect yourself—wear sturdy shoes, a hat, protective clothing and sunscreen.
- Wear insect repellent to prevent ticks and leeches.
- Bring your own drinking water. Creek water is unsuitable for drinking as it may contain organisms that can cause illness.
- Stay on the walking tracks and supervise children at all times, especially around lookouts and steep track edges.
- Never dive or jump into rivers, creeks or pools as they may be shallow or hide submerged debris, rocks or objects.
- Walk safely. Walk with a group and follow directions provided on signs to avoid getting lost. Tracks and steps can be slippery, especially after rain.
- Do not disturb snakes—give them space and wait for them to move on. Some snakes are dangerous. If bitten, seek medical attention immediately.
- Take care of your property. Do not leave valuables in parked cars in case of theft.

In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000) or 112 from a mobile phone. Mobile reception may be limited or unavailable.

Caring for Tamborine

*Nyah-nyah ngalingah gamaygay gaban.*

Take care of our wilderness.

- Leave your pets at home. No domestic animals are allowed in the national park. Horses are permitted only on designated horse trails in the park.
- Please take your rubbish home. There are no bins provided in the national park.
- Let animals find their natural food. Human food can make native animals susceptible to disease and can cause overpopulation and aggressive behaviour.
- Stay on the walking tracks. Shortcutting causes erosion, damages plants and can be dangerous on steep slopes.
- Please use gas barbecues provided. Lighting a fire in the national park is prohibited.
- Do not take or disturb plants and animals. Everything is protected.

Important safety information

- **Access to the Curtis Falls rock pool and the surrounding rock face is prohibited. Please observe the restricted access area notice. This is for the safety of visitors and the protection of glow-worm and platypus populations.**

- **Access to the Cedar Creek section is prohibited at night. The entry gate is closed and locked each evening. Between 1 October and 31 March, the gate is open from 6am to 8pm. Between 1 April and 30 September, it is open from 6am to 6pm.**

- **Access to the gorge at Cedar Creek is prohibited. Please observe the restricted access area notice. This is for the safety of visitors—serious injuries and deaths have occurred there.**

Legend for maps

- National park
- Restricted access area
- Seasonal lagoon
- Major sealed road
- Minor sealed road
- Walking track
- Information centre
- Parking *
- Toilets
- Wheelchair-assisted access **
Enjoy a picnic with a view at The Knoll day-use area.

* Parking (limited) is available for large buses and vehicles such as caravans and motorhomes in Joalah and Witches Falls sections only.

** Wheelchair-assisted access is only available in the day-use areas at Witches Falls, The Knoll and Cedar Creek sections, and along the Cedar Creek Falls lookout track.

** Ranger Elisha

The Knoll is a great way to experience Tamborine's rainforest, the MacDonald rainforest circuit, is my favourite, on the Sandy Creek section, Joalah's Lower creek circuit.

Also, you can explore tranquil rock pools on Witches Falls section and along the Cedar Creek, is only available in the day-use areas at Witches Falls, The Knoll, and Cedar Creek sections. The Witches Falls circuit features giant strangler figs.

** Ranger John

MacDonald section

Cedar Creek section

Witches Falls section

The Knoll section

Legend for maps

- Park entrance
- Waterfall
- Access track
- Walking track
- Minor sealed road
- Seasonal lagoon
- Restricted access area
- Rangers and wheelchairs with assistance
- People with some bushwalking experience
- Experienced bushwalkers
- Strollers and wheelchairs
- Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.
- Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signs may be limited.
- No bushwalking experience required. Flat, even surface with no steps or steep sections.
- Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.
- Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signs may be limited.
- No bushwalking experience required. Flat, even surface with no steps or steep sections.

** Ranger favourites

- Male satin bowerbird
- Snakes and plenty of birds.
- Clear day you can see Cameron Falls lookout, is my favourite.
- On the Sandy Creek circuit, is my favourite.
- For a cooler walk try...
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacDonald rainforest circuit</td>
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**Note:**
- **Directional signs may be limited.**
-tracks may be long, rough and very steep.
- Bushwalking experience recommended.

**Legend for maps**
- Rock pool (restricted access)
- Access track
- Creek
- Waterfall
- Park entrance

**Ranger favourites**

- For a cooler walk try the Palm Grove circuit. It has lush rainforest and some swampy areas that the frogs love to call home. 
  *Ranger John*

- Joalah section is my favourite, it has it all! Along a relatively short walk you get tranquil Curtis Falls and plenty of wildlife like flying foxes, platypus, land mullets, snakes and plenty of birds. 
  *Ranger Elisha*

- Cameron Falls lookout, on the Sandy Creek circuit, is my favourite spot. It has great views of Brisbane and on a clear day you can see all the way to the Glass House Mountains! 
  *Ranger Paul*

- If you don’t have much time, but would still like to experience Tamborine’s rainforest, the MacDonald rainforest circuit is for you. Take in towering strangler figs and look for shy pademelons on this great short walk. 
  *Ranger Jess*