

SHORT WALKS GUIDE

QUEENSLAND'S NATIONAL PARKS

SHORT WALKS IN THE TROPICAL NORTH

Venture
naturally



Queensland
national parks

keep discovering



Queensland
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CONTENTS

Explore national parks.....	3	Wooroonooran National Park, Goldfield Trail	16
Choose your walk.....	4	Wooroonooran National Park, Goldsborough Valley.....	16
Townsville (map)	6	Eubenangee Swamp National Park.....	17
Bowling Green Bay National Park, Mount Elliot	7	Mount Whitfield Conservation Park.....	17
Magnetic Island National Park	7	Fitzroy Island National Park.....	18
Townsville Town Common Conservation Park	8	Green Island National Park	18
Cape Pallarenda National Park.....	8	Barron Gorge National Park.....	19
Paluma Range National Park, Mount Spec.....	9	Daintree National Park, Mossman Gorge	19
Paluma Range National Park, Jourama Falls.....	9	Daintree National Park, Cape Tribulation.....	20
Girringun National Park, Wallaman Falls.....	10	Tropical North Queensland (tableland map).....	21
Girringun National Park, Blencoe Falls..	10	Barron Gorge National Park.....	22
Tropical North Queensland (coastal map) ...	11	Davies Creek Dinden National Park	23
Girramay National Park, Edmund Kennedy.....	12	Danbulla National Park and State Forest	23
Girramay National Park, Murray Falls.....	12	Crater Lakes National Park, Lake Barrine.....	24
Djiru National Park	13	Crater Lakes National Park, Lake Eacham.....	24
Clump Mountain National Park	13	Malanda Falls Conservation Park.....	25
Family Islands National Park, Dunk Island	14	Curtain Fig National Park.....	25
Tully Gorge National Park	14	Mount Hypipamee National Park.....	26
Wooroonooran National Park, Palmerston.....	15	Millstream Falls National Park.....	26
Wooroonooran National Park, Josephine Falls	15	Photo credits.....	27

EXPLORE NATIONAL PARKS

WELCOME

Truly experience Queensland's tropical north as you venture among boulders, through woodlands, across streams and up to lookouts perched high above the landscape. Explore long sandy palm-fringed beaches and dip your toes into the waters of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Refresh in the rainforests of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Gaze into the deep blue of crater lakes, feel the cool spray from cascading waterfalls and capture spectacular mountain views.

Welcome to the Park Rangers' top picks for the best short walks in North Queensland's national parks and World Heritage areas.



'It's so easy to unplug from life and feel reconnected to nature by simply going for a walk in a national park...and it's free!'

Ranger Jo, Magnetic Island National Park



Talk to the Park Ranger to make your park visit special.
(Ranger Ben, Green Island National Park)



Above: Jindalba circuit, Cape Tribulation
Left: Baral Marrjanga track, Mossman Gorge

YOUR 'MUST DO' LIST

Our Park Rangers have chosen walks suitable for everyone from the young to the young at heart.

These walks showcase the different habitats protected by our national parks, giving you the chance to explore rainforest, bushland, islands, beaches and even wetlands.

Walks take you to the very best features in our national parks. They are a fun way to experience nature and get active with family and friends.

Which one will be your favourite? Create your own 'must-do' list from the walks featured in this guide and start exploring.

Find more walking ideas in Tropical North Queensland and Townsville North Queensland regions on our website at queenslandnationalparks.com.au

Venture naturally.

CHOOSE YOUR WALK

Whether you want to delve into ancient rainforests, explore tropical beaches or spot awesome wildlife, you'll find information within these pages to help you select walks you'll really enjoy.

Choose from a selection of some of the most popular walks in North Queensland.

Under a brief description of the Park Rangers' favourite short walks, we've provided the following information to help you plan your trip:



Jindalba circuit, Cape Tribulation

Walk distance and time. Track length is not always the best indicator of the time the walk might take. Check walking time before deciding whether a track is suitable.

All walks featured here can be walked in less than three hours. Suggested walking times are for people with average fitness.

Allow more time if your group includes young children and elderly people or if you're a keen photographer stopping to capture moments along the way.

What's the track like? All are suitable for anyone with average fitness. Some walks can accommodate strollers and wheelchairs. Others are longer, might be uneven or have some steps.

Here's a guide to what to expect:

Symbol	Suits	Track description
	Wheelchairs and strollers	No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them.
	Families with young children	No bushwalking experience required. The track is a hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps.
	People with some bushwalking experience	Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Rough uneven surface, may have many steps and short steep hill sections.

START **Where the walk starts.** Most walks start near a picnic or camping area. Special instructions are provided here.

Getting there. Guide to finding your way to the park entrance.

F **What else can I do?** Information about visitor facilities near the track, including where you can picnic or camp nearby.

Ranger tips from the local Ranger are useful hints to help you enjoy your walk.

GETTING READY

When walking, it's best to wear sturdy comfortable shoes, loose cool clothing (preferably long sleeves and long pants for protection against sunburn, bites and stings), a hat and sunscreen.

Pack your day pack with:

- drinking water and energy-boosting snacks
- insect repellent and extra sunscreen
- basic first-aid kit (including compression bandages for snake bite)
- camera and binoculars
- rubbish bag
- mobile phone (although you'll be out of range in many places).

Before you go, find out how to **walk with care**—how to be cass-o-wary and to avoid other potentially hazardous wildlife—at queenslandnationalparks.com.au

STAY A LITTLE LONGER

If you enjoy walking and want to explore further, stay overnight. You can camp in many of the parks mentioned in this guide but you need to reserve and pay for your camp site first. Book your camp site online at qld.gov.au/camping or visit queensland.com for other local accommodation options.

Enjoy your walk!



Edmund Kennedy, Girramay National Park

MAP LEGEND

The areas covered in this guide are shown on this map of Queensland.



Maps of these tourism regions are at the start of each section.

Walking track maps are provided for every featured walk. Symbols used on the track maps are explained here.

 Parks and forests	 Buildings	 Refreshments
 Featured short walk	 Parking	 Restaurant
 Water	 Toilets	 Camping
 Waterways	 Showers	 Car camping
 Sealed major road	 Picnic table	 Day-use area
 Sealed minor road	 Sheltered picnic table	 Heliport
 Unsealed road	 Information	
 Walking track	 Information shelter	
 Boardwalk	 BBQ—wood	
 Waterfall	 BBQ—gas	
 Bridge	 BBQ—coin operated	
 Stairs	 Lookout	
 Mountain	 Constructed lookout	
 Railway	 Telephone	



Refresh DELIGHTFULLY

TOWNSVILLE

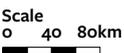
Townsville's national parks are studded with streams to refresh you, wetlands alive with waterbirds and rugged rainforest-clad ranges waiting to be explored. Experience the thrill of plunging waterfalls and enjoy stunning views. Encounter sleepy resident koalas, glimpse rare birds and delve into a rich military and maritime history.



Legend

- Townsville North Queensland
- Parks and forests
- ⦿ World Heritage area
- i Visitor information centre
- ✈ Airport
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Town

- 1 Bowling Green Bay National Park
- 2 Magnetic Island National Park
- 3 Townsville Town Common Conservation Park
- 4 Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park
- 5 Paluma Range National Park
- 6 Girringun National Park



ALLIGATOR CREEK LOOKOUT

Bowling Green Bay National Park



The rugged mountains of this park are the southern gateway to North Queensland's tropical rainforest. At Mount Elliot, stroll to the lookout for pleasant views over Alligator Creek. Then backtrack and take the steps down to the creek and cool off with a refreshing swim. For a shorter walk, take the wheelchair-accessible boardwalk from the day-use area to the bank of Alligator Creek.

 1km return (30mins)

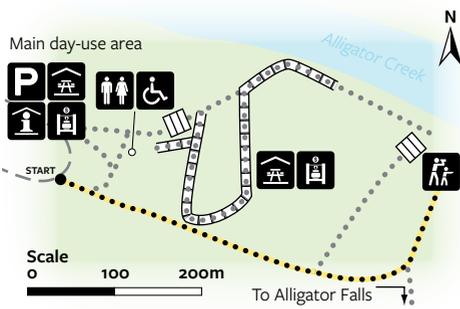
 Hardened or compacted surface and may have gentle hill sections and occasional steps.

 Alligator Creek main day-use area

 Travel 25km south of Townsville or 65km north of Ayr on the Bruce Highway then turn onto the 5.5km road to the park entrance (open 6.30am–6.30pm daily).

F Picnic shelter and gas barbecue at main day-use area. Wheelchair-accessible toilets near main day-use area and also at nearby camping area.

 **Ranger Anthony's tip:** Alligator Creek is a little oasis in the savanna. Keep an eye out for all sorts of wildlife and enjoy a swim in the creek with the friendly jungle perch.



FORTS WALK

Magnetic Island National Park



A 'must-do' on Magnetic Island, the popular Forts walk leads to historic WWII fortifications. Learn the fascinating history of the fort ruins and enjoy bird's-eye views over the coast and islands. As you walk, take the time to look up to the eucalypt trees and you might just spot a sleeping koala. From the top of the fortifications, snap a selfie with breathtaking 360 degree views as your backdrop.

 4km return (1.5hrs)

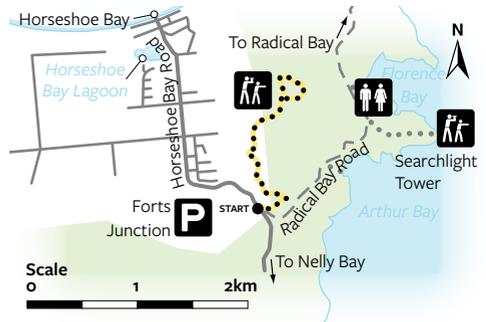
 Uneven surface, some steep sections.

 Forts Junction car park

 Drive or catch a bus from Nelly Bay Harbour 4km along Horseshoe Bay Road to the Forts Junction at the turn-off to Radical Bay.

F Toilets are nearby at Florence Bay, accessed via Radical Bay Road.

 **Ranger Jo's tip:** Speak to other people on the walk to find out where the koalas are. They're more active in the early morning and late afternoon.



JACANA BIRD HIDE TRACK

Townsville Town Common Conservation Park



The 'Town Common' is a great place to enjoy nature close to the bustling city centre of Townsville. Walk along the Freshwater trail and turn off to the Jacana bird hide overlooking Freshwater Lagoon. Sit quietly in the hide and watch waterbirds foraging for food. Return the way you came or continue on the Freshwater and Lagoon trails to complete a longer 8km loop.

 450m one-way (30mins)

 Uneven surface. Walkers and mountain bike riders share this trail.

 Freshwater car park

 Travel 6km north of Townsville city centre along Cape Pallarenda Road to the park entrance (open 6.30am–6.30pm daily). Drive along Freshwater Lagoon Road to the car park.

 Toilets and picnic tables at nearby Cape Pallarenda day-use area.

 **Ranger Anthony's tip:** The lagoon trails are a great place for you to take the kids for a bike ride without vehicle traffic.



SHELLY COVE TRAIL

Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park



Explore an old access road created during World War II that leads to Shelly Cove, hidden behind the Cape Pallarenda headland. Large rock steps lead down the beach at the end of the trail. Relax on the beach with a picnic and enjoy picturesque views across to Magnetic Island. To return, retrace your steps.

 1.5km return (1.5hrs)

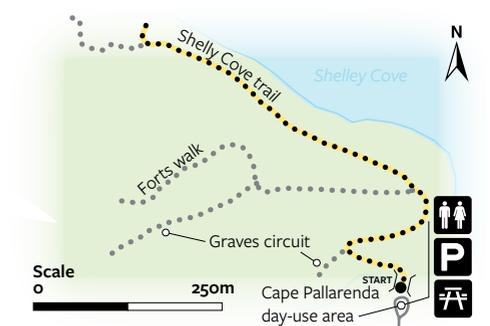
 Uneven surface, steep sections and steps. Walkers and mountain bike riders share this trail.

 Cape Pallarenda day-use area

 Travel 10km north of Townsville city centre along Cape Pallarenda Road to the park entrance (open 6.30am–6.30pm daily).

 Toilets and picnic tables at Cape Pallarenda day-use area.

 **Ranger Anthony's tip:** A fabulous sunrise walk. While in the area, explore the World War II fort trails that branch off the Shelly Cove trail.



WITTS LOOKOUT TRACK

Paluma Range National Park, Mount Spec



JOURAMA FALLS TRACK

Paluma Range National Park, Jourama Falls



Escape the coastal lowland heat and head to the hills of Mount Spec in the Paluma Range. Meander through World Heritage-listed rainforest then climb steeply through open forest to the lookout. On a clear day, you'll enjoy views over Halifax Bay and the Palm Islands to the north-east. Along the walk, look for wet tropics birds, including the golden bowerbird.

 3km return (2hrs)

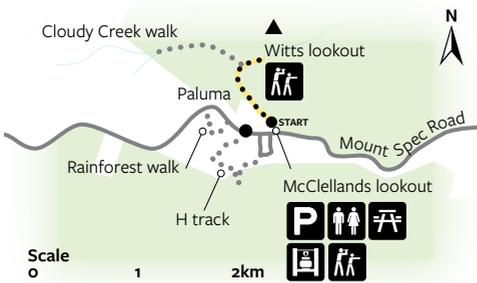
 Hardened surface, short steep hill sections and steps.

 McClellands lookout, Mount Spec Road

 Travel 61km north of Townsville or 40km south of Ingham on the Bruce Highway, turn onto Barrett Road, then onto Mount Spec Road and drive 17km to McClellands lookout.

 Toilets, picnic tables, tap water and barbeques at McClellands lookout.

 **Ranger Tim's tips:** The view from Witts lookout impresses me every time. Take a camera and spend a few minutes to take it all in.



Embrace the natural beauty of this southern gateway to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Ramble through open woodland, cross the creek and continue uphill to the lookout. Be rewarded by scenic views of Jourama Falls, where streams flow down from higher slopes, feeding the falls and other cascades and rapids on Waterview Creek.

 3km return (1hr)

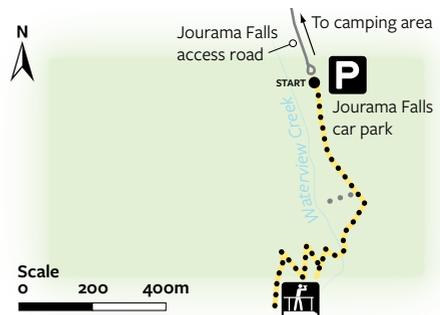
 Hardened surface, 600m uphill section with steps.

 Jourama Falls car park (700m past Jourama Falls camping area)

 Travel 91km north of Townsville or 24km south of Ingham on the Bruce Highway then turn onto the 4.5km unsealed road to Jourama Falls.

 Toilets, picnic tables, gas barbeque and water at day-use area near first causeway.

 **Ranger Tim's tips:** I love Waterview Creek with its rock pools and boulders and the view of Jourama Falls is worth the walk uphill!



BANGGURRU WALK

Girringun National Park, Wallaman Falls



JABALI WALK

Girringun National Park, Blencoe Falls



Delight in the beauty of World Heritage-listed rainforest along the banks of Stony Creek on this easy walk (pronounced ‘Bun-gu-roo’, meaning turtle). Glimpse a platypus rippling the water’s surface and look for water dragons and saw-shelled turtles basking on rocks. Afterwards, drive 2km to Wallaman Falls lookout to see Stony Creek form the highest permanent single-drop waterfall in Australia.

 800m return (45mins)

 Uneven surface.

 Wallaman Falls day-use and camping area

 Travel 11km west from Ingham to Trebonne then follow signs for a further 40km. Sealed road, suitable for conventional vehicles. Range can be slippery when wet.

F Toilets, picnic tables and barbecues are at Wallaman Falls camping and day-use area.

 **Ranger Marty’s tips:** Visit Wallaman Falls from mid-morning to mid-afternoon to experience the magical beauty of the rainbow formed in the falls mist.

Soak up the sounds and scents of the Aussie bush along this walk, (pronounced ‘Ju-bah-li’ meaning whiptail wallaby). From the Blencoe Falls lookout gaze in awe at the scenic falls and rugged landscape of the Herbert River Gorge. Return the same way or arrange for a pick-up at the nearby Herbert River Gorge lookout for a shorter walk.

 5km return (2hrs)

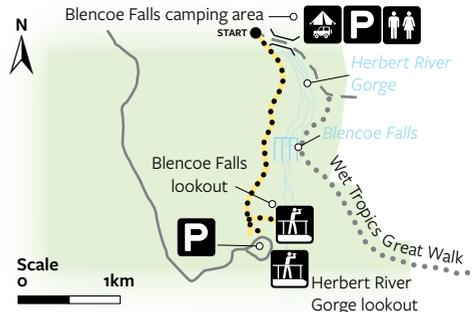
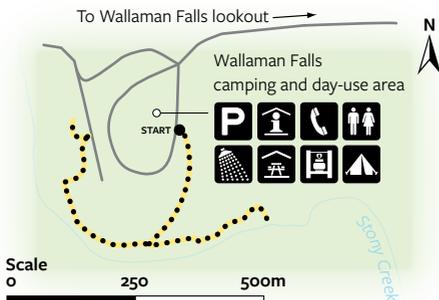
 Exposed roots and uneven surface, some steep sections.

 Blencoe Falls camping area

 From the coast, drive 84km from Cardwell via the Kirrama Range Road. From inland, drive about 100km from Mount Garnet via the Kirrama–Cashmere Road. (Note: Blencoe Falls is **remote**.)

F Toilets at Blencoe Falls camping area.

 **Ranger Nick’s tip:** This is one of Australia’s most stunning waterfalls! Don’t get carried away when taking photos—make sure you stay behind the safety fence.

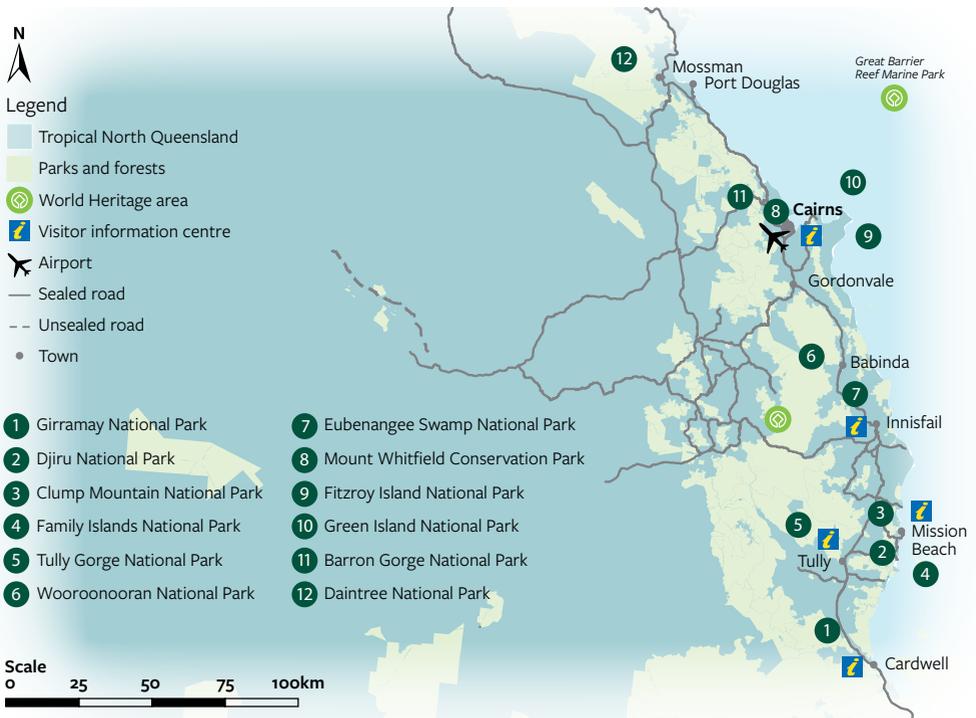


EXPLORE ENTICINGLY



TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND (COAST)

Wild, unspoilt, and exciting, Tropical North Queensland is home to the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics World Heritage areas. Explore rugged rainforested slopes of the coastal range and discover sparkling waterfalls tumbling towards the sea. On the coast, wander beneath the shady canopy of lowland fan palm forest then head out to enticing tropical islands shimmering just offshore.



WRECK CREEK WALK

Girramay National Park, Edmund Kennedy



Meander through coastal scrub, crossing tidal mangrove creeks via bridges, and emerge onto the beach 300m south of Wreck Creek. Gaze at calm seas with a scenic backdrop of Hinchinbrook Island's craggy skyline. Return along the beach if the tide is low, spotting seabirds on the way. Remember to be croc wise.

 2.5km return (1.5–2hrs)

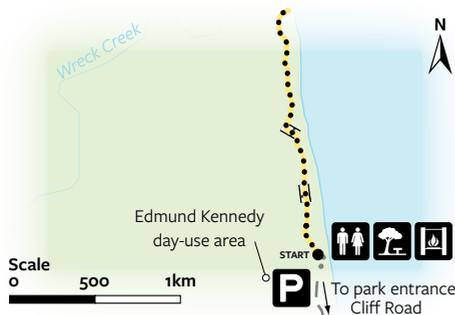
 Sand and boardwalk bridges

 Edmund Kennedy day-use area

 Travel 4km north from Cardwell on the Bruce Highway then turn onto Clift Road and drive 1km to the park entrance. A 3km unsealed road leads to the day-use area. The road is suitable for conventional vehicles but not caravans or motorhomes.

F Picnic tables, wood-fired barbecue and toilet at day-use area.

 **Ranger Willie's tip:** Make sure you walk only at low tide. Put on insect repellent, as this is mangrove country and stay on the alert for crocs!



YALGAY GINJA BULUMI WALK

Girramay National Park, Murray Falls



Ramble through open forest and rainforest to a lookout over one of the prettiest waterfalls in North Queensland. Murray Falls, with spectacular water-sculpted rocks and crystal clear pools, in the foothills of the Kirrama Range, is a great place to stop for a picnic. Watch for birds and learn about Girramay Aboriginal culture along this track.

 1.8km return (1.5hrs)

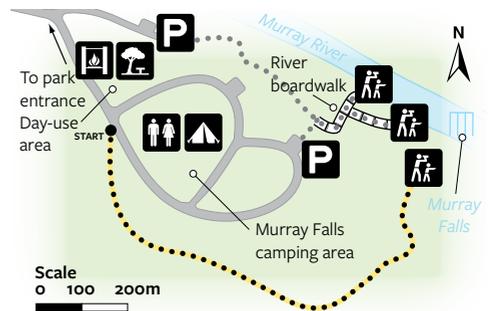
 Mostly compacted surface, some uneven surface with rock steps and short hill sections.

 Murray falls camping area

 Travel 16km south from Tully on the Bruce Highway then turn off at Murrigal and drive 20km to Murray Falls. Alternatively, travel 21km north from Cardwell, turn off at Bilyana and drive 20km to the park. Access roads are partly sealed and suitable for conventional vehicles.

F Toilets in camping area; picnic tables and wood-fired barbecue in day-use area.

 **Ranger Willie's tip:** Take your camera and capture a scenic snap from the lookout. Remember to carry drinking water!



FAN PALM WALK

Djiru National Park



Enter a cool green world on this loop track winding through lush fan palm forest. Look for evidence of past cyclones and marvel at nature's resilience. At the end of the track, another short track follows 'cassowary footprints' to a 'nest' (Children's Walk, 400m, 8mins). Keep your eyes open for cassowaries—they are regularly seen here! Be cass-o-wary.

 1.3km return (20mins)

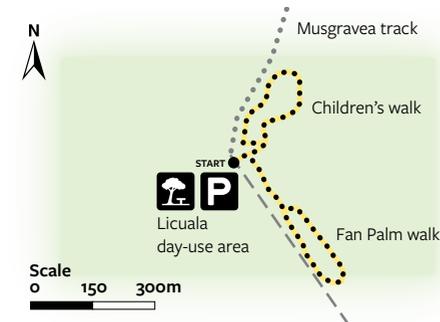
 Boardwalk and track with hardened surface, wheelchair-accessible with assistance.

 **START** Licuala day-use area

 From Mission Beach township, drive 8km along the Tully–Mission Beach Road, then turn north onto the signed unsealed road, and drive 1.6km. Unsealed road is accessible by conventional vehicles but may be unsuitable for caravans.

F Picnic tables and cassowary-proof fence at day-use area. Do not share your meal with these big birds!

 **Ranger Audrey's tip:** Look up. See the dappled light filter through the radiating segments of overlapping umbrella-like leaves in the canopy of the fan palm swamp.



BICTON HILL CIRCUIT TRACK

Clump Mountain National Park



Feeling energetic? Tackle this exhilarating walk through lowland rainforest that winds around Bicton Hill to the summit. Your reward? Fantastic photo opportunities with stunning views overlooking the coastline and idyllic Family Islands.

 3.9km return (2–2.5hrs)

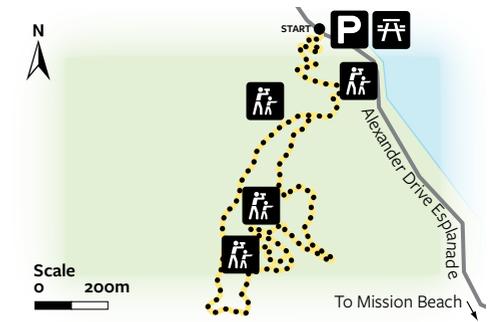
 Steep sections and many steps.

 **START** Small car park on Alexander Drive Esplanade

 From Mission Beach township, drive 4.6km north along Alexander Drive Esplanade. Accessible by conventional vehicles.

F Picnic table at start of track.

 **Ranger Audrey's tip:** Take your time on this walk; enjoy the sounds and smells of the rainforest, and stop at the lookouts to soak up the scenic views over beautiful Bingil Bay.



MUGGY MUGGY BEACH TRACK

Family Islands National Park, Dunk Island



Feel like Dunk Island's famous beachcomber as you walk along a deserted beach to the start of the track. Wind your way through rainforest, woodland and mangroves to a picturesque sandy cove, sheltered behind a headland. Cool down with a swim, or explore with a snorkel at Muggy Muggy Beach before returning along the same track.

3km return (70mins)

Sandy beach then track with gentle hill sections and occasional steps. Access to track is best at mid-low tide.

The Spit day-use area

4.5km east of Mission Beach, access by private vessel or water taxi from Wongaling and South Mission beaches (travel time approximately 10mins).

Toilets, picnic tables and barbecues at The Spit day-use and camping areas.

Ranger Evan's tip: Look for brilliant blue Ulysses butterflies and, if you're lucky, echidnas, along this track. And make sure you steer clear of the spiny wait-a-while vine!



BUTTERFLY WALK

Tully Gorge National Park



Can you tell a blue triangle from a banded demon? Or an orange aeroplane from an orchard swallowtail? Explore the World Heritage-listed rainforest along this easy walk and you soon will! The area is noted for its beautiful Wet Tropics butterflies, which are best seen between September and February.

375m return (15mins)

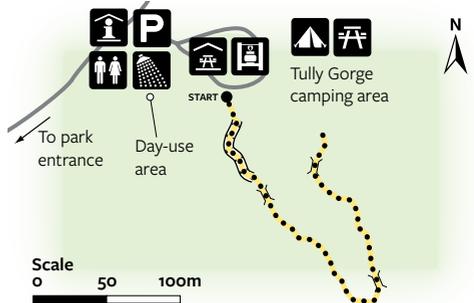
Track has flat even surface, no steps or steep sections, suitable for wheelchairs.

Tully Gorge camping area (eastern end)

From Tully, drive south on the Bruce Highway for 1.4km then turn east onto Dean Road, which becomes Jarra Creek Road and Cardstone Road, driving 41km to the camping area.

Picnic tables, shower, barbecues and toilets in the camping and day-use areas.

Ranger Audrey's tip: Hear your children's squeals of delight when they spot baby butterflies clustered under leaves or delight in the bright colours of butterflies in the swallowtail family flitting along the track.



TCHUPALA / WALLACHA FALLS

Wooroonooran National Park, Palmerston



Explore the heart of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area on this rainforest walk. Follow the right-hand fork in the track to Tchupala Falls where the fern-fringed Henrietta Creek tumbles over a mossy basalt ledge. If one waterfall isn't enough, on the return trip follow the left-hand track to nearby pretty Wallacha Falls, extending your walk to 2.8km return (1.5hrs).

 1.2km return (40mins)

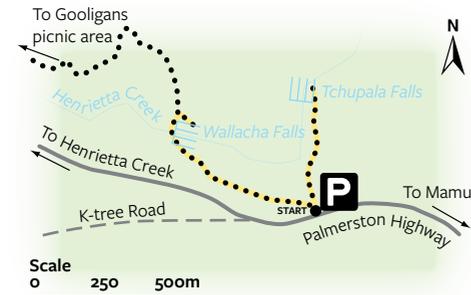
 Hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps.

 **START** Car park on Palmerston Highway, 3km west from Mamu Tropical Skywalk

 From Innisfail drive north on the Bruce Highway for 5km then turn west onto the Palmerston Highway and drive 30km.

F Closest facilities at Gooligans picnic area (1.4km) and Henrietta Creek (2.4km).

 **Ranger Brenton's tip:** Tchupala Falls are a must-see, so remember your camera. Then settle in for a picnic at Henrietta Creek after your walk.



JOSEPHINE FALLS TRACK

Wooroonooran National Park



Walk through lush tropical rainforest to viewing decks overlooking picturesque Josephine Falls. Rising as a trickle high on the summit of Bartle Frere, Josephine Creek tumbles and gushes over granite boulders at the falls, creating a mesmerising spectacle. Don't enter the restricted access area around the top of the falls—the force of the water makes this area extremely dangerous.

 1.2km return (30mins)

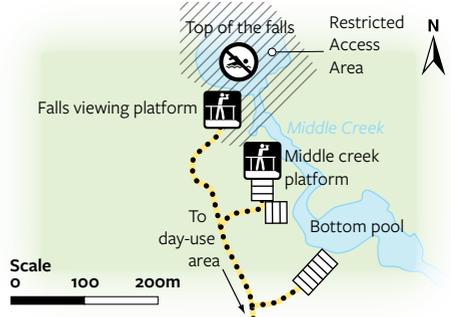
 Flat even surface, viewing platform over top pool is wheelchair-accessible, stairs lead to the bottom pool.

 **START** Josephine Falls day-use area

 Turn off the Bruce Highway 2km south of Mirriwinni and drive 8km to Josephine Falls. Access is by conventional vehicle.

F Picnic tables, a shelter shed, a coin-operated electric barbecue and toilets in day-use area.

 **Ranger Les's tip:** If conditions are safe, cool off with a dip in the swimming area in the bottom pool and try out the awesome natural rock slide.



WAJIL WALK (KEARNEYS FALLS)

Wooroonooran National Park



In Goldsborough Valley, tear yourself away from the serene shady day-use area on the bank of the Mulgrave River to follow this rainforest track to scenic Kearneys Falls. Discover the unique culture and stories of the Dulabed Malanbarra Yidinji Aboriginal people along the way.

1.7km return (1–1.5hrs)

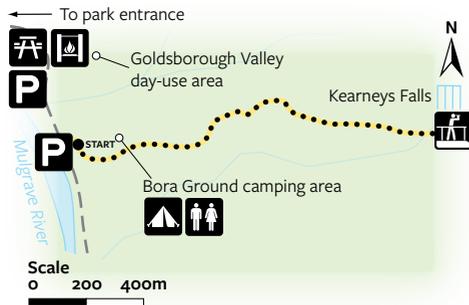
Mostly hardened surface, with sections of stairs and a short boardwalk.

Bora Ground camping area

At Gordonvale turn west onto the Gillies Highway, drive 6km then turn off to Goldsborough Valley. Drive 16km to the camping and day-use areas. The last 5km is unsealed but suitable for conventional vehicles with caution. Not recommended for caravans, buses or trailers.

Picnic tables, barbecues and toilets in camping and day-use areas.

Ranger Dan's tip: Walk quietly and you may be lucky enough to see a cassowary. And keep a lookout for stinging trees alongside the track.



GOLDFIELD TRAIL (SOUTH END)

Wooroonooran National Park



Follow the footsteps of the early gold prospectors on the southern end of the historic Goldfield Trail. Follow Babinda Creek upstream for 1km to enter the national park. Enjoy an easy ramble for one or two kilometres, as the trail leaves the main creek edge and crosses several smaller creeks. Walk only as far as you wish, then turn and retrace your steps.

Up to 6km return (3hrs)

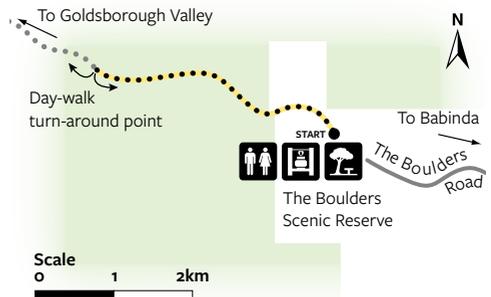
Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.

The Boulders Scenic Reserve

At Babinda, turn right into Munro Street and drive 7km west to The Boulders.

Picnic tables, shelters, gas barbecues and toilets at The Boulders Scenic Reserve.

Ranger Cameron's tip: After about 4km, the track crosses a small creek and ascends steeply to the saddle between Bellenden Ker and Bartle Frere. Turn back before this point otherwise you'll have a long walk home!



SWAMP WALK

Eubenangee Swamp National Park



RED ARROW WALK

Mount Whitfield Conservation Park



Meander along the rainforested banks of the Alice River, then walk up grassy Baldy Hill. Soak up the serenity as you enjoy views of Bartle Frere and Bellenden Ker, Queensland's two highest peaks. Hear the trills and honks of many waterbirds feeding in the swamp below. Estuarine crocodiles live in the park so remember to be croc wise.

 1.5km return (30mins)

 Short gravel and grass walking track with no steps. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them.

 **START** Car park on Cartwright Road

 Drive south from Cairns on the Bruce Highway to Mirriwinni (67km) and turn left into Bramston Beach Road. After 8km turn right into Cartwright Road and continue for a further 1km to the park entrance. These roads are all sealed and accessible by conventional vehicles.

F No facilities, the closest facilities are at Bramston Beach.

 **Ranger Les's tip:** Look very closely and you may be able to spot a crocodile in the waterhole from atop Baldy Hill!

On the edge of the city, join the locals as they amble, stride and jog the hilly paths and many steps of this track. Pass through shady rainforest gullies, open woodland and towering fishpole bamboo to lookouts with expansive views over Cairns city, Trinity Bay, and the rich, green, coastal mangrove forests lining the Barron River.

 1.5km return (1hr)

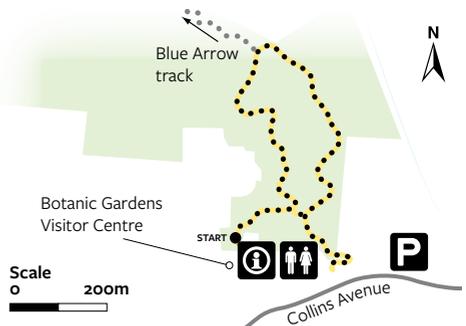
 Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.

 **START** Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre, Collins Avenue

 Drive about 5km north from the Cairns city centre and turn onto Collins Avenue, following the signs to the Tanks Art Centre and Cairns Botanic Gardens. Park on Collins Avenue and walk to the trail head near the visitor centre.

F No facilities, toilets in nearby visitor centre.

 **Ranger Anne's tip:** Wear lycra to blend in with the locals! Jokes aside, after your walk, make sure you enjoy a wander through the nearby Cairns Botanic Gardens.



NUDEY BEACH TRACK

Fitzroy Island National Park



Venture through rainforest and coastal woodlands, skirting massive granite boulders to reach this picturesque beach. Swim and snorkel at Nudey Beach or just settle in the shade with your picnic lunch but be warned—keep your clothes on. It's 'nudey' by name not by nature!

1.2km return (45mins)

Bitumen surface with some steep stone steps.

Resort, western side

25km offshore from Cairns, access is by private boat or ferry services from Cairns Reef Fleet Terminal. The trip takes about 45 mins.

F Toilets, telephones and food outlets are provided within the resort for day visitors.

Ranger Pat's tip: Make sure you bring a pair of shoes or thongs as the coral rubble on the beach can be a bit hard on the feet!



GREEN ISLAND BOARDWALK

Green Island National Park



Stroll along the shaded boardwalk through the heart of this small rainforest-clad coral cay. Listen to pied-imperial pigeons in the canopy, watch buff-banded rails dash around the undergrowth and glimpse the coral-studded sea through the trees. Retrace your steps then enjoy a swim at the patrolled beach or relax in the shade with a picnic.

1.3km return (50mins)

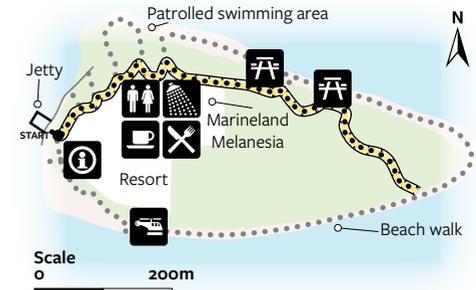
Flat even surface with no steps. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them.

Jetty, in resort area

27km offshore from Cairns, access is by private boat or ferry services from Cairns Reef Fleet Terminal. One-way trip is 45 mins.

F Toilets, showers, telephones and food outlets are provided within the resort for day visitors. Picnic tables along the boardwalk.

Ranger Pat's tip: Take the time to read the signs on the boardwalk and find out about the fascinating history of Green Island.



STONEY CREEK TRACK

Barron Gorge National Park



BARAL MARRJANGA TRACK

Daintree National Park, Mossman Gorge



Rock-hop along this rough track beside Stoney Creek. Admire clear limpid pools and small waterfalls along the way. At the top of Stoney Creek gorge, catch your breath as you stand on the large boulder overlooking the creek. Return along the same track then cool off with a refreshing dip in the creek.

Explore lush World Heritage rainforest as you amble along elevated boardwalks to the Mossman River lookouts. Watch the waters tumble spectacularly over granite boulders. Retrace your steps along the boardwalk. Alternatively return along the (rougher) Lower river track. Think before you swim and obey all warning signs.

 2km (return) 30mins

 The track is unformed with a rough, uneven surface of rocks and twisted tree roots.

 Car park at the end of Stoney Creek Road

 From Cairns, drive 16km north along the Captain Cook Highway and turn left onto Cairns Western Arterial (Kamerunga Road). Drive 3.5km, turn right onto Stoney Creek Road and drive 2.1km to the car park.

F No facilities.

 **Ranger Dave's tip:** Walk early in the morning to spot rainforest birds. Look and listen for fruit-pigeons, lorikeets, honeyeaters, sunbirds, kingfishers...

 540m return (15mins)

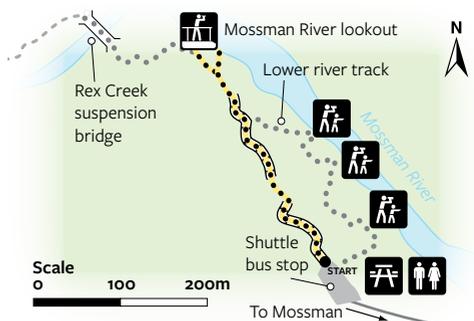
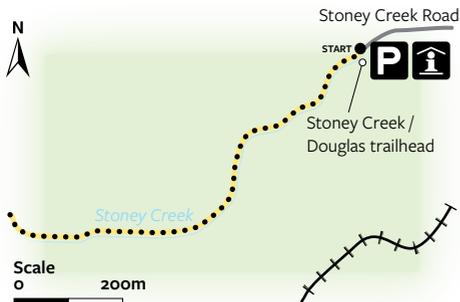
 Elevated boardwalk and hardened surfaces. (The Lower river track, rated blue, has slippery steps and uneven surfaces).

 Shuttle bus stop at park entrance

 From Cairns, drive 80km north along Cook Highway to Mossman. Before the town centre, turn left into Johnston Road and drive 2km to Mossman Gorge Visitor Centre. Shuttle buses operate daily from centre to park entrance, every 15mins from 8am–6pm. Fees apply. Walk or cycle to the park at any time at no cost. Keep to the edge of the narrow road to avoid traffic.

F Toilets and picnic tables at shuttle bus stop.

 **Ranger Dave's tip:** Keep your eyes open for Boyd's forest dragons clinging to tree trunks near the water's edge. They sit very still and have great camouflage so you have to search!



JINDALBA CIRCUIT TRACK

Daintree National Park, Cape Tribulation



Venture into the rainforest on this easy circuit track at Jindalba (‘foot of the mountain’). Walk quietly and you may glimpse a tree-kangaroo or cassowary. Feel a sense of awe as the realisation hits you—you are in the iconic Daintree, one of Australia’s last extensive stands of lowland rainforest.

 3km return (1.5hrs)

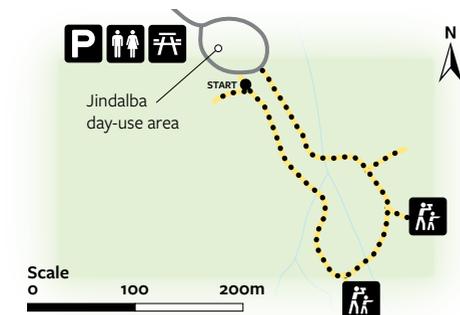
 Track is stony in places and crosses rainforest creeks.

 Jindalba day-use area

 From Cairns drive 104km north on the Captain Cook Highway to the Daintree River crossing. Vehicle ferry operates 6am–midnight every day (reduced service on Christmas Day). Beyond the ferry, drive 16km, turn right into Tulip Oak Road and drive 1km to car park.

F Toilets and picnic tables in the day-use area.

 **Ranger Kylie’s tip:** Make sure you take your binoculars and spot some of the Daintree’s popular birds, like the buff-breasted paradise kingfisher or the spotted catbird.



KULKI

Daintree National Park, Cape Tribulation



Follow a short boardwalk to a viewing platform overlooking the ocean and beach. This is Cape Tribulation, named by Lt James Cook on his 1770 journey of exploration. Here, rainforest meets reef, and two World Heritage areas—the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics—collide. Soak it up!

 600m return (10mins)

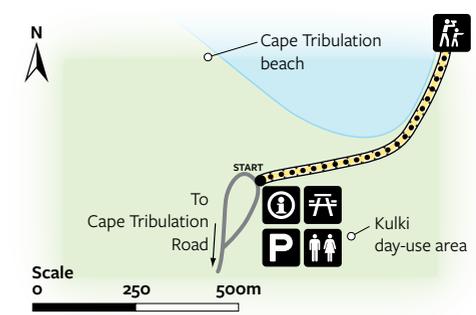
 Boardwalk with flat even surface with no steps or steep sections.

 Kulki day-use area

 From Cairns drive 104km north on the Captain Cook Highway to the Daintree River crossing. Vehicle ferry operates 6am–midnight every day (reduced service on Christmas Day). Beyond the ferry, drive 51.5km. Car park is about 7.5km past Noah Beach.

F Toilets and picnic tables in the day-use area.

 **Ranger Brendan’s tip:** When you get to the platform, look out over the ocean for dugongs, turtles and dolphins swimming in the bay or whales on the horizon.



Discover enchantingly



TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND (TABLELANDS)

Tropical North Queensland short walks offer magical experiences and memories to treasure. Escape the summer heat in the parks of the Atherton and Evelyn tablelands. Discover volcanic crater lakes and lush upland rainforests with spectacular waterfalls in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, all within easy reach of Cairns and tableland towns.



BARRON FALLS LOOKOUTS

Barron Gorge National Park



Wander along elevated boardwalks through vine-draped rainforest to lookouts where you can see the famed Barron Falls dropping 250m into the narrow gorge below. Marvel at the awesome power of nature that carved this scenic gorge. If you visit during the wet season, just after heavy rain, the thundering falls are a spectacular sight!

1.2km return (40mins)

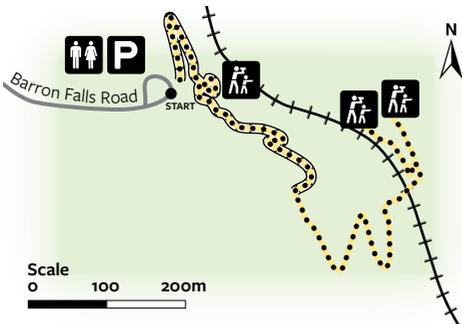
An elevated, wheelchair-accessible (with assistance) boardwalk and paved track with some slopes, no steps.

START Barron Falls car park

From Kuranda, drive 3.5km along Barron Falls Road to the Barron Falls car park.

F Toilets

Ranger Linden's tip: Take binoculars so you can look for rainforest birds then get a close-up view of the falls from the lookout. And don't be fooled by the animal sculptures along the boardwalk!



DJINA-WU TRACK

Speewah Conservation Park



Step into the cool shade of lush rainforest and feel like an early explorer as you delve deeper into the forest. When you reach the historic Douglas and Smiths tracks junction, turn and retrace your steps. Want to walk further? Plan a day hike into Barron Gorge National Park returning to Speewah or continuing on to Kuranda or Lake Placid.

1.5km return (1hr)

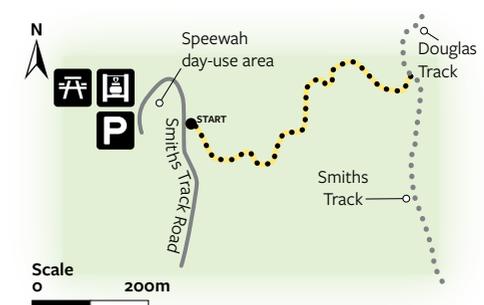
Hardened surface with gentle slopes, several steps, and sections of boardwalks.

START Speewah camping and day-use area

From Kuranda drive 6.5km south-west along the Kennedy Highway, turn left onto Speewah Road and follow the signs for 5.2km. Turn left onto Stoney Creek Road and then left onto Smiths Track Road, and drive to camping area.

F Toilets and showers in camping area; barbecues and tables in day-use area.

Ranger Linden's tip: Walk a short way into the rainforest and feel like you're miles from civilisation. Stinging trees grow here, so don't venture off the track.



DAVIES CREEK CIRCUIT

Davies Creek and Dinden National Park



MOBO CREEK CRATER TRACK

Danbulla National Park / State Forest



Amble through woodland to lookouts where you can watch the spectacular Davies Creek Falls plunge 75m into the valley below. Capture picture-perfect valley views from behind the safety barrier. Follow the track along a tranquil section of creek lined with paperbarks and pandanus and then cool off with a refreshing dip.

Follow the edge of the crater through upland rainforest to explore a geological feature that has perplexed scientists for many years. Draw your own conclusions about how it was formed. Afterwards, stop at the nearby Cathedral Fig (a little further along Danbulla Road) to marvel at one of the most impressive strangler fig trees you will ever see.

 1.1km return (20mins)

 Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.

 Davies Creek Falls circuit car park

 From Kuranda, drive 21km south-west along the Kennedy Highway then turn left onto Davies Creek Road. Follow this gravel road for 6km to the Lower Davies Creek camping area and drive a further 2km to the circuit car park. The access road can be rough and is unsuitable for caravans.

F Toilets at Lower Davies Creek camping area.

 **Ranger Rob's tip:** In the late afternoon or early morning you may be lucky enough to see a platypus in the tranquil section of the creek.

 630m circuit (15mins)

 Track may have compacted surface, gentle hill sections and occasional steps.

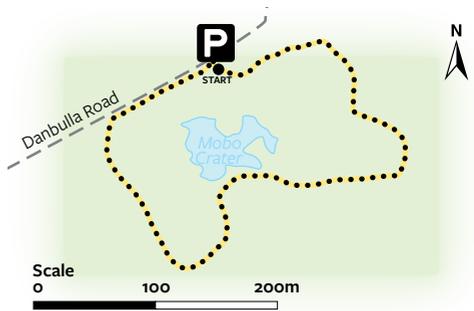
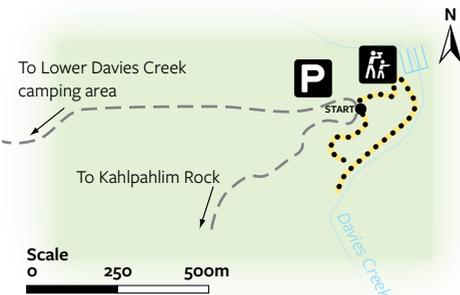
 Mobo Creek Crater car park

 Danbulla Road runs through the park and forest. The eastern entrance is on Boar Pocket Road near the top of the Gillies Highway and the western entrance is reached via the townships of Kairi and Tinaroo.

Mobo Creek Crater is 4.6km from eastern entrance and 23.4km from western entrance.

F No facilities.

 **Ranger Miki's tip:** This is my favourite walk on the tablelands. When you get to the crater you can hear the water over the rocks. There are lots of birds...and ferns. It's just pretty.



LAKE BARRINE CIRCUIT

Crater Lakes National Park, Lake Barrine



Stand at the base of two exceptionally large bull kauri pines and marvel at their sheer size—45m tall and more than 6m in girth! For a longer walk, continue on the circuit track around the edge of the crater lake. Enjoy secluded rainforest-fringed lake views and look for saw-shelled turtles and eastern water dragons in the lake.

 160m return (10mins) for Twin Kauris or 5km return (2hrs) for circuit

 Track may have compacted surface, gentle hill sections and occasional steps.

 Lake Barrine day-use area

 From Atherton drive 23km east along the Gillies Highway.

 Picnic tables, shelters and toilets; privately-operated food outlet on the lake's shore.

 **Ranger Tam's tip:** It's great to lie on the boardwalk and look up at the majestic canopy of these trees. (Just make sure you are not in anyone's path!)

CHILDREN'S WALK

Crater Lakes National Park, Lake Eacham



Wriggle like a snake, search for dragons and create amazing creatures on this fun (and educational) walk through Lake Eacham's rainforest. Then cool off with a swim and picnic on the grassy slopes overlooking the picturesque blue lake surrounded by lush rainforest.

 1.4km return (1hr)

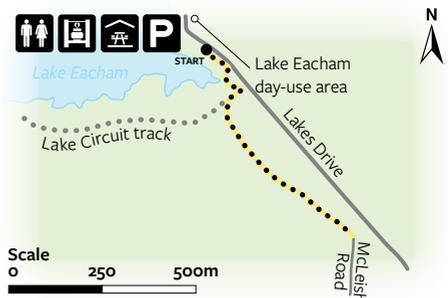
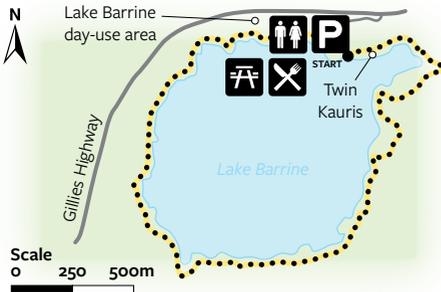
 The track is a hardened or compacted surface suitable for prams, but is steep in places.

 Lake Eacham day-use area

 From Atherton drive 20km east via the Gillies Highway, Malanda-Lake Barrine Road and Lake Eacham Road.

 Picnic tables, shelters, toilets, and barbecues at day-use area. Two lake viewing decks nearby.

 **Ranger Tam's tip:** Jump in and do the activities along the walk with your kids. They'll enjoy it even more and you'll have loads of fun too!



TULIP OAK WALK

Malanda Falls Conservation Park



Immerse yourself in the rainforest and culture of the Ngadjon-Jii Aboriginal people. Keep an eye out for platypus in the North Johnstone River, especially at dawn and dusk. Look up to spot Lumholtz's tree-kangaroos in the canopy (ask at the visitor centre for recent sightings). After your walk, take a memorable 'snap' of Malanda Falls.

 1km return (35mins)

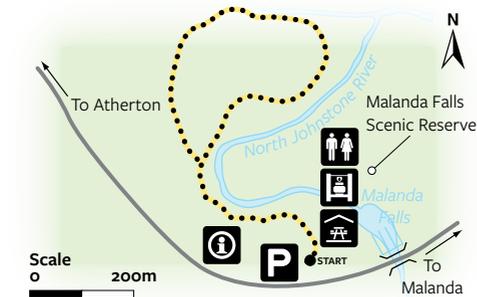
 Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.

 **START** Malanda Falls car park

 From Malanda, follow the Malanda–Atherton Road and after 1km turn right into the car park just after crossing the North Johnstone River.

 Toilets, picnic tables, shelters and barbecues in the adjoining Malanda Falls Scenic Reserve.

 **Ranger Matt's tip:** You often see tree-kangaroos in the trees below the visitor information centre close to the falls.



CURTAIN FIG BOARDWALK

Curtain Fig National Park



Stroll along the boardwalk to admire this immense fig tree from every angle. The formation of this fig tree is unique—extensive aerial roots drop 15m to the forest floor to form a 'curtain'. Look for wildlife sheltering in the rainforest, including Lumholtz's tree-kangaroos and Herbert River ringtail possums.

 180m return (10mins)

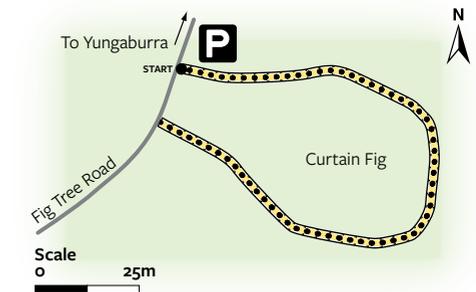
 Gently sloping boardwalk with flat even surface and no steps or steep sections.

 **START** Curtain Fig car park

 From Yungaburra, drive 2.5km west along the Gillies Highway and Fig Tree Road.

 No facilities.

 **Ranger Simon's tip:** Keep an eye out for ancient volcanic (basalt) boulders scattered across the forest floor—just some of the many volcanic features you'll see in this area!



CRATER TRACK

Mount Hypipamee National Park



Meander along a rainforest track and emerge at a viewing platform overlooking the sheer granite walls of a crater that is thought to have been created by a massive gas explosion. Peep over the rim of this diatreme (volcanic pipe) and, far below, glimpse a lake with a green layer of native waterweed covering its mysterious depths.

 800m return (30mins)

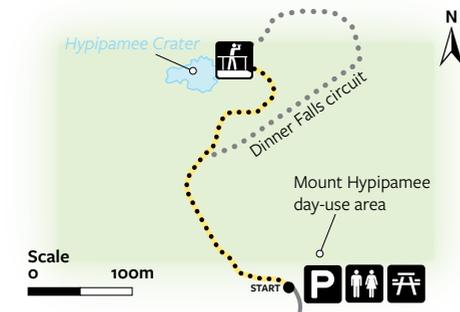
 Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.

 Mount Hypipamee day-use area

 From Atherton drive 25km south on the Kennedy Highway to the day-use area.

 Picnic tables and toilets in day-use area.

 **Ranger Barry's tip:** For a different experience, walk back to the car park along the Dinner Falls track. And keep an eye out for the local cassowary. Remember to be cass-o-wary!



WWII HERITAGE TRACK

Millstream Falls National Park



Step back in time along this walk through picturesque country that was used for training by the Australian Army during World War II. Discover remains of the camp sites that once held more than 1000 men of the 7th and 9th Divisions. If you're up for another short but strenuous walk, check out the views from the Big Millstream Falls lookout.

 1km return (45 mins)

 The track is a hardened or compacted surface and may have gentle hill sections and steps.

 Big Millstream Falls day-use area

 From Ravenshoe, drive 3.5km south-west on the Kennedy Highway. Turn left into the signed entrance and drive 1km to Big Millstream Falls picnic area.

 Barbecues, tables and toilets in picnic area.

 **Ranger Matt's tip:** After your walk, settle down with a picnic at this historic destination.

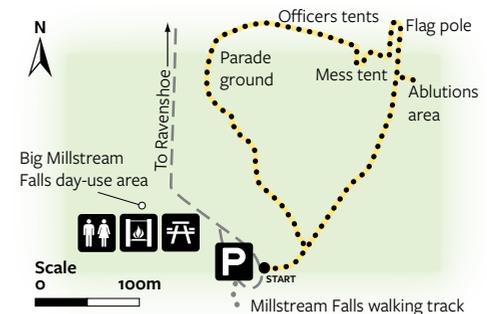


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Your guide to 36 of the best short walks in national parks, conservation parks and forests in North Queensland.

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