

Townsville Region

National parks, conservation parks and State forests

Visitor guide

Natural, cultural and historical values make this region a truly special place. Explore the parks, learn about the history and enjoy the diverse plant and animal life.

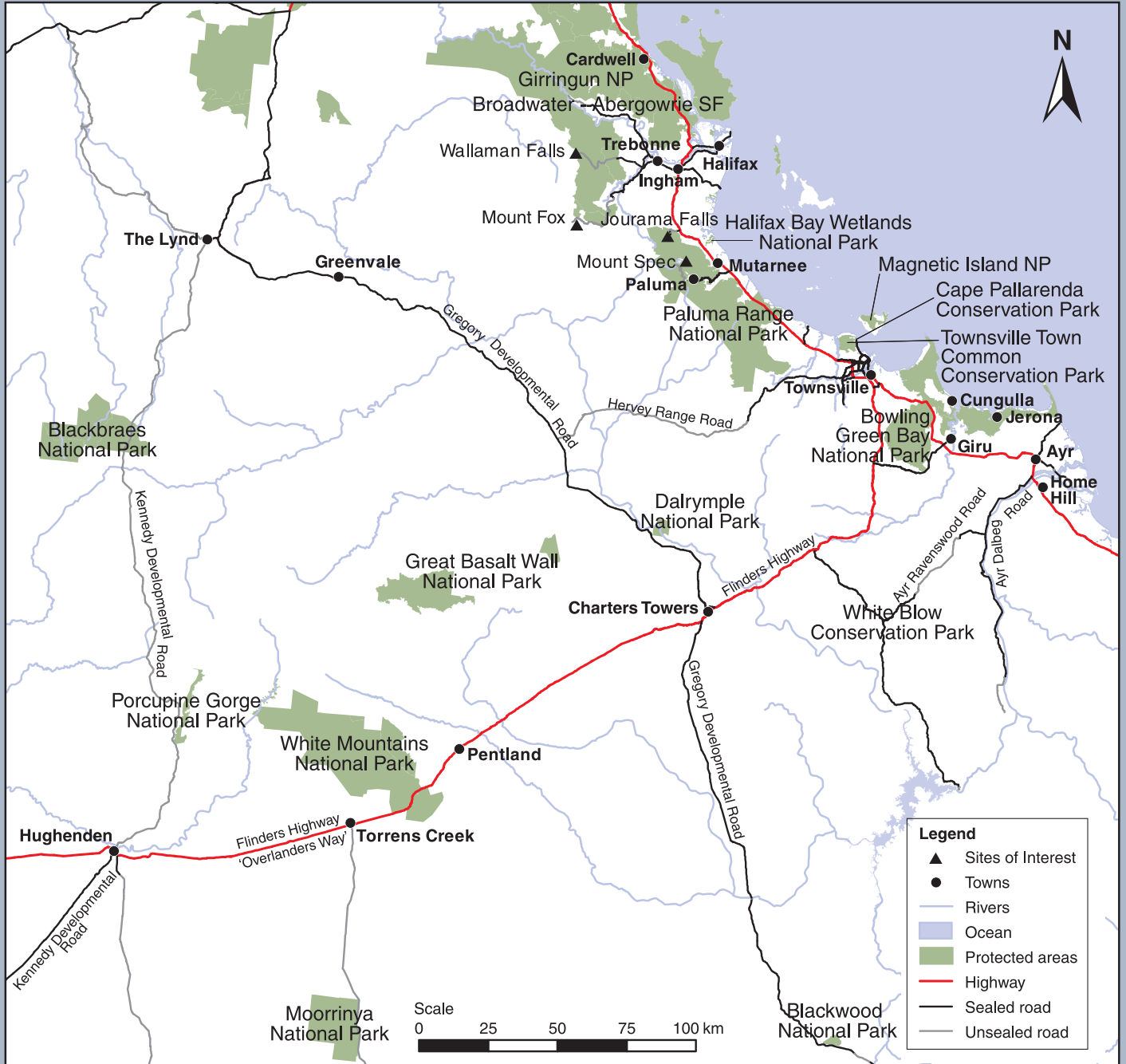


Featuring

- Girringun National Park
- Broadwater, Abergowrie State Forest
- Paluma Range National Park
- Magnetic Island National Park
- Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park
- Town Common Conservation Park
- Bowling Green Bay National Park
- Dalrymple National Park
- White Mountains National Park
- Porcupine Gorge National Park



Townsville regional map



Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

In 1981, the Great Barrier Reef and islands became Queensland's first World Heritage area. Stretching more than 2000 km along the Queensland coastline and covering 35 million hectares, the Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest, and probably richest, coral reef. It is home to more than 1500 species of fish, 4000 species of molluscs, 400 species of sponge and 300 species of hard corals.

Extensive seagrass beds provide a home for the threatened dugong. Threatened green and loggerhead turtles nest on the beaches, and humpback whales migrate to the area to give birth. Birdlife is abundant and hundreds of species nest on the reef islands and mainland beaches.

The Great Barrier Reef is jointly managed by the Queensland and Australian governments. ➤





▲ The rainforest is often shrouded in mist.
Photo: Tourism Queensland.

Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

Wallaman Falls, Broadwater Creek, Paluma Range National Park and the Dalrymple Gap track are all part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (WTWHA). Declared in 1988, the WTWHA covers 8990 km² between Townsville and Cooktown. It contains many outstanding natural values, including some of the oldest, continuously surviving rainforests on earth, many rare and endangered plants and animals, and areas of spectacular beauty.

Plants and animals

The range of habitats provide homes for a rich variety of animals, one of the highest number in Australia. All of Australia's six glider species, including the endangered mahogany glider, are found in the WTWHA. Platypus, eastern water dragons and freshwater turtles can be seen in the creeks and rivers. The rainforests are home to the endangered southern cassowary and unique musky rat-kangaroo.

Wallaman Falls. ➤



Tropical savannas

Tropical savannas stretch across northern Australia from Broome to Townsville. The landscapes have scattered trees and dense grasses that flourish during the wet season and dry out during the long dry season. Fire is a frequent and important event in the savanna landscape.

Patches of dry rainforest, called vine-thickets, often flourish in protected gullies.

Plants and animals

Native mammals are common but discreet as most are nocturnal, sheltering under vegetation or in burrows during the day and searching for herbs, grass and fruit at night. Spectacled hare-wallabies live in the hummock grasslands in open woodland. They can be identified by a rufous-brown ring around each eye.

Rufous bettongs emerge at night and allied rock wallabies, wallaroos and native mice are common.

Geology

In recent geological times volcanoes produced extensive lava flows over inland Queensland. The remains of these lava flows, and the effects of erosion over time, can be seen. Dalrymple National Park contains three ancient lava flows. Limestone outcrops among the basalt flows contain marine fossils, evidence of the ocean that once covered the area.

In Porcupine Gorge National Park, the scouring effect of the creek has eroded both the hard basalt cap from the lava flows and the soft sandstone underneath. The landscape is now a deep, colourful gorge revealing rocks 600 million years old. White Mountains is an outcrop of stark, white sandstone with gorges and chasms that are mostly inaccessible wilderness.

Grasses dry and wither during the long dry season.
◀ Photo: Mirjam Maughan.



Enjoying the **Townsville region**

When to visit

The Townsville region has two main seasons—the wet and the dry. May to September is the best time to visit. May, June and July are usually cool, dry months with maximum day temperatures averaging 25–28 °C, while nights can drop below 10 °C, particularly inland.

The wet season (December to April) is hot and humid, with heavy monsoonal rain and occasional cyclones. Most of the year's rain falls during this period and some roads may become impassable.

Camping

Camping facilities vary at each site. A camping permit is required and a fee is charged. Detailed information about national park camping areas is available at www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks.

To obtain a camping permit:

- book online at www.qld.gov.au/camping
- telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
- visit a DERM business centre.

You must obtain a permit before setting up camp and display a tag with your booking number at your camp site.

Where can I camp?

Camping is allowed at these areas:

- Wallaman Falls, Girringun National Park
- Broadwater, Abergowrie State Forest
- Jourama Falls, Paluma Range National Park
- Big Crystal Creek, Paluma Range National Park
- Bowling Green Bay National Park
- Dalrymple National Park
- White Mountains National Park
- Porcupine Gorge National Park
- Blackbraes National Park

- Moorinya National Park
- Orpheus Island National Park.

Camping is not permitted at Mount Fox, Cape Pallarenda, Townsville Town Common, Magnetic Island National Park or on the Dalrymple Gap track. Some camping areas are not suitable for caravans and campervans—please check suitability when booking.

Generators are not permitted in any of these camping areas.

Open fires are permitted in some parks (but fire rings must be used where provided) and firewood must be collected from outside the park. Fuel stoves are recommended.

Other accommodation

Accommodation, including hotels, motels and caravan parks, is available in towns around national parks. For more information, contact local tourist information centres.

Along came Cyclone Yasi

In February 2011, severe tropical Cyclone Yasi impacted the area between Cairns and Townsville, and inland to Mount Isa.

The parks and forests within the cyclone's path suffered extensive damage with tree falls, loss of branches, epiphytes and vines and leaf stripping of the canopy. Visitor facilities, including walking tracks and camping and day-use areas, also sustained damage.

Some areas within parks and forests outlined in this brochure may be closed as the reconstruction continues.

For the latest information on access, closures and conditions, visit www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks or phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68).



Broadwater is a large, grassy camping area. Photo: Margaret Macindoe.



Fishing

Fishing restrictions apply in some national parks and regulations apply to all fishing and collecting. Obtain information on bag and size limits, restricted species and seasonal closures from Fisheries Queensland, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation on 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or <www.deedi.qld.gov.au>.

Where can I fish?

Fishing is allowed in these national parks:

Girringun National Park	All parts
Paluma Range National Park	Big Crystal Creek only, except Paradise Waterhole area
Magnetic Island National Park	Waters surrounding the park, subject to marine park zoning
Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park	All parts. Waters surrounding the park, subject to marine park zoning
Townsville Town Common Conservation Park	All parts
Bowling Green Bay National Park	Waters within the park, except parts inland of the Bruce Highway (no fishing at Alligator Creek). Waters surrounding the park, subject to marine park zoning
Dalrymple National Park	Burdekin River only

Fishing is prohibited in all other parks.



Whales can often be seen from Magnetic Island during the cooler months.

Marine parks

All waters adjacent to coastal national parks are protected within the Great Barrier Reef and the Great Barrier Reef Coast marine parks. Marine parks are zoned to balance recreational and commercial use with conservation objectives. Obtain zoning maps and information on permitted activities, including fishing, from <www.gbrmpa.qld.gov.au> or fishing and tackle stores before entering or conducting any activities in marine parks.




Check for restrictions before you fish.

Girringun National Park

The forces of nature at work.

Rugged ranges, spectacular waterfalls and lush tropical rainforests contrast with the drier tropical savanna of Mount Fox.

 Treat all water before drinking

Culture

Girringun National Park forms part of the traditional lands of five Aboriginal groups—the Bandjin, Girramay, Gugubadhun, Warrgamay and Warungnu. They hope you enjoy your visit and respect these sacred places.

Wallaman Falls

Natural values

At 268 m, Wallaman Falls is the largest, permanent, single-drop waterfall in Australia.

Walking

Wet Tropics Great Walk

Refer to the Wet Tropics Great Walk Wallaman Falls brochure or visit www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks.

Bangguru walk 800 m return (45 mins) Grade: easy

The Bangguru (bun-gu-roo—turtle) walk begins at the day-use area and explores the banks of Stony Creek.

Djyinda walk 3.2 km return (2 hrs) Grade: moderate

The Djyinda (yin-da—falls) walk, which goes to the base of the falls, begins

300 m from the lookout. Be prepared for a steep slope on unstable surfaces.

Camping

There is an open camping area near Stony Creek. Cars must be parked a short distance away from camp sites. The camping area is not suitable for caravans or camper trailers.

Wildlife viewing

Look for platypus, eastern water dragons and saw-shelled turtles in creeks, and crimson rosellas, golden whistlers and bandicoots around the camping area.

Safety

Safety is our concern but your responsibility (see page 15).

Stinging trees can be found along the tracks. Never touch this plant as it will result in a painful sting. If stung and symptoms are severe, seek medical advice.



Wallaman Falls.



Mount Fox.

Access

Wallaman Falls is 51 km south-west of Ingham. Travel west from Ingham along Abergowrie Road to Trebonne. From here the route is well signposted. The unsealed part of the road can be accessed using a conventional vehicle. Towing caravans is not recommended.

Mount Fox

Visitors must be self-sufficient.



Natural values

Mount Fox is an isolated, well-preserved, dormant volcano.

Walking

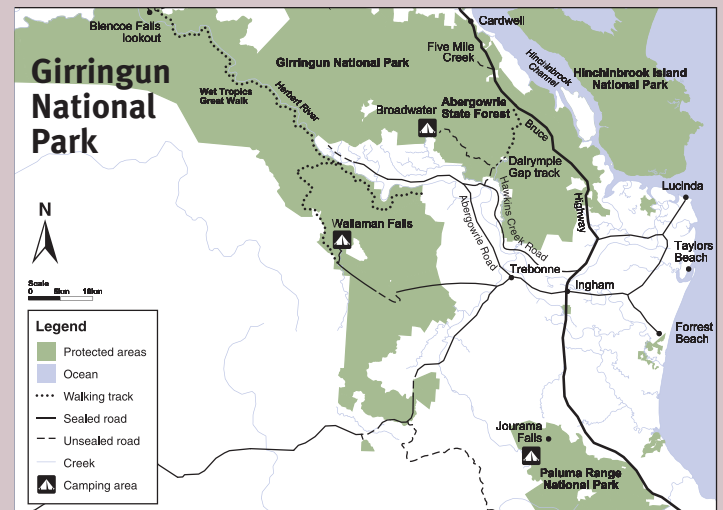
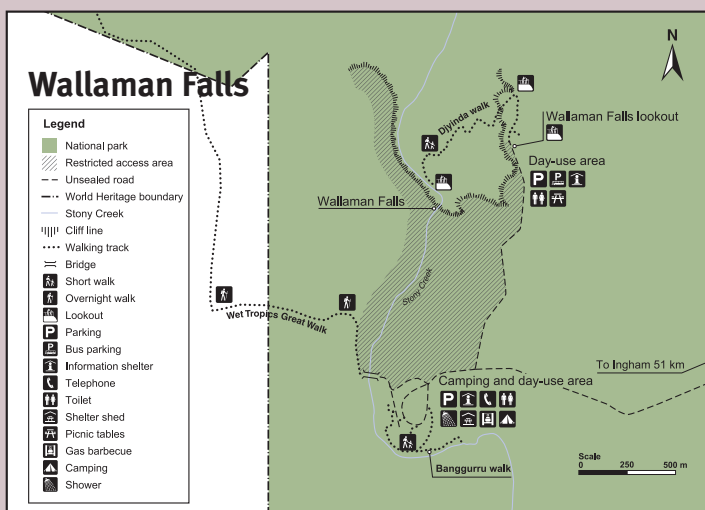
Mount Fox 2 km return (1.5 hrs)

Grade: difficult

This steep, 160 m climb ascends the side of Mount Fox to the top of the crater. There is no track.

Access

Mount Fox is 75 km south-west of Ingham. Travel west from Ingham along Abergowrie Road to Trebonne. From here the route is well signposted. Some of the route is unsealed and the range road is narrow, windy and unsuitable for caravans. Heavy rain may restrict access to four-wheel-drive vehicles only.



Dalrymple Gap track

History

In 1864, a track roughly following an Aboriginal trail was forged inland from the Port of Cardwell. The heritage-listed Dalrymple Gap bridge is the earliest surviving civil engineering work in mainland North Queensland.

Walking

Full day walk refer to <www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks/dalrymple-gap> for further information.

From the Ingham trail head

Short walk 2.2 km return (1 hr)

Grade: easy

This track leads to the first of many Dalrymple Creek crossings. The gentle walk goes through eucalypt forest before returning the same way.

From the Cardwell trail head

Short walk 4 km return (2.5 hrs)

Grade: difficult

Take this steep track to the historic stone pitched bridge at the top of Dalrymple Gap and return the same way.

Safety

Safety is our concern but your responsibility (see page 15).

Stinging trees are found along the track. Never touch this plant as it will result in a painful sting. If stung and symptoms are severe, seek medical advice.

Leeches are common along the track. Remove leeches by applying salt, or heat, or simply wait until they drop off

The boardwalk to the Broadwater fig is wheelchair accessible. >



Access

From Ingham

In Abergowrie State Forest, turn right where signposted and travel 4 km to the Dalrymple Gap track car park.

From Cardwell

Drive 13 km south on the Bruce Highway and turn right near the Damper Creek crossing where signposted. A 1 km unsealed road leads to the car park.

Broadwater, Abergowrie State Forest

Broadwater is a camping and day-use area in Abergowrie State Forest.

Treat all water before drinking.

Walking

Rainforest walk 1.3 km return (1 hr)

Grade: easy

The first 200 m is a wheelchair-accessible boardwalk to the magnificent Broadwater fig. Start at the southern end of the day-use area.

Creek walk 3 km return (1.5 hrs)

Grade: easy

From the main camping area, walk through eucalypt and riparian forest on the boundary of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Camping

The camping area is set among tall, open eucalypt forests with flat grassy areas. Campfires are permitted in fire rings and a bulk bin is provided near the entrance road.

Swimming

Access waterholes along Broadwater Creek from the day-use area.

Safety

Safety is our concern but your responsibility (see page 15).

Stinging fish called bullrouts live in the creek. Wear sandshoes or similar footwear when swimming.

Access

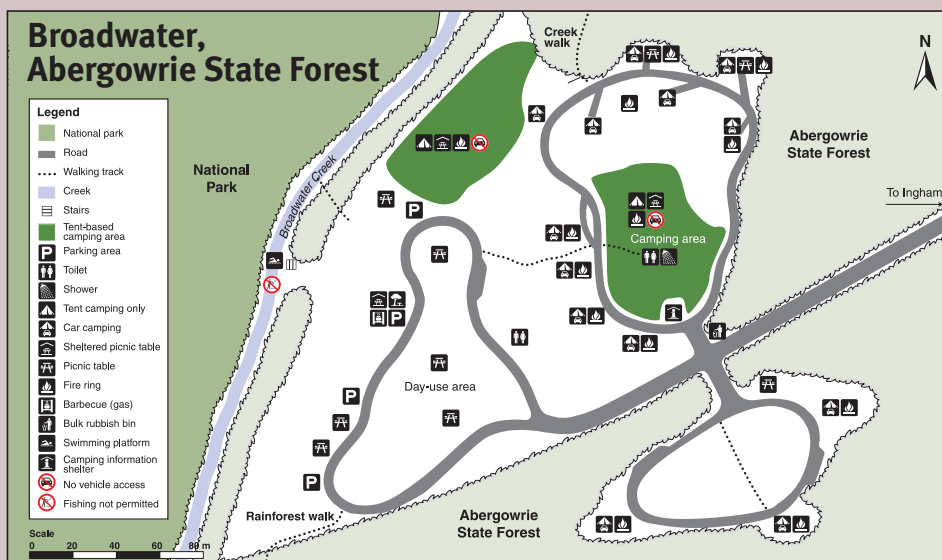
Broadwater is about 45 km west of Ingham. The final 16 km of road is unsealed but can be accessed using a conventional vehicle. Caution is required as timber trucks use the roads.

Southern access

From Ingham, travel 27 km along Abergowrie Road. Turn right at Elphinstone Pocket Road and travel a further 4 km. From here the route is well signposted.

Northern access


Turn west off the Bruce Highway, 2.4 km north of Ingham. Travel 26 km along Hawkins Creek Road then turn right where signposted.



Paluma Range National Park

Cascades in a tapestry of trees.

Lowland forests line the coast, mountain spurs are clad in open forest, dense rainforest surrounds Paluma and tall rose gums stand majestically on the western fringe of the park.

 Treat all water before drinking.

Culture

The Traditional Owners, the Nywaigi Aboriginal people, welcome you to their country.

Natural values

The southern gateway to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Jourama Falls

Walking

Jourama Falls track 3 km return (1 hr)

Grade: moderate

The track passes through open woodland and across Waterview Creek to a lookout.

Camping

This camping area is a large clearing adjacent to Waterview Creek and is popular for swimming and birdwatching.

Wildlife viewing

Kingfishers and flycatchers are common around the creeks. Look for the endangered mahogany glider at night, high in the trees.

Mount Spec

Walking

McClellands lookout 300 m return

(15 mins) Grade: easy

Enjoy extensive views of Halifax Bay and the Palm Island Group.

Witts lookout 3 km return (1.5–2 hrs)

Grade: moderate

Meander through rainforest then climb through open forest to rocky outcrops.

Cloudy Creek 4 km return (2.5 hrs)

Grade: moderate

Visit a series of small waterfalls along Cloudy Creek.

Paluma Rainforest walk 680 m return

(30 mins) Grade: easy

Look for strangler figs, king ferns and evidence of old mining activity in the rainforest.

H track 1.1 km return (1 hr)

Grade: moderate

Follow an old 'snig' track through the rainforest and look for logging relics from the past.

Birthday Creek Falls 1 km return (1 hr)

Grade: moderate

Walk through the rainforest to the cascades. A track leads to the base of the falls.

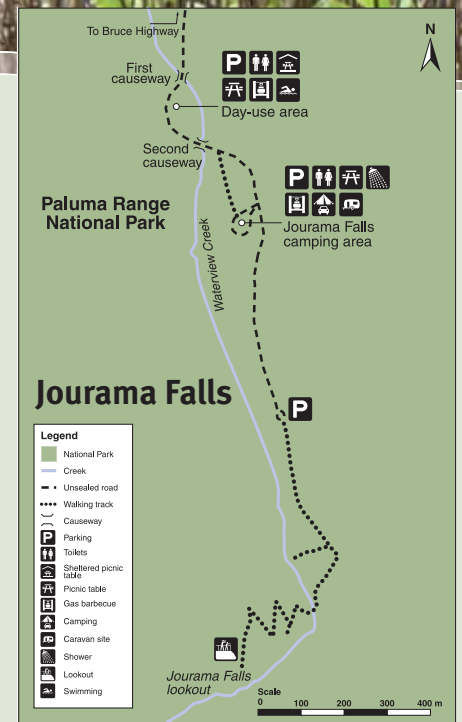
Rock slides 800 m return (40 mins)

Grade: easy

Walk to a series of waterholes and cascades on Big Crystal Creek. The track starts at the end of the road, past the camping area.

Camping

This camping area is beside Big Crystal Creek in a woodland setting. It is popular for swimming, picnicking and birdwatching but not suitable for large caravans and buses.



Wildlife viewing

Look for Australian brush-turkeys, kookaburras and Lewin's honeyeaters at the edge of the forest.

Safety

Safety is our concern but your responsibility (see page 15).

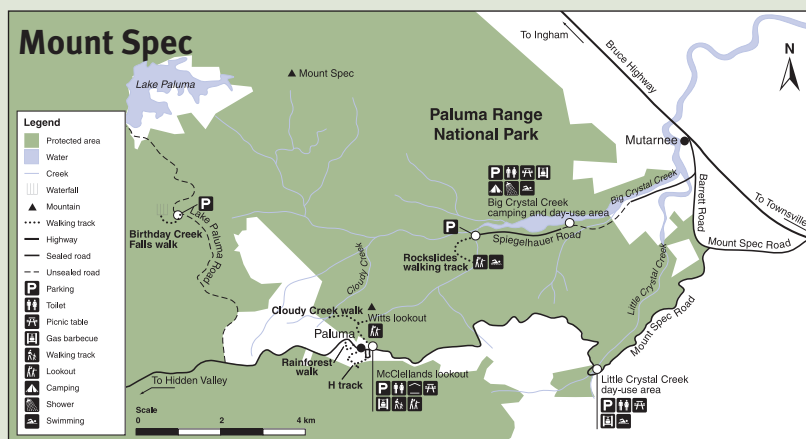
Never jump or dive into water and be careful at the water's edge.


Access

Jourama Falls is 81 km north of Townsville on the Bruce Highway. A 6 km unsealed road leads to Jourama Falls. Access may be restricted during the wet season.

The turnoff to Paluma is 61 km north of Townsville on the Bruce Highway. The 18 km narrow winding bitumen road to Paluma is not suitable for caravans. Fuel is not available at Paluma. The unsealed road to Big Crystal Creek (4 km) leaves the highway 2 km north of the Paluma turn-off.

Birthday Creek Falls are reached via a gravel road starting 4.6 km west of Paluma.



 Rainforest plants fringe the boulder-strewn Waterview Creek.

Magnetic Island National Park

Beauty from bay to bay.

Rocky granite headlands and towering hoop pines overlook tranquil sandy bays on this rugged, mountainous island surrounded by coral reefs.



Culture

The Wulgurukaba Aboriginal Traditional Owners welcome you to Yunbenun (Magnetic Island).

Natural values

The island and surrounding waters are part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Walking

Hawkings Point track

1.2 km (1 hr return) Grade: moderate
From Picnic Street a track winds to the top of a large boulder and spectacular views.

Picnic Bay to West Point 16 km return (5 hrs) Grade: easy

Nelly Bay to Arcadia and Horseshoe Bay 5 km one way (3 hrs) Grade: moderate
Avoid the traffic and enjoy views over Horseshoe Bay.

Forts walk 4 km return (1.5 hrs)
Grade: moderate

This walk ascends to the ruins of the forts complex operated during World War II. Climb to the top for 360 degree views.

Arthur, Florence and Radical bays
Grade: moderate

From the Forts car park, follow a narrow sealed road with tracks branching off to undeveloped bays that offer excellent swimming and snorkelling. Please carry water as drinking water is not available.

- Arthur Bay 2 km return (30 mins)
- Florence Bay 3.6 km return (1 hr)
- Radical Bay 6 km return (2 hrs)
- Searchlight Tower 3.7 km return (1 hr)
- Horseshoe Bay via Radical Bay 7.5 km one way (2 hrs)

Horseshoe Bay Lagoon 200 m return (15 mins) Grade: easy.
Popular for birdwatching.

Horseshoe Bay to Balding Bay 2.5 km return (1 hr) Grade: moderate
From the eastern end of Horseshoe Bay beach, the track leads to secluded Balding Bay.

Photo: Tourism Queensland.



Horseshoe Bay to Radical Bay

3.4 km return (1.5 hrs) Grade: moderate
From the turn-off to Balding Bay, continue to beautiful Radical Bay fringed with hoop-pine and boulder-strewn headlands.

Wildlife viewing

Look for allied rock-wallabies in the early morning or late afternoon. Koalas can be seen in trees, particularly along the Forts and Radical Bay walks.

Fishing

Marine waters surrounding the park are within the Great Barrier Reef and Great Barrier Reef Coast marine parks. Zoning restrictions and bag limits apply (see page 5).



Be croc wise in croc country

Safety

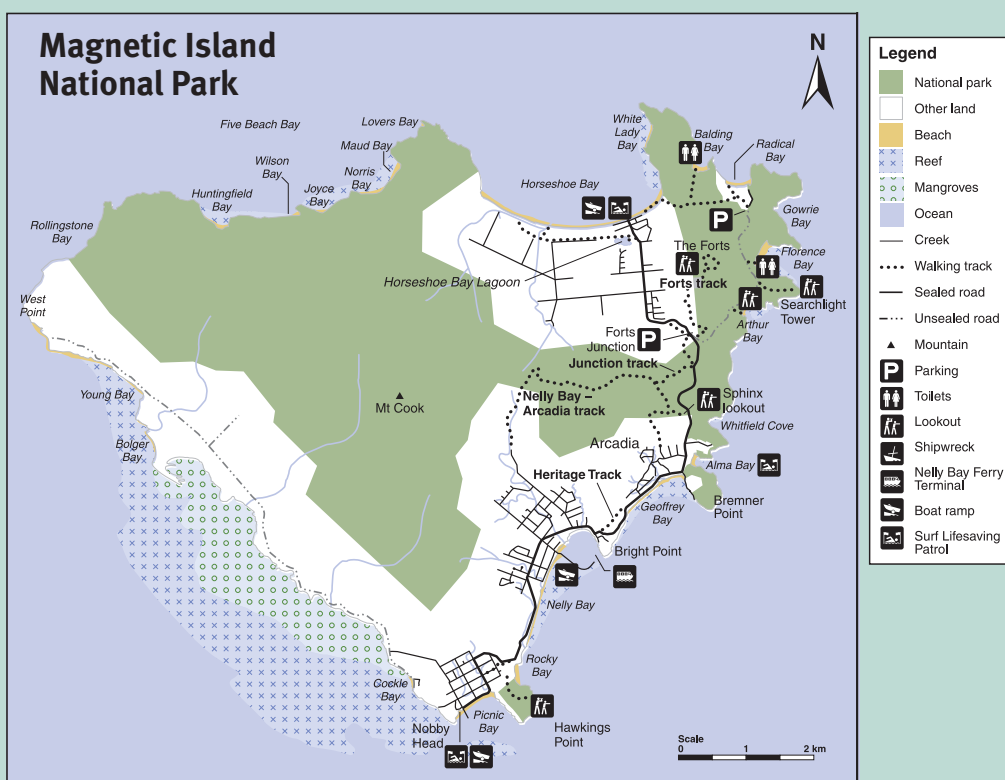
Dangerous stinging jellyfish ('stingers') may be present in the coastal waters at any time, but occur more frequently in the warmer months. A full-body lycra suit, or equivalent, may provide a good measure of protection against stinging jellyfish and sunburn.

Visit www.marinestingers.com.au for the latest safety and first aid information.

Historic fortifications may be unstable. Do not climb on these structures.

Access

The 11.5 km ferry trip from Townsville (passenger and car) takes about 30 mins.



Townsville Town Common Conservation Park

More than meets the eye.

The 'Town Common' is a place of constant change—transformed by summer rains from a series of dry salt pans into a flourishing and productive wetland.



Natural values

The park supports a variety of vegetation types—tidal estuaries fringed with mangroves, grasslands, swamps, woodlands and vine-thickets—all with abundant bird life.

Walking

Forest walk 1.9 km (1 hr return)

Grade: easy

This is a good walk for viewing honeyeaters, kingfishers and other forest birds.

Shelly Beach circuit track

9 km (4–5 hrs return) Grade: moderate

Walk past salt pans, mangroves and vine-thicket to a secluded white sandy beach. Start at the Bald Rock car park.

Bald Rock to Mount Marlow

5 km (2–3 hrs return) Grade: moderate

The grassy summit has inspiring 360 degree views of the park, Townsville, Magnetic Island, Palm Island group and the Coral Sea.

Bald Rock to Pallarenda

4.5 km (4–5 hrs one way)

Grade: difficult

From Mount Marlow, weave through open woodland and pockets of vine-thicket.

The track between Mount Marlow and Tegoora Rock is not well defined in places so care is required when walking.

Pallarenda to Tegoora Rock lookout

2 km (1 hr return) Grade: moderate

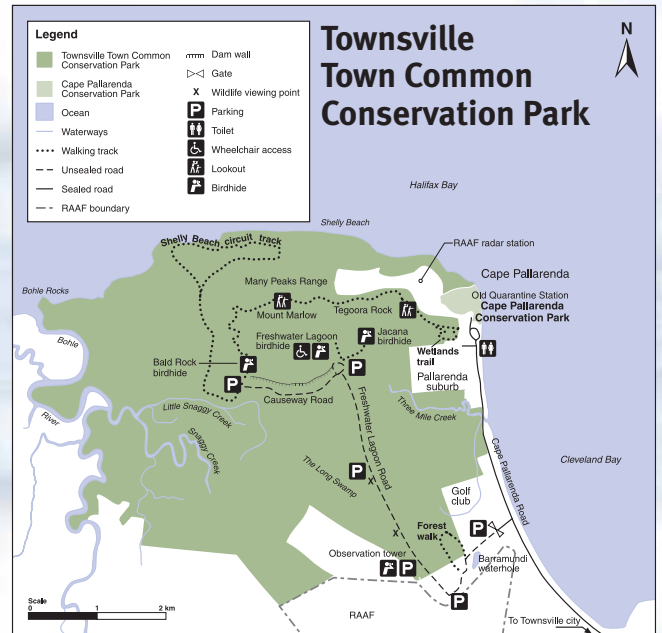
Walk through shady vine-thicket to view the wetlands from above.

Wildlife viewing

Spot wildlife at the observation tower, bird hides or observation points in the park. Over 280 species of birds have been recorded in the area.



Be croc wise in croc country (see page 15)



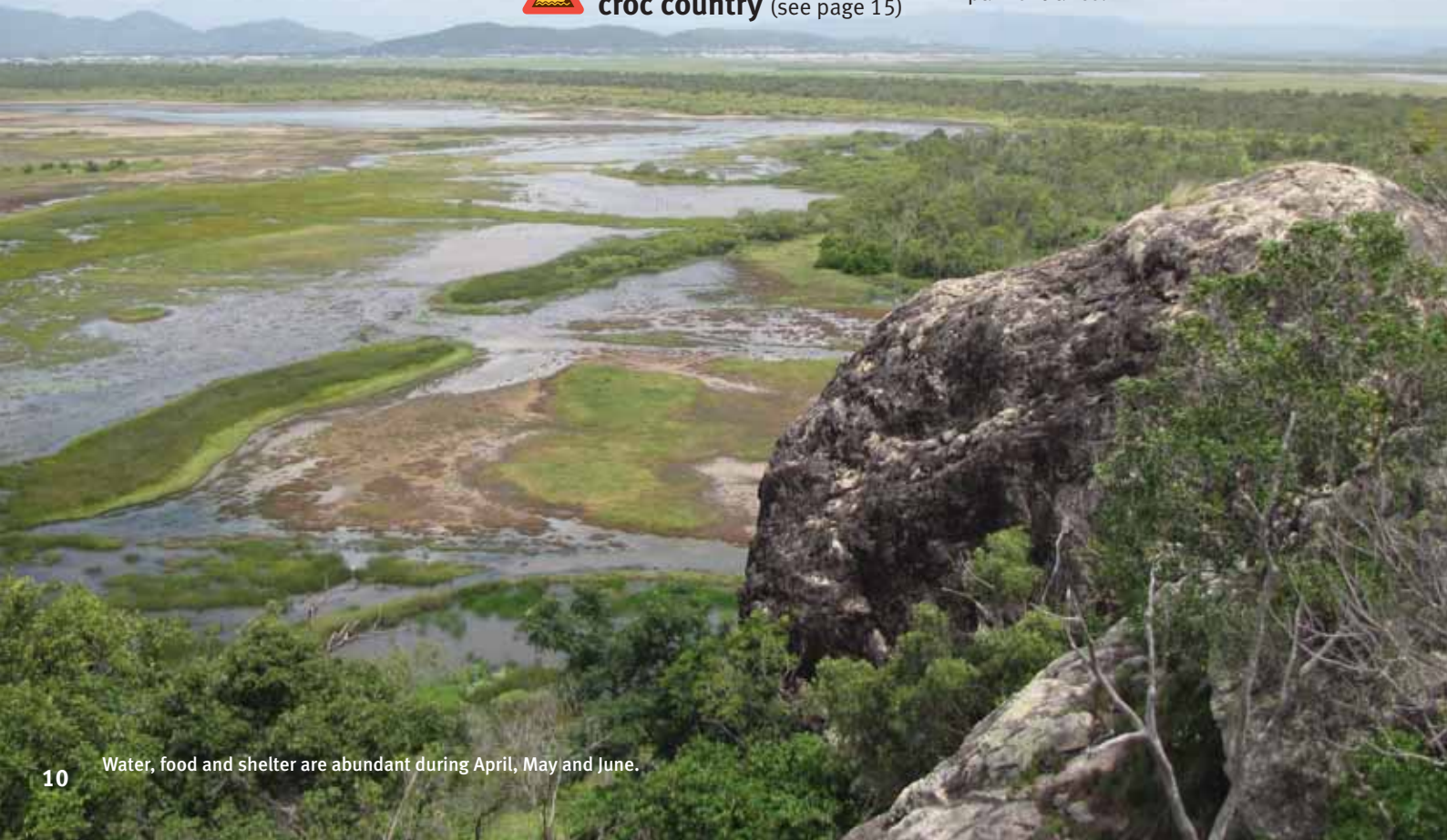
Safety

You are responsible for your own safety (see page 15).

Some tracks may become flooded and partially overgrown during the wet season.

Access

The park, located 6 km from the centre of Townsville, is open daily from 6.30 am to 6.30 pm. Turn off Cape Pallarenda Road near the Rowes Bay Golf Club to the park entrance.



Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park

A coastal defence.

An historic quarantine station with Queenslander-style buildings, World War II fortifications and spectacular views of the ocean and Magnetic Island are features of this park.



History

The quarantine station was designed to isolate passengers on incoming ships if they were carrying contagious diseases. Remains of World War II gun emplacements and searchlight towers can be found scattered around the headland.

Walking

At the end of the road, a short track past the historic display leads to the remains of the old jetty, destroyed by a cyclone in 1971. From here, walking tracks lead to the historic World War II fortifications and on to the Graves circuit.

Graves Circuit 1.9 km return (1 hr)

Grade: easy

The walk passes the graves of the 13 passengers who died at the quarantine station in 1920.

Wildlife viewing

Australian brush-turkeys scratch in the leaf litter around the day-use area, agile wallabies come out of hiding in the late afternoon to graze and sand monitors can be seen scurrying across the road.

✓ The old quarantine buildings are heritage listed.



Brush turkeys are common. ➤

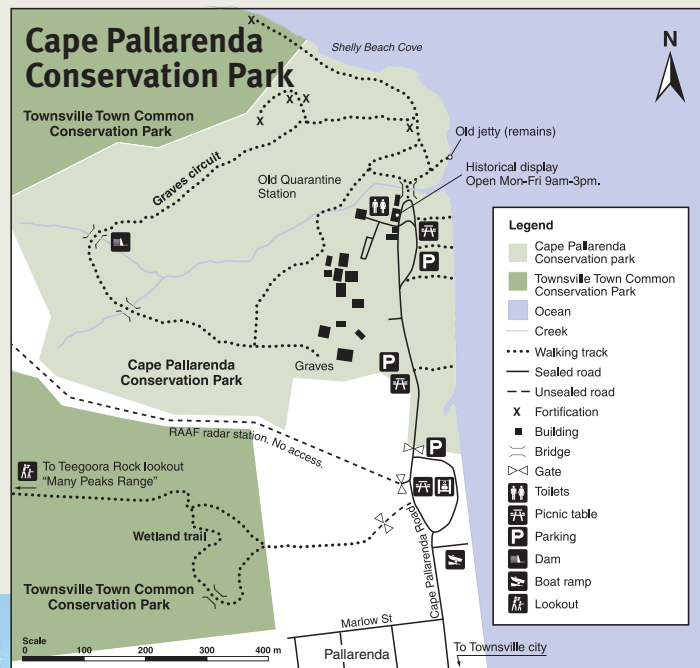
Safety

You are responsible for your own safety (see page 15).

Historic fortifications are scattered throughout the park; they may be unstable. Do not climb on these structures.

Access

Travel to the end of Cape Pallarenda Road, 10 km north of the centre of Townsville. Gates at the park entrance are open from 6.30 am to 6.30 pm daily.



Bowling Green Bay National Park

Naturally diverse.

The park follows the coastline of Cape Cleveland and spreads inland to include the rugged range of Mount Elliot. Diverse habitats, ranging from mangroves at sea level to mountain top rainforests, are protected.



Natural values

The low-lying areas protect internationally-significant wetlands. Mountains are clad in rainforest above 600 m, eucalypt woodland on lower slopes and semi-evergreen vine-thicket on rocky slopes.

Walking

Lookout 1 km (30 min return)

Grade: easy

Get a canopy-level view of the lower sections of Alligator Creek. Walk directly from the car park along a sealed path, or use the steps from the swimming area.

Alligator Falls track 17 km (5 hrs return)

Grade: moderate

This walk starts from the southern end of the main day-use area. Start walking in the morning to allow time to safely return during daylight hours.

Camping

Alligator Creek camping area is the only camping area with facilities. Camp sites only suitable for tents and small campervans. Two wider disabled sites are available. Cocoa, Salmon and Barrattas camping areas are near the coast beside intertidal creeks. They do not have facilities and are susceptible to tidal influences, especially at high tides.

Bush camping sites are located along the track to Alligator Creek Falls. Campers must be completely self-sufficient, carrying food, water and a fuel stove.

Camping permits are required and fees apply (see Camping, page 4).

Wildlife viewing

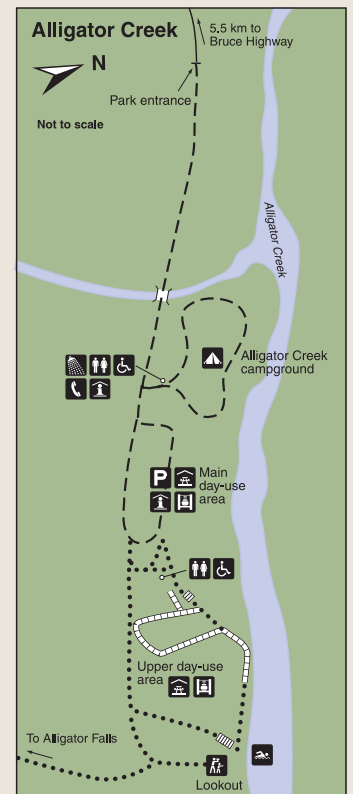
Bowling Green Bay National Park is a haven for birdwatchers, with migratory birds visiting from around the world. The best locations for birdwatching are at the mouth of the Haughton River near the township of Cungulla, the wetlands adjacent to the road to Jerona, and adjacent to Alligator Creek.



Alligator Creek.



Legend		
National park	Stairs	Shower
Ocean/creek	Causeway	Sheltered picnic table
Sealed road	Parking	Gas barbecue
Unsealed road	Lookout	Swimming
Walking track	Camping area	Telephone
Boardwalk	Toilets	Information shelter
	Wheelchair accessible toilet	



Agile wallabies and rock-wallabies feed around Alligator Creek. Common brushtail possums and rufous bettongs 'patrol' the area at night. The buzzing resonance of cicadas can be heard most of the year—look for their empty skins on rough-barked trees.

Fishing

Fishing is restricted to tidal areas only and is not permitted in Alligator Creek. Marine waters adjacent to the park are within the Great Barrier Reef and Great Barrier Reef Coast marine parks and zoning restrictions apply (see page 3). Bowling Green Bay and Cleveland Bay are declared fish habitat areas.

Safety

You are responsible for your own safety (see page 15).

Never dive or jump from rocks into the creek.

Water levels can rise rapidly in Alligator Creek without warning. Do not enter the creek following heavy rain.

Be careful in and near the water as the rocks are slippery and there may be submerged objects. Serious injuries and deaths have occurred here.



Be croc wise in croc country (see page 15)

Access

Alligator Creek, located 25 km south of Townsville, can be accessed by conventional vehicle. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are recommended for access into all areas around Cape Cleveland and Bowling Green Bay.



The boardwalk at Alligator Creek is wheelchair-accessible. ➤

Dalrymple National Park

Historic river frontage.

The sandy edges of the river are a peaceful setting for relaxing under shady blue gums.



Culture

The Gudjal Aboriginal people welcome you to their plum tree camp.

History

See parts of the former Dalrymple township and a memorial to the early European explorer Ludwig Leichardt in the park.

Camping

Vehicle-based bush camping is permitted at several cleared sites. No facilities are provided. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are recommended.

Wildlife viewing

The open woodlands and dry vine thickets are home to rufous bettongs, wallabies and wallaroos.

Fishing

Fishing is not permitted in Fletcher and Lolworth creeks.



Be croc wise in croc country (see page 15).



Access

The park is 42 km north of Charters Towers via the Gregory Developmental Road. Follow the unsealed track at the council's Fletcher Creek camping reserve for 2.5 km to the park entrance. Parts of the former Dalrymple township are privately owned. Public access is not permitted to these areas.

White Mountains National Park

A floral wilderness.

Spectacular flowering heath, impressive white sandstone bluffs and a complex gorge system in rugged, mostly inaccessible, wilderness characterise this park.

Culture

The Traditional Owners, the Gudjal and Yirendali Aboriginal people, welcome you and ask that you respect this special place.

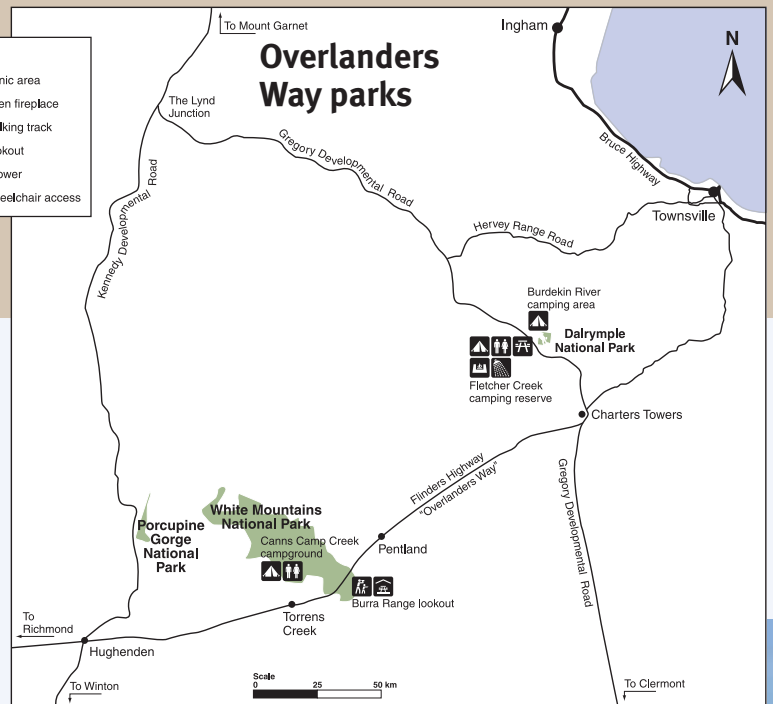
Natural values

This is one of the most botanically diverse parks in inland Queensland.

Camping

Canns Camp Creek camping area is 10 km from the highway. It has a toilet and eight numbered camp sites that are not suitable for caravans or motorhomes. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are recommended.

Legend	
	National park
	Ocean
	Road
	Camping
	Toilets
	Sheltered picnic area
	Picnic area
	Open fireplace
	Walking track
	Lookout
	Shower
	Wheelchair access



Wildlife viewing

In winter, when the park is transformed by colourful wildflowers, birds are plentiful.

Safety

You are responsible for your own safety (see page 15).

Access

The park is 140 km from Charters Towers on the Flinders Highway. The Burra Range lookout is 27 km west of Pentland. The Canns Camp Creek camping area turn-off is a further 11 km west along the highway.



Porcupine Gorge National Park

A canyon in the savanna.

Towering cliffs of coloured sandstone and vegetation fringing Porcupine Creek provide a striking contrast to the parched red surrounds.



Natural values

An amazing display of the geological record, with up to 600 million years of the earth's history laid out.

Walking

The gorge lookout provides sweeping views of the gorge and surrounding landscape.

Pyramid lookout 400 m return (20 mins) Grade: easy

Some of the best views of the Pyramid rock formation can be seen from here. The track starts at the day-use area.

Pyramid track 2.4 km return (1.5 hrs) Grade: moderate

A gradually descending walking track leads to the bottom of the gorge. Returning to the top is more challenging with some strenuous stepped sections.

Camping

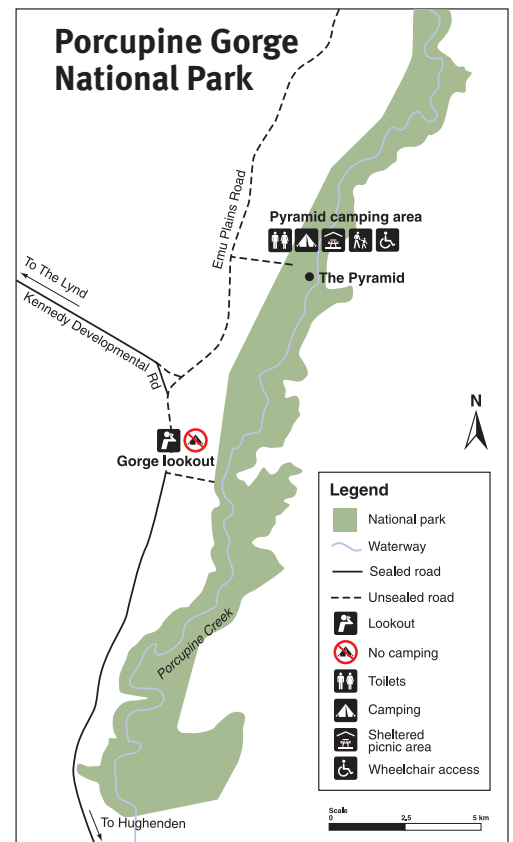
The Pyramid camping area is in open woodland with wheelchair-accessible toilets. There are 22 camp sites of varying sizes suitable for tents, trailers and caravans. Some camp sites have wheelchair-accessible tables.

Wildlife viewing

The gorge is filled with the calls of birds and is a focal point for many animals in the dry season. Permanent deep pools, each with its resident turtles, are lined with casuarinas and paperbarks. Wedge-tailed eagles, with their large wingspan, can be seen soaring high above.

Access

The Gorge lookout is 63 km north of Hughenden on the Kennedy Developmental Road. The Pyramid camping area is a further 11 km north.



✓ The Pyramid displays millions of years of geology.



Things you need to know



For your safety

Some parks are remote and isolated. Visitors must be well prepared and responsible for their own safety.

- Supervise children closely.
- Take care around cliffs, steep slopes and rock faces, along tracks and at lookouts.
- Some waterfalls and creeks contain natural hazards—obey management and safety signs. Never jump or dive into water.
- Wear protective clothing and insect repellent to protect yourself from sunburn, stings, scratches and insect bites.
- Carry adequate drinking water. Treat all water collected from taps, creeks and streams.
- Heavy rain can fall at any time of the year causing creek and river levels to rise and fall rapidly. Crossing creeks requires extreme care.
- Cassowaries live in some parks. Never approach or feed these animals and remember to be cass-o-wary.
- Stinging fish called bullrouts live in some creeks. Wear sandshoes or similar footwear and take care when investigating unusual rocks or objects.
- Dangerous stinging jellyfish ('stingers') may be present in the coastal waters at any time, but occur more frequently in the warmer months. A full-body lycra suit, or equivalent, may provide a good measure of protection against stinging jellyfish and sunburn. Visit www.marinestingers.com.au for the latest safety and first aid information.

In case of an emergency, dial triple zero (000); if network coverage is poor, dial 112 on your mobile phone. For non-urgent incidents, contact Policelink on 13 14 44.

Remember, your safety is our concern but your responsibility.

Be cass-o-wary

Cassowaries live in some parks. Their behaviour is unpredictable. Never approach or feed them. If you encounter a cassowary, back away slowly and put something like a tree or a backpack between yourself and the bird, and then let it go on its way.



Caring for parks

Please assist the rangers and Traditional Owners to look after the natural and cultural values of parks:

- All plants and animals are protected.
- Do not remove plant material, living or dead.
- Never chase, scare or feed animals.
- Domestic animals are not allowed in parks.
- Remove all rubbish, including food scraps.
- Do not feed wildlife—it is harmful to their health.
- Avoid the spread of weeds—check your clothing and shoes regularly for seeds.
- Camp only in designated camping areas.
- Stay on the track. Do not cut corners or create new tracks.

Road conditions

During the wet season (December to April) heavy rain and strong winds may cause flooding and fallen trees, blocking some roads for short periods. Check weather conditions with the Bureau of Meteorology on www.bom.gov.au or by phoning (07) 4779 5999, and road conditions with the Department of Transport and Main Roads on www.131940.qld.gov.au or by phoning 13 19 40.

During the wet season walking tracks and swimming holes may also be closed to ensure visitor safety.

Park alerts

'Park alerts' provide the latest information on access, closures and conditions on all national parks. Go to www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks or phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68).



Be croc wise

Crocodiles live in the rivers, creeks, swamps, wetlands and

waterholes along the coast and are observed offshore of Cape Pallarenda and islands. They are known to live in the Herbert River in Girringun National Park, the Bohle River adjacent to Townsville Town Common Conservation Park, the Burdekin River in Dalrymple National Park and some rivers and creeks in Bowling Green Bay National Park.

Crocodiles are potentially dangerous to people. Never take unnecessary risks in crocodile habitat. You are responsible for your own safety, so please follow these guidelines and be croc wise in croc country:

- Obey crocodile warning signs—they are there for your safety and protection.
- Never swim in water where crocodiles may live, even if there is no warning sign present.
- Swimming or standing in water above knee-height near a crocodile warning sign, or where estuarine crocodiles are frequently seen, is illegal in protected areas.
- When fishing, always stand a few metres back from the water's edge and never stand on logs or branches overhanging the water.
- Never clean fish or discard fish scraps near the water's edge, around campsites or at boat ramps.
- Stay well back from any crocodile slide marks. Crocodiles may be close by and may approach people and boats.
- Boats and vehicles must never be brought within 10 m of an estuarine crocodile in the wild—it is illegal unless part of a commercial crocodile viewing tour.
- Never dangle your arms or legs over the side of a boat. If you fall out of a boat, get out of the water as quickly as possible.
- Never provoke, harass or interfere with crocodiles, even small ones.
- Never feed crocodiles—it is illegal and dangerous.
- Camp at least 2 m above the high water mark and at least 50 m from the water's edge. Avoid places where native animals and domestic stock drink.
- Never leave food scraps, fish frames or bait at your campsite.
- Never prepare food, wash dishes or pursue any other activities near the water's edge or adjacent sloping banks.
- Be more aware of crocodiles at night and during the breeding season (September to April).

Visitor facilities and opportunities

National park (NP)	Page number	Toilets	Day-use area	Drinking water	Camping	Caravan or trailer sites	Showers	Easy, short walks	Harder or longer walks	Natural lookout	Constructed lookout	Boating	Fishing	Web page
Blackbraes National Park					●									●
Blackwood National Park														●
Broadwater, Abergowrie State Forest	5	●	●		●	●	●	●						●
Bowling Green Bay National Park	12	●	●		●		●	●	●	●	●		X*	●
Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park	11	●	●	●				●		●			●	●
Dalrymple National Park	13				●								X***	●
Dalrymple Gap track	5								●	●				●
Girringun National Park—Mt Fox	4								●	●				●
Girringun National Park—Wallaman Falls	4	●	●		●		●	●	●		●		●	●
Girringun National Park—Wet Tropics Great Walk	4				●				●	●			●	●
Great Basalt Wall National Park								no access						●
Halifax Bay Wetlands National Park								no access						●
Magnetic Island National Park	7	●						●	●	●	●	●	X**	●
Moorinya National Park		●			●	●								●
Orpheus Island National Park		●	●		●							●	X**	●
Paluma Range National Park—Jourama Falls	6	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●			●
Paluma Range National Park—Mt Spec	6	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●
Porcupine Gorge National Park	14	●	●	●	●	●		●		●	●		●	●
Town Common Conservation Park	10							●	●	●	●		●	●
White Blow Conservation Park														●
White Mountains National Park	13	●	●		●					●				●

X* tidal areas only, not Alligator Creek area.

X** Waters surrounding the park, not within the park. Refer to zoning maps.

X*** Burdekin River only.

Colourful fungi grow wherever they can.

For further information

Visit www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks or phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

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Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service,
Department of Environment and Resource Management.
BP1955 March 2012.
Printed on eco-friendly paper to save energy and resources.