

HIKES

These hiking tracks traverse remote country and require a high level of experience and logistics. This list is a brief overview - refer to comprehensive 'locality specific' advice in the Queensland National Parks websites, and to book camping permits:

www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/tablelands/pdf/atherton-tland-journey-guide
www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/davies-dinden-bare-hill/about
www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/bartle-frere/about

A Wooroonooran National Park

This large National Park incorporates Mt Bartle Frere, Queensland's highest peak, as well as the extensive Misty Mountains Wilderness Track network.

B Mt Bartle Frere

Only experienced and very fit bushwalkers should attempt the trail to the top of Mt Bartle Frere. Access is via Malanda and Topaz, and good maps are essential, it is easy to get lost. Allow two days, check conditions on the QPWS website, and ensure you have booked your camping permit. On a clear day there are stunning views from the 1,611m summit.

C Misty Mountains Wilderness Trails

The Misty Mountains tracks are accessed via Millaa Millaa or Ravenshoe, and pass through high altitude rainforests to crystal clear creeks and pristine waterfalls. However these tracks quickly become difficult to traverse due to overgrown vegetation and poor signage. Walkers should check park updates and have good maps and navigation skills. Mountain biking is permitted on some tracks. For comprehensive details and maps, refer to:

www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/wooroonooran-palmerston
www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/bartle-frere/about
www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/misty-mountains



Group of walkers on Baldy Yabi Circuit (photo: PNT)

General information about walks in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area can be found at www.wettropics.gov.au/walk-wet-tropics

LOOKING AFTER OUR PARKS

Adapted from the Queensland National Parks website:

- Stay on walking tracks
- Leave everything as you find it
- Take rubbish with you
- Please do not feed the wildlife

STAYING SAFE

- Prior to arrival, check the Park alerts website at www.npsr.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/#northqueensland
- Walk in groups and supervise children at all times
- Be prepared for changes in weather and emergencies
- Carry sufficient water e.g. 1 litre per person per hour
- Allow plenty of time to reach destinations well before dark
- Do not walk after heavy rain as low-lying areas and creek crossings will be flooded
- Avoid mosquito bites, wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing and use insect repellent for protection.

Cover Images: Lone hiker on Mt. Bartle Frere and Kauri Creek Walk (Photos: PNT)

Dungey K. and Whytlaw J. (2007) *Tropical Walking Tracks of North Qld*, Footloose Publications

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T R A I L S E R I E S

POPULAR ATHERTON TABLELANDS WALKING AND HIKING TRAILS



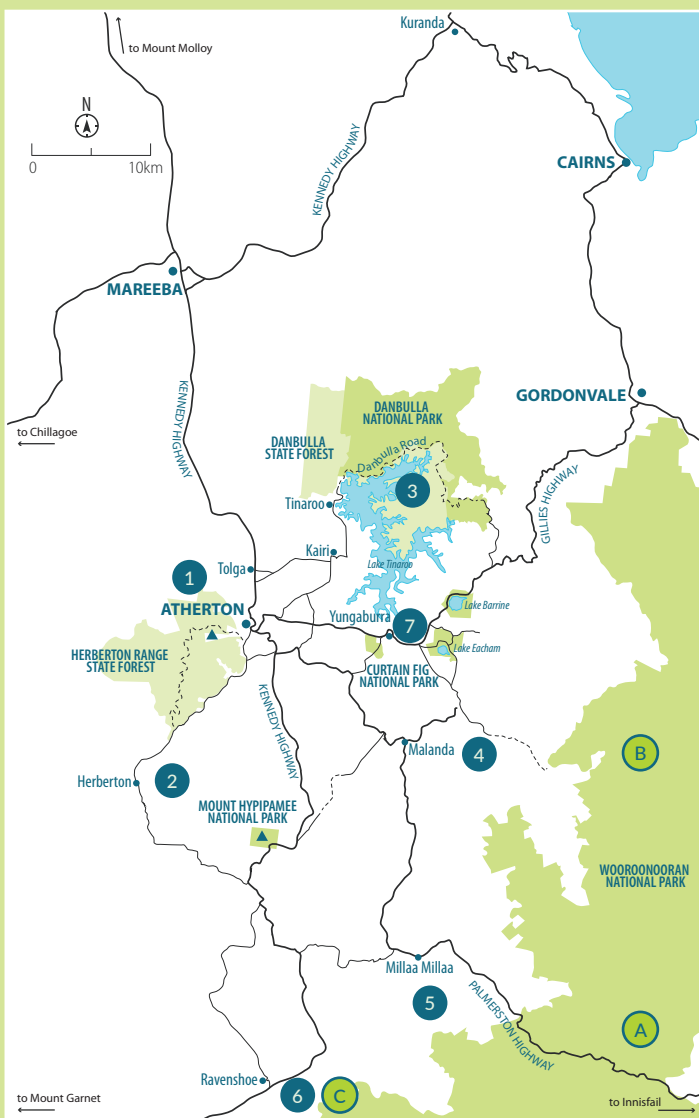
Mt Bartle Frere



Kauri Creek



Wallacher Falls Wooroonooran NP (photo: PNT)



WALKING TRAILS continued

Wongabel State Forest

Two rainforest walks catering for the visually impaired. Rare Mabi Forest, and occasional Lumholtz's Tree-kangaroo and other wildlife sightings. Dog friendly – must be kept on leash.

- **Facilities:** Interpretive signage, limited car parking
- **Distance/time:** Forest walk - 750m return/15minutes. Heritage walk - 2.5km return/1 hr
- **Difficulty:** Easy.
- **Start location:** On the left-hand side of the Kennedy Highway, 9 km south-east of Atherton. Walking track starts at 17° 19' 50" S/145° 30' 02" E

2 HERBERTON AREA

Herberton Great Northern Fire Trails

There are seven trails of various distances and levels of difficulty which start at the Herberton Mining Museum and Visitor Information Centre in Herberton (17° 23' 00" S/145° 23' 14" E). Located on state land, dogs on lead are permitted.

Comprehensive details of these walks can be found at: www.herbertonvisitorcentre.com.au/sample-page/ or in *The Great Northern Fire Trails* brochure, available at the Visitor Information Centre.

Mt Hypipamee National Park - QPWS

Two rainforest walks - Crater Track and Dinner Falls Circuit, leading to a viewing platform above an impressive volcanic pipe (diatreme), created by gas explosions. Excellent bird-watching and a good spot for other wildlife sightings.

- **Facilities:** Picnic tables, toilets, interpretive signage, car parking
- **Distance/time:** Crater Track - 800m return/30 minutes. Dinner Falls Circuit - 1.2km/45 minutes.
- **Difficulty:** Crater Track – Easy. Dinner Falls – Moderate.
- **Start location:** At National Park carpark just off the Kennedy Highway 25km south of Atherton. Walking track starts at 17° 25' 41" S/145° 29' 10" E

Halls Falls

Walk through eucalyptus forest, leading to clear streams and small waterfalls.

- **Facilities:** Basic car parking
- **Distance/time:** 520m return/15 minutes
- **Difficulty:** Moderate. Extreme caution is needed on slippery surfaces and loose rocks.
- **Start location:** Situated in the Herberton Range Conservation Park, approximately 10km south-east of Herberton village centre. Walking track starts at 17° 24' 37 S/145° 26' 51" E

3 LAKE TINAROO AREA

Kauri Creek - QPWS

Rainforest-shaded circuit walk that follows and crosses the beautiful Kauri Creek.

- **Facilities:** Toilets, picnic shelters, BBQ, tables, interpretive signage, car parking
- **Distance/time:** 5km circuit/2.5 hours
- **Difficulty:** Moderate.
- **Start location:** Kauri Creek day-use area, on Danbulla Forest Drive, 12 km east from Tinaroo Falls Village. Walking track starts at 17° 08' 02" S/145° 35' 55" E

Lake Euramoo - QPWS

A short rainforest-shaded circuit that features a small maar or crater, formed by volcanic explosions 10,000 years ago.

- **Facilities:** Viewing platform, toilet at nearby Chimneys day-use area, interpretive signage.
- **Distance/time:** 500 m circuit/15 minutes
- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Start location:** On Danbulla Forest Drive, 16km north from the intersection with the Gillies Highway. Walking track starts at 17° 09' 40" S/145° 37' 38" E

Mobo Creek Crater - QPWS

This track follows the edge of Mobo Creek through upland rainforest, good birding, possible platypus sightings

- **Facilities:** Car parking, some interpretive signage
- **Distance/time:** 650m return/15 minutes
- **Difficulty:** Moderate.
- **Start location:** On Danbulla Forest Drive, 9km north from its intersection with the Gillies Highway. Walking track starts at 17° 10' 22" S/145° 38' 21" E



Views in Danbulla NP (photo: PNT)

4 MALANDA AREA

Malanda Falls Conservation Park - QPWS

Two rainforest circuits with signage interpreting aboriginal history, regular sightings of Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo, platypus, fish and turtles in Johnstone River, good birding.

- **Facilities:** Information Centre, picnic shelters, tables, toilets, interpretive signage, car parking
- **Distance/time:** Tulip Oak Walk - 1km circuit/30minutes. Rainforest Walk - 1.5km circuit/45 minutes
- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Start location:** Malanda Falls Visitor Centre on Malanda-Atherton Road. Walking track starts at 17° 21'19" S/145° 35' 08" E



Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo

5 MILLAA MILLAA AREA

Millaa Millaa Falls, Waterfalls Circuit and Rainforest Walks - part QPWS

There are five short walks to attractive waterfalls, including the iconic Millaa Millaa Falls. For more information regarding The Waterfalls Circuit, rainforest walks and other nearby attractions, go to www.millaamillaa.com/index

- **Facilities:** Picnic tables, toilets, interpretive signage, car parking at Millaa Millaa Falls and picnic shelters and parking at Elinjaa Falls
- **Distance/time:** Generally short walks from car parking areas. The Elinjaa Falls Walk involves a steep walk to the base of the falls
- **Difficulty:** Generally easy. Souita Falls and Elinjaa Falls moderate
- **Start location:** Millaa Millaa, Zillie and Elinjaa Falls are located on a 17.5km loop drive off the Palmerston Highway. Turn left at the Millaa Millaa Tea House, 1.5km east of Millaa Millaa, and follow the signs to Millaa Millaa Falls. This circuit starts at 17° 30' 23" S/145° 37' 15" E

Pepina and Souita Falls are located off the Old Palmerston Highway which starts directly to the south of Millaa Millaa

6 RAVENSHOE AREA

Millstream Falls National Park - QPWS

Two short walks to impressive waterfalls in eucalyptus woodland. Big Millstream Falls is reputed to be the widest single-drop falls in Australia. The Park is rich in World War II history.

- **Facilities:** Toilets - wheelchair access at Big Millstream Falls, shelter, picnic tables, fire places, car parking, scenic lookout
- **Distance/time:** Big Millstream Falls lookout - 680m return/15 minutes. Little Millstream Falls via steep track - 700m return/25 minutes
- **Difficulty:** Both tracks moderate grade.
- **Start location:** Big Millstream Falls are well sign posted on the Kennedy Highway 3.5km west of Ravenshoe. Walking track starts at 17° 38' 31" S /145° 27' 31" E Little Millstream Falls: from Tully Falls Road turn right in to Wooroora Road and travel a further 1.5km. Walking track starts at 17° 37' 26" S/145° 28' 46" E

7 YUNGABURRA AREA

Cathedral Fig Tree - QPWS

Short walk to large, impressive Strangler Fig tree. Good birding and wildlife opportunities,

- **Facilities:** Boardwalk, interpretive signage
- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Distance/time:** 300m return/15 minutes
- **Start:** On Danbulla Forest Drive - an extension of Boar Pocket Road, approximately 6 km north from its intersection with the Gillies Highway. Walking track starts at 17° 10' 38" S/145° 39' 36" E



Cathedral Fig Tree (Elizabeth Carlson/Novaspin Queensland)

Curtain Fig Tree - QPWS

Short loop on boardwalk. Endangered Mabi Forest and large Strangler Fig. Good wildlife spotting.

- **Facilities:** Boardwalk/viewing platform, interpretive signage, car and bus parking
- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Distance/time:** 150m return/10 minutes
- **Start location:** Travel on the Gillies Highway from Yungaburra toward Atherton then turn left into Curtain Fig Tree Road. Travel for 1.5km, the carpark is on the left. Walking track starts at 17° 17' 07" S/145° 34' 24" E

Lake Eacham - QPWS

Rainforest-shaded circuit walk around a volcanic crater lake. Good wildlife viewing and birdwatching opportunities

- **Facilities:** Toilets, picnic shelters/BBQs/tables, interpretive signage, car parking, partly wheelchair accessible
- **Distance/time:** 3km return/45-60 minutes
- **Difficulty:** Moderate.
- **Start location:** Lake Eacham day-use area just off the Gillies Highway, 4km east of Yungaburra. Walking track starts at 17° 17' 06" S/145° 37' 45" E

Lake Barrine - QPWS

Rainforest-shaded circuit walk around a volcanic crater lake, giant Kauri Pine trees, wildlife viewing and good birding opportunities.

- **Facilities:** Toilets, picnic shelter, interpretive signage, car parking, Tea House with wheel-chair access and frequent boat cruise.
- **Distance/time:** 5km return/90-120 minutes
- **Difficulty:** Moderate.
- **Start location:** Just off the Gillies Highway, 9km east of Yungaburra. Walking track starts at 17° 14' 44" S/145° 38'21" E

Peterson Creek Revegetation Walk

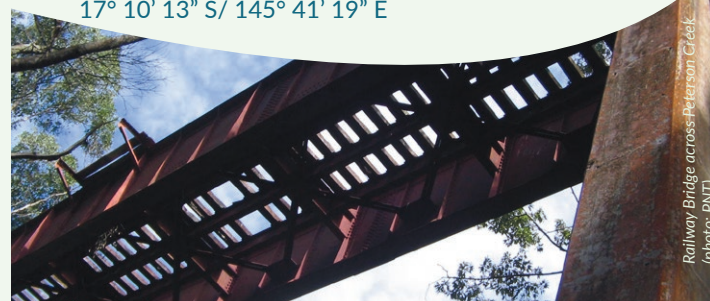
Revegetation project run by volunteers. Good platypus spotting and birding opportunities.

- **Facilities:** Picnic shelters with tables, interpretive signage, car parking.
- **Distance/time:** Creek walk - 1km return from carpark to suspension bridge. Creek walk plus Frawleys Pool, Casuarina Track and Wallaby Track loop - 4km total. Allow 2 hours to do full circuit for wildlife viewing.
- **Difficulty:** Easy to moderate
- **Start location:** Car park at Platypus Viewing Platform, adjacent to Gillies Highway bridge on outskirts of Yungaburra. Walking track starts at 17° 16' 28" S/145° 34' 51" E

Robsons Track

Relatively steep, one-way or return hike, with good views at the start.

- **Facilities:** Car parking, limited directional signage
- **Distance/time:** 4.5km return/ 2-3 hours. It is also possible to do the walk one-way. Walk finishes at parking area beside the Gillies Highway, 16.3km from Gordonvale.
- **Difficulty:** Moderate to Difficult
- **Start location:** From Gillies Lookout located 4km on a dirt road leading east off Danbulla Forest Drive, 5km north from the Gillies Highway intersection. Walking track starts at 17° 10' 13" S/ 145° 41' 19" E



Railway Bridge across Peterson Creek (photo: PNT)

POPULAR ATHERTON TABLELANDS WALKING AND HIKING TRAILS

The Atherton Tablelands is a paradise for walkers with its refreshing tropical climate, mountains and waterfalls, wide open spaces and world heritage rainforests. Extensive national parks, state forests and local parks and reserves provide plenty of options for everyone to explore nature's playground.

While enjoying these walks take time to discover some of our rare and unique wildlife, the region's volcanic past, our rich heritage and culture, and of course after an abundance of fresh air and exercise, indulge in our local gourmet foods and village cafes and markets!

These walks are located in the Tablelands Regional Council area of the Atherton Tablelands. For more information about the region and what to see and do, drop into one of our accredited visitor centres in Atherton, Herberton, Ravenshoe, Malanda and Yungaburra and talk to a local. For walks in the northern area of the Tablelands, contact information centres in Mareeba and Kuranda.

TENURE

Many of the walks are on National Parks or State Forest tenure and more detailed information on these trails is available on the Queensland Government website, where there are also updates on access and conditions:

www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/tablelands/pdf/atherton-tland-journey-guide

At the time of publication, all other walks are accessible to the public.

CLASSIFICATION: GRADE/DIFFICULTY/TIME

Short walks - generally readily accessible from town centres and villages in the region. Longer walks (hikes) - in more remote areas with limited services and therefore requiring a higher level of preparation and adherence to safety principles.

It is recommended that readers seek local advice before embarking on these longer, more arduous hikes.

The walks and hikes are classified into three levels of difficulty:

- **Easy:** Formed track, may have gentle hills, signposted. Limited experience required.
- **Moderate:** Basic formed track with some obstacles, may have short steep hills and steps. Some experience recommended.
- **Difficult:** For experienced bushwalkers only. Track may be long, rough and steep, with few directional signs, may require navigation skills.

All distances and times are based on return trips, and estimated for an individual of 'average fitness and health'.

WALKING TRAILS



1 ATHERTON AREA

Atherton Tablelands Rail Trail

Multi-use trail traversing a range of landscapes between Atherton and Walkamin for safe off-road use by cyclists, walkers and horse riders.

- **Facilities:** Along the trail - interpretive signage and car parking; nearby - toilets, cafes and produce stalls, as well as tourist attractions including Rocky Creek War Memorial.
- **Distance/time:** Various
- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Start location:** Start anywhere or from either end of the trail which runs for 20.5km from Platypus Park just south of Atherton to Tolga, Rocky Creek, currently terminating at Walkamin.

Carrington Falls

Walk to attractive, seasonal waterfall adjacent to disused railway line in eucalyptus forest.

- **Facilities:** None
- **Distance/time:** 1km return, allow 30 minutes
- **Difficulty:** Moderate. Some experience recommended
- **Start location:** From Atherton Post Office, travel 6km along the Atherton-Herberton Road, turn left into Wongabel Road, travel 1.5km, turn right into Carrington Falls Road and travel 1km to parking point in old quarry. Walking track starts at 17° 19' 51" S/145° 26' 59" E.

Hallorans Hill

Shaded walk through the Conservation Park to the summit of Hallorans Hill. Explore the mixed eucalyptus and Mabi forest with excellent bird watching opportunities and panoramic views from the top.

- **Facilities:** Toilets, car parking, playground, picnic tables, BBQ, interpretive signage
- **Distance/time:** 3km return/1.5 hours
- **Difficulty:** Moderate. Some experience recommended
- **Start location:** Hallorans Hill Conservation Park, Louise Street, Atherton, opposite the intersection with Cook Street, and downhill and to the north of the Atherton Hospital. Walking track starts at 17° 15' 54" S/145° 29' 03" E

Yabi Mountain and Mt Baldy - QPWS

Three woodland walks guaranteed to get your heart pumping, offering good views and birdwatching. Dog friendly - must be kept on leash.

- **Facilities:** Car parking, interpretive signage.
- **Distance/time:** Yabi Mountain - 4.5km return/1.5 hours. Mt Baldy - 4.5km return/1.5 hours. Full Circuit walk (Yabi Mtn and Mt Baldy) - 8.5 km return/2-3 hours.
- **Difficulty:** Moderate to difficult. *Observe the Atherton Rifle Range Danger signs and stay on the walking track at all times.*
- **Start location:** Both trailheads are accessed from Rifle Range Road, turn right 1km along the Atherton-Herberton Road opposite the Chinatown Museum and Old Post Office Gallery, The trailhead for both walks are on the left. Yabi Mtn. walking track starts at 17° 16' 38" S/145° 28' 08" E. Mt Baldy walking track starts at 17° 16' 24" S/145° 28' 05" E

Mount Emerald

An energetic walk through eucalyptus forest along the Great Dividing Range. **CLOSED** The summit flows from the summit. There are also remnants of a tragic plane crash in 1990.

- **Facilities:** None
- **Distance/time:** 9.5km return from trailhead on Anderson Road, allow 5 hours
- **Difficulty:** Difficult.
- **Start location:** From Atherton, travel north on the Kennedy Highway for 11.5km. Turn left at the Rocky Creek igloo into Frazer Road. After 1.5km the road becomes Marnane Road. Continue for 4.5km, the road will become gravel. At the T-junction turn left into Anderson Road and travel 2km to its terminal point. The start of the hike is on the right-hand side of the road, at 17° 12' 33" S/145° 25' 48" E

