

The Great Northern Firetrails

HERBERTON • ATHERTON TABLELANDS



WALK SAFELY

- Wear appropriate clothing and sturdy footwear.
- Carry plenty of water, sunscreen, insect repellent and a first aid kit.
- Walk in a group. Tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
- Download the Emergency+ app before leaving.
- There are unmarked mine shafts in the area. The shafts are deep and extremely dangerous, and may be hidden or unstable. Stay on the marked trails and well clear of mine shafts. Falling down a shaft could result in serious injury or death.
- Some sections of the trails are multi-use. You may meet horse riders, mountain bikers or motorbike riders.
- There are no facilities on the trails. The nearest toilets are in the centre.
- Mobile service is not reliable in this area.

TRC DANGER

Open Mine Shaft

There are unmarked mine shafts in this area. The shafts are deep and extremely dangerous, and may be hidden or unstable. Stay on marked trails and well clear of this and other shafts. Falling down a shaft could result in serious injury or death.



Herberton Mining Centre

Jacks Road, Herberton
07 4096 3474
trc.qld.gov.au

Herberton Mining Museum History Association
herbertonminingmuseum.com

Be Social With Us



RESPECT OUR HERITAGE

The entire 24ha of The Great Northern Mine site is protected under the Queensland Heritage Register. Items cannot be taken or moved.

Dogs are welcome on the trails but must be on a lead at all times. Please pick up after your dog.




All photos © Sherrie-Ann Cockell Photography



All trails start from the trail head at the Herberton Mining Centre.

The Great Northern Firetrails


MOUNT IDA LOOP

 **5.7km return**
Difficult
2.5hr walking time

Follow the main access road past the mine buildings and up a slope to a survey marker near an impressive grass tree. Walk around the shoulder of the hill, passing a rocky creek bed, and then left along a mining haul road. You'll pass the tunnel of the Canberra Phoenix Mine before reaching a T-junction. Turn right and walk up a steep mining trail, past several mine shafts and other evidence of mining, to another T-junction and left onto a firetrail. Follow the steep trail the top, taking in views of Herberton along the way, and then turn left onto the start of the Mount Ida Loop.

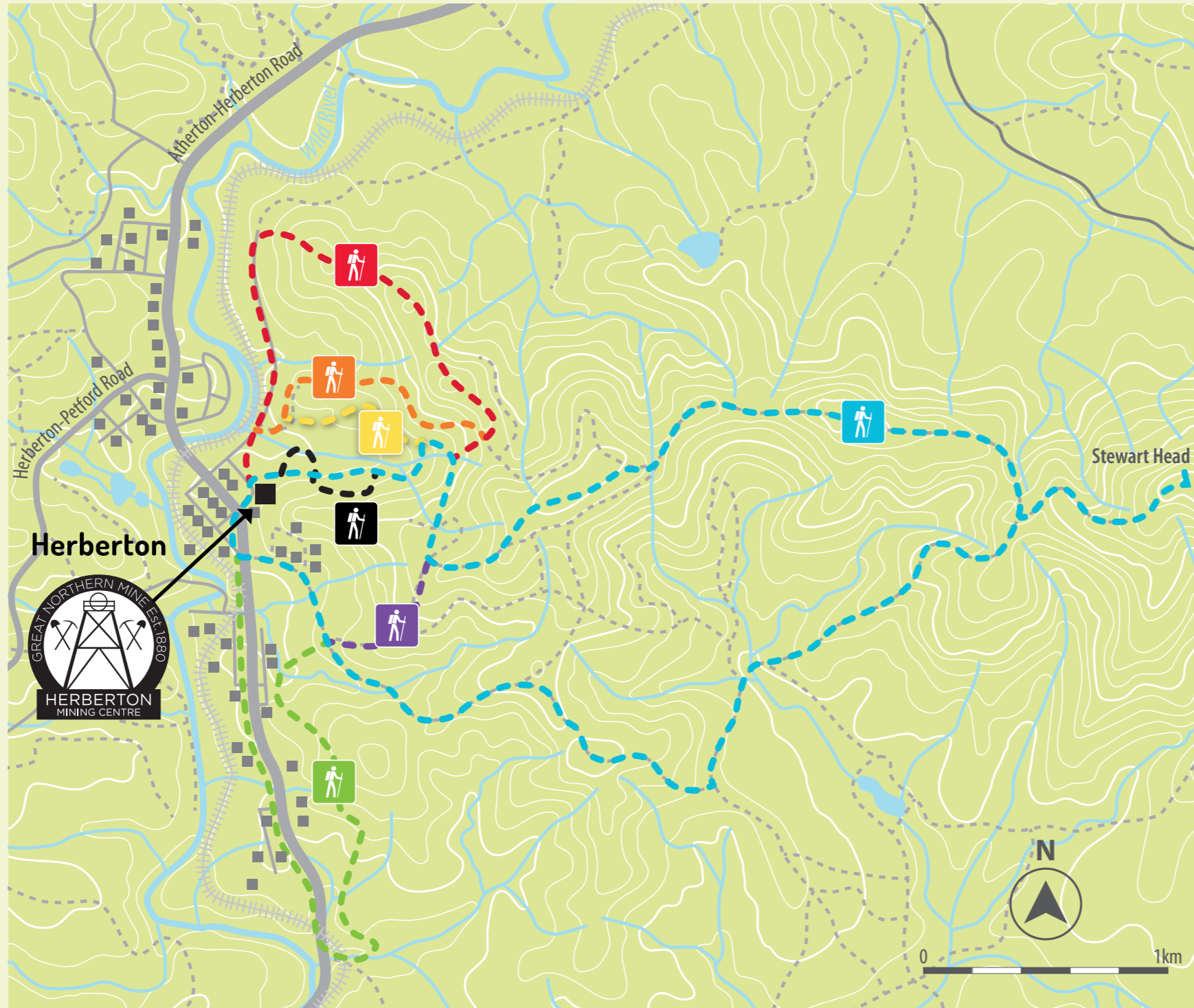
From here there are three distinct and steep climbs and descents across the three peaks of Mount Ida. You'll see mine shafts and spectacular views across Herberton and the neighbouring valleys. At the top of Mount Ida, amongst the mountain heath, you'll also see the cliffs of Stewart Head to the south-west. Keep following the firetrail to Mowbray Road and back to the car park.

MAGAZINE ROAD ESCAPE

 **3.4km return**
Moderate
1.5hr walking time

Follow the main access road past the mine buildings and up a slope to a survey marker near an impressive grass tree. Walk around the shoulder of the hill, passing a rocky creek bed, and then left along a mining haul road. You'll pass the tunnel of the Canberra Phoenix Mine before reaching a T-junction. Turn right and walk up a steep mining trail, past several mine shafts and other evidence of mining, to another T-junction and left onto a firetrail. Follow the steep trail across the top, taking in views of Herberton along the way.


Decide if you want to tackle the much steeper Mount Ida Loop, or turn left onto the downwards



trail and along the shoulder of the hill. This 'escape' track takes you to Magazine Road and back to the car park.



STEWART HEAD TRAIL

 **12km return**
Moderate-difficult
8hr walking time


This is the longest of the Great Northern Firetrails. Walk to the first T-junction, turn right uphill and continue until the T-junction with the firetrail. Turn right onto the Denbigh Road Trail. Follow the trail upwards on a moderate slope, past signs of previous mining activity and onto to a large

quarry. This is the Ironclad Mine, which was mined as an open cut operation in its final days. Just past the mine a two-wheel track leads off the firetrail to the left. This is the start of the Stewart Head Trail.

The trail travels upward towards the ridge top of St Patrick Hill, staying mostly south of the spine of the ridge. After going down and up another series of hills, some quite steep, you'll see the sign to Stewart Head. It is less than


400m to the top — and the views are spectacular. Return to the trail sign, turn left and continue downwards to two quarries and a sign to Herberton, which is two large hills away. Turn right into White Street, then onto Denbigh Road and back into town and the car park.

MACLEOD STREET TRAIL

 **2.1km return**
Easy-moderate
1hr walking time

Follow the main access road past the mine buildings and up a slope to a survey marker near an impressive grass tree. Walk around the shoulder of the hill, passing a rocky creek bed, and then left along a mining haul road. You'll pass the tunnel of the Canberra Phoenix Mine before reaching a T-junction. Take the left track down a long slope until you see a residence. Turn left at another T-junction below this residence to MacLeod Street, which returns you to the car park.

THE GREAT NORTHERN MINE WALK

 **1km return**
Easy
45min walking time


This is the signature walk of the Great Northern Firetrails and it follows a short figure-of-eight pathway past the three main mine shafts that produced the greatest amount of tin ore production in the area.

Follow the upward slope and then turn left downhill towards a gully. This is Prospectors Gully, where lode tin was first discovered on 19 April 1880. Beside the creek is the original gully shaft, now collapsed and full of water. The winding gear above this shaft was powered by a horse whim. Some mining relics are nearby.

Continue up the hill to the main trail and then turn left to an area of mullock dumps. Follow the sign to the right to the eastern shaft and buildings. This mine was the second main shaft sunk on the claim and much of the original mining haul plant is still in place. Some of this equipment are the only known examples in Australia.


Continue past the eastern shaft to rejoin the main trail just before the No.3 shaft and building. This shaft began in 1906 and continued producing until the 1950s. The main trail then returns to the car park.

DENBIGH ROAD TRAIL

 **3km return**
Moderate
1.5hr walking time

Walk to the first T-junction, turn right uphill and continue to another T-junction with the firetrail. Turn right onto the Denbigh Road Trail. Follow the trail upwards on a moderate slope, past signs of previous mining activity, and onto to a large quarry. This is the Ironclad Mine, which was mined as an open cut operation in its final days. From here the firetrail veers slightly to the left and down a long slope to another T-junction. Turn right into White Street, then onto Denbigh Road and back into town and the car park.

SOUTHERN FIRETRAIL

 **6km return**
Moderate
3hr walking time

Walk to the first T-junction, turn right uphill and continue to another T-junction with the firetrail. Turn right onto the Denbigh Road Trail. Follow the trail upwards on a moderate slope, past signs of previous mining activity and onto to a large quarry. This is the Ironclad Mine, which was mined as an open cut operation in its final days. From here the firetrail veers slightly to the left and down a long slope to another T-junction.

Turn left and stay on the obvious trail (not on the less-defined track above the firetrail) and head south towards Wondecla. The Southern Firetrail takes you behind houses that follow the highway, past terraces that were part of an early garden, and to the old railway. Descend to the highway and cross it with care. Follow the trail along the western side of the highway back into town and the car park.

Herberton

Herberton sits at almost 1000m altitude on the western Tablelands. The cool and dry climate, open forest and magnificent views provide some of the best bushwalking in Queensland.

The Herberton Mining Centre, on the original site of The Great Northern Mine, is the hub of Herberton's history. Immerse yourself in the fascinating displays and then explore the heritage landscape via The Great Northern Firetrails. Discover abandoned mine shafts and huge mullock heaps — the remaining evidence of a rich mining past. The network of trails vary in length and difficulty.



GEOLOGY

Herberton's hills and tin deposits are around 400 million years old. A hot spot in the Earth's crust caused tin fluoride to react with the granite. The tin was deposited as tin oxide through cracks in existing rocks, and the fluorine formed topaz, fluorite and mica. As the rocks weathered, small particles of tin washed into the sands of the Wild River.



FLORA

Across the back of the Atherton Tablelands, from Herberton to Ravenshoe, lies a small belt of habitat unlike anywhere else in Australia. On the western edge of the Great Dividing Range it misses the higher rainfall and humidity of the eastern rainforests. The high altitude brings cooler days and nights and the soils are rocky and heavily mineralised.

This area attracts botanists and plant lovers from all over the world searching for species endemic to this area. Look for the botanical markers dotted along The Great Northern Mine Walk. One of the first identifies *Eucalyptus lockyerii*, a rare gum named for a local family who recognised it as a new species in the 1980s.

