

9 HERBERTON RANGE LOOP TRAIL

5-7 HOURS LOOP



The Herberton Range Shared Trails are an 18km loop across the Hugh Nelson Range in the Herberton Range Conservation Park. Enjoy a wonderful cross-section of landscapes and vegetation, enjoy a swim in the pool at Halls Falls and have a picnic and soak in the expansive views from Drovers Lookout.

LANDSCAPE

The Hugh Nelson Range is part of the extensive Herberton Range. These eroding granite outcrops, part of intrusions formed deep in the earth's crust around 270 million years ago, produce a variety of soil types. Where they are coarse, they are free draining and low in nutrients. Towards the peak of the range, the weathered granite has produced finer grained soils, which hold moisture and are responsible for the dramatic change in vegetation.

VEGETATION

On the lower slopes, Red Mahoganies *Eucalyptus resinifera*, Queensland Stringybarks *Eucalyptus redupta* and She-oaks *Allocasuarina littoralis* are common. Higher up, the slopes are cloaked in White Mahoganies *Eucalyptus portuensis*, Pink Bloodwoods *Corymbia intermedia* and Lemon-scented Gums *Corymbia citriodora*.

Near the crest of the range the trail passes through a section of Wet Sclerophyll, with large Rose Gums *Eucalyptus grandis*. These striking eucalypts are ringed by loose grey-brown bark at their base, and have smooth white trunks that grow to more than 50m. There are a number of species typical of rainforests on the Tablelands including Pleated Gingers *Alpinia arctiflora*. The underside of the long shiny leaves of this ginger often have a velvety texture.

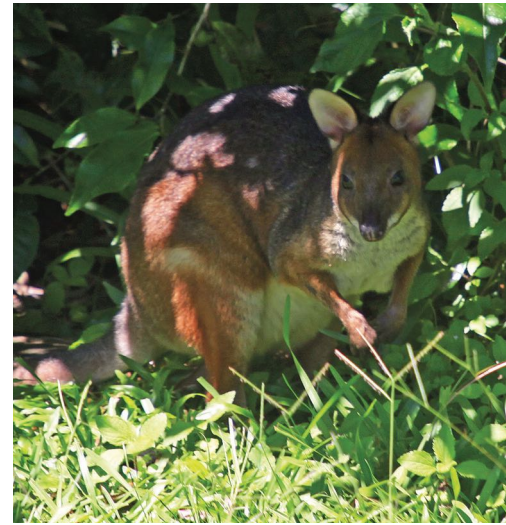
FAUNA

Lumholtz Tree-kangaroos *Dendrolagus lumholtzi* are sometimes seen in the wetter sections of the forest. These amazing kangaroos are adapted to a life in the trees, with strong forearms for climbing, spongy hind feet for gripping and a long tail for balance.

At ground level, the Red-legged Pademelon *Thylogale stigmatica* can be seen at the margins of the wetter forest, usually not far

from thick vegetation. These small wallabies have a short tail, grey-brown fur with reddish hind legs.

Keep your eye out for Grey Fantails *Rhipidura albiscapa*. These small, grey birds feed on insects in the lower canopy and understorey. They are often bold approaching walkers and riders to snatch insects disturbed by their movements. Listen for the Grey Fantail's metallic cheek call and chattering in the forest beside the trail, especially at the creek crossings.



Red-legged Pademelon



Rider crossing North Wondecla Creek

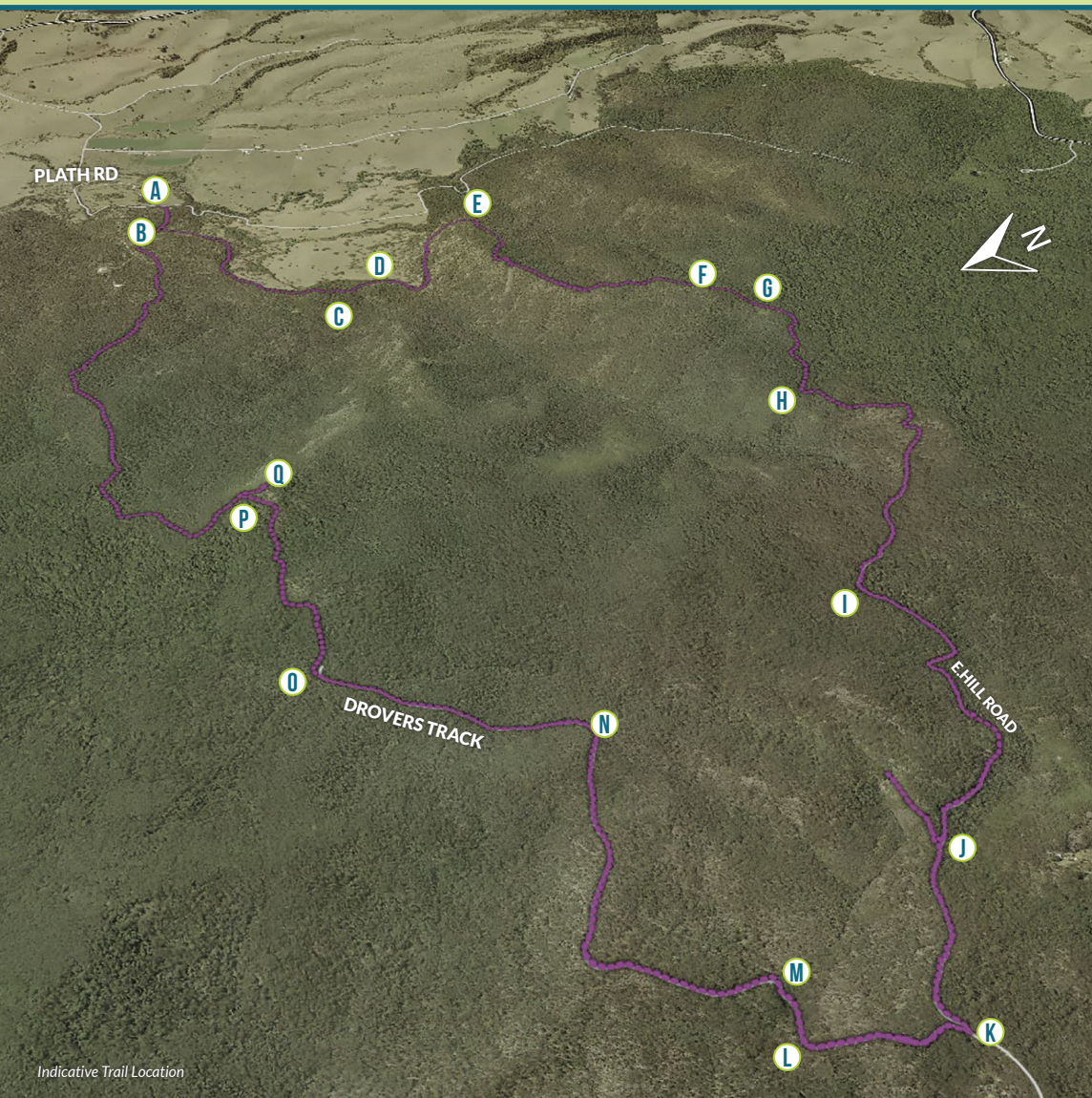


Halls Falls



9 HERBERTON RANGE LOOP TRAIL

5-7 HOURS LOOP



Indicative Trail Location

TIPS & SAFETY

- ▼ Plan your walk and ride to arrive in daylight hours. Let someone responsible know where you are going, when you expect to be back and what to do if you do not return.
- ▼ Check the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service webpage (parks.des.qld.gov.au) for park alerts, management and safety information
- ▼ Reduce the spread of weeds and fungal diseases by cleaning mud and seeds from your equipment (shoes, backpacks, bikes, camping gear etc.) before you head off.
- ▼ Walk and ride to the conditions and within your abilities. Be prepared for vehicles, walkers, wildlife unexpected hazards like fallen trees. Be careful on slippery slopes, cliff edges and at water crossings.
- ▼ Take plenty of drinking water. Carry a first aid kit and know how to use it.

GETTING THERE

From Atherton travel south on the Kennedy Highway for 14.1km. Turn right into Plath Road and follow it 3.8km to the park on the right. Look for State Forests sign and old cattle grid.

TRAIL INFORMATION

The trail crosses the Hugh Nelson range towards Wondecla, and then re-crosses the range to return to the car park.

- A. Car park. Follow the unsealed road up the hill.
- B. 270m – junction. Take the road on the left.
- C. 1.5km – creek crossing.
- D. 2.0km – Poona Creek and start of steep climb section. The climb from here is in 3 sections. At the top, give your legs or your horse a break and enjoy the view to the north and east.
- E. 2.8km – junction. Continue up the hill.
- F. 4.2km – False summit. Take a rest for the final 600m climb to the summit on this section of the trail.
- G. 4.6km – Summit. The vegetation here changes to rainforest.
- H. 5.5km – Small creek flows out of the rainforest here and crosses under the road.
- I. 7.2km – junction. Continue straight on the main trail.

- J. 8.0km – turn off to Halls Falls. Take the 260m track to the falls. Bikes and horses are not permitted. Return the way you came to rejoin the trail.
- K. 9.3km – intersection with Drovers Track. Take the road on the right to join the road heading downhill. Bike riders will enjoy the next 700m of downhill run.
- L. 9.7km – junction. Continue straight.
- M. 10.0km – North Wondecla Creek. Take a break and give your legs or horse a rest for the steep climbs to come.
- N. 11.3km – junction. Continue straight.
- O. 12.2km – junction. Continue straight.
- P. 13.3km – turn off to Drovers Lookout. Take this steep trail up to the summit.
- Q. 13.4km – Drovers Lookout. Great spot for a picnic and to enjoy the expansive views. Return the way you came to rejoin the trail. Good news for the mountain bike riders, the 4.5km from here back to the carpark is almost all downhill.
- A. 18km – car park.

BEST TIME TO GO

The best time to enjoy the Herberton Range Shared Trails is during the dry season (April–October). At other times of the year heavy downpours, low cloud, high temperatures and intense humidity are common.

If you liked this trail, you might also like these other 10 Top Tableland Trails:

5. Tumoulin Loop Trail. This 12km loop trail is suitable for walking, bike riding and horse riding. Don't miss the short sidetrack to beautiful McKenzie Falls.

#10. Mt Edith and Kauri Creek Loop. For something more strenuous, this 45km multi-day walk or bike ride takes in the scenery along Mount Edith and Kauri Creek roads.