



4 MAJORS MOUNTAIN TRAIL

3 HOURS RETURN



This 6.2km return trail to the summit of Majors Mountain is part of the Misty Mountains Wilderness Tracks. Follow old logging trails and narrow tracks through the forest for rewarding views over the surrounding forest. You can ride the first 2.3km of the trail before leaving the bikes behind for the steep climb to the summit.

Deep within Tully Falls National Park, and part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, this wilderness experience will reward your efforts with changing vegetation and breathtaking scenery.

THE LANDSCAPE

The trail travels through the deeply eroded landscape of the Atherton Tablelands escarpment. An extensive series of volcanic eruptions covered portions of the Atherton Tablelands in deep layers of volcanic ash and debris. Over millions of years this has compacted and compressed and granite intrusions formed deep in the earth's crust below. Creeks and rivers then eroded the landscape to form the topography we see today.

THE VEGETATION

The weathered volcanic soils along this trail are high in nutrients and hold moisture well. Combined with the high rainfall they support rich and diverse vegetation. Look for large Rose Gums *Eucalyptus grandis* at the start of the trail. These striking eucalypts are ringed by loose grey-brown bark at their base, and have smooth white trunks that can grow to more than 50m.

Wait-a-while *Calamus* species grows throughout the forest, heading upwards towards the light on long tendrils lined with hooks. The hooks often 'grab' unsuspecting walkers and riders on their skin, clothes and equipment.

On the summit of Majors Mountain is a section of heath growing in the shallow soils on the exposed rock. This is not a common vegetation community in the Wet Tropics and is a result of shallow soils and exposure to wind. During the dry season you may see the reddish leaves of the Resurrection Plant *Borya septentrionalis*, which returns to green within days of rain.

THE FAUNA

Sightings of the Southern Cassowaries *Casuarius casuarius* are relatively common. Swallowing their fruit whole, Cassowaries digest the pulp and deposit seeds over great distances. Their large scats can contain

hundreds of seeds and play an integral role in maintaining the diversity of the rainforest. Look for their footprints and scats as you walk along the trail.

One of the more common animals along the track is the shy Musky Rat Kangaroo *Hypsiprymnodon moschatus*. This amazing marsupial has been living in the rainforests of Australia for millions of years, and is the only surviving member of the genus related to modern kangaroos. They are one of only two diurnal (day-active) marsupials in Australia. Look for them collecting fruit in the leaf litter, or crossing the trail. If you come across a tree dropping large amounts of fruit on the trail, it is worth standing quietly for a few minutes and seeing if a Musky Rat Kangaroo or some other frugivore will emerge.

Twelve species of birds are endemic to the Wet Tropics and you may see and hear some of them along the trail. Keep your eye out for Grey Fantails *Rhipidura albiscapa*. These small and grey birds feed on insects in the lower canopy and understorey. They are often bold, approaching walkers to snatch insects disturbed by their movements.



Southern Cassowary



Rider crossing Vine Creek



View from Majors Mountain Summit

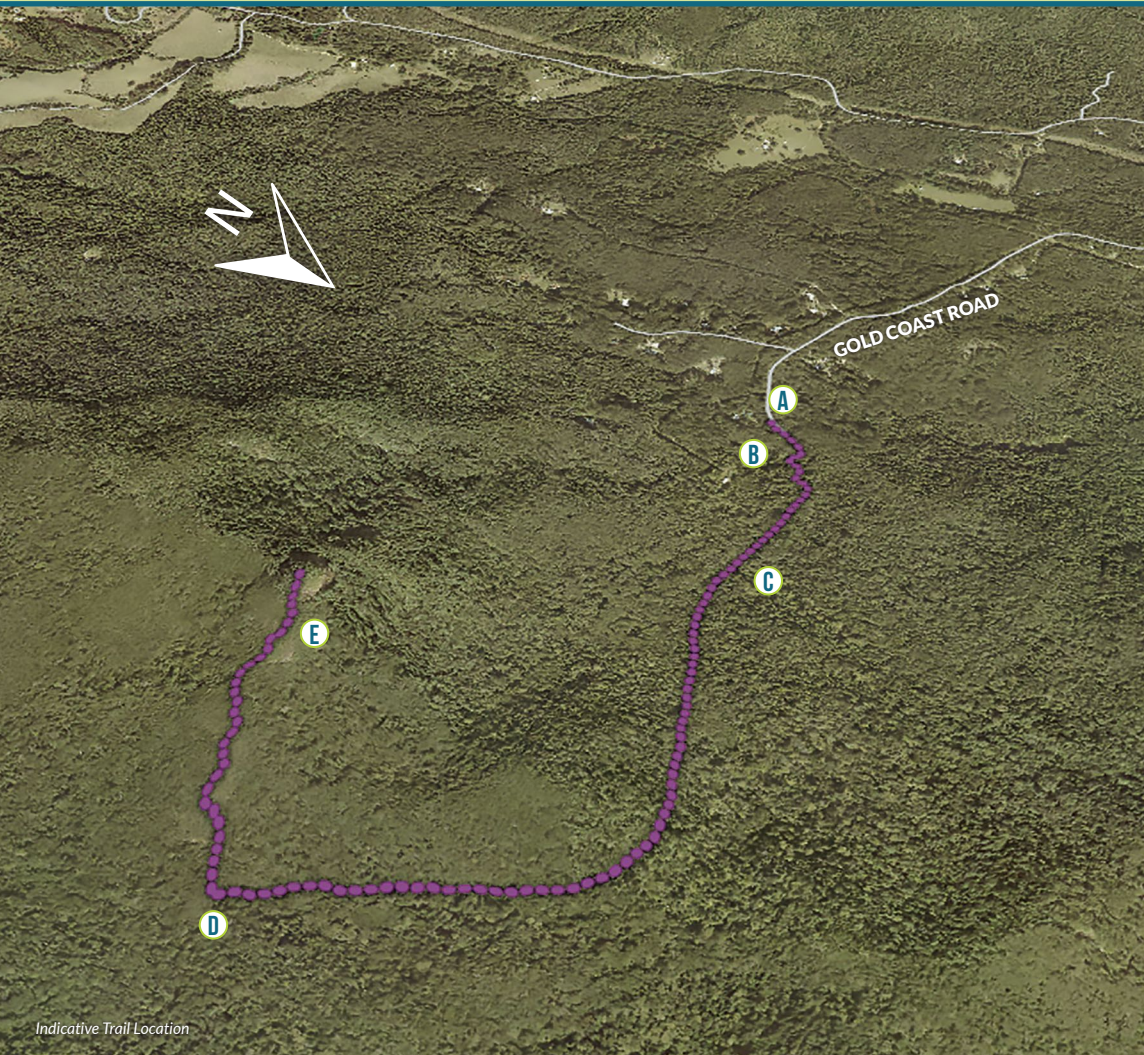






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Indicative Trail Location

## TIPS & SAFETY

- ▼ The Misty Mountain Wilderness tracks are intended for visitors with advanced bushwalking/mountain-biking and navigation skills. You should carry maps and navigation equipment as you may need to find your way along indistinct trails.
- ▼ Plan your walk to return 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](http://parks.des.qld.gov.au)) for park alerts, management and safety information, and to book your camping.
- ▼ Reduce the spread of weeds and fungal diseases by cleaning mud and seeds from your equipment (shoes, backpacks, bikes etc.) before you head off.
- ▼ Walk and ride to the conditions and within your abilities. Be prepared for unexpected hazards like fallen trees. Be careful on slippery slopes, cliff edges and at water crossings.
- ▼ Wear appropriate clothing and safety equipment.

## TRAIL INFORMATION

- A. Trailhead
- B. 140m – gate. Pass through and continue downhill.
- C. 600m – Vine Creek. Cross and continue uphill.
- D. 2.2km – junction with track to summit. Turn right and start climbing. Leave bikes here.
- E. 3.1km – summit of Majors Mountain. Take the opportunity for a rest and enjoy the multiple expansive views. The trail is a little indistinct on the summit, so walk carefully.

Return the way you came.

## GETTING THERE

From Ravenshoe travel 1.2km to the Kennedy Highway and then south along Tully Falls Road for 2.7km. Turn left into Cockram Road and then follow Gold Coast Road to the trailhead (2.4km from Tully Falls Road).

### 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 side trail to beautiful McKenzie Falls.

**#8 Cannabullen Falls.** Mountain bike ride or walk this rainforest trail to majestic Cannabullen Falls. With two smaller sets of falls immediately upstream plunging into a large pool, and then the impressive Canabullen Falls downstream providing sweeping views over the valley below, this walk is worth the effort.

## BEST TIME TO GO

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

