

# 7 MT BALDY AND MT YABI LOOP TRAIL

3-5 HOURS LOOP



The 8.4km Baldy Yabi Circuit climbs the summits of Mount Baldy (1,109m) and Yabi Mountain (1,055m) and rewards your efforts with stunning views across the landscape. Enjoy a range of forest types and options for shorter walks, right on the doorstep of Atherton.

The Baldy Yabi Circuit Walk encompasses parts of the Herberton Range State Forest and the Baldy Mountain Forest Reserve.

## LANDSCAPE

The meta-sediments of the 360 million-year-old Hodgkinson formation are exposed on the lower slopes of Mount Baldy and Yabi Mountain and their free-draining soils produce some of the least fertile soils in the district. Further up the slopes, the eroding granite outcrops are part of a 270 million-year-old intrusion formation and produce sandy, free draining soils that are also low in nutrients. Between the peaks of the mountains much younger, weathered volcanic basalts produce soils that hold moisture and are higher in nutrient content, causing a dramatic change in vegetation.

Along the trail you will have views over the rich agricultural plains to the east. Here, the much richer and younger soils of the "Golden Triangle" are the result of the weathering of volcanic outflows, which the Seven Sisters cinder cones are also a part. These appear as a series of seven prominent hills you can see to the east and south east.

## VEGETATION

The geology on the Baldy Yabi Circuit plays a major part in influencing the vegetation. On the lower slopes nearer the car park, look for tall White Mahoganies *Eucalyptus portuensis*, Narrow-leaved Red Ironbark *Eucalyptus drepanophylla* and Pink Bloodwood *Corymbia intermedia* with their grassy understorey.

On the upper slopes, where the soils are thinner and hold less moisture, patches of She-oaks *Allocasuarina species* and Grass Trees *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii* dot the landscape.

In the saddle between the summits, wet sclerophyll forest flourishes on the richer, wetter soils. Towering Rose Gums *Eucalyptus grandis*, Red Mahoganies *Eucalyptus resinifera*, Scrub Turpentine *Syncarpia glomulifera* and Yellow Messmates *Eucalyptus acmenoides* shade the trail. Pleated Ginger *Alpinia arctiflora* are also common along the trail in this section and often have a velvety underside to their leaves.

## FAUNA

In the grassy understorey, keep an eye out in the cooler times of the day for Agile Wallabies *Macropus agilis* and the less common Whiptail Wallabies *Macropus parryi*.

Birds are abundant along the trail, with the species mirroring changes in forest types. On the lower slopes look for the Red-backed Fairy Wrens *Malurus melanocephalus*. These tiny birds, about the size on a ping-pong ball, stay low in the grasses and small shrubs. The females are brilliant red and black. Males often perch on exposed low branches and sing loudly to proclaim their territory.

The tall flowers spikes of grass trees are magnets for birds and insects. Look for Scarlet Honeyeaters *Myzomela sanguinolenta* and tiny native bees on the spikes.

From the lookouts, scan the skies for Black Kites *Milvus migrans* and Wedge-tailed Eagles *Aquila audax* soaring over the plains.

Look for the Blue Argus Butterflies *Junonia orithya* perching on the trail and nearby open areas. These butterflies rest with their wings open, showing large eye-spots and striking blue patterns.



Agile Wallaby



Walkers on Mount Baldy Trail



Scarlet Honeyeater



View from Mt Baldy summit

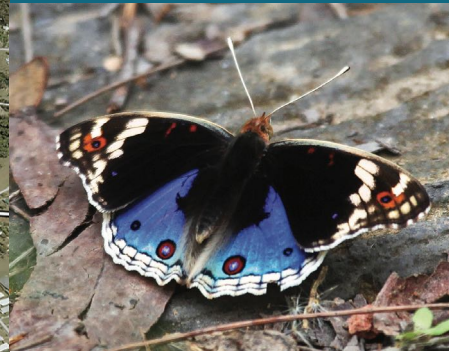


Indicative Trail Location

- Main Track: - - - - -
- Alternative Route: - - - - -

## TIPS & SAFETY

- ▼ Check the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service webpage ([parks.des.qld.gov.au](http://parks.des.qld.gov.au)) for park alerts, and management and safety information.
- ▼ Reduce the spread of weeds and fungal diseases by cleaning mud and seeds from your equipment (shoes and backpacks) before you head off.
- ▼ Take care and walk to the conditions and your abilities.
- ▼ Dogs must remain on a leash at all times.



Blue Argus Butterfly

## TRAIL INFORMATION

The trail information starts from the Mount Baldy car park.

- A. From the Mount Baldy car park follow the trail past the Visitor Information sign crossing Thompson Creek and travelling up the hill.
- B. 650m — junction. Turn right towards the Mount Baldy summit.
- C. 900m — take a break from the steep climb on the seat to the right, catch your breath and enjoy the views over Atherton as a taste of things to come.
- D. 1km — the trail flattens out for a while here. Enjoy the easier terrain after the steep climb.
- E. 1.4km — note the Cycads *Cycas species* growing to the right of the trail here. This is an ancient lineage of plants.
- F. 2km — sidetrack on left. Follow the short trail to the lookout and stone seat. Take a breather for the climb to come and enjoy the view across to Yabi Mountain. Return the way you came to re-join the main trail.
- G. 2.2km — junction. Turn right off the main trail for the short final climb to the summit of Mount Baldy. Return to main trail.
- H. 2.3km — the vegetation sharply transitions here to Wet Sclerophyll forest due to the change in soil type. Listen for the different bird calls as the vegetation causes a change in fauna.
- I. 3.5km — the soil changes again here back to the granite soils, causing the sharp change in vegetation.
- J. 4.4km — junction. Turn right towards the Yabi Mountain summit, with 500m (1km return) to the stunning views from the summit. Take the chance to have a break at the summit, enjoy the views and scan the skies for cruising Kites and Wedge-tailed Eagles. Return the way you came to re-join the main trail and continue to the right.
- K. 6km — sidetrack. Take the short path to the left to the lookout over Atherton and Mount Baldy. Return the way you came to re-join the trail.
- L. 6.6km — track to Yabi Mountain car park. Keep left and stay on the main trail.
- M. 7.1km — track to Yabi Mountain car park. Turn left on the fire trail towards the Mount Baldy car park.
- B. 7.5km — junction. Continue right towards the Mount Baldy car park.
- A. 8.1km — Mount Baldy car park.

## GETTING THERE

From Atherton travel 1.6km south on the Atherton Herberton Road. Turn right into Rifle Range Road. There are two options for the start of the walk. The first car park is 250m along Rifle Range Road and is closest to Yabi Mountain. The second car park is 590m along Rifle Range Road and is closest to Mount Baldy.

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

- #1. **Peterson Creek.** A family-friendly walk near Yungaburra and a great place to see platypus.
- #4. **Majors Mountain Trail.** Follow old logging trails and narrow tracks through the forest for rewarding views over the surrounding forest from the summit of Majors Mountain.

## BEST TIME TO GO

The cooler months are the best time to walk the Baldy Yabi Circuit, or in the early morning and late afternoon at other times of the year.