

8 CANNABULLEN FALLS

4-6 HOURS RETURN



This 13.6km return trail to the top of spectacular Cannabullen Falls is part of the Misty Mountains Wilderness Tracks. Take in the scenery as Cannabullen Creek plunges more than 45m to the gorge below. Fifty metres upstream are two stepped waterfalls with a clear pool.

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

LANDSCAPE

This trail travels through the deeply eroded landscape of the Atherton Tablelands escarpment. While the underlying rock is granite (like Bartle Frere), a series of volcanic eruptions about seven million years ago covered much of the region in deep layers of basalt. Over millions of years this has weathered to form rich, red soils and the creeks and rivers have eroded the landscape to create the topography we see today.

VEGETATION

The weathered volcanic soils and high rainfall support rich and diverse rainforest. Look for towering Queensland Kauri Pines *Agathis robusta* and Red Cedars *Toona ciliata*, lush epiphytes, intertwining vines and delicate understorey plants. The rainforest along this trail is largely Closed Forest as the canopy from the taller trees creates almost a complete cover, with little direct sunlight reaching the forest floor. Consequently, there are relatively few plants at the lower level.

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.

FAUNA

Sightings of the Southern Cassowaries *Casuarius casuarius* are relatively common on this trail. 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, grey birds feed on insects in the lower canopy and understorey. They are often bold, approaching walkers to snatch insects disturbed by their movements.



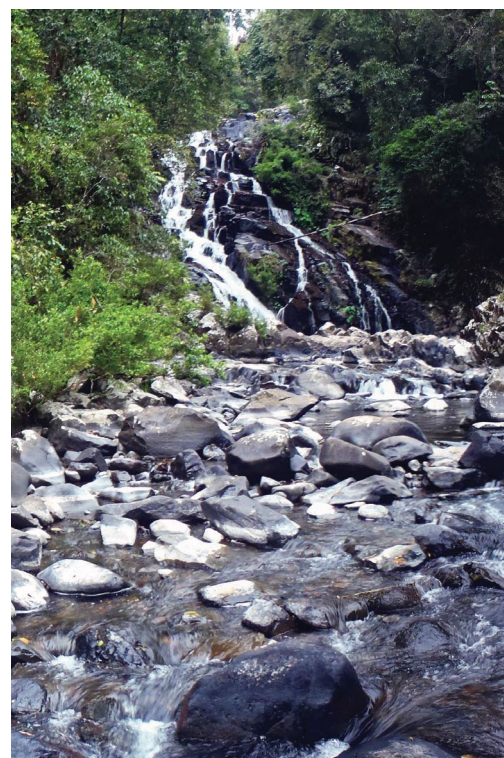
Southern Cassowary



Musky Rat Kangaroo



Rider crossing Hinson Creek

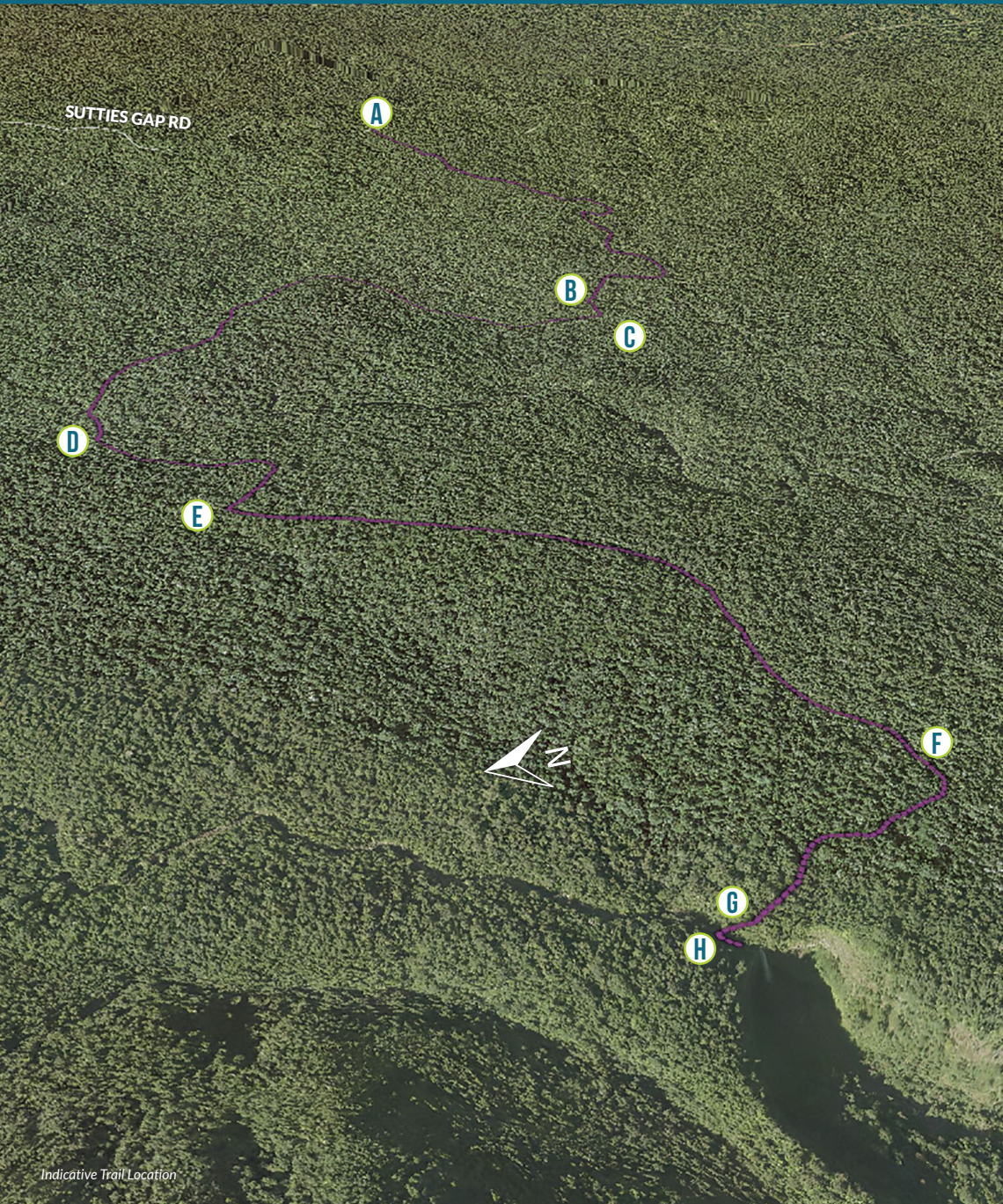


Falls upstream of Cannabullen Falls



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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) 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.
- ▼ Take plenty of drinking water. Carry a first aid kit and know how to use it.

GETTING THERE

A 4WD vehicle is recommended. Always check Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service park alerts (parks.des.qld.gov.au) before you leave to ensure the gate, camping area and trail are open.

From Millaa Millaa travel for 10.5km along the Ravenshoe–Millaa Millaa scenic drive (Old Palmerston Highway) and turn left into Maalan Road. After 6.5km turn left again into Sutties Gap Road. Travel 7.4km along Sutties Gap Road (partially unsealed) to Hinson Creek trailhead.

TRAIL INFORMATION

- A. Hinson Creek trailhead.
- B. 2.0km – Hinson Creek crossing.
- C. 2.1km – Hinson Creek camping area. Turn right to the Falls Lookout. The trail climbs steadily for the next 1.5km before joining the Cardwell Range Trail. Do not take the Cannabullen Creek trail.
- D. 3.6km – creek crossing.
- E. 4.6km – junction. Turn left towards the Falls Lookout and follow the old logging trail.

- F. 5.7km – follow the trail as it veers up the slope to the right (it can be a little difficult to see). Leave bikes here and walk the remaining distance to the falls.
- G. 6.4km – trail is very steep in this section as it enters Cannabullen Creek.
- H. 6.8km – Cannabullen Creek. Head upstream to the large pool at the base of the two waterfalls. Downstream is the main Cannabullen Falls and views of the gorge.

BEST TIME TO GO

The best time to enjoy the Cannabullen Falls 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.

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

#6. **Koolmoon Creek and Walters Waterhole.** In the Misty Mountains south of Ravenshoe, this 12km trail winds through lush rainforest to large, clear waterholes.

#9. **Herberton Range Loop Trail.** Walk or ride your bike or horse over the Herberton Range near Atherton

#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.