

10 KAURI CREEK AND MT EDITH LOOP

1-2 DAYS LOOP



The Mount Edith and Kauri Creek trail is a 40km loop across the Lamb Range in Danbulla and Dinden national parks, and part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area on well-formed gravel roads. Walk or ride through a dynamic cross section of landscapes and vegetation, enjoying expansive views from multiple points along the trail. It also offers the opportunity to obtain a permit and camp at the Kauri Creek campground on the shores of Tinaroo Falls Dam, making this a two-day adventure with an enjoyable overnight experience.

LANDSCAPE

This trail travels across the Lamb Range and includes the peaks of Mount Haig (1261m) and Mount Edith (1149m). These eroding granite outcrops, part of intrusions formed deep in the earth's crust about 270 million years ago, have produced a variety of soil types. Where they are coarse, they tend to be free draining and low in nutrients. Towards the peak of the range, the weathered granite has produced finer-grained soils which hold moisture. Combined with changes in elevation and aspect, these produce in dramatic changes in vegetation over a relatively short distance.

VEGETATION

The trail passes through dense rainforest where Black Kauri Pine *Agathis atropurpurea* and Red Cedar *Toona ciliata* stretch into the canopy, supporting a diverse range of epiphytes and vines. The rainforest along this part of the trail is largely Closed Forest as the canopy from the taller trees creates almost a complete cover and little direct sunlight reaches the forest floor. Consequently, there are relatively few plants at the lower level.

Other parts of the trail travel through Wet Sclerophyll forests where you'll be dwarfed by towering stands of Rose Gums *Eucalyptus grandis*. 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. In drier areas the trails passes through stands of Red Mahogany *Eucalyptus resinifera*, Queensland Stringybark *Eucalyptus reducta* and She-oaks *Allocasuarina* species.

FAUNA

The range of vegetation types supports a diverse collection of animals and you may encounter some of them along this trail.

One of the more common animals along the trail 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. Look for them collecting

fruit in the leaf litter or crossing our path in the Rainforest sections of the trail.

Keep an eye out for Agile Wallabies *Macropus agilis* and less common Whiptail Wallabies *Macropus parryi* in the drier forests. They are easier to spot early in the morning and late afternoon.

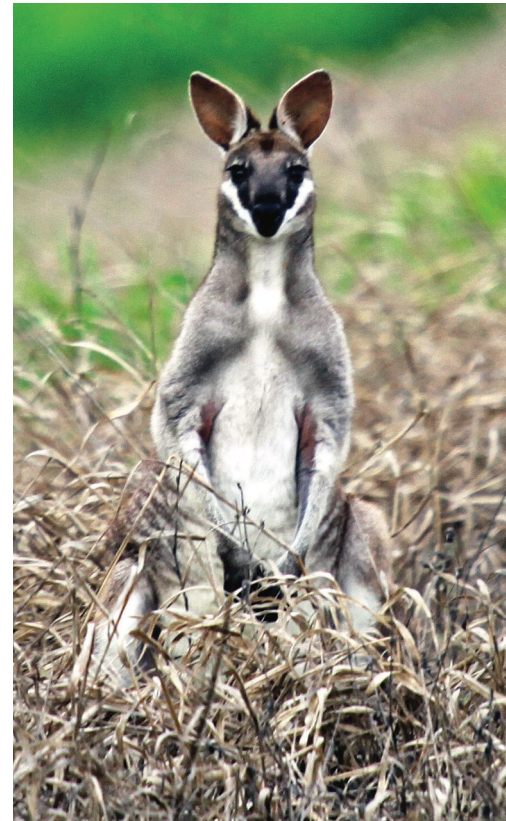
Twelve species of birds are endemic to the Wet Tropics and you may see and hear some of them along the trail. Keep your eye out for Grey Fantails *Rhipidura albiscapa*. These small, grey birds feed on insects in the lower canopy and understorey. They are often bold, approaching walkers to snatch insects disturbed by their movements. Listen for the Grey Fantail's metallic cheek call and chattering in the forest beside the trail, especially at the creek crossings.



Grey Fantail



Musky Rat Kangaroo



Whiptail Wallaby

BEST TIME TO GO

The best time to enjoy the Mount Edith and Kauri Creek 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.



Mount Edith Panorama





Indicative Trail Location

GETTING THERE

This trail can be ridden or walked over two days, or ridden in a day. Always check Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service park alerts (parks.des.qld.gov.au) before you leave to ensure the gates, camping areas and roads are open. A 4WD vehicle is recommended if you are completing the trail in two days.

Single-Day Ride

From Tinaroo Falls, take Tinaroo Falls Road across the Barron River below Tinaroo Falls Dam, continuing around the Dam. This then becomes Danbulla Road which is unsealed, but passable in a 2WD vehicle with care. Follow Danbulla Road for 14km crossing Robson Creek, with the Mt Edith Road leading off on the left immediately after the bridge. Park safely at the end of Mt Edith Road, securing your vehicle and not leaving valuables inside.

Overnight Walk or Ride

Obtain a camping permit for the Kauri Creek campground from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service online (des.qld.gov.au). From Tinaroo Falls, take Tinaroo Falls Road across the Barron River below Tinaroo Falls Dam, continuing around the Dam. This becomes Danbulla Road which is unsealed. About 12km from the Barron River crossing (and 1.3km after crossing Kauri Creek), turn left into Kauri Creek Road. Follow Kauri Creek Road (4WD) for 14km until the intersection with Tinaroo Creek Road. Park safely off the road, securing your vehicle and not leaving valuables inside. Follow the trail information below from Point H to Point B on day one, then continue on Danbulla Road to the Kauri Creek campground (permit required). On day two, ride back to Point B and follow Kauri Creek Road to return to your vehicle.

TRACK INFORMATION

The trail climbs the slopes of Mt Haig up the Kauri Creek Road, then across to the saddle between Mt Haig and Mt Edith, before descending back to the start of the loop:

- A. Junction of Mount Edith and Danbulla roads. Park and ride back along Danbulla Road from the way you came.
- B. 2.3km – junction. Turn right onto Kauri Creek Road.
- C. 3.2km – walking trail from Kauri Creek (signed) on left. Continue on road up the hill.
- D. 4.4km – walking trail from Kauri Creek (signed) on left. Continue on road up the hill.
- E. 6.0km – interpretative sign on right. Continue on road up the hill.
- F. 13.8km – trail passes from rainforest to an area of Rose Gums. Interpretative sign on right. Continue on road up the hill.
- G. 15.3km – trail heads off on right, do not take this. Continue on road up the hill.
- H. 16.5km – gate and intersection with Tinaroo Creek and Mount Edith roads. Turn right and pass through the second gate, heading downhill on Mount Edith Road.
- I. 17km – creek crossing.
- J. 18.4km – interpretative sign on right. Continue on road up the hill.
- K. 24km – lookout facing north and west. Enjoy a well-deserved break as this is the approximate halfway point.
- L. 29km – creek crossing and Varch Creek trail sign. Continue straight on road up the hill.
- M. 32km – summit of trail. Good news – the remainder of the trail is almost all downhill! Don't develop too much downhill speed as trail conditions can change quickly and this road is shared with vehicle traffic.
- N. 36km – creek crosses under road, flowing from under very large boulders on right. Nice place for a rest and views to the east.
- A. 40km – car park.

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, and to book your camping.
- ▼ 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.

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.
- #9 **Herberton Range Shared Trails.** Walk or ride your bike or horse over the Herberton Range near Atherton