

# Cape York Peninsula



## Parks and reserves

### Visitor guide

#### Featuring

Annan River (Yuku Baja-Muliku)  
National Park  
and Resources Reserve

Black Mountain National Park

Cape Melville National Park

Endeavour River National Park

Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range)  
National Park (CYPAL)

Heathlands Resources Reserve

Jardine River National Park

Keatings Lagoon  
Conservation Park

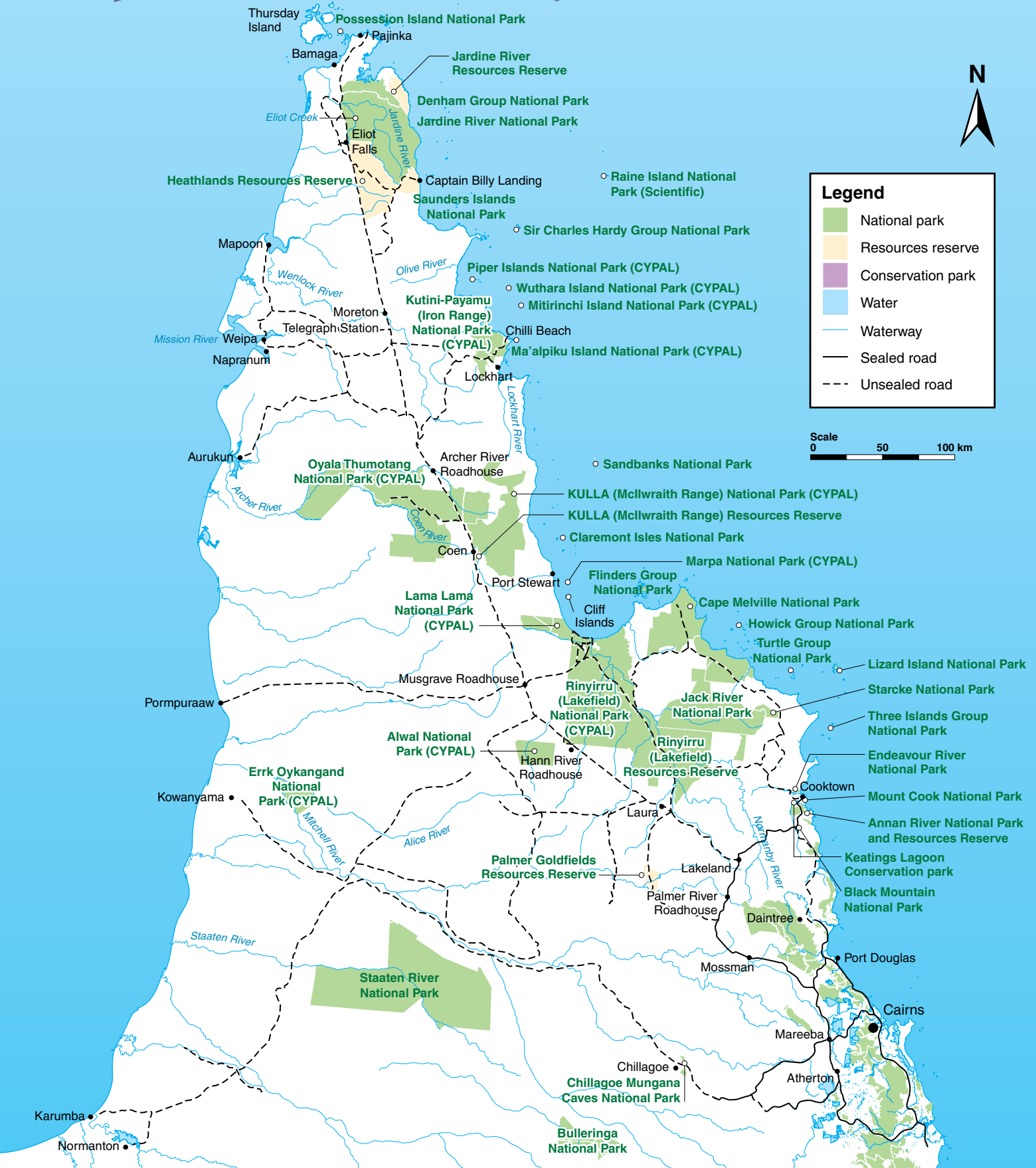
Mount Cook National Park

Oyala Thumotang National Park  
(CYPAL)

Rinyirru (Lakefield)  
National Park (CYPAL)



# Cape York Peninsula parks and reserves



**Legend for brochure symbols** These symbols are used throughout the brochure to organise information.

- |  |             |  |         |  |                  |  |                 |  |            |  |             |
|--|-------------|--|---------|--|------------------|--|-----------------|--|------------|--|-------------|
|  | Be crocwise |  | Culture |  | Wildlife viewing |  | Places to visit |  | Camping    |  | Boat access |
|  | Safety      |  | Nature  |  | Walks            |  | Fishing         |  | Car access |  |             |



# Travelling the wild north

Cape York Peninsula features landscapes of unsurpassed beauty and immense diversity, rich with Aboriginal traditions and customs, and European history. Travelling in this vast and remote area requires detailed preparation and planning.

## Parks and reserves

Parks and reserves throughout the peninsula protect diverse landscapes and provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy these special places. Recently, a new class of national park was created—national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land)—in recognition of Indigenous connection to the land. All national parks on the peninsula, and some offshore islands, are being changed to national park (CYPAL). Some parks have already changed. These new parks will be managed jointly by the Aboriginal Traditional Owners and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS).

## When to visit

The dry season (May to October) is the best time to visit Cape York Peninsula. May, June and July are usually cool dry months with maximum day time temperatures averaging 28–30 °C. From August to October, temperatures increase, lagoons dry up and many rivers stop flowing. During the wet season (November to April) roads become impassable and parks are closed.

## Driving

### Roads

The main access route through Cape York Peninsula is the Peninsula Developmental Road, which is sealed to Lakeland Downs and most of the way to Laura. North of Laura, a well-formed gravel road extends north to the Moreton Telegraph Station. Further north, the Telegraph Road, which follows the now-dismantled telegraph line through the peninsula, is not maintained. Bypass roads provide alternative access to ‘the tip’ of the peninsula, avoiding numerous creek crossings and rough sections.

The inland route to Cooktown (from Lakeland Downs) is sealed while the coastal route (via Cape Tribulation) is unsealed.

For travelling on unsealed roads, a four-wheel-drive vehicle is recommended.

Road conditions vary throughout the area and the seasons. Dust, pot-holes, creek crossings, corrugations, livestock and wildlife are potential driving hazards. Fuel consumption

is higher in rough conditions and the time taken to travel distances is also longer.

There are many unmarked tracks and side roads on Cape York Peninsula. Some are on private property; others are management roads and not for public use. Keep to the main roads and carry the latest edition of a Cape York Peninsula road map for detailed information.

### Gear and supplies

Fuel, most standard supplies, and some repair services are available at towns and roadhouses but spare parts are not always available. Visitors need to be self-sufficient with adequate food, water, fuel and basic vehicle repair equipment. QPWS ranger bases do not supply any of these items, or drinking water.

### Communication

Mobile phone coverage is generally not available in Cape York Peninsula, although some networks may have service in major towns. It is essential to travel with other communication equipment, such as a satellite phone or UHF radio. It is also advisable to carry a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB).

## Visitor facilities and opportunities

Park/Reserve	Page	Camping	Toilets	Drinking water #	Day-use area	Lookout / platform	Walks – short	Walks – long	Boating	Fishing**	Generators permitted
Alwal NP (CYPAL)	-										
Annan (Yuku Baja-Muliku) River NP	7					✓				✓	
Black Mountain NP	6					✓					
Cape Melville NP	10	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Endeavour River NP	7								✓	✓	
Errk Oykangand NP (CYPAL)	-									✓	
Flinders Group NP	-	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Jardine River NP and Heathlands RR	14,15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	*
Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL)	12,13	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	*
Keatings Lagoon CP	7				✓	✓	✓				
KULLA (McIlwraith Range) NP (CYPAL)	-										
Lama Lama NP (CYPAL)	-										
Lizard Island NP	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Oyala Thumotang NP (CYPAL)	11	✓							✓	✓	✓
Marpa NP (CYPAL)									✓	✓	
Mount Cook NP	7					✓		✓			
Palmer Goldfields Resources Reserve	-	✓									
Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP (CYPAL)	8,9	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	*

\* specified camping areas only

\*\* subject to marine park zoning and fisheries regulations, see page 5

# Treat before drinking

# Camping

Camping at parks and reserves on Cape York Peninsula is a great way to experience 'the cape'.

Adam Creed, EHP

## Where can I camp?

Camp at:

- Cape Melville National Park
- Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) National Park (CYPAL)
- Jardine River National Park/Heathlands Resources Reserve
- Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park (CYPAL)
- Oyala Thumotang National Park (CYPAL).

Detailed information about camping areas is available online at [www.nprsr.qld.gov.au](http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au).

## Camping requirements

Camp sites are generally not suitable for caravans and campervans. Camping areas cater for vehicle-based camping and tents. In some cases, camp sites may be suitable for off-road camper-trailers.

### Generators

The use of generators is permitted at all camping areas in Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park (CYPAL) except Kalpowar Crossing; all camping areas in Cape Melville National Park and Oyala Thumotang National Park (CYPAL); at North Jardine River, South Jardine River and Ussher Point camping areas in Jardine River National Park, and at Rainforest and Gordon Creek camping areas in Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) National Park (CYPAL). Generators must operate at noise levels less than

65 dB(A) at a distance of 7 m from the generator, between 8 am and 7 pm. Generators cannot be used at any other parks.

### Fires

Fuel stoves are recommended. Open fires are allowed in all camping areas (except when fire bans apply). Fire rings or existing fireplaces must be used where provided and firewood must be collected from outside the park or reserve.

## Camping permits

Camping permits are required and fees apply. The way that visitors obtain camping permits for Cape York Peninsula parks and reserves has changed in 2012. All camping must now be booked in advance, and camping permits (e-permits) purchased, before arriving at the camping area. Self-registration for camp sites upon arrival at the camping area is no longer possible. E-permits will help to sustainably manage the growing demand for camping at parks and reserves on the peninsula. Booking a camp site in advance also ensures that you have a guaranteed site upon arrival at the camping area.

### How do I book?

To obtain an e-permit:

- book online at [www.qld.gov.au/camping](http://www.qld.gov.au/camping)
- visit a QPWS business centre or authorised booking agent
- phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68).  
Mobile phone charges may apply.

### When should I book?

Many camp sites in popular parks and reserves are in great demand during peak periods, such as long weekends and school holidays. It is advisable to plan your trip and book your camp sites well in advance for these times. For non-peak periods, it is still advisable to book camp sites before you leave home or before arriving on the peninsula as communications on the peninsula can be unreliable.

### Can I book along the way?

In some instances, you may need to make camping bookings along the way or you may want to alter or cancel\* an existing booking after you reach the peninsula. Visit an authorised booking agent; or make use of the touch screen camping booking facilities provided at the ranger bases at Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park (CYPAL), Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) National Park (CYPAL) and Heathlands Resources Reserve. Touch screens are also provided at the QPWS offices in Coen, Cooktown and Weipa. Credit card and camping credits are accepted as payment but no cash facilities are available.

### What are touch screens?

The touch screen camping booking facilities are computers with easy-to-use touch screens that allow you to make bookings (subject to availability), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can use the touch screen to select park location, camping area/site, arrival and departure dates and number of people (adults and children); and to input your contact details. You can then purchase your e-permit using the touch screen to input payment details.

### What is a camping tag?

Once you have purchased your camping booking, an e-permit is issued with a booking reference number. If you have access to a printer, you can download and print the yellow camping tag, or you can write your surname and e-permit number on a piece of paper. If you are making a booking at a touch screen or through an agent, you can enter your e-permit number onto the blank camping tag provided (or a piece of paper if tags are not available). The camping tag (or substitute) is a record of your e-permit (camping booking) and must be prominently displayed in a clear waterproof bag at your camp site.

### Where are booking agents located?

- The Lure Shop, Cooktown
- Mulley's Market and Fuel, Coen
- Oz Tours Safaris, Moreton Telegraph Station.

\* Altering or cancelling a camping booking is subject to the refund policy, a condition of the e-permit.



Adam Creed, EHP



# Fishing



Freshwater and estuarine fishing is possible on several parks and reserves on Cape York Peninsula.

Jamie White, NPRSR

## Where can I fish?

Fishing is allowed at:

Park/Reserve	Restrictions
<b>Annan River (Yuku Baja-Muliku) NP</b>	Only in marine waters adjacent to the park, subject to marine park zoning
<b>Cape Melville NP</b>	Subject to marine park zoning
<b>Endeavour River NP</b>	Subject to marine park zoning
<b>Errk Oykangand NP (CYPAL)</b>	
<b>Jardine River NP and Heathlands RR</b>	Except Eliot Creek or the section of the Jardine River (and its tributaries) from the river mouth to a point 5 km upstream of the old Peninsula Developmental Road crossing.
<b>Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL)</b>	Only in marine waters adjacent to the park, subject to marine park zoning
<b>Oyala Thumotang NP (CYPAL)</b>	Except Peach Creek
<b>Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP (CYPAL)</b>	Except in restricted access areas; adjacent marine waters are subject to marine park zoning.

## Fishing regulations

Fishing regulations apply to all fishing and collecting in national and marine parks. Obtain information on bag and size limits, restricted species and seasonal closures from Fisheries Queensland at [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au).



Tourism Queensland

## Marine park zoning

All waters adjacent to coastal national parks are protected within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park. Marine parks are zoned to balance recreational and commercial use with conservation objectives. Obtain zoning maps for information on fishing and other permitted activities from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au) before entering or conducting any activities in the marine parks.

## Be crocwise

Cape York Peninsula is crocodile country. Crocodiles are native to Australia and play a valuable role in keeping our waterways healthy—but they are also dangerous animals.

Crocodiles will hunt anything they can overpower. They are highly observant ambush predators, relying on stealth, surprise and speed to catch their prey. They hunt during the day and night and often target prey that use the same spot regularly.



**Staying safe is simple—  
be crocwise in croc country.**

### Don't be ambushed—stay out of the water and away from the water's edge

Most crocodile attacks occur when people are swimming, wading or lingering near the water's edge. Crocodiles can approach unseen even in shallow water. They lunge from the water and seize prey with lightning speed—victims seldom see them coming.

Crocodiles can be attracted by fishing activities. Never stand in or near the water when fishing or cleaning fish. If you must go to the water's edge or enter the water (for example, to launch a boat) work quickly while keeping a good lookout. Avoid returning to the same spot regularly.

### Watch children closely

Children may find it difficult to understand and reliably follow crocodile safety advice. They can be easily distracted and may forget the potential danger. Adults need to stay close to children and make sure they are always crocwise.

### Camp as far from the water as possible

Crocodiles have entered camp sites at night. Camping as far from the water as possible will make it difficult for a crocodile to visit your camp.

### Don't leave food scraps or fish waste around

Crocodiles have an excellent sense of smell and will come on land to scavenge. Bait, fish waste and meat scraps left around boat ramps and camp sites can attract crocodiles and endanger lives.

### Never approach, feed or harass crocodiles

People have been attacked feeding crocodiles or getting close for a better look or a photo. Stay well away from all crocodiles. It is illegal and very dangerous to feed or disturb crocodiles—even small ones.


**Your safety is our concern  
but your responsibility.**


# Parks around Cooktown


Several parks with day visitor facilities offering a range of experiences can be accessed from Cooktown.

## Black Mountain National Park

An imposing mountain of massive granite boulders, stacked precariously on one another, is the highlight of this park.

 The Aboriginal Traditional Owners of this area are the Kuku Bididji and Kuku Nyungkul clans of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people. Black Mountain, known as Kalkajaka (place of spear), has great cultural significance and is the source of many dreaming stories.

 The boulder-strewn slopes appear barren but large fig trees draw water from deep within the mountain and rainforest plants surround its base. Some animals—the Black Mountain skink, Black Mountain gecko and Black Mountain boulderfrog—live here and nowhere else.

 From near the car park, a viewing area overlooks the eastern side of the crest of the boulder fields but there is no access to the mountain. Look for Godman's rock-wallabies and the glistening black skin of the Black Mountain skink among the boulders.



### Safety

Visitors are responsible for their own safety (see page 16).

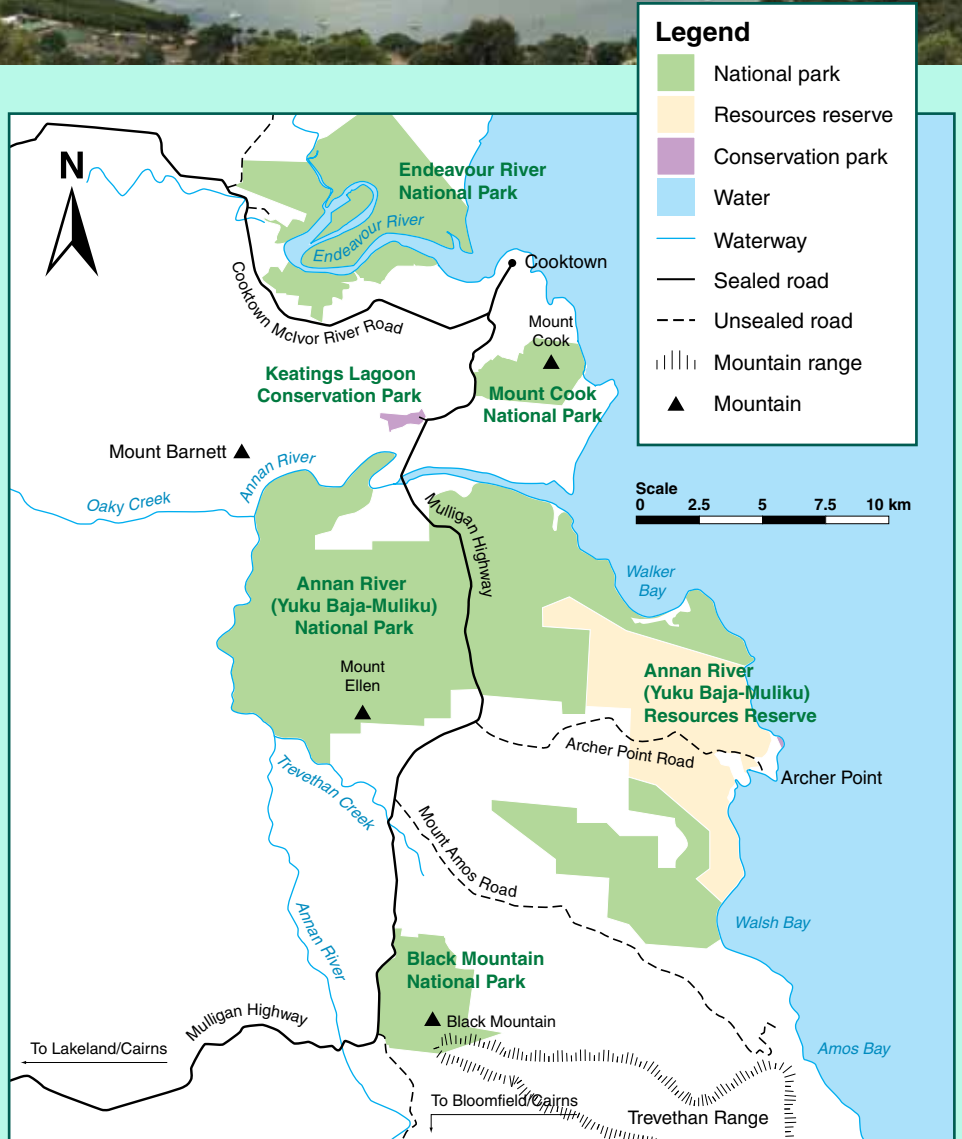
- Do not risk injury by venturing onto the boulder field—people have been injured and have died attempting to climb Black Mountain.



On the Mulligan Highway, 25 km south of Cooktown or 4 km north of Helenvale (via the coastal route to Cooktown).

### Why is it black?

Granite is actually pinkish-grey—these boulders appear black because of microscopic algae and lichens growing on the exposed surfaces.




## Black Mountain, Queensland.







## Keatings Lagoon Conservation Park


This park protects scenic wetlands surrounding Meldrum Creek, an important habitat for waterbirds.

 The Aboriginal Traditional Owners of this park are the Waymbuurr clan of the Guugu Yimidhirr people who have used this area as a source of food and medicine for thousands of years.


 The lagoon is a refuge for thousands of waterbirds, especially in the dry season (May to October) when they flock here to feast on the rich aquatic life. Waterlilies, sedges and algae in and around the lagoon also provide food, shelter and nest sites.

 **Wawu Balgal Bubu walk**  
1.4 km return (1 hr), Grade: easy


Walk through woodland along the edge of the lagoon to the wheelchair-accessible bird hide where signs identify commonly-seen water birds.

 Look for magpie geese, radjah shelducks, black-necked storks, comb-crested jacanas and royal spoonbills.


 **Be crocwise in croc country**  
(see page 5)


 **Safety**  
Visitors are responsible for their own safety (see page 16).


- Mosquito repellent is recommended.

 Turn off the Mulligan Highway, 5 km south of Cooktown.

## Annan River (Yuku Baja-Muliku) National Park and Resources Reserve


 Tidal flats, coastal dunes and hills of granite and metamorphic rocks support a high diversity of plant communities, providing habitats for endangered red goshawks, masked and rufous owls, burrowing snakes and near threatened Bennett's tree-kangaroos.


 Travel through the park and reserve to reach Archer Point, which offers scenic views near the Archer Point lighthouse.


 Take the Archer Point Road turn-off from the Mulligan Highway, 15 km south of Cooktown. This road is suitable for all vehicles although the track up to the lighthouse is suitable only for four-wheel-drive vehicles.

## Mount Cook National Park


Rugged rainforest-clad Mount Cook provides a scenic backdrop to the township of Cooktown.


 The Waymbuurr clan of the Guugu Yimithirr Aboriginal people retain connection with this area. The mountain was named Mount Cook in honour of Lieutenant James Cook.

 Grasslands on the southern slopes give way to rainforest and tropical woodland with a heath understorey on the mountain's upper slopes and in sheltered gullies. The park is home to the large amethystine python and northern quoll.


 **Mount Cook summit walking track**  
6 km return (4 hrs), Grade: difficult

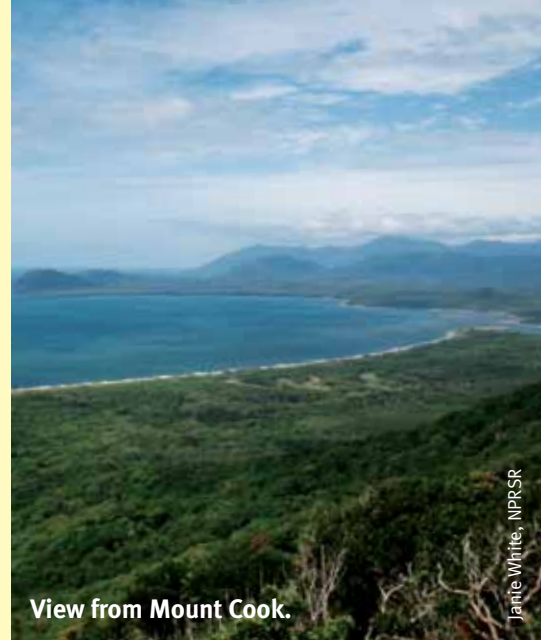
This track climbs steeply through woodland and rainforest to a lookout with views over the Great Barrier Reef to the east and the Endeavour valley to the west. The walk returns along the same track.

 Look for pied imperial-pigeons and buff-breasted paradise-kingfishers in the summer months; and also brush-turkeys, ground-dwelling rainbow skinks and tree snakes.

 **Safety**  
Visitors are responsible for their own safety (see page 16).

- Avoid bites, stings and scratches—wear protective clothing.


 From the Cooktown Hospital, follow the national park signs to Hannan Drive car park where the track begins.





View from Mount Cook.


Jane White, NPWSR

## Endeavour River National Park

 Extensive mangrove forests along the river provide a nursery for many species of fish and crustaceans. Away from the river, tropical woodlands, seasonal melaleuca swamps and heathlands extend into the Endeavour valley.

 The lower reaches of the Endeavour River are within the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park; zoning restrictions and fishing regulations apply (see page 5).

 This park can only be explored by boat. Access is from boat ramps on Webber Esplanade in Cooktown and at 'Stonewall' in Marton, just outside Cooktown.

 **Be crocwise in croc country**  
(see page 5)

Keatings Lagoon.  
Right: Black-necked stork (jabiru).




NPWSR





# Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park (CYPAL)

Coastal mangroves and mudflats in the north give way to extensive grasslands dotted with termite mounds, woodlands, vast river systems and wetlands. In the south, sandstone hills and escarpments dominate the landscape.

Adam Creed, EHP


 Nine different Aboriginal clans made up of at least 75 key family groups occupied this area prior to European settlement. The landscape has major Aboriginal cultural significance, containing sites associated with occupation, ceremonies and stories of ancestral spirits.

 In the wet season, the large river systems of the Normanby, Morehead and North Kennedy rivers overflow to flood vast areas, before draining into Princess Charlotte Bay. During the dry season, rivers and creeks shrink, leaving large permanent waterholes and lagoons, which attract a variety of waterbirds. The floodplains are clad in eucalypt and paperbark woodlands, and grasslands with patches of the unique corypha palm covering the marine plain. Barramundi live in the rivers, along with crocodiles and the critically endangered freshwater spartooth shark.


 Camping opportunities range from secluded sites near scenic waterholes to large camping areas at major river crossings. Camping areas in the northern section of the park (north of Hann Crossing) include camp sites on the Annie, Normanby and Bizant rivers and Saltwater Creek. The central section camping areas include the popular Hann Crossing, along the river banks near the North Kennedy River causeway, and Kalpowar Crossing, an 8 km stretch of permanent fresh waterholes on the Normanby River. Camping areas in the southern section (around New Laura) include sites on the Normanby, Kennedy and Laura rivers. Kalpowar Crossing has toilets, cold showers and taps and Hann Crossing has toilets. There are no facilities at other camping areas.


**Camping permits** are required and must be purchased before arriving at your camp site (see page 4). These camping areas are very popular during peak periods. Book your camp site and obtain your permit well in advance.

Generators are permitted at all camping areas except Kalpowar Crossing (see page 4).

 **Kalpowar discovery walk**  
4 km (1.5 hrs) Grade: easy


From the Kalpowar Crossing camping area, the walk meanders through vine forest along the Normanby River and loops back through open woodland, passing picturesque waterholes along the way.


 **White Lily and Red Lily lagoons**  
About 8 km north of the Lakefield ranger base, visit White Lily Lagoon to see a carpet of white lilies then visit the nearby viewing platform at Red Lily Lagoon for a spectacular display of red lotus lilies.

 **Nifold Plain**  
The road north of Hann Crossing passes through the vast grasslands of the Nifold Plain. This treeless, flat landscape, dotted with termite mounds, is home to a variety of animals, including finches and bustards.

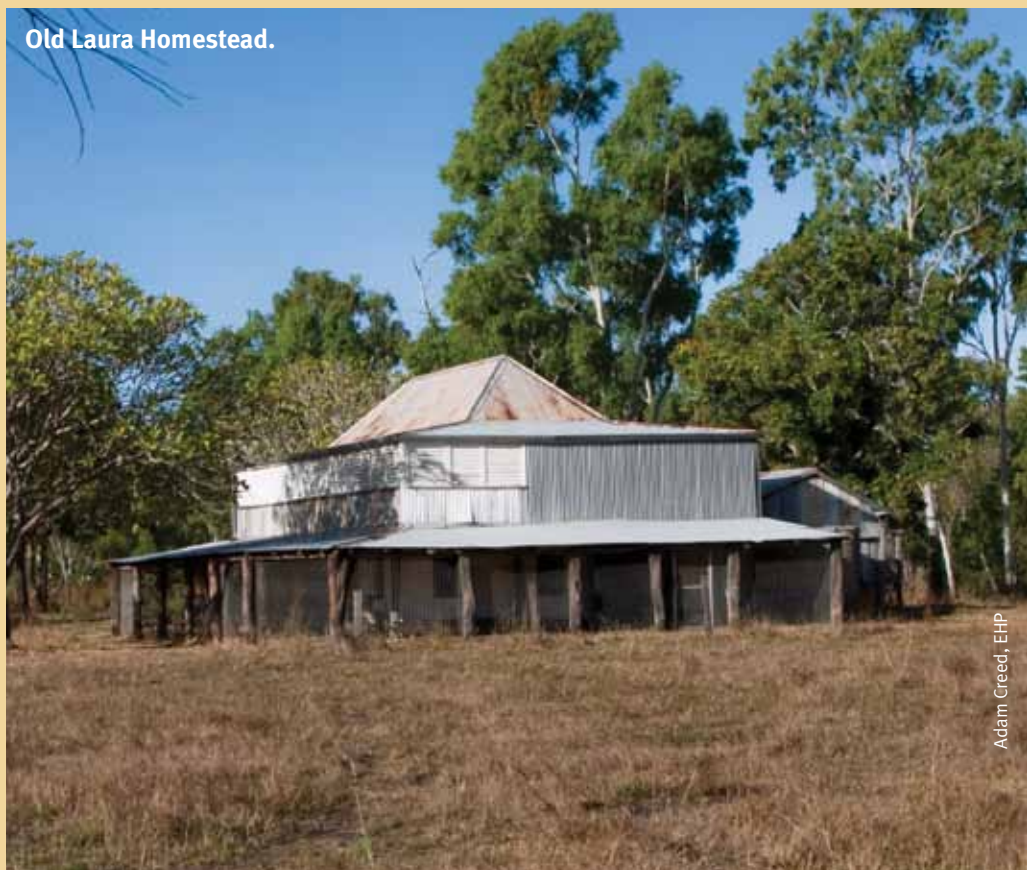
 **Rarda-Ndolphin (Low Lake) and Sweetwater Lake**

In the north-west of the park, these picturesque lakes feature colourful lilies and a range of wetland birds. Visitor access at Rarda-Ndolphin is limited to the car park and viewing area—the remainder of the area is a restricted access area. Camping is not permitted at Rarda-Ndolphin.

 **Old Laura Homestead**  
In the southern part of the park, a short distance off Battle Camp Road, is the historic site of the Old Laura Homestead. Explore the buildings that were once the original homestead for Laura Station.

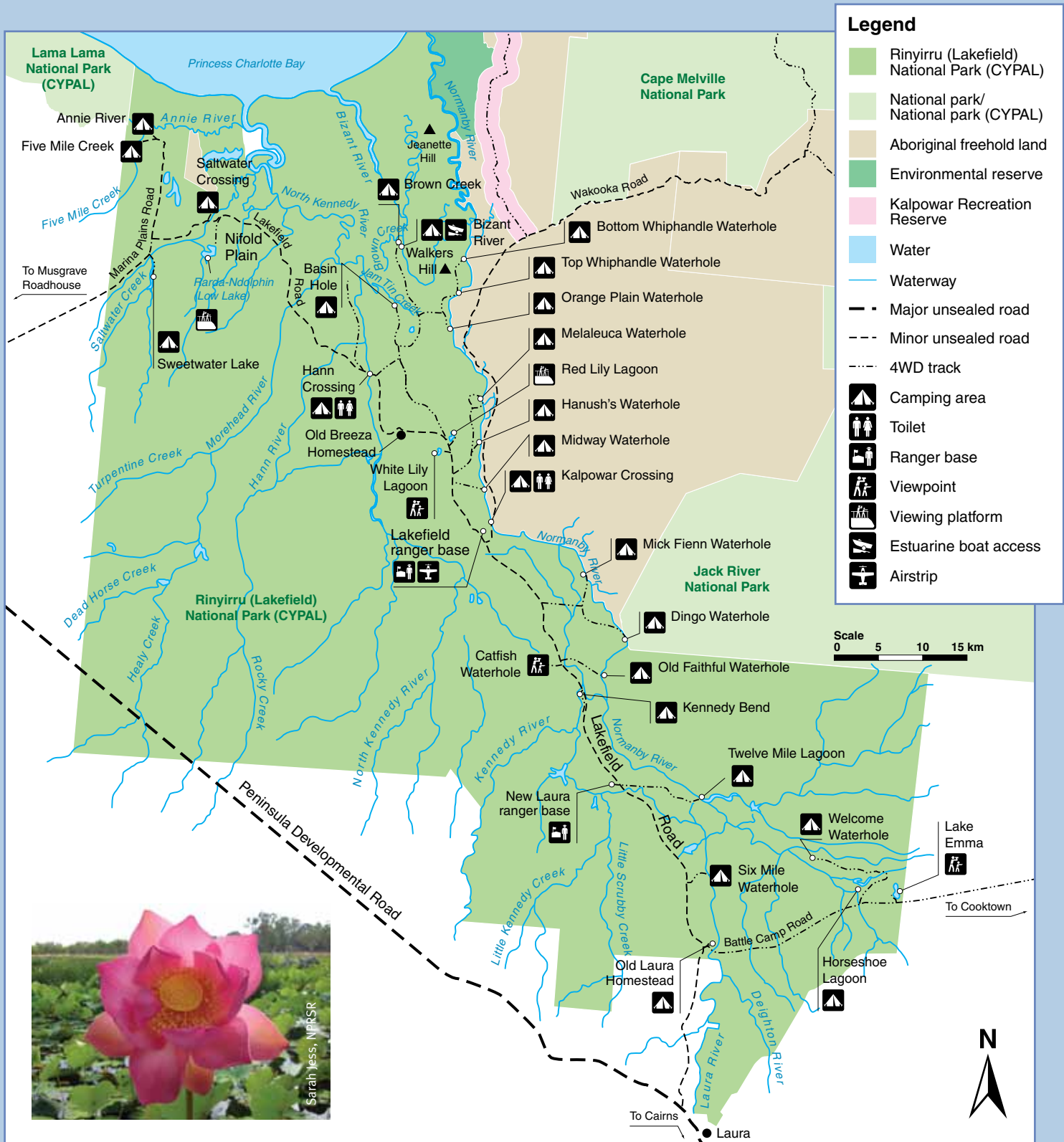
 Around the waterholes, in the early morning or late afternoon, look for waterbirds including magpie geese, comb-crested jacanas, black-necked storks, brolgas, sarus cranes and ducks. Look for crocodiles along river banks and wallabies in open woodland and grasslands.


Old Laura Homestead.




Adam Creed, EHP







 Fishing is permitted in rivers and waterholes at all camping areas in the park. **Canoes are not recommended due to the presence of crocodiles.** Limit boat speed to prevent bank erosion and water turbidity. Fishing regulations apply (see page 5).

The marine waters of Princess Charlotte Bay, adjacent to the national park (CYPAL), are within the Great Barrier Reef and Great Barrier Reef Coast marine parks; zoning restrictions and fishing regulations apply (see page 5).

 **Be crocwise in croc country**  
(see page 5)


 **Safety**  
Visitors are responsible for their own safety (see page 16).


- Be alert for snakes when exploring the area. Wear protective clothing such as long trousers and closed-in shoes. Use lights when walking around at night and keep tents closed at all times.


 From the south, turn off the Peninsula Developmental Road, 2 km north of Laura. Drive 45 mins to the New Laura ranger base and another 45 mins to the Lakefield ranger base. From Cooktown, take the Battle Camp Road (3 hrs to the New Laura ranger base). From the north, turn off the Peninsula Developmental Road at the Musgrave Roadhouse (3 hrs to the Lakefield ranger base).

# Cape Melville National Park


Rugged headlands, massive, tumbled granite boulders, sandstone escarpments and inland dunelands make this a spectacularly diverse landscape.


 The Aboriginal Traditional Owners of this park are the Daarba, Junjuu, Muli, Bagaarmugu, Wurri, Manyamarr, Gambiilmugu and Yiirku peoples. Over thousands of years of habitation, they developed a complex system of clan estates, languages, ceremonies, stories and sustainable resource-use practices. The area is rich in history, stories, significant sites and traditional identity.


 Foxtail palms—with brush-like fronds and bottle-shaped trunks—decorate the granite boulder-strewn landscape of the Melville Range. Large hoop pines emerge spectacularly from the vine forests on the sandstone escarpments of the Altanmoui Range.

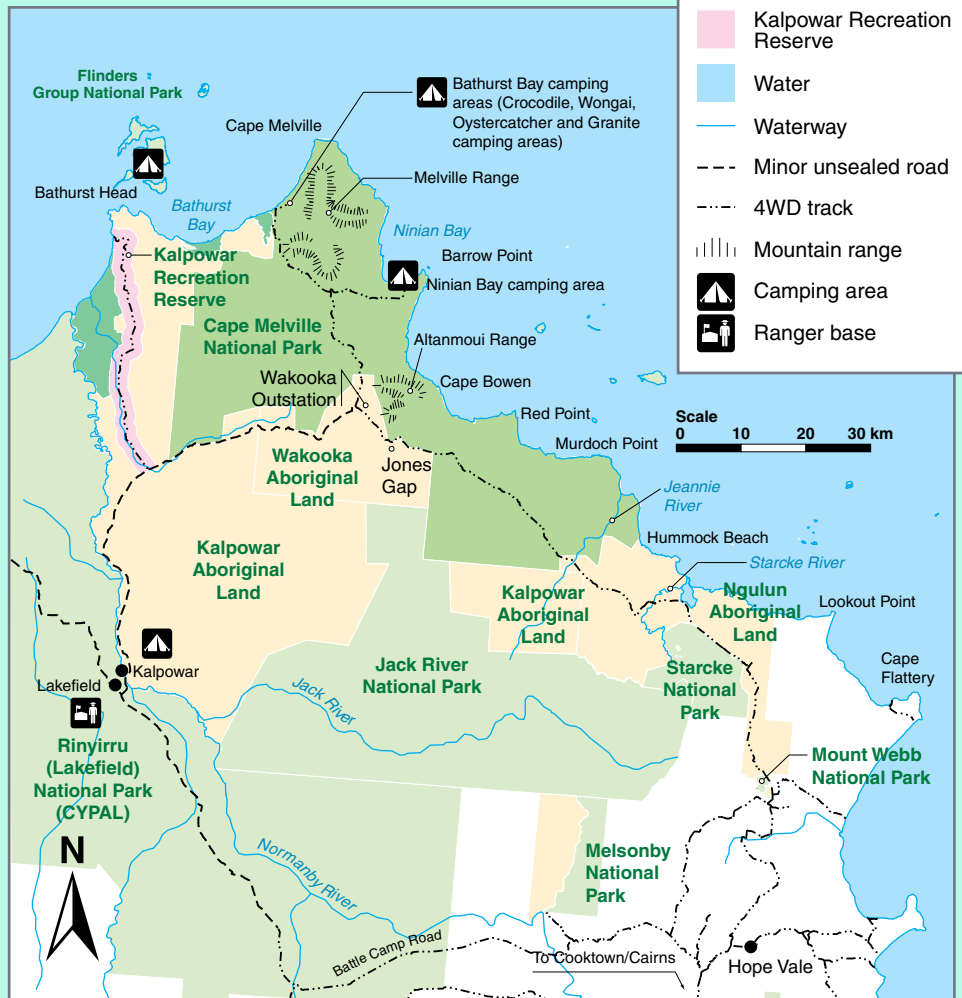
 Crocodile, Wongai, Oystercatcher and Granite camping areas are located on the eastern side of Bathurst Bay near Cape Melville. Camping areas are on the beach—some with shady beachfront vegetation—bounded by tidal creeks. Ninian Bay camping area is on the east coast of the park. There are no facilities.


**Camping permits** are required and must be purchased before arriving at your camp site (see page 4). Generators are permitted at all camping areas (see page 4). Wongai trees growing in this area have significance for the Traditional Owners—please do not damage or disturb them in any way.

 Fishing is allowed in all creeks and rivers in Cape Melville National Park. Marine waters adjacent to the park are within the Great Barrier Reef and Great Barrier Reef Coast marine parks; zoning restrictions and fishing regulations apply (see page 5).

 **Be crocwise in croc country**  
(see page 5)

 **Safety**  
Visitors are responsible for their own safety (see page 16).



 From the west, access is from Kalpowar Crossing in Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park (CYPAL). Drive about 70 km to Wakooka outstation and an additional 4 km to the park boundary. Drive a further 35 km to the camping areas at Bathurst Bay or 37 km to Ninian Bay camping area. Sections of this road are extremely rough and can take up to 5 hrs to traverse. From the south, the challenging coastal route from Cooktown to Wakooka outstation is about 180 km and can take up to 12 hrs to traverse. Access to camping areas in the park involves beach four-wheel-driving and tidal creek crossings.

Camper must be self-sufficient with food, water, fuel, vehicle spare parts and recovery equipment and communications.

## Found only here

Melville Range provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including special animals such as the Godman's rock-wallaby, the tropical ring-tailed gecko and several endemic species—Fuhn's snake-eyed skink, the Melville Range treefrog and the Cape Melville boulderfrog.





# Oyala Thumotang National Park (CYPAL)


## Previously Mungkan Kandju National Park

Vast open eucalypt woodlands and melaleuca swamps stretch from the foothills of Mcllwraith Range to the junction of the Archer and Coen rivers.


Adam Creed, EHP


 The Aboriginal Traditional Owners of this park are the Wik Mungkan, Southern Kaanju and Ayapathu peoples. This area is a living cultural landscape—a mosaic of traditional story-places, ceremonial and other culturally significant sites and features with Aboriginal names.


 Dense rainforest cloaks the slopes of the Mcllwraith Range and fringes the Archer River, while 'fingers' of deciduous vine-thickets line the braided channels of the Coen River. Between the rivers, open eucalypt woodland is interspersed with melaleuca swamps and lily-carpeted lagoons. The wide river flat at Archer Bend features tall gallery forests, 'thorn scrubs' and eucalypt and melaleuca woodlands.


 Camp sites are located near waterholes and riverbanks within the Coen section (near the Coen River), Langi section (near the Archer River) and Archer Bend section (Governors and Horsetailer waterholes at Archer Bend) of the park. No facilities are provided.

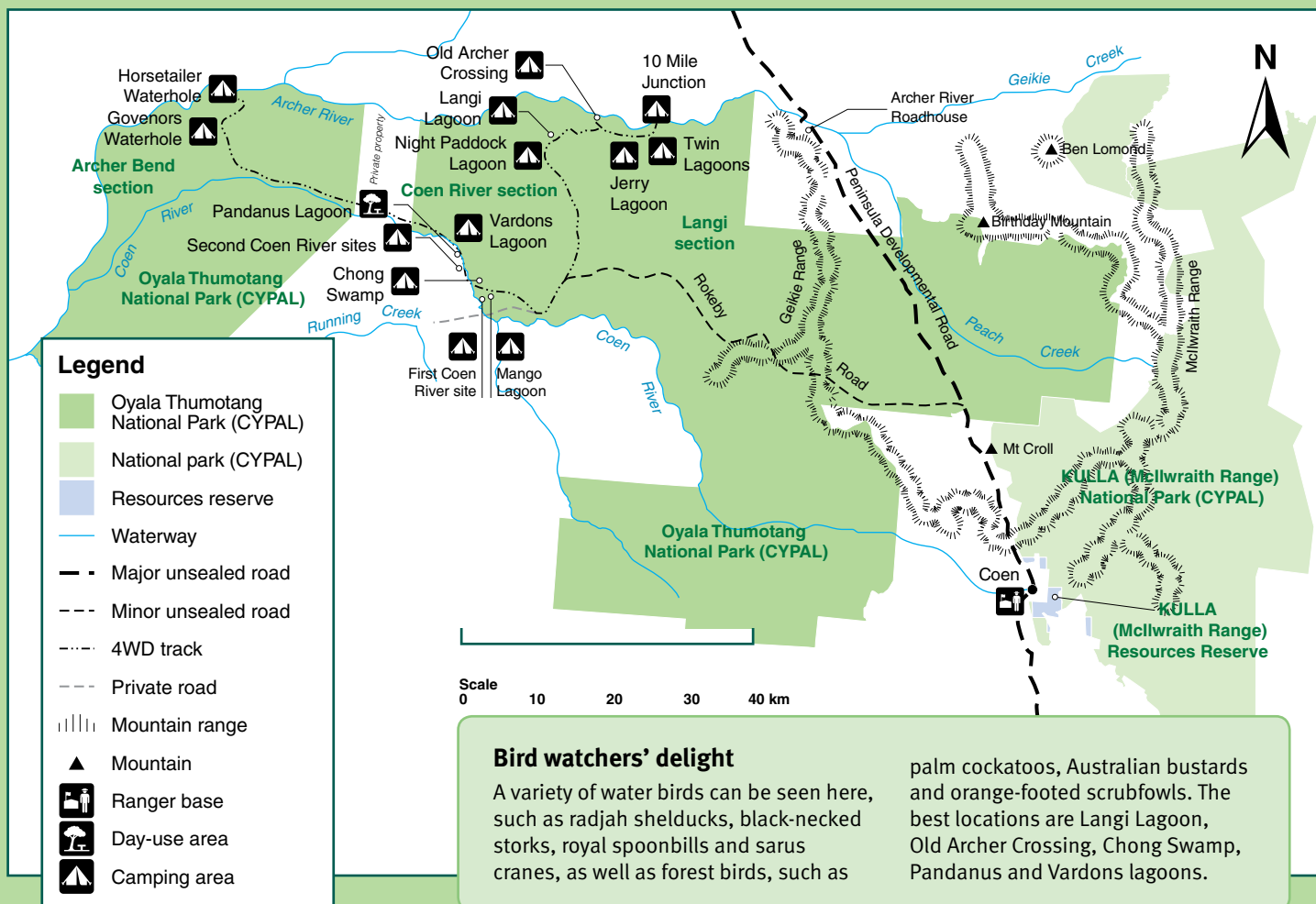
**Camping permits** are required and must be purchased before arriving at your camp site (see page 4). Generators are permitted at all camping areas (see page 4).

 Fishing is allowed in all creeks and rivers in the park, except Peach Creek. Governors and Horsetailer waterholes have boat access; however both are very shallow in places and unsuitable for large boats. Fishing regulations apply (see page 5).

 **Be crocwise in croc country** (see page 5)

 **Safety**  
Visitors are responsible for their own safety (see page 16).


 Turn west off the Peninsula Developmental Road onto the Rokeby Road, 25 km north of Coen. Camp sites are spread throughout the park. From the turn-off it is 74 km to the Coen River section, 78 km to the Langi section and 125 km to the Archer Bend section of the park.





# Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range)

## National Park (CYPAL)


Rugged, heath-clad ranges, lush remnant lowland tropical rainforest and long sweeping beaches with spectacular views are features of this remote park.

 The Aboriginal Traditional Owners of this park are the Kuuku Ya'u people (including the Kungkay people and Kanthanampu people). They have maintained a strong cultural and spiritual link to this area for thousands of years. The area is rich in Aboriginal cultural significance with story-places, ceremonial sites and occupation places dotted across the landscape.


 Heathlands around the Tozer Range feature stunted she-oaks, grevilleas, banksias and sedges. Lowland rainforest—part of the largest remnant in Australia—provides a refuge for birds also found in New Guinea, but with a restricted distribution in Australia, such as the eclectus parrot, palm cockatoo and magnificent riflebird. Other endemic species found here include the green python and the Cape York nurseryfrog.

 Rainforest and Cooks Hut camping areas are located in riverine rainforest on the Claudie River. Gordon Creek camping areas are on the bank of Gordon Creek. Chillie Beach camping area is behind the beach near the north-east boundary of the park; some sites are suitable for camper-trailers. Toilets are provided at Cooks Hut and Chillie Beach only.


**Camping permits** are required and must be purchased before arriving at your camp site (see page 4). These camping areas are very popular during peak periods. Book your camp site and obtain your permit well in advance. Generators are permitted at Rainforest and Gordon Creek camping areas only (see page 4). Take plenty of drinking water; there is no fresh water available in the park.


 **Old Coen track**  
10 km one-way (4–5 hrs), Grade: easy

From the Rainforest camping area, this walk follows the Old Coen track through rainforest and open woodland, where birdwatching is excellent. Arrange for a vehicle pick-up at the end of the track, on the Lockhart River road.

 **Mount Tozer viewing platform**  
140 m return (10 mins), Grade: easy

From the Mount Tozer car park, walk to the viewing platform to enjoy the scenic views of Mount Tozer and surrounding heath community.

 Around camping areas and walking tracks, look for rainforest species such as eclectus parrots, palm cockatoos and magnificent riflebirds. At Chillie Beach, look for coastal birds such as pied oystercatchers, little terns and white-bellied sea-eagles. At night, spotlight for nocturnal birds including owls, owl-nightjars and Papuan frogmouths, also frogs, giant tree geckos and small mammals such as spotted cuscus and striped possums.

 Fishing is not permitted in any freshwater rivers or creeks within the park. Marine waters adjacent to the park are within the Great Barrier Reef and Great Barrier Reef Coast marine parks; zoning restrictions and fishing regulations apply (see page 5).



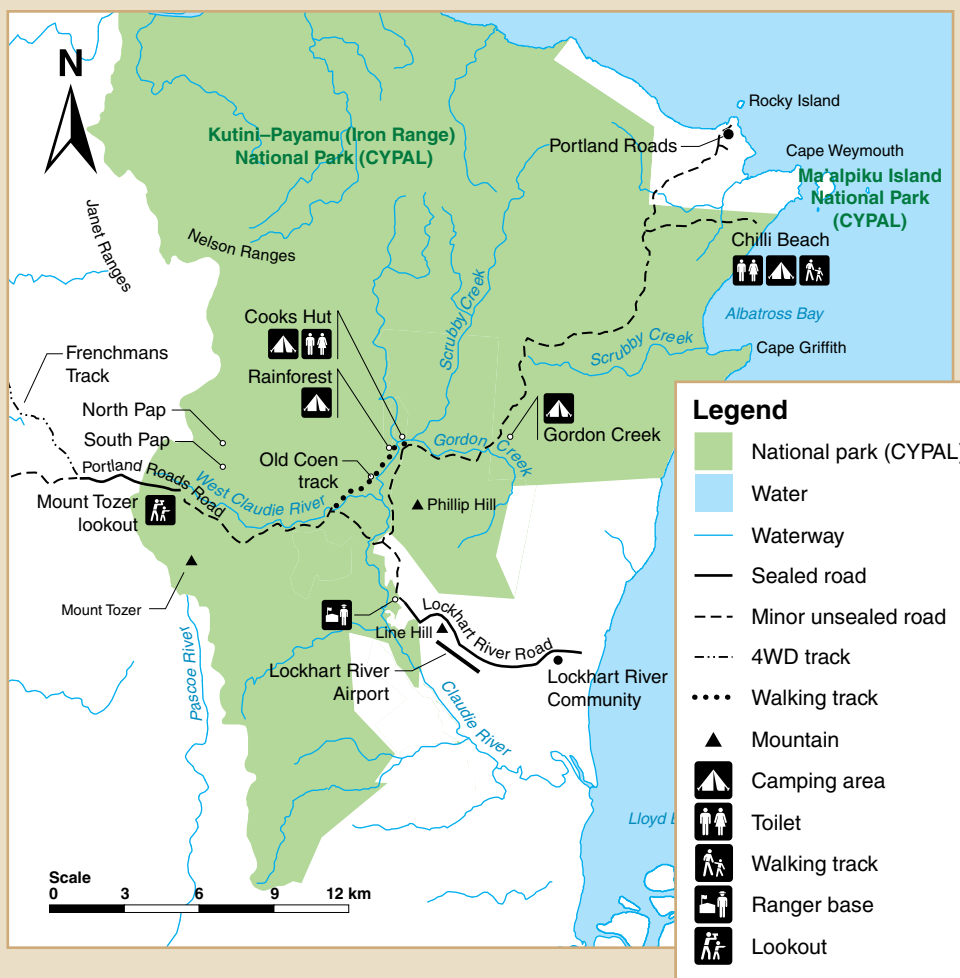
**Be crocwise in croc country**  
(see page 5)




### Safety

Visitors are responsible for their own safety (see page 16).

- Stay on walking tracks; disused mining shafts are scattered throughout the park—some are deep and have unstable edges.
- Driving on the beach can be dangerous particularly near creek mouths and between the tides, where quicksand can develop.





 Turn off the Peninsula Developmental Road onto Portland Roads Road, 35 km north of the Archer River Roadhouse, and travel along the well-formed gravel road towards Lockhart River and Portland Roads for 110 km (3–5 hrs) to the junction with Lockhart River Road. Continue along Portland Roads Road for 3.9 km to Rainforest, Cooks Hut and Gordon Creek camping areas. Travel a further 24.5 km to Chillii Beach camping area.

For four-wheel-drive enthusiasts, turn off the Telegraph Road onto Frenchmans Track, 22 km south of the Moreton Telegraph Station, and travel 50 km to the intersection with Portland Roads Road. It is a further 30 km to the intersection with the Lockhart River Road. The road is severely eroded in places with deep, unpredictable creek crossings and steep banks—it is not recommended for vehicles towing trailers, without snorkels and recovery gear, or for drivers without suitable experience.

### War history

The American 90th Bomb Group, known as the 'Jolly Rogers', described Iron Range air base (constructed in 1942) as the worst airfield they were ever posted at during the war. American Coast Artillery Regiments were deployed around the airstrips. 'The strips were a disaster. Muddy and flooded most of the time. I witnessed planes land without landing gear down, motors that didn't run, sometimes in a foot of water.' *W. Rollins, 197th Coast Artillery (AA) Regiment*. Difficult conditions were made worse during the monsoonal rains and possibly contributed to several military aircraft crashes in the area.



Termite mounds in the heathland.

Tourism Queensland

Palm cockatoo.



Dayn Storch, NPRSR

Common spotted cuscus.



NPRSR

Green python.



Greg Watson

NPRSR

This park is of international significance as it forms part of the largest remaining area of lowland rainforest in Australia.

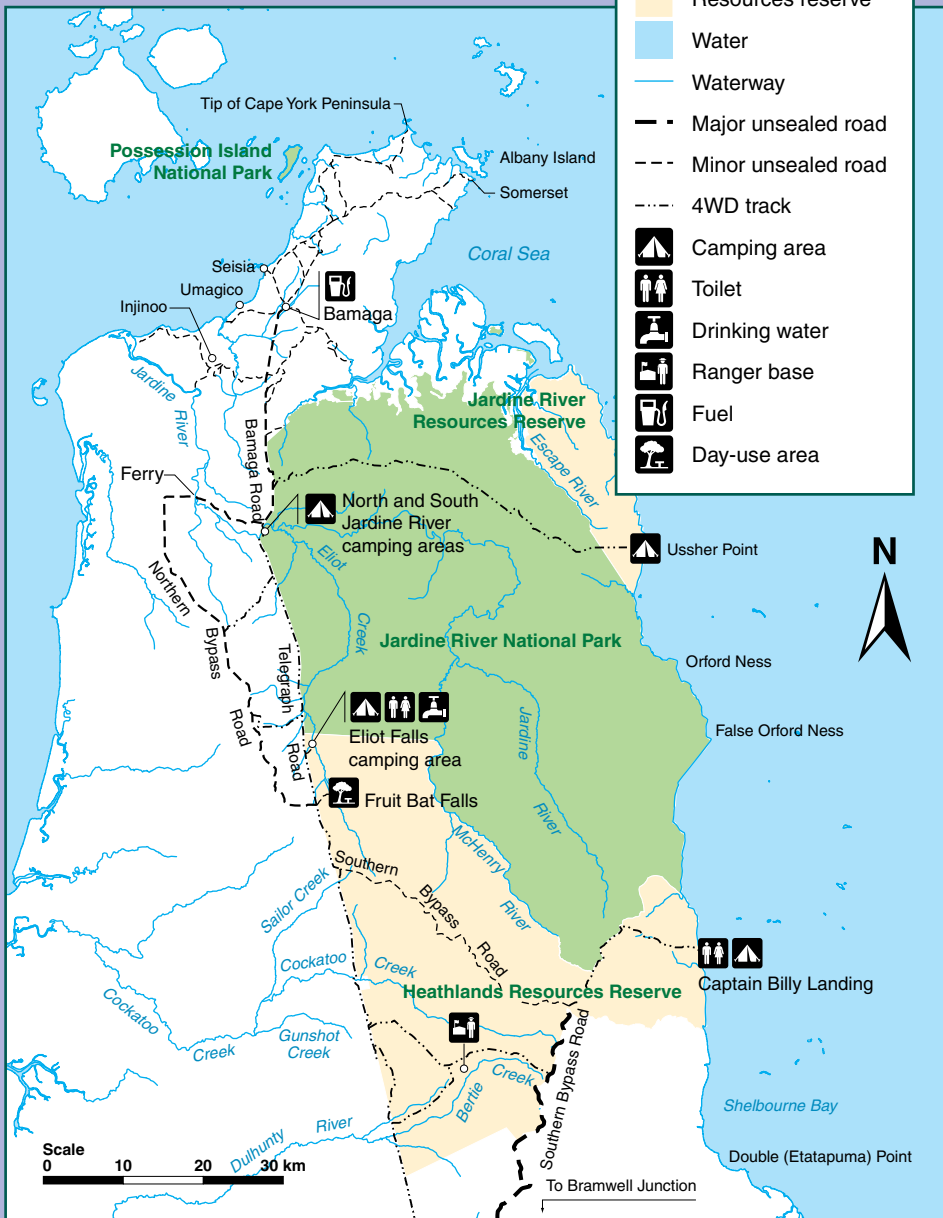



# Jardine River National Park, Heathlands Resources Reserve


In this vast remote area, parks and reserves encompass much of the Jardine River catchment, an undulating landscape of heathlands and woodlands, interspersed with numerous streams and swamps.


## Legend

- National park
- Resources reserve
- Water
- Waterway
- Major unsealed road
- Minor unsealed road
- 4WD track
- ▲ Camping area
- ♿ Toilet
- 🚰 Drinking water
- 👮 Ranger base
- ⛽ Fuel
- 🌳 Day-use area



 The Aboriginal Traditional Owners of this area are the Atambaya, Angkamuthi, Yadhaykenu, Gudang and Wuthathi peoples. It is a living cultural landscape containing story-places and occupation and ceremony sites, with familiar places and features named in Aboriginal languages.

 The mighty west-flowing Jardine River dominates the landscape. Woodlands grow on broad sandstone ridges, with sheltered pockets of rainforest near the ridge tops. Dry heaths flourish on well-drained soils while wet heaths grow along narrow drainage lines, merging into permanent swamps on the lowest parts of the landscape.

 Eliot Falls camping area, on Eliot Creek at the northern boundary of Heathlands Resources Reserve, has picnic tables, fireplaces, drinking water, toilets and sites suitable for tents and camper trailers. Captain Billy Landing camping area, behind the dunes on the eastern boundary of Heathlands Resources Reserve, has picnic tables, fireplaces, a shelter and a toilet. North and South Jardine River camping areas, on the banks of the Jardine River on the western boundary of Jardine River National Park, and Ussher Point camping area on the far-northern coast of the peninsula, on the eastern boundary of Jardine River Resources Reserve, have no facilities.

**Camping permits** are required and must be purchased before arriving at your camp site (see page 4). Camping is not permitted at Fruit Bat Falls, which has a picnic area and toilet facilities for day-use only. Generators are permitted at North and South Jardine River and Ussher Point camping areas only (see page 4).





### Twin Falls and Eliot Falls

550 m return (15 mins), Grade: easy

From Eliot Falls camping area, the track meanders through woodland to Twin Falls and then continues along Eliot Creek to a natural sandstone platform with views over Eliot Falls.



### 'The Saucepan'

670 m return (15 mins), Grade: easy

From Eliot Falls camping area, a track descends through dry heath to Eliot Creek where shallow waters tumble between fingers of sandstone, known as 'the saucepan'.



### Fruit Bat Falls

400 m return (10 mins), Grade: easy

From the car park at Fruit Bat Falls day-use area, a boardwalk leads to Fruit Bat Falls and follows Eliot Creek, providing access to a 'plunge pool'.



### Captain Billy Landing

From the Captain Billy Landing camping area, walk south along the beach to the sea caves where large colonies of bats roost by day, emerging at dusk to hunt for insects. Do not enter the caves as the bats are easily disturbed.



Look for the yellow-billed kingfisher and fawn-breasted bowerbird (restricted to the remote north of Cape York Peninsula and New Guinea). See the northern race of the Australian brush-turkey, with its purple (instead of yellow) wattle. Spotlight at night for the common spotted cuscus and spiny knob-tailed gecko.



Fishing is not permitted in Eliot Creek or in the section of the Jardine River (and its tributaries) from the river mouth to a point 5 km upstream of the old Peninsula Developmental Road crossing. Fishing is allowed in other parts of the Jardine River. Marine waters adjacent to the park are within the Great Barrier Reef and Great Barrier Reef Coast marine parks; zoning restrictions and fishing regulations apply (see page 5).



### Be crocwise in croc country

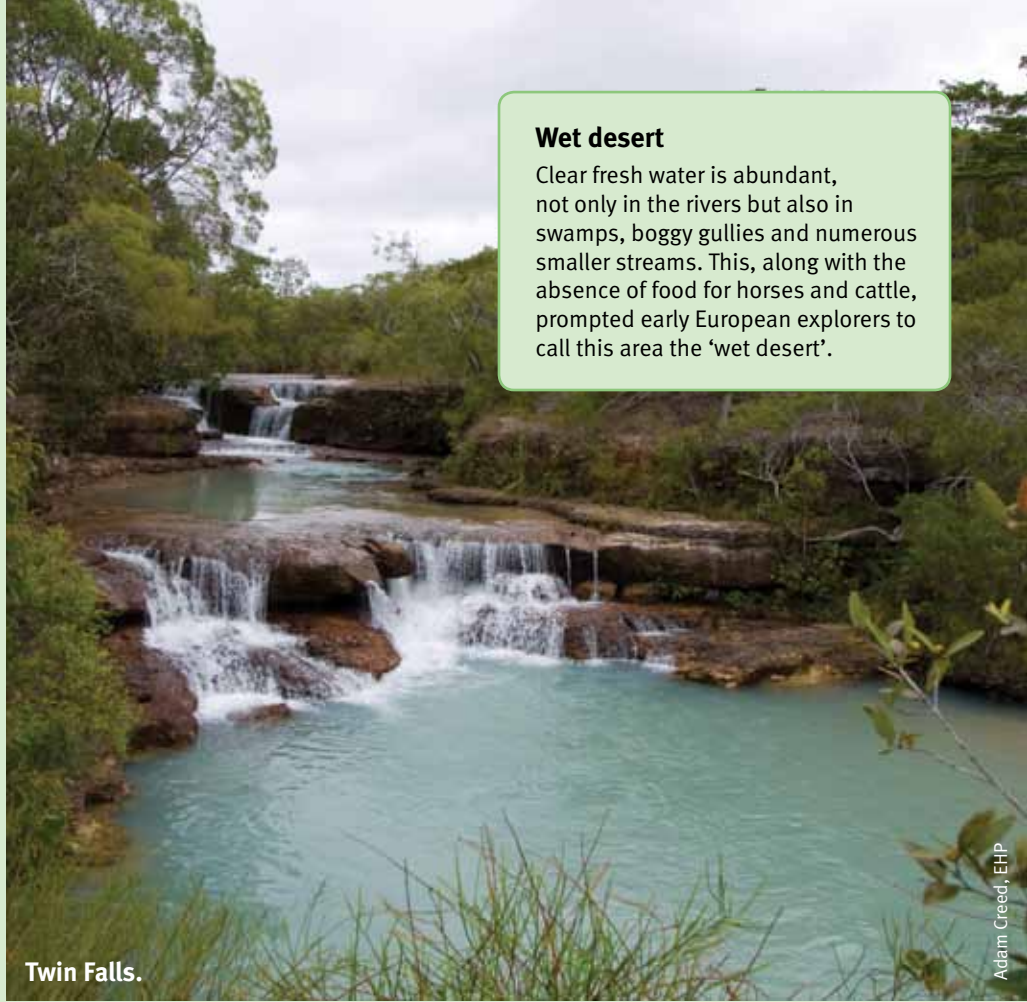
(see page 5)



### Safety

Visitors are responsible for their own safety (see page 16).

- Some waterfalls contain natural hazards—heed management and safety signs.
- Dangerous stinging jellyfish ('stingers') may be present in the coastal waters at any time, but occur more frequently in the warmer months. A full-body lycra suit, or equivalent, may provide a good measure of protection against stinging jellyfish and sunburn.



Twin Falls.

Adam Creed, EHP

### Wet desert

Clear fresh water is abundant, not only in the rivers but also in swamps, boggy gullies and numerous smaller streams. This, along with the absence of food for horses and cattle, prompted early European explorers to call this area the 'wet desert'.



From the south, follow the Telegraph Road north to Bramwell Junction and cross onto the Southern Bypass Road. To access Captain Billy Landing, drive 66 km to the Captain Billy Landing turn-off and travel a further 27 km to the coast. To access Eliot Falls, follow the Southern Bypass Road for 119 km and turn onto the Telegraph Road. Drive 3 km to Fruit Bat Falls and a further 7 km to Eliot Falls. An alternative (rougher) route to Eliot Falls follows the Telegraph Road from Bramwell Junction.

To access South Jardine River camping area, travel north on the Telegraph Road for 32 km from Eliot Falls. To access North Jardine River

camping area, follow the Northern Bypass Road to the Jardine River ferry crossing. Continue for 11 km along the Northern Bypass Road to the North Jardine River camping area turn-off and drive a further 6 km to the camping area. There is no river crossing at North or South Jardine River camping areas.

To access Ussher Point camping area, turn east off Bamaga Road approximately 12 km north of the Jardine River ferry crossing. Follow this four-wheel-drive track for 60 km (4–5 hrs) to the camping area on coast. This track is not maintained and can be hazardous with deep ruts, washouts and fallen trees. Camper trailers are not recommended.

### Lookout near Captain Billy Landing.



NPRSR

# Things you need to know



NPSR

## Safety on parks

- Always keep to the walking tracks to avoid becoming lost, and disturbing snakes and other wildlife.
- Wear sturdy footwear, sunscreen, hat and clothes for protection from the sun.
- Always carry adequate drinking water as well as equipment for treating water—treated water is generally not available in the parks.

## Driving safety

- Stay on designated roads within the park—there are various natural hazards on Cape York Peninsula parks.
- Take care when driving—many park roads have sharp curves and rough surfaces—and approach ‘dips’ (indicated by signs) and creek crossings with caution.
- Drive according to local conditions—conditions may vary at any time of the year.
- Carry plenty of fuel—driving on rough roads in low gear uses more fuel than normal driving conditions.
- Carry adequate food, first-aid equipment, fuel and basic vehicle repair equipment in case of unexpected delays or breakdown.
- Seek local information or check reports on road conditions along the way.
- Vehicles should be checked to ensure they are in good mechanical condition.
- Travel with another vehicle where possible.
- Visitors to the park should ensure their family and friends know their itinerary.

## Caring for parks

Please assist the Traditional Owners and rangers in preserving the natural and cultural values.

- All plants and animals are protected.
- Do not remove plant material, living or dead.
- Domestic animals are not permitted in protected areas.
- The use of firearms is prohibited in protected areas.
- The use of chainsaws is not permitted in protected areas.
- Do not feed wildlife or leave food or scraps around camp sites or day-use areas.
- Avoid the spread of weeds—check clothing and shoes regularly for seeds; remove seeds and soil from camping and bedding equipment.
- Use the vehicle wash-down facilities at Lakeland Downs.
- Visitors should take their rubbish with them when they leave.
- Do not fossick in, take from or cause damage to cultural sites.

## Camping code

- Camp only in the sites provided—restrict use of the site to the existing clearings.
- Light campfires responsibly (fire rings/fireplaces must be used where provided) and firewood should be collected from outside the park/reserve. Fuel stoves are recommended.
- Minimise use of soaps and detergents as they can affect water quality.
- Do not place rubbish or contents of chemical toilet tanks in the toilets—foreign material or chemicals will seriously disrupt the operation of the toilet system.
- Where toilets are not provided, use a trowel to bury human waste and toilet paper at least 15 cm deep and 100 m away from camp sites, tracks and watercourses.
- Be considerate of other campers by minimising noise.

Information provided in this guide is accurate at the time of printing. June 2012

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Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service,  
Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing.

BP1932 June 2012

Printed on eco-friendly paper to save energy and resources.

## Useful contacts

### Emergencies

- If mobile network is available—**dial (Triple Zero) 000** or 112 with a digital or satellite mobile phone.
- If mobile network is not available—contact the Department of Community Safety on **UHF CB radio Channel 5**.

### Road conditions

For the latest information on road conditions, go to the Department of Transport and Main Roads <[www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au)> or phone 13 19 40.

### Park alerts

‘Park alerts’ provide the latest information on access, closures and conditions on all national parks. Go to <[www.npsr.qld.gov.au](http://www.npsr.qld.gov.au)> and search for ‘Park alerts’.

### Alcohol restrictions

Prior to travelling, visitors must be informed about alcohol restrictions and exemptions that apply to different areas on Cape York Peninsula. Go to <[www.atsip.qld.gov.au](http://www.atsip.qld.gov.au)> for further information.

### Ferry services

- Jardine River ferry—contact the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (Injinoo Office) on (07) 4069 1369.
- Thursday Island (TI) ferry (Seisia to TI)—contact Peddles TI Tours on (07) 4069 1551.

### Quarantine

The quarantine inspection station at Coen will inspect all south-bound traffic. Fruit and vegetables that are damaged or show signs of insects or disease, and all mangoes, will be confiscated. For more information, go to <[www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)>.

## For further information

National parks, conservation parks and resources reserves of Cape York Peninsula are managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. National parks (CYPAL) are managed by the department together with Traditional Owners under Indigenous Management Agreements.

Visit us online at <[www.npsr.qld.gov.au](http://www.npsr.qld.gov.au)> or phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

Front cover: Coen River. Photo: Adam Creed, EHP.

Front cover inset: Driving on Cape York. Photo: Tourism Queensland.