

Welcome to Daintree National Park

Immerse yourself in lush ancient rainforest, diverse mangrove forests and the rich culture of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bama. Discover an iconic part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area—the Daintree—where tropical rainforest meets the reef.

Take in stunning coastline views, boulder strewn rivers and crystal clear creeks. Stand on pristine beaches where rainforest-clad mountains rise steeply from the coastline, sheltering the ancestors of plants that lived millions of years ago. Duck beneath giant fan-shaped leaves as you stroll through tropical lowland rainforest and marvel at the diverse plants and animals that fill this 'living ark'.

“Welcome to the beautiful Daintree National Park. Take time out in the peace and quiet, sit at one of many viewing platforms and listen to the sound of water running by, you can't beat it. We're lucky as there is so much wildlife to see ranging from southern cassowaries and buff-breasted paradise-kingfishers in the nesting season, to the elusive Bennett's tree-kangaroo.

Ranger Chenoa

Daintree National Park is part of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Indigenous Protected Area co-management area, managed together by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Jabalbina Yalanji rangers.



Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bubu

The Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bama welcome you to their *bubu* (country) and ask that you respect their special place.

“We are proud of our rainforests, mountains, rivers, waterfalls, beaches, sea and reef and welcome people who visit our country in a respectful way. Our *bubu* (land), *bana* (freshwater) and *jalun* (sea)—our vision is to look after it all. Not only for ourselves, but for everyone—our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

Elder Alf Diamond, Traditional Owner for Mossman Gorge section of Daintree National Park

“The whole Daintree is a special place. It is a privilege for me as a Traditional Owner to look after this country again like our old people did. We'd like all visitors to respect this place. Enjoy being here and help look after it.

Phillip Minniecon, Jabalbina Yalanji Ranger Coordinator



Ranger Chenoa

World heritage area

Daintree National Park lies within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area—a living natural wonder and cultural landscape like nowhere else on Earth. Covering almost 900,000 hectares from Townsville north to Cooktown, it's an area valued worldwide for its Indigenous cultural connections, exceptional diversity, evolutionary history and superb scenic beauty. It also conserves Australia's most extensive remaining stand of tropical rainforest.



Madja Marra (working together to manage Yalanji Land) was created by artist Emma Burchill, an Eastern Kuku Yalanji woman

Wondrous wildlife

Daintree National Park's famous rainforests are vital, living habitat for a wondrous variety of wildlife, including a number of threatened species and some—like the Daintree River ringtail possum—found nowhere else!

Look out for Queensland's amazing flightless rainforest bird—the endangered southern cassowary, helping regenerate the rainforest by eating fruits and spreading seeds. Walk quietly and keep your eyes open to increase your chances of seeing them. But remember to Be cass-o-wary.

Listen for the unmistakable loud and harsh call of the Victoria's riflebirds. During the mating season males perform spectacular courtship displays, sitting on a perch and fanning their wings upwards while swaying side-to-side.

Keep a watchful eye out for the spikey-scaled Boyd's forest dragon, perfectly camouflaged and clinging quietly to a tree trunk in the lower parts of the forests.

While mostly active at night, you may be lucky enough to see a musky rat-kangaroo feeding on the forest floor. These tiny forest gardeners play an important role in rainforest regeneration, leaving forgotten hoarded fruit buried in the ground to germinate.



Boyd's forest dragon (above);
Southern cassowary (top);
Musky rat-kangaroo (right)

Maxime Coquard © Tourism and Events Qld (above);
Stuart Fyfe © Qld Govt (top); Wet Tropics Management Authority (above right)



© Tourism and Events Qld

Start your journey

Part of the adventure is getting there! Take the Great Barrier Reef Drive (Captain Cook Highway) north from Cairns. Hug the stunning coastline of white sandy beaches, fringing reefs and ranges blanketed in dense rainforest. Take time to explore Daintree National Park's two (very different) sections—**Mossman Gorge** and **Cape Tribulation**. Plan your perfect Daintree adventure—there are suggested itineraries overleaf.

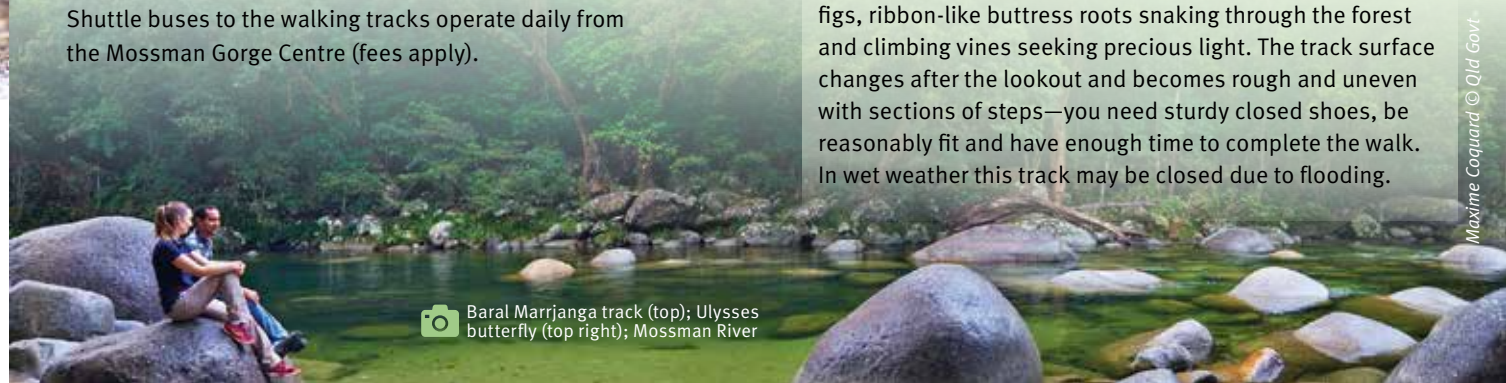
Discover Mossman Gorge

Escape the coastal heat and enter the shady tropical rainforest. Start your visit at the Mossman Gorge Centre—the gateway to this section of the park. Once inside the lush gorge, walk among vibrant tropical vegetation beside the cool waters of the Mossman River. Catch a glimpse of the metallic-blue Ulysses butterfly as it flits through the canopy and listen for the distinctive 'wallack-awoo' and 'book-a-rook' call of the wompoo pigeon. This is a place to experience this truly special, world-heritage listed rainforest.

Delve deeper into rainforest culture on a Ngadiku Dreamtime Walk, led by experienced Indigenous guides. Bookings can be made at the centre or online at mossmangorge.com.au

Getting there

Mossman Gorge section is approximately 75km north of Cairns, via the Captain Cook Highway and Mossman. Shuttle buses to the walking tracks operate daily from the Mossman Gorge Centre (fees apply).



Baral Marrjanga track (top); Ulysses butterfly (top right); Mossman River

Walks to explore

① Baral Marrjanga

270m one way (5–10min). Grade: easy

Stroll along elevated boardwalks among the vines, epiphytes and ferns of the lower rainforest canopy, to a lookout with spectacular Mossman River views. In Eastern Kuku Yalanji culture the rainforest is seen as a respected Elder or boss and the walk was named to represent this—the word *Baral* means track and *Marrjanga* means a group of Elders or a number of bosses. It's suitable for wheelchairs, prams and visitors with impaired vision.

② Lower river track

300m one way (5–10min). Grade: easy to moderate

Meander alongside the boulder strewn Mossman River and listen to the cascading water tumbling down the gorge, before joining Baral Marrjanga ①. From riverside lookouts along the track see the distinct yellow flowers of golden penda trees and look for one of the largest dragonflies in the world. Take care on steps and use the handrails provided.

③ Rex Creek bridge

460m return (10min). Grade: easy to moderate

Catch your breath mid-air over Rex Creek as you cross the suspension bridge, originally built by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Rangers and Australian Army personnel. This track starts off Baral Marrjanga ① near the lookout.

④ Rainforest circuit track

2.4 km circuit (1–1.5hr). Grade: moderate

Branch off Rex Creek bridge ③ and head up to a small lookout with views of *Manjal Dimbi* (Mount Demi) and mobile reception! From here, the track ventures deeper into the tropical rainforest where you can see towering strangler figs, ribbon-like buttress roots snaking through the forest and climbing vines seeking precious light. The track surface changes after the lookout and becomes rough and uneven with sections of steps—you need sturdy closed shoes, be reasonably fit and have enough time to complete the walk. In wet weather this track may be closed due to flooding.

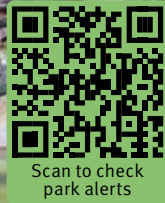


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Maxime Coquard © Qld Govt

Further information


-  qld.gov.au/Daintree
-  qld.gov.au/Camping
-  qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts
(access, closures and conditions)
-  [qldnationalparks](https://www.facebook.com/qldnationalparks)
-  [#QldParks](https://www.instagram.com/QldParks); [#QldParks](https://www.instagram.com/QldParks)



Find our park brochures online at qld.gov.au/ParkBrochures

For more information about the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, visit wettropics.gov.au




 *Walu Wugirriga (Mount Alexandra lookout)* © Tourism Tropical North Qld (front cover); Lower river track, Mossman Gorge *Maxime Coquard* © Qld Govt (above)

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Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service,
Department of Environment and Science.
Bp2164 March 2020. November 2022—self-service kiosk references removed.
Printed on eco-friendly paper to save energy and resources.

Discover Cape Tribulation

Experience the beauty of Cape Tribulation, where verdant forested mountains meet white sandy beaches and the sparkling blue waters of the Great Barrier Reef. Drive through tunnels of trees and stroll along boardwalks through rainforest and mangrove wetlands bursting with life. Enjoy stunning coastal views, take your photo on the famous Cape Tribulation beach and spend time getting to know this nature-lover's paradise.



 Take a stroll along Myall Beach (main); Strangler fig on the Madja boardwalk (above left); Jindalba boardwalk (above); Jindalba circuit (left).

Maxime Coquard © Qld Govt (both above); © Tourism Tropical North Qld (left and main)

Getting there

Cape Tribulation section is approximately 110–140km north of Cairns, via the Captain Cook Highway, Mossman–Daintree Road, Daintree River ferry (operating daily from 6am to midnight) and Cape Tribulation Road. Cape Tribulation Road is not recommended for caravans.

Walks to explore

5 Jindalba (foot of the mountain) boardwalk
650m circuit (45min). Grade: easy

Follow the Jindalba boardwalk into vibrant, tropical lowland rainforest. Wander alongside crystal clear creeks and look for ancient king ferns and colourful buff-banded paradise-kingfishers with their streaming white tail feathers. Quiet walkers may be lucky enough to see a tree-kangaroo or cassowary.

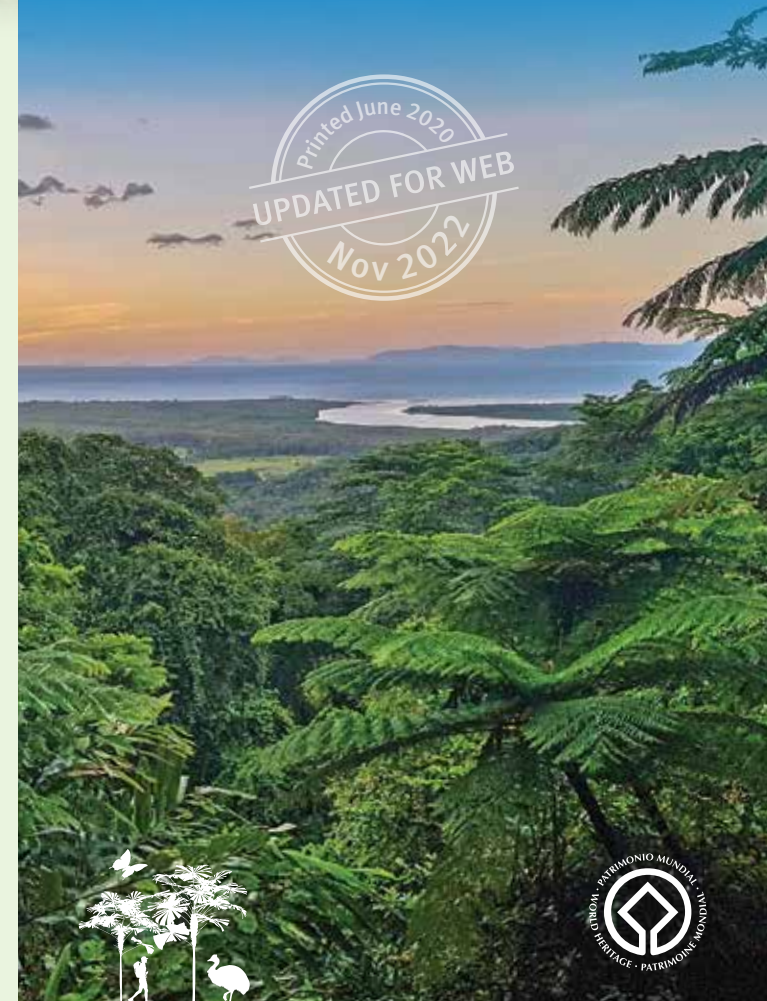
6 Jindalba circuit track
3km circuit (1.5hr). Grade: moderate

The more adventurous can journey further into the rainforest on this longer circuit track. Pass giant Hopes cycads, gaze up at towering strangler figs and look for musky rat-kangaroos foraging on the forest floor. This track is well marked but stony in places. There are some creek crossings so be prepared to get your feet wet.





Daintree National Park



7 Madja (rainforest or jungle) boardwalk

1.2km circuit (45min). Grade: easy

Move slowly along this boardwalk and take in every stage in the evolution of land plants for the past 400 million years—from cone-bearing cycads, big and small, to ‘strange-seeded’, flowering ribbonwoods. This small area of rainforest and mangrove communities, in a tidal zone, is truly special!

8 Dubuji (place of spirits) boardwalk

850m return loop (30min) and 1.2km return loop (45min)

Grade (for both loops): easy

Take a stroll along the longer 1.2km boardwalk loop through lowland rainforest swamps and mangroves and then out to Myall Beach. There’s also an 850m loop for visitors short on time. Fan palms, pandanus and peppermint stick insects make Dubuji a picture-perfect place. Stop and enjoy a picnic in the grassy area or under the picnic shelters.

9 Kulki (Cape Tribulation) boardwalk

600m return (10min). Grade: easy

Follow the boardwalk from the picnic area to a viewing platform overlooking iconic Cape Tribulation Beach. You can also enjoy a short walk from the car park to picturesque Myall Beach. Kulki is the Eastern Kuku Yalanji name for Cape Tribulation.



© Steven Nowakowski

Camping and accommodation

The shady camping area at Noah Beach, just 50m from the sandy shore, is a great place to camp. This camping area is suitable for cars, small campervans and camper trailers but not caravans, large campervans, rooftop campers or motorhomes.



Camping must be booked before arriving

and camp site size restrictions apply. Book your camping online at qld.gov.au/Camping, visit an over-the-counter agent or call 13 QGOV (13 74 68). Mobile service is not available in many areas of the national park. Noah Beach camping area is closed during the wet season (generally early January to Good Friday each year).

Alternatively, choose from private accommodation such as motels, bed and breakfasts, lodges, private camping areas and budget dormitories.

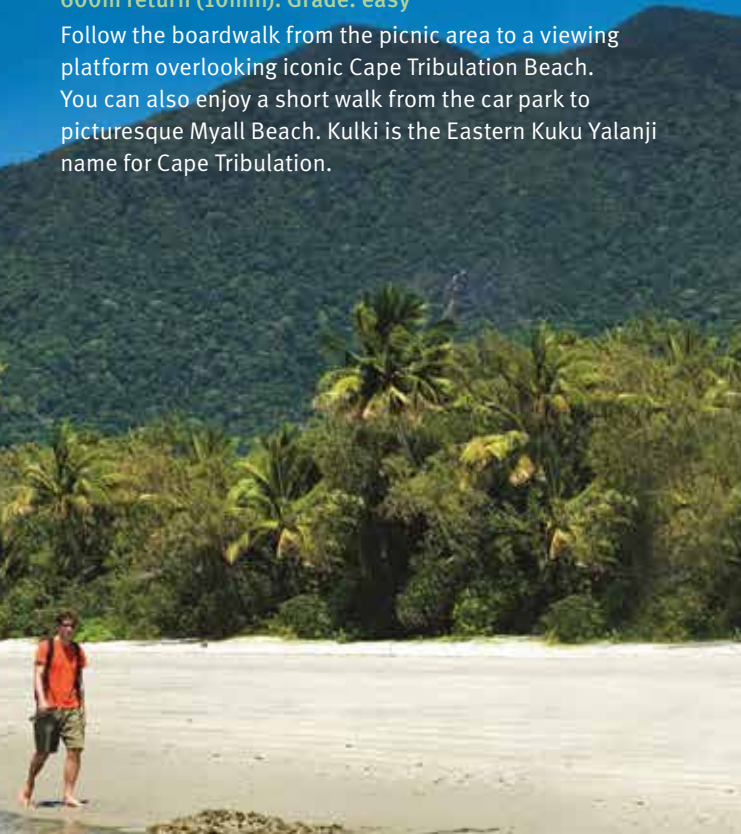
Visit tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au for details.

© Tim Wood

Caring for the Daintree

To help conserve this special park, please try to leave no trace of your visit. It’s easy—here’s how:

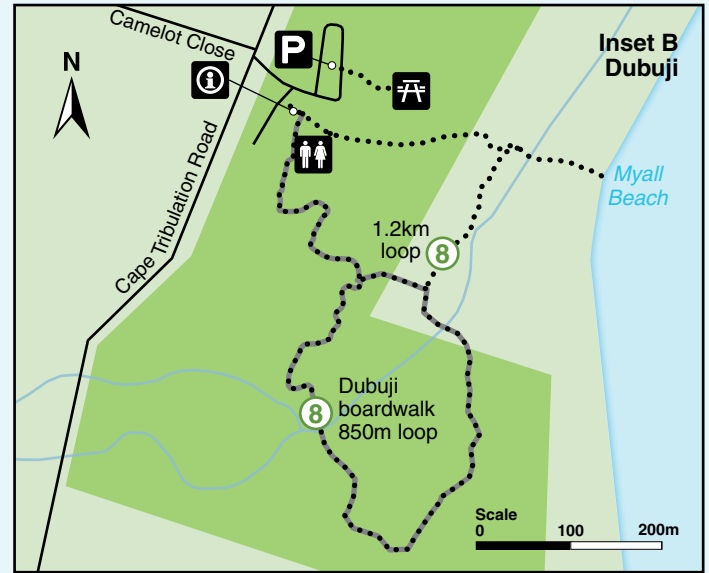
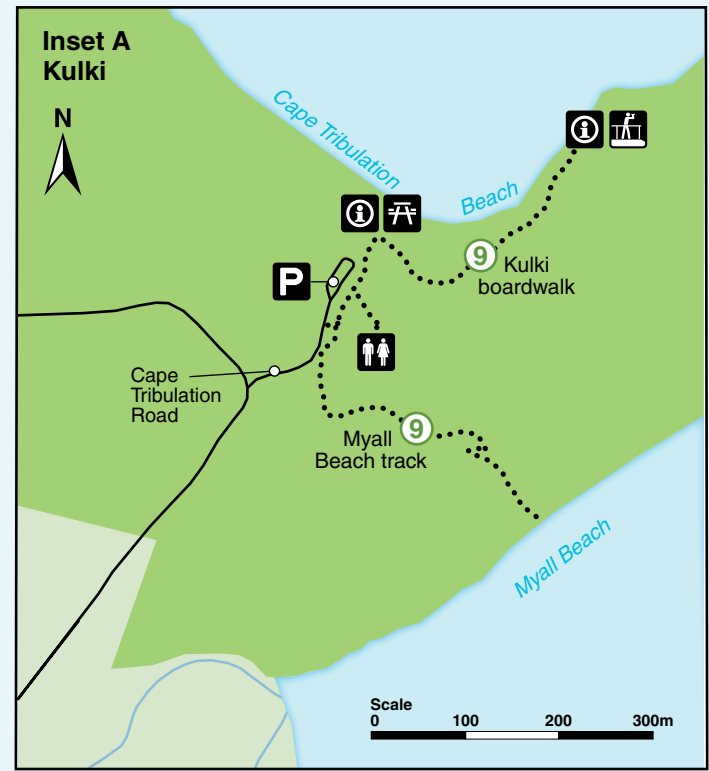
- Avoid disturbing any animals or plants and remember everything in the national park is protected.
- Don’t feed wildlife and take your rubbish, including food scraps, with you when you leave.
- Don’t place rubbish or contents of chemical toilet tanks in the toilets.
- Always stay on walking tracks.
- Leave your pets at home—domestic animals are not permitted in national parks.

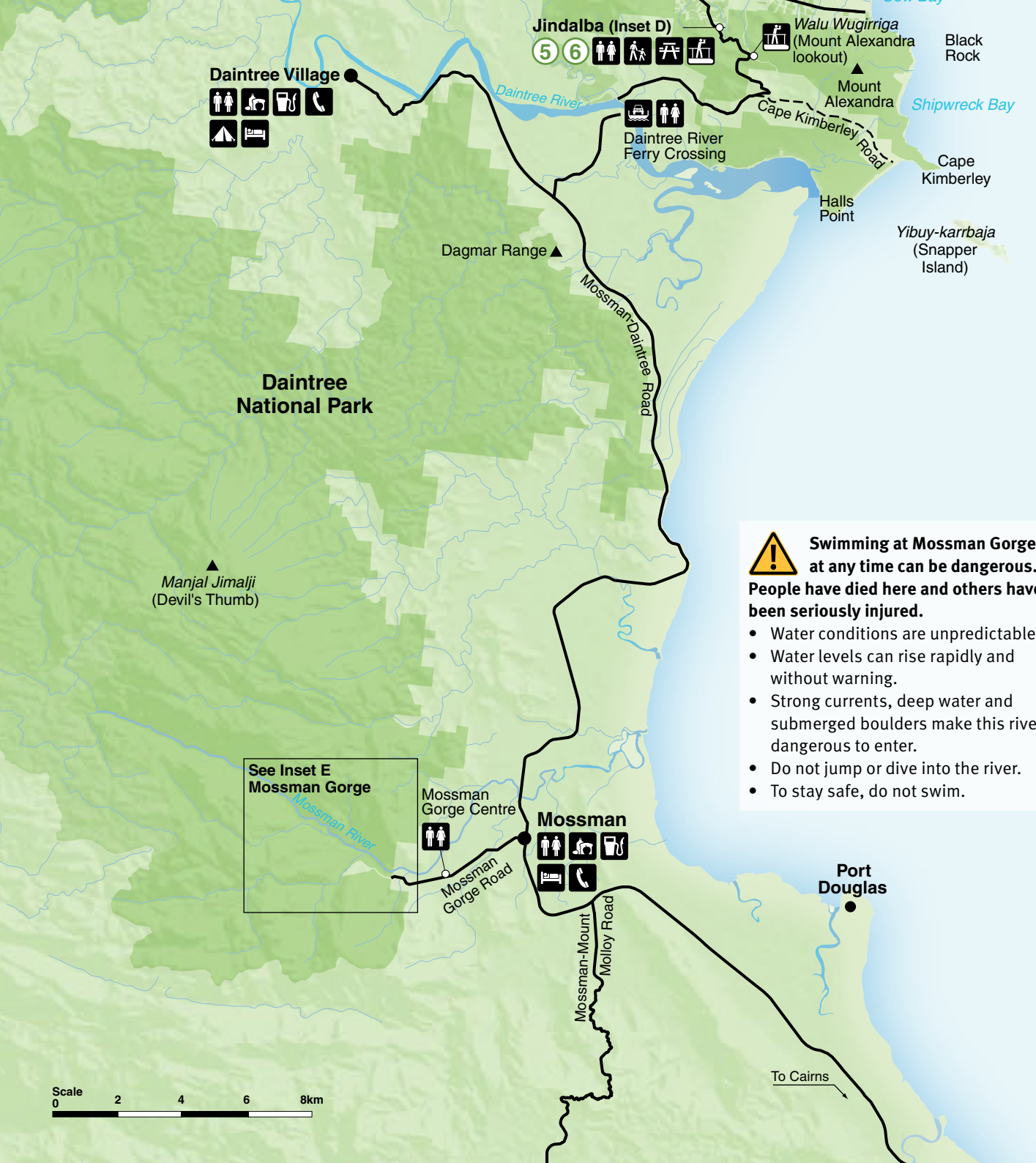




Legend

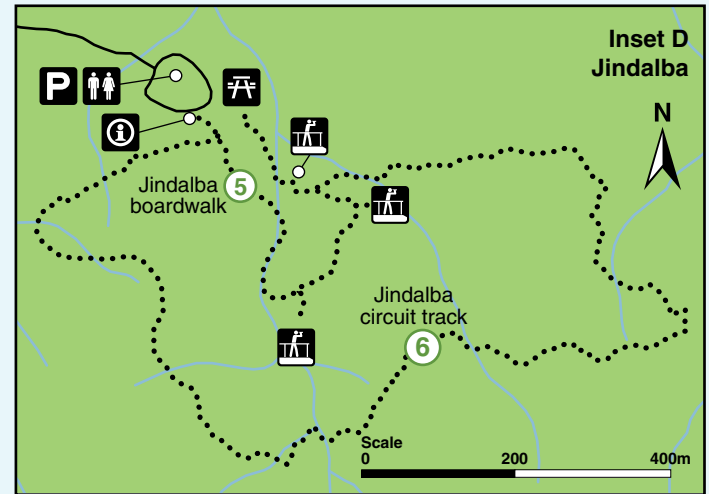
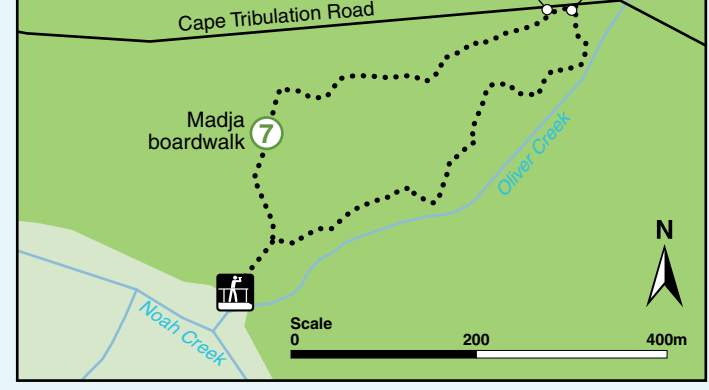
-  National park
-  Water
-  Waterways
-  Sealed road
-  Unsealed road
-  4WD road
-  Walking track
-  Information
-  Toilets
-  Walking track
-  Lookout
-  Picnic tables
-  Parking
-  Camping
-  Accommodation
-  Telephone
-  General store
-  Petrol
-  Vehicle ferry





⚠ Swimming at Mossman Gorge at any time can be dangerous. People have died here and others have been seriously injured.

- Water conditions are unpredictable.
- Water levels can rise rapidly and without warning.
- Strong currents, deep water and submerged boulders make this river dangerous to enter.
- Do not jump or dive into the river.
- To stay safe, do not swim.



Explore safely

Make your visit memorable for the right reasons.



Be crocwise

Daintree National Park is in croc country.

Crocodiles are dangerous and you should never take unnecessary risks in crocodile habitat. Crocodiles are a hidden and unseen danger, without fear of humans. Even though you cannot see them, crocodiles may be close by. Always obey crocodile warning signs—stay out of the water and well away from the water's edge, especially when fishing. Supervise children closely.



Be cass-o-wary

Never approach cassowaries or their chicks as male cassowaries will defend them aggressively. Feeding cassowaries is illegal and dangerous, and has caused cassowary deaths—always discard your food scraps in closed bins. Please drive slowly and watch out for cassowaries crossing roads.



Dangerous stinging jellyfish (stingers) may be

present in the coastal waters off Cape Tribulation section at any time, but occur more frequently in the warmer months. For your safety, always stay out of the water.



Avoid stinging trees with their large, heart-shaped

leaves. Touching any part of the plant results in a very painful sting. If stung, and symptoms are severe, seek medical advice.



Don't shortcut off boardwalks and walking tracks

and always tell a responsible person your route and expected time of return. Contact this responsible person when you return and have a contingency plan in place if you fail to contact them by the agreed time. If you change your plans, inform them.



Remember mobile phone reception may be poor or non-existent.



Use insect repellent for ticks and leeches.



Before your visit, check weather conditions with the Bureau of Meteorology at bom.gov.au and park access and closure updates at qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts

Ranger favourites



Take the time to relax and enjoy the views of the mouth of the Daintree River from Mount Alexandra lookout.

Ranger Brendan



Maxime Coquard © Tourism and Events Qld



Maxime Coquard © Qld Govt



One of the many reasons I enjoy being a ranger, as well as a Traditional Owner working on country, is witnessing the diversity of plants and animals and how they work together to keep this rainforest healthy.

Ranger Chenoa



My favourite experience as a ranger is seeing visitors learning about, and experiencing the many natural wonders of the Daintree.

Ranger Dave



Maxime Coquard © Qld Govt



Kulki lookout is one of the many spots where the rainforest meets the reef. It is here where you may see dolphins, dugong, turtles or even a whale frolicking out on the horizon during the migration season.

Ranger Kylie



Robert Ashdown © Qld Govt

Plan your perfect Daintree adventure

Below are suggested itineraries to help with planning your Daintree adventure, or use them as inspiration to make your own itinerary!

½ day Daintree taster

Mossman Gorge From Cairns, visit Mossman Gorge and take in walking tracks ①, ② and ③

Full-day Daintree encounter

Mossman Gorge From Cairns, visit Mossman Gorge and take in walking tracks ①, ②, ③ and ④

Cape Tribulation From Cairns, cross the Daintree ferry, visit Mount Alexandra lookout, drive the iconic Cape Tribulation Road and take in Jindalba boardwalk ⑤ and Madja boardwalk ⑦. Return to Cairns/Port Douglas or continue north via the Bloomfield Track to Cooktown (4WD only).

Two-day Daintree explorer

Cape Tribulation Expand the above full-day Cape Tribulation Daintree encounter and camp at Noah Beach camping area overnight. Take in Dubuji ⑧ and Kulki ⑨ boardwalks on day two. Return to Cairns/Port Douglas or continue north via the Bloomfield Track to Cooktown (4WD only).

Mossman Gorge and Cape Tribulation Start with the Mossman Gorge taster and then head to Cape Tribulation. Cross the Daintree ferry, visit Mount Alexandra lookout and slowly make your way to Noah Beach camping area, taking in walks as time permits. Spend day two exploring the many walks on offer. Head south back to Cairns/Port Douglas or north via the Bloomfield Road to Cooktown (4WD only).

Walks at a glance

Choose your own adventure! With so many walks to choose from your toughest decision will be how many can you do in a day?

Location	Grade	Distance	Walking time	Access point
Mossman Gorge				
① Baral Marrjanga	Easy	270m (one way)	5–10min	Mossman Gorge Centre
② Lower river track	Easy to moderate	300m (one way)	5–10min	Mossman Gorge Centre
③ Rex Creek bridge	Easy to moderate	460m (return)	10min	End of Baral Marrjanga
④ Rainforest circuit track	Moderate	2.4km (circuit)	1–1.5hr	Rex Creek bridge
Cape Tribulation				
⑤ Jindalba boardwalk	Easy	650m (circuit)	45min	Jindalba car park
⑥ Jindalba circuit track	Moderate	3km (circuit)	1.5hr	Entrance to Jindalba boardwalk
⑦ Madja boardwalk	Easy	1.2km (circuit)	45min	Madja car park
⑧ Dubuji boardwalk	Easy	850m (loop) 1.2km (loop)	30min 45min	Dubuji car park
⑨ Kulki boardwalk	Easy	600m (return)	10min	Kulki car park

