

Welcome to Mackay Highlands and Eungella National Park

Enter an enchanting world, where clouds cloak the rainforest, birds call from peaceful creeks, breezes carry soft bush scents, and the afternoon sun shines on the sheer cliffs of the Clarke Connor Ranges.

Refresh at clear rock pools surrounded by volcanic boulders and countless waterfalls. Sense the shy movements of platypus and Eungella spiny crayfish darting through the water. Glimpse colourful birdlife moving in the canopy.

Wander through misty rainforests and dense palm groves, past towering forest giants standing sentinel on the dramatic cliff line. Let shadows envelop you on a twilight safari, where tawny frogmouths, gliders and possums greet you as they emerge into the night.

Discover a magical mountainous place where the tropics and subtropics meet and where the traditional homelands of the Yuwibara, Widi and Barada Barna people come together. This natural wonder is a deeply spiritual landscape, deserving of your greatest respect.

“ Welcome to one of the most ecologically diverse areas in Queensland and somewhere truly special. I feel so lucky to call these mist-shrouded mountains and place in the clouds my home. You can breathe in cool mountain air, admire towering ancient rainforest trees, and appreciate the endless variety of plants. The birdwatching is amazing and, of course, this is the best place in the world to watch a platypus in the wild!

Ranger Rowan

Discover the Mackay Highlands

With rainforest, rustic charm and dramatic terrain, Mackay Highlands has a natural beauty you won't forget. The landscape is a sculpted masterpiece—steep escarpments give way to deep gorges and waterholes, with dense rainforest and majestic woodland hemmed by a patchwork of farming communities.

Explore cloud-shrouded mountains in **Eungella National Park**, Australia's northern-most subtropical rainforest and one of Queensland's most ecologically-diverse parks. Eungella protects more than 860 subtropical and tropical rainforest plant species and a spectacular array of wildlife.

Lose yourself in picturesque creek scenery, lush rainforest remnants and open forest dotted with beautiful, century-old rose gums in **Crediton State Forest**. Trace the footsteps of Traditional Owners, gold miners and early timber harvesters, or tell ghost stories by torchlight at the camp near historic Crediton Hall.

Dramatic peaks and spires jut breathtakingly out of the vast dry plains in **Homevale National Park**—the remains of ancient volcanic eruptions. Enjoy birdwatching and lovely sunsets at Moonlight Dam.

Ride on horseback or pedal through the grasstree-lined foothills of the Clarke Range at **Mia Mia State Forest** to a melody of bird calls ringing through the forest.

Photo: Greg Lennox © Qld Govt





(top) Broken River Boardwalk; (far left) rainforest on the Mackay Highlands Great Walk; shrinking rainforest habitat is critical for the endangered Eungella gastric brooding frog (right) and Eungella dayfrog; (below) Expansive views from Sky Window.

Photos: (top) © Tamara Vallance; (far left) Adam Creed © Qld Govt; (right) © Qld Govt; (below) Peter Lik © Tourism and Events Qld



Rainbow lorikeet
Photo: © Qld Govt

Escape overnight

Don't rush away! Wind down in a nearby cabin or resort, or let the stars stretching to the horizon be your rooftop and the tranquil forest your walls on a camping adventure in the park. From family-friendly camping with plenty of facilities, to reclusive bush camping away from it all, there is an experience to suit everyone. Book your camp site before you go at qld.gov.au/Camping

Camping at a glance

Eungella National Park

Fern Flat camping area

Small camping area in bushland beside Broken River.
No generators permitted.
No access for trailers or motorhomes.



Broken River bush camp

Open camping area beside Broken River, where you may be lucky to spot a platypus.
Fires are permitted in fireplaces provided except during fire bans. Fuel stoves are recommended.
Generators that operate at or below 65 dB(A) are permitted between 9am and 8pm only.



Crediton State Forest

Denham Range camping area

Open camping area atop a mountain ridge with cool breezes and views. 4WD or high-clearance vehicles only.
No generators permitted.



The Diggings camping area

Open tranquil camping area beside Broken River in a shady clearing surrounded by tall trees. 4WD or high-clearance vehicles only.
Fires are permitted in fireplaces provided except during fire bans. Fuel stoves are recommended.
Generators that operate at or below 65 dB(A) are permitted between 9am and 8pm only.



Homevale National Park

Moonlight Dam camping area

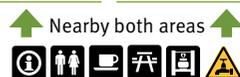
Quiet camping area on the edge of Moonlight Dam—where birds come to drink at dusk. 4WD or high-clearance vehicles only.
Fires are permitted in fireplaces provided except during fire bans. Fuel stoves are recommended.



Mia Mia State Forest

Mia Mia bush camping

Open camping area beside Teemburra Creek at Captains Crossing. 4WD or high-clearance vehicles only.
No facilities.
No fires or generators permitted.



Call of the wild

This lush, green paradise is brimming with life.

Platypus might be on your bucket list, but what else can you find? Listen closely for the clear, sharp calls of the Eungella honeyeater, found only in these highlands. Be entertained by rainbow lorikeets, red-browed finches and blue-faced honeyeaters in the trees, or hear the distinctive 'walk-to-work' call of noisy pittas foraging for snails in the leaf litter.

At night, secretive Eungella tinkerfrogs punctuate the air with metallic 'tinks'. Hold your breath as greater gliders and common ringtail possums cling to high branches, and rare golden-tipped bats dart silently through the canopy. See if you can spy the Clarke Range's own species of leaf-tailed gecko, almost invisible against rough tree bark.

Camping is also available at Crediton Hall, managed by Mackay Regional Council. Visit mackayregion.com for bookings.



Further information

-  qld.gov.au/NationalParks
-  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)

For help planning your holiday, visit queensland.com or mackayregion.com.au

Check road conditions before you visit at qldtraffic.qld.gov.au or phone 13 19 40.

This brochure is also available online at qld.gov.au/ParkBrochures



Walk in the clouds

Breathe in crisp mountain air as you immerse yourself in nature. Stroll with the family, walk for several hours, or for a challenge, take a hike on all or part of the 56km Mackay Highlands Great Walk.

For track details including walk distances see the map overleaf or visit qld.gov.au/NationalParks

1 Pine Grove

Park at the edge of Eungella township and wander under the rainforest canopy along **Pine Grove circuit**, catching glimpses of picturesque Pioneer Valley beyond tall trees. Continue to Sky Window along **Cedar Grove track**, stopping to admire views over the patchwork of green and brown cane fields with a sheer mountain backdrop. Feel dwarfed by towering red cedars and tulip oaks; peep inside the arch of a twisted strangler fig.

2 Sky Window

See bright piccabeen and Alexandra palms glistening after light rain or morning mist. Drink in the spectacular views back towards Mackay and the Pioneer Valley.

3 Broken River

Relax over a leisurely bush picnic among tall swamp mahogany and eucalypt trees in the Broken River visitor area, then step out to explore.

Be entranced by playful platypus along the **River walk**. Cross trickling creeks beneath a forest ceiling decorated with epiphytes and vines on the cool and shady **Rainforest Discovery circuit**. Explore tall groves of livistona palms lining the **Granite Bend circuit**—their fan-shaped leaves beckoning you to the banks of Broken River to listen to the sounds of water rushing over rocks.

Watch along **Crediton Creek track** for ripples and bubbles of platypus, eels and freshwater turtles. Walk through rainforest gullies up to rocky ridges covered in drier vine forest where you might spot unadorned rock-wallabies or red-legged pademelons. Extend your time in nature, continuing along **Wishing Pool circuit**, through tall rainforest carpeted with ferns, and listen for whipbirds and fruit-doves calling around you.



 (Above) Finch Hatton Gorge; (above left) Strangler fig arch, Cedar Grove track.

Photos: (above) Tourism and Events Qld; (above left) John Augusteyn © Qld Govt

9 Finch Hatton Gorge

Weave between large granite boulders on the **Araluen Cascades track**, before walking through stunning emerald-green rainforest to the lookout above the cascades. Those seeking a place for peaceful contemplation will enjoy the **Wheel of Fire track**, where forest reflections shimmer across the still rock pool surface. You must navigate a creek crossing and climb many steps on this track.

Vehicle access to the gorge car park is along dirt roads with multiple creek crossings and may be impassable after heavy rain.



Fast flowing streams and slippery rocks. Serious injuries and deaths have occurred at Finch Hatton Gorge.

Climbing, jumping or diving from cliffs is prohibited.

Swimming in the creeks can be dangerous and is at your own risk.

Obey restricted access area signs.

Mackay Highlands Great Walk

Satisfy your wanderlust with a long trek through rainforest and palm groves, cliffs and peaks, quiet roads and farmland. Walk for a while or tackle the whole 56km from Eungella to Mount Britton!

Bush adventures

Take a scenic drive through forest and farmland, the stunning landscape changing at almost every turn. Stop to sample local fare at a cafe or watch the sunset from a lookout. Cruise easy (but often steep and winding) roads, or rumble along curves of a washboard road for a 4WD adventure sure to make your heart beat faster.

Or travel at a slower pace. Adventurous mountain bikers and horseriders relish exploring the backroads and trails in Mia Mia and Crediton state forests.

Ride safe, ride happy

- Check where you can go. Bikes are prohibited on walking tracks and horses are prohibited in national parks.
- Watch for vehicles and walkers sharing the road.
- Cyclists give way to horses and walkers.
- Walkers give way to horses.

Visit qld.gov.au/NationalParks for details.

Show you care

Leave no trace and help keep Eungella and the Highlands pristine.

- If you pack it in, pack it out. Take all recycling and rubbish (including food scraps, cigarette butts, sanitary and hygiene items) with you.
- Keep to tracks—shortcutting causes erosion and damages vegetation.
- Be frog friendly—please don't disturb or remove rocks or trample vegetation near creeks.
- Don't bring unwanted travellers with you. Clean boots, clothes and equipment of soil and seeds before and after your visit—stop the spread of weeds and harmful organisms.
- Leave your pets at home—domestic animals are not permitted in national parks.
- Don't take firewood from the bush.
- Respect other visitors and keep the noise down.

Look after yourself

Make your visit memorable for all the right reasons.

- Walking is best between April and September to avoid wet and dry weather extremes.
- Supervise children closely, especially around water and near cliffs.
- Stay behind barriers and pay attention to safety signs.
- Never dive or jump into creeks or pools as water may be shallow or hide submerged objects.
- Take care on slippery rocks and at creek crossings.
- Take care near cliff edges—do not climb on rock faces.
- Never walk alone. Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Leave plenty of time to reach your destination in daylight.

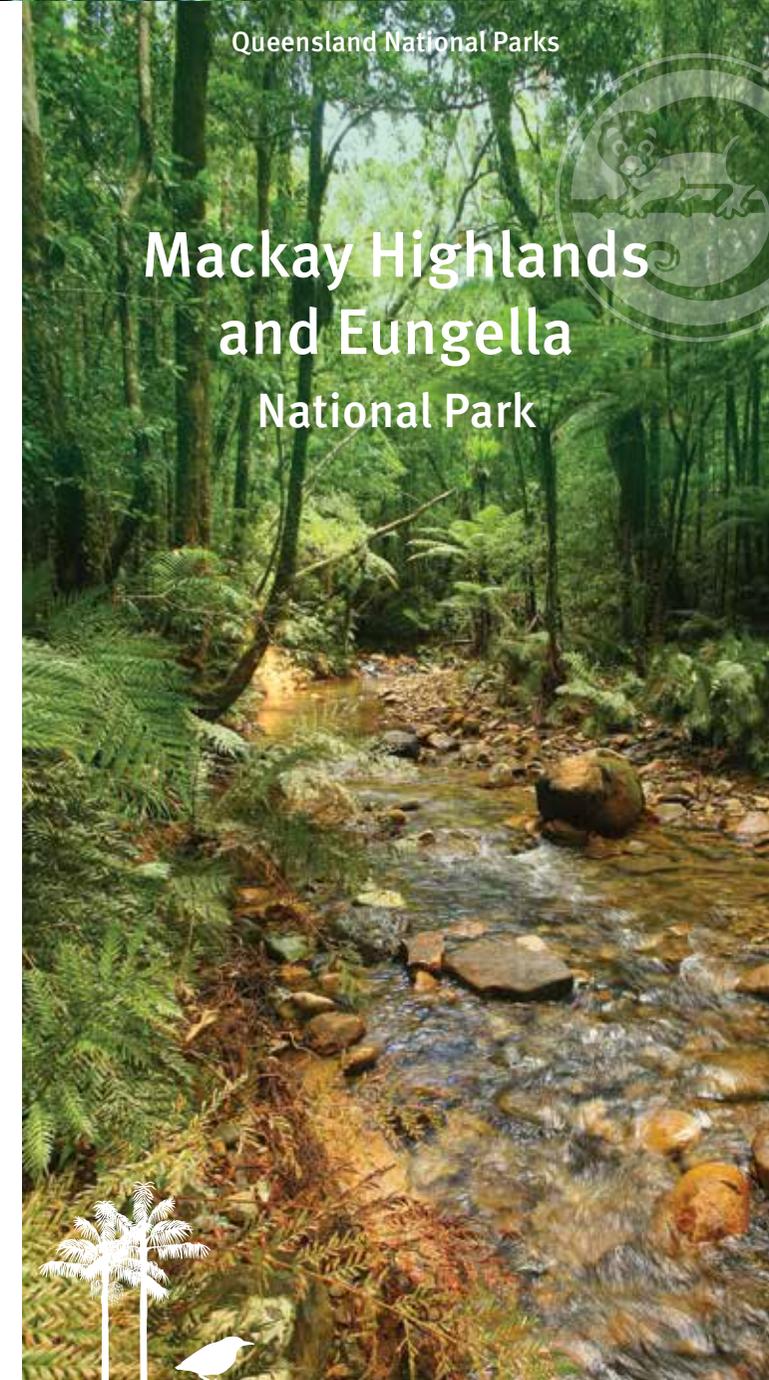
What to bring

- Suitable footwear, clothing and equipment for the activity you are planning. Pack warm clothes and raincoats as weather can change rapidly.
- First-aid kit, including sun and insect protection.
- Adequate drinking water or sterilisation tablets—safe drinking water is not provided in the park.
- Fuel stoves or untreated, clean-milled firewood for camping area fire rings. Collecting firewood from the park is prohibited.
- A personal locator beacon (PLB) if hiking overnight on the Great Walk.

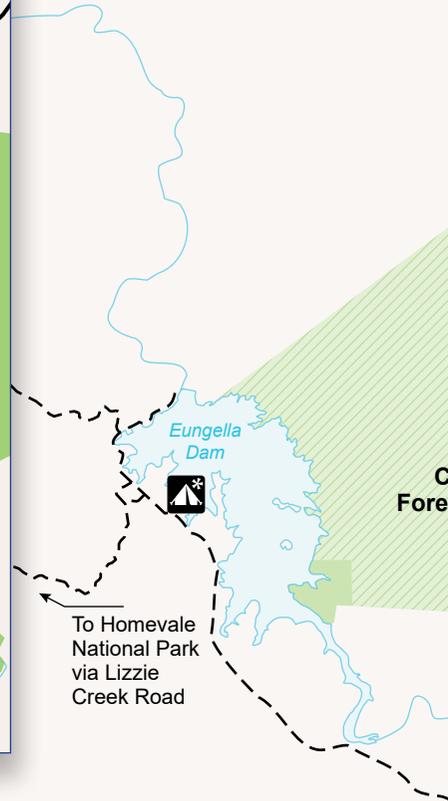
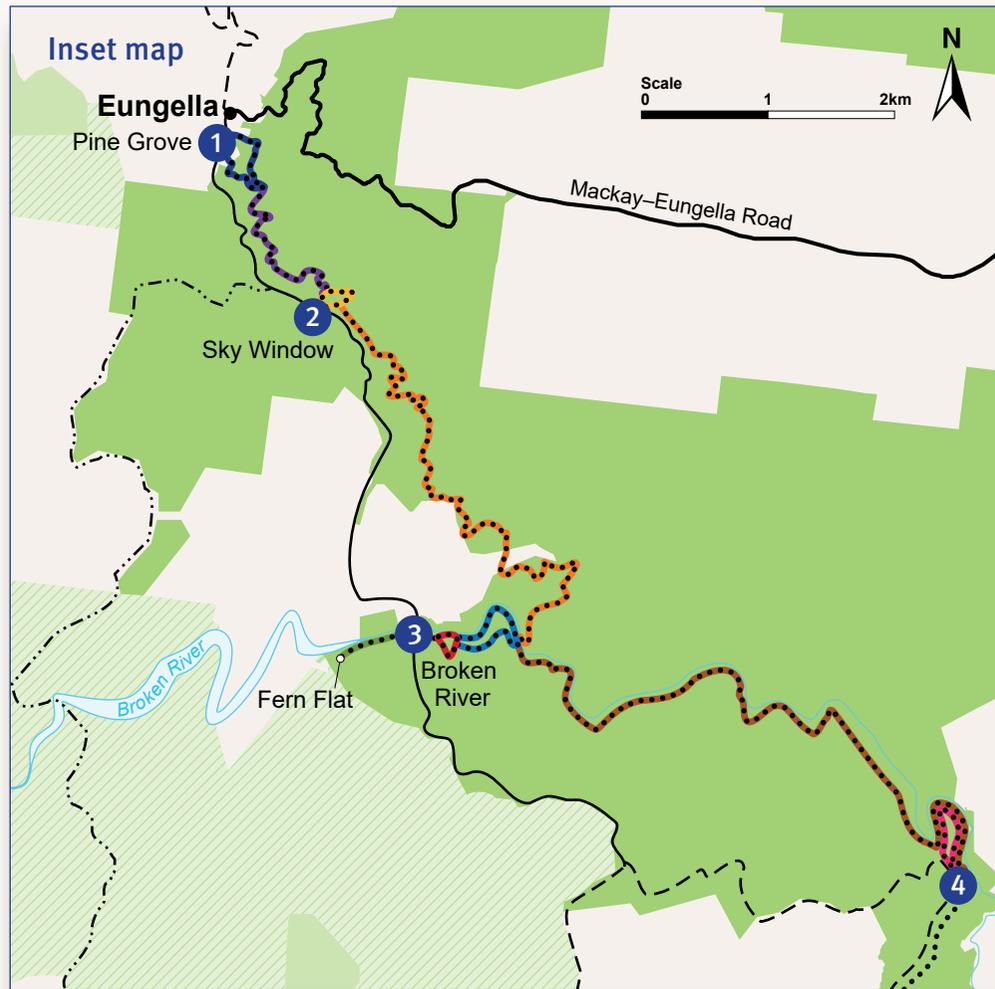
In an emergency

Call Triple Zero (000)

Mobile phone coverage may not be reliable; however you might get a signal at some elevated locations.



Mackay Highlands and Eungella National Park



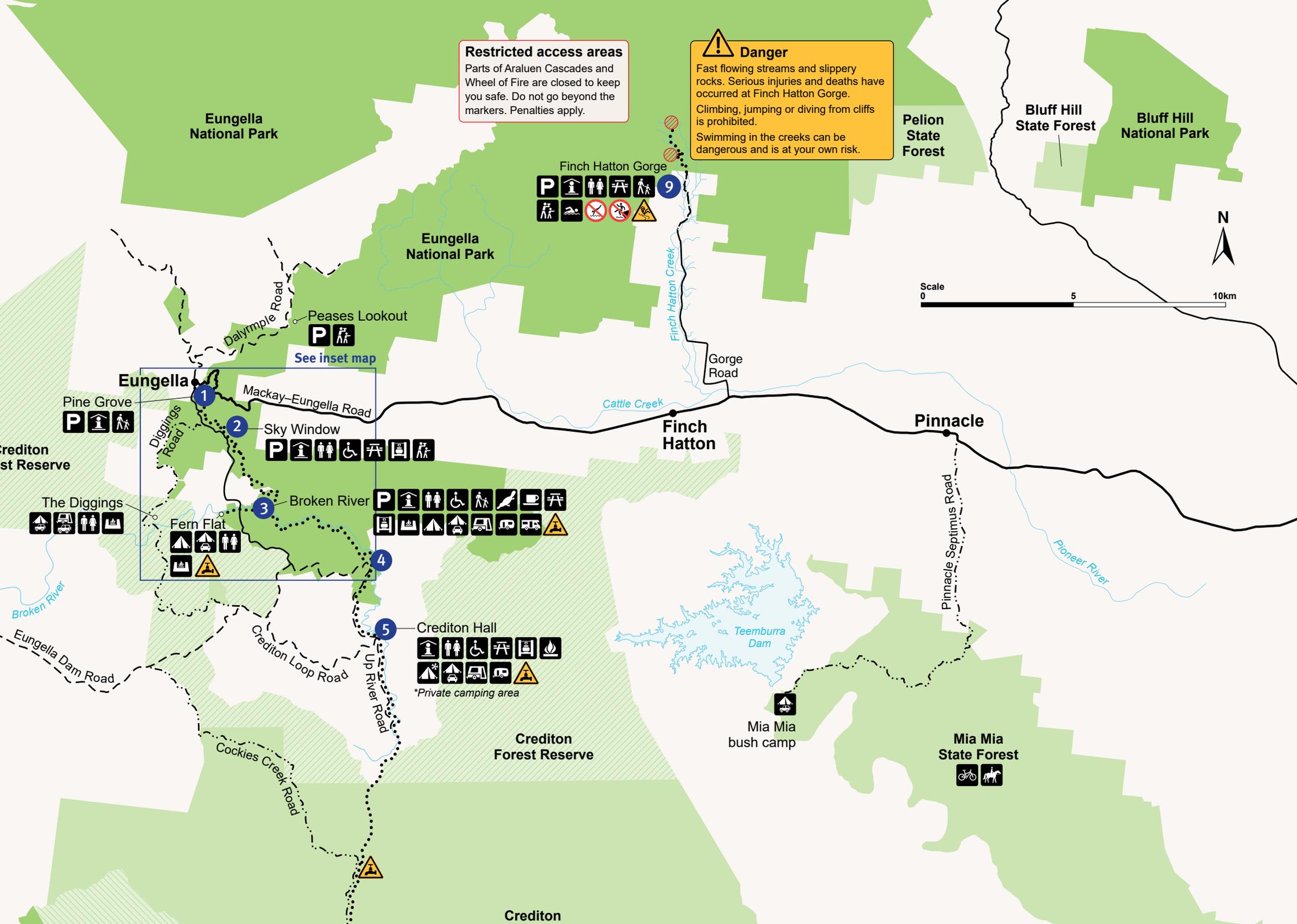
Short walks at a glance

Track name	Grade	Distance	Walk time	Access point
Pine Grove circuit	3	1.6km return	45min–1hr	1
Cedar Grove track	3	2.8km one way	1–1.5hr	1 or 2
Sky Window circuit	1	250m return	5–10min	2
Clarke Range track	4	8.2km one way	3–4hr	2 or 3
River walk	1	520m one way	10min	3
Rainforest Discovery circuit	3	780m return	20–30min	3
Granite Bend circuit	3	1.6km return	40–55min	3
Crediton Creek track	4	8km one way	3–4hr	3 or 4

Restricted access areas

Parts of Araluen Cascades and Wheel of Fire are closed to keep you safe. Do not go beyond the markers. Penalties apply.

! Danger
Fast flowing streams and slippery rocks. Serious injuries and deaths have occurred at Finch Hatton Gorge. Climbing, jumping or diving from cliffs is prohibited. Swimming in the creeks can be dangerous and is at your own risk.



Eungella National Park

Eungella National Park

Pelion State Forest

Bluff Hill State Forest

Bluff Hill National Park



Finch Hatton Gorge



Peases Lookout



See inset map

Eungella

Mackay-Eungella Road

Pine Grove



Sky Window



Broken River



Fern Flat



Crediton Hall



*Private camping area

Crediton Forest Reserve

Finch Hatton

Pinnacle

Teemburra Dam

Mia Mia bush camp

Mia Mia State Forest



Crediton

Enjoy strolling in the shade along Sky Window circuit.
Photo: © Tamara Vallance

Ranger favourites

“ If you only go to one place, visit Broken River 3. Watch saw-shelled turtles, perch, eels and platypus in the waterways and, if you are really lucky, glimpse a male regent bowerbird fly through the rainforest like a flame across the canopy!
Ranger Ben



(Right) Regent bowerbird;
(below) platypus

Photos: (right) © Queensland Museum, The Ray Viljoen Image Collection;
(below) Maxime Coquard © Qld Govt



“ My favourite hike is the Crediton Creek track. You follow Broken River 3 and experience wildlife in abundance, with several rock pools providing numerous chances to see platypus.
Ranger Cliff

Wishing Pool circuit	4	1.7km return	35–50min	4
Araluen Cascades track	3	2.8km return	1–1.5hr	9
Wheel of Fire track	4	4.2km return	1.5–2hr	9

Long walks and Mackay Highlands Great Walk at a glance

Try a few shorter sections or tackle all of the 56km Mackay Highlands Great Walk.

The full walk is recommended only for fit, experienced walkers with map reading and navigational skills. You'll need camping permits and all the equipment, food and water required for a 3–5 day hike in a rugged, remote area. Visit qld.gov.au/MackayHighlandsGreatWalk for detailed information, do not just rely on the information and maps contained in this guide. Be sure to check qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts before heading out.

Track name	Grade	Distance	Walk time
Pine Grove 1 – Broken River 3	4	10km one way	3.5–5hr
Broken River 3 – Crediton Hall 5	4	11.2km one way	3.5–5hr
Crediton Hall 5 – Denham Range 6	5	19.5km one way	6.5–9.5hr
Denham Range 6 – Moonlight Dam 7	4	16.2km one way	5.5–8hr
Moonlight Dam 7 – Mount Britton 8	4	5.5km one way	2–3hr
Mackay Highlands Great Walk	5	56km one way	3–5 day



Walking track classifications

Grade	Symbol	Suits	Track description
1		Assisted wheelchair and stroller access	No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections.
2		Families with young children	No bushwalking experience required. The track is a hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps.
3		People with some bushwalking experience	Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.
4		Experienced bushwalkers	Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signs may be limited.
5		Very experienced walkers with map reading skills	Unformed tracks may be rough and very steep and have many obstacles. Minimal signs or directional markers.

Broken River, Eungella National Park
Photo: © Tourism and Events Qld



State Forest



Forest drives at a glance

Track name	Distance	Time	Suitable for
Pine Grove 1 – Broken River 3	5km one way	10min drive	all vehicles
Broken River 3 – Crediton Hall 5	9.7km one way	10min drive	all vehicles
Crediton Hall 5 – Denham Range 6	33.3km one way	60min drive	4WD and high clearance vehicles
Denham Range 6 – Moonlight Dam 7 (via Eungella Dam Road and Turrawulla Road)	100km one way	2hr drive	4WD and high clearance vehicles
Moonlight Dam 7 – Mount Britton 8	15km one way	30min drive	4WD and high clearance vehicles

Legend

-  Restricted access area
-  National park
-  State forest
-  Resources reserve
-  Forest reserve
-  Conservation park
-  Water
-  Sealed road
-  Unsealed road
-  4WD or high clearance road only
-  Walking track
-  Township
-  Parking
-  Information
-  Toilets
-  Wheelchair access
-  Walking track
-  Viewpoint
-  Refreshments
-  Platypus
-  Swimming
-  Mountain biking
-  Horsing
-  Picnic table
-  Barbecue—gas
-  Open fire place
-  Open campfire
-  Camping—walk-in access
-  Camping—2WD access
-  Camping—4WD access
-  Camper trailer
-  Camper trailer—4WD access
-  Caravan
-  Motorhome
-  Generators permitted
-  *Private camping area
-   Water—treat before drinking
-   Slippery rocks
-   Diving prohibited
-   Jumping prohibited

