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Lakefield
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**TOURISM
CAPE YORK**

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2016 Edition

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Welcome!

Cape York is a spectacular part of Tropical North Queensland, offering many adventures and journeys.

Looking back at the Tip of Cape York

Cape York is on many people's 'Bucket List' for good reason. Sure, it has the northern most piece of land on the Australian continent, but don't rush to get there! The Peninsula is a vast and diverse landscape offering a myriad of adventures and side trips off the beaten path.

Take a detour through Rinyirru National Park (Lakefield) and see the abundant birdlife surrounding lagoons and wetlands; better yet, throw a line in and try your luck catching the famous barramundi Cape York is renowned for.

Cape York also has many pristine beaches that can be easily accessed, and nesting turtles can be seen at the right time of the year. Excellent bush camping, inside and outside of the National Parks, can be enjoyed throughout the region, and facilities are available at certain destinations, **see the Camping and National Parks Section pg 83**; all camping in National Parks must now be booked in advance.

For the fishing enthusiast, there are also plenty of options, whether it's fishing off the local wharf, along one of the Cape's majestic rivers, or taking advantage of the local knowledge of the many charter tour operators. Have a look at the **fishing section pg 88** and experience some world class fishing today. Enjoy your trip!

This Guide sets out many suggested journeys to help you plan your trip. **The Coastal road** (Daintree, Cape Tribulation, Bloomfield and CREB tracks), **The Western Cape** (Weipa, Mapoon, Cullen Point, Gulf of Carpentaria coast), **Iron Range** (Eastern Cape coast and unique wildlife), **Laura** (the ancient rock art) and **Rinyirru NP** (wetlands, lagoons, and spectacular coast) are just a few to entice you!

These journeys can be accomplished by 4WD or, for more adventure, with high clearance 4WD and all the off-road recovery gear. You can really get that sense of adventure along the Old Telegraph Track, and exploring the many remote river camps and beaches.

When to visit

For self-drive travellers, Cape York can be enjoyed during any of the months from May to December inclusive, depending on your tolerance for crowds (a matter of individual perception) and high temperatures (again depends on what you're used to, but it gets very muggy before the December rains). Most travellers are in the area from June to August, to coincide with the cooler temperatures and school holidays. This may appeal to those who enjoy sharing a yarn with fellow travellers, and those who are worried about getting stranded along the way - you will find the more remote the area, the more likely people are to help others in trouble.

People wanting to experience the vast tracts of wilderness without bumping into other travellers can do so in the later months of the year from September- December.

April and May are great times to be on the Cape due to the greenness, the great fishing, and the freshly graded roads; however it is touch and go whether the roads will be open at this time, and some years they remain closed until June due to late monsoonal weather.

The Wet Season (usually January to April) brings much needed moisture, and the savanna landscapes transform into lush green grasslands and floral displays. The Wet is a great time to see Cape York's vegetation at its most vibrant, with waterfalls and waterways in full flow and incredible fishing conditions. Unfortunately, the wet conditions force the unsealed roads to be closed, to prevent people being stranded, and to stop people damaging the roads and making them harder to repair for the next year.

For people wanting to see the Cape at its greenest, and when the fish are most active, there are a number of fly-drive options available; the Western Cape, The Tip and Iron Range, all remain open for fly-in visitors. See the flight schedule on pg 8, and directory on pg 94 for hire car companies. Sea Swift also has a cargo vessel which takes passengers and vehicles, allowing you to reach Seisia and the Tip area year round, and providing drive/cruise or cruise/drive options for people wanting to drive one way only (contact Sea Swift).

For the latest road condition updates check the links under the 'road conditions' section on Tourism Cape York's web site:

www.TourismCapeYork.com



Peninsula Development Road

www.TourismCapeYork.com

The new website www.tourismcapeyork.com has additional information, drive distances and times, accommodation, tourism business and products, places of interest, as well as events.

Thursday Island



The Tip

Seisia & Umagico & Injinoo



Bamaga & New Mapoon



JARDINE RIVER RESOURCES RESERVE

Ussher Point

Vrilya Point

JARDINE RIVER NATIONAL PARK

Fruitbat & Elliot Falls

Captain Billy's

HEATHLANDS RESOURCES RESERVE

Shannon River

Dalhousie

Mapoon

Cullen Point

Bramwell Junction

Bramwell Station

Moreton T's

Portland Roads

Chilli Beach

Lockhart River

Cape Direction

Quintel Beach

Telegraph Rd

146

107

72

143

51

60

100

100

100

100

100

100

100

100

100

100

100

OYALA THUMOTANG NATIONAL PARK (CYPAL)

Archer River Roadhouse

Ussher Point

Ussher Point

Ussher Point

Ussher Point

Ussher Point



Fuel



Shopping centre



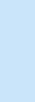
Airport (Scheduled Services)



Hospital/Clinic



Major Road - Sealed



Major Road - Unsealed



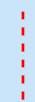
Local Road - Sealed



Local Road - Unsealed



Track



Track (Permit Required)



National Park



KULLA (MCILWRAITH RANGE) NP (CYPAL)

Air Services

Qantaslink flies Cairns to Weipa and Horn Island. Hinterland Aviation flies Cairns to Cooktown and Lizard Island. Rex flies into Bamaga and Doomadgee, while Skytrans and West Wing service numerous centres on the Cape.

The following is provided as a guide only, and is subject to change at any time.

Air Travel in Cape York	Departing Cairns	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Destination	Airline							
Aurukun	Skytrans		■	■	■	■	■	
Bamaga	Skytrans		■	■	■	■	■	
Bamaga	Rex Air		■	■	■	■	■	
Cooktown	Hinterland		■■■	■■	■■	■■	■■■	■
Coen	Skytrans		■		■		■	
Doomadgee	Rex Air		■	■	■	■	■	
Horn Island	Qantaslink	■■	■■	■■	■■	■■	■■	■■
Horn Island	Skytrans		■	■	■	■	■	
Kowanyama	Skytrans		■	■		■	■	
Lizard Island	Hinterland	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Lockhart River	Skytrans		■	■	■	■	■	
Porpuraaw	Skytrans		■	■		■	■	
Weipa	Qantaslink	■■	■■■	■■	■■	■■■	■■	■
Weipa	Skytrans	■	■	■	■	■	■	■



Oz Tours Safaris

Car hire

Hire cars are available in Cooktown, Coen, Lockhart River, Weipa, Seisia and Bamaga, enabling fly/drive options year round. Taxis are available in Cooktown, Weipa and Bamaga (see directory pages 78-79).

Sea

Seaswift cargo vessel the "Trinity Bay" sails from Cairns to Seisia wharf, or from Seisia to Cairns, giving you a drive/cruise option. It is the only working cargo vessel in Australia that also carries passengers, with a total of 48 berths over 15 cabins. The MV Trinity Bay travels inside the reef with land in sight for most of the way. It has a maximum speed of 13.5 knots. There is generally little movement, although conditions will vary. Coral Princess Cruises sails the coast also.

Bus

CAIRNS COOKTOWN EXPRESS offers Passenger & Freight services from Cairns daily; phone (07) 4059 1423.

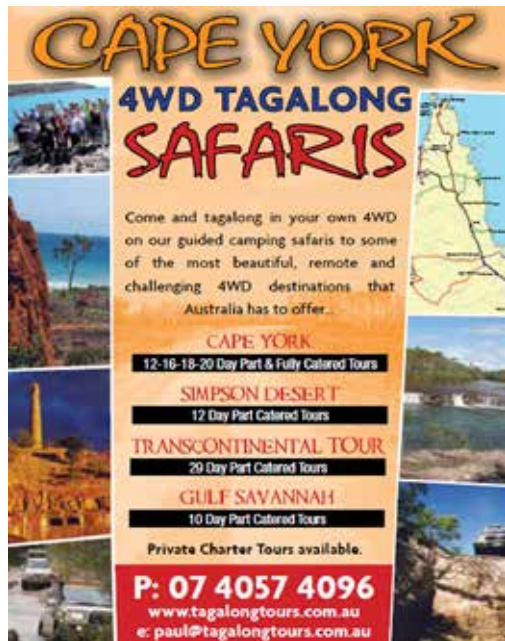
Trans North currently operates two different services between Cairns to Cooktown - Inland and Coastal. Bookings for these services can be made by phoning (07) 4095 8644 during office hours.

Self-Drive

Self-drive is definitely the most popular way to see the Cape as it allows you to explore the region at your own pace and comfort level. The road is graded, there are no major river crossings along the Peninsula Development Road (PDR) or Telegraph Track bypass roads, and Roadhouses are conveniently spaced for fuel, food and rest areas. If you wish to do this - see Journey to the Tip section pg 50.

For those who enjoy getting off the beaten track, testing their vehicles, and being rewarded with spectacular landscapes and great bush camping, Cape York won't disappoint - have a look at some of the 4WD and Adventure 4WD journeys in this guide, and take note of the recommended equipment for these trails.

Driving times will always vary, depending on the road conditions and the type of vehicle/trailer, but you can usually count on averaging around 50-60km/hr along the PDR. This is just a rule of thumb, and it is important that you DRIVE TO THE PREVAILING ROAD CONDITIONS.



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People wishing to drive themselves but not having an appropriate vehicle, can hire one in Cairns to take to Cooktown along the coastal route, and 4WD vehicles to take to the top of the Cape - see www.4wdhirecairns.com.au

Captain Billy's Cape York 4WD Hire allows you to hire a vehicle equipped to tackle all of the Cape, and even do one-way hire- see www.captainbilly4wdhire.com.au

Tag-a-long Tours

If you would like to drive your own vehicle with the guidance of a professional operator who knows the Cape, there are a few options available:

Cape York 4WD Tagalong Safaris are one - see ad pg 10.

Adventure Australia Treks and Tours also do customised tours - see ad pg 10.

Taking a tour is a great way to see much of what the Cape has to offer in a short time, and without the stress of organising your own travel, accommodation, catering, etc.

There are a number of companies that offer tours of Cape York, ranging from 2 days to 16 days, with accommodated, accommodated/camping, and camping options available, including fly/drive and drive/cruise alternatives (see advertisements here, in the 'Epic Journeys' section, and the directory on pages 78-79). Key tours that are members of Tourism Cape York include Daintree Air Services (Cape York Day Tour scenic flights), Adventure North (Daintree, Cape Tribulation, Cooktown 4WD Adventures), Adventure Australia Treks and Tours (Cape York Peninsula), OzTours (Cape York Peninsula), Off Road Adventure Safaris (Cape York) and Loyalty Beach (4WD tours around The Tip). Cape York Peninsula Lodge also do tours in the Northern Peninsula Area.



Adventure North- Bloomfield Track

Keeping the Cape beautiful!

Cape York is a very remote place; you won't find rubbish bins in many of the areas you visit, such as the National Parks and Telegraph Track, as it is not practical for people to be driving around collecting them. **It is up to you to carry and dispose of the rubbish you bring with you!**

Don't try and fit large bags of rubbish in the bins at roadhouses, there are special waste disposal facilities (cages) throughout the region for this, as well as waste stations at the towns. See ad this page for locations within Cook Shire.

There are also black water drop points for caravans and RVs; please don't empty loos in waterways or



Waste disposal cage at Moreton

along the road, this is someones backyard. Dump points can be found at:

- Cooktown, on Adelaide Street
- Coen, on the right as you head north
- Weipa, at the Caravan Park
- Seisia, across from the Holiday Park, next to the amenities building

If you are bush camping you will need to dig a hole to go to the toilet, and then bury your paper.



Blackwater dump sign at Coen

Ladies, you may not need to dig a hole to do a pee but you still need to dispose of the paper! Bury or burn it.

Please try and do the right thing and respect other travellers that come after you.



Cook Shire



is a proud Reef Guardian Council!

Help us protect the Great Barrier Reef by disposing of waste the right way:

- Plastic, glass, paper, batteries, oil and some other items can be recycled. Recycling stations north of Lakeland accept limited items only
- General rubbish can be dumped at Cooktown, Ayton, Lakeland, Laura, Coen, Portland Roads and remote rubbish cages throughout the Cape

Enjoy your stay!

Cooktown Waste Station

Tues and Fri 8am-4pm
Sun 8am-4.30pm
Closed for lunch 12-12.30pm

Ayton Waste Station

Wed 2pm-4pm & Sat 11am-1pm
Lakeland Waste Station
Tues and Sun 8am-12noon

Cape York is one of Australia's last great wilderness areas, often referred to as the 'final frontier'. Its maze of unsealed roads, and many 'hidden treasures', make it a dream destination for 4WD enthusiasts and those with a sense of adventure.

The unique and spectacular landscapes not only provide refuge for some of Australia's most diverse animal and plant communities; they are the scene for an inspiring pioneering history, and enduring Aboriginal and Islander cultures.

2WD Journeys

The inland route - via the **Mulligan Highway** is sealed to Cooktown, and the **Peninsula Development Road (PDR)** is now sealed all the way from **Lakeland to Laura**, so both these routes are suitable for all types of vehicles and trailers (see inland route pg 20). If you did want to travel the coast road north from Cairns, you can go as far as Port Douglas, and then connect with the inland route via the Rex range just north of Port Douglas. 2WD vehicles can go as far as Cape Tribulation, but they are not recommended on the Bloomfield Track due to the creek crossings and steep terrain, which can become hazardous in the wet season.



Cooktown to Bloomfield - The road from Cooktown south to Bloomfield is now sealed all the way, so those with 2WD can enjoy any of the attractions along this section, such as the Home Rule and Bloomfield Falls, and the Bana Yirriji Art Centre at Wujal Wujal.



Cooktown to Hope Vale - This section is now all but sealed to Hope Vale, so travellers can take a trip through the Endeavour Valley area, passing the many small tropical fruit farms that line the banks of the Endeavour River. The Hope Vale Arts and Cultural Centre is a must see, and there is also an **information centre at Hope Vale**.

4WD Journeys

Getting away from it all and exploring the 1000's of km of unsealed roads on the Cape, all with their own unique landscapes, waterways, and landmarks, is what draws most visitors to the region.

All roads north of Laura and Cooktown (Hope Vale OK) are 4WD recommended. Yes, there are times of the year when you can drive the Peninsula Development road, and community access roads, without needing 4WD; however, if it rains you can quickly become stuck, and possibly stranded for a lengthy period. Without a 4WD you will be very restricted in where you can go.



journeys (for obvious reasons) is to head straight up the centre of Cape York Peninsula to the very Tip, via the Peninsula Development Road (PDR) and Bamaga Access Road, which form the main artery from Lakeland Downs up to Cape York. This road is graded each year after the wet, and is usually opened by May.

It becomes progressively corrugated throughout the year, and sections are regraded as needed. (see pg 74).



Peninsula Development Road

Bloomfield Track - This Journey winds along the spectacular coastline north of Cairns, flanked by world heritage rainforest on one side and secluded beaches on the other. There are a number of crystal creek crossings (beware of crocs) and some steep terrain, so this can become impassable in the wet - Track Condition, Douglas Shire Council (07) 4099 9444. (see Coastal Route pg 23).



Bloomfield Track after lots of rain

To Elim Beach, past Hope Vale - This journey is sealed all the way to Hope Vale, then you can go further towards Elim Beach and visit the "Coloured Sands" site. There is a camp ground at Elim Beach (see pg 41).



Elim Beach

Cooktown to Laura via Battlecamp Road - This journey enables you to access Rinyirru NP (Lakefield) by heading north from Cooktown, and continues on to Laura, the home of many amazing rock art galleries (see pg 43). This section of road can stay closed until June, due to the crossing over the Normanby River, and because Rinyirru NP sometimes opens late.



Normanby River Crossing

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p: (07) 4723 0750
m: 0409 279 898

www.aatt.com.au
f [facebook.com/AdventureAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/AdventureAustralia)

Rinyirru National Park (old Lakefield) - This is the second largest National Park in Queensland, and has plenty of bush camping for the independent traveller. The park is very flat, with meandering rivers that swell in the wet creating a huge flood plain, and ideal conditions for the famous barramundi to breed. Once the waterways recede, many lagoons and waterholes remain teeming with birdlife, and fish. There is great camping along the Normanby and Hann Rivers, and Salt Water Creek. The roads in the park are maintained to a good standard. (See pg 46).



Rinyirru National Park

Wakooka/Cape Melville - This section of road is not as well maintained as others, and can be quite rough, with many creek crossings, and some beach driving. It heads north from Hopevale towards Cape Flattery, then up to Cape Melville NP and Bathurst Bay. There is camping inside and outside the NP, and the sand on the beaches can be very fine so beware when driving on the beach. (See pg 47).



Cape Melville Boulders

Rinyirru to Port Stewart via Running Creek - This newly opened section of road enables you to go north from Rinyirru NP, through Running Creek Nature Reserve, to Port Stewart, and bypass a section of the PDR (see pg 48 & 83).



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Oyala Thumotang National Park - This lesser known NP is often overlooked as people race to get to the Tip of Cape York. Situated on the headwaters of the Coen and Archer Rivers, it has numerous bush camps with good fishing and bird watching (see pg 55).



OyalaThumotang

Western Cape (Weipa/Mapoon) - Take a side trip off the PDR to the fishing Mecca of Weipa, also home to the world's largest bauxite mine. Situated at the mouth of two rivers, and close to the mouths of two others, Weipa has great estuary fishing as well as off-shore. Mine tours can be booked at Weipa Caravan Park. There is good camping at Pennefather Beach and Mapoon, as well as Stones Crossing (see pg 57).



Weipa Sunset

Iron Range (Lockhart River) - About 150km east of the PDR is Lockhart River community, and Iron Range NP. This area is renowned for its bird life, and having the largest stand of lowland tropical rainforest in Australia. The popular Chilli Beach camp ground and Portland Roads are to the north, and reefs are very close to the mainland (see pg 67).



Quintel Beach

The Tip - Once you have made it to the Northern Peninsula Area, you will pass through the communities of Injinoo, Umagico, Bamaga, New Mapoon and Seisia. At Bamaga you will likely want to take a right turn towards Pajinka and go visit the northern most part of the Australian mainland. There are quite a few side trips to keep you busy in this area, including Somerset Ruins,

and Mutee Head (see pg 76), or hop on the ferry and go visit Thursday Island and Horn Island (see pg 78)



Frangipani Bay

Adventure 4WD Journeys

For those of you who wish to get off the beaten path, and discover some of the hidden treasures of Cape York's less accessible places, you won't be disappointed.

For these Adventure 4WD journeys you should have off-road 4WD experience, as rough/steep/boggy terrain and deep creek crossings can be expected. These journeys require a high clearance 4WD, extensive repair/emergency kit, a winch and recovery gear, and must have radio/satellite communications. GPS navigation is recommended. Tourism Cape York recommends Adventure 4WD journeys are undertaken by two or more vehicles travelling together. Check road conditions as some journeys may remain inaccessible well after the wet season or be subject to unseasonal local flooding.

The CREB Track - This is a steep track that traverses through rainforest. It is a fun track to drive in the dry, but can quickly become impassable during wet conditions, due to mud and creek crossings (see pg 28).



CREB Track

Maytown and Old Coach Road - This journey takes you through the Palmer River Goldfields where mining relics can still be seen. It is dry and rugged country with numerous tracks, and camp sites along the Palmer River (see pg 30).



Maytown Mining Relics

Frenchman's Track - This journey is an alternate route in to Lockhart. It connects with the PDR near the road coming across from Weipa, through Batavia Downs, so could be considered a short cut, but it has two challenging crossings at the Pascoe and Wenlock Rivers, which can be very difficult if the water is high (see pg 67).



Frenchman's Track - Pascoe River

The Overland Telegraph Line Track - This is definitely one of the Cape's most iconic 4WD tracks, which draws people from all over the country wanting to test their vehicles, and experience some of the most scenic country on the Cape. Following the route of the old Overland Telegraph Line, it crosses many crystal clear creeks, with great swimming and camping, not to mention some pretty hairy entry and exit points! There are also 'easy' alternate crossings that allow it to be done without too much drama (see pg 72).



Creek crossing on the OTL

Local Knowledge

THE CAPE YORK VISITOR GUIDE IS NOT INTENDED AS THE TRIP GUIDE FOR REMOTE CAPE YORK 4WD AND ADVENTURE 4WD JOURNEYS. SEEK LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, DETAILED MAPS AND GUIDES.

For the inexperienced, a tagalong tour provides great local knowledge and gives confidence in 4WD conditions. For the independent adventurer, do take good maps and guidebooks. Tourism Cape York recommends the Hema 4WD Explorer Cape York Map. Ron and Viv Moon, Hema and FC4 publish guides to Cape York with trip notes and detailed route and locality maps.

Caravans and Trailers

All types of caravans and trailers can be towed on the sealed roads to Cooktown, or Laura (inland route). In Laura, you can leave your caravan at either the Ang Gnarra Campground next to the Quinkan Cultural Centre, or at the Quinkan Hotel/pub. Cooktown has an RV friendly site and other places you can leave your caravans and RVs, so you can start exploring Cape York!

Heavy duty camper trailers and high clearance off road caravans are suitable for the unsealed road conditions of Cape York, however they shouldn't be taken along the 'Adventure 4WD' journeys. Only off-road ruggedised boat trailers are suitable for Cape York expeditions beyond the sealed highways (check adequate support/tiedowns for boat and outboard). Tourism Cape York recommends only high clearance off-road trailers are taken on Adventure 4WD Journeys.



Conventional Caravan at Archer River Roadhouse



Driving to Lakeland & Cooktown

Inland Route (2WD)

This is the easiest route to take. It is sealed all the way from Cairns, and takes about 4hrs to complete without any big stops. The route climbs the dividing range via the **Kuranda Range Road**, which is no problem for pulling large trailers/ caravans, then heads north after passing through Mareeba, traversing through dry woodland and tropical savannah. There is also a second option for those wanting to drive the coast road north of Cairns, which reconnects with the inland route via the **Rex Range** just north of Port Douglas. Between Cairns and Port Douglas there are many secluded beaches worth stopping at, and the township of Port Douglas is a popular destination in its own right.

The inland journey takes you away from the hinterland and up onto the Tablelands via the Kennedy Highway, which is a left turn at the Smithfield roundabout- you will see large shopping complexes on either side of the road- Woolworths and Coles on the left, Bunnings, BCF, Maccas, etc on the right. You can stock up on supplies here or in Mareeba, but they will be the last opportunities before Cooktown.

Past **Mareeba** you will head north along the Mulligan Highway (81), towards Mt Molloy. If you are interested in bird watching, you may like to visit the Mareeba Wetlands, a short distance out of town. This is the end of the Mareeba/Dimbulba

irrigation scheme, and the water extends out into a large wetland. Further along the inland route you will pass Lake Mitchell, a shallow dam on your left, once built to support a proposed satellite city for Cairns, and now an important habitat for migratory birds.

Mt Molloy is the next town centre, and the Rex Range joins the Mulligan Highway just north of the township.

From here you leave the rainforest behind, and the road goes west then NW through dry open woodland and tropical savannah. The remainder of this drive takes you through various large pastoral leases, so there are limited side trips, and only the roadhouses to rely on for fuel, food, or mechanical support- there is NO mobile phone reception between Mt Molloy and Lakeland.

Two places you can stop for a swim along this route are at the **McLeod River** (plenty of water and shady areas to picnic) and the Palmer River (shallow sandy river with clear water, but doesn't run all year).



Ellis Beach



Inland Road

Mt Molloy has a post office where you can seek local information. It also has the Mt Molloy National Hotel that was built in 1903, reflecting the town's historic past. On your way out of town you will pass the Rifle Creek rest area, which has toilet facilities and camping is by gold coin donation. This is jointly run by local council and Main Roads, and is right beside the creek.

Mt Carbine is the next township, established after large Wolfram deposits were discovered in 1890. The Mt. Carbine Motel/Pub is nestled at the foothills of the Mt Carbine Tungsten mine, and was originally known as the Wolfram Hotel, before being renamed after the 1890 Melbourne Cup winner Carbine. The Hotel has meals, accommodation, cold beer, and bus transfers to Cairns and Cooktown, as well as being home to the longest playing didgeridoo!

Mt Carbine also has a Caravan Park on your right as you approach town, campfires are allowed, as well as pets, and Customers travelling on to the Cape can take advantage of their free van storage.

After some long, straight sections of road, you will start to climb the Desailly Range. Near the top you can pull over to the right and look back over the vast savannah plain from Bob's Lookout. In the dryer months you can see the dark green tree line of the famous Mitchell River meandering through the brown landscape.

Once you cross the range, the road travels through small, undulating hills with limited passing opportunities. The speed limit increases to 110km/hr through much of this section, but be aware you are passing through grazing properties with unfenced cattle, and many of these will graze the greener grasses in drains alongside the road. So, be careful and avoid driving at dusk and during the night.



Unfenced Cattle



Bobs Lookout

This area is home to the **Palmer River Goldfields**; the site of Queensland's largest gold rush, after prospectors found alluvial gold here in 1872. Today it is a Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS) Resource Reserve, and fossicking is not allowed. The people who worked these alluvial deposits endured great hardships, and this included a large Chinese contingent which peaked at 17,000 workers in 1877.



Palmer River Roadhouse
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The place to get all your info about Maytown and the Old Coach Road adventure 4WD trail



Byerstown Range Lookout

The region is rich in artefacts and history of these early Chinese miners, and today you can still see relics of the bygone era by visiting the Maytown ruins, formerly the capital of the gold fields. The tracks in this area can be difficult, and it is considered an adventure 4WD route (see Maytown and Old Coach Road pg 30).

Located 80 km north of Mount Carbine on the Mulligan Highway is the **Palmer River Roadhouse**. Perched above the Palmer River, the campground has good views over the surrounding country. The Roadhouse has 22 powered caravan and camp sites and 4 permanent tented sites. It also has 1 cabin, 8 single dongas, and 1 double donga. There are bar/dining and BBQ facilities, clean rest rooms and free entry to the museum which displays many artifacts and pieces of history from the gold rush era. The roadhouse is only a short distance north of the Maytown/Old Coach Road turnoff, so it is the perfect place to rest and recoup before tackling this arduous journey. Make sure you have a chat with Andrew the proprietor about the Old Coach Road; he is a wealth of knowledge and even has mud maps of the area so you don't miss some of the hidden spots.



Palmer River Roadhouse Museum

Lakeland Downs is the next town on this journey. There is a lookout at the top of the Byerstown Range where you can see the township and flat plain, the result of volcanic activity and a large lava flow millions of years ago. The area has great soils and is renowned for its horticultural production (for more info, see section on Lakeland pg 43), producing watermelons, sorghum, paw paws, sunflowers, and many other crops. Bananas have become the main crop these days, as Lakeland provides a safe haven when other coastal banana growing regions are impacted by cyclones.

Lakeland is where many travellers turn left and start their journey up the Cape via the Peninsula Development Road, which is now sealed all the way to Laura. (see Journey to the Tip pg 50). Alternatively, you can continue on the Mulligan Highway to Cooktown and visit Annan Gorge (which has a rest area and swimming hole), Black Mountain (see pg 83), and Travethan Falls (pg 39) along the way.



Annan Gorge



Cairns to Cape Tribulation (2WD)

This is one of the most picturesque drives in the region, taking in some amazing coastline, flanked by rainforest on one side, and secluded beaches on the other. It is approximately 235km from Cairns to Cooktown via the coastal route, and this should take around 5-6hrs, with time to enjoy sights along the way.

This journey follows the Captain Cook Highway north from Cairns, past all the northern beach suburbs. Once you pass Palm Cove, the beaches are out of reach of local bus services and are much quieter. Two of the nicer beaches are Ellis Beach and Wangetti Beach. Wangetti Beach is overlooked by the **Rex Lookout**; a good photo spot, and a popular place for Hang Gliding. Sometimes tandem flights are available on spec if an operator is around.

Looking along the coastline you'll see that the rainforest really does meet the sea, as you wind your way past numerous deserted beaches, many accessible.



The road soon veers away from the coast line and back onto the hinterland, travelling through kms of sugar cane fields with high mountain peaks to the east. You will pass through the small township of Craiglie just before the turnoff to **Port Douglas**, then continue on to **Mossman**, home to one of the few remaining sugar mills in the region, and the most northern on the Eastern Coast. **Mossman Gorge** is a very popular swimming spot at the base of the nearby mountains. Now under the management of the local indigenous people, guided tours and walks around the gorge are available, and can be enquired about at the cultural centre on the way in to the gorge.

This journey then continues on to the ferry crossing at the Daintree River, which operates 6am to midnight, 7 days (now with EFTPOS facilities).

You will pass many more beautiful, secluded beaches and crystal creeks on this section that traverses through the oldest rainforest in the world, the Daintree Rainforest, which is World Heritage listed.



Daintree River Ferry

North of the ferry, the sealed section of road continues for another 40km on to Cape Tribulation; a place Captain Cook aptly named after having trouble navigating his way through the nearby reefs on his way north. The Daintree Discovery Centre is a popular stop along this route. It has interpretive displays, a boardwalk, aerial walkway, and canopy tower, enabling visitors to experience life in the rainforest canopy.

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Image courtesy of Tourism & Events Queensland



Cape Tribulation Beach

Fan palms, mangrove systems, beautiful cycads and ferns (the world's largest and smallest!), vines and strangler figs are just a few of the plant species you will see while strolling along some of the free interpretive board walks in the area. There are also some great beaches and rest areas to stop at including Cow Bay, Myall Beach, and Thornton Beach (some with resident Lace Monitors in the picnic areas looking for an easy lunch).

Cape Tribulation has very pretty tropical beaches, showcasing 'where rainforest meets the reef'. This is a popular spot for day trippers, backpackers, and people heading north to the Cape. If you need a break from swimming and sunbaking, explore the rainforest on the Dubuji boardwalk, or the lively nightlife at PK's Jungle Village.

There are also some tour operators in the area, so you'll have a chance to try swinging through the rainforest canopy with Jungle Surfing, cruise around the sea with a Paddletrek kayaking adventure, or take a guided night walk, and even ride along the tropical shores on horseback with Cape Trib Horse Rides.

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Bloomfield Track after lots of rain

Bloomfield Track (4WD)

North of Cape Tribulation the road is unsealed all the way to the new bridge over the Bloomfield River, at **Wujal Wujal**. This section of road is very steep in places, and has many creek crossings, making it difficult during the wet season, and occasionally it can be closed. Check with Douglas Regional Council for track closures on 07 4099 9444.

The drive is a very scenic one, winding through lush rainforest, past beaches, and over pebbly creek crossings. Just north of Cape Tribulation, **Emmagen Creek** is one of the nicer places to stop if you were looking for somewhere to have lunch along the way. The steep ranges you will cross are the Cowie and Donovan Ranges, and it is not advised to tow large trailers and vans on this route.

During the journey you will pass through a series of small villages and communities scattered amongst the forest- Wujal Wujal, Ayton, Rossville and Helenvale. There are some good waterfalls to see, and other secret spots to be discovered. A visit to Bloomfield Falls and the Bana Yirriji Art & Cultural Centre at Wujal Wujal is a must, and the café has refreshments Monday to Friday. The Bloomfield River is a good spot for fishing, and there is a concrete boat ramp just before Ayton.

Bloomfield Falls

After crossing the new bridge over the Bloomfield River south of Wujal Wujal, turn left and drive a short distance to the Bloomfield Falls car park. The walk to the falls is 300-400m over stony riverbed, and only takes a few minutes. The falls are quite impressive, especially during the wetter months.

There is a large pool below the falls, but crocodiles have been seen here in the past, and swimming is not advised. Local Aboriginal tours are available with the Walker family (ask at the cultural centre).



Bloomfield Falls

Bana Yirriji Art & Cultural Centre

Bana Yirriji Art and Cultural Centre is a community driven gallery and cultural centre with an artist studio. Come and visit the local Bama artists and learn their culture. The art gallery is a great place to buy locally made jewellery, art and crafts and ceramics.

Opening hours Monday - Friday 9am to 4pm.

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Bana Yirriji Art Centre

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Bana Yirriji
Art & Cultural Centre
Cafe - Wujal Wujal

Weary Bay

If you turn right after **Hayley's Cabins and Camping**, Weary Bay Road will take you to Weary Bay Beach, and you can then turn right to go down to the mouth of the Bloomfield River, which runs into Weary Bay. The beach is great for a walk and a bit of beachcombing, or you can throw a fishing line in at the mouth of the river.



Weary Bay

Ayton

Ayton, named after the English seaside town where Captain Cook grew up, became a thriving community with English, Italian, Chinese, and Japanese workers as well as the Kuku Yalanji people, after a sugar cane plantation was established in the Weary Bay area. However the sugar failed, and was replaced in the 1890s by harvesting of red cedar, silky oak and black bean.

Cedar Bay National Park

This mountainous area is covered in thick stands of tropical rainforest, and is only accessible by boat or on foot. The hinterland is fringed by picturesque beaches and coral reefs, and represents a region of great conservation significance.

The 17km bush track in starts at Home Rule Rainforest Lodge, and is recommended for experienced bush walkers only, taking around

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6-8 hours to complete. Ask at the lodge for detailed advice, including about camping at the beach. For boat charters to/from Ayton/Cedar Bay call 07 4060 8252.

Rossville

Rossville lies to the south of Helenvale. It is a great place to explore, with its tropical rainforest, hidden swimming holes, abundant wildlife, and it has a great bushwalk to **Home Rule Falls**, also starting from Home Rule Rainforest Lodge. Rossville has a community market on the second Saturday of each month, featuring local products, and local fruit and vegetables.

The Mungumby Valley

The Mungumby Valley, set on the edge of Black Mountain, Cedar Bay and Ngual Bulal National Parks, is a great spot for bird watchers and nature seekers. There are several walking trails into the mountainous National Park area behind Mungumby lodge.

Lions Den

The historic Lions Den Hotel is an iconic pub, with a well-known reputation for the many signatures, stickers, and beer coasters etc that adorn the walls. This, apparently, began long ago when some miners would leave their pay packets at the public house and write how much money they had spent, or still had, up on the wall.

Built in 1875, it is a great place to stop and recharge after your journey through the Bloomfield Track. They have cold drinks, good meals, and you can camp the night and enjoy safe swimming in the little Annan River behind the hotel.

There is a private airstrip at Helenvale.



Lions Den Hotel

CREB Track (Adventure 4WD)

Adventure seekers can take an alternative route north via the CREB Track, an old maintenance track previously used by the Cairns Regional Electricity Board (CREB). Drivers with moderate 4WD experience should be fine in dry conditions; however the track is very steep and becomes extremely difficult when wet.

Make sure you have advanced 4WD experience, all the necessary recovery gear, and a winch if attempting in the wet.



Daintree River Crossing

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CREB Track - Rainforest

The start of the track is a short distance past the village, along Upper Daintree Road. Take a right hand turn across the small bridge. You will see a sign for the CREB Track at the fork of the road. The journey from the south starts with a crossing over the Daintree River, which can be a problem in the wetter months. The Track is thin, with many hill climbs and creek crossings, taking in a spectacular part of the World Heritage region. Roughly half way there is an especially steep hill with a lookout at the top; the road down on the north side was blocked in 2014 and there is an alternate route to the right of the previous track.

There is also an indigenous run campground on the north side, and you can access **Roaring Meg Falls**. Permits to camp at the falls are required from Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation on 07 4098 3552. Check with Douglas Regional Council for track closures on 07 4099 9444. The CREB Track reconnects with the Bloomfield Track north of Wujal Wujal.



Hardest Climb

Journey - Maytown and Old Coach Road (Adventure 4WD)

A great 4WD adventure to start your Cape York journey follows the Burke Developmental Road through Palmer River Goldfields, or start from the Mulligan Highway to Maytown Ruins, at the Whites Creek Road turnoff 17km south of the Palmer River Roadhouse.

During Qld's largest gold rush, sparked by the discovery of alluvial gold in 1873, 30,000 people descended on the Palmer River area, and **Maytown** was the main settlement at the time. It is located in very harsh, dry, and rugged terrain, supporting open woodlands of scattered ironbark and bloodwood trees with paperbarks fringing the creeks. Today you will find old mine shafts, rusting machinery, alluvial workings, and other remains of the Maytown settlement which once supported a thriving industry. There are still active mining leases operating in the area, but prospecting, panning and metal detectors are not allowed. Some areas are fenced off and should not be entered, and care should be taken around open mine shafts.

The reserve is about 70km from the PDR turnoff, and although the road has been improved in



Old Coach Road

recent years, it will still take a while to get there. The 'Old Coach Road' goes from the ruins north to Laura, and is very rough, so it should only be attempted with all the 'Adventure 4WD' gear and preferably with 2 or more vehicles; this road is fine once you reach the Jowalbinna access road, about 40km from Laura. There are many side tracks in this area due to the current mining leases, so make sure you stay on the track that is signposted. The area is also prone to flash flooding, so be aware during the wetter months.



Maytown



There is only one *official* camping area in the NP reserve, located on the southern side of the North Palmer River. You will need to be completely self-sufficient, and purchase a camping permit to camp from QPWS. More information can be obtained from QPWS 4222 5303 or Cook Shire Council 4069 5444.



Camping on Palmer River



Grassy Hill Lighthouse

Nestled between the mouth of the Endeavour River and Grassy Hill, with Mt Cook as a backdrop, Cooktown is a charming, historical town, unspoilt by the urgency of modern life. Its close proximity to the Endeavour and Annan Rivers, and nearby reefs, make it an ideal fishing destination.

What Cooktown is most known for, is its well documented history, including the first known European contact with the Indigenous people of this region, after Captain Cook ran aground on some reefs off the coast. Later it became a bustling port, exporting gold from the Palmer River Goldfields, and had 47 licensed pubs

within the town boundaries in 1874; today there are still a few along the main street to stop and grab a cold one. So, step back in time and enjoy some of the heritage buildings, monuments, and centres around town paying homage to an era of great hardship and triumph. There is a visitor information centre located within the James Cook Museum for further information about the area.

Some things not to miss out on:

Grassy Hill and Lighthouse- Providing 360 degree views, this is a great place to get your bearings on the area, as Captain James Cook

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COOKTOWN CAR HIRE

Explore the bush... 4WD Cars

A photograph of three vehicles parked in a row: a dark sedan, a dark 4WD, and a silver hatchback.

did many times during his 48 day stay, to assess his predicament, and his safe passage out of the Endeavour River once his ship had been repaired. You can get there by continuing along Hope Street when you enter Cooktown, or via the main business street- turn right at the Sovereign Resort Hotel, and then first left.

James Cook Museum- The Museum is housed in one of Cooktown's Heritage listed buildings, which used to be the Sisters of Mercy Convent school building, built in 1889.

It has the original H.M. Bark Endeavour anchor and cannon, Cook's diary extracts, and stories from throughout the region to give you an idea of what life was like in early Cooktown.

Cooktown History Centre- Another historical building, this used to be the post and telegraph office before it was taken over by the Shire Council offices in 1893 after the town hall burnt down. Today it is home to award winning interpretive displays from historical archives. There are lots of photos and stories from the early mining days, and people with links to Cooktown are able to trace their ancestry through the database in the research area.



Cooktown History Centre



James Cook Museum



NATIONAL TRUST

James Cook Museum
Cooktown

Cnr Furneaux & Helen St, Cooktown

Open Daily: 9.00am to 4.00pm
Closed: Good Friday, 24-26th Dec, New Years Day

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Endeavour Gallery
Indigenous Gallery
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W: www.nationaltrust.org.au/qld

E: jamescookmuseum@nationaltrustqld.org

T: (07) 4069 5386



Cooktown Creative Arts Association- In what used to be the old Cooktown Railway Station, the artwork of local artists can be seen, including paintings, jewellery, furniture, wood work, stained glass, and more.

Elder Willie on a tour of his country north of Cooktown; see some of the rock art of his people and hear the fascinating stories behind them. Willie's tour has become an iconic experience for the region, and is world renowned.



Cooktown Creative Arts Association



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Cooktown Discovery Festival- Every year in June, a fully costumed re-enactment is staged, depicting Captain Cooks landing, and first contact with the indigenous peoples of the area. It is a two day festival with markets, live music, and other events to entertain the whole family.

See events section, and this site for more details- www.cooktowndiscoveryfestival.com. Or drop in to the Boat House on the main street (across from the Sovereign).

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Fishing

Cooktown has some awesome fishing; to book a charter tour, or get some advice, head down to the Lure Shop on Charlotte Street (it is near the Wharf end, can't miss it) They also have plenty of supplies; from bait and tackle to batteries and trailer parts.



Lure Shop

Walks

There are a few walks to do in the area, ranging from easy to strenuous (see map pg 33 or enquire at James Cook Museum).

Wharf to Cemetery (easy)- This is a leisurely stroll, taking you from the wharf, along the esplanade, then up the main street, before cutting through some mangrove wetlands and on to the Cemetery. It passes many monuments, plaques, and other historical places of interest.



Cooktown Cemetery

Grassy Hill (strenuous)- A steep yet popular walk for those who want some exercise, with a great reward at the end, awesome views!

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Grassy Hill

Finch Bay and Cherry Tree Bay (Moderate)- Two very pretty Bays, these can be access from the Botanic Gardens or the road to Grassy Hill.



Finch Bay Courtesy Tourism Queensland

Mt Cook (strenuous)- See National Parks section pg 83.

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Other Places of Interest

Walker Bay and Quarantine Bay- Both Bays can be access via Quarantine Bay road 5km south of Cooktown on the Mulligan Highway. To get to Walker Bay and the mouth of the Annan River, turn right just before the golf course entrance. This is a tight track that takes you through the scrub behind the beach, all the way to the river mouth. This is a popular spot for fishing, and kite surfing (no joke!- note: all beaches are crocodile habitat on the Cape, especially at the mouth of rivers)

Archer Point- The turnoff to Archer Point is about 20km south of Cooktown on the Mulligan Highway, and is 4WD recommended. It is about 15km in. There is reef close to the shore, which can be walked to at low tide, and there is a lighthouse with good views. Call the Yuku-Baja-Muliku Land Trust for more information 07 4069 6957.



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Trevethan Falls- Trevethan Falls is accessed from Mount Amos road south of Cooktown. The turnoff to the falls is 9km in and is signposted, it is 12km one way; the last 50m is fairly rough but won't stop a vehicle with some clearance, or a determined driver.

Trevethan Creek flows out of Black Mt NP and plunges about 10m into a clear pool surrounded by granite boulders. Swimming is discouraged by the Traditional Owners in this pool but downstream there is a succession of safe swimming holes closer to the parking area (see pic of falls in the dry, December 2014).



Trevethan Falls

Black Mountain National Park - See National Parks section pg 83.

Keatings Lagoon Regional Park - See National Parks section pg 83.



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ENDEAVOUR VALLEY AND HOPE VALE

Head north from Cooktown on Charlotte Street; this turns into **Endeavour Valley Road**, taking you past the cemetery on your way out of town. Those coming from the south can bypass Cooktown by going left onto Racecourse Road as they approach town, and then taking a left again onto Endeavour Valley Road.

A short drive out of Cooktown you will come to **Marton**, a small village next to the Endeavour River. There is a boat ramp to launch into the river, and the **airport** is just across the bridge on the north side. Barrett's Lagoon is a little further along on your left. This is a permanent lagoon with white water lilies, and lots of birdlife.

Travelling on the Endeavour Valley Road, you will pass many small farms growing tropical fruit, and some small scale grazing properties. Passion fruit is grown in the area, as well as dragon fruit, limes, lychees, and many more tropical fruits.

The Endeavour River has some small falls, which are within the Endeavour Falls Tourist Park.



Hope Vale

Continue on past the turnoff to Battlecamp Road until you reach Hope Vale. Here, you should drop in to the **Hope Vale Arts and Cultural Centre** to learn about the local people and their customs, and see some of the artwork made onsite by local artists.

Elim Beach

Pass through Hope Vale and on towards the coast via Elim Road (see town map). As you get closer to the coast, the vegetation changes and you pass through heath lands with large patches of white, silica rich sands. At Elim Beach there are spectacular **coloured sand formations** which can be reached on foot by walking the 300m along the beach, or by driving across the beach at low tide (be very careful!).



Endeavour Falls



Hope Vale Arts Centre

ENDEAVOUR VALLEY AND HOPE VALE



Elim Beach Campground

A permit is required to visit the coloured dunes, and can be obtained from the local service station, or the beach camp site.

The beach camp site is run by local elder Eddie Deemal, and is set amongst huge paperbark trees on the edge of the beach. If you stroll south along the beach you can see to Cape Bedford, and north to the coloured sands site. To camp call (07) 4060 9223.



Coloured Sands - Dune Formations



Coloured Sands - Dune Formations



LAKELAND AND LAURA

Lakeland

Lakeland is an agricultural region SW of Cooktown on the inland route, and at the junction of the Mulligan Highway and Peninsula Development Road. It was established in the late 1800's to service the needs of those attracted by the gold rush in the Palmer River Goldfields to the south, and included a large cattle station called Butchers Hill which still exists today over a fraction of the area.

There is a washdown bay at Lakeland for people to go through and remove weed seeds from their vehicle- please use it on your way north to help prevent the spread of invasive species.



Lakeland Washdown Bay



Lakeland Cropping

These days, Horticulture covers much of the area, taking advantage of the very fertile volcanic soils. Many crops have been trialled in the past, and today you can find watermelons, pineapples, teak, pongamia (for biodiesel), sorghum, paw paws, and others. Bananas are the main crop, and in recent years their production has been expanded because Lakeland is just out of reach of the cyclones that sometimes devastate the coastal growing regions. Lakeland has a Caravan Park with many shady site as well as cabins, and offers van storage for travellers who choose to travel the Cape without their caravans.

The Lakeland Hotel Motel, serves cold beers all day and good hot meals at night. Those needing a coffee hit will not be disappointed by the coffee and fresh snacks from Lakeland Roadhouse and the Lakeland Coffee House. The Lakeland Roadhouse has fuel, takeaway and an air-conditioned restaurant. Fresh local fruit is always on sale at the Coffee house and Roadhouse.

Laura

Travel another 60km along the PDR and you will come to Laura. Once the end point for the Cooktown-Laura railway, it was an important supply centre during the gold rush on the nearby Palmer River.

This road is sealed all the way and has a large bridge to the south allowing access all year. About half way along this journey the country turns into sandstone escarpments, creating caves and other shelters, which were important places for the local indigenous people to retreat to in the wet. Consequently, these hills and other formations are covered in rock art galleries very sacred to the local people, and are now listed by UNESCO as one of the top 10 rock art sites worldwide.



Split Rock Art Site

South of Laura is a site called 'Split Rock', which is signposted and has some wonderful rock art that can be accessed after a short walk up the hill- about 500m. You can do a tour of the rock art by yourself (payment is \$5 and can be made by honesty box on site, or at the **Quinkan Cultural Centre** in Laura). The Quinkan Cultural Centre is located on the main street of Laura.

As well as extensive displays about local indigenous culture and country, it has displays about pioneering history of the area, including the gold rush, and grazing on Cape York. The centre also does tours of rock art sites in the area.

There is a community run **campground** next to the centre which can be booked at the roadhouse across the road.

LAURA MOTEL
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Ph: 0428 648 672 or 07 4060 3238



- Double, family, single, twin single rooms
- Wheelchair friendly
- Reception opposite at general store

Fax: 4060 3494 Email: jennytavner@yahoo.com.au



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Old Laura Homestead

There is also a campground behind the **Quinkan Hotel**, enquire within. The only other accommodation, and the only motel style accommodation, is at the **Laura Motel**. This is a very new establishment, with spotless rooms, including a wheelchair accessible room- enquire at the general store opposite.

The **old Laura Homestead** is located a short way into Rinyirru NP, and provides you with a glimpse into how life was in the early days.

Each year Laura holds their **Rodeo and Races** in June (see event calendar pg 93), attracting many visitors to the region, and providing the locals from all over the Cape with a great occasion to catch up with friends and family, and share a laugh. There are horse sports held on the Friday before that weekend, then the races are on Saturday, and the rodeo is usually the following day, featuring bull riding, barrel races, and other traditional events.



Laura Races

RINYIRRU (LAKEFIELD) NATIONAL PARK

The park can be accessed a number of ways; from Cooktown via Battlecamp Road, from Cape Melville via Kalpowar, from Laura, from Musgrave Roadhouse, or from Port Stewart via Running Creek Nature Reserve (see map below).

This is **Queensland's second largest National Park**. It is a large basin with many braided rivers draining into nearby Princess Charlotte Bay. In the wet season these rivers swell, creating a huge flood plain and breeding ground for barramundi and other species. Once the water recedes it leaves lagoons and wetlands full of life (see NP section), however, it takes a while to dry out before the park is open to visitors and it can be as late as July before the northern section is opened (watch for updates on the Tourism Cape York Facebook page).



Normanby River

There are many bush camping opportunities for independent travellers, and **Kalpowar Crossing** has a large campground with toilets. **Hann Crossing** also has a toilet near the crossing but a long way from most of the camp sites. The road that enters north from Laura has many camp sites along the Normanby and Kennedy River, all the way to the campsite at Top Whiphandle,



RINYIRRU (LAKEFIELD) NATIONAL PARK

which is tidal. The Hann River has a series of campsites from the crossing down (20+) which are easily accessible (even for caravans), and you can launch boats near campsite 20, which is the limit of tidal water. There are also campsites along Saltwater Creek in the north section. The Bizant River is a popular place to launch boats. **See the Parks website for layout of campgrounds (see map pg 48),** or look on the self-booking kiosk at the ranger base- all ranger bases have these.



Rinyirru Hann River camping



Bush Camping- Rinyirru NP

If just passing through, there are some good places to stop just off the road. Those coming from Cooktown via Battlecamp Road can stop at Isabella Falls for a swim, only a short distance from the turnoff. The Normanby River has a crossing on Battlecamp Road that can prevent the road from opening until late in the year- don't swim here! Along the southern access from Laura is Catfish Waterhole, a day use area with

resident crocodile that can often be seen. **White and Red Lilly Lagoons** are just off the road, and are teeming with birdlife most of the year, not to mention spectacular lotus lilies! Near the northern exit is **Low Lake**, a great place to bird watch- look out for Jabirus, Magpie Geese, and White Sea Eagles, to name a few. North of Hann Crossing you will drive through Nifold Plain which is hard to miss. It is a vast grassy plain with tall Cabbage Palms and Termite mounds.



Rinyirru Waterbirds, photo Adam Creed

The Park is large, so take plenty of fuel for your journey; fill up at either Cooktown, Laura, or Musgrave Roadhouse.

Wakooka/Melville (Adventure 4WD)

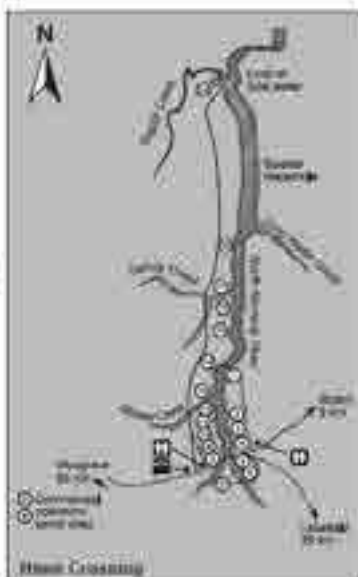
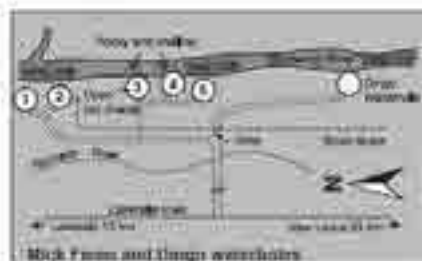
A 4WD adventure with rough tracks, creek crossings and beach driving; the journey from Cooktown to **Starke NP**, Kalpowar and Wakooka Aboriginal Lands, **Cape Melville National Park** ending at Lakefield Ranger Station is almost 250km. It's a further 109km to Musgrave, 84km to Laura and Cape Melville is 110km return from Wakooka). This journey can be combined with the Rinyurru and Battle Camp routes to make an adventure of almost 600km!



Cape Melville

RINYIRRU (LAKEFIELD) NATIONAL PARK

Ringirru (Lakefield) National Park (CYPAL) Camping Areas



Not to scale

Legend	
National park/CYPAL	Waste area
Camp site	Self-regulation
Toilet	Ranger house
Shelter	Walking track
Showers	No camping

RINYIRRU (LAKEFIELD) NATIONAL PARK

North of Mount Webb is Starke Homestead and further on is **Wakooka Ruins**. Cape Melville is a further 2-3 hour's drive. Cape Melville National Park is remote with a spectacular coastline of rocky headlands. Recreational fishing is allowed. Fisheries regulations and zoning apply. Camping is possible at Crocodile, Wongai, Oystercatcher and Granite (Bathurst Bay), near Cape Melville and Ninian Bay. **Bathurst Head** is 48km from Kalpowar with a campsite at Kalpowar (need e-permit).



Cape Melville Croc Camp Site, photo Janie White

Port Stewart via Running Creek (Adventure 4WD)

About 20km between the Park boundary and the PDR is the turnoff North to Running Creek. This section of road has been recently upgraded as far as Running Creek and can be accessed by any 4WD vehicle; it does pass through Lilly Vale Station so travellers are asked to show respect



Crossing Stewart River

when driving through by limiting the amount of dust and always leaving gates as you find them. There is no camping along this route so it is mainly used as a short cut to **Port Stewart** at this stage. The road North of Running Creek is not graded as is more of a track.

Once you reach Port Stewart there are few facilities (no fuel or general store). You can camp near the boat ramp; however, **Silver Plains Station** is a short distance from the coast and has camping on the property, with opportunity to interact with the local Lama Lama people who run it.



Lagoon Along Route

The Epic Journey

(4WD or Adventure 4WD)

This 800km journey one way can be rough and dusty, or it may be smooth and no problem, depending on the time of year and how well it has been maintained. Generally, you can expect corrugation, dust holes, the odd dip or washout that is poorly marked or yet to be marked, wandering cattle, feral horses and pigs, and suicidal kangaroos. Driving at night is not recommended because many animals are more active at this time.



Watch for cattle!

Driving times will always vary, depending on the road conditions and the type of vehicle/trailer, but you can usually count on averaging around 50-60km/hr. This is just a rule of thumb, and it is important that you DRIVE TO THE PREVAILING ROAD CONDITIONS.

When driving during the day make sure you have your **headlights switched on** so people can see you through the dust, and avoid head on collisions- it is easy to become disoriented in a cloud of dust when passing large trucks (going the other way), following other vehicles, and overtaking people. It may also save you from having someone run up your rear as you slow for a dip, which cuts many people's trip short each year.

Make sure you tune your **CB radios to channel 40** so you can communicate with slower vehicles and pass safely; this is equally important so that others can warn you they are approaching.

You can also talk with road crews, who are doing road maintenance throughout the year- it is not uncommon to find yourself in the middle of road works with little signage or direction and some large yellow machinery coming your way; please use your common sense!



Navigating some roadworks



Hann River Roadhouse - Ozzie the Emu

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Web: www.moretonstation.com.au

Email: moretonstation@skymesh.com.au

Lakeland to Bramwell

Roadhouses are conveniently spaced along the Peninsular Development Road, providing food and fuel, as well as accommodation; enabling you to travel all the way to the top without camping, should you wish to. There is a **general store** in Coen, and supermarkets in Weipa, Lockhart River, and Bamaga. The Roadhouses are a great place to stop and meet some of the locals, so you can get updates on road conditions, and possibly some 'inside information' on some of the lesser known attractions.

Travelling north you will pass Lakeland Roadhouse, Laura Roadhouse, Hann River Roadhouse, Musgrave Roadhouse, Archer River Roadhouse, Moreton Telegraph Station, and Bramwell Junction at the start of the Old Telegraph Line track and Bypass Roads. You can stop for a swim along the way, in the shallow sandy rivers of Coen and Archer River.

Musgrave Roadhouse was first built as an overland telegraph station in 1887, along with Palmerville, Fairview, Coen, Mein, Moreton, McDonnell and Paterson. It was named after **Sir Anthony Musgrave (1828-1888)** who was Governor of Queensland from 1883 to 1888. Called a repeater station, it had great banks of batteries and a generator to boost the power in the telegraph line.

The old wooden pole at the front of the house near the public phones is one of the few original remaining poles erected when the line went through.

Under the ancient mango tree across the airstrip are the graves of some of our early pioneers. Behind the homestead is a dam where freshwater crocodiles are regularly seen sunning themselves on the banks.



Freshwater crocodiles have a thin snout- not dangerous

Archer River Roadhouse is perched above the high water mark on the banks of the Archer River. They have fuel, a café, bar, and a camp ground with showers and washing machines, and they do mechanical repairs.



The Famous Archer Burger



Archer River Near Crossing

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e: Musgrave.roadhouse@bigpond.com

www.musgraveroadhouse.com.au

Moreton Telegraph Station is located on the Wenlock River in the centre of Cape York Peninsula just 293 kilometres from Cape York ('The Tip'). The spacious and shady 15 acre clearing in natural bushland provides ample space for adventurous travellers looking for a tranquil camping spot and hot shower after a hard day's drive; there is also plenty of room for big rigs. If the urge to sleep in a real bed cannot be resisted, their safari tent and cabin options may interest you.



Moreton Restaurant

They also have a restaurant, and you can leave your caravan/trailer there in storage and continue on if you wish.



Moreton Station Campground.

Just 6km off the Bamaga Road, **Bramwell Station** was first opened as a tourist destination in 1982 and today, as well as being a busy 133,000ha cattle station, is also the home base for a roadworks crew which work on local Cape York roads.

Bramwell Station Tourist Park opens its doors on May 1 annually for the tourist season – welcoming visitors with its campgrounds, great evening meals (usually a BBQ smorgasbord), bar,

nightly entertainment (starts June 1) and overnight accommodation. It also hosts the annual bush Carnival featuring horses racing in the Bramwell Cup Bush Carnival, annually on the first weekend in July – July 1, 2, and 3 2016. Local stations enter their stockhorses in the annual Cup and try their luck for the \$7000 prize money.

The Carnival has lots of events for visitors of all ages, weaner scruffing for the teens and young at heart, poddy rides, foot and other novelty races, a talent quest and for the adults, the regional challenge of tug-of-war before the evenings' live entertainment and music gets underway.



Live entertainment at Bramwell

A few kilometres past the Station turnoff is the property's own service station, Bramwell Junction Roadhouse where visitors can fuel up, camp and enjoy fresh home cooked food.

The Roadhouse is located at the start of the Old Telegraph Track, the famous and very challenging four-wheel-drive track that goes from the Roadhouse through to the Jardine River.



Live entertainment at Bramwell

Bamaga Road

Bypass Roads (4WD)

The Bamaga Road has two bypass roads which detour the Old Telegraph Track (OTL), allowing travellers to drive to The Tip without having to negotiate the rough OTL. These pass through the highlands to the east and west of the OTL.



OTL bypass road through Heathlands

Captain Billy's Landing and Vrilya Point are side trips to the east and west coasts respectively, and camping is allowed, however access to Vrilya Point was not allowed at the time of writing this.



Heathlands Captain Billy's Lookout

This section has the iconic waterfalls of Fruitbat, Twin, and Eliot Falls where the bypass road crosses the OTL and the northern section begins. Fruitbat Falls are just an easy 5 minute drive in, but Twin and Elliot are about 15 minutes in, and have a creek crossing which can get deep.

CAPE YORK BRAMWELL STATION

AUSTRALIA'S MOST NORTHERN CATTLE STATION,
200KM SOUTH OF THE TIP OF CAPE YORK.



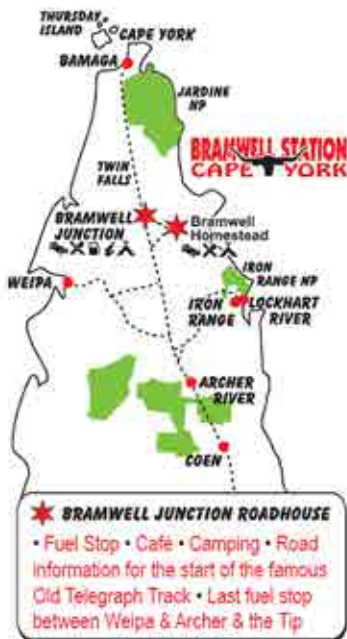
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Old Telegraph Track • Last fuel stop
between Weipa & Archer & the Tip



Elliot Falls

Jardine Ferry

The Jardine ferry operates from **8am-5pm daily** in the dry season, fees apply according to vehicle type (07 4069 1369, www.nparc.qld.gov.au). Bamaga is 42km further on and Seisia is 6km north of Bamaga. In case of busy periods, you may need to allow for extra time to get where you need to be. The crew break for lunch for an hour from 12-1pm.



The crossing before Elliot Falls can get deep



Jardine River Ferry

An hour or so past Musgrave Station is Coen, a township of around 300 people, situated along the Coen River. There is free camping at the Gold Mine on the way into town, or along the river north of town; there is a drop toilet here. There is also a visitor information centre on the left as you approach the township; the times vary, and it isn't open all year. The main street has a pub with a campground and rooms, general store, fuel, guesthouse, café, and post office. There is also a **waste disposal site, and a black water drop point** on the way out of town (northern end).



Camping on Coen River

The **Exchange Hotel** (pub) has good food and accommodation, the town has a general store and service station, and there is a vehicle repair service.

At the southern end of the main street is the **Coen Heritage House**, with displays about local history, including information on the Gold Rush, local families, and the building of the Telegraph Line.

A collection of mining equipment, previously part of the Cape York Mining Museum in Weipa, is also on display.



Coen Heritage House

20km north of Coen is the **Quarantine Inspection Station**. Cape York is the frontline for invasive pests coming from the north, and you will be stopped on your way back to check you aren't carrying any fruit; e.g. the Red Banded Caterpillar is a pest carried in Mangoes. Inside the station is a good display of some of the feral animals and other species which are a threat to the region, so pop in and have a look.



EXCHANGE HOTEL COEN

1 REGENT STREET, COEN QLD 4892

PH 07 4060 1133 FAX 07 4060 1180

exchangehotelcoen@hotmail.com

WWW.COENCAPEYORK.COM.AU



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Archer River Crossing



Coen Quarantine Station

The Quarantine Inspection Station also provides travel information for the Cape, and you can stop and grab one of their information packs on your way north.

The entry to **Oyala Thumotang National Park** is a few km past the Quarantine Station on the left (see NP section pg 84). Situated on the headwaters of the Coen and Archer Rivers, this is a remote park that is often overlooked by those in search of deeper waterways, and people with a tight itinerary. It is 74km from the park entrance to the first camp sites along the Coen River, and 125km to the Archer Bend camp sites which have better fishing.

Those who make the trip in are rewarded with some great camping among eucalypt woodlands and melaleuca swamps, dotted with waterholes and lagoons. As well as abundant birdlife, there are other unique species to be found, including Antilopine Wallaroos, small Agile Wallabies, the Common Spotted Cuscus, and Palm Cockatoos.



Oyala Thumotang Palm Cockatoos

Tracks in the park are only suitable for 4WD vehicles. Travel within the park may be restricted because of boggy roads and wet areas, but in the Dry season they are generally pretty easy going. Still, this is very remote country so be prepared for such isolated travel. There are no facilities in the park and the camp sites can only be reached by 4WD. You must be totally self-sufficient.

WESTERN CAPE

On the shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria, the Western Cape offers visitors a unique insight into the history of Cape York and a rich and varied travel experience. Northbound vehicles are best to continue up the PDR to Weipa, but when heading on to The Tip, join the Telegraph Track via Batavia Downs. To visit the Western Cape coming south from The Tip, turn right through Batavia Downs and on to Weipa.

Weipa

The mining town of Weipa is approximately 200km from the 'tip' of Cape York and 800km from Cairns, and is a great place to replenish supplies before exploring the Western Cape and beyond, or to spend a few days relaxing and enjoying the magnificent sunsets over the waters of the Gulf of Carpentaria.





WEIPA



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Sunset Gongbung

Services

Weipa & Western Cape Tourism have a new Information Centre opening in February at the Caravan Park.

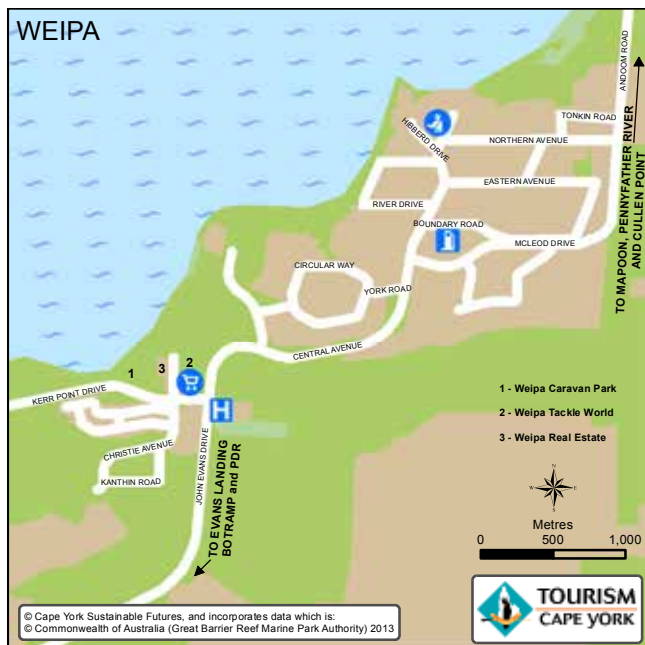
As well as a hospital, dentist, private medical centre and pharmacy, Weipa has a supermarket (not open on Sundays), post office, newsagency, specialty shops, bakery, butcher, café, and 4WD and fishing tackle supply stores.

Weipa & Western Cape Tourism
Take the Sunset Trail to Weipa...the Capital of the Cape

New
Visitor Information Centre
Opening February 2016
Phone: 0484 870 050
Email: weipaandwesterncapetourism@gmail.com
Kerr Point Drive, Weipa QLD 4874
Find us on Facebook
Proudly Supported by Western Cape Chamber of Commerce




WEIPA



The town's two service stations (which are open seven days a week) also have a selection of fresh fruit and vegetables, ice and grocery items. The nearby community of Napranum has a small supermarket which is open seven days a week.

A boat and car wash facility, along with several mechanical workshops and a hardware store are located at Evans Landing. The **Western Cape Cultural Centre** is also located at Evans Landing which provides local cultural and tourist information as well as exhibiting local artwork. The Western Cape Cultural Centre is open 10am-2pm Monday to Friday, entry is free. Light refreshments and a great view of the harbour are offered.

WESTERN CAPE

Weipa also boasts a wide range of facilities to suit the whole family for those travellers wanting to spend a little longer in the town. There is a skatepark, public swimming pool and library (which has an impressive historical display in the Cape York Collection) located at Rocky Point. A nine-hole golf course, bowling green, tennis and squash courts, and BMX track are sure to keep visitors active.

Accommodation

Accommodation options in Weipa include two camping grounds, one with self-contained cabins and a dedicated fishing lodge, a resort hotel, a motel, and budget (donga-style) accommodation.



Weipa Camp Ground

Dining Out

Weipa offers many options to dine out including the Albatross Bay Resort, Carpentaria Golf Club, Weipa Bowls Club, Heritage Resort, Barramunchies located at the Caravan Park, Zest Cafe in the Shopping Centre, and takeaway food is available from the Weipa Bakery. The Weipa Camping Ground & Caravan Park has a fish fry every Sunday evening during the dry season.

Fishing

Fishing in the Western Cape is great!

Fishing can be shore-based (eg Gonbung Beach, Evans Landing, Kerr Point, Red Beach and Wallaby Island) or on the banks of the many creeks and rivers.



Red Cliffs

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With a boat the Mission, Hey and Embley River estuaries and Port Musgrave (Mapoon) provide opportunities. Boat ramps are located at Rocky Point and Evans Landing in Weipa, Napranum, and Cullen Point and Cloughs Landing, Mapoon.

A small boat can also be launched in more remote areas such as the coast near the Pennefather River and Stones Crossing.



Charter Fishing

There are boats and houseboats for hire, fishing tours and extended fishing charters available from Weipa- enquire at Weipa Tackle World.

Bird Watching & Nature Walks

There are two **freshwater man-made lakes** in Weipa which are used regularly for recreation and bird watching by local residents and visitors – Lake Patricia and Lake McLeod. Lake Patricia has a well-equipped picnic area with wood-fired and gas barbecues, public toilets and a children's playground. There are also many bush tracks around the Lakes area which are well worth exploring.



Lake McLeod

The Uningan Nature Reserve covers an area of over 2,800 hectares and includes habitats such as open woodland, palm forests and mangroves.

There are large shell mounds (middens), good birdwatching, and canoe trees have been found there.

Tours

Bus tours of the **Rio Tinto Alcan Mine** site are conducted throughout the dry season. Contact the Weipa Camping Ground & Caravan Park for bookings and details (07) 4069 7871.



Mine Tour

~FISHING CHARTERS~

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• Rods	• Reels	• Lures
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07 4069 7235

www.tackleworldweipa.com.au

Western Cape Eco Tours conduct tours of the Embley River and Roberts Creek daily during the dry season. Experienced guides will share their knowledge of the local wildlife and the unique Western Cape eco system onboard the 28-seat tour boat "Sunset Sienna". Tours operate during the day and at sunset. See ad this section.

Camping

Permits and information on areas surrounding Weipa can be obtained from Aurukun Shire Council (Ph: 07 4060 6800), Napranum Council (Ph: 07 4069 7855) and Mapoon Aboriginal Council (Ph: 07 4090 9124).

Mapoon

Mapoon is a very small and remote township approximately 90km north of Weipa. Known locally as 'first contact country', the site was visited by the Dutch in 1606 – a memorial exists on Cullen Point to commemorate this historical occurrence.



WESTERN CAPE ECO TOURS
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The road into Mapoon is good and well signposted. Visitors to Mapoon will traverse the Mission River bridge (big Bridge) and Andoom River bridges which provides access into the Andoom Mining area. Road users are reminded of specific road rules applicable to the mining lease and all motorists are reminded to observe the sign posts implemented by Rio Tinto Mining. The road is a gravel road and drivers must drive to the prevailing conditions.

Mapoon Shire boundary is well sign posted and signified by the sealed section at the Northern end of the Weipa Rd. Vehicle access is open to conventional vehicles in the dry season – in the wet, the road is subject to load limits and 4X4 restrictions. Access to Stones Crossing and Pennefather River (part of the Napranum Shire) is also via the mine road.



All visitors are reminded of the **Alcohol Management arrangements** enforced on Aboriginal Lands in the Cape – consult the map on pg 91.

The local services are centred around the operations of the council. The store is the main enterprise of the council and supplies food, fuel, ice and permits to camp – the operational hours are not convenient and all visitors are advised that opening hours are as follows:

8:00am and 4:30 Monday to Thursday;
8:00am and 1:00pm on Friday;
9:00am and 11:00am on Saturday;
Closed Sundays.

A **Ranger Program** is administered by council and visitors are encouraged to seek information or advice during normal working hours; Mapoon

Aboriginal Council (Ph: 07 4090 9124). Rangers regularly patrol the Mapoon DOGIT lands.

There are no mechanical services available in Mapoon.

Queensland Health has a Clinic in Mapoon for medical emergencies – all serious cases are coordinated through the Weipa Hospital and where RFDS is required, access is available via the Mapoon Airstrip.

History

In 1963 the government signed the Comalco Agreement with the Federal Government, this agreement would send shock waves for the people of Mapoon and coincidentally resulting in the relocation and removal of Mapoon people to all parts of Queensland (predominantly to New Mapoon in the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council Area and as far south as Stanthorpe in the Granite Belt). Mining in the region commenced at Weipa in 1963.

The site of 'Old Mapoon' is clearly marked and visitors are welcome to the site and learn about the fascinating history of the area. Also nearby is the memorial to the Dutch landing.

The move back to Mapoon commenced in 1974 with a small band of families. More families have since moved back to Mapoon and it's now a thriving community. In 2013 the community commemorated 50 years since the removal and work off the moto "out of the ashes we have arisen".



MAPOON
ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

With beautiful scenery and excellent fishing, Mapoon is a great place for a stopover. Close to Weipa, it's easily accessible by road. Chat with friendly locals, visit the pristine beaches and enjoy the wildlife and rich history that Mapoon has to offer.

Permits are required for camping at Cullen Point and Janie Creek.
Permits can be obtained from the Mapoon Store.
Ph: (07) 4090 9146
Opening hours: Weekdays 8-4pm
Saturdays 9-11am

For more information, please contact the Mapoon Council.
(07) 4082 5200 www.mapoon.com



Cullen Point and Port Musgrave

There's good camping on Cullen Point supported by pretty basic toilets and showers amenities and a public boat ramp. From this spot you can launch your boat and access the waterways and estuaries within **Port Musgrave** which are on the northern and eastern side of the port - the eastern side is made up of both the Ducie and Wenlock River systems. There is a diverse range of species within the Mapoon catchment area and we encourage all visitors to apply a sustainability approach to their activities within our waters.



Old Mapoon



Camp Chivaree from the air

Back Beach and Janie Creek

Back at the end of the bitumen is the T-Junction which is the end of Cullen Point Rd, turn left onto a soft sandy track which quickly hits the coast at the "She Oaks" and the start of Back Beach - It is definitely 4WD!. This is one of the local favourite sitting areas and offers views of spectacular sunsets and access to the beach. The coastline is a bird breeding habitat and conservation activities are located throughout. This stretch of coast line is an important turtle nesting area and driving on the beach is not encouraged.



Nesting Olive Ridley

A track along the coast leading south, takes you about 10km to the northern shore of **Janie Creek**. The Mapoon Rangers have a fenced area with a number of huts which is used for turtle and other research activities. Public access is available for the shower and toilet facilities only. Water is available within the camp grounds. There are a couple of spots to camp around the fenced area and back through the trees.

Boats can be launched into small Janie Creek, at the spit, which is a sheltered launch and recovery area.

Waste Management

We encourage everyone to take out what you bring in. At Cullen Point bins are provided and collected twice weekly. No waste collection is provided at remote sites – all rubbish must be removed from camp sites.

Stones Crossing

Situated on the Wenlock River, Stones Crossing is about 71km north-east of Weipa and located on Napranum land.

You pass through Rio Tinto mining lease for most of the way, but by the time you get to Stones Crossing you are on Napranum DOGIT land. There are a number of excellent camping sites located around this area and they are popular with the locals.

Below Stones Crossing the river is muddy and more tidal the closer you get to Port Musgrave. Gibson Waterhole and The Barrage are close together and accessed off the Stone Crossing road. Tent Pole Camp is located on Tent Pole Creek, a tributary of the Wenlock River.

(Extract, for more information see, 'Cape York - An Adventurer's Guide' by Ron and Viv Moon.)

Merluna Station

Merluna Station is a privately owned working Cattle Station situated 120 klms south east of Weipa, 150 klms northwest of Coen. There is a large Campground with Green Grass, Shade Trees, Swimming Pool, Camp Kitchen which has a BBQ's, Tables, a Pool Table and Ping Pong Table for Guests use. There is an abundance of native animals to observe all season. Bird watching is a speciality with many different species listed. Bow hunting is pre booked and prime time is September/October.



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Aurukun

The turnoff to Aurukun is just north of Merluna Station, and it is about 107km to the community. Aurukun is situated near the mouths of the Archer and Watson Rivers, and has excellent fishing in the sheltered bay. There is a new guesthouse in town, and you can do tours of the extensive wetlands, or visit the art centre to see some of the crafts produced by local artisits.



Aurukun Art Centre

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Wenlock River upstream of crossing

The turn-off to Iron Range is 35km north of the Archer River on the right. It is 143km in to **Lockhart River**; and **Portland Roads and Chillii Beach** are 30km from the Lockhart River Road. The trip in takes a while due to the many dips and ford crossings you will have to slow for.

There are river crossings at the Wenlock and Pascoe Rivers. Just past the Wenlock crossing a track leads to the old Batavia goldfields.



Pascoe River Crossing

Past the Wenlock River you travel through the Kaanju Ngaachi Wenlock and Pascoe Rivers Indigenous Protected Area and then on through the Kutini Payamu (Iron Range) National Park.

Bush camp on the western side of the Wenlock or have a hot shower while camping at the Chuulangun Camping Area (Chuula), 5km east of the Wenlock crossing. Iron Range has great birdwatching with 15 endemic species, and walking trails in the National Park.

Journey - Frenchmans Track (Adventure 4WD)

Frenchmans Track is an Adventure 4WD route to Iron Range. Starting on the Telegraph road just north of Batavia Downs, it is 62km to join the Portland Roads Road near Mount Bowden. The rugged track fords the Wenlock River and has some very rough and boggy sections before the deep, challenging Pascoe River crossing. It is advised to cover the front of your 4WD to prevent water flooding the engine and electrics when crossing the deep Pascoe River. Water can reach as high as the top of the bonnet. For those not wanting to do "Frenchmans", try the 11km drive into the Pascoe River from the Portland Roads Road end. Imagine the crossing hauling mining equipment behind a "team" back in the 30's!



Rocky Pascoe River exit

Fly In

Visit during the wet season for an entirely different perspective. Hire a 4WD from Lockhart River Car Hire, Fly/Drive/Stay packages are available.

Iron Range

The Iron Range area incorporates the **Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) National Park** with picturesque Chilli Beach, the thriving Lockhart River indigenous community (home to the Lockhart River Art Gang) and the small coastal hamlet of Portland Roads. Iron Range is a mecca for 4WD campers in the dry season and accessible all year round by air from Cairns. With a range of accommodation options, Iron Range is an amazing experience whether your passion is fishing, camping, birdwatching, beachcombing, WWII history or just reading a book in a tranquil forest.

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

Driving into Iron Range is Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) National Park (CYPAL). You will be amazed by the dwarfed heath of acacia, callistemon and banksia. In the distance you will see the looming Iron Range and **Tozer's Gap**.



Kutini Payamu Mt Tozer Lookout



Iron Range Cabins are the only tourist accommodation at Lockhart River, located at Lockhart River Aerodrome.

Room Types:

- 10 ensuite studio cabins
- 3 two bedroom cabins
- 1 queen ensuite room
- 1 twin single ensuite room

All Cabins Are:

- Self contained with flat screen TV's
- Fully airconditioned
- Fridge & kitchenette
- Daily continental breakfast included

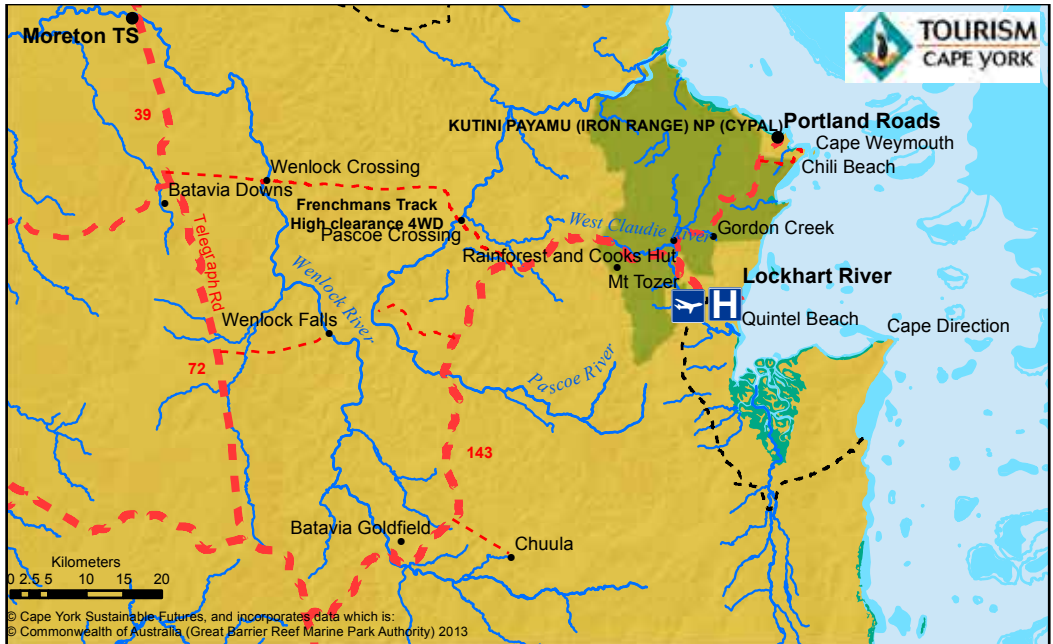
Facilities Include:

- Coin operated laundry
- Sheltered BBQ area
- Air-con reception lounge/cafe



The cabins are the ideal base to explore the Iron Range National Park, visit Portland Roads, Chilli Beach and Lockhart River.

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www.lockhartriver.com.au



From the road-side “lookout”, the serious walker can trek to the top of Mt Tozer before descending the lovely rainforest drive. The National Park protects the largest area of lowland tropical rainforest in Australia with Bird’s Nest Ferns, moss, and endemic wildlife such as the Magnificent Rifle Bird. Camping grounds at Cook’s Hut and Gordon’s Creek are ideal for experiencing the rainforest.

The Ranger Station is on the Lockhart River road 5km past the Portland Roads Road.

Chilli Beach

The wonderful **Chilli Beach** is one of the best camping spots on the Cape. Look for shells or try some on-shore fishing. Walk north along the beach to look and wonder at Restoration Island where Captain Bligh first landed on his journey following the mutiny on the *Bounty*. The land behind the foreshore holds cultural and historical significance to the local Kuuku Ya’u people.

Camp sites at Chilli Beach are extremely popular so make sure you book your e-permit early.



Kutini Payamu Chilli Beach

Historic Portland Roads

North of Chillli Beach is historic Portland Roads. This was a secure anchorage for the Pearling fleets and Sandalwood cutters of the 1800's. By the 1930's, Portland Roads was the port for the vibrant goldfields of Iron Range. Portland Roads Jetty was completed in 1938, after the gold rush.

After the WWII Battle of the Coral Sea took place, American and Australian military arrived to urgently construct the Iron Range Air Force Base. Fortifications were installed on the hill overlooking the harbour. Thousands of American Troops passed through this port.

Portland Roads community is a small idyllic refuge by the sea. It offers beachfront accommodation at Portland House and the Portland Roads Beach Shack, whilst the Portland Roads Out of the Blue Café offers verandah dining. Ask locals about the jetty, WWII historic sites, birdwatching, and fishing.



Out of the Blue Café Seafood Platter

Cape Weymouth

The road to Cape Weymouth is a no-through road and terminates within Aboriginal land. 1.2km along the road, Packers Bay B&B offers unique accommodation for a couple, tucked away overlooking a private beach.

Fishing

Iron Range has great fishing at Portland Roads, Chillli Beach, and Quintel Beach. Portland Roads has a boat ramp for the tourist tinnie. The mangroves, reefs and creeks provide catches of Barramundi, Queenfish, Trevally, Mackerel and Sailfish.

Lockhart River Art

Puuya Kuntha - Strong Heart

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December

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No Boat? Excellent fishing is available from the beach and rocks around the point. Fishing from Chillli Beach is also good.

Lockhart River Community

In the 1930's, a mission was established near the mouth of the Lockhart River, then re-established after WWII at 'Old Site', to the south. It was relocated to the current site in 1968.

One of the airstrips used during the war, the Gordon strip, continues as the airport for Iron Range. Iron Range Cabins at the airport have airconditioned, serviced and self-contained cabins.

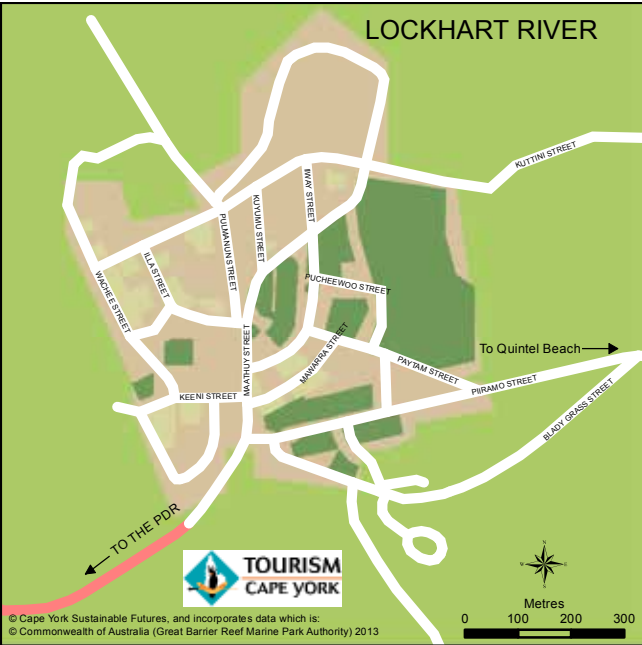
There is a well stocked supermarket. Fuel is available 24 hours a day by credit card.

Lockhart River Arts Centre

Lockhart River is famous for the incredible array of artistic talent produced by the Lockhart River Art Gang. A visit to the Lockhart River Arts Centre is a great experience (open Mon-Fri).



Quintel Beach



Quintel Beach

Just on the other side of the Lockhart community lies Quintel Beach. View the magnificent boulder perched precariously on a rock shelf just off the beach. Have a picnic or cast a popper from the barge ramp.



Quintel Beach

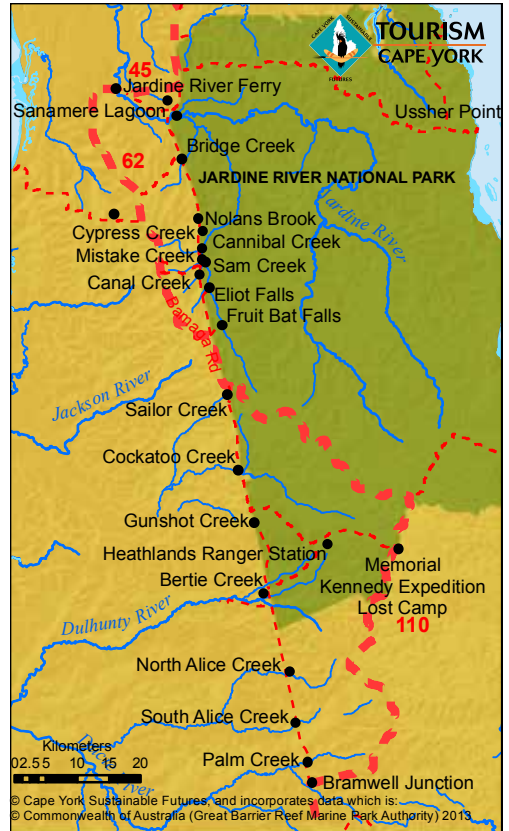
One of Cape York's most notorious 4WD tracks, the OTL track is an unmaintained route following the path of the original overland telegraph line, starting from Bramwell Junction and continuing to the Jardine River. This track takes you through some beautiful countryside, and **requires all the proper recovery gear**, and ideally some previous 'Adventure 4WD' experience.



Palm Creek Crossing

People wanting to tackle the OTL can start their adventure from the nearby stations of Moreton and Bramwell, and Bramwell Junction also has camping. As well as food and accommodation, **Bramwell Station** also has a bar and live music during the busy season- try and time your trip to coincide with the Bramwell Cup Bush Carnival and Races, see ad page 53.

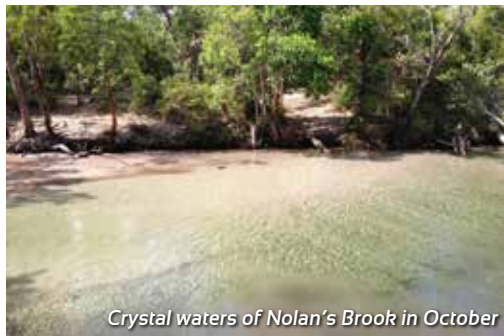
The highlights are definitely the many crystal clear creeks you will cross, not only providing great swimming and camping opportunities, but some hairy entry and exit routes to challenge the most experienced drivers; there are usually also some **tamer routes** (chicken tracks) allowing you to bypass the difficult crossings, including a bypass around Gunshot Creek, and a road back to the main highway via heathlands, past the Ranger Station (see map).



Gunshot Creek



Gunshot Creek



Crystal waters of Nolan's Brook in October

This Track has earned its reputation by claiming many vehicles each season as people try and cross the deep creeks early in the year. **Nolan's Brook** is the deepest of these, and extreme care should be taken- a snorkel is a must on your vehicle!



TJM on the OTL

On the southern section of the OTL there are **campsites** at Bertie Creek, Dulhunty River (off a small way from the OTL), Gunshot Creek and Cockatoo Creek. The northern section of the OTL has the lovely Fruit Bat Falls which offers a

refreshing swim on the way to the campground at the stunning natural pools at Eliot Falls and Twin Falls. Eliot Falls has a QPWS camping area and there are campsites on the northern and southern banks of the Jardine River.



OTL Log Bridge

On the northern section of the OTL there are bush camping sites at Sam Creek and Cypress Creek. The Jardine Ferry provides access across the Jardine River, QPWS and the Regional Council have closed the Jardine River Crossing on the OTL.



OTL Campsite



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Finally, you've made it to the northern most piece of the Australian mainland!

Whether you have raced up the Peninsular Development Road to get here, or taken your time, there is a certain sense of achievement and anticipation knowing you're about to stand on the Tip of Australia. Coming from Injinoo, you will take a right turn before Bamaga township (see map) and head north through the Lockerbie Rainforest. It is about 30km from Bamaga to the Tip; the track through the forest can get very muddy in the wet, and there is a creek to cross, so 4WD is recommended. You will pass the **Croc Tent** on your way; a good place to stop and get some local info on places to see, or pick up some t-shirts and other gifts to remember your trip.

This is also where you turn left to go to **Punsand Bay**. Cape York Camping Punsand Bay has accommodation options to suit most travellers, from air conditioned cabins, to cleared camping sites along the beach. They also have a great restaurant and bar, featuring wood fired pizzas!



The Tip

When you see some of the remaining cabins from the **Pajinka Lodge**, you will know you are nearly there. The car park is right next to **Frangipani Beach**, and at low tide you can walk out along the beach and take a shorter route to the Sign at the Tip (see map), or take the slightly longer route over the headland and down to the sign. As well as great views, there is some good fishing off the point.



The Tip walking tracks

Journey - Explore the Tip

The land north of the Jardine River, The Tip of Cape York, is a peninsula with the Coral Sea to the east, the Arafura Sea and Gulf of Carpentaria to the west, and the Torres Strait to the north. Close to Australia's nearest neighbour, Papua New Guinea, the land is traditionally owned by the Indigenous Australians of the area. The Tip comprises Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal towns.

There are several camping and accommodation options in Bamaga, Umagico [Alau Beach], Seisia, Loyalty Beach and Punsand Bay.

Drive out to the top of Cape York at Pajinka, see the ruins at Somerset, explore the beach at Freshwater Bay and Nanthau Beach, and look out for the perched Lake Wicheura wetland. Or go west to Mutee Head (great beach camping and WWII Radar) and the mouth of the Jardine River (Adventure 4WD!).



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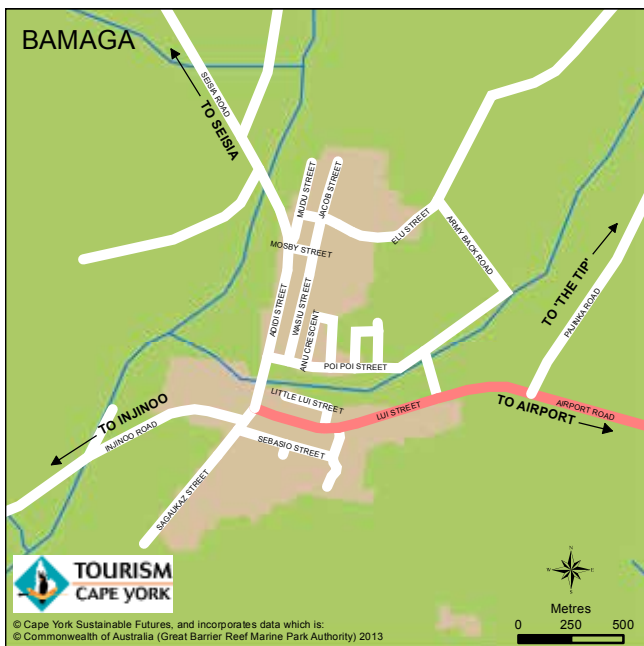
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Loyalty Beach



Seisia Holiday Park



Somerset Beach

The Torres Strait Islander community of Seisia, in its wild, unspoilt setting, is a beautiful holiday destination.

Located close to the tip of Cape York Peninsula, the Seisia community is the ideal starting point for any visitor to the "Top End" and has a range of dining, accommodation and recreational services available.

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- Seisia BP Service Station • Seisia Supermarket • Top End Motors
- Seisia Fishing Club • Seisia Jetty • Fishing Guides

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Punsand Bay

Activities & Things to Do

Fishing tour operators, including a live-aboard charter vessel, operate from the Tip, packaging extended fly-in holiday tours and day trips for people visiting the area.

The fishing from the Seisia Jetty is excellent. Several boat charter operators offer fishing, sightseeing and Thursday Island Trips. Hire boats, helicopter scenic and charter flights and Cape York Tip tours are just some of the activities available.

If you have your own boat, this can be launched at Seisia and Jackey Jackey Creek boat ramps, or across the beach at many of the campsites.

The Jardine (mouth and upper reaches), the coast, Possession Island, Albany passage and Jackey Jackey Creek make for great exploring and fishing.



DC3 Plane wreck near Bamaga

Open All Year Round!

Whilst you can only drive to The Tip during the dry season, airlines, Sea Swift, accommodation and tours operate year-round. Many consider "The Green Season" (December to March) to be the best.

Loyalty Beach

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As you look out over the sea to the north of Australia, don't just imagine yourself on one of these spectacular islands, take the time to visit and experience the culture and traditions that still thrive today, and take a tour of some of the WW II sites and history that remains.

Getting There

Qantaslink operate two return flights a day from Cairns, arriving at the Horn Island airport. Peddells Ferry operates daily, as well as private boat charters, departing from Seisia jetty to Thursday Island.

Thursday Island


The ferry ride from Seisia takes about an hour on the **Peddells Ferry**, and Peddells also organise **guided bus tours** that are very popular, visiting WW II sites and other attractions on the island.



Arriving at Thursday Island on Peddells Ferry



*Gab Titui Cultural Centre, Thursday Island
Photo: George Serras, National Museum of Australia*



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Some of the attractions on Thursday Island are:

- Gab Titui; a large cultural centre displaying historical artefacts and contemporary Indigenous art. The annual Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award is in June each year, and opening night is 16 June 2016.
- Japanese cemetery
- Green Hill Fort
- Kazu Pearl Friday Island
- Peddell's island tour
- Fishing tours
- Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal War Memorial (ANZAC Park)



Monument from Japanese cemetery



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info@gabtitui.com.au
www.gabtitui.com.au

Photo: George Serras, National Museum of Australia

Horn Island

Horn Island is located 40km off the Tip of Queensland, and a relaxing 15min ferry ride from Thursday Island. The island is home to a fascinating cultural and wartime history. At 56km², the population of 700 live in Wasaga village, centred around the wharf area, and only a 7min drive to the airport, which is the central domestic airport for the Torres Strait region.

Activities and Things to Do

Horn Island was the most advanced operational airbase to Papua New Guinea during WW2, while being in Australian waters. **Torres Strait Heritage** run their multi award winning 'In Their Steps' WW2 tour, and **Torres Strait Heritage Museum**, offering an array of packages. Walk in the steps of those who served on Horn Island, the second most attacked location in Australia. Explore various sites above and below ground in this small group tour, learn of the WW2 Conservation Project and archaeological dig, while listening to a narrative rich in archival and Digger's stories.



Torres Strait Heritage

Stroll around the village, fish off the Horn Island wharf, immerse yourself in the **Torres Strait Heritage Museum**, embark on an aerial sightseeing adventure, set sail in search of pearls, watch the glorious sunset from the wharf, or relax around the pool at your hotel. Visitors can enjoy a tour combining both Thursday and Horn Island in a full day, with many visitors choosing to stay the night, allowing a relaxing time on both islands.

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TROPICAL NORTH
QUEENSLAND

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NATIONAL PARKS OF CAPE YORK PENINSULA

Black Mountain National Park

Drive 25km south of Cooktown to the Black Mountain lookout for memorable views of the mysterious looming boulders that form the lichen-blackened slopes. Steeped in Aboriginal legend, find out why Black Mountain is a special story place for the Kuku Yalanji people. There are many stories about people going missing here. In the past cattle have been lost, their owners who went looking for them, and even a member of the local constabulary who came to investigate. The rocks are also home to some very large pythons. Climbing on the rocks is discouraged.



Black Mountains

Keatings Lagoon Regional Park

Drive 5km south of Cooktown to Keatings Lagoon for great bird-watching. Here, there is a 1.5km long boardwalk, developed in conjunction with the local Gungarde Aboriginal Corporation.

Marvel at the sight of flocks of waterbirds feeding on rich pickings in the scenic wetlands from inside a snug bird-hide. You will see numerous ducks, pygmy-geese, jacanas and magpie geese. Don't forget your binoculars and insect repellent!



Keatings Lagoon

Mount Cook National Park

The rugged rainforest-clad granite slopes of Mount Cook form the scenic backdrop to Cooktown, rising to 431m. Drive to the Mount Cook car park on Hannan Drive and take a strenuous but rewarding 4hr return hike through rainforest and tropical woodland to lookouts at the summit. Enjoy stunning views over the township of Cooktown and the Endeavour River valley to the west, and the Great Barrier Reef and northern Wet Tropics world heritage areas to the east. Keep an eye out for pied-imperial pigeons and buff-breasted paradise kingfishers in the summer months.



Mount Cook National Park - view from lookout

Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park (CYPAL)

Unwind at this iconic park, renowned for its vast river systems and spectacular wetlands. In the wet season, the rivers spill across the landscape and flood vast areas but during the dry season, the waters recede leaving behind permanent waterholes, lakes and lagoons. Spend tranquil days fishing for barra from the river bank or from your boat. Explore the park by 4WD and look for wildlife such as crocodiles resting on riverbanks, bustards striding across grassy plains and wallabies drinking at waterholes along the way.

Ranger's tips:

- Take a picnic lunch to Kalpowar Crossing then stroll along the Kalpowar Discovery walk.
- See picturesque lotus lilies and water lilies at Red and White Lilly lagoons.
- Watch waterbirds feeding in the early morning or late afternoon at Rarda-Ndolphin (Low Lake).

NATIONAL PARKS OF CAPE YORK PENINSULA



Nifold Plain

Cape Melville National Park (CYPAL)

Venture off the beaten track at the rugged yet beautiful Cape Melville where headlands of tumbled granite boulders meet the white sandy beaches of Bathurst Bay. Challenge yourself (and your 4WD) as you tackle tidal creek crossings, corrugations, washouts and soft sand on the roads through this extremely isolated park. Soak up the isolation as you relax in the shade of the wongai trees on the beach. Try your luck fishing in the creeks or off the beach but remember to be croc wise.

Ranger's tip: Relax with a cool drink on the sands at Cape Melville where the sunsets are the best!

Camping: Enjoy self-sufficient remote bush camping near the beach at Bathurst Bay and Ninian Bay. There are no facilities here but there are '5-star' coastal views!



Cape Melville Boulders

Oyala Thumotang National Park (CYPAL)

Feel the sense of freedom of being immersed in a vast, isolated landscape. Eucalypt woodlands and melaleuca swamps, dotted with waterholes and lagoons, stretch between the mighty Archer and Coen rivers to the foothills of the MacIlwraith Range. The park is rich in cultural significance for the Aboriginal Traditional Owners and many families lived and worked here when this park was a cattle station. Explore the park by 4WD and on foot, walking along watercourses and around waterholes—there are no formal walking tracks. Discover lily-clad lagoons and river banks fringed with rainforest and paperbarks. Drop a fishing line in a waterhole and look for Antilopine Wallaroos and small Agile Wallabies nearby. Enjoy rewarding bird watching, spotting both waterbirds and forest birds.

Ranger's tip: Look for palm cockatoos perched in rainforest along the river banks.

Rokeby Section Campsites- There are 13 separately defined bush camping sites near the waterholes and riverbanks, with excellent opportunities for birdwatching.

Archer Bend Section Campsites- There are just two separately defined sites - one at Grosvernors Waterhole and one at Horsetailer Waterhole. These bush camping sites are set among paperbarks that overhang scenic waterholes, offering excellent opportunities for birdwatching.



OyalaThumotang

NATIONAL PARKS OF CAPE YORK PENINSULA

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

Get back to nature amid rugged heath-covered ranges, the largest area of lowland tropical rainforest in Australia, rocky outcrops and long sweeping beaches in this remote and spectacular coastal park. As you enter the park, be amazed by the stunted heath of she-oaks, grevilleas, banksias and sedges, with the looming Iron Range and Tozer's Gap in the distance. Stop at the Mount Tozer lookout and find hidden meaning in the heath-clad landscape as you learn about Aboriginal peoples' spiritual connection to country, through the story of Kutini (cassowary). Try and spot four iconic locals—spotted cuscus, green python, eclectus parrot and palm cockatoo—in their lowland rainforest refuge. Discover the half-forgotten war history of the Iron Range area. Wander along the white quartz sands of wind-swept, boulder-dotted Chilli Beach, and Walk north along the beach to view Restoration Island where Captain Bligh first landed on his journey following the mutiny on the Bounty.

Ranger's tip: Book your camp site well in advance to make sure you don't miss out because sites are limited.



Kutini Payamu - Chilli Beach

Heathlands Regional Park/ Jardine River National Park

Head east to the coast and explore the remote beach and sea caves at Captain Billy Landing. Drive north to Eliot Falls to discover a surprising oasis surrounded by a vast open savannah on an ancient sandstone landscape. Known as a 'wet desert', fresh water is abundant here, not only in the mighty Jardine River but in numerous swamps and streams. Explore the park on walking tracks that follow creek banks and refresh in the crystal clear croc-free waters at Twin Falls and the scenic Fruit Bat Falls. Be amazed by the rich variety of plant life, from tiny carnivorous sundews to strange ant plants and diverse heath communities. See many different birds, including the northern race of brush-turkeys with their purple instead of yellow wattles.



Fruitbat Falls

NATIONAL PARKS OF CAPE YORK PENINSULA



Beautiful Flora, Rinyirru (Lakefield National Park)

General Information

Camping bookings for Cape York

You need a permit to camp in a Queensland national park. It is essential that you book your camp site and purchase your permit before arriving at your camping area. To purchase a camping permit, book online at www.qld.gov.au/camping or phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

If you need to make or change a booking while you are on the road, visit an over-the-counter permit booking office (The Lure Shop in Cooktown and Moreton Telegraph Station at Wenlock River crossing). Alternatively, use one of the touch screen computer facilities provided at the QPWS offices in Coen, Cooktown and Weipa or at the ranger bases at Rinyirru, Lockhart and Heathlands. Credit card and camping credits are accepted as payment. Cash and EFTPOS facilities are available at over-the-counter permit booking offices.

Camping outside of National Parks

There is plenty of great camping outside of the National Parks, and the ParksQ booking system. All of the Roadhouses have camping areas with toilets and showers. There are also caravan parks with camping in most of the towns, such as Lakeland, Cooktown, Laura, Coen, Weipa, Seisia, and other parts of the Northern Peninsula Area.

Other options with some facilities include: Elim Beach campground, Silver Plains Station, Merluna Station, Bramwell Station, Punsand Bay, Vrilya Point, Pennefather River, and Chuulangun campground on the way into Iron Range.

If you are an independent traveller, and don't need a shower or toilet provided, then Cape York is the place for you. There are so many great bush camping options along your journey to the Tip of Cape York. The Palmer River area has good camping on the headwaters of the Mitchel River.

NATIONAL PARKS OF CAPE YORK PENINSULA

The Wakooka/Cape Melville area has lots of unregulated camping, up to Bathurst Head. You can camp near the boat ramp at Port Stewart. The Wenlock has good camping north and south of the crossing on the road to Iron Range. Stones Crossing is a good option near Weipa. All along

the Telegraph Track there are awesome places to camp next to crystal clear creeks. The Jardine River has camping north and south of the Ferry. There are plenty more places to bush camp; you'll need to ask some of the locals, or other travellers for their tips on where to go.



Northern Peninsula Area



Archer River



Beach Camping

Cape York offers THE fishing experience. From remote freshwater billabongs (sooty grunter, saratoga and the mighty barramundi), rivers and estuaries (barramundi, mangrove jack, cod), beaches and headlands (flathead, trevally, queenfish, mackerel, threadfin salmon), wharves and of course the reefs and islands (Spanish mackerel, queenfish, barracuda, trevally, cod and coral trout), to the newly discovered marlin and sailfish grounds off Weipa; Cape York has many opportunities. Whether you fish off the beach or wharf, have your own boat, want to go on a fishing tour or exclusive charter, there are many fishing opportunities.



Weipa Fishing Classic

The Western Cape and Weipa offers great fishing with plenty of charter and boat hire opportunities.

Port Musgrave and the rivers closer to Weipa are renowned for quality fishing, with metre long Barra consistently caught and released. Iron Range has spectacular fishing around Portland Roads, Cape Weymouth, Chilli Beach and nearby reefs and islands.

The Tip has fishing par excellence, with the Jardine, Jackey Jackey and the many islands and reefs of the Torres Strait. There's boat hire, day tours, week long charters and live-aboard fishing experiences also available.

Cooktown is also famous as a great fishing destination. It has the advantage of being close to a range of angling environments, including the Great Barrier Reef, and nearby rivers. There are a number of charter fishing operators in town; call in to the Lure Shop to book a trip today.

Wharf Fishing

The Cooktown wharf is a popular spot to try your luck- look out for the huge Queensland Gropers, often seen taking people's catches tackle and all. These fish are protected though and must not be targeted.

Seisia Wharf is The Tip's easiest fishing experience. Meet the locals and get the best advice on bait, tides and fishing tackle tips, the catches are a-plenty!

The Western Cape has Evans Landing wharf in Weipa for queenfish, trevally and grunter, while Portland Roads (Iron Range) has the old Jetty.



Cooktown Wharf

Reef Fishing

Cooktown's proximity to the Great Barrier Reef, including Dawson and Cowlshaw reefs, make it a perfect spot to take a day trip from. Some of the species to expect are: coral trout, red emperor, nannygai, spanish mackerel, yellowfin/longtail tuna, giant trevally and cobia. There are many other reef fishing spots as good and better; some of these hot spots include Weipa, Vrilya Point, The Tip and Portland Roads.



Weipa

River Fishing

The Cape has the ultimate tropical river fishing! Cooktown has the magnificent river systems of the Annan and Endeavour. Big barramundi, monster spanish mackerel, queenies and trevally are regularly caught from these rivers.

Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park, Queensland's second largest Park, is a mecca for anglers chasing big Barramundi. It contains a network of Rivers draining into Princess Charlotte Bay, which include The Normanby, Hann, Kennedy, Morehead, Jack, and Bizant Rivers.

The Western Cape has the Pine, Mission, Hey, Embley and Wenlock rivers all easily accessible, and serviced by experienced guides. You can fish from the bank, your own boat or with a tour operator. Weipa, the hub of the Western Cape, is a renowned sport fishing destination with close to 50 world and national sport fishing records set in its waters. The Tip has great fishing at the Jardine mouth and Jackey Jackey Creek.



Laura River

Land Based Fishing

Cape York has many great beaches where you can fish from the shore: Cape Melville offers such locations, as do Chilli and Quintel Beaches near Iron Range, Red and Pennefather Beaches near Weipa, Captain Billy's, Vrilya Point, Ussher Point, Seisia, and many more!

Around Cooktown; Walker Bay, at the mouth of the Annan River, the old Annan bridge, the stone wall at Marton, Finch Bay, Quarantine Bay, Archer Point with nearby coastal reef, and the old Wharf all have good fishing.

Boat Ramps

You can launch a smaller tinnie at many bush river sites and beaches throughout the Cape.

Boat ramps suitable for larger boats and trailers:

- **Cooktown:** Wharf, Marton, Big Annan Bridge and Bloomfield River.
- **Princess Charlotte Bay:** Annie River, Byzant
- **Western Cape:** Rocky Point, Evans landing, Napranum, Mission River Bridge, Andoom Creek Bridge, Cullen Point and Batavia Landing (Cloughs)
- **Iron Range:** Portland Roads and Quintel Beach
- **The Tip:** Seisa and Jackey Jackey

Marlin Fishing

The Black Marlin season runs September to December. Smaller marlin and sailfish can be caught for most of the year. The famous 'Lizard Island Tournament' is in October, and sailfish are now being regularly caught.

The newly discovered grounds off Weipa afford exceptional light tackle opportunities for both

Sails and juvenile Black Marlin between August and November.



Marlin



Quinkan Gallery Laura

Aboriginal Tours

Accompany One of the rangers from the Laura sandstone region and explore aboriginal rock art galleries which have been listed by UNESCO as being amongst the top 10 sites in the world (bookings are through the Quinkan and Regional Cultural Centre). Tours are also available in the Bloomfield area with the 'Walker Family Tours'.

Arts

There are very good art centres at Hope Vale, Wujal Wujal and Lockhart River providing local Indigenous artists support and the ability to showcase their work. Local arts and crafts are on display at the Old Cooktown Railway Station. Free Bird Arts and Craft at Seisa offers local handicrafts and art.

Laura Dance Festival

See the Indigenous dancers kick up a (dust) storm at one of the largest gatherings of Indigenous people in Australia. Held every 2 years, you shouldn't miss the 2017 Festival in June!

The History is just the Beginning

The Cape has a fascinating history of exploration, pioneers, settlement, WWII and the thriving indigenous culture.

There are many cultural centres and museums that present the Cape's history and culture:

- Quinkan and Regional Cultural Centre, Laura
- The Boathouse, Cooktown
- Cooktown History Centre, Cooktown
- James Cook Museum, Cooktown
- Western Cape Cultural Centre, Evans Landing Weipa
- Coen Heritage House
- Gab Titui Cultural Centre, Thursday Island.



Thursday Island

Umagico & Injinoo Seisia, New Mapoon & Bamaga

Alcohol Restrictions

Northern Peninsula Area

"The Tip"

  2L Wine and 30 Cans Beer OR
2L Wine and 24 Cans Pre-mix

ALCOHOL LIMITS APPLY

Illegal to drink in a public place, but OK in Loyalty Beach and Seisia Camping Grounds, numerous licensed premises available.



Mapoon

  2L Wine, 60 Cans Mid Beer & 24 Cans Pre-mix OR
2L Wine and 90 Cans Mid Beer

ALCOHOL LIMITS APPLY

Lockhart River



NO ALCOHOL

A bona fide traveller exemption applies to Frenchmen's Rd and Portland Roads Rd.

Hope Vale

  750ml Wine OR
30 Cans Mid Beer

ALCOHOL LIMITS APPLY

Napranum



NO ALCOHOL

Aurukun



NO ALCOHOL

Porpuraaw



NO ALCOHOL

1 Licensed Club

Wujal Wujal



NO ALCOHOL

A bona fide traveller exemption applies to the Bloomfield Tlk and the Falls & Art Centre car parks.

Kowanyama



NO ALCOHOL

OVERALL: In all communities the fines for possessing alcohol above the limits exceed \$40,000 and vehicles may be confiscated. There are fines for drinking in a public place and possessing home brew kits and homemade alcohol.

LIMITS: The carriage limit applies equally to people on foot and each vehicle, boat and plane. Limits apply to whole shaded areas, not just the settlements. **Wine:** Unfortified only, port, muscat and sherry are prohibited.

Mid Beer: Less than 4% alc/vol. **Pre-Mix:** Standard cans of pre-mixed spirits up to 5.5% alc/vol.

Bona Fide Travellers: A reverse onus of proof applies and travellers on identified roads in Lockhart River and Wujal Wujal will have to provide evidence their destination is not the restricted area. Alcohol must be secured in vehicle and not visible and must not be consumed within the restricted area.

DISCLAIMER: This map provides basic and summarised information only, it is not intended as legal advice.

FURTHER INFORMATION: see www.datisma.qld.gov.au [search for "alcohol restrictions"] or call 137468



**TOURISM
CAPE YORK**

Quarantine

Cape York has an important role in Australia's biosecurity. There is an inspection station at Coen and all southbound traffic must report their fruit and vegetables. Suspect items and all mangoes will be confiscated for quarantine. There are also restrictions on bringing foodstuffs from the Torres Strait to Cape York.

See www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity

Driving

Many tracks and some roads have restrictions. Much of Cape York is pastoral lease or Aboriginal land so please check the detailed guidebooks and/or seek local knowledge (eg. at a visitor centre, roadhouse or local council) before proceeding down a track.

Do leave any gates as you find them!

Drive carefully!

If you're travelling to the Tip you will need to purchase a ferry ticket to cross the Jardine River. This also includes your permit to camp at Mutee Head, Laradinya, Somerset and Pajinka.

Fishing

There are zoning rules in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (the whole east coast of the Cape) and bag limits and closed seasons can also apply. Get zoning plans and fishing catch limit info from tackle shops or visit www.gbrmpa.gov.au and www.daff.qld.gov.au

Hunting

There are a few operators who offer guided hunting tours on the Cape- see the tours section on our website. There are also opportunities for hunting on some of the stations, but only where the landowner has specifically invited access and all safety and firearms regulations can be met. Merluna Station (07 4060 3209) offers guided bowhunting safaris.

Alcohol Restrictions

There are strict rules for the carriage of alcohol in Cape York communities. The map on the previous page has been prepared as a summary by Tourism Cape York. See www.olgr.qld.gov.au/indigenous/alcoholManagementPlans/index for a more detailed map, rules and penalties. Don't risk it!



Use extreme caution with camp fires

June

Weipa Fishing Classic » 10-12 June
 Cooktown Discovery Festival » 10-12 June
 Laura Dance Festival » Next in 2017
 Laura Rodeo & Races » 25-26 June

July

Bramwell Cup Bush Carnival, Bramwell Junction » 1-3 July
 Cooktown & District Country Show » 29-30 July

August

Black Mountain Unplugged » 12-14 August
 Bloomfield Show » (TBC)

September

Cardiac Challenge, Cairns-Cooktown » 17-19 September
 Wallaby Creek Festival: Home Rule/ Rossville » 30 September - 2 October
 Pirates Regatta, Seisia » (TBC)

October

Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic » 8-15 October
 Crocodile Trophy, Cairns-Port Douglas » 22-29 October
 Seisia Fishing Competition » (TBC)
 Cooktown Bullride » (TBC)

November

Cooktown Races » 5 November

Markets

Cooktown Markets
 Every Saturday morning in Lion's Park, Cooktown.

Rossville Markets
 Every second Saturday morning in Rossville.

Bloomfield Markets
 On the last Saturday of the month at Ayton library, Ayton.

See www.TourismCapeYork.com for event & market details



WEIPA FISHING CLASSIC

JUNE 10-11-12, 2016

www.weipafishingclassic.com

- Over \$100,000 in prizes
- Weipa's largest community event
- Live entertainment
- Food and bar facilities
- Games and stalls
- Site displays
- Fun-filled fishing and family event
- Held at the Western Cape College Oval
- Official Weipa Fishing Classic merchandise

Visitor Information

James Cook Museum
(07) 4069 5386
Tourism Cape York
www.tourismcapeyork.com

Fly

Hinterland Aviation 07 4040 1333
Qantaslink 13 13 13

Coach

Cairns to Cooktown Express
07 4049 2255

Cruise/Ferry

Peddell's Ferry 07 4069 1551
www.peddellsferry.com.au
Sea Swift 07 4035 1234
Jardine Ferry 07 4069 1369

Drive - Hire Cars

COOKTOWN

Cooktown Taxis 07 4069 5387
Sovereign Resort Hotel 07 4043 0500
www.sovereignresort.com.au

CAPE YORK

Coen Car Hire 0439 526 661
Lockhart River Car Hire 0427 607 035

WEIPA

Thrifty Car Rental 07 4069 9977
Weipa RentACar 07 4069 7311
Weipa Taxi Service 07 4069 7540

THE TIP

Seisa Car Hire 07 4069 3368

Tour

CAPE YORK

Adventure Australia Treks and Tours
0409 279 898
www.aatt.com.au

Cape York 4WD Tagalong Safaris
07 4057 4096

Daintree Air Services 1800 246 206
www.daintreeair.com.au

Oz Tours 1800 079 006

COOKTOWN

Adventure North Australia
07 4028 3376
www.adventurenorthaustralia.com

WESTERN CAPE

Western Cape Eco Tours 0411 280 012
Weipa Caravan Park Mine Tours
4069 7871

THE TIP

Loyalty Beach Campground and
Fishing Lodge 07 4069 3372

TORRES STRAIT

Torres Strait Heritage 07 4090 3333

Stay

GREAT TROPICAL DRIVE

Mt Carbine Caravan Park
07 4094 3160

Palmer River Roadhouse
07 4060 2020

Archer River Road House
07 4060 3266

COOKTOWN

Cooktown Caravan Park 07 4069 5536
Cooktown Holiday Park
07 4069 5417
www.cooktownholidaypark.com.au



Cook Shire



is a proud Reef Guardian Council!

Help us protect the Great Barrier Reef by disposing of waste the right way:

- Plastic, glass, paper, batteries, oil and some other items can be recycled. Recycling stations north of Lakeland accept limited items only
- General rubbish can be dumped at Cooktown, Ayton, Lakeland, Laura, Coen, Portland Roads and remote rubbish cages throughout the Cape

Enjoy your stay!

Cooktown Waste Station

Tues and Fri 8am-4pm
Sun 8am-4.30pm
Closed for lunch 12-12.30pm

Ayton Waste Station

Wed 2pm-4pm & Sat 11am-1pm

Lakeland Waste Station

Tues and Sun 8am-12noon

Cooktown Orchid Travellers Park
07 4069 6400
Milkwood Lodge 07 4069 5007
River of Gold Motel 07 4069 5222
Seaview Motel 07 4069 5377
Sovereign Resort 07 4043 0500
www.sovereignresort.com.au

BLOOMFIELD TRACK

Bloomfield Beach House 0438 985 137
Cape York Camping - Cape Tribulation
07 4098 0077
The Lions Den Hotel 07 4060 3911

RINYURRU/LAKEFIELD NP/LAURA

Lotus Bird Lodge 07 4060 3400
Laura Motel 07 4060 3238

AURUKUN

Wuungkam Lodge 07 4060 6814

COEN

Exchange Hotel 07 4060 1133

IRON RANGE

Iron Range Cabins 07 4060 7147
www.lockhartriver.com.au

WESTERN CAPE

Weipa Caravan Park 07 4069 7871
www.campweipa.com.au
Merluna Station 07 4060 3209

CAPE YORK

Bramwell Roadhouse 07 4060 3230
Bramwell Station Tourist Park
07 4060 3300
www.bramwellstationcapeyork.com.au
Musgrave Roadhouse 07 4060 3229

THE TIP

Loyalty Beach Campground and
Fishing Lodge 07 4069 3372
Seisia Holiday Park 07 4069 3243
www.seisaholidaypark.com
Cape York Camping- Punsand Bay
07 4069 1722
www.capeyorkcamping.com.au

TORRES STRAIT

Gateway Torres Strait Resort
07 4069 2222

Eat

COOKTOWN

Cooktown Bowls Club 07 4069 5819
Sovereign Resort 07 4043 0500
www.sovereignresort.com.au

IRON RANGE

Out of the Blue Cafe 07 4060 7161

Fishing

COOKTOWN

The Lure Shop 07 4069 5396

WEIPA

Tackle World Weipa 07 4069 7235

Museums, Art & Cultural Centres

Cooktown Creative Arts Assoc.
07 4069 5794
Cooktown History Centre
07 4969 6640
Kuku Bulkaway Indigenous Art Gallery
(Cooktown) 07 4069 6957
Hope Vale Arts and Cultural Centre
07 4060 9111
www.hopevalearts.com

James Cook Museum
(07) 4069 5386

Lockhart River Art Centre
07 4060 7341

Bana Yirriji – Wujal Wujal Arts Centre
07 4060 8333

Services

Alive Discount Pharmacy
07 4069 5434

Cooktown Waste Management
07 4069 5444 www.cook.qld.gov.au

Cook Shire Council 07 4069 5444

TJM 4WD Megastore 07 4047 8900

Weipa Real Estate 07 4069 9921

Camping Permits

National Parks epermit 13 74 68
parks.nprsr.qld.gov.au- see pg 86

Track Permits

CREB Track 07 4099 9444
(Permits and track condition)
Duyfken Pt 07 4069 7138
False Pera Head 07 4060 6831
Lockhart Old Site 07 4060 7144
Pennefather River 07 4069 7138
Temple Bay 13 74 68

Tourism Cape York

Visitor Info: 1800 174 895
www.TourismCapeYork.com
Corporate Contact: 07 4053 2856






Cape York Camping

PUN SAND BAY



 @capeyorkcamping

 /capeyorkcamping

WE
ARE
HERE

THE TIP

YOU ARE STANDING AT
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OF THE AUSTRALIAN
CONTINENT

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