

Kuranda Nature TRACKS

a self-guided experience



The Walks - What's to see and do

Jumrum Creek Conservation Park protects a pocket of dense regenerating rainforest along Jumrum Creek. Climbing palms feature, twisting to the forest canopy, creating a green curtain of foliage.

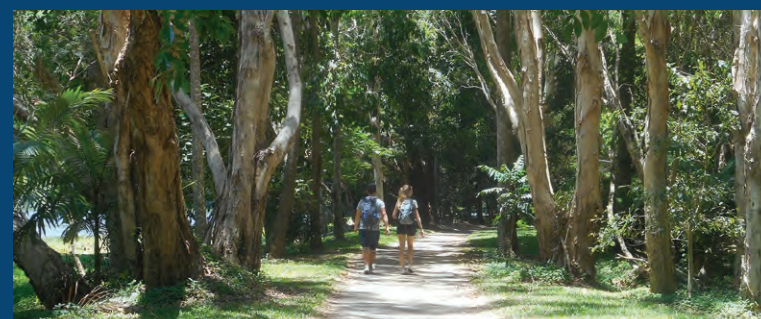
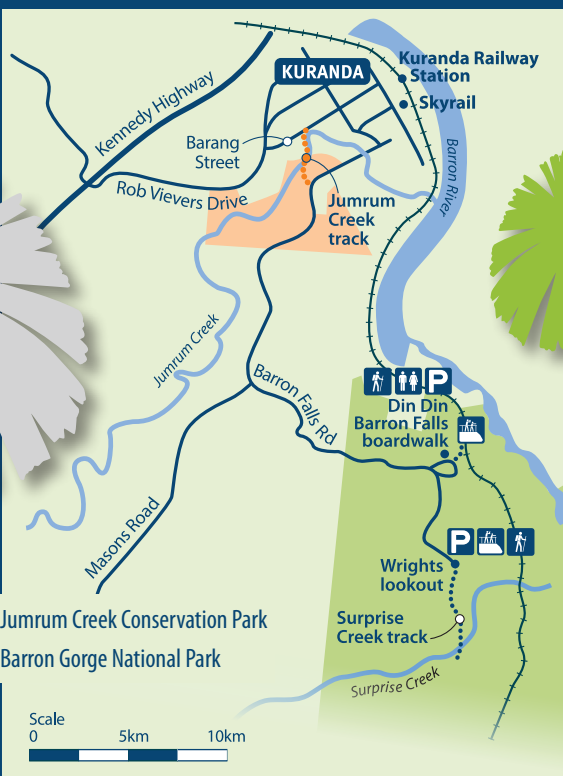
Take time to rest at Jumrum Creek. Enjoy the sound of water flowing. Watch for different birds as they pass, foraging through the forest. Maybe you'll be very lucky and hear a frog or see a cassowary.

The Jungle Walk, with moss and lichen covered bridges and younger regenerating rainforest, connects you to the river.

The River Walk has a glade of magnificent paperbarks and palms. Sit for a while, enjoy the serenity, the river scenery and spot for birds.

The Market Walk reconnects you from the river to Centenary Park via the market precinct.

Features of interest are identified with plaques along the walkway. More information can be obtained via QRcodes.



Kuranda Nature Tracks

- **Jumrum Creek Conservation Park** (1.4km) is a walk through the rainforest surrounding Kuranda village.
- **The Jungle Walk** (900m) passes through a regenerating forest. See how quickly a rainforest grows.
- **The River Walk** (1.5km) is a pleasant riverside stroll down a tree-shaded esplanade.
- **The Market Walk** visits iconic fig trees on the park side of Therwine Street.

The walks are linked, so you can mix and match options to suit your interests and available time.

At the start of each track is an introductory sign.

For more information:

Kuranda Visitor Information Centre
07 4093 9311
or visit www.kuranda.org



The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Mareeba Shire Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland

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Kuranda

Kuranda, the "Village in the Rainforest", is perched on the edge of the coastal escarpment: the steeply forested reaches of the Great Dividing Range behind Cairns.

Timber cutters and settlers arrived in the 1880s, clearing farms and extensively harvesting logs. The township of Kuranda, on the inland route to the goldfields and on an established river crossing, was surveyed in 1888.

The 50 years after the completion of a railway link in 1891 saw prosperity in the growing region. Coffee and dairying became as important as timber, gold and tin.

Nature lovers were attracted to the diversity of flora and fauna. Frederick Dodd, later known as "The Butterfly Man of Kuranda", settled in the 1880s. His spectacular collection of beautiful butterflies, beetles and moths toured nationally in 1918 and 1923, currently held in Museum of Brisbane.



During the 20s and 30s Kuranda was a popular tourist destination, trading on its lovely climate, the railway adventure, forest walks, golf course, race course and the famous Barron Falls. During WWII, troops arrived for training and R&R. The first car up the range in 1923 took a long three hours. Today it's a short 35 minutes.

In the hippie 1960s there was an influx of alternative life stylers and artists, initially living in the rainforest alongside the local indigenous people. Kuranda still has Australia's largest per capita professional artist population.

The Djabugay Aboriginal people, the Traditional Owners of the land, welcome you to their country and ask that you "walk one track" – take only photographs and leave only footprints.

Djabugay Country

Much of the area around Kuranda, including Barron Gorge National Park and Jumrum Creek Conservation Park, is part of the traditional lands of the Djabugay speaking Aboriginal people. They continue to live in the area and maintain a close spiritual connection with their country. The Djabugay people have received recognition of their Native Title rights and interests for Barron Gorge National Park.

The ecosystems of the Wet Tropics region have evolved over eons through active Aboriginal interaction with the land and management of its resources. Aboriginal cultural and spiritual values are inextricably linked with the Conservation of natural World Heritage.

The Bulurru ancestors 'put' things in place, creating all the different varieties of ma: and minya (non-meat and meaty foods) for the people's sustenance and showing them how to procure them.

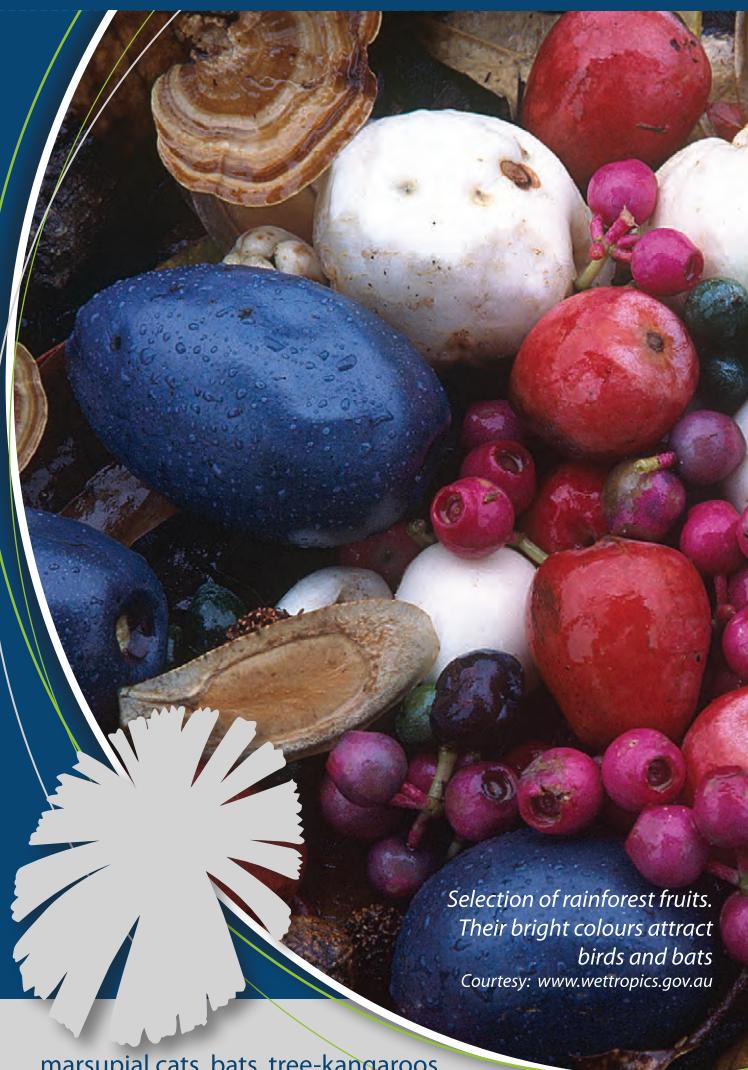
They had the knowledge of how to make weapons, traps, tools, utensils, shelters and so on, the techniques for hunting various types of game and for preparing a diversity of food-stuffs, including some like BADIL (cycad nut) and YIWURRA (black bean) that are dangerously toxic unless processed correctly.

Ancestors endowed the people with a way of life founded on an intimate knowledge of the environment, knowing where to find sustenance at different times of the year.

Wet Tropics

Dating back 110 million years, the rainforests of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area are the oldest continually surviving tropical rainforests on Earth and once covered the entire Australian continent. Today they cover less than 0.26% of the country's total land mass. These forests support countless species of animals and plants, some of which have lineages going back hundreds of millions of years. These unbroken links to the past provide an unparalleled living record of the ecological and evolutionary processes which have shaped Australia's plants and animals.

The Wet Tropics World Heritage Area is home to one of the world's largest flightless birds, the southern cassowary, as well as Australia's most primitive kangaroo, the Lumholtz tree kangaroo. About a third of Australia's 315 mammal species are found here, 12 of which are endemic (found nowhere else in the world). These include green possums, ringtail possums,



marsupial cats, bats, tree-kangaroos, a rat-kangaroo, a melomys and an antechinus. There are also 12 bird, 27 amphibian and 29 reptile species endemic to the Wet Tropics. Over 2,800 different plant species from 221 families are found in the Wet Tropics.

The World Heritage Area protects 16 of the world's 28 lineages of primitive flowering plants and over 395 rare or threatened plants. Some of the trees found here are more than 3,000 years old and the tallest trees in the forest can reach up to 60 metres.

Living within an area of just 0.26% of the continent, many Wet Tropics plant and animal species are found nowhere else in the world. In fact, this is one of the reasons that Queensland's Wet Tropics region first received UNESCO World Heritage listing and protection for its outstanding universal values.

JUMRUM WALK



30 MINUTES

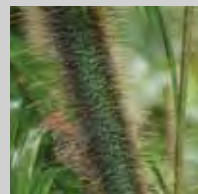
That looks good enough to eat!

"Bush tucker" Aboriginal (Bama) foods (ma:) from the forest

A feature of Aboriginal rainforest (bagarra) food use is the unusually large number of toxic plants eaten as staples. Treatments with heat or water were used. Here are a few non-toxic ones with their aboriginal (Djabugay) name.



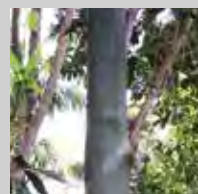
- 1 Brown apple (Wanggabal) - *Syzygium kuranda***
Dense fruit clusters on branches. Fruit tastes like old, dry, floury apples and was used as a medicine for diarrhoea. Dropping May to August.



- 2 Wait-a-while/Lawyer cane (Yabulam) - *Calamus australis***
Don't tangle with this or you will 'wait a while' to get untangled. Berries and cane were roasted and eaten. Water is obtained from cut cane.



- 3 See Fungi below**
4 Alexandra palm (Bibiy) - *Archontophoenix alexandrae*
The heart of these and other tall rainforest palms were eaten raw or cooked. Sheaths used to make water containers.



- 5 Cadaghi - *Corymbia torelliana***
Eucalypt of the rainforest. Smooth greyish-green bark on the upper trunk. White flower clusters September to October.



- 6 Sour plum (Munumba) - *Davidsonia pruriens***
Taste is tart and juicy, makes wonderful jam available commercially. Feel the very distinctive hairy leaf. Dropping June to December.



- 7 8 9 10 See Clever Leaves below right**
11 Perching epiphytes - basket fern - *Drynaria rigidula*
Look up to the tree tops. Basket and Birds' Nest ferns, pencil orchids and vines seek the light in different ways.

What's so special about fungi?

Some fungi are annoying - like those that spoil your loaf of bread. However, fungi are critical to life in the rainforests. Many live in wood and soil, recycling nutrients to be reused by other plants and animals. Many only live with certain plants in beneficial symbioses. We usually notice them when they reproduce by spores as mushrooms, puffballs, jelly fungi and many other diverse forms.

Fungi are different from plants in two ways:

- No chlorophyll (green pigment in plant cells that converts sunlight into food);
- Cell walls of chitin, so nearest relatives are animals.

How many different fungi can you find?

There are at least 15 on this walkway. See **3**



MARKET WALK



10 MINUTES



- 18 Fig in Centenary Park - *Ficus benjamina***
"Queen of the Djabugay"
Grandma Nywarri used to sit on the rocks to the right of this tree.



- 17 Fig at Heritage Markets entrance - *Ficus virens***



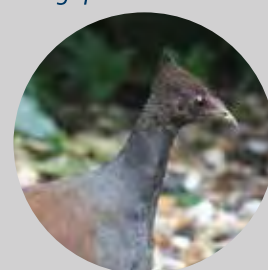
No bushwalking experience required. Track surface is hardened or compacted and may have gentle hill sections and occasional steps.



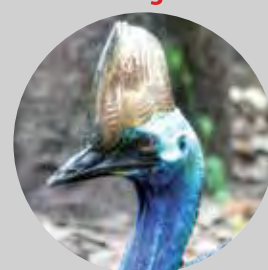
Brush turkey (Wawun) - *Alectura lathami*



Orange footed scrub fowl (Djarruga) - *Megapodius reinwardt*



Southern cassowary (Bunda:rra) - *Casuarus casuarus*
endangered



Green catbird - *Ailuroedus crassirostris*



30 MINUTES

RIVER WALK

The beauty of figs

Ficus is a diverse genus, found in all lowland tropical rainforests. Over 1,200 species feed on figs, because a fig is always fruiting somewhere and so are critically important to wildlife when other fruits are not available. Many are also pioneers and play a significant role in forest succession in the tropics. See **17 18**

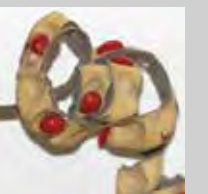
- 16 Quandong (Murrigan) - *Elaeocarpus grandis***
Shiny blue seed, thin greenish flesh is eaten. Nutty flavoured seeds inside hard casing, bright red old leaves. Food for pigeons, cassowaries, fruit bats and other birds.



- 15 Black bean (Yiwurra) - *Castenospermum australe***
Kids play boat races with the hard sharp-ended seed pods. Seeds are toxic but were eaten after 3 days preparation.



- 14 Red bead seed - *Adenathera pavonina***
Seeds are toxic but were used as inflammation treatment. Leaves and bark used for diarrhoea.



- 13 Weeping paper barks (Diwirri) - *Melaleuca leucadendra***
Sweet smelling white flowers attract masses of bird life around August and September. Stop, look and listen, you can hear them call.



10 MINUTES

JUNGLE WALK

- 12 Coral berry - *Ardisia crenata***
What's a weed? The wrong plant in the wrong place maybe. This non-local gradually shades out all other understory plants and is spread by birds.



Clever leaves!

Greedy leaves

For a young sapling, the bigger its leaves, the better its chances of gathering light. Some trees produce young leaves that are very different from mature leaves.

How many different leaf shapes can you find? There are at least 20 in this regenerating rainforest. See **7 8 9 10**



Blushing leaves

New leaves are often red, pink or white, but the reason is a long-standing puzzle. Red leaves are not ready to photosynthesise and they come as a flush, like fruits and seeds. What's the survival value in that? Perhaps this helps protect young, vulnerable leaves by confusing leaf-predators with choice. Maybe the color warns leaf-eaters there are distasteful compounds.

