Southern Inland Queensland

Visitor guide

Featuring

Bunya Mountains National Park

Yarraman State Forest

The Palms National Park

Benarkin State Forest

Ravensbourne National Park

Crows Nest National Park

Lake Broadwater Conservation Park

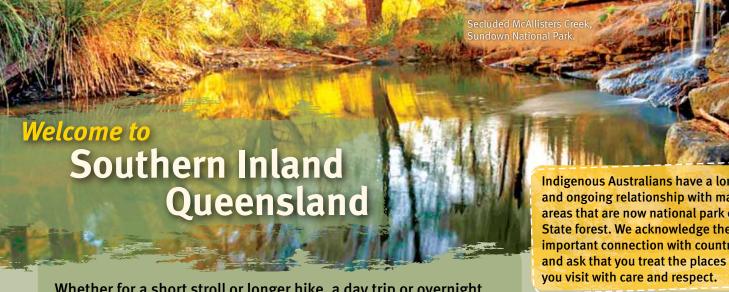
Main Range National Park

Girraween National Park

Sundown National Park

Balancing boulders and rugged gorges, rainforest-clad mountains and grassy plains, waterfalls and wetlands await discovery just a few hours inland from the beaches and busy cities of southern Queensland.





Whether for a short stroll or longer hike, a day trip or overnight stay, Queensland's southern inland parks and forests are easy to get to and outstanding places to visit.

Use this guide to help plan your trip. Each park or forest is different from the others, but all offer something special—from scenic views or distinctive features and wildlife, to glimpses into the past.

Indigenous Australians have a long and ongoing relationship with many areas that are now national park or State forest. We acknowledge their important connection with country and ask that you treat the places



and opportunities					On-site informatic	Drinking v	Shelter sh	Picnic tab	Electric ba	Wood bar fireplace	Walking tı	T Looko	Dogs allov (on leash)	Camp	Carav Camp	Hiking (pe overnight)
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	Yarraman State Forest		•			•	•		•			•				
5	Benarkin State Forest	р5		•			•	•		•			•	•		
	The Palms National Park	p6						•		•	•					
2	Lake Broadwater Conservation Park	p6		نی			•	•		•	•			•	•	
3	Crows Nest National Park	P7		•	•		•	•		•	•	•		•	•	
	Ravensbourne National Park	P8		•	•		•	•		•	•	•				
	Main Range National Park	р9	•	نی	•		•	•			•	•		•		•
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	Sundown National Park	p11		•	•			•		•	•	•		•		•

Key to track classifications (Australian Standards)



Darling Downs and South Burnett

Downs Granite

Sth

Class 1 track

Easy, level, wide track suitable for visitors with reduced mobility (including wheelchairs). High level of facilities and interpretation.



Class 2 track

• Easy, level, well-graded track suitable



Class 3 track

- Gently sloping, well-defined track with slight inclines or some steps.
- Caution needed on loose gravel or muddy surfaces and at exposed natural lookouts.

- Track may be uneven and partially overgrown.
- Reasonable level of fitness and anklesupporting footwear required.



Class 4 track

- Distinct track may be narrow, up and down or overgrown.
- Usually with steep exposed inclines or many steps.
- Caution needed on loose gravel surfaces, muddy areas, and at exposed natural lookouts.
- Moderate level of fitness and anklesupporting footwear required.

Lookouts—not all the same



This indicates a lookout with a built platform and handrail.



This indicates a vantage point with no built structures or handrails.

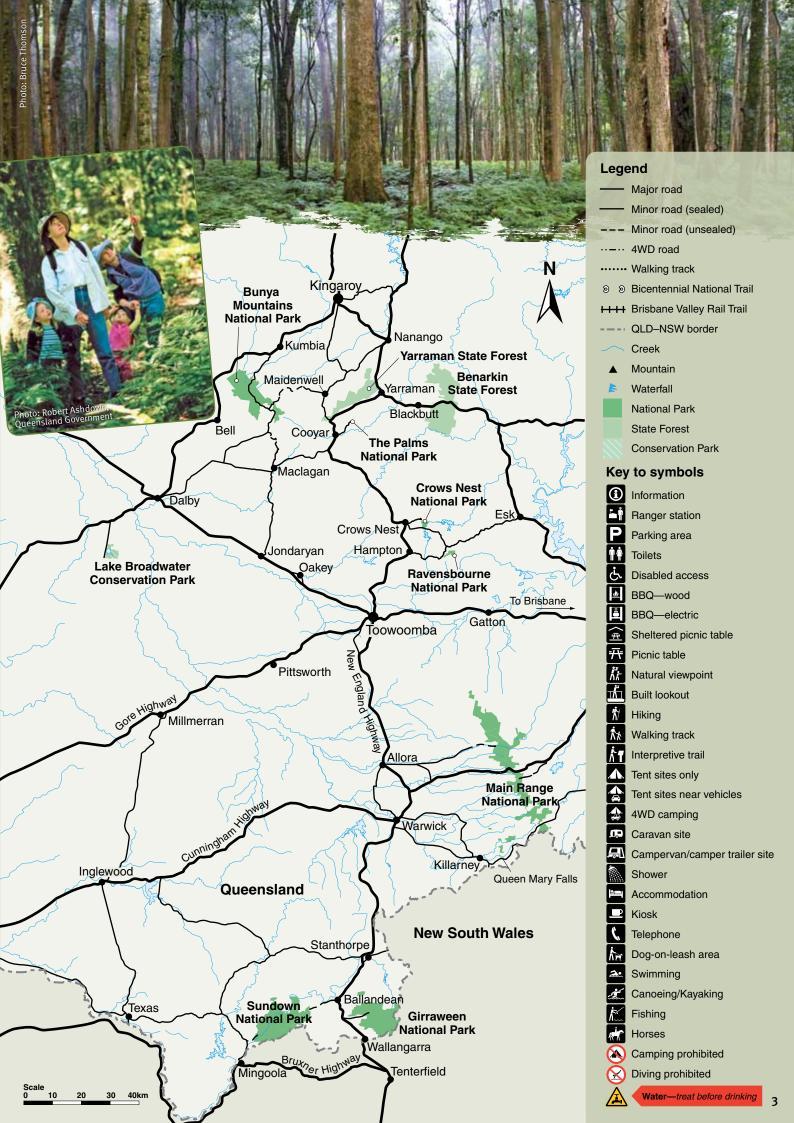
Please keep away from the edge and supervise children at all times.

Take extra care when using binoculars or cameras at these sites.



Class 5 track

Trails are not constructed or maintained.







Discover the largest stand of bunya pines in the world. Rainforests, waterfalls, mountain-top grasslands known as 'balds' and colourful birdlife feature in Queensland's second oldest national park.

Getting there

The Great Bunya Drive from Dalby, Kingaroy or Nanango leads up steep and narrow winding roads to the mountain top. Some sections from Maidenwell and Maclagan are unsealed. The Department of Transport and Main Roads advises that all access roads are unsuitable for travel by long and/or heavy vehicles. Discretion is urged with respect to caravans, motorhomes and buses.

Places to visit and stay

Picnic or start your walk at Dandabah, Westcott and Burtons Well where there are toilets, barbecues and picnic tables. Tracks can also be accessed from car parks at Paradise or Cherry Plain.

Westcott and Burtons Well camping areas have tent sites only. Dandabah camping area is a large open area with vehicle access and electric barbecues. Book in advance for all camping.

A small general store, food and holiday accommodation is available nearby.

Learn about the park and places you can walk from on-site signs or visit



Eastern rainforest circuits

Stroll beneath giant bunya pines in a fern-carpeted rainforest along easy tracks. Walk past waterfalls and to lookouts giving views to the east.

1	Bunya Bunya track	500 m return	10 mins	<u>*</u> **		
2			1 hr 20 mins	<u>**</u>	Κ̈́	
3	Barker Creek circuit	10 km return	3-4 hrs	<u>*</u> **	Κ̈́	
4	Barker Creek lookout	5.4 km	2 hours	<u>^*</u>	Ä	

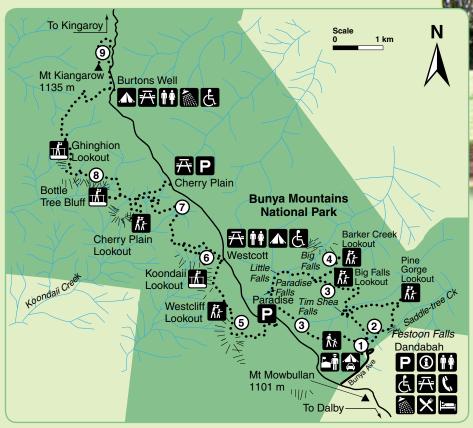
Places to walk

Enjoy 35 km of walking tracks; ranging from a short 500 m stroll to a 10 km hike.

Western walks

Shady rainforest gives way to sunny eucalypt-clad ridges with views to the west. Start and finish at picnic areas or link together to make a longer walk.

Sta	Start and finish at picnic areas or link together to make a longer walk.									
5	Paradise to Westcott 3.2 km + 1.5 km return by road		2-3 hrs	<u>^*</u>	Ä					
6	6 Koondaii circuit 2.5 km return		1 hr	i, D	Ĭ.					
7	Westcott to Cherry Plain	4.8 km + 1.8 km return by road	3-4 hrs	i.	荒土					
8	Cherry Plain to Burtons Well	6 km + 2.4 km return by road	3-4 hrs	i.	萨蓝					
,		2.3 km return	1 hr	<u></u>	Ŕŧ					





Yarraman State Forest



Hoop pine grows naturally above vine forests and in straight plantation rows adjacent to eucalypt forests and woodlands.

Getting there

Turn off the D'Aguilar Highway 1.5 km north of Yarraman.

Places to visit

Drive 1.4 km through pine plantations to picnic at shady Rogers Park. Toilets, picnic tables and barbecues are provided. Bring your own firewood.

Dogs must remain on leash and be restrained at all times. Camping is not permitted.

Planted

Benarkin **State Forest**



Majestic hoop pine plantations, towering eucalypt forests and dense vine scrub cover the scenic Blackbutt Range and the rolling hills at the head of the Brisbane River.

Getting there

Turn off the D'Aguilar Highway 3.5 km east of Blackbutt. Gravel roads are accessible by conventional vehicles but caution is needed, especially after rain.

Places to visit and stay

Clancys camping area and Emu Creek camping and day-use areas are situated on small flats beside the semi-permanent waters of Emu Creek They have toilets, fireplaces and picnic tables. Book in advance for all camping.

Dogs are permitted (on-leash at all times) in day-use areas and can stay overnight at Clancys camping area.



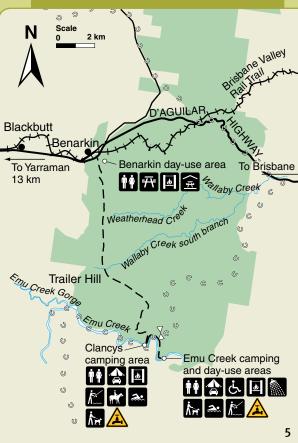
Things to do

Logging and service tracks criss-cross the forest and can be used for cycling, walking or horse riding. Motorised vehicles are restricted to formed roads only. Entry into harvesting areas is not permitted. Obey all signs.

A section of The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (open to walking, cycling and horse riding) also passes through Benarkin State Forest, following the old rail line up the Blackbutt Range. Find trail information and access details at www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.org.au.

Horse riders can also follow the Bicentennial National Trail through Benarkin State Forest. Visit www. nationaltrail.com.au for trail details.

Access roads to Emu Creek camping and day-use areas may be closed due to flood damage. To check if open, visit www.nprsr.qld.gov.au.





The Palms National Park



Take a short walk through a tiny patch of remnant rainforest filled with impressive piccabeen palms and rich birdlife.

Getting there

Turn east off the New England Highway at Cooyar, 94 km north of Toowoomba and 28 km south-west of Yarraman. The park is a further 8 km drive along a sealed but narrow road.

Places to visit

The picnic area has picnic tables and wood-fired barbecues.

Camping is not permitted.

Places to walk



The Palms circuit 650 m. Allow 15 mins. Class 3.



Lake Broadwater Conservation Park



Lake Broadwater is the only naturally occurring water body of this type on the Darling Downs and is listed in the Directory of Nationally Important Wetlands. The lake covers approximately 350 ha of the 1220 ha park and, when full, is up to 3 m deep. It dries out periodically, sometimes for lengthy periods.

Places to visit and stay

The recreation area has picnic tables, toilets, showers, barbecues, a boat ramp, camping area and a small community hall. To hire the hall phone (07) 4663 3555.

The Wilga Bush camping area on the lake's northern side has toilets but no showers.

Obtain camping permits from self-registration stands on arrival. Camping fees apply. Contact the caretakers at Lake Broadwater on (07) 4663 3562 for further information.

Getting there

Turn off the Moonie Highway 20 km southwest of Dalby and drive a further 10 km to the park.

Things to do

The lake is popular for bird-watching, walking and picnicking, as well as boating and skiing when full.

Boating and skiing are permitted on the main body of the lake only, with boating permits required prior to launching. The 'neck' area of the lake has been designated a waterfowl refuge and no boats are permitted there. As the lake can dry out for lengthy periods, contact the caretakers on (07) 4663 3562 to check if conditions are suitable for boating activities and for details of how to obtain boating permits.



1. Wilga campground track



4.4 km return. Allow 1 hr 30 mins.

Connects the Wilga Bush camping area with the lake and main recreation area.

2. Red gum track



3 km return. Allow 1 hr. Class 3.

Wind through large river red gums beside the lake. Great for birdwatching.

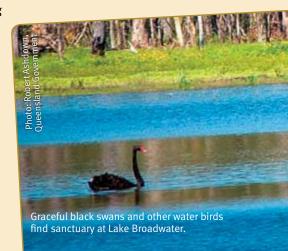
3. Self-guided drive and bird hide





5 km return.

Drive through woodland south-west of the lake. Stop at the elevated bird hide to view wildlife on the neck of the lake.





Crows Nest National Park



After good rain, water tumbles along a series of boulder-strewn cascades before spilling over Crows Nest Falls. Downstream, cliffs up to 100 m high surround a gorge known locally as Valley of Diamonds.

Getting there

Turn off the New England Highway at the Crows Nest Police Station and take the sealed road 6 km to the park.

Places to visit and stay

The picnic area beside Crows Nest Creek has picnic tables, gas barbecues and pit toilets.

A small bush campground has unpowered tent and caravan sites, pit toilets, fireplaces and boil-your-own-water bush showers. Firewood is not provided so bring your own clean, milled wood, or use a gas or fuel stove. Never collect wood from the national park. Bring your own drinking water. Book in advance for camping.



Places to walk

Take a creek-side walk to waterholes and to lookouts giving spectacular views over the gorge.

1. Crows Nest Falls lookout





2.1 km return. Allow 45 mins.

At Crows Nest Falls, water tumbles over 20 m high granite cliffs. For your safety, stay behind the lookout barriers. Deaths have occurred here and risk of rock falls make this area unsafe.

2. Crows Nest Falls via Kauyoo loop includes The Cascades, Kauyoo Pool and Bottlebrush Pool









2.7 km return. Allow 1 hour.

At Kauyoo Pool, access is easy into shallow water. Steep crevices and slippery rocks lead to The Cascades. Watch your step, especially if the creek is flowing. Bottlebrush Pool is the ideal place to enjoy a swim and relax.

For your safety, never dive or jump into the water – it may be shallower than it looks or hide submerged obstructions





and forests

- historic artefacts.
- national parks or conservation parks. Dogs and horses may be permitted
- Do not collect firewood from the national parks or State forests.
- Never feed or leave food for animals.
- and erosion.
- Take care with fire. Light fires only extinguish with water before leaving. Store cigarette butts and dispose of them back home.
- recyclables from the park.
- harvesting activities.



This day-use park has short walks through remnant rainforest and eucalypt forest, and an amazing array of native birdlife.

Getting there

Turn off the New England Highway at Hampton and head east towards Esk for 17 km to the park turnoff. Take the 1.3 km sealed road to the park. From Esk, follow the Esk-Hampton Road for 33 km before turning off to the park.

Places to visit

Both Blackbean day-use area and Cedar Block day-use area have woodfired barbecues, toilets, picnic tables and shelter sheds. Bring your own drinking water and clean-milled firewood or fuel stove.

Gus Beutel lookout provides panoramic views over the range towards Brisbane, the Lockyer Valley and the Scenic Rim. Camping is not permitted.

1. Cedar Block circuit



500 m circuit. Allow 15 mins.

Learn about the rainforest and how it has been used by Aboriginal travellers and timber-getters from the signed, self-guided walk starting at the Cedar Block day-use area.

2. Rainforest circuit



1.7 km return. Allow 40 mins.

Large Sydney blue gums emerge above the rainforest in where ferns, vines and epiphytes grow.

3. Palm Creek circuit



3.6 km return. Allow 1 hr 15 mins.

Descend into Palm Creek—named after the piccabeen palms covering its steep banks. Take the short side track to a small sandstone overhang.

4. Buaraba Creek

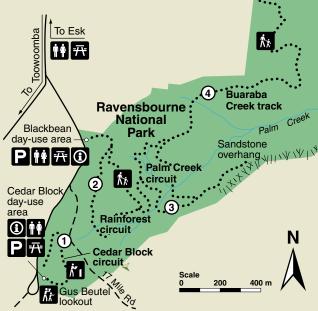


6.2 km return. Allow 2 hrs.

Rainforest merges into eucalypt forest on the way down into the shady, spring-fed Buaraba Creek. Return along the same track. Buaraba Carry drinking water.

Creek







开合於出入

Impressive mountain peaks, escarpments and ridges are part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area and offer excellent walking opportunities and breathtaking views.

Getting there

Cunninghams Gap is a distinctive landmark on the Cunningham Highway 116 km south-west of Brisbane and 50 km east of Warwick.

Spicers Gap is accessible to conventional vehicles from the east. Turn off the Cunningham Highway 5 km west of Aratula onto Lake Moogerah Road, then right into Spicers Gap Road. The last 5 km is unsealed.

Queen Mary Falls is a popular day trip destination 11 km east of Killarney or 64 km south-west of Boonah on the Killarney-Boonah Road. The scenic and winding road from the east is steep and should be travelled with care. It is not suitable for caravans.

Goomburra is nestled in the western foothills of the Great Dividing Range. Turn off the Cunningham Highway at Gladfield, 25 km west of Cunninghams Gap and follow the signs; or from Warwick or Toowoomba, turn off the New England Highway 3 km south of Allora and head east. The last 6 km is unsealed. After heavy rain, creek crossings may be

Picnic at Cunninghams Gap, Spicers Gap, Goomburra and Oueen Mary Falls, Camp at Goomburra and Spicers Gap. All sites have toilets, but bring your own drinking water and firewood or fuel stove.

Places to walk

Walks range from short, easy strolls to long, physically demanding hikes.

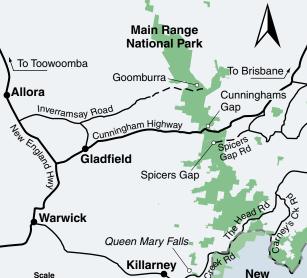
Main Range also offers spectacular remote area bushwalking. Only experienced, fit and well-prepared walkers should attempt hikes into remote and extremely rugged mountain terrain.

Some tracks were damaged during heavy rains in 2013. To check which tracks are open visit www.nprsr.qld.gov.au.

Limited bush campsites are available. Visit www.nprsr.qld.gov.au for details.

Tra	Tracks from Cunninghams Gap											
1	Box forest track	5 km return	2 hrs	<u>**</u>								
2	Rainforest circuit	1.6 km return	25 mins		Ä							
3	Gap Creek Falls	9.8 km return	6 hrs	Ė	Ϊ̈́							
4	Palm Grove circuit	4.4 km return	2 hrs	<u>i</u>								
5	Mount Cordeaux track	6.8 km return	2 hrs 30 mins	Ė	Κ̈́κ							
6	Bare Rock/Morgans walk	12.4 km return	4 hrs 30 mins	Ė	Ϊ'n							
7	Mount Mitchell track	10.2 km return	3 hrs	i,	řέ							

Tra	Tracks around Spicers Gap									
8	Pioneer Graves track	260 m return	15 mins	<u>XX</u>						
9	Moss's Well track	120 m return	10 mins	<u>XX</u>						
10	Governors Chair lookout	300 m return	15 mins	<u>^*</u>	Ϊ'n					
11	Heritage Trail	3.2 km return	1 hr	i.						
12	2 Mount Mathieson trail 8.1 km return		3 hrs	į,	Ϊ̈́					



South Wales

	Goomburra section tracks								
)	13	North Branch track	7 km return	3 hrs 30 mins	<u>, </u>				
•	14	Dalrymple circuit	1.2 km return	30 mins					
A	15	Cascades circuit	6.5 km return	3 hrs					
2	16	Ridge track	5 km return	2 hrs 30 mins					
_	17	Araucaria Falls	3.6 km return	1 hr 30 mins	<u>, </u>				
	18	Sylvesters lookout	940 m return	30 min		Ħ			
/	19	Mount Castle lookout	960 m return	30 mins	<u>*</u> ***	Ĭ			
	20	Winder track	12 km return	4 hrs		Ϋ́			

	Qu	Queen Mary Falls tracks											
1	21	Cliff circuit	400 m return	20 mins	<u>*\\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ </u>	描							
	22	Queen Mary Falls circuit	2 km return	40 mins	<u>**</u>	术							



Girraween **National Park**



Girraween—meaning 'place of flowers'—is a landscape of massive granite outcrops, precariously balanced boulders and spectacular wildflower displays in spring. The park is renowned for its walking and birdwatching opportunities.

Getting there

Turn off the New England Highway 26 km south of Stanthorpe or 11 km north of Wallangarra, then continue east for 9 km to the Girraween visitor information centre.

Places to visit and stay

The Bald Rock Creek day-use area has electric barbecues, picnic tables and toilets.

Two camping areas—Castle Rock and Bald Rock Creek—have hot

Northern walking tracks (from Bald Rock Cre	Northern walking tracks (from Bald Rock Creek day-use area)									
Wyberba Walk	280 m	15 min	À Ġ.	Ŀ						
Granite Arch	1.6 km return	30 min	<u>^*</u>							
Bald Rock Creek circuit	2.2 km return	1 hr	<u>^*</u>							
The Junction	5.2 km return	2 hrs	<u>**</u>							
The Pyramid	3.7 km return	1.5-2 hrs	<u>**</u>	Ž.	Ϊ÷					

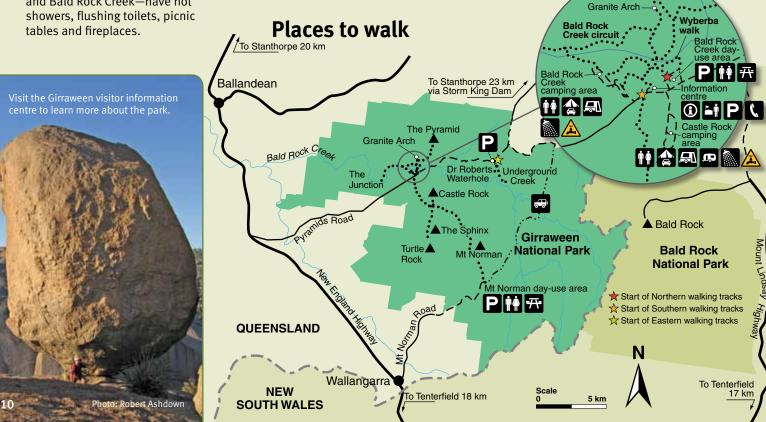
Southern walking tracks (from Pyramids Road)										
Castle Rock	5.2 km return	1.5-2 hrs	<u>^*</u>	*£	Ϊ̈́					
The Sphinx and Turtle Rock	7.4 km return	3-4 hrs	<u>\(\frac{1}{2} \) \(\frac{1}{2} \)</u>	(7);	ΪĖ					
Mt Norman	11 km return	4-5 hrs	<u>**</u>	<u>, </u>	Ϊ'n					
Mt Norman (from the Mt Norman day-use area)	4 km return	1.5-2 hrs	<u>^*</u>	Ž.	Κ̈́					

Eastern walking tracks (from Dr Roberts carpark)							
Dr Roberts waterhole	1.2 km return	30 min	<u>*\f*\</u>				
Underground Creek	2.8 km return	1-1.5 hrs	<u></u>				

Firewood is not provided so bring your own clean, milled wood or purchase it locally on the way to Girraween. Caravan sites are not powered and generators are not permitted. This park is popular so book well in advance for holidays and long weekends.

Bush camping is permitted in some remote locations providing permits are obtained in advance. All bush camping is for walking access only.

Except where indicated, Girraween's 17 km of walking tracks start near the visitor information centre or day-use area. Main tracks are well defined but expect rocky sections. Most summit tracks have steep upper slopes. For track details, refer to onsite signs or visit www.nprsr.qld.gov.au.





Sundown **National Park**



Discover a rugged wilderness of spectacular sharp ridges and steep-sided gorges surrounding the Severn River on the Queensland-New South Wales border.

Getting there

To Mingoola

Sundown is 250 km south-west of Brisbane and has three entry points. The Broadwater campground at the park's southern entrance can be reached in conventional vehicles.

From Stanthorpe: travel 62 km west on the Texas Road and turn left onto the Glenlyon Dam Road. Drive 14 km before turning left onto Permanents Road. The Broadwater campground is a further 4 km along a good gravel road.

From Tenterfield: travel north 5 km along the New England Highway then west along the Bruxner Highway 52 km to Mingoola. Turn right and drive 12 km to the park turn-off.

The park's eastern boundary is 16 km from Ballandean along gravel roads via Curr Road and Sundown Road. A rough 4WD track then leads to Red Rock Gorge, Reedy Waterhole and Burrows Waterhole camping areas. The 20 km drive along rough, steep narrow roads from the park entrance to Burrows Waterhole takes nearly two hours to complete. Towing of trailers or campers is not recommended. Bushwalkers can leave vehicles inside the park entrance.

To reach Nundubbermere Falls in the north, travel 8 km along the Texas Road west of Stanthorpe, then 20 km along Nundubbermere Road to Falls Road and 4 km to the park entrance.

Places to visit and stay

The Broadwater campground has individual sites with fireplaces, pit toilets and boil-your-own-water bush showers. Caravans longer than 4 m will not fit across the small bridge leading to the campground.

Burrows Waterhole and Red Rock Gorge camping areas have pit toilets. There are no facilities at Reedy Waterhole or Nundubbermere Falls.

Camping at Red Rock Gorge is not permitted on long weekends.

For all other areas, book well in advance for camping over long weekends and school holidays.

Walkers can bush camp in some remote locations providing rangers are notified and permits obtained in advance.

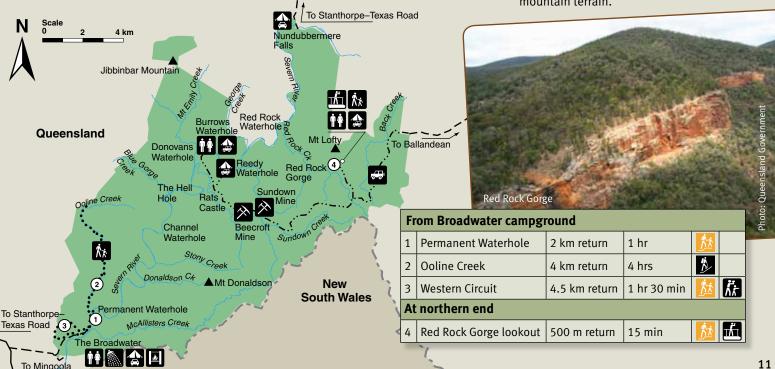
Things to do

Sundown is perfect for a remote camping and walking experience. Bird watch or explore along the river and up side creeks.

Waterholes along the Severn River are suitable for swimming, canoeing and fishing. Never dive or jump into waterholes—water may be shallower than it looks or hide submerged objects.

Places to walk

Sundown has formed tracks as well as remote walks. Short walks only are listed here. Only experienced and fit walkers who are well-prepared and have detailed topographic maps should attempt any other longer or more difficult hikes into Sundown's remote and extremely rugged mountain terrain.



Overnight stays Further and camping infor

Before camping overnight in a park or forest, you must obtain a camping permit and pay your camping fees. People who camp without a permit can be fined.

Book and pay for your permit before you arrive. School and public holidays can be very busy so book several months ahead.

To obtain camping permits or camping credits*:

- visit www.qld.gov.au/camping
- phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68). Mobile phone charges may apply.

A booking number will be issued which is to be prominently displayed on your camping structure.

*Camping credits are a convenient way for campers to pay for camping without providing credit card or personal details every time a booking is made. Customers with credits must still have a valid camping permit before setting up camp.

urther information

Visit www.nprsr.qld.gov.au.

Go to 'Park alerts' for the latest information on access, closures and conditions.

Or phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68). Mobile phone charges may apply.

For information on road conditions visit **www.131940.qld.gov.au** or phone 13 19 40.

Other contacts

Police

- Toowoomba area (07) 4631 6333
- Dalby area (07) 4669 9222
- Warwick area (07) 4660 4444

RACQ roadside assistance 13 11 11



Staying safe

Your safety is our concern but your responsibility. Be aware of potential dangers and follow these guidelines to keep yourself and others safe.

- Supervise children closely.
- Take care at cliff edges.
- Never dive or jump into water. It may be shallower than it looks or hide submerged objects.
- Obey warning and advisory signs and park closure notices.
- Tracks, rocks and creek crossings can be slippery, especially after rain.
- Carry drinking water, a first-aid kit and insect repellent.
- Wear sturdy footwear and choose tracks appropriate to your fitness level and time available.
- Never walk alone and stay on the tracks unless you are a very experienced and well-equipped bushwalker.
- Plan to complete walks or drives well before dark.
- Drive carefully—obey speed limits and road rules. Roads may be unsealed with loose gravel, sharp curves, narrow sections and steep grades.
- Watch out for the unexpected. Slow down to allow time to react to changed road conditions, wildlife, other park users and logging trucks (in or near State forests).
- Tell friends or family where you are going and when you expect to return.
 If your plans change, let them know.

In an emergency call Triple Zero 000

Mobile phone coverage is limited or non-existent in most park or forest areas.



- If you cannot reach Triple Zero (000) from a GSM mobile, try 112.
- If deaf or speech or hearing impaired, call 106 using a text phone.
- Advise the location and nature of the emergency.
- Stay on the phone until advised to hang up.

All information provided in this guide is correct at the time of printing. Check for park alerts and closures online at **www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks** or at the nearest accredited visitor information centre. Front cover photo: The Sphinx, Girraween National Park. Darren Jew, Queensland Government

Back cover photo: Castle Rock camping area, Girraween National Park. Karen Smith, Queensland Government

