

The Art of Cooktown

Galleries

1. cooktown creative arts centre

Feast your eyes on a comprehensive display of woodwork, jewellery, pottery, painting, lead-lighting, textiles, indigenous art and more in this roomy art and craft gallery, located in the beautiful historic railway building.

You'll find the gallery manned by the artists' themselves, so visitors can often speak to the creator of items which range from small inexpensive mementos to larger, more expensive pieces.

Opening hours:
Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

2. cooktown community events centre

Stunning views provide a backdrop to the newly completed Community Events Centre, nestled against the base of beautiful Mount Cook. Public artworks decorate the exterior of the building. Changing exhibitions feature a mixture of photography, printmaking, painting, drawing and mixed media works presented by students of Cooktown State School, along with the work of other emerging and professional artists in the region.

3. elizabeth guszely gallery

In the light, airy Elizabeth Guszely Gallery, you will get a sense of what Cooktown is all about as you view works ranging from traditional photo-realistic to contemporary abstract styles, all produced by local artists.

Opening hours:
Monday to Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(hours may vary)



Trevor Maudsley

4. vera scarth-johnson gallery

Beautiful botanic gardens envelop the Vera Scarth-Johnson Gallery nestled amongst an outcrop of impressive granite boulders. This lovely bush setting at Nature's Powerhouse Visitor Information Centre sets the scene for a stunning collection of botanical illustrations painted by the late Vera Scarth-Johnson.

The Vera Scarth-Johnson Gallery also houses a collection of Banks Florilegium botanical engravings showing plants collected here at the Endeavour River by Joseph Banks during Captain James Cook's first Pacific voyage. These engravings are based on original sketches produced on board the Endeavour by botanical artist Sydney Parkinson.

Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily



Vera Scarth-Johnson

Festivals

5. cooktown's annual art exhibition

Held for over 30 years and coinciding with the June long weekend, there's always a guarantee of something for every taste when you visit this bubbling arts extravaganza featuring both local artists and those from around Australia. Awards in categories of contemporary and traditional painting, pen and ink, sculpture, textiles, indigenous art and more, lure a range of artists and artforms.

Public Art

6. the friendly python

Keep an eye out for a very friendly Amethystine Python who watches over the grounds of the Botanic Gardens at Nature's Powerhouse. This 6.5 metre-long sculpture is expertly carved out of Cooktown Ironwood, a species which is one of the hardest and densest timbers in the world.

It's very easy to fall in love with this very sleek, smooth sculpture...a great photo opportunity.

7. river of life

Take a meander along Cooktown's scenic foreshore to discover the beautiful artworks that combine to form the River of Life Walkway. At 500 metres long the winding pathway features hand-painted and carved ceramic tiles that depict the diversity of Cooktown's present-day identity, contrasted against that of its cultural history.

8. milbi wall

Nearly 500 hand-painted and carved tiles adorn the 12 metre long curved Milbi Wall interpretive sculpture, placed at the very location where in 1770, Captain James Cook and his crew first set foot on land. Constructed in three sections, this reconciliation wall explains in both image and text the Creation Stories and how the Endeavour River and Cooktown were made. Don't rush by this sculptural book, take time to enjoy the beautiful art and unravel its stories!



Art in the Park

9. cooktown markets

The Cooktown Markets feature a variety of local artists' hand-made works that showcase the talents of the region, including beautiful timber pieces by master woodcarver Mark Berg and indigenous work by Conrad Michael and Helen Gordon - meet and talk to the artists and hear the stories behind their works.

Markets held every Saturday on the waterfront from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



10. grassy hill

In 2010 a major re-development project enhanced Grassy Hill with improved access, new recreation facilities, public artworks and disabled access in the shape of a serpent winding up from the car park to the lighthouse. Don't miss the 360 degree views from this iconic landmark!

11. musical ship

Climb aboard Cooktown's Musical ship, a unique musical playground created for young and old...no need to worry about getting seasick on this vessel! Set against the beautiful foreshore of the Endeavour River, a visit to this unique 8.5 metre sculptural installation is a must!



Live Music

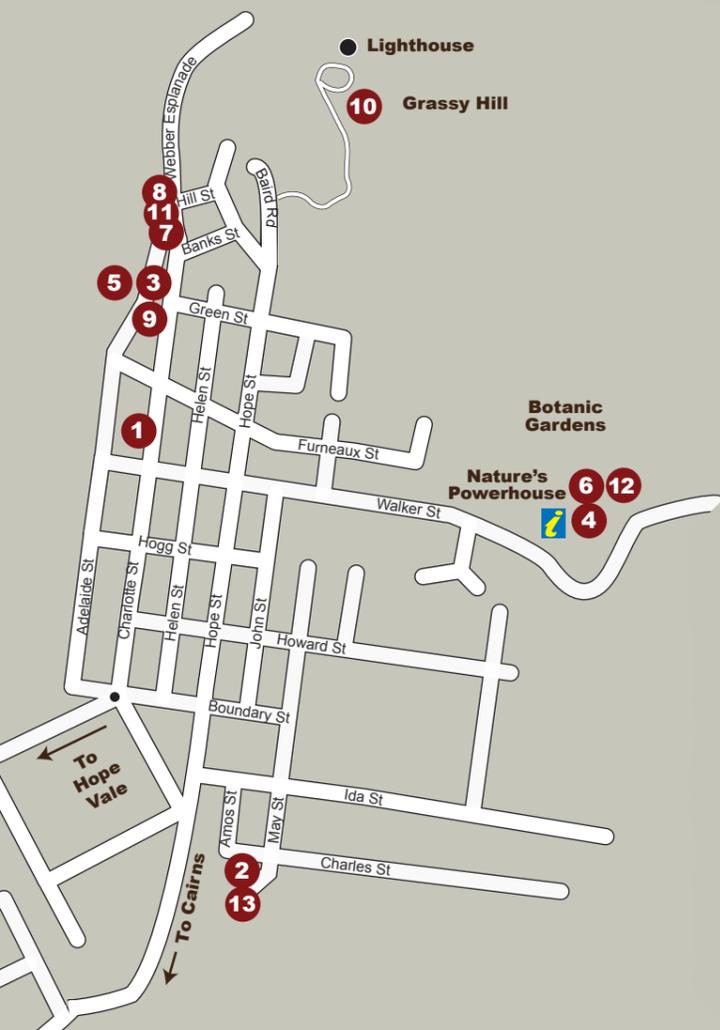
Cooktown showcases music for just about every taste and occasion. There is an enthusiastic regional music scene and several local bands have achieved national acclaim. Several restaurants and venues in town host live music every week - check the local listings for updated events.

12. nature's powerhouse

Concerts at Nature's Powerhouse Botanic Gardens feature top musicians from around the world. Contact Nature's Powerhouse & Accredited Visitor Information Centre to find out more.

13. cook shire community events centre

The purpose-built stage and amphitheatre of the Cook Shire Community Events Centre comes alive with a host of performances reflecting the vibrancy of arts and culture within the Shire.

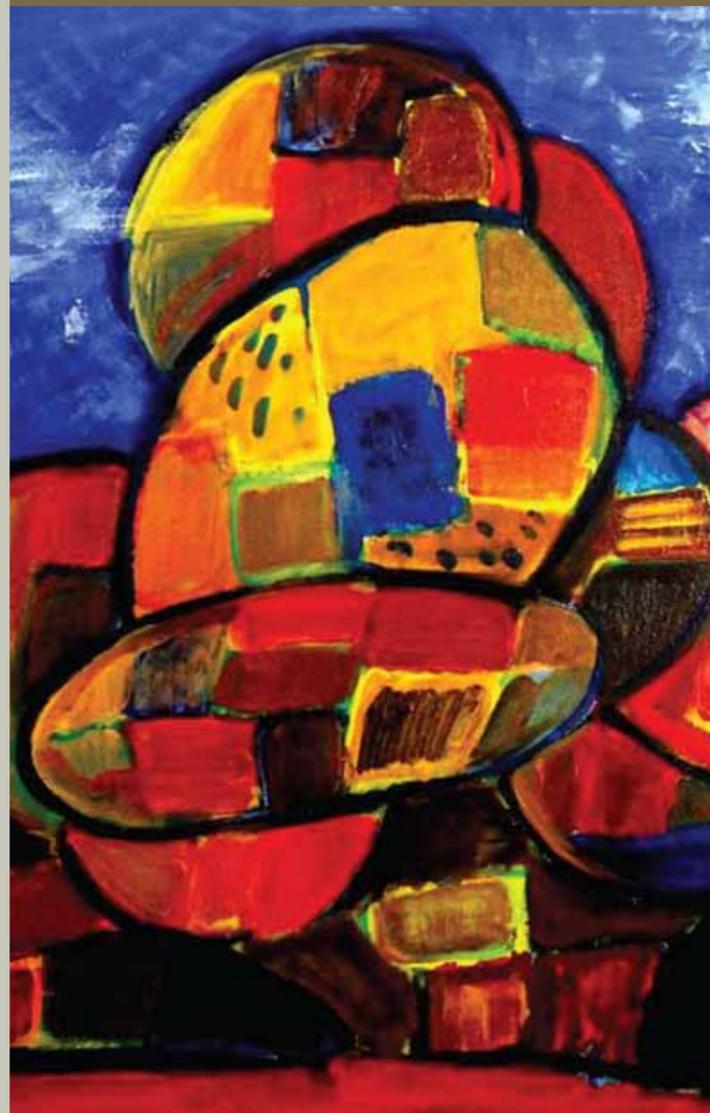


Regional Highlights

arts & crafts trails



Cooktown
and CAPE YORK PENINSULA



The history is just the beginning...

community markets

The small rainforest community of Rossville holds their community market every second Saturday of the month, showcasing interesting local products and tasty fruit and vegetables. The Bloomfield markets are held on the last Saturday of each month and are a focal point for this small community.

wallaby creek festival

Opening hours: Wednesday to Sunday 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday and Tuesday by appointment only

Rossville's annual Wallaby Creek Festival offers an eclectic mix of music, combined with bush poetry and workshops in acrobatics, weaving, sculpture, dance, yoga, didgeridoo making and fire twirling. With so much on offer, it will be hard to choose just one... why not have a go at them all? The Festival is held over the school holidays every September at Home Rule Rainforest Lodge.

black cockatoo gallery

Wet Tropics Rainforest

Ross Franzl



black cockatoo gallery

You can easily fall in love with the work of artist Ross Franzl, owner of the Black Cockatoo Gallery located in Bloomfield. This cosy, inviting wildlife art gallery and tea house is a treat for both art and nature-lovers. You'll be inspired by the quality art, while experiencing the natural beauty of Bloomfield.

wujal wujal arts & cultural centre

The natural setting couldn't be more perfect for the state-of-the-art Wujal Wujal Arts & Cultural Centre, which is bordered by the beautiful Bloomfield River, downstream from the majestic Bloomfield Falls.

A professional gallery space on the Bloomfield River offers visitors a taste of what Wujal Wujal Aboriginal artists have to offer, while a beehive of workshop areas showcase the artists at work. Why not stop for refreshments at the on-site cafe?

Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Russell Smith

laura dance festival

The Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival is the premier celebration of Aboriginal culture in Cape York, enabling the wider community to witness and gain insight into unique Aboriginal story-telling, dance ceremony, song, language and art. Situated in Quinkan Country, it is nestled amongst some of the oldest and most spectacular rock art in the world.

The biennial Laura Dance Festival is held in June - contact the Quinkan & Regional Cultural Centre on (07) 4060 3457 to find out more about the upcoming 2011 and 2013 festivals.

laura rock art

Laura is best known for its amazing Aboriginal rock art galleries. The Quinkan rock art galleries are now listed by UNESCO as being amongst the top 10 rock art sites in the world.

The rock art of south-east Cape York Peninsula forms some of the oldest and largest galleries in the world, with a multitude of paintings, stencils and engravings across the traditional lands of the Kuku Yalanji, Gugu Yimithirr and Kuku Thaypan people.

The Mushroom Rock Gallery and Giant Horse Gallery are open to the public, as well as the Split Rock Gallery where you can take a self guided tour. Other specialised tours hosted by the Aboriginal Elders are available for booking through the Quinkan & Regional Cultural Centre.



Cooktown & Regional Arts Trail

Cook Shire and the neighbouring shires of Hope Vale and Wujal Wujal are home to a great diversity of artistic talent and a lively arts scene with several world class galleries, unique festivals and regular live music from local bands.



Cooktown Discovery Festival

For 50 years, the people of Cooktown have come together during the Queen's birthday weekend in June, to celebrate a fully costumed re-enactment of the landing of Lt. James Cook at the Endeavour River in 1770 and his meeting with the local Gugu Yimithirr people.

Hope Vale

hope vale arts & cultural centre

This is a mandatory stop for the avid art-lover and with nationally recognised artists exhibiting it's a great opportunity for investors to add to their collection.

The centre's gallery space showcases a collection of paintings, woven forms, jewellery, printmaking and traditional tools, while in the separate workshop area visitors are encouraged to talk to each artist to gain a better understanding of what they're producing.

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., occasional Saturdays



hope vale rock art

For an unforgettable experience join Nugal-warra Elder, Willie Gordon of Guurbi Tours, on one of his award-winning tours to his ancestral rock art sites, high in the hills outside Hope Vale. Tours are available for booking in Cooktown at Nature's Powerhouse & Accredited Visitor Information Centre.



Nature's Powerhouse Accredited Visitor Information Centre
Tour & Accommodation Bookings
FREE CALL 1800 174 895

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Cover Art: Coloured Rock by Cheyenne Lee

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