

Cooktown Walking Trails



Cooktown Scenic Rim Walk

Cooktown is a laid-back coastal community situated at the northern end of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area on Cape York Peninsula. It is the last major town on Australia's east coast and is famous for its historical significance and its varied walks through spectacular scenery.

The Scenic Rim Walking Trail passes through bushland, along roads, paved paths, and rough tracks, catering for every level of fitness. The walk sections can be completed in a single day, but the special features of the area are better appreciated if the walks are spread over a few days.

Contact Information for the Scenic Rim Walk:
Cook Shire Council Ph: (07) 4069 5444
Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service Ph: (07) 4069 5777

1. Bicentennial Park to Cooktown Cemetery

Difficulty Level: Easy
Distance: 2.4 kilometres
Duration: 45 minutes
Access: Self Guided
Contact Information: Cook Shire Council

Walk Description: The first two sections of the walk are a pleasant stroll, but the mosquitoes own this territory so carry insect repellent. The 1.2 kilometre section from Hogg Street to the cemetery is an ungraded track. The first 50 metres weaves through melaleuca scrub, where short side paths lead to an upturned steam-train tender and a timber-shored well.

2. Cooktown Cemetery to Mount Cook

Difficulty Level: Easy
Distance: 2.6 kilometres
Duration: 45 minutes
Access: Self Guided
Contact Information: Cook Shire Council
Walk Description: The cemetery has all the signs and information needed for a self-guided tour, it is easy to enjoy wandering through the grounds, reading the epitaphs and pondering Cooktown's chaotic past. The walk then takes you through the streets of Cooktown to the base of Mount Cook.



3. Mount Cook

Difficulty Level: Strenuous
Distance: 6 kilometres (return)
Duration: 3 - 4 hours (return)
Access: Self Guided
Contact Information: Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service
Walk Description: From the Hannan Drive carpark the trail enters a sheltered bushland gully and winds amongst granite boulders. Green Corp workers have enhanced the walk by constructing a track with granite steps that blend with the surroundings. Shortly before the trail mounts the long spur to the summit, a short path on the right leads to a lookout with views over Cooktown. From the junction the summit trail zigzags up to a saddle where another short path leads to a lookout with coastal views. All the lookouts on Mount Cook are on top of large boulders. At the rear of the tower near the summit there is visitor book in a metal cupboard and a small rainwater tank.

4. Finch Bay to the Botanic Gardens

Difficulty Level: Moderate
Distance: 800 metres
Duration: 15 minutes
Access: Self Guided
Contact Information: Cook Shire Council
Walk Description: At low tide Finch Bay is a wide stretch of sand only a few hundred metres long, sheltered by rocky headlands to the south and north. At the northern end of the beach the trail continues to the Botanic Gardens and Cherry Tree Bay.

5. Finch Bay to Cherry Tree Bay

Difficulty Level: Moderate
Distance: 1 kilometre
Duration: 30 minutes
Access: Self Guided
Contact Information: Cook Shire Council
Walk Description: The Finch Bay to Cherry Tree Bay section climbs amongst large granite boulders through open eucalypt forest, with rocky outcrops providing good vantage points for unimpeded views of the coastline. The trail emerges at the southern end of the small sheltered beach, a popular snorkelling location. This secluded retreat can only be accessed on foot.

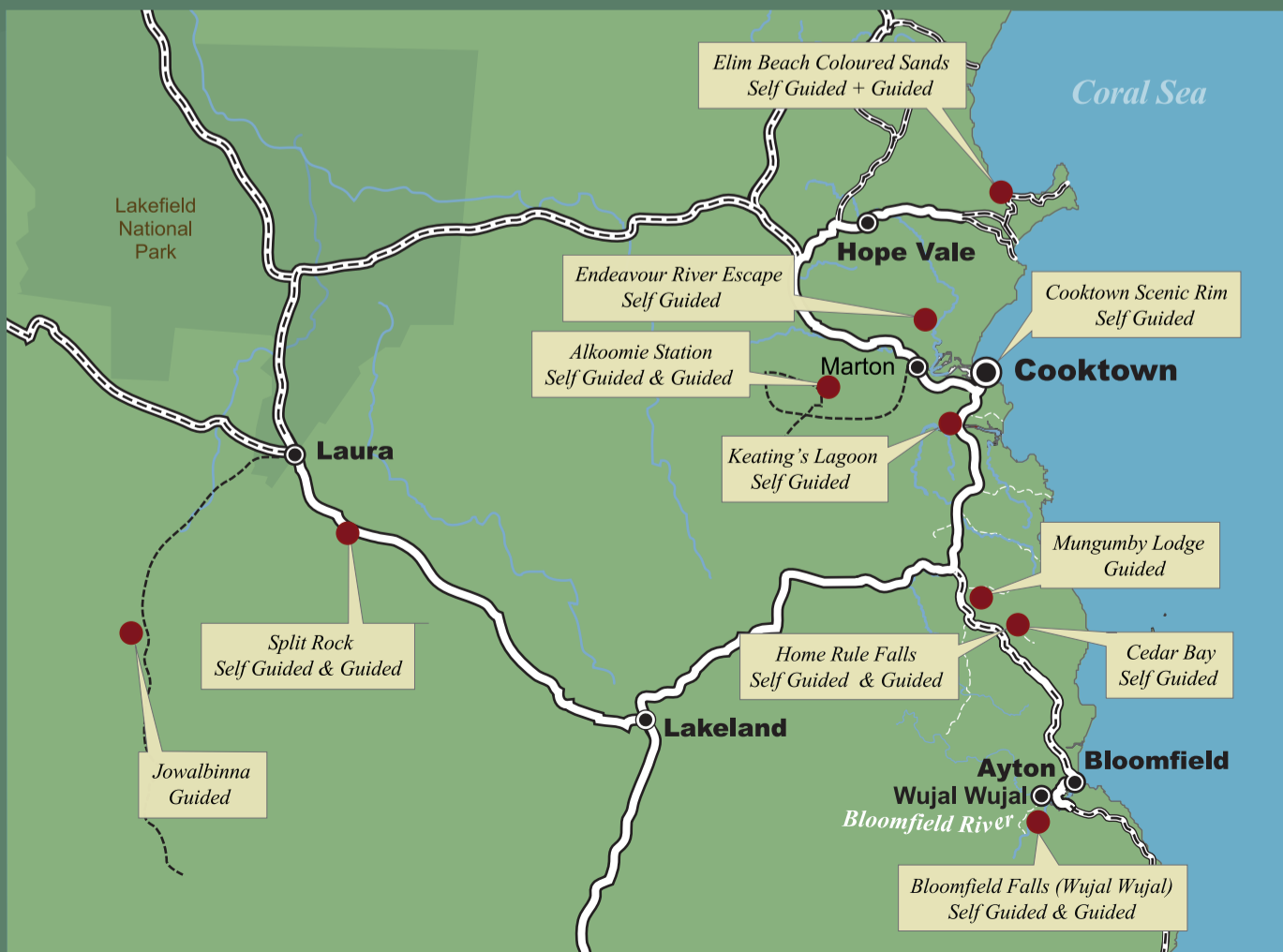
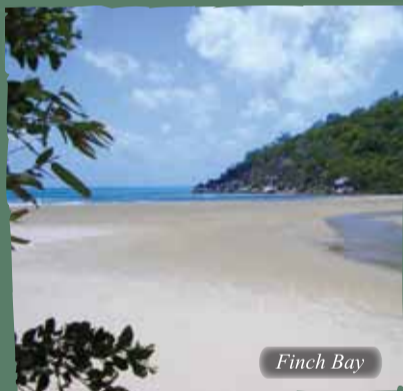


6. Cherry Tree Bay to Grassy Hill

Difficulty Level: Moderate
Distance: 800 metres
Duration: 20 minutes
Access: Self Guided
Contact Information: Cook Shire Council
Walk Description: The steep, rough, 800 metre section from the beach to Grassy Hill is marked with flagging tape and old fishing buoys. The trail runs parallel to a rocky watercourse through open forest before veering toward a saddle where it levels out as it approaches Grassy Hill Road.

7. Grassy Hill

Difficulty Level: Moderate
Distance: 750 metres to summit, 1.4 kilometres summit to Captain Cook's statue
Duration: 1.5 hours (return)
Access: Self Guided
Contact Information: Cook Shire Council
Walk Description: From Grassy Hill's 162 metre summit, a fantastic 360 degree view takes in Cooktown, the Endeavour River and its tributaries, the surrounding mountains, and the Coral Sea.



Keating's Lagoon

Difficulty Level: Easy
Distance: 390 metres (return)
Duration: 20 minutes (return)
Access: Self Guided
Facilities: Bird hide, interpretive information, picnic area and car park.
Contact Information: Cooktown office of the National Parks and Wildlife Service Ph: (07) 4069 5777
Special Features: A bird hide provides a perfect spot for spying on magpie geese, black ducks, whistlers and brolgas, especially towards the end of the dry season.
Walk Description: This natural freshwater lagoon creates an ideal habitat for wetland vegetation, which provide abundant food for animals and migratory water birds. This seasonal wetland is often completely dry during the winter and early summer months.



Regional Walking Trails

walking trails



The history is just the beginning...

Rainforest Coast

Mungunby Lodge

Available walks: Nocturnal Rainforest Walk or Half day Hidden Falls Trek & Swim

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Duration: 1.5 hours and half day

Access: Guided by appointment only

Facilities: Accommodation

Contact Information: Mungunby Lodge Ph: (07) 4060 3158

Walk Description: Pristine tropical rainforests, waterfalls and local knowledge are highlights of these guided walks.

Cedar Bay

Difficulty Level: Strenuous

Distance: 28 kilometre (return)

Duration: 6 - 8 hours each way

Access: Self Guided (permit required) - track begins on the private property of the Home Rule Rainforest Lodge, who allows access via their property and provides detailed advice to walkers.

Facilities: None en route

Contact Information: Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service, Cooktown Ph: (07) 4069 5777

Walk Description: Trail includes beautiful tropical rainforest, rugged mountains and a palm fringed beach. Please contact Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service for further information as alternate routes and water taxi are available to / from Cedar Bay.

Bloomfield Falls

Difficulty Level: Easy

Distance: 400 metre (return)

Duration: 30 minutes (return)

Access: Self Guided or Guided

Facilities: Parking at start of walk.

Contact Information: Wujal Wujal Shire Council Ph: (07) 4060 8155

Walk Description: A short stroll down a uneven rocky path to a viewing point for the falls, which are especially spectacular after the wet season. Why not join a guided walk with a local Aboriginal tour? Swimming is not advised due to the possibility of crocodiles.



Home Rule Falls

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Distance: 2.6 kilometre (return)

Duration: 1.5 hours (return)

Access: Self Guided (must register at Home Rule Rainforest Lodge) or Guided with Nyungkal Rangers based at Home Rule Rainforest Lodge.

Facilities: Accommodation and camping facilities at walk start.

Contact Information: Nyungkal Ranger Headquarters Ph: (07) 4069 5147

Walk Description: It is a gradual climb to an impressive three-tiered waterfall that plunges into a deep pool between gorge walls of vertical slate. You'll love the beautiful tropical rainforest and refreshing swimming opportunities.



Alkoomie Station Walks

Difficulty Level: Easy to moderate walks available

Distance: 3 to 7 kilometre

Duration: Varies

Access: Self Guided and Guided

Facilities: Luxury homestead accommodation, self-contained unit or self-contained fully furnished tents.

Contact Information: Alkoomie Station Ph: (07) 4069 5463

Walk Description: Whether on a gentle stroll or more energetic hike on this working cattle property, you will discover some of the region's amazing native flora, including beautiful orchids and the ancient cycads and grasses. See spectacular escarpments and enjoy safe swimming in one of the natural rock pools.

Elim Beach - Coloured Sands Walk

Difficulty Level: Easy

Distance: 600 metre (return)

Duration: 30 minutes (return)

Access: Self Guided and Guided

Facilities: Campground with amenities

Contact Information: Eddie Deemal Ph: (07) 4060 9223

Walk Description: A scenic beach walk to the mesmerising sandstone cliffs known as Coloured Sands. A path up the cliff leads to stunning views to Cape Bedford. You'll enjoy spectacular sunrises and sunsets on this walk. There are also more beach walks at low tide towards Cape Bedford.

Endeavour River Escape

Difficulty Level: Easy to Moderate

Distance: Walk 1 - The right branch of the Endeavour River, 1 km return or Walk 2 - Cameron Creek, 3 km return

Duration: Walk 1 - 30 minute return / Walk 2 - 1 hour return

Access: Self Guided (detailed guide notes provided)

Facilities: Bush camping, modern camp kitchen, toilets, showers.

Contact Information: Leanne Rayner Ph: (07) 4069 5084

Walk Description: If you enjoy butterflies, birds and native wildlife the rainforest walks along the Endeavour River or Cameron Creek will delight you. The very rare Cooktown Palm also flourishes on the property along with grass trees, fan palms and rainforest plants.

Hope Vale, Clark & Endeavour Valley

Leave Only Footprints...

Cook Shire offers a variety of options for bush walks in diverse environments from the rainforest to the beach, mountain tops to the savannah. There are walks from short strolls to advanced hikes so choose a trail to suit your fitness levels and enjoy our beautiful natural environment on foot.

Ask the friendly staff at Nature's Powerhouse VIC for maps and information on walking trails in the region or buy Tropical Walking Trails of North Queensland published by Footloose Publications.

REMEMBER! THINK SAFETY

Be aware and prepared - take a hat, water, insect repellent, wear sturdy walking shoes, and walk only to your level of fitness.



Alkoomie Station



Nyungkal Ranger

Lakeland & Lawra

Split Rock - Rock Art Galleries

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Distance: 4 kilometres

Duration: 2 hour circuit

Access: Self Guided or Guided

Facilities: Boardwalks, interpretive information, toilet and car park.

Contact Information: Quinkan & Regional Cultural Centre Ph: (07) 4060 3457

Walk Description: These galleries are listed by UNESCO as being among the top 10 rock art sites in the world. A circuit walk leads you through a landscape of eucalypt and sandstone escarpments to outcrops that shelter numerous rock paintings.

Jowalbinna Rock Art Walks

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Distance: Varies

Duration: Half day or 3 hour tours available

Access: Guided

Facilities: Camping

Contact Information: Steve Trezize, Ph: (07) 4060 3236

Walk Description: This walk offers safe swimming in the creek, Quinkan rock art and spectacular sandstone escarpments. Access is by 4WD only. Contact trail management for further details.



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

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