

Cooktown & Laura

Cooktown Activities

James Cook Museum

Visit the James Cook Museum where the story of Cook's landing is told from the Aboriginal perspective, and Bama tell their stories from the days of the Cape Bedford Mission to recent times.

Open daily
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Phone (07) 4069 5386

Milbi Wall

Nearly 500 hand-painted and carved tiles adorn the 12 metre long curved Milbi Wall, placed at the very location where in 1770, Captain James Cook and his crew first set foot on land. Don't rush by this sculptural book, take time to enjoy the beautiful art and unravel its stories!

Guurrbi Tours

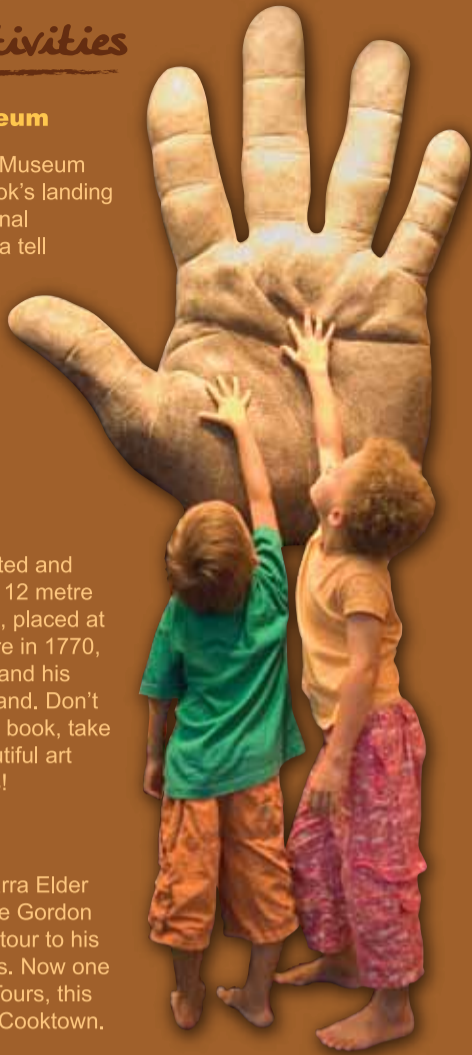
Accompany Nugal-warra Elder and story keeper Willie Gordon of Guurrbi Tours on a tour to his ancestral rock art sites. Now one of Australia's 20 Top Tours, this is a must-do whilst in Cooktown.

Bookings: Guurrbi Tours Phone (07) 4069 6259 or through Nature's Powerhouse & Accredited Visitor Information Centre

Scenic flights - heli tours from Cooktown

The Skysafari Aboriginal Dreamtime Tour departs from Cooktown and offers a rare chance to view endless rainforest, ancient waterways, the dry rain shadow country and the heart of ancient Aboriginal rock art escarpments near Laura. Meet and learn about this rapidly changing culture through local Aboriginal guides and see the world famous rock art galleries.

Skysafari Phone (07) 4099 3666



Rock Art Galleries of Laura

Mushroom Rock Gallery

This ancient camp has an extensive amount of rock art and hosts a variety of styles from three distinct periods. The oldest is believed to be at least 30,000 years before present. The Mushroom Rock Gallery is easily accessible and only a short walk (100 metres) from the car park.

Split Rock Gallery

The lure of spectacular earthy sandstone escarpments combined with magical glittering sands will leave you breathless as you approach the Split Rock Aboriginal art sites, a must-do self-guided tour for any art and culture lover.

Situated in Quinkan Country, these rock art galleries, along with others in the Laura area, have been identified as being up to 30,000 years old and are listed by UNESCO as being among the top 10 rare rock art sites in the world.

Though Split Rock Gallery is a self-guided tour, other specialised tours hosted by the Aboriginal Elders are available for booking through the Quinkan & Regional Cultural Centre.

Sandy Creek Galleries

This site features a great selection of ancient rock art engravings as well as the stunning Yam Dreaming Gallery. As the tour includes a walk of approximately 25 minutes each way, a moderate level of fitness is required.



Quinkan Galleries

These galleries are acknowledged as being the most highly regarded rock art in the region and are highly significant and sacred to the Aboriginal people of the area. Hence, this is a premium tour and has a strict limit of only 150 people each year that have the privilege of viewing this magnificent and beautiful site.

Giant Horse Galleries

The Giant Horse Galleries consist of five shelters depicting ancestral spirits and many of the region's animals, important for totemic value and as a food source. This site is one of very few examples in the world where contact with another culture is recorded in pictorial images.



Historic Laura & Quinkan Country

Quinkan & Regional Cultural Centre

This fascinating interpretive centre showcases all aspects of Quinkan Country including its Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage and the natural environment. It ranks among Queensland's finest cultural centres, so make this your first stop in Laura for information on the region.

A select range of Aboriginal paintings, arts and crafts are available for sale, and you can book guided tours to some of the world famous rock art sites in the region.

The centre has several interpretive displays with information on the Quinkan rock art galleries, local families and tribal elders, the gold rush days and cattle stations, and offers disabled access and a café.

Opening hours vary
Quinkan & Regional Cultural Centre Phone (07) 4060 3457

Rock Art of Jowalbinna

Jowalbinna Rock Art

Passing through a field of sun-bleached grasses and castle-like termite nests, nature's own sculptural artworks, is a sign you're nearly at Jowalbinna Rock Art Galleries, one of Tropical North Queensland's true rock art treasures!

Today, Steve Trezise is your expert guide to the many rock art sites, with a variety of walks catering to each individual's fitness levels, interests and available time.

Unwinding won't be difficult at Jowalbinna as you'll have a choice of discovering ancient rock art, cooling off in the beautiful creeks, observing the array of wildlife, this is also an ideal location for your own arts retreat...why not bring your own canvas to create your very own masterpiece?

Information and directions available from the Quinkan & Regional Cultural Centre (07) 4060 3457.



Laura Festivals

Laura Dance Festival

The biennial 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.

The dance festival ground at Laura is the site of a very old traditional Bora ground and is a respected and sacred site to Aboriginal people. Situated in Quinkan Country, it is nestled amongst some of the oldest and most spectacular rock art in the world.

Known as a 'meeting ground' for the communities of Cape York, the festival is highly regarded by many Aboriginal people as a place where families meet new and old family members and pass on family histories.

Contact the Quinkan & Regional Cultural Centre (07) 4060 3457 to find out more about the 2011 festival, held 17 - 19 June.



Hope Vale, Elim & Rainforest Coast



Hope Vale & Elim

Gurrbi tours

Have you ever wondered what Aboriginal rock art really means? For an unforgettable experience join Nugal-warra Elder, Willie Gordon, on one of his award-winning tours to his ancestral rock art sites, high in the hills outside Hope Vale.

Willie's magical tours take you to Wangaar-Wurri, a timeless landscape with giant rocks, sandstone escarpments and spectacular views. Hidden amongst the giant boulders and escarpments are the Nugal rock art sites, where Willie explains the art, its messages and stories, giving you a unique insight into Aboriginal spirituality and society.

Two-hour and four-hour tours available, Monday - Saturday. Self-drive or with transport from Cooktown. Phone (07) 4069 6259

Maaramaka tours

Maaramaka Walkabout Tours endeavours to preserve the knowledge of the flora and fauna found within Nature's Storehouse - the bush and rainforest including the sand dunes.

Join Irene and Gerry for lunch, for lunch combined with a two hour rainforest walk, or simply a short walk followed by damper and tea.

Walks are easy and suitable for all ages. Tours are self-drive. Phone (07) 4069 5381

elim beach



The stunning beach at Elim is home to the famous Coloured Sands, and a popular spot for Hope Vale people, many of whom have a shack here and visit at weekends to go fishing. It is also a popular camping spot and the Elim Beach campground hosted by Thithaar-warra Elder Eddie Deemal is right on the water's edge with fabulous views to Cape Bedford, providing the perfect base from which to explore the area.

Eddie Deemal Phone (07) 4060 9223

Home Rule Rainforest Lodge Phone (07) 4060 3925

Guided interpretive walks to the magnificent Home Rule Falls with Kuku Nyungkal rangers can be organised through their headquarters at Home Rule Rainforest Lodge. The Traditional Owners of this stunning landscape give an insight into the flora and fauna of the region.

home rule guided walks

Phone (07) 4083 9110

This professional gallery space offers visitors a taste of what Wujal Wujal Aboriginal artists have to offer, whilst a beehive of workshop areas showcases artists at work. Stop for refreshments at the on site cafe and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

wujal wujal arts & cultural centre

Phone (07) 4060 8069

The beautiful Bloomfield Falls is a 40 metre waterfall surrounded by the World Heritage-listed rainforests of the Daintree and a very special place for Bama from the Kuku Yalanji nation. The warm-hearted Walker Family, members of the Nyungkul clan whose traditional lands encompass the Falls will help you to see the Falls through their eyes, and you'll receive a fascinating insight into the rainforests' wealth of resources and the cultural importance of the area.

walker family tours, wujal wujal

30 minute tours depart daily. Advance bookings necessary.

Rainforest Coast

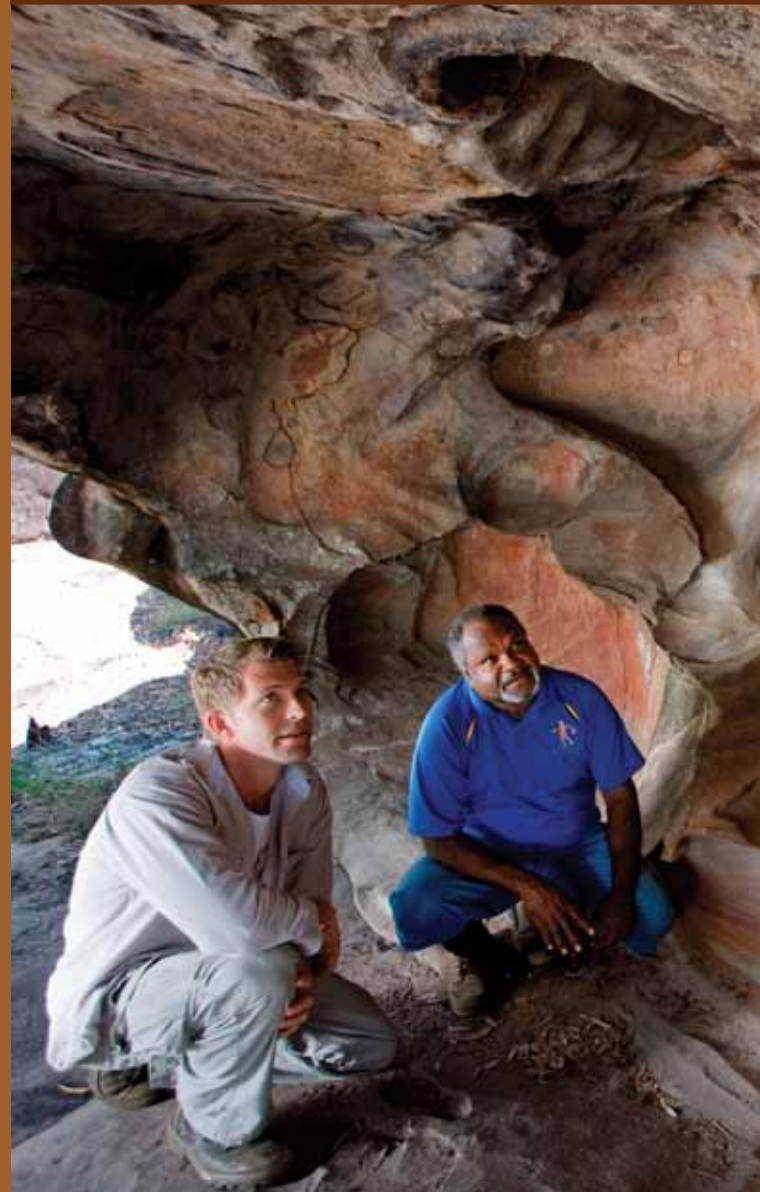


hope vale arts & cultural centre

Hope Vale Arts & Cultural Centre is at the heart of Gugu Yimithirr culture and a fusion of indigenous visual arts, dance, music and performance. This is a mandatory stop for the avid art-lover, and with artists exhibiting who are nationally recognised, it's a great opportunity for investors to add to their collection, or for others to simply appreciate and admire the many art forms. 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. Check out the gardens and stay awhile in this lovely relaxing and creative atmosphere, while you share the culture, knowledge and skills of the Gugu Yimithirr people.

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Open some Saturdays, please enquire prior to arrival. Phone (07) 4060 9111

aboriginal trails



The history is just the beginning...

Responsible Travel

Remember, when you are on Aboriginal land that it's no different from you inviting people into your own home. So please, wait to be invited, treat your hosts' country and culture with respect and abide by their wishes.

Remember the 3 R's...

Relationship

Recognise Indigenous Aboriginal people's relationship and connection to the land.

Responsibility

Acknowledge the ongoing responsibility Indigenous Aboriginal people have to their country, and recognise your own responsibility to travel thoughtfully.

Respect

Respect Aboriginal beliefs associated with country and culture. As a visitor respect the wishes of your hosts and any restrictions that you have been asked to observe.

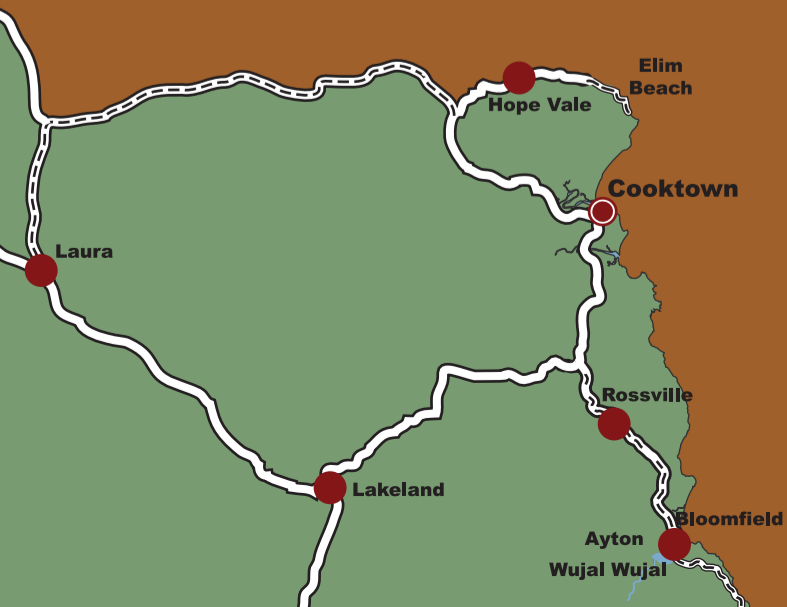


Welcome ...

Queensland's Tropical North is home to Australia's highest proportion of Indigenous Australians, and its greatest diversity of Indigenous cultures. This was the last of Australia's regions to be explored, settled or developed, and until a little over 100 years ago, a unique paradise known only to its Indigenous inhabitants.

These are the traditional custodians of the land, who know its resources, its stories and its sacred places. These are the people who want to share with you their knowledge of the land, their stories and their culture. Within these pages lie a wealth of knowledge and many unforgettable experiences.

Come and share with us!



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

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Tropical North Queensland
Adventurous by nature

photo of young girls by Kathi Gibson-Steffensen

www.cooktownandcapeyork.com

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