

Welcome to Kondalilla, Mapleton Falls and Mapleton national parks

Jinibara People are the Traditional Owners and determined Native Title holders of this beautiful area. Please respect these sacred places and leave behind no trace of your visit.

Soak up the wonderful atmosphere of the Blackall Range, and explore the Sunshine Coast's scenic, mountainous backdrop. Discover waterfalls nestled in cool rainforest and impressively tall eucalypt forests on your choice of walks. Experience the thrills of mountain biking, trail-bike riding or the joys of trail riding on horseback. Gaze at sweeping coastal and range views from lookouts, enjoy family time in tranquil picnic areas or stay overnight in scenic, walk-in camping areas. Top off your 'day in the hills' with a visit to one of the pretty hinterland townships dotted across the Blackall Range.

“ The national parks of the Blackall Range are the forest jewels of the Sunshine Coast. Within 30 minutes' drive of coastal suburbia, you can find yourself immersed in the cool rainforests and waterfalls of Kondalilla or standing on the edge of the western escarpment at Mapleton Falls.


There is tremendous value in this experience, that is, to have these pockets of wildness so close and accessible and, once in them, you feel so far away.

There are many opportunities for a getaway escape in these forests, whether it be a quiet mid-week contemplation beside a mossy cascade, a semi-remote bush walk up the Obi Obi Gorge or a day of forest mountain biking from Mapleton day-use area.

These forests also contain a trove of unique and ecologically significant plants and animals—on display for the observant visitor.

Ranger Nat Smith, on behalf of the local (Blackall Range) Park Rangers

 View over Mapleton
Steven Nowakowski © Toursim and Events Qld

 Jody Smith
© Qld Govt

Discover the Range

Spend a day or two walking through the Blackall Range to enjoy majestic waterfalls, rainforests, tall wet forests of flooded gum and blackbutt, heathy scribbly gum forests and local wildlife.

Make the most of the best weather for bushwalking in autumn and spring. In summer, plan an early morning visit in the cooler part of the day and check the weather to avoid storms. Explore these parks with the family—they all offer grassy spots to set up for a picnic either before or after you venture on forest walks and trails.

Kondalilla National Park

Kondalilla National Park is near Montville and only 100km out of Brisbane. Kondalilla, an Aboriginal word meaning 'rushing waters', describes this park's glorious Kondalilla Falls.

Visitors can walk down to the rock pool above the falls via a steep switchback track from the **Picnic Creek circuit** ①. From the rock pools, a short, 190m track will take you to the **Kondalilla Falls lookout**, which offers a great view of the falls. The waterfall is at its best during the summer wet season.

Doing the combined **Picnic Creek** ① and **Kondalilla Falls circuit** ② takes you past exposed rocky bluffs with dry eucalypt forest and grasstrees, and on down through cool, lush rainforest to the base of the falls.

There are over 300 stairs on the **Kondalilla Falls circuit** ②. From the rock pools, the Kondalilla Falls circuit winds over 1km with numerous switchbacks to descend the 100m into



View from Mapleton Falls lookout (above); scribbly gum forests (left).
© Ross Naumann, QPWS Volunteer

the rainforest gorge below the waterfall. You need to be reasonably fit and allow enough time to enjoy this steep walk.

Mapleton Falls National Park

Mapleton Falls National Park sits just west of Mapleton, where Pencil Creek cascades 120m over the escarpment. Riparian rainforest and open eucalypt forest communities are protected here.

The **Mapleton Falls lookout** ③ is directly adjacent to the car park. Enjoy the spectacular views to the west of Obi Obi Gorge and scenic Mary River Valley. There's wheelchair access to the toilets and lookout.

The **Wompoo circuit** ④ through rainforest and eucalypt forest is an easy walk for families with children. Grab your binoculars to get a close-up look at the birdlife. If you can't catch a glimpse, then you will certainly enjoy their birdsongs that carry through the valley. Be sure to listen for a call, like the wompoo fruit-doves' 'wallock-a-woo' and 'book-a-roo', while you're walking.

Mapleton National Park

You can venture along the **Linda Garrett circuit** ⑤ from **Delicia Road entry point**, through rainforest, a palm grove and tall wet eucalypt forests dominated by blackbutt, turpentine and brush box. It follows the head waters of Gheerulla Creek, home to the great barred frog *Mixophyes fasciolatus*. The **Pilularis walk** ⑥ from **Leafy Lane trail head entrance** leads you through tall, open forest with an understorey of rainforest shrubs and ferns.

Explore rainforest, palm groves and open eucalypt forests along three, short, family-friendly walks in **Mapleton National Park**. Discover the old, giant bunya pine along the **Bonyee walk** ⑦ and have some fun guessing its age, and imaging what the landscape would have been like when it was a seedling.

Sunshine Coast Hinterland Great Walk

Explore the 58km long Great Walk in all its beauty. The Great Walk traverses the three Blackall Range national parks offering very diverse walking opportunities. Tackle the whole 58km walk over three days, making use of the three remote walkers' camps, or do shorter, half-day walks on some sections.

One magical place is **Flatrock**, only a 6km hike in from the Baroon Pocket Dam car park on the Great Walk section to Kondalilla. There are fewer visitors here; great if you love solitude! Enjoy lunch by the creek, where you'll often be joined by numerous butterflies that seem to enjoy the peace and quiet just as much as you will. More information at qld.gov.au/SunshineCoastGreatWalk



Steep climb up the Gheerulla Bluff, Sunshine Coast Hinterland Great Walk
Adam Creed © Qld Govt



Wildlife Wonders

The Blackall Range is home to, and a refuge for, many species of wildlife. Native animals recorded for the Blackall and nearby Conondale ranges include 70 species of reptiles and 32 species of frogs. Several frog-monitoring sites are located across the Blackall Range as part of planned research and recovery efforts for vulnerable, rare and endangered species.



In **Mapleton National Park**, watch the Australasian figbird feeding on piccabeen fruits in the rainforest. Listen for the 'whip-crack' calls of the shy, eastern whipbirds as they forage on the forest floor, or the deep-throated call of the colourful wompoo fruit-dove. Look to the open skies to glimpse peregrine falcons—fastest birds on Earth—that often roost and soar around the cliff lines, and from August to November, nest on the cliffs near the edges of the falls.

Visit any of the picnic areas and you'll see the very common Australian brush-turkey—male birds untiringly build nest mounds up to 1.5–2m in height during breeding season. Lace monitors and water dragons visit the picnic areas at **Kondalilla Falls**. Please do not feed them.



Figbird (top left); *Mixophyes fasciolatus*, great barred frog (top right); lace monitor (above)
© Ross Naumann, QPWS Volunteer (above and top left); © Robert Ashdown (top right)

Further information



qld.gov.au/NationalParks



qld.gov.au/Camping



qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts
(access, closures and conditions)



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park alerts

This brochure is also available online at
qld.gov.au/ParkBrochures

For help planning your holiday,
visit queensland.com and
visitsunshinecoast.com.au



Wompoo Circuit Boardwalk, Mapleton Falls National Park © *Tourism and Events Qld* (front cover); Red dragonfly © *Jodie Bray* (above)

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Overnight escapes

Trek into one of the secluded walkers' camps on the **Sunshine Coast Hinterland Great Walk** and camp beneath the starlit sky or access Gheerulla camping area in **Mapleton National Park** by 4WD and pitch a tent at one of the three campsites beside Gheerulla Creek. As the day ends, the sound of cicadas pulsates through the air filling your head with the sound of a Queensland summer.

Remember you need to book your site in advance to avoid disappointment. Organise your camping permit online at qld.gov.au/Camping



Gheerulla Creek (left); Camping at the Thilba Thalba walkers' camp (above)
© *Ross Naumann, QPWS Volunteer* (left); *Adam Creed* © *Qld Govt* (above)

Camping at a glance

Kondalilla National Park

Flaxton walkers' camp

This is the first walkers' camp on the Great Walk, 16.6km one-way from the Baroon Pocket entrance or 1.4km from Flaxton Mill Road. It is surrounded by tall forest with a fern understorey. Access is on foot only.



Treat water before drinking

Mapleton National Park

Gheerulla camping area

Access to the camping area is via Sam Kelly Road (off Eumundi–Kenilworth Road) by high-clearance 4WDs. Make sure to bring plenty of drinking water or come prepared to treat water. Creek water is unsuitable for drinking. Please note that this small camping area is popular for those accessing the **Gheerulla trail bike track** **A**.



Great Walk—remote walkers' camp experiences

Ubajee walkers' camp

The second walkers' camp, 5.1km one-way from the Delicia Road Great Walk entrance, is situated on the edge of the Gheerulla Valley. This bush camp is set within blackbutt forest with a viewpoint, just 50m away, overlooking the valley. Access is by foot only.



Treat water before drinking

Thilba Thalba walkers' camp

The third walkers' camp, 13.5km one-way from Ubajee walkers' camp, is set within magnificent scribbly gum forest with a grassy understorey. This peaceful camp offers spectacular views over the Gheerulla Valley particularly in the early, morning sunlight. Access is by foot only.



Treat water before drinking

Be adventurous

Mountain biking

Enjoy a mountain bike trail to **Oaky Creek lookout** ¹ in Mapleton National Park. Explore different forest communities as you travel along this trail. Wet eucalypt forest gives way to drier woodland, with grassy understorey along the ridge. At the end of the trail, dismount for a short 200m return walk to the lookout to enjoy spectacular views of the Conondale Range and Mary Valley. Be aware you may encounter trail bikes. **Gheerulla trail bike track** **A** runs next to and crosses the mountain bike trail ¹.

Shared trails

You can explore three shared trails from Mapleton day-use area. You'll be surrounded by forest on the **Turpentine trail** ²; a narrow, two-way track through wet eucalypt forest and scribbly gum forest. On the **Piccabeen circuit** ³ you'll enjoy cool, piccabeen palm groves, tall blackbutt forest and rainforest. Head off on the **Kureelpa Falls circuit**, ⁴ travelling through open forest, to view Kureelpa Falls on the South Maroochy River.



Be considerate—trail sharing

- Cyclists give way to horseriders and walkers, and alert others when approaching.
- Walkers give way to horses.
- Bikes and horses are not permitted on walking tracks.

South East Queensland horseriding trail network

This trail network offers further opportunities for self-reliant riders (horse and mountain bike) with experience in bush navigation. There are minimal directional signs.

Four wheel driving

Take a 4WD journey from Mapleton township and travel north on Mapleton Forest Road. Turn off on Buckby Road and follow the Point Glorious signs to the **Point Glorious lookout**. A short walk takes you to the lookout, where you can take in the remarkable views over the coast and hinterland. Roads are unsealed and require high-clearance 4WDs.

Rock sports

If you are an abseiling or rock-climbing enthusiast, and up for a challenge, try out your skills on the rhyolite bluffs at **Point Glorious**.

Trail biking

Keen trail-bike riders can explore **Mapleton National Park** on the winding 26km **Gheerulla trail bike track** **A** over hilly terrain with tall blackbutt and scribbly gum forest. Trail-bike riders must be licensed using road-registered motorcycles. Be aware that a separate mountain bike trail runs between the trail bike track loop. For everyone's safety and enjoyment, stay on the trail bike track.



Mapleton National Park has 30km of shared trails for walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders (left and centre); Gheerulla trail bike entry (below)

© Christian Botella (left);

© Ross Naumann, QPWS Volunteer (centre and below)

Blackall Range Kondalilla, Mapleton Falls and Mapleton National Parks



Ranger favourites

“Kondalilla National Park’s best-kept secret is the base of Kondalilla Falls. Many people finish at the rock pool or the Kondalilla Falls lookout. If you continue down to the base of the falls, pause quietly at the bridge and look into the clear water—you can quite often spot eels and other water wildlife.

Ranger Nat



Tranquil rock pool, Kondalilla NP
© Tonya Stone



Lookout from Point Glorious
© Ross Naumann, QPWS Volunteer

“Check out the view at Point Glorious at the northern extremity of Mapleton National Park where you can see the ‘big sand blow’ (Cooloola Sandpatch) and Lake Cootharaba in Cooloola National Park to the north.

Ranger Mark

“My favourite hike is the 10km Baroon Pocket Dam to Kondalilla section of the Great Walk. The scenery and vegetation constantly changes as you descend and ascend the gullies on the walk. The walk offers great views over the Obi Obi Gorge and a picnic beside the creek on Flatrock is definitely recommended.

Ranger Donna



Baroon lookout
Adam Creed © Qld Govt

Walking tracks at a glance

Kondalilla National Park—Map 2

Track name	Grade	Distance (return)	Walk time
1 Picnic Creek circuit		1.7km	45min–1hr
2 Kondalilla Falls circuit		4.7km 2.2km to Kondalilla rock pools (above the falls) 2.6km to Kondalilla Falls lookout	2–3hr 1hr 1hr 20min

Mapleton Falls National Park—Map 3

Track name	Grade	Distance (return)	Walk time
3 Mapleton Falls lookout		50m	5min
4 Wompoo circuit		1.3km	45min

Mapleton National Park—Map 1

Track name	Grade	Distance (return)	Walk time
5 Linda Garrett circuit		700m	20min
6 Pilularis walk		400m	20min
7 Bonyee walk		400m	10min

Mountain bike trail

Mapleton Falls National Park—Map 3

Track name	Grade	Distance (return)
1 Oaky Creek lookout trail		19km







Trail bike trail

Mapleton National Park—Map 1






Track name	Distance	Note
A Gheerulla trail bike track	26km	Please note that the track includes both one-way and two-way sections.

Shared trails at a glance

Mapleton National Park—Map 1

Track name	Grade	Distance
 Turpentine trail		7.8km return
 Piccabeen circuit		6.7km return
 Kureelpa Falls circuit		8.5km return

Track and trail classifications

Grade	Suits	Track and trail description
 Grade 2	Families with young children	Track has a hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps.
 Grade 3	People with some bushwalking experience	Track may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.
 Grade 4	Experienced bushwalkers	Track may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signs may be limited.
 Intermediate	Experienced riders with moderate skills and fitness	Trail with obstacles, variable surface and moderate slope. May include steep sections.
 Intermediate	Experienced riders and horses with moderate skills and fitness	Trail with obstacles, variable surface and moderate slope.

Adventure safely

Make your visit memorable for all the right reasons.

- **Choose activities that suit the skills, experience and fitness of your group.**
- **Supervise children closely**, especially near cliffs and edges.
- **Stay behind barriers** and observe all safety signs.
- **Let somebody know where you are going**, when you plan to return and what to do if you're late or lost.
- **Leave plenty of time to reach your final destination in daylight** and always keep your group together.
- **Plan your activity time** to avoid heat exhaustion on hot days.
- **Always check weather conditions** before you visit. During extreme weather periods (mostly in spring and summer) storms can occur, and high rainfall can flood some walking tracks resulting in closure for public safety.
- **Do not enter the park in high wind conditions**—blackbutt and other trees are prone to dropping branches. Strong wind increases the risk of branch fall and injury.
- **Bike riders beware**—fallen branches can get caught in bike spokes.
- **Rock pool safety:** Be aware that the water is cold, depth is variable and there are submerged objects. Rocks can be very slippery.




Emergency!

Call Triple Zero (000).

The essential packlist

- Mobile phone—reception may be poor in places but is sometimes possible from high points on the trail system.
- First-aid kit including sun and insect protection.
- Adequate drinking water or sterilisation tablets—drinking water is not provided in the park.
- Suitable footwear, clothing and equipment for the activity you are planning.

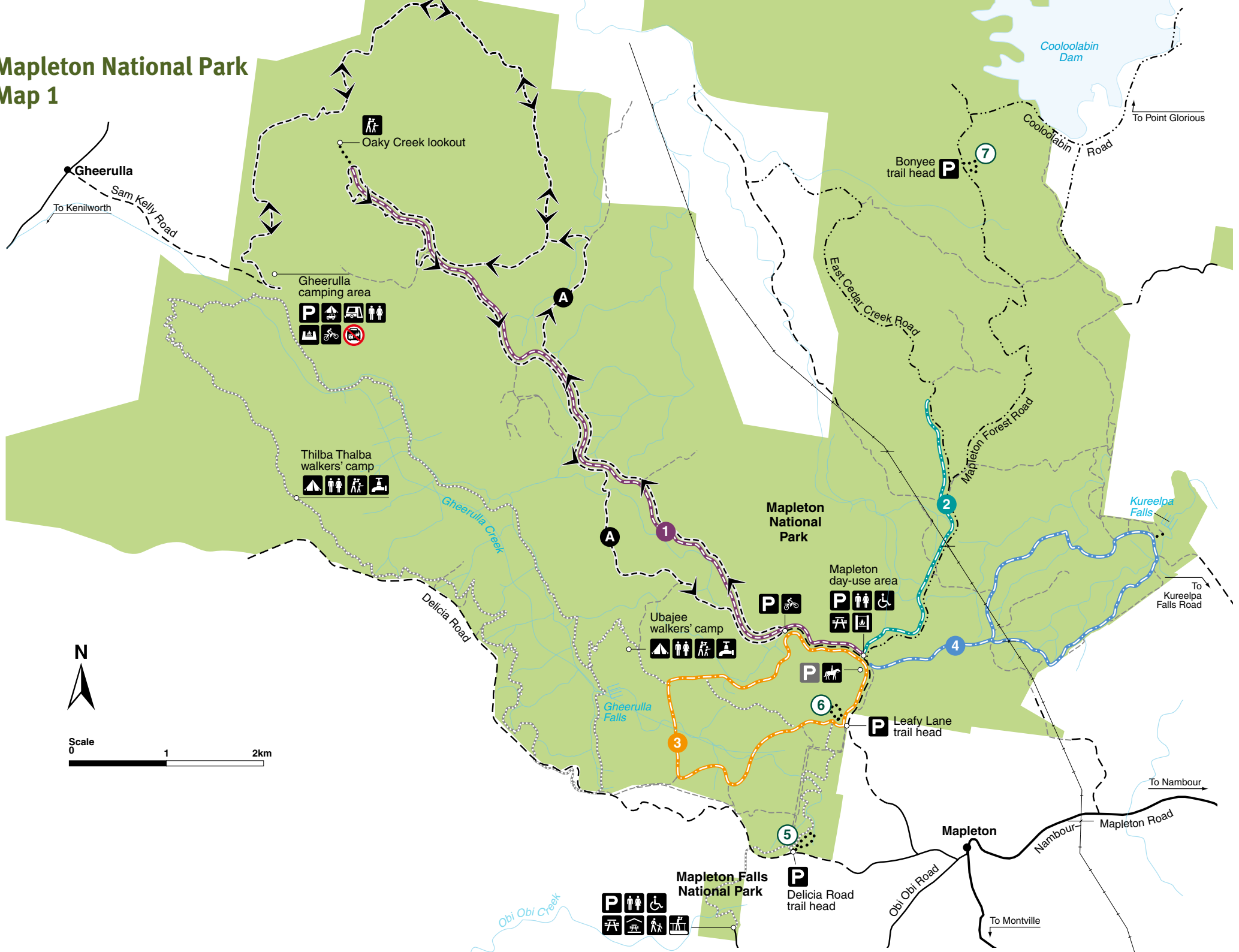


 Peregrine falcon (top); Be prepared. Take a map and follow markers and signs carefully (far left); Kondalilla Falls plummets 90m into the gorge below (centre); Obi Obi Creek (above)

All images by Adam Creed © Qld Govt

Mapleton National Park

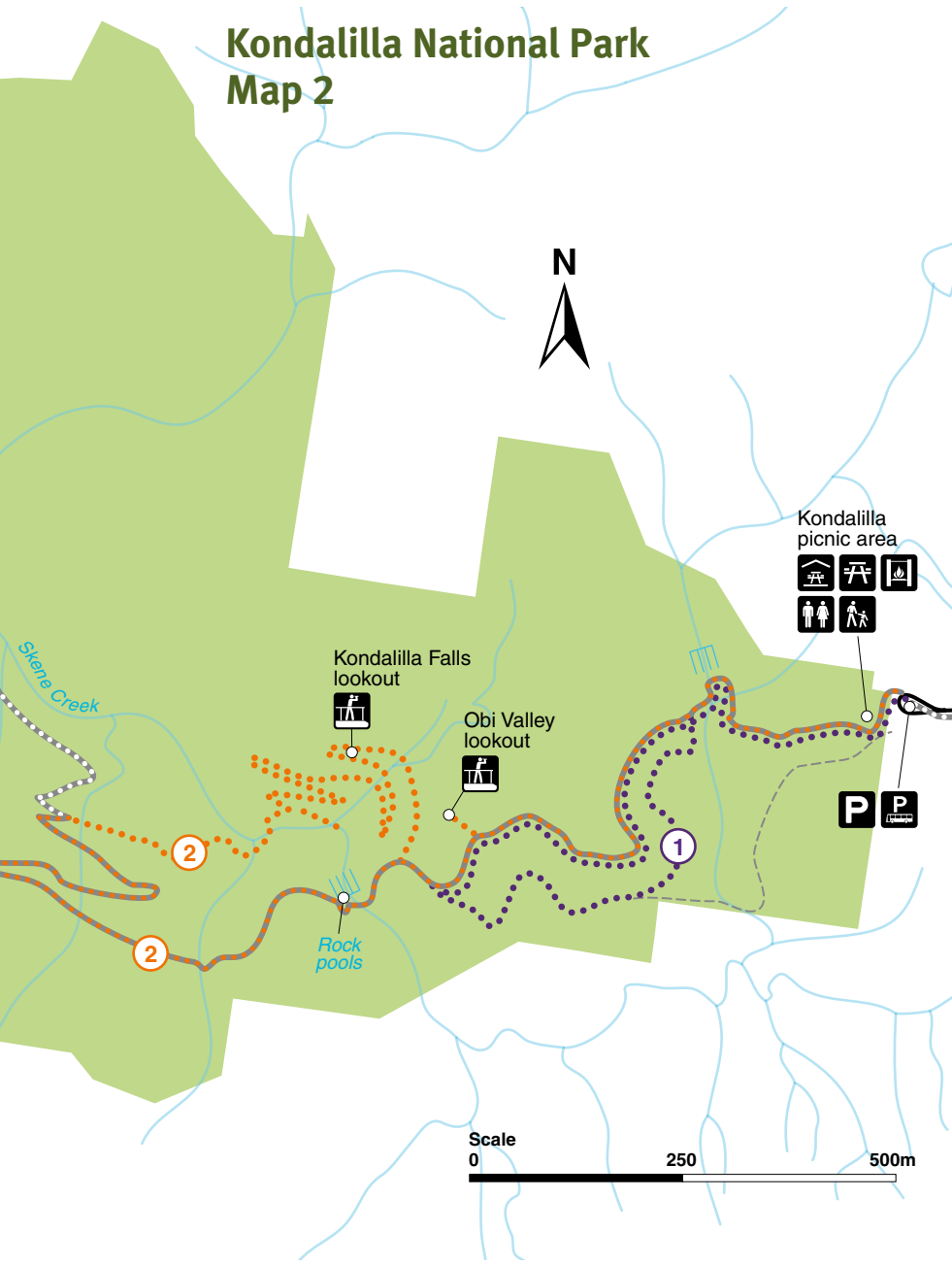
Map 1



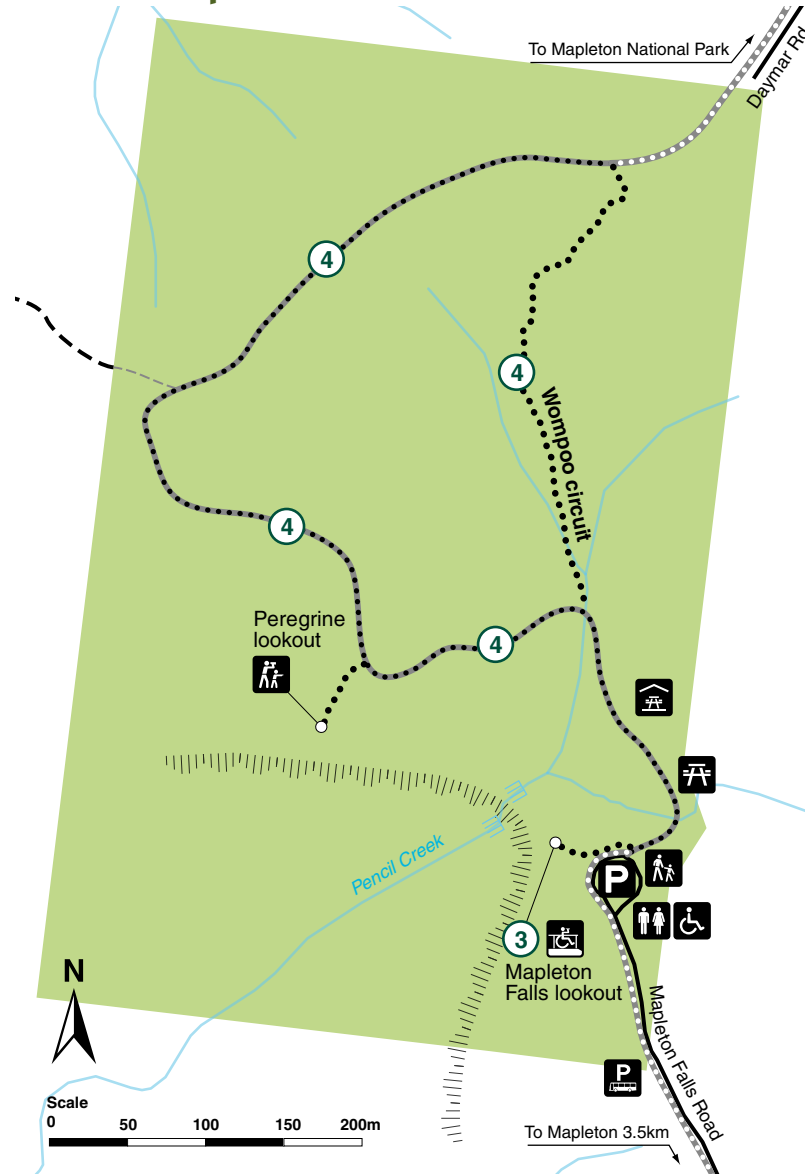


Kondalilla National Park
Maxime Coquard © Qld Govt

Kondalilla National Park Map 2



Mapleton Falls National Park Map 3



Legend

- National park
- Water
- Waterways
- Major sealed road
- Minor sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD road
- Powerline
- Management road
- Walking track
- Great Walk
- Walking track/Great Walk
- Waterfall
- Cliff
- Visitor information centre (VIC)
- Wi-Fi access (VIC)
- QldParks-Wi-fi
- Parking
- Parking (suitable for horse floats)
- Parking (bus)
- Toilets
- Wheelchair access
- Picnic table
- Sheltered picnic table
- Drinking water
- Open fireplace
- Wood barbecue
- Walking tracks—easy
- Hiking
- Viewpoint
- Constructed lookout
- Lookout—wheelchair access
- Walkers' camp
- Camping—4WD access
- Camper trailer—4WD
- Horses permitted
- Trail bikes permitted
- Airport
- Generators prohibited
- Fires prohibited