TOOLUM NATIONAL PARK

The extensive subtropical and forest red gum stands protected within this park provide habitat for the most diverse kangaroo and wallaby (macropod) population found anywhere in Australia. A picnic area and two short walking tracks are located on the southern edge of the park. The park is located 10 km south-west of Urbenville, via the Urbenville - Tooloom road.

TOONUMBAR NATIONAL PARK

The park is noted for its unique and complex natural environment. Much of this complexity is due to volcanic activity associated with the Focal Peak volcano which was active 23 million years ago.

The rainforests of Dome Mountain and Murray Swamp are World Heritage listed. These rainforests, together with extensive stands of old growth flooded gum support over 400 plant and over 100 animal species, many of which are endangered. Camping facilities and walking tracks are provided at Iron Pot Creek. The park is located 35 km west of Kyogle via Afterlee and Tooloom National Park.

MOUNT WARNING (WOLLUMBIN) NATIONAL PARK

Over 8 km of walking tracks are located within this park and a wheelchair accessible boardwalk provides access to a large number of flora and fauna. Numerous bird species have been recorded in this one small reserve. Park use fees apply.

BIG SCRUB RAINFOREST PARKS

Over just 100 years ago a vast and almost unbroken lowland rainforest covered 75 000 hectares of northern NSW in the roughly circular area presently enclosed by the towns of Lismore, Ballina, Byron Bay and Mullumbimby. This was the ‘Big Scrub’, possibly the largest area of tall subtropical rainforest on the east coast. Today only 11 major remnants survive which reflect the character of the original rainforest.

MEBBIN NATIONAL PARK

Sharing its western boundary with the Border Ranges National Park, this park forms part of the Caldera rim of the Mt Warning volcano. A significant portion of the park is dry eucalypt forest, with some rainforest and a small section of old-growth forest. Enjoy a picnic in the refurbished historic forestry hut or camp at the Mebbim camping area, where the 45km walk to Byrill Creek takes visitors through a stand of ancient figs. The park is located 32 km south-west of Murwillumbah, on Byrill Creek Road (unsealed), off Tyalgum Road. Park use fees apply.

KOREELAH NATIONAL PARK

Experience one of the states western-most rainforest areas. Pockets of World Heritage listed rainforest hug the steep slopes below Mt Warning and Mt Wilson, while a small volcano area beside Koreelah Creek provides a pleasant camping spot. The park is located 30 km west of Woodloong, on White Swamp Road or the Summerland Way at Old Koreelah.

WILSON NATURE RESERVE

Wilson Nature Reserve contains the only significant patch of dry rainforest left from the original ‘Big Scrub’. The short walking track is a good spot to see koalas. Located on Wyrallah Road, Lismore.

TUCKI TUCKI NATURE RESERVE

Tucki Tucki is not actually part of the ‘Big Scrub’, but was created to increase koala habitat in the region. In 1958 local residents initiated the tree plantings which now form the core of Tucki Tucki. Tree corridors link the reserve with other nearby koala habitats and a small colony of koalas live in the reserve. The park is located 15 km south of Lismore on the Wyrallah road.
COASTAL PARKS

The coastal parks of the Northern Rivers region protect increasingly scarce habitats in a region of rapid growth.

From the coastal rainforest of Broken Head to the flowering heath of Broadwater National Park, these parks allow us to experience the coast the way nature planned it.

BROKEN HEAD NATURE RESERVE

Broken Head has rainforest that truly meets the sea. Walking tracks offer sweeping vistas and provide access to secluded beaches with their spectacular backdrop of wind-shorn rainforest. Reached by turning off the coast road at the Broken Head Caravan Park sign 4 km south of Byron Bay.

A walking track leaves from near the caravan park. Camping is permitted only in the council managed caravan park.

BRUNSWICK HEADS NATURE RESERVE

Located just off the Pacific Highway on the northern side of the Brunswick River this reserve offers the magical combination of beach, estuary and littoral rainforest. It is the ideal location for a bushwalk, swim, a spot of river fishing or a picnic.

BUNDJALUNG NATIONAL PARK

Situated between the coastal villages of Evans Head and Iluka, Bundjalung National Park offers unspoilt beaches protected by dramatic headlands, plus uniquely Australian heath vegetation and pristine river systems.

At Black Rocks Camping Area, basic campsites provide the opportunity to enjoy the park. Reached by turning off the Pacific Highway at Gap Road just south of Woodburn, facilities include toilets and gas barbecues, however you must take your own water.

Gumna Gara Picnic Area, located adjacent to the fishing village of Evans Head, offers more bushwalking, fishing or the tranquility for a day spent relaxing with the family.

Camping and caravan facilities, including hot showers and a shower, are available at Woody Head. Bookings are essential - ring (02) 6646 6134 to secure a site. Picnic areas for day visitors are provided at Shank Bay, Frazers Bluff and Black Beach. Park use and camping fees apply.

BROADWATER NATIONAL PARK

Located between the villages of Evans Head and Broadwater on the Pacific Highway, this park preserves areas of outstanding coastal heath which erupts into glorious colour with the arrival of spring and the wildflowers. Picnic facilities are provided at Broadwater Beach, while the wheel chair accessible lookout on the headland allows uninterrupted ocean and heath views.

TYAGARAH NATURE RESERVE

Eight kilometres of secluded and unspoilt beach backed by coastal heath await visitors to this reserve. Reached by turning off the Pacific Highway 10 km north of Byron Bay at Gray’s Lane. Picnic facilities are provided. This is the perfect place for a quiet picnic or a spot of birdwatching. Park use fees apply.

CUDGLEN NATURE RESERVE

This coastal reserve features a brackish lagoon, coastal rainforest, koala habitat and heathland leading onto the sand dunes and beach. Sea turtles have been recorded nesting on the beach, and a small population of koalas inhabits the eucalypt and melaleuca forest around the lake and into the Round Mountain area of the reserve.

A picnic area is located beside Cudglen Lake, which offers good opportunities for canoists. Alternatively, you can enjoy a walk beside the lake, with the backdrop of Mt Warning to the west. The reserve is located 20 km east of Murwillumbah, on Clothes Creek Road off the Pacific Highway.

RICHMOND RIVER NATURE RESERVE

Mangrove, saltmarsh, coastal heath, paperbark swamp and small patches of littoral rainforest are features of this reserve. Enjoy fishing, surfing or a family picnic on the shores of Mooball Bay.

No vehicles are permitted on the beach north of the access point as it is habitat for the threatened pied oystercatcher. The reserve is located at South Ballina, on the southern banks of the lower Richmond River.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

The national parks of the region are part of the identity, spirituality, connection and resource base of the Bundjalung and Githabul Aboriginal people. The local Aboriginal people are recognised as the original custodians of the land, water, animals and plants of these areas.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service seeks to work in partnership with representatives of the local Aboriginal people to identify and protect heritage values and provide visitor information about the national parks of the region.

MOORE PARK NATURE RESERVE

This tiny reserve is not part of the area of the ‘Big Scrub’ but is all that remains of an area once known as Boyd’s Scrub. It is the most important example of black bean rainforest in NSW and is just off the Summerland Way near Old Grewilla, 26 km west of Kyogle. It supports a large seasonal bat colony and is a great place for a short bushwalk or a family picnic.

TWEED HEAD ABORIGINAL AREA

An Aboriginal Ceremonial Ground is situated in the heart the coastal village of Lennox Head. The Bundjalung people, whose lands make up this area, enjoyed an abundance of fresh water, marine life, plant and animal food sources.

One of the two Ceremonial Rings originally on the site remains. The Ceremonial Ground is a tangible remnant of the rich Aboriginal culture and was used as a male initiation site. It is located in Gibson Street off the Lennox Head to Byron Bay Road.

LENNOX HEAD ABORIGINAL AREA

An Aboriginal Ceremonial Ground is situated in the heart the coastal village of Lennox Head. The Bundjalung people, whose lands make up this area, enjoyed an abundance of fresh water, marine life, plant and animal food sources.

One of the two Ceremonial Rings originally on the site remains. The Ceremonial Ground is a tangible remnant of the rich Aboriginal culture and was used as a male initiation site. It is located in Gibson Street off the Lennox Head to Byron Bay Road.

CAPE BYRON STATE CONSERVATION AREA

Cape Byron Headland Reserve stands on the most easterly point of the Australian mainland.

A spectacular cliff-top walking track offers panoramic views of the ocean and north coast hinterland.

The reserve is an outstanding spot for viewing a diverse range of marine life including turtles, dolphins and humpback whales on their annual migration. Wind your way along the walking track through diverse coastal plant communities, including rainforest that stretches right down to the beach sands.

See the Cape Byron Lighthouse and stay the night in the lighthouse keeper’s quarters. Bookings are essential (02 6685 6555). Tours of the lighthouse are available, for bookings phone 6685 8655. Parking fees apply.

VISITOR FACILITIES

• Wheelchair access
• Walking track
• Lookout
• Toilets
• Picnic area
• Barbecues
• Camping Area

CARING FOR THE PARKS

• Leave your pets, firearms and spearguns at home, as they are not permitted.
• Enjoy the wildlife but do not disturb plants, animals, bushtracks, Aboriginal sites or historic places. All are protected.
• Be careful with fire. Use only fireplaces provided.
• Observe any total fire bans.
• Firewood is not provided. Bring your own firewood or better still use gas stoves.
• Chainsaws and firewood collection are not permitted.
• Drive carefully and keep to public roads. All vehicles must be registered and drivers licensed.
• Keep the park clean and safe for wildlife. Please take your rubbish home.
• Always considerate of other park users – keep your noise to a minimum.
• Please do not feed the wildlife. They will then demand it and can become dangerous.
• Drinking water is not provided in the parks.

MORE INFORMATION

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