

Regional Highlights

Wet Tropics Rainforest

Black Cockatoo Gallery

You can easily fall in love with the work of artist Ross Franzi, 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.



Wallaby Creek Festival

Rossville's annual Wallaby Creek Festival offers an eclectic mix of music, combined with bush poetry and workshops in acrobatics, weaving, sculpture, song writing, dance, yoga, didgeridoo making and fire twirling. The Festival is held over the school holidays every September at Home Rule Rainforest Lodge.



Cook Shire Council
Cape York & Cooktown
Tropical North Queensland
Adventure by nature

This brochure was produced with the assistance of the Elizabeth Guzseley Gallery, Wallaby Creek Festival and Jarramali Rock Art Tours.

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Community markets

The small rainforest community of Rossville holds their community market every second Sunday 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.



Bana Yirriji Art & Cultural Centre - Wujal Wujal

The natural setting couldn't be more perfect for the state-of-the-art Bana Yirriji Art & Cultural Centre at Wujal Wujal, 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 Bana Yirriji Art & Cultural Centre have to offer, while a beehive of workshop areas showcases the artists at work.



Walker Family Tours - Wujal Wujal

The beautiful Bloomfield Falls is a 40 metre waterfall surrounded by the World Heritage listed rainforest and is a very special place for Bama from the Kuku Yalanji nation. Join members from the Walker family on a guided tour and learn how the rainforest is a wealth of resources for the local Bama and why this area is of cultural significance to them.



Laura

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. The festival ground 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. The biennial Laura Dance Festival is held in June.



Quinkan and 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.



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, Guugu Yimithirr and Kuku Thaypan people. Specialised tours hosted by the Aboriginal Elders are available for booking through the Quinkan and Regional Cultural Centre.



Split Rock Gallery

Self-guided tour to view the spectacular sandstone escarpments and glittering sands that are home to some unique and rare rock art that is up to 30,000 years old.

Mushroom Rock Gallery

This ancient camp has an extensive amount of rock art and hosts a variety of styles from three distinct periods.

Quinkan Galleries

Acknowledged as being the most highly regarded rock art in the region, these sites are highly significant and sacred to the Indigenous people of the area. Due to this, visitor restrictions apply and access is by guided tour only. Bookings can be made at the Quinkan and Regional Cultural Centre.

Hope Vale

Hope Vale Arts and Cultural Centre

This is a mandatory stop for people to share the culture, knowledge and skills of the Guugu Yimithirr people. For the avid art-lover, 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 creating.



Giant Horse Galleries

Consist of five shelters, depicting ancestral spirits and many of the region's animals, important as totems 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. Only accessible by guided tour.



Jarramali Rock Art Tours

A unique Aboriginal cultural experience exploring the Quinkan Rock Art sites found among the sandstone escarpments near Laura. Join a local Traditional Owner and explore the rich history of the world's oldest living culture.



Guurrbi Tours

For an unforgettable experience join Nugal-warra Elder, Willie Gordon of Guurrbi Tours, on one of his award-winning tours to his ancestral rock art sites, high in the hills outside Hope Vale. Bookings are essential and can be made at Cooktown Cultural and Aboriginal Tours.



Culture Connect Aboriginal Experiences

For an authentic cultural experience, join Aboriginal traditional owners on a full day or half day rock art and ranger tour departing Cooktown. Discover the homelands of the Balnggarawarra people, learn about their culture, traditional bush foods and medicine and see first-hand, exquisite rock art rarely seen by outsiders.

ART AND ABORIGINAL TRAILS

Cooktown and Cape York Peninsula



Elim Beach

The stunning beach at Elim is home to the famous Coloured Sands, and a popular spot for people to visit at weekends to go fishing. It is also a popular camping spot and the Elim Beach campground hosted by Thiithaarr-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.



Maaramaka Walkabout Tours

Join the Hammett family for a guided tour through the rainforest near Hope Vale and experience the local Indigenous stories and learn about their cultures and history. Bookings are essential and can be made at Cooktown Cultural and Aboriginal Tours.



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Art and Aboriginal Trails

Cooktown

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 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.

2. PCYC Cooktown Events Centre

Public artworks decorate the exterior of the building, including the Welcome Barra Wall. Changing exhibitions are on display throughout the year and feature a mixture of photography, printmaking, painting, drawing and mixed media works by students and other emerging and professional artists in the region. Live music performances are also regularly held at this venue.



6. River of Life Walkway

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.



7. Milbi Wall

Nearly 500 hand-painted 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.



9. Grassy Hill

Redeveloped in 2010, the climb to Grassy Hill features public art works exploring Captain Cook's visit and Indigenous Dreamtime stories. The access ramp at the top of the lookout takes the shape of the serpent Mungurru. With 360 degree views of Cooktown, this is an iconic landmark not to be missed!



12. Kuku Bulkaway - Indigenous Art Gallery

A small gallery showcasing local Indigenous artworks and jewellery with the artist's inspiration coming from the land and sea country that surrounds them. All artworks are hand crafted and painted by local artists in the Cape York region.

13. 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.



4. Vera Scarth-Johnson Gallery

The Vera Scarth-Johnson Gallery is located in Nature's Powerhouse, nestled amongst the beautiful Cooktown Botanic Gardens. This lovely bush setting is an ideal spot to house the stunning collection of botanical illustrations painted by the late Vera Scarth-Johnson. The 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. Live music performances and concerts are also held at Nature's Powerhouse on a regular basis.



5. The Wooden Python

Keep an eye out for a very friendly Amethystine Python who watches over the grounds of the Botanic Gardens, near 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.



3. Elizabeth Guzselly Gallery

In the light, airy Elizabeth Guzselly Gallery, you will get a sense of what Cooktown is all about as you view works produced by local artists ranging from paintings in various styles, mosaics, collage, sculpture and even driftwood. The gallery hosts the Annual Cooktown Art Exhibition in June, guaranteeing something of interest for everyone. Members and non-members are welcome to enter.



8. Cooktown Markets

The Cooktown Markets are held every Saturday morning featuring a variety of local artists' hand-made works that showcase the talents of the region, including beautiful timber pieces, paintings, Indigenous artworks, sculptures and more. Meet and talk to the artists and hear the stories behind their works.



10. 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!



14. CR Arts Tracks Retail Store

A new art and retail store situated on Charlotte Street, featuring local Indigenous art works from Cooktown, Hope Vale, Wujal Wujal and Laura.



11. Cooktown Cultural and Aboriginal Tours

Book your Aboriginal cultural tours of Cooktown and the surrounding region at the booking office and while you are there check out the local Aboriginal artworks including paintings and weavings made from local materials. Booking agent for Guurrbi Tours and Maaramaka Walkabout Tours

