

TOUCH THE TOP

Discover the real
Atherton Tablelands

therealathertontablelands.com.au





Top off your trip with a visit to the **Atherton Tablelands.**

Explore Nature

Ancient rainforest, waterfalls, crystal-clear crater lakes, rugged outback, food, history, wildlife and more — a visit to the stunning Atherton Tablelands promises to be one of great contrast, beauty and exploration.

Immerse yourself in nature's playground on the Atherton Tablelands.

Seek Adventure

Discover hidden falls, swim in enchanting volcanic crater lakes, paddle board over rainforest fringed pristine waters or take to the mountain bike trails running through picturesque open forest.

Put adventure on the top of your list and head to the Atherton Tablelands.

Immerse yourself in **Nature's Playground.**

Located in Tropical North Queensland, the Atherton Tablelands offers immersive nature and adventure-based experiences — dramatic mountain ranges, untouched-rainforests and breathtaking waterfalls.

You can spend your days enjoying scenic country drives, wildlife spotting, food tasting and unearthing the fascinating geological history and unique experiences that only the Atherton Tablelands can offer.

It's the perfect destination to top off your trip.



A day trip around

the Atherton Tablelands

Jenny Todd, volunteer, Atherton Tablelands Information Centre, shows some visitors her favourite parts of the Tablelands on a picture-perfect day.

We start out first thing in the morning with a drive along Topaz Road. The views of the rolling green hills and the distant blue ranges are spectacular. With a short diversion up Old Boonjie Road, we see glimpses of the ocean and Innisfail and don't mind the detour! After a quick leg stretch, we're back in the car for the next destination, Lake Eacham in Crater Lakes National Park.

Lake Eacham proves to be a real surprise for our guests. They're amazed to see a picture-perfect volcanic lake nestled among the lush rainforest we're driving through. Everyone 'oohs' and 'aahs' over the tranquil, crystal-clear lake and its fringing rainforest.

Keen to explore more, we follow the well-defined path with cameras ready to snap that 'Insta-perfect' wildlife or nature image. Unusual fungi and interesting patterns on the bark of majestic trees that cast dappled light through their leafy canopies reveal Musky Rat-Kangaroos foraging for worms and fungi, as well as a curious Eastern Water-Dragon or two.

Next we head into Yungaburra, well known and loved for its village atmosphere, for refreshments and shopping and perhaps a yarn and beverage at the pub.



Walking track at Lake Eacham

‘We recount the day’s highlights as the sun dips, and I can’t help but remind our guests that we really do live in paradise!’

It’s always hard to drag yourself away from Yungaburra, but we finally get underway and head to the Afghanistan Avenue of Honour on the southern shores of Lake Tinaroo. Lining the path to the flying wings sculpture is an avenue of Illawarra Flame Trees that thrive in this region and will display their bright red flowers around Remembrance Day. Our cameras are out again capturing the memorial’s graceful angles and after a while our more pensive and subdued group quietly gets back in the car. We start driving towards the other side of the lake where the Tinaroo township is located.

We travel past volcanic cinder cone hills known locally as the Seven Sisters or The Pinnacles and through a large area of farming land known as the Golden Triangle due to its highly valuable productivity before reaching the Tinaroo Dam wall lookout. This is an impressive engineering structure, and we walk along the wall as far as we’re allowed. The dam is not at capacity and no water is flowing over the wall, so we drive back to the park near the township and wander past the interpretative signs that line the foreshore walkway and learn of the dam and areas history.

We decide to travel home via Mount Hypipamee National Park. On the headwaters of the mighty Barron River, it has a volcanic pipe feature thought to have been created by a massive gas explosion. The crater that resulted is quite a sight to see, once again surprising our guests by its sudden appearance after a short walk. A detour track leads steeply down to a delightful waterfall on the Barron River, however, our guests seem to be wilting, so we defer that walk and head back to the car park hoping to see one of the regular Southern Cassowaries that are often seen here.

Alas, no luck today, so we travel on towards Millaa Millaa and stop at the McHugh lookout for a 180°-view of the Tablelands from a height of 1000m. Fortunately, the weather has stayed clear and while we are a bit blown about, we again spend some time snapping the stunning views. Back in the shelter of the car we have just enough time to drive the waterfall loop just east of Millaa Millaa before returning home for sunset drinks and local produce cooked on the barbie. We recount the day’s highlights as the sun dips, and I can’t help but remind our guests that we really do live in paradise!

TOUCH THE TOP

Atherton Tablelands Highlights Two Day Itinerary

See the highlights of the Atherton Tablelands with our specialised two-day itinerary jam packed with fun for the whole family. For your ease, we've mapped out the [whole day's itinerary here](#).

Day One

1 Lake Barrine



Walk from the lower car park to the boardwalk at the base of two exceptionally large Bull Kauri Pine Trees.

These ancient giants are believed to be more than 1000 years old. Towering over the canopy, they are 50m tall and have a trunk diameter of 2.7m. Kauris, common in some rainforest types, are descendants of species that dominated Tableland forests for thousands of years. Kauris today are almost identical to fossil kauris found in rocks 300 million years old. Next visit the teahouse for some tea and scones!

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [Crater Lakes National Park, Gillies Highway](#)

2 Avenue of Honour



Drive into Yungaburra and visit the iconic Afghanistan Avenue of Honour by Lake Tinaroo.

The memorial is dedicated to those who served in the fight against terror in Afghanistan and to the brave and selfless Australians who made the ultimate sacrifice in defence of freedom and liberty.

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [Tinaburra Drive, Yungaburra](#)

3 Yungaburra Hotel



Next stop — lunch!

Stop by the Yungaburra Hotel for a lovely meal. Built in 1910, this iconic building showcases some of the local history with pictures of the area's early milling days.

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [6 Kehoe Place, Yungaburra](#)

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Day One Continues...

4 Peterson Creek Wildlife & Botanical Walking Track



After a lovely meal, it's time for some wildlife spotting! Located in the heart of Yungaburra is a 2.3km trail following the creek where you may spot a Platypus and if you're especially lucky – a rare Lumholtz's Tree-Kangaroo. For some fun there is Lloyd's Suspension Bridge to cross!

Along the trail, take in historical relics such as an old steam pump and water wheel turbine that was used to supply power to the township and railway engines.

📍 [Peterson Creek Wildlife and Botanical Walking Track Yungaburra](#)

5 Curtain Fig Tree Curtain Fig tree National Park



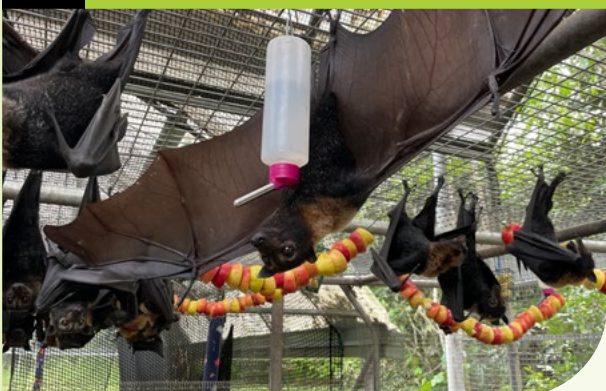
On the outskirts of Yungaburra this enormous and unique strangler fig is over 500 years old and is nestled in a rare Mabi Forest.

Take in this incredible sight from the short boardwalk that encircles the tree.

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [Fig Tree Road, East Barron](#)

6 Tolga Bat Hospital



The final stop for the day is the Tolga Bat Hospital. Have you ever looked a Flying-Fox in the eye? Seen and heard the echolocation of a microbat on a bat detector? Meet the bats, enjoy the bat talk and watch them feed and interact with each other. Learn about their lives, their importance to the environment and the work of the bat hospital. Bookings essential.

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [134 Carrington Road, Carrington](#)

TOUCH THE TOP

Day Two Begins!

The whole day's itinerary has been [mapped out here](#).

Day Two

1

Mount Hypipamee National Park



The Hypipamee crater is a volcanic pipe. The pipe was opened upward through surface rocks by gas produced from molten rock below. Tremendous pressure caused the vent to explode, sending volcanic bombs far across the landscape. A viewing platform at the end of a 400m walking track through the rainforest provides an uninterrupted view of the remaining crater. The crater is almost 70m across with sheer granite walls (the surface rock through which the gas exploded). If you look 58m below the rim, there is a 70m deep lake cloaked in a green layer of native waterweed.

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [Kennedy Highway, Malanda](#)

2

Mungalli Creek Dairy Café



Feast your way through a local treasure at the Mungalli Farmhouse for brunch. The Café serves beautiful meals made from their own biodynamic dairy products and locally sourced organic produce.

Next onto the Waterfall Circuit! See the picturesque sights and appreciate the wondrous natural beauty that the region is known for.

📍 [254 Brooks Road, Millaa Millaa](#)

3

Ellinjaa Falls



Ellinjaa Falls reaches approximately 12m, with a brilliant display of water cascading into a clear pool. Make sure to pack your swimmers so you can take a dip!

📍 [1174 Theresa Creek Road, Millaa Millaa](#)

TOUCH THE TOP

Day Two Continues...

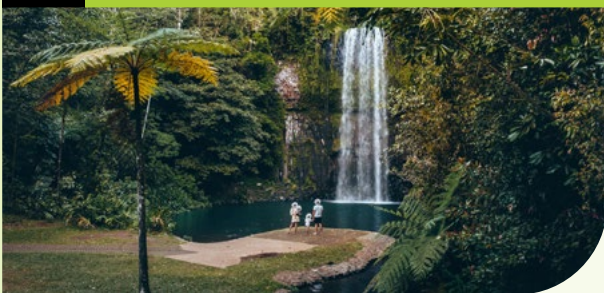
4 Zillie Falls



The second waterfall of the waterfall circuit is Zillie Falls. Take in the view from the viewing platform at the base of the falls. You may even spot a Flying-Fox with colonies known to frequent this area.

📍 [Wooroonooran](#)

5 Millaa Millaa Waterfalls



Perhaps the most famous of all the waterfalls in the Atherton Tablelands, come and see this incredible waterfall for yourself!

Look out for the hexagonal column rock walls around the falls. These are classic volcanic basalt that have formed over time.

📍 [Millaa Falls Road, Millaa Millaa](#)

6 Gallo Dairyland



After chasing waterfalls, it's time for lunch!

Stop into the famous Gallo Dairyland and experience incredibly fresh produce — from cheese to chocolate, get ready to have a feast! The farm is also home to some farm animals that will delight visitors of all ages.

📍 [9E Barron Road, East Barron](#)

7 Lake Eacham Day-Use Area Crater Lakes National Park



Enjoy a post-lunch walk, taking in the sights around Lake Eacham and hopefully catch a few glimpses of the unique wildlife in the area. Or perhaps go for a swim in the lake as you wrap up your time in the region. Remember to hashtag your pictures **#AthertonTablelands**

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [Lakes Drive, Lake Eacham](#)

TOUCH THE TOP

Top 5 must do

Explore nature

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1 Ravenshoe

Visit Queensland's highest town, Ravenshoe. Take in the views of the lush surrounding rainforest and watch Australia's widest, single-drop waterfall, Millstream Falls, plunge over the edge of a columnar basalt lava flow. A walking track leads to a viewing area and a separate entrance to the park leads to Little Millstream Falls. Ravenshoe (among many other parts of the Tablelands) is home to an amazing array of wildlife, from possums to gliders. Join a guided tour to see these incredible creatures in their natural habitat.

We recommend walking the nearby Misty Mountain Wildness Tracks, part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Famous for its diversity of rainforest types, plant species and incredible landscapes, take the time to explore this natural wonder.

TOUCH THE TOP

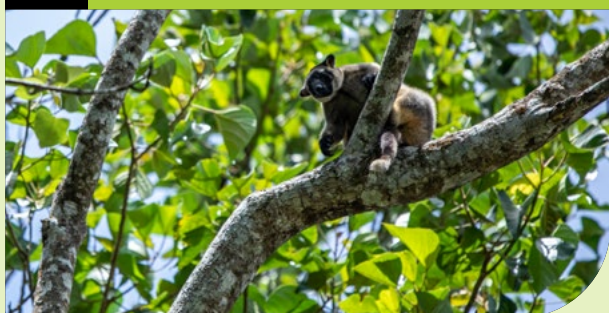
Top 5 must do **Nature** Activities

2 Giant Fig Trees



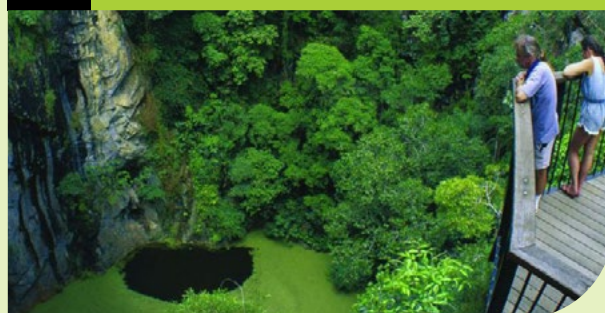
See Yungaburra's high-profile landmark, the amazing Curtain Fig tree. Only minutes from the village, the tree is thought to be nearly 50m tall, 39m round and over 500 years old! The Cathedral Fig Tree, in Danbulla National Park, is also a sight to behold. With a crown as big as two Olympic swimming pools towering nearly 50m over you, this mighty tree will take your breath away.

4 Spot Wildlife



Join a night-time wildlife tour to spot some possums and gliders and if you're lucky, rare Lumholtz's Tree-Kangaroos. The Atherton Tablelands is home to an incredible array of birds and mammals so make sure to watch out for those! Viewing and studying wildlife is made possible by a network of national parks, bushwalks, tours, and the knowledge of many local people. With so many unique and beautiful species that call the Tablelands home, you will have an enriching experience discovering nature in this region.

3 Mount Hypipamee Crater



Meander along an 800m return forest track and emerge at a viewing platform overlooking the sheer granite walls of Mount Hypipamee Crater. A remarkable variety of vegetation types, including high-altitude rainforest, grow in this small park. It is a hot spot for possums, Southern Cassowaries, and a good place for seeing high-altitude birds.

5 Herberton Walking Trails



The Herberton Walking Trails range from an easy 1km stroll, to 12km of moderate to difficult bushwalking. The shorter trails showcase the heritage buildings of Herberton while the longer trails incorporate river and mountain areas.

The place for **adventure seekers.**

Take your mountain biking to the next level with long distance, high-altitude tracks and over 50km of purpose-built mountain bike trails. For the adventurous hiker, there are plenty of incredible trails through the national parks. Touch the top from the summit of the many mountains that make up the Tablelands.

With incredible camping spots near most of the local attractions, wake up under the stars and have Lake Tinaroo or Rocky Creek as your backyard.

If it's adventure you seek, there's no place better than the Atherton Tablelands.



TOUCH THE TOP

Top 5 must do
Adventures

therealathertontablelands.com.au

1 Walking/Hiking Trails

There are plenty of walking trails in the Tablelands from the network in Danbulla National Park to the forest walks of Wongabel State Forest, there is something for everyone. Explore some of the amazing walking trails that surround the beautiful Crater Lakes National Park.

Lake Eacham offers an easy walking track and is also a good spot for a swim. Or hike up Mount Baldy for breathing views of Atherton and Lake Tinaroo.

For the experienced bushwalker the rugged 15km walking track to the summit of Queensland's highest mountain — Bartle Frere — is a must and you'll be rewarded with stunning views all the way to the coast when you get there.



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Top 5 must do Adventures

2 Mountain & Road Biking



The cool, elevated plateau of the Atherton Tablelands makes for some of the best mountain bike and road cycling adventures in Queensland. Experience the magnificent flowing single tracks, family trails and the world class mountain bike park. Or pump tracks along scenic country road rides and the Atherton Tablelands Rail Trail. There's a trail or park for all riders.

4 Culture



For a cultural experience, explore the rich history of the Atherton Tablelands by visiting Hou Wang Chinese Temple and Herberton Mining Museum. Take a walk through history on the Tablelands Art and Heritage Trail. The trail takes you through the region's rich mining, forestry, farming and military heritage. Linking to various significant memorial sites, you'll see an array of buildings, museums and tracks. Call into one of the information centres to pick up your copy of the various trail guides available or [get a digital copy here](#).

3 Exploration



The Atherton Tablelands is all about the outdoors and a genuine playground for outdoor adventure enthusiasts. Experience the beautiful Australian landscape and its wildlife on a trip to the Crater Lakes National Park, where the volcanic features of the park date back two million years. Explore historical Herberton and geological wonders, including dramatic gorges and brilliant gemstones, or savour an attraction and explore some of the local food destinations that the Atherton Tablelands has on offer.

5 Water Sports



Swim in enchanting volcanic crater lakes. Kayak and paddle board over pristine waters at Lake Eacham and take a relaxing boat cruise at Lake Barrine. Fish for barramundi in Lake Tinaroo and sail, ski, row and camp at Lake Tinaroo and Koombooloomba Dam. Or enjoy a soak in the rejuvenating Innot Hot Springs. There's water adventures for all.

Stay & play

The Atherton Tablelands boasts an abundance of unique Australian hospitality across the region and, after spending a night in a rainforest treehouse, you won't want to come back down to earth.

With quaint boutique accommodation, the township of Atherton and surrounding villages of Yungaburra, Malanda, Herberton and Ravenshoe offer true serenity when exploring the beautiful surrounds of the Atherton Tablelands. Stay at a historic pub or find a charming cottage. If you love camping there are plenty of camp grounds throughout the region to explore. The Atherton Tablelands has a variety of accommodation to suit everyone.

Known as the heart and centre of Tropical North Queensland's food bowl, the Atherton Tablelands is home to some of the most delicious food. Discover great restaurants, cafes and food experiences on offer. To find your unique adventure visit one of our five [information centres](#) across the region or call 1300 366 361 to speak to a local.



TOUCH THE TOP

Historical and Cultural Tour of the Atherton Tablelands

Calling all history enthusiasts and culture chasers, we've got a two-day itinerary featuring museums, galleries and some tasty treats along the way.

The whole day's itinerary has been [mapped out here](#).

Day One

1 Rocky Creek War Memorial Park



Visit the memorial park to learn more about the area's rich history. During World War II, the Tablelands area became the largest military base in Australia with camps at Tinaroo, Kairi, Atherton, Wongabel, Herberton, Wondecla, Ravenshoe and Mount Garnet. Rocky Creek was the site of the largest military hospital in the Southern Hemisphere — a 3000-bed hospital that treated over 60,000 patients from 1943 to 1945.

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [Kennedy Highway, Tolga](#)

2 Tablelands Regional Gallery



Next stop of the day — the Tablelands Regional Gallery! The gallery showcases a diverse array of artistic talent from the Atherton Tablelands through exhibitions, workshops and cultural events.

For even more art and culture, stop in at the Old Post Office Gallery or the Foyer Gallery for a deeper dive into the Tablelands rich arts community.

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [16 Robert Street, Atherton](#)

TOUCH THE TOP

Day One Continues...

3 Hou Wang Temple & Atherton Chinatown



Photo Credit: National Trust Queensland

Established in 1903 by the large population of Chinese residents living and working at Cedar Camp, the Hou Wang Temple was constructed with the typical Queensland materials of timber and corrugated iron.

Visit the last remaining temple of its kind in Australia to appreciate the rich history of the area.

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [86 Herberton Road, Atherton](#)

4 Lunch Time



Photo Credit: John de Rooy

Visit the award-winning Fresh Street Market IGA and grab some goodies for a picnic at Hallorans Hill. Or stop in for lunch at one of the incredible cafes in the area. The Atherton Tablelands is known as the food-bowl of Northern Queensland, so we're sure you'll be delighted with the local produce and hospitality!

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [IGA: 2-4 Silo Road Silo Central Shopping Centre, Atherton](#)

5 Crystal Caves



Photo Credit: Crystal Caves

Take a tour of over 600 crystals and fossils and spend the afternoon going through this 'cave' of marvels from all over the world.

From the private collection of Rene Boissevain, this interactive experience allows you to photograph and get close up to these incredible natural wonders.

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [69 Main Street, Atherton](#)

TOUCH THE TOP

Historical and Cultural Tour of the Atherton Tablelands

Day Two

The whole day's itinerary has been [mapped out here](#).

1 Nerada Tea Rooms



Visit Australia's largest tea plantation and enjoy a fresh cup of tea along with some tasty treats!

Go behind the scenes on the farm tour or book a blending experience to see how Nerada tea is produced firsthand.

[Find out more.](#)

[933 Glen Allyn Road, Malanda](#)

2 Atherton-Herberton Historic Railway



Photo Credit: Atherton-Herberton Historic Railway

The Atherton-Herberton Historic Railway Museum is a wonderful trip through history. Take a ride on the restored rail line from Herberton Station to the Historic Village Herberton.

[Find out more.](#)

[29-27 Ellie Street, Herberton](#)

TOUCH THE TOP

Day Two Continues...

3 Historic Village Herberton



Step back in time at the Historic Village Herberton, showcasing over 60 original buildings that date back to Herberton's foundation years. With so much to see and do, the daily timetable will help you make the most of your visit.

In addition to the museum and village there's a delicious café to stop by and grab lunch.

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [6 Broadway, Herberton](#)

4 Herberton Mining Museum



Photo Credit: Atherton - Tropical Tablelands Tourism

Dig into the past and explore the rich mining history of this town and region. The museum encourages visitors to interact with the displays and models making it a great experience for the whole family!

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [1 Jacks Road, Herberton](#)

5 WWII Heritage Walk Millstream Falls National Park



Finish the day with a walk along the Millstream Falls WWII Track. This 1km trail passes through the site of the camp for the Battalions of the 7th and 9th Divisions between 1943 and 1945. There are traces of the cooking, washing and training facilities still visible along this heritage walk. Make sure you continue on to see the iconic Millstream Falls themselves too!

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [Millstream Falls National Park, Ravenshoe](#)

Getting here

Travel into region via six main access routes. Make your way via Rex Range, Palmerston Highway, Savannah Way or Mulligan Highway for example — come in one way and take another way out!

The Gillies Highway takes you from the southern side of Cairns and up into the mountains. Another great way to travel into the region is via the Kuranda Range, which will take you along the Kennedy Highway and into the Northern Tablelands.

For people coming from Townsville, you can access the Atherton Tablelands via the Palmerston Highway.

Whatever your adventure, finding your way around has never been easier.





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