

# TOUCH THE TOP

Discover the real  
**Atherton Tablelands**

[therealathertontablelands.com.au](http://therealathertontablelands.com.au)

Zillie Falls

Photo Credit: Sera J Wright

 Tablelands Regional Council



Lake Barrine

# 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 lakes, paddle 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 offer 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.



Dinner Falls in Mount Hypipamee National Park.

Photo Credit: Sera J Wright

# A day trip around

## the Atherton Tablelands

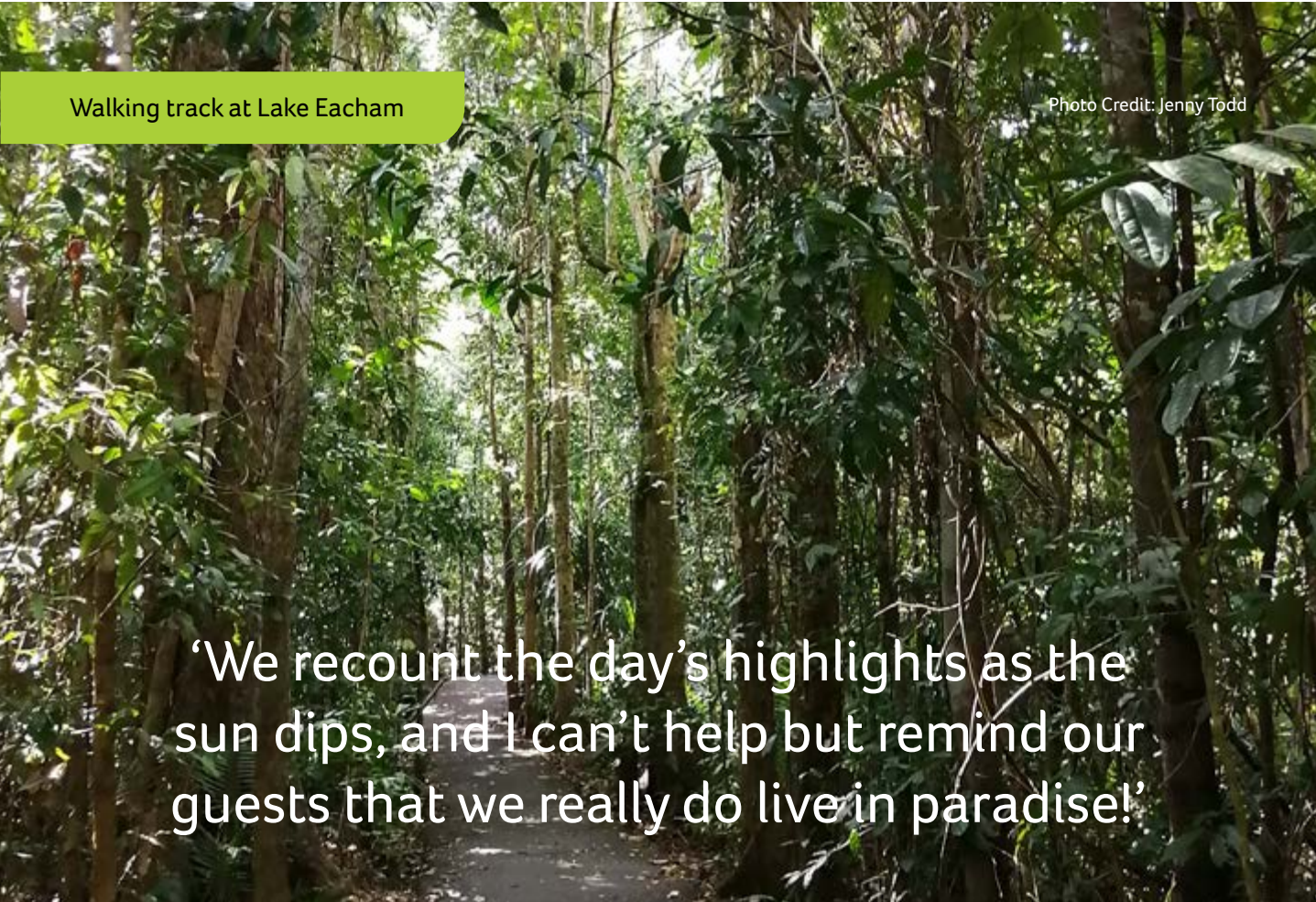
Jenny Todd, volunteer, Atherton Tablelands Information Centre, shows some visitors her favourite parts of the Tablelands on an incredible day.

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 an incredible volcanic lake nestled in 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. The unusual fungi and interesting patterns on the bark of majestic trees cast dappled light through their leafy canopies revealing Musky Rat-Kangaroos foraging for worms and fungi and 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.



‘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 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 area’s 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 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](#).

### 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 Afghanistan Avenue of Honour



Photo Credit: Virtual War Memorial Australia

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 trail following the creek where you may spot a Platypus and if you're especially lucky – a 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.](#)

📍 [Curtain Fig Tree Road, East Barron](#)

### 6 Bat Rescue and Visitor Centre



Photo Credit: Tablelands Regional Council

The final stop for the day is the Bat Rescue and Visitor Centre. 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](#).

### Day Two

1

#### Mount Hypipamee National Park



Photo Credit: Sera J Wright

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 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 Hwy, Upper Barron QLD 4883](#)

2

#### The Farmhouse Cafe



Photo Credit: Mungalli Creek Dairy

Feast your way through a local treasure at the Mungalli Farmhouse. The café serves beautiful meals made from the farm's 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.

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [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!

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



# TOUCH THE TOP

## Day Two Continues...

### 4 Zillie Falls



The second waterfall of the 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.

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

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

📍 [Theresa Creek 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 farm animals that will delight visitors of all ages.

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [Malanda Road Atherton](#)

### 7 Lake Eacham Crater Lakes National Park



Enjoy a post-lunch walk, taking in the sights around Lake Eacham and hopefully catch glimpses of the wildlife in the area. Or have 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**

[therealathertontablelands.com.au](http://therealathertontablelands.com.au)

## 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. Join a guided tour to see these incredible creatures in their natural habitat.

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

Ravenshoe

# TOUCH THE TOP

## Top 5 must do **Nature** Activities

### 2 Giant Fig Trees



Photo Credit: Sera J Wright

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.

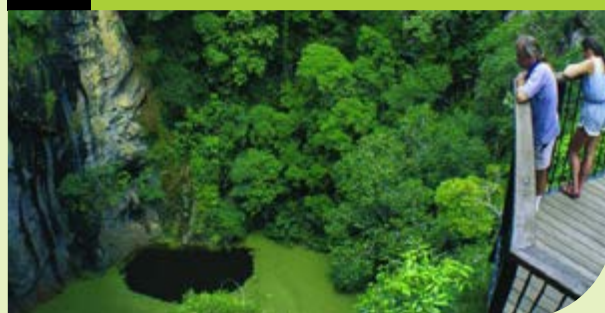
### 4 Spot Wildlife



Photo Credit: Franz Nichtmueller

The Atherton Tablelands is home to an incredible array of birds and mammals. Join a night-time wildlife tour to spot possums and gliders, and if you're lucky, Lumholtz's Tree-Kangaroos. Viewing and studying wildlife is made possible by a network of national parks, bushwalks, tours, and the knowledge of 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 400m 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, grows in this national park. It is a hot spot for possums and Southern Cassowaries, and a good place for seeing high-altitude birds.

### 5 The Great Northern Firetrails



Photo Credit: Herberton Mining Museum History Association

Herberton's Great Northern Firetrails 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.

[Find out more.](#)

# The place for **adventure seekers.**

With over 50km of purpose built mountain bike trails at high-altitude, find your next mountain biking adventure at the Atherton Forest Mountain Bike Park. For the avid 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.



Atherton Forest Mountain Bike Park

# TOUCH THE TOP

Top 5 must do  
**Adventures**

[therealathertontablelands.com.au](http://therealathertontablelands.com.au)

## 1 Walking & Hiking Trails

There are plenty of walking trails in the Tablelands, from the 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.

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.

Curtain Fig Tree

# TOUCH THE TOP

## 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 ride tracks along scenic country roads and the Atherton Tablelands Rail Trail. There's a trail 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 Centre. Take a walk through history on the Southern Atherton Tablelands Arts, Crafts 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](#).

### 3 Exploration



The Atherton Tablelands is all about the outdoors and a genuine playground for adventure enthusiasts. Experience the beautiful Australian landscape and its wildlife on a trip to Crater Lakes National Park, where the volcanic features of the park date back 10,000 years. Explore historical Herberton and geological wonders, 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. Paddle over the 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 head west and 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. Stay at a historic pub or find a charming cottage. If you love camping there are plenty of campgrounds throughout the region. 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. To find your unique adventure visit one of the five [information centres](#) across the region or call 1300 366 361 to speak to a local.



# TOUCH THE TOP Cultural Tour

## Cultural Tour of the Atherton Tablelands

We've got a two-day itinerary featuring museums, galleries and some tasty treats along the way.

### Day One

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

#### 1 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.](#)

📍 [The end of John Street, Herberton, 4887](#)

#### 2 Historic Village Herberton



Photo Credit: 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](#)



# TOUCH THE TOP

# Cultural Tour

## Day One Continues...

### 3 Herberton Mining Centre

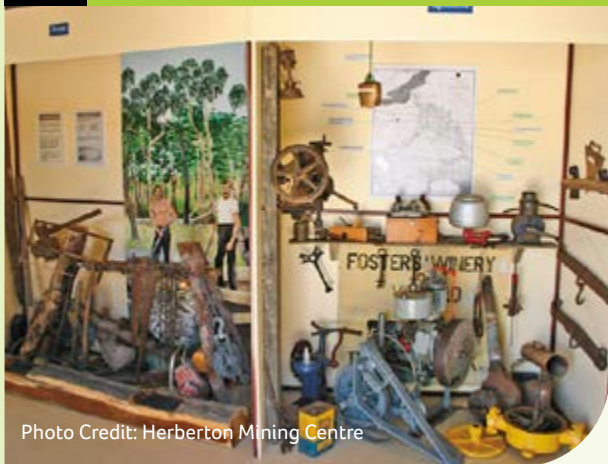


Photo Credit: Herberton Mining Centre

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](#)

## Day Two

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

### 1 Tableland Regional Gallery



Photo Credit: Tablelands Regional Council

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

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

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [16 Robert Street, Atherton](#)

# TOUCH THE TOP

## Cultural Tour

### Day Two Continued...

2

#### Hou Wang Temple & Atherton Chinatown



Photo Credit: Tablelands Regional Council

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](#)

3

#### Lunchtime



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 the food-bowl of North Queensland, and you'll be delighted with the local produce and hospitality!

[Find out more.](#)

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

# TOUCH THE TOP

## Cultural Tour

### Day Two Continued...

#### 4 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](#)

#### 5 Nganyaji Interpretive Centre



Photo Credit: ATDW

The Nganyaji Interpretive Centre presents the rich culture of the Jirrbal Aboriginal people. The centre protects and shares a collection of the Jirrbal's creation stories and material culture.

[24 Moore St, Ravenshoe](#)

# TOUCH **History** THE TOP **Tour**

## One Day History Highlights of the Atherton Tablelands

In 1942 Australia was preparing for the imminent threat of the advancing Japanese Imperial Army and Field Marshall Sir Thomas Blamey (2nd Australian Imperial Force) selected the Atherton Tablelands as a staging and training post.

The area was ideal for recuperation and jungle warfare training and was close to resupply lines and battlefronts. By December 1942 the Australian Army headquarters had transferred from Townsville to Atherton and Tolga. By January 1943 work had begun on the 13th Advanced Ordnance Depot in Tolga — the largest in North Queensland's history.

The entire Tablelands Region would soon have new infrastructure, amenities and hundreds of buildings. Returning units from the 6th and 7th Divisions arrived after their Papuan campaign and established encampments around Ravenshoe, Wondecla and Wongabel. The 9th Division returned from North Africa and set up camps in the Kairi, Danbulla and Tinaroo areas. By the end of September 1944, 689 units were spread across the Tablelands. The Atherton Tableland's population boomed with the additional 100,000 military personnel, and the nearby Rocky Creek area became the site for the largest field hospital in the Southern Hemisphere.



Rocky Creek Memorial

Photo Credit: Gordon Grimwade

# TOUCH THE TOP

## History Tour

Check out the itinerary packed with history sights to explore.  
The whole day has been [mapped out](#).

### 1 Rocky Creek War Memorial Park



Photo Credit: Gordon Grimwade (Write Shutter)

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 Tolga Museum



Photo Credit: Tolga Historical Society

The Tolga Museum consists of the former Tolga Railway Station which houses railway history of the area, history of the Tolga township, timber industry and general artefacts.

The second building houses history from WW1, the Rocky Creek Hospital and military displays from WW11, tributes to the women who served and the nurses from the hospital, Vietnam display, local identities, timber industry, and local history.

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [80b Kennedy Highway, Tolga](#)

# TOUCH THE TOP

## History Tour

### 3 Afghanistan Avenue of Honour



Photo Credit: Virtual War Memorial Australia

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](#)

### 4 Atherton War Cemetery



Photo Credit: Heritage branch staff - Queensland Heritage Register: Atherton War Cemetery

Atherton has the third largest of the 14 war cemeteries in Queensland and the cemetery has a Cross of Sacrifice, which represents Commonwealth War Cemeteries that have more than 40 burials. The first burial was on 4 January 1943 and the last on 1 December 1946. The cemetery has 151 Australian Army graves, 12 Royal Australian Air Force graves and one Young Men's Christian Association grave.

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [221 Rockley Rd, Atherton](#)

# TOUCH THE TOP

## History Tour

### 5 WWII Heritage Walk — Millstream Falls National Park



Photo Credit: Tamara Vallance

This 1 km trail passes through the site of the camp for the battalions of the 7th and 9th Divisions. 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](#)

### 6 Ravenshoe War Memorial



Photo Credit: Monument Australia

Ravenshoe became a key training centre during World War II and all over the district there are markers placed showing the location of various divisions and units that trained there.

The Ravenshoe War Memorial is the only one of its kind in Queensland and serves as an historical record of local participation and sacrifice in war.

[Find out more.](#)

📍 [6 John St, Ravenshoe QLD 4888](#)

# Getting here

Travel into region via six main access routes. Make your way via the Gillies Highway, Kennedy Highway, Rex Range, Palmerston Highway, Savannah Way or Mulligan Highway — 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.





A group of people, including a woman in a blue shirt, a child in a red jacket, and others, are standing on a wooden walkway with a metal railing. They are looking towards a large tree with many hanging roots. The scene is set in a lush forest.

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