

# Cape Byron State Conservation Area and Surrounds Itinerary



[nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

As one of the most beautiful places in Australia, [Cape Byron State Conservation Area](#) is a landscape set to amaze your senses. The rugged headland, sheltered rainforest gullies and subtropical waters provide the perfect playground for any nature lover. Boasting magnificent views of the hinterland and the ocean, the Cape Byron Lighthouse is an exceptional place for watching humpback whales on their annual migration, as well as lots of other water-based wildlife.

## DAY 1

A great way to start your adventure is to take a guided tour of the [Cape Byron Lighthouse](#) which stands on the most easterly point of the Australian mainland. This heritage listed icon provides a unique opportunity to see within the walls of an operational lighthouse. The top balcony has breathtaking views out over the marine park and surrounding hinterland, with a great chance of dolphins or whale sightings during their migration.

Grab a coffee and a lunchtime snack at the [Cape Cafe](#) as you enjoy the stunning views before starting the [Cape Byron Walking Track](#).

From the lighthouse, this magnificent walk winds its way down towards the world-heritage listed Wollumbin Mount Warning, offering panoramic views of the ocean as it leads you through sheltered rainforest gullies onto white-sand sparkling beaches. Allocate at least 2 hours for this 3.7km loop walk, so you can fully appreciate its beauty. The walk can be started at any point along the track with parking available at Captain Cook

Lookout, Palm Valley, Wategos Beach and the Lighthouse.

After a beautiful day soaking up the amazing views, spend the night at the [Assistant Lighthouse Keepers' Cottages](#) (bookings essential) and experience the lighthouse's beam sweep across the ocean at night, as the stars shine above – a very special experience. Alternatively you may like to stay by the beach in one of four beautifully restored beachside cottages.

## DAY 2

If you are staying in the lighthouse cottages, rise early so you can be the first to see the sunrise over the east coast, in one of the best places in Australia to experience dawn. As the sun rises over the ocean with the silhouette of Mount Warning in the distance, its beauty will take your breath away.

After the perfect sunrise, an early morning whale watching tour is a definite must-do.

There are a range of [tour operators](#) to choose from, each almost guaranteeing a glimpse of the whales or dolphins. The sheer beauty of these magnificent animals is sure to take your breath away.

After the tour, head 70km northwest to [Wollumbin Mt Warning National Park](#), which is one of the world's largest shield volcanoes. Long dormant, the volcano has been carved by 20 million years of high rainfall, which has resulted in a dramatic landscape creating a green cauldron effect.

Take the beautiful [Lyrebird Track](#) around the base of Mount Warning. There are over 100 bird species recorded in this area, including the rare Albert's Lyrebird, so keep your eyes out for them. There is also an amazing diversity of animals in the park, including kangaroos, koalas, spotted-tail quolls and squirrel gliders. Korrumbyn Creek picnic area is a great place to stop for a picnic lunch before heading back to Byron.





If you prefer to stay near the National Park, car based camping and caravan camping is available adjacent to the park.

### DAY 3

If you spent the night in Byron, head around 70km northwest, or less than an hour from Wollumbin, to [Nightcap National Park](#) which is part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area. There are some fantastic [walks](#) on offer at this park, including a shaded 1.4km loop from Terania Creek picnic area which takes you to the breathtaking Protestors Falls, plus there are some great [cycling](#) tracks to try out, either independently or with a guided tour. Or, if you prefer something less physical, you can take the Minyon Drive that starts from Minyon Falls, which will take you on a 30km unsealed road around the park enjoying the fascinating surroundings of the rainforest.

The journey back to Byron in preparation for your departure from this region will provide an opportunity to reflect on the natural beauty of the area, with a stop along the way in [Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve](#) for a spot of fishing on the river bed.

With so many other things still to do in this region, a return visit is sure to be on the agenda shortly.

### OTHER GREAT THINGS TO DO WHILE YOU ARE IN THE REGION

Spend a week with family or friends in one of the four private and beautifully restored [beach-side cottages](#) all spectacularly located with uninterrupted views of 'The Pass', one of Australia's premier surf and dolphin-spotting destinations.

The Pinnacle Walk in [Border Ranges National Park](#) takes you through subtropical rainforest and finishes at a lookout platform perched at the edge of the escarpment. It provides fantastic views of Mount Warning from here.

Check out the Byron Bay Community market held on the first Sunday of every month at the Butler Street Reserve

Go camping in one of the many allocated sites and immerse yourself in nature. Make sure to visit the [national parks website](#) to check out facilities, accessibility and fees.

Drive the [Rainforest Way](#), which will take you on an inspirational journey through northern NSW. You'll encounter scenic lookouts, picnic areas, rainforest walks and quirky towns and villages.

Enjoy the glorious white sandy beaches and discover world class surfing spots.

You can be adventurous and try kayaking, snorkelling, diving and hot-air ballooning. Or enjoy more relaxing activities like river cruising and deep sea fishing.

Try the great local produce, including macadamia nuts, pecans, avocados and coffee.

Visit the hinterland towns and villages of Casino, Kyogle, Lismore and Nimbin. The area is well known for its alternative lifestyle and it is the home of many artists, writers and musicians.

Relax in a health spa, practice your yoga, meditate in the rainforest; the region is renowned for its well-being experiences.

### HOW TO GET THERE

Regular flights land in the Ballina and Gold Coast airports (30 minutes and 60 minutes from Byron Bay respectively).

Byron Bay is approximately nine hours drive north of Sydney or two hours drive south of Brisbane.

There is also train access; visit [www.countrylink.info](#) for timetables, fares and online bookings.

Most bus companies located on the east coast of Australia have regular services to Byron Bay.

### CONTACTS

#### Byron Bay NPWS Office

Phone: 02 6620 9300

Email:

[cape.byron@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cape.byron@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Address: Tallow Beach Road, Byron Bay NSW 2481

Opening hours: 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday

#### Cape Byron Information Centre

Phone: 02 6685 5955

Email:

[cape.byron@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cape.byron@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Address: Cape Byron Lighthouse, Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay NSW 2481

Opening hours: 9:30am-4:30pm 7 days a week (closed Christmas Day)

#### Byron Visitor Centre

Phone: 6680 8558

Email: [info@visitbyronbay.com](mailto:info@visitbyronbay.com)

[www.visitbyronbay.com](http://www.visitbyronbay.com)

#### Tweed Area Office

Phone: 02 6670 8600

Address: 4/135 Main St, Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Opening hours: 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday

### USEFUL LINKS

National Parks

[www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

Byron Bay and Surrounds

[www.visitnsw.com/area/Ballina\\_Byron\\_and\\_Surrounds.aspx](http://www.visitnsw.com/area/Ballina_Byron_and_Surrounds.aspx)

Australia's Green Cauldron National Landscape

[www.australia.com/campaigns/nationallandscapes/AustraliasGreenCauldron.htm](http://www.australia.com/campaigns/nationallandscapes/AustraliasGreenCauldron.htm)

The Rainforest Way

[www.rainforestway.com.au](http://www.rainforestway.com.au)

The Legendary Pacific Coast

<http://pacificcoast.com.au/>

Weather Forecasts

[www.bom.gov.au/nsw/forecasts/northernrivers.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/forecasts/northernrivers.shtml)