

DESTINATIONS

BORDER COUNTRY

Queensland and New South Wales

A tour through the Border Ranges National Park isn't an off-road challenge by any means, but should be part of any tour of the mountainous region between Queensland and NSW. Border Ranges NP is just one of several World Heritage listed Parks in this area.



The Tweed Range Scenic Drive begins with a bitumen run out of Kyogle, but the road soon turns to gravel and begins climbing steeply. Virtually the entire dirt road drive is through dense rainforest, but the canopy is clear enough for the most part to allow GPS to function.

At Bar Mountain there are long and short walks through elevated rainforest that is home to the rare Antarctic Beech – a survivor of the Gondwana land mass that eventually broke up into today's South America, Australia, India and Antarctica. Some of the trees visitors gaze at began growing when the Roman Empire was at its peak.

From Bar Mountain through to Forest Tops Camping Area the road is dotted with mountaintop viewing spots, with The Blackbutts and The Pinnacle being standouts.



These lookouts give a clear view of the Mount Warning volcanic area and sit at the edge of the ancient caldera - the largest in the southern hemisphere.

Mount Warning is all that's left of the weathered core of the original volcano and is said to be half its original height.

The one-way loop drive from Forest Tops through Brindle Creek shows another aspect of this extraordinary area, as the road drops into the Brindle Creek valley and crosses the Creek at a beautifully sited bridge.

The ideal camping spot in the Park is at Forest Tops, where there is ample grass area, composting dunnies and three fire places.

From Forest Tops the track descends steeply into the Sheep Station Creek valley, where there's another, busier, campsite. An alternative to driving down the hill is to bushwalk the 9.2-kilometre Booyong Track that runs from Forest Tops to Brush Box Falls, near the Sheep Station Creek campsite, and then transfer back to Forest Tops by vehicle (there's always someone happy to give the walk a miss and be the ferry person).

There are loop walks at Sheep Station Creek that are must-dos - both taking in Brush Box Falls and its attendant swimming holes.

Sheep Station Creek was the base for cedar cutters in the mid-1800s and there are still traces of their Red Gold activities. Not far from Brush Box Falls, on the Palm Forest Walk, is a log slide where forest giants were slid down the hillside to waiting horse-drawn jinkers. The loggers carved their names into a rock face and the historic graffiti survives today.



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for this trek

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FACT FILE

Where

North East NSW, along the Queensland-NSW border

Time required

Minimum time three days

Things to do

This World Heritage listed area offers spectacular views of the Mount Warning volcanic site, along with drives and walks through dense rainforest.

Maps

HEMA's North East NSW Map

Camping

Dozens of National Parks camping areas, fees apply. Some campsites are walk-in only

Permits

No permits required but pets not allowed

Track closures

NPWS Ranger and local road authorities may close tracks in wet weather

Last fuel

Murwillumbah, Kyogle, Woodenbong

Contact

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