

YOUR GUIDE TO
MACKAY'S
secret spots



Oceanside Magic



For those who love a coastal adventure...

1 CAPE HILLSBOROUGH ROCK POOL

Fancy taking a dip in a tidal rock pool? Plan your walk to Wedge Island at the lowest tide so the sandbar (connecting the island to mainland) appears. Then cross to Orchard Island (just to the left of Wedge Island) where you will find the rock pool. Shoes are recommended due to the sharp rocks.

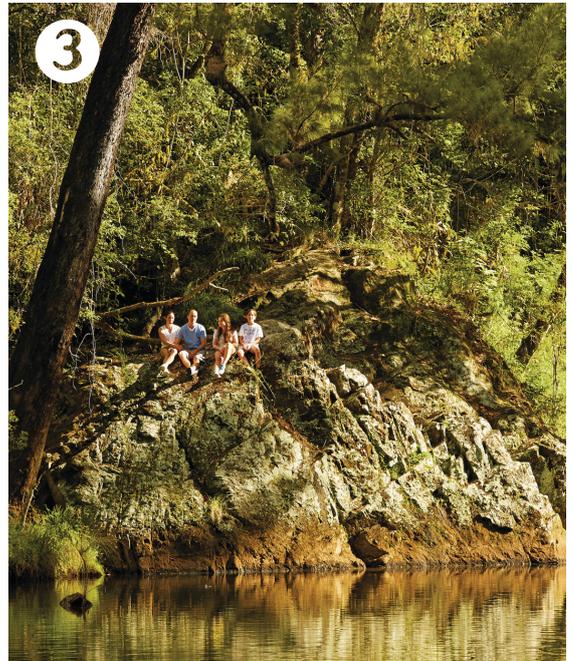
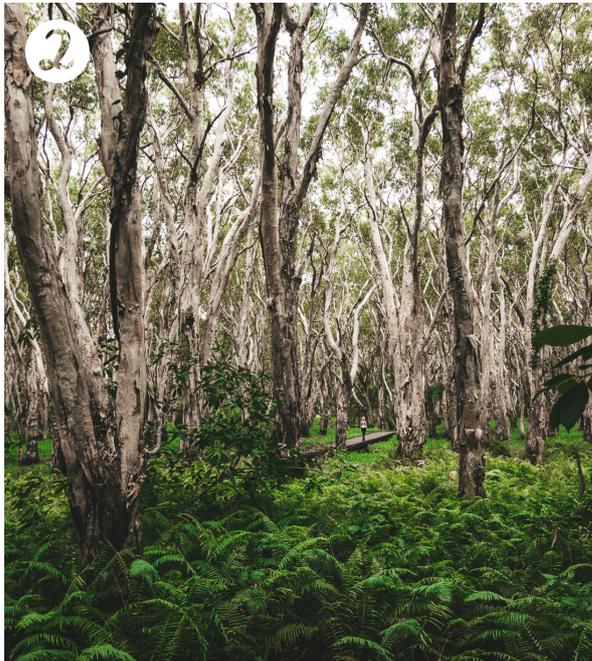
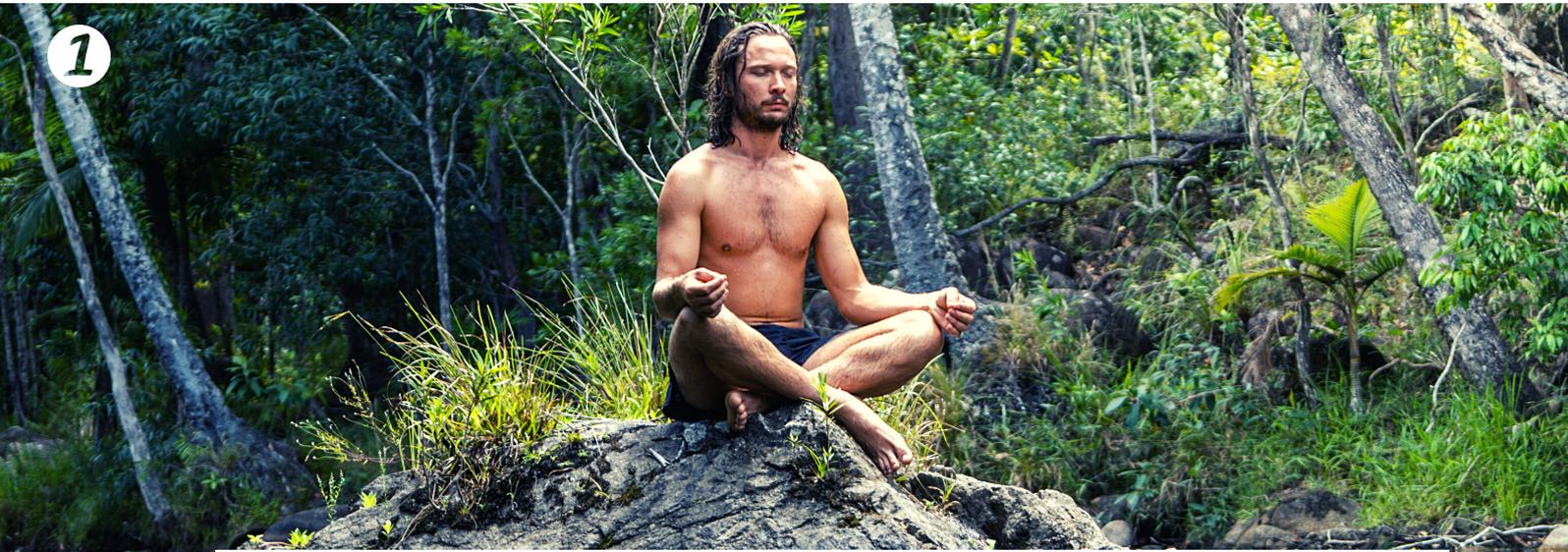
2 THE 'WISHING WELL'

Aptly named because of its perfect round shape, the 'Wishing Well' is the rock pool hidden at Lambert's Beach. Head to the Lambert's Beach Lookout and walk down to the small beach to the left of the lookout. The pool is amongst the rocks on this beach and is just a short distance from where you will park your car.

3 MCBRIDES POINT LOOKOUT

Drive to picturesque Halliday Bay and find the start of the walking track on the far right hand side of the beach. Walk to the top of the small mountain to reach the large boulders overlooking Ball Bay. Take a snap at the top!

Into the Woods



Take a walk through forests of green...

1 FINCH HATTON

While the gorge is undoubtedly the biggest attraction, the streams you cross on the way to the falls are untouched and perfect for kayaking or rock hopping. Explore the rock pools further downstream from Araluen Falls as there are some picture perfect picnic spots. Be careful of slippery rocks.

2 KOMMO TOERA TRAIL

An epic spot for lovers of photography, the paperbark forest you walk through will have you in awe. Drive towards Slade Point and park on Keeleys Rd where you will see a small carpark where the path through the wetland begins.

3 BROKEN RIVER

Not only can you spot a platypus at the viewing platforms, but walk a little further to the very end of the footpath (past the information centre) and you will spot some stunning rocks and rapids to explore. Sit here and take in the serenity.

Brunch and beyond



Cafes fit for an Instagram feed...

1 THIRD GROUND COFFEE HOUSE

Sarina's best kept secret, this rustic coffee house sells home-made meals and treats, is full of leather chairs and vintage decor and is oozing with good vibes. Grabbing a coffee at Third Ground is a must-do when travelling through the region. Turn off the Bruce Highway onto Central Street.

3 ZARBY'S CAFE

You'll feel like you have just walked onto the set of the movie 'Grease' when visiting this old-school diner cafe. Milkshakes, curly fries, burgers, vintage chairs and a jukebox...this cafe is an Instagrammer's haven! Located on the side of the Bruce Highway at Mt Ossa.

2 VINTAGE KISS

Driving through the Pioneer Valley on your way to Eungella? You must make a stop at this cute outdoor cafe on the banks of the river in Marian. Complete with rustic outdoor seating, shady trees, waffles, coffee and friendly service from owners Paris and Brodie.

Campfire singalong



Campsites that will make your heart sing...

1 CAPE PALMERSTON

Where the desert meets the sea, this national park is an isolated treasure waiting to be discovered. 4wd on the beach, roll out your swag on the sand or set up camp amongst bush and rainforest. The fishing is world-class too and the rugged coastline is epic. Drive 40min south of Sarina and turn off the highway.

2 SMALLEYS BEACH

On your way to Cape Hillsborough, stop at this secluded and peaceful campsite amongst the rainforest. Walk just a few meters from where you've set up camp and feel your toes in the sand while you watch the waves crash in front of you. A perfect mixture of coastal meets the scrub.

3 THE DIGGINGS

Named because of its history in the goldrush era, the Diggings Campground in Eungella is a locals favourite. Camp in the woods by a running stream, roast marshmallows by the fire and explore the green meadows by day. You can even take a dip in an icy cold waterhole! Take the Diggings Rd turnoff on Eungella Dam Rd.

Waterhole wonders



The secret waterholes only locals know about...

1 BOULDER CREEK

Tucked away in the rainforest at the base of Mt Charlton, Boulder Creek is a rest stop and picnic spot with a stunning stream perfect for a refreshing dip. Rock hop from boulder to boulder to find the best spot to eat lunch! Take Mirani Mt Ossa Rd and turn off onto Calen Mt Charlton Rd.

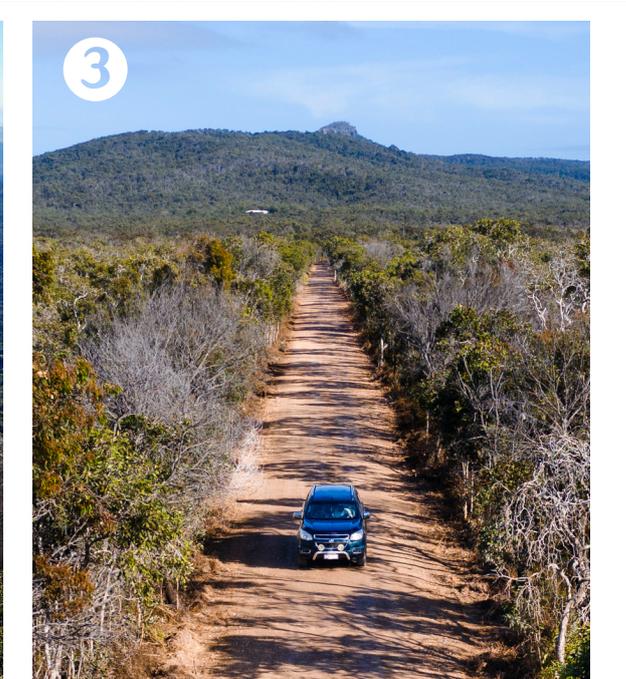
2 CATHU WATERFALL

Hidden at the top of the mountain in Cathu State Forest, this waterfall and natural infinity pool is a sight to behold. Drive up the mountain past Hold It Flats campground and instead of turning left towards the lookout, continue right until you reach the waterfall. 4wd required.

3 CAMERONS POCKET

A deep waterhole, rapids, tree swing and a sandy spot for a picnic make Camerons Pocket a perfect place to visit any time of year. Head to 36 Brodies Rd Camerons Pocket (the location of the strawberry farm) and then continue past the farm on a dirt road until you will have to park and walk a short distance to the waterhole.

Climb a little higher



If you like to see the world from above...

1 GEMINI MOUNTAINS

Take the Peak Downs Highway towards Clermont until you see these ancient volcanic peaks sticking out of the flat countryside - a sight to behold! Pull off the highway and head towards Mt Pollux, the mountain closest to the road. A 40min hike to the top for epic views of the Isaac region.

3 MOUNT FUNNEL

Located in Cape Palmerston National Park in the Isaac region, Mount Funnel stands out from miles away as a noticeable peak in the mountain range. If you are comfortable in bushland you can climb to the top of the mountain, but make sure to pack water and be respectful of the land when walking towards the mountain. Drive along Rileys Rd Koumala until you are close to the peak and then trek through bush to get to the top. This is not a marked trail.

2 MOUNT DALRYMPLE

A long hike suitable for those who like a challenge, Mount Dalrymple is one of the highest peaks in Queensland. Trek through the Eungella rainforest, cross streams and take in the stunning Pioneer Valley when you reach the top! Head to the end of Dalrymple Rd to access the start of this trail.

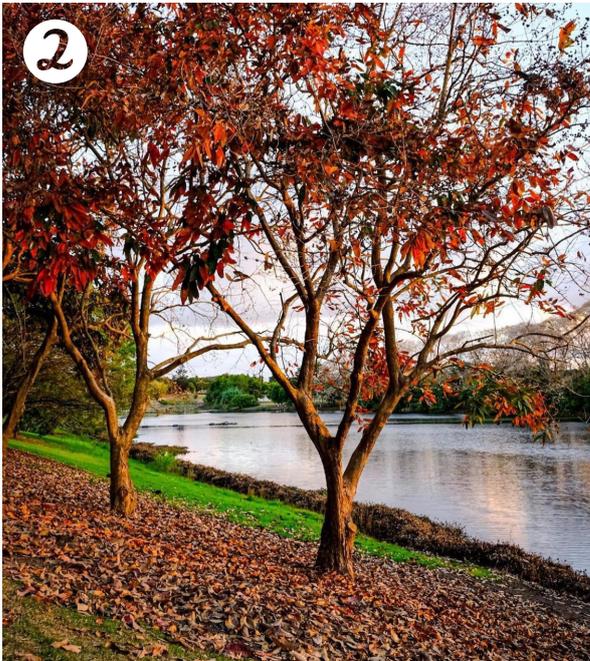
Perfect for a picnic

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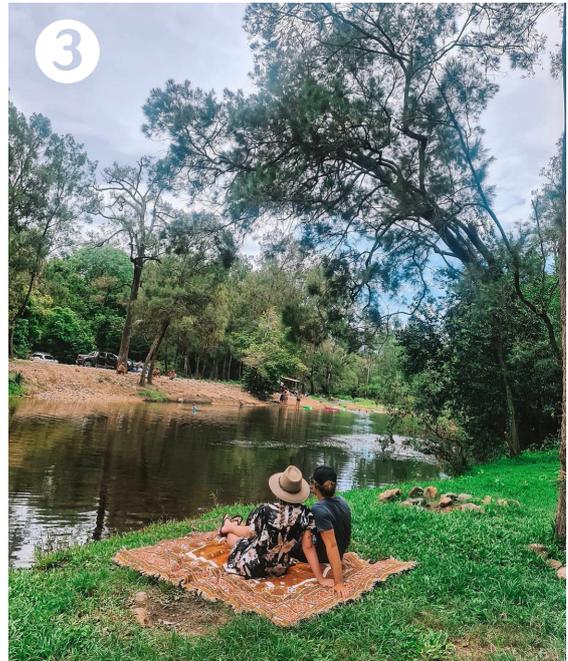


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@krieshiagram

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@reefsandrutts

Get the wine and cheese out you're going to need it...

1 SHOAL POINT

While most people enjoy the beautiful esplanade and beachside park, the real hidden gem is this lookout at Shoal Point. Located on O'brien Esplanade, via Denman Street, you will come to the top of the hill and find a benchseat and grassy hill, perfect for a picnic with a million dollar view of the sunset.

3 CAPTAINS CROSSING

Complete with a stunning creek, grassy campsite areas and plenty of dirt tracks to explore, Captains Crossing will pleasantly surprise you. Enjoy a picnic before setting up camp for the night and wake up early for a 4wd or motorbike ride. Follow Pinnacle Septimus Rd and then turn off onto Pinnacle Station Rd to reach the creek.

2 BOTANIC GARDENS

The Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens will remind you of the English countryside with the beautiful range of trees and plants that change colour throughout the year. Throw out a picnic blanket on the grass by the lagoon and watch as ducks and turtles swim by.

On Island Time

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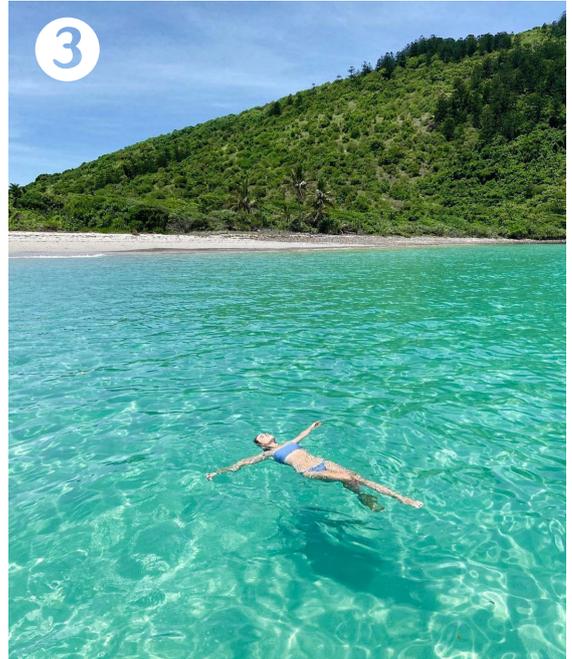


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@elpho_

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@meaganaudrey

Drink up me hearties, Yo Ho!...

1 THOMAS ISLAND

A picturesque bay sheltered from the weather, pine trees and stunning blue water is what you will find at Thomas Island. Just south of Lindeman Island and east from Midge Point, you will find this hidden oasis. Set up a camp chair and watch the sunset on your own private beach.

3 PRUDHOE ISLAND

Part of the Beverley Group, this island just south-east of Mackay is a true secret spot with most locals simply visiting to fish. Stop a little longer at Prudhoe and you will discover some white sandy beaches, crystal clear bays and green mountains covered in pines. An island oasis all to yourself...what a dream!

2 BRAMPTON ISLAND

One of the more well known islands, Brampton is famous for it's old resort days. Head to the other side of the island however and you will find secluded sandy bays with crystal clear water. The best thing is you will have these beaches all to yourself. Brampton is located 32 kilometres north-east of Mackay so makes for a perfect day trip.

 Eungella tree arch

@stixpixmedia

