

# Cassowary Coast

## Farmland | Rainforest | Wetlands | Coast

The Cassowary Coast birding region features rugged mountains, sparkling rivers and waterfalls, secluded beaches, a rainforest canopy walk, tropical islands, and abundant birds. Add the uniquely North Queensland character of the people, food, towns and farms (sugar cane, bananas, tropical fruit) and this area provides an unforgettable visitor experience.

Of the 335 bird species found here, as the region's name suggests, you are very likely to see a Southern Cassowary. Despite their impressive size, these 60 Kg birds can be tricky to find in the forest – unless you know where to look! Reliable sightings occur at Etty Bay, where cassowaries regularly stroll along the beach, and at the Licuala Fan Palm Walk near Mission Beach. These iconic birds can also wander along and cross roads, so please be on the look-out and drive carefully.

As well as excellent birding, the region's attractions include: the town of Innisfail with its art deco architecture; Mission Beach's restaurants, shaded sandy beaches, walking trails and holiday atmosphere; and Cardwell's esplanade providing views to Hinchinbrook Island. The all-year-round lush, greenness of the Cassowary Coast landscape is nurtured by more than 3,000 mm average rainfall, so consider taking a raincoat or umbrella.

## When to go

Birding at any time of year is rewarding. In the drier season, from June to December, the sugarcane harvest season attracts large numbers of raptors and egrets. Waterbirds also concentrate as waterholes and wetlands contract. From September to April, migratory species such as Torresian Imperial Pigeon, Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher, and migratory shorebirds visit the region.

## Getting there

Most travellers fly into Cairns and travel by car or bus to the region. Roads are good, though during the summer Wet season flooding occasionally occurs. If you are into wilderness cycling, the Misty Mountain trails offer an opportunity to ride through rainforest clad mountains to the coast.



### Warrina Lakes

Lush parkland in Innisfail featuring over 130 bird species



### Etty Bay

The best place to see Southern Cassowary at a picturesque beach



### Djiru National Park Mission Beach

Lowland rainforest walking trails along pristine creeks