



# Cape York Peninsula

## Rainforest | Savannah | Woodlands | Coast

Cape York Peninsula birding region is impressively vast, extending from Cooktown to the northern tip of Australia. The Coral Sea bounds the east, the Gulf of Carpentaria the west, and the Torres Strait the north. There are more than 370 bird species known in this region, with a number found nowhere else in Australia, from large parrots to small honeyeaters. Several are Papua New Guinea annual migrants.

Open eucalypt woodland is the dominant vegetation type, with notable tropical rainforests at Lockerbie Scrub, Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range), Kulla (McIlwraith Range), and small areas around Mt Cook and Mt Webb in the south-east. Tropical heathlands are located near Hopevale and in the north-east.

On the west of the Peninsula Ridge, extensive river systems flow into the Gulf with associated gallery rainforests, wetlands, billabongs and mangroves. On the east, shorter systems drain into the Coral Sea. During the summer wet season, flooding often limits road travel.

Visiting this remote region calls for forward planning and an intrepid spirit as distances are long and settlements sparse, but the region always guarantees a fantastic, unforgettable birding and travelling experience.

### When to go

Both the summer wet and winter dry seasons are rewarding times to visit, offering very different birding experiences. The dry season is most popular for visitors as roads can flood in the wet season. Migratory species are present between August and April.

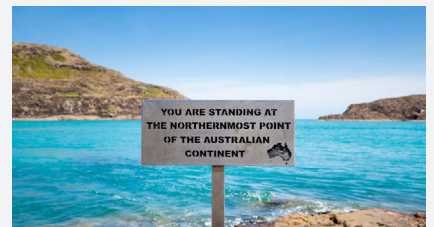
### Getting there

During the dry season access is generally by road with four-wheel drive vehicles a necessity as roads are mostly unsealed. A ferry crosses the Jardine River. Access during the wet season is by plane or ship from Cairns. Guided tours are available and vehicles can be hired at Bamaga, Lockhart River and Weipa.



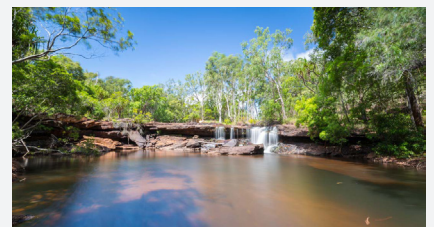
### Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) National Park

Extensive rainforest and heath provide habitat to many specialist species, and coastal areas are abundant with shorebirds



### Lockerbie Scrub and the Tip of Cape York

Coastal ecosystems, heathlands, rainforest, and woodland with some very special species



### Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park and surrounds

Extensive wetlands, plains and riparian forest abound with finches and raptors

# Spot these locals when you visit

## Community

Indigenous Ranger groups manage the country by controlling weeds and feral pests, protecting turtle and seabird nesting sites, restoring habitat, and using strategic burns. Visitors are well catered for with good facilities at various towns and stations throughout the region.

## Conservation

The data for this area is sparse. Make your birding count by doing a bird survey and entering it into Birddata. Every time you share your bird surveys, our collective knowledge of birds grows. For more information go to [birddata.birdlife.org.au](http://birddata.birdlife.org.au).

Indigenous ranger groups, Queensland Parks and Wildlife and others operate a range of projects in the region including habitat management and monitoring. To volunteer email [parquenquiries@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:parquenquiries@des.qld.gov.au).

The Artemis Nature Fund is seeking to restore 5,000 ha of habitat to save the endangered Golden-shouldered Parrot. To learn more go to [artemis.org.au](http://artemis.org.au).

## Get involved!

Visit [birdlifenq.org](http://birdlifenq.org) to find out more about what we do and subscribe to our newsletter to get notified about our events.



Black-backed Butcherbird



Black-winged Monarch



Crimson Finch (White-bellied)



Fawn-breasted Bowerbird



Frilled Monarch



Green-backed Honeyeater



Yellow-billed Kingfisher



Marbled Frogmouth



Northern Scrub-robin



Eclectus Parrot



Red-cheeked Parrot



Tawny-breasted Honeyeater



Australian Brush Turkey



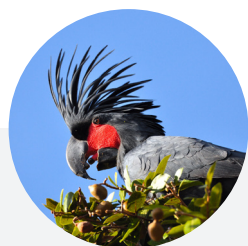
Trumpet Manucode



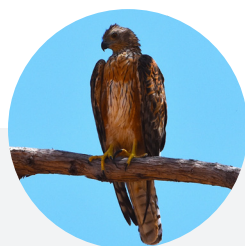
White-faced Robin



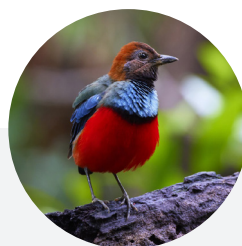
Yellow-legged Flycatcher



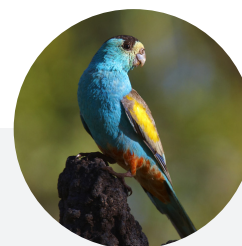
Palm Cockatoo



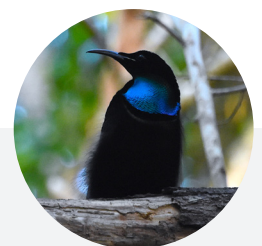
Red Goshawk



Papuan Pitta



Golden-shouldered Parrot



Magnificent Riflebird

