

ABW ACTIVITY INVENTORY (AI) - Activity Information Record

This row for office use only – Go to 'Activity'.

Activity Code W

Area code QLD

Record No 0001

Activity

Walk ('W'), Cycle , ('C') Kayak/Canoe ('K'), Other ('O') (Indicate here with Symbol).....

Location

North QLD – Hinchinbrook Island National Park (via Cardwell or Lucinda – Nth of Townsville)

Outline of activity

The Thorsborne Trail - This is a designated through walk of 3 – 6 days in a National Park.

Permits & permissions required, with contact details

This walk is well known, popular and restricted to 40 persons a day. Advance bookings with QLD National Parks are essential.

Info from www.epa.qld.gov.au. Bookings www.qld.gov.au/camping or Tel 131304

Transport to/from the Island hinchinbrook.camp@epa.qld.gov.au

Maps required

A basic Thorsborne Trail map, track notes and other info in available from the QLD EPA and on-line.

A 1:50,000 topo map is also available - Hillock Point.

Travel: recommendations, times, car shuffling, parking etc.

The trail can be walked in either direction. Ie Starting from a ferry from Cardwell or a small boat from Lucinda/Dungeness.

You can fly into Cairns or Townsville and book a seat to Carwell or Lucinda on one of the regular bus services that travel between Cairns and Townsville and beyond. (Booking essential) (Greyhound or Premier Bus COs)

Water availability

Water is plentiful but not always near some beach side campsites where creeks may be brackish for some distance up stream. Water bladders should be carried for camp water. Otherwise 1-2L per day is sufficient along the track.

Restrictions (fires, gates etc.)

Permits are mandatory.
No fires are allowed – fuel stoves only.

Route overview

The Thorsborne Trail is only 32kms long and can be walked in 3 days if necc. however it is rough, steep and muddy in parts, there is no track work other than trail markers and tides (30M) can affect beach sections and river crossings. Heavy rain may also prevent river crossings. There are numerous areas of slippery, mossy, wet boulders so care is needed. It is recommended that a minimum of 5 days be allowed to enjoy the walk and allow for contingencies. There are numerous options for camp sites. However some may be congested at times.
The writer's group of 4 travelled south along the trail.

Campsites used & possible alternatives

Campsites used and recommended were: Nina Bay (Climb Nina Peak en-route), Little Ramsay bay (2 Nights), Zoe Bay (2 Nights – Multiple camp sites), Mulligan Falls (2 nights).
Banksia Bay is OK but small and there is no water but plenty of mosquitos.
Sunken Reef Bay is exposed and only fair.
Georges Pt is not recommended.

Walk Ratings (indicate rating below where indicated ..eg 'SMMO')

Distance	S: Short, 0-9 km	M: Medium, 10-17 km	L: Long, 18+ km
Gradient	E: Undulating	M: Steep	H: Very steep/exposed
Terrain	E: Track/open, 4 km/h	M: Medium scrub, 2-4 km/h	H: Heavy scrub/rock, 0-2 km/h
Qualifying? (Q)	Insert Activity Rating here..... MMMO		

Supplementary information (Insert below, if required)

Sandflies are an issue especially for people that react to their bites. H/D repellent, antihistamine medication and cream are recommended.

Gaiters are useful in muddy and rough sections.

Boots with softer, flexible soles will make walking on slippery boulders much easier.

All the major camp sites have toilets but BYO paper.

Mobile phones do not work until near Mulligans Falls.

The climb to Mt Bowen is 'interesting' to say the least. There is no trail (They do not want to have to maintain one in a heavy rainfall area). The recommended route is up Warrawilla Ck from little Ramsay Bay. There is no marked route. The creek is all slippery boulders from room size and below. This makes for very tedious, slow and injury risk prone walking. Despite the distance being only 4 kms the recommended time to the saddle below Mt Bowen is 7hrs where one camps and makes the final 1.5 hour climb – apparently. We, naively, attempted to do a day walk, starting at 6.30am. After 3 hours with day packs only we had covered approx 1.5kms only and decided that, as we were not going to do it in a day, to give up. Recommended only to well prepared, fit and nimble walkers with 2 days min to spare.
(There may/must be better routes than up THAT creek)

Note: This activity outline has been compiled from information provided by ABW members. Its accuracy is subject to variations in individual members' observations, climate and weather conditions, land and ownership, accessibility, national park rules and permits.

Members should not rely on this information but use it as a guide and supplement it with their own research as appropriate.

While all endeavours will be made to ensure that the information is kept current, it is the responsibility of the member using this document to determine whether it is the most up to date version.

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Please insert map below on this page or supply separately

