

MALANDA

ATHERTON TABLELANDS • TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND



Where the kangaroos climb trees

Another Malanda Chamber of Commerce initiative.



Welcome to Malanda, the Natural Heart of the Atherton Tablelands. Malanda is located on these Tablelands, west of Cairns, in the midst of the crater lakes and waterfalls region and nestled beneath the canopy of the towering upland tropical rainforests, in the World Heritage Wet Tropics. Malanda is a great place to stop and relax on your travels and discover more about this unique region of Tropical North Queensland.



Malanda is traditionally the home of the Ngadjon-Jii. The Ngadjon-Jii were traditionally rainforest dwellers, and their culture is deeply connected to the natural environment.

The Malanda Chamber of Commerce acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Malanda area and recognise their continuing connection to country. We pay respect to Elders past, present and future.

Malanda is on Ngadjon-Jii Country. The origin of the name is debated, but it is believed it is connected with the rivers and waters of the area.

The area's development began in the early 1900s following mineral discoveries in nearby Herberton, which brought miners and settlers from southern and coastal regions.

Railway construction to Malanda faced challenges but was completed with the first train arriving in December 1910. This connected the developing town to the broader Tablelands railway network that had been developing since the 1890's. In 1910 John Prince established a local sawmill which provided rainforest timbers for the Malanda Hotel and other town businesses.

Surveyed land blocks became available around 1908 and many new settlers recognised the regions dairy potential. After clearing their land arrangements were made for dairy cattle to be brought up from the south, often under difficult circumstances. Two of these Malanda pioneers were James English and James Emerson who both still have family members in the dairy industry today.

By 1919 the farmers around Malanda had established their own butter factory. This transformed the Atherton Tablelands into Queensland's dairy heartland. For decades the factory operated as a farmers' co-operative, processing dairy products from family farms across the region. In the 1990's the operation was incorporated into Australian Co-operative Foods, trading as Dairy Farmers. This marked a significant shift in local ownership structures. By 2008, Japanese beverage giant Kirin acquired Dairy Farmers. The Malanda facility changed hands again when Bega Cheese purchased Lion Dairy & Drinks in 2021, bringing this historic North Queensland institution under Australian ownership once more while maintaining its position as a crucial economic pillar in the region.

Malanda continues to thrive and grow and is one of the most vibrant and popular towns on the Atherton Tablelands.

The Malanda Hotel:

Australia's Largest Wooden Hotel



The Malanda Hotel began with a stroke of entrepreneurial intuition. In 1910, while most of the English family was away at a Lake Eacham picnic, two men visited their farm discussing plans to build a pub near the proposed railway. Only sons Patrick and Bill were home, and they promptly informed their father James about these visitors. Recognising a business opportunity, James decided to build his own hotel on Patrick's one-acre plot that was being acquired for the railway land transfer. Acting quickly, Patrick rode to Herberton on April 4, 1910, to file a provisional certificate application for a hotel at the terminus of the Tolga-Johnstone Railway. This strategic move, made before the railway had even arrived or the township survey began, effectively prevented competitors from building in the same area.

Construction commenced in January 1911 by builder Hugh Boyle, who finished the hotel quickly despite it being the wet season. Patrick English became its first licensed victualler when it opened on July 8, 1911. This was celebrated with a grand ball. In 2019, the Malanda Hotel changed its name to The Big Pub, a nod to being the largest wooden hotel in the whole of Australia. This historic establishment remains in the English family today.

The Majestic Theatre



In 1929, the Majestic Theatre was privately built and opened with a concert held on 14th December. The first night's proceeds were donated to the Atherton Ambulance. The first film was screened on the 21st December. It is Australia's oldest continually running movie theatre. Today, you can see the latest movie releases and experience sitting in the old canvas, swing-back chairs. The local Malanda Theatre Company still performs a variety of plays for the public during the year. The Arts are alive and well in our community!

TAB

GAMING ROOM

THE **BIG** PUB

MALANDA

KENO
let's play!

POOL TABLES

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Malanda: *where kangaroos climb trees!*



Lumholtz's tree-kangaroo (*Dendrolagus lumholtzi*) occurs mostly at high altitudes between Kirrama, in the southern Wet Tropics to the Daintree River, in the northern Wet Tropics.

A generally solitary animal, small family groups of up-to-four can sometimes be seen. Females give birth to one offspring at a time and there is no specific breeding season.

The smallest of the 14 tree-kangaroo species, it is 'catheMERal' meaning 'intermittently active' at any time of day or night.

Common questions about tree-kangaroos

Where can I find a tree-kangaroo?

Tree-kangaroos live in wet tropics rainforest on rich volcanic soils. Some local spots to see them are: Malanda Falls, Wongabel National Park, Mt Hypipamee National Park, and the Lower Peterson Creek walking track.

What do they eat?

Lumholtz's tree-kangaroos eat a wide range of local native rainforest species growing on rich volcanic soils. Their diet includes leaves, flowers and fruit

Trees around the Malanda area that they use for food are: Umbrella Tree, Euodia, Blue Quandong, and Milky Pine.

The species name *lumholtzi* is after the Norwegian explorer Carl Sofus Lumholtz (1851–1922), who was the first European to record a specimen in 1883.

The Lumholtz's tree-kangaroo is classified as near-threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and authorities consider it as rare. It was historically impacted by habitat loss through logging and land clearing. Currently, it is threatened mainly by dog attacks and vehicle strikes, so please drive carefully around the Atherton Tablelands.

Are they a real kangaroo?

Yes, tree-kangaroos are a real type of kangaroo, belonging to the same family (Macropodidae) as kangaroos and wallabies, but they are adapted to living in trees.

Why do they live in trees?

Tree-kangaroos adapted to life in the trees probably due to a lack of food resources on the ground, or due to other changes to habitat at the time.

Are they related to possums?

Tree-kangaroos share a possum-like ancestor with the possums of today.



Lithograph of *Dendrolagus lumholtzi* by Joseph Smit, from "Proceedings of the general meetings for scientific business of the Zoological Society of London", 1884.

SERVICES IN MALANDA

FOOD / DRINK

Bottlemart	4096 5790
Celebrations	4096 6474
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Malanda Butcher (MMC)	4096 5125
Malanda Collective	0432 775 898
The Big Pub (Malanda Hotel)	4096 7720
Malanda Original Café	4096 6603
Malanda Seafood	4096 6844
Monis Botanical Café	0458 972 642
Pink Pineapple Eats	4095 1316
SPAR Supermarket	4096 7700
The Closet Hippy	0477 819 934
The Farmhouse Kitchen	3132 8664
The Top Rail	4096 6399

GENERAL SERVICES

Australia Post Malanda	4096 5400
Bendigo Bank	4096 6166
Malanda News & Stationery	4096 5316
Malanda Library	4089 2329

VETS

Tableland Vet	4096 7500
Tableland Mobile Vet	0428 123 528

REAL ESTATE & LAW

Elders Real Estate	4096 5666
LJ Hooker Malanda	4096 5446
Malanda Law	4237 2888
Nightingale Real Estate	3132 8091

HISTORY & ENTERTAINMENT

Eacham Historical Society	4096 6239
Majestic Theatre	4092 6315
Malanda Falls Visitor Centre	4089 2583

MECHANICAL & REPAIRS

Dean's Service Centre	4096 5072
Duffy's	4091 1091
Goodyear Autocare Malanda	4096 5300
JP Repairs & Maintenance	4095 1334
Peninsula Windows & Doors	4095 1166

MEDICAL / HEALTH / WELLBEING SERVICES

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Eacham Medical Centre	4096 5999
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Malanda Medical Centre	4096 5355
Malanda Pharmacy	4096 5178
Optometrist:	
John Holme Optometrists	4096 5460
Pathology Services	4095 1249
Sprout To Life	0466 281 053
TFIT Health & Fitness	0428 544 532

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Eacham Fuel	4096 5577
Ampol	4096 5646
Marano's	4095 1044

HARDWARE

Malanda Hardware	4096 5289
Malanda Rural Supplies	4096 5455

LAUNDROMAT

13 Catherine St Malanda - 8.30am to 5pm

MALANDA TRANSFER STATION

238 English Rd, Malanda
Open Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun
8.00am–12.30pm 1.00–5.00pm

RV SANITARY DUMP POINTS

- Atherton, Grove Street
- Ravenshoe, 26 Ascham Street
- Yungaburra, Mulgrave Road

There are no sanitary dump points in Malanda.

Do not use the Caravan Park facilities unless you are staying there.

ACCOMMODATION

Malanda has a variety of accommodation options including the local caravan park, B&Bs, motels, hotel, and farm stays.

Hairdresser, beauty therapist/massage therapist and other specialty shops are located in the CBD of Malanda.

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Walks at the Malanda Falls Conservation Park

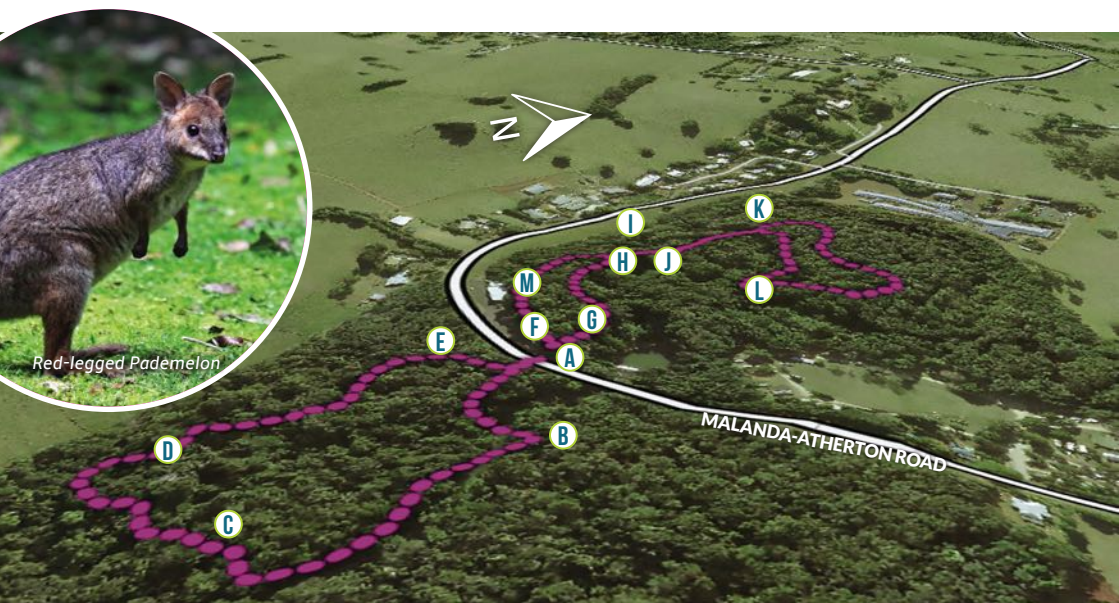
The Malanda Falls Trail comprises two family-friendly trails — the 1.5km Rainforest Walk and 1km Tulip Oak Walk. Both start from the car park adjacent to the Malanda Falls Visitor Centre. Take care and watch for traffic when crossing the main road.

Allow 30-40 minutes for each walk to really enjoy the rainforest. Walk slowly and quietly and you may be rewarded with a surprise wildlife encounter.

Allow time to explore the displays about the Tablelands' volcanic creation, cultural heritage of the Ngadjon-Jii, and the area's unique plants and animals in the Malanda Falls Visitor Information Centre.



Red-legged Pademelon



The Malanda Falls Trail is two trails, the Rainforest Walk and Tulip Oak Walk.

To do the full trail:

- A. Rainforest Walk trailhead — the first section of the track is sealed.
- B. 120m — River lookout. This is a good place to look for the Sawshell and the Johnstone River Snapping Turtles as well as platypus.
- C. 370m — Large Black Bean Tree on the left.
- D. 500m — In the forest on the left here is often a good place to see Red-legged Pademelons.
- E. 710m — Bumpy Satinash *Syzygium corniflorum* on the left. These trees are unusual in that they flower directly from the trunk (called Cauliflory), producing large number of white flowers late in the wet season (March-May).
- F. 780m — Rejoin main trail. Turn left and head back to the car park.
- G. 800m — Tulip Oak Walk Trailhead left of the picnic shelter.
- H. 1.0km — Junction. Continue up the stairs.
- I. 1.1km — Start of loop. Turn right.
- J. 1.2km — Lookout. Good place to look for Platypus in the river or Ulysses Butterflies *Papilio ulysses* which often use the river corridor to move through the rainforest.
- K. 1.1km — Junction. Turn right.
- L. 1.3km — Lookout.
- M. 1.6km — End of loop. Continue straight on back to the car park.

Bird Watching

Malanda has numerous exquisite bird species and many are reasonably easy to see. Our famous bird of paradise (Victoria's Riflebird) with its spectacular male display is quite common in local rainforests: near Malanda Falls, at Lakes Eacham and Barrine and also at Mt Hypipamee. The rainforests also feature bowerbirds, treecreepers, fruit-pigeons, many parrot and honeyeater species and others such as the monarchs, robins, whistlers and shrike-thrushes. Figbirds whistle while they feed in flocks, eating fruit in the canopy. Small scrubwrens hop around on the forest floor while tiny gerygones sing and fossick in the branches. And don't miss Hasties Swamp, our most popular birding location, not just for waterbirds. For much of the year three large birds can be seen across the paddocks: Black-necked Stork, Brolga and Sarus Crane. With luck you might come across our magnificent rainforest Cassowary, sometimes with young ones at foot. But remember that finding birds in the rainforest involves both sight and sound so listen as well as look. For local birdwatching tours, contact: AAK Nature Watch 0488 116 225 aaknaturewatch@icloud.com Eyes on Wildlife 0439 817 214 patrick@eyesonwildlife.com.au



Double-eyed Fig-parrot
Cyclopsitta diophthalma

 Tablelands Regional Council

Malanda Falls Visitor Centre

-  Nestled in lush rainforest
-  Interactive displays for all ages
-  Local products
-  Accredited visitor information services

 132 Malanda Atherton Road



MALANDA

Where the kangaroos climb trees



Upper Barron Rd
— To Bromfield Swamp - 5km

— To Atherton - 18km

MALANDA - ATHERTON ROAD

MALANDA SHOWGROUND

TULIP OAK WALK

North Johnstone River

Lookout

MALANDA FALLS CONSERVATION PARK

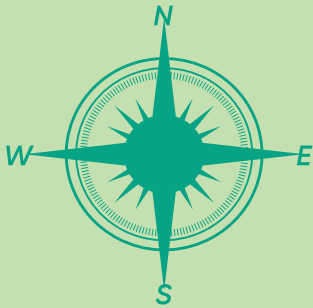


MALANDA FALLS

PARK AVENUE

Lookout

RAINFOREST WALK



EACHAM P
MEMORIAL

Angus St

Downing St

Moore St

Pat St



Ambulance Station



Barbecue



Fire Station



Fuel



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Pharmacy



Picnic Area



Police Station



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Public Toilet



Bowls Club



Tennis Courts



Majestic Theatre



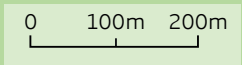
Library



Eacham Historical Society



ECHO Community Centre



Waterfalls Circuit

After visiting Malanda Falls, you can enjoy a trip to the Millaa Millaa Waterfalls Circuit. The famous waterfalls circuit starts at Millaa Millaa, just to the south of Malanda. Of the three falls on the circuit, it is the Millaa Millaa Falls that are reputedly the most beautiful and photographed in the Wet Tropics. However, Zillie and Ellinjaa Falls are well worth exploring too, for those who enjoy a short walk.



Ellinjaa Falls
Inset: Millaa Millaa Falls

MALANDA EVENTS

- Local Lions Markets** - 3rd Saturday of the month
- Queensland Day Celebrations** - June (Biannually)
- The Big Pub Birthday Woodchops** - July
- Malanda Rural Show** - Annually in June/July

- Malanda Bull Ride** - Annually in October
- The Big Pub Oktoberfest** - Sept/Oct
- SPAR Malanda Halloween** - 31st October
- Malanda Chamber of Commerce Christmas Street Festival** - November
- Malanda Theatre Company productions at the Majestic Theatre** - Throughout the year

DRIVING DISTANCES AND TIMES

DEPART MALANDA	DIST (km)	TIME (min)
Atherton	20	15
Bromfield Swamp	6	5
Cairns via Gillies Highway/Gordonvale	85	1hr 15
Cairns via Mareeba/Kuranda	116	1hr 30
Cairns via Palmerston Highway	170	1hr 50
Danbulla Forest Drive Tinaroo to Gillies Highway	28	40
Granite Gorge	32	35
Hastie's Swamp via Hastie Rd	20	15
Herberton via Hastie Rd	35	25
Hypipamee Crater via Upper Barron Rd	16	15
Innisfail	85	50
Lake Barrine	20	15
Lake Eacham	12	10
Mamu Walkway via Millaa Millaa and Palmerston Hwy	57	35
Mareeba	50	35
Port Douglas via Mt Molloy, Julatten and Rex Range Road	143	2hr
Water Falls Circuit (only)	17	20
Yungaburra	15	10

Adventure Playground and Pump Track

The Malanda Nature Play and Pump Track, completed in 2022 after years of fundraising, beautifully reflects the Atherton Tablelands' natural environment. The play area offers traditional equipment alongside unique features like a fairy play zone, water pump, tunnels, and timber stepping stones. A ninja warrior course caters to older children, while the adjacent asphalt pump track provides exciting cycling and scootering opportunities for all ages, allowing both adventurous and leisurely rides.

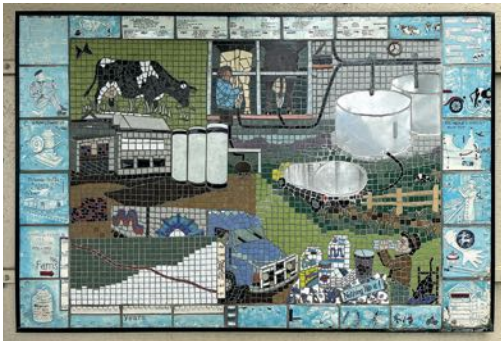


Mosaic Town Walk

Allow yourself the time to discover and enjoy the Mosaic Town Walk in the Malanda CBD.

Local mosaic artists Natalie Foster and Felicity Wallis created nine vibrant artworks that commemorate the rich history of Malanda's community, with each being a window into the different aspects of the town's past, present and future. Many details are camouflaged in the intricate design with the challenge to identify a blue butterfly in each mosaic. All the designs were completed by January 2000 and have become a feature of the town.

Can you find the Ulysses Butterfly in each mosaic?



Mosaic #7 on the Malanda Mosaic Trail showing the importance of the Dairy Industry to the town. Find this on English Street outside Spar Supermarket. Artwork by Natalie Foster and Felicity Wallis. Stainless steel pieces by staff in the milk factory workshop.

Historical Photos



As you walk around the township of Malanda, keep an eye out for the many historical photos with accompanying information. Another initiative of The Chamber of Commerce with assistance from The Eacham Historical Society, these provide a quick and fun way to enjoy the vibrant and fascinating history of the township.

Malanda is centrally located in the Tablelands, making it a great base for exploring the region. Here are some suggested sights and activities within a picturesque drive from Malanda.

Please drive carefully on our country roads, as you share the road with wildlife and cattle.

1. Windin Falls Wooroonooran National Park (3.5 hour return walk) **
2. Mount Bartle Frere Walk (12+ hours return) **
3. Bromfield Swamp Viewing Platform
4. Mount Hypipamee National Park **
5. Gallo Dairyland
6. Mungalli Creek Dairy
7. Crater Mountain Coffee
www.cratermountain.com.au
8. Hasties Swamp National Park (Nyletta Birdwatching hide) **
9. Tolga Bat Hospital
10. Lake Barrine **
11. Lake Eacham **
12. Millaa Millaa Waterfalls Circuit
13. Millaa Millaa Lookout
14. Lamins Hill Lookout
15. Peterson Creek Walk (Platypus)
16. Afghanistan Avenue of Honour
17. Winfield Park
18. Wongabel State Forest **
19. Atherton Chinatown
20. Tumoulin Road
(Highest Road in Queensland)
21. Curtain Fig Tree National Park **

** <https://parks.desi.qld.gov.au/>



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Sun: Closed



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- Memorabilia and Historic Display

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The Malanda Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following for their support in producing this brochure:

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