

Once upon a time ...

... in the mists of a distant past, primitive rainforests grew in a warmer, wetter world we call Gondwana. The first conifers and flowering plants developed there. As that ancient land mass drifted north and slowly broke apart, ferns and cycads, ancient pines, primitive flowering plants and ancestors of animals we know today were set adrift from each other to complete their evolution on separate continents.

In Australia, climatic change and declining soil fertility favoured the spread of eucalypt forests, woodlands and grasslands, and yet some rainforests survived along the Great Escarpment, echoing the vast and ancient forests of Gondwana.

The impact of human settlement has had a dramatic effect on the size of these remaining rainforests - scattered areas are all that now remain of the once supreme Gondwana rainforests.



Dorrigo National Park is part of the **Gondwana Rainforests of Australia**, the name given collectively to over fifty remnant rainforests in New South Wales and South-eastern

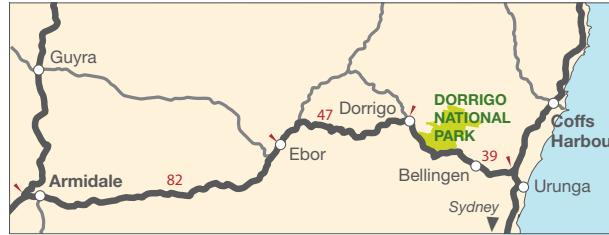
Queensland, protected and recognised with World Heritage status. Today these form the most extensive areas of diverse types of rainforest to be found anywhere on the globe.

These Gondwana rainforests are our most visible living link with the ancient, pre-human world - an irreplaceable record of life on our planet. They were the cradle for evolution of most of Australia's modern plant and animal species and therefore provide a window to both the past and the future.



Photo: Shane Ruming

The Gumbaynggirr people, custodians of this land for thousands of years, welcome you to their ancient Country its rich and beautiful forests.



WHERE IS IT

Dorrigo National Park is located 550 kilometres north of Sydney in the north coast region of New South Wales. The park is situated on the rainforested slopes of the spectacular Great Escarpment, 60 kilometres west of Coffs Harbour.

GETTING THERE

Follow the Waterfall Way from the Pacific Highway south of Coffs Harbour (one hour) or Armidale (one hour forty-five minutes). The Rainforest Centre, at the entrance to Dorrigo National Park, is four kilometres east of Dorrigo, on Dome Road. Check local Visitor Information Centres for day tour options.

WHAT TO BRING

- Temperatures at the escarpment edge are cooler than on the coast so bring a warm jacket and wet weather gear.
- Insect repellent can be handy, especially in summer.
- Closed walking shoes are best for exploring the walking tracks.

CONTACTS

DORRIGO RAINFOREST CENTRE,
DOME ROAD,
PO BOX 170, DORRIGO, NSW, 2453.
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E: dorrigo.rainforestcentre@environment.nsw.gov.au

FOR CANOPY CAFE BOOKINGS:
PHONE: 02 6657 1541
W: www.canopycafedorrigo.com

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F: 02 9585 6555
W: www.nswnationalparks.com.au

Visitor Guide

Dorrigo National Park

Dorrigo Rainforest Centre

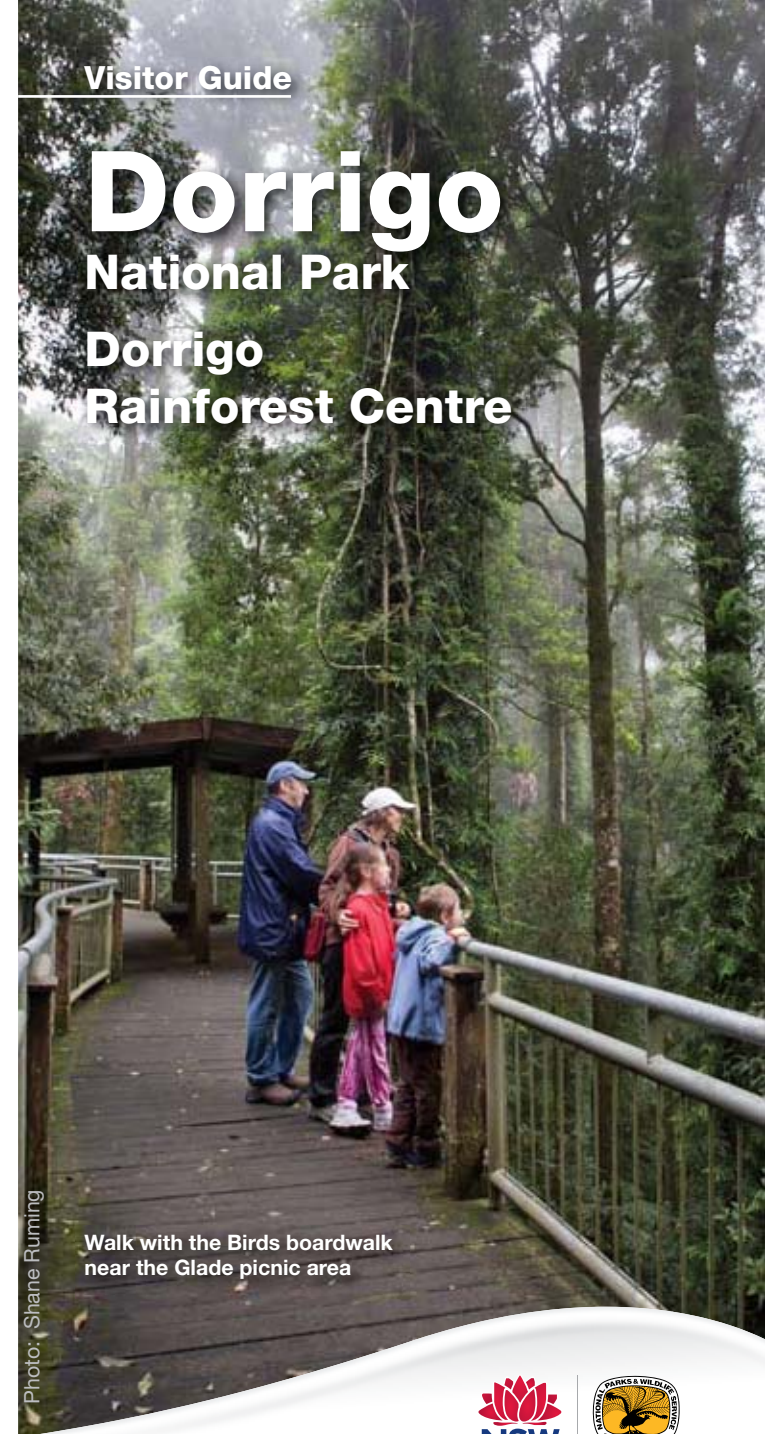


Photo: Shane Ruming

Walk with the Birds boardwalk near the Glade picnic area





Experience the Skywalk for yourself: view the rainforest canopy, plunging escarpment cliffs and the distant Pacific Ocean. This elevated walk is located at the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre.

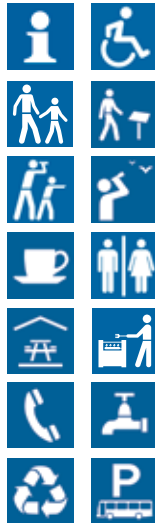
DORRIGO RAINFOREST CENTRE

The gateway to the park, Dorrigo Rainforest Centre has something for every visitor:

- Travellers will find helpful staff at the Information Counter, in-depth displays in the exhibition space and a rich source of literature for sale in the shop.
- Photographers will love the panoramic view from the Skywalk boardwalk.
- Walkers will find the start of tracks leading to the rainforest and lovely waterfalls.
- Souvenir hunters will find great choices in the Rainforest Shop.
- Art-lovers can view the latest exhibitions by regional artists.
- All visitors can enjoy great coffee and fresh food featuring local produce at the Canopy Cafe.



In the exhibition space you can learn about the rich natural and cultural heritage of Gondwana Rainforests of Australia, view a rainforest documentary and changing exhibitions.



Rainforest Centre opening hours: 9:00am to 4:30pm daily. In winter (May to August) weekday closing is at 4:00pm. Easy barrier-free access is provided to all the facilities at the Centre, including the Skywalk boardwalk, toilets and nearby barbecues and picnic areas. A wheelchair and a baby backpack are available for free use.



Dorrigo Rainforest Centre is located on the edge of the Great Escarpment, overlooking the national park.



First stop is the Information Counter and Rainforest Shop.



CANOPY CAFE

Enjoys a reputation for fine cuisine above nature's best. Open from 9:00am to 4:30pm daily. Bookings for bus and tour groups can be made on: T: 02 6657 1541



DISCOVERY TOURS

Why not join a National Parks Discovery tour into the rainforest, where Discovery Rangers will point out special features of interest and entertain you with stories of the fascinating relationships between the plants and animals of the forest. School holiday programs for families are publicised in advance on the National Parks website. Special tours can also be arranged to cater for the needs and interests of your group.

School excursions

As part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage area, Dorrigo National Park is the ideal place to study rainforests.

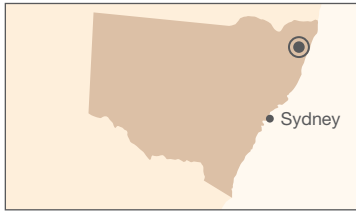
School excursion programs are designed to meet curriculum needs from Kindergarten to Year 12 and come with generous resource material for teachers and students. Find out more at: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkExcursions.aspx?id=N0011

Book any tour with the Discovery Coordinator on T: 02 6657 5935 or by email: discovery.northcoast@environment.nsw.gov.au



Red-necked pademelons share the picnic areas near the Rainforest Centre. If you respect their shy, quiet ways they may approach close enough for you to see a tiny joey's head poking out from a female's pouch.

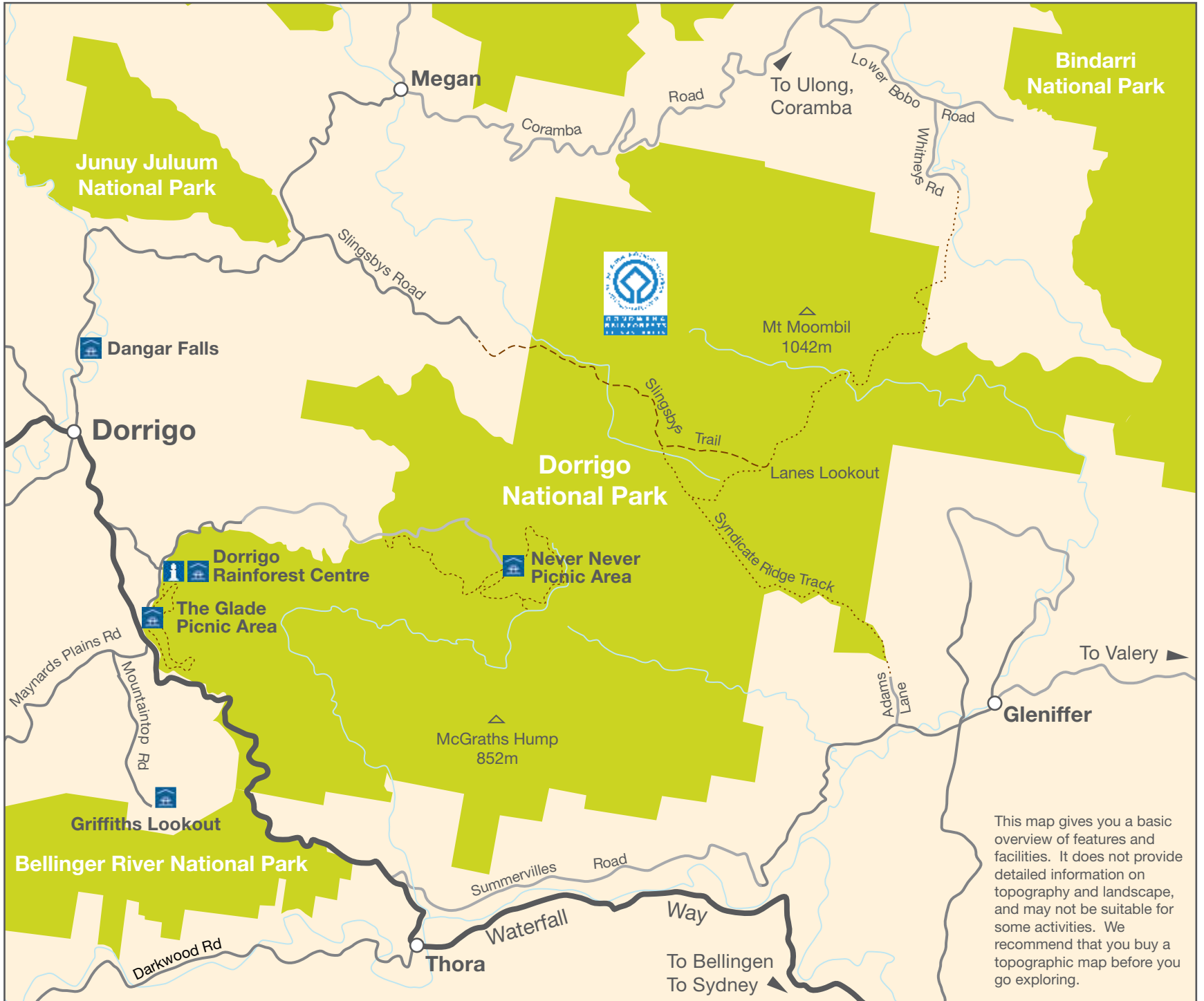
Dorrigo National Park



LEGEND

- Highway
- Sealed Road
- Unsealed Road
- Walking Tracks
- Fire Trail
- National Park
- Information Centre
- Picnic Area

0 1 2 3 4 5 KM



The lookout at the Glade Picnic Area

This map gives you a basic overview of features and facilities. It does not provide detailed information on topography and landscape, and may not be suitable for some activities. We recommend that you buy a topographic map before you go exploring.