

Visitor Guide

Dorrigo

National Park

Dorrigo Rainforest Centre

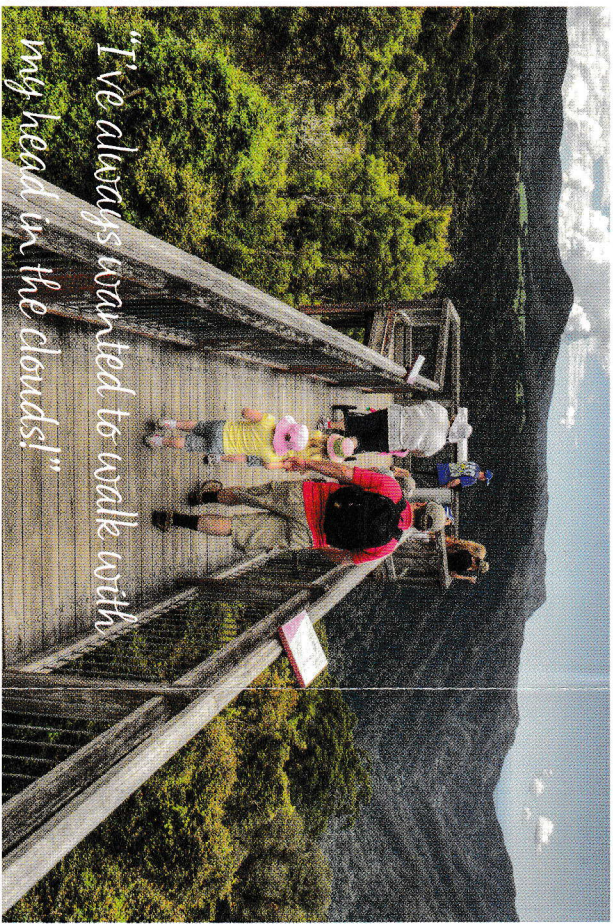


Walk with the Birds boardwalk
near the Glade picnic area



nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

Photo: Ford Kristo



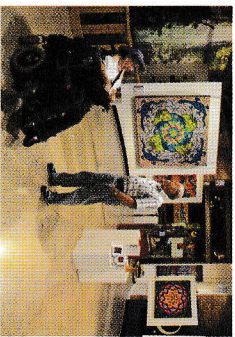
"I've always wanted to walk with my head in the clouds!"

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.

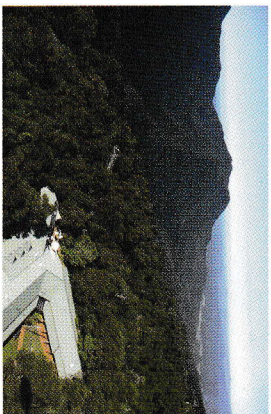
DORRIGO RAINFOREST CENTRE

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.



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

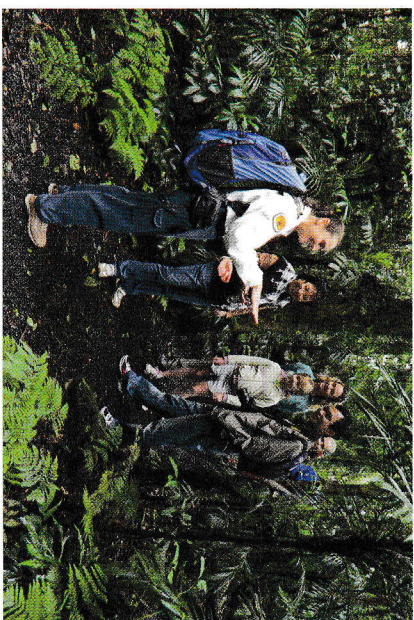
Enjoys a reputation for fine cuisine above nature's best.

Open from 9:00am to 4:30pm daily.

Bookings for bus and tour groups can be made on:
T: 02 6657 1541

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.



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 pademelions 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.



ENJOYING THE PARK

An indispensable guide book *Discovering Gondwana, a Guide to Dorrigo National Park* is available for sale at Dorrigo Rainforest Centre.

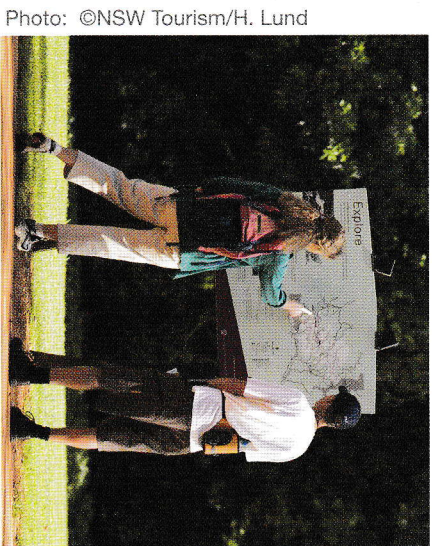


Photo: ©NSW Tourism/H. Lund

The Glade Picnic Area



One kilometre by road from the Rainforest Centre, The Glade has a large barbecue shelter with electric BBQs, and is the starting point for the wheelchair accessible Walk with the Birds boardwalk and other walking tracks.

Never Never Picnic Area



A scenic 10 kilometre drive along Dome Road (unsealed) ends in the secluded beauty of this remote picnic area. A range of walking tracks provide access to waterfalls, warm temperate rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest.

Photo: Michael van Ewijk



Crystal Shower Falls, on Wonga Walk, can be viewed from a suspension bridge or from a cavern behind the falls.

WALKING TRACKS

Detailed walking track maps are available on-line or at Dorrigo Rainforest Centre, where staff can also help to plan your day.

From the Rainforest Centre

Venture into the rainforest on the *Lyrebird Link Track*, an easy stroll of 400m, which links with the magnificent *Wonga Walk*. This two and a half hour circuit delivers all the delights of subtropical rainforest, taking in the Walk with the Birds boardwalk, Crystal Shower Falls and Tristana Falls.



Walkers on Lyrebird Link and Wonga Walk enter a magical green tunnel of tall trees, lianes and ferns.

From Never Never Picnic Area

The *Rosewood Creek Circuit* (5.5km) offers great beauty and diversity, with shaded rainforest streams and enormous blackbutt, tallowwood and brush box trees. The *Blackbutt Track* (6.4km one way) and Red Cedar Falls provide longer walk options. Ask at the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre or consult the signs in the picnic area to help you decide.

Take care

Walkers may encounter leeches during damp weather. Simply scrape them off with a fingernail and flick away. The large bright green leaves of the stinging tree should also be avoided. Ask the friendly staff at the Rainforest Centre Information Counter for more details.

GEOLOGY AND LANDFORM

Much of the Dorrigo Plateau was once covered by basaltic lava flow from the Ebor Volcano, active until about 18 million years ago. Under the influence of a very high annual rainfall the basalt weathered to form the impressive escarpment and chocolate soils around Dorrigo. In the northern part of the park and in the valleys, the basalt has eroded away to reveal metamorphic and sedimentary rocks from a much earlier period.

VEGETATION

Fertile basaltic soil along the south-west boundary supports subtropical rainforest, which can be seen at its best on the Wonga Walk. A characteristic feature of this type of rainforest is the variety of tree species in the multi-layered canopy. Common species include yellow carabeen, booyong, strangler fig and giant stinging tree. Buttressed trunks, palms, thick woody vines, epiphytes and ferns are also common, adding to the picture of luxuriant vegetation.

By contrast, warm temperate rainforests on the poorer clay soils around Never Never Picnic Area are less complex, with only two tree layers and fewer canopy species, dominated by coachwood, sassafra and crabapple.

Moist eucalypt forest is seen on the more exposed ridges sloping down into the Bellingen Valley. Sydney bluegum, blackbutt and tallowwood are the main species. Some of these hardwood giants are thought to be over 1000 years old and can be seen on walking tracks.

WILDLIFE

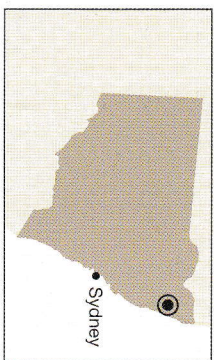
Birds are abundant, with over 120 species recorded. Ground-dwelling birds feed on insects in the leaf litter and include lyrebird, brush turkey, whiplbird, logrunner, and noisy pitta. Fruit-eating pigeons, king parrots, green catbirds and both satin and regent bowerbirds can often be seen from the Skywalk.

Most of the park's mammals are nocturnal, including ringtailed and brushtailed possums. Some interesting reptiles also find ideal habitat within the park, including land mullet skinks, carpet and diamond pythons, lace monitors and the rare southern angle-headed dragon.

Southern angle-headed dragon



Dorrigo National Park

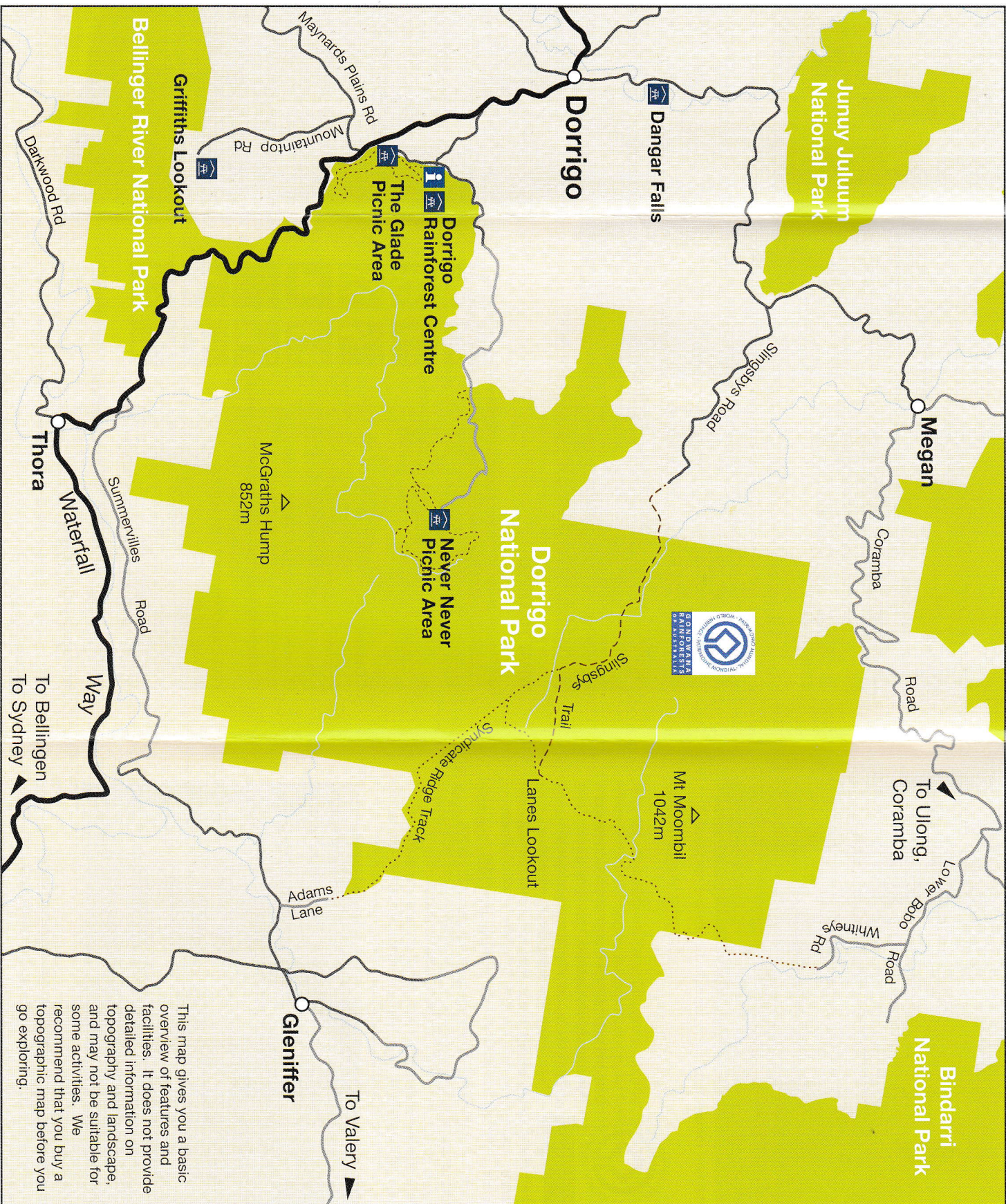


LEGEND

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



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.