WALKING TRAILS

W1 Gabal Way – Nelly Bay to Arcadia  1.5km ret / 0.5hr
Grade: Easy
This elevated, scenic walkway is adjacent to Arcadia Road and made up of 2 sections linking Nelly and Geoffrey Bays. Gabal Way is suitable for walkers and cyclists and is disabled compliant, with breakaway platforms along the way to pause and enjoy the island coastline and views across the bay.

W2 Hawklings Point track
Grade: Easy
This is one of the easiest and shortest walks with an exceptional view. From Picnic Bay, a track winds to the top of a large lookout, affording a spectacular panorama over the island past Rocky Bay to Nelly and Geoffrey Bays and back towards Townsville.

W3 Picnic Bay to West Point
Grade: Easy
This walk follows a bush track that links the bays on the western side of the island. The track passes through a patch of beachwood, mangroves, paperbarks and savannah grasslands. The flora and fauna are totally different in this area to the eastern side of the island, making the journey particularly rewarding.

W4 Nelly Bay to Arcadia
Grade: Moderate
5km / 1hr
Continuing along Maudsly Ave, Nelly Bay, this walk passes through a cool patch of rainforest alongside Gustav Creek, then climbs gradually to the saddle between Nelly and Horseshoe Bays. The track follows a ridge with views over Horsholm Bay before it branches, with one track leading on to Horsholm Bay, and the other down to Arcadia past the Sphinx lookout.

W5 Arcadia to Horseshoe Bay
Grade: Moderate
4.6km / 1.5hrs
Opened in 2011, this walking track replaces the old walkway adjacent to the main road. The track begins at the end of Endeavour Rd, winding uphill to the saddle between Nelly and Horseshoe Bay, passing through native grasses, delicate wildflowers and an impressive stand of grass trees. Continuing on past the Sphinx lookout the track veers off to the right at the Forts junction following the ridge line before descending down to the Radical Bay and Forts walk car park. Continue 2.5km via tack and Horsholm Bay Rd to the beachfront.

W6 The Forts Walk
Grade: Moderate
4km ret / 1.5hrs
From the turn-off to Radical Bay, this track ascends, sometimes steeply, to follow a ridge behind the bays before arriving at the ruins of the Forts complex operated during World War II. Lookouts afford excellent views to the Palm Island Group in the north and Bowling Green Bay National Park in the south. Magnetic Island’s WHP Forts are listed on the Queensland Heritage Register and are among the best examples of such forts on Queensland’s east coast. This walk is also famous for spotting Koalas in their natural environment as it is home to the largest free-roaming colony in the world.

W7 Arthur, Florence and Radical Bays
6km ret / 2hrs
Grade: Easy
From the Forts car park on the Horseshoe Bay Road, an easy track leads down to these undeveloped bays which provide excellent swimming and snorkelling. Arthur Bay walk – 1.4km return (30 minutes) Florence Bay walk – 3.8km return (1 hour) Radical Bay walk – 6km return (2 hours)

W8 Horseshoe to Baling & Radical Bays
3.2km ret / 1hr
Grade: Moderate
From the eastern end of Horseshoe Bay beach, the track climbs through a steep, gully of closed forest to a ridge with open eucalypt woodland. One branch of the track leads down to the secluded Baling Bay and the other continues on to Radical Bay. Both bays offer excellent swimming opportunities. An unssealed road leads back from Radical Bay to the main road past Arthur and Florence Bays.

W9 Horseshoe Bay Lagoon
4km ret / 1hr
Grade: Easy
Leading off the main road near Horseshoe Bay beach, a short track leads to the lagoon where a number of waterbirds can be seen past the seaward wall. Walkers can continue on past the inlet along the back of Horseshoe Bay beach.

For more information on Magnetic Island walks, wildlife and bays visit magneticinformer.com.au

magneticinformer.com.au

sealinkqld.com.au
SeaLink and the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife (FNPW) welcome you to Magnetic Island and we hope you enjoy your visit in North Queensland!

SeaLink and FNPW have partnered on a range of initiatives to foster sustainable tourism programs in National Parks around Australia of high tourism value. FNPW is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation. It was founded in 1970 with a goal to protect Australian land, native wildlife and cultural heritage through conservation schemes and fundraising for environmental education.

“Partnering with SeaLink we are able to educate many more people about our initiatives and are able to multiply the number of projects we undertake”.

Ian Darbyshire, CEO of FNPW

To help protect our wildlife and their habitat for future generations, donate at fnpw.org.au

Magnetic Island provides ideal habitats for a range of species both on the land and in the water that they call home. The island is home to over 254 species, including vulnerable species such as the koala and green turtles. Magnetic Island has the largest known population of Koala’s in Northern Australia and is also a site for seasonal turtle nesting and whale watching.

WELCOME

WHAT’S INSIDE?

- Magnetic Island wildlife helpful hints and tips!
- Wildlife you are likely to spot on the Island.
- Walking trail details covering the 26km island network.
- Nelly Bay and Geoffrey Bay snorkel trails.
- Education on how to protect our very special wildlife.

OUR WILDLIFE LIKES ...

- To sleep and have quiet time during the day to save their energy.
- Native trees and flora as this is the safest place for them to be.
- You to keep your dogs and other pets locked in at night.
- You to keep an eye out and take it easy on the roads, especially at night.
- Foraging for food and can travel vast distances on land or in the water to their favourite spot.

OUR WILDLIFE DISLIKES ...

- Pets – they frighten or even attack wildlife if allowed to roam free.
- Garden pesticides – wildlife can absorb chemicals through their paws, in runoff or through their food in the leaves they eat.
- Fast traffic – animals usually take their time as they cross the road so PLEASE drive slowly.
- Rubbish – contaminates their habitat and food sources so find a bin and recycle where you can.
- Pets – they frighten or even attack wildlife if allowed to roam free.
- Garden pesticides – wildlife can absorb chemicals through their paws, in runoff or through their food in the leaves they eat.
- Fast traffic – animals usually take their time as they cross the road so PLEASE drive slowly.
- Rubbish – contaminates their habitat and food sources so find a bin and recycle where you can.
- Feral dogs & cats – which prey on native animals.
- Nets and fishing lines – marine life can get caught in these which often leads to death.
- Being fed by humans – in some cases can result in death or unaltered behaviours if they become reliant on being fed outside their natural diet.

WELCOME

If you see sick and injured wildlife or stranded marine animals call the carer hotline on 0427 918 130 or 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)
**Discover More!**

How many remarkable species of animals and marine life will you spot while on Magnetic Island? Tick off as many as you can!

### SPECIES LIKELY VIEWING

- **Koalas** — The Forts walk
- **Allied rock wallabies** — Arcadia jetty viewing area
- **Agile wallabies** — Horseshoe Bay oval
- **Short beaked echidna** — along walking tracks (seasonal)

**Marine**
- **Green sea turtles** — Horseshoe & Florence Bay
- **Dugong** — Horseshoe Bay Beach (not common)
- **Whales** — seen from beaches or ferry (seasonal)
- **Dolphins** — all around island often seen from ferry
- **Batfish** — Arthur, Florence & Radical Bays

**Birds**
- **Sea eagles** — nest at Orchid Rocks
- **Wedge tail eagles** — nesting pair Horseshoe Bay
- **Red tailed black cockatoo** — parkland near beaches
- **Eastern osprey** — Horseshoe Bay and Cockle Bay

**Birds, animals & reptiles all around the Island**
- **Brahminy kites** — Bush stone curlews
- **Rainbow lorikeets** — Blue winged kookaburra
- **Sunbirds** — Sulphur crested cockatoo
- **Brush tail possums** — Black flying fox
- **Green tree frogs** — Rainbow skinks

**Island Snakes**
- **Green tree snakes** — Spotted pythons
- **Death adders** — Scrub pythons

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**Backyard Buddies**

Are the native plants and animals that share our urban areas, waterways, backyards and parks.

They are also the people who value native wildlife and want to protect it.

Your backyard is a small part of the green corridors that link our National Parks, giving safe passage and a safe haven for many native birds and animals.

By sharing your backyard – or taking part in programs that help your National Parks, giving safe passage and a safe haven for many native birds and animals.

**5 Simple ways to be a Backyard Buddy**

1. **Go chemical-free**
   - Pesticides and fertiliser can cause unseen damage to native wildlife. Instead, encourage harmless predators such as ladybirds and lace wings to your garden to tackle unwanted pests.

2. **Keep your pets under control**
   - Try to keep your cats indoors as much as possible, especially at night when they are more likely to prey. Keep dogs fenced in or on a leash and away from our vulnerable wildlife.

3. **Plant smart**
   - Choosing plants that are indigenous to your area, creates a food source and safe habitat for native birds and wildlife.

4. **Attract new friends**
   - Create homes for your Backyard Buddies like a DIY bee hotel or a bird or possum nest box.

5. **Lend a helping hand**
   - If you come across an injured or sick native animal it’s best to contact a wildlife rescue operation in the area (see below).

Make a difference and sign up to be a Backyard Buddy at [www.backyardbuddies.org.au](http://www.backyardbuddies.org.au)

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**Explore the snorkel trails off Magnetic Island!**

Truly the easiest way to see one of the GREAT 8 in the Great Barrier Reef! Surface floats with handles mark these fascinating underwater trails, with special points of interest designated by sub-surface acrylic letters so you can learn about a variety of fish species and historic ship wreck sites along the way. Giant Clams have taken up residence on the trails with some being up to 30 years old and weighing 100kg plus!

Grab a snorkel trail swim card from numerous outlets across Magnetic Island or at the Sealink Travel Desk in exchange of a small donation of $5.

**What you can do!**

**TIPS:**
- Consider keeping some simple items in your car such as a torch, gloves, pillows, towel and a sturdy box to help if you find injured wildlife. Having these items will make relieving the stress for the animals a lot easier.
- In an emergency please don’t send a wildlife carer an email, as every minute counts when you’re trying to save an injured animal.

**Carer hotline 0427 918 130 or 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)**

**HAVE YOU EVER COME ACROSS AN ANIMAL IN TROUBLE AND WONDERED WHAT TO DO?**

There are a lot of simple, effective things you can do to help. If you find an animal that needs help, call a wildlife carer immediately and follow their advice. Most have 24-hour hotlines so they are always available but remember that these phones are managed by volunteers so you may have to ring twice if it is late.
The Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife is the charity partner of Australia’s National Parks. Founded in 1970, we are on a mission to protect Australia’s ecosystems and native species for generations to come.

With the support of people like you, we have invested over $60 million into Australian conservation. Together we’ve grown and created 46 National Parks and protected areas across Australia. National Parks are the landscapes of some of our best memories. They are also home to uniquely Australian species found nowhere else on earth.

Permanent protection means habitat and species can survive and thrive, creating a healthier tomorrow.

To make a donation visit www.fnpw.org.au today.