How to be a Cape York

Thought ful Traveller

Photo: Kerry Trapnell

CAPE YORK

Keep it clean

Your guide to low impact travelling through Cape York

Notes

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Keep it clean

Contents

Photo: Lyndal Scobell

Introduction	1
Camping	2
Rubbish	4
Toilet Tips	6
Washing	7
Driving	8
Boating	10
Fires	12
Weeds	14
Wildlife	15
Cultural Considerations	16
Other Information	17
Facilities Map	20

DISCLAIMER: The information in this brochure is general in nature. You should consider whether the information is applicable to your specific circumstances, and seek your own advice or information where appropriate.

Every effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate. But circumstances can change rapidly on Cape York, especially during weather and fire events. Always seek the latest information from local authorities, and exercise caution when travelling in remote areas.

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Introduction

Photo: Kerry Trapnell

Cape York Peninsula is a dream destination, the ultimate road-trip, for people who love four-wheel-driving, fishing and camping. Visitor numbers increase every year, and most take good care of the place. But a small minority are causing problems for other visitors, the region and its people.

These serious problems include illegal access to private land, camping in culturally and ecologically sensitive areas, arson, wildfires, dumping rubbish and spreading weeds. These unwelcome behaviours affect locals and visitors alike, and could lead to visitor restrictions and track or camp closures.

The tips in this guide will help you be a thoughtful traveller and minimise your impact on the Cape.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT CAPE YORK LAND TYPES

You'll encounter several categories of land when you're travelling on the Cape. Understanding these will help you know if you can enter that land, what permits or permission you'll need, and what activities are allowed there.

National parks are protected areas managed by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science. **https://www.des.qld.gov.au/**

Some national parks are designated CYPAL (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land). These are protected areas, jointly managed with Traditional Owners.
https://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/managing/joint_management_of_cape_york_peninsula_national_parks.html

There's also privately owned land, and Aboriginal land privately owned by land trusts and other entities. And you may find areas designated as conservation parks, nature refuges or resource reserves.

THOUGHTFUL TRAVELLING CAPE YORK

The Cape York Keep It Clean project is an initiative of Thoughtful Travelling Cape York. This project is supported by Cape York NRM and the Queensland Government's Litter and Illegal Dumping Community and Industry Partnerships Program.

Thoughtful Travelling Cape York is an alliance of Cape York organisations working together to reduce the damaging environmental impacts caused by people travelling on Cape York.

These organisations include: Cape York Natural Resource Management, South Cape York Catchments, Tangaroa Blue, Cook Shire Council, Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc, Weipa and Western Cape Tourism, Lama Lama Rangers, Yuku Baja Muliku Land Trust, Tourism Cape York, Department of Environment and Science, Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve, Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance, Wenlock Catchment Management Group and Regional and Remote Newspapers.

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Camping

Cape York offers many great camping locations. There are campgrounds in national parks and Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land (CYPAL) parks, Council-controlled areas, Aboriginal Land Trusts and there are some privately-owned campsites.

Demand for campsites can be high, as there are limited other accommodation options on long journeys through remote areas.

TRAVEL IN SMALL GROUPS

If you're travelling in a group, keep it to less than eight people. Smaller groups have much less effect on the environment.

GET PERMISSION

Remember – all land belongs to someone, even deep in the bush. Get prior permission to enter and camp. Check with local shire councils, visitor centres or roadhouses to find out who to contact for permission.

Camping with permission also ensures that you're avoiding areas where land management activities are taking place such as fire management activities or shooting and baiting of feral animals.

If areas are fenced off, don't enter. Use designated campsites where they are available.

You must pre-book camping in all national parks and most Aboriginal communities well in advance of your visit.

Find national parks and campsites information at **https://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks** and go to **https://qpws.usedirect.com/qpws** to book.

CHOOSE LOW-IMPACT CAMPSITES

Hard or sandy surfaces are better than boggy or grassed areas. Use an existing campsite rather than making a new one, and keep at least 20 metres away from the track.

BE CROC WISE

Saltwater crocodiles live in coastal and river habitats on the Cape, but can also be found in freshwater areas and billabongs.

Crocodiles can be hard to see, even in shallow water. You may not even see a croc – but you can be sure it can see you! In Cape York and northern Australia, you should always stay away from the water's edge.

Department of Environment and Science suggest camping at least 50 metres back from the water's edge. Many locals recommend staying even further away – at least 100 metres back.

Never leave food scraps or rubbish around your campsite. Remove scraps and rubbish left by previous campers. Don't discard fish frames or other food scraps in waterways. This will attract crocodiles.

For more information about staying safe in croc country, go to **https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/crocodiles/crocodiles__be_croc_wise.html**

LEAVE PLANTS AND TREES AS YOU FIND THEM

Plants and animals are vital to Cape York ecology. They have important cultural significance and help make the Cape such a unique and special place.

Don't cut down or damage standing trees or vegetation. Some managed campsites will have firewood collection areas and established fireplaces.

DON'T CAMP CLOSE TO WILDLIFE BREEDING AREAS

Cape York is home to an incredible variety of creatures. Be aware of the wildlife around you, and keep your interaction with native species to a minimum. Don't disturb breeding areas.

LEAVE YOUR PETS AT HOME

Dogs, cats and all domestic animals are prohibited in all national parks and resources reserves. Everywhere else, they must be on a lead and under control at all times.

There are many good reasons not to bring your pet to the Cape. Feral cats have a devastating impact on native animals, and wild dogs are a serious threat to stock animals.

USE MODERN CAMPING EQUIPMENT

You'll be more comfortable, and have less impact on the environment if you use modern equipment.

Waterproof tents (with floors and tent poles) and foam sleeping mats help minimise damage to camping areas. Don't dig trenches around tents. It's damaging, and unnecessary if you put your tent on a raised or well-drained site.

LEAVE CAMPSITES BETTER THAN YOU FOUND THEM

Remove all rubbish from around your campsite, including litter left by someone else. Dismantle unnecessary or unsafe fireplaces.

CAMPING IN ALL NATIONAL PARKS AND RESOURCES RESERVES MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE

There is no phone or internet coverage at these camping areas. Book online at **https://qpws.usedirect.com/qpws** or phone 13 QGOV (137468).

You can also book national park or resources reserve camp sites at over-the-counter booking agents in Cooktown and at Moreton Telegraph Station. And self-serve booking kiosks are located throughout the Cape - usually at ranger bases.

For detailed information on parks and camping areas go to **www.des.qld.gov.au**

To camp on Aboriginal land you must contact the Land Trust or local Council for permission.
For Aboriginal Council contact details visit **http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/local-government-directory**

For Land Trust contact details seek advice from local Aboriginal Councils and see also **https://publications.qld.gov.au/storage/f/2014-05-30T04%3A53%3A59.483Z/land-trusts-map.pdf**

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Rubbish

Photo: Mapoon Land and Sea Rangers

Careful rubbish disposal is crucial in Cape York Peninsula. Mosquitoes, fruit flies, and plant and animal diseases can enter the region from Papua New Guinea and Asia. Rubbish increases the risk of these affecting public health, agriculture and the local economy.

KNOW WHERE THE WASTE DISPOSAL SITES ARE

Cook Shire Council (which covers almost all of the Cape) is moving from landfill sites to transfer stations. Locally produced rubbish puts significant pressure on most remote area waste facilities. You can help by minimising the amount of rubbish you dispose of in community facilities in the region.

PLAN AHEAD: TAKE OUT WHAT YOU TAKE IN

There are limited waste disposal sites on the Cape, so disposing of rubbish can be difficult for travellers. By planning ahead you can reduce how much rubbish you generate. You can also be prepared for taking out what you take in.

PACK SMART

Reduce plastics and non-biodegradables. Take food out of its packaging and put it in re-useable containers. Choose cans rather than bottles (because they can be crushed). Use bulk water containers. Take plenty of rubbish bags.

TAKE RUBBISH STORAGE

You can now buy canvas rubbish bags to attach to the back of your vehicle – they're affordable and very convenient. If you plan on attaching rubbish to your vehicle use sturdy rubbish bags rather than household plastic rubbish bags because they will break and spill the contents along the track. Take plenty with you.

DON'T BURY RUBBISH

Buried rubbish will be found, dug up and scattered by animals.

Digging by campers also disturbs soil, and encourages weeds and erosion, which are already significant problems on the Cape.

PUT NON-FLAMMABLES IN YOUR RUBBISH

Glass, metal, alfoil and cigarette butts don't burn and will still be there long after your campfire has gone out. Also avoid burning items made of plastic, it causes pollution and can be hazardous.

PICK UP OTHER PEOPLE'S RUBBISH

It's unfortunate, but you may find rubbish left by others so do the bush a favour - pick it up and take it out with your rubbish.

For your own simple clean-up kit, take some sturdy, sealable bags, good gloves and a pair of long-handled tongs.

VOLUNTEER AT A BEACH CLEAN-UP

Tangaroa Blue runs regular beach clean-ups on Cape York. They're a great chance to mix with locals and other travellers, and do something good for the Cape. Dates and details at **www.tangaroablue.org**

Photo: Kerry Trapnell

REPORT DUMPERS

There are heavy fines for illegal dumping of rubbish.

You can report dumping at **qld.gov.au/litter** or contact the Litter and Illegal Dumping Unit on phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or email illegaldumping@des.qld.gov.au

If you see someone littering from a vehicle or vessel you can also report this to the department at **qld.gov.au/litter**

Fines start from $2018.

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Toilet Tips

Photo: Kerry Trapnell

When you've got to go, go thoughtfully. Increasing cases of gastroenteritis are being reported in high-use areas of Australia. It's often caused by exposure to human waste, and has unpleasant symptoms like diarrhoea and vomiting. Avoid getting or spreading 'gastro' by observing these guidelines.

WHERE THERE IS A TOILET, USE IT

Toilet facilities are located throughout the Cape at roadhouses and townships including at Laura, Coen, Kowanyama, Weipa, Seisia, Bamaga and Portland Roads. They're also in some national park camping areas such as Eliot Falls, Chilli Beach, Hann Crossing and Kalpowar Crossing.

IN AREAS WITHOUT TOILETS, BURY YOUR POO AND PAPER PROPERLY

Choose a spot at least 100 metres away from campsites and watercourses. Dig a hole at least 15 cm (6 inches) deep. Take a hand trowel for this purpose.

Bury all poo and paper, mixing it with soil to help decomposition and to discourage animals from digging it up. If you're just doing a wee, also dispose of your paper responsibly.

USE ONLY PLAIN PAPER

Use plain, unbleached, unperfumed toilet paper and use it sparingly.

BURY RATHER THAN BURN YOUR PAPER

In some areas of Australia it is recommended to burn your toilet paper but this is a wild fire risk in Cape York. Bury your toilet paper instead and make sure it's in a deep enough hole that it won't be dug up by wildlife.

CARRY SANITARY PADS, TAMPONS, NAPPIES AND CONDOMS OUT WITH YOUR RUBBISH

Many Cape York toilets go into septic systems. Nappies, pads, tampons and condoms will damage the system and prevent it working safely.

Use sanitary bins where available, or take these items out in your rubbish for proper disposal.

PUT WET WIPES IN THE RUBBISH

If you use wet wipes to clean your hands afterwards, please don't bury them. They're not biodegradable so put them in your rubbish.

Consider using bottled hand sanitiser instead and put the empty bottles in your rubbish.

KNOW WHERE PORTALOO DUMP POINTS ARE

If you have a portaloo, please only dump waste at RV dump points. There are dump points at Cooktown, Coen and Weipa.

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Keep it clean

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Washing

Photo: Kerry Trapnell

Personal care products, including soaps, detergents and toothpaste, are harmful to fish and other aquatic life. Even biodegradable products can cause harm.

WASH 50 METRES AWAY FROM CREEKS AND LAKES

Wash and scatter dirty water well away from creeks and lakes so that it filters through the soil before it returns to the stream.

If you use a portable solar shower remember to also shower well away from water courses.

Use gritty sand and a scourer to clean dishes.

PUT FOOD SCRAPS IN YOUR RUBBISH

Avoid rinsing food scraps into waterways. This can cause harm, and may attract crocodiles.

Food scraps also attract feral animals. Put them in your rubbish and secure the bags and containers.

Photo: Kerry Trapnell

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Driving

Most of the Cape's roads are unsealed. Driving on them contributes to soil erosion which causes damage to the environment, farming land, waterways, infrastructure and cultural heritage.

When top-soil erodes, it can run off into waterways, ending up as harmful sediment on the Great Barrier Reef and in western Cape waterways.

There is a lot you can do to minimise the impact of driving on the Cape.

STAY ON PUBLIC ROADS

Drive your vehicle only on established tracks and roads that are open to the public. Respect private property and all track closures – they will be closed for a good reason.

CONSIDER SEASONAL CONDITIONS

Flooding routinely closes roads during the wet (November-April). Travellers can be stranded between rivers for extended periods.

Most Cape York roads are unsealed. Conditions can change dramatically after heavy rain. Always check road conditions before you leave.

STAY OFF MUDDY AND BOGGY TRACKS

REMOVE FALLEN TREES FROM ACROSS TRACKS

If you come across a fallen tree across the track, remove it if you can, rather then driving around it.

CHECK YOUR TYRE PRESSURE

Reducing your tyre pressure when driving off-road causes less damage to the track. Just remember to increase the pressure when you head back on to the bitumen.

A tyre pressure gauge and compressor for tyre inflation are essential and affordable items for your Cape York kit.

KEEP OUT OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

Entering private property without permission is trespassing and a major headache for all Cape York landowners. Stick to public roads and obtain landowner permission before venturing down any tracks.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

TAKE EXTRA CARE ON ALL BEACHES

Sea turtles nest on most Cape York beaches, particularly between July and October, but they can nest at any time of year. Vehicles will destroy nests and kill hatchlings. Seek Council or Ranger advice about local beach driving restrictions, and please drive on formed roads or tracks where they exist. Stay off sand dune systems and closed beaches.

WATCH OUT FOR ANIMALS

Cattle, horses and native wildlife are all potential driving hazards. Take extra care at dawn and dusk, and when travelling along unfenced roads or tracks.

WASH OR BRUSH DOWN YOUR VEHICLE BEFORE LEAVING

You might not realise it, but your vehicle may be carrying unwelcome passengers - weeds. You scoop them up as you drive along and they fall off somewhere else, and start growing.

Weeds are a major environmental problem on the Cape, and locals are working hard to control and eradicate them.

You can help by washing or brushing down your vehicle at home, including the tyres, undercarriage and chassis, to remove any seeds or plant material.

Take a dust pan and brush with you to brush down every time you set off on a trip.

TAKE RECOVERY GEAR

You're travelling in a remote area, on mostly unsealed roads. If you need help, it will take longer to reach you than in cities and towns.

Be as self-sufficient as you can. Bring tools for mechanical repairs, and spare parts you might need.

Carry a UHF two-way radio, and think about getting a satellite phone. Your mobile phone will only have signal close to the main towns and some of the smaller communities.

Carry a first aid kit, and consider doing a first aid course before you travel. Make sure you have an adequate supply of medicines you take or might need.

GATES

Many Cape roads pass through working properties with gates in place to manage stock. If the gate is open, leave it open. If it's closed, leave it closed.

Gates might be closed to keep stock out, or open to allow them to access water and grass. Work out a system so that your convoy knows whether the gates you pass through need to be left open or closed.

CAPE YORK

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Boating

Photo: Lyndal Scobell

The coasts, rivers and waterways of Cape York Peninsula are great places to go boating. There are many things you can do to ensure your safety, and minimise your impact on the environment.

AVOID DAMAGING RIVER OR CREEK BANKS

Take care not to damage river or creek banks - soil erosion is already a significant problem on the Cape. Soil erosion can impact coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass and other fish habitats.

BE CROC WISE

Cape York is crocodile country. Be croc-wise, especially at boat ramps and launch points.

Never clean fish near boat ramps. You'll attract crocs, and they'll be a risk to you or others using the ramp in the future.

For information about boating and fishing safely in croc country, go to **https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/crocodiles/crocodiles__be_croc_wise.html**

Sharks can be found in some Cape York rivers, and may be present a long way from the sea.

KEEP AN EYE ON THE WEATHER

Cape York has a dry season (May to October) and a wet season (November to April). Rain is possible at any time of year, but heavier persistent falls occur during the wet.

During the dry season, rivers and creeks may have little water, or be completely dry. That can change rapidly, with flash flooding possible after heavy falls. It doesn't have to rain at your location for it to flood. Rainfall some distance away can travel along catchments and cause rapid water level rises or flooding.

Dramatic weather changes are possible on the Cape, and may create conditions beyond your level of boating experience. Seek local information and advice. Keep a close eye on the weather and read local forecasts.

Check tide tables for accurate local tide predictions. **http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Tides/Tide-tables**

BE AWARE OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Queensland boating laws and licensing requirements apply in Cape York waters. Go to **http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/** for details.

You are required to carry safety equipment appropriate to your journey. Details at **http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Safety/Safety-equipment-recreational-ships**

TAKE CARE AROUND SEAGRASS AREAS

These are important habitats for sea turtles and dugong.

DISPOSE OF FOOD SCRAPS PROPERLY

Don't throw rubbish or food scraps overboard. These will harm marine creatures, and attract crocodiles. Use sturdy bags to contain your rubbish, and take it out with you for proper disposal.

RETRIEVE ALL YOUR FISHING GEAR

Don't leave abandoned fishing gear behind. Lines, hooks, sinkers and other gear can be dangerous to wildlife.

CARRY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT WITH YOU

You are travelling in remote areas. Mobile phone coverage may not be available, and emergency response times will be slower than in other areas. Carry a satellite phone or UHF two-way radio. Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return.

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Fires

Any fire left to burn can soon become a dangerous wildfire. These can move quickly through thousands of hectares of country, threatening or damaging homes, livestock and ecosystems.

Wildfires can harm or destroy the Cape's exceptional cultural heritage, leave stock without food, destroy the habitat of threatened species and also reduce ground cover, leading to increased erosion and poor water quality.

Many Cape York grazing properties and Aboriginal communities rely on registered fire projects to reduce greenhouse gases and generate income through carbon credits. Wildfires can therefore threaten their livelihoods. See **http://maps.capeyorknrm.com.au/carbon**

Follow these tips to ensure fire safety during your Cape York travels.

IF IN DOUBT, DON'T LIGHT IT

Don't light a fire unless you're certain it's safe and legal. Be prepared to safely manage and put out your fire.

BE AWARE OF FIRE BANS

When a fire ban is declared, all open flames are prohibited. This includes campfires and portable gas or liquid fuelled stoves.

It is your responsibility to know if a fire ban is in place. The Queensland Rural Fire Service covers Cape York Peninsula - 07 4232 5468 or **www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au**. Fire bans are usually announced via local radio stations.

Camp fires are allowed in most national park and national park (CYPAL) camping areas unless there's a fire ban.

BRING YOUR OWN FIREWOOD

You are NOT allowed to collect firewood in national parks. Even fallen branches may house and feed small mammals and other native species.

Do not cut down or damage standing trees or vegetation. Standing trees, even dead ones, are home for wildlife, and are part of the scenery.

Elsewhere, gather firewood well away from your camp and use it sparingly.

Better still, bring your own firewood. Make sure it doesn't contain any seeds, animals (including insects or spiders), flowers or root stock (to avoid bringing in potential invasive species).

LIGHT YOUR FIRE IN A PROPERLY CONSTRUCTED FIREPLACE

Use fire rings or a previously used site if they exist. Otherwise, build up a fireplace using stone or similar material. Or dig a trench at least 30cms deep. If you create a fireplace using man-made materials, remember to take them with you when you leave.

KEEP IT MANAGEABLE – AND MANAGE IT

Fires should be no bigger than one square metre. You must keep an area three metres around the fire clear.

Never leave a fire unattended. And keep your whole camp clear of leaf litter, in case of unexpected wildfire.

BE ABSOLUTELY SURE THE FIRE IS OUT

Before you leave your camp area, feel the ground underneath the coals. If it's still warm, the fire is NOT out. Put it out completely. Use water, rather than soil or sand. Timber can smoulder or burn for several days after your campfire. People or animals could walk over it and be burned, or it could flare up and become a wildfire. Make sure your campfire is out.

USE A FUEL STOVE

Fuel stoves are cleaner than campfires. They're easier to use in wet weather. They cook food and boil water much faster than a campfire, and they don't scar the landscape.

If you take warm clothing and good tents, you won't need fires for warmth.

DON'T THROW YOUR BUTTS IN THE FIRE

Cigarette butts are toxic litter. They often end up in our waterways, or in the guts of the fish you like to eat.

Stub your cigarettes out completely and put them in your rubbish to take out with you. And remember - cigarettes and butts are a fire hazard.

In 2016/17 Queensland Fire and Emergency Services responded to 55 fires they believed were started by discarded cigarette butts.

In February 2017, the Queensland Government introduced restrictions on smoking in national parks.

For details, go to
https://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/experiences/pdf/smoke-free-areas-qld-national-parks.pdf

BURY TOILET PAPER

Bury your toilet paper in a deep hole after use. Burning toilet paper can start wildfires, especially in the dry season.

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Weeds

Invasive weeds are choking the Cape. They love to hitch a ride on your vehicles, clothes and tents. They are an increasing threat to native plants and animals, farm crops and to the region's cultural heritage.

WASH DOWN YOUR VEHICLE BEFORE YOU TRAVEL TO THE CAPE

Make sure you give your vehicle a thorough wash down before entering the Cape.

TAKE A DUSTPAN AND BRUSH

Before you travel, remove weed seeds from inside your vehicle, bulbar, wheel arches, tailgates, stone guards etc. Put them securely in your rubbish to take out with you.

Don't throw seeds into your campfire. Fire causes some seeds to grow.

SHAKE OUT YOUR CAMPING GEAR BEFORE PACKING UP

Do this before you travel to the Cape and then every time you pack up a camp site. Use a brush to sweep out your tents, swags and other camping gear, to remove weed seeds.

CHECK YOUR CLOTHING

Weed seeds stick very easily to socks, shoes and clothing. So check your clothing thoroughly, and place all removed plant materials securely in your rubbish to take out with you.

REPORT IT

If you notice a strange plant or unusual looking weed please report it to the local Council or Rangers. Record and report GPS points if you have them. Take a photo if you can, to help Rangers or Council staff identify the plant.

If you're interested in learning more, further information is also available
http://landmanager.capeyorknrm.com.au/weeds-tool

STICK TO EXISTING TRACKS

Avoid making any new tracks with your vehicle as this can rapidly spread weeds.

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Wildlife

Photo: Kerry Trapnell

Cape York has a wonderful diversity of native animals and birdlife not found anywhere else on Earth. All native wildlife is protected, no matter where it is located.

KEEP YOUR FOOD SEALED

Human-produced food causes health problems for native animals. Feeding animals also teaches them not to fear humans, so they become more vulnerable, and a nuisance to other travellers.

RINSE ALL RECYCLABLE BOTTLES AND PLASTIC CONTAINERS

Smells coming from leftover food or drink in containers will attract animals.

CRUSH ALL DRINK CANS

Some animals may try to get into an uncrushed can. They can easily be injured, or get stuck in the can.

REMEMBER THAT TREES AND DEAD BRANCHES ARE SOMEONE'S HOME

Even dead branches can be a home or shelter for small animals.

LEAVE YOUR PETS AT HOME

Feral animals endanger Cape York's native wildlife. Domestic pets that are lost in the bush become yet another danger to local creatures. Feral pigs are the major pest species on the Cape. Feral cats, horses and cane toads are also significant pest species.

If you do bring your pets, make sure they have name tags with a phone number in case they get lost. Don't rely on microchips for identification – chip readers may not be available in remote areas.

Keep pets on a leash at all times. Stay with your pet when you feed it. Don't leave animal food exposed or unattended.

DISPOSE OF FOOD SCRAPS RESPONSIBLY

Even biodegradable foods like fruit scraps should be disposed of responsibly. Do not throw them out of your vehicle. This encourages animals to wander onto roads, increasing risks to those animals, drivers and other road users.

REPORT INJURED ANIMALS

If you see an injured animal, including turtles, call 1300 ANIMAL (1 300 264 625). This number operates anywhere in Australia, connecting you with local wildlife rescuers and carers.

If you don't have phone signal or a two-way radio at the time, you could make a note of the location and report the animal as soon as you can, by phone or in person.

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Cultural Considerations

Photo: Lyndal Scobell

Cape York Peninsula is a region of ancient and continuing cultural landscapes, with countless significant places. Well over 50% of the region is privately owned and managed by Traditional Owners.

Visitors are welcome to many of these places, but are asked to respect the people and the land. Traditional Owners want visitors to be safe when travelling through or staying on their Country. Do not enter private roads or tracks, closed areas or restricted cultural sites.

PERMISSIONS

Entry onto Aboriginal lands must be prearranged with the relevant landholding organisation or council.

Most Cape York National Parks are jointly managed by Aboriginal Land Trusts and rangers, and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Contact the relevant Aboriginal Land Trust or Aboriginal Shire Council to find out more.

DON'T CAMP OR LEAVE RUBBISH IN CULTURALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

Show respect as you travel through the Cape by obeying signage, and listen to local advice.

Take your rubbish away with you and if an access route or other area is closed or fenced off, do not enter.

ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS

Alcohol restrictions exist in some Cape York Aboriginal communities. These also apply to travellers. Heavy fines apply, so be sure to check the restrictions that apply to the area you are visiting. Information is available from **https://www.qld.gov.au/atsi/health-staying-active/community-alcohol-restrictions/**.

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Other Information

WEATHER INFORMATION

Bureau of Metrology (BOM)
http://www.bom.gov.au/qld/index.shtml?ref=hdr
BOM Townsville Field Office
Phone: (07) 4779 5999 (during office hours)

EMERGENCIES

You'll be travelling in remote areas, often on unsealed roads. It can be slow going, and that means emergency response takes longer than in cities and towns.

Mobile phone coverage is limited on Cape York. Consider carrying a satellite phone, a PLB (Personal Location Beacon) and UHF two-way radio. Learn how to use them before you travel. Read the instruction manuals, and check out online resources like
http://www.withoutahitch.com.au/travel/uhf-cb-radio-communications-which-channels-australia/
for UHF radio, and for satellite phones
https://www.outdoria.com.au/blog/how-to-choose-a-satellite-phone

NATIONAL EMERGENCY REQUEST - AMBULANCE, POLICE OR FIRE

- From land line dial: 000
- From mobile phone dial: 112
- State Emergency Service: 132 500

Provide as much information as you can about your location. Use your odometer to calculate distance from towns or landmarks. Try to maintain awareness of where you are, in case you need to call for help.

GPS coordinates can help emergency responders find you fast.

Rural Fire Service - Cairns Office
Phone: (07) 4232 5468
Email: RFSQ.Cairns@qfes.qld.gov.au

FIREARMS

The use of firearms is prohibited in all national parks, conservation parks and resource reserves. Nature refuges on Cape York private lands may also have firearms prohibitions in place.

If you have permission to use firearms on private property, you must comply at all times with the Queensland Weapons Act 1990 (as amended) **http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/qld/consol_act/wa1990107/**
and the Weapons Regulations 2016
https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/sl-2016-0131

These set out rules for the safe storage, carriage and use of firearms and ammunition.

You must also carry valid insurances and licensing identification with you.

Always take extreme care when shooting. People may be using the area you are permitted to shoot in, and you may not know if someone is present.

THOUGHTFUL TRAVELLING CAPE YORK

The Cape York Keep It Clean project is an initiative of Thoughtful Travelling Cape York. This project is supported by Cape York NRM and the Queensland Government's Litter and Illegal Dumping Community and Industry Partnerships Program.

Thoughtful Travelling Cape York is an alliance of Cape York organisations working together to reduce the damaging environmental impacts caused by people travelling on Cape York.

These organisations include: Cape York Natural Resource Management, South Cape York Catchments, Tangaroa Blue, Cook Shire Council, Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc, Weipa and Western Cape Tourism, Lama Lama Rangers, Yuku Baja Muliku Land Trust, Tourism Cape York, Department of Environment and Science, Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve, Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance, Wenlock Catchment Management Group and Regional and Remote Newspapers.

CAPE YORK
Keep it clean

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PACKING SUGGESTIONS

Take some time before you travel to prepare for a safe, enjoyable Cape York journey.

Some key items to bring:

- ☐ Large water tank or container. Stainless steel prevents the ‘plastic’ taste.
- ☐ Quick drying clothes
- ☐ Sock protectors that keep weed seeds off
- ☐ Satellite phone – UHF two-way radio
- ☐ Canvas bin bag attached to vehicle
- ☐ Plenty of sturdy rubbish bags
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Dustpan and brush
- ☐ Mechanical repair kit
- ☐ Hand trowel
- ☐ Recovery kit, including Maxtrax to get your vehicle unstuck
- ☐ Plain unbleached toilet paper
- ☐ Sunscreen/sun protection
- ☐ Emergency food
- ☐ Biodegradable soaps or detergents
- ☐ Re-useable crockery, cutlery and eating utensils

CAPE YORK
Keep it clean

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LOCATION	TOILETS	DUMP POINT	WASTE FACILITY / TRANSFER STATION	RECYCLING SKIP / BIN	GENERAL STORE
Lakeland	●	●	●	●	●
Cooktown	●	●	●	●	●
Rossville	●			●	
Ayton	●		●	●	●
Laura	●		●	●	●
Weipa	●	●	●	●	●
Coen	●	●	●	●	●
Bamaga	●				●
Wujal Wujal	●				●
Kowanyama	●		●		●
Seisia	●				●
Archer River	●				●
Pormpuraaw	●		●		●
Aurukun	●		●		●
Mapoon	●		●		●
Lockhart River	●		●		●
Napranum	●				●
Moreton Telegraph Station	●				●
Injinoo					●

Do you have updates for this map? Contact media@capeyorknrm.com.au

Photo: Kerry Trapnell

Queensland Government

Cape York Natural Resource Management

CAPE YORK Thoughtful travelling

This project was supported by Cape York NRM and the Queensland Government's Litter and Illegal Dumping Community and Industry Partnership Program.