



# Wet Tropics

## Mammals Expedition—10 days

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The **Wet Tropics Bioregion of Queensland** in Australia is an area with an enormous diversity in fauna and flora. The larger part of this Bioregion was listed as World Heritage Area in 1988. There are more than 40 species of marsupials, 2 monotremes, close to 20 species of rodent and more than 30 species of bats that can be found in this relatively small area. During this 10 days, 9 nights Wet Tropics Mammals Expedition, we'll be targeting around 50 species, and might get another 20 incidental species. Quite a few of these mammals are endemic to this bioregion, and some have a very restricted range. This expedition is a combination of all mammal tours and specific target rare wildlife expeditions that Patrick has successfully undertaken in the past.



### Days 1 & 2 – Cairns - Paluma

We start this trip in Cairns from where we will make our way to the Paluma area. During this long drive, we will check culverts and other possible bat roosts. Having arrived at our accommodation, we will first settle in and rest to be ready for our first long nocturnal expedition. We will spend two nights in this area. The main targets for the two nights will be **Northern Greater Glider**, Squirrel Glider, Krefft's Glider, **Mahogany Glider**, Eastern Pebble-Mouse and **Mount Claro Rock-wallaby**. Which night we will target which species will depend on the circumstances of the day; flowering, weather, etc.

Accommodation: Paluma area

### Days 3 & 4 – Atherton Tablelands

The Atherton Tableland is renowned for its high level of biodiversity and high density of wildlife. Mammals are no exception to this. Driving from Paluma to the Atherton area, we will make a few stops to try for Lumholtz's Tree-kangaroo and **Platypus**. After having checked in at our accommodation, we will go for a short pre-dinner walk to target Musky Rat-kangaroo on the accommodation grounds. After dinner, we'll head back to our accommodation for possible views of **Striped Possum**. We'll then head out again to continue our first nocturnal session for the area targeting the three local ring-tailed possums; Herbert River Ring-tailed P., Green Ring-tailed P. and Lemuroid Ring-tailed Possum. We will also try for Long-tailed Pygmy Possum and Rufous Bettong. The second night will be spent looking for **Broad-toed Feather-tailed Glider** and Northern Yellow-bellied Glider.

Accommodation: Atherton area.

### Days 5 & 6 – Julatten/Mareeba area

Making our way further north, we will explore drier habitats and look for Whiptail Wallaby and Eastern Grey Kangaroo in the morning. During our night session on day 5 will explore more rainforest to search for **Daintree River Ring-tailed Possum**, Tree Mouse, **Long-tailed Pygmy Possum** and with a bit of luck, we'll also get Pygmy White-tailed Rat. On day 6, we'll explore the limestone caves in Chillagoe just outside the Wet Tropics Bioregion. Troughton's Sheath-tailed Bat, Diadem Leaf-nosed Bat are in the list of targets. We might get 5-6 bat species there. At night we'll explore the drier open woodlands of Mareeba to find **Northern Bettong** and **Northern Quoll**, but we could also get Brush-tailed Phascogale and Cape York Brown Bandicoot. With a bit of luck, we'll also get the **Black-footed Tree-rat**.

Accommodation: Julatten/Mareeba area.



## Days 7 & 8 – Daintree NP

Spending two nights in Daintree NP will allow us to search for the elusive **Bennett's Tree-kangaroo**. The search will be late afternoon, early mornings and at night. During past nocturnal searches for this tree-kangaroo, we frequently also had Northern Long-nosed Bandicoot, Torresian Striped Possum, Blossom Bat, Eastern Tube-nosed Bat, Eastern Long-eared Bat, Diadem Leaf-nosed Bat, Tree Mouse, Fawn-footed Melomys, and Bush Rat.

Accommodation: Daintree

## Days 9 & 10 - Cooktown and back to Cairns

The final night of our expedition will be spent near Cooktown. We'll explore the area looking for our main target Godman's Rock-wallaby. Other mammals that we have had in this location on past rare wildlife expeditions are Northern Quoll, Brush-tailed Phascogale, Common Rock-rat, Ghost Bat and other bats.

On the morning of day 10, we will start making our way back to Cairns. We will aim for perfect tides along the coast to add **Coastal Sheath-tailed Bat** to our mammal list.

End of tour in Cairns at 18.00hrs the latest.

## Tour dates, start/end

2025: 31 March — 9 April

2026: 7 April — 16 April

Start in Cairns at 7.00 hrs on day 1 in Cairns, and ends in Cairns on day 10 at 18.00 hrs the latest.

## Included in the tour price

The tour includes accommodation for 9 nights. Breakfast from day 2 is included. Lunch or dinner are not included. Guests provide a breakfast items list and Patrick will provide the items. Guests will have to arrange accommodation in Cairns CBD for the night before day 1 of the expedition, and for the night of day 10 of the expedition. Drinks, and snacks are not included.

## What to bring and how to be well prepared

The expedition involves long nocturnal session of sometimes 7-8 hrs. late mornings and certainly early afternoons will be used to rest up for the long nocturnal sessions if the itinerary allows for this. A good level of fitness is required. Rubber boots, or a second pair of shoes are not a luxury as it can be wet any time of the year. Also recommended: a light rain jacket, hat, long-sleeved shirt, long trousers, insect repellent, sunscreen, water. Please communicate any physical discomforts or health issues you may have well before the start of the tour.

**Tour cost**            **AU\$ 9,300 per person**    **min. 2 persons—max. 3 persons.**

Email [patrick@eyesonwildlife.com.au](mailto:patrick@eyesonwildlife.com.au), or phone on +61 439817214 if you wanted to book this tour, or wanted to inquire further.

