

Cost

Adult	\$11.40
Child	\$5.55
Pensioner	\$7.45
Family	\$34.20

When

From 2 December 2017 to mid February 2018.

The tour departs The Caves township at 5.45pm on Monday, Friday and Saturday evenings (minimum booking numbers apply).

Time

Meet at 5.30pm for 5.45pm departure.

Where

Please meet at The Caves township (refer to map). You will then follow your tour guide, in your own vehicle, to Mt Etna carpark.

What to bring

- one good torch per person is essential
- one litre of drinking water
- sturdy walking shoes (no thongs)
- wear shorts or long pants
- insect repellent
- any personal medication.

Level of difficulty

Tours are in the evening under torchlight. The track is steep and the walk may be a little strenuous for unfit people. Sections of the track have many steps. Children under 15 are welcome but must be under adult supervision. The track is not suitable for pushchairs.

Length of track: 2.4km return

Length of tour: 3 hours approximately

About the tour

Your guide will take you up Mt Etna through remnant dry rainforest to the top of a disused limestone mine. The track then descends limestone karst to Bat Cleft.

Take care when walking and at the cave entrance.

The track is steep and can be slippery when wet.

Throughout the tour, your guide will provide a fascinating insight into the turbulent history for the fight to save Mt Etna and the bats.

Once you arrive at the Bat Cleft, you will witness the flight of thousands of little bent-wing bats from their cave in search of food.

Bookings and further information

Book early as tours are limited to 10 people to make sure everyone has the best view of the bats. Payment is required when you book, as your receipt is your admission ticket.

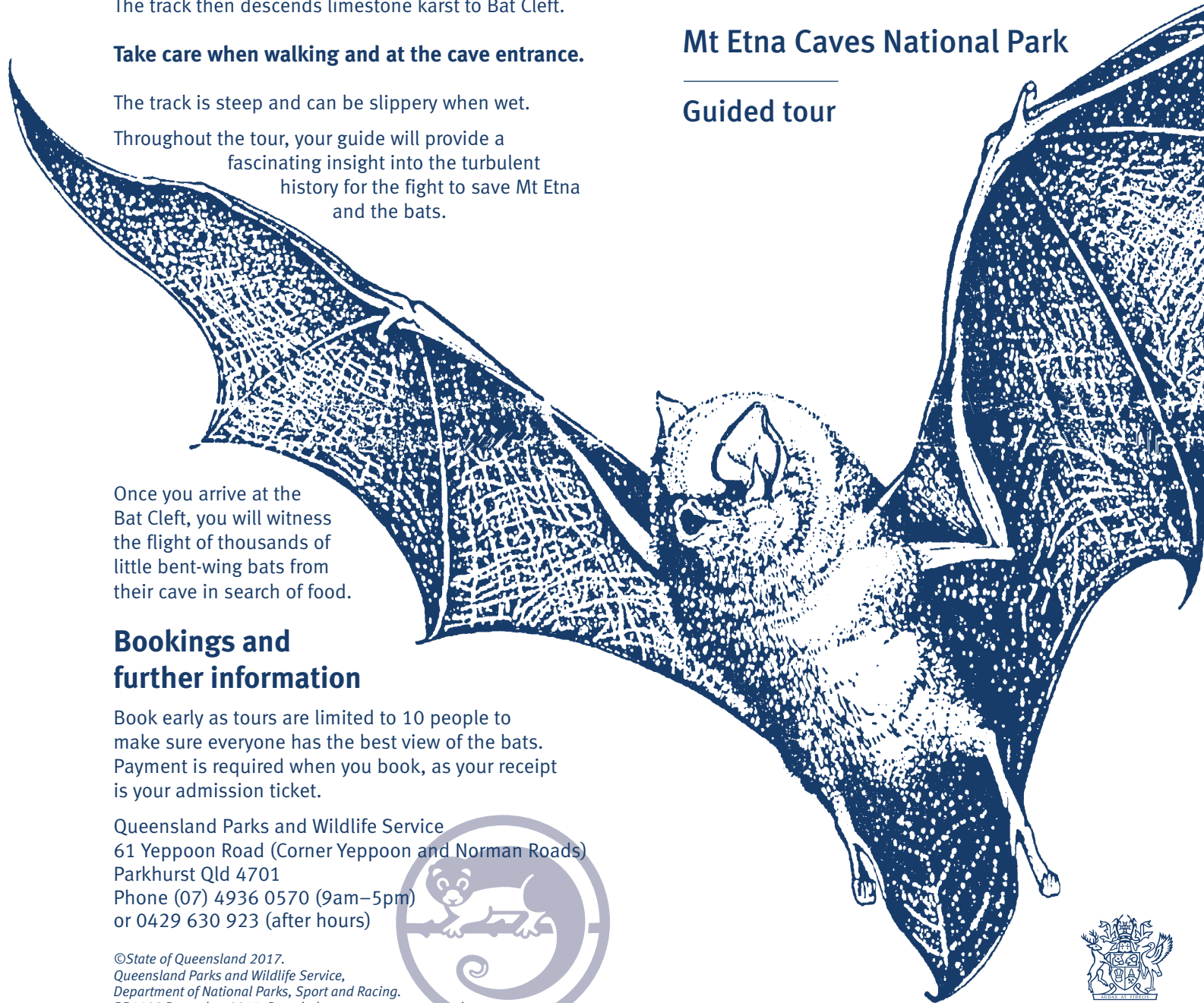
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
61 Yeppoon Road (Corner Yeppoon and Norman Roads)
Parkhurst Qld 4701
Phone (07) 4936 0570 (9am–5pm)
or 0429 630 923 (after hours)

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Bat Cleft

Mt Etna Caves National Park

Guided tour





Experience the thrill of thousands of tiny bats flashing past you at dusk

Little bent-wing bats rush out from their roost in Bat Cleft to feed, providing a spectacular natural show.

Bat Cleft, a cave in Mt Etna Caves National Park, is one of only seven recorded little bent-wing bat *Miniopterus australis* maternity sites and accommodates 80 per cent of the known Australian population.

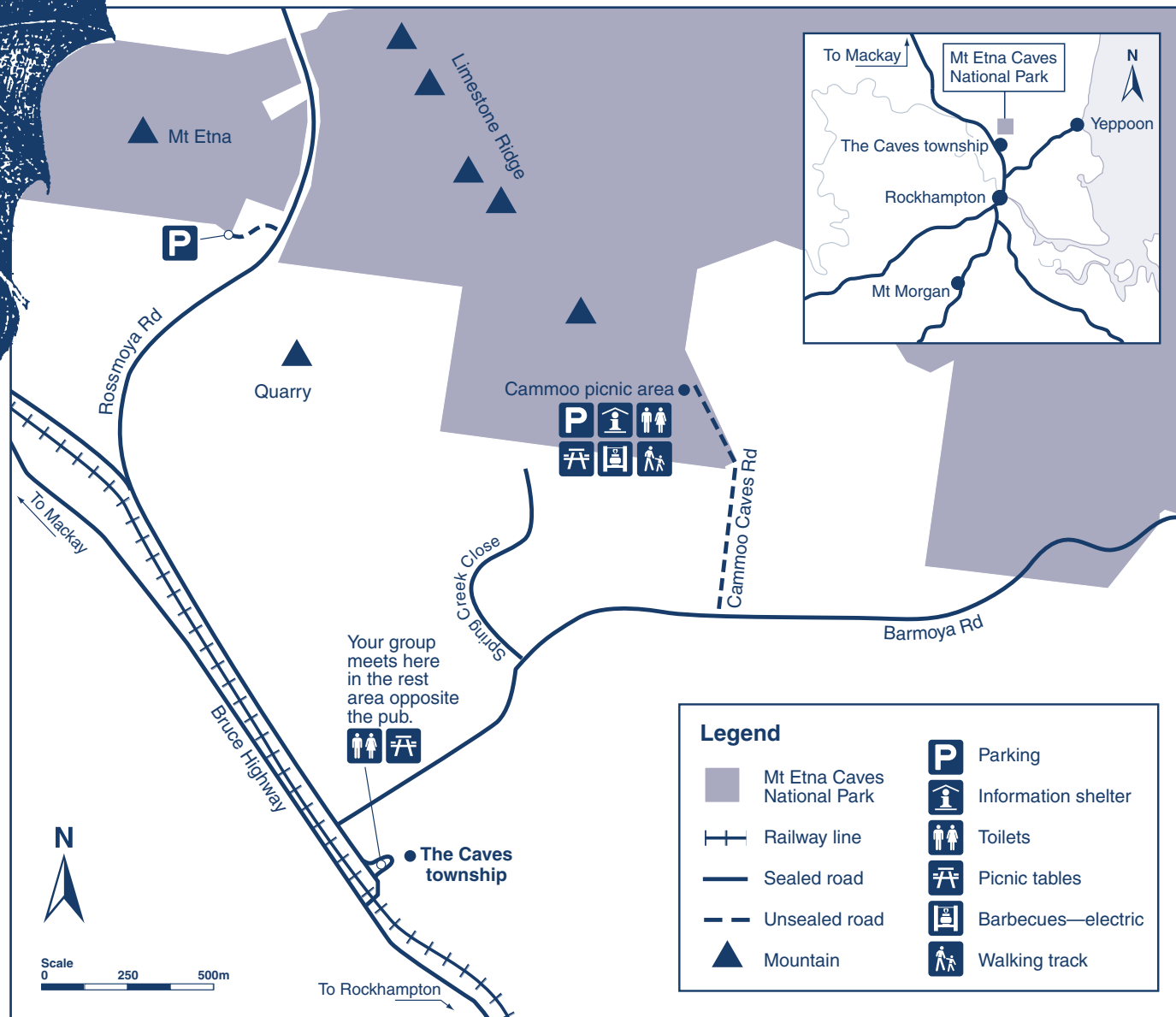
Only mature females and their offspring inhabit Bat Cleft cave. At night the females leave as a group to feed on insects. They can consume the equivalent of 50 per cent of their body weight each night.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's guided tour takes you through remnant dry rainforest and limestone formations, and provides insight into the significance of the emergence flights and the Mt Etna area.

Take extra time to explore

Before your tour enjoy a barbecue at Cammoo picnic area. Allow yourself plenty of time to stop by the information shelter and take a short self-guided walk to discover the landscape's intriguing wildlife and dramatic past.

In the region explore our other natural attractions. Magnificent views from the top of Mt Archer National Park take in the city, ranges, river and coast.



Explore the Capricorn Coast National Park. Walk to Double Head to see inside an old volcano vent and enjoy ocean views over the Keppel Islands, or take the walking track up Bluff Point to Turtle Lookout.

Walk the Mt Etna trail. From 1 March to 30 October, outside the bent-wing bat maternity period, explore vistas over ranges and plains, spectacular limestone karst and the mining regeneration achievements.