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Magnetic Island Walking Trail Map

MAP

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1. The Forts Walk: 2km (1.5 hrs return)

Starting at the Forts Hub, the track winds along the ridge with good views above Arthur and Florence Bays. On the way up there are two WWII gun emplacements. At the top are two buildings, the Observation Tower and the Command Post, with uninterrupted views of the coast. To the north is Palm Island, and on a clear day you might see Hinchinbrook Island.

2. Horseshoe Bay to Balding Bay: 3km (45 mins)

OR, Horseshoe Bay to the Forts Junction (via Radical, Florence and Arthur Bays): 5.4km (2 hrs)

From the eastern end of Pacific Drive the track climbs up through eucalypt forest along a ridge. A turn left off the track leads down through shady trees to a secluded beach in Balding Bay. By continuing along the ridge it is about the same distance to Radical Bay. A road leads from Radical Bay back to the main road and the Forts Hub.

3. Forts to Horseshoe Bav 2.3km (50 min)

Start at The Forts and walk the track. (not on the road), to Horseshoe Bay. 4 & 5. Nelly Bay to Arcadia: 6 km (2 hrs)

A great walk to take lunch and admire the views. Starting at the far end of Mandalay Avenue, this track passes alongside Gustav Creek, up a steady climb to the saddle of the ridge, with Nelly Bay on one side and Horseshoe Bay the other. Birds and wildlife can be seen here, and bush orchids at the right time of the year. Continue along the ridge through open eucalypt forest to an excellent view of Horseshoe Bay. Further along, a left turn off leads to Horseshoe Bay and links to the start of The Forts track, or continue on and a turn off left leads to the Sphinx Lookout, or continue on to Arcadia and Endeavour Falls near the end.

6. Hawking's Point, Picnic Bay: 600m (30 min)

One of the shortest walks with an exceptional view. It begins at the end of Picnic Street in Picnic Bay and winds its way up to a huge granite boulder. You can see from Mt. Stuart in the south (topped with antennaes) to the Paluma range in the north. In between you will find Ross River, the Port and Ross Creek where the ferry terminals are located. The Casino and the Entertainment Centre are in the foreground with the city centre behind, and above The Strand (foreshore) towers Castle Hill. On the other side of the lookout there is a great view of Rocky Bay, then along Nelly Bay beach to Geoffrey Bay. Mt. Cook (497 metres) is in the center of the Island.

7. Picnic Bay To West Point: 8km (2.5 hrs)

Following the road past the golf course, this walk is along the bush track that links the bays on the western side of the Island. This area is very different to the rest of the Island. The track passes alongside tidal wetlands, mangroves and salt-water swamps, over four freshwater creeks (after rain), through savannah grasslands and paperbark trees. At the end of the walk you will be on West Point beach the closest point to the mainland. Or take the bus tour to West Point: miride.com.au Interpretive Signs: While walking around the Island keep an eve out for the informative signs on fauna and flora, heritage and the ship wreck trails. Other Island activities include snorkeling, sailing, diving, golf, jet skiing, taking a bus tour or cruise, or hiring a boat.

For more detailed information on walking tracks, the Top 40 Things To Do on Maggie, ferry timetables, accommodation, dining shopping and more visit: magneticislandguide.com.au

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ARCADIA STORE



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